

- ★ Lions, flamingos and giraffes make Texas zoo news
- ★ Modern-day tintypes capture essence of cowboys, cowgirls
- ★ New faces in new places: Industry insiders take on new roles

TRAVEL NEWS

THIS YEAR presents **new challenges** and opens up **many options for travelers**, according to **Southlake-based Travelocity's Forecast Poll**. The poll, conducted from Dec. 19 to Jan. 3, includes responses from 1,280 Travelocity members who shopped for or booked travel in the last 12 months.

The biggest change in 2007 could mean trouble for some vacationers in the year ahead. The poll found that nearly one in four travelers was unaware of the new regulations requiring passports for those traveling by air to the Caribbean, Canada and Mexico.

But, for the most part, the forecast reveals that traveler patterns and attitudes show resiliency to higher fares, new airline policies and changing security rules.

When asked how higher airfares might impact their travel plans, the largest group of respondents (51 percent) said it would depend on how much of an increase. Twenty-seven percent would take fewer trips, 18 percent would book earlier and 11 percent would book travel packages to dodge additional costs.

Other trends of note in Travelocity's survey include a tendency toward tradition — with 61 percent saying they have an “annual trip” that they take every year. Of those who take an annual trip, more than half report either going to the same exact place, or at least doing the same basic activity every time. But it's not all play and no work for travelers this year, with one in 10 planning to commit their leisure time to volunteering while on vacation.

WITH SO MUCH to offer, it was only a matter of time before a **new convention and visitors bureau** would surface in **The Woodlands**. The Town Center Improvement District created the non-profit bureau to showcase the community's 345-room Woodlands

Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center and the 490-room Woodlands Resort and Conference Center, plus several smaller hotels, high-quality golf courses and shopping areas.

The Woodlands Convention and Visitors Bureau “will handle our destination marketing efforts,” says Nick Wolda, who was appointed to serve as president of the bureau, in addition to his duties as vice president of marketing and public affairs for TCID. “It will create a brand and a positive image of the area.”

According to TCID president Frank Robinson, staff is already in place to handle the day-to-day operations of the bureau.

Guiding the CVB, along with Wolda, is a 7-member board of directors that includes TCID board members Robinson, Nelda Blair, Peggy Hausman, Vicki Richmond and Lloyd Matthews; South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce President Karen Hoylman; and The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center's Fred Domenick.

In addition to marketing efforts, the convention and visitors bureau will oversee the operation of the water taxis and future trolleys in Town Center.

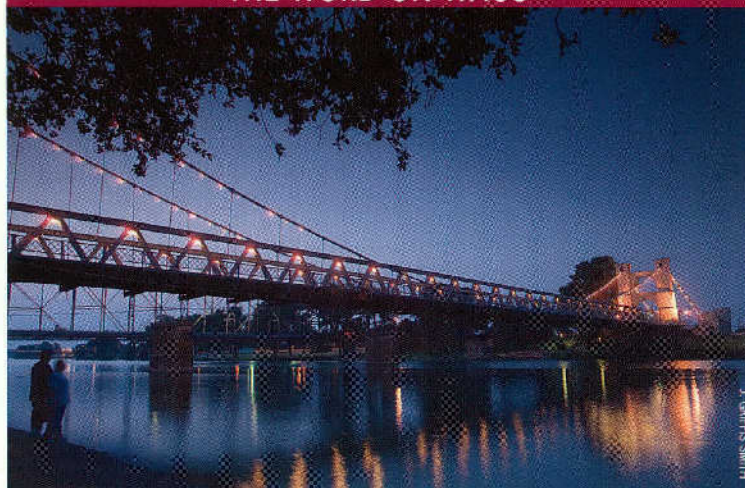
“It is another step forward,” says Ed Robb, chairman of TCID. He added it might be another 10 years down the line before “we'll know how significant it was.”

For more information, visit www.town-center.com.

AS THE **Dallas Cowboys** set their sites on a 2009-season **move** to their **new Arlington stadium**, **Irving is making plans** for developing the **Texas Stadium** site.

Irving recently released plans to turn the 380-acre site into an expansive urban district with a hotel, a civic center, retail outlets, residences, a park and two DART light-rail stops. The first phase of the estimated \$2

THE WORD ON WACO



Waco's Historic Suspension Bridge is a community landmark.

THE **NEW YORK TIMES** recently featured an article **touting Waco** as “hospitable, liberating and as broad as the dry, grassy plains around town.” Among the must-sees noted are the Dr Pepper Museum, which is a “wealth of regional lore and history,” and the Armstrong-Browning Library, a re-

pository of items related to Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and their “circle of counter-Victorian free spirits.” Also garnering a mention were the Old Suspension Bridge, the Christian agricultural settlement Heritage Homestead Craft Village, Texas Ranger Museum and Cameron Park.

billion project is expected to be complete by 2012. The entire project's completion date is set for 2022.

“From the start, this project has truly represented a significant crossroads in Irving's future,” says Mayor Herbert Gears. “We have 380 acres for intense urban development, and we are going to capitalize on that.”

“You'll forget about the fact that Texas Stadium was ever there,” says David Leininger, the city's finance and development initiatives director.

The city chose to enter into exclusive negotiations with Cleveland-based Forest City Enterprises, one of the nation's leading redevelopment firms, to develop the site.

Leininger told *The Dallas Morning News* that Forest City Enterprises was chosen because its vision was closely aligned with those of the city and the University of Dallas, a major, nearby landowner.

FOR THE **sixth consecutive year**, **MovieMaker** magazine has put **Austin** on a pedestal as one of the **top three U.S. cities for making movies**. The Capital City's ranking among the “Top Ten U.S. Cities to Live and Make Movies” is bested only by New York and Philadelphia.

“So much of Austin's reputation as a world-renowned moviemaking capital has to do with the unique education and support that the community fosters through film festivals, special screenings, retrospectives and even contests,” the *MovieMaker* reads.

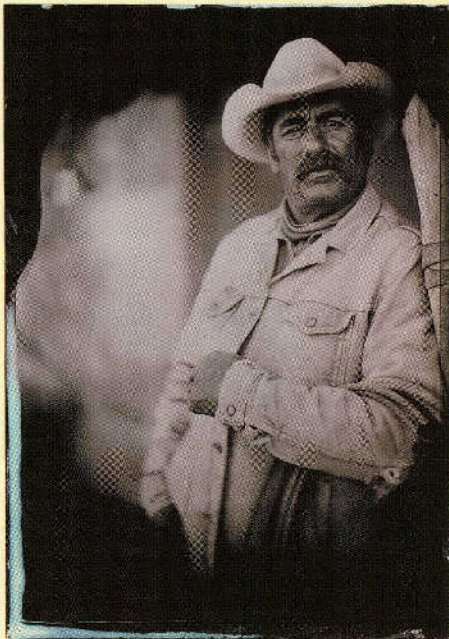
Austin Film Commission's new online film production guide and online location database are the kinds of touches that help keep the city a favorite, the magazine reports. Also noted is the partnership between Burnt Orange Productions and the University of Texas Film Institute

REVEALING CHARACTER

AN INNOVATIVE Texas-born photographer resorted to 19th-century methods to capture the essence of **cowboys and cowgirls** — not just bygone-era heroes, but modern day ranchers — in **Revealing Character: Robb Kendrick's Texas Tintypes**, which can be viewed at the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** in Austin through April 19.

The exhibit features 66 tintypes of cowboys and cowgirls taken across the Lone Star State since 2004, plus 12 enlarged prints of tintype images.

"Because tintypes are unique — that is, literally one-of-a-kind creations — they are more like paintings or drawings than photographs," says Margaret Blagg, executive director of Albany's Old Jail Art Center and this exhibit's curator. "Today, photographs are infinitely reproducible. Robb Kendrick's tintypes, cre-



Among the subjects of *Revealing Character*: Robb Kendrick's Texas Tintypes is *Ignacio Hsantillan of the Long X Ranch*.

ated using a 19th-century method, are each original works of art. The care he takes to compose and create each one is akin to the creative effort of making a painting."

Kendrick says the process "provides so much reward in terms of truly capturing someone's soul. It's a perfect medium for exploring a subject matter like character, and there is no better place to find that character than in today's Texas cowboys." He adds, "I hope that Texans will see a little of themselves and their ancestors in this exhibit."

For more information, call (512) 936-8746 or visit www.thestoryoftexas.com.

that gives students a unique opportunity to work on union films with professional crews.

"Austin has long been considered a film-friendly city. The support of city government and the local film industry, including the Austin Film Festival, Austin Studios and South by Southwest, are crucial to our success as a film hub," says Gary Bond, director of the Austin Film Office.

According to the Texas Film Commission, Austin led all Texas cities in film and television total production budgets in 2006, for the sixth consecutive year, with approximately \$131.9 million. That accounts for 45 percent of the \$291.3 million in total film budgets in the state last year.

Production wrapped on more than 22 feature films in 2006, including *Fast Food Nation*, *The Hitcher*, *Teeth*, *GrindHouse* and *Gary the Tennis Coach*, along with NBC's recently renewed television series *Friday Night Lights*.

Other top movie-making cities, after New York, Philadelphia and Austin, are Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Shreveport-Bossier City, Memphis, Miami, Portland and Salt Lake City.

BIG BEND National Park increased the developed campground camping fees to \$14 per site per night. The park-developed camping fees were last in-

creased in February 2003, when the price went from \$8 to \$10 per site per night.

As forewarned in the July 2006 issue of *Texas TraveLog*, an increase for the single vehicle entrance fee, from \$15 to \$20, went into effect at the beginning of the year, as did the per person and motorcycle fee from \$5 to \$10. Both passes are good for up to a one-week stay.

Big Bend National Park participates in the National Park Service Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. The increases are due, in part, to the results of a National Park Service fee study that sought to provide consistency of fees charged between parks of similar sizes and resources.

Eighty percent of the entrance fee revenue returns to the park and is used to fund backlogged maintenance and projects that provide a direct benefit to park visitors.

The park's Annual Pass (valid for one year) also increased from \$30 to \$40, and a backcountry and river use fee of \$10 per permit is now charged for overnight usage.

Additionally, a new \$80 Interagency Annual Pass — replacing the former National Parks Pass and Golden Eagle — is valid for a year and allows entrance to all federal fee areas in the country.

For more information, call (432) 477-2251 or visit www.nps.gov/bibe.

PERSPECTIVES

THE AMON CARTER Museum in Fort Worth is showcasing the historic sites of **American Indian conflicts with the United States** in a photo exhibit that runs through July 15.

Sweet Medicine: Photographing American Indian History features photographs by Drex Brooks, who photographed areas of fierce battles or contested lands.

In 1995, some of Brooks' photographs were published in *Sweet Medicine: Sites of Indian Massacres, Battlefields, and Treaties*. Ten years later, Brooks donated 12 prints from the series to the Carter, complementing its rich holdings in photography related to American Indian history and culture.

"Brooks' subtle photographs offer a nuanced perspective on the relationship between history and memory in American culture," says Assistant Curator of Photographs Jessica May, curator of the exhibition. "They remind us that the internal wars of the 19th century left a complex legacy that touches on many aspects of our everyday lives, from how we think of land as property to how we understand the settlement of the western United States. By comparing Brooks' photographs with 19th-century photographs of similar sites, battle par-

ticipants and treaty ceremonies, this exhibition offers viewers a window onto how our understanding of American Indian history has changed over time."

For more information, call (817) 738.1933 or visit www.cartermuseum.org.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS of African-American actors, directors and musicians and some of their history-making steps are chronicled in **Separate Cinema: Pride & Purpose in Black Film**, an exhibit launched by the **Port Arthur Historical Society** at the **Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur**.

Thirty-five film posters document the history of black films from the trailblazing 1920s to the present.

According to *Separate Cinema* archive founder John Kisch, "the posters are a memorial to the determination and little-known achievements of pioneers such as Oscar Micheaux and Spencer Williams; to the unexplored talents of Nina Mae McKinney, Daniel Haynes, Fredi Washington and Louise Beavers; to the dignity of Ethel Waters and Josephine Baker; to the humanity and stature of Paul Robeson, a man ahead of his time; to the genius of Sidney Poitier and Lena Horne, who rose above the consciousness of the years in which they worked; to the beauty and tragedy of Dorothy Dandridge; and to all of the others who followed."

The exhibit remains at the Dunn Rotating Gallery through March 4.

For more information, call (409) 982-7000 or visit www.museumofthegulfcoast.org.

ON EXHIBIT

WHILE MOVING forward with plans to have the new **Children's Museum** open by spring, **Grace Museum** in **Abilene** has partnered with children's museums in **Austin** and **Midland** to present **Kidsville**, a **temporary collection of 12 exhibits**.

"We decided to temporarily open *Kidsville* as a way to give our young (and young at heart) visitors some unique educational and interactive experiences until the new exhibits arrive," says Dennis Kois, the museum's executive director.

The Austin Children's Museum has contributed *Air Fair*, which

teaches about the properties of wind via a sailboat race and an exhibit that simulates a tornado. The Museum of the Southwest's Fredda Turner Durham's Children's Museum in Midland has leant two exhibits — *Global Golf: Just Puttin' Around*, which features five holes of miniature golf from around the world; and *Splash, Bang, Boom!*, which explores the properties of matter and energy.

When the new Children's Museum opens, it will be home to 12 new permanent exhibits including an updated *Recollections* and *A is for Art, A is for Animal*. It will also include a clock tower in the Historic Lobby, a multi-exhibit Health Zone (complete with a life-size *Operation* game and Grace Ambulance), and a miniature replica of the Paramount Theatre where children can dress in costume, perform on the stage, change the backdrops, and set the stage lights. For children ages 4 and younger, there will be a *Texas Habito* where they can climb trees, dig animal holes and doodle on a giant chalk pond.

For more information, visit www.thegracemuseum.org or call (325) 673-4587.

ZOO'S NEWS

AT 33, she has six children, 39 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great grandchildren and 3 great-great-great grandchildren. But what makes Hildy, of the **Dallas Zoo**, most special is that the **14-foot-tall reticulated giraffe is the oldest living giraffe in the world**.

Hildy, born and raised at the Dallas Zoo, has five generations of descendants all across the country including California, Minnesota and Mexico. Her age distinction is "based on the 8,000 animals at 700-plus institutions around the world," according to Laurie Bingaman Lackey of the International Species Informa-

COURTESY OF THE CALDWELL ZOO



The Caldwell Zoo in Tyler welcomes new members of the flamingo brood.

tion System North American Giraffe Studbook. Lackey adds, "I don't doubt that she is much older than any living wild giraffe." Giraffes live up to 25 years in the wild and often much longer in the predator-free environs of zoos.

Five captive-born, animals have lived longer than Hildy — the oldest living to 40 years before it died — but with only a slight touch of arthritis, her handlers are hopeful and optimistic that Hildy can live to beat that record.

For more information, call (214) 670-5656 or visit www.dallas-zoo.org.

THEY WERE late bloomers, but thanks to **successful hand-raising efforts by Tyler's Caldwell Zoo staff, seven Chilean flamingos** have finally weathered the birthing process to join their zoo family.

The chicks, normally raised in the summer, didn't start hatching until Oct. 11, with the last one hatching on Dec. 6. Lack of rainfall delayed the process. Their introduction to the group was further delayed because the chicks were too small to run free

among the flock and yet too large for their parents to protect them from being trampled and from the cold snap that struck after Thanksgiving. Circumstances forced the birding staff to take in the young chicks and hand-raise them, feeding them every 2 hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"Caldwell Zoo is one of a handful of zoos to successfully breed the Chilean Flamingos as they require specific conditions be met for successful nesting. Caldwell Zoo imitates these natural conditions to enhance breeding success," says the zoo's executive director Hayes Caldwell. The zoo has 59, in total, now.

For more information, call (903) 593-0121 or visit www.caldwellzoo.org.

THE AMARILLO Zoo debuted its long-awaited **lion exhibit** with the addition of three young African lions from an Oklahoma animal park. The male and two females are the zoo's first lions.

"Lions are one of the more popular animals at a zoo. We got young animals so they'd be more playful and active," says Zoo Curator Rhonda Votino, who adds they are extremely playful.

"The male is starting to get his mane in," says Votino. "It won't be complete until he's 2 or 3 years old. It's kind of scruffy." He's also learning how to roar.

The zoo received them in the summer, but waited to unveil them.

Votino says, "This whole project's been done in-house by the City of Amarillo Parks and Recreation Department." The lions' enclosure contains a pool that will act as a watering hole, as well as many branches and trees for the three to play on.

The Parks and Recreation Department staff has also put in a lot of work creating updated graphics outside the animals' enclosures featuring a description of the species and facts about them. "They became animal experts — cat experts," Votino says.

Zoo visitors have been invited to participate in a contest to name the lions. March 1 was the final day for accepting entries. The winning names were not known at press time.

The Amarillo Zoo is not resting on its laurels with this successful addition. Another project — a reptile building — will soon begin.

For more information, call (806) 381-7911.

INDUSTRY INSIDERS

Mary Kay Hackley was recently promoted as the new Director of Industry Relations and Strategic Sales for the **Austin Convention and Visitors Center**.

Cassandra Brown Matej and **Jay Burress** — **Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau's** vice presidents of Sales & Services and Sales & Marketing, respectively — will jointly assume the lead role of the bureau's Sales & Services Division. The change is meant to pair the two industry veterans' complementary skills, strengths and personalities.

"Cassandra and Jay have been instrumental in developing and implementing a sales plan that has steadily exceeded goals over the last three years," says bureau President/CEO Phillip Jones.

Dennis Kois — formerly chief designer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and assistant chief designer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City — is now executive director at **Abilene's Grace Museum**. Kois, who replaced the recently retired Judy Godfrey, says, "Of all the opportunities that came up while I was at the Smithsonian, none was interesting as this." Museums, like The Grace, that cover multiple disciplines — art, history, a children's museum — are rare as many museums concentrate on a specific area, Kois says.

Oliver Yang joined the **Office of the Governor — Economic Development and Tourism** to serve as the Tourism Marketing Specialist focused on the Asia market. Yang, who has considerable hotel, travel and promotion experience, is fluent in Chinese and English and also speaks Japanese and Korean.

Dineen Mansfield has been promoted to senior communications specialist for **Texas Historical Commission** award-winning Texas Heritage Trails Program.

Mansfield, who has worked on the program for more than two years as a communications specialist, will manage the regional tourism initiative that promotes the state's historic and cultural wonders.

TEXAS FAVORITES

SOUTHERN LIVING magazine asked readers to identify their favorite Southern places for shopping, dining and vacationing, and thousands responded, overwhelmingly placing **two Texas cities** in the mix.

Fredericksburg was named in the category of Small Southern Town.

For favorite Southern City, **San Antonio** received nods for its San Antonio River Walk, which "casts a magic spell" on travelers with boat rides, outdoor dining and traditional Mexican music.

TEXAS TRIVIA

Texas' Declaration of Independence was adopted on March 2, 1836. Where was that declaration signed?

The declaration was signed at Independence Hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Site, between Brenham and Navasota. On March 3-4, the 171st birthday celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos will include demonstrators, re-enactors, Texas Army gun salutes, period music and a park that is transformed into the early 1800s Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Site features Independence Hall — replicated on the original cornerstones of the Star of the Republic Museum, the only museum dedicated to the Republic period of Texas; and Barrington Living History Farm, a working 1850s cotton farm featuring the home of Anson Jones the last president of the Republic of Texas.

For more information, call (936) 878-2214 ext. 237 or visit www.BirthPlaceofTexas.com.

TEXAS TRIVIA

TEXAS TRAVELOG is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, Travel Division. Please send news items of interest to the Texas travel industry to Texas TraveLog, P.O. Box 141009, Austin, TX 78714-1009. (512) 486-5874, fax (512) 486-5879. E-mail: trv-log@dot.state.tx.us. Deadline for each newsletter is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date. To receive this publication electronically, please e-mail trv-log@dot.state.tx.us.

EDITOR: Lois M. Rodriguez

DESIGN/LAYOUT: Kirsti Harms

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS

VISITOR NUMBERS as of January 31, 2007

| TRAVEL CENTER | Month Visitors | Percent Variation* | Year-to-Date Visitors | Percent Variation* |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| AMARILLO | 6,255 | -9.23 | 6,255 | -9.23 |
| ANTHONY | 12,358 | -5.68 | 12,358 | -5.68 |
| CAPITOL | 6,116 | -1.97 | 6,116 | -1.97 |
| DENISON | 29,805 | -7.00 | 29,805 | -7.00 |
| GAINESVILLE | 28,865 | -15.46 | 28,865 | -15.46 |
| LANGTRY | 4,836 | +30.88 | 4,836 | +30.88 |
| LAREDO | 12,073 | +5.89 | 12,073 | +5.89 |
| ORANGE | 47,264 | -2.21 | 47,264 | -2.21 |
| TEXARKANA | 30,919 | +3.36 | 30,919 | +3.36 |
| VALLEY | 40,067 | +4.02 | 40,067 | +4.02 |
| WASKOM | 41,315 | +9.17 | 41,315 | +9.17 |
| WICHITA FALLS | 10,051 | -14.38 | 10,051 | -14.38 |
| CENTER TOTALS | 269,924 | -1.44 | 269,924 | -1.44 |

*Compared to last year

Dial toll-free (800) 452-9292 for travel assistance from TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers (8 a.m.—6 p.m. daily, Central Time)

www.traveltex.com • www.texashighways.com

www.txdot.gov • www.dontmesswithtexas.org

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

LAST NOTICE

Texas law requires state newsletters to notify recipients in three consecutive issues that to continue receiving the publication, they must request it each year. To maintain your free subscription to *Texas TraveLog*, please mail or fax this portion of the page (including the mailing label) to:

Texas TraveLog Circulation
P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249
Fax: (512) 486-5879
(Only one reply per year is necessary.)

(Signature)

(Date)

(E-mail)

TRAVEL DIVISION
P.O. BOX 149249
AUSTIN, TX 78714-9249