

TRAVEL LOG

INSIDE:

- ★ New boating regulations dictate safety education certification
- ★ Colorful CowParade's herd of statues makes way to Austin
- ★ Caprock Canyons' historic bison more easily viewable by visitors
- ★ Galveston to introduce haunted mansion and pirates attractions

ROYAL GUESTS

THE ACCLAIMED exhibit *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs*—called the most important exhibition of art from ancient Egypt in more than 40 years—**makes a rare stop** at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** beginning Oct. 16. Early ticket options are available for the timed-entry exhibit, which runs through April 15, 2012.

“This exhibition is a landmark event for Houston,” says Gwendolyn H. Goffe, MFAH interim director, adding that Houston is among the few cities—along with Vienna, Atlanta, Denver and Toronto—that will host the exhibit.

“It’s also worth noting that the MFAH hosted, in 1962, the first-ever touring exhibition of objects from King Tut’s tomb, and it’s fitting that this entirely new selection of objects will debut in Texas at the MFAH,” Goffe says.

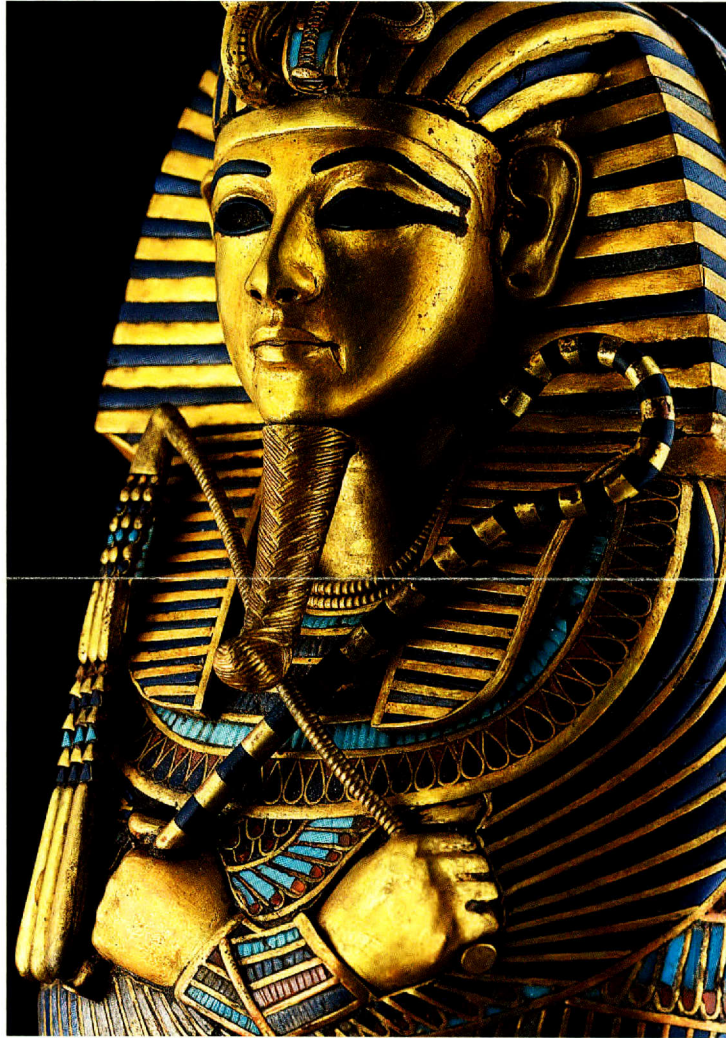
Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs features more than 100 objects from ancient Egypt, most of which had never been shown in the U.S. before this tour.

A National Geographic documentary short, narrated by actor Harrison Ford, will serve as an introduction to the exhibit.

Treasures associated with the most important rulers of the 30 dynasties that reigned in Egypt for more than 2,000 years are featured, including sculptures of Khafre, builder of the Great Sphinx and one of the pyramids at Giza; Hatshepsut, the queen who became a pharaoh; statues of the warrior pharaohs Thutmose III and Ramesses the Great; as well as King Tut’s father, the pharaoh Akhenaten, who changed Egypt’s religion to the worship of one omnipotent sun god. The exhibition showcases the largest likeness of King Tut ever discovered: a 10-foot statue found at the remains of a funerary temple.

The final galleries are dedicated to items from King Tut’s tomb, includ-

© SANDRO VANNINI



Canopic coffinettes from Tutankhamun’s Tomb, 18th Dynasty.

ing 50 of the legendary treasures from the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century, which eventually unearthed some 2,000 objects. Objects found in the tomb’s antechamber, annex, treasury and burial chamber are presented in corresponding galleries. Accompanied by photographs taken at the time of the 1922 discovery, the riches, regalia, personal objects and furniture that were provided to Tutankhamun for his afterlife range from a child’s board game and gilt-handled feather fan to regal furnishings and an exquisite golden coffinettes.

“We are honored that Houston

will host such an acclaimed, international touring exhibition,” says Mayor Annise Parker. “Historical art has always been a significant part of our city’s landscape, and we are thrilled that Houstonians will have the opportunity to experience the spectacular treasures of ancient Egypt.”

Tickets for the exhibit go on sale Sept. 13, but advance sales will be available for groups, schools and members. Public registration for tickets, which gives registrants an opportunity for pre-sale tickets, is available at www.kingtut.org.

Visit www.mfah.org for details.

TRAVEL NEWS

A \$52.2 MILLION renovation at the **Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport**, including a **new passenger concourse**, opened **July 12 for its first full day** of operation.

The project, which started in March 2008, features a 46,000-square-foot passenger concourse with seven boarding gates. Six of the gates will be equipped with glass-walled boarding bridges.

It includes a new secure baggage-handling system that will remove all baggage-screening activities from in front of the ticket counters. There are remodeled airline ticket counters, lobby and baggage areas, as well as a new and larger security checkpoint. Travelers also will note updated graphics, signs and advertising throughout the complex.

“The new terminal and all the support facilities will make Amarillo’s airport one of the best of its size in the nation. It will make a great impression on the more than 800,000 passengers who use the airport each year,” says Pat Rhodes, City of Amarillo aviation director.

With the new concourse in place, the existing one is now set for demolition, the final phase of work, which also includes moving administrative offices.

A separate project to rehabilitate the 40-year-old roadway and bridge that provide vehicle access to the second-floor ticketing lobby includes a new free parking lot for those waiting to pick-up arriving passengers. With that, the vehicle inspection point and the 10-minute parking in front of the terminal have been eliminated. Terminal areas are now for loading and unloading passengers.

BEGINNING Sept. 1, a **new state law** from the recent legislative session **requires mandatory boating safety education certification** for anyone **born on or after Sept. 1, 1993**, to operate

a vessel with a motor of more than 15 horsepower or a wind-blown vessel measuring more than 14 feet in length. Previously, only 13- to 17-year olds were required to complete a boating safety course to operate a vessel without adult supervision.

The 82nd Texas Legislature clarified the definition of a vessel to encompass such craft as standup paddle craft, kayaks and canoes. In Texas public waters, everyone aboard a vessel that measures less than 26 feet in length must have a life jacket available, and children under age 13 must wear one.

According to a legislative report by the state's Advisory Panel on Boating Safety, the primary cause of boating deaths nationally is drowning, with 543 deaths in 2009. It was noted that 385 of those drowning victims were not wearing life jackets, usually in rough weather or on hazardous water.

Texas' state-approved six-hour boater education course is available as a one-day of classroom training, a home-study course or an online course at www.boat-ed.com. Costs range from \$13 for the classroom course to about \$25 for the home-study course.

Those falling under the requirement must carry a valid ID and documentation of having taken and passed a boater education course. Failure to meet the requirements is a Class C misdemeanor, and violators have 90 days to complete a boater education course to have the charges dismissed.

All boaters are encouraged to educate themselves on boater safety, but those born before Sept. 1, 1993, are exempt from the requirement.

For more information about boater education, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education.

THE INITIAL construction phase has begun for Frisco's Museum of the American Railroad, a showcase facility that will be the new home to one of the nation's finest collection of 20th-century railroad artifacts currently housed at Dallas' Fair Park.

The museum will have a 40-piece assemblage of historic locomotives and rail cars, including a collection of Pullman first-class sleeping cars from the 1920s.

"It is very exciting and gratifying to be at this point in the project," says Museum CEO Bob LaPrelle. "While our Capital Funding Campaign continues, we now have



Artist Allison Gregory's Pi-COW-ssO is among Austin's CowParade statues.

sufficient funds on hand to begin construction. This important benchmark enables the museum and its stakeholders to establish a true physical presence in Frisco and seek support for the next phase of work. We look forward to continuing and expanding the museum's nearly 50-year legacy of providing educational programs to North Texas."

The scope of work in the initial phase will provide adequate facilities to move the historic trains to Frisco. Additional funding is sought to complete the remaining phases of construction, which ultimately includes a main museum building, period-style train shed and restoration shop facilities.

Frisco Mayor Maher Maso says, "The synergy is exciting! It will generate tourism, enhance Frisco's reputation as an entertainment destination, and educate residents and visitors alike about the impact of the American Railroad on our nation's history, not to mention our own, considering Frisco's name is rooted in the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad."

For more information, visit www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org.

COWPARADE—one of the most widely recognized art events in the world—has returned to Austin with about 100 life-sized cow statues, designed by local artists, displayed across the city.

The unveiling of cows began after a July 27 preview party.

In October 2011, a select number of cows will be auctioned off, and a portion of the proceeds from CowParade Austin will benefit the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas and Superhero Kids Fund.

Globally, CowParade has raised more than of \$30 million for its nonprofit partners.

"Austin is a great city to host this colorful fundraising event—especially because all proceeds benefit Dell Children's Medical Center," says Milton Verret, a presenting sponsor who also recently purchased Michael Jackson's "Thriller" jacket in hopes of using it to raise money for children.

Dean Lipsner, CEO of U.S. Money Reserve, the other presenting sponsor, says, "We were delighted to kick this event off and help it gain traction in Austin. Our citizens are going to be excited about seeing the cow sculptures around town and the visibility given to the sponsors. It's a win for Austin and a win for the kids

at Dell Children's Medical Center."

For more information, visit www.cowparade.com.

EFFORTS to restore the historic, official State of Texas bison herd to its native habitat on the Panhandle Plains are now a reality, and the Texas State Bison Restoration Celebration, slated for Sept. 17 at Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway in Quitaque, will give the public a chance to see for themselves.

Plans are to expand the herd's grazing range from a half-section enclosure to the whole state park over time, thus increasing viewing opportunities for park visitors.

The Texas State Bison Restoration Celebration, to mark the first phase, includes exhibitors celebrating Texas' frontier days, food vendors, a trail ride, park tours and other activities. Park entry fees are waived for the day.

In this first phase, park visitors can view 80 bison that will be behind an enclosure that encompasses 1,000 acres of the native prairie around the Visitors Center and the southern portion of Lake Theo. When visitors come through the main entrance, they will be, in effect, inside the bison enclosure. Interior fences protect historic sites, day-use sites, the northern portion of Lake Theo and the more ecologically sensitive areas of the 15,300-acre park.

Park Superintendent Donald

MARKETING NORTH AND SOUTH

MCALLEN AND LUBBOCK were among the 19 destination marketing organizations accredited under the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program, according to Destination Marketing Association International.

With the new accreditations, which are valid through 2015, DMAI now has accredited 130 destinations under DMAP, including destinations in 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as destinations in Canada and Europe. DMAP accreditation is awarded for a period of five years to DMOs that successfully complete a rigorous application process proving their compliance with 54 mandatory standards and 33 voluntary ones.

DMAP Board Chair James T. Wood says, "The DMAP process is a comprehensive review of a DMO's business procedures and accountability. These DMOs have shown their dedication to continually providing customers with superior service in accordance with international standards and benchmarks. Their commitment to accreditation clearly demonstrates the type of leadership they possess in their community and for their stakeholders."

Beard says better visibility of the bison has long been a top request. "We've often heard people saying they can't see them. This will put them out there in plain view. I think it's going to be an awesome thing."

Beard adds, "Our new bison man-

THE TEXAS State Bison Restoration Celebration includes exhibitors celebrating Texas' frontier days, a trail ride, park tours and other activities.

agement approach uses common sense to keep people and the animals safe."

The Caprock Canyons bison are descendants of the historic bison herd that Panhandle ranchers Charles and Mary Goodnight saved from extinction. Before the 1870s, the bison were estimated to number between 30 million to 60 million head. In 1876, Goodnight captured some of the last of the great southern plains bison herd and placed them on his JA Ranch. In 1997, JA Ranch owners Monte Ritchie and Ninia Bivins donated the bison to the state, and they were moved to Caprock Canyons in 1998.

For more information, call (806) 455-1492 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caprock_canyons.

ATTRACTIONS

GALVESTON is getting two new attractions as the Butterowe Building adjacent to Saengerfest Park (23rd and Strand) is transformed into **Haunted Mayfield Manor** and **Pirates! Legends of the Gulf Coast** opens next door.

The 14-room haunted Butterowe mansion is themed around the fictional Dr. Mayfield, who supervised the operation of one of the morgues after the 1900 storm. While the character is fictional, thousands of bodies were stored for identification in various downtown buildings including the 1885 Butterowe Building.

Owner Joyce McLean describes the experience as a "psychological haunt that involves the lost bride of Dr. Mayfield portrayed by actors, mechanical props and pneumatic animations."

The Pirates! Legends of the Gulf

Coast attraction, which opens in October, will feature the deck of a pirate ship and captain's cabin with a focus on the notorious Jean Lafitte and his brother Pierre, as well as Jane Young. Young is known as "The Mother of Texas" and was a resident of Bolivar Peninsula while Lafitte occupied Galveston.

"Visitors will explore the myths and legends of these icons of history in a fact-based interactive fun experience," McLean says.

After Lafitte was ejected from Louisiana, he made Galveston his base of operations from 1817 to 1821. He allegedly built a bright red mansion called the "Maison Rouge," which could be seen from miles out at sea. Lafitte burned the Maison Rouge and his entire Campeche encampment when he was ordered to vacate island by the United States Navy.

The attractions will offer a gift shop with pirate-and-ghost themed books, costumes, toys and games as well as paranormal equipment.

"These new family friendly attractions are a perfect fit to downtown Galveston," says Bill Ross, senior vice-president and general manager of Mitchell Historic Properties, which is leasing the attractions space. "These activities will enhance the downtown Galveston experience and complement the existing retail and dining options."

Haunted Mayfield Manor will have a \$10 admission charge. When Pirates! Legends of the Gulf Coast opens in early October, a combination ticket will be available for \$16.99.

DALLAS Arboretum is turning every day in August into a **Dollar Day**. Throughout August, the attraction along White Rock Lake is charging \$1 per person, with no admission fee for children under 3. Admission is typically \$12 for adults and \$8 for children.

Currently, the 66-acre Arboretum offers the Fairy Tale Castles exhibit, which includes seven castles based on fairy tales such as *Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Rapunzel*, *The Princess and the Pea*, and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*.

Other attractions at the Dallas Arboretum include the Texas Pioneer Adventure where young visitors learn history and explore replicas of residences.

The \$7 parking fee remains.

TEXAS ON DISPLAY



Tourism organizations are awarded six months of free display case space, like the one shown at the TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Center in Texarkana.

SEVERAL tourism organizations have been awarded free exhibit space in the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel Information Centers.

From September through February, these areas promote their attractions with special displays, including colorful photographs and other promotional materials, in the centers' lobbies.

Every six months, use of the display cases rotates to another set of tourism organizations.

Here are the newly selected exhibit space pairings:

- Amarillo:** West Texas Co-op
- Anthony:** Texas Lakes Trail Region

Denison: Round Rock, Georgetown, Elgin, Taylor

Gainesville: Arlington, Grand Prairie, Mansfield

Langtry: Texas Pecos Trail Region

Laredo: Texas Brazos Trail Region

Orange: Texas Forest Trail Region

Texarkana: Frisco, Plano, McKinney

Valley: I-10 Corridor Association

Waskom: Brazoria County Tourism Council

TxDOT will accept applications Dec. 1–20 for the next display period—March through August 2012.

For more information, call the Travel Services Section at (512) 486-5800 or visit www.txdot.gov/travel/tourism_industry/display_literature.htm.

For more information, call (214) 515-6500 or visit www.dallasarboretum.org.

TEXAS ranks ninth among U.S. states and territories for attracting overseas visitors with 1,028,000 visitors in 2010, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.

Houston ranks No. 16 among cities in the nation with about 448,000 more overseas visitors than in the previous year, and Dallas, with 343,000 overseas guests in 2010, was the only other Texas city to crack the Top 20, tying for No. 18 with Tampa, Fla. These numbers correct figures previously reported in *Travelog*.

INDUSTRY INSIDERS

LACHELLE EVANS is Frisco Convention and Visitors Bureau's newly appointed senior sales manager. Evans, who has been with the CVB for five years, was promoted into the position, which charges her with overseeing sales staff and initiatives. Additionally, the Frisco CVB has added Maureen Gutierrez to the staff as a sales manager for the religion, education and government markets.

CVB Executive Director, Marla Roe, commented, "We anticipate that the extensive hotel and CVB industry expertise offered by LaChelle and Maureen will be an important asset in our pursuit to bring more business to Frisco."

TEXAS TRIVIA

Which U.S. president will be celebrated this month for what would have been his 103rd birthday?

Native Texan and the 36th president of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, will be celebrated on Aug. 27 at his namesake Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. Taking visitors back to a simpler time when Johnson was a child, the festivities will include marbles, jacks and stick horses, as well as activities at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm. The onsite visitor center, featuring memorabilia from Johnson's presidency, can guide guests in making the most of their trip, including information on the nearby Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. The center also is the starting point for bus tours of the LBJ Ranch. For more information, call (830) 644-2252 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

TEXAS TRIVIA

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

EDITOR: Lois M. Rodriguez

DESIGN/LAYOUT: Kirsti Harms

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TEXAS TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTERS

VISITOR NUMBERS as of June 30, 2011

TRAVEL CENTER	Month Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year-to-Date Visitors	Percent Variation*
AMARILLO	10,502	-3.76	44,543	-0.56
ANTHONY	5,422	-16.90	33,274	-28.76
CAPITOL	6,606	-12.45	39,408	-9.25
DENISON	26,347	-18.79	154,036	+2.76
GAINESVILLE	28,300	-9.76	120,199	-20.99
LANGTRY	3,528	-9.26	27,198	-17.74
LAREDO	5,940	-27.61	37,472	-30.54
ORANGE	42,598	-1.49	214,219	+6.85
TEXARKANA	16,430	-47.85	52,435	-63.36
VALLEY	6,511	-18.89	83,579	-12.38
WASKOM	38,425	+1.93	163,948	-15.85
WICHITA FALLS	16,150	-11.27	79,135	+9.23
CENTER TOTALS	206,759	-13.69	1,049,446	-14.69

*Compared to last year

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

www.traveltex.com • www.texashighways.com
www.txdot.gov • www.dontmesswithtexas.org

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