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# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

## True, Texas

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NEW BRIDGE, ACL LIVE'S  
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& CLASSIC BARBECUE

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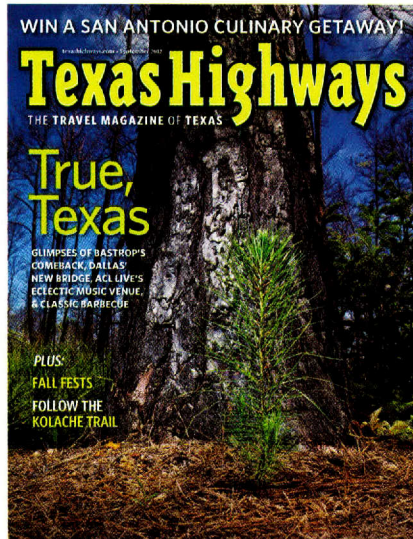
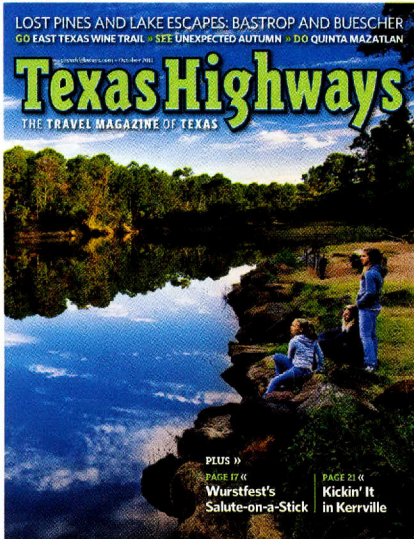
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OCTOBER 2011 COVER PHOTO BY STAN A. WILLIAMS

The October 2011 issue (cover above left), featuring the lush pines of Bastrop State Park, landed in readers' hands the week the disastrous wildfire swept the area. This issue's cover (above right), along with a collection of photos online at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com), offers an early view of the slow rebuilding of that landscape.

## How *True* is True?



*TH* presents images of Bastrop's resilience, Dallas' innovation, and visual references to other resonating *True, Texas*, traits

**T**HIS ISSUE marks the third conceptual visit the *Texas Highways* staff has made to True, Texas, population 1,836. Initially, True was proclaimed a "community of the imagination," and it was characterized in the magazine's pages with picturesque landmarks typical of a Texas small town. Not just an idealized Texas town, but one with enough personality to make the impression less "typical" and more "eccentric."

As we built a visual record of the original True, we looked for many of the traits that defined community: an original movie palace with marquee; a friendly, if possibly careworn café; a proud courthouse; and a generations-old retail store. Not all the sites chosen were found in small towns. Some came from city neighborhoods. But all ultimately contributed to a definite sense of the retro small town.

This year, our trip to True, Texas, has taken on an additional dimension. There's less nostalgia and significantly more sense of contemporary identity. The approach questions legacy from a more poignant perspective. Looking back at the drama of 2011, adjectives like "resilient" and "innovative" seemed more important for 2012. And Texas is always seeking its own "true" identity in spite of an overwhelming desire from popular culture and media attention to stereotype.

**➔ Win a San Antonio Getaway** Take a look at the photograph on the inside back cover and see if you know where in Texas you are. If the answer is "Yes," then enter the contest and you might win a few days in San Antonio, where you'll enjoy some great food and possibly learn a few extra cooking ideas for yourself.

*Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor-in-Chief*  
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P.S. "**True**" Grit? Make plans to visit Snyder for the John Wayne Film Festival, which shows 15 films between August 31 and September 2. That's about when the North Zone dove season begins, so you can kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. Go to [www.johnwaynefilmfest.com](http://www.johnwaynefilmfest.com).

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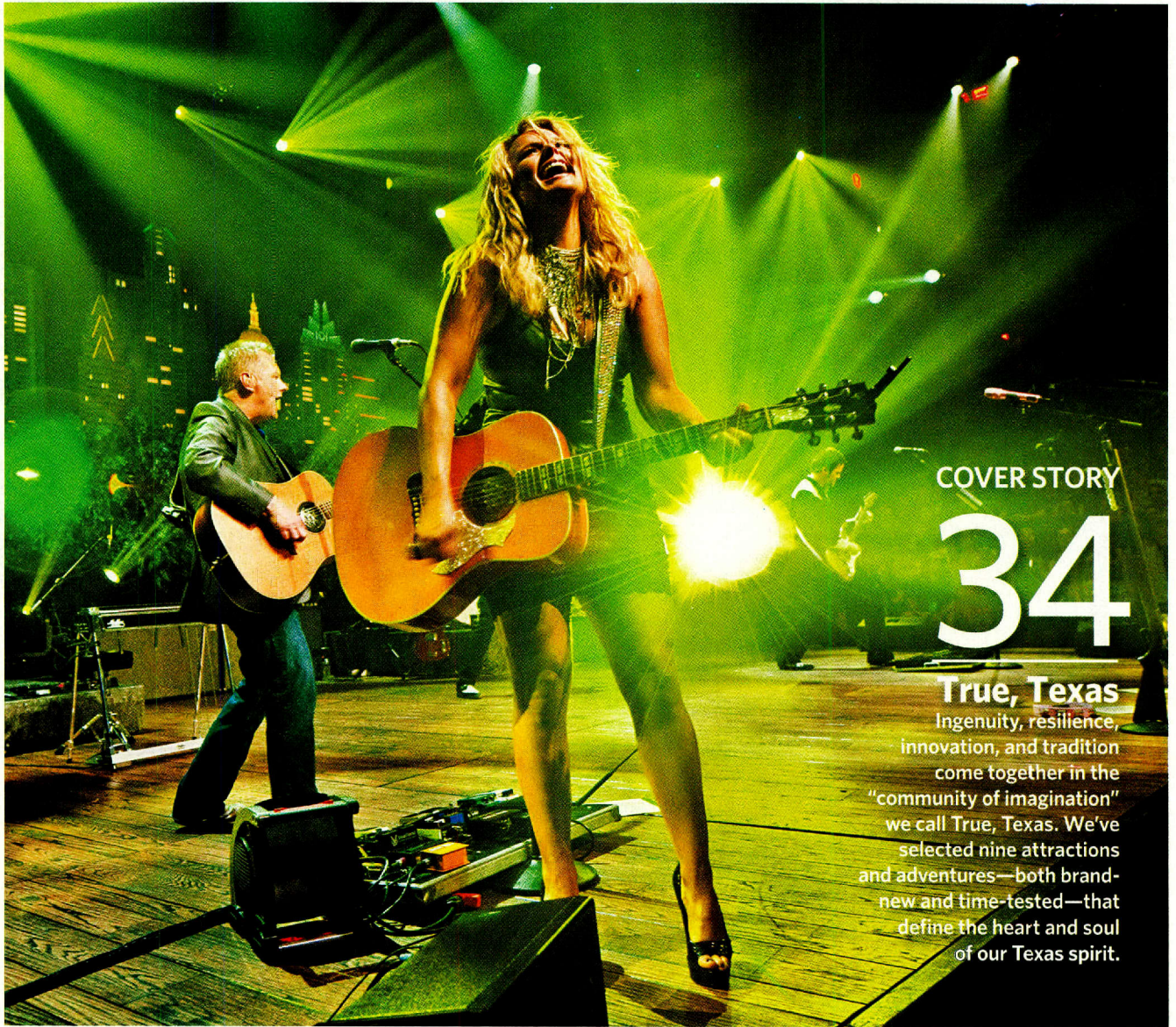
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COVER STORY

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**True, Texas**

Ingenuity, resilience, innovation, and tradition come together in the “community of imagination” we call True, Texas. We’ve selected nine attractions and adventures—both brand-new and time-tested—that define the heart and soul of our Texas spirit.

features

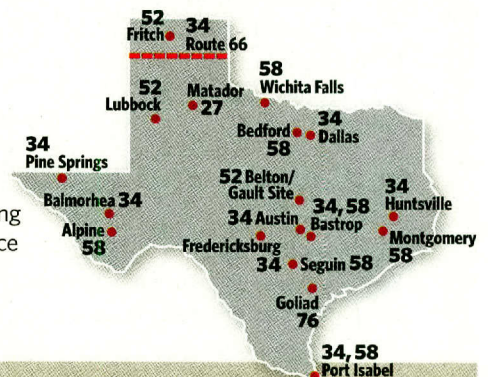
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Text by **DALE WEISMAN**

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Text by **CLAIRE RONNER**

Check out [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) for more travel information

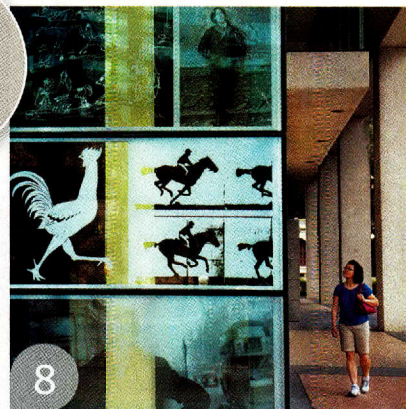




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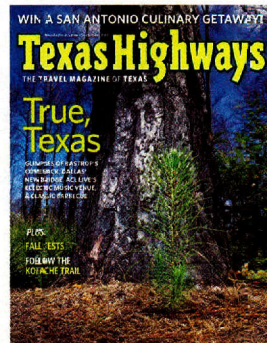
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### About Our Covers

**FRCNT:** A pine seedling sprouts from the ashes at Bastrop State Park, a poignant reminder that even in the aftermath of disaster, life returns. **Photo by J. Griffis Smith**

**BACK:** A life-size sculpture at Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark depicts the Columbian mammoth, one of the many creatures that lived in the area during the Pleistocene epoch. **Photo by Michael Amador**

### Photographic Prints Available

Some images in this issue, including the front and back covers, are available as prints in two formats. For more information, call toll-free 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).





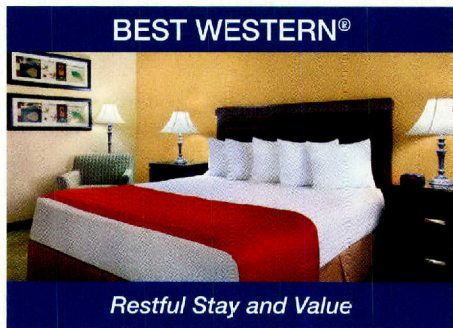
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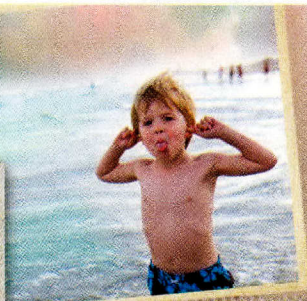
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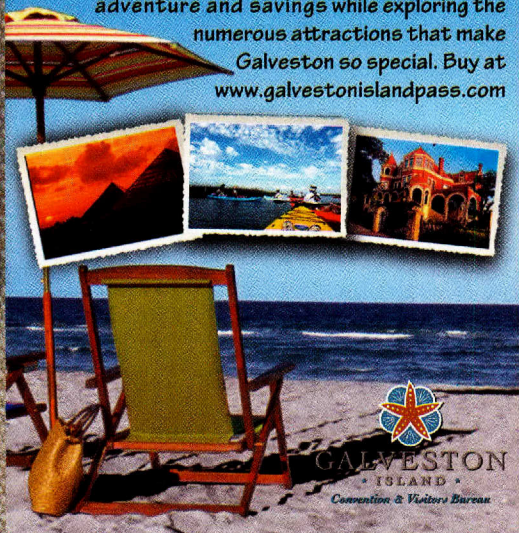


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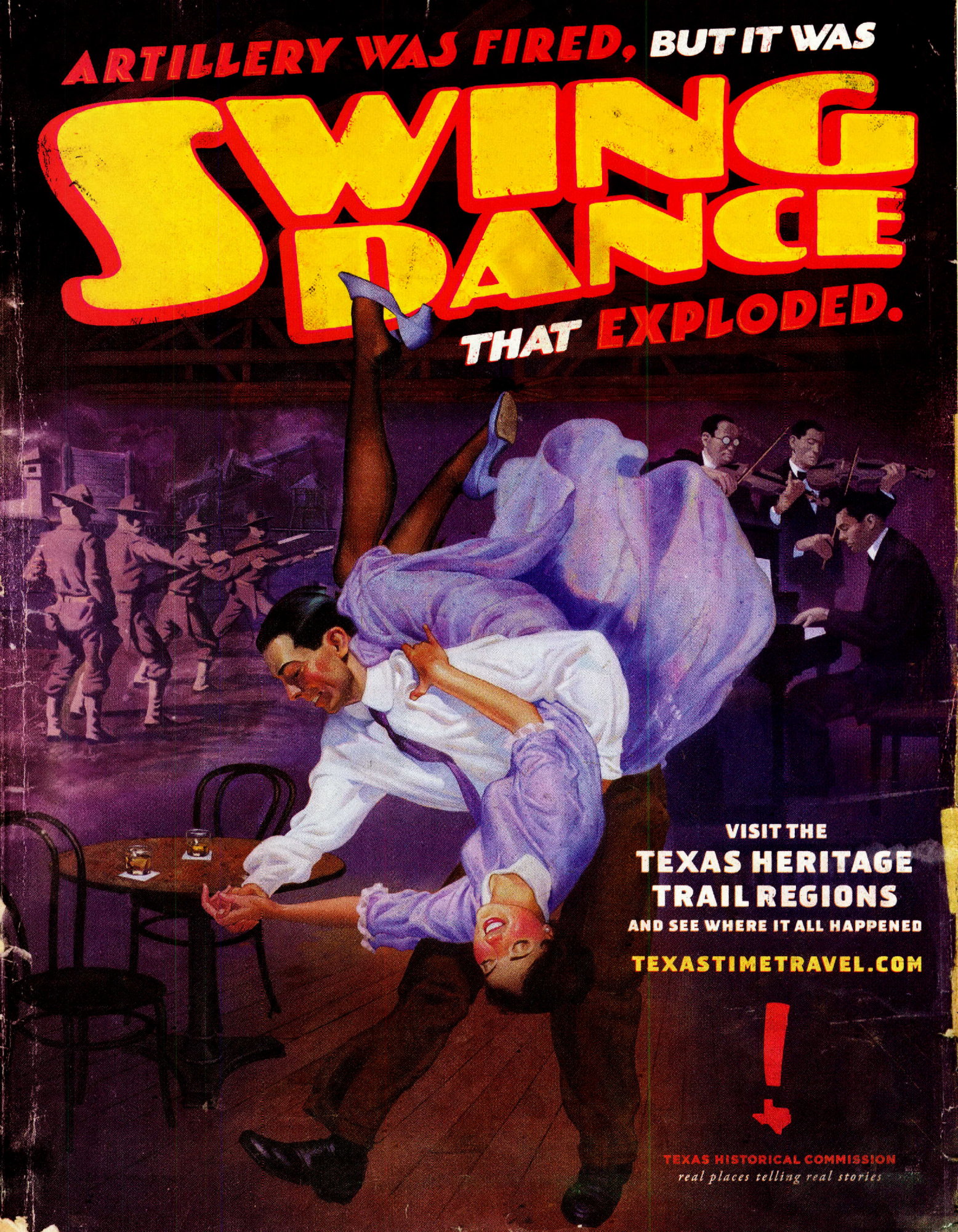
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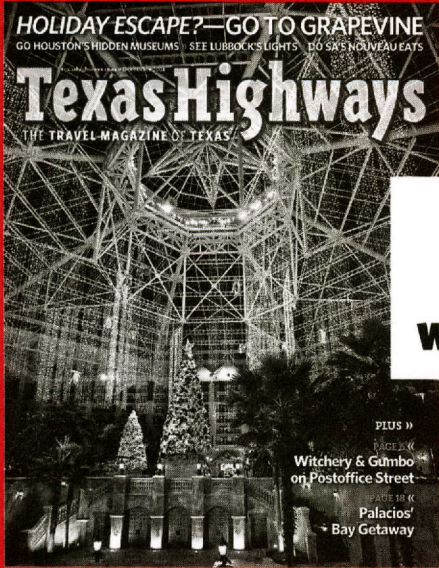


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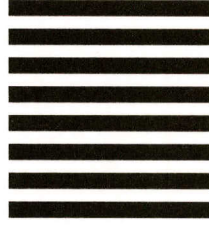
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## Peacock's Inspiration

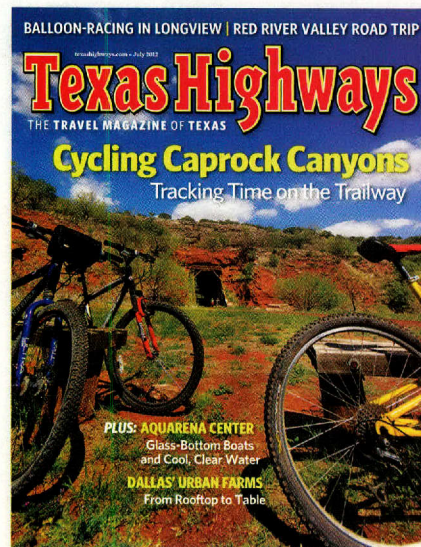
I would like to thank Randy Malory and *TH* for the great insight provided by the article on the late Howard Peacock [Speaking of Texas, July]. About eight years ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to go to the Big Thicket to do research for a fisheries class. I got a little closer than most people to the diverse range of fish species around that area. Although it was November and the water was freezing, I had an amazing time. After reading the article, I will definitely be getting my camping gear together to take a weekend trip to the Thicket. I'm grateful for people like Howard Peacock who dedicate their lives to nature so that others can enjoy it.

**JOHN MASON KYMES, Houston**

More  
*TH* Talk at [www.texashighways.com/talk](http://www.texashighways.com/talk)

"Great July issue. I really enjoyed the stories on Aquarena Center and Howard Peacock."

—ROY CONNER,  
Fort Worth



## Warm Welcome

I love Texas and I look forward to *TH* arriving every month to keep me up to date. We are coming back again in October for two weeks, and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico is in the cards for my husband. We are also going to explore the Hill Country with friends from Garland. We quite fancy the idea of retiring to Texas and saying goodbye to our chilly weather here in the UK. Best wishes to all Texans—yours really is "The Friendship State."

**EILEEN AUSTIN, Bognor Regis, UK**

## Play by the Bay

I enjoyed John T. Davis' "Bayside Bliss" article [June]. The community of Shoreacres is still recovering from Hurricane Ike, but looking better and better. We have scenic Miramar Drive right along the bay, adjacent to the Houston Yacht Club. We do enjoy our neighbors and the surrounding entertainment venues. Thanks for informing *TH* readers about our area—there's plenty to see and do!

**RICHARD ADAMS, Shoreacres**

## Topnotch Tacos

After reading Charles Lohrmann's article about Del Norte Tacos [*TH* Taste, May], my husband and I decided to give it a try while in the Fort Worth area. We went to the Godley location and it certainly lived up to our expectations. Our group tried a variety of different dishes and we were not disappointed. The food was excellent and the staff friendly and attentive. We recommend Del Norte to anyone looking for a great place to eat.

**KATHY HOWELL, San Augustine**

## TH READER RECOMMENDATION

### Turf and Surf

**TH HAS** given me so many great finds, I feel it is my turn to pay you back. In **Benchley**, you can taste the most amazing burger at the very rustic **Top Of The Hill Grocery and Grill**. My taste buds have been ruined to eat burgers anywhere else. Enjoy, and wear stretchy pants!

**FABI PAYTON, Bryan**

*Top of the Hill Grocery and Grill is at 2444 Lakewood Dr., 979/778-6911.*

**WE ATE AT Shrimpy's Seafood in Madisonville**—located (surprisingly) in an RV park. The food is excellent and the prices reasonable. They even have fried alligator and frog legs—and world-famous (or at least state-famous) bread pudding.

**KIM SMITH, Marquez**

*Shrimpy's Seafood is at 3239 I-45 S., 936/348-9450; [www.shrimpys-seafood.com](http://www.shrimpys-seafood.com).*

## CONTACT TH

**We want to hear from you!** Send feedback and recommendations to: *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. Email: [letters05@texashighways.com](mailto:letters05@texashighways.com). We reserve the right to edit items. Because we're unable to check out every recommendation, and because hours vary and details can change, please call ahead for more information.

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# Postcards

➔ INSIDE: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST KOLACHES...20 FUN IN MATADOR (AND THAT'S NO BULL!)...27



## TH tip

See national authors at Texas Book Festival in Austin (Oct. 27-28)

## Legends of Texas Literature

Seeking inspiration from the lives of famous authors Text by **TERRI SCHEXNAYDER**

**W**HEN I SEE A QUILL PEN OR 1800s writing desk, I yearn for the days of low-tech writing. I imagine the flow of black ink as the writer commits his words to paper, or the clacking of the typewriter keys as a novel or short story unfolds. And as a writer living in the Hill Country, I delight in the variety of historic places and literary events available when I seek inspiration from

the lives of authors who came before me.

One of my favorite literary museums is the quaint Queen Anne cottage in downtown Austin that served as home to William Sidney Porter (1862-1910), better known as O. Henry, who lived here from 1893-1895 with his wife, Athol, and their daughter Margaret.

As I step from the shaded porch into the hallway of the O. Henry Museum,

my attention is drawn to the rosewood piano displayed in the cozy parlor to the left. Athol once practiced her childhood lessons on the beautiful instrument, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, and it was later donated to the museum. The large landscape

Etched-glass windows at Austin's Harry Ransom Center showcase images from literature, film, and other cultural arts.

PHOTO: MICHAEL AMADOR





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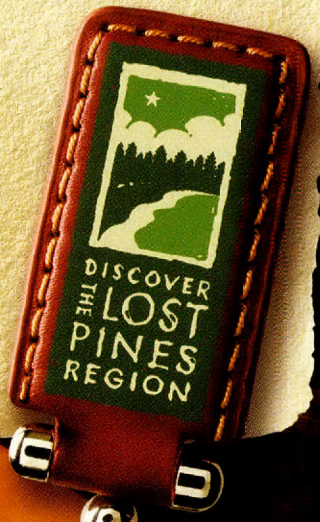


*Benny, Benny's Texas BBQ*



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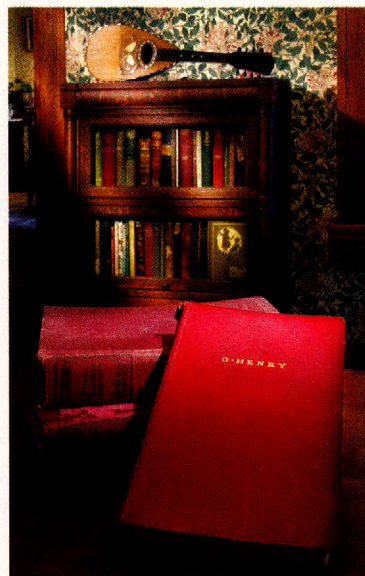
# Postcards

print hanging above the piano, as well as the two wicker rocking chairs in the bedroom across the hall, were purchased with money that Will saved to finance Athol's dream trip to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Instead, she used the money to purchase the furnishings for their Austin home.

"His wife's act of selflessness was perhaps the inspiration for O. Henry's Christ-

mas short story classic, *Gifts of the Magi*," explains Michael Hoinski, the museum's culture and arts education coordinator. "He wrote about what he knew."

My tour through the four-room museum reveals more items belonging to the family, such as Margaret's doll furniture and O. Henry's chair and his drafting table, spread with reproductions of maps that he made while employed with



the Texas General Land Office.

"The home is also the first National Literary Landmark in Texas, a lasting testament to the days when O. Henry first seriously attempted his career as a writer and publish-

In the late 1800s, writer O. Henry lived in this Austin home, now a museum.

This act of selflessness was perhaps the inspiration for O. Henry's Christmas short story classic, *Gifts of the Magi*.

er of *The Rolling Stone*," Hoinski notes.

Next, I head south of Austin to Kyle to visit the childhood home of Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980), third cousin to William Sidney and the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the 1962 novel *Ship of Fools*. After her mother died in 1892,

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# Postcards

Porter (born Callie Russell) came to live with her father and three siblings in what was then a two-room house owned by her grandmother.

Preservation and expansion efforts, launched in 1997, ensured that the original exterior, beautiful doors, and wood floor remained in the new, expanded home. While the house no longer contains any of Porter's family possessions, the colorful

braided rugs, delicate lace doilies decorating side chairs, and the ornate dining table and sideboard represent furnishings from Porter's childhood days.

The Katherine Anne Porter House was designated as a National Literary Landmark in 2002, and in 2006 was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The house is occupied by a resident writer and graduate of the Texas State Uni-



versity-San Marcos Master of Fine Arts program, so tours are available by appointment only.

**The Katherine Anne Porter House in Kyle offers author readings and tours by appointment.**

"Our visitors do like to come see the home of a Pulitzer Prize winner," notes Katie Angermeier, the

Pulitzer-Prize winner Katherine Anne Porter's home in Kyle is open for tours by appointment, and hosts author readings.

home's current writer-in-residence. "They often sit out here and talk about books."

In the fall and spring, the Katherine Anne Porter House hosts author readings and book signings by such authors as Kevin Brockmeier (Sep. 7), Olga Broumas (Sep. 28), and [continued on page 14]

PHOTO: J. GRIFFIS SMITH

## KERRVILLE, TEXAS

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**River Star Music Series**  
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830-896-5711

**An Evening of Comedy**  
Sep. 28th - Oct. 20th  
Hill Country Arts Found.  
[www.hcaf.com](http://www.hcaf.com)  
830-367-5121

**Symphony of the Hills Concert-  
"Back to Rock"**  
Oct. 4th  
[www.symphonyofthehills.com/tickets](http://www.symphonyofthehills.com/tickets)  
830-896-9393

**Kerrville Wine & Music Festival**  
Aug. 31st - Sep. 2nd  
[www.kerrville-music.com](http://www.kerrville-music.com)  
800-435-8429

**"Crimes of the Heart"**  
Sep. 7th - 22nd  
Playhouse 2000  
[www.caillouxtheater.com](http://www.caillouxtheater.com)  
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# Threads of Picasso

The *San Antonio Museum of Art* presents *Picasso's Guernica*

**Do!**

Visit free Tuesdays  
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## VISITORS TO THE SAN ANTONIO

Museum of Art who look closely at the architecture of the building may notice signs of its previous life as the Lone Star Brewery—most visibly in the star details of the facade and former Hops House (now the museum's café). Inside, the museum presents galleries dedicated to Latin American masterpieces, Asian antiquities, art of the ancient Mediterranean, and contemporary art ranging from photography to sculpture. It's one of the city's many "don't miss" attractions on or near the River Walk.

Since the museum's opening in 1981 after an extensive renovation of the 1880s brewery building, the museum has heralded its extensive collection of Latin American folk art, pre-Columbian antiquities, and Spanish Colonial pieces, much of it donated in 1985 by the eld-



This 1955 tapestry is one of three woven copies of Picasso's famous *Guernica*.

est daughter of philanthropist and politician Nelson A. Rockefeller, who traveled (and collected) extensively in Latin America in between his official duties.

The museum's relationship with the Rockefeller family continues to benefit visitors: In May of this year, the family loaned the museum a 25-foot-long tapestry of Picasso's 1930s cubist painting *Guernica*, widely regarded as an expression of the atrocities of war. One of three woven "copies" of *Guernica*, for many years the tapestry hung at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The original painting now hangs at the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid. But you don't have to travel to Spain to see the iconic work; the tapestry is on indefinite loan here in Texas. Call 210/978-8100; [www.samuseum.org](http://www.samuseum.org). —Lori Moffatt

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Lineup TBA this summer at [ToyotaTexasBassClassic.com](http://ToyotaTexasBassClassic.com).

Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival - October 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Josh Abbott Band, the Trishas to name a few!

The Texas 10 Conroe - Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
a running event for all ages.

All of this and more at

[PlayInConroe.com/events.cfm](http://PlayInConroe.com/events.cfm).



1-877-426-6763



© continued from page 12] S.C. Gwynne (Oct. 19), usually on the heels of a previous day's appearance at the nearby Wittliff Collections galleries on the campus of Texas State University at San Marcos.

I decide to find out more about the Wittliff Collections, which are housed in a series of welcoming galleries on the seventh floor of the Alkek Library. Founded in 1986 by Texas screenwriter and photographer Bill Wittliff and his wife, Sally, the Wittliff Collections have expanded over the years and now include the Southwestern Writers Collection, the Lonesome

## Pleasure on the Pier

*Galveston's fabled amusement park is back!*

**IN THE LATE 1940S, SOLDIERS AND** their dates danced in an enormous ballroom or watched outdoor movies on a 1,130-foot-long pier over the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston. After World War II, the city took over the structure and named it Pleasure Pier; its rides, aquarium, and fishing area made for a popular family destination until Hurricane Carla struck in 1961. The Flagship Hotel, the only hotel in North America built entirely over water, operated here from 1965 until 2008, when another hurricane, Ike, destroyed it.

Today, the iconic pier beckons once again as Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, a 16-ride amusement park with a traditional double-decker carousel, 100-foot-tall Ferris wheel, roller coaster, and the 200-foot Texas Star Flyer swing ride (great views!), plus an arcade and eight dining options—all a few stories above the waves.

Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier is at 25th and Seawall. An all-day ride pass costs \$26.99 adults, \$21.99 for children (under 41 inches tall). Walk-on pass: \$10 adults, \$8 children (rides not included). Call 855/789-7437; [www.pleasurepier.com](http://www.pleasurepier.com).

—Melissa Gaskill



Dove Collection, and the Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection. Curator Steven Davis leads me to the first display from the Writers Collection, which

Cormac McCarthy's papers came here in 2009 after many years of conversations between McCarthy and Bill Wittliff.



showcases the notes and drafts of Cormac McCarthy, presently the most researched writer at the Wittliff.

“Cormac McCarthy’s papers came here in 2009 after many years of conversations between McCarthy and Bill Wittliff. The McCarthy archive draws

researchers from all over the world, along with students at Texas State,” Davis tells me. “We developed this permanent, rotating exhibit of McCarthy papers so that visitors to the Collection can get a glimpse of his creative process.”

In an adjacent gallery, the Lonesome

Dove Collection showcases written ephemera by *Lonesome Dove* author Larry McMurtry, as well as the film archives of the popular television

See memorabilia from the book and TV miniseries *Lonesome Dove* at the Wittliff Collections in San Marcos.

## FALL FUN on the COAST

### EVENTS:

**Sept 13th ~16th**  
Rice Festival, Bay City

**Sept 15th**  
Market Day on the Square, Bay City

**Sept 22nd**  
LCRA Guided Kayaking Trip, Matagorda

**Sept 29th**  
Beach Cleanup Day, Matagorda & Sargent

**Oct 6th**  
Pedal Palacios Bike Ride MS 150 Qualifying Ride

**Oct 20th**  
Bull Blast Rodeo, MC Fairgrounds

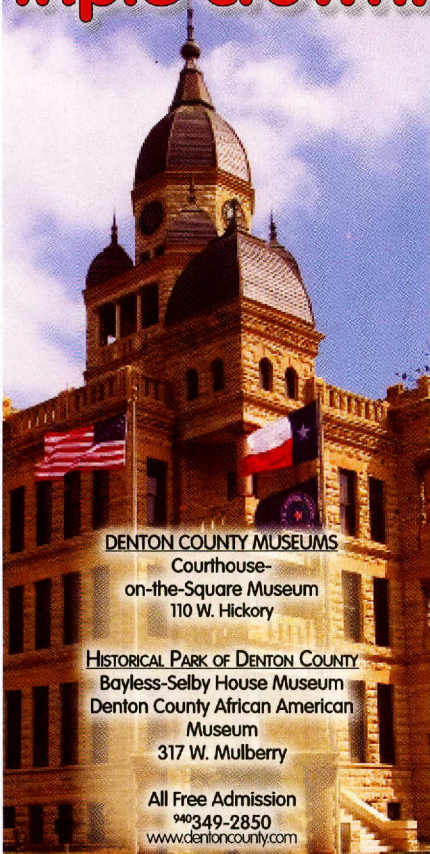


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# Up, Up, and Away!

*The Plano Balloon Festival takes to the skies*



## THE SKIES ABOVE PLANO NORMALLY OFFER VIEWS

of cumulus clouds and the occasional airplane headed into the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. For three days starting September 21, however, the more than 60 colorful hot-air balloons soaring overhead during the 33rd annual Plano Balloon Festival create a multicolored dreamscape worthy of a Pixar film.

Events throughout the weekend include concerts, street dances, parachute exhibitions, a fireworks show, a kids' area with a rock-climbing wall and other games, and of course, the main attraction: balloons soaring, balloons maneuvering, and balloons illuminated against the night sky. All events take place at Plano's Oak Point Park.

"It's a very peaceful type of flight," says pilot Win Myers of Frisco, who commenced his balloon fascination 15 years ago and now competes with his wife, Velma, in hot-air-balloon festivals throughout Texas and New Mexico. "The crowd is so close to you, and they all cheer when you fly overhead," he says. "For the Plano festival, we like for the prevailing winds to come from the south; that way, we can fly from downtown Plano up north to McKinney, where there are lots of open places to land."

A quick anatomy lesson: Hot-air balloons are comprised of three parts: the envelope (the balloon itself), the basket, and the burner system. You can learn more by chatting with pilots and crew, who are most able to visit during the event's popular balloon "glows"—when pilots fire up the burners while still tethered to the earth, inflating the envelopes like 40-foot lightbulbs. "We do four glows, on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and on Friday and Saturday nights," says Myers. "We invite people onto the field to ask questions. That's when the interaction is, and when people start thinking about getting into ballooning themselves. It's more fun than flying a plane."

Call 972/867-7566; [www.planoballoonfest.org](http://www.planoballoonfest.org).

—Lori Moffatt

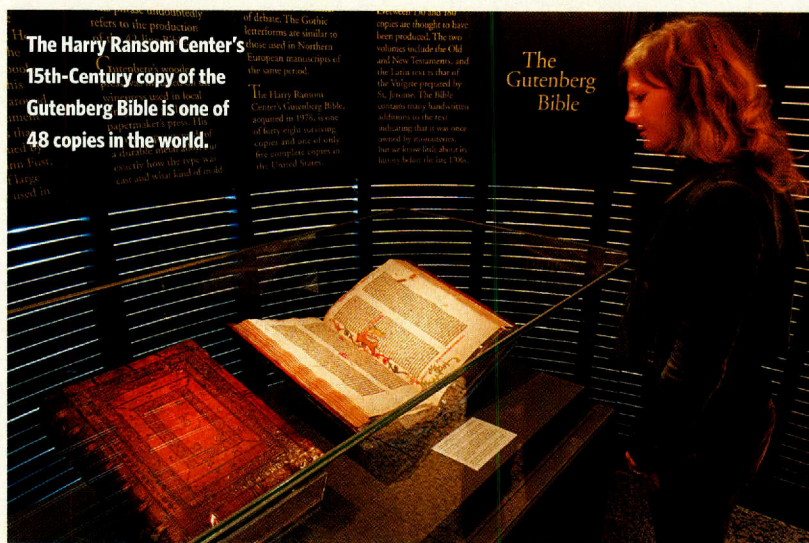
**The Plano Balloon Festival offers three days of balloon flights, concerts, dances, and fireworks.**



miniseries, photographs from the set, and dozens of props and costumes.

Finally, I return to Austin, where I make frequent visits to the Harry Ransom Center on the University of Texas cam-

The first display to greet me inside is the Ransom Center's copy of the Gutenberg Bible, one of 48 copies in the world.



pus for quiet and enrichment. The internationally renowned humanities and research center allows visitors to access its vast archives by registering in the reading room, but the more casual tourist can explore the center via its permanent

and temporary exhibitions, which include explorations of theater, film, design, photography, and architecture.

The glass windows at the entry, created during a major renovation in 2003,

feature more than 140 panels etched with manuscript excerpts and portraits of writers such as Oscar Wilde, J. Frank Dobie, and E.E. Cummings, as well as artists in many other fields.

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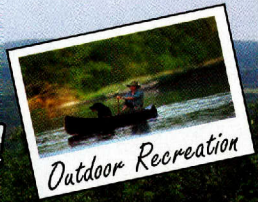
2111 W. Park Ave., Orange, Texas  
409.670.9113 • [shangrilagardens.org](http://shangrilagardens.org)

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is a program of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation. © 2012 Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation. All Rights Reserved.

PHOTO: STAN A. WILLIAMS



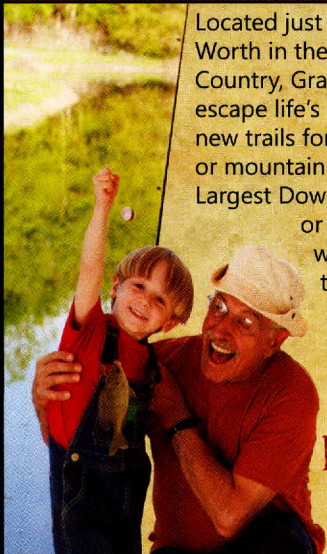
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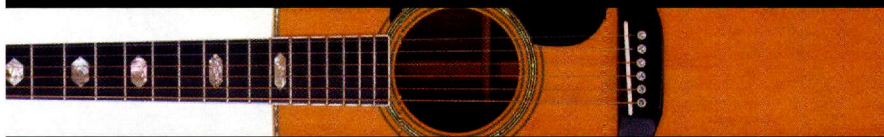


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROADS

### *Kerrville Wine & Music Festival* Featuring First-Ever Texas BeerFest!

Aug 31 - Sept 2, 2012  
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[kerrville-music.com](http://kerrville-music.com)

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The first display to greet me inside is the center's copy of the Gutenberg Bible, one of 48 copies in the world. The Bible, named for Johann Gutenberg of Mainz, Germany, is the first complete book

The Ransom Center's entry features more than 140 panels etched with manuscript excerpts and portraits of artists.

printed with moveable type, circa 1455. The wealth of literature represented at the center includes the manuscripts of Charlotte Brontë, Norman Mailer, Edgar Allan Poe, and David Foster Wallace.

"We welcome visitors, students, and scholars to the Ransom Center, as we continue to build and care for collections that make it a required stop on any cultural tour," says Director Thomas F. Staley.

I couldn't agree more. These literary jewels, open for free to the public, are "must do" experiences during your travels through the Texas Hill Country. **TR**

### Read All About It

The **O. Henry House** is at 409 E. 5th Street in **Austin**. Call 512/472-1903; [www.ohenrymuseum.org](http://www.ohenrymuseum.org).

The **Katherine Anne Porter House** is at 508 Center St. in **Kyle**. Tours are by appointment only. Call 512/268-6637; [www.english.txstate.edu/KAP](http://www.english.txstate.edu/KAP).

The **Wittliff Collections** are in the Alkek Library, on the campus of Texas State University in **San Marcos**. Call 512/245-2313; [www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu](http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu).

The **Harry Ransom Center** is at 300 W. 21st St., on the UT campus in **Austin**. Call 512/471-8944; [www.hrc.utexas.edu](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu).





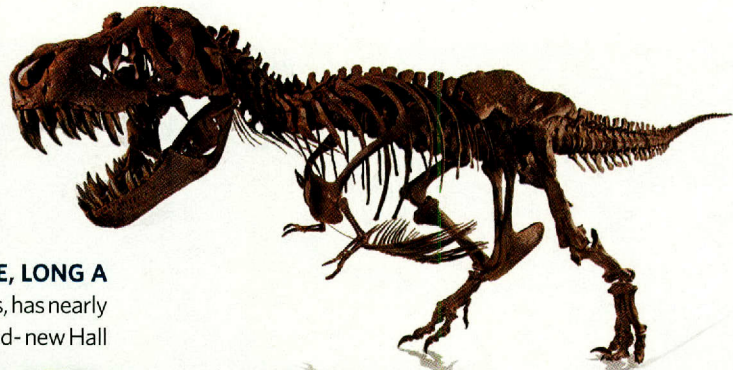
## Beauty and the Beast

*A new paleontology hall in Houston*

**THE HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE, LONG A** destination for those curious about how the world works, has nearly doubled its exhibition and education space with its brand-new Hall of Paleontology. The innovative 30,000-square-foot hall is as long as a football field and highlights 60 major new mounts, including one of the best-preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons ever found.

Unlike dinosaur skeletons you may have seen before, the dinosaur mounts here are displayed in lifelike poses, so you'll see how ancient pterosaurs managed to nest with their 30-foot wingspans, how *T. rex* stalked its prey, and how the shark-like, marine monster *Megalodon* ambushed a prehistoric swimming elephant.

Other items on display include a piece of touchable fossilized dinosaur skin, one of the world's largest collections of gem-quality

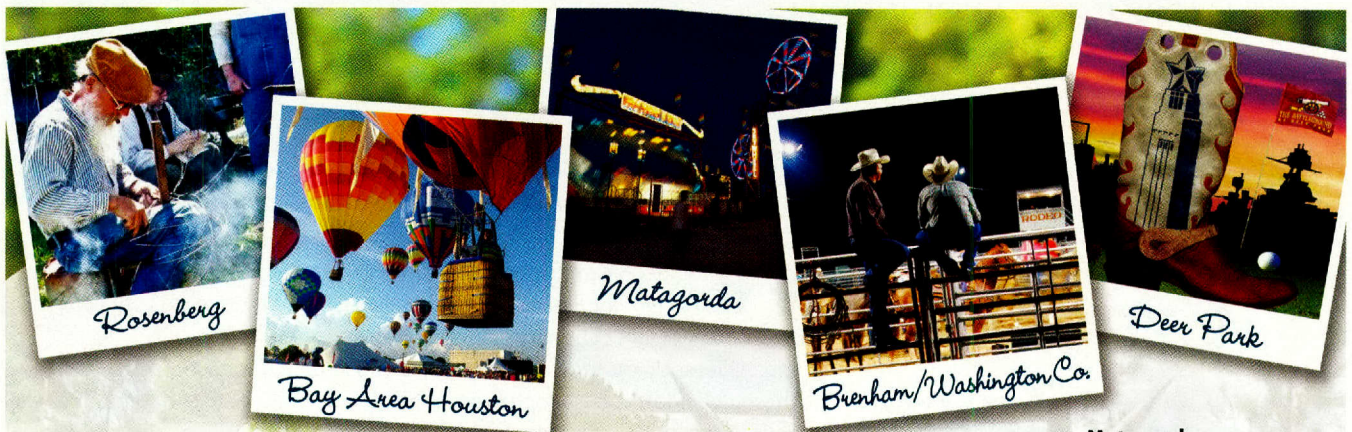


**Go!**  
Check out the planetarium for another perspective

petrified wood, a display of petrified poop (proof of prehistoric diets!), more than 100 preserved marine trilobites, and a virtual aquarium, where fossils come to life thanks to digital magic.

Robert T. Bakker, the museum's Curator of Paleontology and one of Steven Spielberg's advisors on the 1993 film *Jurassic Park*, envisioned the hall as presenting a "prehistoric safari" that introduces visitors not only to the animals' struggle for survival but also to the correlating saga of human evolution. How *did* it all unfold? Call 713/639-4629; [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).  
—Lori Moffatt

**Dinosaurs and other creatures strike lifelike poses at Houston's new Hall of Paleontology.**



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## Czech Out the Texas Kolache Trail

*These pillowy pastries evoke Czech tradition with each delicious bite*

Text by **LES THOMAS**

**W**HEN I TAKE MY PLACE IN LINE, NEARLY a dozen people are ahead of me in front of the bakery counter at the Czech Stop in the town of West. That wouldn't be surprising—except that it's almost 3 a.m. At least I'm not the only traveler who's addicted to kolaches—delicious, yeast-dough pastries filled with fruit, meat, and sometimes vegetables. Even in the wee hours of the morning on a late-night drive to Austin, I can't pass up the 24/7 bakery that's the Valhalla of the kolache world. Some people measure trips in miles. I measure them in how many of the tasty Czech treats I can eat along the way.

"They're the perfect road food," says Barbara Schissler, CEO and president of the Czech Stop, a bustling store and bakery that opened 29 years ago on the I-35 access road and has been selling kolaches and other treats nonstop ever since. West is one of many sources for kolaches, a food tradition Czech settlers brought with them when they immigrated to Texas in the 19th Century. The best ones are still made by hand with love and pride, and served warm. And they're still a comfort when you're a long way from home. Don't miss these stops on the Texas Kolache Trail.

**A few blocks from I-35 in the town of West, the Village Bakery makes kolaches from a recipe developed by the owner's Czech grandmother.**

**Make it!**

Kolache recipe at [texashighways.com/thtaste](http://texashighways.com/thtaste)



You can smell the tantalizing aroma of dough baking in a gas-fired oven a few steps behind the counter.

### Village Bakery, West

Visit the Village Bakery in a cozy 1903 building in downtown West on an early morning, and you can smell the tantalizing aroma of dough baking in a vintage, gas-fired oven a few steps behind the counter. “The oven is part of our secret,” says co-owner Mimi Montgomery. “It takes years to season an oven like ours. There aren’t a lot of them around.”

Montgomery is a proud keeper of traditions her parents started when they opened the bakery in 1952. “Before then, you could find kolaches at weddings and

other social gatherings, but there was no business on a commercial level,” she says.

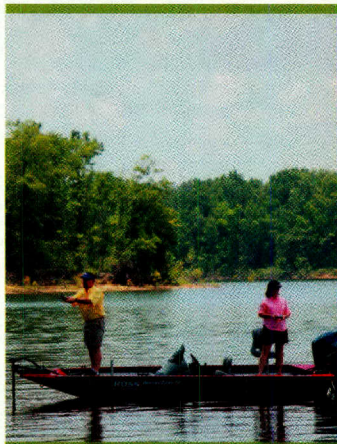
“It wasn’t easy to make them in quantity. Luckily, my father was a chemist, and my grandmother, who was Czech, helped my dad develop the recipe.”

“The classic fillings are poppyseed, apricot, cherry, and prune,” she explains. “In the Moravian area of the Czech Republic, the kolache is much flatter. In Texas, we allow the dough to rise higher, so the ko-

laches are fluffier.”

Pockets for the fillings are shaped by the baker’s fingers, and everything—from the dough to the fruit mixtures—is made daily from scratch. “We don’t use anything from a can,” Montgomery points out.

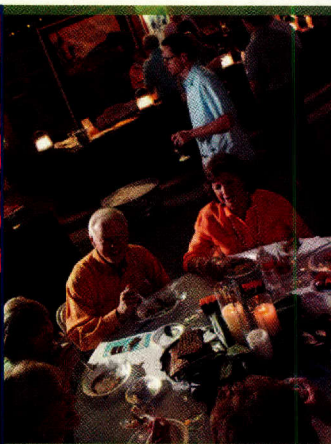
The Czech Stop in West opens 24 hours for travelers who can’t make it another mile without a kolache.



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Under the Stars



**Pedal**  
Through the Pines

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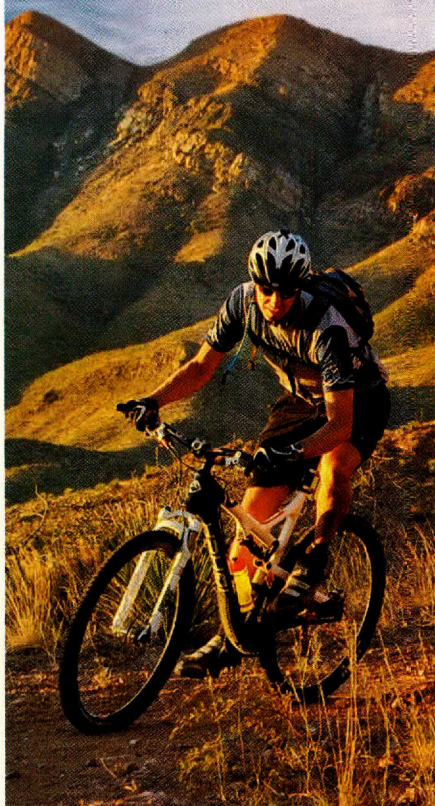




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## Taste

**Don't miss:** The poppyseed kolaches here, unlike the fruit-filled kolaches, are oval-shaped in the Moravian tradition. The Village Bakery is at 113 E. Oak St. in West. Call 254/826-5151.

### Czech Stop, West

Get here early if you can. "Our bakers start at 11 at night, and kolaches come out at 2:30 a.m.," Barbara Schissler says. The kolache lineup is ever-evolving. A kolache filled with pumpkin and cream cheese started as a Thanksgiving specialty a few years ago and became so popular that it's now on the menu year round.

When Manager Evelyn Cepak came to the Czech Stop some three decades ago, she brought with her a time-honored family recipe. Before joining the bakery, Cepak had volunteered as a bread-baker for a booth at Westfest, the town's annual Labor Day celebration of polka and other aspects of Czech culture. "I enjoyed the experience so much that I wanted to work for a bakery," she says. "I never dreamed it would be this big."

**Don't miss:** Sausage-and-cheese kolaches are the biggest seller. For an extra kick, try the jalapeño variety. The Czech Stop is at 105 N. College St. in West, at Exit 353 on I-35. Call 254/826-4161; [www.czechstop.net](http://www.czechstop.net).

### Weikel's Bakery, La Grange

"We do it all by hand. That's our golden rule. Everything is made from scratch," Philip Weikel explains, standing in the kitchen of his family's bakery in La



Grange. That's a tall order for a business that prepares as many as 16,000 kolaches in a busy month like November. From the outside, you could mistake it for a service station on steroids, but customers come here for a different kind of fill-up. "I don't know what created the kolache boom," Weikel says. "But they've become very popular. Much of our business comes from locals, and we also get huge numbers of travelers."

Weikel's family has been in the restaurant business since 1929, when Weikel's grandfather, Alvin Weikel, and Alvin's brother, "Pop," opened the Bon Ton Café in downtown La Grange to cater to pipeline workers. "We still use my great-grandmother's recipe," Weikel says. "She brought it from Czechoslo-

Along with a bakery case laden with kolaches, cookies, and cinnamon rolls, Czech Stop also offers sausages and other Czech treats.



vakia. What makes us special is our dough. It's as succulent as the fruit fillings."

**Don't miss:** Cream cheese kolaches outsell everything else. Weikel's Bakery

The best kolaches are still made by hand with love and pride, and served warm.

is at 2247 Texas 71 Business in La Grange. Call 979/968-9413; [www.weikels.com](http://www.weikels.com).

### Hruska's Bakery, Ellinger

Weikel's and Hruska's lie on opposite sides of Texas 71, about 14 miles apart, so you could try Weikel's on your way to Houston and Hruska's on your way back (or vice versa). An expansion last year nearly doubled the size of Hruska's store and bakery, adding a new seating area and

Faced with all these kolache options, it's easy to feel like a kid in a candy shop.



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## We Gotcha Kolache

*The stakes are high at two events celebrating Czech culture*

### IN THE CUTTHROAT

world of Texas kolache competitions, reputations and bragging rights hinge on two celebrations of Czech culture in September—Westfest, a no-holds-barred Czech shindig that takes place this year August 31 through September 2 in West, and the annual pastry party known as the Caldwell Kolache Festival (September 8), which packs more eating, dancing, drinking, and singing into a single day than most people experience in a month.

“The kolache-eating competition is a real crowd-pleaser,” says Caldwell Kolache Festival chairman Louemma Polansky, who explains that each division (men, women, girls, and boys) has a specific number of kolaches to eat; whoever devours theirs first wins. “We set up in front of the band area, and it gets wild. Last year, the winner in the men’s division ate his eight kolaches in 56 seconds. I will say that a person’s size has nothing to do with winning. The girl who won her category for a couple of years straight was as skinny as a rail.”

The Kolache Festival kicks off with a prayer ceremony, followed by performances of the United States national anthem, the state song “Texas, Our Texas,” and the Czech national anthem. Then any formality gives way to raucous affection for Czech lifeways, traditions, and foods. Live Czech music starts up at 9:30, setting a festive tone for demonstrations of skills like dulcimer-playing and cane-weaving, a quilt show, and some 200 vendors offering crafts and foods as varied as pie and sauerkraut.

And in the afternoon, a panel of judges crowns the winners of the much-anticipated Kolache Bake Show, with both professional and non-professional bakers vying for “Best Of” titles in 11 categories. In Central Texas kolache country, a Grand Champion award can open more doors than an M.B.A.

For details about Westfest in West, see [www.westfest.com](http://www.westfest.com). For more information about the Caldwell Kolache Festival, call 979/567-0000; [www.burlesoncountytexas.com](http://www.burlesoncountytexas.com).

—Lori Moffatt



PHOTO: J. GRIFFIS SMITH

**Kolache bakers vie for prizes (and bragging rights) in 11 categories at the annual Caldwell Kolache Festival, held this year on September 8.**

an expanded deli counter. Owner Teresa James is especially proud of a huge photo mural on the rear wall, which shows her grandfather’s original market, built near this site in 1912. What impresses most visitors, however, is the array of fresh-baked kolaches, cookies, colossal cinnamon rolls, sausages, and other items ready to eat on-the-spot or take home.

**Don't miss:** The bakery puts its own twist on sausage kolaches with a pork pan sausage made in-house. It’s enclosed in a savory wrapping of dough. Hruska’s Bakery is at 109 W. Texas 71 in Ellinger. Call 979/378-2333; [www.hruskas-bakery.com](http://www.hruskas-bakery.com).

### Original Kountry Bakery, Schulenburg

In a vintage red house a half mile south of I-10 near downtown Schulenburg, sisters Lynn Heller and Patsy Canion operate the bakery their parents, Clarence and Evelyn Besetsny, opened in 1979. “It started as a house, but my parents added on three or four times,” Heller says. One of the additions added a drive-through lane to accommodate travelers in a hurry. Bakers start at 2:30 a.m. to have kolaches ready when the bakery opens at 5:30. “A lot of times, we keep baking until lunch-time,” Heller says.

Much of the work is done by hand, but some of it takes special

**Filling favorites at the Village Bakery include poppyseed, apricot, cherry, and prune.**



PHOTOS: MICHAEL AMADOR



equipment. For example, bakers use a hand press called a rounder to cut the dough into perfectly shaped circles, 36 at a time. “That way, we can keep the size uniform,” Heller explains.

And while the Original Kountry Bakery prides itself on kolaches, it makes other

On the road, kolaches are a sweet comfort when you're a long way from home.

baked goods, too, including pies (apple, pecan, cherry, and an assortment of meringues), blueberry-cream-cheese rolls, and cinnamon rolls. “We serve lunch, too,” says Heller. “We do hamburgers on homemade buns, chili made from my dad’s recipe, and all kinds of sandwiches.”

I leave with an order of fruit kolaches that I can hardly wait to sample, but I want to save them for a special place. A three-mile drive from Interstate 10 takes me to a quiet lane leading to St. Mary Catholic Church at High Hill. Artisans elaborately painted the church interior to remind German and Czech Moravian parishioners of the beautiful churches of their homeland. At a picnic table on the grounds on a balmy early morning, I take an apricot kolache from the bag and take a bite. Sitting in this blissful place, I think about the long journey that brought the Czechs here, and I’m thankful they brought a little slice of heaven with them.

**Don't miss:** The filled poppyseed kolaches, their filling enclosed in dough, puts a tasty (and easy to eat!) twist on a traditional favorite. Original Kountry Bakery is at 110 Kessler Ave. (US 77 North) in Schulenburg. Call 979/743-4342. **TH**

See next page for more kolache hotspots.

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## A Kolache Cornucopia

*Move over, doughnut!*

**KOLACHES** steal the show in many other bakeries. Try these, too:

**Country Czech Bakery**, 302 W. Elm, Hillsboro; 254/580-2898. Several varieties of sausage kolaches, plus fruit varieties and cinnamon rolls, keep the bakery hopping.

**Kolache Kitchen**, 23108 SE HK Dodgen Loop, Temple; 254/778-5202. Apricot, cream cheese, and poppyseed kolaches are all award-winners.

**Green's Sausage House**, 16483 Texas 53, Zabcikville; 254/985-2331; [www.greensausagehouse.com](http://www.greensausagehouse.com) The house-made sausage kolaches are terrific.

**Kountry Bakery**, 802 East 4th, Hallettsville; 800/385-4767; [www.kountrybakery.com](http://www.kountrybakery.com). Choose from pies, cakes, breads, and kolaches from the same family that runs the Original Kountry Bakery in Schulenburg.

**Zamykal Gourmet Kolaches**, 709 Main St., Calvert; 979/364-2386. Winner of several awards at competitions in West and Caldwell, Zamykal offers 30 flavors daily, including varieties like German chocolate and pecan.

**Kolache Capital Bake Shop**, 203 E. Texas 21, Caldwell; 979/567-7584. Unusual flavors include blueberry-and-cream-cheese.

—Les Thomas



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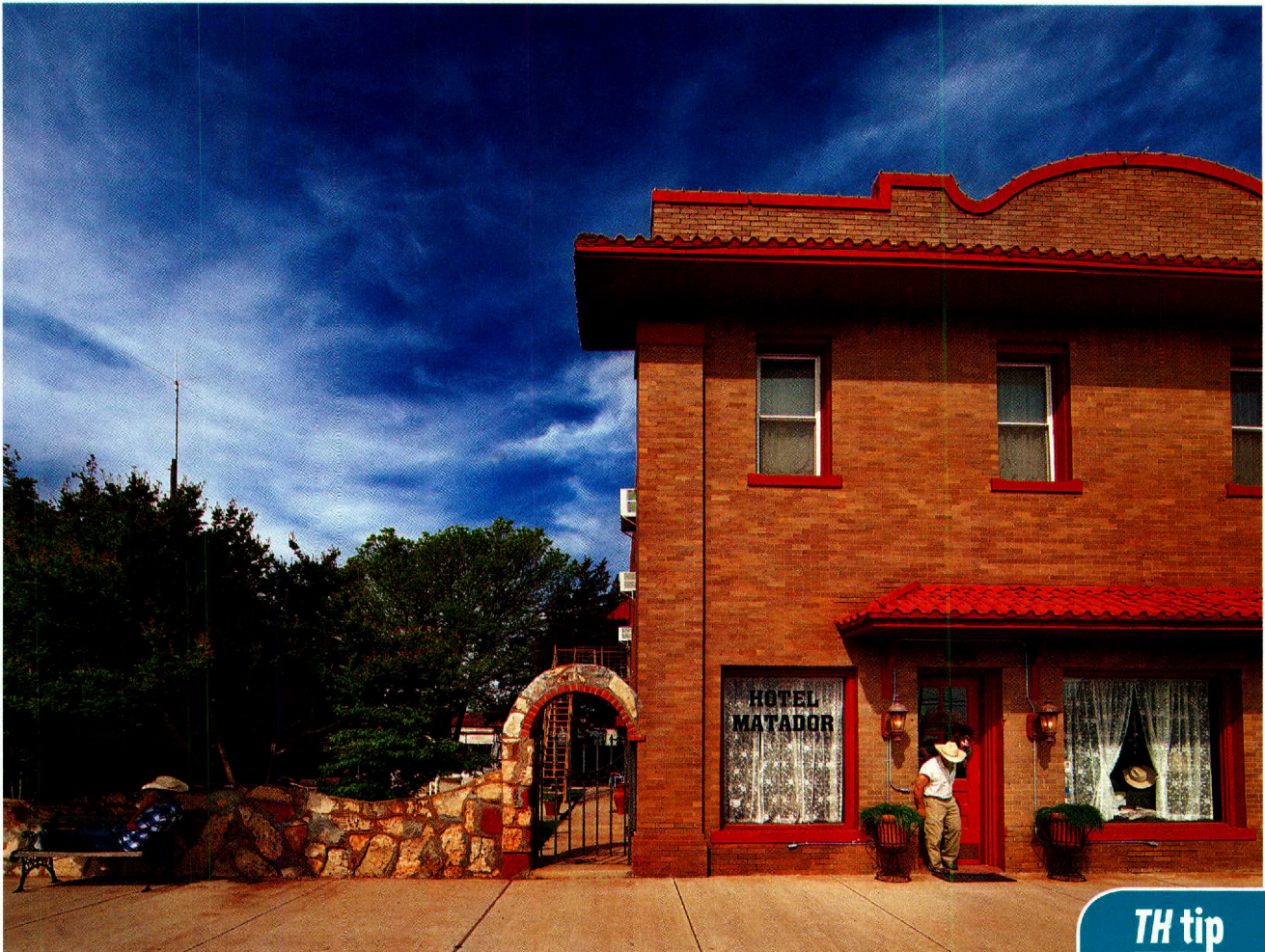
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## TH tip

Look for Matador's seven historic murals

## No Bull in Matador

*This historic Panhandle town is still spry*

Text by **E. DAN KLEPPER**

I'M ROLLING INTO MATADOR, A RURAL TOWN 83 MILES northeast of Lubbock, as a fog bank billows above the quiet streets like a canvas tent. In the surrounding fields, green tillers of wheat and dormant harvesters hover inside the mist, disguised by a whiteout aurora.

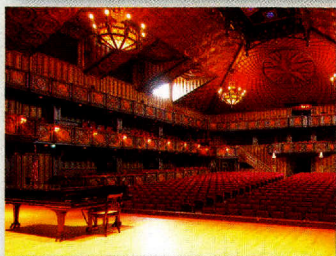
My roundabout journey from Lubbock to Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, about a half-hour farther north, has brought me here to Matador. Traveling through this region means seeing new territory and exploring destinations like Roaring Springs, Floydada, Quitaque, and Turkey. I've also planned for some outdoor adventure at the state park.

I park my pickup truck just around the corner from the Matador courthouse to photograph a mural of a cattle drive painted on the side of a building just north of Bailey Street. The mural commemorates Matador's ranching history and, in fact, the town is named after the Matador Ranch, established nearby in 1879. As I set up the shot, the fog rises high enough to reveal the water tower next door. A great horned owl drops from the water-tower railing and circles the tank three times before returning to its perch.

This small community, established in the 19th Century, likes to keep its heritage close at hand. Matador's character—gracious, historical, and well-worn—appears after a slow reveal, inspiring me to venture out and enjoy connecting with the community. A cursory drive through town highlights efforts to restore and revitalize Matador. I decide to take a stroll down its sidewalks to get a closer look. Main Street

The 98-year-old Hotel Matador retains the charm of bygone days combined with contemporary amenities, such as private bathrooms, wireless Internet, and flat-screen TVs.





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features BB's Barber Shop (haircuts on Wednesdays only), Mary Lou Grundy's Deli-cious luncheonette, the First National Bank, Matador Floral, the New To You thrift store (men's sport shirts for a dollar!), Zacha's Beauty Salon, Main Street Café, and the historic 1914 Hotel Matador. Around the corner, I find a gift shop called the Glittered Pig and offices for the *Motley County Tribune*, whose motto is "Voice of the Foothill Country Where History is Pride."

The restored Hotel Matador provides visitors with the perfect home base (and a surprising bit of luxury) for a weekend getaway. At 98, the hotel's age is two years short of the centennial of Matador's incorporation this year. Now an eight-room bed-and breakfast with such modern conveniences as private bathrooms, wireless Internet, and flat-screen TVs, the Hotel Matador offers guests a gourmet breakfast every morning, fortifying them for a full day's adventure.

First on my Matador list is Bob's Oil Well. World War I veteran and Texas native Luther Bedford "Bob" Robertson opened a service station on the corner of Matador's Bailey Avenue and Pipkin Street in 1932. Robertson erected a wooden oil derrick atop the building to promote the station, then replaced it with an 84-foot steel one with attached lights in 1939. Next, he added caged rattlesnakes, lions,

monkeys, and a white buffalo to his complex, creating a service-station tourist attraction.

The enterprise proved highly successful until Robertson passed away in 1947, and the steel derrick collapsed shortly after in a windstorm. Robertson's

**A mural in downtown Matador depicts cowboys driving livestock, an activity characteristic of Matador's present as much as its past.**

This small community, established in the 19th Century, likes to keep its heritage close at hand.

wife, Olga, restored the derrick and lights, but the business folded after a few more years. Today, Matador visitors are free to appreciate Robertson's "scale" of promotional acumen with an inspection of the service station and derrick. In 2004, the site received a state historical marker.

Lunch calls for an exploration of the surrounding territory, so I take US 70 west about 30 miles to Floydada and The Covey [continued on page 30]



**See!**  
Tee Pee City historical marker 10 miles east of Matador

# Hotel Matador

*These restored and updated digs retain a cowboy charm*

**BUILT IN 1914 AND OFFICIALLY OPENED A YEAR LATER** as the Carter Hotel, this two-story mash-up of Prairie and Classical Revival architecture occupies an intimate lot and garden along Matador's Main Street. The amenities were considered luxurious at the time for the hotel's rural location thanks to the vision of owner and builder Roy Carter, who included laundry service, a bellhop, manicured gardens, and an ice-cream parlor that occupied the entire length of the lobby. The hotel had 15 rooms but only one bath, which was equipped with an oak-rimmed bathtub.

The name was changed to Hotel Matador in the 1920s, and 20 years later barber Warren Clements bought the property, replacing the ice-cream parlor with a barbershop featuring a tin ceiling and wall-to-wall beveled mirrors. Clements' wife, Faye, earned the hotel a reputation for her parties and the hotel garden's award-winning English irises. The Clements eventually sold the hotel, and by the late 20th Century the property had fallen to neglect.

Marilynn Hicks, Linda Roy, and Caron Perkins, sisters with family ties to the region, rescued the Hotel Matador in 2007 and



The Hotel Matador offers guests a gourmet breakfast every morning.

restored the exterior and gardens, then renovated the interior, including its original ceilings, vented skylight, formal dining room, parlor, and oak floors. Today, it serves as an eight-room bed-and-breakfast. The Circle Cross Heritage Suite, named for the sisters' family brand, replaces the barbershop but retains its mirrors and white tin ceiling. The suite is also the former location of the cowboy bathtub; today's guests enjoy a walk-in, three-headed shower and a bathtub big enough for two. [www.hotelmatador.com](http://www.hotelmatador.com).

—E. Dan Klepper

## Escape Explore Enjoy

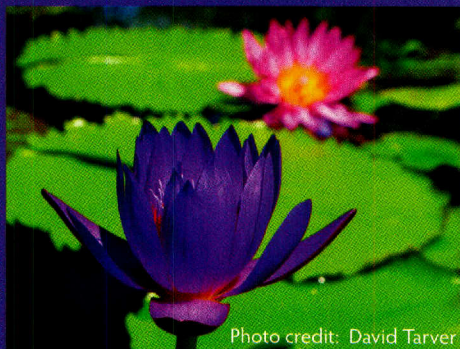
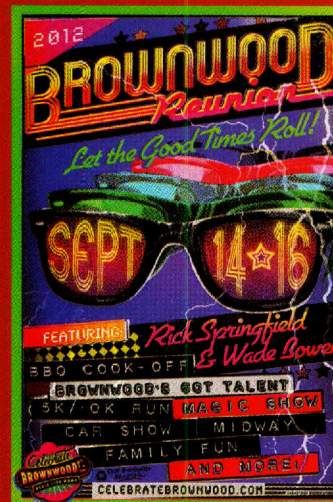


Photo credit: David Tarver

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-Historic Square | November 30, December 1 & 2, 2012

☞ continued from page 28] Smokehouse & Eatery. The Covey serves up the classic smokehouse meal—brisket, pork ribs, and jalapeño cheese sausage (per pound or on a sandwich) along with pintos, cream corn, slaw, cobbler, and fried pies. The Covey occupies the renovated first floor of the Commercial Hotel, a two-story Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in Floydada's original downtown. The Commercial opened in January 1913 with 21 guest rooms and served primarily traveling salesmen who arrived from the railroad station in horse-drawn buggies driven by hotel staff. The Commercial closed as a hotel mid-century and today serves simply as home to The Covey.

Back in Matador, visitors can explore more regional history at the Motley County Historical Museum. Housed in the former Traweek Hospital building, a handsome, brick-and-concrete, two-story structure built in the Texas vernacular style, the museum features displays of historic ranching and Native American artifacts, and includes an overview of Traweek's early medical techniques. For example, Traweek employed an **in the 1930s, Luther Bedford "Bob" Robertson's service station featured attractions like an oil derrick and caged animals. It is now an historic landmark.**

Lake Whitney

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PHOTO: J. GRIFFIS SMITH



## Tent Twist

Stay in a yurt at Abilene State Park



These yurts have window units for heating and cooling.

**FOR CENTURIES, MONGOLIAN HERDSMEN ON THE GRASSLAND** steppes of Central Asia lived in portable fabric tents hung on round latticework structures, called yurts. Families on the Asian plateau still make their homes in these durable, eco-friendly structures. Now Texans can experience yurt living at Abilene State Park, where six 15-foot-diameter yurts form a broad circle in the shade of oak and pecan trees near the center of the park.

Each tent, on a concrete pad, contains a fold-out futon that sleeps two and a bunk bed with a double mattress on the bottom and a single above, along with a refrigerator, microwave, and electric light. A skylight in the 8-foot ceiling lets in natural light. Outside, each has a picnic table and fire ring, with stand-up grills, water spigots, restrooms, and showers nearby. The yurts, manufactured by Colorado Yurt Company, arrived in crates and were assembled on-site. The sturdy structures are held together with nuts and bolts. One is wheelchair accessible.

"We were looking to offer unique camping opportunities," says Ryan Hunter, assistant superintendent at the park. The yurts have plenty of space for families to hang out inside, while providing a typical camping experience outside with kids riding bikes, tossing balls, and running around under the trees.

Abilene State Park has a swimming and wading pool, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, as well as hiking trails, a fishing pond, playground, sand volleyball court, basketball court, horseshoes, and an open playing field. Yurts rent for \$50 per night, \$300 per week. Traditional and RV campsites also are available. Call 325/572-3204; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/abilene](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/abilene).

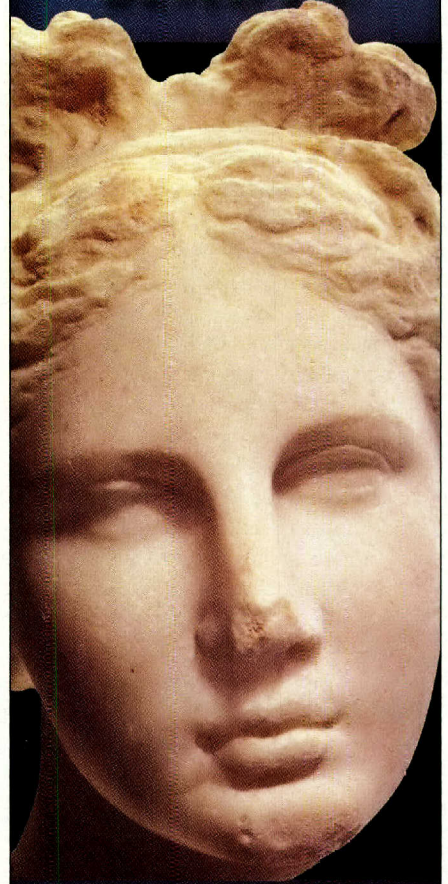
—Melissa Gaskill

iron lung as part of his treatments, but it is not displayed because it shattered during an attempt to move it from the second to the ground floor.

Other hallmarks of Matador's heritage survive, however, including the legend

of the town's founding. As the story goes, Motley County organized in 1891 and needed a county seat. Matador—the post office for the Matador Ranch at the time—seemed a likely candidate but needed at least 20 established businesses, according

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*A new website helps travelers route their trips*

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While TxDOT has supplied highway condition information for years, the new site, [www.DriveTexas.org](http://www.DriveTexas.org), is more user-friendly and offers extra features. Drive Texas™ not only displays construction, closure, and major accident conditions, but it also has options to add a live weather feed, see Bing traffic details, view traffic cameras in select cities, and find locations of safety rest areas and Texas Travel Information Centers.

Travelers can use the Draw Route feature to see what conditions they will encounter along their planned path. Draw Route allows users to select a starting and ending city with an option to alter the route to add cities in between. If the additional cities are not on the quickest route, the feature will show the route that includes those stops.

A streamlined, mobile-friendly site that works with most touch-screen smart phones also is available. TxDOT also has travel counselors available by phone from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily and 24-hour automated road-condition reports accessible at 800/452-9292.



—Julie Stratton

to General Land Office regulations. The only official business in town at the time was a saloon called the Dew Drop. To circumvent the rules, Matador Ranch manager Henry H. Campbell rounded up a group of cowboys who established “temporary” businesses, a fraudulent but successful bid that lasted just long enough to grant Matador the Motley County seat. Campbell later served as the county’s first judge, accompanied by the new cowboy sheriff Joe Beckham. Matador also received the first of three county court-

Matador’s past, rich and ribald at once, adds to the charm of Matador today, making it a choice heritage-travel destination.

houses and a jail. Two years after its construction, the courthouse caught fire and burned, followed by the disappearance of both Sheriff Beckham and a portion of the county’s money.

Matador’s past, rich and ribald at once, adds to the charm of Matador today, making it a choice heritage-travel destination. Should you happen upon Sheriff Beckham’s ghost during your own visit, tell him that he owes Matador an explanation ... and Motley County some cash. **TH**

**Matador** is at the crossroads of Texas 70 and US 70. For visitor information, contact the Motley County Chamber of Commerce (Matador, Roaring Springs, Flomot, Northfield, and Whiteflat) at 828 Dundee St.; **806/347-2968**; [www.motleycountychamber.org](http://www.motleycountychamber.org).

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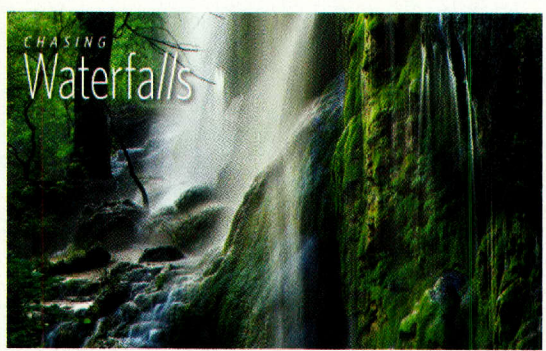
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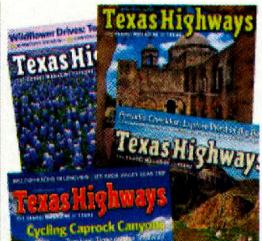


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# True, TX

THE RETURN OF PLANT LIFE TO **BASTROP STATE PARK** UNDERSCORES THE RESILIENCE THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS YEAR'S TRUE, TEXAS, "**COMMUNITY OF THE IMAGINATION.**"

**EVEN** in a community of the imagination, there's no question that the heat and drought of Summer 2011 added a dramatic dimension for day-to-day life and even added a note of apocalyptic foreboding to the year's history. Every story and report seemed more dire than the previous. Fire. Loss of life. Wildlife suffering. Thousands displaced. An unknown future.

Then the Bastrop-area wildfire drama exploded and seemed to contain the worst elements of all the horrifying stories that came before it. Thousands of acres scorched. Hundreds of homes lost. At best, a grim way forward.

The thread of optimism ignited its own flame of tireless effort to rebuild and recover. For Bastrop State Park, almost entirely burned, the miracle of rain appeared at the perfect time. And by the spring of 2012, a few wildflowers appeared. It seemed like life could resume again.

Perhaps this resilience is born in the human spirit, but we have proof it's true of Texas.

—Charles Lohrmann

**BASTROP STATE PARK** is on Texas 21, one mile east of Bastrop, 512/321-2101; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/bastrop](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/bastrop).

To order a print of the sunflower photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



What does True, Texas, mean to you? Write us at [letters05@texashighways.com](mailto:letters05@texashighways.com), or find us on Facebook or Twitter.



PHOTOS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH









J. GRIFFIS SMITH

## TRUE SWIMMING HOLE

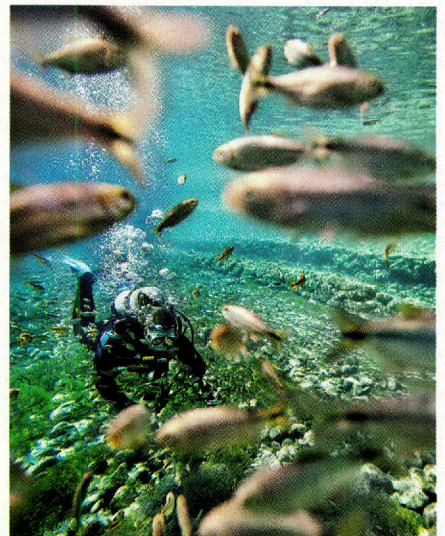
## SAN SOLOMON SPRINGS AT BALMORHEA STATE PARK TOYAHVALE

**THERE ARE** Texas swimming holes and then there is Balmorhea, the mother of all natural swimming places. Nowhere else will you find a large, walled-in pool, 1.75 acres big, 25 feet deep in places, and built to last by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, brimming with such cool, clear freshwater, in this case bubbling up from San Solomon Springs. The water's Caribbean-like clarity attracts scuba divers from across Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and beyond.

That can translate into huge crowds on hot summer weekends, but the rest of the week, and just about anytime between Labor Day and Memorial Day, you are just as likely to have the pool all to yourself.

What really distinguishes Balmorhea, though, is its Chihuahuan Desert setting at the base of the Davis Mountains: This is an oasis in the most literal sense. No matter where I am in Texas, or what time of year it is, Balmorhea always seems to call to me. And more often than not, I answer by diving in. —Joe Nick Patoski

**BALMORHEA STATE PARK** is on Texas 17, four miles southwest of Balmorhea, 432/375-2370; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/balmorhea](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/balmorhea). Check ahead for hours and admission; no lifeguard on duty.



© ERICH SCHLEGEL



TRUE SKYLINE TRANSFORMATION

# MARGARET HUNT HILL BRIDGE DALLAS

**THE NEXT TIME** you drive to Dallas, you might do a double-take as the skyline pops into view. What's that elegant, gleaming, white arch spanning the Trinity River? It's the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, the city's stylish, new welcome mat that extends Woodall Rodgers Freeway west from downtown over Singleton Boulevard into West Dallas. The first U.S. vehicular bridge designed by elite Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the steel cable-stayed bridge honors the late Dallas civic leader Margaret Hunt Hill, conveying both strength and charm.

With its supporting arch soaring 400 feet into the sky, fastened to its six lanes with 58 cables, the 1,870-foot bridge adds both a grace note to the Trinity River Corridor and a new western approach to the city. At night, its 200 metal halide lamps glow majestically, casting a light that looks almost blue-green to folks gazing at it from nearby Reunion Tower.

Across the bridge from downtown, West Dallas is primarily residential, but Dallas restaurateur Phil Romano has launched an effort to establish restaurants and, eventually, shops and cultural venues, near the bridge.

Next project: Graceful bridges designed by Calatrava honoring another Dallas civic leader, Margaret McDermott, for bicycle and pedestrian traffic headed over the Trinity River on Interstate 30. —*Helen Bryant*

**THE MARGARET HUNT HILL BRIDGE**, which spans the Trinity River, connects Singleton Boulevard in West Dallas to Woodall Rodgers Freeway in downtown. Find more at [www.mhhbridgecelebration.com/mhhbridge.html](http://www.mhhbridgecelebration.com/mhhbridge.html).





True, TX





TRUE MUSIC SCENE

# ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER AUSTIN

**IF MUSIC** is the cultural lifeblood of Austin, then its beating heart may well reside downtown at 310 Willie Nelson Boulevard (otherwise known as Second Street), the home of ACL Live at The Moody Theater. Unveiled in February 2011 with a performance by Nelson and band, the glittering new venue instantly took its place as one of the city's top-shelf performance spaces. Besides hosting regular performances—everyone from Aretha Franklin to Tony Bennett to Bruce Springsteen—ACL Live is also the new home of PBS's beloved 38-year-old television series *Austin City Limits*. (The Austin City Limits Music Festival, which is also a spinoff from the show, is held every fall in Zilker Park.)

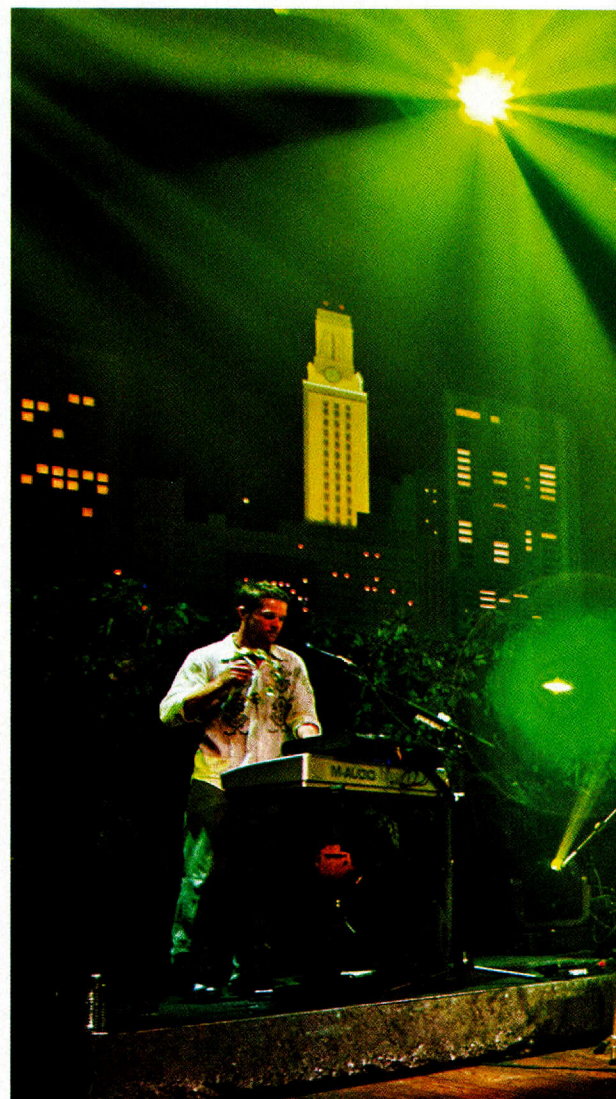
The venue, which is incorporated into the sleek W Hotel, was basically conceived as a giant television studio, with modern production facilities built into the structure from its conception. The completion of ACL Live enabled *Austin City Limits* to migrate from its cramped longtime quarters on the University of Texas campus to a space that, depending how it is configured, can seat audiences from a few hundred to 2,700. And, best of all, no seat is more than 75 feet from the stage.

How to find ACL Live? That's easy—just stroll down Second Street behind City Hall until you spot the new eight-foot-tall bronze statue of the Red-Headed Stranger himself.

—John T. Davis

**ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER**

is at 310 Willie Nelson Blvd. in  
Austin, 512/225-7999 (venue) or  
877/435-9849 (tickets); [www.acl-live.com](http://www.acl-live.com).



PHOTOS © SCOTT NEWTON





September's ACL Live lineup includes Lyle Lovett, Tony Bennett, Fiona Apple, John Legend, and The Go-Go's. Above, Miranda Lambert wowed the crowd at a taping of PBS's *Austin City Limits*.

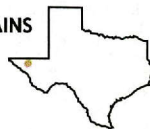


## TRUE ADVENTURE

# HIKING THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS PINE SPRINGS

**GUADALUPE** Mountains National Park, the state's highest destination, offers signature autumn color and cool, outdoor adventures, especially now that summer is coming to an end. With average elevations above 4,000 feet, this desert-mountain location ushers in plenty of comfortable days and chilly nights alongside the arrival of fall. The park's robust network of short hiking trails and overnight backpacking routes lets you choose among a range of challenges. Want to summit tip-top Texas? Hike up the Guadalupe Peak Trail and enjoy the sky-high vistas. At more than 8,000 feet above sea level, Guadalupe Peak invites you to see the world from a whole different point of view. Feel like three days in the wilderness? Tackle the mountain range via well-marked trails that switch-back steep canyons and traverse breezy ridges. Trails like Bear Canyon, Juniper, and Tejas link together to carry you across the Guadalupe on your own personal vision quest. Just remember to carry all your water and don't forget to "pack it in, pack it out." Or, if you prefer an afternoon stroll through brilliant fall color, try the 4.8-mile, round-trip McKittrick Canyon Nature Trail to historic Pratt Cabin. The canyon's fiery autumn hues include the show-stopping saffron of the big-tooth maple. Then take the day off and visit the park's historic Frijole Ranch, where spring water ripples along hand-dug canals and a canopy of shade shelters the grounds. Pick a tree to sit under, and catch a nap or sketch a cloud. You might get lucky and have the place all to yourself. —E. Dan Klepper

The Headquarters Pine Springs Visitor Center for **GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK** is 23 miles northeast of Salt Flat on US 62/180 (110 miles east of El Paso, 65 miles north of Van Horn), 915/828-3251; [www.nps.gov/gumo](http://www.nps.gov/gumo). Call for updates on peak fall color.



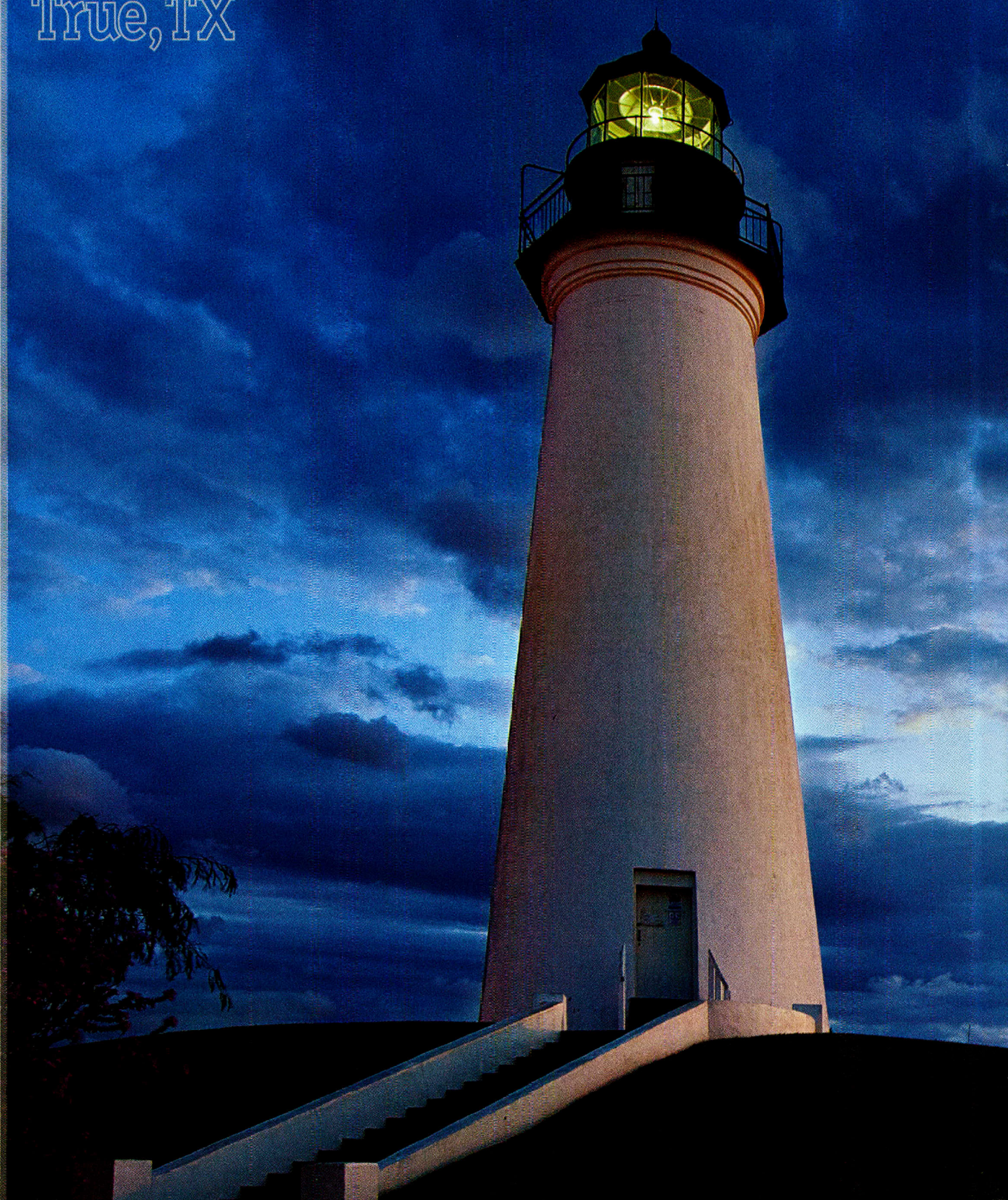
© E. DAN KLEPPER







True, TX



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**TRUE** LANDMARK

# PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

## PORT ISABEL

**THE 72-FOOT**, gleaming white Port Isabel Lighthouse on the shore of the Laguna Madre has overlooked a lot of Texas history. Built in 1852 to guide ships plying the narrow opening between Padre and Brazos islands, the original lighthouse had 15 lamps and 21 reflectors. During the Civil War, it fell briefly into the hands of Confederates, who set off a charge on it when a Union ship entered the harbor in May, 1863. Repaired and reactivated in 1866, the lighthouse was built up about three feet in the 1880s to accommodate a state-of-the-art Fresnel lens, illuminated by a single lamp.

Its light was extinguished for good in 1905 after the railroad connected Corpus Christi and interior Mexico, and the tower sat neglected until the Texas State Parks Board restored and dedicated it as a state park in 1952. Renovations in 2000 returned the venerable structure to its full glory, with a replica lighthouse keeper's home housing a visitor's center and interpretive historic displays. It's the only one of 16 lighthouses once lining the Texas coast that is open to the public. —Melissa Gaskill

**PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE** (operated by the City of Port Isabel) is at 421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd., 956/943-2262 or 800/527-6102; [www.portisabelighthouse.com](http://www.portisabelighthouse.com).







To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com). PHOTO BY KEVIN STILLMAN



## TRUE BARBECUE

## NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BARBECUE HUNTSVILLE

**THE BARBECUE ARM** of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville took off decades ago when congregation members gathered to repair and repaint the wood-frame church building and inadvertently kicked off a barbecue side-business.

Reverend Clinton Edison, today's pitmaster/preacher, explains: "Deacon Ward's wife, Annie Mae, said that when she and the other wives began to prepare their husbands' dinner, cooking barbecue on a makeshift grill, they couldn't hardly cook for all the people stopping by who wanted to buy it." So many motorists wanted to buy barbecue that the congregation voted to start a proper business, and pretty soon it became a regular thing every Wednesday through Saturday.

Today, Reverend Edison, a former Criminal Investigator with the Chambers County Sheriff's Department in Alabama, runs the barbecue as ably as he does the church. The down-home side dishes and good-hearted volunteers make it a wonderful scene. Bowing to modernity, Reverend Edison has added an Ole Hickory Pit to the original smokers on wheels.

The African-Texan East Texas-style brisket is coated with dry rub for 24 hours and cooked until extremely tender. A spicy barbecue sauce adds a tangy touch. And if the homemade mashed potato salad, creamy cole slaw, and old-time butter beans taste like they came from a church supper, that's because they did. —*Robb Walsh*

**NEW ZION MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH BARBECUE**

is at 2601 Montgomery Rd. in  
Huntsville, 936/294-0884. Open Wed. 11 a.m.-  
3 p.m., and Thu-Sat 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH





Becker Vineyards welcomes wine-lovers for tours and tastings with Henri de Lobbe. Stay overnight at the picturesque Homestead Bed & Breakfast, a renovated circa-1890 log cabin.

## TRUE WINERY

# BECKER VINEYARDS FREDERICKSBURG

**WHEN** San Antonio residents Dr. Richard Becker and his wife, Bunny, went looking in the 1980s for a log cabin to refurbish as a second home in the Hill Country, they couldn't have guessed they would end up with one of the most successful wineries in the region. Established in 1992 between Stonewall and Fredericksburg, Becker Vineyards was a pioneer in the Hill Country appellation, producing award-winning wines beginning in 1995. Thanks to its resounding success, Becker now boasts 46 acres planted with 14 different grape varietals, including Syrah, Petite Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc, Malbec, Petite Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot. The winery and tasting room, modeled after 19th-Century German stone barns from the area, attract large crowds of visitors from far and wide who stop to sip and savor the wines, admire iconic Hill Country landscapes, and in May and June, wander three acres of lavender fields exploding with purple blossoms and intoxicating fragrances. Becker Vineyards hosts a variety of events throughout the year, from its popular grape stomps (Aug. 25-26 and Sep. 1-2, 2012), to seasonal wine trails and the not-to-be-missed Lavender Festival in May. Bring a picnic, purchase a bottle at the tasting room, and enjoy the lovely surroundings. —*Claudia Alarcón*



PHOTOS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

**BECKER VINEYARDS** is at 464 Becker Farms Rd. (11 miles east of Fredericksburg and 3 miles west of Stonewall off US 290), 830/644-2681; [www.beckervineyards.com](http://www.beckervineyards.com).



To order a print of the photograph at right, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).







## TRUE ROADTRIP

### ROUTE 66

#### IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE

**IN SPITE** of the development of an interstate highway system, which removed traffic from America's ribbons of bucolic roadways, Route 66 remains the most famous highway in national history. Texas claims just 178 miles of The Mother Road (so christened by John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath*), which once stretched 2,448 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles. But oh—what adventures can still be found on the old road while crossing the top of the Panhandle prairie from the Oklahoma border to the New Mexico state line.

Worthwhile stops include McLean's old Phillips 66 station, a renovated 1920s icon that functions simply as a landmark with photogenic elements such as a vintage gas truck and old orange pumps. In Amarillo, where Route 66 blends briefly with Interstate 40 and then West Sixth Avenue, there awaits a stretch of busy art galleries, antiques shops, cafés, and bars. The most famous destination there remains the creaky old Golden Light Café, a hole-in-the-wall where the green-chile cheeseburger and Frito chili pie satisfy hungry travelers.

Just west of Amarillo, about a half-mile south of the old road, the Cadillac Ranch exists as an outdoor work of art, conceived by area millionaire Stanley Marsh 3 in 1974. Ten Caddies, from the late 1940s to the early 1960s, all buried nose-first into the ground, expose their tails to suggest the Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt. It's yet another irresistible way to get your kicks on Route 66. —June Naylor

For details on **ROUTE 66** in the Texas Panhandle, contact the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council, 800/692-1338; [www.visitamarillotx.com](http://www.visitamarillotx.com).



Built in 1936, Shamrock's Art Deco Tower Conoco Station and U-Drop Inn today houses the chamber of commerce, a visitors center, and an activity center.

PHOTO: BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH





CAFE

DROP INN



# Our Paleo Past

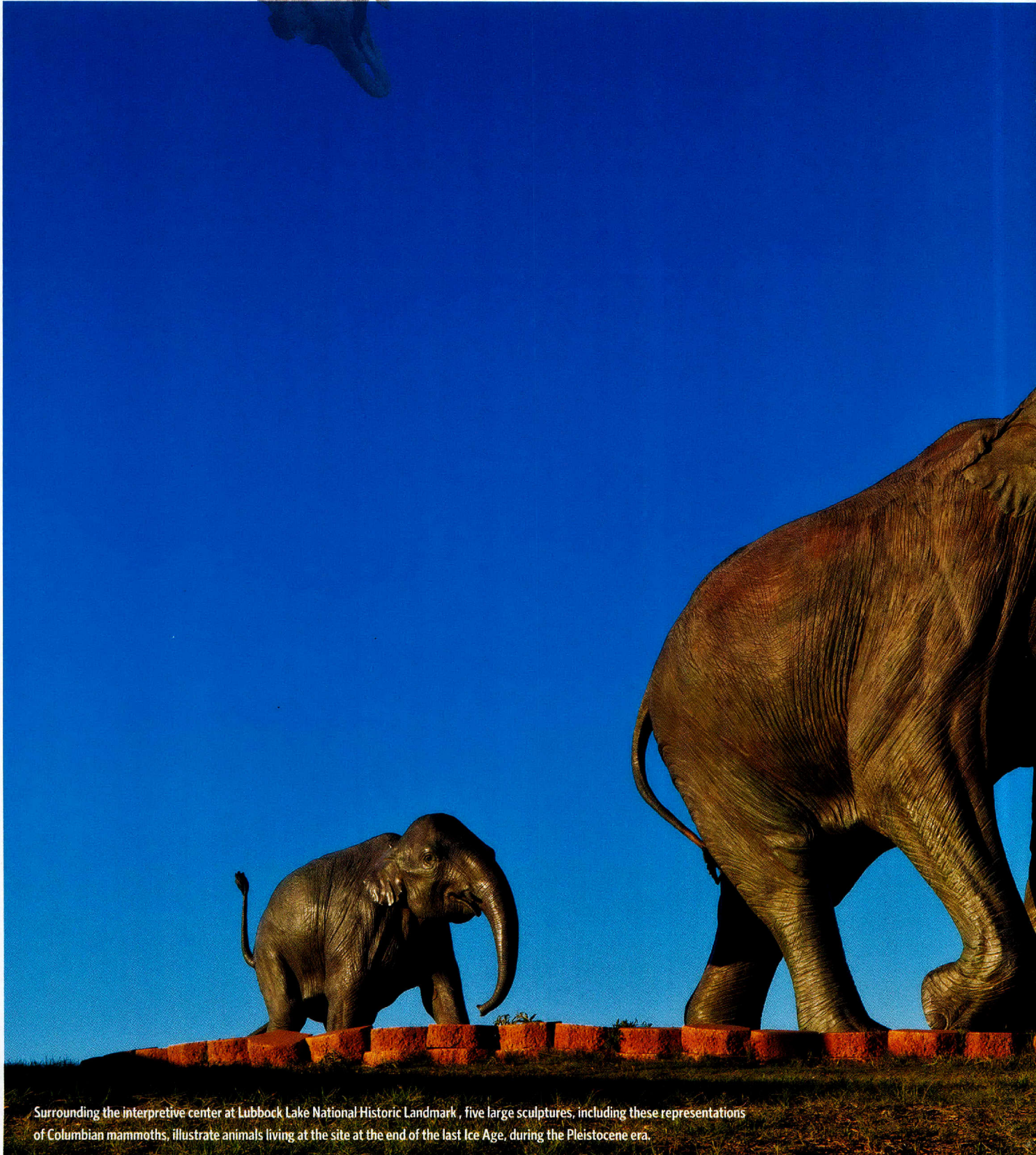
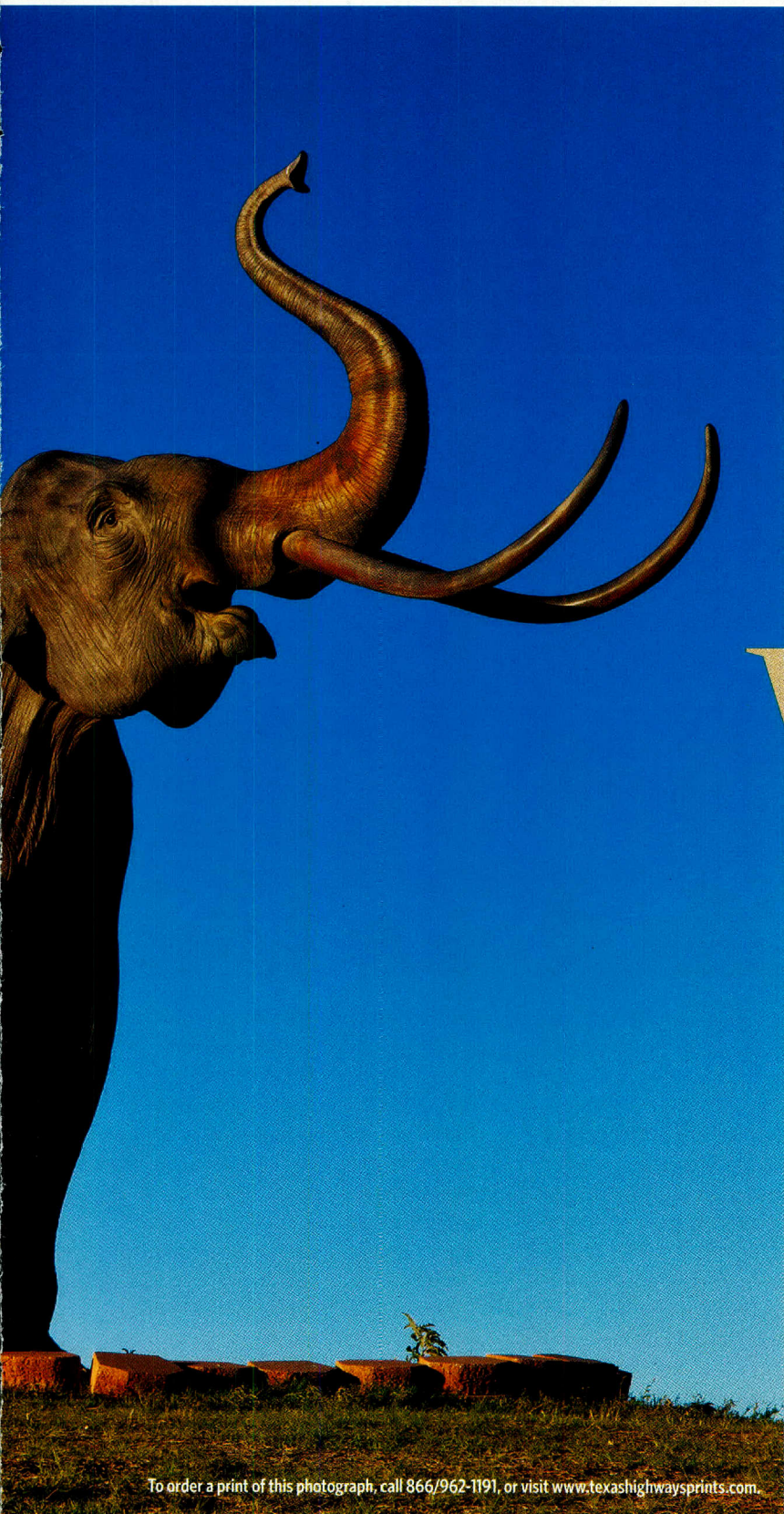


PHOTO: MICHAEL AMADOR

Surrounding the interpretive center at Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark, five large sculptures, including these representations of Columbian mammoths, illustrate animals living at the site at the end of the last Ice Age, during the Pleistocene era.



**Researchers in Texas are finding** EVIDENCE THAT HUMANS INHABITED THE NEW WORLD AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEARS EARLIER THAN ONCE BELIEVED.



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PHOTO: J. GRIFFS SMITH

Text by **DALE WEISMAN**

**Who** were the first humans to set foot in the New World? Where did they originate? When did they arrive?

The “peopling of the Americas” remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of archeology. And Paleoindian experts are piecing together some of the answers to this prehistoric puzzle at archeological sites right here in Texas.

Researchers are digging into our ancient past throughout Texas, unearthing chipped-stone artifacts and Pleistocene mammal fossils that provide clues to how prehistoric humans lived, migrated, and adapted to a changing climate more than 10,000 years ago.

TOP: Paleoindian experts once believed that Clovis culture—defined by the use of signature stone tools—was the first culture of the Americas. Archeologists at the Gault Site have discovered evidence placing humans in Central Texas much earlier.



Recent discoveries at Paleoindian sites in Central Texas are providing new evidence that humans reached the New World at least a thousand years earlier than once believed.

You don't need to be an expert to experience the cutting edge of Paleoindian research. Several sites in Texas welcome visitors, offering public tours, educational programs, and opportunities to participate in active digs.

## THE GAULT SITE

**A** lovely valley along Buttermilk Creek in Bell County has attracted humans for millennia. This idyllic enclave, known to archeologists as the Gault Site, has all the natural ingredients that Paleoindians needed to survive: water from the creek and from springs that have never gone dry in historic times; diverse flora and fauna for hunting and gathering; and plenty of chert, a silica mineral similar to flint from which they formed razor-sharp projectile points and other stone tools.

The Gault Site, named for onetime landowner Henry Gault, is situated in the Balcones ecotone, a transitional area for the Edwards Plateau, Black Prairie, and Coast Plains ecozones. "It would have been an attractive area for living, and an excellent place for hunting and gathering," says archeologist Clark Wernecke, executive director of the Gault School of Archeological Research.

In fact, the Buttermilk Creek valley served as a major Paleoindian base camp and stone-tool manufacturing center. Debitage—flakes of waste lithic material produced during flint-knapping—blankets the trails and valley floor at Gault.

"Hundreds of thousands of person-hours of flint-knapping are represented at Gault over a span of 15,000 years," says Mike Collins, the Gault School's



chairman and a leading authority on Clovis culture, which flourished at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, roughly 13,000 years ago. James E. Pearce, a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas in Austin, conducted the first archeological investigations at Gault in 1929, excavating 6,000- to 8,000-year-old burned-rock middens. Over the next seven decades, landowners ran the site as a "pay-to-dig" operation, allowing collectors to haul away a trove of artifacts. This rampant digging destroyed much of the site's Archaic record. Fortunately, the deeper late-Pleistocene deposits containing Clovis artifacts remained untouched.

In 1991, a serious collector digging at

Gault found something so incredible he notified professional archeologists—small slabs of limestone with engraved geometric designs near a Clovis point. The Clovis-age engraved limestone slabs represent some of the oldest known art in North America. Archeologists have since found more than 100 engraved stones at Gault. Similar artifacts have turned up at other Clovis sites in Texas and New Mexico.

In 1998, the land changed hands again, and the new owners ended the pay-to-dig activity. While cleaning up some of the holes, the landowners made another amazing discovery: the fossilized mandible of a mammoth along with Clovis lithic artifacts. The landowners called in Mike Collins to have a closer look. Over the next few years,





## Imagine stepping back in time TO THE END OF THE ICE AGE ON THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS.



professionals, avocational archeologists, landowners, schoolchildren, and visitors.

Excavations at Gault resumed in 2007. That year, archeologists discovered lithic artifacts dating back 14,500 years, a thousand years before Clovis culture. They also made another astonishing find: a 13,000-year-old pebble floor from the Clovis age, which experts believe served as the foundation for one of the oldest known habitations in North America.

The current active dig at Gault continues to yield Clovis and pre-Clovis artifacts. To date, about 6,000 Gault volunteers have excavated more than 2.6 million lithic artifacts, which are stored at Texas State University in San Marcos and at the University of Texas in Austin.

Gault remains the nation's most prolific Clovis site—the source of more than 1.25 million Clovis artifacts, or more than 60 percent of all excavated Clovis artifacts. Data from Gault is also changing how we view Clovis culture—not simply as mobile big-game hunters but as broad-spectrum foragers who used the area as a base camp for hunting and gathering.

Collins adds, “If you want to look for pre-Clovis artifacts, this is the site to come to. I’d say there’s a good chance that the first people in Texas were here.”

Visitors can learn more about the Gault Site at the Bell County Museum in Belton, where the Gault Exhibit tells the story of the site and its prehistoric cultures, and explains how archeologists uncover and interpret our ancient past. Exhibit highlights include murals of Paleoindians and Pleistocene mammals, artifact displays, and a short film about the Gault project. The museum also hosts year-round tours of the Gault Site.

“Our guided tours of the site allow the public to see one of the most important archeological sites in North America,” says the museum’s director, Stephanie Turnham.

### LUBBOCK LAKE LANDMARK

Imagine stepping back in time to the end of the Ice Age on the Southern High Plains. Rich grasslands flourish in a milder, wetter climate. Pleistocene mammals roam the savannahs and frequent watering holes along flowing

Established as a National Monument in 1965, Alibates Flint Quarries offers insights into the Plains Village culture that thrived here between A.D. 1050 and 1450.

Collins oversaw excavations involving thousands of volunteers from around the world. The meticulous digs yielded numerous Clovis artifacts, establishing Gault as one of the nation's most prolific Clovis sites.

“I just couldn’t leave the site’s future to chance, so I made the commitment to do what I could to preserve it,” says Collins, who purchased the 33-acre Gault tract in 2007. He then donated the land to the nonprofit Archeological Conservancy and established the Gault School of Archaeological Research, which manages the site for research and education involving



PHOTOS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

Clovis and Folsom peoples came to the caprock along the Canadian River to gather pieces of agatized dolomite—a sedimentary rock known as Alibates flint—for making durable and beautiful tools.

More on Clovis Culture at [www.texashighways.com/webextra](http://www.texashighways.com/webextra)



# Our Paleo Past

streams. Humans, too, gather at these lush havens to forage and hunt prey.

Flash forward 13,000 years to the remnants of one of these ancient oases on the western edge of Lubbock. Now known as Lubbock Lake Landmark, the 300-acre site is an archeological and natural history preserve operated by the Museum of Texas Tech University. A National Historic Landmark, Lubbock Lake Landmark ranks as one of the most important hunter-gatherer sites in North America.

Located on an intermittent tributary of the Brazos River called Yellowhouse Draw, Lubbock Lake is the site of a spring once fed by the Ogallala Aquifer. When the spring went dry during the Dust Bowl era, the city of Lubbock tried to resurrect it by dredging the lakebed, uncovering a lost world of fossils and artifacts.

The West Texas Museum (now the Museum of Texas Tech) excavated the site in 1939 and discovered bison remains dating back nearly 11,000 years to the Folsom period. Since that initial excavation, the museum has continued its field work, scientific research, preservation, and education. Ongoing excavations at the well-stratified site reveal a cultural, floral,



More on Bosque County's Horn Shelter discovery at [www.texashighways.com/webextra](http://www.texashighways.com/webextra)

and faunal record dating back from historic times to Clovis occupation.

"All the major time periods in North American archeology are represented at the Landmark," says Eileen Johnson, executive director of the Museum of Texas Tech University. "I'm drawn to the archeological record that's here, the depth of time, the stratigraphy, and the materials encased in the layers."

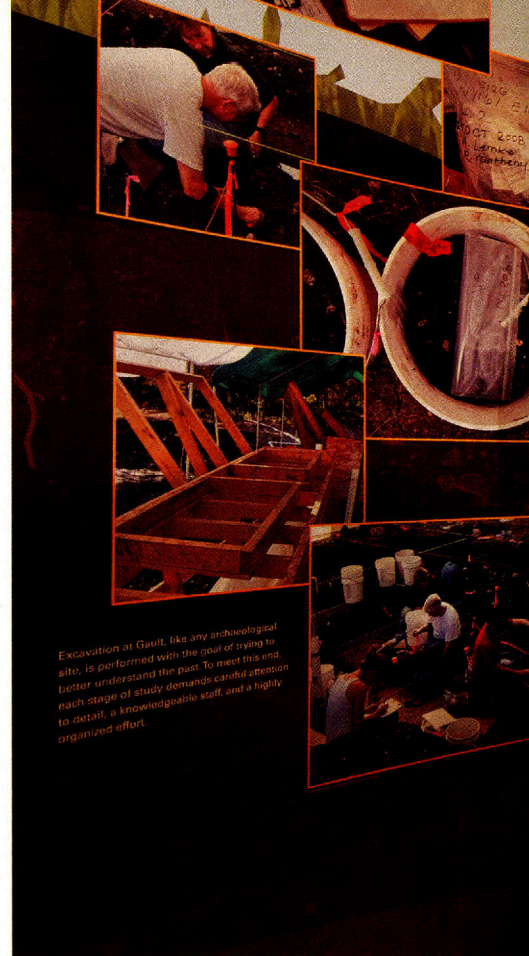
Lubbock Lake is one of the most accessible and informative archeological and paleontological sites in Texas. Murals and dioramas in the Landmark's interpretive center vividly depict prehistoric hunting-and-gathering life based on Lubbock Lake's archeological record. Outside the center, five life-size bronze sculptures of Columbian mammoths, an ancient bison, a short-faced bear, and an armadillo-like giant pampathere appear to roam the Landmark's vast landscape.

"Getting the public involved in archeology has been a part of our mission from the beginning," says Johnson. "Our volunteer and educational programs are just as important as our ongoing scientific research."

Guided and self-guided tours; a learning center; exhibitions; and programs for the public, schoolchildren, and educators are central to Lubbock Lake's mission of preserving and illuminating our ancient cultural and natural heritage. "Pick a time period and an important question, and Lubbock Lake contributes to the answer," says Johnson. "There is still so much that can be learned here."

## ALIBATES FLINT QUARRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Welcome to a Paleo workshop: the windswept caprock overlooking the breaks of the Canadian River in the Texas Panhandle. Prehistoric tool makers have come here for thousands of years to chip away at an abundant material—Alibates flint. Paleoindians prized it not only for its durability but also for its magical beauty. Each piece of Alibates shimmers like a petrified rainbow splashed with bands of white, maroon, red, orange, yellow, blue, and black.



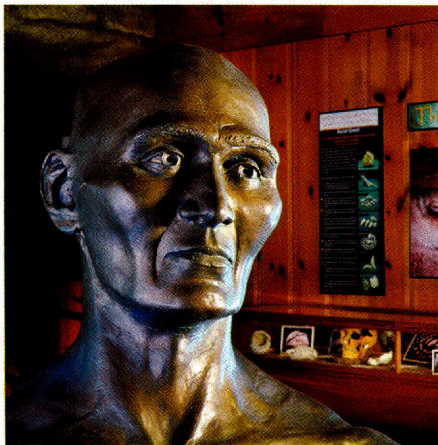
Excavation at Gault, like any archaeological site, is performed with the goal of trying to better understand the past. To meet this end, each stage of study demands careful attention to detail, a knowledgeable staff, and a highly organized effort.

The Bell County Museum in Belton highlights exhibitions relating to area archeology, and also offers tours to the nearby Gault Site.

Alibates is not a true flint but a type of agate called agatized dolomite. A sedimentary rock similar to limestone, dolomite forms the craggy caprock along the Canadian River. Clovis and Folsom peoples came here to gather chunks of Alibates, found in profusion in a 10-square-mile area, and knapped the colorful agate into elegantly fluted projectile points. Clovis points made of Alibates flint have turned up in archeological sites—even *in situ* with ancient bison and mammoth bones—in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, and Mexico. Alibates flint was a sought-after trade item among prehistoric peoples, and it's still treasured by contemporary flint-knappers.

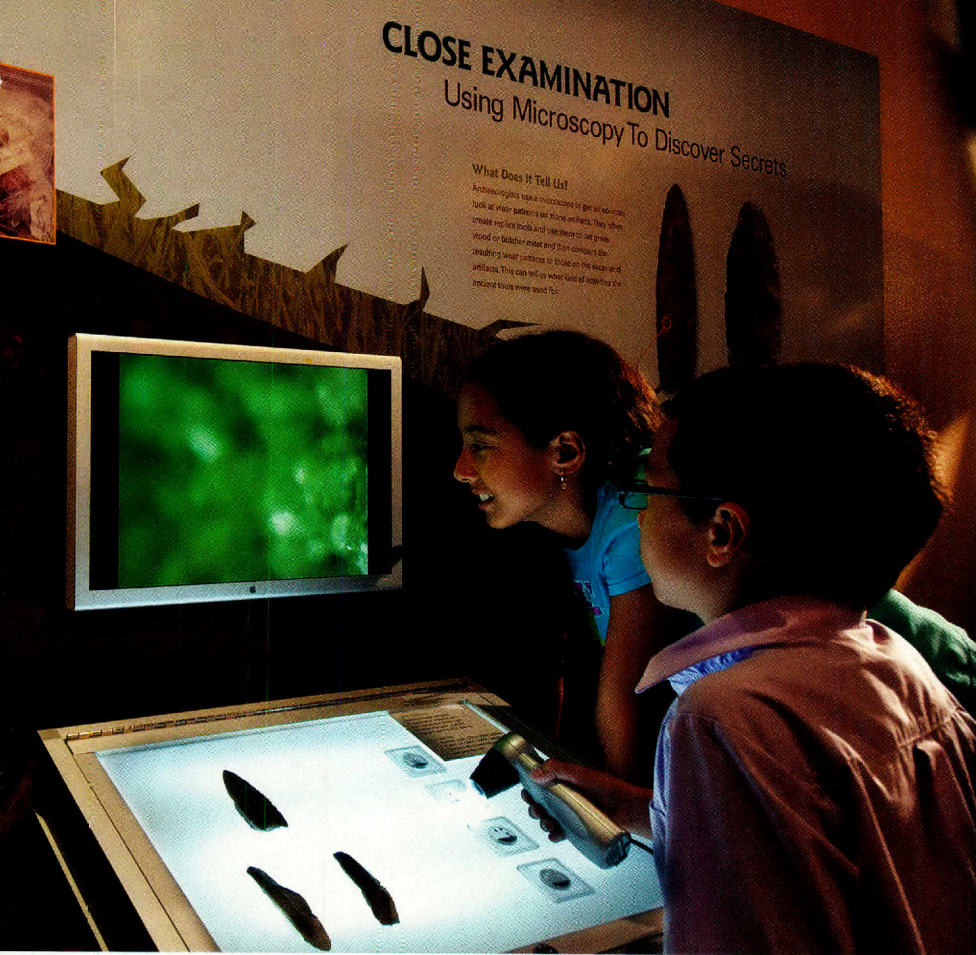
Long after the Clovis and Folsom cultures vanished, a Plains Village culture migrated to the Canadian River area around A.D. 1050 and began to set up permanent residences. A flourishing village existed here from 1150 to 1450. These Antelope Creek people grew crops, hunted bison and deer, made pottery, and

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL AMADOR



The Bosque Museum in Clifton showcases a bust of the Paleoindian "Horn Shelter Man," whose skeleton was found in a rock shelter on the Brazos River.





actively mined the Alibates flint, leaving behind hundreds of quarry pits.

More than 700 excavation sites lie within the 1,300-acre Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument. Established in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson to protect the quarries, it is the only national monument in Texas. The monument's unusual name comes from Allen "Allie" Bates, a 19th-Century cowboy who lived near the quarries.

Alibates Flint Quarries remains relatively undeveloped, with a wild character that appeals to solitude seekers. "Visitors come here specifically looking for the monument and are ready to spend a couple of hours here," says park ranger Marten Schmitz. "For a small, remote monument like this, that's remarkable."

Most visitors begin at the interpretive center, where they watch an award-winning film about the site. The only way to see the quarries is by a ranger-guided tour, scheduled twice a day. A half-mile trail ascends from the valley floor to the caprock. Shards of Alibates flint glint every step of the way.

"In some places, you can hardly walk without stepping on human-generated artifacts," says Schmitz. "The debitage is everywhere." And so were the Paleoindians.

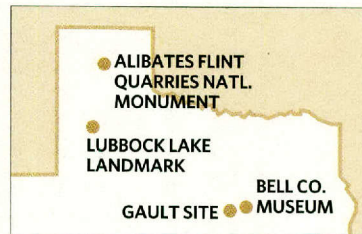
The great adventure of discovering our ancient Paleo past has begun. With more than 50,000 known prehistoric sites, Texas has a rich archeological record that illuminates the story of how humans reached and spread across the Americas.

"The peopling of the New World was a very late chapter in human history," concludes Mike Collins of the Gault School. "The Western Hemisphere represents 25 percent of the habitable surface of the earth, and yet it was the last land mass to be populated by humans. What spurred their move into this new hemisphere? Why didn't it occur earlier? The answers to those questions will round out the story of our ancestry."

From the Gault site to Lubbock Lake and Alibates Flint Quarries, we're discovering that the oldest Texans were resilient and resourceful survivors. We still have much to learn from our ancient ancestors. **TH**

*Austin-based writer DALE WEISMAN blogs about the ethics of artifact-collecting and the science of archeology at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).*

## ➔ TH ESSENTIALS



## Learning about Archeology

TOURS of the **Gault Site** are available by appointment. Call 512/245-8734; [www.gaultschool.org](http://www.gaultschool.org).

The **Bell County Museum** is at 201 N. Main St. in **Belton**. Call 254/933-5243; [www.bellcountymuseum.org](http://www.bellcountymuseum.org).

**Lubbock Lake Landmark** is at 2401 Landmark Drive in **Lubbock**. Call 806/742-1116; [www.depts.ttu.edu/museumttu/lll](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/museumttu/lll).

**Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument**, northeast of Amarillo near **Fritch**, offers two-hour, ranger-guided tours twice a day. Call 806/857-3151; [www.nps.gov/afll](http://www.nps.gov/afll).

To learn more about the prehistory of the Texas Panhandle, visit the **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon**. Call 806/651-2244; [www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org).

In **Clifton**, the **Bosque Museum's Horn Shelter Exhibit** sheds light on a Paleoindian burial site found in Bosque County in 1954. Call 254/675-3845; [www.bosquemuseum.org](http://www.bosquemuseum.org).

In **Waco**, the 100-acre **Waco Mammoth Site** features a dig shelter displaying the fossil remains of Columbian mammoths discovered there in the late 1970s. Call 254/750-7946; [www.wacomammoth.org](http://www.wacomammoth.org).

To learn more about archeology in Texas and how to participate in field work and active digs, visit the website of the **Texas Archeological Society**, [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org).

The Texas Historical Commission sponsors **Texas Archeology Month** each October, with a variety of site tours, field trips, demonstrations, and hands-on exhibits at locations throughout Texas. Call 512/463-6096; [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml).



# fests UP!

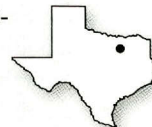
From historic reenactments  
to shrimp cook-offs, celebrate  
around the state

Text by **CLAIRE RONNER**

**A**S SUMMER SLOWLY COMES TO A close, the annual flurry of fall activities approaches at full speed. The structure of back-to-school descends, displacing the splashes at swimming pools, the squeals at theme parks, and lazy days by the lakeshore. But many small towns come alive in autumn—with home-grown events that celebrate our state's rich and varied (and sometimes quirky) heritage. We share a handful here, so be ready, these festivals will tempt your tastebuds at the promise of succulent shrimp or barbecue, make your body move along to some blues, and even transport you back to the Texas frontier.



**Blues and BBQ Festival, Bedford, September 1-2.** When Bedford decided to resurrect its old blues festival in 2009 after a five-year hiatus, they revamped it by adding a barbecue competition. Little did the city know just how far barbecue fans would travel for a sampling of delectable meats.



“We see people from all over the country who truly care about their barbecue,” says Wendy Hartnett, special events manager for the City of Bedford. “Some barbecue is sweet, some is spicy, and it’s fun to see what different teams do for their entries.”

Fifty teams compete in their choice of four categories, though to win the title of grand champion, a team must have an entry in all of them: beef brisket, chicken, pork ribs, and pork shoulder. Visitors can sample barbecue from each competitor and even cast a vote in the People’s Choice competition Saturday afternoon. In addition to the barbecue, there are carnival rides and more than





The Sahave Indian Dancers from Uvalde perform at Feeding the Frontier in Montgomery. This year, the festival adds a 150-team barbecue cook-off to the 1800s-style Dutch-oven cooking.

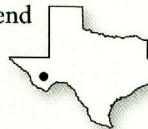
PHOTOS: MICHAEL AMADOR

30 arts vendors selling paintings, jewelry, and seasonal décor.

For those looking to the blues side of the festival, there's live music throughout the weekend. One stage features local bands, and the other hosts national acts that include Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Ana Popovic, Keb' Mo', and CJ Chenier. "At the end of the night, being outside under the stars with the live music on stage is an incredible experience," says Hartnett. "The combination of the blues and the barbecue is perfect." Call 817/952-2128; [www.bedfordbluesbbq.com](http://www.bedfordbluesbbq.com).

### Big Bend Balloon Bash, Alpine,

**September 1-3.** At the Big Bend Balloon Bash, you can learn a lot about hot-air ballooning without ever leaving the ground. The festival welcomes more than 20 pilots and their balloons to three early-morning balloon launches and one evening glow. Although you can't request balloon rides at the event, many pilots need extra hands to prepare for liftoff and landing, and anyone age seven or older can crew.



"People are welcome to walk around the balloons," says Kip Piper, festival committee

member. "Sometimes I'll just turn around, say to an interested onlooker 'You, here, hold this,' and before you know it an entire family is wrapped up in the balloon launch."

The balloon liftoffs begin at 7 each morning, so remember to bring jackets and blankets in case it's chilly. Vendors with coffee, doughnuts, and other breakfast foods sit next to booths selling balloon ornaments, pins, and other souvenirs. Saturday evening features the fire concert: The local band director conducts to a recorded soundtrack as the wicker balloon baskets line up in a row and turn on their burners on cue. The result is a





PHOTO: MICHAEL AMADOR

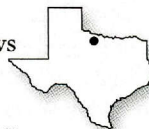


For a comprehensive list of statewide festivals, visit [www.traveltexas.com](http://www.traveltexas.com), click on "Events," and search for "Festivals."

synchronized balloon symphony that lights up the night sky. Visitors are welcome to bring chairs and picnics to enjoy the show. Call **432/837-7486**; [www.bigbendballoonbash.com](http://www.bigbendballoonbash.com).

**FallsFest, Wichita Falls, September**

**28-29.** Held in Lucy Park, Wichita Falls' FallsFest draws crowds with its food, sports competitions, 100-mile motorcycle ride, and nationally recognized music acts.



To help work off the varied indulgent food options (fried Oreos, cheesecake on a stick, and tacos, to name a few), FallsFest includes Highlander Games, a series of strength challenges for both men and women that pay tribute to Scottish culture. "Some contestants ever participate in their kilts," says Tammy Robertson, co-director of the festival. A sand-volleyball competition also tests festival-goers' athletic abilities. A games alley features a baseball toss and a balloon toss, and more fun awaits at a paintball tent, a mechanical bull ride, and a rock-climbing

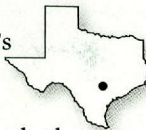




Cowboys, cops, princesses, and parents fill historic downtown Bastrop for trick-or-treating during the Halloween Festival. Also check out the hayrides and the family-friendly haunted house.

**Pecan Fest Heritage Days, Seguin,**

**October 26-28.** To coincide with the birthday of the city's namesake, Juan Seguin, Pecan Fest Heritage Days celebrates several town traits, both the quirky and the historic.



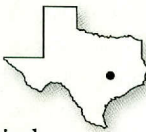
"Seguin is home to the world's largest pecan, a 16-foot-long statue at the Red Barn Agricultural Center," says Mary Jo Filip, festival founder. "We are also an older city with a number of interesting historic attractions. We use this weekend to get all of those sites open on the same day and welcome visitors to town."

Two of the town's heritage sites open for the weekend include the Heritage Museum and the Sebastopol House Historic Site. Keeping with the historic side of the festival, the "Hats Off to Juan Seguin" event encourages everyone to pull out the crazy hats, tip them to the town namesake, and join in a hat parade. Alongside the hat parade is the "Mighty Muttadors Pet Parade," a procession of pooches dressed in funny costumes—Filip says she's even seen a few dog-pecans. A downtown dance with live music follows the parade.

To celebrate the area's plentiful pecans, vendors sell whole pecans, shelled pecans, pecan pies, and pecan jellies. H-E-B specially makes an out-of-season batch of its "Texas Vanilla Seguin Pecan" ice cream (normally sold in January) for the weekend, available at venues around the festival. A small farmer's market sells locally grown produce, and other food includes hot dogs, tacos, beef brisket, and snow cones. Other attractions in the lineup: a pecan pie bake sale, a car show, the Tour de Pecan bike ride, and 100 arts and crafts booths. Call **800/580-7322; seguignonuts.com.**

**Halloween Festival, Bastrop,**

**October 31.** On Halloween night, join thousands in Bastrop's historic downtown for what the city boasts as one of the top Halloween festivals in the country. The area closes off at the



north and south blocks of Main Street to allow visitors easy access to the evening's events. Diversions include a pumpkin-carving contest, hayrides, and a haunted house. Area nonprofit groups set up booths for the kids and have various activities, from a photo booth to arts and crafts and a bean bag toss.

In between the live music, brave performers—from Elvis impersonators to Aerosmith wannabes—hop on stage to compete in a lip-sync contest. At the other end of the street, kids participate in the popular costume contest. "We break it out

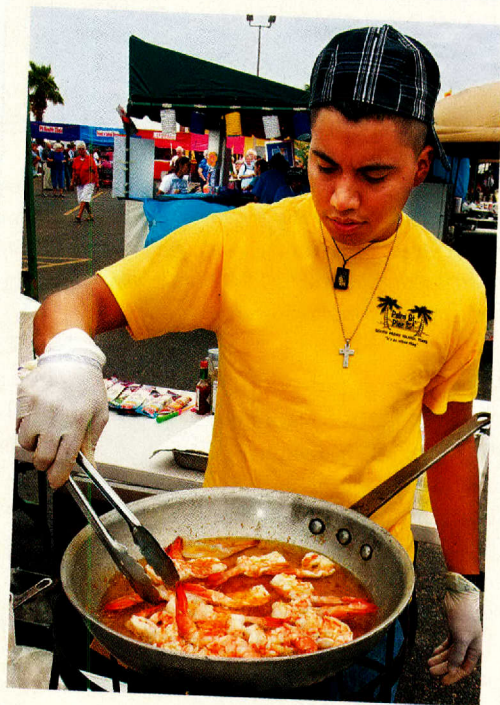


PHOTO: KEVIN STILLMAN

by ages," says Nancy Wood, a festival organizer. "Last year in the youngest age group, we had an adorable little girl dressed up like a peacock. And a boy dressed up as a Transformer. When he lay down on the stage, he became an airplane!"

As a rule, all competing teams at Port Isabel's World Championship Shrimp Cookoff must offer the public the same dish they submit for judging.

wall. In the "touch a truck" area, kids can climb in fire trucks and other vehicles.

Live entertainment begins Friday night with Kevin Fowler headlining and continues all day Saturday. A variety of singing, dancing, and tumbling acts perform on smaller stages, and a battle of the bands hosted by a local radio station pits some six area groups against each other. The prize is a prime-time slot opening for the Marshall Tucker Band on the main stage Saturday night. Call **940/692-9797; www.fallsfest.org.**



**festS**  
**UP!**



Fred and Ruth Ann Richardson of Lufkin admire the statue of the world's largest pecan at Seguin's Pecan Fest Heritage Days, which also features a ghost tour and a concert by the Shiner Hobo Band.

PHOTO: MICHAEL AMADOR

And it wouldn't be Halloween without some candy collecting—businesses along Main Street open for trick-or-treaters until 9 p.m. Call 512/303-0904; [www.bastropdba.com/halloween.html](http://www.bastropdba.com/halloween.html).

### World Championship Shrimp Cook-off, Port Isabel, November 3.

With around 30 amateur and professional chefs whipping up creative shrimp dishes for the masses, it's hard to resist the lure of the World Championship Shrimp Cook-off. Teams boil, fry, chill, chop, or barbecue more than a ton of shrimp caught locally around Port Isabel for the day's competition.

"We've seen coconut shrimp, shrimp Creole with rice, shrimp cocktails, shrimp-and-pasta dishes—every group has its own specialty," says Betty Wells, event coordinator for the Shrimp Cook-off. "But last year's shrimp stuffed with crab was by far my favorite."

The event began more than 19 years ago as a way for Port Isabel to showcase its shrimping industry. To highlight what Wells calls "some of the finest wild-caught

shrimp in the world," teams in both the amateur and professional categories compete for first, second, and third place. The other popular award is for showmanship—one year a team created "shrimp on the barbie" and had two of its cooks dress up like Barbie and Ken dolls.

Live music accompanies the competition; a mini carnival with face painting and balloon clowns entertains the young ones; and for non-seafood eaters there are vendors selling burgers, fajitas, popcorn, and snow cones. You can also browse work from local painters, woodcrafters, and jewelry makers while sampling each team's mouth-watering spin on shrimp. Call 956/943-2262; [portisabel.org/chamber/?page\\_id=53](http://portisabel.org/chamber/?page_id=53).

### Feeding the Frontier, Montgomery,

November 17. Feeding the Frontier lets visitors time-travel to the 1800s with various hands-on activities and heritage demonstrations. The festival takes place in Fernland Historical Park, the birthplace of the Texas flag. Four homes from the 1830s to the 1860s provide a perfect back-

drop for the vendors, performers, and volunteers, who all dress in period costumes.

Festival-goers can observe reenactors making fabric on textile looms, painting gourds, spinning clay on pottery wheels, weaving baskets, and blacksmithing. The food, all cooked in Dutch ovens over campfires, includes stew, cobbler, and cornbread. Entertainment features Native American dancers, cowboy storytellers, fiddlers, and banjo players. Representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo teach kids how to rope, and there's more fun with games like washers and horseshoes, balloon making, and face painting. Civil War reenactors display weaponry of the era and also hold cannon and artillery demonstrations during the day.

The event, organized by the Montgomery County Food Bank, also holds food and paper goods drives on Saturday, and all profits from the weekend go toward the food bank. Call 936/539-6686; [www.montgomerycountyfoodbank.com](http://www.montgomerycountyfoodbank.com). **TH**

*An Indiana native, CLAIRE RONNER enjoyed sharpening her Texas geography skills and chatting with dedicated festival volunteers across the state.*



# The Great Texas Orator

*Barbara Jordan's commanding voice still resonates in Texas, and beyond*

Text by **CLAIRE RONNER**



**A**S THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the deep South, Barbara Jordan faced adversity on her road to success, but she did not let society's limits define her. Born on

February 21, 1936, Jordan grew up in the Fifth Ward of Houston while segregation still gripped the state.

Her father, Benjamin, was a Baptist minister and raised Jordan and her two sisters with strong moral values. But it was Jordan's maternal grandfather, John Ed Patten, who shaped her characteristic traits of confidence and perseverance.

"He had a significant influence on her life," says Max Sherman, Dean Emeritus of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University

Noted as a captivating lecturer, Jordan taught political values and ethics courses at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT following her time in Washington, D.C.

**More**  
Memorable quotes from Barbara Jordan at [texashighways.com/more](http://texashighways.com/more)



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Photo taken at The Cibolo Nature Center by J. Walker



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## Speaking of Texas

of Texas at Austin and colleague of Jordan's while in the Texas State Senate and at UT. "He told her she could do anything she wanted to do. She developed a toughness of spirit and knew she could do anything in spite of any obstacles." Jordan displayed this attitude in everything she did, from high school debates through her influential years in the government.

Jordan possessed excellent public-speaking skills from a young age. While at Phillis Wheatley High School in Houston, she placed first at the Texas State Ushers Oratorical contest and continued on to win the national oratorical contest

in Chicago. Jordan graduated with honors and attended Texas Southern University in Houston, where she excelled at the debate team and defeated students from Harvard and Yale, among other prestigious schools.

"She learned that she had to fight for herself," says Sherman. "She went to the national debate tournament and won, but going and coming had to sleep in 'colored only' hotels, eat in 'colored' restaurants, and drink from 'colored' water fountains. She knew what it was to overcome adversity by her own will. It was the heart and soul of who she was."

After receiving her bachelor's degrees in political science and history, Jordan enrolled at the Boston School of Law and graduated in 1959. She was one of only two women to graduate that year, both of whom were African American. Jordan passed both the Massachusetts and the Texas bar examinations that year and received her license to practice law in both states.

Instead of taking work as a lawyer in Massachusetts, Jordan returned to

Houston but had difficulty finding a position. Linda Ferreira-Buckley, a UT-Austin rhetoric and English professor writing a book for UT-Press on Jordan, notes that even though laws had changed, discrimination hadn't.

"She knew winning at a debate tournament was not the same as persuading others to take action," Ferreira-Buckley says. "Laws could be passed, practices

could be found illegal, but that didn't necessarily eliminate the illegal actions, nor did it change racist attitudes. She realized the need for education and persuasion to get people to change their views."

So Jordan started a law firm out

of her parents' basement in Houston. She supported the Kennedy-Johnson presidential campaign in 1960 and encouraged African-American constituents in her area to get out and vote. The result was the largest black voter turnout in Harris County history.

Jordan ran for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in 1962. She was unsuccessful, and failed again in 1964, but her perseverance eventually paid off. In 1966, Barbara Jordan became the first black person since Reconstruction to be elected to the Texas State Senate and also the first woman to serve in that position. During Jordan's tenure in the State Senate, she set minimum-wage standards, rid business contracts of discriminatory language, and worked on environmental legislation.

In 1972, Houston voters elected Jordan to the United States House of Representatives. Once in Washington, she called on the help of fellow Texan Lyndon Johnson to secure a spot on the Judiciary and Ways and Means committees.

When the Watergate scandal came to

Barbara Jordan knew what it was to overcome adversity. It was the heart and soul of who she was.



## Barbara Jordan Remembered

WITH HER PASSING IN 1996, BARBARA JORDAN BECAME THE FIRST African American to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery in **Austin**, an honor for which she advocated for African Americans while in the Texas State Senate. Her grave rests behind that of Stephen F. Austin. Call 512/463-0605; [www.cemetery.state.tx.us/](http://www.cemetery.state.tx.us/).

The **Barbara Jordan Memorial Statue** stands at 24th and Whitis Streets on UT Austin's campus, where Jordan taught. Visit [www.utexas.edu/diversity/barbarajordan/index.php](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/barbarajordan/index.php).

The Austin Bergstrom International Airport named its passenger terminal for Representative Jordan, and a commemorative statue and plaque stand in the baggage claim area. Visit [www.ifly.com/austin-bergstrom-international-airport/](http://www.ifly.com/austin-bergstrom-international-airport/).



Inside the Texas State Capitol, Barbara Jordan's portrait hangs in the Senate Chamber. Call 512/305-8400; [www.tspb.state.tx.us/CVC/home/home.html](http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/CVC/home/home.html).

Browse Jordan's personal papers in the Congresswoman Barbara Jordan Archives at the Department of Special Collections in the Robert James Terry Library on Texas Southern University's campus in **Houston**. Call 713/313-4416; [www.tsu.edu/academics/Robert\\_J\\_Terry\\_Library/SpecialCollections.php](http://www.tsu.edu/academics/Robert_J_Terry_Library/SpecialCollections.php).

—Claire Ronner

Jordan was not only the first African American to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery—her statue was also the first of a female on UT's campus.

light in 1974, Jordan called for Nixon's impeachment.

"My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, and it is total," Jordan said. "I am not going to sit here and be idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

When fellow committee members suggested that the evidence against Nixon wasn't sufficient, Jordan replied, "Perhaps the 18th-Century Constitution should be abandoned to a 20th-Century paper shredder."

After the shock of Watergate settled, Jordan turned her focus to ending discrimination in the government. In 1975, she spearheaded the expansion of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to include other minorities. She campaigned diligently

for Jimmy Carter, and at the 1976 Democratic National Convention became the first woman and first African American to deliver the keynote address.

Although she belonged to the Congressional Black Caucus and occasionally attended meetings of the House women, Jordan did not attach herself to any particular agenda. Peers knew her as a diplomatic politician who sought common ground and compromise.

"On the floor of the Senate, she cared about her colleagues," says Max Sherman. "She was very interested in helping you be a better senator. And our constituents couldn't have been more different—I was from West Texas, in a traditionally conservative district, and there was a lot of open space. She represented the Fifth



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## Speaking of Texas

Jordan's maternal grandfather,  
John Ed Patten, shaped her characteristic traits  
of confidence and perseverance.

Ward of Houston. But she helped me be a better senator."

In 1979, Jordan surprised many by leaving politics and accepting an offer to teach ethics at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT. She continued to lecture extensively and acquired several honorary degrees and awards. While teaching, she served as ethics counselor to Texas Governor Ann Richards from 1990 to 1994 and sat on a United Nations Panel regarding transnational corporations in Namibia and South Africa. President Clinton appointed her to chair the U.S. Commission on immigration reform in 1994.

After Jordan passed away on January 17, 1996, of complications from multiple sclerosis (diagnosed in 1973), pneumonia, and leukemia, her achievements continued to break barriers. She became the first African American to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. School districts named numerous public schools throughout Texas in her honor, and the school of public affairs at Texas Southern University bears her name. A bronze statue of Jordan with hands on her hips and a small smile on her face stands at 24th and Whitis streets on UT Austin's campus.

Max Sherman collected quotes from



some of Jordan's former students as part of the introduction for a book on the Congresswoman's speeches. "I've never met a person who believed so strongly that we can actually change the world," says one. "That gives me confidence that we really can."

"Despite the accomplishments on the front of her tombstone, the back of it only has one word: teacher," says Sherman. "She wanted to be remembered as a teacher." **TH**

Jordan, in her office with students, had great faith in young people. She encouraged equality, selflessness, discourse, and tolerance throughout her time as a professor.



## Pies, Pickin', and Parades

### TH tip

Camp at Mother Neff State Park, 8 miles away

IN 1884, THE CENTRAL TEXAS TOWN OF **Moody** had 250 residents and four cotton gins. Cotton picking was grueling work and townsfolk no doubt celebrated when it was done. The cotton's gone, but celebrating continues at the 13th annual **Moody Cotton Harvest Festival**, September 22. The free event kicks off with a pie contest and auction at 9 a.m., followed by a parade featuring floats, bands, mounted cavalry, antique cars, color guards, and even an accordion player. From around 2 until 10 p.m., a lineup of local and regional bands takes the stage. Enjoy arts and crafts, food, and activities and games for the kids, with proceeds supporting the Moody Community Center. Call 254/366-3855; [www.moodycottonharvestfestival.org](http://www.moodycottonharvestfestival.org).



## September Events

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**ALPINE: Big Bend Balloon Bash** September 1-3. [www.bigbendballoonbash.com](http://www.bigbendballoonbash.com) 432/837-7486

**ALPINE: Heaven to Hell Motorcycle Ride** September 29. E-mail: [mlatta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlatta@sbcglobal.net) 800/561-3712

**EL PASO: Sun City Music Festival** September 1-2. Ascarate Park. [www.suncitymusicfestival.com](http://www.suncitymusicfestival.com)

**FORT DAVIS: Fall Bird Count** September 22. CDRI Nature Center. [www.cdri.org](http://www.cdri.org) 432/364-2499

**MCCAMEY: Wind Energy Capital of Texas Cook-Off** September 28-29. Santa Fe Park. [www.windenergycapitaloftexascookoff.com](http://www.windenergycapitaloftexascookoff.com) 432/652-8202

**MIDLAND: American Plains Artists Annual Juried Exhibit and Sale** September 1-October 14. Museum of the Southwest. [www.museumsw.org](http://www.museumsw.org) 432/683-2882

**MIDLAND: SeptemberFest 2012: Year of the Water Dragon** September 7-9. Museum of the Southwest. [www.museumsw.org](http://www.museumsw.org) 432/683-2882

**MONAHANS: Desert Reflections Car Show** September 8. Hill Park. [www.monahans.org](http://www.monahans.org) 432/238-0445

**ODESSA: The Magical Piñata** September 28-30. Globe Theatre. [www.globesw.org](http://www.globesw.org)

### GULF COAST

**BEAUMONT: Espoused Group Exhibition** September 22-January 6. [www.amset.org](http://www.amset.org) 409/832-3432

**BROWNSVILLE: Living History Program** September 1. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Site. [www.nps.gov/paal/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/paal/index.htm) 956/541-2785



## Hutchinson County Museum

### Adobe Walls Trek

**September 29 at 9am** | Dr. Paul Carlson, speaking on his book "Myth, Memory, and Massacre." Dr. Ho-le Humphries speaking about the Quanah Parker Trail Initiative. Programs at the Adobe Walls 1864 and 1874 battle sites with Dr. Jeff Indek.

Program will be held at Borger City Hall 600 N. Main next to the Museum; ad sponsored by Friends of the Museum.

Borger, TX | [HutchinsonCountyMuseum.org](http://HutchinsonCountyMuseum.org) | 806.273.0130



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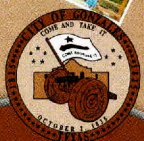
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## TH tip

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### TH SPOTLIGHT

## Blue Dog Goes Texan

IN A SILKSCREEN TITLED *Big Texan Sky*, George Rodrigue's famous Blue Dog sports a cowboy hat, boots, and Texas flag bandana beneath, you guessed it, a big Texas sky. The Louisiana artist created this original work to celebrate a special exhibition of 110 of his pieces at the **Amarillo Museum of Art—George Rodrigue: Blue Dogs in Texas**—which runs August 10 through October 14. Rodrigue first painted Blue Dog as the mythical loup-garou, or werewolf, for a book of Cajun ghost stories, and since then the colorful canine has appeared in a multitude of settings. Rodrigue knows Texas skies well from frequent travels between his galleries in New Orleans and Lafayette and Carmel, California. Call 806/371-5050; [www.amarilloart.org](http://www.amarilloart.org).



**CLEAR LAKE AREA: Annual Ballunar Liff Festival** September 28-30. NASA/Johnson Space Center. [www.ballunarfestival.com](http://www.ballunarfestival.com) 281/488-7676

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Public Art Tram Tour** September 7. E-mail: [info@creativeconnectionscc.org](mailto:info@creativeconnectionscc.org) 361/883-ARTS

**CORPUS CHRISTI/PORT ARANSAS: Conquer the Coast Bicycle Rides** September 22. Whataburger Field. [www.conquerthecoast.org](http://www.conquerthecoast.org) 361/881-1800 ext. 224

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Celebration of Flight and Hawk-Watch Festival** September 28-30. Hazel Bazemore County Park. [www.visitcorpuschristitx.org](http://www.visitcorpuschristitx.org) 361/881-1888

**GALVESTON: BrewMasters Craft Beer Festival** September 1-2. Moody Gardens. [www.brewmastersbeerfest.com](http://www.brewmastersbeerfest.com)

**GALVESTON: Bishop's Palace Behind-the-Scenes Tour** September 15. [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org) 409/762-2475

**GALVESTON: An Evening with Joel Grey** September 29. [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com) 800/821-1894

**GROVES: Texas Pecan Festival** September 20-23. Lions Park. [www.texaspecanfestival.com](http://www.texaspecanfestival.com) 409/962-3631

**HARLINGEN: Celebration of Mexican Independence Day** September 14. 956/423-5565 ext. 223

**HOUSTON: Contemporary Asian Art: Texas Connections** September 1-16. [www.asiasociety.org/texas](http://www.asiasociety.org/texas) 713/496-9901

**HOUSTON: Brazilian Festival** September 2. Jones Plaza. [www.houstonbrazilianfest.org](http://www.houstonbrazilianfest.org) 713/862-3300

**HOUSTON: Houston Fine Art Fair** September 14-16. Reliant Center. [www.houstonfineartfair.com](http://www.houstonfineartfair.com)

**KEMAH: Jazz Festival at the Kemah Boardwalk** September 29-30. [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com) 281/334-9880

**LEAGUE CITY: Boogie, Blues and Brews** September 21-23. Walter Hall Park. [www.leaguecityevents.com](http://www.leaguecityevents.com) 832/704-1110

**MATAGORDA: Matagorda Heritage Day and Boil Blast** September 29. Fireman's Hall. 979/220-7339

**ORANGE: National Tunnel Boat Races** September 22-23. [www.orangetexas.org](http://www.orangetexas.org) 409/883-1011

**PORT ARANSAS: IFA Redfish Tour** September 14-16. Port Aransas City Harbor. [www.redfishtour.com](http://www.redfishtour.com) 478/836-4266

**PORT ARTHUR: Dick Dowling Days** September 8-9. Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site. [www.visit Sabinepassbattleground.com](http://www.visit Sabinepassbattleground.com) 409/866-1655

**PORT LAVACA: Flip Flop Festival** September 1. Bayfront Peninsula. [www.portlavacatx.org](http://www.portlavacatx.org) 361/552-2959

**RICHMOND: Richmond's 175th Birthday** September 15. Downtown. [www.historicrichmond.com](http://www.historicrichmond.com) 832/752-9645

**ROCKPORT: Hummer/Bird Celebration** September 13-16. [www.rockporthummingbird.com](http://www.rockporthummingbird.com) 361/729-6445

**SAN BENITO: Market Days** September 15. Plaza de San Benito. [www.cityofsanbenito.com](http://www.cityofsanbenito.com) 956/399-5321

**SUGAR LAND: Sugar Land Heritage Foundation Historic Walking Tour** September 8. [www.slheritage.org](http://www.slheritage.org)



**TOMBALL: Bugs, Brew and Barbecue** September 29. Around the historic depot. [www.ci.tomball.tx.us](http://www.ci.tomball.tx.us) 281/351-5484

**VICTORIA: Czech Heritage Festival** September 23. Victoria Community Center. [www.victoriaczechs.org](http://www.victoriaczechs.org) 361/575-0820

**VIDOR: Texas Barbecue Festival and Texas Star Music Festival** September 14-16. [www.vidorchamber.com](http://www.vidorchamber.com) 409/769-6339

## HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN: Texas Music Roadtrip Exhibit** September 1-October 14. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com)

**AUSTIN: Fantastic Fest** September 20-27. The largest genre film festival in the country. [www.fantasticfest.com](http://www.fantasticfest.com)

**AUSTIN: Austin International Poetry Festival** September 27-30. [www.aipf.org](http://www.aipf.org) 512/343-7940

**BANDERA: Cowboys on Main** September 8, 15, 22, 29. Main Street. [www.frontiertimesmuseum.com](http://www.frontiertimesmuseum.com) 800/364-3833

**BARTLETT: Old Town Festival** September 14-15. Downtown. [www.bartletttx.net](http://www.bartletttx.net) 254/527-0196

**BERTRAM: Oatmeal Festival** September 1. Downtown. [www.oatmealfestival.com](http://www.oatmealfestival.com) 512/355-2197 or 512/228-8726

**BOERNE: Kendall County Fair** September 1-2. Kendall County Fairgrounds. [www.kcfa.org](http://www.kcfa.org) 830/249-2839

**BRADY: World Championship Barbecue Goat Cook-Off** September 1. Richards Park. [www.bradytx.com/pages/WorldChampionshipGoatCookOff1](http://www.bradytx.com/pages/WorldChampionshipGoatCookOff1) 888/577-3491

**BROWNWOOD: Brownwood Reunion Celebration** September 14-16. [www.celebratebrownwood.com](http://www.celebratebrownwood.com) 325/646-9535

**BURNET: Barbecue Cook-Off and Music Festival** September 28-30. [www.burnetcookoff.com](http://www.burnetcookoff.com) 512/756-4297

**CASTROVILLE: Fiorella Friday/A Night in Old Castroville** September 7. [www.castroville.com](http://www.castroville.com) 830/931-2525

**CEDAR PARK: SplashJam** September 2. Milburn Park. [www.cedarparktexas.gov](http://www.cedarparktexas.gov) 512/401-5500

**DRIPPING SPRINGS: Dripping with Taste Wine and Food Fest** September 8. [www.drippingwithtaste.org](http://www.drippingwithtaste.org) 512/858-4740

**FREDERICKSBURG: Pacific Combat Living History Program** September 1-2. National Museum of the Pacific War Combat Zone. [www.pacificwarmuseum.org](http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org) 830/997-8600

**HARPER: Frontier Day** September 1. Harper Community Park. [www.harpercommunitypark.com](http://www.harpercommunitypark.com)

**HONDO: Medina County Fair** September 15-16. Medina County Fairgrounds. [www.medinacountyfair.org](http://www.medinacountyfair.org) 830/426-5406

**KERRVILLE: Kerrville Wine and Music Festival** September 1-2. [www.kerrville-music.com](http://www.kerrville-music.com) 830/257-3600

**LAKEHILLS: Medina Lake Cajun Festival and Great Gumbo Cook-Off** September 22. Lakehills Civic Center. [www.cajunfestival-medinalake.com](http://www.cajunfestival-medinalake.com) 830/751-3130

**NEW BRAUNFELS: Comal County Fair and Rodeo** September 22-30. [www.comalcountyfair.org](http://www.comalcountyfair.org) 830/625-1505

**OZONA: Davy Crockett Festival** September 22. Town square. [www.ozona.com](http://www.ozona.com)

**UVALDE: Palomino Fest Labor Day Weekend Celebration** September 1-2. [www.palominofest.com](http://www.palominofest.com) 830/261-5263

**WIMBERLEY: Market Day** September 1. Lions Pavilion on R.R. 2325. [www.shopmarketdays.com](http://www.shopmarketdays.com) 512/847-2201

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**ABILENE: West Texas Fair and Rodeo** September 6-15. Taylor County Expo Center. 325/677-4376

**ABILENE: West Texas Book and Music Festival** September 18-22. [www.abilenetx.com/apl/bookfest\\_general.html](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl/bookfest_general.html) 325/676-6328

**ABILENE: Big Country Balloon Fest** September 28-30. Red Bud Park. 325/795-0995

**AMARILLO: Tri-State Fair and Rodeo** September 14-22. Amarillo Tri-State Exposition Grounds. [www.tristatefair.com](http://www.tristatefair.com)

**ANDREWS: Tumbleweed Festival** September 1-2. Andrews County Expo. [www.andrewstx.com](http://www.andrewstx.com) 432/523-2695

**BIG SPRING: Howard County Fair** September 27-29. [www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com](http://www.howardcountyfairoftexas.com) 432/267-2335

**BORGER: Adobe Walls Trek** September 29. [www.hutchinsoncountymuseum.org](http://www.hutchinsoncountymuseum.org) 806/273-0130

**BOYS RANCH: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo** September 1-2. <http://web.callfarley.org/rodeo> 806/372-2341

**CANADIAN: Calf Fry Cook-Off** September 29. Jones Pavilion. [www.canadiantx.com](http://www.canadiantx.com) 806/323-6234

**DALHART: Downtown Block Party** September 15. Denrock Avenue. [www.dalhart.org](http://www.dalhart.org) 806/244-5646

**EDEN: Fall Fest** September 21-22. Downtown and Lee Pfluger Park. [www.edentexas.com](http://www.edentexas.com) 325/869-3336

**HENRIETTA: Clay County Pioneer Reunion** September 13-15. [www.claycountypioneerreunion.com](http://www.claycountypioneerreunion.com) 940/538-5261

**IDALOU: Apple Butter Festival** September 8-9. [www.applecountryorchards.com](http://www.applecountryorchards.com) 806/892-2961

**LUBBOCK: National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration** September 6-9. [www.cowboy.org](http://www.cowboy.org) 806/798-7825

**LUBBOCK: Fiestas Patrias Festival** September 15-16. [www.fiestasdelano.org](http://www.fiestasdelano.org) 806/749-9600

**LUBBOCK: Panhandle South Plains Fair** September 21-29. Lubbock Fairgrounds. [www.southplainsfair.com](http://www.southplainsfair.com)

**QUANAH: Quanah Fall Festival** September 15. Downtown. 940/663-2222

**RALLS: Cotton Boll Festival** September 15. Downtown square. E-mail: [rallscofc@esc17.net](mailto:rallscofc@esc17.net) 806/253-2342

**SAN ANGELO: Sacred Visions: Masterpieces of Spanish Colonial and Mexican Religious Art** September 14-November 18. A Diez y Seis celebration is set for Sept. 15. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. [www.samfa.org](http://www.samfa.org) 325/653-3333

**WICHITA FALLS: Texas-Oklahoma Fair** September 11-15. [www.joetomwhite.com](http://www.joetomwhite.com) 940/720-2999

**WICHITA FALLS: Falls Fest** September 28-29. Lucy Park. [www.fallsfest.org](http://www.fallsfest.org) 940/692-9797

## PINEY WOODS

**COLDSRING: San Jacinto County Fair and Rodeo** September 21-29. [www.sjcfairandrodeo.com](http://www.sjcfairandrodeo.com) 936/653-4070

**CONROE: Texas Bass Classic** September 28-30. [www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com](http://www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com) 936/522-3500

**GRAPELAND: Bluegrass Festival** September 1-2. Salmon Lake Park. [www.salmonlakepark.com](http://www.salmonlakepark.com) 936/687-2594

**HUNTSVILLE: Huntsville Antique Show** September 15-16. [www.huntsvilleantiqueshow.com](http://www.huntsvilleantiqueshow.com) 936/295-4162

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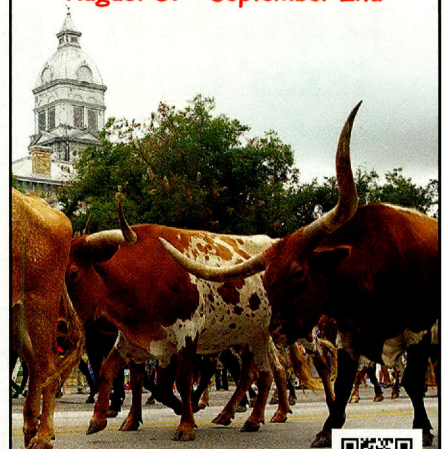
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**JACKSONVILLE:** Thunder in the Pines Motorcycle Rally and Music Jam September 28-29. [www.jacksonvillerrally.com](http://www.jacksonvillerrally.com)

**JEFFERSON:** Trammel's Trace Rendezvous September 14-15. [www.trammelstrace.com](http://www.trammelstrace.com) 866/398-2038

**LONGVIEW:** Gregg County Fair and Expo September 7-15. Maude Cobb Activity Center. 903/753-4478

**LUFKIN:** Texas State Forest Festival September 19-23. [www.texasforestfestival.com](http://www.texasforestfestival.com) 936/634-6644

**MINEOLA:** Lone Star Barbecue Cook-Off September 28-29. [www.mccrvpark.com](http://www.mccrvpark.com) 903/569-6115

**MONTGOMERY:** Wine and Music Festival September 15. [www.experiencemontgomery.com](http://www.experiencemontgomery.com) 936/522-3500

**THE WOODLANDS:** Labor Day Weekend Celebration September 1-2. [www.thewoodlandscvb.com](http://www.thewoodlandscvb.com) 281/363-2447

**TYLER:** East Texas State Fair September 21-30. [www.etstatefair.com](http://www.etstatefair.com) 903/597-2501

**WOODVILLE:** Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past September 22. [www.heritagevillage.org](http://www.heritagevillage.org) 409/283-2272

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**ANDERSON:** Days to Remember September 8. Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site. [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com) 936/873-2633

**ANNA:** Hammerfest 2012 September 1-3. YMCA Adventure Camp. E-mail: [hotofftheanvil@aol.com](mailto:hotofftheanvil@aol.com).

**BASTROP:** Pine Street Market Day September 8. [www.bastropbusinesswomen.com](http://www.bastropbusinesswomen.com) 512/303-6233

**BEDFORD:** Bedford Blues and Barbecue September 1-2. [www.bedfordbluesbbq.com](http://www.bedfordbluesbbq.com) 817/952-2128

**BELLVILLE:** Market Day on the Square September 1. [www.bellville.com](http://www.bellville.com) 979/865-3407

**BELTON:** Central Texas State Fair September 1-2. [www.centraltexasstatefair.com](http://www.centraltexasstatefair.com) 254/933-5353

**BRENHAM:** Washington County Fair September 15-22. [www.washingtoncofair.com](http://www.washingtoncofair.com) 979/836-4112

**BURTON:** Texas Mead Fest September 22. 979/249-5652

**CALDWELL:** Kolache Festival September 8. Courthouse square. [www.burlesoncountytexas.com](http://www.burlesoncountytexas.com) 979/567-0000

**CALDWELL:** Burleson County Fair September 24-29. Burleson County Fairgrounds. 979/567-2308

**CANTON:** First Monday Trade Days September 1-2, 27-30. [www.visitcantontx.com](http://www.visitcantontx.com) 877/462-7467

**CAT SPRING:** Rural Texas Antiques Show September 8-9. [www.ruraltexasantiquesshows.com](http://www.ruraltexasantiquesshows.com) 979/865-5618

**CLEBURNE/MAYPEARL:** Antique Alley and 37 Miles of Shopping September 21-23. Along FM 4, FM 916, and Texas 81. [www.antiqualleytexas.com](http://www.antiqualleytexas.com) 817/240-4948

**COLUMBUS:** Colorado County Fair September 6-9. [www.coloradocountyfair.org](http://www.coloradocountyfair.org) 979/732-9266

**COMANCHE:** Comanche County Powwow Festival September 22-23. [www.comanchechamber.org](http://www.comanchechamber.org) 325/356-3233

**CRANFILLS GAP:** Septemberfest September 8. [www.gapseptemberfest.org](http://www.gapseptemberfest.org) 937/344-1794

(continued on page 74)

# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

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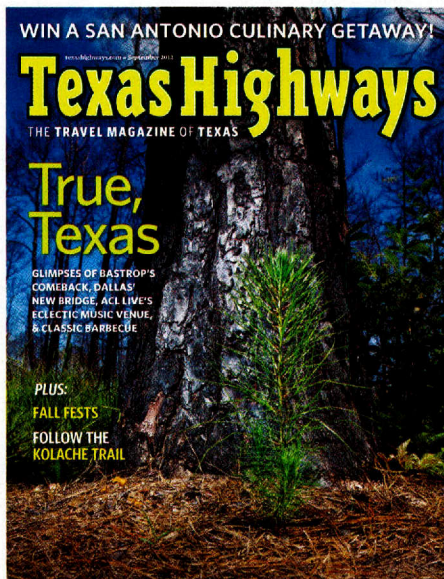
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# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

## 2013 CALENDAR

# Great Gift!



*Texas Highways'*

# 2013 Wall Calendar

**Enjoy the beauty of the Lone Star State** all year. Breathtaking scenery from the Palo Duro Canyon to Davy Crockett National Forest and from the Panhandle to the Texas Coast, the diversity of the Texas landscape offers something for everyone. Opens to 13½ × 21½ inches.

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**Botanical Prints**

One-of-a-kind pressed flower art is printed as nature designed. Each reproduction is made from an original pressed wildflower gathered from nature. Hand embellishments keep these botanicals unique. Printed on classic linen 100% recycled paper. Beveled 8-ply mat, ready to frame: 11 x 14 inches each. Includes **Bluebonnets, Mexican Blankets and Evening Primrose**

**Item 32206 ..... \$54.95 per set**



**Wildflowers in Texas Tote**

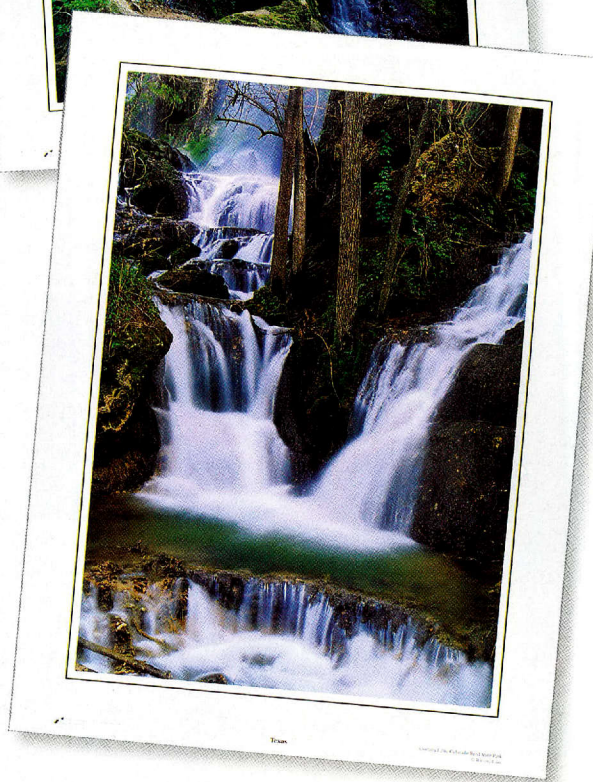
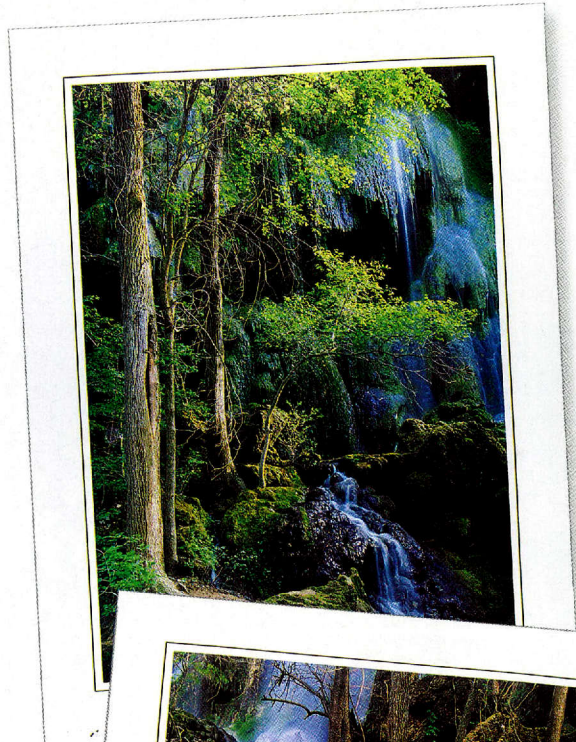
Texas is overflowing with wildflowers on this tote designed by artist David Busch and woven in the USA. Fully lined. 17 x 15 inches with a 14-inch strap.

**Item 37419 ..... \$22.95**

**Wildflower Coasters**

Beautifully decorated ceramic coasters, in a faux tumbled-marble design. Showcases assorted Texas wildflowers. 4 x 4 inches. Box of four.

**Item 37810 ..... \$24.95**

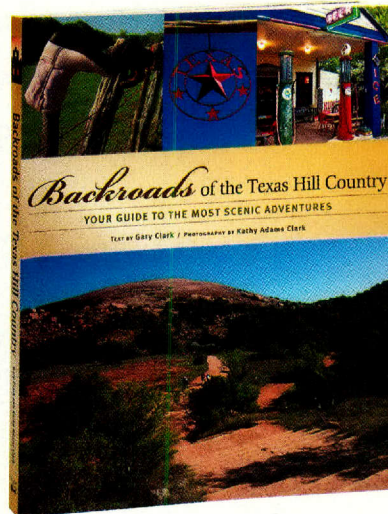
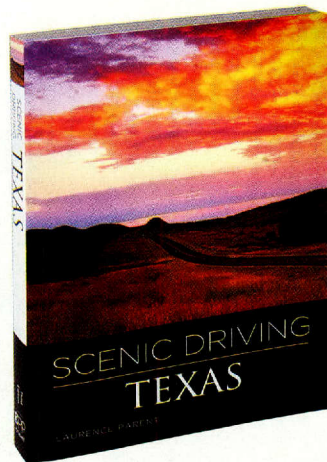
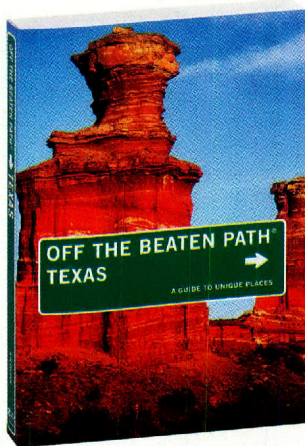


**Gorman Falls Prints**

Hear the rush of water and feel the cool mist of Gorman Falls in Colorado Bend State Park. Enjoying two prints is the next best thing to being there. 18 x 24 inches each.

**Item 32126..... \$6.00 per set**





## From the Bookshelf

### Off the Beaten Path

Looking for something different when traveling the Lone Star State? With this guide to unique places, you will discover places you never knew existed. Get off the main road and venture Off the Beaten Path. 224 pages, soft cover, 6 x 9 inches.

Item 36353 ..... \$14.95

### Scenic Driving, Texas

Pack up the car and enjoy 34 drives through some of the most spectacular scenery in Texas. Offers 1,200 miles of riding pleasure. Inside you will find itineraries ranging from 10- to 75-mile trips, route maps, attractions along the way, historic information and tips on accommodations. 237 pages, soft cover, black and white.

Item 36352 ..... \$15.95

### Backroads of the Texas Hill Country

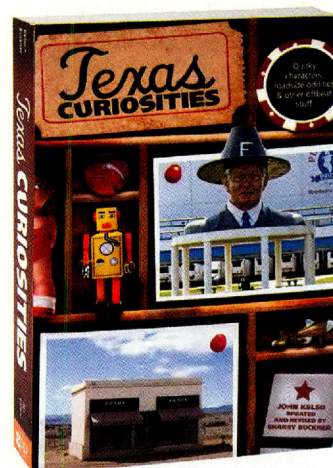
A colorful guide to 30 scenic drives through the heart of the Lone Star State. Ideal for planning a day trip or a weekend getaway. Illustrated with beautiful color photos and intriguing historical images. 160 pages, color, soft cover, 8.5 x 11 inches.

Item 36351 ..... \$21.99

### Texas Curiosities

Your round-trip ticket to the wildest, wackiest, most outrageous people, places and things in the Lone Star State! 330 pages, soft cover, black and white.

Item 36711 ..... \$14.95



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[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)



### Welcome to Texas Puzzle

Take a trip around Texas when you put this colorful puzzle together. Shaped like the state, it features dozens of themes and locations throughout Texas. 1000 pieces will make this one a challenge for the most experienced puzzler. Completed size: 32 x 25.5 inches.

Item 37528 ..... \$21.95

## Three ways to order:

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**ONLINE:** Go to **www.texashighways.com**

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## JOIN US FOR A BOOK SIGNING!

Thursday, Aug. 30 from 4-6 p.m. in Denton, TX  
Art and poems from the book will be on exhibit from Aug. 30 to Oct. 28.



Meet the artists and 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, **karla k. morton**, at the Center for the Visual Arts. Purchase your copy of *Passion, Art, Community: Denton, Texas, In Word And Image*, a project of the City of Denton Public Art Committee.

### 2012 Inaugural Conference

## Ekphrasis:

*A Collaboration Among the Arts*  
The Greater Denton Arts Council invites you Oct. 11-13 to explore the impact of intertwining visual art, dance, music, and the written word featuring eight Texas Poets Laureate at the Center for the Arts.  
For more information, call (940) 382-2787.



www.dentonarts.com

Funded in part by the City of Denton

## TH tip

Lunch on-site at the Bob Bullock and Wildflower Center cafés



### TH SPOTLIGHT

## A Deal at the Museums

ON SEPTEMBER 23, ENJOY FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXHIBITIONS AND activities at nearly 40 museums around Austin—from the Blanton Museum of Art, AMOA-Arthouse, and Mexic-Arte Museum to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Harry Ransom Center, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin Children's Museum, and many others. The 15th annual **Austin Museum Day**, presented by the Austin Museum Partnership, features a variety of art-making activities, performances, artist demonstrations, and tours, along with the usual fare at each participating museum—a great way to get a taste of Austin's vibrant museum scene and spend some quality time with the family. AMOA-Arthouse will even have a food truck out front, so museum-hoppers can make a day of it. Individual facilities set their own hours, but Museum Day officially runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check out [www.austinemuseums.org/museumday](http://www.austinemuseums.org/museumday); call individual museums for details.

**DALLAS: DADA Fall Gallery Walk and Panel Discussions** September 22. [www.dallasartdealers.org](http://www.dallasartdealers.org) 214/914-1099

**DALLAS: VideoFest** September 27-30. Dallas Museum of Art. [www.videofest.org](http://www.videofest.org) 214/428-8700

**DALLAS: State Fair of Texas** September 28-October 21. Fair Park. [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com) 214/565-9931

**DECATUR: Sheriff's Posse Rodeo** September 6-8. Chisholm Trail Days on Sept. 8. [www.decaturtx.com](http://www.decaturtx.com) 940/627-3107

**DENTON: Denton Blues Fest** September 15. Quaker Town Park. [www.dentonblackchamberonline.org](http://www.dentonblackchamberonline.org) 940/382-9100

**EMORY: Classics 'Round the Square Car Show** September 15. Rains County Courthouse. 903/243-3926

**ENNIS: AAA Texas NHRA Fall Nationals** September 20-23. [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com) 972/878-2641

**FORT WORTH: Dead Sea Scrolls and The Bible** September 1-January 13. [www.seethescrolls.com](http://www.seethescrolls.com) 877/789-0876

**FORT WORTH: Van Cliburn 50th Anniversary Gold Medalists Concert** September 6. [www.cliburn.org](http://www.cliburn.org) 817/738-6536

**FORT WORTH: Tony Bennett in Concert** September 10. Bass Performance Hall. [www.basshall.com](http://www.basshall.com) 817/212-4280

**FORT WORTH: Fort Worth Music Festival** September 28-29. Will Rogers Memorial Center. [www.fwfest.com](http://www.fwfest.com)

**GONZALES: First Shot Barbecue Cook-Off** September 14-16. [www.gonzalestexas.com](http://www.gonzalestexas.com) 830/672-6532

**GRANBURY: Hoodstock Music Festival** September 1-2. [www.riobrazoslive.com](http://www.riobrazoslive.com) 817/579-0808

**GRAPEVINE: GrapeFest** September 13-16. [www.grapevine.texasusa.com/grapefest](http://www.grapevine.texasusa.com/grapefest) 817/410-8136

**GREENVILLE: Rally 'Round Greenville WOW Weekend** September 14-16. [www.greenvillechamber.com](http://www.greenvillechamber.com) 903/455-1510

**HEMPSTEAD: Waller County Fair and Rodeo** September 28-October 7. Waller County Fairgrounds. 979/826-2825

**HILLSBORO: Cotton Pickin' Fair** September 22. E-mail: [director@hillsborochamber.org](mailto:director@hillsborochamber.org) 254/582-2481

**HUBBARD: Cowboy Mounted Shooting Competition** September 29-30. [www.hubbardcity.com](http://www.hubbardcity.com)



**LA GRANGE: Fayette County Fair** September 1-2. [www.fayettcountyfair.org](http://www.fayettcountyfair.org) 979/968-3911

**LA GRANGE: Texas Heroes Day** September 22. Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery State Historic Site. [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) 979/968-5658

**LEWISVILLE: Western Days Festival** September 28-29. [www.lewisvillemwesterndays.com](http://www.lewisvillemwesterndays.com) 972/219-3401

**MCGREGOR: Founders' Day** September 15. Main Street. [www.mcgregorchamber.com](http://www.mcgregorchamber.com) 254/840-2292

**MCKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days** September 14-16. [www.tmttd.com](http://www.tmttd.com) 972/562-5466

**MCKINNEY: Oktoberfest** September 28-29. Historic downtown. [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com) 972/547-2660

**MOUNT VERNON: Franklin County Sheriff's Posse Championship Rodeo** September 1-2. 903/537-4365

**PLANO: Plano Balloon Festival** September 21-23. Oak Point Park. [www.planoballoonfest.org](http://www.planoballoonfest.org) 972/867-7566

**ROUND TOP: Schutzenfest** September 16. [www.roundtoprifle.com](http://www.roundtoprifle.com) 281/788-3278

**SERBIN: Wendish Fest** September 23. [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org) 979/366-2441

**SHERMAN: U.S. National Aerobic Championships** September 23-29. [www.iacusn.org/nationals](http://www.iacusn.org/nationals) 920/426-4800

**SULPHUR SPRINGS: Hopkins County Fall Festival** September 11-15. [www.hopkinscountyfallfestival.com](http://www.hopkinscountyfallfestival.com) 903/885-8071

**WACO: Mystery of the Mayan Medallion and Painted Metaphors: Pottery and Politics of the Ancient Maya Exhibits** September 1-23. [www.maybornmuseum.com](http://www.maybornmuseum.com) 254/710-1104

**WACO: Labor Day Open House at Homestead Heritage Traditional Craft Village** September 3. [www.homesteadheritage.com](http://www.homesteadheritage.com) 254/754-9600

**WAEOLDER: Guacamole Fest** September 1-2. Waelder City Park. [www.gonzalestexas.com](http://www.gonzalestexas.com) 830/672-6532

**WAXAHACHIE: Oktoberfest** September 22. [www.waxahachieoktoberfest.com](http://www.waxahachieoktoberfest.com) 972/937-0956

**WEST: Westfest** September 1-2. [www.westfest.com](http://www.westfest.com) 254/749-7361 or 254/826-5058

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**BEEVILLE: Diez y Seis de Septiembre Festival** September 7-9. Bee County Expo Center. 361/358-9124

**EAGLE PASS: Battle on the Border Pro Bull Riding Challenge** September 8. 830/352-9292

**EAGLE PASS: Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration** Plaza San Juan. 830/773-9255

**EDINBURG: "Saints Preserve Us!" and La Epoca de Oro: Mexican Cinema of the Golden Age Exhibits** September 1-30. [www.mosthistory.org](http://www.mosthistory.org) 956/383-6911

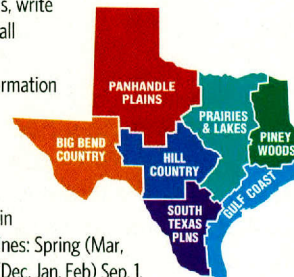
**SAN ANTONIO: Estampas de la Raza: Contemporary Prints from the Romo Collection** September 19-January 20. [www.mcnayart.org](http://www.mcnayart.org)

## Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).

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

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

Send future event information to: Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; e-mail: [texasevents@txdot.gov](mailto:texasevents@txdot.gov); fax: 512/486-5879. Listing deadlines: Spring (Mar, Apr, May) Dec 1; Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) Mar 1; Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) Jun 1; Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sep 1.



Land of Legend & Lore

### October

#### LLANO RIVER CHUCK WAGON COOK OFF & HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL

Badu Park, Llano, Tx. October 19-21, 2012  
Tickets will be on sale starting September 1, 2012  
only at the Llano Chamber of Commerce  
325-247-5354. Call early... we sell out every year!

### November

#### HUNTERS' APPRECIATION EVENT

On opening weekend, November 2, 2012  
at the Llano Visitor Center. Free info, goodie bags,  
and refreshments. Welcome the season with us!

#### STARRY STARRY NIGHTS

Nov. 23 - Dec. 31: Come walk the Llano River  
as the holiday lights reflect the beauty of the season.

### December

#### MARKET DAYS & HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Dec. 1: Shop and experience the unique customs  
and beauty of Llano this Christmas.

#### SNOW DAY

Dec. 8: Bring the family to Badu Park for winter fun!

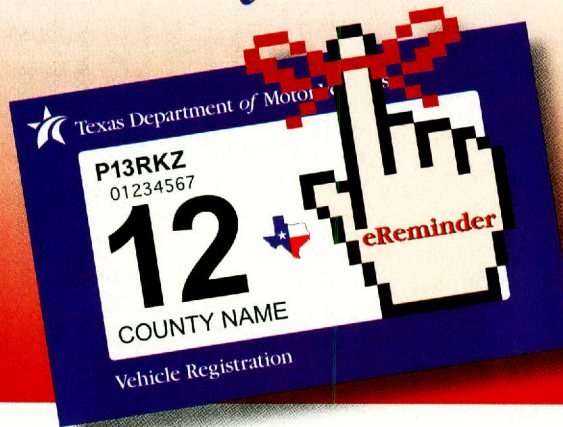
325-247-5354

[llanochamber.org](http://llanochamber.org)



Artwork by Nailhead Spur Co. in Llano, TX

## When do you renew?



### We'll send an e-mail to remind you!

Go to [www.TxDMV.gov](http://www.TxDMV.gov) or [www.registeredtexan.com](http://www.registeredtexan.com) and click on "eReminder." Just enter some basic info, and you'll automatically receive an e-mail reminder 3 weeks before your vehicle registration is due. We'll send another reminder 1 week before your registration sticker expires. Sign up for eReminder. And make renewing your vehicle registration sticker downright unforgettable.

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CHET GARNER is the host of *The Daytripper* travel show on PBS; [www.thedaytripper.com](http://www.thedaytripper.com).

# Remember Goliad!

**AS TEXANS**, “Remember the Alamo” is ingrained in our collective conscious. We’re taught the phrase in fourth-grade history, and the hallowed site in San Antonio is a mandatory stop on family road trips. However, “Remember Goliad” was also a rallying cry during the fight for Texas independence, and I set out to devote a day to this less-traveled town that played an important role in our history.



**9:00 a.m.** My first stop was **Goliad State Park** for a tour of **Mission Espíritu Santo**, originally established in 1749. The structure standing today is a remarkable restoration of what the mission may have looked like in the 1700s when Franciscan monks tended the grounds and worked to convert the local native populations. The museum contains a number of incredible artifacts and tells the story of how Mission Espíritu Santo was the first mega-ranch in Texas, earning Goliad the title as the “Birthplace of Texas Ranching.”

**10:30 a.m.** Next up was Goliad’s **Historic Square** for a look at the beautiful 1894 **Goliad County courthouse**. Among the town’s 19th-Century buildings and the quintessential square, I found a number of historical markers, including one for Goliad’s **Hanging Tree** on the courthouse lawn. Between 1846 and 1870, this sprawling oak was the site of Goliad’s entire justice system: trial, sentencing, and execution.

**11:30 a.m.** I popped into **Blue Quail Deli** for lunch. Though I intended to have only a sandwich, the cashier and locals convinced me to order a cup of homemade cream-of-jalapeño soup, and I’m glad I did. The soup was creamy and delicious with just the right amount of spicy bite.

**1:00 p.m.** I biked to my next stop along the “**Angel of Goliad**” **Hike and Bike Trail**, a 2.5-mile path that took me past Goliad State

Park, over the San Antonio River, and onward to **Zaragoza Birthplace State Historic Site**. Born here in 1829, Ignacio Zaragoza moved away before the Texas Revolution, and eventually became a general in the Mexican army. In 1862, he defeated the invading French in the Battle of Puebla, a victory celebrated today as Cinco de Mayo.

**3:00 p.m.** I crossed the street to **Presidio La Bahía**, site of the Goliad

Massacre in March 1836, to tour the museum and chapel and explore the old fort grounds. As the Texas Revolution escalated, Colonel James W. Fannin and a group of Texian soldiers took over Presidio La Bahía and renamed it Fort Defiance. After they left the fort and attempted

Contact the **Goliad County Chamber of Commerce** at 800/848-8674; [www.goliadcc.org](http://www.goliadcc.org).

to convene with General Houston, Fannin and his men were captured and brought back to the Presidio as prisoners. At Santa Anna’s

order, on Palm Sunday, 1836, more than 300 men, including Fannin, were executed within the Presidio walls and nearby. It was the deadliest day of the Texas Revolution, and inspired the battle cry “Remember Goliad” on the San Jacinto Battlefield.

**4:30 p.m.** I paid my respects at the **Grave of Col. J.W. Fannin and his Men**, which sits outside of the Presidio walls and is marked with a

stone column and the names of all the brave men who lost their lives in the massacre.

**5:15 p.m.** I stopped at a statue honoring Francisca Alavez, a brave Mexican woman known as the **Angel of Goliad** for her efforts to save dozens of Texian soldiers by pleading with the Mexican soldiers for their release or by sneaking them out of the fort.

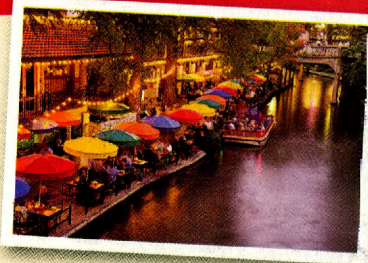
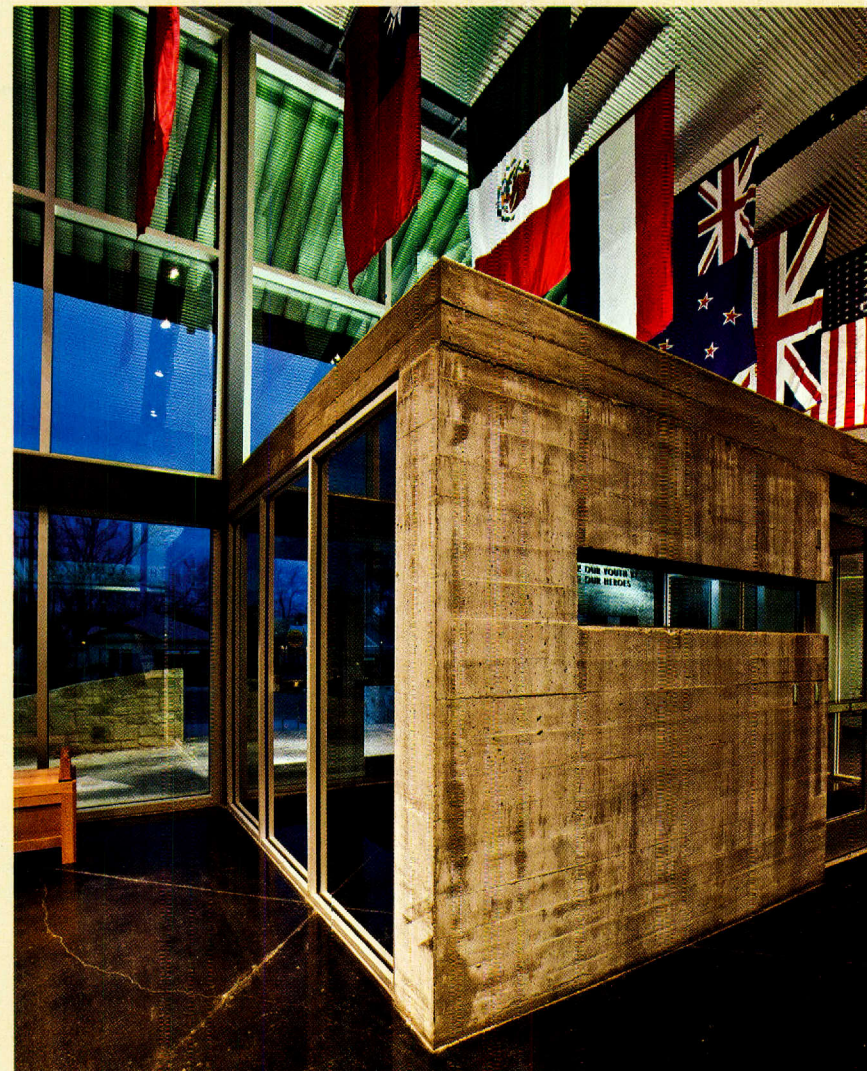
**6:00 p.m.** For dinner, I enjoyed a blend of Texan and Mexican culture at **La Bahia Restaurant**. This classic Tex-Mex establishment has been around for decades serving time-tested recipes, and my combo plate of enchiladas, chalupas, and tamales hit the spot.

GOLIAD no doubt paved the way for the state we know and love today. And while some may only “Remember the Alamo,” as Texans, we should all also “Remember Goliad.” So, whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **TH**



WIN A SAN ANTONIO CULINARY TOUR PACKAGE!

# WHERE IN TEXAS ARE YOU?



## CONTEST RULES *(no purchase necessary)*

1. Only one entry per person. Enter online at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) (see the "Where in Texas Are You?" contest link). Mailed entries must be on postcards. To be eligible for the drawing, each entrant must include the correct answer (judges' decisions are final), as well as his/her name, mailing address, and daytime phone number.
2. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Current employees of the Texas Department of Transportation and their immediate families are not eligible.
3. If entering by mail, send postcards to: *Texas Highways* Contest, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. All entries must be received by September 24, 2012. *Texas Highways* is not responsible for late, lost, or misdirected entries.
4. The winning entry will be drawn on September 25, 2012. We will attempt to notify the winner the same day. If we cannot contact the winner directly by 5 p.m. on September 27, 2012, another entry will be drawn.
5. Prizes not transferable and may have an expiration date. Some additional expenses, such as taxes and tips, are not included in the package. Lodging and transportation certificates are subject to availability, and not valid during high-capacity or holiday weekends. *Reservations required.*
6. Meals, unless specifically noted here, are not included.
7. Reservations for all activities must be made at least two weeks prior to arrival.
8. The winner is solely responsible for any income taxes incurred.
9. Entrants' contact information will be shared with Southwest Airlines and the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau. The information will not be further shared or sold by these entities.
10. By entering the contest, contestants agree to the above rules and regulations.

Our thanks to the **San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau** and **Southwest Airlines**® for providing this prize package. *Texas Highways* readers love San Antonio!

Name this war museum and the town, and you could win a Culinary Tour of San Antonio! Enter online ([www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)) or by mail. (See contest rules at right.) The winner will receive:

### Go!

Two roundtrip tickets from any city served by **Southwest Airlines**®.

### Stay!

Three nights at **Omni La Mansión del Rio** on the River Walk.

### Eat!

- Cocktails for two at **Ocho Lounge**
- Plus dinner for two at: **Biga on the Banks**, **Ostra**, **Las Canarias**, **La Gloria**

### Play!

- Two **Culinary Institute of America** gift cards for a Saturday class
- Two tickets for an **Alamo Trolley Tour** of San Antonio's historic sites
- Admission for two to the **Tower of the Americas** observation deck

Plus two passes to the following museums:

- **San Antonio Museum of Art**
- **Institute of Texan Cultures**
- **McNay Art Museum**
- **The Museo Alameda**
- **The Witte Museum**
- **Villa Finale**
- **Steves Homestead**
- **The Buckhorn Saloon & Museum**



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