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## EDITOR'S NOTE



## Wildflower Wranglers

**T**HE TRUE STARS OF OUR annual Wildflower Issue are the talented photographers who scour the roadways and countryside to spot the first bright patches of spring's blooms and then pursue them through peak season across hilltops and valleys, and along highways and byways. We're dedicating this issue to one of our most prolific wildflower photographers, Joe Lowery, who passed away last summer. Joe's stunning shots have graced multiple *Texas Highways* covers over the years. His images frequently featured brilliant sunrises and sunsets, the sky's soft pinks, bright yellows, and burnt oranges reflecting the kaleidoscope of wildflowers dotting the landscape below.

To capture these magic moments, Joe often returned to the same spot multiple days in a row hoping for a sunrise just a bit more magnificent than the day before.

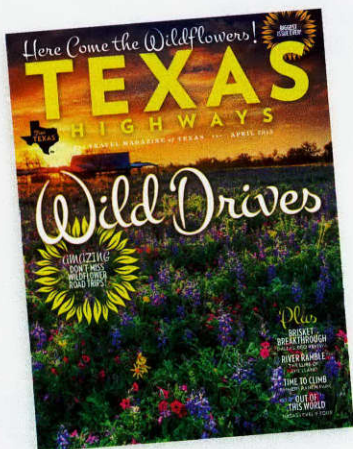
Our editors and readers weren't his only fans. First ladies Lady Bird Johnson and

Laura Bush sent notes of admiration for his Texas wildflower photos. And he took particular pride in that fact that Texas soldiers serving in Bosnia chose one of his pictures to hang in their mess hall because it reminded them of home. Because along with barbecue and wide open spaces, there's nothing that makes one more nostalgic for Texas than a field blanketed by bluebonnets. Most native Texans probably have a story or two about being dragged around by their parents in search of that perfect "child among the wildflowers" shot that has become a Texas rite of passage.

Whether you're admiring others' photos or taking some of your own, we hope this wildflower season brings plenty of color to your spring.

*Emily R. Stone*

**EMILY ROBERTS STONE, Editor**





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# APRIL

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## Stories of the Wild

Native American lore, Mexican myths, and Texas tales imbue wildflower season with a bit of mystery and magic. Settle in for a singular story time.

*Story by*

**JANE KELLOGG MURRAY**

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## Washington County Ramble

Come along as we explore the bucolic beauty of Washington County, the "birthplace of Texas." Experience life on a working ranch, remember the days of the Republic, and stop and smell the wildflowers.

*Story by* **HELEN ANDERS**

*Photographs by* **KENNY BRAUN**



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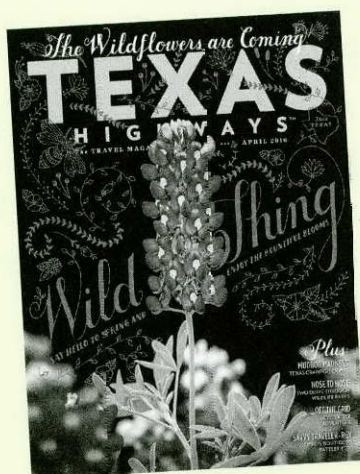
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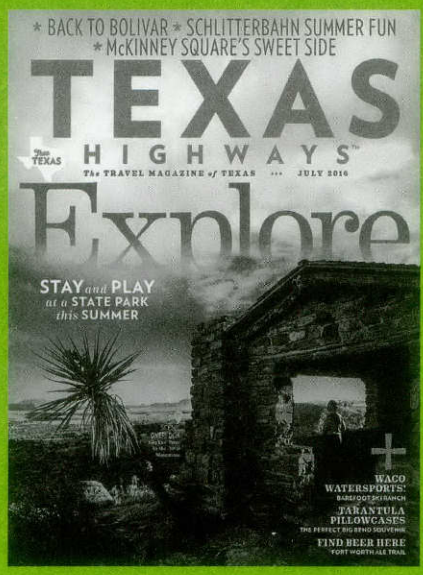
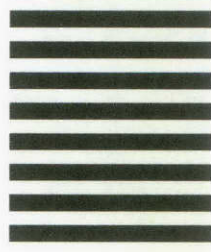
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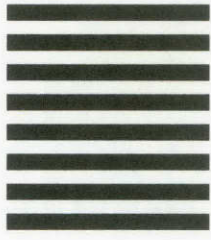
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# APRIL



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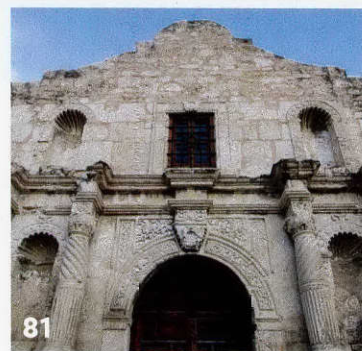
The wild side of East Austin

**96 TRAVEL MATTERS**

Carrie Rodriguez on Tex-Mex music and motherhood



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**COVER**  
An ode to the bluebonnet, a perennial Texas favorite. Photo © Theresa DiMenno; Illustration by Margaret Kimball



# EXPLORE *Victoria!*

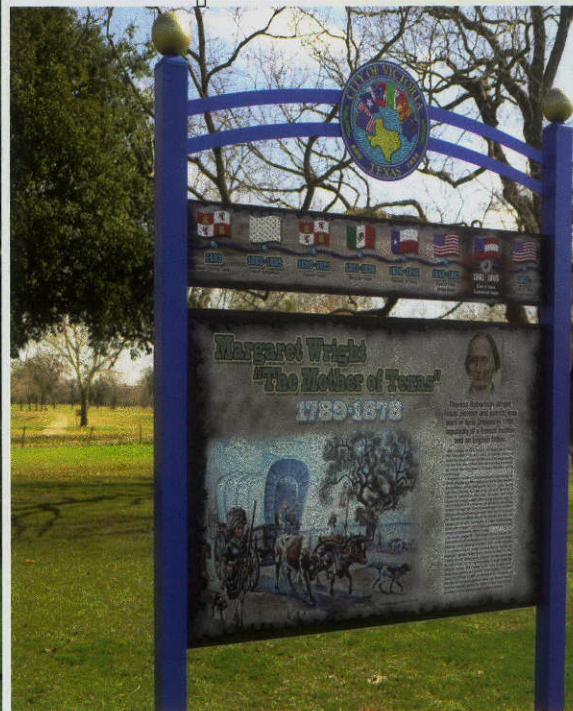
## Where Texas History Began



Museum of the Coastal Bend



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EXCLUSIVE  
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CONTENT

APRIL

## Shake, Rattle, and Roll

### HOUSTON'S 30TH ART CAR PARADE IS APRIL 8

Meet some of the art car creators and find out what to expect from this year's more than 250 fascinating entries.

### BOWL YOU OVER

Bowling is always fun, but some lanes stand out among the rest. We've pinned down a few that really know how to roll.

### HEART OF TEXAS

Read about Brady's Heart of Texas Country Music Museum on Page 27, then follow us online for another Brady stop—the Heart of Texas Historical Museum, which is set in the 1909 McCullough County Jail.

PLUS



## Summer Camp Daytrip

After dropping your children off at summer camp, create your own getaway by exploring and relaxing in a nearby town.

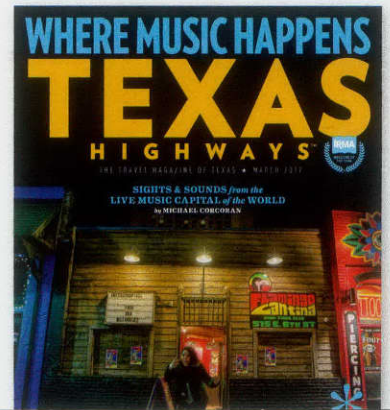


# MERGE

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

*I have read Texas Highways magazine most all of my life, and my word to you is “Bravissimo!” I keep the magazine on the table in my hair salon to point out the many wonderful stories and photos. It’s the best it’s ever been.*

JON DAVIS



I wouldn't have survived this pregnancy without **Oxbow Pies** [in Palestine]!

DENA LEE SWANSON, NECHES

The Rio Grande Valley—lots of palm trees and warm weather, and lots to see and do. Love it!

HILDA MCGUIRE, BURKBURNETT



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## Cowboy Up

I really enjoyed the article on Ty Murray [March], having watched him compete and win in our Little Britches Rodeos in Gunnison, Colorado, in the '80s. I don't recall how many times he competed there, but he always took home a trophy saddle or two. I also watched him compete several years later in a PRCA rodeo in Albuquerque. Along with a love of rodeo, Ty and I share both a love of motorcycle touring and our Irish heritage!

**Russ Locke, Bandera**

## Kolache Talk

I find it interesting that “kolache” has a different meaning depending on where you go in Texas. In Czech communities and some German communities, kolaches are tasty, fruit-filled pastries that have been a Texas tradition for many years. Up in East Texas where we live, kolache is used to describe a “pig in the blanket,” not the Czech or German pastry. Where this went awry is a mystery to me, but I long for

the real kolaches instead of the substitutes.

**Jim & Nina Bates, Marshall**

## With Honors

I was a little disappointed that your February article said Audie Murphy “won” more combat medals than anyone else in World War II. WWII was not a carnival, and combat medals are not prizes. Murphy was awarded the medals that he deserved for

his actions during combat, as did every other serviceman awarded medals for bravery. Medals are not carnival prizes that are won but a form of recognition that are awarded for bravery in the face of a formidable enemy.

**William E. Hale**

## Port Isabel Lighthouse

On vacation one year, the kids and I climbed the stairs to the

READER'S FAVORITE

## Backyard Blessing

*I go out of my way to find a reason to go to the Backyard Bistro in Pipe Creek. It's set in an old house, one of those secrets that you drive by and you don't know it's there. The service is great, the people friendly, and you can eat outside or inside. I had their chicken-fried steak one time and thought I'd died and gone to heaven. It was so tender I didn't need a knife. The pecan-crusted chicken is fantastic, and the pan-seared salmon. I would say their shrimp pasta is very good. I'm not a shrimp fan, and all of a sudden I find myself eating shrimp. The homemade desserts are all phenomenal. Have you ever had cinnamon, basil, black-pepper ice cream? I married it with the Texas wildflower honey ice cream. We were supposed to go golfing afterward, but I didn't want to do a damn thing but sit there with a smile on my face.*

JIM KENNEY, San Antonio

Backyard Bistro, at 167 Panther Ridge in Pipe Creek, opens 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thu-Fri for lunch; 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sat-Sun for brunch; and 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Thu-Sat for dinner. Call 830/535-4094; www.backyardbistrobandera.com.

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top of Port Isabel Lighthouse [February]. It's a beautiful view and fun activity. The lighthouse keeper's home is a museum and info center. Plus the town has the Port Isabel Historical Museum, set in a one-time store, filled with Texas history. One floor depicts the living quarters of the original store owners. It's a nice way to spend a couple of hours, and the kids never get bored.

**Carol Stell, Houston**

*Currently closed for renovation, the Port Isabel Lighthouse is expected to reopen by the end of May.*

### Wildflower Run

*Where are your favorite places to see spring wildflowers?*

*TH readers weigh in:*

- The Rockport Cemetery has beautiful wildflowers. Not a lot of bluebonnets but many winecups and others. —**John Menn**

- Washington County! Texas 105 often has fields in bloom and FM 1155 does too. It's the Bluebonnet Trail after all.

—**Kathy Hall**

- We usually drive from the Valley to Corpus Christi to see them along the highway.

—**Mary Garza**

- The Willow City Loop near Fredericksburg is always gorgeous.

—**Doris McGregor Steinberger**

- The Ennis Bluebonnet Trails are worth the drive!


—**Gina Gisting Rokas**

- Inks Lake and the surrounding area. —**Bill Wimberley**

- The cemetery on Broadway in Galveston is incredible—the new spring flowers and the old, old tombstones. —**Janice Donovan**

# FIELD GUIDE to BASTROP COUNTY

ISSUE No 19



## Reel To Reel

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## SCENIC ROUTE

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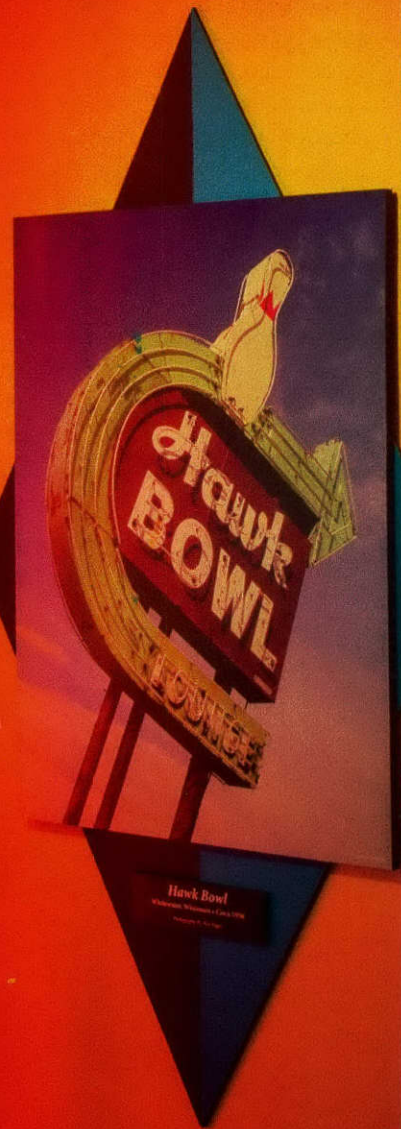
# DRIVE

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## Stee-rike!

Arlington's International  
Bowling Museum  
and Hall of Fame

story by **Stephen Hunt**





**T**HE INTERNATIONAL BOWLING Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington captures the enduring appeal of the sport so well that it could compel famous TV bowler Al Bundy to say “stee-rike!”

Outside this 130,000 square-foot facility, a 20-foot metal bowling pin beckons passersby in for a closer look at a sport played by 95 million people in 90 countries. The venue, not far from the city’s high-profile AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park, serves myriad functions: It honors the accomplishments of the world’s greatest bowlers, preserves artifacts relating to the sport, serves as a training facility for tomorrow’s champs, and offers a wealth of materials for researchers, for starters. But its mission for casual visitors and bowling fans is simple: to paint a picture of a sport that dates as far back as ancient Egypt, and to inspire a new generation to lace up those goofy shoes and hit the lanes.

The International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame operated from 1984 to 2008 in St. Louis, a city that in post-World War II America was as closely identified with the sport as Cleveland and

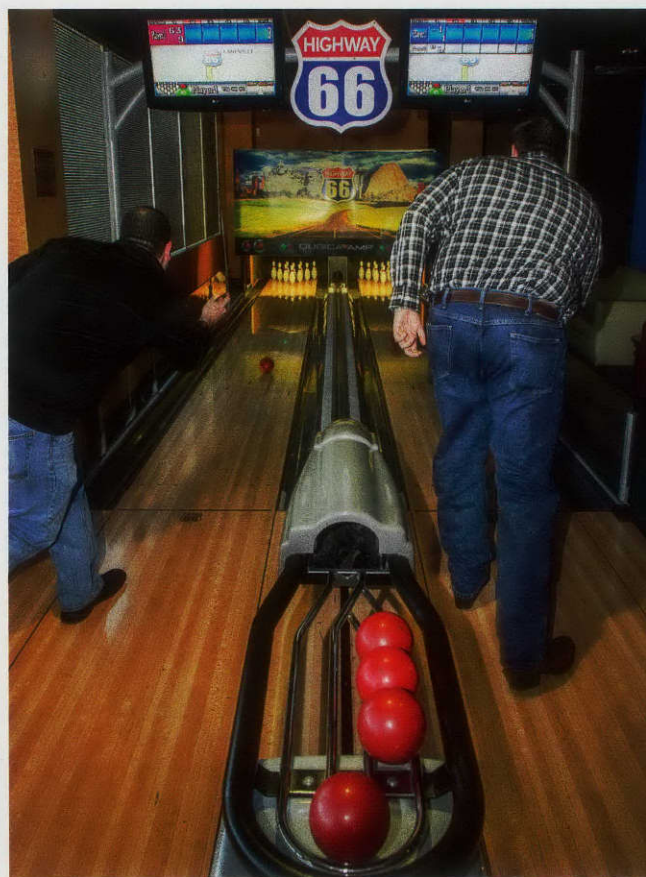
**The museum paints a picture of a sport that dates to ancient Egypt and inspires new generations of bowlers to lace up those goofy shoes and hit the lanes.**

Milwaukee. In 2008, the facility moved to a larger campus in Arlington and reopened in 2010.

The fun starts in the lobby, where a custom, bowling-themed motorcycle called “Strike Bike” inspires conversation. Showcased in the reality-TV series *American Chopper*, the motorcycle features a red-white-and-blue color scheme with a gas tank designed to look like a bowling ball, plus pin and lane designs on the wheels and fenders.

Through April 30, the museum’s temporary exhibition space presents the special exhibit *Bowls for Women*, which details the many obstacles female bowlers in America have overcome in the past 200 years. In the early 1800s, women were barred from bowling, but by the late 1800s, women had joined the ranks of those who bowled for camaraderie and exercise.

Women started forming leagues in the late 1800s, and in 1916, the Women’s International Bowling Congress (WIBC) was created as a ladies-only counterpart to the male-only American Bowling Congress (ABC), which was founded in 1895. Notable artifacts from *Bowls for Women* include a



Visitors can learn about the physics of bowling and even test their skills at a miniature bowling alley.



cobblestone from the St. Louis street where the WIBC was founded, a 1966 photo showing Lady Bird Johnson receiving her gold WIBC membership card, and a shirt worn by Kelly Kulick, the first woman to win a PBA (Professional Bowlers Association) Tour event. "I always think of the legends before me, and how they paved the way for my achievements," Kulick says.

Another exhibit discusses bowling's origins. In the 1930s, famed British archeologist Sir Flinders Petrie discovered bowling pins and balls in a child's grave in Egypt, which suggests the sport is more than 5,000 years old. The museum includes models of those artifacts alongside a recreated sarcophagus containing a mummy holding a bowling ball.

Europeans took the sport to another level. Whether called *quilles de neuf* in France, *keglespieles* in Germany, *skittles* in Great Britain, or *bocce* in Italy, bowling became wildly popular and eventually crossed the ocean to the Americas. A display of early French bowling artifacts, including balls, discs, and pins, show France's passion for the sport. Along with artifacts and memorabilia, the museum also delves into bowling trivia: In 1588, for example, British explorer (and bowling enthusiast) Sir Francis Drake allegedly delayed his final assault on the Spanish Armada until he could finish his game.

In another area, visitors can learn about life as a "pin boy." Before the automatic pin-setter was invented in the 1930s, pins were collected and put back in place by humans, usually teenage boys. This was no easy gig: Pin boys had to accomplish these tasks quickly or risk being injured by flying balls or heckled by angry bowlers. Pin boys practically vanished in the early 1950s due to automation.

Thanks to television, bowling entered its golden era in the 1950s. Prime-time bowling shows proved popular, which led companies like Budweiser

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to sponsor teams to capitalize on that growth. The museum captures this period via a replica of a mid-century diner, bowling-related neon signs, and information about the corporate teams.

Another permanent exhibit details women in bowling, telling the story with video and artifacts, such as the ball that Michelle Feldman used in the 1997 Southern Virginia Open and a shirt worn by Bev Ortner, who in 1968 became the first woman to roll an 800 series.

Visitors who aren't yet overwhelmed with bowling knowledge can relax in an adjoining theater with an 18-minute video on bowling's past, present, and future. One notable artifact here is a microphone used by Chris Schenkel, the iconic sportscaster who covered bowling on ABC for 30 years.

*The Science of Bowling* exhibit goes into great detail about how balls, lanes, and pins are constructed. In the 1950s,

for example, balls were mostly made of rubber, but in the 1960s and 1970s, manufacturers moved to plastic. Urethane balls surfaced in the 1980s and reactive resin balls, made by applying resin to urethane, in the 1990s.

The museum's penultimate section shows how bowling positively impacts the community through such organizations as the American Blind Bowler Association, Bowl for the Cure, the Bowling Veteran's League, and Special Olympics. A display featuring a pink bowling ball, pin, and shirt reflects how closely the sport works with the Susan G. Komen organization to end breast cancer.

Last and certainly not least is the Hall of Fame, an interactive display that honors some of the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen in the field. The Hall commemorates several Texans, including Houston's William "Billy" Welu, who was a former PBA executive



**THE INTERNATIONAL BOWLING MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME**

is at 621 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Closed Monday. Call **817/385-8215**; [www.bowlingmuseum.com](http://www.bowlingmuseum.com).

and broadcaster inducted into the USBC Hall of Fame in 1995; Beaumont native David Ozio, an 11-time PBA winner and PBA Hall of Famer; and Amarillo native Mike Scroggins, who still competes on the PBA Tour.

Like many museums, the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame concludes in the gift shop, where visitors can pick up books, magnets, toys, and equipment such as bowling balls, shoes, and apparel. The International Bowling Museum truly is a hidden gem in Arlington—whether you score frequent strikes or wind up in the gutter. 🎳



UPCOMING LUFKIN EVENTS

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May 13

**TOYOTA BASSMASTER TEXAS FEST**

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May 17-21

**NECHES RIVER RENDEZVOUS**

Explore the natural beauty of East Texas on a scenic 10-mile canoe trip down the Neches River  
June 3

**FARM FEAST**

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June 22



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# Trabajo Rústico

Preserving the lost art of *faux bois* cement sculptures

story by **Gene Fowler**



**D**IONICIO RODRIGUEZ'S CEMENT SCULPTURES look so much like tree trunks and branches, they even fool wily woodpeckers. Woodpeckers have been spotted pecking the concrete "bark" hoping to find a tasty insect lurking within the rails of Rodriguez's footbridge in Brackenridge Park or his bus-stop *palapa* at the corner of Broadway and Patterson.

Created in San Antonio from the 1920s to the 1950s and called *faux bois* (false wood) and *trabajo rústico* (rough work),

**Also called *faux bois* (false wood) these cement pieces appear as though made of wood or stone.**

Rodriguez's utilitarian cement pieces, crafted to appear as though made of wood or stone, can be seen at the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Spanish Governor's Palace, the Japanese Tea Garden, and other Alamo City sites. Comfort, Castroville, Port Arthur, and Houston also preserve Rodriguez's work, and his work in seven other states includes an Old Mill in Little Rock, Arkansas, that graces the opening frames of the epic film *Gone With the Wind*. Fifteen of his Texas works, and six in other states, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Rodriguez is second only to Frank Lloyd Wright in the total number of locations listed on the register.)

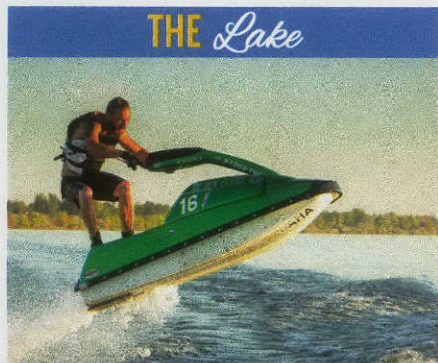
Rodriguez's great-nephew Carlos Cortés continues the tradition with such works as the concrete grotto on the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River Walk and an in-progress entryway to a new wing of the Witte Museum. In her 2008 book about Rodriguez's life and work, *Capturing Nature*, Patsy Pittman Light traces the origins of his medium to a French gardener named Joseph Monier, who first used wire and steel to reinforce concrete around 1850, crafting *faux bois* garden pots and other containers. Since Monier introduced it, only a handful of known artisans have produced such work. Rodriguez, born in Toluca, near Mexico City, in 1891, learned the basics of *faux bois* from a contractor. He worked on a rock fountain at Lago del Bosque de Chapultepec in Mexico City before coming to San Antonio around 1924.

## ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE

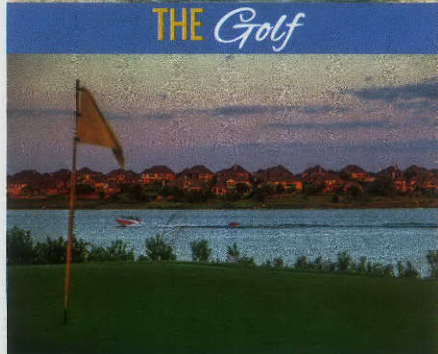
Rodriguez was likely brought to Texas by Dr. Aureliano Urrutia, who may have known the artist in Mexico before the doctor himself moved north of the Rio Grande, according to Light. She lists eight extant pieces Rodriguez made for Urrutia's elaborate San Antonio garden, Miraflores. On Hildebrand Road, in a corner of Brackenridge Park,

Mexican-born artist Dionicio Rodriguez's footbridge in Brackenridge Park in San Antonio is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

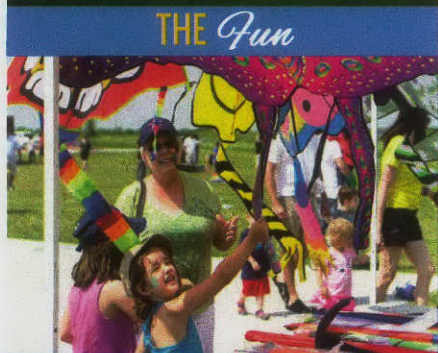




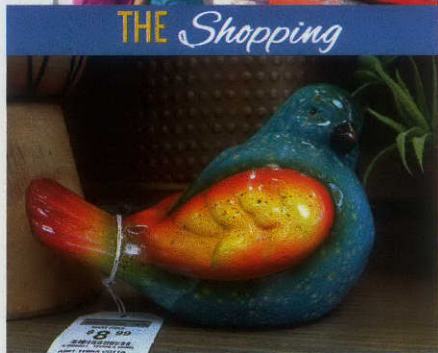
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the remaining 4.5 acres of Miraflores are owned by the city and await restoration. While tours may be offered on a limited basis in the near future, park visitors today can stand on Hildebrand

### Rodriguez's work challenges the viewer to separate the real from the art form.

Road and peer into the garden remnants to see the cement saguaro cactus, a faux hollow tree entry gate, faux wood steps, a *palapa* bench, and a small grotto housing wingless cherubs.

The majestic faux stone arch that once rose above the Broadway entrance to Miraflores now stands in the Latin American Collection at the San Antonio Museum of Art. The arch features Talavera tile depicting peacocks, flowers, winged lions, and the Virgin

of Guadalupe. "There's a juniper tree on either side of the arch," Miraflores researcher and descendant Elise Urrutia says. "Dr. Urrutia may have sought to recreate the atmosphere of the floating gardens in his hometown of Xochimilco, and there were juniper trees there."

Back at Brackenridge Park, one of the most distinctive of Rodriguez's many footbridges spans a flood channel of the San Antonio River near Miraflores. Light describes it as "a curved structure resembling an elongated arbor." Built in 1925, the bridge attracted the attention of *Popular Mechanics* magazine in 1927, which reported its effect on local woodpeckers. Light notes that humans are often fooled as well. Rodriguez's works challenge the viewer, she writes, to "separate the real from the art form" because

**Dionicio Rodriguez's** great-nephew Carlos Cortés continues the family *faux bois* tradition at the bus shelter at Newell Avenue and Camden Street (top) and the Witte Tree House (left) at the Witte Museum, both in San Antonio.



of his “careful molding of bark textures, with worm holes, peeling sections, and lichen, and his sensitively formed drooping and twisted branches and heavily grooved tree trunks.”

One of Rodriguez’s best-known works, the Asian-themed gate to Brackenridge Park’s wondrously landscaped Japanese Tea Garden, offers a lesson on a difficult time in American history. Named the Japanese Tea Garden when built in 1917, the name was changed to Chinese Tea Garden after Pearl Harbor, and that was the name Rodriguez placed on the faux wood gate. Though the Chinese name remains on the gate, the city renamed the site Japanese Tea Garden in 1984.

#### PRESERVING THE TRADITION

Houston artist Donald R. Tucker, 72, crafted his first *faux bois* some 25 years ago and teaches a summer class in the practical yet whimsical folk art at San Antonio’s Southwest School of Art. Tucker first saw Rodriguez’s work as a child on a trip to San Antonio. The memory stuck. He



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explains the distinguishing factor of North American *trabajo rústico*—as pioneered by Rodriguez—is the finish coat. “The historic French work is a sanded mortar aggregate that limits the amount of detail,” he adds. Rodriguez’s version utilizes Portland cement and water, without any aggregate, and is very difficult to master. He mixed a secret recipe of water and chemicals to produce the realistic finish. Extremely

**Time will tell if Rodriguez’s *trabajo rústico*, some of which is approaching the century mark, will last as long as natural stone.**

protective of his formula, the artist broke empty containers of the solution so that no one could retrieve enough of the liquid for analysis. He did, however, share enough of his secrets with assistants like Carlos Cortés’ father,

Maximo Cortés, so the tradition could be preserved and passed down.

“When I first began studying this art form in the early 1990s, only Carlos Cortés was producing any work,” Tucker notes. “Today, I have students from Australia, France, Costa Rica, and throughout the United States.”

Tucker, whose own works include a large outdoor “tree” bench at Houston’s Rehab Bar on the Bayou and something he describes as “a hitchin’ rail for hippos” at Baytown Nature Center, notes many of Rodriguez’s pieces have been receiving needed restoration. “The reinforcing steel that was utilized in these historic structures oxidizes and expands, causing problems with the whole piece,” says Tucker, who is working with Carlos Cortés to develop a set of standards for the restoration and preservation of this type of work that they hope will be adopted by the Texas Historical Commission.



**MORE ON FAUX BOIS**

Donald Tucker shares details of the craft at [TheGardenArtForum.com](http://TheGardenArtForum.com), and his book, *An Introduction to Sculpting Ferrocement Faux Bois*, is available online.

During World War II, with materials in short supply, Rodriguez used actual rock in some pieces, including a dramatic grotto and Stations of the Cross constructed with honeycomb limestone at San Antonio’s Shrine of St. Anthony of Padua. Time will tell if Rodriguez’s *trabajo rústico*, some of which is approaching the century mark, will last as long as natural stone.

“We might not have this work at all in Texas if he hadn’t come north, as so many Mexicans did, during the turbulent era after the Mexican Revolution,” Tucker muses. “So I like to say that we owe these pleasures to Pancho Villa. Thanks Pancho!” 🐘

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## Beyond the Border

Diverse works converge at the El Paso Museum of Art

story by Clayton Maxwell

**W**HILE DRINKING COFFEE IN MY ROOM IN El Paso's hip new Hotel El Indigo, I can feel the pull of Mexico. From my window, I witness how the orderly concrete grid of El Paso's downtown gives way across the border to a warren of pastel, one-story houses framed in mountains still purple from the sunrise. I watch cars scuttle back and forth toward the international bridge, heading for *El Norte* or south into Juárez. This is

**Although Enríquez painted the couple in black and white, they appear electric and alive.**

*la frontera*, a metropolis of almost 3 million people on both sides of the Mexico-United States border, and the buzz is infectious.

I have a shiny new book in my lap, a *recuerdo* from yesterday's visit to the El Paso Museum of Art—the catalog companion to Gaspar Enríquez's 2014 exhibit *Metaphors of El Barrio*. I have little space in my house for more art books, but this one had to come with me as a reminder of my experience.

When I first walked into the lobby, a powerful gaze had riveted me to attention. Here was one of the museum's most arresting works: a 24-foot couple airbrushed on aluminum composite panels, hips cocked and brows faintly furrowed, the folds in their baggy pants rendered in a skilled play of light and shadow.

Enríquez created this couple in 1997 as part of a painting series for the San Antonio Convention Center. Although Enríquez painted them in shades of black and white, they appear electric and alive. A Mickey Mouse keychain dangles from her belt. His long fingers rest on her shoulder. And even though their eyes were two stories above me, I felt the power of their gaze.

Just as this towering couple hit me with a jolt of appreciation, the El Paso Museum of Art itself presents one revelation after another. Only a half-mile walk from my hotel through El Paso's downtown, the museum welcomes visitors with a blaze of red outside: a sculpture of two connected triangles that look like an angular butterfly. This work by Peruvian sculptor Oswaldo Sagastegui is titled *Identidad Geométrica*, or *Geometric Identity*. I interpret the work as one side representing Juárez and the other El Paso, and they are meeting in the middle.

The museum, located in the United States' largest border community, draws from the region's many influences, which intersect and feed each other with new energy. For example, a

Above, one of the museum's most arresting works: a 24-foot couple airbrushed on aluminum composite panels by Gaspar Enríquez.





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docent told me that Tom Lea was his favorite artist in the museum. Lea, a prominent Western painter, muralist, and war correspondent, is a hero of El Paso's cultural identity. The museum has a gallery dedicated to his works and hosts an annual, month-long series of events celebrating his life. One of the museum's most beloved Tom Lea paintings, *Sarah*, shows Lea's wife before a border landscape of cloud-topped mountains.

Lea's rendering of his wife is strikingly similar to works by the late Manuel Acosta, another local artist I discovered at the museum. Acosta, who was born in Mexico but immigrated to El Paso with his family as a young boy, painted portraits of women ranging from El Paso's society ladies to grandmotherly *señoras*, often placing them against a vast desert background.

The works of Enríquez, Acosta, and Lea give me a better understanding of this mysterious corner of Texas. Because of its distance from other urban areas, the El Paso Museum of Art is uniquely positioned to tell the region's

**Oswaldo Sagastegui's**  
*Identidad Geométrica* makes a bold statement at the museum's entrance.

story. Not only does the museum exhibit the works of well-known artists, but it also offers a prominent gallery to emerging artists.

But appropriately, while the museum gives visitors like me a sense of place, it also gives locals a sense of the world. The same docent who admires the works of Tom Lea confided that his favorite painting in the museum is Italian painter Canaletto's *View of the Molo*, which was made around 1730 and is part of the museum's extensive Kress Collection. The painting highlights the canals of Venice with gondolas awaiting passengers, and I can appreciate how the watery scene could appeal to someone living in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert.

I didn't realize at the time that the Kress Collection was the genesis for the entire museum as it exists today. The Kress Five and Dime in downtown El Paso, which went out of



business in 1980, was once one of the most profitable Kress stores in the country. According to Tracey Jerome, director of El Paso's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department, the Kress Foundation agreed to donate 57 paintings from its enormous European collection if El Paso would create

**The museum, located in the United States' largest border community, draws from the region's many influences, which intersect and feed each other with new energy.**

a public museum to house them. Now the museum is home to Italian Renaissance and Spanish Baroque gems on par with works at the National Gallery of Art or The Louvre.

"Our Kress Collection is world-renowned," Jerome says. "Our con-

temporary local artists grew up visiting that collection. That gift has had many profound ripple effects that continue to live and breathe in our community today."

Those ripples keep widening throughout El Paso. The city's prolific public art program installs local and international art into public spaces that reach the entire community. One of Enríquez's larger-than-life portraits—of a boy in a baseball catcher's facemask—now enlivens El Paso's new baseball stadium, built in 2014 for the city's Chihuahuas. In the fall, the city hosts an annual Chalk the Block party in the Arts District, a three-day arts festival with interactive installations, dance and theater performances, and a sidewalk chalk-art competition. And, to make sure that art remains accessible to all, donors sponsor bus trips to the Arts District from local schools. "Our feeling is that if we can

get children in the door, they are often the entry point for the rest of the family," Jerome says.

Back at the Hotel Indigo paging through the Gaspar Enríquez catalog, I read that Enríquez's title for the Chicano couple series, *Color Harmony en La Esquina*, came from his hope that someday "color" could be a respected difference—something that creates diversity and enriches—rather than a source of bias. As the El Paso Museum of Art thrives as a hub of cultural exchange, bringing international art to El Paso while also bringing local art to the world, it brings that vision closer to reality one museum visit at a time. **L**



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# Pearl Jam

A Central Texas bluegrass jamboree

story by Heather Brand

**T**HE TOWN OF PEARL, IN CORYELL COUNTY IN Central Texas, has an estimated population of 125, but on the first Saturday of every month it attracts nearly twice that number—and often more—thanks to the Pearl Bluegrass Jam and Stage Show. This event, which takes place at the Pearl Community Center, draws performers and listeners alike from across the state and beyond.

People begin arriving on Wednesday to claim the 32 RV sites located on the grounds. For the next three days, participants have open access to the center, located in a 100-year-old repurposed school building. They gather in the center's various rooms to practice and listen to bluegrass tunes; in fair weather, they also congregate outside under the center's mature oak and elm trees. On Saturday, day-trippers drive in for the main event—the stage show, featuring a string of bands playing 45-minute

**On stage, against a backdrop of quilts, the Sowell Family Pickers were playing at full throttle, their fingers and bows flying across the strings of their instruments.**

sets from about noon to 6 p.m.

As a novice banjo player, I was eager to experience the Pearl jamboree for myself, and also to introduce my teenage daughter and her best friend to bluegrass. I have long been a fan of this style of American music, which traces back to the early settlers of Appalachia and was traditionally passed down by ear. The banjo is a signature instrument of this distinct sound, but mandolins, guitars, fiddles, upright basses, and other stringed instruments are part of the mix as well. In preparation, we loaded up my banjo, my daughter's much-neglected violin, and her friend's newly purchased ukulele, and we hit the road.

Since I lack an RV, and the town of Pearl lacks a hotel, we checked into the Inn at Circle T just outside of Hamilton, about 30 miles to the north. This Western-themed hotel has 57 rooms, but it also has an unusual amenity: adjacent rodeo grounds with regularly scheduled public events. The entrance to the arena resembles the facade of the Alamo, and inside, visitors can fill up on chicken-fried steak, grits, fried okra, cobbler, and other down-home fare at the ring-side restaurant and bar, the Crossfire Steakhouse and Cantina.

From Hamilton, we drove through juniper-covered hills to Evant, continuing on FM 183 until we reached the Pearl Community Center. RVs circled the building like a wagon train, and cars packed the parking area. Already we could hear the distant strains of bluegrass emanating from the center. The main door led us directly into the auditorium, where we were met with a full house. On stage, against a backdrop of quilts, the Sowell Family Pickers were playing at full throttle,



The Star Gang takes the stage.



their fingers and bows flying across the strings of their instruments. These six talented siblings out of Hempstead range in age from about 10 to 20. One of the older sisters thumped away on a double bass while her younger brother rapidly strummed a mandolin, and the other children played along on guitar, banjo, and fiddle, swapping instruments on occasion.

After the set, as the next band took the stage, we made our way through the crowd to a side door. Beyond it, a hall opened onto a warren of rooms. Four of them were devoted to jamming, and in each one, players of varying skill levels gathered to pick their way through standard bluegrass tunes such as "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky." Others sat on sofas and benches against the walls, just enjoying the music. One of the back rooms had been converted into a dining hall, and volunteers served up chicken and dumplings, burgers, sandwiches, and an assortment of desserts. Hungry from the drive, we loaded up on barbecue sandwiches and buttermilk pie and found a seat in the adjoining dining space, with the riotous sounds of bluegrass filtering in from the hall.

Here we ran into Ronald Medart, the man who started it all. An alumnus of the Pearl School, he recalled that this room had once been the study hall and the other spaces had served as classrooms. There were only eight people in his class and no incoming students when he graduated in 1955. "The next year the school closed, and the building kept going downhill," he said.

In the 1990s, Medart spearheaded the effort to restore the building as a venue for music and social gatherings. Through local fundraising and volunteer efforts, he and other community members outfitted it with a new metal roof, replaced the windows, and updated the HVAC and electrical systems. They launched the Pearl Bluegrass Jam as a nonprofit in the



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Maynard Dixon (1875-1946), *Mesas in Shadow*, 1926, oil on canvas, 30 1/4 x 40 inches, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, gift of Herald R. Clark, 1937



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fall of 1997. The bands perform for free, no admission is charged, and volunteers run the show, so funds generated by the campsites and the kitchen café cover building maintenance. From the get-go, the event has exceeded his expectations. “We’re 20 miles from anywhere, but people showed up. We thought we’d get 150 people,” admitted Medart. “But the

auditorium holds 300, and it’s usually stuffed full.”

After lunch, we headed back to the auditorium just in time to catch the Polk Brothers, a Wimberley-based group led by two siblings who have been playing together for six decades. Meanwhile, other musicians, professionals and amateurs alike, were honing their chops in the back rooms.

We eventually worked up the courage to join them. In the first room we ventured into, framed historical photographs of the town and its citizens lined the walls, and a case full of trophies and other school memorabilia testified to the building’s former purpose. In the midst of it all, a circle of expert pickers performed at break-neck speed, and we enjoyed watching them from the sidelines.

**The banjo is a signature instrument of bluegrass, but mandolins, guitars, fiddles, upright basses, and other stringed instruments are part of the mix as well.**

The next room had been entirely taken over by teenagers jamming away on their instruments, but my daughter and her friend were too shy to infiltrate their ranks. Instead, we settled into a neighboring room that seemed welcoming to beginners and began plucking our way through some basic tunes. The more experienced musicians helped us along by calling out the keys and demonstrating the chords. Even though the Pearl Community Center no longer serves as a school, it continues to be a place of learning and a place for people to come together—even if they have to drive in from other cities to get there. Pearl may be small, but it plays a big role in keeping the traditions of bluegrass alive. **L**

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# The Heart of Country Music

Brady museum honors golden era of country-western music

story by **Gene Fowler**

**T**RACY PITCOX STILL REMEMBERS THE FIRST record he ever bought. “It was a cassette of Ernest Tubb’s album *Thanks A Lot*,” he recalled. “I was 15 years old, and I paid \$3.95 for it at Kmart in Brownwood.”

Since that purchase, Pitcox, the founder of the Heart of Texas Country Music Museum in Brady, has done as much as anyone to honor traditional country music and preserve its stories and sounds. Pitcox launched his popular radio program, *Hillbilly Hits*, when he was 17 on his hometown station in Brady, KNEL, and he still holds court on Thursday and Saturday evenings with four hours of classic country music. Setting the tone at the outset, the first record Pitcox played on the show’s 1989 debut was Hank Thompson’s “Kindly Keep It Country.”

**Spectacular stage outfits dazzle in museum displays just as they once did under opry and honky-tonk lights.**

Founded in 2000, Pitcox’s Heart of Texas Country Music Museum displays instruments, attire, images, and other artifacts from the careers of more than a hundred golden-era country-western stars, from Hank to Patsy and Lefty to Loretta. Pitcox also heads the Heart of Texas Country Music Association, which operates an eponymous record label and produces concerts across Central Texas, including the Heart of Texas Country Music Festival each March in Brady.

“Every item in the museum has a story,” Pitcox said during a recent tour. The story behind Ferlin Husky’s first guitar, a Supertone acoustic, underscores the hardscrabble origins of many country musicians. The guitar is part of an extensive display of Husky memorabilia that includes the platinum record for his signature tune “Wings of a Dove.”

“Ferlin was born into a family of Missouri sharecroppers,” Pitcox said, “and his mother traded some chickens to get him this guitar.”

A collection of Hank Williams rarities, framed under the title “The Show He Never Made,” includes an original poster, flyer, and ticket from his 1953 New Year’s Day gig in Canton, Ohio. Hank died en route to the concert, the result of years of hard living. The items were in a scrapbook kept by Hank’s mother that somehow wound up in a Mason antiques store, where an Austin benefactor found them and donated them to the museum.

The museum even managed to expand its collection as the result of a theft. In 2005, a burglar stole a Fender Stratocaster owned by Brady native Dave Kirby, co-writer of “Is Anybody Goin’ to San Antone?” (Police recovered the guitar about six months later in Taylor.) Betty Oyler, the grandmother of the technician who installed a museum security system after the break-in, had been a neighbor of Western Swing pioneer Bob Wills in

The museum’s Faron Young display includes custom boots made by M.L. Leddy’s of San Angelo and a glitzy watch.



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Oklahoma. Wills had given Betty a fiddle, encouraging her to learn to play. Her family later donated the fiddle to the museum.

Centenarian Flo Sauers of Victoria donated one of the rarest recordings in country music history: the Jimmie Rodgers picture disc—a vinyl record with artwork on the grooved area—of “Cowhand’s Last Ride,” including the Blue Yodeler’s image and signature. “Flo’s husband had been a huge Jimmie Rodgers fan,” Pitcox explained, “and her nephew Frankie Miller is one of our Heart of Texas Records artists.” Rodgers recorded the song nine days before he died in 1933, and it was pressed in a limited edition. Very few copies survive.

Among the memorabilia, spectacular stage outfits dazzle in museum displays just as they once did under opry

and honky-tonk lights. The museum features several suits that Hollywood tailor Nudie Cohn made for Hank Thompson, including the Silver Dollar suit with leather-and-rhinestone silver dollars that Thompson wore in Las Vegas. Thompson is best known for blending honky-tonk with Western Swing, and his artifact donations include the master recording of his landmark 1952 hit “The Wild Side of Life.” (I was especially excited to see the sheet music for his 1947 ditty “Humpty Dumpty Heart.” Metro Music, my father’s company in Dallas in the 1940s, published the song.)

“Hank was a great friend of ours,” said Pitcox, who reminisced in his

**Museum curator Tracy Pitcox displays the Hank Thompson room, home to flashy Nudie suits, awards, and more.**







### THE HEART OF TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC MUSEUM.

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book, *Legendary Conversations* (Heart of Texas Country, 2007) about the intimidation he felt when he first interviewed Thompson at the tender age of 16. "Before his death he asked that all memorials to him be sent to the museum. The first two checks we received in his memory were for \$1,000 from Vince Gill and \$500 from George Jones."

One beautiful Nudie suit, which Ray Price wore for the cover of his 1961 *Greatest Hits* album, recalls the days when the singer called his band the Cherokee Cowboys. An image of an elaborate Cherokee headdress fills the back of the jacket, and eagle feathers adorn the pant legs.

A soundtrack of Heart of Texas Records artists enhances the museum's musical atmosphere. Several artists—Justin Trevino, Darrell McCall, and Norma Jean—have been so moved by Pitcox's mission to preserve traditional country music that they relocated to Brady. Norma Jean—who was billed as Pretty Miss Norma Jean during her years on TV's *Porter Wagoner Show*, the *Ozark Jubilee*, and the *Grand Ole Opry*—occasionally serves as a museum docent herself.

"Sometimes I'll even sing as I give a tour," she said. "That's the great thing about country music. The artists love the fans as much as the fans love the artists."



### HEADED TO BRADY?

Along with the Country Music Museum, the town is also home to the Heart of Texas Historical Museum. Read more about the museum at [texashighways.com](http://texashighways.com).

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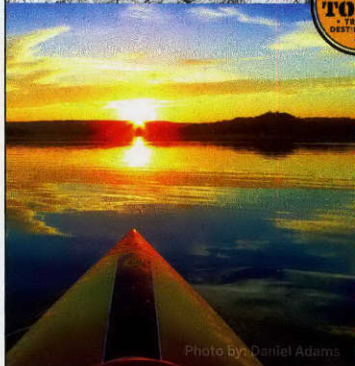


Photo by Daniel Adams



Lakeside charm  
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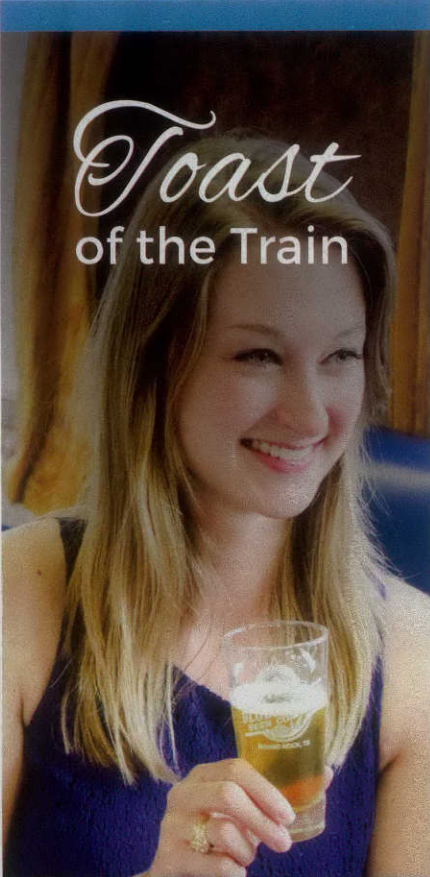
## Crushing it at Messina Hof

40 years of  
winemaking  
in Bryan

*story by*  
Cynthia J. Drake







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**O**N AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY COOL AND overcast August morning, rows and rows of Lenoir grapes grow fat on the vines at the Messina Hof vineyard in Bryan. At sunrise, visitors armed with grape hooks will descend upon them, eager for the experience of squishing the grapes between their toes during the winery's annual grape harvest tradition.

Lenoir grapes, also known as Black Spanish or Jaquez grapes, are resistant to phylloxera (root rot), which plagues many grapes grown in Texas. But Paul and Merrill Bonarrigo, two pioneers in the state's winemaking industry, didn't know that when they ventured out to stake a few vines 40 years ago on their acreage in Bryan.

In the 1970s, Merrill remembers, a farmer driving his tractor down what was then called Poor Farm Road pulled over to watch her label the dormant vines. "He said, 'Honey, what are you doing? Don't you know grapes can't grow here?'" That was an epiphany moment for me," she says. "I grew up in a family where 'can't' was a forbidden word."

**The Bonarrigos pride themselves on creating an atmosphere where people connect to one another.**

Messina Hof's flagship location in Bryan features a winery, tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, and bed-and-breakfast.



The Bonarrigos continued to grow Lenoir grapes, in addition to several other varieties, participating in a Texas A&M University research project on grape-growing in Texas. By 1882, Messina Hof (Paul's family hails from Messina, Italy; Merrill's from Hof, Germany) had eight acres of vines. Paul soon began making wine with equipment they purchased from a dairy that was going out of business, aging his first barrels in a carport.

These days, the grapes—some of them from those same vines planted four decades ago—stand as a testament to the love, care, and faith that fortified the Bonarrigos. The couple's 100-acre estate winery in Bryan now includes a tasting room, restaurant, gift shop, and bed-and-breakfast. They've also expanded to locations in Fredericksburg and Grapevine. The Fredericksburg outpost includes the Manor Haus Bed and Breakfast, as well as a tasting room; Grapevine's urban winery, housed in the historic Wallis Hotel, offers nine wines on tap.

Often dressed in a leopard-print button-down shirt and red beret (a tradition among winemakers in his ancestral home of Messina), the Bronx-born Paul Bonarrigo is a flamboyant and outspoken counterpart to his wife. The two met when Merrill, working as a real estate agent in Bryan, helped Paul sell his house.

"I had never met such a positive and optimistic person in my life," Paul remembers of their first meeting. "She was just a light."

Their son Paul Jr. (known as Paul Mitchell) is the seventh generation of family winemakers to wear that traditional red beret. Paul Mitchell and his wife, Karen, now operate the winery's three locations.

Messina Hof produced 144,000 gallons of wine in 2016, making it the state's fourth-largest winery, according to data from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. In 2013, Messina Hof was named the Top All-Around Winery at the Houston Livestock

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Show and Rodeo's International Wine Competition, beating out nearly 1,000 wineries from around the world.

Messina Hof regularly earns awards for its wines, including three 2017 double golds in that same competition for its Chenin Blanc, Sparkling Almond, and Petit Verdot. It turns out the Lenoir grape makes a delicious port, and the Bonarrigos' Papa Paulo Private Reserve Port is a luxurious finale to a special meal.

The Bonarrigos pride themselves on creating an atmosphere where people connect to one another. When I visit in August, the winery's employees are chattering about the man who proposed to his girlfriend in the middle of the previous day's raucous grape-stomping festivities. Evidently he kneeled down in a bucket of crushed grapes, popping the question while they stomped in the slurry.

"She did say yes, and it was because

she wanted to get out," Paul Sr. jokes with the visitors assembled to hear his pre-picking orientation, which includes information about the winery's history. Paul Sr. relishes his time in the spotlight, telling the group about a couple who have been married 50 years and enjoy a weekly glass of Messina Hof's sparkling wine. "They toast to their marriage and all the blessings they've received," he says.

The winery is a popular spot for weddings and anniversaries. The on-site villa at Messina Hof includes 11 rooms that can be reserved individually or as a group for the night or weekend. Each has its own theme ("Romeo & Juliet," "Messina," and "Thomas Jefferson," among others) and is decorated with antiques collected by the Bonarrigos over the years. Employee Jean Butler, who manages the villa's reservations, says it's her mission to "spoil guests and make



**MESSINA HOF WINERY**

(the flagship location) is at 4545 Old Reliance Road in Bryan. For details about the tasting room, restaurant, villa, annual events, and outposts in Fredericksburg and Grapevine, call **800/736-9463**;

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

people happy." Overnight guests enjoy chocolates at bedtime and delectable hot breakfasts with mimosas in the morning.

Some of the Bonarrigos' most loyal fans—known as The VIPs—join the couple on annual winery trips outside Texas and celebrate with them at special winery events. But you don't have to be a VIP to tap into the family vibe. All it takes is a chat with Paul Sr. and a warm smile from Merrill, and you'll feel truly and authentically welcome. **L**

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## To Dine For

Glen Rose's Riverhouse Grill

story by Kathryn Jones

**S**INCE MY HUSBAND AND I MOVED FROM FORT WORTH to a ranch south of Glen Rose a decade ago, we've become impromptu tour guides to friends visiting the area for its hilly scenery along the Paluxy River, numerous bed-and-breakfasts, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, and other nearby attractions. They inevitably ask us where they should eat, and we always recommend our go-to place, the Riverhouse Grill.

No restaurant embodies Glen Rose's small-town historic charm better. The white two-story structure dates to the early 1900s, with a wide front porch and an enclosed balcony upstairs. Inside, the two downstairs dining rooms feature high ceilings, hardwood floors, lovely carved woodwork, and sconces that glow with soft light. The windows still sport their original rippled glass.

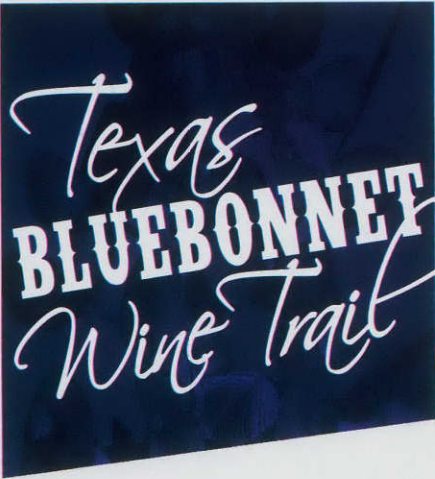
**While the entire setting feels bright and airy by day, at night flickering candles and lights in the tall trees outside conjure a romantic ambiance.**

The late Mary Olejnik and her husband, Milan, started the Riverhouse Grill in 2009. But their story in the restaurant business began a half-world away in the former Czechoslovakia, where Mary and Milan were born. As young adults in the late 1960s, they fled violence and Communist party rule and came separately to the United States to start new lives.

When Mary—born Maria Jurkova—arrived in New York in 1969 at age 19, she spoke no English and carried only

In a former home dating to the 1900s, the Riverhouse Grill offers upscale American cuisine and a welcoming ambiance—even if you're in flip-flops.





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a suitcase and a few dollars. She soon reconnected with family friend Milan Olejnik, and the couple married and embarked on careers in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Their path eventually led to Glen Rose, where they found work at local resorts and ranches.

One day while strolling around town, they spotted a “for sale” sign on the former historic Milam House on Barnard Street, the road that follows the meandering Paluxy River. They had a vision of opening a family restaurant, invited their son Milan Jr. to join them from California, and opened the Riverhouse Grill in 2009.

Mary died in January 2016, and while Milan Sr. still stops by the restaurant on occasion to help out, Milan Jr. and his fiancée, Kelli Ponder Peebles, run the show these days. Milan spends most of his time in the kitchen as chef, and Kelli runs the dining rooms as general manager. They both continue Mary’s tradition of friendly

hugs and smiles for locals and first-time visitors alike. “Mary never met a stranger,” Kelli says. “She made everyone feel like family.”

**Dinner specials often feature fish, such as blackened catfish with shrimp étouffée, or seasonal dishes such as seared maple-leaf duck breast with black cherry sauce.**

Under the stewardship of Milan and Kelli, the Riverhouse Grill still serves many of the dishes Mary brought to Glen Rose, including chicken Marsala (\$16) and grilled pork chops (\$19). Milan brings new dimension to the classics with sauces and salad dressings, such as the popular house-made orange vinaigrette.

At lunch, my favorite appetizer is the harvest flatbread layered with a blue cheese spread, thinly sliced pears, crushed pecans, and a bal-

Guests sometimes linger on the wide front porch after a meal. An evening special might feature fried catfish with vegetable sides.



samic glaze. It's a perfect balance of sweet, savory, and tart.

My husband often opts for a sandwich—a favorite is the smoked turkey panini with bacon, pesto mayonnaise, and provolone. I usually choose the daily special, and on a recent lunch visit, the grilled shrimp salad special arrived with five succulent shrimp atop a bed of baby spinach, sliced red onion, feta cheese, and a sprinkling of dried cranberries and chopped pecans. The house-made orange vinaigrette dressing made the dish pop; Kelli tells me some regulars ask to buy the dressing to use at home, and soon she hopes to oblige them. (Until then, see the recipe on the next page.)

In warm weather, we like to dine on the front porch, which has flower boxes hung from the railings. The upstairs dining rooms can be reserved for private parties.

While the entire setting feels bright and airy by day, at night flickering candles and lights in the tall trees outside conjure a romantic ambiance. Many locals and visitors celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions such as Valentine's Day at the restaurant, so it's not unusual to see a server carrying a dessert



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RECIPE

**RIVERHOUSE GRILL  
ORANGE VINAIGRETTE**

Makes 2 cups

- ◆ 2 teaspoons salt
- ◆ 1 teaspoon black pepper
- ◆ 2 minced garlic cloves
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon mustard powder
- ◆ 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
- ◆ 1 teaspoon horseradish
- ◆ 1 cup orange marmalade
- ◆ 1/2 cup white balsamic vinegar
- ◆ 3/4 cup olive oil

Whisk ingredients together, and serve.

spearred with a glowing candle.

Although the space feels elegant, you don't have to dress up to dine at the Riverhouse Grill. Tourists often show up in hiking or biking clothes, and families with children can come

straight from a day at Fossil Rim without having to change clothes.

Despite the Olejniks' Czech heritage, the food is mostly upscale American without being fussy. Milan says he tries to buy vegetables and fruits locally, and an herb garden behind the restaurant provides rosemary, mint, basil, and cilantro.

Dinner specials often feature fish, such as blackened catfish with shrimp étouffée, or seasonal dishes such as seared maple-leaf duck breast with black cherry sauce. Steak-lovers can't go wrong with the grilled cowboy rib-eye seasoned with a house-made rub. We love the steak, but we keep going back for the baked salmon (\$22). Milan dresses it up with a white butter sauce and serves it on a bed of garlic-lime rice. The lightly sautéed vegetables that accompany it—yellow squash, carrots, and zucchini—arrive sprinkled with garden herbs.

Desserts change seasonally. My favorite remains the gooey chocolate-chip bread pudding with caramel sauce; the serving is large enough for two to share. Key lime pie and flourless chocolate cake with raspberry sauce also make a fine ending.

The Riverhouse Grill brings gourmet flair to Glen Rose. I hear many visitors comment on their surprise to find a restaurant of such high caliber in town, and one they feel so welcome at. That is Mary's legacy—extending the kind of warmth that goes way beyond food. **L**



**RIVERHOUSE GRILL**

is at 210 S.W. Barnard St. in Glen Rose. Call **254/898-8514**; [www.theriverhousegrill.net](http://www.theriverhousegrill.net). Hours: Wed-Sat 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Reservations encouraged on weekends.

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## Off-N-On

Step back in time at Waco's Cupp's Drive Inn

story by **Michael Corcoran**

**N**OW THAT IN-N-OUT BURGER HAS OPENED dozens of locations in Texas, there have been raves—as well as scattered “mehs”—for the California chain. But as a frequent highway traveler, with both a non-chain mindset and a “make good time” mantra, I prefer the burgers served at independent joints near freeway exits. These are the stops you relish on the road, places like Willy Burger in Beaumont, off I-10, and Carpenter Hamburgers in Corsicana, less than a mile from I-45. You get your old-fashioned cheeseburger fix, and then you're back on the freeway in three minutes or less.

One of my favorites of these “Off-N-On” burger joints is Cupp's Drive Inn of Waco, just a Hail Mary pass from the 18th Street exit off I-35. Opened in 1929 as Heaton's and bought by the Cupp family in 1947, this small white building has room for eight stools at the counter and four booths, plus five tables outside for overflow. They fill up on Baylor home football game

**You get your old-fashioned cheeseburger fix, and then you're back on the freeway in three minutes or less.**

days as the university is just down the road.

Cupp's is home of the classic Texas diner cheeseburger. Back in the 1950s, Cupp's had car service, and a young soldier from Fort Hood named Elvis Presley would occasionally sneak a double cheeseburger with bacon in the back seat of family friend Eddie Fadal's Cadillac. During his six months of Army training in 1959, Elvis retreated on weekends to Waco, where Fadal, a former DJ whom Elvis met on one of his earliest tours of Texas, built an addition on his house for Presley and filled it with records and TVs. Willie Nelson, from nearby Abbott, has been eating at Cupp's since the late '40s.

Cupp's is *Happy Days* without the jukebox and the Fonz, where Richie Cunningham is now a professor at Baylor who stops in at least once a week to taste his childhood. “Some

**Co-owner Freddie Johnson mans the counter and the grill at Cupp's Drive Inn, a Waco staple since 1947.**



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burger places run their buns through a conveyor belt to heat them," said Freddie Johnson, who owns Cupp's with younger sister Sherry Caughenbaugh. "But there's nothing like toasting them on the grill."

**And most things remain the same. They still use only fresh ingredients, hand-peeling potatoes for french fries, making their own onion rings, and hand-breading the chicken-fried steak.**

Unless you have a scintillating lunch partner, you'll want to sit at the counter and watch Freddie and Sherry work the grill, one side of which is filled with face-down buns, while the other side sizzles with quarter-pound patties. Lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles—the usual—go on your cheeseburger at the build station, but for extra flavor, the spatula that's been flipping those

burgers gives a little love tap on the top of each bun.

This is how they've always done it at Cupp's, where change is about as welcome as a tax audit. "Our clientele really hates updates. We used to flatten our meat on the grill," Freddie said, cupping his hand as if it held a ball of hamburger meat, then miming a slap of the spatula. "Thwack! People loved that sound." But after a few years of doing that 100 times a day or more, it put such a strain on Johnson's shoulder that he started buying meat in patties.

"I told Sherry the other day, 'I'm not a customer, I'm a fixture,'" said David Ray, 70, who's been coming to Cupp's at least twice a week for 33 years. "I love the old-style atmosphere. Some of us weren't sure when they started using beef patties instead of balling up the meat and poppin' it on the grill. But it tastes just as good, so we came around on it."

And most things remain the same.



They still use only fresh ingredients, hand-peeling potatoes for french fries, making their own onion rings, and hand-breading the chicken-fried steak. "It's very labor intensive work," said Freddie, who turns 50 this year. He's been working at Cupp's since 1988, when his mother, Betty, who started working at Cupp's in 1957 as a carhop, bought the diner from a former waitress named—what else?—Flo. Sherry started working at Cupp's when she was 13. That was 29 years ago.

Though Baylor students and professors, plus blue-collar Wacoans, make up most of the clientele, Johnson said there's a new phenomenon bringing folks from all over. In May 2014, Chip and Joanna Gaines of HGTV's popular *Fixer Upper* opened Magnolia Market at the Silos, a distinctive shopping experience for fans of the Waco-based home improvement show. "They're bringing a lot of people to Waco," said Freddie, adding that he hasn't seen so many new faces at Cupp's since the standoff at the Branch Davidian compound in 1993, when members of the international press stayed in motels within walking distance to Cupp's.

Where *Fixer Upper* is about remodeling your surroundings, Cupp's remains resistant to change. They co-exist beautifully, because while Magnolia Market has trendy food trucks and a health-conscious restaurant, sometimes you just gotta have a greasy cheeseburger in an old-timey joint right off the freeway. At the midpoint between Dallas and Austin, this is a stop that makes you happy you decided to drive instead of fly. **L**



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**A CORNUCOPIA of  
COUNTRY CHARM—  
*and wildflowers, too***

story by **HELEN ANDERS**  
photographs by **KENNY BRAUN**





Donna Cummins steps out of the Chappell Hill fog and into my room at Southern Rose Ranch bearing a tray laden with rosemary cream-cheese scrambled eggs and pecan praline cobbler.

*“I’m so sorry about 3 a.m.,” she says.*

I shake my head, wondering what she could mean.

*“The cows and chickens were really noisy.*

*There must’ve been a predator in the pasture.”*

Could’ve fooled me. Without car horns, emergency sirens, or other urban sounds, I felt swathed in silence and didn’t even notice the mooing and clucking.

That’s the bucolic beauty of Washington County, where the Blackland Prairie’s rolling hills are rich in Texas history, picturesque cattle and horse pastures, and fields of colorful wildflowers during springtime. I expected the rural flavor. What I didn’t expect was that Washington County would offer such a wide array of lodging, dining, and activities, from antiques shops to wineries, historical sites, and theaters.

Bed-and-breakfasts abound here, all with their own personalities. At the Southern Rose Ranch, the two guesthouse suites overlook a herd of belted Galloway cows. In Brenham, book one of the five lace-curtained rooms at Brenham House, and you’ll be staying on the foundation of an 1891 Lutheran Church blown away by the 1900 hurricane that

devastated Galveston. The current two-story house rose in the 1920s, keeping the original limestone steps. Innkeepers James and Susan Lopez, former bakery owners, know how to compose a breakfast—bread pudding followed by fluffy scrambled eggs, juicy sausage, roasted potatoes, and a cherry tomato salad.

Also in Brenham, the 15-room Ant Street Inn furnishes each of its rooms with 19th-century antiques. The building started its life in the 1890s as a mercantile and feed store. One room even boasts an open-sided freight elevator. But don’t worry—it’s nonfunctional and you won’t plummet in the middle of the night.

For visitors interested in experiencing life on a working ranch, there’s Texas Ranch Life, an 1,800-acre operation on the border of Washington and Austin counties with quarter horses, Longhorn cattle, and bison. Guests can ride, rope, shoot

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**WHAT I DIDN’T EXPECT WAS THAT WASHINGTON COUNTY WOULD OFFER SUCH A WIDE ARRAY OF LODGING, DINING, AND ACTIVITIES, FROM ANTIQUES SHOPS TO WINERIES, HISTORICAL SITES, AND THEATERS.**

---

skeet, throw tomahawks, or observe a cutting horse at work. Come evening, guests sip beers and take in the sunset while their steaks cook over an open fire.

---

**Opening spread: The Independence Hall replica and Rocky the barn rooster at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site. This spread: Southern Rose Ranch Bed & Breakfast spoils guests with comfort, beauty, and tranquility.**















**At Barrington Living History Farm, interpreter Laura Fisher sweeps the dining room of the 1844 farmhouse, and interpreter Bruce Wardlow works with Ajax, a steer that's being trained to be an ox. The pastoral setting extends to Texas Ranch Life, a resort that offers horseback riding.**

Aside from its ranches, Washington County's pride lies in its history, including a claim to the title of "birthplace of Texas." The town of Washington hosted the Convention of 1836, where Texian delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836, and then wrote the Constitution of the Republic of Texas.

A replica of Independence Hall—the simple building where delegates convened—is a centerpiece of the 293-acre Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site. The original Independence Hall, which also served as a town hall, district court,

**BARRINGTON'S INTERPRETIVE RANGERS FARM COTTON THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, WITH OX, PLOW, AND WAGON. A NOISY FLOCK OF GUINEA HENS ROAMS THE LAWN AROUND THE FARMHOUSE, SQUAWKING MIGHTILY.**

school, dance hall, and storage building, burned down in 1850. Built on the original footprint, the replica stands true, complete with white oak walls, floor, and ceiling, along with open window frames. The hall's windows were on order in March of 1836 and didn't arrive in time to keep the mid-30s temperatures at bay. Framers of the Declaration put muslin curtains over them to keep out the rain and sleet. That's what we see in the replica.

Shortly after Texas declared independence, the Mexican



army overtook the Alamo in San Antonio, defeated Colonel J.W. Fannin's troops at the Battle of Coleto, and then massacred Fannin and other surviving Texian fighters at Goliad. The war's tide turned on April 21, 1836, when General Sam Houston led the Texas Army in a decisive victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. The battle, which lasted less than 20 minutes, secured Texas independence.

Also at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, Barrington Living History Farm interprets Brazos Valley farm life circa 1850. Anson Jones, a doctor and cotton farmer who served as the final president of the Republic of Texas before it joined the United States in 1845, lived with his family in the plantation's four-room, dog-trot home for 13 years. Originally built four miles away, the home was moved to the historic site in 1936.

Visitors can tour the house's downstairs rooms as well as other farm structures, including the slave quarters, barn, cotton cribs, hog pen, and smokehouse. Barrington's interpretive rangers farm cotton the old-fashioned way, with ox, plow, and

wagon. A noisy flock of guinea hens roams the lawn around the farmhouse, squawking mightily.

Near the farm sits the final element of Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, the Star of the Republic Museum. Owned and operated by Brenham-based Blinn College, the museum chronicles life in Texas up to the statehood era with artifacts such as Bowie knives, cotton bales, Spanish spears, and French spittoons. A Texas Rangers exhibit displays the jacket that Chuck Norris wore in *Walker, Texas Ranger* as well as a picture of actor Clayton Moore, who played the Lone Ranger in the 1950s TV show. A Texas Mystique wall explores intrinsic elements of Texas such as the Alamo, the state's Mexican heritage, Willie Nelson's music, and the magical allure of barbecue.

Stairs to the upper level pass a timeline of Texas history and a 140-foot mural depicting the journey from the Sabine River to Washington in the mid-1850s. Upstairs, the museum

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**ALONG WITH LAVENDER, YOU'LL FIND WINERIES DOTTING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNTRYSIDE. IN CHAPPELL HILL, TEXAS STAR WINERY'S OFFERINGS INCLUDE A POPULAR ROUSSANNE, A SOMEWHAT DRY WHITE WITH HONEY AND APPLE TONES.**

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displays pioneer artifacts like an 1850 pump organ with foot pedals and surgical instruments such as forceps.

Washington was a bustling hub of about 750 residents by the mid-1850s, home to shops and hotels. But when the railroad came through in 1859, Washington took a pass because it didn't want to pay for a stop. So, the railroad went to Navasota and Brenham. Washington slowly declined, and only about a dozen people live in the unincorporated area now.

**B**renham and Chappell Hill, though, have thrived and offer plenty for a rambling visitor to explore. At Chappell Hill Lavender Farm, 3,000 of the waist-high purple plants bloom in two seasons—May-June and August-September. Visitors can cut their own lavender when it's ready to reap and drop by the gift shop for lavender ice cream, lavender-infused honey and chipotle sauce, and lavender soaps and lotions.

Along with lavender, you'll find wineries dotting the Washington County countryside. In Chappell Hill, Texas Star Winery's offerings include a popular Roussanne, a somewhat dry white with honey and apple tones, and the Sunset Red, an award-winning lightly dry red blend. In Brenham, Windy Winery's hilltop outdoor tasting area catches a lovely breeze and makes a nice setting to sip one of its bestsellers, Cool Breeze, a dry white wine, or the



**Above: The Shrimp and Grits plate at 96 West in Brenham. Opposite page: The Funky Art Cafe in Brenham; Texas Star Winery in Chappell Hill; the Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre in Brenham.**











**Cowboy Craig Bauer teaches roping to guests at Texas Ranch Life. A portrait of Stephen F. Austin at the Star of the Republic Museum.**

spicy Independence, made from Lenoir grapes grown on its own estate.

When you're ready to head to town, Brenham hosts a concentration of cafés, boutiques, and antiques shops in the turn-of-the-century square, anchored by a white marble courthouse built in the Art Moderne style. Trains still chug through town several times a day on the BNSF Railway.

Grab lunch at Funky Art Cafe, which lives up to its name with three white brick walls and a purple wall that bears the work of local artists. It's all for sale. In a corner sits a Christmas-like tree decorated with American flags and sunflowers. The theme carries into the food at this lunch-only eatery. My whimsical Flenniken's Creation salad mixes mandarin oranges with greens and blue cheese, with a lemon cookie on the side and a big scoop of chicken salad in the middle. Maple vinaigrette dressing ties the whole thing together.

Attached to the café is The Pomegranate, a gift shop with an eclectic array of goods ranging from colorful leather purses to cutting boards, fine china, and a wall of cookie cutters in shapes like lobsters, dachshunds, and guitars. Just a block away, I explore Today & Yesterday—one of the more than a dozen shops that make Brenham an antiques mecca—and marvel at the wrought-iron doors and transoms.

A few blocks away, at Park Street Bakery, I choose a piña coloda kolache—the same treat that won the grand champion



award at last September's Kolache Festival in nearby Caldwell. The super-soft roll's topping of cream cheese, coconut, and pineapple tickles my taste buds.

For dinner, the upscale 96 West, also located downtown, welcomes guests with an outdoor patio perfect for an evening glass of wine and a wood-paneled dining room with tall ceilings and an urban vibe. Favorites include the juicy steak from 44 Farms in nearby Cameron, tapas, and inventive flatbread. I love mine, which comes topped with prosciutto, blueberry chutney, arugula, and provolone, drizzled with a balsamic reduction.

It's culture you're after? Brenham's got you covered. Set in a renovated warehouse, the 160-seat Unity Theatre stages professional productions featuring actors from across the region. Ken Ludwig's *Leading Ladies* takes the stage in June, and the classic *Sleeping Beauty* arrives in July.

Also in downtown Brenham, the Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre presents classic movies on the big screen and live music concerts. The 321-seat theater first opened in 1925 for vaudeville shows and silent films.

As part of the auditorium's recent renovation, painters added a border of rose and pale blue tulips around the stage, precisely matching the original design. The theater's renovation harks back to the original design, which paid, and continues to pay, homage to the flowering countryside of Washington County. **L**

*Writer Helen Anders loves rambling around Texas—and waking up to clucking and mooing. Says photographer Kenny Braun: "My dad grew up in the Washington County area, and I spent a lot of time on the family farm when I was young. It felt like a homecoming of sorts to return for this assignment."*

## ESSENTIALS WASHINGTON COUNTY



The **Brenham/Washington County Visitor Center** is at 115 W. Main St. in Brenham. Call 888/273-6426; [www.visitbrenhamtexas.com](http://www.visitbrenhamtexas.com).

**Southern Rose Ranch** is at 8580 Dairy Farm Road, Chappell Hill. Call 979/251-7871; [www.southernroseranch.com](http://www.southernroseranch.com).

**Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site** is at 23400 Park Road 12 in Washington. Call 936/878-2214; [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).

**Chappell Hill Lavender Farm** is at 2250 Dillard Road in Brenham. Call 979/251-8114; [www.chappellhilllavender.com](http://www.chappellhilllavender.com).

**Funky Art Cafe** and **The Pomegranate** are at 202 W. Commerce St. in Brenham. Call 979/836-5220; [www.funkyartcafe.com](http://www.funkyartcafe.com).

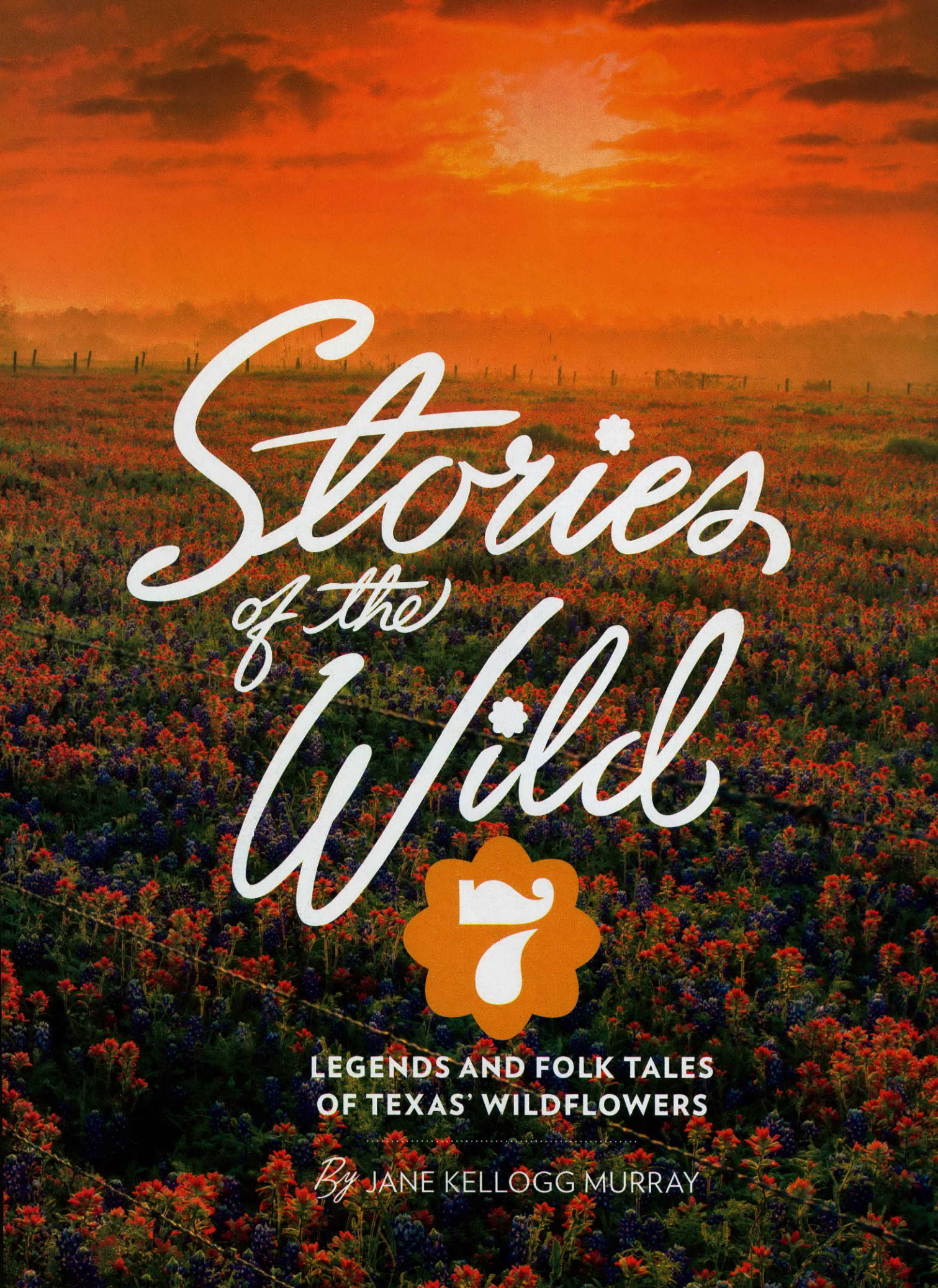
**Texas Ranch Life** is at 10848 Cactus Lane in Chappell Hill. Call 979/865-9461; [www.texasranchlife.com](http://www.texasranchlife.com).

**Unity Theatre** is at 300 Church St. in Brenham. Call 979/830-1460. [www.unitybrenham.org](http://www.unitybrenham.org).









# Stories *of the* Wild



**LEGENDS AND FOLK TALES  
OF TEXAS' WILDFLOWERS**

*By* JANE KELLOGG MURRAY





**W**atching Texas' prairies and hillsides light up with seasonal wildflowers is a delight for the senses—a farewell to our short-lived winters and a harbinger of the warmer days to come. This symphony of color has played an important role throughout the centuries, its blooms providing medicine, inspiration, and beauty to lift the spirits. Study wildflower folklore, and you'll uncover the many mysteries behind their names, their virtues, and their uses. The more common the wildflower, the richer its history.

*Previous spread: Indian paintbrush, lemon paintbrush, and bluebonnets dominate the landscape near Nelsonville. Right: A wild blend of daisies, bluebonnets, prairie verbena, winecups, and Indian paintbrush brighten up Kenedy in Karnes County.*















# Bluebonnet

The beauty of wildflowers is a joy in its own right, but the little-known folklore behind spring bloomers adds extra sparkle to the spectacle. “People talked about trees and shrubs because they were useful—they had fruits and purposes as medicines,” explains Matt Turner, author of *Remarkable Plants of Texas*. “But annual wildflowers, while they were pretty, were talked about as a ‘kaleidoscope of colors,’ filling prairies as far as the eye could see; they didn’t talk about individual flowers.”

The Texas bluebonnet is one exception, singled out from the floral tapestry in folklore, perhaps because it tends to be one of the first colorful flowers to appear each spring. One of the better-known legends tells the tale of a Comanche tribe suffering after a bitter winter. The medicine men knew they would have to sacrifice their most prized possession to appease The Great Spirit; overhearing their conversation, a young girl decided she must sacrifice hers—a little doll adorned with blue jay feathers. After everyone went to sleep, she burned the doll and scattered its ashes in the wind, and the tribe awoke the next morning to see the hillsides blanketed in blue.

Our state flower is known for its bright blue hue, described by some as “when the sky falls on Texas,” but horticulturists like Jerry Parsons, a retired Texas A&M University professor from San Antonio, have been researching and developing variants of the bluebonnet’s color for decades—“I’ve been fooling around with them for more than 40 years,” Parsons says.

Parsons is perhaps best known for developing a maroon variety of the flower in honor of his alma mater. “In nature, especially when you’re dealing with blue flowers, you’ll always have a white variant—the absence of color—and a light pink variant,” he explains. Parsons and his research team saved the seeds from pure pink and pure blue

flowers, crossing them each year until they turned the perfect shade of red.

One of Parsons’ former students, Greg Grant, a horticulturist and plant developer for Texas A&M in Tyler, related a Mexican legend he had been told by an elderly Hispanic woman—paraphrased below—about the legend of the pink bluebonnet:

*One April many years ago, two children were playing in a field of wildflowers with their grandmother near San Antonio. Upon finding a white flower among the blue, the grandmother explained to her excited grandchildren that they were playing in a field of bluebonnets, and on rare occasions a white one is among them. “Some even say the Lone Star of the Texas state flag was fashioned after a spot of white bluebonnets among a field of blue,” she said.*

*“Then what about this pink one?” one child asked, pointing to a flower at his feet. The grandmother paused. “When I myself was a little girl, my grandmother told me a special story about these rare flowers. They seem to only grow downstream from the mission Alamo, and that is because of something that happened here many years ago.” She went on to tell of how their ancestors once owned a beautiful house and farm before Santa Anna’s army overtook the Texans in the bloody battle of the Alamo. Heartbroken but thankful their lives had been spared, the grandmother, then a child, witnessed her mother place a pink wildflower in a vase beside the statue of the Virgin Mary. “She told me she had found it near the river where it had once been white, but so much blood had been shed, it had taken the tint of it.”*

*After relaying her grandmother’s story to her own grandchildren, she stopped to explain the meaning she had given the rare flower. “That is why you will only find the pink ones near the river, within sight of the old mission,” she said. “So remember, the next time you see a pink bluebonnet, it’s not only a pretty flower, but a symbol for the struggle to survive and of those who died so that Texas could be free.”*

Whether or not this legend is true, Parsons and Grant agree that the only place they have found those rare pink bluebonnets in the wild is along the road just south of San Antonio.

**FIELD NOTES:** From the Louisiana border to the mountains of West Texas, from the Red River to the Rio Grande—Texas’ six native bluebonnet species can be found throughout most of the state. They’re easiest to find along roadsides, in the Blackland Prairie, and in the Edwards Plateau. The Willow City Loop near Fredericksburg is a favorite drive.

*Left: Some say the Lone Star of the Texas state flag was fashioned after a spot of white bluebonnets among a field of blue.*



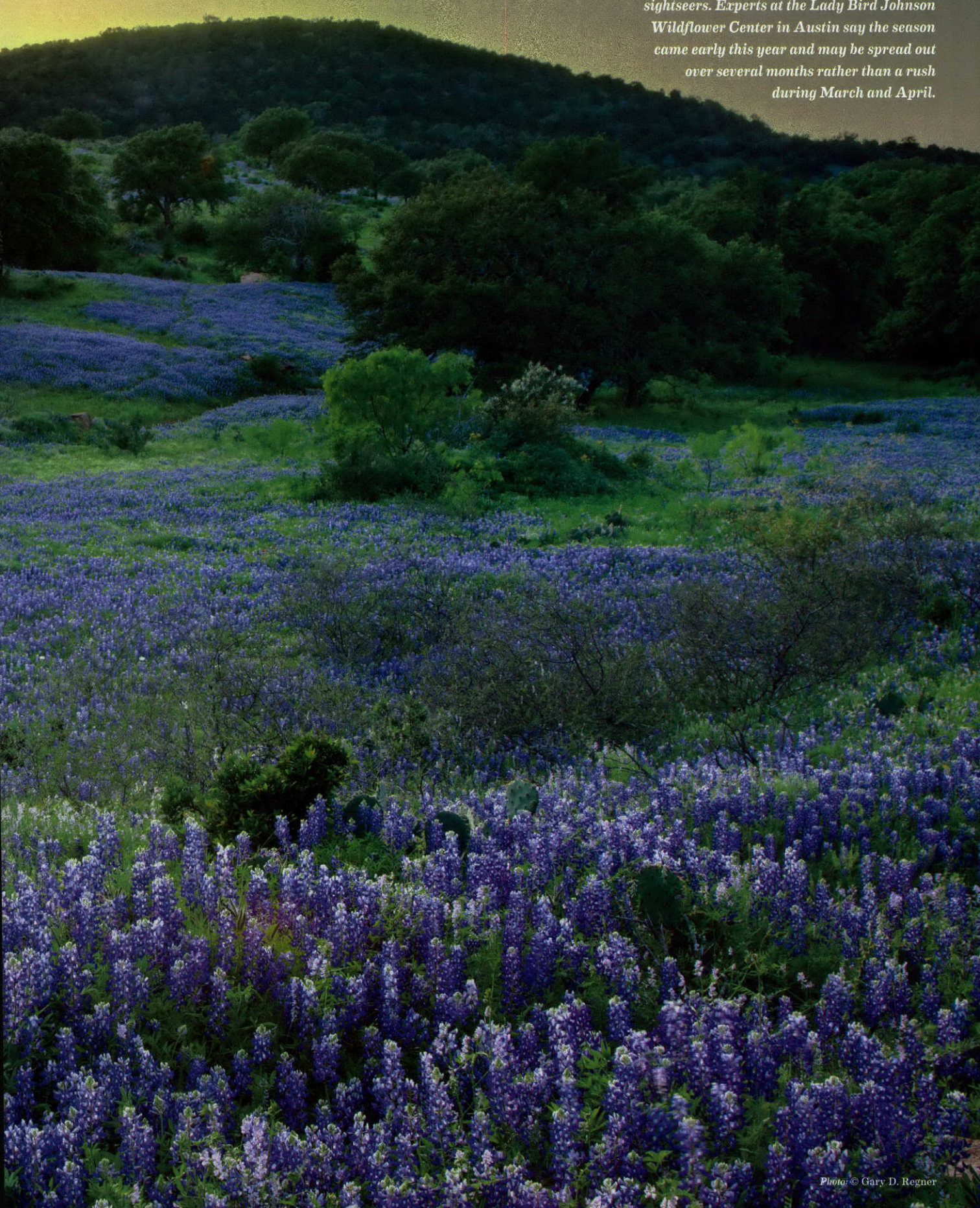






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*Each spring, when bluebonnet fields are abundant in the Texas Hill Country, so are the sightseers. Experts at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin say the season came early this year and may be spread out over several months rather than a rush during March and April.*







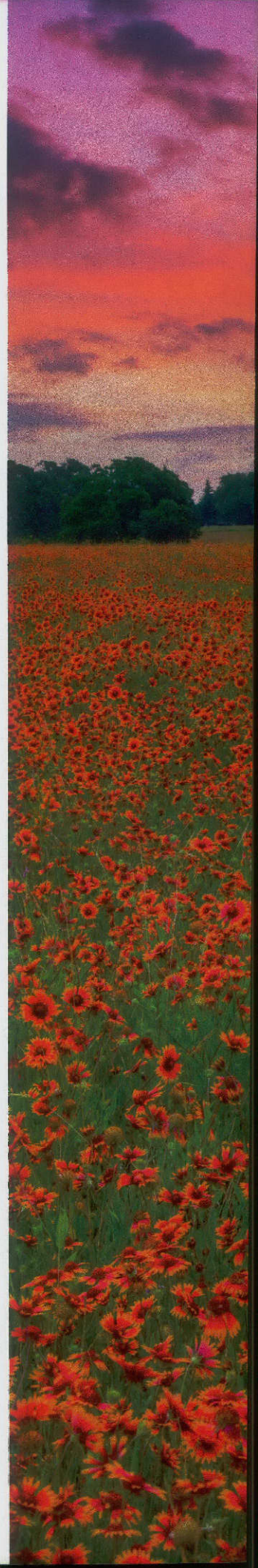
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## Indian Blanket

**L**ike these bright red-and yellow-flowers in the height of spring, the legends surrounding the Indian blanket's origin have grown wild through the ebb and flow of time. Three stories have become the most widespread in modern culture. The first, of Mexican origin, tells how the flower was once entirely yellow and beloved by the Aztecs. After Hernán Cortés invaded the Valley of Mexico beginning in 1519, the flowers were said to have been permanently stained red by the blood of the Aztecs. Another legend, first written down in 1928, tells the story of a young Native American girl lost in the woods, and as the cold night falls, she asks The Great Spirit to cover her with the beautiful blanket she had seen her mother weaving for her warrior father. When she wakes the next morning, she finds the fields covered in gaillardia, which her people call the Indian blanket from that day forward. A third legend describes a Native American weaver renowned for his exquisite blankets. Near the end of his life, he decides to weave his own burial blanket—a magnificent orange and red covering far more beautiful than anything he had ever created prior. The Great Spirit, so taken with the colors of the blanket, covers the weaver's grave with flowers of the same color and design the following spring. "Although we don't actually know if any of these are genuine Native American oral literature," Turner says, "the Kiowa Indians do consider the flowers to bring good luck, and they ornament their homes with them."

**FIELD NOTES:** Also known as firewheels, Indian blankets thrive in heat and bloom sporadically across the state's dry plains, open areas, and calcareous prairies in the western two-thirds of the state.

*A field of red-and-yellow firewheels blanket the Hill Country near Dripping Springs.*











## Prickly Pear Cactus

Texas' state plant boasts the distinction of being a vegetable, a fruit, and a flower—in fact, it was a runner-up when the Texas Legislature adopted the bluebonnet as the state's flower in 1901. "It has kept man from starving more than any other plant in the state," Turner asserts. "It's so widespread, you can find them anywhere you are in the state, rip the spines off, sauté the pads, and eat them." In addition to the sweet and juicy prickly pear fruits, Native Americans used younger prickly pear pads for food year-round, while mature pads acted as a poultice for wounds, among other medicinal uses.

"Most people don't think of it as a wildflower because it's not an herbaceous plant, but it has that big showy flower," notes Andrea DeLong-Amaya, director of horticulture at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Most of Texas' prickly pear cacti feature yellow blooms sometime between April and June, with each flower only lasting a day or two. "There's a question as to whether that's the Yellow Rose of Texas," DeLong-Amaya points out, "because there is no native yellow rose."

Oftentimes people will notice a white "fungus" growing on these cacti. In fact it's not a fungus at all but the waxy webs of the cochineal insect. "If you take this white cottony fuzz and squish it in your hand, it'll turn red," Turner explains, "due to the carminic acid these tiny insects produce." The Aztecs discovered this centuries ago and used it to create a vibrant red dye. When the Spanish descended on South America in the 1500s, they were dazzled by the vibrancy of their reds. "It was difficult to get bright colors in the world at that time," Turner says. The Spanish colonials exported the dye back to Europe and eventually monopolized the market; cochineal dye was New Spain's third-highest export behind gold and silver until the discovery of synthetic dyes in the 1850s. It became a status symbol: The vibrant scarlet dyed the robes of European royalty, the redcoats of British officers, and eventually the jackets of the Canadian Mounties.

**FIELD NOTES:** The prickly pear is widespread across the state, hence its official state designation. Of the approximately 30 species in Texas, Engelmann's prickly pear—known for growing in dense clumps—is one of the most common.

*Right: Some speculate whether the prickly pear cacti's yellow bloom is the true Yellow Rose of Texas, which carries some scandalous folklore of its own.*











## Indian Paintbrush

If bluebonnets are the star of the spring wildflower show, the Indian paintbrush is their co-star. Well, perhaps it's more of a sidekick; it's a parasitic plant, meaning it relies on other plants to grow—one of the many reasons it's often found embedded in a field of bluebonnets.

About 200 different species of the flower exist, and nine of them are native to Texas. While Indian paintbrush is by far the flower's most common name, it's also occasionally nicknamed butterfly weed, prairie fire, painted lady, and grandmother's hair. The latter name is attributed to the Chippewa tribe, who used the flower to make a hairwash and treat women's illnesses in addition to rheumatism.

The flower's common name comes from Native American folklore. A young painter, obsessed with capturing the colors and beauty of the sunset, grew frustrated that he had only crude paints made from pounded minerals and stiff brushes too rigid to copy the sky's nuances. He asked The Great Spirit for guidance. One night, an old man and a beautiful young woman came to him in a dream carrying a pure white deerskin. They whispered to him to use it as a canvas, and that as evening came, he should head to the hillside where he would find everything he needed to paint. The next day, he gathered all of his supplies and found paintbrushes of every hue—bright reds, oranges, and yellows. As the sun began to set, he stroked his deerskin canvas feverishly, discarding the brushes in the grass as he worked. The painting was a masterpiece—far more beautiful than anything he had ever painted before. The next morning, as he walked about the camp, he looked to the hill. There, where he'd tossed aside his brushes, were bright flowers in every color of the sunset.

**FIELD NOTES:** Native to East Texas, Indian paintbrush grow in prairies, plains, meadows, pastures, savannas, the edges of the woodlands, and along roadsides—thanks in part to the Texas Department of Transportation, which buys and sows about 30,000 pounds of wildflower seeds each year.

*Right: Indian paintbrushes mingle with groundsel, pepper grass, phlox, and bluebonnets in Atascosa County near Somerset.*











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*A flourishing meadow of Brazos penstemon in Big Thicket National Preserve.*

*Right: A black-chinned hummingbird feeds on a blooming foxglove penstemon in the Hill Country.*





## Foxglove

**A**mong the showiest and prettiest wildflowers in Texas is the foxglove, one of the two dozen penstemons native to Texas' rolling plains and Blackland Prairie. While modern medicine relies on European foxglove extracts to treat heart conditions, the variety is extremely poisonous—hence its nicknames, dead man's bells and witches' gloves. Texas' native penstemon, however, has never been known to be toxic, so it's dubbed false foxglove.

Some legends imply the plant brings protection. One Old English fable says foxes' tails hold potent charms against the devil, so mankind was constantly hunting these sly creatures. The king of the foxes appealed to the gods for help, and the gods gifted the foxglove flower. It was said that the animals hid in fields of these plants, and as their tails brushed against the bell-shaped flowers, bells rang to alert other foxes to run to safety. Another tale makes the fox the hunter: They slipped the flowers over their paws so hens in a hen house wouldn't hear them coming.

### FIELD NOTES:

**Penstemon cobaea**, or "false foxglove," grows best in sandy or rocky open hillsides, limestone outcrops, and loamy soils across the rolling plains and Blackland Prairie south to the Gulf of Mexico.



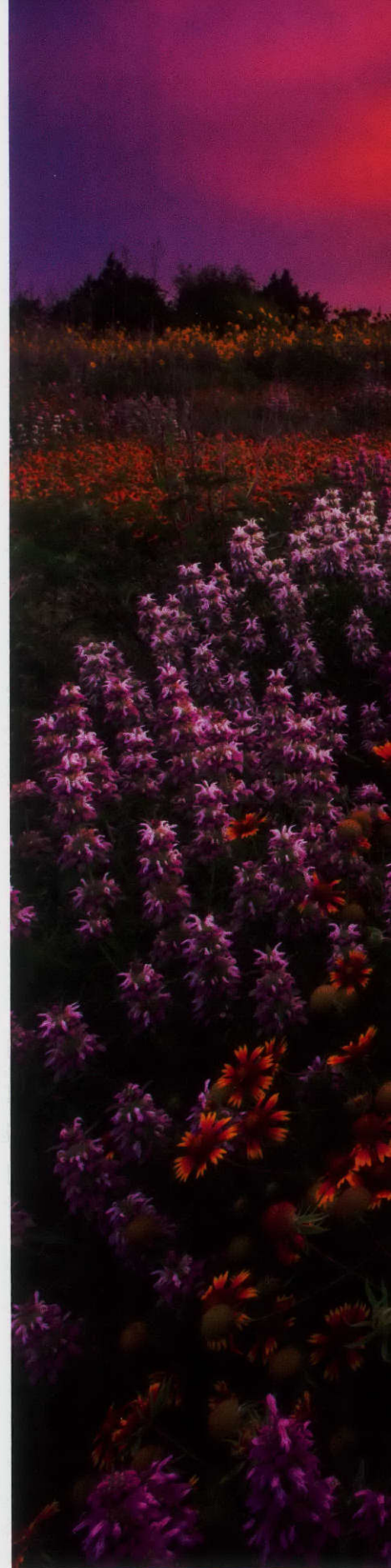
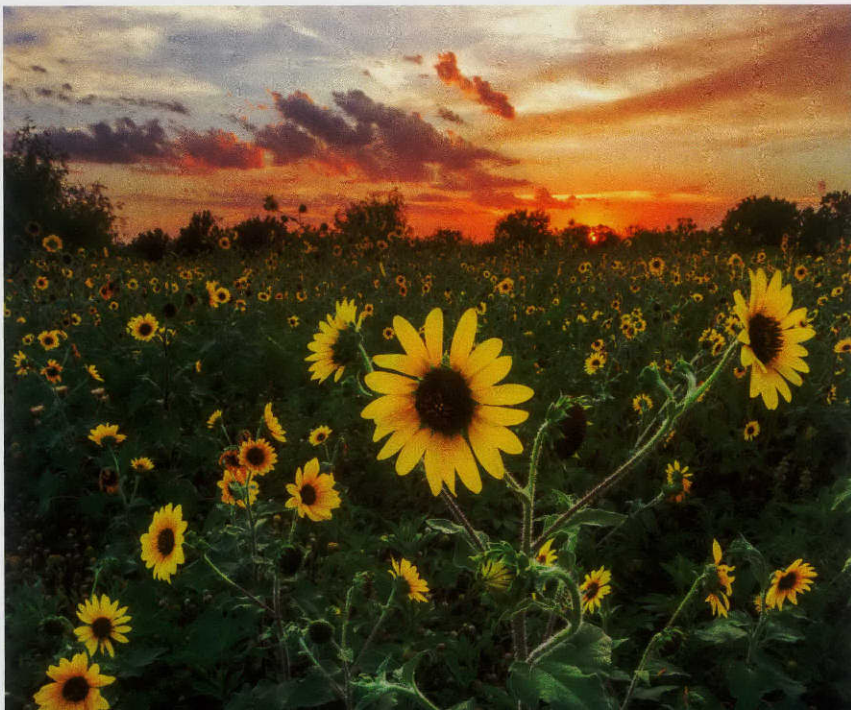


## Sunflower

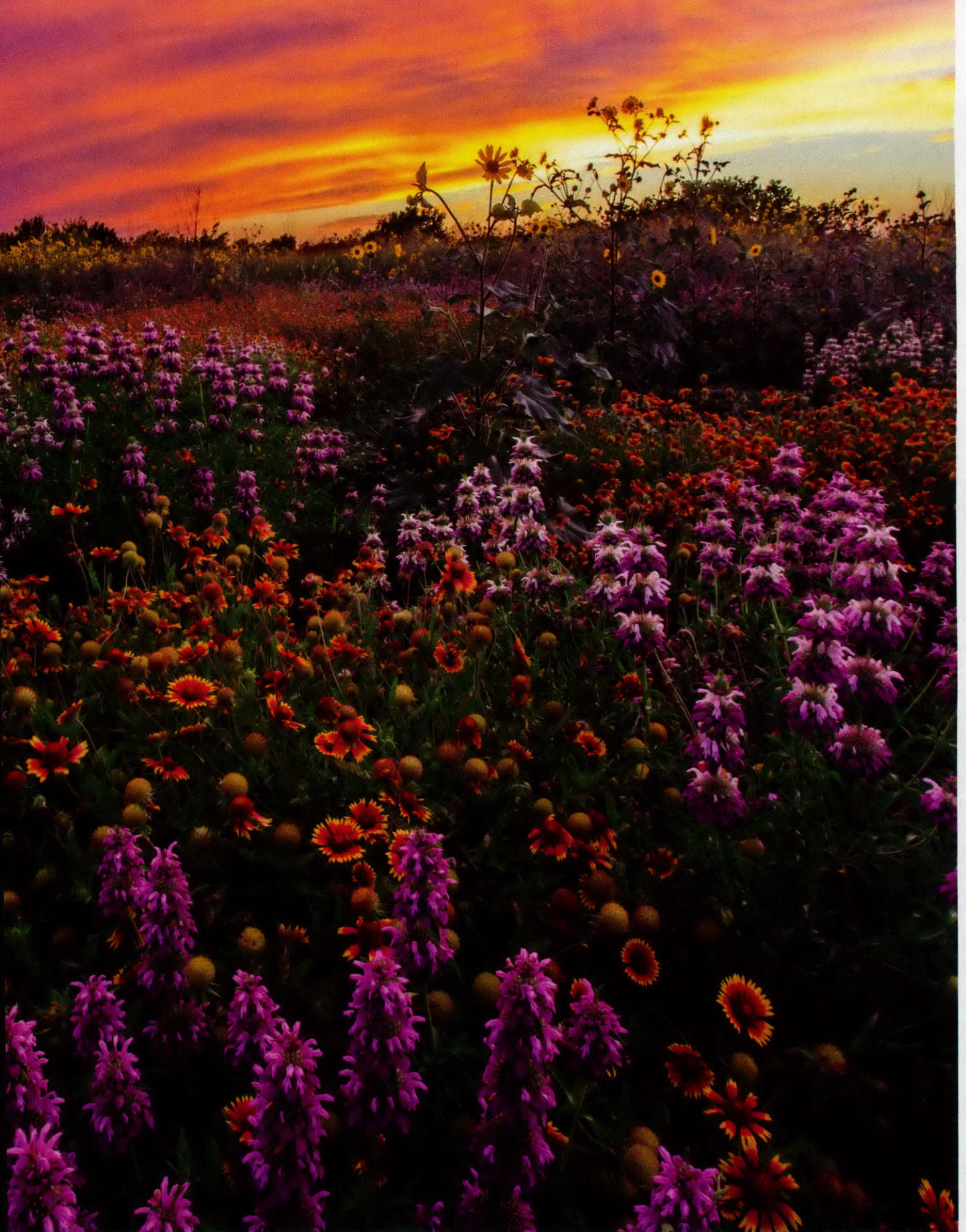
**F**rom May to October, you may witness the golden glow of these wild annual flowers when driving along our state highways, their enormous blooms at times towering up to 10 feet above the earth. But, more often than not, they're a domesticated version cultivated by local farmers, an economic result of the sunflower seed's popularity as a tasty, salty snack. Archeologists excavating Native American dwellings have found evidence that sunflower seeds were an important source of nourishment as early as 1500 B.C. By the 1600s these flowers were common in gardens throughout the developed world, but the seeds were still largely overlooked. Meanwhile, East Texas' Caddo Indians had likely been farming them as food for centuries.

The sunflower holds a special significance to the University of Texas School of Law. As the story goes, around the turn of the 20th century, a committee of faculty and students decided seniors should wear caps and gowns to graduation ceremonies (in the first 15 or 20 years after the university was established, none of the school's graduates wore any regalia). The law students, annoyed that they weren't consulted to join the committee in the first place, rejected the new mandate, and later—when forced to choose graduation insignia—chose to wear the wild sunflower. The official reasoning they gave was twofold: Wildflowers, like lawyers, are widely distributed throughout the world, and just as the sunflower keeps its face turned to the sun, the lawyer turns to the light of justice. The tradition has lasted more than a century.

**FIELD NOTES:** More than 15 different sunflower species are native to Texas, but most people tend to think of the annual sunflower: *helianthus annuus*. It grows best in dry, open areas and in disturbed soil.







*Left: Wild young sunflowers follow the sun throughout the day like a faithful dog following its owner—a phenomenon called heliotropism. Above: Firewheels, purple horsemint, and sunflowers at sunset in Travis County near Austin.*

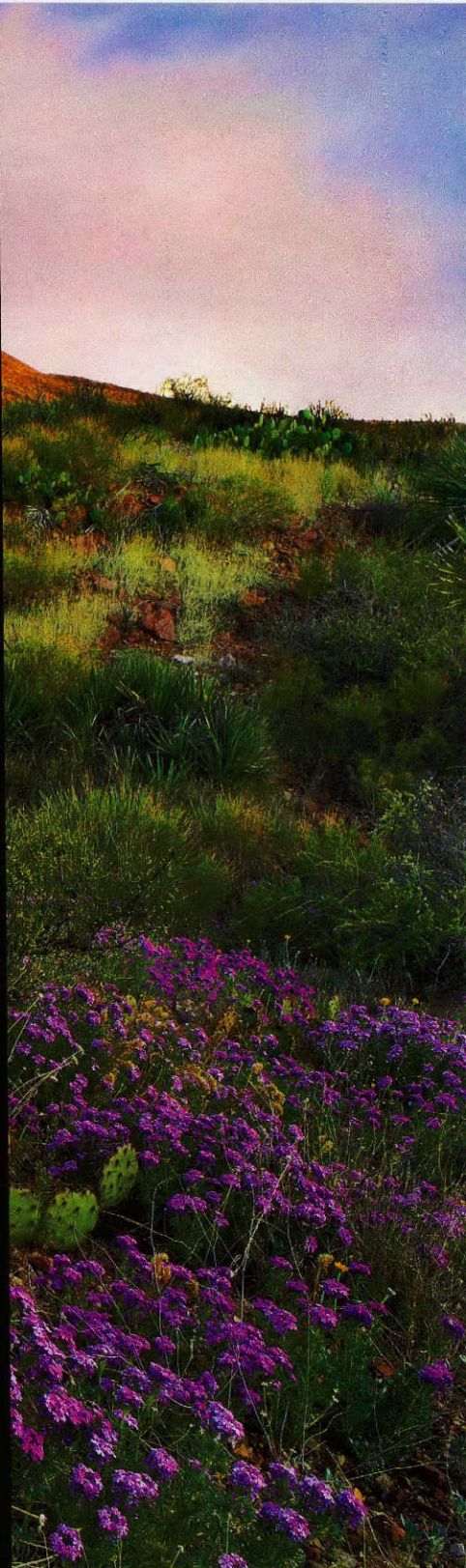


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*Below: A colorful splash of prairie verbena finds life in the Chihuahuan Desert at Franklin Mountains State Park.  
Opposite: Yucca in bloom along the edge of the Laguna Madre, along the Gulf of Mexico.*







## Yucca

**N**ative Texans held the yucca in high regard for many practical uses. “Literally every part of the plant yields something of value,” Turner says. Hispanic and Anglo settlers, the Apaches, and Kiowas all roasted the yucca’s stalks or dried them for eating in times of need. Prehistoric humans reportedly twisted the yucca’s fiber into twine and rope, used for anything from belts to bow strings. And the yucca’s roots can be pounded to a pulp and mixed with water to make a shampoo of sorts; the Comanche and Pueblo tribes believe it makes hair long, strong, and glossy, so using it before partaking in traditional ceremonies is required. Hopi tribal members wash the head of a newborn with yucca soap when they are 20 days old, and similar products are made today and sold in specialty shops—A Wild Soap Bar, for example, has been making a Yucca Root Shampoo and Body Bar in its Manor-based soap studio for more than 20 years; the product has become so in-demand in recent years that the company has begun selling to stores nationwide.

**FIELD NOTES:** The thin-leaved Arkansas yucca has the widest range in Texas, commonly found in prairies, plains, meadows, pastures, and savannas. Drought-tolerant species like banana yucca, beaked yucca, and Thompson yucca are prevalent in the Trans-Pecos mountains. 🌵

*Despite a black thumb, Texas Highways Events Editor Jane Kellogg Murray has never met a flower she didn't like.*



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*and take time to smell the wildflowers*



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- ★ H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum
- ★ Oakwood Cemetery (*Sam Houston's Grave*)
- ★ Huntsville State Park and Recreational Area



### **"A Tribute to Courage"**

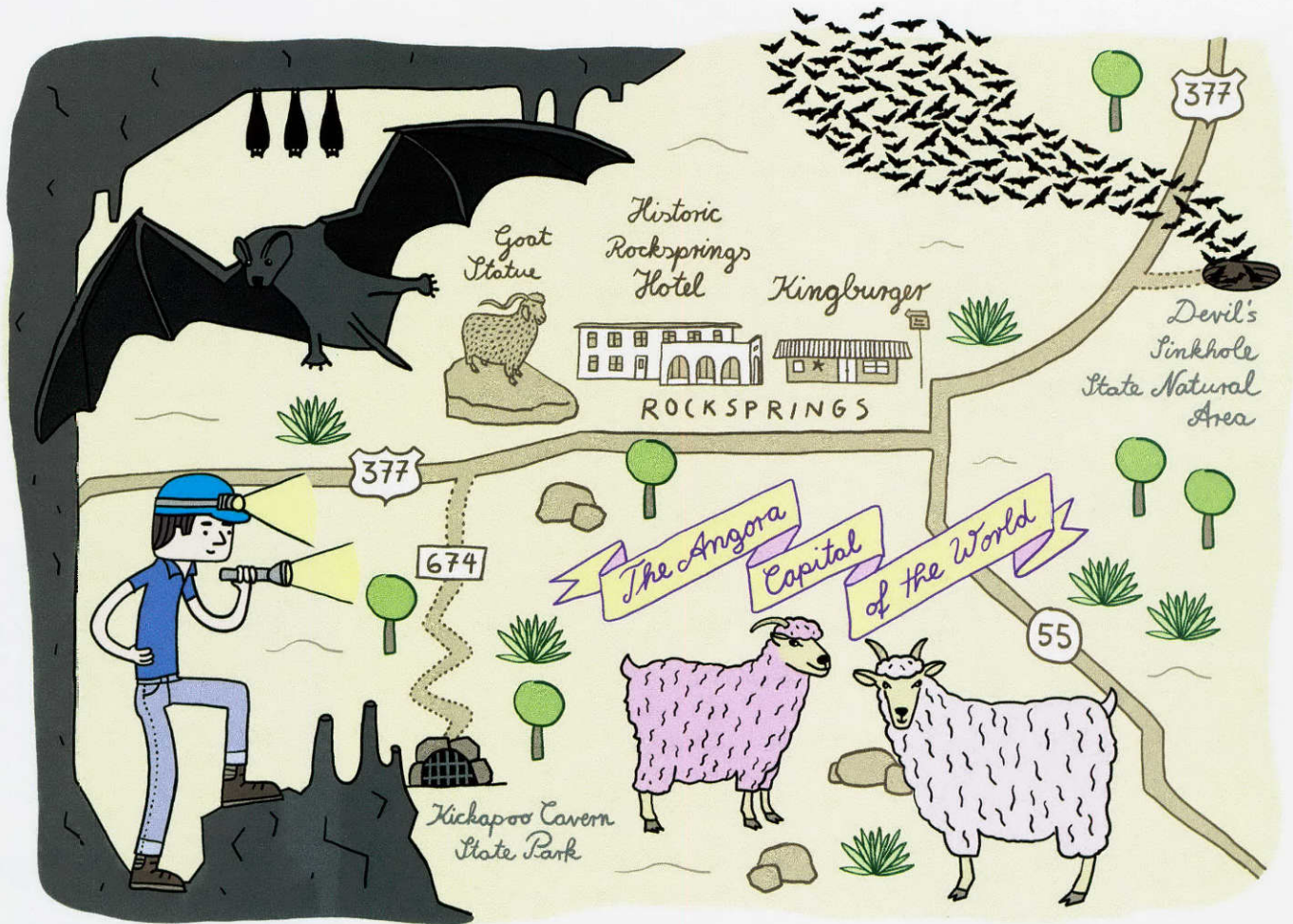
Towering 77 feet over Interstate 45, this monumental statue of Sam Houston by sculptor David Adickes is the tallest likeness of any American hero in the world.

*For visitor and lodging information, go to [HuntsvilleTexas.com](http://HuntsvilleTexas.com)*



# HIT THE ROAD

CAN'T-MISS GETAWAYS



➤ DESTINATION: ROCKSPRINGS ◀

## On Top of the World

Goats, bats, and a historic hotel in Rocksprings

story by **Giles Lambertson**

**I**N THE HILL COUNTRY NORTHWEST OF UVALDE, rocky escarpments cut an irregular edge across the horizon. Texas 55 climbs north through shrub-covered canyons and across hills topped with juniper and oak trees, starkly silhouetted in the sun. The rising canyon floors and summits eventually merge as the highway tops out on the Edwards Plateau. As I drive into Rocksprings, I get the feeling of being “on top of the world.”

J.E. Grinstead used those same words to describe Rocksprings back in 1924. Grinstead, the publisher of *Grinstead's Graphic: Heart o' the Hills Magazine*, also remarked upon a prominent courthouse square hotel. In 2016, that hotel celebrated 100 years of welcoming guests, me included.



- **Uvalde**  
1 hour
- **Austin**  
3 hours
- **Midland**  
3.5 hours
- **Dallas**  
5.5 hours

The Historic Rocksprings Hotel is my base for a weekend of exploring Rocksprings and its rugged surroundings. Just north of town, at nearby Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area, an immense bat colony puts on seasonal flying shows, while to the south, Kickapoo Cavern State Park is home to another substantial bat cave, along with hiking trails and spelunking tours. But before heading out, I make myself at home at the Historic Rocksprings Hotel.

Manager Debra Wolcott wants her guests to relax as if they were home. In 2009, when she and her lawyer-husband, Craig, left Houston to become hotel operators, they sought a home-like ambiance for the property. “And I believe my guests do feel at home,” she says.



# DISCOVER Clifton



## SPRING 2017 EVENTS

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Indeed, guests unwind in front of the hotel's big-screen TV or on the library's chaise lounge to read from hundreds of surrounding titles. They cook meals in a kitchen boasting two ovens and ample cooking tools. In the lobby, deer and antelope mounts, as well as a stuffed bobcat, look down on comfortable armchairs and a piano waiting to be played.

The hotel's 11 rooms are eclectically furnished, while the hallway bookshelves are piled with assorted volumes. (Can't finish a novel? Mail it back.) Wolcott family heirlooms, such as photos of the Wolcotts' children, are displayed throughout, adding to the domestic feel.

Built in 1916 on the courthouse square, the wood-framed Rocksprings Hotel served the ebb and flow of local commercial traffic driven by the town's status as the Edwards County seat and capital of the region's wool and mohair industry. The hotel closed for a short time in the 1990s and went through a series of owners until the Wolcotts acquired the property in 2009 and renovated it, including the two-level

veranda facing the courthouse.

The building's veranda had been restored once before after a tornado demolished the structure, along with most of Rocksprings, in 1927. Former owners rebuilt the hotel in the 1930s in a Spanish Colonial Revival style with white stucco exteriors and archways for the lower veranda. Guests today can sip coffee in the shade of the patio in the morning, or stargaze pristine nighttime skies on the upper porch.

So who visits Rocksprings? Well, hunters create traffic jams during

**CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:**  
The library at the Historic Rocksprings Hotel; an angora goat statue at the restored Edwards County Courthouse; Devil's Sinkhole; the Historic Rocksprings Hotel's arched veranda.





deer season. Many fly in, landing on the county airport's milelong runway. The so-called "Angora Goat Capital of the World" is also a destination for wool and mohair lovers. (There's an angora goat statue on a corner of the square, and the name of the weekly paper is *The Rocksprings Record and Texas Mohair Weekly*.) Visitors can run their fingers through sheared mohair at the Priour-Varga Wool & Mohair Warehouse south of the square, or visit the headquarters of the American Angora Goat Breeders Association—the nation's only registry for the breed—and its display of historical photographs of the industry, a mohair carpet, and a stuffed, long-haired goat.



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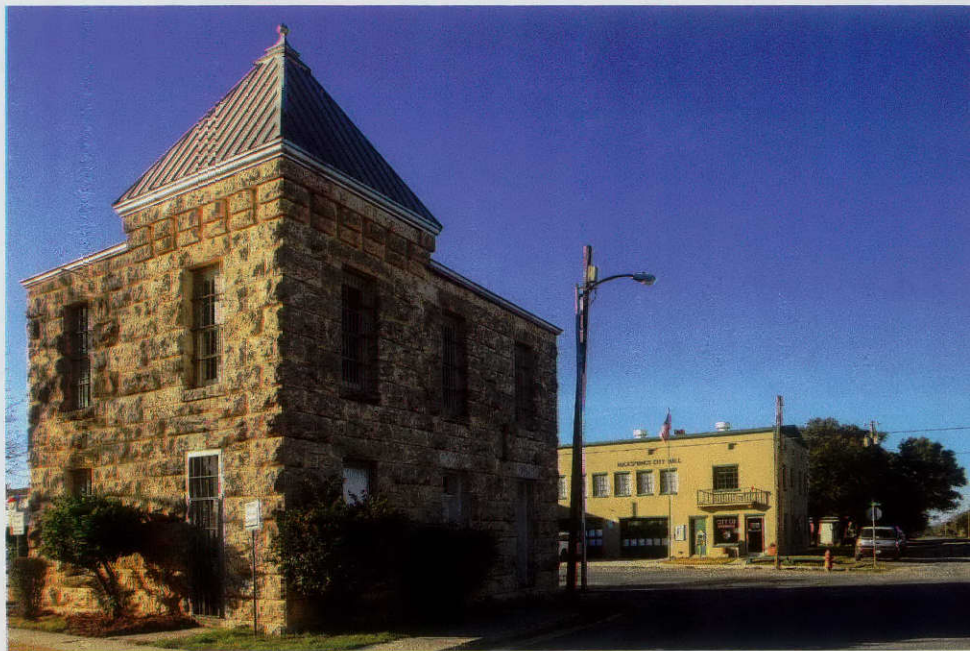
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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**  
The 1895 Edwards County Jail no longer holds inmates; Kickapoo Cavern at Kickapoo Cavern State Park; Asian fare at Lotus Thai Cafe.

Other visitors come to look at stars: The two nearby state parks rank near the top of the Bortle Scale, which rates how well celestial objects can be seen. And, of course, many come to see bats. The little nocturnal fliers are not the

**Other visitors come to look at stars: The two nearby state parks rank near the top of the Bortle Scale, which rates how well celestial objects can be seen. And, of course, many come to see bats.**

cuddliest animals in the kingdom, yet they can deftly dart through the air at speeds of up to 60 mph and consume moths at a prodigious rate. At the Devil's Sinkhole cavern, up to 6 million Mexican free-tailed bats rest during the day and fly away each night to gulp down 20 tons of insects.

The bats exit in formation at night-

fall from the sinkhole's mouth, erupting skyward in a counter-clockwise swarm. The flurry, which can last up to two hours, draws summertime visitors to the platform overlooking the sinkhole. In early morning, satiated bats congregate in the skies above the opening and give back home in groups for another day's slumber.

For my Rocksprings weekend, I arrived at the Historic Rocksprings Hotel on Friday in time for lunch at Lotus Thai Cafe due south of the courthouse. Orange chicken is the most popular dish (having tasted it, I can see why). The restaurant's specialties include *tom ka soup* with coconut milk, curry dishes (including the popular *pad prik king*—meat with green beans and red peppers), *pad thai*, crab rangoon, and other Thai delicacies.

Two blocks away is Kingburger Drive Inn, a Rocksprings institution since 1954. Owner Vincente Maltos, who often greets diners from a front table, says the restaurant's name is misleading. Top-sellers are chicken-fried steak and enchilada dishes. To confirm this, I asked a customer what he had ordered. "I always am





going to try something different, but I can't resist the chicken enchilada," he said. Maltos smiled in vindication.

Near sundown on Friday, I joined other visitors at the Devil's Sinkhole visitor center on the courthouse square, and we convoyed behind a volunteer guide for the five-mile drive to the park's unmarked entrance. The 350-foot deep sinkhole is hidden in undeveloped savanna rife with deer, foxes, and jackrabbits. Wildlife shares the park with bat-watchers while the migratory bats are around from late



#### BATS AND CAVERNS

Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area offers guided bat-watching tours May-Oct, Wed-Sun. Call **830/683-2287**; <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/devils-sinkhole>.

Kickapoo Cavern State Park opens daily March through May, Fri-Mon the rest of the year, with cavern tours at 1 p.m. Sat. Call **830/563-2342**; <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/kickapoo-cavern>.

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spring to about the end of October.

Saturday morning, I crossed the street from the hotel to tour the Texas Miniature Museum, a former bank building bought by the Wolcotts as a repository for Debra's collection of multistory dollhouses, representing each decade from 1900 to the 2000s.

**Kickapoo Cavern is maintained in a primitive state, so don't expect walkways and overhead lighting for cave tours.**

To-scale dolls inhabit the houses, along with household furnishings, ranging from toilets to sitting-room tabletop paraphernalia.

Next I drove south to Kickapoo Cavern State Park for the park's Saturday cavern tour. This part of southwest Texas is characterized by karst topography, wherein groundwater



**ROCKSPRINGS**

For Rocksprings visitor information, call the Devil's Sinkhole visitor center, 101 N. Sweeten St., **830/683-2287**. The Historic Rocksprings Hotel is at 200 W. Austin St. Call **830/683-4212**; [www.historicrockspringshotel.com](http://www.historicrockspringshotel.com).

erodes soluble limestone to create caves. Visitors come for both the Kickapoo Cavern spelunking tours and to watch bats emerge from the park's Stuart Cave, which has a viewing platform to see the nightly exodus of roughly 1 million bats. Kickapoo Cavern is maintained in a primitive state, so don't expect walkways and overhead lighting for cave tours. Park rangers recommend sensible walking shoes and two flashlights.

For the tour, a park bus carried us from the visitor center to the cavern, where a ranger issued us plastic helmets. We gingerly entered the cavern through a rusty iron gateway, switched on our flashlights, and began an

exhilarating quarter-mile trek through collapsed limestone rubble topped by the largest stalactites and stalagmites in Texas. At the farthest point, the ranger asked us to switch off our flashlights, and we could not see our hands in front of our faces.

I felt like a genuine spelunker when I emerged into afternoon sunshine. It was time to time to return home. As I made my way back to Uvalde, I descended the Edwards Plateau on Texas 55 and the sights of the Hill Country enveloped me. That evening, still in a getaway state of mind, I relaxed at home with a borrowed book from the Historic Rocksprings Hotel. Alas, I lacked a veranda. **L**

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# TRUE



REAL TEXAS STORIES BORN AND BRED

## Reimagining the Alamo

A new project aims to enhance  
the site's depiction of the  
historic mission and 1836 battle

*Story by* **Alexander Rivard**



**I**N SECOND GRADE, I RECEIVED A BEAUTIFUL Alamo diorama for Christmas, complete with plastic soldiers and a cardboard backdrop, perfect for replaying the battle over and over with alternate endings. That same year my class visited the “Shrine of Texas Liberty,” where we listened to holograms of William B. Travis and David Crockett recount their experiences in the infamous battle.

Like many Texans, my childhood fascination with the Alamo inspired a deep appreciation for history, and now, 20 years later, I teach the subject to high-schoolers and live only a mile from the hallowed mission site. And so, I’ve followed closely as the Alamo has become the focus of renewed attention in recent years, including its designation as part of a World Heritage Site and a forthcoming project to renovate and restore the 4.2-acre Alamo grounds and the adjacent Alamo Plaza.

Located in the heart of downtown San Antonio, just steps from the River Walk, the mission is one of the most visited sites in Texas, attracting 1.3 million visitors a year. Tourists from across the globe come to see where General Santa Anna and the Mexican army besieged a few hundred Texan defenders, led by Travis and James Bowie, during the Texas Revolution. The Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, claimed hundreds of lives on both sides. The Mexican army overwhelmed

**“What we’re trying to do is recapture as much as we can of the footprint of the mission and battlefield so it’s easier for visitors to understand.”**

the rebels, and Santa Anna took no prisoners, inspiring the revolutionary cry, “Remember the Alamo!”

Spanish Catholic missionaries established Mission San Antonio de Valero—what we now call the Alamo—in 1718. The missionaries built the Alamo and four other missions along the San Antonio River in the early 18th century to spread Christianity to the area’s indigenous people. About 1,000 Native American converts were buried in a Catholic cemetery on the grounds while the mission was active, according to archdiocese records.

### REIMAGINE THE ALAMO

Recognizing the significance of 2018 as San Antonio’s 300th anniversary, the city, the Texas General Land Office, and the private Alamo Endowment recently embarked on a new master plan called Reimagine the Alamo.

Backers describe the project, which is expected to be complete by 2024 and cost from \$200 million to \$300 million, as an effort to enhance the site’s historical context and to create an experience less about amusements and more about honoring a sacred place. Possible changes include making the plaza more pedestrian friendly by relocating the boot-shaped Cenotaph (a monument to the unburied dead commissioned during the 1936 Texas Centennial) and removing vehicle access on South Alamo Street. On the Alamo grounds, the project aims to reinterpret the historic *acequias* that brought water from the river to the mission’s first residents. The study will determine the mission’s preservation needs, both structural and aesthetic.

“Most people think the Alamo is only the shrine,” said Becky Dinnin, executive director of the Alamo Endowment. “Right now, you can’t see the whole battlefield because there are three lanes of traffic and the plaza running through it—there’s a lot going on. What we’re trying to do is recapture as much as we can of the footprint of the



The Alamo Church, shown here with a special exhibit, is the heart of the historic site.





### THE ALAMO,

300 Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio, opens daily except for Christmas. Call 210/225-1391; [www.thealamo.org](http://www.thealamo.org).

Follow updates on the Reimagine the Alamo project at [www.reimaginethealamo.org](http://www.reimaginethealamo.org).

The master plan is scheduled for completion in May, after which specific new features will start taking shape.

The newly opened exhibit *Bowie: Man, Knife, Legend* runs through 2017 in the Alamo's special exhibit hall.

mission and battlefield so it's easier for visitors to understand."

The state recently acquired three buildings across the street from the Alamo, including the Guinness World Records Museum, Ripley's Haunted Adventure, and Tomb Rider 3D. The plan calls for moving these attractions to a new "entertainment district" nearby and replacing them with a museum and visitor center that will feature a gallery dedicated to the 1836 battle and display the collection of Alamo artifacts donated by British pop star Phil Collins in 2014.

As part of the project, archeological digs are yielding artifacts and understanding about life in and around the missions during the 18th and 19th centuries. A 2016 excavation clarified the positions of the original south and west walls and uncovered various smaller artifacts, such as bone buttons, square nails, glass shards, and ceramic pieces.

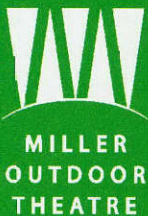
Preservation Design Partnership, a Philadelphia architecture firm that specializes in historic preservation, is directing the development of the Alamo master plan. Design Director George Skarmeeas presented the most recent iteration to the San Antonio City Council in late November. He spoke to the importance of restoring the complex and plaza with a design that appropriately serves visitors and locals while decommercializing the plaza and respecting the sacred, historic site.



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"The only thing that has remained constant over the last 300 years is the church itself," Skarmeas said, referring to the well-known facade of the chapel. "It is our guiding light."

Many locals welcome the planned changes, hoping they will round out the site's history as it pertains to the experiences of Mexicans and Native Americans. "Everything that actually happened there is not represented," said Siboney Diaz-Sanchez, a San Antonio native.

### HISTORICAL TREASURE

Though some see room for improvement, a visit to the Alamo is a crucial experience for anybody interested in Texas and North American history. On a recent visit, I noticed the reverence of visitors as they walked through the church, including the sacristy where Susanna Dickinson and other survivors huddled as they listened to the battle raging outside. Other exhibits include a list of the names of the Alamo defenders and a rifle that Crockett sold en route to Texas.

Visitors' whispering voices reverberated off the church's thick limestone walls, contributing to the sense of solemnity. Leaning over the chains of closed rooms, I could see thin shards of pale limestone that have flaked off the walls in recent months. Part of the master plan includes an analysis of the building's disintegration with the goal of long-term preservation.

Adjacent to the chapel, the gift shop

building houses a detailed diorama of the battle that gives visitors a sense of what the battle was like. "It puts it in perspective," a visitor remarked. "You feel like you're there." In the historic limestone-and-mortar Long Barrack, additional exhibits recount the mission's history and the Alamo battle. The Alamo also offers audio tours and guided tours for visitors wanting more in-depth information.

Visitors who walk the grounds of the Alamo today see various illustrated displays of the landmark site and surrounding landscape, ranging from the early mission period to the mid-19th century. Future plans call for enhanced historical depictions, including the possibility of a lifelike hologram portrayal of the battle. Above all, the master plan calls for creating a space that will enable visitors to better visualize the evolution of the Alamo through time and the footprint of the mission and the battlefield.

"These ideas will change the way people understand and experience the Alamo, and that change has been a long time coming," said Councilman Roberto Treviño, whose downtown district includes Alamo Plaza. "We are excited about showcasing the Alamo in its proper historic context."

Every time I visit the Alamo, I learn something new and leave with a renewed sense of place. San Antonio residents and all Texans should be excited about the changes to come. **L**



### WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Reimagine the Alamo master plan follows a host of changes at the site in recent years. In 2011, the Texas General Land Office assumed oversight of the Alamo from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a nonprofit women's organization that had been custodians of the site for more than a century. In 2015, the Alamo Complex Management organization took over day-to-day operations. Also in 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated as a World Heritage Site the Alamo and its four sister missions in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park—San José, San Juan, Espada, and Concepción. The World Heritage designation, which recognizes places of exceptional cultural, historic, or scientific importance, typically fosters greater protection for the sites and generates worldwide tourism interest.

While there are hundreds of World Heritage sites throughout Europe and Latin America, there are only 23 in the United States and only three in U.S. cities: The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and the San Antonio Missions.





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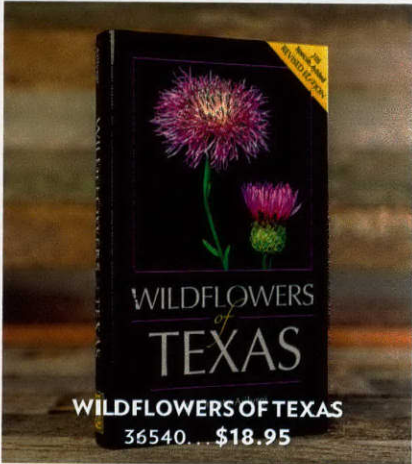
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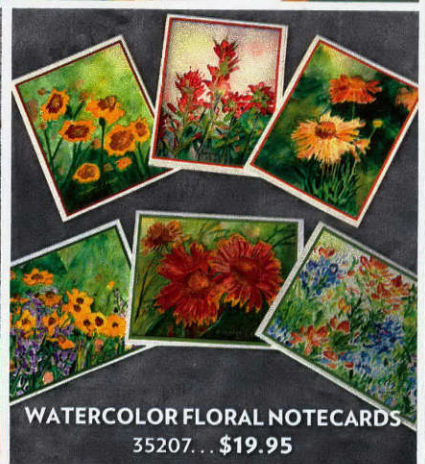
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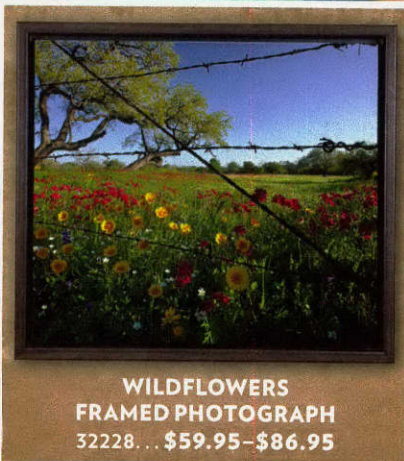
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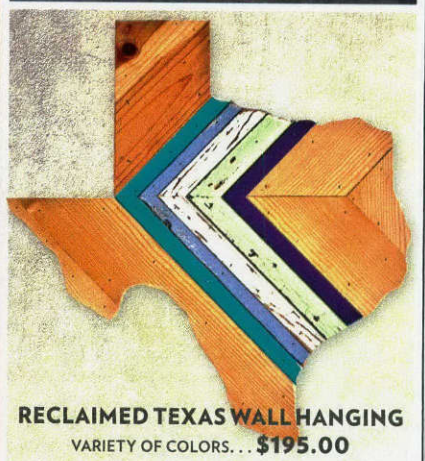
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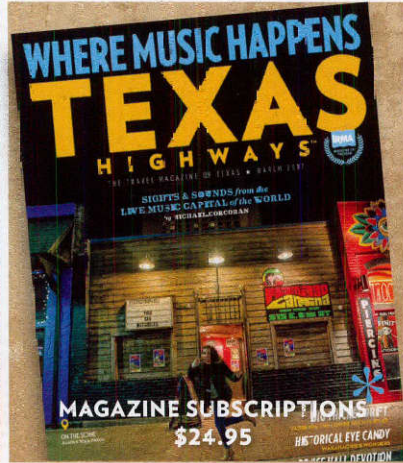
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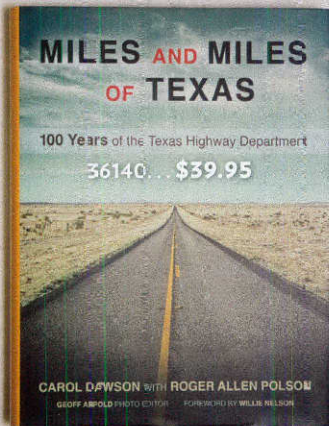
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# EVENTS



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**I**T'S LIKE MARDI GRAS IF YOU SUBSTITUTE THE BEADS AND king cake with *baile folklórico* and mariachi music. What started in 1891 as a one-parade event to honor the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto has evolved into the city's premier event, Fiesta San Antonio (April 20-30). A spectacular firework show during the official opening ceremony kicks off

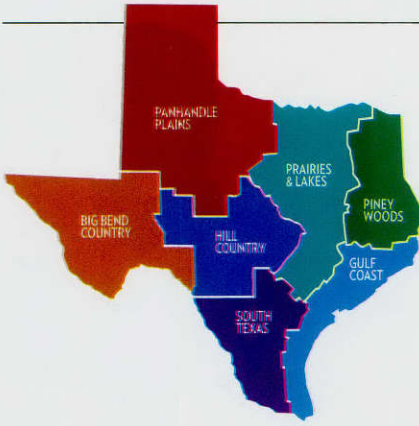
more than 100 events across 11 days, including the Wildflower Ride, which attracts some 1,800 cyclists; *Cornyation*, an adults-only theatrical performance that dates to 1951; masquerade parties; and a glittering carnival. First-timers can find the breadth of offerings overwhelming, so look for a volunteer for guidance—some 75,000 people donate their time. [www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org)

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



## EVENTS



### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**ALPINE:** Gem and Mineral Show Apr. 14-16. moonlightgemstones.com 432/729-4526

**ALPINE:** Trappings of Texas Apr. 20-22. musuemofthebigbend.com 432/837-8143

**ALPINE:** An Evening of One-Act Plays Apr. 28-29. sulross.edu/theatre 432/837-8218

**FORT STOCKTON:** Big Bend Open Road Race Apr. 19-22. bbarr.org 432/336-2264

**MIDLAND:** *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* Mar. 31-Apr. 9. mctmidland.org 432/570-4111

**MIDLAND:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 19. tunatouring.com 432/552-4430

**MIDLAND:** *The Awesome '80s Prom* Apr. 21-29. mctmidland.org 432/570-4111

**MONAHANS:** Spring Fling Apr. 4. monahans.org 432/943-2187

**MONAHANS:** Taste of Monahans Apr. 10. monahans.org 432/943-2187

**ODESSA:** Easter Spring Fling Apr. 17. odessatxparks.org 432/368-3548

**VAN HORN:** Building Bridges Art Show Apr. 19-21. vanhorn.texas.us 432/283-2682

### GULF COAST

**ALVIN:** Music Festival and Barbecue Cook-Off Apr. 7-8. alvinmusicfestival.com 281/585-3359

**ALVIN:** Tour de Braz Bike Ride Apr. 24. tourdebraz.org 281/585-3359

**ALVIN:** Rotary Frontier Day Apr. 27-29. alvinrotary.org 713/828-9477

**BEAUMONT:** *Symphonic Fantastique* Apr. 1. sost.org 409/330-0643

**BEAUMONT:** *Steel Magnolias* Apr. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22. beaumontcommunityplayers.com 409/833-4664

**BEAUMONT:** Jeff Dunham Apr. 23. fordpark.com 409/951-5400

**BRAZORIA:** Migration Celebration Apr. 22-23. San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. migrationcelebration.com 844/842-4737

**CLUTE:** Planetarium Show Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25. bcfas.org 979/265-3376

**CLUTE:** *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln* Apr. 21-23, 28-30. bcfas.org 979/265-7661

**CLUTE:** Spring Astronomy Day Apr. 29. bcfas.org 979/265-7661

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Wildlife in Focus Photography Exhibition. Through Sep. 30. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Big Bloom Plant Sale and Garden Festival Apr. 1. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** South Texas Botanical Gardens Orchid Show Apr. 8-9. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Open Rose Show Apr. 15-16. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Birdiest Festival in North America Apr. 20-23. stxbot.org 361/852-2100

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Buc Days Apr. 20-May 6. bucdays.com

**FREEPORT:** Easter Eggstravaganza Apr. 15. freeport.tx.us 979/233-6061

**FREEPORT:** Schuster Home Open House Apr. 22. 979/297-0868

**FREEPORT:** Riverfest and Flapjack 5K Apr. 28-29. freeportriverfest.com 979/233-0651

**GALVESTON:** The Grand Kids Festival Apr. 1. thegrand.com 409/765-1894

**GALVESTON:** Memorial Hermann Ironman 70.3 Apr. 2. ironman.com

**GALVESTON:** FeatherFest Apr. 6-9. galvestonfeatherfest.com 832/459-5533

**GALVESTON:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 8-9. thegrand.com 409/765-1894

**GALVESTON:** *Love That Dog* Apr. 13. thegrand.com 409/765-1894

**GALVESTON:** Galveston Food and Wine Festival Apr. 17-23. galvestonfoodandwinefestival.com

**GALVESTON:** Galveston Symphony Orchestra: *Voices* Apr. 23. thegrand.com 409/765-1894

**GALVESTON:** The Midtown Men in Concert Apr. 29. thegrand.com 409/765-1894

**HOUSTON:** Beethoven's *Fidelio* Opera in Concert Mar. 31, Apr. 2. houstonsymphony.org 713/224-7575

**HOUSTON:** *Dreamgirls* Apr. 4-16. tuts.com 713/558-8887

**HOUSTON:** *Jesus Christ Superstar* Apr. 4-16. tuts.com 713/558-8887

**HOUSTON:** The Pines of Rome Apr. 20, 22-23. houstonsymphony.org 713/224-7575

**HOUSTON:** Houston Wing Open House Apr. 22-23. houstonwing.org 832/859-1164

**HOUSTON:** *Bond and Beyond* Apr. 28-30. houstonsymphony.org 713/224-7575

**HOUSTON:** Dr. Seuss at the Symphony Apr. 29. houstonsymphony.org 713/224-7575

**HUMBLE:** Good Oil Days Festival Apr. 8. goodoildays.com 281/446-4140

**LA MARQUE:** Texas Rockin' Seafood Festival Apr. 21-23. texasseafoodfestival.com 713/714-1916

**LA PORTE:** San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment Apr. 22. sanjacinto-museum.org 281/479-2421

**LAKE JACKSON:** Abner Jackson Plantation Site Tour Apr. 1. lakejacksonmuseum.org 979/297-1570

**LAKE JACKSON:** Kids Reel Big Fish Event Apr. 8. tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter 979/292-0100

**LAKE JACKSON:** Adult Flashlight Egg Scramble Apr. 13. lakejackson.tx.gov 979/297-4533

**LAKE JACKSON:** Bird Banding Apr. 15. gcbo.org 979/480-0999

**LAKE JACKSON:** Brazosport Symphony Orchestra Spring Classic Apr. 29. clarion.brazosport.edu 979/230-3156

**LAKE JACKSON:** Taste of the Town Apr. 30. brazosport.org 979/285-2501

**MIDFIELD:** Denim and Diamonds—Beneath the Oaks Apr. 27. palacioskids.org 361/972-2642

**ORANGE:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 4. lutchter.org 409/886-5535

**ORANGE:** Art in the Park Apr. 8. orangetexas.org 409/883-1010

**ORANGE:** *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* Apr. 10. lutchter.org 409/886-5535

**ORANGE:** *Once* Apr. 15. lutchter.org 409/886-5535

**PALACIOS:** Colorful 5K by the Bay Apr. 1. palacioskids.org 361/972-2642

**PALACIOS:** Palacios Trail Riders Association Trail Ride Apr. 22-23. cityofpalacios.org 361/920-2719

**PORT ARANSAS:** IFA Redfish Tournament Mar. 31-Apr. 2. redfishtour.com 501/412-7756

**PORT ARANSAS:** Texas SandFest Apr. 21-23. texasandfest.com 361/749-2066

**PORT ARTHUR:** Cajun Heritage Fest Apr. 8. visitportarthurtx.com 409/935-2787

**RICHMOND:** *The Composer is Dead* Apr. 1. fbso.org

**RICHMOND:** Lone Star Stomp Apr. 8. fortbendmuseum.org 281/342-1256

**RICHMOND:** Runaway Scrape Apr. 8. georgeranch.org 281/343-0218

**RICHMOND:** An Old-Fashioned Easter Apr. 15. georgeranch.org 281/343-0218

**ROCKPORT:** Tour of Homes and Boats Apr. 8-9. rockportourofhomes.com 361/729-5519

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND:** *Exit the Body* Mar. 31-Apr. 2. elpaseoarts.wordpress.com 956/943-4700

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND:** *Putnam County Spelling Bee* Apr. 11-12. elpaseoarts.wordpress.com 956/943-4700

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND:** South Padre Island Sand Crab 5K/10K, Kids Mile Nighttime Beach Run Apr. 29. runintexas.com 800/767-2373

**SUGAR LAND:** *Block Party, Too*. Through May 8. hmns.org/hmns-at-sugar-land 281/313-2277

**SUGAR LAND:** *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* Mar. 31, Apr. 1-2, Apr. 7-9. inspirationstage.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rock Earth Day Celebration Apr. 1. sugarlandtownsquare.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Bastille in Concert Apr. 6. smartfinancialcentre.net

**SUGAR LAND:** Steve Martin and Martin Short Apr. 7. smartfinancialcentre.net

**SUGAR LAND:** Eggstravaganza Apr. 8. sugarlandtx.gov/eggstravaganza 281/275-2885

**SUGAR LAND:** *13* Apr. 21-23. inspirationstage.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Music in the Plaza Apr. 21, 28. sugarlandtownsquare.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Autism Speaks 8K and 1K Kids' Fun Run Apr. 22. sugarlandtownsquare.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Resolve: Walk of Hope Apr. 23. sugarlandtownsquare.com

**SUGAR LAND:** Spring Charity Corvette Car Show Apr. 29. sugarlandtownsquare.com

**TEXAS CITY:** Art Festival Apr. 8-12. texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5990

**TEXAS CITY:** 1947 Disaster Memorial Service Apr. 12. texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5902

**TEXAS CITY:** Art Festival Art Walk on 6th Street Apr. 13. texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5990

**TEXAS CITY:** Lone Star Deluxe Car Show Apr. 22. texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5919

**VICTORIA:** Jerra and Buddy Lee Photography Exhibit Mar. 10-Apr. 23. navemuseum.com 361/575-8227

**VICTORIA:** Quilt Fest 2017 Mar. 31-Apr. 1. quiltquiltvictoria.org 361/649-3417

**VICTORIA:** Historic Homes Tour Apr. 1-2. explorevictoriatexas.com 361/573-1878

**VICTORIA:** Victoria Comic Con April 1-2. victoriacomicon.org

**VICTORIA:** Victoria Independent Film Festival Apr. 6-9. vtxiff.com 361/935-8843

**VICTORIA:** Scott Taylor Band Crawfish Festival Apr. 8. thescotttaylorband.com

**VICTORIA:** Art Car Parade Apr. 15. explorevictoriatexas.com 361/572-0016

**VICTORIA:** JAM Fest Apr. 15. jamfestvictoria.com

**VICTORIA:** Tutu and Tiara Tee-Off Apr. 22. victoriaballet.org 361/575-2313

**VICTORIA:** *Kitchen Witches* Apr. 27-30. theatrevictoria.org 361/570-8587

**VICTORIA:** Downtown Rhythms Apr. 27. victoriasymphony.com 361/576-4500

**VICTORIA:** Pianist Vadym Kholokenko in Concert Apr. 29. victoriasymphony.com 361/576-4500

### HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN:** *Art for All and All for Art*. Through Apr. 8. artforthepeoplegallery.com 512/761-4708

**AUSTIN:** *Stories to Tell: Selections from the Harry Ransom Center*. Through Jul. 16. hrc.utexas.edu 512/471-8944

**AUSTIN:** *The Magic Flute* Mar. 31-Apr. 2. balletaustin.org 512/476-2163

**AUSTIN:** Art City Austin Mar. 31-Apr. 2. artallianceaustin.org/artcity

**AUSTIN:** Urban Music Festival Mar. 31-Apr. 1. urbanmusicfest.com

**AUSTIN:** *The Stars Come Out* Apr. 2. austinsymphonicband.org 512/956-7420

**AUSTIN:** Panic! At The Disco in Concert Apr. 2. uterwincenter.com 512/477-6060

**AUSTIN:** Third Indoor Concert Apr. 2. austinsymphonicband.org 512/956-7420

**AUSTIN:** Anthony Doerr: *All the Light We Cannot See* Apr. 6. bookpeople.com 512/472-5050

**AUSTIN:** Euphoria Music Festival Apr. 6-9. euphoriamusic.com

**AUSTIN:** International Poetry Festival Apr. 6-9. aipf.org



**AUSTIN:** Lonestar Round Up Apr. 7-8. lonestarroundup.com

**AUSTIN:** *Deep in the Vaults of Texas: A Campus Collaboration* Apr. 8-Sep. 6. lbjlibrary.org 512/721-0200

**AUSTIN:** Austin 10/20 Apr. 9. austin1020.com 512/299-9190

**AUSTIN:** Fusebox Festival Apr. 12-16. fuseboxfestival.com

**AUSTIN:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 14-15. thelongcenter.org 512/474-5664

**AUSTIN:** Austin Reggae Festival Apr. 14-15. austinreggaefest.com

**AUSTIN:** *Opus Cactus* Apr. 18. thelongcenter.org 512/474-5664

**AUSTIN:** *The Phantom of the Opera* Apr. 19-30. broadwayinaustin.com 512/477-6060

**AUSTIN:** Chris Botti in Concert Apr. 19. thelongcenter.org 512/474-5664

**AUSTIN:** Moontower Comedy Festival Apr. 19-22. austintheatre.org/moontower-comedy

**AUSTIN:** Mack, Jack, & McConaughy Gala and Concert Apr. 20-21. mackjackandmcconaughy.com

**AUSTIN:** MotoGP Red Bull Grand Prix of The Americas Apr. 21-23. circuitoftheamericas.com 512/301-6600

**AUSTIN:** Monster Jam Apr. 22-23. uterwincenter.com 512/477-6060

**AUSTIN:** Capitol 10K Apr. 23. cap10k.com

**AUSTIN:** Umlauf Garden Party Apr. 27. umlaufsculpture.org 512/445-5582

**AUSTIN:** Food and Wine Festival Apr. 28-30. austinfoodandwinefestival.com

**AUSTIN:** Beijing Guitar Duo Apr. 29. austinclassicalguitar.org 512/300-2247

**AUSTIN:** Citywide Garage Sale Apr. 29-30. cwgs.com 512/441-2828

**AUSTIN:** Eeyore's Birthday Party Apr. 29. eeyores.org

**AUSTIN:** Preservation Austin Home Tour Apr. 29. preservationaustin.org

**BLANCO:** Twin Sisters Dance Apr. 1. twinsistersdancehall.com 830/868-7684

**BOERNE:** Cibolo Nature Center's Mostly Native Plant Sale Apr. 1. visitboerne.org 830/249-4616

**BOERNE:** Hot Rod Night Apr. 1, 5. sodapopsboerne.com 830/331-8795

**BOERNE:** Jump In Apr. 2. visitboerne.org 830/249-1217

**BOERNE:** *Ta' Express—The Bollywood Musical Revue* Apr. 7. visitboerne.org 830/331-9079

**BOERNE:** Market Days Apr. 8-9. visitboerne.org 210/844-8193

**BOERNE:** Second Saturday Art and Wine Apr. 8. visitboerne.org

**BOERNE:** Diva Night Apr. 13. visitboerne.org 210/861-7333

**BOERNE:** Open Car Show Apr. 22. Hill Country Mile. visitboerne.org 830/226-5386

**BOERNE:** A Thirst for Nature Apr. 27. visitboerne.org 830/249-4616

**BRADY:** McCall County Early Days Apr. 7-8. mchcl.com 325/597-4123

**BULVERDE:** *Tae 1940s Radio Hour* Apr. 27-May 13. stagebulverde.org 830/438-2339

**BURNET:** Bluebonnet Festival Apr. 7-9. bluebonnetfestival.org 512/756-4297

**CASTROVILLE:** Tour de Castroville Apr. 1. castrovillex.gov 830/538-9838

**COMFORT:** Easter Volksmarch Apr. 15. comfort-texas.com 830/995-3131

**DRIFTWOOD:** Old Settler's Music Festival Apr. 20-23. oldsettlersmusicfest.org 512/478-0578

**DRIPPING SPRINGS:** Founders Day Festival Apr. 21-23. cityofdrippingsprings.com 512/858-4725

**FLORENCE:** GalLit Archaeological Site Tour Apr. 8. bellcountrymuseum.org 254/933-5243

**FREDERICKSBURG:** The American Chuck Wagon Association Championship Cook-Off Mar. 30-Apr. 1. fmartinscott.org 830/997-6523

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Wine and Wildflower Journey Mar. 31-Apr. 16. texaswinetrail.com 872/216-9463

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Historic Schools Open House Tour Apr. 1. historicschools.org 830/997-5116



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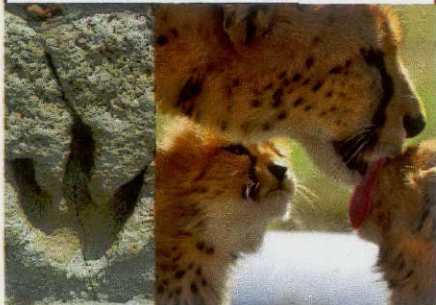


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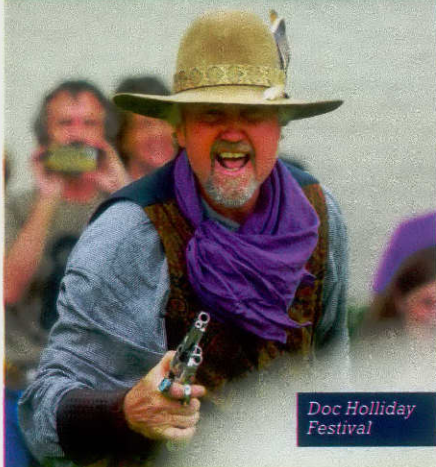


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**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
First Friday Art Walk Apr. 7.  
ffawf.com 830/997-6523

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Bluebonnet Tractor Ride  
Apr. 8. rustyiron.org

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
WWII Pacific Combat  
Program Apr. 8-9.  
pacificwarmuseum.org  
830/997-8600

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Waltstock and Barrel Wine  
and Music Festival Apr. 8-9.  
waltstockandbarrel.com  
512/431-8078

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Wildflower Celebration  
Apr. 8-23. wildseedfarms.com  
830/990-8080

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Driving Miss Daisy Apr. 13-30.  
fredericksburgtheater.org  
830/997-3588

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Trade Days Apr. 14-16.  
fbgtradedays.com  
210/846-4094

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Spring Fish Fry Apr. 22.  
visitfredericksburgtx.com  
830/456-4043

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Sonic Escape in Concert  
Apr. 23. fredericksburg  
musicclub.com

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Hill Country Film Festival  
Apr. 27-30. hillcountryff.com  
512/838-6828

**FREDERICKSBURG:** Fort  
Martin Scott Days Apr. 28-  
29. ftmartinscott.org  
830/217-3200

**FREDERICKSBURG:**  
Wings Over the Hills Nature  
Festival Apr. 28-30.  
wingstx.org

**GEORGETOWN:** Quilt and  
Stitchery Show Mar. 31-Apr. 1.  
handcraftsunlimited.com  
512/658-6973

**GEORGETOWN:** Red  
Poppy Festival Apr. 28-30.  
visit.georgetown.org  
800/436-8696

**GOLDTHWAITE:** State  
Championship Barbecue and  
Goat Cook-Off Apr. 28-29.  
millscounty-chamber.com  
325/648-3619

**GRUENE:** Gospel Brunch  
with a Texas Twist Apr. 9.  
gruenehall.com  
830/629-5077

**GRUENE:** Old Gruene  
Market Days Apr. 15-16.  
gruenemarketdays.com  
830/832-1721

**GRUENE:** Come and Taste It  
Apr. 20. grapevinegruene.  
com 830/606-0093

**INGRAM:** Flight  
Mar. 10-Apr. 7. hcacf.com  
830/367-2151

**INGRAM:** Life in the Hill  
Country Mar. 14-May 12.  
hcacf.com 830/367-5121

**INGRAM:** Godspell  
Mar. 24-Apr. 8. 830/367-6121

**JOHNSON CITY:** Art Walk  
Apr. 22. lbjcountry.com  
830/868-7684

**JOHNSON CITY:**  
Market Days Apr. 22-23.  
lbjcountry.com  
830/868-7684

**JONESTOWN:** Cajun Cook-  
Off Apr. 1. lagovista.org  
512/267-7952

**JUNCTION:** Easter Pageant  
Apr. 15. 219/289-2982

**JUNCTION:** Outdoor  
Women Event Apr. 22.  
junctiontexas.com  
325/446-3190

**KERRVILLE:** Hill Country  
Youth Art Show Mar. 30-  
Apr. 23. kackerville.com  
830/895-2911

**KERRVILLE:** Dog Agility  
Show Mar. 31-Apr. 2.  
heartoftexasdogsports.com  
512/663-2055

**KERRVILLE:** The  
Matchmaker Apr. 1-May 7.  
playhouse2000.com  
830/896-9393

**KERRVILLE:** Kerr County  
Market Days Apr. 1.  
kermarketdays.org  
830/895-7524

**KERRVILLE:** Semi-Toned:  
Game of Tones Apr. 6.  
830/896-9393

**KERRVILLE:** Easter  
Hill Country Bike Tour  
Apr. 14-16. ehct.com  
877/967-3767

**KERRVILLE:** Here's to  
the Heroes Easterfest  
and Cook-Off Apr. 15.  
kerrvilletx.com  
830/896-1155

**KERRVILLE:** Cajun  
Festival in the Park Apr. 22.  
kerrvilletx.gov 830/258-1151

**KERRVILLE:** Spring Native  
Plant Sale and Festival Apr. 22.  
riversidenaturecenter.org  
830/257-4837

**KERRVILLE:** Symphony  
of the Hills "Mostly Mozart"  
(with Grand Symphony  
Chorus) Apr. 27.  
symphonyofthehills.org  
830/792-7469

**KINGSLAND:** Spring Craft  
Show Apr. 1-2. kingsland  
crafts.com 512/947-6329

**KYLE:** Market Days Apr. 8.  
cityofkyle.com/recreation  
512/262-3939

**LAMPASAS:** Trade Days  
Apr. 29. lampasastradedays.  
com 512/734-1294

**LLANO:** Fiddle Fest Mar. 31-  
Apr. 2. llanofiddlefest.com  
325/247-5354

**LLANO:** Crawfish Open  
Apr. 21-22. llanocrawfish  
open.com 325/247-2270

**MARBLE FALLS:** Paint  
the Town Mar. 29-Apr. 1.  
hlcarts.com 515/567-8614

**MARBLE FALLS:** Balcones  
Songbird Festival Apr. 21-23.  
balconessongbirdfestival.org  
512/267-5916

**NEW BRAUNFELS:**  
Kidsfest Apr. 1. nbkidsfest.com  
830/488-7814

**NEW BRAUNFELS:**  
Folkfest Apr. 8-9.  
nbheritagevillage.com  
830/629-6504

**NEW BRAUNFELS:** Train  
Show Apr. 8-9. nbrrm.org

**NEW BRAUNFELS:** The Hit  
Men Apr. 21. brauntex.org  
830/627-0808

**NEW BRAUNFELS:**  
Swap Meet and Car Show  
Apr. 21-23.  
newbraunfelswapmeet.org  
830/629-3673

**NEW BRAUNFELS:**  
Crawfest Apr. 28-30.  
comalcountyfair.org  
830/625-1505

**SAN MARCOS:** Swing on  
the Square: A Western  
Heritage Swing Festival  
Apr. 7-9. smtxswingfest.com  
512/393-8430

**STONEWALL:** LBJ 100  
Bicycle Tour Apr. 1.  
lbj100.bike 512/344-9338

**STONEWALL:** Guided  
Nature Wildlife Tour and  
Walk Apr. 8. tpwd.state.tx.us  
830/644-2252

**STONEWALL:** Easter at  
the Sauer-Beckmann Living  
History Farm Apr. 15.  
nps.gov/lyjo 830/644-2252

**UVALDE:** Historic Ft. Inge  
Days Apr. 7-8. visituvalde.  
com 830/278-4115

**UVALDE:** Four Square  
Friday Apr. 14. visituvalde.  
com 830/278-4115

**WIMBERLEY:** Market Days  
Apr. 1. shopmarketdays.com  
512/847-2201

**WIMBERLEY:** Starlight  
Symphony Orchestra  
Concert Apr. 9.  
starlightsymphony.org  
512/703-7029

**WIMBERLEY:** By the Water  
Apr. 14-May 7. wimberley  
players.org 512/847-0575

**WIMBERLEY:** Arts Fest  
Apr. 22-23. thewaterspoint.  
com 512/952-0098

**WIMBERLEY:** Butterfly  
Festival Apr. 22. emilyann.org  
512/847-6969

**WIMBERLEY:** Murder  
Mystery Evening Apr. 22.  
wimberleyccc.org  
281/380-7241

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**ABILENE:** Outlaws and  
Legends Music Fest  
Mar. 31-Apr. 1.  
outlawsandlegends.com  
325/660-8458

**ABILENE:** Central Texas  
Gem, Mineral and Jewelry  
Show Apr. 8-9.  
new.calichetimes.com  
325/668-8558

**ALBANY:** Cell Series:  
Ted Larsen Mar. 4-May 13.  
theoac.org 325/762-2269

**ALBANY:** Intimate View:  
The Ramsey Collection  
Mar. 4-May 13. theoac.org  
325/762-2269

**ALBANY:** What Lies  
Beneath: Collage, Montage,  
Assemblage Mar. 4-May 13.  
theoac.org 325/762-2269

**AMARILLO:** Nacidos  
Charros: Born Charro  
Mar. 1-May 31. aqha.com  
806/376-5181

**AMARILLO:** There Be  
Monsters Apr. 1.  
amarillozoo.org  
806/381-7911

**AMARILLO:** Evita Apr. 7-9.  
amarilloopera.org  
806/372-7464

**AMARILLO:** Swan Lake  
Apr. 21-22. lonestarballet.org  
806/372-2463

**BAIRD:** Easter Egg Hunt  
Apr. 15. 325/854-1212

**BIG SPRING:** Big Spring  
Symphony Presents:  
Spring Pops Concert Apr. 1.  
bigspringssymphony.com  
432/263-8235

**BIG SPRING:** Settles  
Hotel Invitational Golf  
Extravaganza Apr. 1-2.  
bigspringchamber.com  
432/213-5461

**BIG SPRING:** Master  
the Mountain 5K and 10K  
Apr. 22.  
permanbasinevents.com  
432/263-8235

**CANYON:** You are Here:  
Maps from the PPHM  
Collection. Through Aug. 26.  
panhandleplains.org  
806/651-2244

**CANYON:** When Georgia  
Was Here. Through Feb. 24,  
2018. panhandleplains.org

**COLEMAN:** Petticoats  
on the Prairie Apr. 7-8.  
colemantexas.org  
325/625-2163

**EASTLAND:** Rip's  
Ribs Cook-Off Apr. 8.  
eastlandchamber.com  
254/629-2332

**GRAHAM:** Cars and  
Stars Show Apr. 8.  
visitgrahamtexas.com  
940/549-0401



**LUBBOCK:** ABC Pro Rodeo Mar. 30-Apr. 1. abcrodeo.com 806/252-8792

**LUBBOCK:** LCU and WBU Combined Choir Concert Apr. 7. lcu.edu/tickets 806/720-7429

**LUBBOCK:** *Peter Pan* Apr. 14-15, 21-23. lubbockmoonlightmusicals.org 806/638-5706

**LUBBOCK:** Ranch Day Apr. 15. depts.ttu.edu/nrhc 806/742-0498

**LUBBOCK:** *Opus Cactus* Apr. 21. presidentialseries.ttu.edu 806/834-5261

**LUBBOCK:** Arts Festival Apr. 22-23. lubbockartsfestival.org 806/744-2787

**LUBBOCK:** Quailapalooza Apr. 23. nrhc.ttu.edu 806/742-0498

**LUBBOCK:** Uncorked Apr. 28. lubbockchamber.com 806/761-7000

**QUANAH:** 5K Bunny Run and Easter Egg Hunt Apr. 15. 940/663-2222

**SAN ANGELO:** *Texas Rivers: An Exhibit in Cooperation with William Reaves / Sarah Foltz Fine Art* Through Apr. 9. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** *The Work of Abilene Visionary Clint Hamilton* Through Apr. 9. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** *Over the River and through the Woods* Mar. 31-Apr. 9. angelotheater.com 325/949-4400

**SAN ANGELO:** Heritage Baseball Symposium Apr. 1. fortconcho.com 325/234-0316

**SAN ANGELO:** Art Thursday Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** Family Day: Art and Science Apr. 8. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** Chamber Music Series: Angelo State University Music Faculty Apr. 9. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** Cactus Market Day Apr. 15. 325/949-6200

**SAN ANGELO:** Regional Cavalry Competition Apr. 19-22. fortconcho.com 325/234-0316

**SAN ANGELO:** Ceramics Weekend Apr. 20-22. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** San Angelo Ceramic Invitational Exhibit Apr. 21-Jul. 2. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** Frontier Day at Fort Concho Apr. 22. fortconcho.com 325/234-0316

**SAN ANGELO:** Texas Tenors Apr. 22. sanangelosymphony.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** *Play It Again* Concert Apr. 23. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SAN ANGELO:** *Gypsy* Apr. 28-May 7. sanangelopac.org 325/655-4136

**SAN ANGELO:** Salmon Sculpture Competition. Through Aug. 7. samfa.org 325/653-3333

**SNYDER:** Western Texas College Rodeo Mar. 30-Apr. 1. wtc.edu 325/574-6107

**SNYDER:** Fish-A-Thon Apr. 8. buffalotrailbsa.org/fishathon 325/436-7772

**STANTON:** Old Sorehead Trade Days Apr. 8-9. stantontex.com 432/756-2006

**VEGA:** Easter Eggstravaganza Apr. 15. 806/674-1505

**PINEY WOODS**

**ALTO:** Foraging with Merriwether Apr. 1. visitcaddomounds.com 936/858-3218

**ALTO:** Caddo Culture Day Apr. 8. visitcaddomounds.com 936/858-3218

**ALTO:** Birding 101 Apr. 29. visitcaddomounds.com 936/858-3218

**CONROE:** Rising Stars and Legends of Texas Apr. 21-22. playinconroe.com

**CROCKETT:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 23. pwfaa.org 936/544-4276

**GLADEWATER:** Highway 271 Car Cruise Apr. 8. gladewatermainstreet.com 903/845-5753

**GLADEWATER:** East Texas Gusher Days Apr. 14-15, 22. gusher-days.com 903/845-5501

**HENDERSON:** Tractor Show Apr. 14-15. visithendersontx.com 903/889-2671

**HENDERSON:** Memories of YesterYear Apr. 14-15. etateci.org 903/889-2671

**HENDERSON:** East Texas Wildflower Trails Apr. 15-May 31. visithendersontx.com 866/650-5529

**HUNTSVILLE:** Walker County Fair and Rodeo Mar. 30-Apr. 8. walkercountyfair.com 936/291-8763

**JASPER:** Taste of Jasper Apr. 1. fmcjasper.org 409/594-7993

**JEFFERSON:** Flea Market Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 14-15. jeffersonfleamarket.net 903/431-0043

**JEFFERSON:** History, Haunts and Legends Apr. 1. jeffersonghostwalk.com 903/665-6289

**JEFFERSON:** Outlaws National Classic Car Show Apr. 14-16. 903/665-7121

**JEFFERSON:** Easter Egg Express Apr. 15. jeffersonrailway.com 866/398-2038

**JEFFERSON:** Riverport National Vintage Motocross Apr. 20-23. diamonddon.com 866/398-2038

**KILGORE:** KilGogh Arts Festival Mar. 31-Apr. 1. kilgogh.com 903/984-2593

**KILGORE:** Avalon Faire Apr. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30. avalonfaire.com 903/985-0165

**KILGORE:** Kilgore College Rangerette Revels Apr. 5-8. rangerette.com 903/983-8187

**LONGVIEW:** *Dreams, Passions and Visions* Symphony Concert Apr. 21. longviewsymphony.org 903/236-9739

**LUFKIN:** The Pines Presents: Jarrod Spector and Kelli Barrett Apr. 20. thepineslufkin.com 936/633-0359

**MAGNOLIA:** Magnolia Showdown Barbecue Cook-Off Mar. 31-Apr. 1. magnoliatx.org 281/356-1488

**MAGNOLIA:** Depot Day Apr. 15. magnoliatxhistoricalsociety.com 281/356-8514

**MARSHALL:** Digging Into Your Roots: A Genealogy Workshop Apr. 26-27. harrisoncountymuseum.org 903/935-8417

**NACOGDOCHES:** Azalea Trails Mar. 15-Apr. 15. visitnacogdoches.org 388/564-7351

**NACOGDOCHES:** Garden Gala Day and Earth Day Celebration Apr. 1. sfagardens.sfasu.edu 936/468-1832

**NACOGDOCHES:** Vintage Market Days Apr. 21-23. visitnacogdoches.org 888/564-7351

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[www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org)

**PALESTINE:** Art Tracks. Through Oct. 31. [visitpalestine.com](http://visitpalestine.com) 903/729-6066

**PALESTINE:** Dogwood Trails Celebration Mar. 24-26, 31-Apr. 2, 7-9. [texasdogwoodtrails.com](http://texasdogwoodtrails.com) 903/729-6066

**PALESTINE:** The 1836 Chuckwagon Race Apr. 21-23. [1836chuckwagonrace.com](http://1836chuckwagonrace.com) 903/723-3014

**THE WOODLANDS:** BuzzFest Apr. 15. [woodlandscenter.org](http://woodlandscenter.org) 281/364-3010

**THE WOODLANDS:** Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers in Concert Apr. 29. [woodlandscenter.org](http://woodlandscenter.org) 281/364-3010

**TYLER:** Azalea and Spring Flower Trail Mar. 24-Apr. 9. [visitytyler.com/azaleatrail](http://visitytyler.com/azaleatrail) 903/592-1661

**TYLER:** Disc Dog Event Mar. 31-Apr. 1. [petsfurpeople.org](http://petsfurpeople.org) 903/570-5400

**TYLER:** Spirits of Oakwood Apr. 1. 903/316-2201

**TYLER:** Greater Tuna Apr. 7. [cowancenter.org](http://cowancenter.org) 903/566-7424

**TYLER:** Texas Rose Dressage Classic Apr. 7-9. [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com) 903/882-8696

**TYLER:** Azalea Arts and Crafts Fair Apr. 8-9. [tylerparksandrec.com](http://tylerparksandrec.com) 903/531-1214

**TYLER:** Black Violin Apr. 11. [cowancenter.org](http://cowancenter.org) 903/566-7424

**WOODVILLE:** Tyler County Dogwood Festival Apr. 1. [tylercountydogwoodfestival.org](http://tylercountydogwoodfestival.org) 409/283-2632

**PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

**ADDISON:** Walk MS Apr. 8. [nationalmssociety.org/walkms](http://nationalmssociety.org/walkms) 800/344-4867

**ADDISON:** Wellness Expo Apr. 15-16. [wellnessexpo.net](http://wellnessexpo.net) 972/925-9393

**ARLINGTON:** *To Kill a Mockingbird* Apr. 7-23. [theatrearlington.org](http://theatrearlington.org) 817/275-7661

**ARLINGTON:** Concours D'Elegance of Texas: Car Show Apr. 21-23. [concoursoftexas.org](http://concoursoftexas.org)

**ARLINGTON:** The Lone Star Half Marathon and Mayor's 5K Apr. 23. [lonestarahalfmarathon.com](http://lonestarahalfmarathon.com)

**BASTROP:** Mostly Clay Apr. 7-9. [facebook.com/bastropclayarts](http://facebook.com/bastropclayarts) 512/988-0034

**BASTROP:** Table on Main Apr. 23. [bastropdowntown.com/table-on-main](http://bastropdowntown.com/table-on-main) 512/303-0558

**BONHAM:** Red River Art, Wine, and Music Festival Apr. 22. [creativeartscenterbonham.com](http://creativeartscenterbonham.com) 903/640-2196

**BOWIE:** Chisholm Trail 150th Celebration Apr. 22. [bowietxchamber.org](http://bowietxchamber.org) 940/872-1173

**BRENHAM:** *Doubt, A Parable* Mar. 30-Apr. 9. [unitybrenham.org](http://unitybrenham.org) 979/830-8358

**BRENHAM:** Heritage Society Spring Home Tour Apr. 9. [giddingsstone mansion.com](http://giddingsstone mansion.com) 979/836-1690

**BURTON:** LaBahia Antiques Show and Sale Mar. 24-Apr. 1. [labahiaantiques.com](http://labahiaantiques.com) 979/289-2684

**BURTON:** Burton Cotton Gin Festival Apr. 21-22. [cottonginmuseum.org](http://cottonginmuseum.org) 979/289-3378

**CAMERON:** Cameron Festival Apr. 29-30. 254/697-4971

**CHAPPELL HILL:** Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas Apr. 8-9. [chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com](http://chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com) 979/836-6033

**CLEBURNE:** *Singin' in the Rain* Mar. 10-31, Apr. 1-22. [plaza-theatre.com](http://plaza-theatre.com) 817/202-0600

**CLEBURNE:** Sandra Kaye in Concert Apr. 1. [songbirdlive.com](http://songbirdlive.com) 817/489-4840

**CLEBURNE:** Antique Alley and Yard Sale Apr. 21-23. [antiquealleytexas.com](http://antiquealleytexas.com) 817/487-8979

**CLEBURNE:** The Little Trio in Concert Apr. 22. [songbirdlive.com](http://songbirdlive.com) 817/489-4840

**CLEBURNE:** Brazos Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert Apr. 25. [brazoschamberorchestra.org](http://brazoschamberorchestra.org) 817/645-8067

**CLIFTON:** Ray Wylie Hubbard in Concert Apr. 7. [bosqueartscenter.org](http://bosqueartscenter.org) 254/675-3724

**CLIFTON:** The Big Event Apr. 8. [bosqueartscenter.org](http://bosqueartscenter.org) 254/675-3724

**CLIFTON:** Bosque Wildflower Art Show and Sale Apr. 25-May 31. [bosquemuseum.org](http://bosquemuseum.org) 254/675-3845

**COLLEGE STATION:** *The Legacy of Ranching: Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future* Mar. 6-Jan. 8, 2018. [bush41.org](http://bush41.org) 979/691-4000

**COLLEGE STATION:** Greater Tuna Apr. 6. [tunatouring.com](http://tunatouring.com) 979/845-1234

**COLLEGE STATION:** *Over There: America in WWI* Apr. 7-9. [americangimuseum.org](http://americangimuseum.org) 979/446-6888

**COLLEGE STATION:** Starlight Music Series Apr. 8. [cstx.gov/starlight](http://cstx.gov/starlight) 979/764-3486

**COLLEGE STATION:** Movies in the Park Apr. 14. [cstx.gov/movies](http://cstx.gov/movies) 979/764-3486

**CORSICANA:** Derrick Days Festival Apr. 29. [derrickdays.com](http://derrickdays.com) 877/648-2688

**CUERO:** Keep Cuero Beautiful Garage Sale Apr. 1. [cuero.org](http://cuero.org) 361/275-2112

**CUERO:** Market on Main Apr. 22. [cueromainstreet.com](http://cueromainstreet.com) 361/485-8008

**DALLAS:** *Shaken, Stirred, Styled: The Art of the Cocktail* Through Nov. 12. [dma.org](http://dma.org) 214/922-1200

**DALLAS:** *Benini: Alla Geometria* Through Apr. 23. [geometricmadmuseum.org](http://geometricmadmuseum.org) 214/855-7802

**DALLAS:** *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* Through Sep. 4. [perotmuseum.org](http://perotmuseum.org)

**DALLAS:** *México 1900-1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco, and the Avant-Garde* Mar. 12-Jul. 16. [dma.org](http://dma.org) 214/922-1802

**DALLAS:** Dallas Blooms Feb. 25-Apr. 9. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org) 214/515-6612

**DALLAS:** Soundings: New Music at the Nasher Apr. 7-9. [nashersculpturecenter.org](http://nashersculpturecenter.org) 214/242-5100

**DALLAS:** Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes Apr. 9. [turtlecreekassociation.org](http://turtlecreekassociation.org) 214/526-2800

**DALLAS:** *Zim Sculpt* Apr. 15-Jul. 31. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org) 214/515-6525

**DALLAS:** Trio Solisti Apr. 17. [dallaschambermusic.org](http://dallaschambermusic.org) 844/326-7844

**DALLAS:** Chelsea Clinton: *It's Your World* Apr. 23. [dma.org](http://dma.org) 214/922-1344

**DALLAS:** David Sedaris April 28. [attpac.org](http://attpac.org) 214/880-0202

**DALLAS:** Artscape Reimagined Apr. 29-30. [dallasarboretum.org](http://dallasarboretum.org) 214/515-6605

**DECATUR:** A Touch of Rust Apr. 8. [atouchofrust.com](http://atouchofrust.com) 405/255-6519

**DENISON:** Culture of Art Festival Apr. 1. [smalltownbigart.com](http://smalltownbigart.com) 903/465-1551

**DENISON:** Doc Holiday Festival Apr. 29. [denisonlive.com](http://denisonlive.com) 903/464-4452

**DENTON:** *Materials Hard and Soft* Feb. 4-May 16. [dentonarts.com/patterson-appleton-arts-center](http://dentonarts.com/patterson-appleton-arts-center) 940/382-2787

**DENTON:** North Texas Horse Country Tour Apr. 1. [horsecountrytours.com](http://horsecountrytours.com) 940/382-7895

**DENTON:** Thin Line Film Festival Apr. 19-23. [thinlinefilmfestival.com](http://thinlinefilmfestival.com) 888/893-4560

**DENTON:** Denton Redbud Festival Apr. 22. [kdb.org](http://kdb.org) 940/349-8737

**DENTON:** Arts and Jazz Festival Apr. 28-30. [dentonjazzfest.com](http://dentonjazzfest.com) 940/565-0931

**DESOTO:** Living Festival Apr. 1. [desoto-festival.html](http://desotochamber.org/desoto-festival.html) 972/224-3565

**EAGLE LAKE:** Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival Apr. 8-9. [fws.gov/refuge/attwater\\_prairie\\_chicken](http://fws.gov/refuge/attwater_prairie_chicken) 800/323-4873

**ELGIN:** Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue Cook-Off Apr. 8. [elgintx.com](http://elgintx.com) 512/281-4025

**ELGIN:** Sip, Shop, and Stroll Apr. 13. [elgintx.com](http://elgintx.com)

**ELGIN:** Art Studio Tour and Pearls of Youth Art Show Apr. 22-23. [elginartsassociation.com](http://elginartsassociation.com) 512/285-4515

**ENNIS:** *Farce of Nature* Mar. 31-Apr. 15. [ennispublictheatre.com](http://ennispublictheatre.com) 972/878-7529

**ENNIS:** Bluebonnet Trails Festival Apr. 7-9. [visitennis.org](http://visitennis.org) 972/878-4748

**ENNIS:** *Snow White* Apr. 28-29, May 5-7, 12-13. [theatre.rocks.com](http://theatre.rocks.com) 972/878-5126

**EVANT:** Wild Hog Sanctioned Cook-Off and Family Fun Day Apr. 1. [evanttexas.com](http://evanttexas.com) 817/832-5293

**FARMERSVILLE:** Farmers and Fleas Market Apr. 1. [farmersvillex.com](http://farmersvillex.com) 972/784-6846

**FLATONIA:** Crawlfeest Apr. 22. [flatoniachamber.com](http://flatoniachamber.com) 361/865-3920

**FORT WORTH:** *Focus: Stanley Whitney* Through Apr. 2. [themodern.org](http://themodern.org) 817/738-9215



**FORT WORTH:** Donald Sultan: *The Disaster Paintings* Feb. 19-Apr. 23. themodern.org 817/738-9215

**FORT WORTH:** Food and Wine Festival Mar. 30-Apr. 2. fortworthfoodandwinefestival.com 817/336-1009

**FORT WORTH:** Focus: *Katherine Bernhardt* Apr. 8-Jul. 9. themodern.org 817/738-9215

**FORT WORTH:** Craftology Apr. 8. cartermuseum.org 817/738-1933

**FORT WORTH:** Race Week at Texas Motor Speedway Apr. 8-9. texasmotorspeedway.com 817/215-8520

**FORT WORTH:** Opera Festival Apr. 15-May 7. fwopera.org 817/731-0726

**FORT WORTH:** Main Street Arts Festival Apr. 20-23. mainstreetfest.org 817/336-2787

**FORT WORTH:** Fortress Festival Apr. 29-30. fortressfestival.com

**FORT WORTH:** Hops and Props Fly-In and Craft Beer Festival Apr. 29. fortworthaviationmuseum.com 855/733-8627

**GAINESVILLE:** Medal of Honor Parade and Book Signing Apr. 8. medalofhonorhostcity.com 940/665-2831

**GARLAND:** *The Addams Family* Apr. 6-29. garlandcivictheatre.org

**GLEN ROSE:** Paluxy River Spring Bluegrass Festival Mar. 30-Apr. 1. paluxybluegrass.com 254/897-2321

**GLEN ROSE:** Vintage Market Days Mar. 31-Apr. 2. vintagemarketdays.com 254/897-4509

**GLEN ROSE:** Discovery After Dark Apr. 7. 254/897-2960

**GLEN ROSE:** Brother-N-Laws Team Roping Apr. 8-9. 254/897-4509

**GLEN ROSE:** Photo Tour Apr. 8, 22. 254/897-2960

**GLEN ROSE:** Third Weekend Bluegrass Apr. 15. paluxybluegrass.com 254/897-2321

**GLEN ROSE:** Lone Star Hunter Jumper Show Apr. 20-23. 254/897-4509

**GLEN ROSE:** Tournament of Champions Breyer Horse Show Apr. 29-30. 254/897-4509

**GRANBURY:** First Saturday Bird Walk Apr. 1.

actonnaturecenter.org 817/326-6005

**GRANBURY:** *Forever '50s* Apr. 1, 15. bigcitymusicrevue.com 972/670-5053

**GRANBURY:** *Shrek: The Musical* Apr. 7-30. granburymusiccompany.org 817/579-0952

**GRANBURY:** Ghosts and Legends Tour Apr. 14-15. granburytours.com 817/559-0849

**GRANBURY:** Wine Walk Apr. 28-29. granburywinewalk.com 682/498-3089

**GRANBURY:** Last Saturday Gallery Night on the Square Apr. 29. lakegranburyart.blogspot.com 817/579-7656

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Big Mamou Cajun Festival Apr. 1-2, 8-9. tradersvillage.com/grandprairie 972/647-2331

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Steve Martin and Martin Short Apr. 8. verizontheatre.com 888/929-7849

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Spring Thoroughbred Season Apr. 20-Jul. 30. lonestarpark.com 972/263-7223

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Main Street Festival Apr. 21-23. grandfunp.com 972/237-8000

**GRAND PRAIRIE:** Shrimp Fest Apr. 29-30. tradersvillage.com/grandprairie 972/647-2331

**GRANDVIEW:** Antique Alley Texas and 30-Plus Miles of Shopping Apr. 21-23. antiquealleytexas.com 817/240-4948

**GRAPEVINE:** A Day Out with Thomas Mar 31-Apr. 2, 7-9. historictrains.org 866/468-7630

**GRAPEVINE:** Blessing of the Vines & New Vintage Wine and Gallery Trail Apr. 8. grapevintexasusa.com 817/410-3185

**GRAPEVINE:** Spring Into Nash Apr. 22. nashfarm.org 817/410-3185

**HALLETTSVILLE:** *Texas in World War I* Apr. 1, 2017-Nov. 30, 2018. hallettsvillelibrary.org 361/798-3243

**HAMILTON:** Spring Fling Apr. 1. 254/386-8396

**HICO:** Billy the Kid Open Car Show Apr. 1. billythekidmuseum.com 254/796-2523

**IRVING:** Canal Fest Apr. 22. cityofirving.org

**LEWISVILLE:** Director's Choice Mar. 31-Apr. 1. lakecitiesballet.org 972/317-7987

**LEWISVILLE:** Color-Palooza—A Celebration of Spring Apr. 8. lewisvillecolorpalooza.com 972/219-5082

**LEXINGTON:** Citywide Garage Sale Apr. 1. lexingtontexas.com 979/773-4337

**LOCKHART:** Cowtown Sip, Stroll, and Artwalk Apr. 1. lockharttx.org 512/398-3461

**LULING:** Roughneck Chili and Barbecue Cook-Off Apr. 1. oilmuseum.org 830/875-5214

**MADISONVILLE:** Madison County Fair Apr. 1-8. mcfa.net 936/348-3591

**MADISONVILLE:** Tour de' Madison Bike Ride Apr. 22. visitmadisonville.org 936/348-9333

**MCDADE:** Sherwood Forest Faire Mar. 4-Apr. 23. sherwoodforestfaire.com 512/222-6680

**MCKINNEY:** Arts in Bloom Apr. 7-9. downtownmckinney.com

**MCKINNEY:** Third Monday Trade Days Apr. 14-16. tmtd.com 972/562-5466

**MCKINNEY:** Art Meets Floral Design Competition Apr. 25-29. heardcraig.org 972/569-6909

**MESQUITE:** Faith Artists Exhibit Apr. 1-30. mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Breakfast with the Bunny Apr. 8. cityofmesquite.com/parade 972/216-6260

realtexasflavor.com 972/204-4925

**MESQUITE:** Symphony Orchestra Concert Apr. 1. mesquitesymphony.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Rockin' Rhapsody Concert Series: Walkin' the Line, Johnny Cash Tribute Apr. 6. mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Breakfast with the Bunny Apr. 8. cityofmesquite.com/parade 972/216-6260

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**MESQUITE:** Rockin' Rhapsody Concert Series: Josh Knight Apr. 13. mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Rockin' Rhapsody Concert Series: Texas Flood, Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute Apr. 20. mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** *I'm Not Rappaport* Apr. 21-23, 28-30, May 5-7. mesquitecommunitytheatre.com 972/216-8126

**MESQUITE:** Opal Lawrence Historical Park Tours Apr. 22. historicmesquite.org 972/216-6468

**MESQUITE:** Rockin' Rhapsody Concert Series: Downtown Fever Apr. 27. mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

**MESQUITE:** Cinco de Mayo Celebration Apr. 29. cityofmesquite.com/pard 972/216-6260

**PLANO:** *Bigger* Mar. 9-Apr. 1. 972/849-0358

**PLANO:** *Benini: Then and Now* Apr. 4-May 6. planoartassociation.com 214/773-5696

**PLANO:** 365 Women a Year Festival Apr. 6-15. roverdramawerks.com

**PLANO:** Courtyard Texas Music Series Apr. 6. plano.gov/417/courtyard-texas-music-series 972/941-5613

**PLANO:** Let it Be Me Apr. 7-30. theatre-britain.com 972/490-4202

**PLANO:** TEDxPlano Apr. 8. tedxplano.org 972/422-2575

**PLANO:** Trinkets to Treasures Apr. 8. jicollincounty.org 972/769-0557

**PLANO:** Downtown Plano Art and Wine Walk Apr. 13. planomagazine.com/wine 972/489-8301

**PLANO:** Live and Local Concerts at McCall Plaza Apr. 21-22. plano.gov/2746/mccall-plaza 972/941-5600

**PLANO:** Artfest Apr. 22. planoartfest.com 972/468-1588

**PLANO:** *One Day Only* Apr. 22. roverdramawerks.com 972/849-0358

**PLANO:** Beatles Night Apr. 29. plano.gov/208/plano-stages 972/941-5600

**PLANO:** Plano Symphony Grand Finale with Lindsay Deutsch Apr. 29.

planosymphony.org 972/473-7262

**PLANTERSVILLE:** St. Mary's Quilt Show Apr. 28-29. stmarysquiltshow.com 713/882-5850

**RICHARDSON:** *Taj Express—The Bollywood Musical Revue* Apr. 9. eisemanncenter.com 972/744-4650

**RICHARDSON:** *Keyboard Conversations—Virtuoso Variations* Apr. 17. eisemanncenter.com 972/744-4650

**RICHARDSON:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 21-22. eisemanncenter.com 972/744-4650

**RICHARDSON:** Plano Community Band Spring Concert Apr. 23. planoband.com

**RICHARDSON:** *Elephant and Piggie's We Are In A Play* Apr. 30. eisemanncenter.com 972/744-4650

**ROUND TOP:** Piano Duo: Elena Martin and Jose Meliton Apr. 8. festivalhill.org 979/249-3129

**ROUND TOP:** Poetry at Round Top Apr. 21-23. festivalhill.org 979/249-3129

**SALADO:** Lonestar Music Series Kickoff Apr. 15. salado.com 512/947-5040

**SALADO:** Art Attack Apr. 28-30. salado.com 512/947-5040

**SCHULENBURG:** Sausagefest Apr. 1. schulenburgsausagefest.com 979/743-4514

**SHERMAN:** Earth Day Texoma Apr. 22. earthdaytexoma.org 903/231-3232

**SMITHVILLE:** Citywide Garage Sale Apr. 1. smithvillex.org 512/237-2313

**SMITHVILLE:** Jamboree Apr. 19-23. smithvillex.org 512/237-2313

**SOUTHLAKE:** Art in the Square Apr. 28-30. artinthesquare.com 817/944-4408

**SULPHUR SPRINGS:** Claws for a Cause Crawfish Boil Apr. 29. 903/885-7541

**TERRELL:** Heritage Jubilee Apr. 22-23. terrelltexas.com 972/563-5703

**WACO:** *The Wizard of Oz Educational Exhibit* Through May 7, 2018. maybornmuseum.com 254/710-1110

**WACO:** The Texas Food Truck Showdown Apr. 1. thetexasfoodtruckshowdown.com 254/757-5611

**WACO:** *Buttons Bridging the Gap* Apr. 1-2. texasstatebuttonssociety.com 512/407-8335

**WACO:** Art on Elm Apr. 7-8. artonelmavenue.com 254/723-6830

**WACO:** Rootstock: A Texas Wine Festival Apr. 22. rootstockwinefest.com 254/848-4343

**WALLIS:** Fun Fest Apr. 22. wallischamber.com 281/239-5203

**WAXAHACHIE:** Scarborough Renaissance Festival Apr. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30. srfestival.com 972/938-3247

**WAXAHACHIE:** Crossroads of Texas Film Festival Apr. 20-23. crossroadssoftx.com 469/309-4012

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**BEEVILLE:** *In Silence*. Through Apr. 21. bamtexas.org 361/358-8615

**BERCLAIR:** Berclair Mansion Tours Apr. 23. 361/358-3859

**CARRIZO SPRINGS:** Bullnanza Apr. 29. dimmitcounty.com 830/876-5205

**EAGLE PASS:** International Friendship Festival Mar. 24-Apr. 2. 830/773-3224

**GOLIAD:** *A Volunteer in the Texian Army* Apr. 8. presidioabahia.org 361/645-3752

**GOLIAD:** Market Days Apr. 8. goliadcc.org 361/645-3563

**POTEET:** Strawberry Festival Apr. 7-9. strawberryfestival.com 830/742-8144

**SAN ANTONIO:** Art in the Garden—Alyson Shotz. Through Jun. 19. bluestarart.org 210/536-1400

**SAN ANTONIO:** The Unfinished Symphony and Mahler No. 4 Mar. 31-Apr. 1. sasymphony.org 210/223-8624

**SAN ANTONIO:** Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure Apr. 8. komensanantonio.org

**SAN ANTONIO:** Mnozil Brass Apr. 8. artssa.org/mnozil-brass

**SAN ANTONIO:** *Greater Tuna* Apr. 13. tunatouring.com 210/223-8624

**SAN ANTONIO:** Che Malambo Apr. 20. artssa.org/che-malambo

**SAN ANTONIO:** Fiesta Pops Apr. 21-23. sasymphony.org 210/223-8624

**SAN ANTONIO:** Seven Seas Food and Wine Festival Apr. 21-May 29. seaworldsanantonio.com 800/700-7786

**SAN ANTONIO:** A Night In Old San Antonio Apr. 25-28. niosa.org 210/216-5188

**WESLACO:** Alfresco Weslaco Apr. 20. facebook.com/alfresco weslaco 956/969-0838

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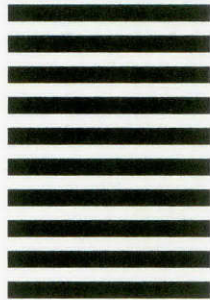
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continued from page 96

viable career choice. And of course my father was a songwriter. So it was my normal, for better or for worse.

**Q:** *What inspired you to pursue the Mexican sounds and themes of Lola?*

**A:** I was just reacting to what was going on around me, reading the news about little children coming across the border in droves. It was something about the time and what was going on in our country, combined with this longtime dream I've had of recording songs in Spanish that my aunt sang and songs that were inspired by her.

**Q:** *When did you discover Eva Garza's music?*

**A:** I was in my early 20s. My grandmother talked about her my whole childhood—her sister who was this famous singer and knew all of the Mexican movie stars and was in films. But I never quite got it until I heard her. My grandmother burned me some CDs from the old vinyls she had. I was living in New York at the time and I just remember the moment of putting her music on in my apartment and sitting down on the couch and being overwhelmed with the power of her voice. She sang these dramatic songs with full orchestras behind her. I remember having goose bumps all over my body and thinking, 'I can't believe this is my blood, I am related to this woman.' I never met her because she died in her late 40s, and she was also quite a bit older than my grandmother.

**Q:** *How much of the year do you spend on the road?*

**A:** Before I had a baby it was at least two-thirds of the year, if not three-quarters. I've definitely scaled back, at least while he's really little. And I think my next focus will be on how to cultivate more of a local music life for myself because I do a show in Austin once a year, maybe twice a year, but I've been making my living from traveling for my whole adult life, playing music all over.

**Q:** *What are your favorite venues in Texas?*

**A:** I love the Kessler Theatre in Dallas. They'll pair me up with cool people too, which is fun. I got to do a show with Terry Allen, which I loved. There are two venues in Houston that I really enjoy. One is actually in The Woodlands, called the Dosey Doe. They get really high-caliber national songwriters. Then the Mucky Duck in central Houston—I've been playing there since I started out with Chip. In Austin I love playing at the Cactus Cafe, and I love going to see shows there, too, because the sound is really good, and I love the intimacy. I feel like you really get to know the artist better than at a larger venue. There are also a few great listening rooms in smaller towns. There's one called the Bugle Boy in La Grange. It's got world-class sound, really nice comfortable seating, and it's very intimate.

**Q:** *What are your favorite roadside stops while traveling Texas?*

**A:** To go on tour anywhere east, we'd end up going up and over to I-30 and east that way. And in Texarkana, Bryce's Cafeteria is unbelievable. I mean like fried chicken and the best pies and butterbeans. ... The drive to Dallas is the worst drive in the country, but the one thing that makes it palatable for me is stopping at the Czech Stop in West and getting kolaches. Another place I would stop, heading out into the Hill Country, is Cooper's barbecue in Llano. It's so fun. I love the people that go—such an interesting mix of farmers and ranchers from out there and city folks on their way somewhere.

**Q:** *Who are some of your biggest musical influences?*

**A:** Townes Van Zandt is a huge influence and somebody that my father used to play with, so I've known his music since I was little. He is huge for me, and I still listen to Townes on a regular basis. I'm a big Lyle Lovett fan, and Lucinda

Williams, and I love John Prine. Aside from that, I have pretty eclectic taste. I love all different kinds of world music, Indian music, classical music.

**Q:** *What's it like being a touring musician with a young child?*

**A:** It's challenging. It was a little easier when the baby was inside my belly because now he runs. I'm learning as I go. We just did a month-long tour in Europe with a 1-year-old, walking, which was definitely more challenging than being on the road with a 6-month-old, who's just sitting. But that being said, it's pretty amazing to watch your 1-year-old eat stinky cheese and pasta and laugh at an Italian dinner and say, "Bene!"

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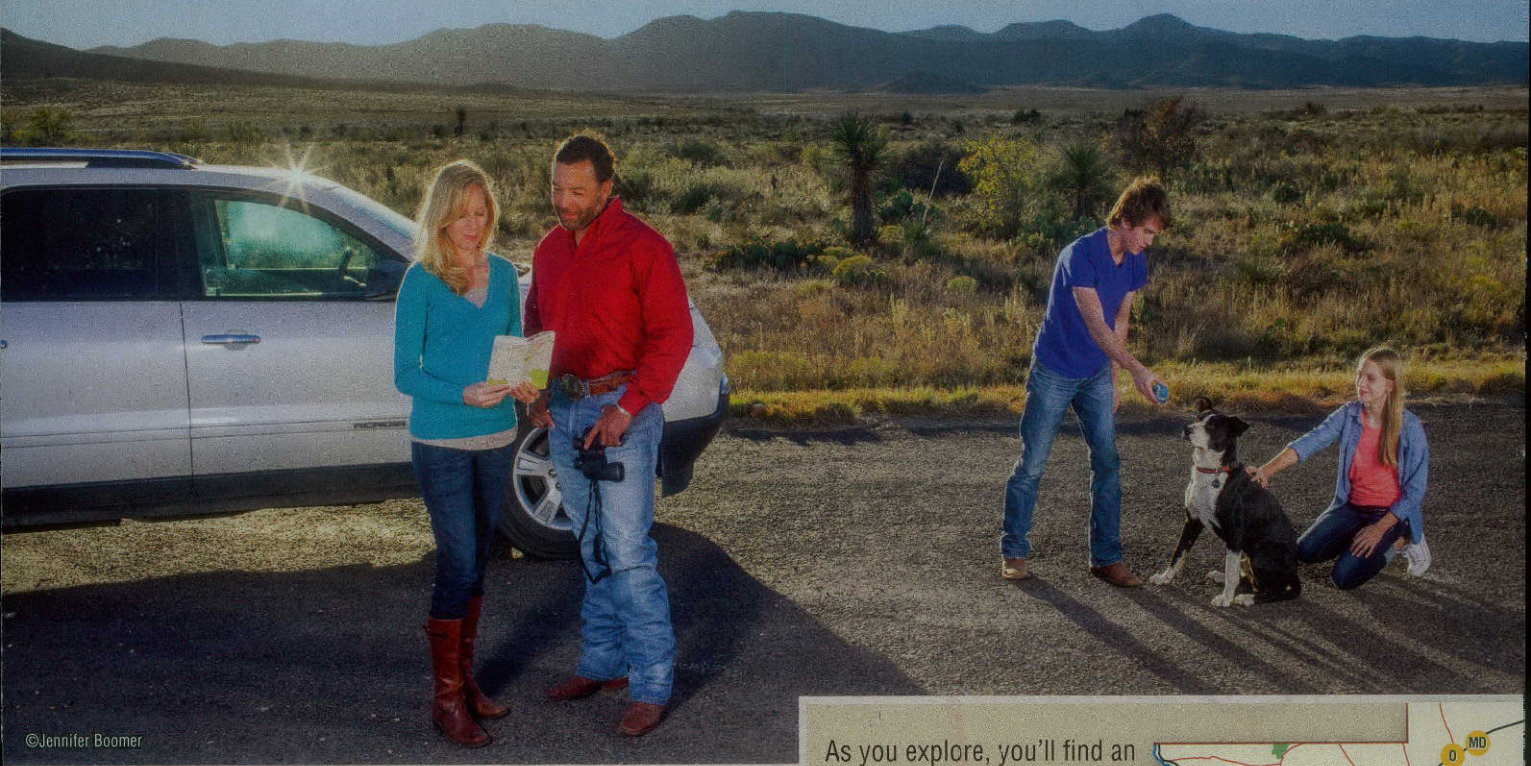
**TEXAS OFFICIAL TRAVEL MAP**

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# WEST TEXAS ROAD TRIP



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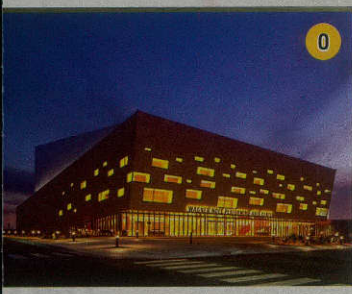


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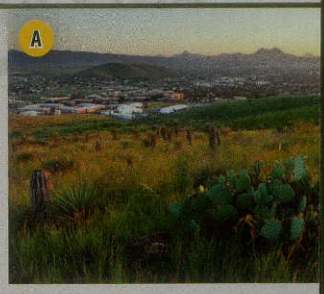
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**Apr 27** - Terry Crews @ Wagner Noël Center

**ALPINE**—Natural beauty, unique nightlife and shopping, and a grand array of hotels and guest lodging make this the perfect staging grounds for your West Texas adventure. [visitalpinetx.com](http://visitalpinetx.com)

**Apr 14-16** - Alpine Gem & Mineral Show  
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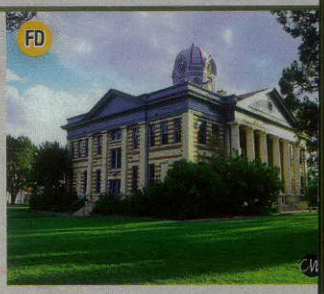
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**Apr 1-15** - Naomi Safran-Hon exhibit @ Marfa Contemporary  
**Apr 1-Aug 6** - Strange Attractor @ Ballroom

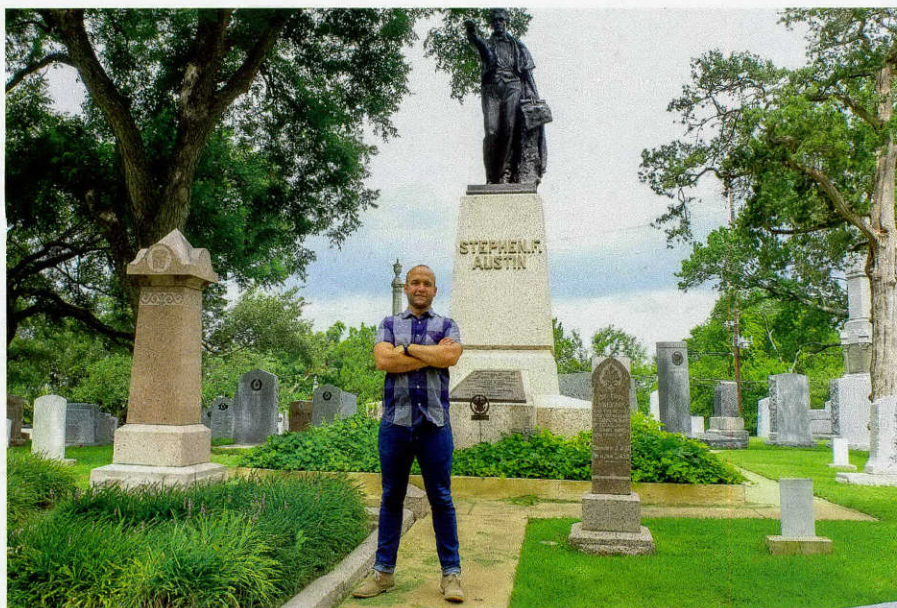


MF



# THE DAYTRIPPER

WITH CHET GARNER



## Time Trippin' in East Austin

**A**USTIN IS NO STRANGER TO DAY-TRIPPIN'. But while travelers in the past may have stopped their explorations west of Interstate 35, over the last few years Austin's East Side has become a popular destination in its own right. And it's not hard to see why—the history's iconic, the culture's weird, and the vibe is laid-back, making for one funky day trip

**8 A.M.** I started my trip by grabbing my bike and taking a scenic ride through **McKinney Falls State Park**. Despite being very close to the airport, this park feels like it's tucked away in the remote reaches of Texas with nothing but the occasional drone of an overhead plane to remind you otherwise. Very soon I found myself staring at the park's waterfalls along Onion Creek. Luckily I had brought my swimsuit for just such an occasion and dove in.

**10:30 A.M.** Ready for a pick-me-up, I headed into town to **Cuvée Coffee Bar** for a little extra energy. I ordered a breakfast taco and a glass of their signature "Black and Blue" cold-brew coffee poured from a beer tap. My coffee was creamy like a draft beer, yet sweet, making for a heavenly combination to keep me moving.

**11:30 A.M.** Ready to walk on the "weird" side, I headed to the **Museum of Natural and Artificial Ephemera**

inside the home of Jen and Scott Webel (appointment only). "Ephemera" means things intended to be thrown away. I "oohed" at what's said to be Marilyn Monroe's last cigarette (complete with red lipstick stain) and "ahhed" at a lock of Elvis' hair. But as the stories became stranger and stranger (Yetis, narwhal teeth, jackalopes...), I began to feel as if I were part of an exhibit myself, and the items had come to see me. I needed some fresh air.

**1:30 P.M.** There is no quieter or cleaner park in Austin than the **Texas State Cemetery**. I grabbed a handheld audio tour and walked rows and rows of tombstones as I listened to the amazing stories of the Texans who have come before me. From politicians like Barbara Jordan to soldiers like Chris

**Chet Garner** is the host of *The Daytripper*® travel show on PBS. To view the East Austin episode visit [thedaytripper.com](http://thedaytripper.com)

Kyle, I became even more proud to call Texas home. Most impressive was the grave of the "Father of Texas" himself, Stephen F. Austin, whose statue stands tall above the landscape as he surveys his adopted homeland.

**3:30 P.M.** Eager for more history, I headed to the **French Legation Museum**, which sits inside one of the oldest homes in Austin, built in 1841 for Alphonse Dubois, the French chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas. I wandered through the rooms and imagined what life was like as a French diplomat on the Texas frontier. There certainly wouldn't have been the stunning view of downtown that we now see from the museum's courtyard.

**5 P.M.** Feeling the need to blow through some adrenaline, I headed to **MYLO Obstacle Fitness**. This outdoor gym is composed of multiple obstacle courses used to train athletes for races like the Tough Mudder or Spartan Race. Luckily it's also open to folks who just need to blow off some steam. After a few hours climbing ropes, scaling walls, and throwing javelins, I was back to my old self again.

**7 P.M.** Over the past few years, East Austin has experienced an explosion of new restaurants, including many on wheels. For dinner, I decided to try out one of its best, **Thai Kun** at Whisler's, offering authentic Thai street food on the patio of the cocktail bar. My "waterfall pork" hit me like a flavorful punch to the face. Before I knew it, I was back in line and ordering the entire menu.

After a day spent studying Texas history, swimming below waterfalls, eating Thai food, and admiring Elvis' hair, it finally struck me why folks love East Austin so much. It doesn't matter if you're an art aficionado, a jock, a foodie, a history nerd, or just a "weirdo" tripper—you're sure to fit right in. So whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **L**

Contact the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800/926-2282, [www.austintexas.org](http://www.austintexas.org).



# TRAVEL MATTERS

TRAVEL TALK WITH TRUE TEXANS



## Bilingual Dreams

Carrie Rodriguez's take on Tex-Mex music

story by Matt Joyce

**A**USTIN MUSICIAN CARRIE RODRIGUEZ BRIDGES TWO WORLDS with her most recent album, *Lola*, which made both *Rolling Stone*'s list of best country albums and NPR's list of best Latino albums in 2016. The diverse scope of the bilingual album is exactly what the songwriting fiddler had in mind.

"I wanted to make a 'Tex-Mex' album, but one that is authentic and relevant to me—a modern-sounding Tex-Mex album," says Rodriguez, the daughter of Austin painter Leslie Nail and the late expat songwriter David Rodriguez. "I was thinking about how I fit in in terms of finding the meeting place of the two different cultures in my background. I'm a fiddle-playing Chicana who grew up with artist parents. That's my story."

**Starting in May.** Carrie Rodriguez will host a monthly residency at Austin's Cactus Cafe with various musical collaborators. Keep up with Rodriguez at [www.carrierodriguez.com](http://www.carrierodriguez.com).

A classically trained violinist, Rodriguez embraced fiddle-style playing and her Texas country roots in college, leading to a collaboration with singer-songwriter Chip Taylor that produced four duet albums. As a solo artist, Rodriguez has made five albums—a blend of folk, roots, and country featuring her violin and warm vocals—and built an international following with touring strongholds in the upper Midwest, the UK, and Italy.

With *Lola*, Rodriguez explores her Mexican heritage, especially her great aunt Eva Garza (her father's aunt), a ranchera singer and movie actress from San Antonio who was popular throughout Latin America from the late 1930s to the 1960s. (The album's title is a nod to one of Garza's contemporaries, ranchera singer Lola Beltrán.)

Rodriguez and her partner/guitar player Luke Jacobs have a 1-year-old son, Cruz, who was born just as they were putting the finishing touches on *Lola* and heading out on a European tour.

**Q:** *Coming from an artistic family, did you feel predestined to be an artist?*

**A:** I wouldn't say predestined to become one or anything, but I certainly felt like being an artist was normal. That was my everyday. I woke up in a house that smelled like turpentine and was full of these wacky, wild paintings. My mom painted every day at home in her leggings with holes in them and paint splattered all over, listing to operatic music blasting through the stereo. That's what I knew as normal. It was my idea to play the violin; I wanted to do that and no one pushed me into it. But I certainly always felt like that was a perfectly > *continued on page 93*

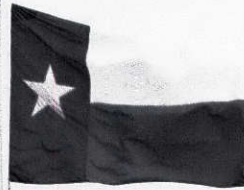
**"I'm a fiddle-playing Chicana who grew up with artist parents. That's my story."**



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