

TEXAS HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 2018 | VOL. 65 | ISSUE 9

HOUSTON'S R&B LEGACY // *by* JOE NICK PATOSKI

TEXAS

HIGHWAYS™

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

SMALL TOWN SPLENDOR

*The BEST LITTLE
COURTHOUSES in TEXAS*



SEPTEMBER 2018

\$4.95

09>

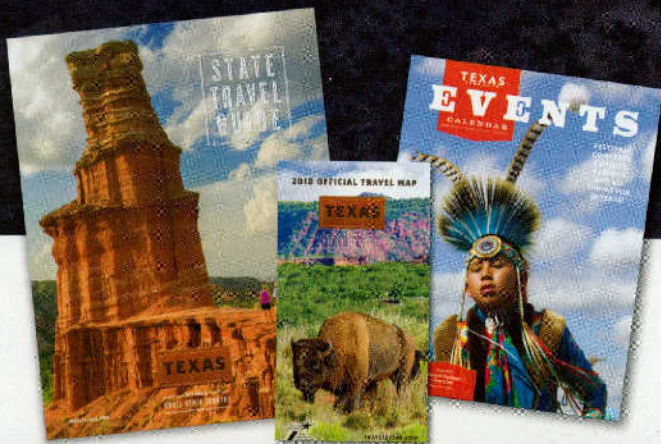


0 71486 02583 2



BEAUX ARTS BEAUTY
Navarro County Courthouse

Fall in love with Texas all over again



Snag your free travel kit today at texashighways.com/2018Travel.
Plot your destinations with the Official Travel Map, fill up your to-do list with the Events Calendar, and select attractions with the State Travel Guide.

EDITOR'S NOTE



The Caldwell County Courthouse, completed in 1894, went through a historic restoration in 2000.

Small-Town Centerpiece

ONE OF THE PERKS OF spending time in a small town is the promise of carefree, leisurely travel. Reservations aren't required to enjoy a good meal, and you don't have to navigate complex parking or contend with rush-hour traffic. I was reminded of this on a recent trip to Lockhart, where my family and I parked in front of the Caldwell County Courthouse and spent the afternoon exploring the town square of the Barbecue Capital of Texas. Naturally, we started at Smitty's Market (we'd been to Black's and Kreuz on previous trips) where a no-frills approach to Texas' favorite meal matched the day's theme of simplicity—hand-tied sausage and tender

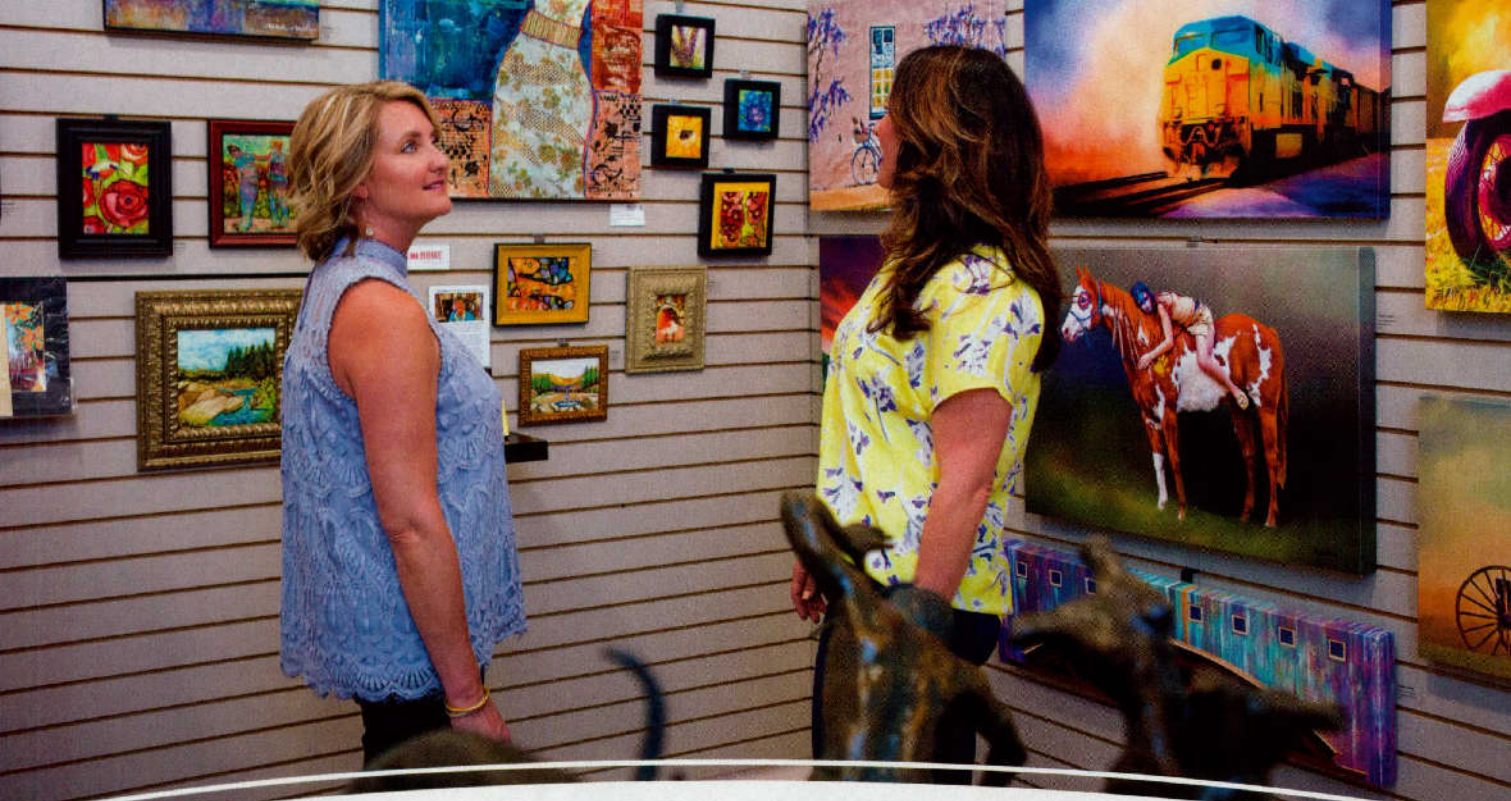
brisket, no plates or forks necessary.

We continued around the square with a stop at Chaparral Coffee, one of a handful of newish businesses bringing an influx of creative energy to the town. Other notables include Caracara Brewing Company, Lockhart's first brewpub, and Ellison House, a boutique hotel in an 1860s farmhouse a short walk from the square. We ended our tour at Flash Candy and Toys, where my kids dashed around to pick out one item they could take home with them.

All of these businesses orbit around the town's historic central hub—the 124-year-old Second Empire-style courthouse. Despite the 100-degree summer heat, we relished the opportunity to rest in the shade on one of the benches placed thoughtfully around the grounds. As our children explored, we marveled at the stately structure built of limestone extracted from Muldoon, in nearby Fayette County, and trimmed with red sandstone from West Texas. The three-story stunner is one of hundreds of distinctive county courthouses across Texas, 10 of which we've highlighted in this month's cover story. Pick your favorite from our list—or choose one of your own—and hit the road for a day of stress-free sightseeing.

Emily R Stone

EMILY ROBERTS STONE, *Executive Editor*



Wonder Awaits


Wimberley is The Best Kept Secret in Texas. Located between Austin and San Antonio, Wimberley is wonderfully nestled in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. As you wander, you'll find arts & culture, real Hill Country beauty, unique shopping, amazing food and a town square that is designated as an official Texas Cultural District.



Come Wander the Wonders of Wimberley.

Texas Cultural District • Shopping • Dining • Nature • Lodging

VISITWIMBERLEYTEXAS.COM

 @visitwimberleytexas

SEPTEMBER

44

County Cornerstones

The shining star of a Texas town square is often the county courthouse.

We highlight 10 of these eye-catching edifices known for their architectural styles and rich histories.

Story by MATT JOYCE

Photographs by JEFF WILSON

58

Silver & Blues

One beloved nightclub and its passionate owners hold on to Houston's R&B legacy with rollicking live music performances and a genuine love for the community.

Story by JOE NICK PATOSKI

Photographs by DARREN CARROLL

70

Artful Accommodations

Hotels in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin curate and display museum-worthy paintings, sculptures, and artifacts—no admission fee required.

Story by JUNE NAYLOR

Photographs by ERIC W. POHL

A night at the Silver Slipper club in Houston

FIND MORE ONLINE. Visit texashighways.com for exclusive content and events.



BOOTFEST

VICTORIA  TEXAS



RECKLESS KELLY

Saturday, October 6

DeLeon Plaza
Downtown Victoria

OCT. 5-6
FREE ADMISSION

FRIDAY

FREE Concert!

- The Hot Attacks
- Infinite Journey (Journey Tribute)
- Def Legend (Def Leppard Tribute)
- Back in Black (AC/DC Tribute)

SATURDAY

FREE Concert!

- Mason Lively
- Cameran Nelson
- William Clark Green
- Reckless Kelly
- Fireworks (Weather Permitting)



WILLIAM CLARK GREEN

Saturday, October 6

FEATURING

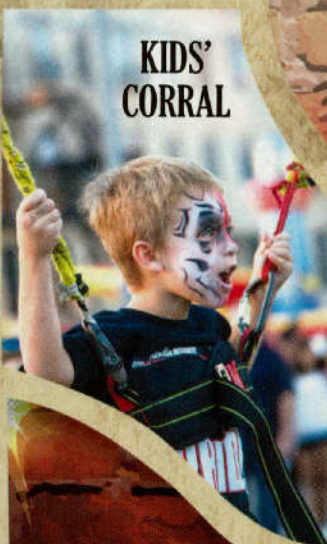
- More than 75 Vendors
- Kids' Corral & Kids' DJ
- Bootmakers & Craftsmen
- Car & Truck Show



KIDS' CORRAL



CAR & TRUCK SHOW



FIREWORKS



For more information on
Bootfest or booking your
overnight stay go to

Bootfest.org

SEPTEMBER



DEPARTMENTS

7 MERGE

8 SCENIC ROUTE

DRIVE

11 Texas Ticket

More than music at the Trans-Pecos Festival

16 Stay

Marfa's Hotel Saint George

21 Texas Family

An all-ages art scavenger hunt in Austin

26 Made in Texas

Frank X. Tolbert 2's art is for the birds

PLATES

31 Drink

Desert Door Distillery produces a Texas original

36 Cook

Opa's Smoked Meats in Fredericksburg

40 Travel

Fort Worth's art institutions will change the way you think about museum cafés

77 HIT THE ROAD

Booming Brenham proves it's got more than just Blue Bell

83 TRUE TEXAS

The history and romance of Waco's bridges

87 EVENTS

A celebration of all things pie in Kyle

95 DAYTRIPPER

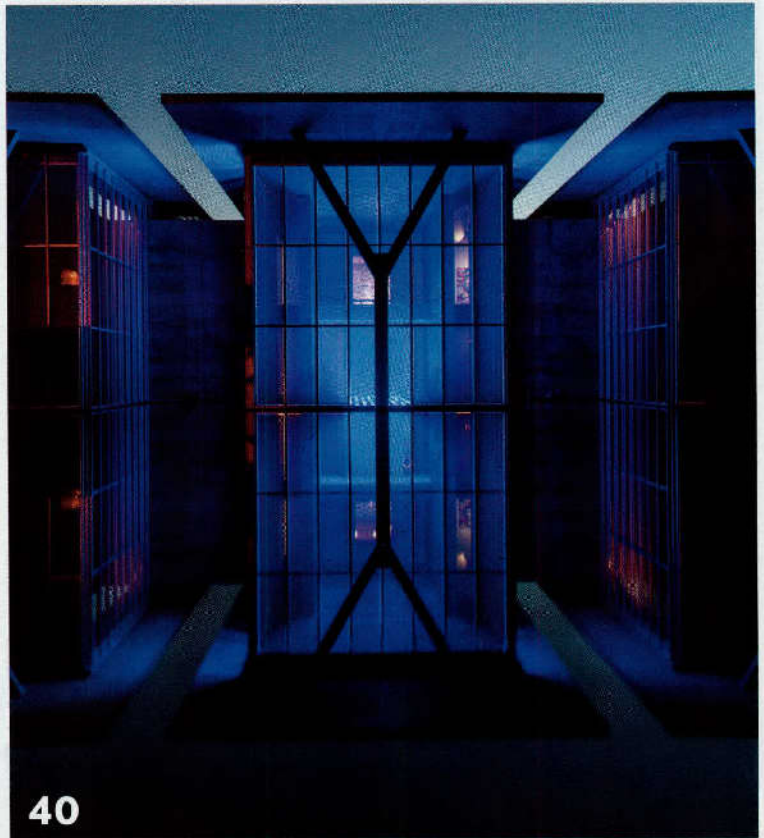
Chet Garner explores Nocona's leatherworking roots

96 TRAVEL MATTERS

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Lawrence Wright

97 SIGHTSEER

A replica of Stonehenge in Ingram



COVER
Navarro County Courthouse
© Jeff Wilson



@TEXASHIGHWAYS.COM



Beautiful bovine near I-10
@KRL_Photo

#TRUETEXAS

When you post awesome photos of Texas sights and scenes, don't forget to use the hashtag #TrueTexas. We might share your shot on *Texas Highways'* social media channels.



HARVEY MAP

A year after Hurricane Harvey, some Gulf Coast destinations are still working to become fully operational. Check out our interactive Google Map to see which coastal business—like restaurants, parks, and cultural institutions—are open.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Keep up-to-date on all the latest travel news happening around the state by visiting texashighways.com. We deliver fresh content weekly on topics ranging from historic preservation efforts to major exhibit openings at top museums and exciting new lodgings.

TEXAS HIGHWAYS™

Director
Joan Henderson

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor
Emily Roberts Stone

Managing Editor
Wes Ferguson

Senior Editor
Matt Joyce

Events Editor
Jane Kellogg Murray

Associate Editor
Kimya Kavehkar

Editor-at-Large
Michael Hoinski

Contributing Editors
Heather Brand, Melissa Gaskill,
E. Dan Klepper, Clayton Maxwell,
June Naylor, Daniel Blue Tyx

Contributing Writers
Michael Corcoran, Paula Disbrowe,
Gene Fowler, Chet Garner,
Sallie Lewis Longoria, Joe Nick Patoski

Editorial Coordinator
Cindy Newsom

Editorial Interns
Julia Jones, Conor Stratton

DIGITAL

Digital Strategies Manager
Peter Obering

MARKETING & EVENTS

Audience Development Manager
Sabrina Ballesteros

Strategic Partnership Manager
Lois M. Rodriguez

Marketing/Gift Shop Manager
Katy Venable

ADVERTISING

AJR Media Group
800-383-7677

texashighways@ajrmediagroup.com
texashighways.com/advertise

© Texas Department of
Transportation 2018
All rights reserved. tdot.gov



Publisher
Andrea Lin

ART

Creative Director
Mark Mahorsky

Art Director
Ashley Burch

Associate Art Director
Chris Linnen

Photo Editor
Brandon Jakobeit

Contributing Photographers
Michael Amador, Kevin Stillman,
Will van Overbeek

Production Coordinator
Raquel V. Sanchez

OPERATIONS

Business Manager
Karen Garza

Ancillary Publications Manager
Julie Stratton

Ancillary Publications Coordinator
LaKena Cooks

Accounts Receivable
Ana Alvarez

Warehouse Manager
Oz Lopez

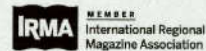
CONTACT US

Customer service: 800-839-4997
(903-636-1123 outside the U.S.)
customer_service@texashighways.us,
or go to texashighways.com

Subscriptions are \$24.95 annually
(\$39.95 foreign).

Current and back issues available by calling
512-486-5858.

For letters to the editor or to be removed
from mailing list sales, write to letters@texashighways.com or Texas Highways, P.O. Box
141009, Austin, TX 78714-1009



Published monthly by the Travel Information Division of TxDOT

ADMINISTRATION

Governor of Texas
Greg Abbott

Texas Transportation Commission

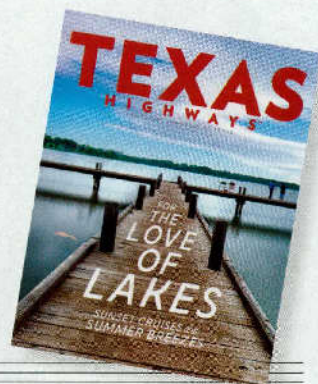
J. Bruce Bugg Jr., Chairman Alvin New, Commissioner
Jeff Austin III, Commissioner Laura Ryan, Commissioner

TxDOT Executive Director
James M. Bass

GOT
SOMETHING
TO SAY?

We take several road trips a year from Illinois to Texas to see my daughter at Texas A&M. Once in Texas, the 15-hour trip gets more enjoyable—the scenery is beautiful, and Texans treat you like a best friend, always polite and friendly. We enjoy it so much we plan on moving there after retirement.

BUD SOBODAS, HERSCHER, ILLINOIS

OUR
FAVORITE
SOCIAL
MEDIA
OF THE
MONTH

When I was a kid, we always stopped at the Bend store [July] and got snacks for the long drive down to what was then Gorman Falls Fishing Camp. The swimming pond there was filled with icy spring water. My mom said our teeth would be chattering, but we would swear we weren't cold! We chilled many watermelons in that cold water too.

**JENNIFER
REGIAN LEWIS,
BELTON**

Goodbye to a River is one of my favorites. Lucky me: I got to hear John Graves read aloud from the opening of this beautiful book many years ago!

**BENNY
HICKERSON,
DALLAS**



Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram,
and Pinterest

Maverick Legacy

"The Maverick Way" [August] mentions the term maverick and relates it to politics and John McCain. That could also be applied to the Maverick family and Maury Maverick Jr., a San Antonio attorney who represented draft resisters during the Vietnam War in the late '60s.

Steve Salinger, Ingram

I was born in 1932 in Maverick in Runnels County. The town dried up and blew away after we moved to Weslaco in 1939. You should add the town of Maverick to your list of maverick places.

Everett McAulay, Paris

TH: Maverick was indeed named for Samuel Maverick, who owned land nearby. Located on State Highway 158 near the Coke County line, Maverick today consists of a handful of homes, a cemetery, and two historical markers, says Dr. James Hays of the Runnels County Historical Commission, but "it's pretty dadgum empty."

This article was great reading, but I noticed that it described the Ford Maverick as a "muscle car." We owned a '71 Maverick Coupe, and it was no muscle car.

David A. Griffin, Colorado

Sea Turtle Time

How do you go see the South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center [August] and leave out Sea Turtle Inc. next door? It is an amazing place—great for the kids to bolster their environmental awareness.

Robert Sloane, Quitman

TH: We couldn't agree more. Check out our most recent coverage of Sea Turtle Inc. in the June 2018 issue.

Stagecoach Inn

I read your story about the resurgence of the Stagecoach Inn [July] and wanted to fill in part of its history. Mr. and Mrs. Van Bibber, a couple who retreated from the East to Texas, bought and lived in the inn in the 1940s and began hosting their friends

to dinners. Thus began the idea of moving their residence to another location and turning the inn into a fine dining experience. The rest is history. Mr. and Mrs. "Van" were ever the gracious host and hostess, serving delicious cuisine and, to special guests, a glass of wine from Mr. Van's wine cellar. Such sweet memories.

**Carolyn J. Heinzelmann,
Fort Worth**

BYOB

The article about Hippy Chic's [July] states that you can bring your own beer because it's in a dry county. Incorrect: Uvalde County is a patchwork of both dry and wet precincts.

Sheila Agee, Utopia

READER'S
FAVORITE**Literary Gladewater**

Gladewater [August] is a great town for meeting up with girlfriends. I noticed you mentioned Gladewater Books in passing. It's the best and largest used bookstore in the area. Pete Adams and his wife, Betty DeRieux, have enlarged it twice in the last few years, and you can spend hours there, finding a little bit of everything. Pete is also the president of the Friends of the Gladewater City Library, a group that holds book-sale fundraisers to keep the library vital, up to date, and serving the community. Stop and talk to Pete. If he doesn't have it, he can point you in the right direction.

DONNA EDWARDS, Lindale

Gladewater Books, at 109 E. Pacific Ave., is open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Call 903-845-4843; gladewaterbooks.com.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send feedback and recommendations to: *Texas Highways*, P.O. Box 141009, Austin, TX, 78714-1009. Email: letters@texashighways.com.



SCENIC ROUTE

Brenham Pastoral

*30° 11' 55.94" N
96° 21' 45.45" W*

DURING A STOP to photograph cows along State Highway 105 northwest of Brenham, photographer Tom McCarthy found inspiration in the huge shadows created by afternoon clouds. He zoomed in his telephoto lens to 200 mm to compress the scene, flattening the distance between the house and cows. Combined with the muted, cloudy sky and splashes of sunlight, the technique captured this painting-like pastoral landscape. For Brenham travel tips, see our story on page 77.







TASTE TEXAS

Go Local. GO TEXAN.

Texas highways can take you to the freshest fruits and vegetables available. Find your local farmers market today!

find your closest farmers market at
gotexan.org



GO TEXAN.

DRIVE

TEXAS TICKET + STAY + TEXAS FAMILY + MADE IN TEXAS

Music & Mystique

The Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love in Marfa

Story by **Matt Joyce**



ARRIVING IN Marfa, the high-desert ranching town with a lofty reputation as a mecca for modern art, first-time visitors sometimes find themselves wandering empty streets and wondering, “What’d I miss?” Those who come to love this creative outpost understand that it takes patience to get a feel for the town’s enigmatic allure. For three days each fall, however, the stylish counter-cultural side of Marfa is on full display at the Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love.

Hosted by El Cosmico, a campground lodging a few blocks from the town center, the Trans-Pecos Festival mixes three nights of live music with an intriguing lineup of daytime workshops and activities, such as crafting herbal tinctures and a sandlot baseball game. Amid the organized events, flashes of curiosity frame the experience: a French poodle in a glowing collar chasing a flashing ball after dark; a man wearing a Lone Star Speedo and cowboy boots tending a pig roast; and festival-goers soaking in Dutch hot tubs just yards from the concert stage.

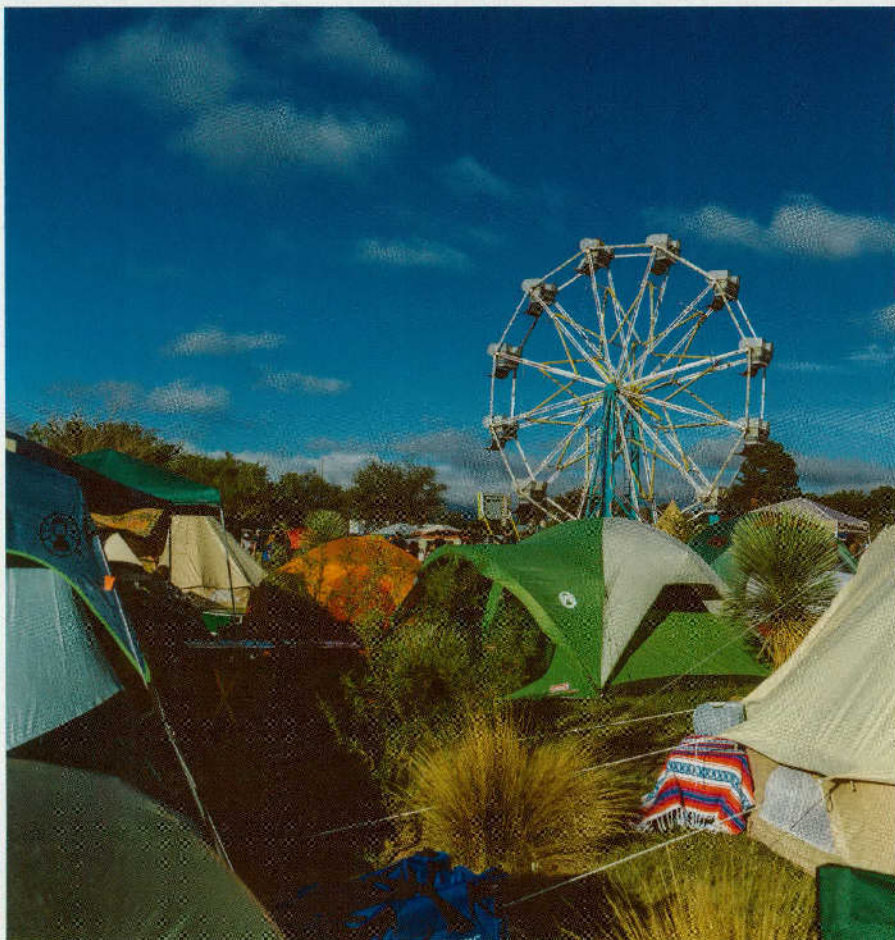
The setting of the Trans-Pecos Festival is central to its atmosphere. Part of Austin hotelier Liz Lambert’s Bunkhouse Group collection of hip lodgings, El Cosmico hosts visitors year-round with renovated vintage trailers, teepees, yurts, and a trendy mercantile. Lambert started the festival in 2005, four years before El Cosmico opened, partly to get a sense for how people would use the land, says Isadora McKeon, a former Bunkhouse employee who was involved in producing early



editions of the festival. During Trans-Pecos, the grounds fill in with a music stage, food trucks, vendor booths, bars, a wine lodge, a coffee shop, a Ferris wheel, and hundreds of camping tents—all under the endlessly dramatic Chihuahuan Desert sky.

“There’s a unique pull to Marfa. A lot of people come from all over the place to experience Marfa, and I see that in this festival as well,” says Sage Keith, a local who’s originally from nearby Alpine. During last year’s Trans-Pecos Fest, Keith worked the outdoor booking desk for a festival spa called El Cosmetico, which offers massages, facials, and acupuncture

Held at El Cosmico, the bohemian campground in Marfa, the Trans-Pecos Festival mixes live music with activities such as **chair-weaving workshops** and **Ferris wheel rides**.



in canvas tents. “It’s not like it’s easy to get here,” she adds. “You can meet some of the most interesting people, and they really take some effort to get out here, so you know they want to be here. They have a purpose to be here.”

For most of Trans-Pecos’ roughly 2,000 attendees, the main draw is the concerts, which feature six bands per night on the main stage, an artful wooden structure flanked by ash trees. Though the dirt-floored concert grounds fill up during popular acts, the crowd doesn’t feel stifling, and there’s room in the back for lawn chairs. The bands tend to veer to the indie rock and Americana side of the musical spectrum. Over the years, headliners have included Wilco, Lee Ann Womack, the Old 97’s, Nathaniel Rateliff and The Night Sweats, Kacey Musgraves, the Heartless Bastards, and the Mexican Institute of Sound.

WINE + STEAK + BEER



UNCORK *the*
FUN!

<< HISTORIC >>
DOWNTOWN BRYAN

SEPTEMBER 28-30 2018

25 TEXAS
WINERIES

SATURDAY
NIGHT
STEAK
DINNER

12 TEXAS
CRAFT BREWERIES

STEAK
& EGG
BRUNCH

LIVE
MUSIC



FOOD
VENDORS



ARTISTS &
More!

Plus FRIDAY NIGHT KICKOFF CONCERT



TexasRedsFestival.com

TICKETS ON SALE

AUG 1!





This year, Los Angeles roots masters Los Lobos will take the stage, as will Texas favorites like Patty Griffin and Robert Ellis.

“The band lineup is largely the vision of Liz,” McKeon says. “Many of them are friends, and we’re really trying to be diverse in terms of the type of music. And then, what would be fun to kick up the dirt to? A lot of musicians come here and play for the first time, and then they fall in love. We find that they become really loyal and they want to come back every year.”

The music doesn’t start until 6 p.m. during the festival’s three days, which leaves time to explore the area and participate in the Trans-Pecos lineup of workshops. Each day, workshops

meet in various El Cosmico tents and buildings for activities like leather tooling, hand embroidery, bandana printing, chain-stitching, life drawing, and olive oil tasting. Workshop prices range from about \$20 for yoga to \$100-plus for the craftworks.

It’s an easy walk from El Cosmico to other Marfa attractions, including the Chinati Foundation, a contemporary art museum founded by the late artist Donald Judd on a former military base. The 340-acre property exhibits modern artworks in old barracks and outdoors. Strolling a grassy pasture studded with the large concrete blocks of *Judd’s 15 untitled works in concrete, 1980-1984*, offers a contemplative contrast to the hubbub of the

Jeff Tweedy and his band **Wilco** performed at Trans-Pecos Festival in 2017. Acts scheduled for this September include Los Lobos, Patty Griffin, the Texas Gentlemen, and Robert Ellis.

festival next door.

It’s also a short walk to downtown Marfa, the location of a weekly Saturday morning farmers market at Hotel Saint George’s outdoor pavilion. Look for homemade tamales and Marfa Maid Dairy’s selection of goat cheeses. Inside the hotel, Marfa Book Co. carries locally crafted jewelry, gifts, art books, and a fascinating collection of regional books by writers such as Terry Allen and Larry McMurtry.

On Saturday afternoon (Sept. 22),

Trans-Pecos hosts an annual baseball game at Vizcaino Park—about three miles from El Cosmico—between the Texas Playboys of Austin and Los Yonke Gallos de Marfa. Hundreds of fans turn out for the game, and the people-watching makes up for any shortcomings of the baseball itself (errors account for most of the runs scored). Highlights of the 2017 game included a fifth-inning performance by the Marfa High School Shorthorns marching band followed by a comical drill-team dance by a group of six Gallos supporters. Situated slightly above town, the park provides awesome views of distant mountains and the massive sky, where clouds drift in and out of the sun, shifting the temperature as they move.

For some festival-goers, the beauty of the weekend is being at El Cosmico, where they while away the

days communing with their campsite neighbors. Chad Isham, a leatherwork artist from Weatherford, attended his first Trans-Pecos Fest last year and plans to return this year, possibly with his own vendor booth. “There’s a

For some festival-goers, the beauty is in whiling away the day at El Cosmico: “There’s a really laid-back, peaceful kind of vibe here. Everyone’s real respectful of one another.”

really laid-back, peaceful kind of vibe here,” he reflects. “I haven’t felt any tension from anyone, and everyone’s real respectful of one another.”

Isham’s campsite, dubbed Campo

Nativo, became a gathering place for neighbors to share meals during last year’s festival. “I love to cook, and I love to feed people. Because of that, we’ve met some really great people here that I’ll be friends with for the rest of my life,” Isham says, pointing to a small tattoo below his elbow in the shape of a Native American rain cloud symbol. “In fact I traded food last night for this little tattoo.”



THE TRANS-PECOS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC + LOVE

held at El Cosmico in Marfa, is Sept. 20-23. Performers include Los Lobos, Future Islands, Patty Griffin, Jenny Lewis, Ben Kweller, and others.

Tickets cost \$250 for a music pass and \$325 for a music and camping pass (plus fees and taxes). Call 432-729-1950; elcosmico.com/event/trans-pecos-festival.

Four Days of Family-Friendly Fun

September 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2018

People’s Choice Wine Tasting Classic

Liberty Park Plaza Wine Experience

Champagne Terrace

GrapeStomp

Live Music and Entertainment

KidsWorld

Carnival Rides

Artisans

32nd Annual **GrapeFest**
A Texas Wine Experience

Presented by **BANK of the WEST**

featuring **OLD-WORLD WINES Revisited**
with guest wineries from Rioja Region of Spain and North Coast California

GrapeFest.com • #GrapeFest • GRAPEVINETEXAS



The Heart of Marfa

A hotel and bookstore conjure the legacy of artist Donald Judd

Story by **Clayton Maxwell**

“**H**E LIKES TO SIT AND drink and think.” That’s what one of Donald Judd’s interns told me about the New York artist, pioneer, and patron saint of Marfa’s contemporary art scene. We were standing by the bonfire, bagpipe song rolling over the Chihuahuan Desert. It was late winter in ‘93, the year before Judd passed away, and I was a guest at one of the bonfires Judd regularly hosted at his Marfa art compound, The Chinati Foundation. He’d flown



With two bars, a restaurant, and a bookstore, the **Hotel Saint George** has become a cultural and community hub of Marfa.

bagpipers in from Scotland; the burly, jolly Scotsmen in full kilt made a surreal contrast against the wide skies and pale grasses of this West Texas landscape. Even more surreal for me is the memory of Judd telling me why he likes bagpipes: They are, he said, the music that least reminds him of human voices.

Now, 25 years later, I am doing my own sitting, drinking, and thinking in my room at the Hotel Saint George, the clean-lined contemporary hotel



FIELD GUIDE *to* BASTROP COUNTY

ISSUE No 12



Charge & Recharge

BASTROP / ELGIN / SMITHVILLE



Whether you're in need of the perfect outfit or a relaxing retreat at one of our spas, there is always somewhere to unwind or shop* in Bastrop County. Come stay a weekend with us and get away without having to go far away.

EXPLORE OUR FRIENDLY NATURE. EXPLOREBASTROPCOUNTY.COM

*Please remove cucumbers from eyes before paying your bill.



COME Experience
a NORTH TEXAS
Treasure

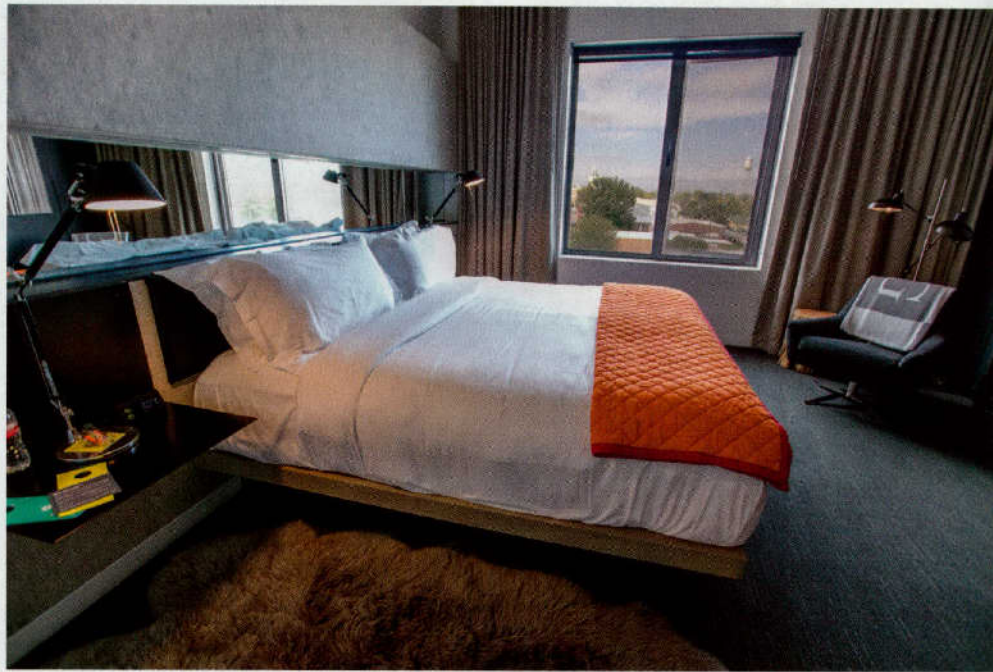
OPEN TUE - SUN

(972) 881-0140
1900 W. 15th Street
Plano, TX 75075

HERITAGE
FARMSTEAD
MUSEUM



www.heritagefarmstead.org



Above: a contemporary room
in the Hotel Saint George;
right: the Marfa Book Company.

that's become a Marfa cultural hub since owner Tim Crowley opened it in 2016. Through my third-story window, I gaze down upon the familiar red light at the intersection of San Antonio Street and Highland Avenue, the blinking heart of this unusual art-driven town. Judd, who was born in 1928, rose to fame as a groundbreaking sculptor in the '60s; in the next decade, he began to buy numerous buildings and thousands of acres of land in the Marfa area. He wanted space, remove from New York, and to see his art in a permanent, place-based installation.

People who knew him say Judd's thinking often took place from a chair perfectly positioned in front of a window at one of his many ranches—glass in hand, a view of the desert. Today, my version is of the early-morning kind: the sunrise streaking pink over the desert mountains, a cup of the Hotel Saint George's Illy coffee to wake me, my streamlined but cushy hotel room smelling sweet with the aromas of high-end bath products.

And in my lap is one of my favorite human voices. I'm about to reread a poem called "Peanut Butter" by Eileen Myles, the acclaimed writer who lives

part-time in Marfa and whose poetry collection, *I Must Be Living Twice: New and Selected Poems*, I had bought the night before in the Saint George lobby at the Marfa Book Company. Wondrous is a hotel where you can sneak up to your room after dinner in the downstairs restaurant with a new book of poetry tucked under your arm, one which you were actually allowed to charge to your room. Myles writes, "All the things I embrace as new, are in fact old things, rereleased..." Poetry—good poetry, that is—brings out the best in human voices and can connect things that seem unrelated, like bagpipes in the desert.

Long before he opened the Saint George on the site of the original namesake hotel, built in 1886, Crowley had been stoking the fires of creativity in the post-Judd Marfa community. A Marfa resident since 1997, he launched the Marfa Book Company two years later, and it quickly became an unofficial clubhouse for locals—artists and ranchers alike. In the years since, the bookstore has steadily hosted music, lectures, and



art exhibitions, and, back when it had a café, you could hang out for hours reading or studying art—common pastimes in this little town of less than 2,000 people. The bookstore’s square footage shrank when it was folded into the Hotel Saint George in 2016 and lost its coffee bar, but it’s maintained its status as creative well-spring in Marfa.

Crowley’s contributions to the town extend far beyond the hotel. In addition to the Saint George, he is a director of the 168-seat Crowley Theater for performances and lectures. He

Wondrous is a hotel where you can have dinner in the downstairs restaurant and charge a new book of poetry to your room.

also owns the Saint George Hall, for concerts and bigger events, and Bar Nadar Pool and Grill, quite literally the coolest hangout spot of all, particularly in the summer. And the hotel’s buzzy Bar Saint George and restaurant, La Venture, are steady sources of good food and drink in a town where restaurant hours are irregular; some days, sidling up to the bar for a Caesar

salad here feels like a holy miracle.

All of Crowley’s projects bring Marfa a vivifying shot of possibility. Much like Judd’s bagpipe bonfires, you never know when you might luck into a little magic, be it a poetry reading by the likes of Myles or a surprise concert by Texas music legend Terry Allen, or even a weekend festival dedicated entirely to celebrating the agave plant (the Agave Festival held annually in June). Crowley is also known for approaching such endeavors with an open-access attitude: He and his collaborators keep many events free, and the hotel pool is open to local families on Tuesdays.

“We are a local hotel,” Crowley says. “In the common areas, the metal doors, which are just gorgeous, are made by a welder here, and it’s the same guy you’d go to to weld up your horse trailer if it broke. The wood-work is all done by local folks. We try very hard to limit our art only to artists who have a connection to Marfa. I’ve lived here for 22 years, so I know a lot of artists. And when we opened, local artists lent their art to the hotel. People literally brought by paintings, which vary from thousands of dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

In 2008, Marfa poet Tim Johnson

Find something
Unique.



Downtown Shopping

- Historic Texas Arts & Cultural District
- Unique Boutiques / Art / Antiques
- Festivals / Parades / Special Events
- Craft Beverages / Dining / Nightlife
- Birthplace of President Eisenhower
- Historical Museums / Frontier Village
- Lake Texoma / Wildlife Refuge
- Comfortable Lodging / Event Center



DenisonTexas.us
DenisonLive.com
903-465-1551



and scholar Caitlin Murray bought the Marfa Book Company from Crowley. Between the store and the hotel, there are many corners in which to get lost in a book—or just sit and drink and think. But during the summer, nothing is quite so appealing as the coveted lounge chairs surrounding the hotel's sparkling Bar Nadar, a modernist watering hole where parched souls cluster on the pool edge and sip prickly pear margaritas or dig into gourmet street tacos. On the weekends and some weeknights, live music and merrymakers can elevate the energy to a full-on party.

A bumper sticker for sale in the Marfa Book Company reads, in big block letters, "WWDJD?" The impossibility of answering that question—what would Donald Judd do?—is what makes it amusing, but it also shows off the enduring, mythic stature of Judd in this town he



Room amenities for hungry or inspired guests at the Hotel Saint George.

transformed decades ago into an unlikely epicenter of contemporary art. And now, almost 25 years after his death, the ripples of his vision have carried on in the most unexpected of ways, which I'm reminded of as I slide my new Eileen Myles poetry book into my suitcase. **L**



THE HOTEL SAINT GEORGE AND MARFA BOOK COMPANY

are at 105 S. Highland Ave. in Marfa. Rooms start at \$159. Call 432-729-3700; marfasaintgeorge.com, marfabookco.com.

ABILENE
a whole
LOTTA
TEXAS
goin' on!

At Frontier Texas! life-sized spirit guides tell true tales about the brave souls who pioneered these sprawling plains. Scout this legendary area. You'll find a place where Texan heritage is both a birthright and a pastime.

Your historic adventure begins here:
abilenevisitors.com ★

The Game is On

A scavenger hunt inspires kids to consider public art through a fresh lens

Story by Paula Disbrowe



SOMETIMES IT'S ALL IN THE PACKAGING: TELLING my 8- and 10-year-old children we're going to spend an entire day looking at art isn't likely to make their hearts leap—that would require a water slide or afternoon at their favorite arcade. But we're lucky enough to be surrounded by dazzling, funky, and truly significant works of public art in Austin, available to anyone who takes the time to view them.

Because these pieces reflect the diverse and quirky culture of our city, I was determined to create a window to take them in as a family. But I needed to get crafty. I decided to turn our trek into an art-inspired "scavenger hunt," complete with questions, special notebooks and pens,

Determined to experience our city's art as a family, I decided to turn our trek into an art-inspired scavenger hunt.

and—here's the key detail—a prize for full participation. Suddenly, my kids were all in.

Since I was the chauffeur and orchestrator of this escapade, our quest had certain parameters. I drove us to the general area, and sometimes finding the art was the goal; other times there were questions about the piece that made them look a bit deeper into its meaning. We set out early on a recent Thursday, following a tour framed around the following clues.

As the sun shifts, colors travel across the floor and white interior walls of *Austin*, the last work by renowned artist Ellsworth Kelly.



View the sky through a circular window in the ceiling of James Turrell's *The Color Inside* at the University of Texas.

FIND A WINDOW TO THE SKY AND DESCRIBE ITS COLOR.

Even though we live close to The University of Texas at Austin campus, I'd never been to the Student Activity Center, home of *The Color Inside*, a "Skyspace" by internationally acclaimed artist James Turrell. After a few helpful students pointed us to the building, then the elevators, and finally the door that led to the rooftop garden, I announced we were "very warm" and let the kids discover the door to the small, round room with a circular opening in the ceiling called an oculus. We took on a seat to look up through the portal that creates a simple but powerful frame that intensifies perceptions of color. "Light early blue speckled with thick floaty streamers of bright white thin clouds," my daughter wrote. "Very calm."

COUNT THE COLORED SQUARES.

Our next stop was another study of color and light. Often referred to as the "Kelly Chapel at the Blanton," *Austin* is the last work by renowned American artist Ellsworth Kelly. (In 2015, the artist gave the museum the design concept for the stone structure with luminous glass windows, which was completed in 2018, after his death.) Meant as a space for joy and contemplation, the interior reveals a kaleidoscope of colored glass windows arranged in three different designs: "color grid," "starburst," and "tumbling squares." As the sun shifts, reflections of the different hues travel across the room's white walls. Asking the kids to count the squares was a basic but effective way to encourage them to contemplate the space, and how the position of the sun and intensity of light affect the colors.

WHERE DID THE GOLDEN SHELL COME FROM?

Perhaps my imagination got carried away. Initially, I told my kids that someone had “stolen a treasure from Poseidon, the god of the sea, and they needed to find it!” But it’s difficult not to notice *Spiral of the Galaxy*, a giant, gleaming, golden conch shell created by British artist Marc Quinn and unveiled at Dell Medical School in 2016.

But after having their own experience interacting with the shell—feeling its smooth surfaces and actually climbing inside—they chose to create their own narrative. “I’d rather imagine where it came from,” my daughter said, before writing down an impromptu mermaid tale.

I wanted the kids to understand a history that’s no longer visible in the city’s rapid development—in this case, a colorful tile mural reflecting east Austin’s rich African American history.

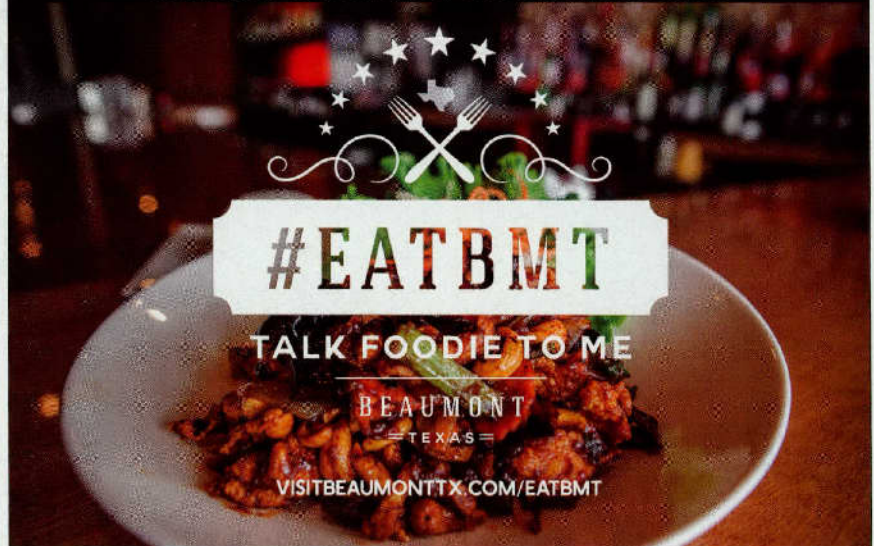
FIND FOUR INSTRUMENTS.

Next, we followed the sound of music, or so I imagined, to the corner of East 11th and Waller streets to John Yancey’s vibrant *Rhapsody Mosaic Mural*. Yancey, an associate chairman and professor of art at the University of Texas, designed the colorful tile mural to reflect east Austin’s rich African American history and the jazz and blues that drifted from venues like the Victory Grill, where legends such as Etta James and B.B. King performed in the 1940s and ’50s.

I wanted the kids to understand a history that’s no longer visible in the city’s rapid development. It was easy for them to spot two saxophones and a trumpet, but the fourth instrument—the voice emanating from the open mouth of a songstress—took a bit more thought.

FOOD TELLS A STORY IN A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

The Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau invites you to be a part of our culinary narrative!



Pack your bags and join us for a culinary adventure. Explore what’s trending with local foodies at VisitBeaumontTX.com/eatbmt and get ready to eat your way through the best culinary offerings in Southeast Texas. **#EATBMT Restaurant Week: August 26-September 2**

VISITBEAUMONTTX.COM

@EatBmt @VisitBeaumontTX

WILLKOMMEN FREDERICKSBURG, TX



October 5-6-7

The aroma of sizzling bratwurst, and the cries of *prost* will once again herald the arrival of Oktoberfest. For three full days, the world is invited to sing, toast and dance at one of Fredericksburg’s favorite festivals, celebrating Texas *gemütlichkeit!*

www.oktoberfestinfbg.com



October 25 - 27

Texas wineries and Texas specialty booths will join us. Texas chef demos at Grape Expectations Cooking School, Gargantuan Grape Toss, auction, entertainment—starting at noon Saturday, October 27. Plus Thursday Go Texan! Dinner at Messina Hof Winery; Friday Celebration at Becker Vineyards and Saturday Patron Brunch on MarktPlatz.

www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com



Visit **PARIS**
TEXAS



September 14-16
SDBA Grand Prix Finals



October 20
Mannequin Night

Photos Credit: Joe Watson Photography

PARIS
VISITORS AND TEXAS
CONVENTION COUNCIL

Bonjour Y'all

CHAMBER@PARISTEXAS.COM
paristexas.com
1-800-PARIS TX (727-4789)



Above: *Spiral of the Galaxy*, a giant conch shell on display at Dell Medical School; right: a visit to the Cathedral of Junk.

CHOOSE THREE ITEMS THAT DELIGHT YOU.

I'd heard about the Cathedral of Junk—Vince Hannemann's rambling grotto of found objects—for years, but I'd never made the trek to south Austin to see it. Vaguely arranged by color, his creation is so jam-packed with stuff—tennis rackets, empty bottles, bike tires, license plates, and

My son was delighted by the rough edges, funk, and playscape approach of climbing through the installation.

jewelry—that it didn't take my son long to say, "I'm done!" Delighted by the rough edges, funk, and playscape approach of climbing through the installation, he chose a snowman ornament, a plastic hippo, and small bust of Mozart.

IT'S GOT PLENTY OF WHEELS, BUT YOU CAN'T RIDE IT.

After scoring a downtown parking spot, we ambled to the Waller Delta to behold *Forever Bicycles* by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. Created in 2014, the two-site exhibition is part of The Contemporary Austin's Museum Without Walls, an ongoing collaboration with the Waller Creek Conservancy, which places art throughout our community. *Forever Bicycles*, a reference to a brand of Chinese bikes, consists of more than 1,200 bicycles transformed into a playful, spectacular monument with an archway underneath that gives viewers another "forever," the optical effect of looking up into the seemingly infinite tower of wheels, frames, and spokes.



**THE CAR ISN'T RUNNING,
BUT THE RADIO IS.**

Famous for songs like “Amarillo Highway,” the musician and artist Terry Allen has devoted much of his work to America’s romance with automobiles and the open road—particularly their promise of adventure and escape. That nostalgia is embodied in *Road Angel*, a bronze cast of a 1953 Chevrolet coupe. The

green-tinged car, balanced on three wheels and nestled among the trees at Laguna Gloria, isn’t going anywhere soon, which makes its ongoing audio archive—songs and oral histories by musicians, artists, and writers that seem to emanate from the car’s radio—all the more stirring and eerie. The piece, like Allen’s music, transports us to the road—where the search for beauty can begin anew. **L**

*It's All About
the Music!*

903
Music Fest

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 12**
**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 13**

**DOWNTOWN
LONGVIEW, TX**

**STARRING
CLINT
BLACK**
**FEATURING
KENNY WAYNE
SHEPHERD BAND**

**INTRODUCING
SAM HYMAN BAND • CASEY JAMES
MANSION FAMILY • AKEEM KEMP
CHAD COOKE BAND • DAGNABBIT
THE MOLLY RINGWALD'S • TUSK**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
STARTING AT \$20**

**f @903MUSICFEST
903MUSICFEST.COM**



THE COLOR INSIDE

is in the UT Student Activity Center at 2201 Speedway. To experience a light sequence at sunset, make a reservation at turrell.utexas.edu.

AUSTIN, at the Blanton Museum of Art at 200 E. MLK Jr. Blvd., opens Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sun 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Free Thursdays. Call 512-471-5482; blantonmuseum.org.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK, at 4422 Lareina Drive, opens by appointment. Call 512-299-7413.

ROAD ANGEL, at The Contemporary Austin-Laguna Gloria at 3809 W. 35th St., can be viewed Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 512-458-8191; thecontemporaryaustin.org.

SPIRAL OF THE GALAXY, outside the Dell Medical School near Red River and 15th streets; **RHAPSODY MOSAIC MURAL**, on the southwest corner of East 11th and Waller streets; and **FOREVER BICYCLES**, at 74 Trinity St. on the Waller Delta where Waller Creek flows into Lady Bird Lake, are on public display.

Birds of Paradise

Frank X. Tolbert 2 interprets “incredible creations of nature” in the *Texas Bird Project*

Story by Gene Fowler

THE ART AFICIONADOS AT THE OPENING OF Frank X. Tolbert 2's *Texas Bird Project* exhibition in Austin were clearly enamored with the artist's prints, paintings, and drawings of the state's winged and feathered beings. But the birdwatchers who came to meet the Houston artist were absolutely rapt.

“Do you have a life list?” asked one devoted observer of the beaked creatures that soar and beguile. Unassuming and down-to-earth, Tolbert replied that he did not: “But I just really enjoy seeing the birds.”

In that case, the artist hit the jackpot when he was hatched in this neck of the cactus and pine patch. The diversity of Texas' natural environment—from the mountains and desert to the deep woods and Gulf Coast—makes the state a birder's paradise where one may behold thousands of species.

While the 72-year-old artist had long been interested in

The diversity of Texas' natural environment—from the desert to the deep woods—makes the state a birder's paradise.

birds, the *Texas Bird Project* got started in 2014 when Austin's Flatbed Press & Gallery commissioned him to create eight bird etchings. After unveiling the exhibit at Flatbed, Tolbert said he foresees the project continuing indefinitely into the future.

“Frank has a magical way of interpreting the world with line and color,” said Katherine Brimberry, director and master printer at Flatbed. “These are no ordinary birds. Tolbert's Texas birds fly artistic boundaries.”

Tolbert got his introduction to the diversity of Texas flora and fauna as a boy when his father, Frank X.



High Island Rookery features many of the birds artist Frank X. Tolbert 2 observed daily when he and his wife lived on Galveston Island.

Tolbert—a Texas historian, long-time “Tolbert’s Texas” columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, and co-founder of the annual Original Terlingua International Championship Chili Cookoff—took him on Jeep excursions to every section of the state. The trips made a deep and lasting impression on young Frank.

“I remember one time we were in Wizard Wells in Jack County,” Frank said. “Tarantulas were all over the walls of a filling station. The whole road was black with tarantulas. My dad said it must be tarantula mating season. I’ve never seen anything like it since.”

When Frank was 9, his dad took him on a colossal Jeep trek around the perimeter of Texas. The next year he began studying with artist Otis Dozier—a member of the famed “Dallas Nine” group of artists of the 1930s—taking art lessons at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts when it was located at Fair Park. Tolbert remembers wandering around the museum and seeing a painting by Mexican artist Rufino Tamayo of a man reaching for a shooting star.

“I’ve lived all of my life in Texas, and I feel like my art is sort of a visual diary where the folklore of Texas and my personal life are inseparably intertwined,” he said. “But I’ve also traveled a lot in Mexico, and I see my work as kind of a combination of Otis Dozier’s Wild West heroism and Rufino Tamayo’s magical realism.”

The artist experienced the abundance of coastal bird populations daily when he and his wife, artist Ann Stautberg, lived on Galveston Island. Frequent visits to Smith Oaks Sanctuary on High Island provided Tolbert with prime viewing of birds such as the roseate spoonbill. His 6-by-11-foot oil painting on paper, *High Island Rookery*, features several of the distinctive birds.

“That bird has an amazing history,” Tolbert said. “It almost became extinct in the 19th century because

TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com



San Marcos, TX is a groove. An experience.

Where you can soak in some murals, music, mermaids and more. You'll genuinely be enchanted by experiences that delight you. With quirky shops, breweries and farm fresh eats in our hip little downtown square, you'll definitely want to stay a while. Plan your visit at TourSanMarcos.com.

SEPTEMBER 22: MERMAID PROMENADE & AQUA FAIRE

SAN MARCOS

f t p i y @TourSanMarcos

512-393-5930 | TourSanMarcos.com



Clockwise from top left: *Reddish Egret*, *Snowy Egret*, *Pileated Woodpecker*, and *Great Horned Owl*

sighting for artistic purposes in less structured settings. “I’ve painted and drawn lots of birds, like the pileated woodpecker, that I saw in my own backyard,” he said. His color etching *Pileated Woodpecker* is printed on Rives BFK, a cotton printmaking paper from France. The species’ distinctive red crest looks as though it is adorned with a flaming Mohawk hairdo, and its long bill chisels into trees like a jackhammer.

Frank spied his great horned owl outside the Devil’s Sinkhole near Rocksprings. Said to have the most diverse diet of all North American raptors, the great horned owl will even eat the Mexican free-tailed bats that emerge from the sinkhole on summer eves. Tolbert’s oil stick and graphite work on paper, *Great Horned Owl*, stares at the viewer with large hypnotic eyes.

The artist recalls seeing a ruby-throated hummingbird in the Hill Country, but on rare occasions the small bird with a bright-red kerchief and rapid-fire wings (beating 50-plus times per second) can be spotted in Big Bend, where Tolbert has often rambled. In his color etching *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, the crimson-necked hummer hovers over a prickly pear cactus, its long sharp beak drinking nectar from the plant’s

hatmakers wanted the beautiful plumes for hats.” Noted not only for its eye-catching pink and red feathers but also for its long bill that it uses to scoop up small fish and crustaceans, the roseate spoonbill began to recolonize in the early 1900s.

Aside from visits to Smith Oaks, Frank has done most of his bird

flower. A praying mantis, which preys on hummingbirds, sneaks stealthily up the nopal pad.

The project, which started as etchings and grew to include paintings, also includes egrets, crows, herons, jays, and pelicans, all depicted with a vivid emotional element that

“Frank has a magical way of interpreting the world with line and color. These are no ordinary birds. Tolbert’s Texas birds fly artistic boundaries.”

surpasses photographs.

The *Texas Bird Project* is the latest installment in a long career that has made Tolbert one of the state’s leading contemporary artists. “His decades worth of expressive notations on the common sights of daily life place him in the first rank of Texas artists who see quotidian details as rich sites for shared experience,” said independent curator Annette Carozzi, who is writing a book on the contemporary Texas art scene for University of Texas Press.

Quotidian details abound in Texas birds. “The abstractions of their markings and colors are incredible creations of nature that you could never improve—you just try to bring them to life,” Tolbert said. “Birds are just amazing.”



THE TEXAS BIRD

PROJECT is on display at William Campbell Contemporary Art, 4935 Byers Ave. in Fort Worth.

Hours are Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

and Sat. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 817-737-9566. Tolbert’s works can also be viewed online at the gallery’s website, williamcampbellcontemporaryart.com, and at his own website, frankxtolbert2.com.

TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com

CONROE
is **TRUE TEXAS**

Plan a trip to the birthplace of the Texas flag. See the Lone Star Monument and Flag Park and the Heritage Museum of Montgomery County. Reflect on what you’ve experienced at a sunset dinner on 22,000 acre Lake Conroe, in a hike through over 160,000 acres of forest, or with a bite in historic downtown Conroe.

ADVENTURE AWAITS
conroe.tx
VISITCONROE.COM

THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH TIME
FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WE MAKE TIME STAND STILL

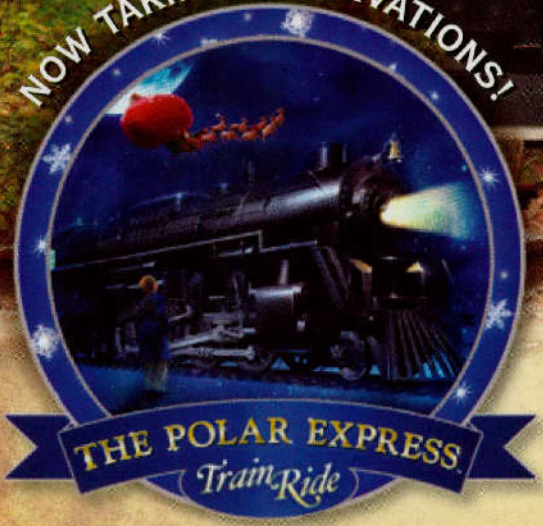


TEXAS STATE RAILROAD

WHERE HISTORY IS ONLY
PART OF THE JOURNEY



NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS!



ENJOY A FUN-FILLED, FOUR-HOUR, ADVENTURE
THROUGH THE PINEY WOODS OF EAST TEXAS

RESERVATIONS: 1-855-632-7729 OR
WWW.TEXASSTATERAILROAD.NET

THE POLAR EXPRESS and all related characters and elements © & TM
Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s17)

TRAINS DEPART ON A VARIED YEAR-ROUND SCHEDULE

PLATES

DRINK + COOK + TRAVEL

Knockin' on Desert Door

Thanks to a native plant, Texas
has its very own spirit

Story by Kimya Kavehkar



Desert Door's sandstorm margarita combines its signature sotol with lime, peaches, rosemary, and jalapeño.



Above: Bar manager **Bobbi Lee Hitchon** serves up a **yaupon Palmer**. Right: Desert Door's popular **Comanchero** cocktail uses sotol nectar.

IN 2016, graduate students Judson Kauffman, Brent Looby, and Ryan Campbell stood around in a college parking garage drinking Mexican sotol from the bottle before class.

"Not half bad," Kauffman remembers as the collective reaction.

This wasn't an attempt to get rid of pre-exam jitters—it was in the name of research. Two years later, the three are running their own sotol distillery, Desert Door, based in Driftwood, just southwest of Austin.

While the processing takes place in the Hill Country, the origin of the mostly unfamiliar liquor is in West Texas, where the sotol plant (*Dasylirion texanum*), or "desert spoon," has nearly 9,000 years of history.

The plant once helped sustain life for nomadic Native American tribes in Southwest Texas and Northern Mexico. Its fibrous leaves were used to weave baskets, mats, and sandals; and the base of the leaves were scraped off and eaten, much like an artichoke, with the remains used as a spoon (hence the nickname); and its stalks were used to make weapons. "Some archaeologists we've spoken with believe that this could also be the first alcoholic beverage consumed in this part of the world," says Looby, the partner in charge of operations. "In the Lower Pecos River Valley, there are some hieroglyphics that show [people] imbibing."

Because sotol never reached the same level of international recognition as its cousin, tequila, there's a lot of education required when you're in the business of making and selling it. "Nobody really understands the rich heritage of this plant, so every time we learn something, we peel back another layer," Looby says. "This is a tremendous story that we get an opportunity to retell."

For now, Desert Door is the only domestically produced sotol on the market. That niche is not lost on the

entrepreneurially savvy trio of founders, who are also military veterans. Kauffman, Looby, and Campbell first came up with the idea for Desert Door in a "New Venture Creation" class at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. They were tasked with creating a fictional company to present in a class competition. While Looby and Campbell pitched high-tech ideas that drew from their military backgrounds, Kauffman suggested they try something a little more fun—the class was an elective, after all. He remembered hearing his uncle, who lived in Fort

"Nobody really understands the rich heritage of this plant, so every time we learn something, we peel back another layer."

Stockton, talk about people moonshining sotol in West Texas.

After coming in first place in the class competition, they decided to launch Desert Door for real.

But for three people who'd never worked in the spirits industry and were set on producing a little-known and not-really-sought-after liquor, the learning curve was steep. As Looby states, "There's no YouTube video on this." So they had to learn how to harvest,



GREENVILLE

North Texas with a Twist!

Cotton Patch Challenge - September 15

Bob Wills Fiddle Festival - November 2

travelgreenvilletx.com
We're ready to surprise you!

PALESTINE, TEXAS

FALL: RIDE TEXAS STATE RAILROAD
SEPT 29: EL CAMINO 205: TEXAS GRAVEL
ADVENTURE - CYCLING CHALLENGE
OCT 27: HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL
NOV: FALL FOLIAGE DRIVING TRAILS
VISITPALESTINE.COM 800-659-3484

CHAMPAGNE SERVED
Bikes Welcome.



Above: Sotal hearts are piled up for processing; the spiky, sharp leaves of the sotal plant. Right: Patrons belly up to the bar.

process, ferment, and distill sotal. In the first stages of recipe testing, they roasted the plant in home ovens and shredded it with a wood chipper. Then they moved on to steaming them in a pressure cooker and fermenting in homebrew buckets. It took six days of work to get the first shot of product. These days, they're distilling up to 400 gallons of sotal a month with plans to triple production soon. A shipment of 10,000 to 24,000 pounds of harvested sotal from Fort Stockton and Iraan shows up at their distillery

weekly. (They've cut deals with West Texas cattle ranchers to get the unwanted plants off their land.) They cook the heart in a custom steam-pressure cooker, grind it up, express all the sugar out of it with purified water, and then ferment it for five

The unmistakable scent of the cooked sotal—sweet and almost syrupy—floods your nostrils as soon as you enter Desert Door's tasting room.

days, until it's ready to be distilled.

The unmistakable scent of cooked sotal—sweet and almost syrupy—floods your nostrils as soon as you enter Desert Door's tasting room. With white stone masonry, Saltillo-tile floor, tan leather couches, and succulents, it taps into West Texas at its sleekest and trendiest. The outdoor patio space is also small yet refined, featuring picnic tables and a stage for live music, enclosed by steel planters with yuccas and more succulents, and tall stands of bougainvillea. While

the bar does offer a charcuterie plate, hungry patrons get their fill from food trucks parked outside.

When you sidle up to the bar, start off with a neat half-ounce pour in a ceramic cup. As Looby describes the flavor, “it starts off very grassy and herbaceous, and there’s kind of a sweet note in the middle, and then it finishes really earthy.” Once you’ve got a good base, it’s time to move on to the creative cocktail menu, which features many types of drinks you’d normally make with tequila, like the margarita and the strawberry-rhubarb paloma, a summer specialty. The seasonal list also features the sandstorm margarita, made with peaches, jalapeño slices, agave, and rosemary sprigs; and the yaupon Palmer with yaupon tea (another beverage made from a Texas plant), lemon juice, agave, and honeycomb. And if you really love

sotol, you can take home a bottle for \$55.

Desert Door’s sotol is a localvore’s dream: grown, harvested, processed, distilled, and served in Texas. It has a long way to go to reach iconic Lone Star State status, but it doesn’t have to try very hard. “Pick your gin, pick your blended, your single malts, your bourbons, pick your rums—those aren’t uniquely Texas stories; in fact, they’re identified with other parts of the world,” Looby says. “Something that we can say is *Dasyvirion texanum* only grows in Southwest Texas. It doesn’t get anymore Texas than what we’re trying to do.” **L**



DESERT DOOR DISTILLERY is at 211 Darden Hill Road in Driftwood. Tasting room opens Thurs 3:30 p.m.-8 p.m., Fri-Sat 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun noon-6 p.m. Call 512-829-6129; desertdoor.com.

2018 Beachtoberfest PORT ARANSAS, TX

BEACHTOBERFEST IS BACK.

September 22 – October 28, 2018

With fewer crowds and the best weather of the year, Port A’s Beachtoberfest is a must for every music, food, or culture lover in Texas. Plan your Beachtoberfest comeback today!



For a complete schedule and more information visit
[gobeachtoberfest.com](http://gobeachttoberfest.com)

9/28 & 9/29

PORT A MUSIC FEST

It’s the best live music event on the coast, with acts performing at great venues all across the island.

10/3 – 10/6

TEXAS SUPER CHEF THROWDOWN SERIES

Watch top Texas chefs battle for culinary supremacy, as Port A welcomes the country’s largest food competition to the island for its state finals.

10/20

OLD TOWN FEST

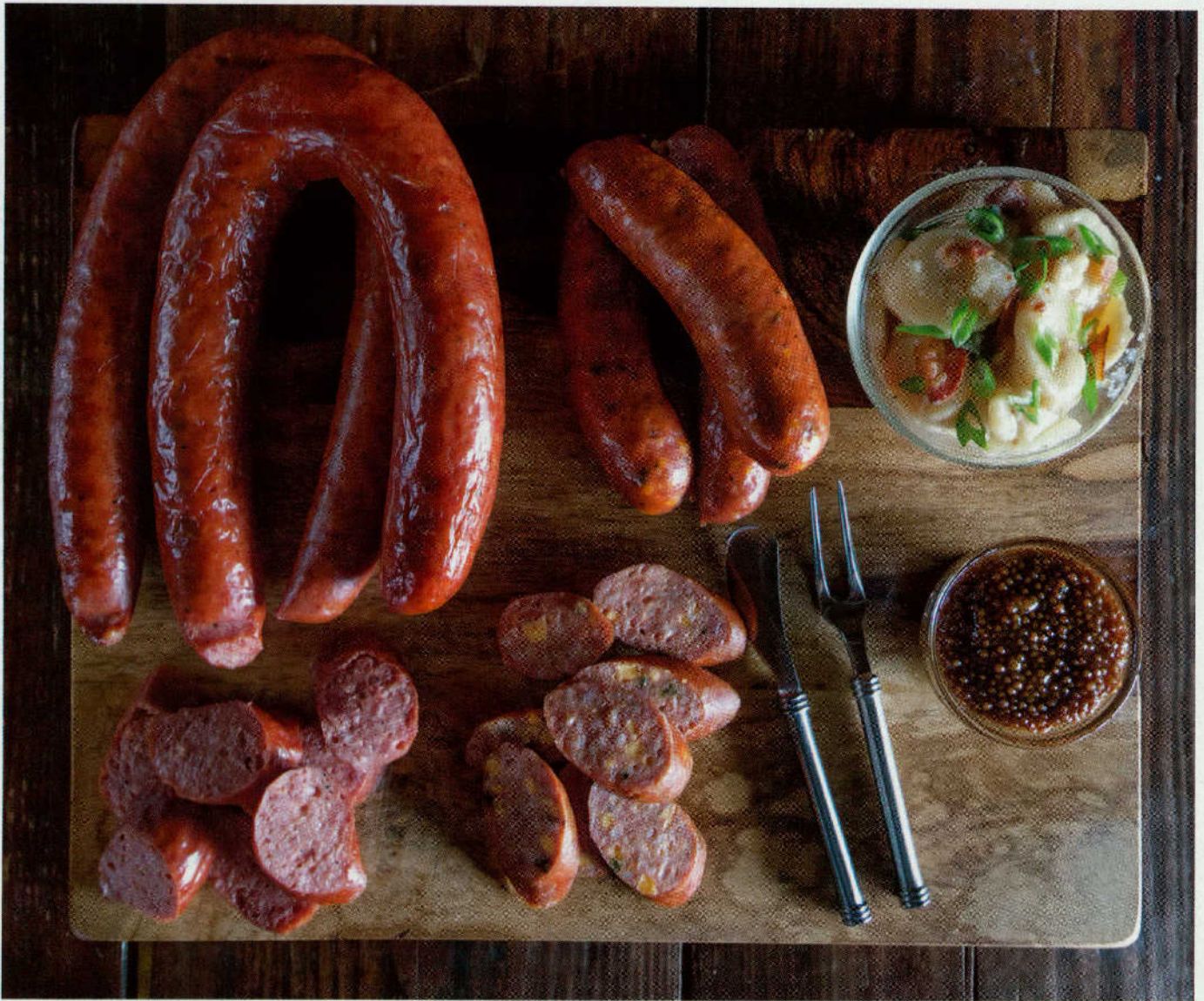
Celebrate Port A’s rich history and culture with tours, food, live music, a parade and much more.

10/27

BEACH PUMPKIN HUSTLE 5K RUN

Lace up your running shoes for our annual island fun run.

PLUS MANY MORE EVENTS!



Fredericksburg Flavor

Smoked meat and sausage are a major part of this Hill Country family's legacy

Story by **Sallie Lewis Longoria**

WALKING INTO OPA'S SMOKED MEATS IN FREDERICKSBURG IS A BIT LIKE stepping foot in your grandparents' kitchen—especially if you call your grandparents *oma* and *opa*. Long shelves are curated with odds and ends like jars of red cabbage and bottles of vinegar, and beer steins sit next to faded drop horns, cast iron pans, and copies of *The New German Cookbook*. Every day, the staff sets out a large board of samples with cheese and meat, slices of sausage, and red bell peppers filled with zesty dips.

Despite selling nearly 6 million pounds of slow-smoked German sausage

every year, Opa's remains a humble Hill Country smokehouse run by the same Fredericksburg family that founded it more than 70 years ago.

The Opa's story began in 1947 when Arno Schwethelm, a merchant and rancher from Comfort, gave a small meat market to his daughter Ruby and son-in-law Milton Edwards

Above: Opa's sausages pair well with German-style potato salad and whole-grain mustard. Right: The charming exterior of Opa's storefront.

as a wedding present. The young couple renovated the building and established their meat market as Fredericksburg Lockers' Inc. They made a living running their small processing plant and slaughterhouse and by renting out lockers to locals for cold meat storage. When Milton passed away at an early age in 1958,

Despite selling nearly 6 million pounds of smoked sausage every year, Opa's remains a humble Hill Country smokehouse.

Ruby ran the business until her son, Wayne, graduated from college and moved back to Fredericksburg with his wife, Schatzie.

Wayne and Schatzie wrote a new chapter for the company in 1968, when they shed the processing plant and locker rental and launched Opa's Smoked Meats. Paying tribute to



their German heritage, they developed original recipes for smoked sausage using a blend of coarse-ground cuts of meat, German-style spices, and no fillers. They started small, introducing two styles—the Opa's Country Blend of pork and beef and an all-beef product—and grew the business through grocery retailers in the Hill Country, West Texas,

and South Texas. The company uses the same recipes to make its smoked sausage today.

Wayne and Schatzie's children, Doug Edwards and Beth Redix, are now at the helm of the family business. Doug remembers playing in the Sunday house-turned-office after school as his parents worked nights and weekends to grow the operation.



30th Anniversary!

We Invite You & Your Family to Experience the Magic of Our

Elizabethan Madrigal Feast

A Holiday Tradition Since 1988

Tickets Include
Gourmet 3 - Course Dinner

November 23 - December 9, 2018

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



400 College Blvd
Clute, TX 77531

For tickets go to brazosportcenter.org
or call 979-265-7661

We're Full of Surprises!



Join Us For
Rose Season
 October 2018



VISITTYLER.COM/
 ROSESEASON



Opa's lunch selections include its popular turkey and cheese sandwich.

"It's tradition," he says. "There wasn't any question about whether my sister and I would be in the business."

As the third generation carries on Opa's legacy, the siblings remain committed to the brand's founding

"Germans take great pride in the quality of things they do. We're constantly paying attention to detail and quality."

values. "Germans take great pride in the quality of things they do," Doug says. "We're constantly paying attention to detail and quality." The process to make their famous smoked sausage is a lengthy one, he says: "It's very labor intensive. We try to be as efficient as possible."

First, they examine the raw meat for quality. Then they send it to the chopper, grind up the meat in 200-pound batches, and blend in spices and seasonings. Ice is also added to maintain a temperature of 38 degrees or below.

From there, the 200-pound tub goes to the hopper in the stuffing room, where the meat is stuffed into natural casings and sized into links of various weights and lengths. Hung on stainless steel sticks, the sausages are smoked via indirect heat for nearly three hours. They are then chilled, cut, packaged, and shipped to retailers like H-E-B or directly to customers who order online.

On the opposite side of the Opa's compound from the processing and

packing facilities is the retail shop. There, flowers and jars of peach honey, peach syrup, and dill pickles sit atop a large, round table, and Garth Brooks plays on the radio as locals come in to pick up their weekly fix of smoked beef tenders or summer sausage. Many are greeted by first name; tourists are welcomed with enthusiasm, too.

Long, glass refrigerated display cases are filled with peppered bacon, jerky, turkey drumsticks, smoked chickens, and fresh-made deviled eggs. An assortment of German products, from egg noodles to beer bread mix, are perched on shelves nearby.

While shoppers browse the selection, busy staff members weigh, slice, and wrap orders in paper. They also fix sandwiches like chicken salad or pimento cheese, perfect for picnicking at nearby Enchanted Rock State Natural Area or Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. Customers can tailor their sandwiches with a selection of breads like marble rye or sourdough honey wheat, meats such as Opa's corned beef or peppered ham, and cheeses like pepper jack or provolone.

Throughout its seven decades in business, the family has continued to operate on the original plot of land, although the facilities have spread to almost an entire city block. Rising from the headquarters on Washington Street is the large Opa's sign, boasting the brand name and a lederhosen-clad *opa*—or grandfather—holding a string of sausage.

The *opa* on this sign, and on all the family's products, serves as a tribute to Arno Schwethelm, Wayne Edwards, and German grandfathers everywhere. **L**

RECIPE



OPA'S SMOKED SAUSAGE & GNOCCHI WITH SUN-DRIED TOMATOES AND SPINACH

Pair savory smoked sausage with the sweet-tart intensity of sun-dried tomatoes, spinach, and a hit of garlic and Parmesan in this 30-minute gnocchi dish that melds German and Italian flavors.

INGREDIENTS

- ✦ 1 pound gnocchi
- ✦ 4 links smoked sausage, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- ✦ 1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes in oil, julienned
- ✦ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ✦ 4 cups baby spinach
- ✦ 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

PREPARATION

1. Prepare gnocchi according to directions; drain and keep warm.
2. Cook and stir sausage, garlic, and sun-dried tomatoes in a large skillet over medium-high heat for 5 minutes, or until sausage is lightly browned.
3. Add spinach; stir gently until spinach wilts. Stir in gnocchi; heat through. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese; serve immediately.

Grand Prairie
TEXAS



EPIC FEST

SEPT. 21 - 22

epiccentral
GRAND PRAIRIE

GO GRAND!

WITH THESE FALL EVENTS

LONE STAR PARK

Quarter Horse Season
Sept. 21 - Nov. 10

TRADERS VILLAGE

Native American Pow Wow
Sept. 14 - 16

Taste of Grand Prairie
Sept. 27

ASIA TIMES SQUARE

Mid - Autumn Festival
Sept. 21-23

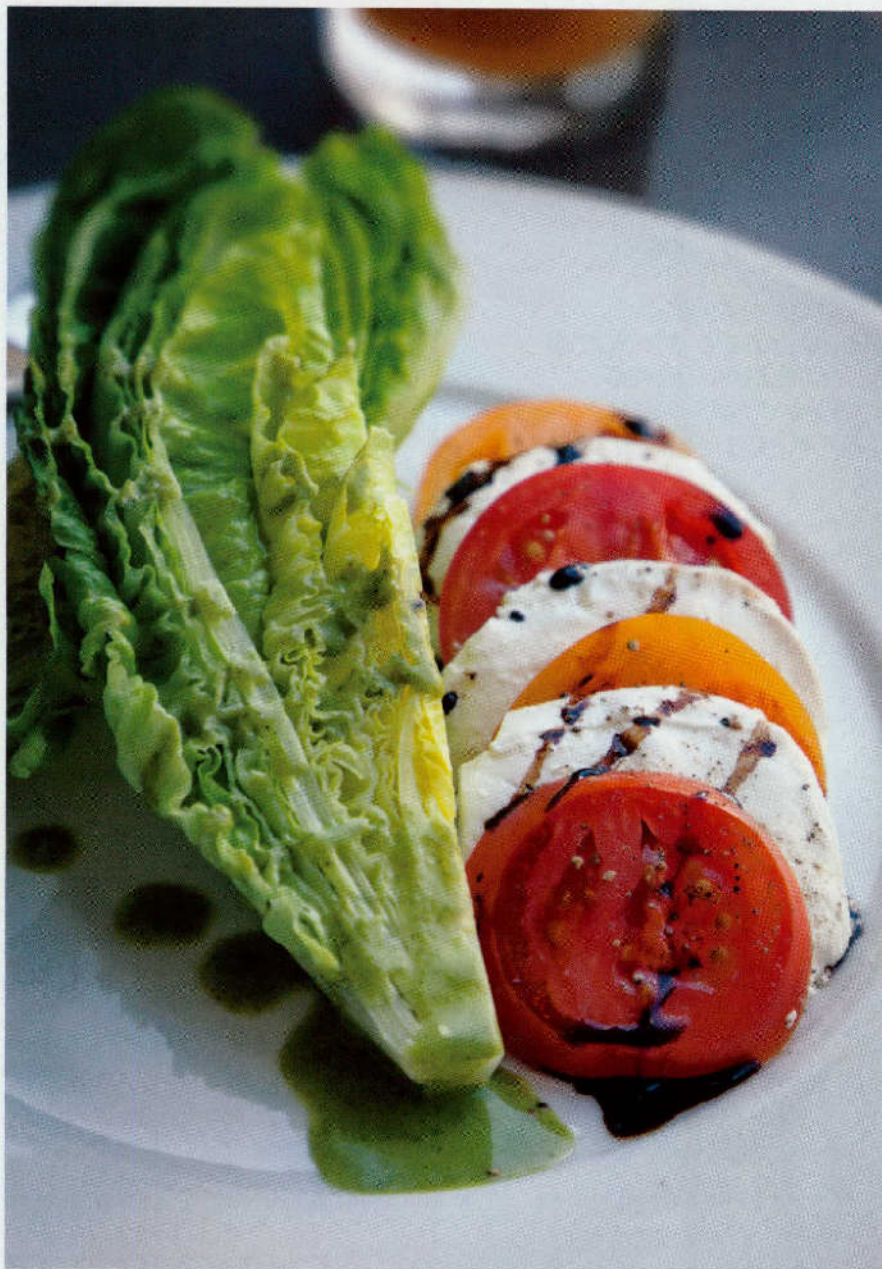
Book Online!

1.800.288.8fun

Visit GRANDPRAIRIETX.COM
FOR MORE DEALS!



OPA'S SMOKED MEATS, at 410 S. Washington St. in Fredericksburg, is open Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sat 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 830-997-3358; opasmokedmeats.com.



Painted Palette

Chef-driven cuisine makes Fort Worth's museum dining an art form

Story by **June Naylor**

WHEN CHEF DENISE SHAVANDY WALKS INTO THE MODERN Art Museum of Fort Worth, she often wonders if she's dreaming. Before she found her way to cooking, Shavandy considered other career paths that might have landed her in a place like this.

Fortuitously, her job as executive chef of Café Modern, the museum's restaurant, involves crafting beautiful food next to some of the most important art anywhere, inside a building created by one of the world's foremost design talents.

"I was originally going into architecture, and I also considered an art degree," Shavandy says, reflecting on fate's direction. "So getting to work here is a big deal to me."

At Café Modern, guests who've spent hours wandering the galleries filled with works by Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Frank Stella will feel similarly lucky as they rest their feet while eating some of the most exquisite food in the city. Dining isn't exactly a thrilling prospect at most museums where boxed sandwiches and sad salads are the norm—that's why Café Modern, and its counterpart at the nearby Kimbell Art Museum, The Buffet, stand out. The passion of their respective chefs will make patrons rethink their previous conceptions of what a pit stop at the museum café is like.

Shavandy uses the dinner plate as her canvas, combining textures and shapes and colors to fashion an edible art experience.

I prefer a table next to the window, where I can watch the ducks paddle on the sprawling pond. During a recent dinner, I settled into the evening with one of the bar's specialty cocktails: the purple-hued Hyacinth, an elixir blending vodka, gin, crème de violette, simple syrup, and wispy lemon shavings.

Shavandy uses the dinner plate as her canvas, combining textures and shapes and colors to fashion an edible art experience. I saw this firsthand as a plate of cool, ivory asparagus, with a green pool of fresh herb puree for dipping and smoked almonds for crunch, landed on my table. Next was a dish of tandoori-spiced chicken with roasted curried cauliflower and a raita (Indian yogurt sauce) that provided a chilling balance to the exotic spices. After that was a bowl of shredded beef brisket, redolent with smoky Chinese five-spice, tumbled with pickled



Above: **Chef Denise Shavandy**. Left: Café Modern's caprese wedge salad with local heirloom tomatoes and mozzarella.

vegetables, cucumber kimchi, and apricot hoisin sauce. At another meal, I reveled in two of her desserts: one a ricotta cheesecake sitting atop pomegranate syrup and framed by an artful smear of lemon curd and scattered with pomegranate seeds and toasted pistachios; the other a trio of chocolate truffles, one of which incorporated Turkish coffee, cardamom, and Madagascar vanilla.

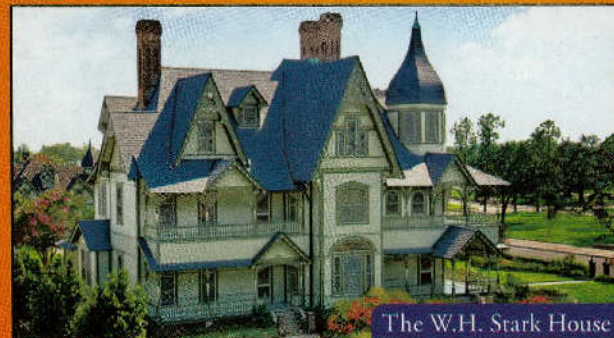
Before joining Café Modern three years ago, Shavandy owned restaurants in Fort Worth and Waxahachie for a little more than a decade and spent a few years as a culinary instructor, too. She's drawn to Middle Eastern, Moroccan, and other cuisines from abroad, she says, because "those are the most intriguing mystical places, and their foods mirror that with an abundance of spices, sweet added to savory, and the vibrance of chile peppers and herbs."

Upon making its debut at the museum in 2003, Café Modern was a Fort Worth pioneer in the movement to focus on local, seasonal, and sustainable foods. Shavandy remains the most energetic among local chefs committed to finding an abundance in cheeses,

Experience the *Best* in Art and History in Orange, Texas



Stark Museum of Art



The W.H. Stark House



starkculturalvenues.org

Programs of the Nella C. and H.J. Archer Stark Foundation. © 2018 All Rights Reserved.

Retreat. Relax.

Always a Great Time in Kerrville!

Historic Downtown • Texas Hill Country Wineries • Live Music
The Kerrville River Trail • Museums • Galleries • Shopping • Theater Arts

KERRVILLE
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

KerrvilleTexasCVB.com • 830-792-3535 • One hour west of San Antonio on IH-10

PORT ISABEL

Play & Stay

LODGING
FISHING
SHOPPING
MUSEUMS
GOLFING
EVENTS
FESTIVALS
DINING
HISTORY

HISTORY



Port Isabel Visitors Center
421 Queen Isabella Blvd.
(800) 527-6102



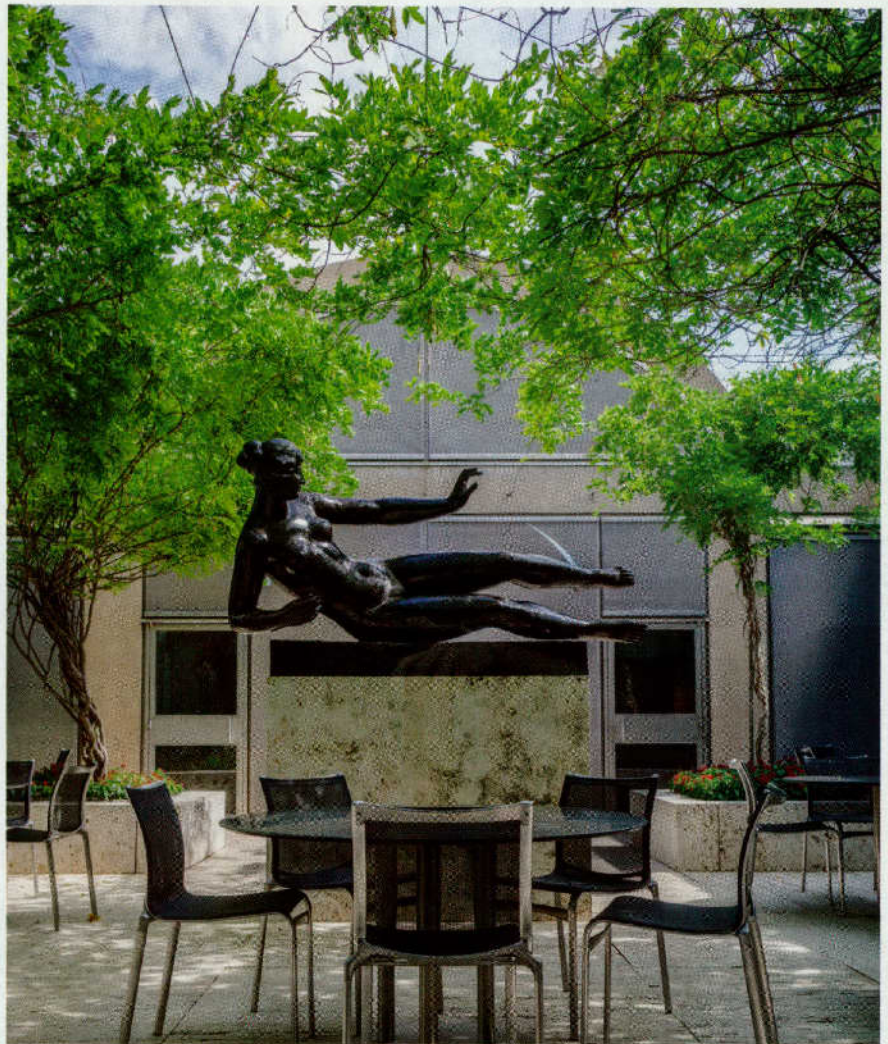
portisabeltx



portisabeltexas



www.portisabel-texas.com



Diners at the Kimbell Art Museum's restaurant The Buffet can sit in its cozy courtyard and gaze at bronze figure *L'Air* by Aristide Maillol.

eggs, meats, olive oil, grains, and honey from around Texas. She completely overhauls the menu four times each year, changing along with the seasons. Every menu endures a rigorous review and approval process by a host of museum officials. One of her runaway hits was a banana split sundae with a phyllo-wrapped banana, brown butter ice cream, whipped cream, cocoa nibs, and a caramel sauce made with Dallas' Lakewood Brewing Co.'s Temptress Stout.

Shavandy says love for art and food intersected a couple of years ago when she met abstract expressionist painter Frank Stella, one of her favorite artists, whose work was featured in a retrospective at the Modern. "One of my


most prized possessions is the book that our [retired] curator Michael Auping wrote about Stella, signed by Stella and Auping, which is next to my autographed Jacques Pepin's *La Technique*," she says.

Half a block away at the Kimbell Art Museum's charming restaurant The Buffet, chef Peter Kreidler works to strike the balance between classic and modern in his menu. The Buffet enjoys a loyal following built over the museum's 46-year history, mostly due to the beloved dishes by chef Shelby Schafer, who retired a year and a half ago after 35 years there. Kreidler's challenge includes keeping the dedicated, often older, patronage happy while attracting younger

guests by introducing more contemporary food ideas. Many of Schafer's recipes, like chilled creamy cucumber-spinach soup, remain in place. Slowly, Kreidler—a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and veteran of Craft in Los Angeles and the Michelin-starred Boulevard in San Francisco—plans to make his own mark.

"Some guests have been eating here for longer than I've been alive," says 34-year-old Kreidler. "I just want to change it up enough to keep people from getting bored but also to keep them coming back."

From the dining area of The Buffet, guests can gaze into the courtyard where Aristide Maillol's bronze sculpture *L'Air*, a floating female nude, presides amidst flowering vines. It's just a preview of the gorgeous food to follow. During a Friday dinner, I started with grilled shrimp and pepper jack-cheddar grits, topped with charred tomato beurre blanc laced with balsamic vinegar. My husband's plate starred silken slices of pork tenderloin drizzled with a tart blackberry puree nestled between roasted Brussels sprouts and a lush pillow of mashed sweet potato. These washed down pleasantly with glasses of Spanish rosé. During the Friday dinner hour, the chef adds upscale dishes focusing on items like duck and lamb.

Like Shavandy, Kreidler marvels at his windfall, plying his craft in a bonafide landmark. "Every single time I walk in the building, I think, 'This is insane—how did I get [to] a place like this?' I love this job. I just want to keep on rolling." 



CAFÉ MODERN is at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Call **817-840-2157**; themodern.org/cafe

THE BUFFET is at The Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Call **817-332-8451, ext. 277**; kimbellart.org/visit/dining

TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY TRAIL
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

KICK UP YOUR HEELS
in the Texas Hill Country

txhillcountrytrail.com



COUNTY
CORNERSTONES

THE BEAUTY
AND HISTORY OF
COURTHOUSES
ACROSS TEXAS

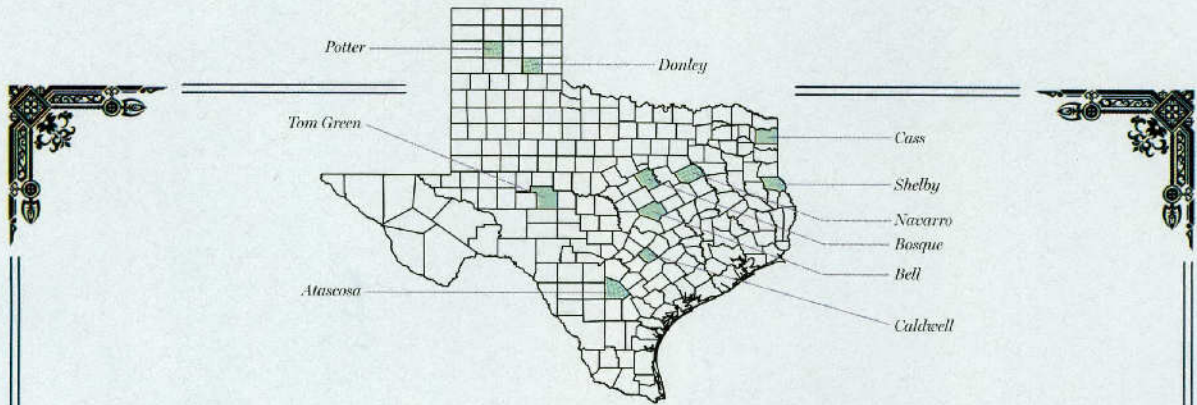
STORY BY MATT JOYCE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF WILSON



BELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE





TEXAS' HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSES

shine with grandiosity and ambition. Often politically controversial because of their expense, courthouse projects in the 19th and early 20th centuries lasted years as counties selected architects and builders, quarried and imported materials, then painstakingly assembled the larger-than-life landmarks in the middle of town. It's not hard to imagine a farmer stopping by a courthouse construction site to take in the scene, scratching his head at the columns, parapets, and towers rising from the prairie.

Sharon Fleming, director of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, notes the courthouse was often a community's first architect-designed building. And counties placed them in the most prominent locations possible.

"In large part, the county courthouse gives each county its own unique identity," Fleming says. "It was intended to be literally a landmark, a destination for the rancher needing to register his brand or for the couple recently deciding to be married by the justice of the peace. So those clock towers are not superfluous."

With Texas county courthouses averaging 112 years of age, most need some TLC to retain or restore their historic appearance while getting updates for safety, function, and energy efficiency. "These buildings are extremely durable and well-constructed, and can last indefinitely with proper maintenance and repairs," Fleming says.

As these courthouses enter their second centuries as elegant symbols of our communities, we value more than ever the living, breathing link they provide to our shared past. Here we spotlight 10 of our favorite historic courthouses representing various architectural styles and regions of the state.



BOSQUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE MERIDIAN, 1886

Built with locally quarried limestone, the Bosque County Courthouse opened in 1886 with an off-center clock tower, corner turret roofs, and the latest in fireproof technology (one of its predecessors had burned). A 1934 alteration by the Works Progress Administration removed the decorative roofing and gave the building a more modern look until a 2007 Texas Historical Commission project restored the original design with reconstructed turrets and clock tower. *110 South Main St.*





POTTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
AMARILLO, 1932

When Potter County built its courthouse in 1932, the designers found inspiration not in Amarillo's ranching heritage but in the contemporary appeal of Route 66 and the open road. A three-year restoration project ending in 2012 refreshed the building's terra-cotta façade and bas-relief depiction of regional history, preserving what the Texas Historical Commission calls one of Texas' best examples of art deco design. *500 S. Filmore St.*



SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE CENTER, 1885

The petite Shelby County Courthouse resembles something from an Old World fairy tale, a look attributed to Irish builder John Joseph Emmett Gibson, who was inspired by the castles of his homeland. Local history holds that in 1866, boosters of Center held an unpublicized election to move the county seat to their town from nearby Shelbyville, then absconded with the county records under cover of darkness.
200 San Augustine St.





NAVARRO COUNTY COURTHOUSE CORSICANA, 1905

Navarro County outgrew four courthouses (or lost them to fires) before the county built its fifth and current courthouse in Corsicana. Architect J.E. Flanders of Dallas designed the structure in the Beaux Arts style with a façade of Burnet red granite and buff brick with terra-cotta detailing, as well as a clock dome and copper Lady Justice. The county and city take their name from José Antonio Navarro, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence whose father was born in Corsica. *300 W. Third Ave.*





DONLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CLARENDON, 1891

In the late 19th century, cowboys branded the Donley County seat of Clarendon with the nickname “Saints’ Roost” because of its Methodist prohibition policies. No doubt a few such rowdies found their way into the Romanesque Revival-style Donley County Courthouse, which was built of red brick and limestone in 1891. The Panhandle’s oldest functional courthouse, it boasts a distinctive asymmetrical design—no two sides of the building are the same. *300 S. Sully St.*



CASS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

LINDEN, 1861

Judges, lawyers, and everyday citizens of Cass County have been coming and going from the Cass County Courthouse since it opened for business 157 years ago. Construction of the brick Classical Revival building started in 1859, and the first commissioners' court meeting was held there in 1861, making the courthouse on Linden's downtown square the only one in Texas to be in continuous operation since before the Civil War. A 1933 fire prompted the county to refinish the exterior in the yellowish stucco seen today. *100 E. Houston St.*



ATASCOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JOURDANTON, 1913

Only one Mission Revival-style courthouse stands in Texas, and you'll find it about 40 miles south of San Antonio in Jourdanton. Located on a circular lot (unique among Texas courthouses), the Atascosa County Courthouse's red-brown brick façade, shaped parapets, arched openings, and pyramidal tile roofs with broad overhangs give the building an imposing presence on the vast plains of the South Texas Brush Country. *1 Courthouse Circle Drive.*



SIX OF THESE COURTHOUSES—IN CASS, ATASCOSA, NAVARRO, POTTER, DONLEY, AND BOSQUE COUNTIES—WERE RESTORED WITH HELP FROM THE TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM. SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 1999, THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROGRAM HAS GRANTED MORE THAN \$290 MILLION TO 67 COURTHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECTS.





BELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

BELTON, 1884

Coinciding with the aftermath of the Chisholm Trail era and opening of Belton's railroad heyday, Bell County built its Renaissance Revival-style courthouse in 1884 with a 125-foot high central tower capped by the Goddess of Justice. Austin architect Jasper Preston designed the building; a few years before, he designed the renowned Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin. Renovations in the 1930s and 1950s removed the courthouse's distinctive roof embellishments, but the county restored them in 1999. 101 E. Central Ave.





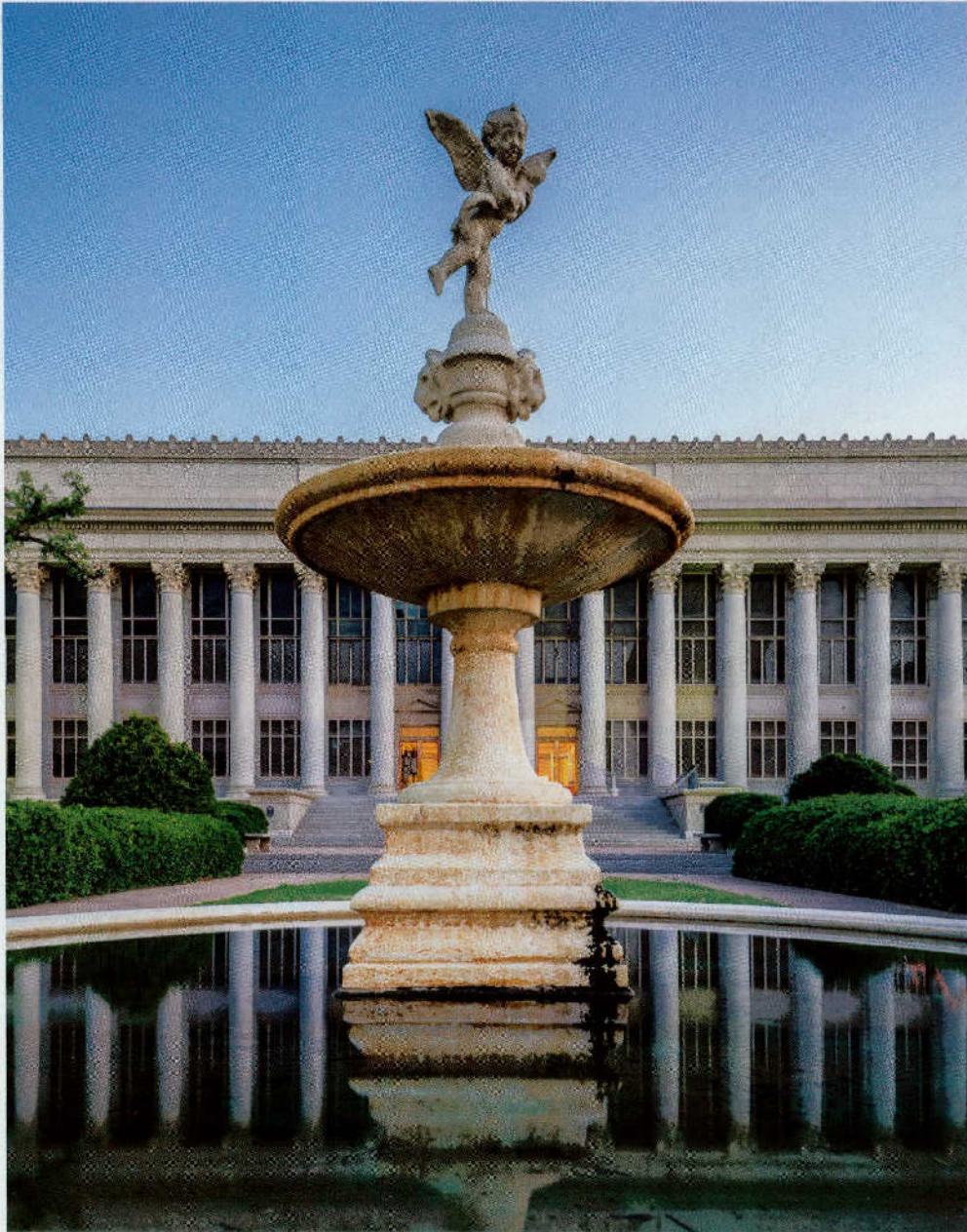


CALDWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

LOCKHART, 1894

Built for about \$60,000, the Caldwell County Courthouse opened in 1894 with the latest in amenities, including electricity and four water closets. But the striking exterior of the three-story, Second Empire-style courthouse is what has continued to turn heads on Lockhart's town square for more than a century. The building retains its limestone and sandstone exterior, a black slate mansard roof, and a central tower with a four-way clock and 900-pound bell. *110 S. Main St.*





TOM GREEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE SAN ANGELO, 1928

Built during an oil boom, the Classical Revival-style Tom Green County Courthouse has the look of a federal monument with its flat roof, huge front doors, and rows of 17 Corinthian columns on two sides of the building. In 1928—the same year the courthouse opened—its architect, Anton Korn, designed the 14-story San Angelo Hilton, one of Conrad Hilton's first hotels, later renamed the Hotel Cactus, 112 W. Beauregard Ave. **L**

Sources: Texas Historical Commission, National Register of Historic Places, and local counties.

DO NOT REMAIN OPEN
DURING BUSINESS HOURS

Silver & Blues



by JOE NICK PATOSKI

photographs by DARREN CARROLL

*The
Silver
Slipper
Presents*



**In a timeless
nightclub,
Houston's
music legacy
plays on**



In broad daylight, the Silver Slipper is hardly a looker. The compact building 4 miles northeast of downtown Houston is about as long and wide as an eight-lane bowling alley—“indistinct Minimal Traditional,” according to The Handbook of Texas. Three days a week, it’s a bar, short-order eatery, and neighborhood hangout.

Saturday nights, however, the Silver Slipper transforms into something else.

A portable sign with metallic letters lights up to advertise: “OPEN SAT LIVE,” and a sodium-vapor street lamp lights the way to the front door. Once inside, adjust your eyes to the warm red interior lighting and try to find an empty chair, because the joint is usually packed. A mostly African American crowd is decked out for the night in fancy hats, tuxedos, jackets, loose slacks, tight dresses, and coordinated outfits. There are cowboy hats, gimme caps, boots, jeans, and pantsuits too, and a scattering of music fans of all colors joining the locals.

Curley Cormier, the club’s balding, nattily attired proprietor, leads the house band through familiar soul, blues, and jazz instrumentals as the checkerboard dance floor fills up, and the joint begins to jump. “Welcome to the Silver Slipper,” Cormier says. “We’re here for you, doing what we can do.”

Stick around, and you might witness one of the best live music experiences in Texas. You’ll also get a fleeting glimpse of Houston’s rich musical past. Back in the 1950s and ’60s, this part of Houston brimmed with musicians,

singers, bands, songwriters, record labels, recording studios, jukebox operators, publishing companies, and booking agents. Today there is little evidence of all that. A state historical marker a half mile from the Slipper, on Collingsworth Street and US 59, recognizes the birthplace of zydeco music in Texas. Another nearby marker cites the Frenchtown neighborhood, settled in 1922 by French-speaking Creoles of African, Spanish, and French descent from Louisiana.

Subsequent waves of Louisiana Creoles settled in Frenchtown in search of jobs on the railroads or around the Ship Channel following the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and during World War II. Much of Frenchtown’s character and flavor has vanished.

And technically, the Silver Slipper isn’t in Frenchtown. It’s one block north of the neighborhood boundary, in Kashmere Gardens. But when there’s an accordion in the band on your first visit, and everyone in the club seems to have a connection back to Louisiana, it’s close enough.

“EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY HERE,” observes Dorothy Cormier, who tends the bar, serves as short-order cook during the day, shakes hands, gives hugs to welcome guests on Saturdays, and lords over the Slipper along with

Places like this don’t exist anymore, but you start to believe it will last forever.



Mike Stone plays the keyboard, while Veronica Galentine (pictured on the previous page) works the front door.



Curley, her husband. "Our people, they welcome people," she says. "We know if a strange person walks in that door. The same people come every Saturday. And they welcome anybody that comes in here."

The Silver Slipper's roots extend to 1952, Curley says, when his father opened a hamburger stand called Alfred's Place at this location. Soon enough, Alfred Cormier's friends from back in Bayou Teche in Louisiana, where they emigrated from, badgered him to bring in live music from home—meaning zydeco, the accordion-powered dance sound created by French-speaking Creoles in southwestern Louisiana.



"It's culture and history and masterful performances and really good people."

The King of Zydeco Music, Clifton Chenier, played his first live gigs in Houston at the Silver Slipper, working the club for seven years. Clifton's cousin, Lightnin' Hopkins, the bluesman cited as the poet laureate of Texas, did an extended Sunday afternoon residency as well.

Curley, 73, was raised to run the place. "We lived across the street," he says. "The old man believed in everyone working. Sunday mornings, you mopped and cleaned up. I enjoyed it just like he did. He always felt like somebody in the family should run this place, and since I was so close to him, he decided, 'I'm going to run with this guy. I think he'll do it and keep it respectable.' After the old man put it in my blood, I had to run it."

Curley met Dorothy, his bride of 47

years, at a Sunday zydeco dance at Alfred's. In 1973, the couple took over the business from Curley's sister, who had renamed it the Silver Slipper.

Dorothy and Curley made changes. Boudin balls, made from Cajun blood sausage, came off the menu. Curley's father used to make 300 boudin in one day, Dorothy says. "And they got me into it. When his daddy passed on, I said, 'No more boudin.' It was too much."

Zydeco is no longer featured at the club. While Houston claims more zydeco bands than anywhere in the world today, the modern players who infuse hip-hop into their "la-la" music, as zydeco is sometimes called, don't much appeal to Curley. He'd rather hear the kind of blues and R&B popular throughout the black South—singers from the 1970s and '80s like Tyrone Davis and Johnnie Taylor, working a danceable, up-tempo kind of shuffle.

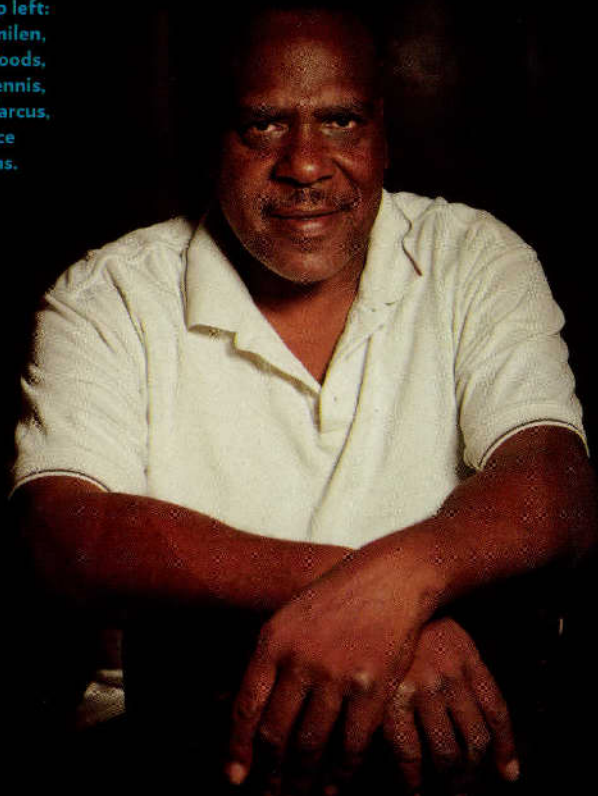
And he'd rather be the one playing.

Curley picked up guitar after he heard John Lee Hooker as a boy and has continued playing while raising a family and holding down day jobs (he's a "Senior Helping Seniors" for Meals on Wheels). He worked in bands backing up touring stars such as Johnnie Taylor, Etta James, BB King, and Ike and Tina Turner, and as a session guitarist for producer Huey P. Meaux. After surviving a simultaneous heart attack and stroke, Curley had renewed appreciation for the Silver Slipper house gig. "It's my own spot," he says. "I don't have to wait for a phone call. Ain't nobody gonna fire me from here."

THE PARTY GETS GOING AROUND 10 P.M. On the small bandstand in the corner to the right of the entrance, Curley subtly cues up recorded music on his laptop. As his band, the Gladiators, settle in, they riff along to the records Curley plays.



Clockwise from top left:
bassist Charles Similen,
waitress Cherry Woods,
drummer Mark Stennis,
and singer King Marcus,
who paces the dance
floor as he performs.





Curley Cormier, 73, owns the Silver Slipper and leads the house band on Saturdays. "It's my own spot," he says.





When “Driving Wheel” by Little Junior Parker comes on the sound system, everyone in the band is so familiar with the song—a 1962 Duke Records hit made in Houston—they are playing along as it reaches its crescendo.

Curley closes the laptop, removes his suit coat (but leaves on his tie and long-sleeve white shirt), straps on his big Gibson hollow-body electric guitar, and goes to work. Sharing the cramped 2-foot riser with Curley are keyboardist Mike Stone and drummer Mark Stennis. The bassist, Charles Semian, sits below them on a folding chair, tucked into a tight space between tables. The red rope lights and the small multicolored disco ball illuminating the room make it difficult to see the musicians. But that’s not the point. It’s all merely part of the show at the Silver Slipper.

Curley calls up King Marcus, a strapping, boyish-faced, middle-aged man in an all-white three-piece suit and matching hat. (He dressed in white, he told a friend, “Because I’m King Marcus!”) Marcus proceeds to sing a string of salacious ballads in a bedroom tenor, pacing the dance floor and sliding between tables to croon directly to the four middle-aged ladies who have been talking back to every line he’s been singing.

“Woke up this morning and laid down and cried. ... Ain’t never comin’ home no more; gonna find somebody else. ... ‘Cause while you were slippin’ out, someone else was slippin’ in.”

At midnight, Curley calls up Joe Hill, the featured singer. Hill looks sharp in a snap-brim cap and tinted glasses, his substantial frame draped in a loose, open-collar black shirt with a gold cross dangling around his neck and gray slacks. He cradles the portable mic in his left hand like an old friend and clutches a towel in his right hand to mop the sweat from his brow. He’s been working the Slipper for 23 years. He knows what’s going to happen.

Curley silently cues the musicians as Hill sings, croons, and growls his way through medium and slow-tempo rhythm and blues. The dance floor fills again, with King Marcus and his wife gyrating next to a lanky man in overalls moving with a svelte woman in a hot-pink pantsuit.

The buzz of conversation grows with each song, with sharp laughs and shouts of joy punctuating the ambient noise. Hands wave in the air in time to the music. Veronica Galentine, the door lady, is swaying back and forth to the beats.

Some songs are requisite: “Mr. Sexy Man” by Nellie Tiger Travis, which is

Sharp laughs and shouts of joy punctuate the buzz that grows with each song.



reworked by Joe Hill into “You Sexy Thing;” “Turning Point” by Tyrone Davis; “I’m Mr. Jody (It Ain’t What You Do, It’s How You Use It)” by Marvin Sease. Some may seem like outliers in a blues club, like the country songs “Tennessee Whiskey” by Chris Stapleton and Brooks & Dunn’s “Neon Moon,” or the folk anthem “If I Had a Hammer,” but Hill renders each so soulfully, they’re standards now.

During one ballad while working the tables, Joe Hill hands over the microphone mid-song to an older gentleman in a Western hat sitting down, who sings a few lines before handing off the mic to King Marcus, sitting next to him, who does the same before handing it off to a third gentleman, then back to Joe Hill, who squalls like a revival preacher



Joe Hill has been singing rhythm and blues at the Silver Slipper for 23 years. Left: the house band backs him up.





"Everybody is somebody here," says Dorothy Cormier, who owns the Silver Slipper with her husband Curley.



when he hits a high falsetto or declares, "I don't mind, I don't mind bein' your fool ... I don't mind going down, baby! Come on down!"

After numerous calls for the "kitty, kitty" song, Hill launches into "Scat Cat," a blues ballad with a message about fidelity, working his way to every table while singing to give the ladies an opportunity to meow into the microphone. The audience is very involved.

By the end of the night, Hill will have sent a good number of the crowd into varying states of ecstasy. Not bad for a 75-year-old senior citizen.



ONE OF HOUSTON'S MOST SIGNIFICANT—and infamous—musical landmarks once stood 20 blocks southeast of the Silver Slipper. Founded as a stylish dinner-and-dancing club in 1945, the Bronze Peacock soon became the headquarters of the Duke-Peacock recording empire. Known for a sophisticated, uptown sound defined by tight arrangements and brassy horn sections, it is thought to be the nation's only record label owned by an African American until Berry Gordy of Motown fame came along. Duke-Peacock was also notorious for its business practices, but it developed the careers of influential rhythm and blues artists in the 1950s and '60s like Big Mama Thornton, who had a hit with "Hound Dog" four years before Elvis did; and gospel groups like the Dixie Hummingbirds, whose shouting and showmanship inspired James Brown.

The old Bronze Peacock building was torn down a year and a half ago. Since the 1990s, three of Houston's longest-running blues clubs—the Continental Zydeco Ballroom, Etta's Lounge, and Mr. Gino's—also closed. Newer clubs and other venues in and around Houston continue featuring blues and zydeco, but as far as places with a history, other than the Eldorado Ballroom, which is open for special events only, it's pretty much down to Saturdays at the Slipper.

In other words, places like this shouldn't exist. And yet, you walk in and feel so at home, you start believing it will last forever, especially when the stories roll out and past becomes present.

"This isn't a tourist place; it's not a tourist town," says David Dove, a Silver Slipper regular who is founding director of the Nameless Sound experimental music nonprofit. "Houston is an amazing music town, in all aspects and every way, but that's not its identity. No one sees it that way. Tourists don't come here to listen to music. People don't come to the city thinking of its history very often."

The mix of clientele varies on any given Saturday, in no small part due to Dove, who Dorothy says "integrated the place." On his first visit in 2003, Dorothy was convinced Dove was with the police, but then she learned about Nameless Sound, which presents an experimental and avant-garde

music concert series in Houston. "I host musicians from Europe, from Japan, from all over the U.S.," Dove says. The Silver Slipper is usually on the after-performance itinerary. "You bring a Swedish saxophone player to the Silver Slipper, this is the place this guy has been waiting to go his whole life," Dove says.

On this night, he's with Vietnamese experimental composer Vũ Nhật Tân, whose commissioned piece was performed by the Apollo Chamber Players in Houston earlier that evening. Vũ beamed as he was introduced. "He keeps saying he's never seen anything like it," Dove says.

Later, Dove put the place into context. "It's the total sensory experience," he said. "It's culture and history and art and good vibes and masterful performance and really good people."

Plus, there is always an element of surprise. You never know who's joining Curley and the Gladiators—Miss Shirley, the demonstrative chanteuse who wails paint-peeling renditions of Ray Charles' "Night and Day," the mystery guest trumpet player, or Roger Valentine, a hefty dancer with James Brown moves.

Saturday nights eventually turn into Sunday mornings. After the lights go out at the Slipper, Dorothy and Curley make their way home, and they review how the night went. Curley will inevitably turn to Dorothy and say, "I think people had a really good time tonight." And he'll be right. **L**

SILVER SLIPPER

at 3717 Crane St. in Houston, hosts live rhythm and blues Sat 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Doors open 8 p.m. \$5 cover. Call 713-673-9004.



A mosaic by the late artist Millard Sheets on display at The Joule in Dallas.

ARTFUL ACCOC MIMOD ATIONS

BY JUNE NAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ERIC W. POHL

MUSEUM-WORTHY
PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES,
AND OTHER ARTWORKS ARE
UNEXPECTED AMENITIES
AT THESE BIG-CITY HOTELS

A

n afternoon at the museum isn't the only way to check out fine art in Texas. More than simply a place to lay your head, hotels have become unexpected showcases for some of the state's more creative collections of paintings, sculptures, and other artworks.

Guests checking into The Joule in Dallas, for instance, are greeted by a stunning array of midcentury mosaics rescued from a neighboring building prior to its demolition. In Austin, the Ella is a gallery unto itself, with a regular series of fine-art events to boot. Helpful concierges at these hotels and others like them have practically become museum docents accustomed to fielding questions and sharing the often fascinating stories behind the artworks.

We've rounded up eight hotels across Texas where cultural enlightenment is a bonus amenity, and the hospitality extends beyond spas and room service. Best of all, most of these works are on display for everyone, whether staying the night or popping in for a look around.

DALLAS

THE JOULE: Opening a decade ago within a neo-Gothic building downtown, The Joule owns a collection of 73 mosaics created by the late California artist Millard Sheets in the 1950s. Crafted from colored glass tiles made in Murano, Italy—some tiles are platinum or 24-karat gold beneath glass, and many artworks are more than 6 feet tall and weigh more than a ton—the large-scale works originally served as spectacular decoration in the Mercantile Dallas Building, once situated just a few blocks from where The Joule now stands.

In 2005, however, the Mercantile was scheduled for demolition, and the new developers weren't inclined to pay for the mosaics' removal. Billionaire oilman Tim Headington heard of the plight, took a look at the mosaics, and decided to save them. Headington—who was then building The Joule—spent millions to carefully extract and remove them to storage, where

WITH
MORE
THAN
1,000
PIECES
ON
DISPLAY,
"WE LIKE
TO SAY
WE'RE
EQUAL
PARTS
HOTEL
AND
MUSEUM."

they sat for six years until the Joule could provide permanent gallery space. "This is far and above the single most coherent collection of art through a building that I've seen done in the 20th century," says art conservator Michael van Enter, who assisted with the project. "If you look at the mosaic corridor, I don't think there is an installation like that in America."

Ask to borrow the art guide from the front desk, but allow plenty of time to see them all—you don't want to rush. **1530 Main St. Call 214-748-1300; thejouledallas.com.**

THE HILTON ANATOLE: One of Dallas' foremost real estate developers, the late Trammel Crow built his sprawling hotel on 45 acres in 1979. Sitting across Stemmons Freeway from the renowned Dallas Market Center, the hotel's art collection mirrors the passion Crow and his wife, Margaret Crow, invested over decades spent acquiring pieces now showcased at downtown's Crow Collection of Asian Art, one of the city's finest cultural centers.

The Anatole partners with the Crow Collection to exhibit pieces once belonging to kings, emperors, and czars from across Asia and Europe; additionally, the hotel exhibits works by such luminaries as Pablo Picasso, Josiah Wedgwood, Reuben Margolin, and K. Seward Johnson Jr. "We like to say we're equal parts hotel and museum because visitors can walk amongst more than 1,000 thoughtfully selected, diverse pieces throughout the property," hotel Manager Maggie Morales says.

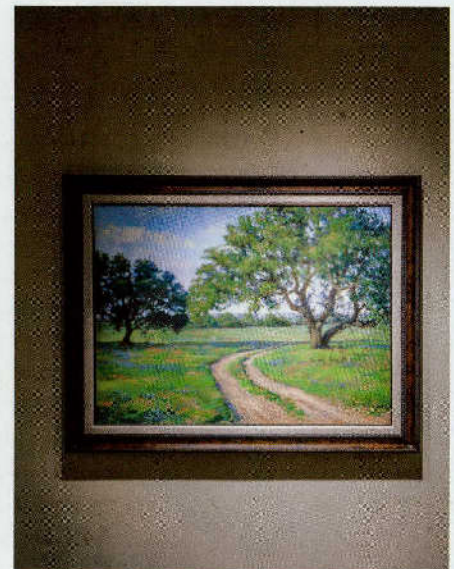
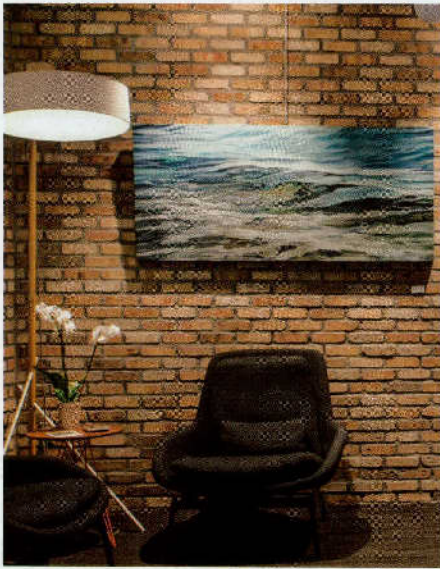
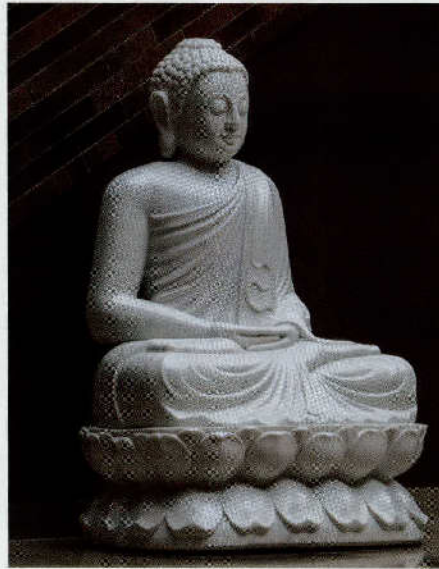
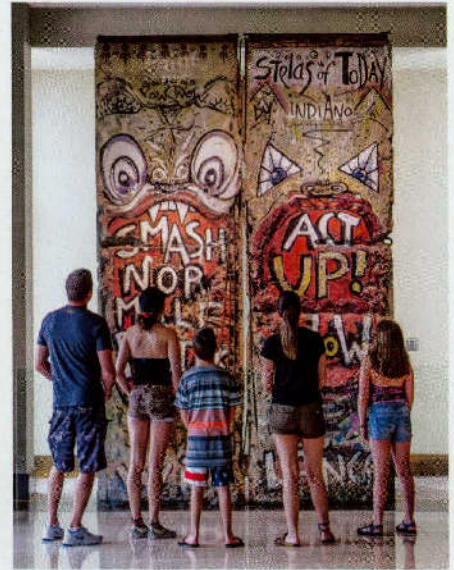
You could roam the rambling property for days and not see it all, but it's fun to try. Two massive, colorful sections of the Berlin Wall, measuring 12 feet high and 4 feet wide, dominate part of one wall. The Anatole offers a self-guided 1-Mile Art Walk, either enjoyed via printed guide from the concierge desk or via the Anatole Art app, the latter providing audio narration for more than 100 artworks. **2201 N. Stemmons Frwy. Call 214-748-1200; hiltonanatolehotel.com.**

AUSTIN

HOTEL ELEVEN: The newish, modern boutique hotel in east Austin—with just 14 rooms—surprises with its spread of artworks. The owners, husband Mark Vornberg and wife Shelly Leibham, imbue their lodging with a distinct sense of place by making it a gallery for local and predominately unknown artists, displaying some four to seven larger pieces at a time, mostly paintings on canvas set on rails affixed to brick walls in the hotel's living room.

The featured artist changes approximately every six months, so you can revisit the hotel time and again and enjoy a different gallery experience with each stay, or just when popping in for a drink at the bar. Leibham enjoys talking with guests about the artists and their inspiration—like that from one of the hotel's newer artists, Glenn Burke. His work, *Face It*, features 12 friends' Facebook profile photos he made into portraits and grouped together in one collection.

"We had a guest from Dallas here who actually knows one of the people in *Face It*," Leibham says. "He pulled up the very



Clockwise from top left: Murano glass from Italian company Barovier & Toso at the Hilton Americas; a detail from the Driskill Hotel's Maximilian mirrors; *Berlin Wall* by Jurgen Grosse at the Hilton Anatole; a mosaic by Millard Sheets at The Joule; *Texas Road* by Robert Rohm at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country; *Nebula* by Reuben Margolin and Gizmo Art Production at the Anatole; *Swell No. 1* by Glenn R. Burke at Hotel Eleven; and *White Stone Deity Astride a Lion China* at the Anatole; **center:** the Anatole's *Marble Sitting Buddha*.



Facebook photo to show me. Talk about a small world.” **1123 E. 11th St. Call 512-675-0011; hotelelevenaustin.com.**

THE DRISKILL HOTEL: The exterior of downtown Austin’s 1886 landmark is a work of art in its own right. The ornate design is a cattle baron’s ode to opulence, as Jesse Driskill wanted to bring the elegance he appreciated in hotels in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco to the raw Texas frontier. His larger-than-life portrait, painted sometime around the hotel’s opening, hangs over the lobby. Its artist, William Henry Huddle, also painted the portraits of Texas governors in the State Capitol.

As happened even in fancy places, a shootout in the hotel lobby in the early 1900s damaged Driskill’s commanding portrait—but it was repaired long ago. The focal point in the busy Driskill Bar is the huge bronze *Widow Maker*, which depicts a runaway horse dragging a cowboy whose foot is caught in the stirrup. Dallas artist Barvo Walker, a former Fort Worth dentist, crafted the sculpture for the Driskill, inspired by the spirit of Texas’ Wild West.

Perhaps most intriguing are the Maximilian mirrors, a set of eight enormous mirrors in gold-leaf frames that Mexican Emperor Ferdinand Maximilian commissioned for his beloved wife, Carlota, a Belgian princess. Backed with sterling silver and diamond dust to provide more gleam, the mirrors each feature Carlota’s bust atop the elaborately designed frames. After Maximilian was executed

“OUR STEINWAY PIANO HAS LITERALLY SEEN THE WORLD.”

and his palace fell, their belongings were lost; when the mirrors were discovered at auction in San Antonio in 1930, the Driskill bought them to hang in the grand hall, called the Maximilian Room. Carlotta may have come along, as Driskill ghost stories include sightings of an apparition that looks like the woman on the frames. **604 Brazos St. Call 512-439-1234; driskillhotel.com.**

SAN ANTONIO

THE ST. ANTHONY HOTEL: When young investors began rescuing this 1909 downtown beauty from its slide into disrepair about five years ago, their undertaking included a treasure hunt for a 1924 Steinway player piano originally made for the Russian Embassy in Paris. The piano resided at the St. Anthony for several decades before it disappeared during the hotel’s near demise. It turned up in California, and the new St. Anthony owners repurchased the antique for more than \$200,000. The piano is jaw-dropping in its design and craftsmanship: the style is Louis XV with marquetry inlay and gilt bronze detail, looking much like something from a European fairy tale.

“Our Steinway piano has literally seen the world,” hotel co-owner Clyde Johnson says. “We were over the moon when it came on the market after being gone for two decades.” **300 E. Travis St. Call 210-227-4392; thestanthonyhotel.com.**

JW MARRIOTT SAN ANTONIO HILL COUNTRY: The 600-acre resort on rolling hills north of the city integrates work by San Antonio glass artist Gini Garcia into its design. Hanging from the ceilings as you move into the hotel’s conference space, Garcia’s vividly colored blown glass installation represents Texas wildflowers, with cobalt-hued bluebonnets standing out amidst a field of oversized glass pieces representing Indian paintbrush and Mexican hat. Garcia studied wind patterns in the area and positioned each bloom as it would look in a breeze.

General Manager Arthur Coulombe notes that art helps illustrate the region’s spirit. “Art found throughout the resort was carefully curated to reflect the story of the resort and the Hill Country. We have incredibly modern metal sculptures and gallery-quality paintings that play an important role to do that.” A good many paintings, sculptural pieces, and mixed-media works found in common areas are detailed in *Deep in the Art of Texas Resort Art Walk*, a booklet for self-guided tours that guests are welcome to use. **23808 Resort Parkway. Call 210-276-2500; marriott.com.**

HOUSTON

HOTEL GRANDUCA: In 2006, Milan native Giorgio Borlenghi built the elegant lodging in the Post Oak-Galleria area to resemble a palazzo in his homeland. Indeed, just pulling into the front drive puts you in an Old World frame of mind, as



Metal sculptures, paintings, and mixed-media works adorn the common areas of JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country. Left: The **1924 Steinway player piano** in the St. Anthony Hotel, also in San Antonio.

the commanding slate-blue statue of a war hero astride his horse before the hotel's entrance evokes ideas of heroes past. Borlenghi is especially proud of two exquisite light fixtures hanging in the hotel's Salone Savoia that once held candles before being retrofitted for electricity.

"These chandeliers hung in a Torino government building around the end of the 1700s," he says. "That building now belongs to my family, and we wanted to bring a bit of our Italian history to Houston." Other artful pieces throughout the hotel include decorative sconces resembling those from Borlenghi's ancestral home and framed architectural prints from the Borlenghi family collection. **1080 Uptown Park Blvd. Call 713-418-1000; granducahouston.com.**

HILTON AMERICAS: The downtown high-rise looming over Discovery Green boasts work by Robert Rauschenberg, a Port Arthur native who became known as the Father of Pop Art and the creator of renowned pieces displayed in New York at MoMA and the Guggenheim. Behind the concierge desk hang three large color litho prints in Rauschenberg's signature style: a triptych of photographs transferred to canvas by means of silkscreen.

Other highlights include a striking glass sculpture chandelier created by Barovier & Toso, said to be the oldest glass company in Murano, Italy. A wonderful collection of 16 large-scale photographs of local gardens, parks, and private estates covers a wall behind the guest reception desk. The hotel commissioned the works, commanding silver gelatin prints by New York photographer Jean Kallina, who is from nearby El Campo and studied at St. Thomas University in Houston.

Vanishing Edge Round, a massive work in granite by the late Jesus Moroles of Rockport, required some building modifications. Sitting beside soaring windows, it sparkles as light changes throughout the day. **1600 Lamar St. Call 713-739-8000; hilton.com. L**



TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

★ Real Texas Craftsmanship ★



LITTLE MINNOW DESIGNS

Sisters Lizzi and Mary Bradley have taken their favorite pastime and grown it into a business. Each scarf design is drawn and screenprinted by hand in their Austin studio. These scarves are made from the "softest and stretchiest" fabric they could find (95% rayon, 5% spandex). Hand washing and air drying are recommended. 21-inches wide x 29-inches long (sewn). Available in rose, gray and robin's-egg blue.

HANDMADE INFINITY SCARVES

38501... \$32.00 each

shop.texashighways.com
800.839.4997

(903-636-1123 from outside the U.S.A.)

Or, use the ORDER FORM in this issue.

HIT THE ROAD

CAN'T-MISS GETAWAYS



➤ DESTINATION: **BRENHAM** ◀

Beyond Blue Bell and Bluebonnets

Brenham serves up a blend of small-town flavors

Story by **Michael Corcoran**

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH SYNONYMS FOR "quaint" in describing Brenham, that rare landlocked town that feels like it should have a lighthouse. Arranged around an Art Deco courthouse which, built in 1939, is one of the newer buildings downtown, Brenham keeps history in its place.

Once best known as the halfway point between Austin and Houston on US 290, this town of 17,000 on the Brazos River has increasingly become a destination in its own right with restaurants, shopping, wineries, sightseeing, bed-and-breakfast inns, and a vibe that mixes



- **San Antonio**
2.5 hours
- **Houston**
1.5 hours
- **Dallas**
3.5 hours
- **El Paso**
10 hours

progressive attitudes with small-town charm.

There's much more to Brenham than bluebonnets and Blue Bell ice cream, though the former makes Washington County a spectacular springtime drive; and the latter's creamery is still the favorite stop for tourists, who can watch dairy become an addictive dessert from an observation deck, then sample the product.

The streets are clean and the buildings well-kept, which 46-year resident Betsy Barnhill Newman, who sells old-fashioned playthings at the fabulous Barnhill House Toys and Books, attributes to "a heavy German influence. We like to



Blinn College was founded in 1883 to train German Methodist ministers. Right: Betsy Barnhill Newman sells old-fashioned playthings at **Barnhill House Toys and Books**, a store packed with stuffed animals and other vintage-style items.

take care of things.” In the 2010 Census, a quarter of residents claimed German ancestry. Before Europeans started immigrating to the area en masse in the mid-1800s, Washington County became “the birthplace of Texas,” with the declaration of independence from Mexico drafted here in March 1836 and signed by Sam Houston and the other delegates.

Brenham is also home to Blinn College, whose 2009 Buccaneers, led by quarterback Cam Newton, were the most recent Texas college team to win a national football championship—albeit on the junior college level. Home games are only \$5, which

includes performances by the award-winning cheer and dance squads.

Add top-rated barbecue to Brenham’s Killer B list (bluebonnets, Blue Bell, Brazos, Blinn, birthplace, bed-and-breakfasts). Newer smokehouses Truth and LJ’s have joined Nathan’s BBQ to get ‘cue heads coming from miles around to wait in lines for barksy brisket, succulent sausage,

With restaurants, shopping, wineries, sightseeing, and bed-and-breakfast inns, Brenham has a vibe that mixes progressive attitudes with small-town charm.

and ribs barely clinging to the bone. Watch out, Lockhart.

Great barbecue is pretty much expected in a rural Central Texas county where cattle outnumber humans roughly 61,000 to 34,000, according to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. What sets the Brenham culinary scene apart is the diversity of good restaurants in such a small downtown area. Tapas fusion eatery Ninety Six West has been the automatic “best place for dinner” in Brenham since opening on the town square in 2015, but there’s been some heavy competition from a couple of new Brenhamians. The Chilean sea bass topped with shrimp from

cool Latin joint Las Americas can't be beat; over at Roux Street, you can eat some gumbo and shrimp po-boys out in the open air and feel like you're on the border of Louisiana. Just as hot salsa music makes the food taste more authentic at Las Americas (which also serves a fantastic Cuban sandwich), Roux Street is down for that Cajun string music and N'awlins funk.

Music also plays a big part at the 36-year-old Must Be Heaven sandwich/ice cream shop, which blasts oldies in keeping with its nostalgic, checkered-floor vibe. If the line's too long (or if Frankie Valli's falsetto is making you crazy) head over to Yumm! Sweets and Eats, which serves tasty pizza and also has an ice cream parlor. For exceptional, moderately priced Italian fare, there's Volare.

We asked locals for more dining options, and Jimbo Hafner, whose Silver Wings Ballroom hosts roller



skating and live country music on weekends, also recommends Santa Fe and S.P. Cafe, a cash-only comfort food diner with frog legs on the menu. Keith Hankins, owner of the Ant Street Inn, says you can't go wrong with BT's Longhorn Steakhouse, located in an 1886 building renovated by owner Tommy Traylor. (Full disclosure: Traylor also resuscitated

the uniquely charming 15-room Ant Street Inn in 1995 and sold it to Keith and Suzy Hankins in 2012.) The oil paintings of nude women in the downstairs men's room of the inn was Traylor's idea. "He wanted to re-create the feel of an 1870s saloon," Hankins says, "and found that nude paintings were on the walls back then." Traylor's original plan was

 A vintage green van with a roof rack is parked on a dirt road. A person is leaning out of the driver's side window. In the background, several ostriches are visible in a grassy field. The scene is set in a rural, wooded area.

TAKE A DRIVE ON THE WILD SIDE in New Braunfels.

New Braunfels
PLAYINNEWBRAUNFELS.COM

For an up-to-date listing of activities and outings, visit PlayInNewBraunfels.com or call (800) 572-2626.



Clockwise from top left: downtown murals; Blue Bell Creameries' Krazy Kookie Dough ice cream; and grilled swordfish in orange thyme sauce at tapas fusion eatery Ninety Six West.

to spread the paintings throughout the inn, but his wife wasn't a fan of that idea and restricted the nudes to the men's room. The Ant Street Inn, which names each room after the city where the vintage bed was bought, houses the Brenham Grill, a great place for breakfast (as are Smitty's and Dumas Walker Café).

There are lots of places to go for a digestive stroll, but the best starting point is Toubin Park, which tells the history of Brenham through illustrated placards and includes one of the town's original cisterns, built to gather rainwater for fighting fires after an entire city block burned down in 1866. The informational park is behind Today and Yesterday antiques store, which has a bit of living history if you believe in ghosts. Built in 1872 as an opera house, one phantom remains




and has been seen by customers and owner Bebe Hayward, who thinks the apparition was freed from the walls during a 1995 interior gutting.

Across the street is the Book Nook, a place to get lost in its six rooms and a hallway packed with used and new books. Other shopping options downtown include Bluebird Off the Square, which offers antiques and newer gifts, the women's boho-tique Canyon Chick, and the Back Lot Gallery for local art. Glissman's Pharmacy has a museum re-creation of a 1920s drugstore in the back, with authentic medicines, bottles, and medical instruments.

Brenham is limited when it comes to live music, but Home Sweet Farms, that rare farmers market with over 20 beers on draft, is filling the niche with a funky beer-garden scene. Opened by organic farmers Brad and Jenny Stufflebeam, this is a dog-friendly place for aficionados of gourmet cheese, hand-rolled cigars, and craft beer, including Mama Tried IPA from Brenham's own Brazos Valley Brewery.

So many cool things so close together, but then you can get in your car for a 20-minute drive to the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Site, the aforementioned birthplace of the Texas republic. Blinn runs the Star of the Republic Museum next to the visitor's center, concentrating on the decade from 1836 to 1846 when Texas was its own country. The park's Barrington Living History Farm takes you to the former home

FREE EXHIBIT @IAC



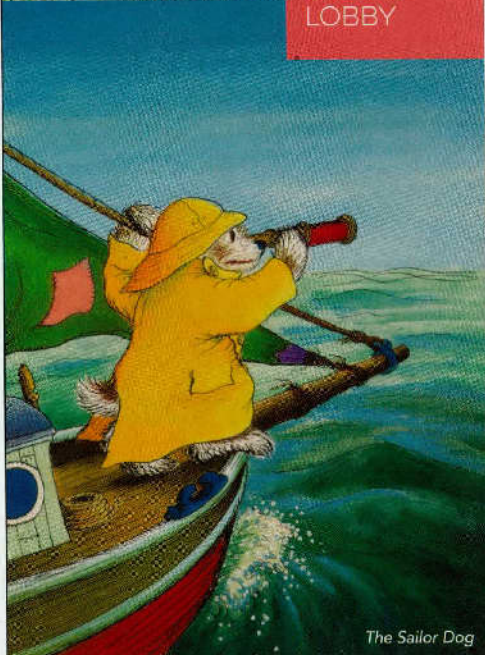
Home for a Bunny

**SEPT 8 -
JAN 27**
DUPREE
LOBBY

GARTH WILLIAMS: ILLUSTRATOR OF THE CENTURY

Organized and toured by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, TX, this exhibition presents original work from 28 of Garth Williams's most beloved books, including *Charlotte's Web*, *The Little House on the Prairie* and a number Little Golden Books.

Leonard Marcus, curator of the exhibition and one of the world's leading writers about children's books and the people who create them, will speak about Garth Williams on Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. Talk followed by a reception and book signing.



The Sailor Dog

IRVING
ARTS
CENTER

It's worth the trip!
 Open 7 days a week • Free parking
 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
 Irving, TX 75062
www.IrvingArtsCenter.com

DADA

Smithsonian Affiliate

FIND YOURSELF IN

ROCKPORT FULTON

Go to ROCKPORT-FULTON.ORG and type in promo code **ROCKPORT2** to get a free Limited Edition Rockport-Fulton T-shirt.







TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com



of Anson Jones, the last president of Texas, whose post-Republic life as a farmer is reconstructed with costumed staffers doing old-time chores with vintage equipment and period livestock. Also in Washington, if you've got some time and even more money, is the Inn at Dos Brisas, the only five-star restaurant in Texas, according to *Forbes Magazine*.

Home gardeners will want to take the 12-mile trek from Brenham to the Antique Rose Emporium, an 8-acre retail garden in Independence that not only sells American Beauty and Pioneer roses, but native plants, perennials, and herbs.

With its proximity to the high-falutin' mecca of Round Top—whose thrice-yearly Antiques Fair and year-round classical musical institute draws folks from all over North America—Brenham's surrounding area has become the Hamptons of Texas, where the rich keep their weekend getaway homes. The connection between Brenham and Round Top, 23 miles away, was made official when the wildly popular Royers Round Top Cafe, where "if you have a reservation, you're in the wrong place," announced plans to open a Brenham location this year.

Though the area's new farmhouses are more likely to be seen in *Architectural Digest* than *Country Living* magazine, visitors can still find a slice of unchanged Texas at the oldest county fair in the state, which celebrates 150 years at the Washington County Fairgrounds Sept. 14-22. Texas country superstars Robert Earl Keen and the Randy Rogers Band are headlining the event, plus there are polka bands that go back to the roots of a town both modern and nostalgic. **L**

★ IT'S A FAIR DEAL ★



SAVE ON
SEASON PASSES,
PACKAGES, TICKETS,
& COUPONS

WHEN YOU BUY ONLINE
AT THE ALL-NEW

BIGTEX.COM

JOIN US **SEPT 28 THRU OCT 21**
FAIR PARK • DALLAS • TX

PLAN YOUR TRIP AT
BIGTEX.COM




STATE FAIR
OF
TEXAS



For information, contact the Brenham/Washington County Visitor Center at 115 W. Main St. Call 888-273-6426; visitbrenhamtexas.com.

TRUE

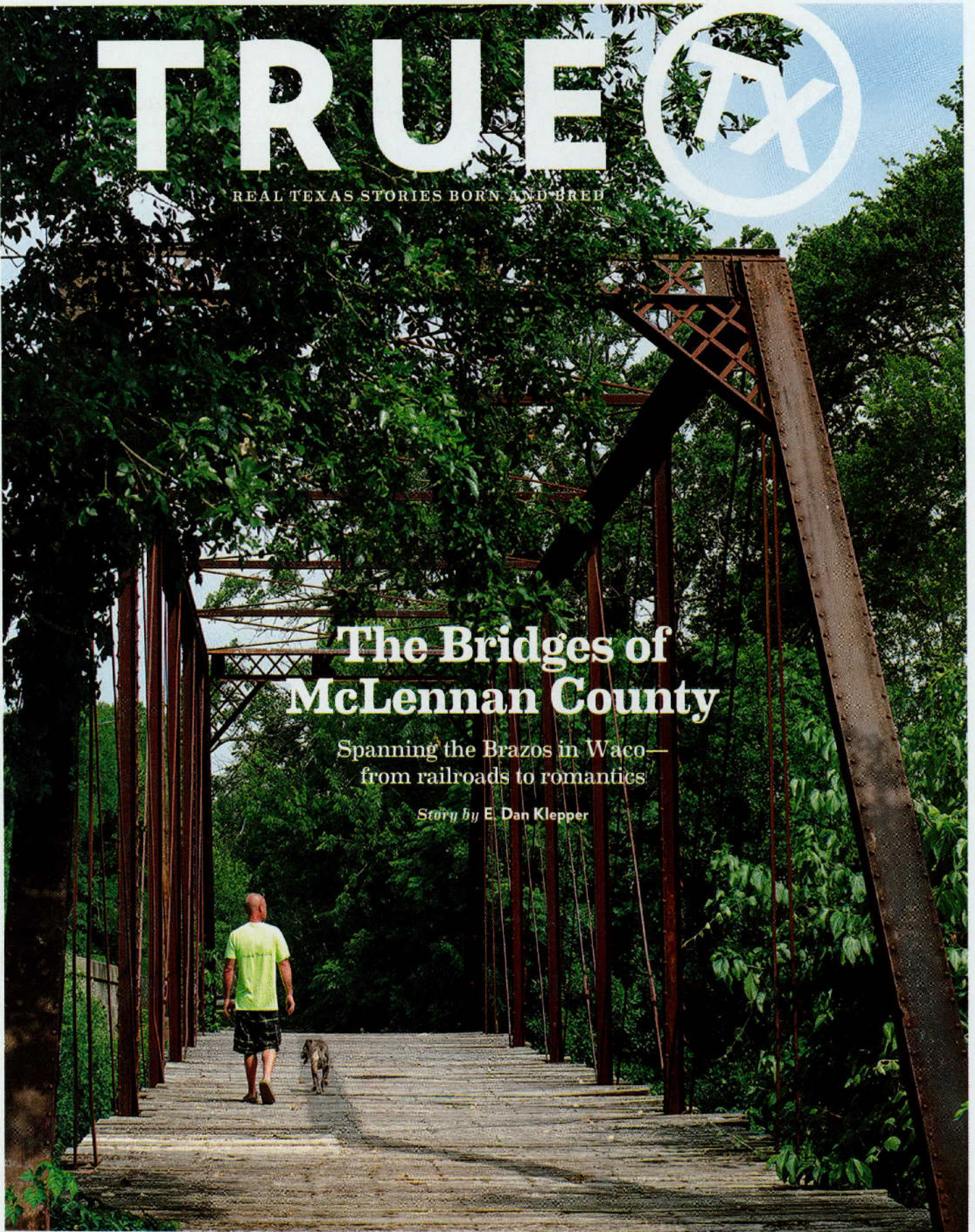


REAL TEXAS STORIES BORN AND BRED

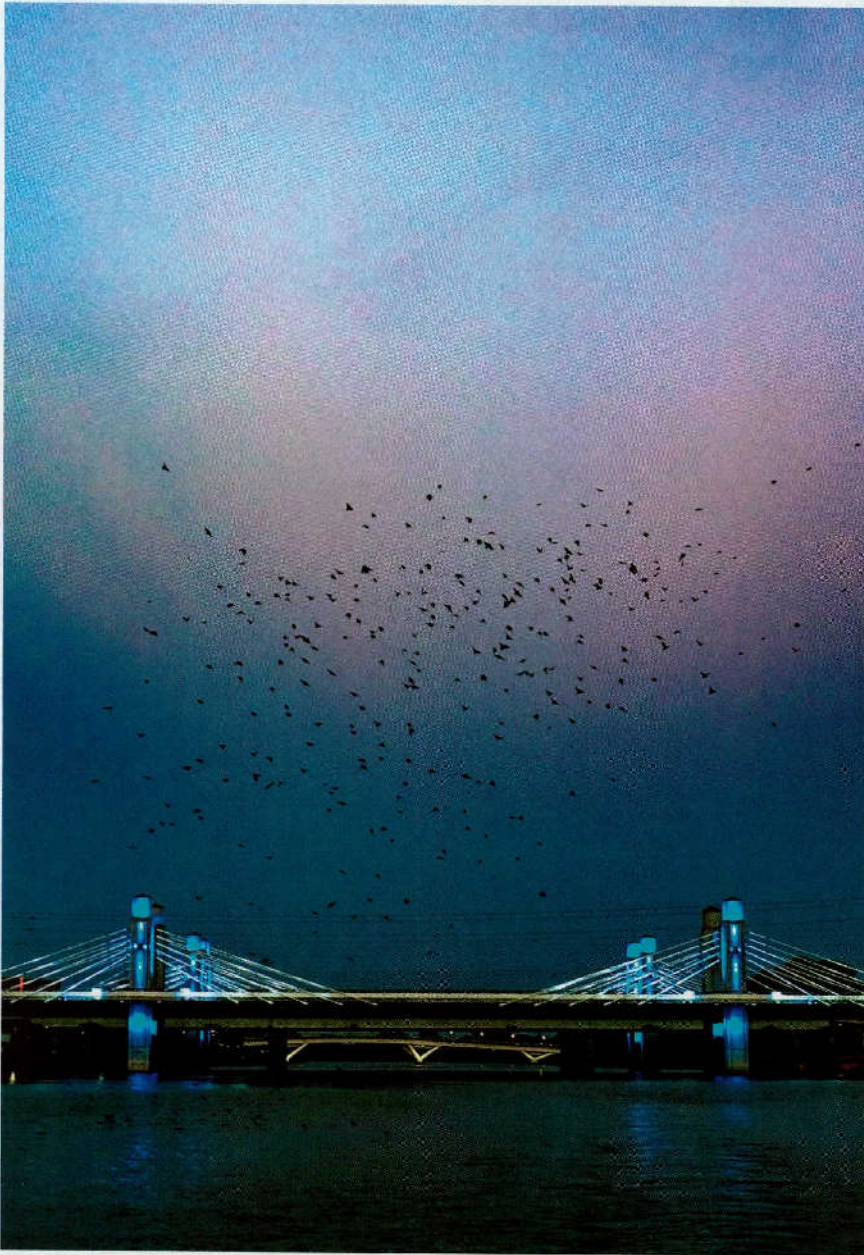
The Bridges of McLennan County

Spanning the Brazos in Waco—
from railroads to romantics

Story by E. Dan Klepper



Built in 1892, an iron truss bridge over Aquilla Creek now serves as a pedestrian bridge.



DESPITE ITS TITLE, THIS STORY IS NOT A PARODY OF A FAMOUS NOVEL with a similar name. It is about a love affair, however, one that endures between the people of Waco and their bridges. And this love story begins with a tortilla.

“When my husband and I were first dating, we stood on the Waco Suspension Bridge downtown and threw tortillas at a pylon across the water,” Baylor graduate and yoga instructor Sheridan Glaske says. “People say if you hit the pylon with the tortilla you’ll marry the person you’re with.” The landmark Waco Suspension Bridge, closed to traffic and renovated as a pedestrian bridge, spans the Brazos River alongside the pylon, a concrete pillar and surviving artifact of the Texas Interurban Railway. “I missed it, but he didn’t,” Glaske says, “and I guess that was good enough.”

The tortilla tradition originated with Baylor students who hoped to increase their chances of graduating in four years by slinging tortillas Frisbee-style at the pylon. At some point, Waco couples adopted the custom. On balmy evenings, lovers amble

along the suspension bridge hand-in-hand before trusting their fate to the pylon. Strands of LED lights made to look old-fashioned outline the suspension bridge’s oat-white cables at twilight, illuminating the boardwalk. Opportunistic ducks and turtles surround the pylon for an evening meal. Not every tortilla hits its mark, but marriages often proceed any way. To paraphrase Shakespeare, the course of true love doesn’t always run smoothly.

Along this river bank 150 years ago, marriage was likely the last thing on the minds of Waco civic leaders. In the difficult days following the Civil War, Wacoans wanted to attract new businesses, but the Brazos River flowed through the heart of the city, dividing the region in two. Waco’s future needed a bridge. In 1868, a

As its investors had hoped, the Waco Suspension Bridge drew manufacturing, trade, and cattle drives, ushering in an economic renaissance for Waco.

coalition of Waco businessmen hired the bridge-building firm of John A. Roebling Co.—New York-based pioneers of the suspension span bridge concept—who sent engineer Thomas M. Griffith to tackle the job.

Griffith loaded the bridge’s materials onto a steamship in Galveston and ferried them up the Brazos to Bryan, where they were loaded onto wagons and pulled by oxen the rest of the way. Waco local J. W. Mann manufactured 2.7 million bricks to construct the double towers required to anchor the span and its steel cables. When the bridge opened in 1870, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi River. As its investors had hoped, the bridge drew manufacturing, trade, and cattle drives, ushering in an economic renaissance for Waco. Within another year, the railroad followed, securing Waco’s status as a major transportation hub.

Today, suspension bridge visitors may encounter a Brazos River spectacle that would have confounded their predecessors: people on stand-up paddle boards doing yoga. The exercise is a specialty of Pura Vida Paddle, Waco outfitters who offer workout classes in addition to paddleboard, kayak, and pedal boat rentals along the river.

The twin railroad bridges above the paddlers feature their own kind of yin and yang. The St. Louis Southwestern Railroad dedicated the Cotton Belt Bridge in 1907, part of a rail line that served shipping points for agricultural products from St. Louis to Texas. The

Waco River Safari offers pontoon boat tours of the Brazos and Bosque rivers in Waco, including close-up looks at the historic bridges spanning the Brazos. Read more about the tours at texashighways.com.



Above: Paddleboarders float below the **Waco Railroad Bridge East**. Left: Flocks of swallows feed near the **Interstate 35** bridge across the Brazos River in Waco.

railroad line and its bridge remained in use until 1988. Currently, the abandoned bridge is slated for rebirth as a pedestrian walkway that could someday host a bicycle path and events. Once renovated, the bridge (like the Waco Suspension Bridge upriver) will enhance the Waco Riverwalk, a developing system of paved trails on both sides of the river that connect

downtown with the 416-acre Cameron Park and the university.

While the Cotton Belt Bridge gets a makeover, its companion, the Waco Railroad Bridge East, remains a workhorse, the put-upon housemaid to its doppelgänger Cinderella. The King Bridge Company built the span in 1906 to serve the Katy Line (the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad). Now owned

HISTORY LIVES HERE

Visit San Felipe de Austin's
New Museum

Storied Sites of Texas

Learn more at
StoriedSites.com



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



by Union Pacific, the bridge handles freight trains daily, providing a wake-up blast to any meditating paddleboarder in mid-mindfulness.

The Brazos River triggers its own distinct sense of well-being. This slow-moving legacy makes an elbow bend west of downtown where the Bosque River joins it before they meander through Waco as one. The river's serenity belies its occasional swagger, perhaps best expressed in writer John Graves' seminal Brazos eulogy *Goodbye to a River*. "Big oaks gone red, and yellowed ashes rose precariously from slanted alluvial soil beneath the cliffs, piles of drift against their boles in prophecy of their own fate; it is on the outside tip of a bend, and in those places the river lays down rich sediment for maybe centuries and then in a fit of angry spate cuts under it and carries it away, trees and all."

Beyond connecting love and

commerce, bridges also link us to our memories. In rural McLennan County along Rogers Hill Road (County Road 428), an antique iron bridge crosses Aquilla Creek. Built in 1892 by Missouri Valley Bridge & Iron Works of Leavenworth, Kansas, the iron truss bridge once accommodated traffic over the creek, particularly during heavy rainfall when the creek became impassable. Today, a new concrete bridge alongside it does the work, but the antique structure still supports foot traffic.

"I was born and raised around here, and whenever we drove across this bridge I felt like it was gonna fall down," recalls Jake Simpson. Although he lives closer to Waco now, Simpson still brings his dog, Bo, here on Sunday afternoons to enjoy the quiet surroundings. Trees bent with age shadow the iron trusses that suspend the wooden planking high above the creek bed. "When I was a kid, an

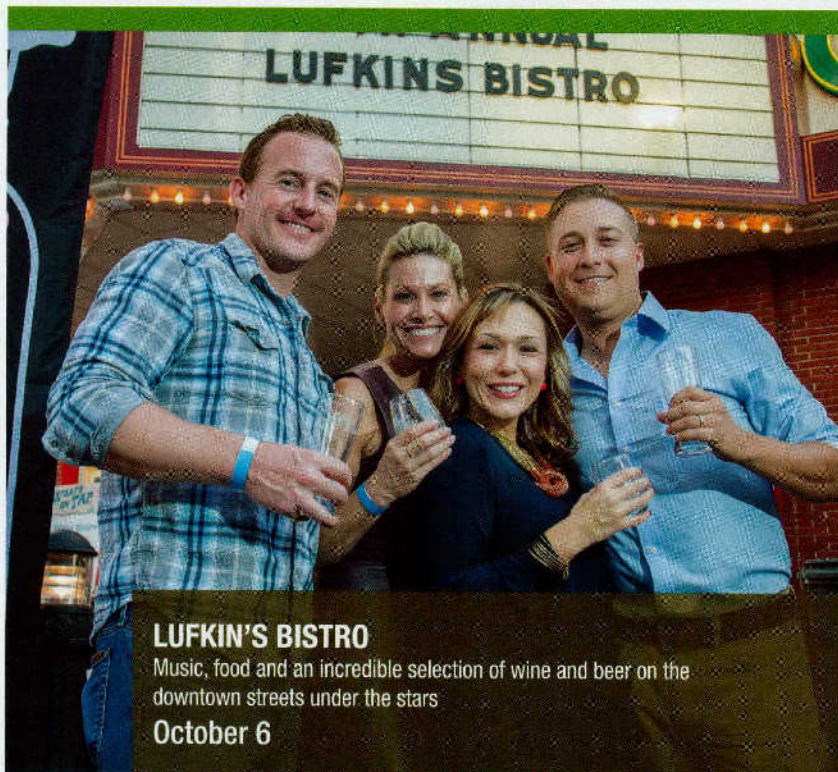
old rusty truck lay in the creek below. The story was that some old man had driven off the bridge and then stuck around to haunt the place, coming back to life half-goat/half-human. Supposedly, you could creep across the bridge at night and see him sitting behind the steering wheel with his eyes glowing red. It's a silly story, but we had fun scaring each other with it."

In 1998, the county constructed the bridge's replacement, slating the iron works for demolition. But locals saved the antique from destruction and filed for a historical designation.

"That old truck eventually washed away," Simpson says, "but the bridge, it's still here." **L**



The Waco Visitor Information Center, 106 Texas Ranger Trail, is open Tue-Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 800-922-6386; wacoheartofexas.com.



LUFKIN'S BISTRO

Music, food and an incredible selection of wine and beer on the downtown streets under the stars

October 6

UPCOMING LUFKIN EVENTS

ANGELINA COUNTY AIRFEST

World-class air show featuring aerobatic pilots, war birds, and more

October 6

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

FEATURING THE QUEBE SISTERS

Grammy-winning Texas Swing legends will have you dancing in the aisles all night long

October 14

MIDTOWN MEN

Stars from the original cast of Broadway's "Jersey Boys" celebrate the best of the '60s

October 22

JIM BRICKMAN

Hit-making songwriter's distinctive style makes him the best-selling solo pianist of our time

November 8



VisitLufkin.com

936-633-0349

EAST TEXAS' FOOD, WINE & ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION!

EVENTS



SEPTEMBER'S TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT:

HILL COUNTRY > Kyle

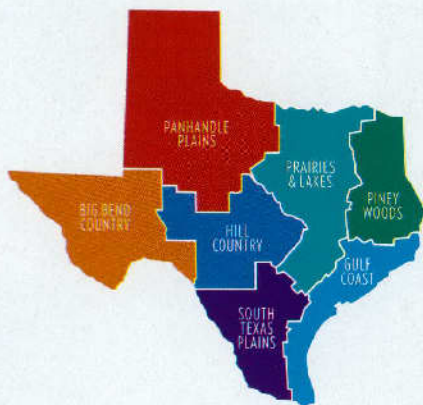
Pie in the Sky Hot Air Balloon Festival

Story by Melisa Aranda

KYLE BRANDS ITSELF THE PIE CAPITAL OF TEXAS, so it should come as no surprise that the southern suburb of Austin will celebrate all things pie Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Suspend your low-carb diet and purchase a sweet slice in the festival's pie café as you watch hot air balloons glow on the ground at dusk on Friday and Saturday, and ascend at daybreak on Saturday and Sunday.

The pie offerings extend into savory, with vendors also offering pizza and Frito pies in addition to fruit-filled pastries. Claim victory in the pie-eating contests, or resurrect Grandma's recipe for the baking competition. On Saturday, the festival will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most people named Kyle in one location. kyletxpieinthesky.com

Want more? View the *Texas Highways Events Calendar* at texashighways.com/events.



BIG BEND COUNTRY

ALPINE: Independencia de Mexico, Sept. 15. Historic Murphy Street. visitalpine.tx.com 432-294-2370

EL PASO: Celebration of Our Mountains, Sept. 1-Nov. 4. Various locations. celebmtns.org/events

EL PASO: Transborder Biennial, Sept. 1-16. El Paso Museum of Art. epma.art

EL PASO: El Paso Chopin Music Festival, Sept. 22-Oct. 20. Chamizal National Memorial Theatre. elpaso.chopinifest.com 915-584-1595

EL PASO: Chile Pepper Challenge, Sept. 30. Grace Gardens. elpaso.bicycleclub.com

FORT DAVIS: Cyclefest, Sept. 15-16. Prude Ranch. pbbatx.com/cyclefest 432-426-3015

FORT STOCKTON: Wizarding World of Fort Stockton, Sept. 1. The Garage Coffee, Music & More. thegarage.tx.com 432-701-0588

FORT STOCKTON: Birthday Bash Music Festival, Sept. 8. The Garage Coffee, Music & More. thegarage.tx.com 432-701-0588

MCCAMEY: Wind Energy Capital of Texas Cookoff and Festival, Sept. 28-29. Santa Fe Park. windenergy.capitaloftexascookoff.com 432-652-8202

MONAHANS: Desert Reflections Car Show, Sept. 8. Hill Park. monahans.org 432-943-2187

GULF COAST

ANGLETON: Texas Navy Day Celebration, Sept. 15.

Stephen F. Austin-Munson Historical County Park. brazoria-county.com/parks 979-849-5965

BEAUMONT: *Experimenting with Wind*, through Sept. 9. Texas Energy Museum. texasenergymuseum.org 409-833-5100

BEAUMONT: *Selections from the Permanent Collection*, through Sept. 2. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. amset.org

BEAUMONT: Neches River Rally, Sept. 8. Collier's Ferry Park. beaumontcvb.com 409-543-7967

BEAUMONT: Big Red's Ride, Sept. 22. Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. lamar.edu 409-880-1750

BROWNSVILLE: Lunada Artisan Market Festival, Sept. 22. Linear Park. cob.us 956-542-2064

CLUTE: Planetarium Show, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25. Center for the Arts & Sciences. brazosportcenter.org 979-265-3376

CORPUS CHRISTI: Arts Alive! Sept. 1-2. The Art Center of Corpus Christi. artcentercc.org 361-884-6406

CORPUS CHRISTI: ¡Que Bueno! Taco Fest, Sept. 15. Downtown Corpus Christi. quebuenotacofest.com 361-442-8456

CORPUS CHRISTI: Storytime with Parrots, Sept. 17. South Texas Botanical Gardens. stxbot.org 361-852-2100

FREEPORT: Freeport Summertime Blues & Biker Bash, Sept. 21-22. Memorial Park. angletonbikerbash.com 979-618-4001

FREEPORT: Schuster Home Open House, Sept. 22. 979-297-0868

GALVESTON: Galveston Symphony Orchestra, Sept. 2. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-1894 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: *Jigsaw Jones and The Case of the Glass Clown*, Sept. 27. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-1894 or 409-765-1894

GALVESTON: Galveston Island Shrimp Festival, Sept. 28-29. Saengerfest Park. galvestonislandshrimp.festival.com 409-770-0999

GALVESTON: Island Dirty Birdie Charity Classic, Sept. 28. Moody Gardens Golf Course. dirtybirdie.classic.ezevent.com

GALVESTON: Wynonna Judd and The Big Noise in Concert, Sept. 29. The Grand 1894 Opera House. thegrand.com 800-821-1894 or 409-765-1894

HOUSTON: *Big Bugs*, through Sept. 3. Houston Zoo. houstonzoo.org 713-533-6500

HOUSTON: *Oklahoma!*, Sept. 11-23. Theatre Under The Stars. tuts.com 713-558-8887

HOUSTON: Jerk Fest, Sept. 23. India House. houstonjerkfestinc.com 832-304-4930

INGLESIDE: Beer & Wine Festival, Sept. 15. N.O. Simmons Park Ingleside. inglesidetxchamber.com 361-776-2906

LAKE JACKSON: Abner Jackson Plantation Site Tour, Sept. 1. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979-297-1570

LAKE JACKSON: Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza, Sept. 8-9. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. gcbob.org 979-480-0999

LAKE JACKSON: Bird Banding, Sept. 15. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. gcbob.org 979-480-0999

ORANGE: *Cowboy Legends and Life*, through Sept. 29. Stark Museum of Art. starkmuseum.org

ORANGE: *Portraits from Cowboys of Color: Photographs by Don Russell*, through Sept. 29. Stark Museum of Art. starkmuseum.org

PALACIOS: BayFest, Sept. 21-22. South Bay. palacioschamber.com 979-236-9800

PEARLAND: Opry on the Square, Sept. 23. Pearland Town Center. visitpearland.com 281-997-5970

PORT ARANSAS: Beachtoberfest, Sept. 29-Oct. 28. Various locations. visitportaransas.com 361-749-5919

PORT ARTHUR: Crabbing 101 at Sea Rim State Park, Sept. 15. state-parks/sea-rim 409-971-2559

PORT LAVACA: Flip Flop Festival, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Bayfront Peninsula. flipflopfest.com

QUINTANA: Adopt-A-Beach Clean-Up, Sept. 15. Quintana Beach County Park. brazoria-county.com/parks 979-864-1541

ROCKPORT-FULTON: Warrior's Weekend Heroes Cup, Sept. 5-7. rockport-fulton.org

ROCKPORT-FULTON: HummerBird Celebration, Sept. 13-16. Rockport-Fulton High School. rockport-fulton.org/hb

SAN BENITO: Indian Cultural Powwow, Sept. 15. Veterans Memorial Academy. happybirthdaytexas.com 956-793-2357

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Labor Day Fireworks over the Bay, Sept. 2. Louie's Backyard. sopadre.com 956-761-3000

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Shallow Stalker Boat Owners Fishing Tournament, Sept. 7-8. Louie's Backyard. bayside.marineonline.com 956-943-1551

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: J.J. Zapata Fishing Tournament, Sept. 14-15. Jim's Pier. alpha5195.com 956-361-1032

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Wahoo Classic, Sept. 14-16. Jim's Pier. sopadre.com 956-761-5467

SUGAR LAND: 1041 KRBE Roula & Ryan Road Show, Sept. 14. Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land. smartfinancialcentre.net 281-207-6278

SUGAR LAND: Opry on the Square, Sept. 14. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarlandtownsquare.com 281-242-2000

SUGAR LAND: Hypnotist Daniel James, Sept. 15. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarlandtownsquare.com 281-242-2000

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

SUGAR LAND: Dancing Under the Stars, Sept. 28. Sugar Land Town Square. sugarlandtownsquare.com 281-242-2000

VICTORIA: *Dawn Waters Baker and Mary Tomas—Oil Paintings Exhibit*, Aug. 24-Sept. 30. The Nave Museum. navemuseum.com 361-575-8227

VICTORIA: *Cash on Delivery*, Sept. 13-16. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. theatre.victoria.org 361-570-8587

VICTORIA: Victoria Symphony Concert Opening Night: Cirque Goes to the Cinema with Cirque de la Symphonie, Sept. 15. Victoria Fine Arts Center. victoriasymphony.com 361-576-4500

VICTORIA: Victoria Symphony Fall Fundraiser with Sawyer Brown, Sept. 20. Victoria Fine Arts Center. victoriasymphony.com 361-576-4500

VICTORIA: *Boundless*, Sept. 22. Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. victoriaballet.org 361-575-2313

VICTORIA: Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 23. Victoria Community Center. victoriaczechs.org 361-575-0820

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: *Rodeal The Exhibition*, through Jan. 27, 2019. Bullock Texas State History Museum. thetoryofotexas.com 512-463-6485

AUSTIN: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, through Sept. 2. ZACH Theatre. zachtheatre.org 512-476-0541

AUSTIN: Out of Bounds Comedy Festival, Aug. 28-Sept. 3. Various locations. outofboundscomey.com

AUSTIN: City-Wide Garage Sale, Sept. 1-2. Palmer Events Center. cwgs.com 512-441-8228

AUSTIN: Texas Bamboo Festival, Sept. 15-16. Zilker Botanical Garden. bamboo.central.net 512-906-8250

BANDERA: Bandera Market Days, Sept. 1. Bandera County Courthouse Lawn. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Cowboys on Main, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Experience Bandera, Sept. 1-2. Main Street. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Frontier Times Ranch Rodeo, Sept. 1. Mansfield Park Rodeo Arena. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Cowboy Capital Opry, Sept. 4. Silver Sage Community Center. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Third Thursday Cowboy Camp, Sept. 20. Bandera Beverage Barn RV Park. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BANDERA: Biker Rallies of Texas presents Rumble on the River, Sept. 27-30. Mansfield Park. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

BERTRAM: Oatmeal Festival, Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Downtown Bertram. oatmealfestival.org 512-244-6357

BURNET: Bluebonnet Air Show, Sept. 8. Burnet Municipal Airport. bluebonnetairshow.com 512-756-2226

BURNET: Day Out with Thomas, Sept. 28-30. Burnet Community Center. austinsteamtrain.org 512-756-4297

CEDAR PARK: Splash Jam, Sept. 2. Milburn Park. cedarparkparks.com 512-401-5500

CEDAR PARK: Beer Train, Sept. 15. Austin Steam Train Association. austinsteamtrain.org 512-402-3850

COMFORT: Music in the Park, Sept. 11. Comfort Park. comfort-texas.com 830-995-3131

COMFORT: Art Festival, Sept. 15. Historic Downtown & Around Comfort. comfort-texas.com 830-995-3131

COMFORT: Mi Cultura Y Tradiciones, Sept. 15. Comfort Park. kendallcountyhistory.com 830-537-4389

COMFORT: Taste of Comfort, Sept. 29. Happy H Ranch. comfortpubliclibrary.org 830-995-2398

DRIPPING SPRINGS: Dripping with Taste, Sept. 8. Dripping Springs Ranch Park. destinationdripping.com 512-858-4740

DRIPPING SPRINGS: Pioneer Day, Sept. 22. Dr. Pound Historical Farmstead. drpoundhistoricalfarmstead.org/pioneer-day.html 512-858-2030

FREDERICKSBURG: Vereins Quilt Guild Show, Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. vereinsquiltguild.org 701-371-8719

FREDERICKSBURG: Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat and Betty, Sept. 1-2. Steve W. Shepherd Theater. fredericksburgtheater.org 830-997-3588

FREDERICKSBURG: USO Style Hangar Dance, Sept. 1. Pacific Showroom at the Hangar Hotel. hangarhotel.com 830-997-9990

FREDERICKSBURG: WWII Pacific Combat Zone, Sept. 1-2. National Museum of the Pacific War. pacificwarmuseum.org

FREDERICKSBURG: Fall Planting Days, Sept. 7-9. Wildseed Farms. wildseedfarms.com 830-990-8080

FREDERICKSBURG: Fredericksburg Professional Bull Riders, Sept. 8. Gillespie County Fairgrounds. gillespiefair.com 830-997-2359

FREDERICKSBURG: LuckenRod Classic Car and Rod Show, Sept. 8. Luckenbach Texas. luckenbachtexas.com 830-997-3224

FREDERICKSBURG: Fredericksburg Trade Days, Sept. 14-16. fbgtradedays.com 830-990-4900

FREDERICKSBURG: Lutheran Fall Festival, Sept. 15. Marktplatz. cross-trails.org 830-257-6340

FREDERICKSBURG: Nimitz Foundation Symposium, Sept. 22. Rockbox Theater. pacificwarmuseum.org 830-997-8600

GRUENE: Friday Afternoon Club, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 18. Gruene Hall. gruenehall.com 830-515-1914

GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist, Sept. 9. Gruene Hall. gruenehall.com 830-515-1914

GRUENE: Old Gruene Market Days, Sept. 15-16. Gruene Historic District. gruene-marketedays.com 830-515-1914

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

INGRAM: *Altars and Icons* Art Exhibit, through Sept. 21. Hill Country Arts Foundation. hcaf.com 830-367-5120

INGRAM: *Mad Hatter Tea Party*, Sept. 16. Hill Country Arts Foundation. hcaf.com 830-367-5120

INGRAM: Texas Arts & Crafts Fair, Sept. 29-30. Hill Country Arts Foundation. txartsandcraftsfair.com 830-367-5121

JOHNSON CITY: Market Days, Sept. 22-23. City Park. lbcountry.com 830-868-7684

KERRVILLE: *Glitter Girls*, Aug. 17-Sept. 2. Playhouse 2000 VK Garage Theater. playhouse2000.com 830-896-9393

KERRVILLE: Kerrville Fall Music Festival, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Quiet Valley Ranch. kerrville-music.com 830-257-3600

KERRVILLE: Hill Country Swap Meet, Sept. 1. Kerr County Hill Country Youth Event Center. kerrmarketdays.org 830-459-6198

KERRVILLE: Kerr County Market Days, Sept. 1. Kerr County Hill Country Youth Event Center. kerrmarketdays.org 830-895-7524

KERRVILLE: *Fiber & Wood* Art Exhibit, Sept. 6-30. Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. kackcerville.com 830-895-2911

KERRVILLE: American Watercolor Society Traveling Show, Sept. 7-26. Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. kackcerville.com 830-895-2911

KERRVILLE: *The Party* at The Museum of Western Art—Art Show and Sale, Sept. 15. Museum of Western Art. museumofwesternart.com 830-895-2553

KERRVILLE: Hot Rod Night, Sept. 15. Louise Hays Park. kerrvilletx.gov 830-257-7300

KYLE: Kyle Market Days, Sept. 8. City Square Park. cityofkyle.com/recreation 512-262-3939

LAKEHILLS: Cajun Festival and Gumbo Cookoff, Sept. 22. Lakehills Civic Center. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

LAMPASAS: Lampasas Trade Days, Sept. 1-2. Marigold's Antiques & More. marigoldantiques.com 512-734-1294

TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com

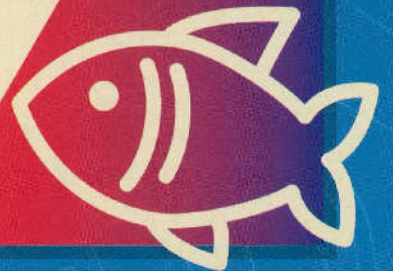


DID You KNOW?



It takes **450 years** for a plastic water bottle to break down in the environment? Always recycle them and better yet, carry a reusable water bottle with you.

Marine life often mistake plastics for food. Small pieces of plastic were the number one item found on Texas beaches last year.



Help us turn the tide on trash

Volunteer **Saturday, September 15th** from 9 till noon.
We'll be cleaning at site locations from Beaumont to Brownsville.



Get more details at texasadoptabeach.org and we'll see you on the beach!



EVENTS

MARBLE FALLS: Market Day on Main, Sept. 29. Historic Downtown Marble Falls. marblefalls.org 830-693-2815

MASON: Sweet Pickin's Vintage Fair, Sept. 28-29. Lea Lou Co-Op. facebook.com/sweetpickinsvintagefair 325-294-4440

NEW BRAUNFELS: *War Stories: New Braunfels in World War I*, through Jan. 31, 2019. Sophienburg Museum & Archives. sophienburg.com 830-629-1572

NEW BRAUNFELS: Comal County Fair, Sept. 25-30. Comal County Fair Grounds. comalcountyfair.org 830-625-1505

OZONA: *Vintage Hat Happenings*, through Sept. 30. Crockett County Museum. ozonamuseum.com 325-392-2837

OZONA: Davy Crockett Festival, Sept. 15. Ozona Historic Town Square. Ozona.com 325-226-4547

OZONA: Toro Loco Bull Riding Challenge, Sept. 15. Crockett County Fair Park Arena. ozona.com 325-315-6440

ROCKSPRINGS: Camp Eagle Classic Mountain Bike Festival, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Camp Eagle. campeagle.org 830-896-6864

SAN MARCOS: SMTX Pride, Sept. 8. Plaza Park. toursanmarcos.com 512-393-5930

SAN MARCOS: Junior Texas Water Safari, Sept. 15. San Marcos City Park. texaswatersafari.org 512-738-6607

SAN MARCOS: Mermaid Week SMTX, Sept. 15-22. Downtown San Marcos. mermaidsocietysmtx.com 512-393-5930

TARPLEY: Labor Day Celebration, Sept. 2. banderacowboycapital.com 830-796-3045

TAYLOR: "Sky's the Limit" Fly a Kite Day, Sept. 8. Taylor Regional Park. taylortx.gov/kite 512-365-7669

TAYLOR: 9/11 Patriot Day March and Program, Sept. 11. Downtown. citaylortx.us 512-352-6992

TAYLOR: SPJST Barbecue Cookoff, Sept. 21-22. SPJST Lodge 29. spjst.com 512-365-1110

TAYLOR: A Sami Show, Sept. 22-23. Williamson County Expo Center. samishow.com 512-441-7133

UVALDE: PalominoFest & Pro Rodeo Labor Day Weekend Celebration, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Uvalde County Fairplex. uvaldecountyfairplex.com

UVALDE: Four Square Friday, Sept. 14. Historic Downtown Uvalde. visitvalde.com 830-278-4115

WIMBERLEY: *Born Yesterday*, Sept. 7-30. Wimberley Playhouse. wimberleyplayers.org 512-847-0575

PANHANDLE PLAINS

ALBANY: *René Treviño: A New Codex*, Sept. 15-Feb. 2, 2019. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325-762-2269

ALBANY: *Texas Moderns: Sam Gummelt*, Sept. 15-Feb. 2, 2019. Old Jail Art Center. theojac.org 325-762-2269

AMARILLO: Yellow City Sounds Music Festival, Sept. 1. Memorial Park.

panhandlepbs.org 806-371-5224

AMARILLO: Tri-State Fair & Rodeo, Sept. 14-22. Tri-State Fairgrounds. tristatefair.com 806-376-7767

BIG SPRING: Howard County Fair, Sept. 21-23. Howard County Fair Barns. hcfair.org 432-263-8642

BIG SPRING: Country on the Rocks, Sept. 29. Comanche Trail Amphitheater. 432-755-9529

BOYS RANCH: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo + adventureFEST, Sept. 1. Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. calfarley.org/rodeo 800-687-3722

CANADIAN: Canadian River Beach Club Calf Fry and Barbecue Cookoff, Sept. 29. Jones Pavilion/Hemphill County Recreation Complex. canadiantx.com 806-325-9413

DUMAS: Tumbleweed 100 Bike Ride YMCA, Sept. 22. YMCA. txtumbleweed100.com 806-935-4136

DUMAS: D'Town Barbecue Cookoff, Sept. 28-29. McDade Park. dumaschamber.com

GRAHAM: Southern States Chainsaw Carving Championship, Sept. 27-29. City Park. facebook.com/southernstates.ccc 940-456-1669

LUBBOCK: *Sky's the Limit* Exhibit, through Sept. 23. Buddy Holly Center. buddyhollycenter.org

LUBBOCK: National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, Sept. 7-9. Lubbock Civic Center. cowboy.org 806-798-7825

LUBBOCK: West Texas Watercolor Society Fall Show, Sept. 7-Oct. 27. Legacy Event Center. wtws.org 806-794-4655

POST: Old Mill Trade Days, Sept. 7-9. oldmilltradedays.com 432-934-1479

QUITAQUE: BisonFest, Sept. 22. Downtown Quitaque. bisonfest.com

SAN ANGELO: Angelo State University Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition, through Sept. 9. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: *Made in Texas! 25 Contemporary Quilts*, through Sept. 9. San Angelo Museum of

Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: First Saturday at the Chicken Farm, Sept. 1. Chicken Farm Art Center. chickenfarmartcenter.com 325-653-4936

SAN ANGELO: Chamber Music Series Concert, Sept. 2. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Cowboy Gathering, Sept. 7-8. Wells Fargo Pavilion. sanangelocowboygathering.com 325-653-7785

SAN ANGELO: Family Day Fiesta!, Sept. 8. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: *Late Night Catechism*, Sept. 14-15. Brooks & Bates Theatre. sanangelopac.org 325-284-3825

SAN ANGELO: Craft Guild Show, Sept. 15. Wells Fargo Pavilion. greater-sanangelocraftersguild.org 325-374-0969

Restoring and Preserving Our History

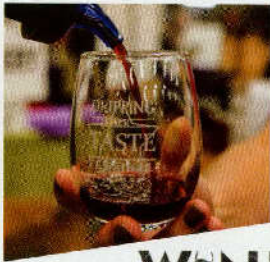
The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

Visit our website for a tour map and information on our historic schools and community centers.

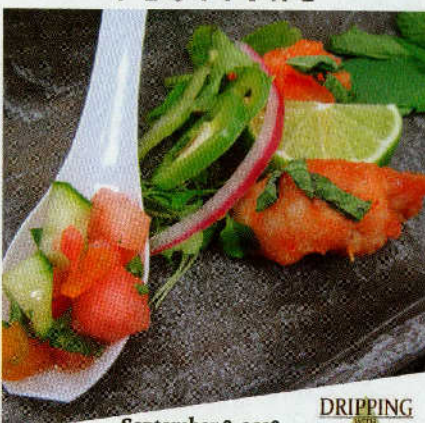
All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of Country School Association of America.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG



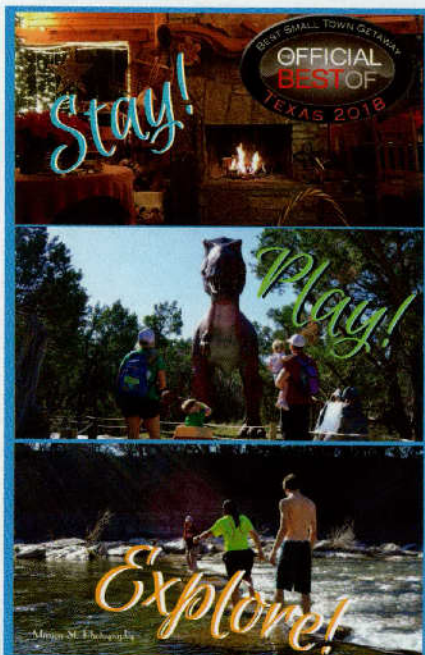
Savor the flavors of Dripping Springs & Beyond

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL



September 8, 2018
noon - 6 pm
www.drippingwithtaste.com

DIPPING WITH TASTE
WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL



Stay! Play! Explore!

GLEN ROSE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Check out our FREE Explore Glen Rose App on iTunes or Google Play!

254-897-3081
GlenRoseTexas.net

SAN ANGELO: Lilyfest, Sept. 15. The International Waterlily Collection, Civic League Park. internationalwaterlilycollection.com 832-274-3377

SAN ANGELO: River Fest, Sept. 15. Concho River Walk. cosabx.us 325-655-4136

SAN ANGELO: Inside Out, Sept. 20-Jan. 20, 2019. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Archaeology Fair, Sept. 22. Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. fortconcho.com 325-481-2730

SAN ANGELO: Play It Again Concert, Sept. 24. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. samfa.org 325-653-3333

WICHITA FALLS: Texas/Oklahoma Fair, Sept. 11-15. MPEC. founderionsclub.com 940-720-2999

WICHITA FALLS: Quilting in the Falls, Sept. 21-22. Impec. wichitafallsqiltguild.com

PINEY WOODS

GLADEWATER: Arts and Crafts Festival, Sept. 15-16. Broadway School Campus. gladewaterartsandcrafts.com 903-845-5501

GRAPELAND: Labor Day Bluegrass Festival, Aug. 30-Sept. 2. Salmon Lake Park. txbluegrassmusic.com

HEMPHILL: Poker Run on the Bend, Sept. 1. Sabine County Chamber & Tourism Center. visitsabinecounty.com 409-787-2732

HUNTSVILLE: Antique Show, Sept. 15-16. Walker County Fairgrounds. huntsvilleantiqueshow.com 936-581-1331

HUNTSVILLE: Texas 10 Series, Sept. 30. Sam Houston State University. texas10series.com 936-588-9966

JASPER: Jasper Air Show, Sept. 29-30. Jasper Co. Airport Bell Field. 409-489-8447

JEFFERSON: Labor Day Celebration at Historic Jefferson Railway

Gas-Powered Locomotive, Sept. 1. Historic Jefferson Railway. visitjeffersontexas.com

JEFFERSON: Jefferson Cruise Night, Sept. 21. Historic Downtown Jefferson. visitjeffersontexas.com

LONGVIEW: Downtown Live, Sept. 7. Heritage Plaza. visitlongviewtexas.com 903-753-3281

LUFKIN: The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra, Sept. 13. The Pines Theater. thepineslufkin.com 936-633-0359

LUFKIN: Texas State Forest Festival, Sept. 19-23. George H. Henderson, Jr. Exposition Center. texasstateforestfestival.com 936-634-6644

MARSHALL: Jeans 'n Classics Concert, Sept. 15. marshallsymphony.com 903-935-4484

MONTGOMERY: Woodforest Craft Beer Fest, Sept. 22. Christine Allen Nature Park. woodforesttx.com 972-415-6002

PALESTINE: El Camino 205, Sept. 29. camino205.com 903-723-3014

TEXARKANA: Death and Dying: Customs and Curiosities, Sept. 15-Nov. 30. Ace of Clubs House & Ahern Home. texarkanamuseums.org 903-793-4831

TRINITY: Community Fair and Youth Livestock Show, Sept. 28-29. Trinity Community Center. facebook.com/trinitycommunityfair 936-662-5082

WOODVILLE: Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past, Sept. 29. Heritage Village. heritage-village.org 409-283-2272

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

ADDISON: Addison Oktoberfest, Sept. 20-23. Addison Circle Park. addisonoktoberfest.com 800-233-4766

ARLINGTON: Frame 4 Frame Festival, Sept. 20-23. Various locations. frame4frame.org 817-265-7721

BELTON: A Sami Show, Sept. 8-9. Bell County Expo Center. samishow.com 512-441-7133

BONHAM: Autumn in Bonham Bicycle Ride, Sept. 29. Bonham Chamber of Commerce. facebook.com/autumninbonham 903-583-4811

BRENHAM: Washington County Fair, Sept. 14-22. Washington County Fairgrounds. washingtoncofair.com 979-836-4112

BRIDGEPORT: Taste Bridgeport, Sept. 29. Historic Downtown. bridgeportchamber.org 940-683-2076

BURTON: LaBahia Antiques, Sept. 28-Oct. 6. LaBahia Hall. labahiaantiques.com 979-289-2684

CALDWELL: Kolache Festival, Sept. 8. Downtown Caldwell. burlesoncountytx.com 979-567-0000

CLEBURNE: Antique Alley and Yard Sale, Sept. 21-23. Cleburne. antiquealleytexas.com 817-666-5024

CLEBURNE: Cleburne Wine & Art Festival, Sept. 29. Downtown Cleburne. thecleburnewinefestival.com 214-402-3597

CLIFTON: Bosque Art Classic, Sept. 8-22. Bosque Arts Center. bosqueartscenter.org 254-675-3724

CORSICANA: Show and Dance with The Others Band, Sept. 7. Corsicana Opry. corsicanaopry.com 903-872-6779

DALLAS: Ultimate Dinosaurs, through Jan. 6, 2019. Perot Museum. perotmuseum.org

DALLAS: Chocolate Festival, Sept. 8. Fashion Industry Gallery. dallaschocolate.org 214-559-0122

DALLAS: Dali: Poetics of the Small, Sept. 9-Dec. 9. Meadows Museum. meadowsmuseumdallas.org 214-768-2516

visit
MCKINNEY
TEXAS

The TEXAS HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE TOP 20 TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

From historic downtown's boutiques and sidewalk eateries to autumn events like Oktoberfest, Dinosaurs Live and Home for the Holidays, McKinney offers the perfect getaway destination.

Twitter Facebook Pinterest

VisitMcKinney.com/THfall

TEMPLE, TEXAS
2018
FALL
schedule

Sept 15 & 16
36TH ANNUAL
TEMPLE MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Oct 5-7
47TH ANNUAL
TRACTOR & ENGINE SHOW

Oct 20
LIVE WELL EXPO

Oct 31
MAIN STREET FRIGHT FEST

Nov. 24
SHOP SMALL
BUSINESS SATURDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE OR OTHER TEMPLE EVENTS
WWW.DISCOVERTEMPLE.COM
OR CALL
800.479.0338

Convention & Visitors Bureau
Temple
Texas Live Well

TEXAS HIGHWAYS
GIFT SHOP

800.839.4997
shop.texashighways.com

EVENTS

DALLAS: Historical Storytelling, Nov. 10. Traditions Assisted Living. lumediamusicworks.com 512-665-2388

DALLAS: *The Nature of Arp*, Sept. 15-Jan. 6, 2019. Nasher Sculpture Center. nashersculpturecenter.org 214-242-5100

DALLAS: *Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello: Paradox of Liberty*, Sept. 22-Dec. 31. African American Museum in Dallas at Fair Park. monticello.org

DALLAS: Autumn at the Arboretum, Sept. 22-Nov. 1. Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. dallasarboretum.org 214-515-6525

DALLAS: State Fair of Texas, Sept. 28-Oct. 21. Fair Park. bigtex.com 214-565-9931

DECATUR: Cruise Nights on the Courthouse Square, Sept. 1. Historic Downtown. decatourmainstreet.com 940-399-9558

DENTON: Arts and Autos Extravaganza, Sept. 8.

Downtown Denton Courthouse on the Square. dentonmainstreet.org 940-349-8529

DENTON: Blues Fest, Sept. 14-16. Quakertown Park. dentonblackchamberonline.org 940-382-9100

DENTON: Drag Racing—Funny Car Chaos!, Sept. 14-15. North Star Dragway. funnycarchaos.com 940-482-9998

FORT WORTH: *Takashi Murakami: The Octopus Eats Its Own Leg*, through Sept. 16. Modern Art Museum. themodern.org/exhibitions 817-738-9215

GAINESVILLE: Fall Art Show, Sept. 15-23. Santa Fe Depot. gainesvilleareavisualarts.org 940-613-6939

GATESVILLE: Spurfest at the Museum, Sept. 15. Coryell Museum & Historic Center. coryellmuseum.org 254-865-5007

GIDDINGS: Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival, Sept. 14. Giddings Public Library and Cultural Center. texaswordwrangler.com 979-542-2716

GIDDINGS: Wendish Fest, Sept. 23. Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Complex. texaswendish.org 979-366-2441

GRANBURY: Rio Brazos Star Party, Sept. 15. Acton Nature Center of Hood County. actonnaturecenter.org/programs-and-projects 817-326-6005

GRANBURY: Paranormal Expo, Sept. 29-30. Historic Granbury Downtown Square. granburyparanormalexpo.com 817-559-0849

GRAND PRAIRIE: Native American Pow Wow, Sept. 14-16. Traders Village. gptx.org 972-647-2331

GRAND PRAIRIE: Mexican Independence Day, Sept. 15. Farmers Market at Market Square. visitgrandprairietx.com 972-237-4559

GRAND PRAIRIE: Epic Fest, Sept. 21-22. Epic Central Park. grandfungp.com 972-237-8100

GRANDVIEW: Antique Alley Texas and 30-Plus

Miles of Shopping, Sept. 21-23. antiquealleytexas.com 817-666-5024

GRAPEVINE: *Grapevine Rails: Rolling Through Time*, through Sept. 16. grapevinetexasusa.com 817-410-3185

GRAPEVINE: GrapeFest—A Texas Wine Experience, Sept. 13-16. Historic Downtown Grapevine. grapevinetexasusa.com/grapefest 817-410-3185

HALLETTSVILLE: *Texas in World War I*, through Nov. 30. Friend Simpson Memorial Library. hallettsvillelibrary.org 361-798-3243 ext. 208

HARKER HEIGHTS: Food, Wine, and Brew Fest, Sept. 8. Harker Heights Community Park. hhfoodandwine.com 254-699-4999

HONEY GROVE: Davy Crockett Festival, Sept. 29. Honey Grove Downtown Square. honeygrovechamber.com 903-815-9660

LA GRANGE: Fayette County Fair, Aug. 30-Sept.

2. Fayette County Fair Association. fayettetecountyfair.org 979-968-3911

LA GRANGE: Texas Heroes Day, Sept. 15. Monument Hill State Park. visitlagrange.tx.com

LEWISVILLE: Western Days, Sept. 28-29. Wayne Ferguson Plaza. cityoflewisville.com 972-219-3401

LOCKHART: Western Swing and Barbecue Festival, Sept. 28-30. Various locations. facebook.com/lockhartswingbbqfestival 512-745-0659

LULING: Reflections of Texas & Beyond Art Show, Sept. 11-23. Luling Oil Museum. lulingoilmuseum.org 830-875-5220

MCGREGOR: McGregor Founder's Day, Sept. 15-16. McGregor Historic Main Street District. mcmgregorfoundersday.com 254-840-2292

MCKINNEY: Native Texas Butterfly House & Garden, through Sept. 30. Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. heardmuseum.org/butterflies 972-562-5566

MCKINNEY: *Dinosaurs Live!*, Sept. 1-Feb. 18, 2019. Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary. heardmuseum.org/dinosaurslive 972-562-5566

MCKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days, Sept. 14-16. tmttd.com 972-562-5466

MCKINNEY: Oktoberfest, Sept. 28-30. Historic Downtown McKinney. mckinneytexas.org 972-547-2660

NOCONA: Wheels and Grills Chili and Barbecue Cookoff, Sept. 20-22. Horton Classic Car Museum. hortonclassiccarmuseum.com 940-825-1022

NOCONA: *Tales 'n' Trails Museum Shebang*, Sept. 30. Veranda Inn Events Center. talesntrails.org 940-825-5330

PALESTINE: Texas State Railroad Summer Excursions, through Sept. 29. Texas State Railroad Palestine Depot. texasstaterailroad.net 855-632-7729

PARADISE: Paradise Main Street Festival, Sept. 29. Paradise Main Street Festival. 940-859-3691

PARIS: Cruisin' on the Plaza, Sept. 7.

Downtown Paris Fountain Plaza. paristexas.com 903-784-2501

PLANO: Music Fest at Southfork Ranch, Sept. 1-2. Southfork Ranch. musicfest-southforkranch.com/line-up 972-442-7800

PLANO: InTouch Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival, Sept. 21-23. Oak Point Park. planoballoonfest.org 972-867-7566

PLANO: Fall Plano Train Show, Sept. 29-30. Plano Event Center. dfwtrainshows.com 469-438-0741

POTTSBORO: Frontier Day, Sept. 29. Friendship Park. pottsboro-chamber.com 903-786-6571

RICHARDSON: Plano Symphony: Lindsay Deutsch Violin Showcase, Sept. 15. Eisemann Center. planosymphony.org 972-473-7262

ROUND TOP: Round Top Antiques Show, Sept. 22-Oct. 6. Various locations. roundtop.org 979-249-4042

SANGER: Sellabration, Sept. 8. Historic Downtown Sanger. sangertexas.com 940-458-7702

SMITHVILLE: Wingfest & Home Brew Beer Competition, Sept. 29. Downtown Smithville. explorebastropcounty.com 512-581-4074

SULPHUR SPRINGS: Lone Star Heritage Quilt Guild Show, Sept. 14-15. First Baptist Church R.O.C. sulphurspringstxquilts.com 903-994-2570

TEMPLE: Model Train Show, Sept. 15-16. Mayborn Convention Center. 254-749-0700

THE COLONY: Bow-Wow Luau, Sept. 9. Hawaiian Falls Waterpark. thecolonytx.gov 972-625-1106

THE COLONY: Surf the Lake, Sept. 14-15. Hidden Cove Park and Marina. dfwsurf.com 972-427-4082

THE COLONY: Drive-In Theater, Sept. 21. Stewart Creek Park. thecolonytx.gov 972-625-1106

WACO: *Faces of the Southern Ocean*, through Nov. 25. Mayborn Museum Complex. bayloreduj/mayborn 254-710-1110

WACO: *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit*, through Jan. 6, 2019. Mayborn Museum Complex. bayloreduj/mayborn

BAY CITY MAIN STREET



Celebrating

National Spanish Heritage Month

Historic Downtown Bay City, Texas

SEPTEMBER 23rd • 1PM – 6PM

South American, Central American and North American

Inspired Food, Drinks & Entertainment!

Find us on facebook



Ballet Folklórico • Jazz & Latin Swing 18 piece band

Danza Azteca Dancers • Mariachi



Discover new adventures

Ph: 979-245-8081 • www.visitbaycitytx.com

WACO: Sorghum Festival, Sept. 3. Homestead Heritage, homesteadheritage.com 254-754-9600

WACO: USA National Wakesurf Championships, Sept. 28-30. Brazos River, wacoheartof texas.com 254-750-8697

WARRENTON: Antique Show, Sept. 27-Oct. 6. Renck Hall, warrenton-antiquesrenckhall.com 979-249-3141

WAXAHACHIE: C10s Trucks in the Park, Sept. 15. Getzender Park, waxahachiecvb.com 469-309-4040

WAXAHACHIE: Screams Halloween Theme Park, Sept. 28-Oct. 27. screams park.com 972-938-3247

WAXAHACHIE: Waxahachie Chautauqua Celebrates: *Comedy & Humanity*, Sept. 29. Chautauqua Auditorium, waxahachiechautauqua.org 469-309-4040

WEATHERFORD: Bankhead Highway Celebration, Sept. 22. Vintage Grill, Car Museum & Event Center, vintageautomuseum.com 817-694-6640

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

ALAMO: Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild, Sept. 8. Alamo Rec Veh Park, rgvqg.com 956-223-4490

ALICE: Fiesta del Centro, Sept. 7-6. Downtown Alice, alicehhc.com 361-701-6865

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

EDINBURG: South Texas International Film Festival, Sept. 5-8. Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance, edinburgarts.com 956-383-6246

SAN ANTONIO: Special Exhibition: *Andy Warhol: Cowboys and Indians*, through Sept. 3. Briscoe Western Art Museum, briscoemuseum.org 210-299-4499

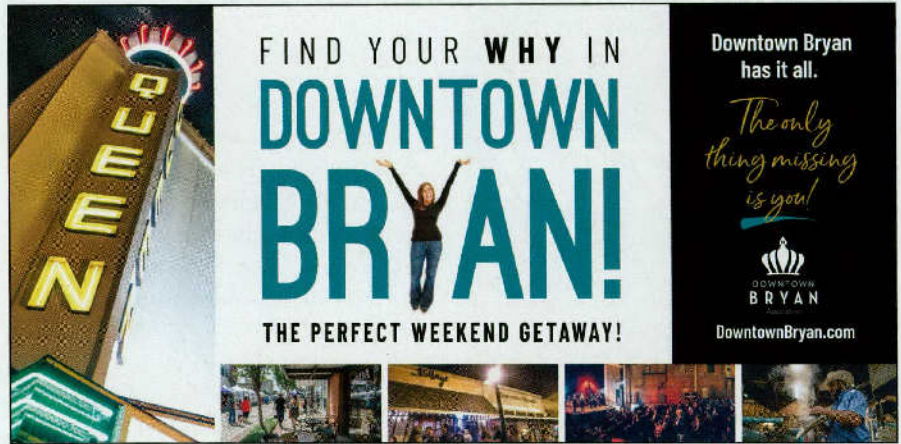
SAN ANTONIO: Special Exhibition: *Billy Schenck and the Roots of Western Pop Art*, through Sept. 3. Briscoe Western Art Museum, briscoemuseum.org 210-299-4499

SAN ANTONIO: *Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors*, through Sept. 30. The Witte Museum, wittemuseum.org

SAN ANTONIO: Labor Day Artisan Show, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. River Walk Extension, thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events

SAN ANTONIO: ARTS San Antonio Presents Fred Hersch, Jazz Pianist in Concert, Sept. 19. Ruth Taylor Recital Hall, Trinity University, artssa.org 210-226-2891

SAN ANTONIO: Drift & Dine, Sept. 25-27. The River Walk at the Shops at Rivercenter, thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events 210-227-4262



FIND YOUR WHY IN
DOWNTOWN BRYAN!
THE PERFECT WEEKEND GETAWAY!

Downtown Bryan has it all.
The only thing missing is you!

DOWNTOWN BRYAN
DowntownBryan.com



TEXAS JACK WILD WEST OUTFITTER
We've got ANY AND ALL THINGS WILD WEST for Cowboys and Cowgirls. Texas Jack Wild West Outfitter is also the official showroom for Cimarron Firearms! Located in beautiful Fredericksburg. Come and see us sometime!
www.texasjacks.com



TEXAS HIGHWAYS
THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS
2019 Calendar
shop.texashighways.com

WANT MORE? VIEW THE TEXAS HIGHWAYS EVENTS CALENDAR AT texashighways.com/events.

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, go to texashighways.com/freepubs; write to: Texas Highways Events Calendar, P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX 78714-9249; or call 800-452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 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 road conditions, and send brochures (including the official *Texas State Travel Guide*, Texas Official Travel Map, and quarterly *Texas Highways Events Calendar*).

To submit event information, visit texashighways.com/submitevent; email: texasevents@txdot.gov; or mail: Texas Highways Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin, TX 78714-1009. Listing deadlines: Spring (March, April, May) Dec. 1; Summer (June, July, Aug.) March 1; Fall (Sept., Oct., Nov.) June 1; Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.) Sept. 1.



DAY TRIP.

TEXAS ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR
Exhibiting Artists From Across Texas
SINCE 1972
SEPTEMBER 29 - 30, 2018
INGRAM - TEXAS
Hill Country Arts Foundation
txartsandcraftsfair.com

continued from page 96

DISCOVER Clifton



FALL 2018 EVENTS

September 8-9
Bosque Arts Classic

October 20
Fall Fest

Lutheran Sunset Ministries
Quilt Show & Sale

November 3
Texas Troubadour Songwriter Classic—
Bosque Arts Center

November 30
Lighted Christmas Parade

December 1
Norwegian Country Christmas



Clifton Chamber of Commerce
& Visitor Center

800-344-3720



I dragged out of our house's dilapidated garage apartment and put it up against the rear of a neighbor's garage, and I would pitch at this target on it.

Q: *You're a runner, you're a biker, you do a lot of hiking—are you a physical fitness junkie?*

A: I exercise every day. It's part of my creative process, running in particular. When I get stopped sometimes, and I just can't find a door in the room that I'm locked into, I'll go for a run. And sometimes, within a hundred yards, things will begin to make themselves apparent. When I'm running, I carry note cards and a pen, and just keep the thoughts raw.

Q: *Do you think you have a high sense of adventure?*

A: I'm on the hunt for stories. If there's a really good story, I'll take chances. Like Scientology. I didn't think they were going to hold a gun on me, but I thought they might sue me or threaten me in some other ways. A couple of times I had people with guns pointed at me. One time I was trying to interview these drug dealers in Tucson, and then in Gaza. But I didn't feel that they would pull the trigger. I did feel, sometimes, that the person I was with might get killed. I try not to entertain those thoughts because it can be paralyzing if you think, "What's going to happen?"

Q: *Where did you develop your interest in birding?*

A: My dad took my wife, Roberta, and me to see the whooping cranes in Port Aransas. This was probably soon after we got back from Cairo in the early '70s. When we lived out in Quitman I built a purple martin house. When I was piecing it together on the porch, martins came to watch me build the house. It was like they were impatient to take residence. After I erected it, we immediately had a delegation come in and go to each chamber.

Q: *How did you first get involved with the Texas Book Festival, where you'll return this year as a participant?*

A: I had started going around the state introducing writers and



LAWRENCE WRIGHT

will speak about his book *God Save Texas* and perform with his band, WhoDo, at the Texas Book Festival, Oct. 27-28 in Austin.
texasbookfestival.org

booksellers. We had this one meeting here in Austin, and the booksellers were sitting around the table with the writers on the side. Bud Shrake was one of the writers. One of those booksellers was remarking about this phenomenal golf book [*The Wisdom of Harvey Penick*] that people were buying off the dollies when they were bringing the books in. Well, you know, the author of that is Bud Shrake, sitting right across the table from you. They had no idea. Then Steve and I started Texas Writers Month, and this went on for about six or seven years—just trying to get some attention to the fact that there are local Texas writers. And the book festival grew out of that and subsumed it, really, because it was much bigger and more consequential.

Q: *Do you consider yourself a Renaissance man?*

A: People say that, but I'm just trying to live my own life, and I guess part of what's going on with me is that I never felt that I had really reached a level in my career where I truly connected with an audience until I got to *The New Yorker*. I was 45 years old, and everything that has been of real importance to me happened after that. I feel like it wasn't 20 lost years, but it was 20 years of laboring in the vineyards and with little acknowledgement and few opportunities. So once I got to *The New Yorker* and began to connect with a larger audience and opportunities opened up, I felt I've got to make up for that time. People my age are retiring or dying, and I'm still trying to make it. 🐾

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

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

THE DAYTRIPPER

WITH CHET GARNER



Give 'em the Boot

DON'T GO TRIPPIN' to North Texas as much as I'd like to, so in the hopes of finding a new adventure I hopped on the highway and drove as far north as it would take me (without landing in Oklahoma). And what I found was Nocona, a fascinating town with a storied leatherworking tradition.

9 a.m. I cruised into **historic downtown** and noticed the New Orleans-inspired architecture that gives this district a French flair. Among the shops, restaurants, and bars, I spotted the ruins of the factory where HJ Justin and Sons (founded in 1879), later known as Justin Boots, once made its world-famous footwear. Turns out that Nocona has been making handcrafted boots for longer than just about any other Texas town.

9:30 a.m. Across the street from the factory, which the town is renovating into a community center, I discovered **Fenoglio Boot Co.** keeping this time-honored tradition alive. I browsed rows of locally made boots of every shape and color, including ones with exotic leathers like Amazon arapaima and elephant. A brown pair in the corner called my name. They were embroidered with an ornate Native American headdress that seemed appropriate given the town's name-sake, a Comanche chief.

10:30 a.m. My trip continued to the east side of town at **Nocona Boot Factory**. While the facility no longer makes boots, inside was **Nokona American Ballgloves**—the last major American-made baseball glove company. I hopped on a tour and was amazed at the rooms of workers sewing, tying, and building gloves by hand. While my chances of becoming a pro baller are slim to none, I couldn't pass up the chance to own a genuine piece of Texas artwork. My old-man softball league better get ready!

12:30 P.M. For lunch, I perused the menu at **Fenoglio's BBQ** until I noticed its signature item, the "Ultimate Bowl of Crap." With an appetizing name like that, I couldn't pass it up. To my pleasant surprise, the bowl was filled with a tasty array of sausage, brisket, hamburger meat, onions, peppers, and beans.

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

1:30 p.m. Cruising downtown, I noticed a number of bright signs that led me to **L G Lemons Artist Gallery and Studio**. Local artist Larry G. Lemons' work is colorful, quirky, and very Texan—almost every painting incorporates the Lone Star flag. My favorite was a flag-painted armadillo standing below a starry sky.

2 p.m. Lured in by neon signs, I found myself in the **Horton Classic Car Museum** with three huge rooms packed bumper-to-bumper with vintage autos. There were pristine cars of every make and design. Most fascinating were the 36 Chevy Corvettes, including a one-of-a-kind Corvette station wagon.

3:30 p.m. Eager for more history, I headed to the **Tales 'N' Trails Museum**, which boasts a collection of more than 5,000 arrowheads. Multiple rooms paid tribute to Nocona's leather history, including one with an 8-foot-wide tooled leather diorama of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

6 p.m. For dinner, I found Italian heaven at **Red River Pizzeria**. I went straight for the Murph, a thin-crust pizza piled high with meats and veggies. Then, I filled what little room I had left in my stomach with the Rico

Road, a dessert pizza smothered in chocolate, caramel, marshmallows, cookie bites, and Nutella.

7:30 p.m. Afterward, I stopped into the old Nocona Boot Factory once more, but this

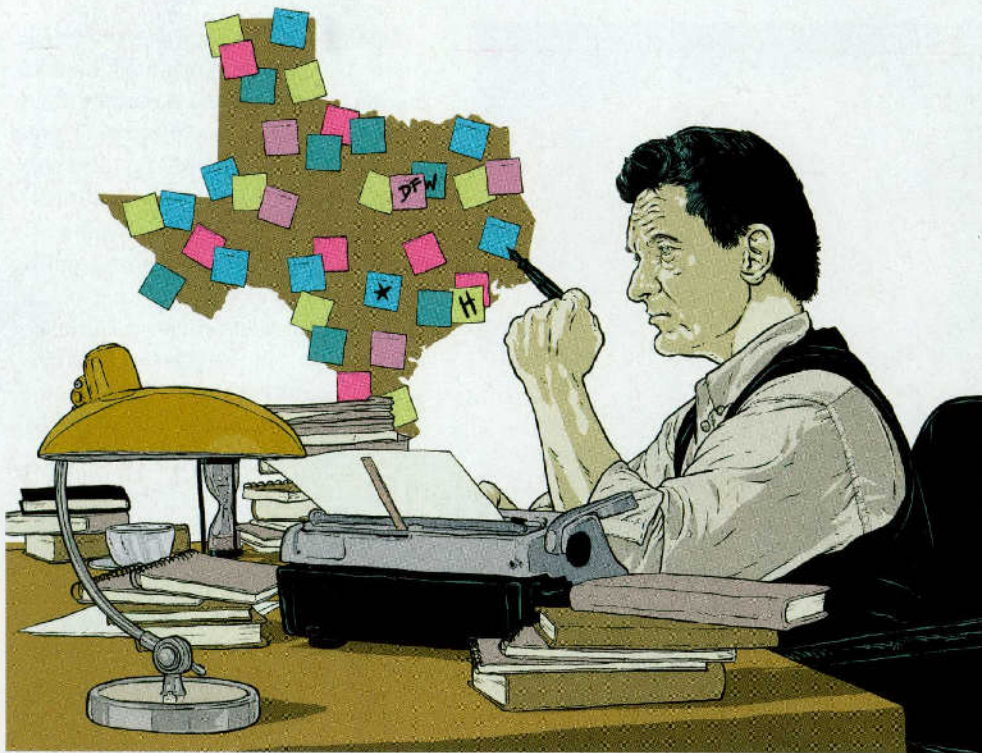
time for a nightcap at **Nocona Beer and Brewery**. I grabbed a Nocona Sunset Amber Ale and found a spot on the patio to watch the real thing.

It seemed fitting that my day full of leather and Texas traditions should come to an end in an old boot factory. It was clear that Nocona has the perfect mix of historic past and bright future. So whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **L**

Contact the Nocona Chamber of Commerce at 940-825-3526; nocona.org

TRAVEL MATTERS

TRAVEL TALK WITH TRUE TEXANS



In His Own Wright

Pulitzer Prize-winning author offers a prayer for Texas

Story by Michael Hoinski

LAWRENCE WRIGHT DOESN'T DO WELL WITH DOWNTIME.

"I'm horrible, just horrible," Wright says, lounging in his west Austin home. "I cannot stand not having something to do."

Along with restlessness comes a curiosity and commitment to deep-dive into dangerous and labyrinthine subjects like terrorist organizations, the Church of Scientology, and the Satanic underground. That exacting combination has earned the author and staff writer for *The New Yorker* a year for the ages.

Wright, 71, welcomed 2018 with the Hulu miniseries *The Looming Tower*, based on his 2007 Pulitzer Prize-winning book about Al-Qaeda and 9/11. Then came the world premiere of his play *Cleo*, about the love affair between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton during filming of the 1963 epic *Cleopatra*. Most recently, Wright played a key role in the acclaimed documentary *Three Identical Strangers*, which is informed by a study he unearthed in his 1997 book, *Twins*.

That leaves Wright's new book, *God Save Texas*, a state survey combining history, memoir, travelogue, journalism, and essays. It is both a boot to the backside of the state's bravado and a tip of the hat to its spirit, with subtle humor and personal anecdotes gleaned from covering the state for *Texas Monthly* and, since 1992, *The New Yorker*. The book grew out of a *New Yorker* article prompted by the magazine's editor, David Remnick, who challenged Wright to explain Texas.

"I exercise every day. It's part of my creative process. When I'm running, I carry note cards and a pen, and just keep the thoughts raw."

Born in Oklahoma, Wright grew up in Abilene and Dallas and, after venturing off to Cairo, Egypt, and other locales, was lured back to Texas after a magical night in 1979, when he saw Asleep at the Wheel and a young George Strait perform at Gruene Hall. He has lived in Austin, where he moonlights as keyboardist in the band WhoDo, pretty much ever since.

Q: Why did you decide to start *God Save Texas* with a story about a bike ride with fellow writer Stephen Harrigan?

A: Steve and I ride bikes every Monday morning. Steve proposed that we go down and do the Mission Trail. We were driving down to San Antonio, and he said, "We need to make a stop at Buc-ee's." I thought, when I got into the place, "This is where I'm going to begin my book." And so it was more Buc-ee's than the Mission Trail. The nice thing about the Mission Trail, it is sort of where Texas history routinely begins. So this is a way of tying the present and the past together.

Q: Traveling around the state to report *God Save Texas*, what city were you impressed with?

A: Houston. When I was growing up in Dallas, we looked down on Houston, being kind of a roughneck, country music, barbecue spot. But Houston is a city that has taken diversity and made it really work. It's got a lot of problems—it's facing a tremendous challenge because of climate change—but the spirit of the city was wonderful. I thought, "This city, it's really hopping."

Q: What did you do to pass the time as a kid in Abilene?

A: I was pretty serious about baseball back then. I had an old mattress that

> continued on page 94

SIGHTSEER

GO, SEE, DO—TAKING IN TEXAS



WHAT: STONEHENGE II **WHERE:** THE HILL COUNTRY ARTS FOUNDATION, 120 POINT THEATRE ROAD IN INGRAM **WHEN:** DAWN TO DUSK

Full Circle

Stonehenge II in the Hill Country is a monument to a monument

No one really knows why the early Britons built their mysterious monument we now call Stonehenge. Originally a burial ground, perhaps, the circle of stones has stood in England for thousands of years. We do know why two fellows built the Texas version in the Hill Country nearly three decades ago: for fun. Al Shepperd and his neighbor Doug Hill took nine months to erect the homage on Shepperd's land in Hunt in 1989. When Shepperd died five years later, the megalithic ring—90 percent as tall and 60 percent as wide as the original—was moved to the Hill Country Arts Foundation in Ingram. There it stands not far from the Guadalupe River, as mysterious as ever, near two replicas of Easter Island heads. Free. **Call 830-367-5121; hcaf.com/stonehenge-ii**



Cuero
TURKEYFEST

October 12-14

Featuring
Wade Bowen



IBCA BBQ Cook-Off • Family Events & More!

Live Music • Food • Turkey Race • Parade

CUERO

shop ★ play ★ stay

Contact us to book your next getaway!

www.Cuero.org ★ 361-275-2112