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Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS



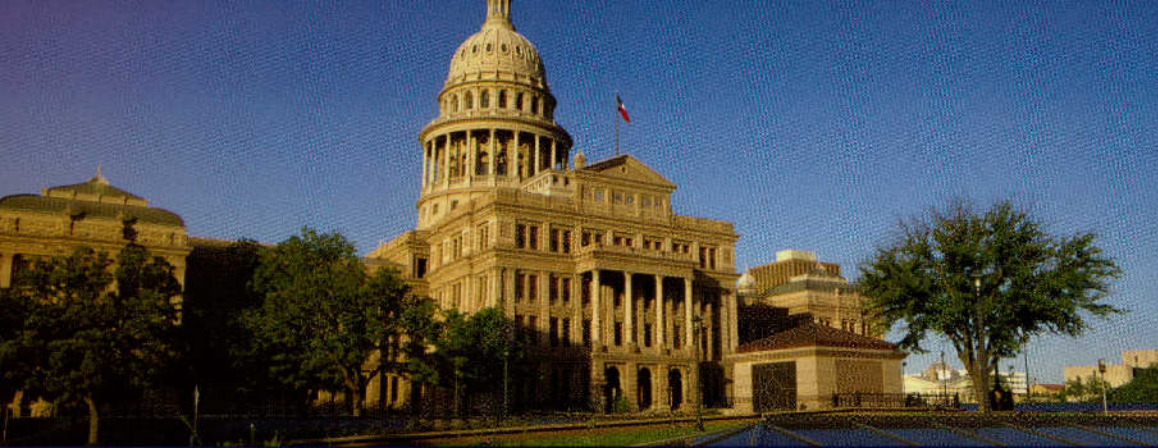
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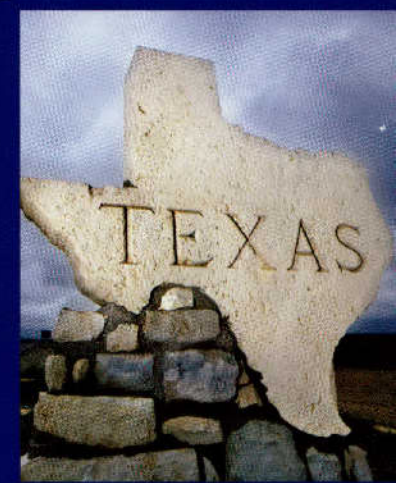
PLUS »

Robert Earl Keen PAGE 56 «

Grande El Paso PAGE 50 «



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Corpus Christi enchants visitors with its enduring seaside ambiance and new, first-rate attractions.

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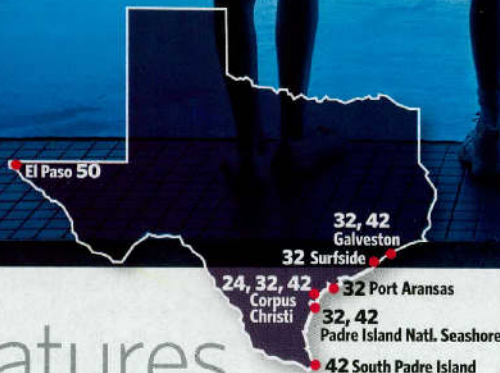
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COVER
STORY

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**C.C. & Me:
A Corpus Christi
Native Goes Tourist**
Revisiting her hometown,
a writer rediscovers old
haunts and explores new
destinations, from a
cool art museum to a
cutting-edge aquarium.

Text by **KATHRYN JONES**
Photographs by **JOEL SALCIDO**



Check out www.texashighways.com for more travel information

features

32 | Wave Riders: Ocean Motion on Texas' Coast

Surfing enthusiasts find that the state's balmy Gulf waters offer plenty of great waves. Get on board!

Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**
Photographs by **ERICH SCHLEGEL**

42 | Ridley's Believe It or Not! Sea Turtles in Texas

Thanks to efforts by scientists and volunteers, Kemp's ridley sea turtles have rebounded on the Texas coast. Here's how to help out.

Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

50 | El Paso del Norte: Glimpses of a Grande City

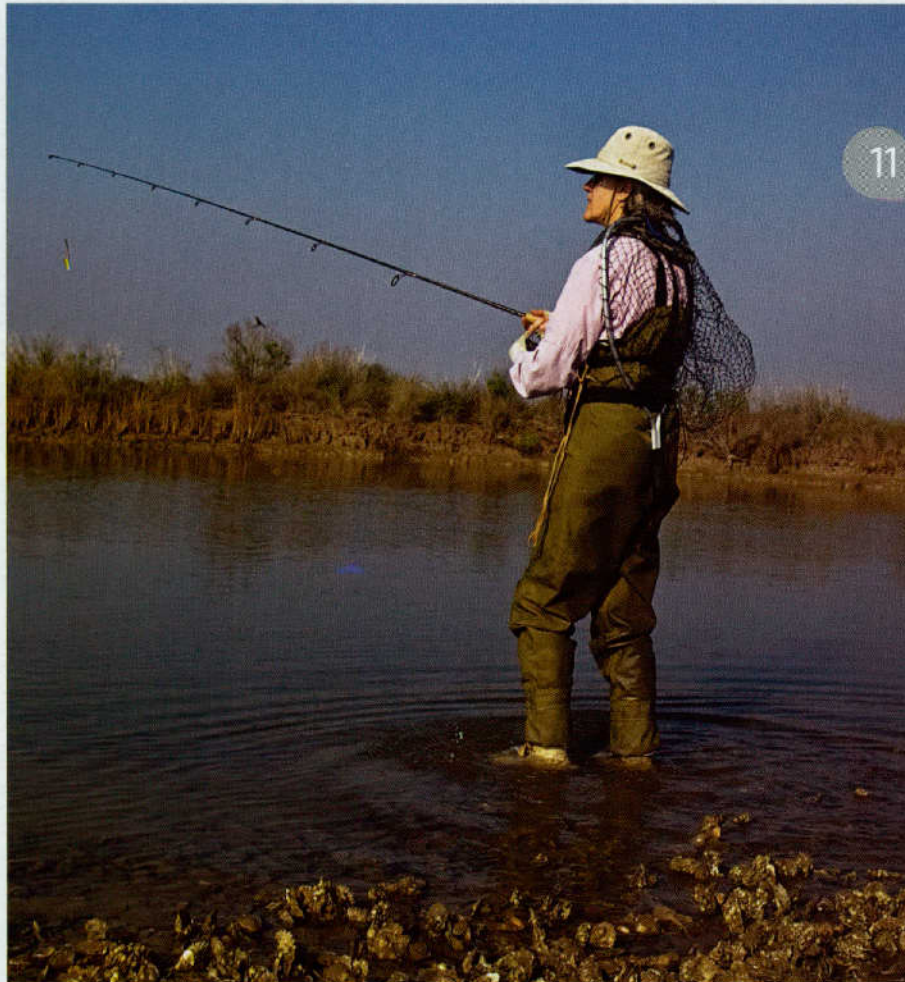
From its welcoming, panoramic vistas to its bustling downtown, El Paso sparkles. The vibrant attractions here—culture, art, food—never disappoint.

Text by **MARTY LANGE**
Photographs by **JEANNE HILARY**

56 | ATH Moment With Robert Earl Keen

For Houston native Robert Earl Keen, the Texas road goes on forever. The veteran singer-songwriter shares favorites across the state, from dance halls to barbecue joints.

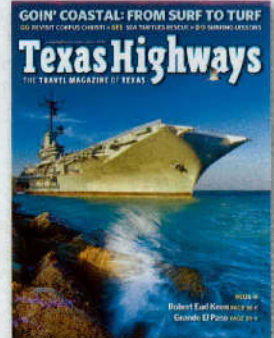
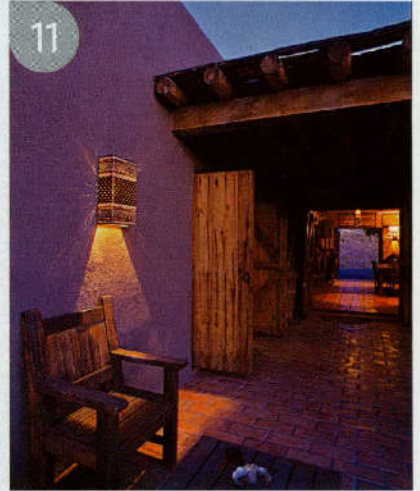
Text by **SHERMAKAYE BASS**
Photographs by **DARREN CARROLL**



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A 1903 Greek Revival-style building finds new purpose

About Our Covers

FRONT: Decommissioned in 1991 and anchored in Corpus Christi Bay, the World War II-vintage aircraft carrier USS *Lexington* now serves as a ship-board museum. **Photo** © Joel Salcido

BACK: Kemp's ridley turtle hatchlings head for the sea at Padre Island National Seashore. (To order a print, see below.) **Photo** by J. Griffis Smith

Photographic Prints Available

The back cover and other images in this issue are available as prints in two distinctive formats. For more information, call toll-free 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.



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Photo courtesy Texas State Library & Archives Commission





Can you pronounce this place name? Let us know your favorite quirky or tough-to-pronounce name in Texas. Go to www.texashighways.com.

Signs of Texas

When in Palacios, speak as the Palacians do.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS we take for granted in Texas: Hill Country sunsets, pit barbecue, the Dallas Cowboys, and how we say “Palacios.”

That’s “Puh-lash-us.”

Incorrect? Yes. But that’s the way it is. Even though the “correct” Spanish pronunciation is more euphonious.

This topic—wacky Texas place names and locals-only lingo—comes up regularly for *Texas Highways* readers.

A letter from subscriber Jerry Fore brought up the names topic again. Jerry and his wife, Barb, moved to McAllen from Michigan about five years ago, after a couple of years as Winter Texans.

In his note, Jerry suggested: “One thing that would be very helpful to us (and a lot of lifelong Texans as well, I suspect) would be a Texas place name pronunciation guide. I cannot tell you how many different versions of ‘Nueces’ I have heard. ‘Gruene,’ too, is a problem, or ‘Sabine’ for that matter. How about ‘Palestine’ and ‘Refugio?’ The final straw came a few weeks ago, when I finally learned how ‘Boerne’ is pronounced. Shocking!”

I decided to give Jerry a call.

“Well,” he lamented, “the first name that really got our attention was Bexar, as in Bexar County. We couldn’t get used to the

idea of the silent ‘x.’” Just pronounce it like the animal.

OK, I thought, there are not many Spanish place names in Michigan, so I can give him that one.

But he kept going.

“How do most Texans pronounce ‘Pecos’ or even ‘San Marcos?’” he puzzled.

Or even “Guadalupe” I added.

“And then we were visiting friends in Marble Falls,” Jerry said, “and I saw the name ‘Boerne’ in the paper. I knew it probably wasn’t pronounced the way it looked, so I had to ask.”

Those Germans have a way of twisting the tongue.

Let’s keep the game alive: If you have a favorite local name with a quirky pronunciation, please pass it along. We’ll share the list with everyone else.

One thing I can say for sure—if you’re ever in Tuxedo, the town’s name shouldn’t sound the same as when you describe the fancy suit.

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

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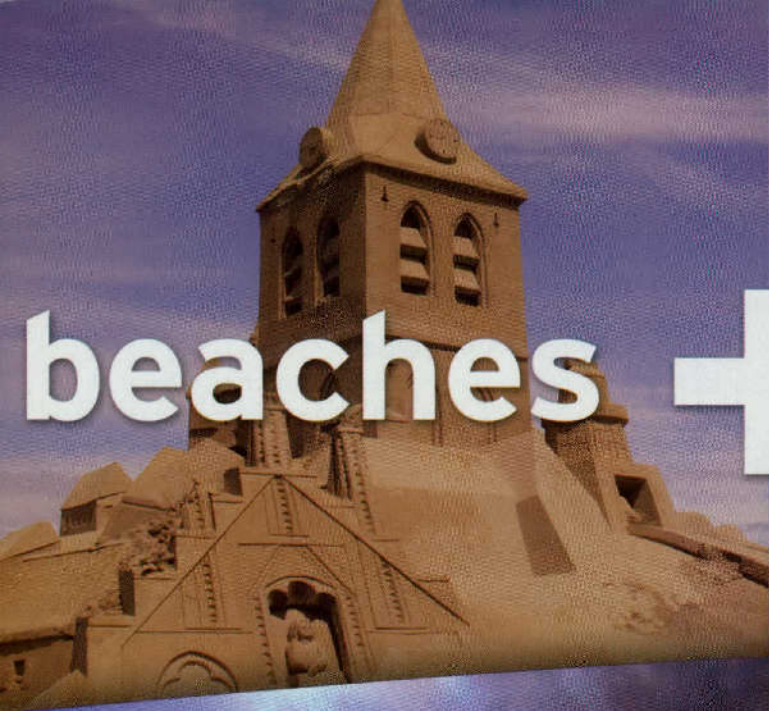
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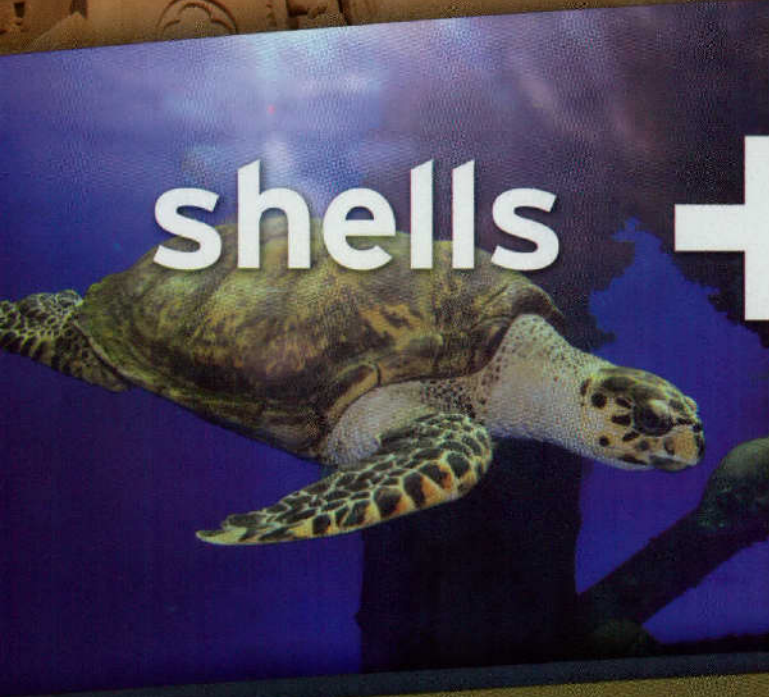




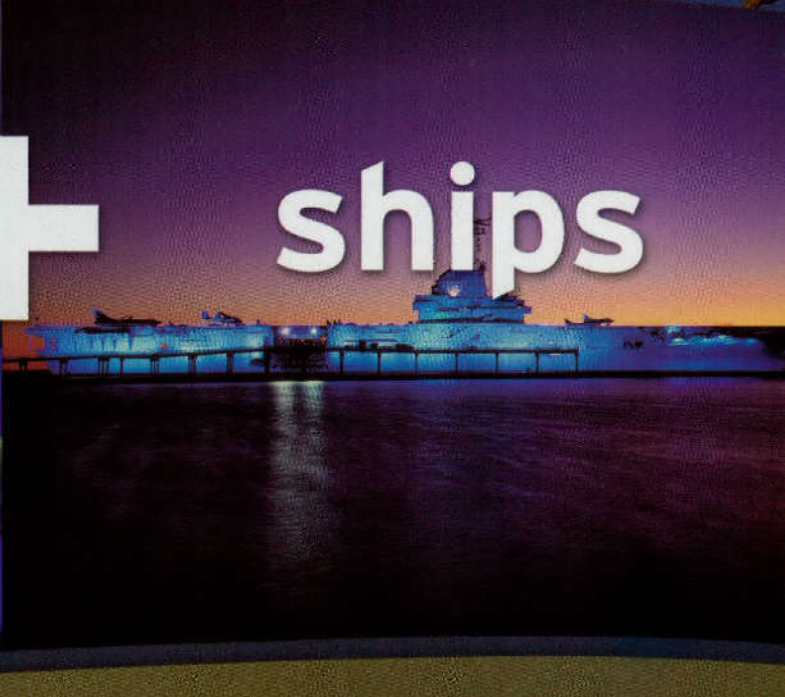
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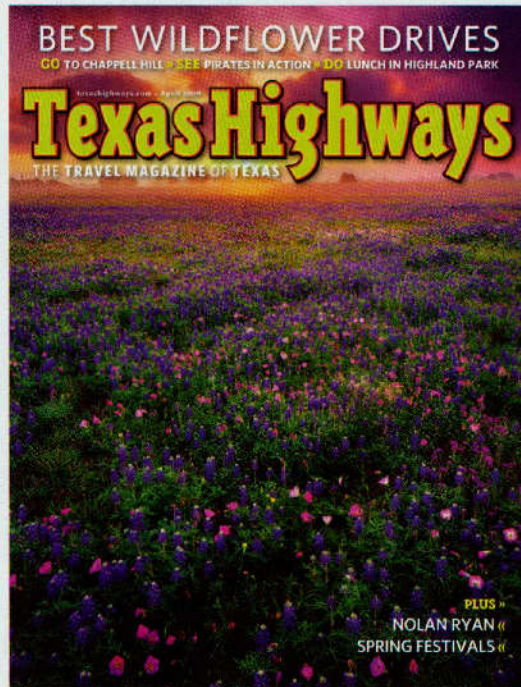
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"I rip into a new TH like a fresh sleeve of Girl Scout Thin Mints!"

—KARLA K. MORTON,
Denton



Extreme Makeover: April Edition

I have received TH since it was first published. I LOVE your new format! Fresh and exciting. This is truly the best April wildflower issue hands down. Turning each page was an adventure to see what was next. I loved Rick Tolar's "Flowers of Observation." Magnificent photos.

JAN BOHLS
Marlin

Why, oh why, have you changed your logo? If the old lettering was good enough for so many wonderful covers, like the "Lonesome Dove" edition [Nov. 2007], then why change it to the more modern design?

THE ROSES
Dale

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to everyone who wrote in about the redesign! A few readers concerned about the new logo quoted the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Unfortunately, the old logo was "broke" in very specific ways.

Over the past few years, several magazines have added the large-type "Texas" to their logos, so that use of the state's name on our cover was no longer distinctive. Also, we have found that the magazine is always known as "Texas Highways," with equal emphasis on both words. Since TH has enjoyed 35 years of success by that name, it was a natural choice to make the full name stand out on the cover. So far, the logo has been popular with most correspondents. Let us know what you think!

Rustic Retreat

The article on Fort McKavett [March] by Eileen Mattei with photos by Skeeter Hagler brought back memories. While at a retreat at the fort several years ago, we stayed in a restored barrack overlooking the parade ground and washed in a basin and slept on corn-shuck mattresses. We anticipated ghostly sounds during the night.

DORIS GATES
Burnet

[continued on page 72]

The Art of Texas



The Point Outdoor Theatre showcases talent on the stunning banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerrville. Upcoming events include:

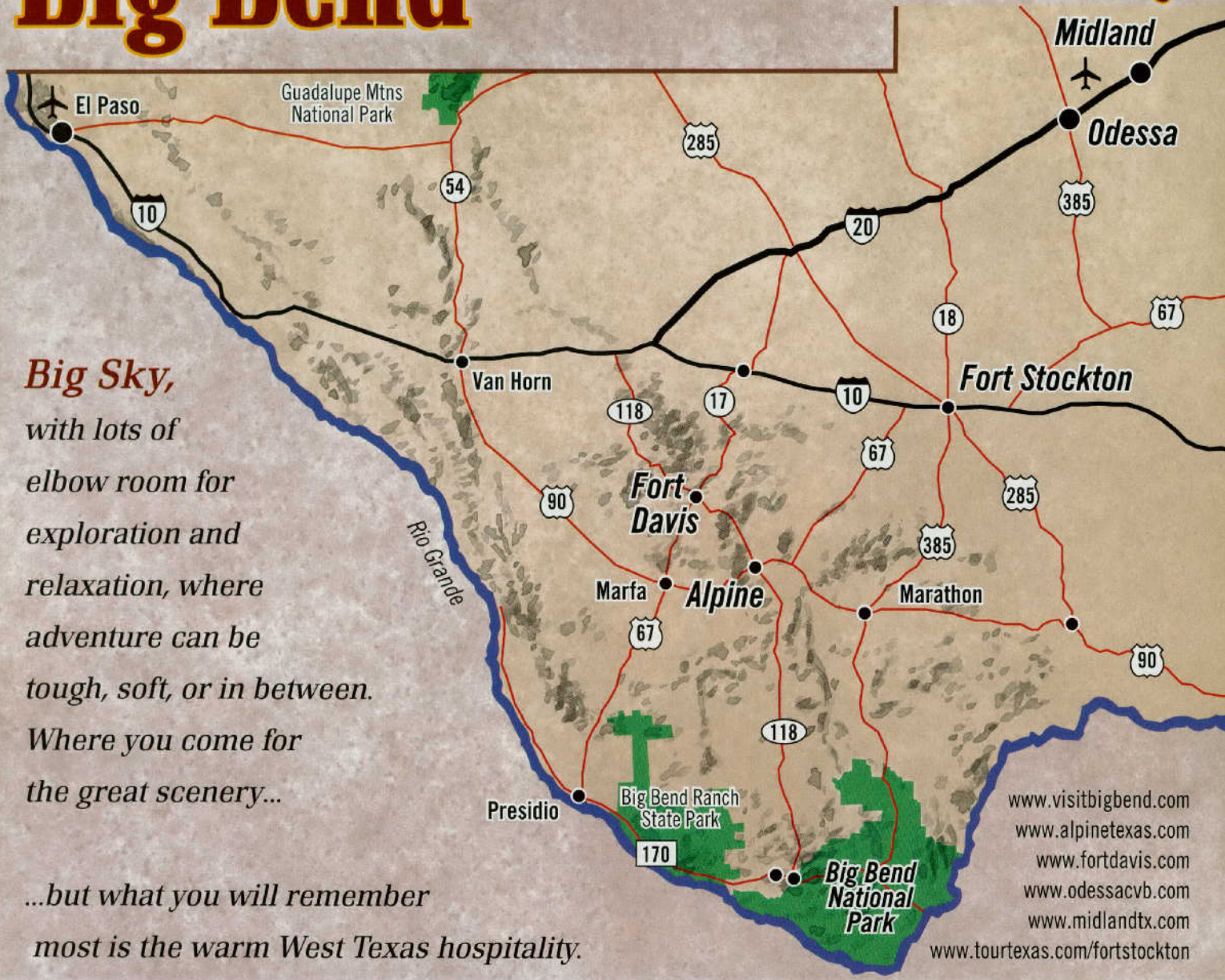
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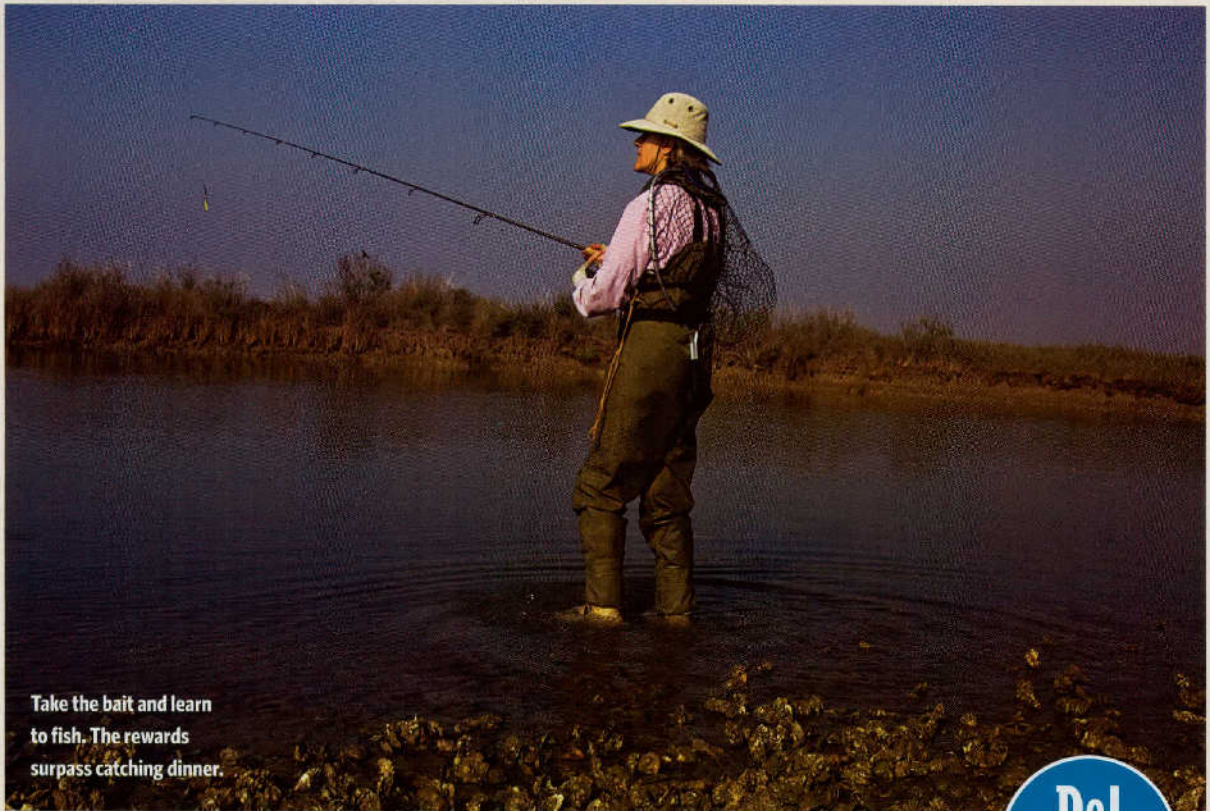
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06
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Postcards

INSIDE: HEY, SHRIMP! SOUTH PADRE'S CRUSTACEAN CRAZE...16 GALVESTON REBOUNDS...20



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The ABC's of Coastal Fishing

Think Like a Fish—Hook, Line, and Sinker Text and Photographs by **MIKE PRICE**

I AM HOOKED ON FISHING. I LIKE the challenge of figuring out where to cast a line, the methodical nature of preparing my equipment and baiting a hook, the meditative quality of waiting and watching for that telltale jerk on the rod that tells me, “Game’s on!” For me, there are few better ways to enjoy a beautiful day outdoors than fishing. And while I relish the sport’s solitary pleasures, I also find that fishing is a superb activity to share.

And so it was that on a recent Sunday

afternoon, my wife, Janet, and I drove along the beach at Matagorda, returning home from a pleasant day of kayak-fishing in East Matagorda Bay. Both of us had caught a few redfish—all of them a hair undersized—so we had released them to grow up. No matter. A light breeze blew through the windows of my truck, and soothing waves lapped at the shoreline. A perfect day.

Then I noticed a scenario that made my smile even wider. At the surf line, a man proudly held a speckled trout more than

two feet long, and his family was gathered around; his little girl was even hopping up and down. Now, this was a trout any seasoned fisherman would have been proud of, and my curiosity got the best of me. This was one fishing tale I wanted to hear.

Turns out that Mac Mayo, his wife, Theresa, and their daughter Marifrances had driven down from Kingwood to enjoy the beach and perhaps catch dinner. Mac, a longtime angler, knew what he was doing with light tackle: He had put a shrimp on

Postcards

a hook rigged above a weight, and then cast the bait into a trough that formed between sand bars. Next, he anchored the rod and reel into a short piece of PVC pipe pounded into the sand. Twelve-year-old Marifrances was closest to the rod when it bowed and the reel screamed. She pulled the rod out of the PVC pipe and managed to hold on while the fish made a run for it. Her dad urged her to be patient, and

eventually the trout grew tired and she was able to reel it in. The Mayos didn't have a camera, so I snapped some photos and promised to send them. I knew Marifrances would want to show off her big catch.

THAT INCIDENT REMINDED ME OF the first large redfish I had ever caught with light tackle. I was fishing at Christmas Bay, south of Galveston, in 2000 when I saw a



splash on the shoreline and cast my lure toward the commotion. The fish pounced and took off, its power reverberating through the line and into my arm. After I wrestled that fish ashore (a two-foot redfish is a *strong* fish), I started fishing two or three times a week, studying technique, and reading about fish biology and behavior. I've concluded that fishing can be simplified if you know what bait to use and how to rig it, if you fish in fairly clear water (even better if it's moving), and if you cast your bait around structures of some sort.

Red drum are common in the Texas bays.

When I go to an unfamiliar coastal area, I stop by a tackle store and purchase a fishing map. These maps show the topography of the bays and indicate where you're likely to find different species of fish. (The three most sought-after fish in the bays and surf are speckled trout, flounder, and redfish, which are also called red drum.) I select a spot to fish based on the same conditions fish look for when they pick a place to feed: the presence of prey and the water clarity to see it. Structures like oyster reefs, submerged objects, and areas of submerged or exposed grass are places where crabs, shrimp, and bait fish congregate to feed and hide from predators. The big fish go there to eat the little fish; I'll go there to catch the big fish.

The best days and times to go fishing are when the tide is moving in or out, as predator fish are more likely to feed in moving water. Here's why: The current moves small fish, crabs, and shrimp away from their protection in grass and oyster reefs, and predator fish position themselves [continued on page 14]

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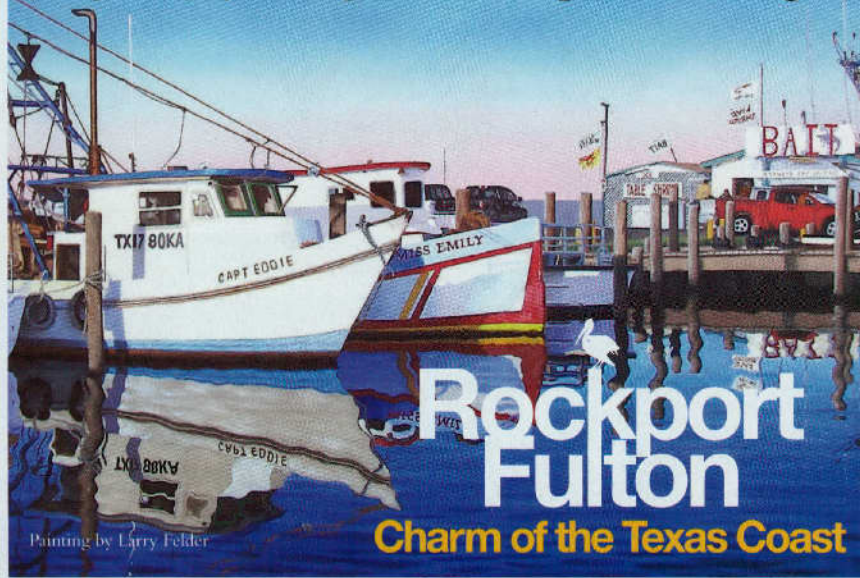
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continued from page 121 here to catch them.

If you're purchasing new tackle and don't understand how to rig the line or attach a lure to a hook, ask the salesperson to demonstrate. If a soft plastic lure is not put on the hook properly, the fish won't eat it because it does not "swim" like a minnow. Other lures shimmer like desirable prey fish, make noises that attract predators, or resemble wounded mullet.

I consider wind and tide when selecting a place to fish, too. Wind makes water move in a circle, stirring up the bottom and mixing

This was one fishing tale I wanted to hear.

mud or sand into the water. This reduces visibility, which means that fish will have trouble spotting my bait. So I pick a fishing spot that is protected from wind by land.

The ideal water visibility for using artificial lures is from 12 to 18 inches, and the best water color is green. In these conditions, a fish can see your bait (natural or artificial), but not so well that it can tell that an artificial lure is not the real thing. When the water is very clear, try live shrimp or minnows, as some fish will pass on an artificial lure. Dead shrimp work in murky water because predator fish are attracted by smell.

Learning to think like a fish can yield a large return in fishing fun. **TH**

Gulf Coast Fishing Spots

Tops on my list include **Galveston Island State Park** and **Sea Wolf State Park**; the jetties at **Galveston**, **Freeport**, and **Port Aransas**; and piers at **Matagorda**, **Port O'Connor**, **Port Aransas**, **Corpus Christi**, and **Port Isabel**. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Web site (www.tpwd.state.tx.us) provides details about fishing licenses (available online and at some 1,700 locations statewide), as well as information on many of the above sites.



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Adventures on South Padre Island

BEACH-SEEKERS SETTING THEIR SIGHTS THIS SUMMER

on Florida, California, Mexico, or beyond might instead consider staying in Texas to explore the sparkly stretch of South Padre Island. The simple pleasures that attracted visitors decades ago still remain: miles of white-sand beaches to explore, birds to observe and fish to catch, twinkling stars in a dark night sky, the hypnotizing sound of the surf. And for ecotourists, SPI offers dolphin-watching and birding excursions, the chance to see (and help conserve) endangered turtles, and tours of The University of Texas-Pan American's Coastal Studies Lab, where you can study the marine life of the Laguna Madre.

But you'll also find everything from glitzy nightlife and boutique shopping to fine dining and luxurious spas. Put these three activities on your SPI agenda and revel in the fact that Texas does, indeed, have it all: one, a snorkeling excursion (a three-hour jaunt into the Laguna Madre estuary reveals the curious activities of stingrays, gar, jellyfish, shrimp, eels, and dozens of other creatures); two, sandcastle lessons (learn to make elaborate spires and turrets from the



Go!

Fly a kite on the beach

pros); three, parasailing (tethered to a parachute and towed by speedboat, fly 600 feet over the Gulf of Mexico).

A flock of seagulls awaits dinner.

And, of course, many treats on SPI are still free or cost less than \$5: Drop a line at Isla Blanca Park, tour the historic Port Isabel Lighthouse, and watch Friday-night fireworks explode over the bay. For more about South Padre, see www.sopadrecom. —Lori Moffatt



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No Skimp on the Shrimp

South Padre Island's Shrimp Haus serves them up every which way

Text by HELEN BRYANT

The chefs season the blackened shrimp perfectly, preserving the briny taste that makes Gulf shrimp so delicious.



See!

A grand Gulf panorama from the outdoor deck

HOW DO I LOVE FRESH, GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP?

Let me count the ways. I love them boiled, sautéed, blackened, grilled, and fried. I love them crusted in coconut or pecans. And I love them wrapped around pepper jack cheese, simmered in peanut butter sauce, and pressed into quesadillas.

Any restaurant that does all this can only be called Shrimp Haus. And the fact is, Shrimp Haus, the appealing seafood restaurant at South Padre Island's Schlitterbahn waterpark, does all that and more.

Now in its eighth year, Shrimp Haus has 31 shrimp dishes on the menu—26 entrées and five appetizers—and also offers shrimp sandwiches and buffalo shrimp (large, butterflied and fried shrimp served with 50 different sauces). “Those [sauces] range from very mild to they’ll-take-the-skin-off-your-tongue,” says Shrimp Haus food and beverage director David Clark. With this lineup, the restaurant easily lives up to its “101 Ways to Eat Shrimp” motto.

Dig into some of the “101 Ways to Eat Shrimp” at Schlitterbahn’s Shrimp Haus, on South Padre Island.

It's tough to decide what kind of shrimp to have, so it's probably good that the eatery is a short walk from the Schlitterbahn parking lot. You can mull the options as you trek across a long, covered wooden footbridge over beach, native wetlands, and a small pond. Finally, you reach the stairs or elevator (your choice) that will take you to the restaurant, on the second floor of a massive structure overlooking the waterpark and the Gulf of Mexico.

Schlitterbahn hosts visitors full-time from late May through early September, but the restaurant serves food year round. In summer, when the park is open, you can eat on the covered outdoor patio or side veranda, which together seat 300 people, and watch park revelers getting doused by buckets of water, shooting out of coiled tubes, or surfing one of the country's largest man-made wave machines. After dark and in the off-season, most people sit indoors unless there's a special outdoor concert or another event. With the park so quiet, the am-

biance is that of a tranquil resort getaway.

One fall afternoon, my friend Gene and I emerge from the elevator to an empty patio with windows overlooking expanses of sand dunes and the Gulf's gently lapping waves. But once we walk through the wooden doors to the restaurant, we are in cacophonous shrimpland, our noses happily recognizing the aromas of shrimp, garlic, and butter.

Watch surfers on one of the country's largest wave machines.

Servers pour from the first-floor kitchen like ants from an anthill, carrying giant trays of plates brimming with shrimp.

This inside room seats 120 people. With its wooden rafters, concrete floor, and metal roof, it has the feel of a camp dining hall, but with televisions. There are two big TVs in

each corner of the room and a line of four over the bar, typically tuned to sports. The room also contains several aquariums with a variety of fish, some indigenous to the Laguna Madre. An oblong aquarium suspended over the bar was fashioned from a glass-bottomed canoe that once allowed visitors to see the bottom of the bay.

If you're at Shrimp Haus on a weeknight, you'll eat your shrimp to the music of longtime local favorites Chuck Comeaux and Leslie Blasing. Leslie, who can wail "My Heart Will Go On" like Celine Dion one minute and growl Steppenwolf's "Born to be Wild" the next, does most of the singing. Chuck plays bass guitar and MIDI sequencer. When he steps up to the microphone, it's usually to offer a Sinatra tune ("Summer Wind" is an audience favorite) in his velvety baritone.

Meanwhile, diners—usually a mix of locals and tourists—applaud between bites of shrimp. Clark says coconut- and pecan-crust shrimp are two bestsellers.

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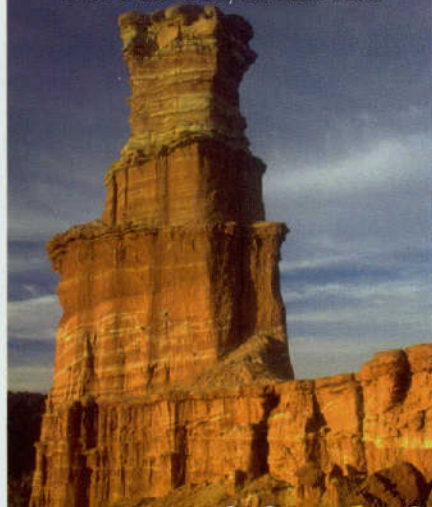


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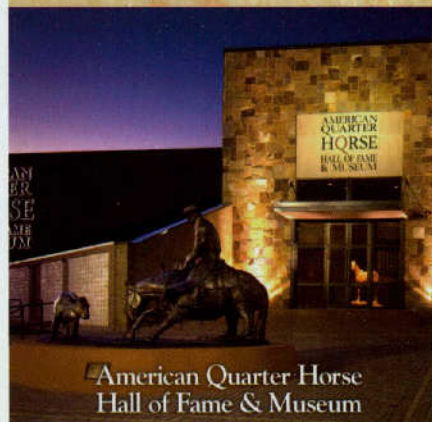
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Both are crunchy and sweet on the outside (coated in either coconut and roasted almonds or finely ground pecans and brown sugar) and perfectly cooked on the inside. The coconut shrimp come with a flavorful orange-brandy sauce. Their pecan cousins pair with a sesame-flavored, sweet-hot sauce. New potatoes and a vegetable medley accompany most entrées, but the shrimp star in the show.

Simpler shrimp dishes fare equally well. The chefs season the blackened shrimp perfectly, preserving the briny taste that makes Gulf shrimp so delicious. Shrimp sautéed in tequila and lime suggest a hint of a margarita. And shrimp in a mild cream sauce with basil partner delightfully with linguini.

Shrimp Haus actually started with 70 different shrimp entrées, but Clark says, "Some of them just weren't very popular." For example, a pumpkin seed-crusting shrimp served with sweet-and-sour sauce never drew the fans he expected. So, he pared the list to the current varieties, plus

some sandwiches and the buffalo shrimp with the 50 sauces—which he'll also serve with fried chicken wings, in case you don't like shrimp. "We're always coming up with new flavor combinations," says Clark.

Shrimp Haus also serves steaks, chicken entrées, brick-oven pizza, and other seafood dishes such as scallops and red snapper.

And, of course, there are burgers for the kids. But since even small fry like these jewels of the Gulf, the children's menu also includes fried shrimp. It's good to get the kids' taste buds honed early. Someday they'll have to make a lot of adult decisions—like which way to have their shrimp at Shrimp Haus. **TH**

Shrimp Haus

is at 33261 State Park Rd. 100, in South Padre Island.

Open daily year round; hours vary seasonally. Call 956/772-9772; www.shrimphaus.com.



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Slow Company

Italy By Way of Brownwood

WHEN RESTAURATEUR MARY STANLEY MOVED FROM Austin to Brownwood a few years ago and opened The Turtle, she introduced elements of the Slow Food movement—eating in season and using locally produced meats and vegetables—to diners in the Pecan Bayou. “The snail was taken as the symbol of the Slow Food movement,” says Stanley, “so we needed another slow animal, and the turtle is a symbol of persistence and longevity.”

The Turtle continues to adapt to changing times. The restaurant, which serves elegant entrées such as basil-pesto pork loin and roasted rack of lamb, has scaled back its hours to make way for hopping business at its new wine bar, The Turtle Enoteca. Stanley prepared for this latest venture with cooking classes and wine seminars in Italy, and came back armed with authentic Roman recipes and a concept for a wine list that emphasized Texas, Italy, Spain, and Argentina.

“We serve 20 wines by the glass,” she says, “and most of the



The Turtle offers heart-shaped scones ... and now, a wine bar.

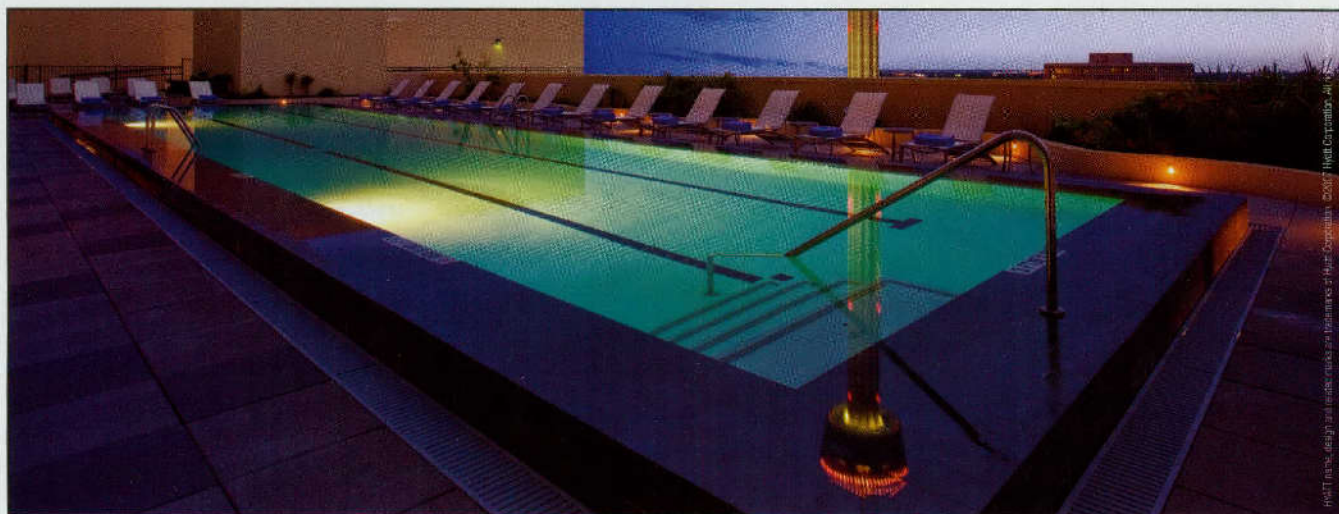
food items on the Enoteca menu cost less than \$10. One of our bestsellers is our caramelized-onion and goat cheese pizza.”

Patio seating

Do!

Save room for gelato.

overlooks The Turtle’s herb and vegetable gardens, where Chef Thomas Vezina plucks basil, cherry tomatoes, and other ingredients. In June and July, The Turtle will host multicourse dinners featuring the wines of nearby Barking Rocks Winery and Alamosa Winery, complemented by cheeses from Dublin and produce grown at area farms, as well as made-from-scratch gelato from The Turtle Gelateria. In Brownwood, slow is the new way to go. Call 325/646-8200; www.theturtlerestaurant.com. —Lori Moffatt



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A Stitch in Time

A New Sail for Elissa Symbolizes the Rebirth of Galveston

Text by **CHARLES LOHRMANN**

A GAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE GHASTLY DESTRUCTION that Hurricane Ike dealt to Galveston Island in September 2008, a single lost sail—even on an historic ship—seems like modest punishment. In fact, such a shred of not-so-bad news paints a silver lining on the cloud of the overall grim storm situation. In this case, the subsequent repair project for Galveston's 1877-vintage sailing ship *Elissa* grew into a hopeful sign: a symbolic rebirth.

Certainly the members of the Galveston Historical Foundation, the organization that owns and cares for *Elissa*, held their collective breath after the storm as they waited to determine how seriously the wind and water had attacked *Elissa*. Dwayne Jones, executive director of the GHF, explains, "After the storm, it was several days before we could get in and assess the damage. Basically, the special hurricane moorings held as they should and *Elissa* did what she was supposed to do, which is rise and fall with the water level. She survived the storm relatively unscathed."

But even a single sail can be a major undertaking. A nationally recognized sailmaker, Jim Brink, who sewed the original suit of sails for the *Elissa* more than 20 years ago (and consulted on all three films in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series), was called in to work on the replacement sail. Brink pieced the fabric together on the floor

See!
The GHF events calendar, galvestonhistory.org

The 1877-era sailing ship *Elissa* lost only one sail during Hurricane Ike's rampage through Galveston.

PHOTO: GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

"The *Elissa* is a symbol of survival;
she's a symbol of rebirth."

of the ballroom in another GHF property, Ashton Villa. Once assembled in the correct shape, the sail was moved over to the Seaport Museum where the seams were sewn on a machine in the auditorium.

But such expertise as Brink's isn't without strings attached. Funds had to be raised. To address the challenge, Jones explains, "All the volunteers, people who train to sail the *Elissa*—and there are several hundred of those—actually raised the money to pay for the sail themselves."

Longtime *Elissa* volunteer John Moran of Houston explains, "Repairing the sail damage cost about \$6,000, and volunteers raised more than \$5,000 of that with a gumbo dinner benefit." He adds, "*Elissa* fared

much better than anyplace else on the island during the storm. She broke some stern lines, and flying debris damaged the rigging."

The sail restoration project took on a symbolic importance to the rejuvenation of the island. Jones says, "I told them every day, 'The *Elissa* is a symbol of survival; she's a symbol of rebirth.'"

And, with the survival and rebirth of Galveston in mind, the *Elissa* should be a part of any weekend visit to Galveston. You won't be able to live like Jim Brink, who bunked aboard the ship in the first mate's cabin during his sail-making sojourn, but the Hotel Galvez is back in fine form, along with the other hotels on the famed Seawall (the San Luis, just down Seawall

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This exhibition was organized by the McNay Art Museum.

Elegant Enigmas
The Art of Edward Gorey
June 10 | September 13

Carnivorous plants, falling masonry, and uninvited guests fill the unique, imaginary world of American author and illustrator Edward Gorey (1925–2000).

This exhibition was organized by the Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Images: Georgia O'Keeffe, *Sun Water Maine*, 1922, Collection of the Slick Family, © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum.
Edward Gorey, *I am the Balloon Bug*, if declared, *I am here to diffuse the interest of dddsdscdm*, 2006. Courtesy of the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust.

Boulevard from the Galvez, served as headquarters for emergency crews and media during the storm).

For lodging close to the cruise terminal, try The Harbor House at Pier 21, a comfortable version of a rejuvenated waterfront warehouse, with nautical-themed rooms. The Harbor House is also just a stone's throw from the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum, now open to illustrate life on board an offshore oil rig.

Galveston's resort and spa options are back in operation as well: The new spa at the Galvez is scheduled to reopen over Memorial Day weekend, so plan to add the lavender hydrotherapy session to make a massage (or other treatment) even more relaxing.

Downtown, in The Strand Historic District, the Tremont House plans to reopen June 1. The historic commercial buildings in The Strand are still recovering from the days when the storm pushed nine feet of water into the area, inundating the district.

A number of Galveston Historic Foundation properties are open for tours again.



Galveston Island

is 50 miles southeast of Houston. To plan a visit, contact the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, 888/425-4753; www.galveston.com.

Also contact the following: Galveston Historical Foundation, www.galvestonhistory.org; Texas Seaport Museum, www.tsm-elissa.org. Note that Galveston Island State Park is open weekends for day-use only on the bay side of the park; www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

For lodging and special packages: The Tremont House, www.galveston.com/thetremonthouse; Hotel Galvez, www.galveston.com/galvez; San Luis Resort, www.sanluisresort.com; or Harbor House at Pier 21, www.harborhousepier21.com.

Pitch in for Galveston

Make community service part of your vacation getaway

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Volunteer at help4galveston.org



IF YOU'RE INCLINED TO ACT ON YOUR SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, or if you just want to learn more of the behind-the-scenes information about Galveston's most historic properties, contact the Galveston Historical Foundation and perform some community service on your visit, whether it's volunteering at a major event or performing maintenance and repairs at a site. The Tremont House offers a special package for GHF volunteers, and the Galvez does the same.

When you volunteer to help out in Galveston, you might get to work aboard the *Elissa*.

Elissa volunteer Jim Moran explains, "We always welcome volunteers, both on weekends and during the week. There's plenty to do, whether it's on ship maintenance or on the site of the museum itself."

As with many of the public service projects in Galveston, special skills are not required to volunteer for the *Elissa*. "The only absolute requirement is enthusiasm," Moran says, "but you don't have to stay on the boat too long before you simply fall in love with it."

And there might be an exciting payoff: Volunteers who work at least 65 hours can become eligible to serve as crew on the *Elissa* for one of the short sailing trips in the spring.

For volunteering opportunities in Galveston, visit the Galveston Historical Foundation at www.galvestonhistory.org, or Help 4 Galveston at www.help4galveston.org.

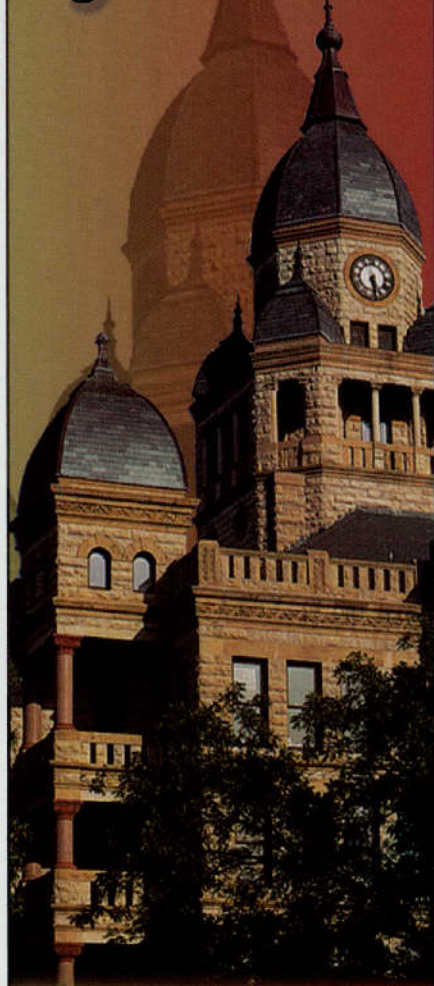
—Charles Lohrmann

As Dwayne Jones explains, "We have shifted our priorities somewhat after the storm. At the Seaport Museum, we lost some of the exhibits to water, so we now have an opportunity to reprogram the museum to better tell the maritime history of Texas. At the Ashton Villa, we've been able

to ask ourselves how we can make this a more exciting venue for people who come to Galveston.

"We've had to make some hard choices," Jones says. "We have to relate the experience of living with the barrier island—the experiences we have to share." **TH**

Time that has passed can be a great teacher.



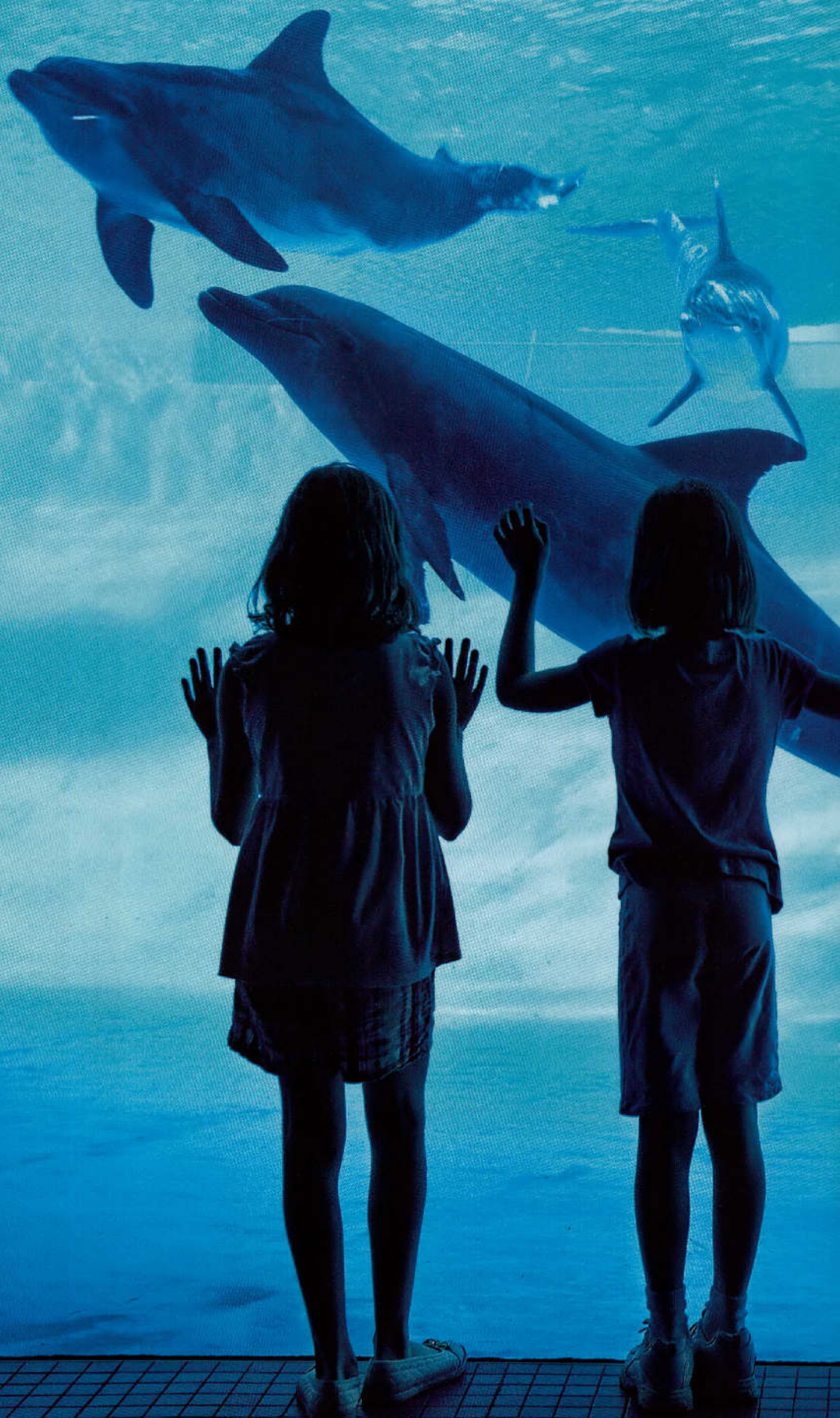
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CC. & me
A Corpus Christi Native Goes Tourist

Text by **KATHRYN JONES** *Photographs by* **JOEL SALCIDO**

Three beguiling bottlenose dolphins

—D.J., Shadow, and Kai—reign as the undisputed stars of the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi. Their daily performances in the large outdoor tank captivate the diverse international crowd seated in the stadium surrounding the water. Even though members of the crowd speak several languages, the collective “oohs” and “ahhs” need no translation. The dolphins follow their trainers’ instructions and leap high out of the water, turn backflips, perform an astoundingly speedy backstroke with their white bellies up, “applaud” with their flippers, and “sing,” demonstrating the amazing range of noises they can create. Watching these antics, I can’t help breaking into a wide smile; these dolphins radiate a sense of joy that’s contagious.

Inside the sprawling marine center, my childlike excitement and wonder continue as I peer into the 125,000-gallon Islands of Steel tank, which recreates the habitat under an offshore drilling platform. Giant stingrays slowly flap their winglike fins and glide through the water. In a huge floor-to-ceiling aquarium, a nurse shark (named Hans) darts between steel pylons and an evasive moray eel peeks out from a pile of rocks. Nearby, in an exhibit that’s dark except for a few spotlights, luminescent jellyfish trail long tentacles and appear to float in sync like they’re dancing an underwater ballet.

I’m in Corpus Christi playing tourist in my hometown. Now that I live in Austin, I view the city with a fresh perspective when I return for a visit. It’s particularly gratifying to see all the attractions that weren’t there when I was

growing up—the aquarium, public art along the bayfront, art museums, new sports venues, the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, and the USS *Lexington* Museum on the Bay.

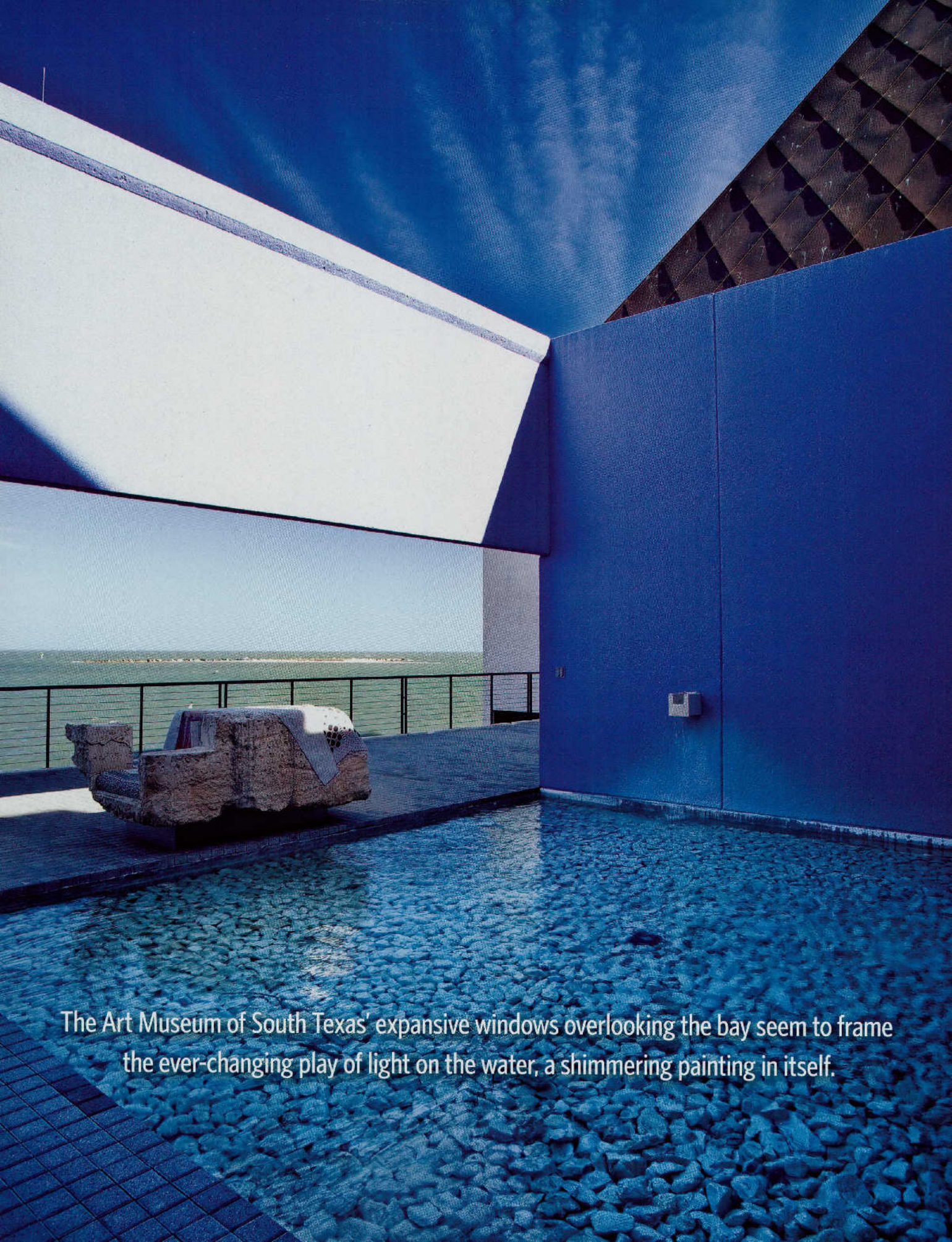
Now Corpus Christi is a destination in its own right,

Land Shark !!! Avishek Uprety fends off the giant from *Jaws* on the Corpus Christi beach.



ABOVE: Dale Chihuly’s sculptures in glass take on a vividly swirling life of their own. FACING PAGE: The Art Museum of South Texas offers a truly sophisticated setting for enjoying the creative spirit.

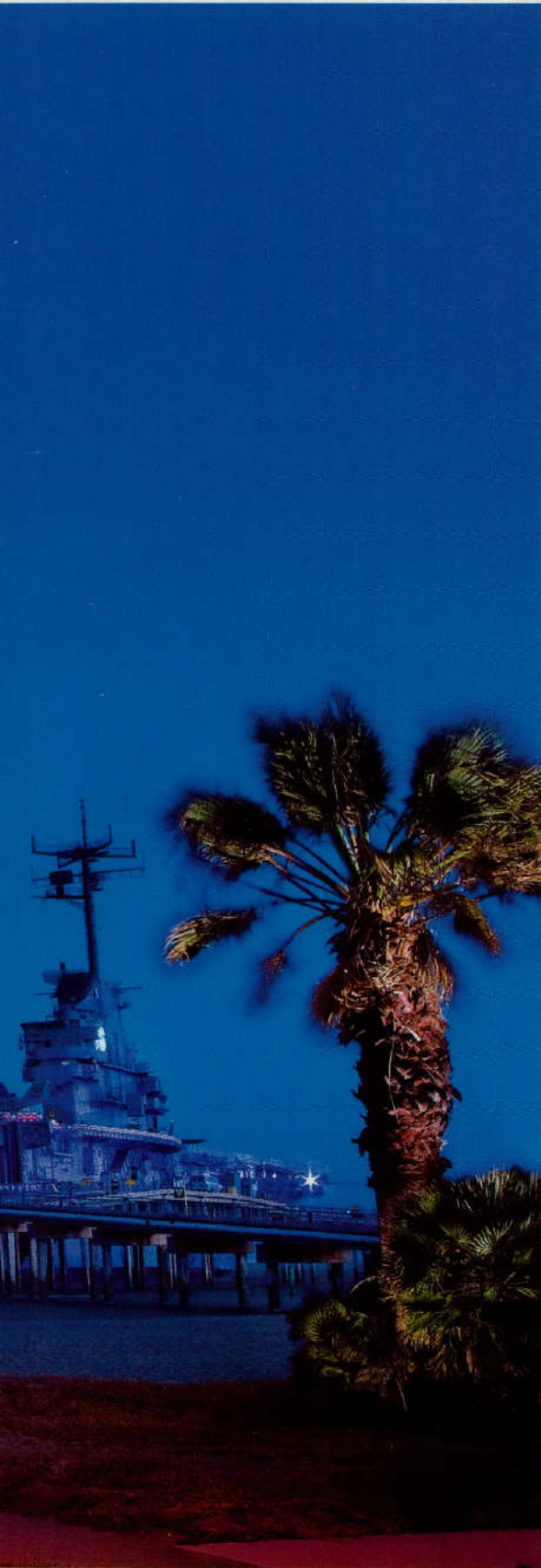




The Art Museum of South Texas' expansive windows overlooking the bay seem to frame the ever-changing play of light on the water, a shimmering painting in itself.

On my visit I rediscover favorite haunts, such as the historic seawall and the T-heads and L-head — man-made permanent piers now housing restaurants, bait shops, a yacht club, and marina slips.





regardless of whether you visit Padre Island, the world-famous barrier island just across the Laguna Madre. On my visit I rediscover favorite haunts, such as the historic seawall and the T-heads and L-head — man-made permanent piers now housing restaurants, bait shops, a yacht club, and marina slips. I still love to stop by early in the morning and buy fresh shrimp right off the boats.

As a visitor, I'm also learning things I never knew while growing up here. I had no idea that the sculptor and artist John Gutzon Borglum, best known for his monumental sculptures at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, lived in Corpus Christi more than 80 years ago and, in 1928, was commissioned to design a seawall. His plan included a 32-foot-tall bronze statue of Jesus in the bay to acknowledge the city's name, which translates from Latin as "Body of Christ." That proved controversial, however, and the idea was rejected. It wasn't until 10 years later that voters approved bond money for the seawall that now runs along the bay edge of downtown.

I'm enjoying discovering what's new about

Corpus Christi. Many attractions cluster conveniently on Corpus Christi Beach — locals still call it North Beach — on the north side of Harbor Bridge. When I was growing up, North Beach was known for its dilapidated beach houses and faded motels, long after it lost the luster of its earlier identity as the Coney Island of Texas, with a Ferris wheel, rides, and a boardwalk.

Now North Beach is reinvented as a tourist haven, with high-rise hotels and condos, restaurants, souvenir shops, and attractions such as the Texas State Aquarium and the *Lex*. A recent civic landscaping project brought a walking trail called The Beach Walk and palm trees to the beachfront. It's a pleasure to stroll along the now-pristine beach, which offers one of the best views of the downtown skyline, and watch great cargo and tanker ships steaming in from the Gulf of Mexico to the port. All ships pass under Harbor Bridge, which once served as the only passage to North Beach. Now visitors can hop aboard the RTA Harbor Ferry in downtown Corpus for the short trip across the channel.

When I reflect on my early years, I remember that Corpus Christi offered few venues for viewing art. Now several art museums populate the city, and public sculpture appears in open spaces all over town. On the downtown side of Harbor Bridge, I stop at the modernist white Art Museum of South Texas, designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson (with a 2006 addition designed by Mexican architect Ricardo Leggoreta). The permanent collection holds some 1,300 works: paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, mixed media, ceramics, and textiles. Artists represented include Donald Judd, Luis Jiménez, and Robert Summers. The expansive windows overlooking the bay seem to frame the ever-changing play of light on the water, a shimmering painting in itself.

Imagine yourself a
World War II fighter
pilot aboard the
aircraft carrier
USS Lexington.

One of the city's most visible public sculpture concepts, Borglum's early idea for a statue of Christ, finally became a reality in 1995 when Swedish sculptor and local resident Kent Ullberg's monumental bronze *It is I* was unveiled in front of the First Methodist Church on Shoreline Drive. I learned that my beloved high school English teacher, Dorothy McCoy, had led the drive to get the statue erected and

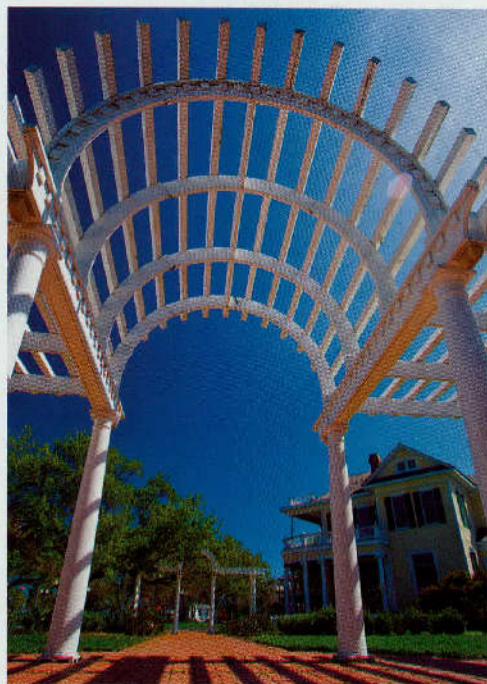
was the major donor. "It's about as public [as] a piece of art can be on private land," Ullberg says. Indeed, the piece has become a tourist attraction with visitors stopping daily to photograph it.



The Phalaenopsis, also called moth orchids, enthrall me with blossoms of creamy white, or speckled with purple, or striped with pink, all dancing in the fanned air on long spikes.

Barbara Cole and her Tibetan spaniel revel in the hundreds of orchids—the largest collection in the Southwest—that lure enthusiasts to the South Texas Botanical Garden and Nature Center.

Following the aquarium on my list of favorite places in Corpus Christi is the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.



The Cultural Center, located in Heritage Park, celebrates the history and diversity of Corpus Christi.

But I must confess I'm biased—my father, Samuel Jones, is the curator of the orchid house, which contains the Southwest's largest collection of orchids, numbering near 2,000. Located on the city's far south side, the center is perched on the edge of Oso Creek, a wetlands area that attracts birds and wildlife such as javelina and bobcats. When I visit in early spring, the lovely *Phalaenopsis*, also called moth orchids, enthrall me with blossoms of creamy white, or speckled with purple, or striped with pink, all dancing in the fanned air on long spikes. In the summer, warm-weather orchids such as *Vandas* put on a spectacular show. The center also has a lovely rose garden and pavilion, a wetlands boardwalk, and a *palapa grande* (a thatched-roof shelter typical of the tropics) for birdwatching along Oso Creek, as well as nature trails along the Oso.

The botanical garden also unveils several new attractions in 2009, including the Anderson Bromeliad Conservatory. This internationally known collection, donated by Nelwyn Anderson and her late husband John, will shelter nearly 800 bromeliads. Another new attraction within the Butterfly Garden Butterfly House: a screened pergola full of fluttering butterflies.

I can't visit Corpus without getting my fill

of Gulf seafood. My favorite stop is the Water Street Oyster Bar in its cavernous, red-brick building downtown. The restaurant anchors a popular enclave of shops and eateries, so it is almost always bustling with an exuberant crowd, and the seafood always is fresh. I find the fried shrimp outstanding because it is not layered with too much batter, but I can't resist the grilled amberjack, a fish with sweet, firm flesh.

No one should leave South Texas without sampling a hearty Mexican-style breakfast at Taqueria Jalisco, a local chain with an excellent Tex-Mex menu and the best flour tortillas I've ever eaten: Tender and lightly griddled, they're just about perfect. I always order the *migas*—fried strips of corn tortillas scrambled with eggs, onions, tomatoes, and peppers.

On my way out of the city, I drive along the bayfront one more time. The wind has kicked up, and white sailboats dot the bay while wind-surfers streak across the water closer to shore. I drive north over the Harbor Bridge and take a glance back at my former hometown hugging the curve of the shoreline and sparkling in the sun. The view always stays with me—and always keeps me coming back. **TH**

Writer KATHRYN JONES enjoyed the dolphin performance at the Texas State Aquarium so much that she is planning to take part in the Dolphin Trainer for a Day asap. Photographer JOEL SALCIDO trekked the entire 5,818 feet of the Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge, and back, on his quest for aerial photographs of the USS Lexington.

➔ TH ESSENTIALS

Corpus Christi

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, call the Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau, 361/881-1888 or 800/678-6232; www.visitcorpuschristitx.org.



Restaurants

Water Street Oyster Bar, 309 N. Water Street, 361/881-9448; www.waterstreetrestaurants.com.

Taqueria Jalisco, 2433 Cimarron Blvd., 361/985-2042 or 361/985-2441.

Museums

Art Museum of South Texas, 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd., 361/825-3500; www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org.

The Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd., 361/884-6406; www.artcentercc.org.

USS Lexington Museum on the Bay, Corpus Christi Beach (north of Harbor Bridge) 361/888-4873; www.usslexington.com.

Attractions

Texas State Aquarium, 2710 N. Shoreline Blvd. (on Corpus Christi Beach on the north side of Harbor Bridge), 361/881-1200; www.texasstateaquarium.org.

Heritage Park and Cultural Center, 1581 N. Chaparral St., 361/826-3410; www.ccparkandrec.com.

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples, 361/852-2100; www.stxbot.org.

Captain Clark's Flagship Tours and Charters, Peoples St. T-Head, 361/884-8306; www.captclarksflagship.com.

Ullberg Studios and Corpus Christi Art Connection, 3850 S. Alameda, Suite 23, Lamar Park Shopping Center, 361/851-1600; www.kentullberg.net.

go coastal

Wave riders

Ocean Motion on Texas' Coast

Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**

Photographs by **ERICH SCHLEGEL**

A surfer negotiates a wave—compliments of 2008's Hurricane Gustav—at South Padre Island.





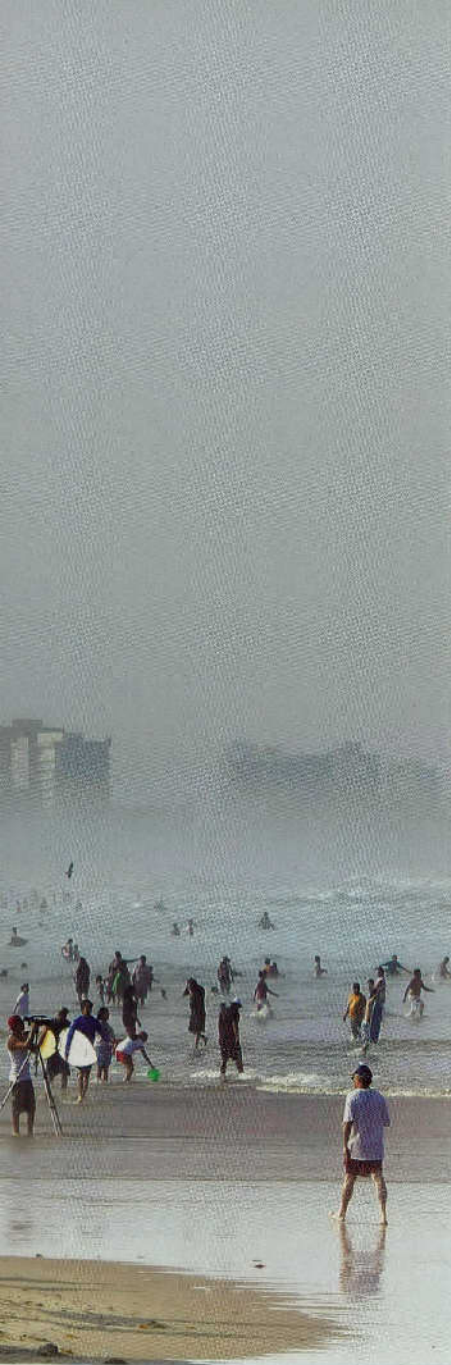
ABOVE: Many surfers were part of Labor Day weekend crowds at South Padre Island's Isla Blanca Park. FACING PAGE, TOP: Two surfers head out through the shorebreak next to Horace Caldwell Pier in Port Aransas. FACING PAGE, BELOW: Surfers Rachel Gore (far left), Gene Gore (far right), and a friend carry their boards on the beach at Isla Blanca Park.

As a teenager, I spent a good part of each summer strolling the sand at Galveston. On the radio, The Beach Boys sang about California girls, and Hollywood movies always featured perfect waves and Pacific Ocean sunsets, but that didn't make surfers on Texas beaches any less cool. Despite surfing's influence on the pop culture of my youth, I never got around to trying surfing myself.

As an adult, I love the beach as much as ever, and my kids fell under the ocean's spell at an early age. And they wanted to surf. After trying boogie boards and body surfing, we discovered that Texas has surfing camps and lessons for all levels and ages. The instructors confidently vow that just about anyone can surf, and they deliver on that promise.

We jumped in with both feet at Texas Surf Camp in Port Aransas. Under colorful tarps on the beach, instructors group youngsters by age and start with stretching and basic instruction. Surfer Tristan Richards takes a pack of teens, including my 15-year old daughter and her friend, and shows them how to lie on the board, face down, feet just off the back, a hand on each side. He explains how to watch for a wave, paddle until it catches you, and stand up. Everyone assumes a wave-riding stance on the sand to determine whether they favor the left or right foot (the latter are known as goofy-footed). Before long, the kids grab colorful foam boards and dash into the warm water. Surf camp provides immediate gratification.

Poised belly-down on the [continued on page 38]

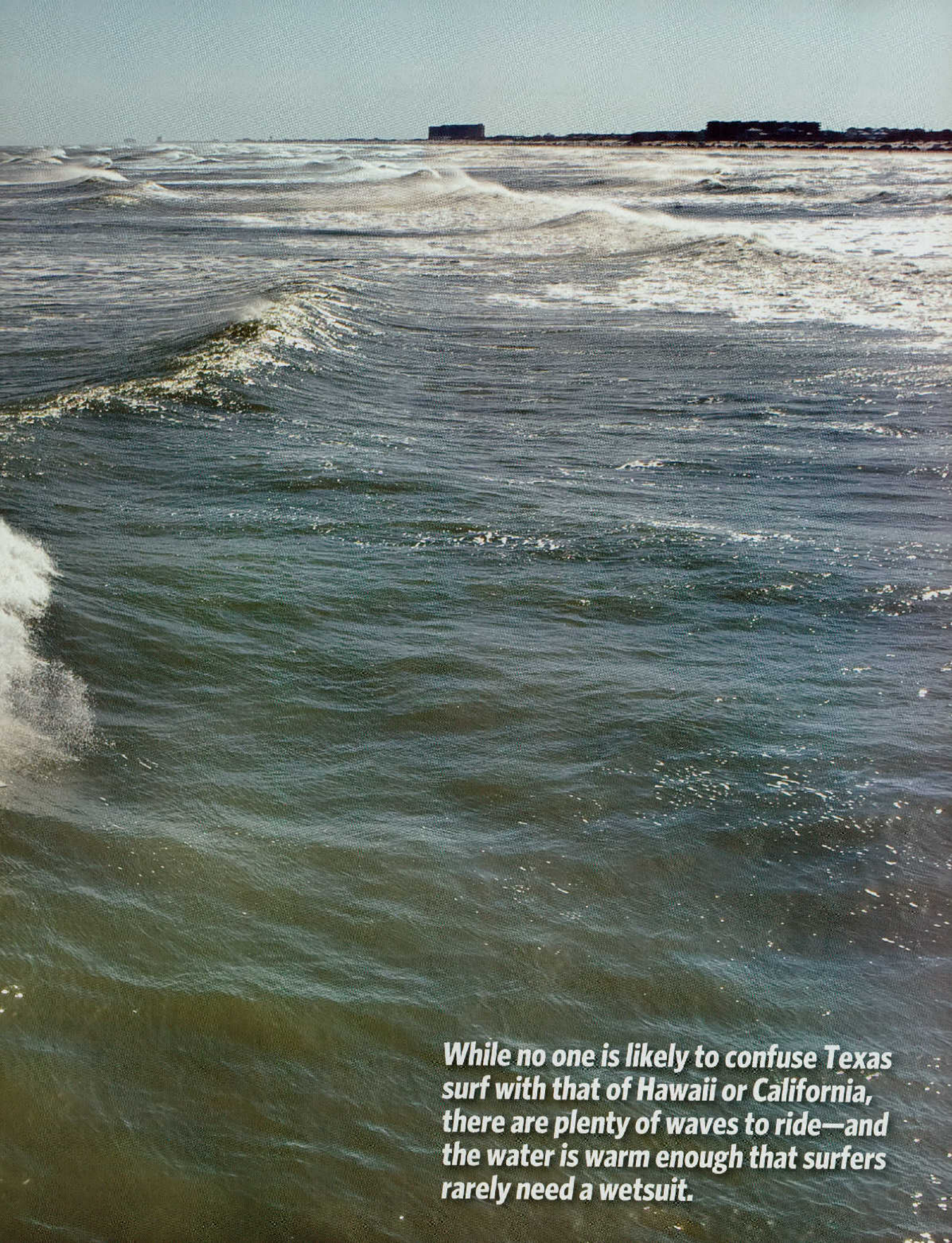


Texas has surfing camps and lessons for all levels and ages. The instructors confidently vow that just about anyone can surf, and they deliver on that promise.

wave
riders



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191,
or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.



While no one is likely to confuse Texas surf with that of Hawaii or California, there are plenty of waves to ride—and the water is warm enough that surfers rarely need a wetsuit.



ABOVE: A surfer rides a wave produced by Tropical Storm Erin at South Padre Island.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Surfing a wave near Horace Caldwell Pier in Port Aransas.

continued from page 34] board, neck craned over one shoulder, campers learn to ignore waves that will remain mere swells, which will lift but not carry the board. Instead, they'll choose waves that rise and curl over into foam, speeding a board along. They also learn to pick the right moment to start paddling like mad; if they paddle too slowly, the wave will roll past without them.

Catching a wave proves the biggest challenge the first few days of camp. Standing up in one smooth motion on a moving board also presents a challenge, but most people get reasonably close in a day or two. Everyone in my daughter's class masters it with little difficulty.

Later, I get my chance. I spend more time in the water and less on the board than the kids, but it doesn't take me long to figure out that no one notices. They're too busy catching their own waves.

Surfing, you see, quickly becomes addictive. After catching one wave, surfers want to catch another—one that's bigger, or that goes farther. Then one more, and still another, and just one last wave, until an entire afternoon is gone and no one has uttered the words 'I'm bored'—though I may have whimpered 'I'm tired' a time or two.

Weeklong camp suits kids perfectly, allowing time for thorough instruction and plenty of practice. Camp also provides opportunities for activities like creating a giant surfboard raft, building sandcastles, and playing games on the beach.

For those without a week to spare, or families that want to learn together, individual or small-group lessons are an alternative. Texas Surf Camp permits one or several days of attendance. (Two days of lessons proves my limit.)

South Padre Surf Company offers one-day



Get on board

When you're ready to hit the waves on your own, you need a board that matches surf conditions and your experience, says Kimery Duda, Executive Director of The Expedition School in Austin and an avid surfer. Longer boards are good for beginners, and foam boards are more forgiving in wipeouts. Their disadvantage is board rash; rash-guard shirts and shorts are a must, plus Vaseline to cover any skin that still comes in contact with the board. If you miss a spot, diaper-rash cream provides relief, and yes, real surfers use it. (Who knew ducking into the store for Desitin could make you look cool?) Boards made of epoxy or fiberglass are a lot easier on your skin, but tough on the shins. Being in shape makes you a better surfer, she adds. Swimming, yoga, stand-up paddle boarding (an activity possible on just about any body of water), or core strength conditioning will help get you in surf-shape.

Local surf shops are great sources for tips on surf spots and wave conditions. Texas beaches get two types of waves, Duda says: wind swell and ground swell. Wind swells are, of course, from wind, and shorter in duration. Ground-swell waves are created



by tropical depressions or hurricanes, with higher wave heights and more time between each wave. That, Duda admits, is "when all of us call in sick to work and wax up our surfboards."

With the guidance of his dad, Glem, Evan Guderian of Madisonville rides a wave in Port Aransas.

—Melissa Gaskill

Surfing quickly becomes addictive. After catching one wave, surfers want to catch another—one that's bigger, or that goes farther.



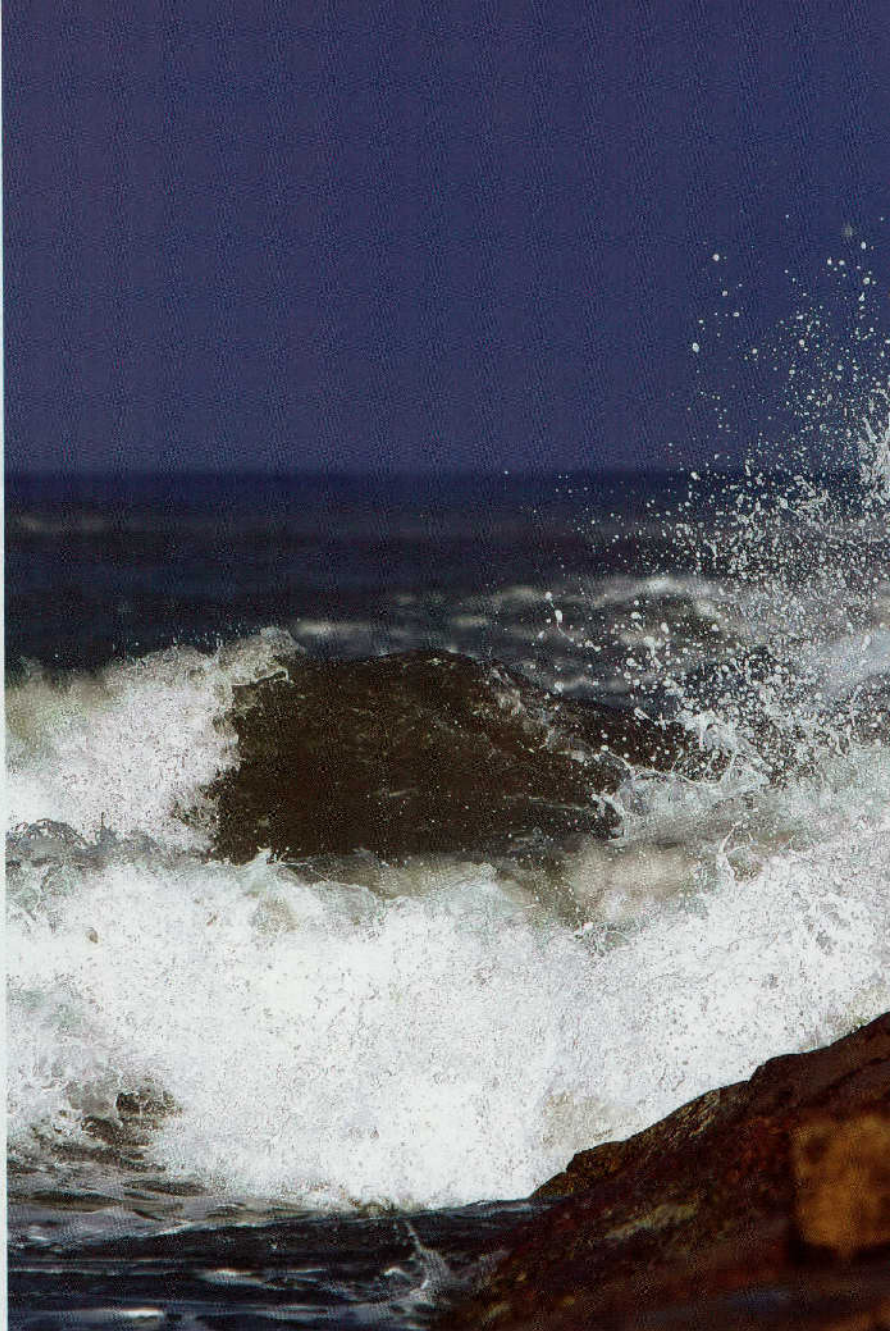
Capturing the camaraderie and multigenerational appeal of their sport, South Padre Island surfers gather for a group portrait at Isla Blanca Park. Boards, beach, sun, and surf make for a powerfully addictive pastime for participants of all ages. The lifestyle has also fostered memorable movies and music, as well as lines of apparel and vehicles.

camps and private lessons year round for all ages, in addition to weeklong summer camps at the island's Isla Blanca Beach Park. SPSC co-owner Gene Gore brags that the park has the best surf in the Gulf of Mexico. He teaches more adults than kids. "Nothing like seeing your kid's face when you tell them you went surfing," Gore says, a statement I can verify. "Nearly everyone is up and riding within the first few waves, and our goal is for you to surf on your own by the end of class. We have a one hundred percent success rate."

My linda Carter of Island Surf Camp in Galveston, which offers hourly and daily lessons year round, also produces savvy surfers. "I promise you will ride that day," she says. "We have smaller classes for that very reason, usually one instructor for every two or three students."

Another company, South Coast Surf and Fitness, offers group and private lessons in Galveston and Surfside, and still another Galveston outfitter, C-Sick Surfin', gives two- to three-hour lessons for up to four people. At C-Sick, under the tutelage of bearded and tanned Brian Jarvis, a surfer since the Sixties, you'll learn to surf and to "wipe out and look cool doing it."

There's no shame in wiping out—trust me, everybody does it. But focus on success, urges experienced surf instructor and international adventurer Kimery Duda of the Austin-based Expedition School. "Envision yourself on the wave," she says. "Once you get up and ride, it is such an incredible feeling. There is a magic in it."



That magic is part of the reason surfing is a booming pastime—more than 2.4 million Americans surf, according to action sports-research firm Board-Trac, spending \$3.3 billion on surf-related merchandise. The boom isn't unique to Texas; it includes unlikely spots such as Lake Michigan, and behind barges in ship channels nationwide (not for the inexperienced).

In Texas these days, there are at least two reasons that more boards are hitting the water.

Fara and Guy Leroux visit the Texas Surf Museum in Corpus Christi (www.texasurfmuseum.com; 361/888-7873), which is chock-full of exhibits and memorabilia.

First, surfers no longer scoff at Texas waves, in part thanks to Texas Surf Camp's Morgan Faulkner himself. He holds two national surfing titles, 22 Texas titles, and other



assorted accolades; is a former member of the U.S. Surfing Team; and is now a professional competitor in the World Qualifying Series. Faulkner credits much of his success to learning on the unpredictable waves off Port Aransas. "If you can surf in Texas, you can surf anywhere," he says. While no one is likely to confuse Texas surf with that of Hawaii or California, there are plenty of waves to ride—and the water is warm enough that surfers rarely need a wetsuit.

Second, folks are realizing you don't have to be young, buff, and a little rebellious to surf. Surf shops do cultivate that image, and it probably attracts a fair number of teens to the sport. But there are plenty of, ahem, mature surfers out there, and there's plenty of ocean for everyone. Besides, the worst that can happen is you'll spend an

A surfer bypasses the strong shorebreak during Hurricane Gustav swells by walking out on a jetty at Isla Blanca Park.

afternoon in warm waters, floating on a board (tip: sunscreen those hind parts!) and rocked by waves, with the sound of the surf and the occasional fish for company. Best case, you'll catch a nice wave, get to your feet, and ride it right onto the beach, whooping all the way. **TH**

MELISSA GASKILL grew up on the Texas coast and wishes she hadn't waited so long to try surfing. Photographer **ERICH SCHLEGEL** has become an avid surfer.

➔ TH ESSENTIALS



Surfing

SUMMER LESSONS are held at **Texas Surf Camps** at **Port Aransas, Galveston, and Corpus Christi** in June, July, and August. Register by the day or week. Also offered are overnight camps, which include a full week of surf instruction and additional activities. Call 361/749-6956; www.texasurfcamps.com.

Year-round Surf Lessons

South Padre Surf Company offers camps and lessons on **South Padre Island**. Call 956/772-7272; www.southpadresurfcompany.com.

C-Sick Surfin' in **Galveston** provides private lessons for up to four people, and will take a larger group with two weeks notice. Call 409/770-9455; www.c-sicksurfin.com.

Island Surf Camp offers private and group lessons in **Galveston**. Call 832/279-5560; www.islandsurfcamp.com.

South Coast Surf and Fitness gives private and group lessons in **Galveston and Surfside**. Call 281/992-7873; www.southcoastsurfsandfitness.com.

Contact **The Expedition School** in **Austin** at 512/626-6282; www.expeditionsschool.com.

When You Go

Port Aransas offers a wide variety of accommodations, from luxury condos to funky little hotels, and nice restaurants to satisfy your post-surfing appetite. Call 800/45-COAST; www.portaransas.org. For information regarding **Galveston Island**, reach the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 888/GAL-ISLE; www.galveston.com. Contact the **Corpus Christi CVB** at 800/766-2322; www.visitcorpuschristitx.org. And, if you're headed for **South Padre Island**, call 800/767-2373; www.sopadre.com.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191,
or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

ridleys*

believe it or not!

Sea Turtles in Texas

Text by **MELISSA GASKILL** *Photographs by* **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

* * *

Long before human feet touched the sandy shores

of the western Gulf of Mexico, tens of thousands of female sea turtles visited every summer to lay their eggs. Hatchlings emerged weeks later and scurried into the sea. After 10 or 15 years, many returned to make their own nests and repeat the cycle.

For millennia, this rhythm continued for green, hawksbill, loggerhead, leatherback, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles. But as the coast developed in the 20th Century,

This Kemp's ridley sea turtle hatchling faces an arduous journey. First on the agenda: a several-mile swim to the off-shore sargassam beds, where it will grow large enough to navigate the open sea. A lucky ridley can live 50 years.

life grew difficult for sea turtles. They drowned in fishing nets. People hunted and killed the turtles or ate their eggs. Development on beaches discouraged turtles from nesting. By the latter half of the 20th Century, all five of these species were listed as threatened or endangered,

and by the 1970s, sightings of nests on Texas shores were few and far between. All along the coast, only the Kemp's ridleys, once the most common Gulf species and now the most critically endangered, nested in any appreciable numbers. Nearly every one of those few hundred nests was dug on a remote beach in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Then a dedicated international cadre of scientists, government officials, businesses, and citizens sprang into action. The Mexican beach—about 180 miles south of Brownsville—gained protection, and from 1978 to 1988, scientists took eggs from there, incubated them in sand from North Padre Island, and released the baby ridleys on the island in hope of reestablishing nesting in Texas.

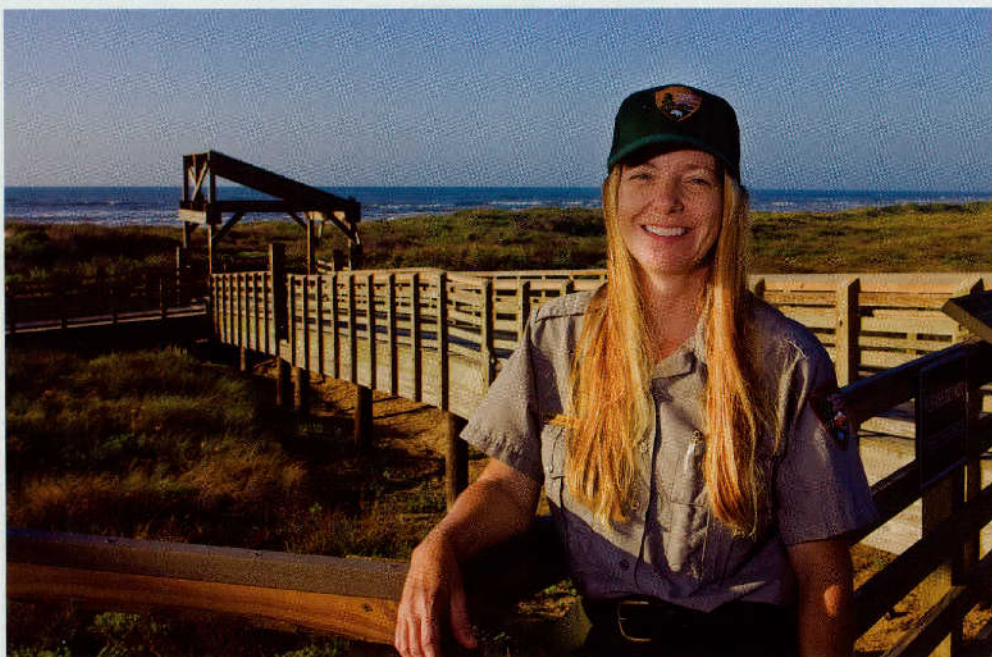
In 1986, with the possibility that some of those turtles had reached maturity, Donna Shaver, Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore,

began patrolling the beaches for signs that any had returned to nest. Shaver, along with staff and volunteers, continued to patrol for 10 years, occasionally finding a nesting turtle but none that bore a living tag—a small piece of under-shell implanted in the upper shells of released turtles. Then, in 1996, Shaver responded to a report of a nesting ridley and found what she'd been looking for at last.

"I brushed the sand off her carapace and saw the living tag," Shaver says. "I looked three times to be sure. I was ecstatic, after a decade of patrols not finding any, to finally see the first one. To know this was one I had hatched and she had come back! To me it symbolized real hope for the future, the real possibility that what we worked for all those years would come to fruition." Until that day, scientists had only hoped that nesting could be reestablished in Texas; now they had confirmation. More turtles have returned each year since and, in 2008, 195 Kemp's



"She had come back!" says Shaver. "To me, it symbolized real hope for the future." In 2008, 195 Kemp's ridley turtles were found on the Texas coast.



Donna Shaver began patrolling the beach at Padre Island National Seashore in 1986, searching for nesting turtles that scientists had tagged as hatchlings nearly a decade earlier. In 1996, she found what she'd been hoping for.

ridley nests were found on the Texas coast, 104 of them on North Padre Island.

In Mexico, several thousand Kemp's ridleys now arrive annually between March and August. Volunteers rush to collect their eggs and bring them into protected areas for incubation, but simply can't get to them all. So some nests hatch in the wild. Few people witness this magical event, which unfolds slowly, a moving drama with little sound. From a hole in the sand no bigger than a sink drain, a hatchling or two struggles out, soon followed by others in twos and threes. The turtles quickly orient toward the surf, detouring around driftwood and clumps of seaweed, righting themselves when tossed by a wave. By the time the last one gamely swims away, up to 45 minutes may have passed.

Fortunately, you needn't trek to the middle of nowhere for an encounter with sea turtles. They have become a major tourist draw on the Texas coast, and this tourism contributes in a big way to the sea turtle's continuing recovery.

"Public participation is very important," Shaver says. "The public



To learn more
about sea turtles,
see texashighways.com/webextra.



From May through August, the public can participate in hatchling releases on North and South Padre islands. The male turtles spend their entire lives at sea.



Jeff George, Director of Sea Turtle, Inc. on South Padre Island, examines an injured ridley. Since 1977, Sea Turtle, Inc. has rehabilitated these fascinating creatures while giving the public a chance to see them up close.

finds up to half the nests documented on the Texas coast each year, and it's critical that people know what to do when they see a turtle." Tours and hatchling releases also provide important opportunities to educate people about threats to sea turtle survival and how simple changes in behavior can help protect them.

Get involved with sea turtles at one of these Texas locations. (See map on page 41)

Galveston NOAA Sea Turtle Facility

An unassuming building on the grounds of Galveston's historic Fort Crockett houses the only federal facility dedicated to captive rearing of sea turtles. Hundreds of turtles, mostly loggerheads and ridleys a few weeks to three years old, swim and lounge in round plastic tanks. The interior remains near 80 degrees and 100 percent humidity year-round (turtles like it this way). Hatchlings (about the size of a deck of cards) arrive from the east coast of Florida in August or September; by the time they're three years old, they're about 12 inches across. Thirty-minute tours (by appointment only) led by staff biologists, exhibits on sea turtle nesting and tagging, and



Tours and hatchling releases provide important opportunities to educate people about sea turtle conservation.

touchable skulls and shells round out the experience. Also on display: a full-sized shrimp net with a turtle excluder device and a video on how it works. Part of national and international recovery efforts, these captive-reared turtles support research on tagging methods and development of turtle-friendly fishing gear. After making their contribution to science, the turtles gain their freedom. Since 1978, about 24,000 ridleys and 1,500 loggerheads have been reared, tagged, and released into the Gulf.

The NOAA/NMFS Sea Turtle Facility is at 4700 Ave. U in Galveston. Admission: Free. Tours take place by appointment only. The facility has been closed to the public due to damage from Hurricane Ike, but will reopen by early summer. Call 409/766-3670 (turtle barn) or 409/766-3500 (administrative offices); galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov/seaturtles/.

Texas State Aquarium

The Aquarium's Conservation Cove exhibit highlights the challenges many marine

creatures face, and the successes realized with some species and habitats. Its centerpiece, Tortuga Cay, provides sanctuary to four sea turtles that can never return to the wild: Hemingway, a hawksbill, and Waldo, a Kemp's ridley, each missing a flipper; Einstein, a hawksbill deemed non-releasable after three unexplained strandings; and Daisy, a Kemp's raised from a hatchling. The lagoon provides above- and below-water viewing, so visitors can watch the turtles glide gracefully through the water—a mesmerizing sight—and surface to breathe and eat. The Aquarium staff rehabilitates and releases, injured sea turtles on an ongoing basis. Conservation Cove also includes Otter Creek, populated by playful

North American river otters; the Swamp Tales exhibit, where alligators live in a natural marsh; the new Eagle Pass, where you'll see a bald eagle and other raptors; and regular shows at the Hawn Wild Flight Theater, featuring trained hawks, owls, falcons, and other birds.

The Texas State Aquarium is at 2710 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Corpus Christi. Hours: Daily 9-5 (until 6 March 1-Labor Day). Call 800/477-GULF; www.texasstateaquarium.org.

Saving Sea Turtles

Want to help endangered sea turtles? Go on vacation.

Okay, it's not quite that simple. But almost, provided your activities include visiting a place that supports sea turtle conservation.

Wherever you go, drive carefully on the beach. In Texas, report nesting turtles immediately to the statewide hotline (866/TURTLE-5), and don't approach or disturb turtles. From March through August, keep lights low in your beach condo and anywhere around the beach; too much light can discourage nesting turtles, and confuse hatchlings. Never throw trash in the water or on the beach, especially anything plastic, which can kill turtles that try to eat it, says Donna Shaver. Pick up plastic bags, bottles, and other trash you see on the beach.

Unintentional capture during recreational and commercial fishing remains the main cause of ridley mortality, says Shaver. Choose local seafood when possible, preferably caught using turtle-friendly gear (ask if the shrimp boat uses a turtle excluder device). When boating, watch for turtles, and if you see them, slow down. If you spot turtles while fishing, move elsewhere so you won't accidentally catch or snag one.

—Melissa Gaskill

Padre Island National Seashore

Between May and August, visitors can attend dawn hatchling releases at the National Seashore. Once staff turn the hatchlings loose on the sand, they take about 45 minutes to reach the water, where the turtles take off like creatures on a mission—which they are. Their objective: floating sargassum beds one to three miles offshore, where they'll feed for about a year and grow large enough to navigate the open sea, their home for 50-plus years.

Eighteen public releases took place in summer 2008, attended by more than 3,000 people from across the country and overseas. Dr. Shaver recommends checking projected release dates on the Web site, visiting when several releases are scheduled, and spending several

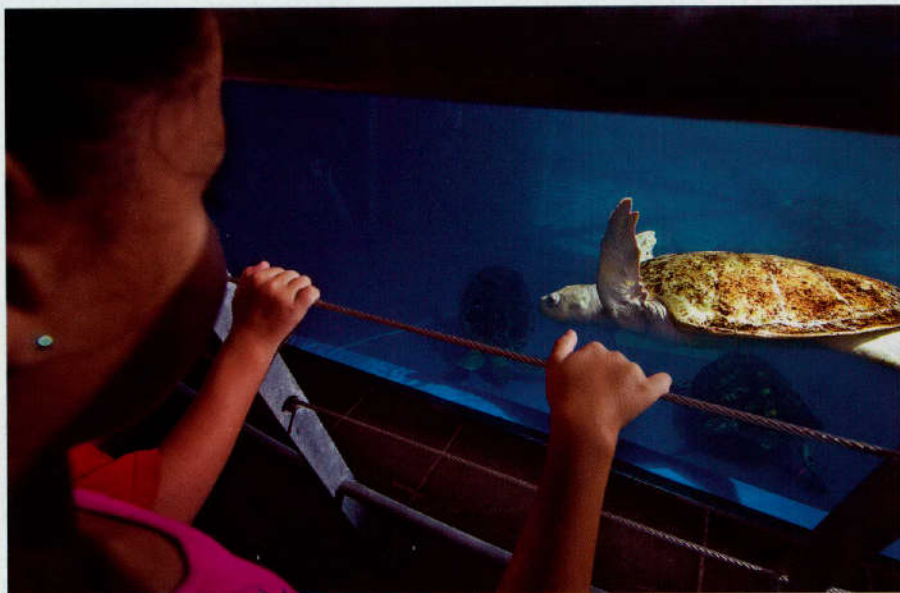
days in the area to increase the chances of seeing a release. Baby turtles generally hatch during the night and sometimes are so active that the lab can't wait until dawn to release them, lest the little turtles burn up too much energy for their swim to the sargassum. Continue calling the Hatchling Hotline for the latest information, and always check back the night before.

While releases are the main event, exhibits in the National Seashore's Malaquite Beach visitor center include models of turtle nests and emerging hatchlings, and a video on the recovery project. Keep your eyes open while on the beach from March to July, and you might spot a nesting ridley. Be sure to report it immediately.

Padre Island National Seashore's Malaquite Visitor Center is at 20402 Park Rd. 22 in Corpus Christi. The park is on North Padre Island and opens daily; visitor center opens 9-5 daily except on Christmas Day. Call 361/949-8068; www.nps.gov/pais. If you see turtle nests, call 866/TURTLE-5; to learn more about hatchling releases, call the Hatchling Hotline at 361/949-7163.



Visitors can watch the turtles glide gracefully through the water—a mesmerizing sight—then swim to the surface to breathe.



Clumsy on land but indescribably graceful in water, three species of sea turtles—deemed non-releasable due to injuries—live at Corpus Christi's Texas State Aquarium.

Sea Turtle, Inc.

In 1977, the late Ila Loetscher, a.k.a. The Turtle Lady, founded a small nonprofit center on South Padre Island to treat injured turtles. Today, Sea Turtle, Inc. continues to treat and rehabilitate turtles, giving the public a chance to see them up close. The facility offers daily informational shows and displays on turtle biology, nesting, and conservation. At 10 a.m., visitors can watch the turtles being fed. The gift shop features turtle merchandise, including a line of ceramics and coconut-shell jewelry produced by residents near the nesting beaches in Tamaulipas, Mexico; proceeds help fund ongoing protection of nesting turtles. (You can buy the ceramics at Brownsville's Gladys Porter Zoo, too.) Sea Turtle, Inc. also

Sea Turtle, Inc. is at 6617 Padre Blvd. on South Padre Island. Hours: Educational presentations take place every half hour from 10-4; feeding at 10. Supported by donations; suggested amount: \$3. Call 956/761-4511; www.seaturtleinc.com.

patrols South Padre beaches and maintains a protected area for incubating nests. During the summer, the public can observe hatchling releases, which take place late June through late August, peaking around July 4. **TH**

On a nesting beach in Mexico, writer MELISSA GASKILL began an unforgettable day watching a ridley clutch hatch in the wild. She also helped bring in 99 newly laid eggs. Photo Editor GRIFF SMITH says, "I found the dedication of the turtle volunteers really inspiring."



The governments of Mexico and the United States work together to reestablish a Kemp's ridley nesting colony at Padre Island National Seashore. Protected hatchling releases increase a turtle's odds of surviving to adulthood.





El Paso del Norte

Glimpses of a Grande City

Text by **MARTY LANGE** Photographs by **JEANNE HILARY**

Why is El Paso one of my favorite Texas cities?

Can I put my finger on it? *Mis amigos*, I can almost wrap my hands around it, just like a big *deshebrada* (shredded-beef) burrito at Rafa's. The bright sun. The desert climate. The Spanglish, Mex-Tex, Chihuahuan culture.

Hey, I'm just warming up. No matter how many times I visit, *El Paso del Norte* ("The Pass of the North"), as the area was originally named by 16th-Century Spanish explorers, never disappoints. For starters, the El Paso International Airport (what a welcoming panoramic vista!) and its majestic statue

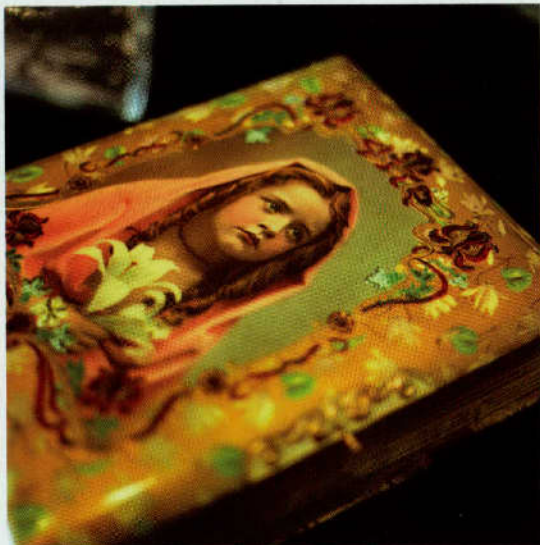
(*The Equestrian*) of Don Juan de Oñate, "The Last Conquistador," shapes many visitors' first impressions of the city. And impress they surely do.

Downtown, the handsome 1930 Plaza Theatre, on Pioneer Plaza, hosts first-rate entertainment, from symphony concerts to touring Broadway

A veiled view of downtown El Paso from the Gateway Hotel: The Camino Real Hotel towers in the distance; the former Popular Department Store dominates at right.

El Paso del Norte

RIGHT AND BELOW: A costumed docent welcomes visitors to the 1870s Magoffin Home, an architectural rarity filled with the prominent family's early furnishings and heirlooms (a reproduction of an 1890s photo album shown here). FACING PAGE: Street vendors sell cups of roasted corn and other edible delights downtown.



shows. The El Paso Museum of Art entralls with a wonderfully eclectic mix encompassing 12th- to 18th-Century European art; a 17th- to 19th-Century Spanish Viceroyal Collection; several thousand works by a vast array of masters (Goya, Picasso, Rivera, Degas, Rembrandt); contemporary Southwestern art; and an American collection with Remington, Russell, and Stuart. The late masters Tom Lea and Luis Jiménez, both with strong El Paso ties, left artistic legacies that validate the community's long-standing tradition in the visual arts. Some of their works are among the museum's most iconic.

Also downtown, the Victorian-era adobe Magoffin Home (a state historic site built around 1875), provides a prime example of Territorial-style architecture. The 19-room home contains Eastlake furnishings that reflect the refined life of a prominent pioneer family.

Downtown El Paso bustles with vibrant street scenes amid charming Art Deco buildings, and the Victorian-era Magoffin Home.



Southwestern style and sensibility abound in this border metropolis. The University of Texas at El Paso campus' distinctive Bhutanesque architecture contributes vibrant variety to the skyline, along with downtown's sombrero-shaped Abraham Chavez Theatre, old Art Deco buildings, and the historic, red brick Union Depot (completed in 1905), with its signature bell tower. I'm always awed by the metro area's massive sweep of light at night, and, in years past, I've thoroughly enjoyed visiting neighboring Juárez.

I'm a big fan of UTEP Miner athletics, the late coach Don Haskins (read/see *Glory Road*), and the Sun Bowl, home of UTEP football and one of the oldest annual postseason collegiate bowl games, held on the last day of the year.

The city offers the best Mexican food in the U.S.A. (sorry, every



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

Out About El Paso

■ The **Franklin Mountains** (and namesake state park, which is the country's largest urban preserve; www.tpwd.state.tx.us) stand as an epic, mile-high-plus landmark. Want a memorable panoramic view of the area? Both **Scenic Drive**, along the south face of the Franklins, and **Transmountain Road**, which passes through Smuggler's Gap farther north, fit the bill, as does the thrilling gondola ride (above) to the top of Ranger Peak at **Wyler Aerial Tramway State Park** (www.tpwd.state.tx.us). And, you'll never forget seeing the spectacular springtime stands of blooming yellow mountain poppies.

■ The pageantry of **Viva El Paso!** (www.viva-ep.org) makes it a popular theatrical production each summer at open-air **McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater** on the east side of the Franklins. The show covers 400 years of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Western American people, arts, and culture with brilliant song, dance, and costumes, and bravura special effects.

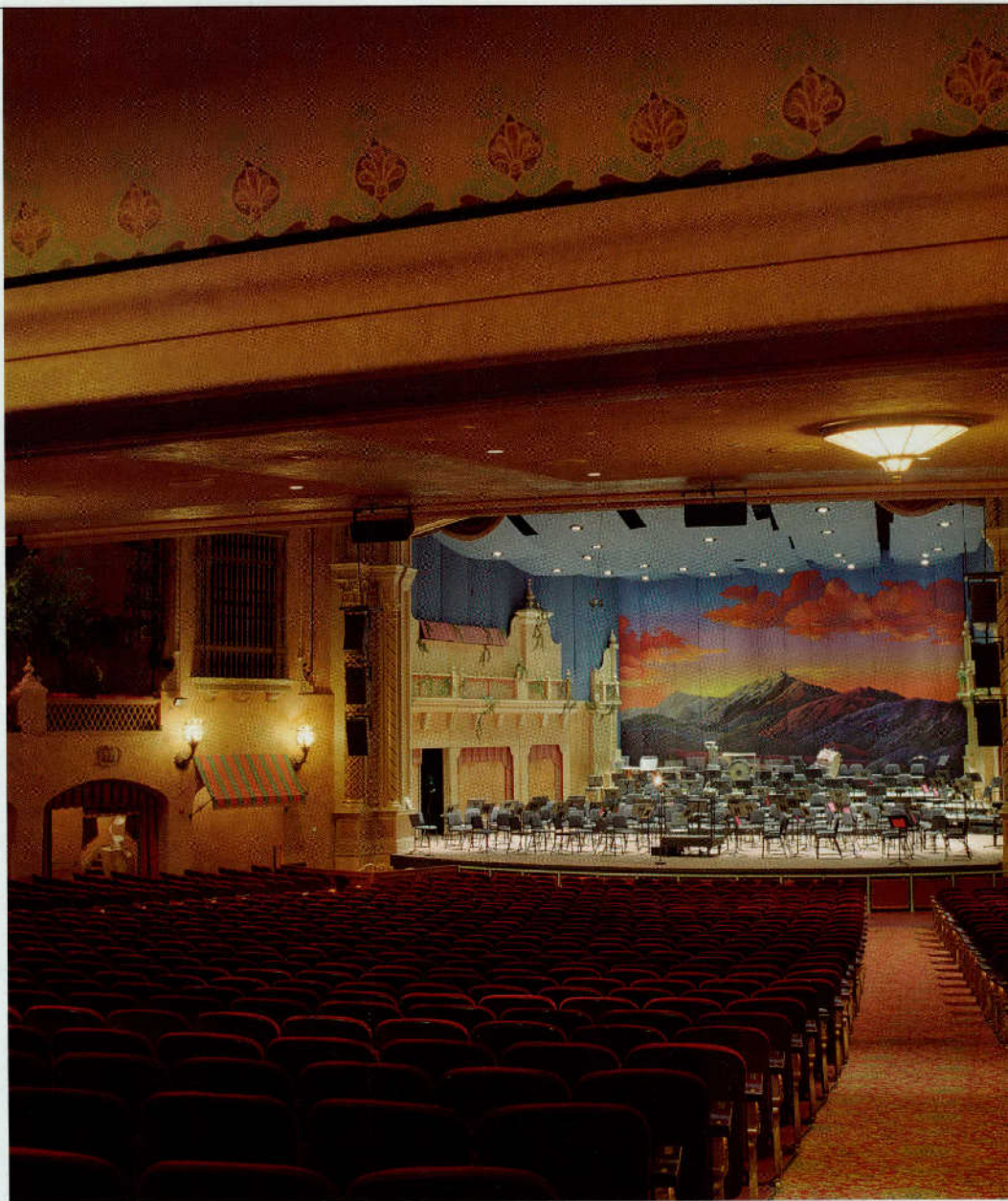
■ At some point, all Texans should experience the **El Paso Mission Trail** (www.themissiontrail.net), southeast of the city. Three well-preserved adobe missions—Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario—provide a tangible link to the region's Spanish-Colonial heritage.

■ The history, recognition, and celebration of the nation's **First Thanksgiving** (1598) forms yet another important historical aspect of the area. **Chamizal National Memorial** (www.nps.gov/cham) commemorates this event every spring, and offers live entertainment throughout the year. And, a stop at **Hueco Tanks State Historic Site** (www.tpwd.state.tx.us), northeast of the city, with its fascinating pictographs, is a must (reservations required).

—Marty Lange

El Paso del Norte

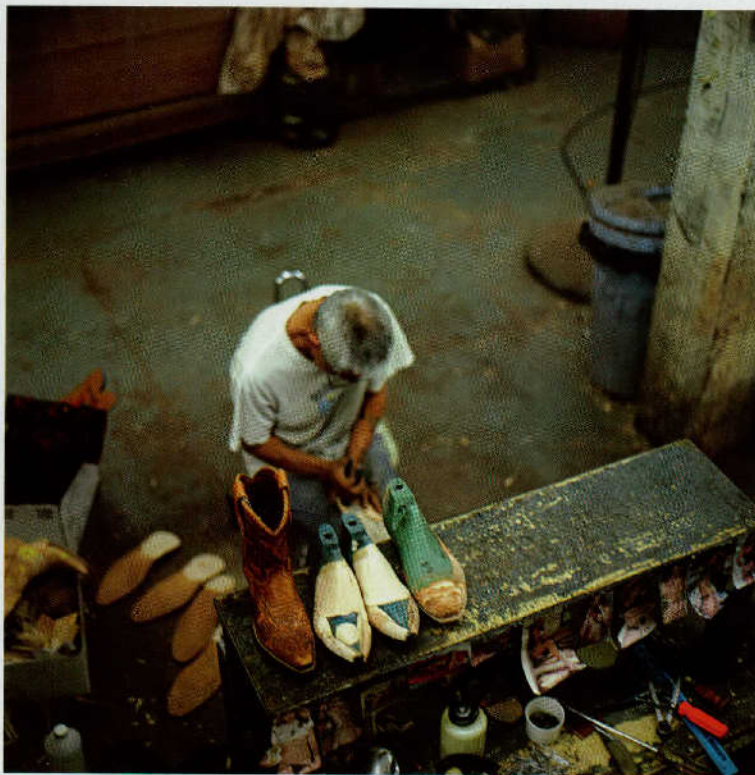
RIGHT AND BELOW: Built in 1930, the Plaza Theatre was once billed as the "largest theater of its kind between Dallas and Los Angeles." FACING PAGE: The craft of bootmaking remains alive and vibrant at Rocketbuster—take a tour! The company's "La Pajera" boots sell for \$1,795 a pair.



other place comes in second). A sampling of must-try establishments includes: H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop, L&J Café (across from historic Concordia Cemetery), Leo's, The Little Diner (in Canutillo), Chico's Tacos, Ciro's (for *machacado con huevo*), and Los Bandidos de Carlos & Mickey's (for its extensive menu and comfortable hacienda atmosphere). There's also Cappetto's (for Italian), Elmer's (for American comfort food), Café Central (for eclectic fine dining), and—35 minutes east of the city—Cattleman's Steakhouse, with its true-West setting at scenic Indian Cliffs Ranch.

El Paso's Wild West history of gunfighters and outlaws (John Wesley Hardin, Pat Garrett, John Selman, Bass Outlaw, Dallas Stoudenmire) makes *Tombstone* look like *Happy Days*. The city still reigns as "Boot Capital of the World," with Rocketbuster, Tony Lama, Justin, and some 15 other boot/cowboy couture companies.

*The 1930 Plaza Theatre,
on Pioneer Plaza, plays host to Broadway
performances, yet the city still reigns as
“Boot Capital of the World.”*



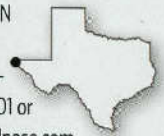
And there's plenty more. On these pages, noted photographer Jeanne Hilary shares her visual quest of *El Paso del Norte*. Experience the city for yourself. And please, go have a plate of green chile-chicken enchiladas at L&J Café for me. **TH**

Associate editor **MARTY LANGE** has been a fan of *El Paso* ever since the Miners won the 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship. International photographer **JEANNE HILARY** is based in New York. This was her first trip to Texas' westernmost city.



El Paso

FOR MORE INFORMATION on **El Paso**, contact the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau at 915/534-0601 or 800/351-6024; www.visitelpaso.com.



Contact information for sites mentioned follows.

Restaurants

Rafa's Burritos, three locations; the original at 408 Dodge Rd., 915/779-6221.

H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop, 701 E. Yandell Dr., 915/533-1144.

L&J Café, 3622 E. Missouri Ave., 915/566-8418.

Leo's Mexican Food Restaurant, three locations; the original at 315 E. Mills Ave., 915/544-1001.

The Little Diner, 7209 7th St. (Canutillo), 915/877-2176; www.littlediner.com.

Chico's Tacos, five locations; the original at 4230 Alameda Ave., 915/533-0975.

El Ciro's, 3710 Montana Ave., 915/562-2476.

Los Bandidos de Carlos & Mickey's, 1310 Magruder, 915/778-3323.

Cappetto's Italian Restaurant, 2716 Montana Ave., 915/566-9357. Also at 2285 Trawood Ave.; 915/591-8907; www.cappettos.com.

Elmer's Family Restaurant, 6305 Montana Ave., 915/778-5485.

Café Central, 109 N. Oregon St., 915/545-2233; www.cafecentral.com.

Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch, 3450 S. Fabens Carlsbad Rd., 915/544-3200; www.cattlemanssteakhouse.com.

Shopping

Go to www.visitelpaso.com for a listing of El Paso's boot manufacturers and retailers. Also see www.rocketbuster.com, www.tonylama.com, and www.justinboots.com.

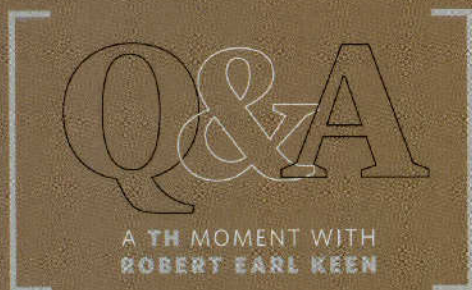
Attractions

The Plaza Theatre, 125 Pioneer Plaza, 915/231-1100; www.theplazatheatre.org.

El Paso Museum of Art, One Arts Festival Plaza, 915/532-1707; www.elpasomuseum.org.

Magoffin Home State Historic Site, 1120 Magoffin Ave., 915/533-5147; www.thc.state.tx.us.

University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave., 915/747-5000; www.utep.edu.



Keen

on the road

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS YOU NOTICE ABOUT ROBERT EARL Keen is that he talks the way he writes. The balladeer—whose iconic song “The Road Goes On Forever” marks its 20th anniversary this year—is sitting under a tree outside The Zone recording studio in Dripping Springs, some 100 miles east of his home near Kerrville. The wind’s whipping, the sun’s shining, and he’s reflecting on life, how good it is, and about the good, big year he’s living. As he talks, he spins yarns in his innately cadenced way, unfurling narrative as he goes.

The 53-year-old Houston native is indeed having a good year. The University of Texas Press recently published his book *The Road Goes on Forever and the Music Never Ends*. Keen’s creative team is working on a documentary called *The Year of the Road*, which features fans’ own tales about “The Road Goes On Forever” and

Text by **SHERMAKAYE BASS** Photographs by **DARREN CARROLL**



Q&A

A TH MOMENT WITH ROBERT EARL KEEN

the song's effects on their lives. In January, he saw the release of a two-disc tribute album (*Undone: A MusicFest Tribute to Robert Earl Keen*), recorded live in Colorado by a slew of new-generation songwriters who revere his music. And the songwriter garnered what you might call a Grammy-by-association in February, when George Strait's *Troubadour*—which includes a song written by Keen titled "West Texas Town"—won Best Country Album.

Keen is excited about where the road has led him: the 2009 tour, the ink from major newspapers, the outpouring of love from fans, and the record he's working on with powerhouse producer and musician Lloyd Maines, due out sometime this year. Despite all that, one of the things Keen enjoys talking about most is Texas.

BASS: Can you share some memories from childhood about growing up in Houston?

KEEN: We [Keen and his sister] grew up [during what I call] the bright, shining age of Houston, in the late '50s and early '60s, when the space program was beginning and the oil business was rocking. Anybody who was involved in oil was just the coolest person on the block [his father was a petroleum engineer]. I remember "Go Texan Day" in Houston, which was the first day of the rodeo and the day the Salt Grass Trail Ride would end up in town. I used to keep a picture in my wallet of me when I was about three, wearing one of those little felt cowboy hats and holding my parents' hands as we walked down to the rodeo on Go Texan Day.

BASS: What is it that makes Texans Texans? Do you think it's some intractable sense of place?

KEEN: Growing up, there was always "Texas" and "The Rest of the World." You got this idea—or I did, early on—that there really was no other place, no other option, besides Texas. I never really had that wanderlust like some people. I'm even surprised at Texans who get up and leave and don't come back—like, say, Tommy Tune or T Bone Burnett, people who have made a home somewhere else. I'm always thinking, "Well, I betcha when they get about 70, they'll come back here." And a lot of people do.

BASS: Is it the landscape?

KEEN: The sense of place here, for me, has always been about openness—not only the landscape, but the people. It always seems a little more edgy, a little more frontier-like, in Texas.

BASS: Tell me one thing that's unique to Texas.

KEEN: The truth is, in music and in rodeo, a person can make a career here and never leave this state. Pretty amazing.

A skillful performer, Keen aims to please during a concert at Brewster Street Icehouse in Corpus Christi.



BASS: Talk a little more about where you grew up and how that inspired you as an artist.

KEEN: Well, my parents had a little place outside of Frelsberg, and we went there almost every weekend and spent time cleaning up the place, cutting cedar trees, running around. There was a little creek behind it, and we had some old horses. [Those memories are] a big part of my whole need to be outdoors [today]. I always feel claustrophobic





"The sense of place here ... has always been about openness—not only the landscape, but the people. It always seems a little more edgy, a little more frontier-like, in Texas."

in places where I can't get out in the open. Also, we used to stop in Richmond at Larry's Mexican Restaurant, and that was where I wrote my first song. It was a tribute to the restaurant, to the tune of "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain." In it, I listed pretty much all the food that I liked there.

BASS: Favorite Texas writers?

KEEN: I'd have to say [Larry] McMurtry. I love McMurtry ... because he *works* hard

at it, I think. He always works hard. I think that some of his first books—*Leaving Cheyenne* and *Horseman, Pass By*—those are just ... [he leaves the adjective blank]. I've read most of his stuff over the years. I think he's just a great writer.

BASS: What musicians, in general, have influenced you, outside of country music?

KEEN: Growing up, I was a fan of pop music. I liked the Beatles—and I know I can't even go into this—but I liked

Keen enjoys playing at historic venues like Floores Country Store (above) in Helotes, and Gruene Hall (previous spread) in New Braunfels.

Q&A

A TH MOMENT WITH ROBERT EARL KEEN

Cream better than the Beatles. [He flashes a mischievous grin.] I went to see a Cream concert when I was 12—we snuck in and snuck backstage, and they kicked our butts out. But it was a great concert.

BASS: Jumping back to Texas ... what's one of your favorite stretches of road?

KEEN: If you go from Kerrville to Medina on [Texas] 16, it's a really nice drive, and I'm talking about any time of year—winter, summer, fall. For another scenic trip, you can go west toward Vanderpool, and then, if you're dying to do it, you can go on up to Lost Maples [State Natural Area]. I know that's almost a cliché, but [that area] never gets tiring, never gets old.

BASS: What's a good dive bar in this state? [We agree it's kind of a stupid question, but he humors me.]

KEEN: My favorite dive bar would be Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar in Bandera. It just serves beer; you can bring in your own bottle and order a set-up for a dollar or whatever. You go in there, and you'll see people who have their bottles in a bag or some plastic thing with their ice in it. It's really like walking back in time.

BASS: Okay, sticking to nightlife, what would be your favorite dancehall?

KEEN: I went to every dancehall within a hundred miles of Columbus when I was growing up, but a lot of those are closed now. So I'd have to say my favorite dancehall to play would be Floores Country Store, outside of San Antonio.

BASS: What about your favorite barbecue?

KEEN: What are you doing ... ? Am I gonna get a lot of [grief] for saying this ... ? Well, let me tell you about one that nobody ever mentions in the magazines: Billy's Pit Bar-B-Q in Bastrop is awesome. Everything is really, really good.

One of my favorites from childhood that's still there is the Hickory Pit, on Rice Avenue, in Bellaire.

BASS: What would you order at the Hickory Pit today?

KEEN: I would order the same thing I've always ordered, a brisket poor boy sandwich with double fries.

BASS: Best Mexican food?

KEEN: [Now he's laughing, ready to play ball.] Herbert's Taco Hut, either in San Marcos or New Braunfels.

BASS: Steak?

KEEN: The Hoffbrau in Austin would be my steak place, definitely.

BASS: You've been touring for 30 years now; tell me one of your favorite memories of playing in Texas.

KEEN: Well, one time I was playing in Dallas, and I got a cab over to Poor David's Pub. I had this Nigerian cab driver, and he had this great accent, and he was talking about how he liked Dallas and Texas, and how driving a cab was not exactly what he wanted to do, but it was okay. He said, "I just want to get where I am very happy." He asked what I did, and when I told him I played music, he said, "Oh, I love music. It makes you very happy. I love music." And then we pulled up to Poor David's, and the place was sold out and there were people standing out on the street trying to get in. He said, "Is this where you play?!" I said, "Yeah," and he said, "Oh, you must be so happy!" [Keen's voice has an emphatic, boyish tone.] And I said, "You know what, you're right. I am so happy." **TH**

Austin writer SHERMAKAYE BASS remembers hearing a young Robert Earl Keen play in Dallas, and thinking that he would make it big. Photographer DARREN CARROLL has acquired a taste for Texas music since moving to Austin from New York. He enjoyed photographing Keen and his band.

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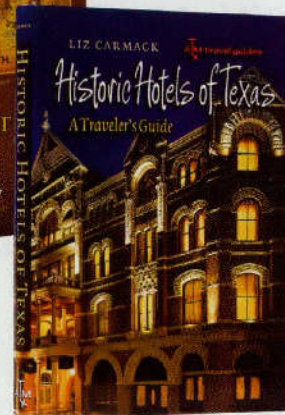
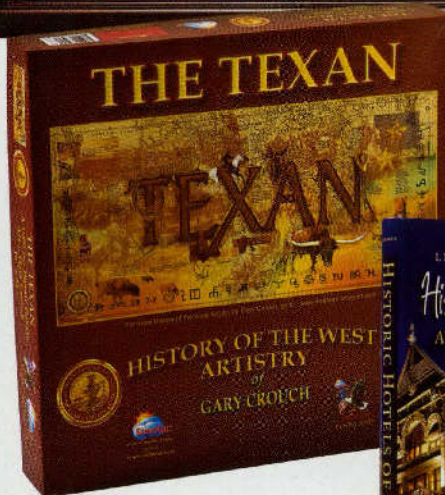
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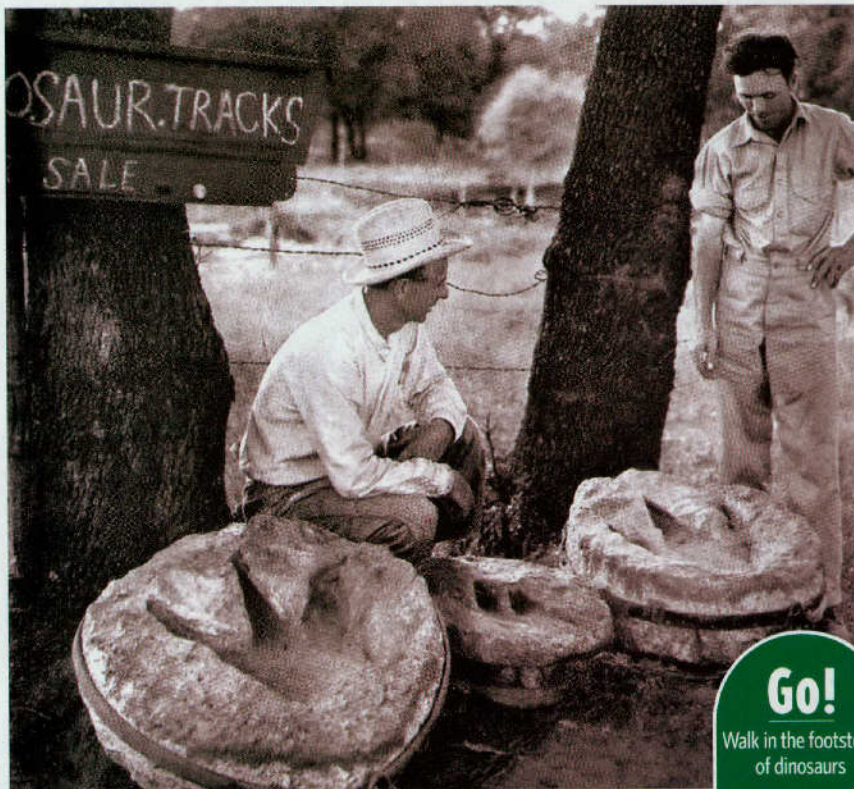
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The Dinosaur Highway

Glen Rose celebrates the centennial of an unusual discovery

Text by **LAURIE E. JASINSKI**



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A TEENAGER'S CHANCE DISCOVERY 100 years ago in Somervell County caused a stir among locals and eventually drew the attention of scientists around the world. On a late winter day in 1909, George Adams was tramping along Wheeler Branch, a tributary of the Paluxy River, near Glen Rose, when he saw a strange and compelling sight—a trail of large, bird-like prints that led through the limestone streambed ahead.

Puzzled about the three-toed tracks, he confided in Robert McDonald, his principal at Glen Rose School. In a letter written in 1965 to one of the boy's relatives, McDonald described the youth's revelation:

"On this occasion [*sic*], he went to the black board and drew some tracks. I was impressed and we set out immediately for Wheeler Branch. About one mile up stream George stopped and

In the 1930s, some Glen Rose-area farmers sold dinosaur tracks they excavated from the Paluxy riverbed.

Where Dinosaurs Roamed

LOCAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE DINOSAUR tracks in Somervell County culminated in the dedication of **Dinosaur Valley State Park** in 1970. Located off FM 205, about four miles west of **Glen Rose**, the 1,590-acre park allows visitors to see firsthand some of the best-preserved and most numerous dinosaur fossil footprints in Texas and the world. The best viewing is during dry weather when the Paluxy River is low; call ahead to check on river conditions. The staff also offers interpretive programs about dinosaurs throughout the year.

In addition to the stony traces left by creatures long ago, the scenic river valley offers leisure activities such as hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, camping, fishing, and swimming. "A vast majority of people come to see the dinosaur tracks and end up coming back because of the river," says Park Superintendent Billy Paul Baker. Two fiberglass dinosaur replicas, commissioned by the Sinclair Oil Company for the 1964 New York World's Fair, tower near the gift shop, providing perfect backdrops for funky photos. Call 254/897-4588; www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Texas Memorial Museum, the exhibit hall of the **Texas Natural Science Center at The University of Texas at Austin**, displays both sauropod and theropod tracks in a rock slab quarried from



Scientists say this sauropod trackway in Dinosaur Valley State Park was likely made by *Paluxysaurus*.

the Paluxy River in 1940. Call 512/471-1604; www.texasnaturalsciencecenter.org.

Read more about the Paluxy River's dinosaur footprints in *Dinosaur Highway: A History of Dinosaur Valley State Park* (TCU Press, 2008). The book's companion CD single, "The Dinosaur Waltz" (available at www.rednickelrecords.com), celebrates the region's tracks in song.

—Laurie E. Jasinski

pointed them out. There they were! No doubt about it—dinosaur tracks!

Next morning at school it was announced that George Adams had discovered dinosaur tracks up Wheeler Branch ... field day was declared and away went the entire student body to view those amazing tracks that had remained hidden throughout the ages."

Newspapers reported the remarkable find, and the stony oddities enticed visitors from surrounding counties. Paleontologists from the Smithsonian determined from a sketch of the fossil footprints that they belonged to "one of the large bipedal dinosaurs." Local residents soon

discovered other sets of tracks in the Paluxy riverbed, which became the focus of tourists, entrepreneurs, and scientists. Thus began the unveiling of Texas' best-preserved dinosaur tracks.

Paleontologists who later examined the three-toed prints (called theropod tracks) identified *Acrocanthosaurus* as the likely trackmaker. The imposing carnivore, up to 30 feet long and weighing two to three tons, had menacing claws, serrated teeth, and a bony ridge that ran the length of its spine. Researchers confirmed that other dinosaurs had also left their calling cards. Sauropod tracks likely made by *Paluxysaurus*, a herbivore,



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Speaking of Texas

appear as huge potholes—sometimes three feet long—that pit the rocky bottom of the riverbed. One of the largest of the Texas dinosaurs, *Paluxysaurus* stood up to 60 feet long and weighed 30 tons. Paleontologist James Farlow of Indi-

siana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, who has studied dinosaur tracks in Texas since 1980, describes the northern loop of the Paluxy River, in Dinosaur Valley State Park, as the site of “one of the most spectacular concentrations of fossilized dinosaur footprints in the world.”

He saw a strange and compelling sight—a trail of large, bird-like prints that led through the streambed ahead.

siana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, who has studied dinosaur tracks in Texas since 1980, describes the northern loop of the Paluxy River, in Dinosaur Valley State Park, as the site of “one of the most spectacular concentrations of fossilized dinosaur footprints in the world.”

Farlow notes in *The Dinosaurs of Dinosaur Valley State Park* (1993) that a dinosaur skeleton offers only indirect inferences about the living animal. “Trackways are different,” he writes, “... they preserve the movements of animals, constituting a kind of time machine that allows us to be transported, if only in our imagination, to actual moments in the lives of dinosaurs.”

Research of the Glen Rose tracks has produced significant data about these animals’ size and locomotion, as well as the direction in which they were traveling and a rough estimate of their speed. The traces also tell the story of an ancient landscape.

Prehistoric North Central Texas was far different from the cedar-clad hills and limestone valleys of today—it featured inlet bays, tidal lagoons, and salt marshes. As the creatures of the Early Cretaceous Period trudged across the coastal flats, approximately 113 million years ago, their feet sank in fine-grained, limy mud—the ideal medium for making impressions that would eventually harden and be buried under layers of sediment.

For eons, these snapshots of the creatures’ journeys lay hidden until time and erosion finally revealed a little piece of the ages to a schoolboy. A century later, you can see the tracks for yourself at Dinosaur Valley State Park. **TH**



Theropod tracks at Dinosaur Valley State Park intrigue two young visitors. Like the tracks first spotted by George Adams, they were likely made by *Acrocanthosaurus*, a carnivore weighing two to three tons.

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TEXAS MELON FESTIVALS GALORE

are coming soon to a town near you. **Stockdale** starts things off on June 19-20 with its **Watermelon Jubilee**, first celebrated in 1937. **Luling** holds its 56th annual **Watermelon Thump** (right), June 25-28; **Center** proudly hosts the **What-A-Melon Festival**, July 10-11; **McDade's** annual **Watermelon Festival** is July 11. **Hempstead** follows suit with its own **Watermelon Festival** on July 18; **Naples' Watermelon Festival** is July 24-25. **DeLeon's Peach & Melon Festival** takes place on August 3-8. Plenty of juicy fun!



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www.watermelonthump.com

June Events

BIG BEND COUNTRY

EL PASO: National Trail Day June 6. Hike the Tom Mays Trail and learn about the Chihuahuan Desert. Reservations required. Franklin Mountains State Park. 915/566-6441

FORT STOCKTON: Blue Moon in the Park Concert June 5, 19. 432/336-2264

FORT STOCKTON: Summer Off the Patio Concert June 11. Annie Riggs Memorial Museum. 432/336-2264

FORT STOCKTON: Fiesta de San Juan June 26-28. 432/336-2264

MIDLAND: Midland City Limits Concert June 6. Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri. www.museumsw.org 432/683-2882

ODESSA: Juneteenth Celebration June 19-21. Woodson Park, 1020 E. Murphy. 432/332-2515

PECOS: 127th West of the Pecos Rodeo June 24-27. Buck Jackson Arena. Dance held nightly at the Reeves County Sheriff's Posse Barn. www.pecosrodeo.com 432/445-2406

VAN HORN: Frontier Days Celebration June 19-20. www.vanhorn-texas.org 432/283-7494

VAN HORN: AJRA Rodeo June 26-27. American Junior Rodeo Association event. Rodeo Arena, Jones Street. www.vanhorn-texas.org 432/283-8440

GULF COAST

ALVIN: Tour de Braz June 14. Bike scenic routes from 10-100 miles through historic Brazoria County. Includes barbecue, music, watermelon, and more. Race begins and ends at Alvin Community College, 310 Mustang Road. www.alvintexas.org 281/585-3359

ARANSAS PASS: 61st Annual Shrimpoee June 12-14. 200 E. Johnson Ave. www.aransaspass.org 361/758-2750

BEAUMONT: Zydeco Fest June 13. Gator Country Adventure Park. www.gatorcountrytx.net 409/794-WILD

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water Street Market Music & Art Fest June 5-7. Water Street. www.texasurfmuseum.com 361/882-2364

CROSBY: Crosby Barbecue Cookoff, Fair, & PRCA Rodeo June 5-13 www.crosbyfairandrodeo.net

EAST BERNARD: Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 13. Music, dancing, and live entertainment. Arts & crafts, plate lunch, cake walk, kids' games, and plenty of kolaches. www.kkfest.com 979/335-4827 or 979/335-7907

GALVESTON: AIA Sandcastle Competition June 6. More than 80 teams—consisting of Houston area architects, designers, engineers, and contractors—compete with their sand-sculpting tools. Hours: 10-5. East Beach, 1923 Boddeker Drive. www.aiasandcastle.com 713/520-0155

HOUSTON: The Farnsworth Invention June 5-28. Aaron Sorkin's new play about the creation of TV. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries raced against each other to invent a device called "television." Alley Theatre. www.alleytheatre.org 713/228-9341

HOUSTON: 20th Annual Accordion Kings & Queens Concert June 6. Accordion greats Sunny Saucedo, Santiago Jimenez Jr., Cedryl Ballou, Mark Halata, and Lady "D" are on the bill. www.texasfolklife.org 512/441-9222

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HOUSTON: 2009 Water Gardens & Ponds Tour June 6-7. www.houstonpondsociety.org 713/822-5515

HOUSTON: Swan Lake June 11-21. Houston Ballet at Brown Theater, Wortham Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/227-2787

HOUSTON: Cabaret June 16-28. Travel back in time to the decadent world of 1930s Berlin. Theatre Under the Stars. www.tuts.com 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882

HOUSTON: A Gulf Coast Juneteenth June 19. Miller Outdoor Theatre, 100 Concert Drive. www.houstonculture.org 281/373-3386 or 713/521-3686

HOUSTON: Eric Clapton & Steve Winwood June 24. Touring rock titans pair up at the Toyota Center. www.houstontoyotacenter.com 866/446-8849

PALACIOS: Centennial Week June 29-July 4. www.palaciosbeacon.com 361/972-3009

PORT ARTHUR: Lotus Garden & Bamboo Festival June 6-7. Buu Mon Buddhist Temple. www.buumon.org 409/982-9319

PORT ARTHUR: Zachary Breaux Jazz Fest June 12-13. 409/982-8394 or 409/985-9977

VICTORIA: Victoria Bach Festival June 9-13. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. www.victoriabachfestival.org 361/570-5788

WHARTON: Freedom Festival June 26-27. 979/532-1862

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: Annie June 5-7. Bass Concert Hall. www.BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com 512/477-6060

AUSTIN: Mamma Mia! June 23-28. Bass Concert Hall. www.broadwayacrossamerica.com 800/731-SHOW

BANDERA: RiverFest June 27. City Park. www.banderafestival.com 830/796-4447

BLANCO: Blanco Lavender Festival June 12-14. Vendors, artists, musicians, lavender farm tours, culinary arts, green growing/gardening, and aromatherapy. Blanco Square. www.blancolavenderfest.com 830/833-5101

BOERNE: Abendkonzerte June 2, 16, 30. Features the Boerne Village Band. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and coolers. Main Plaza. 830/249-7277

BOERNE: Berges Fest Celebration & Parade June 19-21. Celebration of German heritage features a parade, live entertainment, watermelon-eating contest, carnival, Dachshund races, canoe races, and more. Kendall County Fairgrounds. www.bergesfest.com 210/347-2131

LOMETA: Lampasas Riata Roundup Rodeo June 19-20. Lometa Regional Park. www.lampasaschamber.org 512/556-5172

MARBLE FALLS: Chamber Music Festival June 29-July 4. Free evening concerts. www.harmonyarts.org 830/693-1791

SAN MARCOS: Texas Water Safari June 13. This 260-mile canoe race begins at Aquarena Center and continues to the Gulf Coast. www.toursanmarcos.com 888/200-5620

SAN MARCOS: Juneteenth Celebration June 19-20. www.toursanmarcos.com 888/200-5620

SAN SABA: 71st Annual Rodeo June 20-21. San Saba Rodeo Grounds. 325/372-5141

STONEWALL: Stonewall Peach Jamboree & Rodeo June 19-20. www.stonewalltexas.com 830/644-2735

PANHANDLE PLAINS

ABILENE: Texas High School Rodeo Association State Finals June 12-21. Taylor County Expo Center. 325/677-4376

ALBANY: 70th Annual Fort Griffin Fandangle June 18-20, 25-27. Theatrical history is written, directed, lighted, costumed, sung, and danced by the people of Albany. Staged in an acre-sized outdoor amphitheater, the Fandangle commemorates the rich history of the area. www.fortgriffinfandangle.org 325/762-3838

AMARILLO: Cowboy Roundup USA June 5-6. Features the World Championship Chuck Wagon Roundup. Tri-State Fairgrounds. www.cowboyroundupusa.org 806/376-7767

BIG SPRING: 76th Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo June 18-20. Howard County Rodeo Arena. www.bigspringrodeo.com 432/263-8485

BROWNWOOD: Texas Bluegrass Celebration June 4-6. Brownwood Coliseum. www.texasbluegrasscelebration.com 325/646-8531

BROWNWOOD: Juneteenth Celebration June 19-20. Cecil Holman Park and Bennie Houston Community Center. 325/642-0196

CISCO: The Great Santa Claus Bank Robbery June 26-27, July 3-19. Dinner-theater musical about the historic Great Texas Bank Robbery by Santa Claus and his associates. Conrad Hilton Community Center. www.bigcountrydinnertheatre.com 254/442-5000

COLEMAN: 72nd PRCA Rodeo June 18-20. Coleman Rodeo Grounds. www.colemantexas.org 325/625-2163

CROSS PLAINS: Robert E. Howard Days June 12-13. Howard, best known for his creation of Conan, The Barbarian, also wrote poetry, Westerns, boxing stories, and more. His poetry will be featured this year. Texas State Poet Laureate, Larry Thomas is the guest of honor. 254/725-4993

HENRIETTA: Lake Arrowhead Triathlon June 6. Lake Arrowhead. www.weechita.org 940/322-3223

LUBBOCK: Llano Estacado Wine & Clay Festival June 13-14. Llano Estacado Winery, 3426 E. FM 1586. www.llanowine.com 800/634-3854

JACKSBORO: Pioneer Day June 6. Jack County Museum, 241 W. Bellknap. www.jacksborochamber.com 940/567-5900

MORTON: Texas' Last Frontier Heritage Celebration & Texas Buffalo Soldier Living History Encampment June 27-28. Celebrates Cochran County's Western frontier heritage. Cochran County Park. 806/266-5484

RANGER: 19th Annual June Festival June 6. 1505-1507 Loop 254 W. 254/647-5353 or 254/647-3340

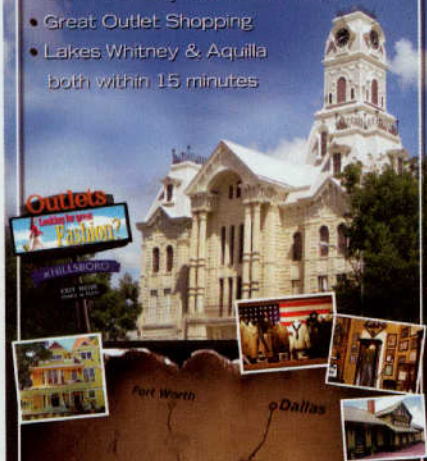
SLATON: South Plains Air Show June 6. Slaton Municipal Airport. www.slatonchamberofcommerce.org 806/828-6238

SNYDER: Western Swing Festival June 10-13. The Coliseum. www.snyderchamber.org 325/573-3558

WICHITA FALLS: Legends of Western Swing Music Festival June 18-20. MPEC, 1000 5th St. www.myspace.com/legendsofwesternswing 940/716-5555

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TH SPOTLIGHT

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PINEY WOODS

CONROE: Sounds of Texas Music Series—The

Flatlanders June 6. Joe Ely, Butch Hancock, and Jimmie Dale Gilmore unite to perform tunes from their new CD, *Hills and Valleys*. Crighton Theatre, 234 N. Main St. www.lakeconroetx.org 936/441-7469

CROCKETT: 74th Annual Fiddlers Festival & Steak Cookoff June 13. Crockett Civic Center. www.crockettarea-chamber.org 936/544-2359

GLADEWATER: 72nd Annual Gladewater Round-Up Rodeo June 10-13. Nationally sanctioned PRCA rodeo features a parade, chuck-wagon cookoff, street dance, and cowboy prayer breakfast. Rodeo Arena. www.gladewater-rodeo.com 903/845-5126

JACKSONVILLE: 25th Annual Tomato Fest June 13. Downtown Jacksonville. www.jacksonvilletexas.com 903/586-2217

LONGVIEW: AlleyFest June 5-7. Downtown Longview. www.alleyfest.org

LUFKIN: Neches River Rendezvous June 6. Features a 10-mile canoe trip. Experience the beauty, challenge, and pleasure of the Neches River. <http://visitlufkin.com/events/annual/nechesriver/> 936/634-6644

NACOGDOCHES: 20th Annual Texas Blueberry Festival June 13. Features live music, blueberry farm tours, arts & crafts, children's activities, and delicious blueberry fare. Downtown Nacogdoches. www.texasblueberryfestival.com 888/653-3788

WINNSBORO: Northeast Texas Music Fest June 20. The Bellamy Brothers headline with opening performances by East Texas area musicians. Includes a sanctioned barbecue contest, along with arts & crafts vendors. Winnsboro Park Pavilion. www.northeasttexasmusicfestival.com 903/342-0263

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TH SPOTLIGHT

Flamenco Fire

THE GIPSY KINGS bring their thrilling French *rumba flamenca* to Texas this month. They'll perform in **Dallas** at the Meyerson Symphony Center on June 16 (www.dallassymphony.com; 214/692-0203). The following evening, June 17, they play **Houston's** historic Arena Theatre (www.arenahouston.com; 713/268-6224). With a familial blend of guitars, percussion, and vocals that have produced numerous gold records and several exciting PBS specials, this internationally successful Latin band delivers a powerful punch live to an ever-expanding fan base.



PRAIRIES AND LAKES

ALVORD: Pioneer Day Festival June 13. Includes farmers market and street dance. Downtown. 940/427-5916

ARLINGTON: Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games June 5-7. Hosts top Scottish musicians, professional athletes, and champion Highland dancers. UTA's Maverick Stadium. www.texasscottishfestival.com 800/363-7268

BELLVILLE: Summer Music Fest June 27. Barbecue cookoff, bull blowout, car show, arts & crafts, beanbag tournament, mutton busting, and music. Featured acts: Casey Donahew Band and Jerry Jeff Walker. Austin County Fairgrounds. www.austincountyfair.com 979/865-5995

BOWIE: 43rd Annual Jim Bowie Days Festival, Parade & Rodeo June 23-27. Pelham Park. www.jimbowiedays.org 940/872-0150

BRYAN: Texas Reds—Steak & Grape Festival June 19-20. Historic Downtown Bryan. www.texasreds-festival.com 979/209-5528

CANTON: 32nd Annual Free State Bluegrass Music Festival June 25-27. Civic Center, First Monday Park. www.bluegrasscanton.com 800/243-6502

CLEBURNE: Johnson County Sheriff's Posse PRCA Rodeo & Parade June 17-20. Johnson County Sheriff's Posse Grounds. www.sheriffsposse.com 817/556-9910

DALLAS: Cool Thursdays Concerts June 4, 11, 18, 25. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. www.dallasarboretum.org 214/515-6518

DALLAS: The Wizard of Oz June 9-21. Music Hall at Fair Park, 909 First Ave. www.fairpark.org 214/565-1116

DALLAS: CityArts Celebration June 12-14. Dallas Downtown Arts District. www.DallasCityArts.com 214/571-1376 or 214/956-1977

DECATUR: Chisholm Trail Days Western Heritage Festival June 19-20. Historic Courthouse Square. www.decaturnainstreet.com 940/627-6158

DENTON: 37th Annual Juneteenth Celebration June 20. Fred Moore Park. www.dentonparks.com 940/349-8576

DUBLIN: Dublin Dr Pepper Birthday Celebration June 13. The oldest Dr Pepper bottling plant in the world celebrates its 118th birthday. www.dublindrpepper.com 888/398-1024

ELGIN: Western Days June 23-27. Elgin Memorial Park. www.elgintx.com 512/285-4515

FARMERSVILLE: Audie Murphy Day Celebration
June 20. Downtown and at the historic Onion Shed. www.farmersvilletx.com 972/784-6846 or 972/782-6533

FORT WORTH: Texas Motor Speedway Race Weekend June 4-6. Qualifying on Thursday, WinStar World Casino 400 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race on Friday, and Bombardier Learjet 550K IndyCar Series race on Saturday. Texas Motor Speedway. www.texasmotor-speedway.com 817/215-8500

FORT WORTH: Inaugural Season of Trinity Shakespeare Festival June 10-28. *Romeo & Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* will be staged in repertory. Hays Theatre and Buschman Theatre on the TCU campus. 817/257-7625

FORT WORTH: Casa Mañana Presents Dame Edna—Live & Intimate! June 23-28. Bass Performance Hall. www.casamanana.org 817/332-2272

FORT WORTH: American Paint Horse Association World Championship Summer Show June 25-July 4. Will Rogers Memorial Center. www.willrogersmemorialcenter.com 817/392-7469

GARLAND: The Sound of Music June 12-21. Main Auditorium, Granville Arts Center, 300 N. Fifth St. 972/205-2790

GATESVILLE: 36th Annual Shivaroe June 5-6. Fautleroy Park. www.gatesvilletx.info 254/865-2617

GREENVILLE: Audie Murphy Days June 26-27. www.cottonmuseum.com 903/450-4502

HOLLAND: 35th Annual Holland Corn Festival June 19-20. www.hollandcornfest.org 254/657-2587

KILLEEN: PRCA Rodeo June 4-6. 254/501-3888

LOCKHART: 37th Annual Chisholm Trail Roundup Cowboy Breakfast June 10. Downtown Courthouse Square. www.lockhartchamber.com 512/398-2818

LOCKHART: 37th Annual Chisholm Trail Roundup—BBQ & Music Festival June 11-14. City Park. www.lockhartchamber.com 512/398-2818

LULING: 56th Annual Watermelon Thump June 25-28. Downtown. www.watermelonthump.com 830/875-3214

MANSFIELD: Historic Mansfield Art & Music Festival June 5-6. Historic Downtown Mansfield. www.historicmansfield.net 817/276-4228

MIDLOTHIAN: DFW Summer Hot Air Balloon Classic June 19-21. MidWay Regional Airport, 131 Airport Road. www.summerballoonclassic.com 469/644-4576

OAKLAND: Fireman's Festival June 6-7. 979/224-5563

ROUND TOP: International Festival-Institute at Round Top June 6-July 11. Summer classical music program features the Texas Festival Orchestra. Offers chamber music concerts with international faculty members and young artists. www.festivalhill.org 979/249-3129

SEGUIN: Fiestas Juan Seguin June 5-6. Downtown. www.seguintx.org 800/580-7322

STEPHENVILLE: DairyFest June 20. City Park. www.tricountyag.com 254/965-2406

SULPHUR SPRINGS: Texas State Champion Home-made Ice Cream Freeze-Off June 13. Civic Center Grounds. www.sulphursprings-tx.com 903/885-6515

SULPHUR SPRINGS: Hopkins County Dairy Festival June 13-20. Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. www.civiccenteronline.com 903/885-8071

WAXAHACHIE: Gingerbread Trail Historic Homes Tour/Arts & Crafts Fair June 6-7. 972/937-0681

WEATHERFORD: Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier Days Rodeo & Parade June 17-20. Parker County Sheriff's Posse Arena. www.parkercountysheriffsposse.com 817/599-9076

YOAKUM: Tom Tom Festival June 5-6. City Park. www.yoakumreachamber.com 361/293-2309

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

SAN ANTONIO: Art & Jazz Festival June 5-7. Crockett Park. www.sanantoniosummerartjazzfestival.com 210/229-9204

210/829-5100 **SAN ANTONIO: Coldplay** June 10. Massively popular UK rock band touring in support of their latest hit CD, *Viva la Vida!*, plays the AT&T Center. www.attcenter.com 210/224-9600 or 800/745-3000

SAN ANTONIO: Concerts Under the Stars June 11, 25. San Antonio Botanical Garden. www.sabot.org 210/829-5100

SAN ANTONIO: Texas Folklife Festival June 12-14. This three-day festival showcases the Lone Star State's diversity and rich heritage. UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 801 S. Bowie St. www.TexasFolklifeFestival.org 210/458-2224

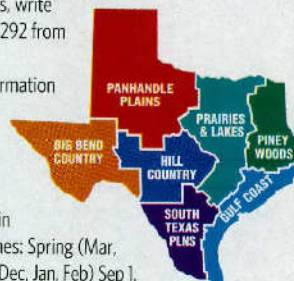
STOCKDALE: Watermelon Jubilee June 19-20. Since 1937. City Park. www.stockdaletx.org 830/996-3128 or 866/468-7621

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

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, write to Texas Events Calendar, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. Or, call 800/452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central.

For Texas travel questions, call 800/452-9292 to reach a TxDOT Travel Information Center, where a professional travel counselor will provide routing assistance, advise you of any emergency road conditions, and send brochures (including the official Texas State Travel Guide and map, accommodations guide, and quarterly Texas Events Calendar).

Send future event information to: Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax: 512/486-5879; e-mail: trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us. Listing deadlines: Spring (Mar, Apr, May) Dec 1; Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) Mar 1; Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) Jun 1; Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sep 1.



HOTELS OF TEXAS

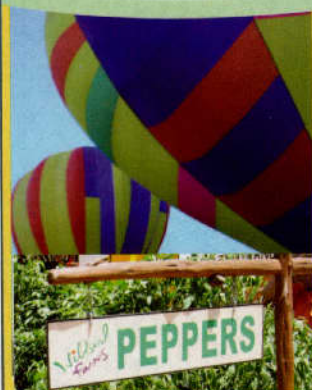
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- Clifton
- Clute
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- Copperas Cove
- Corpus Christi (5)
- Corsicana
- Dalhart
- Dallas (5)
- Dayton
- De Soto
- Decatur
- Deer Park
- Del Rio
- Denton
- Dumas
- Duncanville
- Eagle Pass
- Edinburg
- Edna
- El Campo
- El Paso (2)
- Falfurrias
- Floresville
- Fort Stockton
- Fort Worth (3)
- Franklin
- Fredericksburg
- Freer
- Fulton
- Galveston
- Garland
- Gatesville
- George West
- Glen Rose
- Gonzales
- Graham
- Granbury
- Greenville
- Gun Barrel City
- Hallettsville
- Hamilton
- Harlingen
- Hebbronville
- Henderson
- Henrietta
- Hereford
- Hidalgo
- Hillsboro
- Houston (11)
- Humble (2)
- Ingleside
- Irving (2)
- Jacksonville
- Jasper
- Johnson City
- Junction
- Kaufman
- Kerville
- Kilgore
- Killeen
- Kingsville
- La Porte
- LaGrange
- Lake Dallas
- Lake Worth
- Laredo
- Levelland
- Lewisville
- Lindale
- Littlefield
- Livingston
- Llano
- Lockhart
- Longview
- Lubbock (2)
- Lufkin
- Madisonville
- Mansfield
- Marble Falls
- Marshall
- Mathis
- McAllen
- McKinney
- Mexia
- Midland
- Mineola
- Mineral Wells
- Mission
- Monahans
- Montgomery
- Mount Pleasant
- Nacogdoches (2)
- Navasota
- New Braunfels
- New Caney
- North Richland Hills
- Odessa
- Ozona
- Palestine
- Pampa
- Paris
- Pearland
- Pearsall
- Pecos
- Perryton
- Plainview
- Plano
- Port Aransas
- Port Lavaca
- Portland
- Post
- Quanah
- Raymondville
- Refugio
- Rio Grande City
- Roanoke
- Robstown
- Rockdale
- Round Rock
- Salado
- San Angelo
- San Antonio (12)
- San Benito
- San Marcos
- Schulenburg
- Seagoville
- Sealy
- Shamrock
- Sinton
- Snyder
- Sonora
- South Padre Island
- Stephenville
- Sugar Land
- Sulphur Springs
- Sweetwater
- Taylor
- Temple
- Terrell
- Texas City
- The Woodlands
- Three Rivers
- Tyler
- Uvalde
- Vega
- Vernon
- Victoria
- Waco
- Waxahachie
- Weatherford
- Webster
- Weslaco
- West Columbia
- Wichita Falls (2)
- Willis
- Zapata

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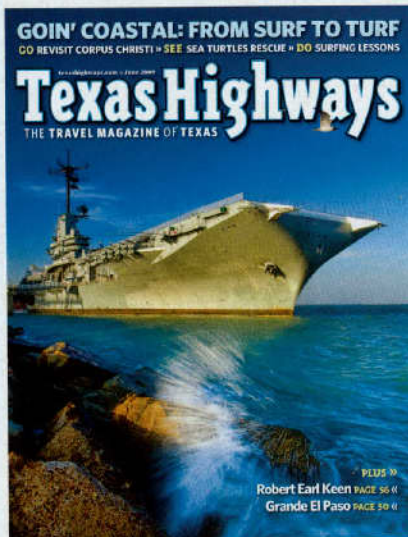
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A9FJUN

Talk

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➔ **TH READER
RECOMMENDATION**



Granbury Gem

PEARL STREET STATION in Granbury served the best barbecue I've had since my last trip to the Hill Country. My pulled-pork sandwich was tender and juicy. My wife declared the smoked turkey with a homemade lemon-dill sauce to be supreme. Both sandwiches were served on a toasted jalapeño-cheese bread that was absolutely delicious. They also offer Cajun foods like gumbo and étouffée.

MIKE CLEMENTE

Arlington

Pearl Street Station is at 120 W. Pearl St.;
817/579-7233; www.pearlstationgranbury.com.

➔ **CONTACT TH**

We want to hear from you! Send feedback and recommendations to: *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. E-mail: letters05@texashighways.com. Space constraints prevent us from publishing every comment/suggestion we receive. We reserve the right to edit items. Because we're unable to check out every recommendation, and because hours vary and details can change, please call ahead for more information.

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Window on Texas

Photograph by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

BRYAN BEAUTY Opened in December 1903, the Greek Revival-style Carnegie Library in Bryan was lovingly restored in 1999. Now the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History, the structure houses a research center for local history and genealogy. Thirty-two Carnegie libraries were built in Texas; of the 12 that remain, five serve their original purpose.



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