

Issue 22
Summer 2023

East TEXAN

65 million years in the making

Life and legacy

Notorious Old West outlaw
had pineywoods roots





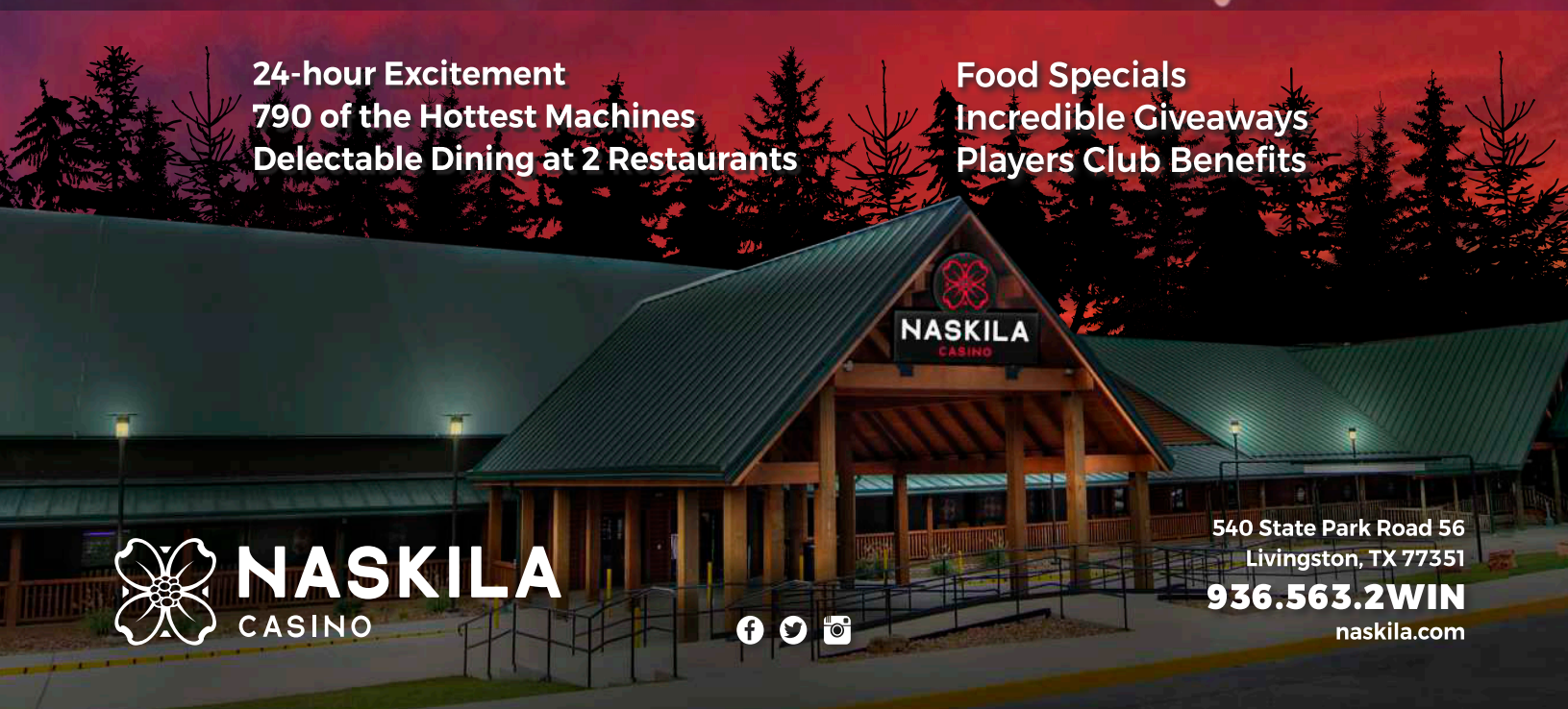
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Dear Readers,

As the summer sun shines brightly upon East Texas, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the unique experience that comes with our beloved heat. It's easy to complain about the rising temperatures, but let's pause for a moment and find the beauty and positivity that this season brings.

One of the most remarkable aspects of East Texas heat is the opportunity it provides for outdoor adventures. From refreshing swims in our crystal-clear lakes to invigorating hikes through lush green forests, our region offers a plethora of activities that allow us to embrace the warmth while enjoying the wonders of nature. Whether it's fishing, camping, or simply strolling through a local park, the East Texas heat invites us to explore and appreciate the natural splendor that surrounds us.

Beyond the activities, the summer heat has a way of bringing people together. It encourages us to gather on porches, patios, and in backyards, engaging in conversations and creating lasting memories with family, friends, and neighbors. The heat becomes a catalyst for barbecues, picnics, and outdoor events, where laughter and shared experiences form bonds that make our communities stronger.

Let's also not forget the culinary delights that summer brings. From juicy watermelons and ripe peaches to refreshing ice cream treats, the abundance of seasonal produce and cool delights offers a respite from the heat and a chance to savor the flavors of the season. East Texas heat adds a touch of sweetness to our lives in more ways than one.

Finally, the warmth of summer brings a sense of rejuvenation. Sun-kissed days and longer evenings allow us to slow down, unwind, and recharge our spirits. We have the opportunity to take a break from our hectic schedules, indulge in leisurely activities, and relish moments of tranquility. The East Texas heat reminds us to appreciate the simple joys of life and to find solace in the warmth that surrounds us.

So, as the temperatures rise, let's choose to embrace the East Texas heat with open arms. Let's see it as an invitation to explore, connect, indulge, and find moments of respite and joy. This summer, let us celebrate the unique experience that only our region can offer and let the East Texas heat be a reminder of the vibrant spirit that resides within us all.

Wishing you a summer filled with warmth, happiness, and memorable moments.

~ Debbie Dickerson
East Texan editor

On The Cover



*Mary Ann Hadrosaur. Photo by Mollie LaSalle.
See full story on page 7.*

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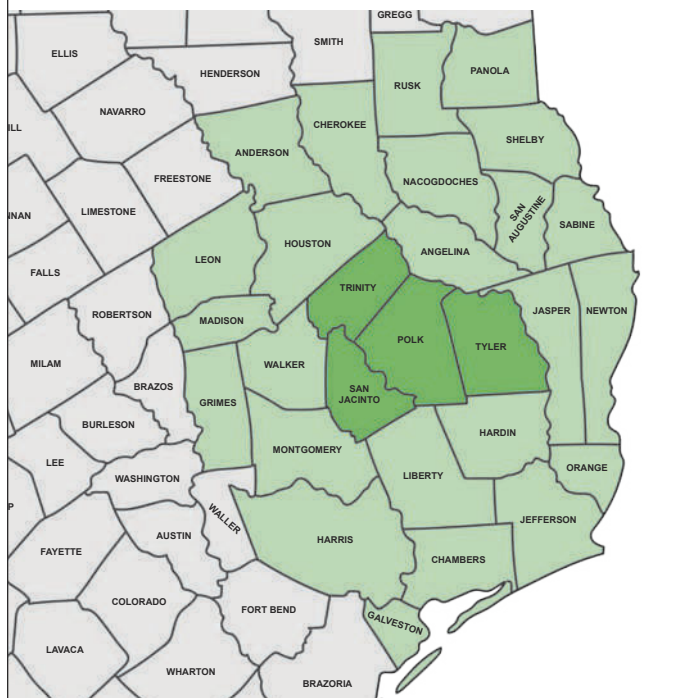


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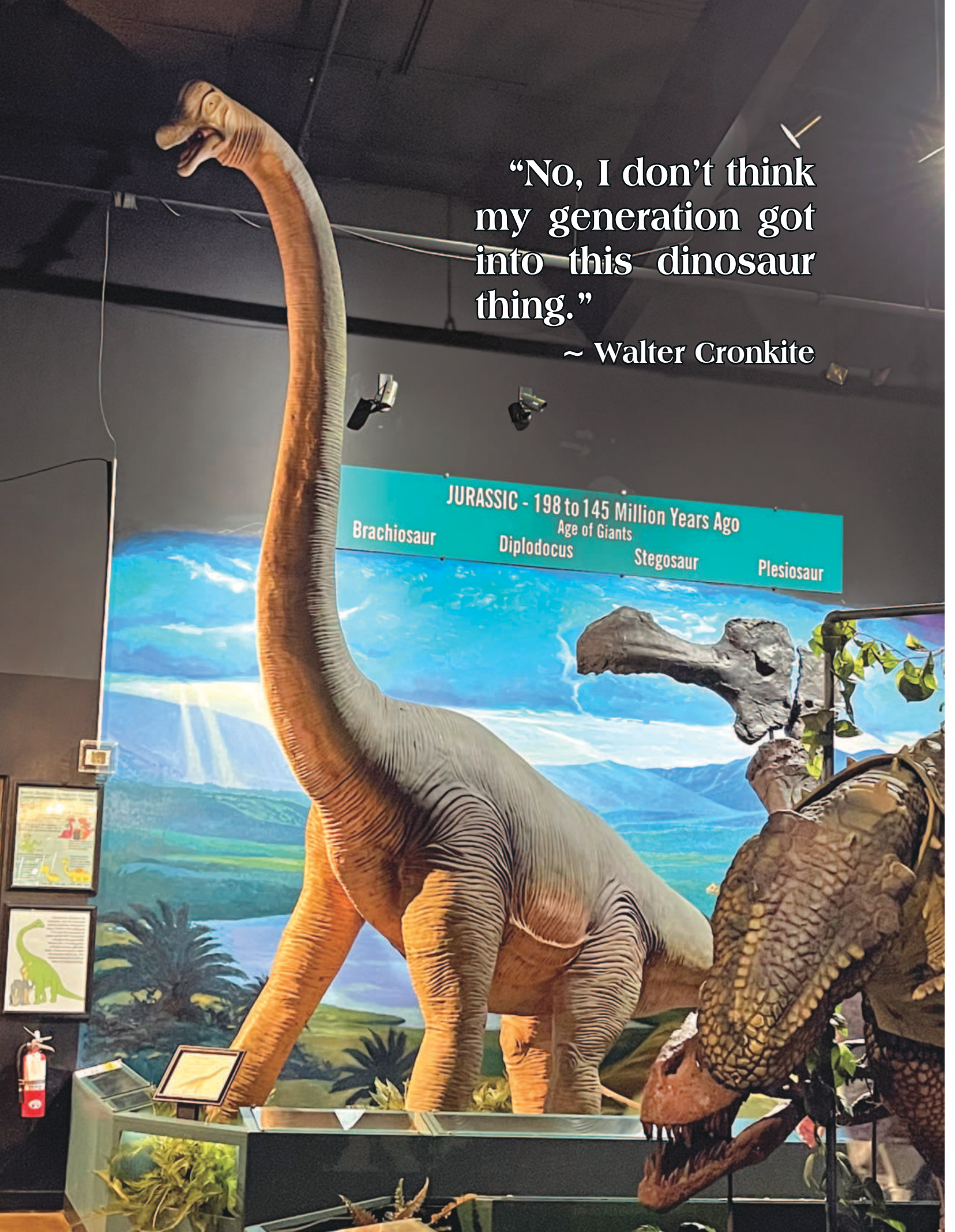
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had pineywoods roots

“No, I don’t think
my generation got
into this dinosaur
thing.”

~ Walter Cronkite



65 Million Years in the Making...

By Mollie LaSalle

I had the opportunity to visit a dinosaur museum and I didn't have to travel to Houston or Dallas to do it. The Naranjo Museum of Natural History is conveniently located in Lufkin, Texas, and offers visitors an afternoon of awe-inspiring and jaw-dropping exhibits around every corner.

This hidden gem in the deep east Texas piney woods was opened in 2012 by Dr. Neal Naranjo, who has been collecting artifacts since he was a young boy; he literally stepped on a 12,000-year-old arrowhead when he was a young boy at Dam B near Woodville.

The Naranjo Museum is the result of a lifetime of collecting by Dr. Naranjo. What started with stepping on an arrowhead evolved into trips all over the globe. The discovery of a 90% completely fossilized hadrosaur (also known as the duck-billed dinosaur) skeleton during a dig in Montana in 2008 was the "thrill of a lifetime" for Dr. Naranjo. The skeleton was found fully articulated and lived over 68 million years ago. Dr. Naranjo named the skeleton "Mary Ann" in honor of his wife, and it is

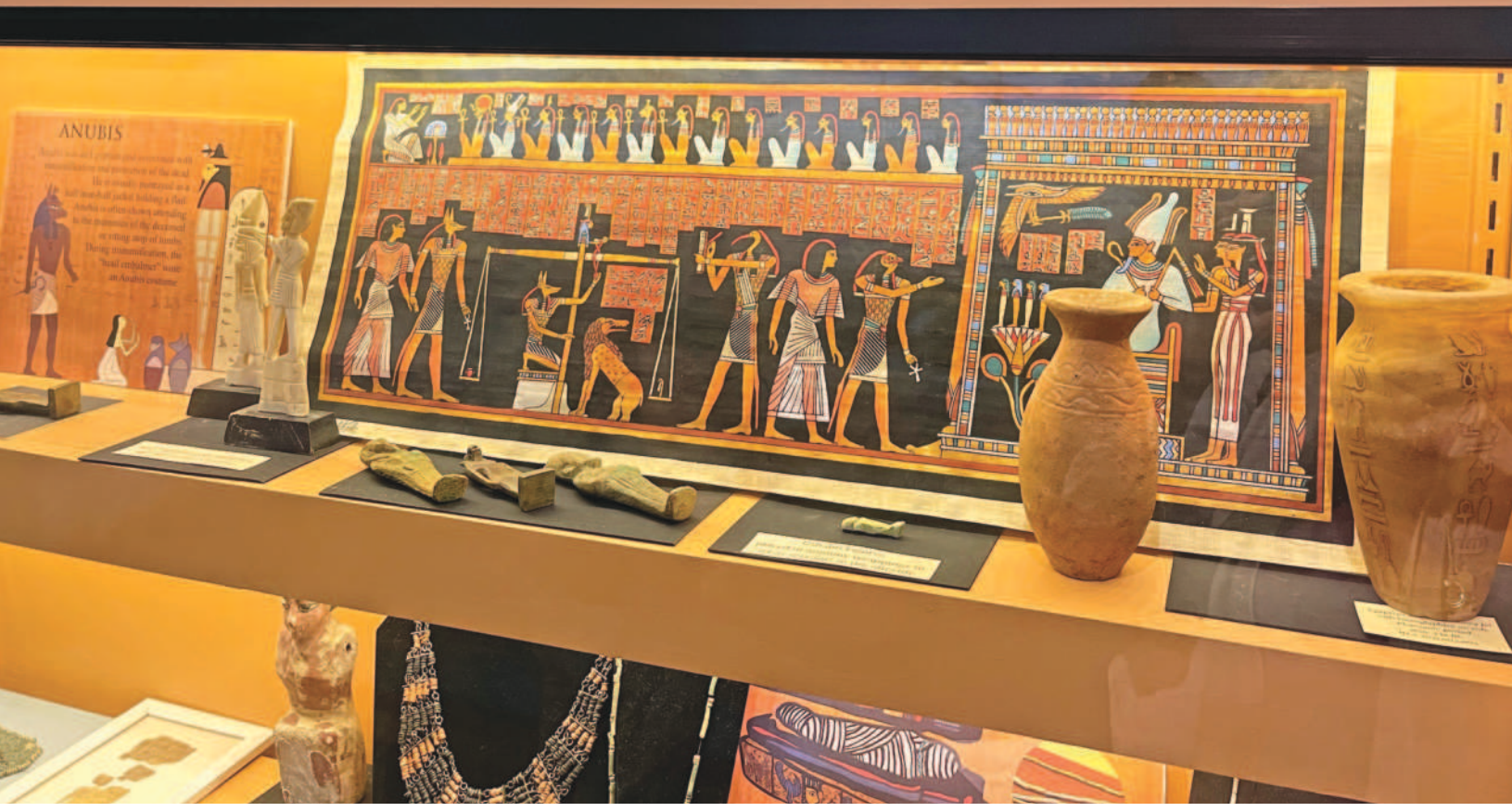
the star attraction at the museum. She is 90% complete and is thought to be one of the most complete specimens found to date.

The museum was established by the Naranjo Foundation for the purpose of maintaining and promoting a museum of the highest excellence. Educating children and adults about the world's history is its highest priority. More than 56 exhibits are available to explore; many are interactive.

Dr. Naranjo is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. In 1979, got his Ph.D. in neuropsychology from the University of Southern California. He went on to complete a post-doctorate fellowship and teach at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Naranjo and his wife Mary Ann are the owners of A Pineywoods Home Health Care, Inc. based out of Lufkin.

When Dr. Naranjo was a young boy, he enjoyed looking for arrowheads in the forests of East Texas; he has carried that passion with him throughout his life. He has spent decades collecting fossils, artifacts, and minerals. His fierce determination to share his discoveries has come to fruition





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with the opening of the museum.

The Naranjo Museum of Natural History performs the following functions: research and acquisition of specimens for the permanent collection; preservation of artifacts, fossils, and items of cultural and scientific importance in the museum's collections; maintaining records in regard to identification, location, and historical value; assuring the museum collections' security and protection from deterioration and damage; utilizing the best practices as defined by the Alliance of American Museums so as to guarantee the authenticity of each specimen on display; and informing the public on objects in each collection, visiting exhibits, and programs via relationships with schools, release of information to the media, and open events for the public.

The mission statement of the Naranjo Museum of Natural History is to provide access to natural history artifacts and exhibits about ancient cultures, the natural world, and universe.

Among the more interesting exhibits are five unhatched dinosaur eggs believed to be more than 68 million years old. NASA "temporarily" loaned the museum a moon rock from the Apollo 14 mission; the rock is now a permanent, (and very popular) exhibit. Keeping with the NASA theme, there is a corner devoted to the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, and a mock-up scale model shuttle. The star of the museum, "Mary Ann" is 26 feet tall, and she is one of the first to greet you.

The museum takes each visitor through the different layers from the Precambrian to the Cenozoic eras. With handmade and real fossils intermingled, Dr. Naranjo has done his homework. More excitement awaits as you enter the Permian age, where models of dinosaurs from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods are displayed.

Interspersed among the dinosaur skeletons are other interesting exhibits. There are artifacts from the Bronze and Pottery ages, and artifacts from the Renaissance era, Roman, Greek, Israeli, American Indian, and American cultures. There

(top left) The exhibit of Egyptian artifacts includes intricate statues, pottery and even a sarcophagus. (bottom left and right) These exhibits display an impressive collection of prehistoric creatures including Dunkleosteus from the sea, Velociraptors that roamed the land and Pterodactyls that ruled the sky.

Photos by Mollie LaSalle and Chris Edwards





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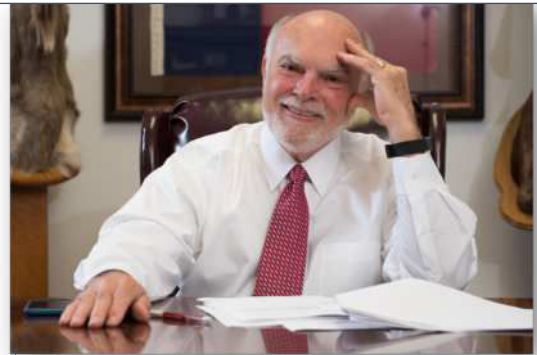
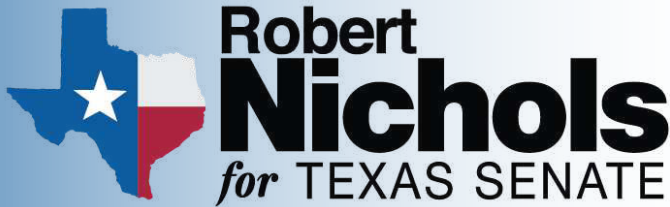
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is a unique "Gem Room" as well; do not leave without visiting this vaulted room. Make time to stop by the gift shop on your way out and grab a memento (or two) of your visit.

Just when you think you have seen everything, an Egyptian sarcophagus is displayed, and it is magnificent. There is so much to see and do, and you begin to wonder if you have enough time to take it all in. From fossils in the earth's crust to rocks on the moon, this is where science comes to life. ■

The Naranjo Museum of Natural History is located at 5104 S. 1st Street in Lufkin, Texas. The museum has a separate meeting room that is available for rent. Admission prices are: children 3 and under are free, children ages 4-18, \$5.00, and adults, \$7.50. The museum is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. The phone number is 936-639-3466. The museum also has a Facebook page.



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APOLLO 14 MOON ROCK

LARGEST MOON ROCK ON DISPLAY

The Apollo 14 Moon Rock has been on display at the Naranjo Museum of Natural History since 2014. The Moon Rock is on permanent loan from NASA and is one of their largest lunar samples on display.

APOLLO 14 MISSION

The Apollo 14 Mission was the eighth manned mission to the moon and the third to land. The Apollo 14 Mission launched on January 31st, 1971.

THE CREW

Alan B. Shepard, Jr.

Alan Shepard was the first American in space aboard the Mercury-Redstone rocket in 1961. Shepard served as commander of the Apollo 14 mission and became the 5th man to walk on the moon. Alan Shepard is also known for being the first and only man to play golf on the Moon.



L. R. Edgar Mitchell, Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa

Edgar D. Mitchell

"Ed" Mitchell served as the Lunar Module pilot for the Apollo 14 Mission. Prior to this mission, Mitchell was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Nixon for his work during the Apollo 13 crisis as a member of the Mission Operations Team.

Stuart A. Roosa

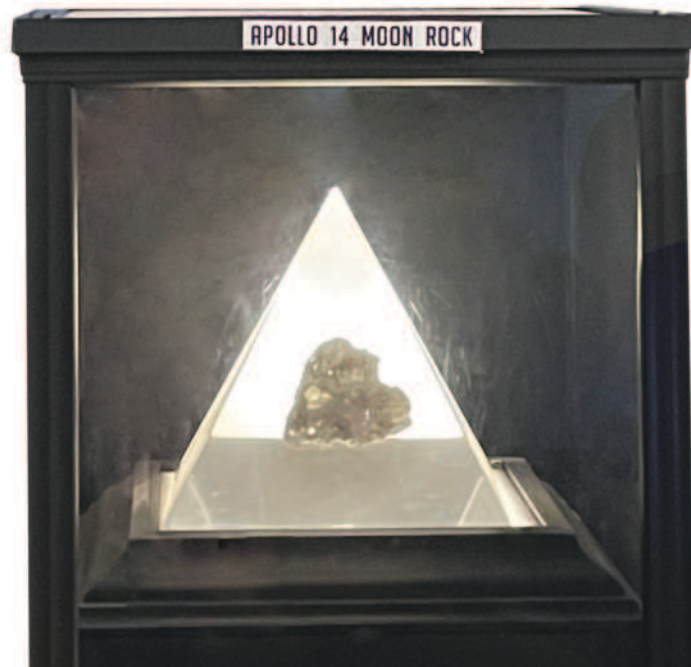
During the Apollo 14 Mission, Stuart Roosa spent 33 hours in solo orbit around the Moon conducting extensive experiments. As part of a joint project of the U.S. Forest Service and NASA, he carried with him several tree seeds that were later planted throughout the United States. These trees are known as "Moon Trees".

THE MOON ROCK

Commander Shepard and Pilot Mitchell collected the lunar samples during their third exploration of the Lunar Surface on February 6th, 1971. The rocks that were collected were called "Breccias" which means rocks that are made up of fragments of other, older rocks.

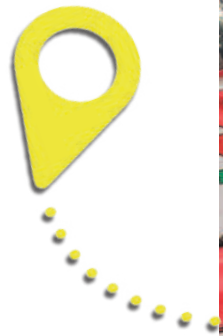
In addition to the space exploration exhibit featuring a replica of the Columbia shuttle, the largest moon rock is currently displayed on loan from NASA.

Photos by Mollie LaSalle and Chris Edwards



Canton's First Monday

Trade Days *Not!*



First Monday is not a thing anymore, but Canton's First Monday Trade Days is Thursday through Sunday, just prior to the first Monday of every month, with a tradition running deep and strong.

By Kelli Barnes

A marketing firm might suggest a name change, but Canton's First Monday Trade Days is sticking with the original, even if they are not open on a Monday.

According to its recorded history, a circuit judge came to town in the 1850s on the first Monday of every month to conduct court. People from around the area started coming on this day too, taking care of business, stocking up on supplies, bartering, and selling their wares. In 1965, the city of Canton purchased six acres near the courthouse and moved its beloved flea market that had outgrown the town square.

Eventually, due to the changing times in America, Monday was dropped from the schedule and is used only to identify which long weekend they are open once a month. Today, the bargains can be found Thursday - Sunday, just prior to the First Monday.

Canton now boasts the largest and longest-running flea market in the world, with deeply committed vendors and shoppers. Weeks and Brenda Crawford have been selling in Canton since they retired in 2015. Weeks was a manufacturing and portable buildings business owner in Shelby County, also known for inventing the Port-A-Cool. His wife taught school in Tenaha.

"We love it," said Brenda. "We bought an old school bus (our second) from the Athens school district and turned it into a dual-purpose RV and storage for our vendor booth in Canton."

The couple gets a lot of attention for a few good reasons. First, the school bus with the name "Shelby Trading Company" proudly identifies their business/vendor booth spaces and is hard to miss. It's a conversation starter. Second, they are located

near the front of one of the main entrances. And finally, they are friendly, talkative and offer good things for sale – from well-chosen flea market finds to handcrafted wood furniture made by Weeks.

"We recently sold a bench that is displayed in an ice cream shop in Onalaska," Weeks said. "People from all over come here to shop."

One of the most interesting things about the Crawfords is their retirement schedule.

"We spend one week at our bus-turned-RV at the beach, one week at our bus-turned-RV and vendor shop in Canton, and two weeks at our ranch home in Shelby County," said Weeks.

The Canton bus stays parked in a nearby storage unit until the big weekend each month, when the couple drives it over to their booth, parks, unloads, lives AND works there for the weekend.

Tips:

Everyone uses cash at the flea market, which is a surprise for some newcomers.

"I was glad to see an ATM when I arrived," said new shopper Amy.

A lot of people rent or bring their own scooters to get around the massive market. It is a "scooter-friendly" environment if walking long distances is a problem for you, or you just like to zoom around.

Many shoppers pull wagons and buggies to hold their purchases.

Food choices are in abundance and if you look around to see where the vendors are eating, you can bet on getting great food at those locations, so no need to plan on leaving the market once you have arrived.

"We had the best street corn, street tacos, and tamales," said Amy.







In addition to authentic Mexican food options, smoked turkey legs, and exceptional grilled burgers, they also have several traditional concession stand options from which to choose.

Close to the entrances, you can park for \$10 a day, and there are also \$5 parking areas available.

Shuttle buses run throughout the weekend to take guests to and from their cars.

The weekend is open rain or shine, with multiple covered areas and buildings in addition to the outdoor spaces.

Thursdays are the least busy days if you want to avoid crowds. See you in Canton! ■



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Growing Sponges



By Janice R. Edwards

How many of you have ever grown your own bath sponge? The sponge - a luffa (also spelled loofah) gourd - is a welcome addition to any sunny garden with lots of room for vines to travel. It's an unusual plant for most of us, but grown to maturity, they produce dishrag, and/or facial sponges like you buy at beauty supplies or the pharmacy.

I know what you're thinking - I'm crazy. Those sponges come from marine animals, not gourd plants. Even the luffa sponge packaging usually depicts a beach scene with shells on them. But luffa gourds really do make the sponges in those packages. Really. I've grown luffas a couple of times before. Once, I had someone steal them just as they were maturing. I didn't even have one seed to start over. Those thieves knew what the luffas were. Still, I am surprised how many people do not know anything about them- even those who use them.

Last year, I hadn't even thought about growing luffas again, until my February visit with friend, Kristin, in Jasper. We were talking gardens, when she told me a friend of hers from Lumberton gave her a handful of luffa seeds. I asked for a couple of seeds, but Kristin is generous - she gave me a handful.

I didn't need all those seeds because you only need one or two plants to get the sponges you desire. If you don't have a generous friend, the seeds can be ordered online - anywhere between \$2 and \$9.75.

The luffa is a slow-growing vine but can make up to 30-foot tendrils. Each plant will produce anywhere from six to 20 gourds depending on the growing season. If you have a good sunny spot with rich organic soil, you should get on the higher end of the number of gourds.

Luffas are in the same family (Cucurbitaceae or gourd family) along with their distant cousins, squashes, watermelons, cucumbers, melons and hard-shelled gourds. The seeds from the dried luffas are edible - like pumpkin seeds. If you get enough to eat, remember to save some seeds for next year's garden. In fact, some people also eat the flower buds, flowers and young fruit in salads. While I've never done that, I think I will give it a try this year. Since the luffa won't produce mature fruit past the first frost, I'll wait until it's late in the season to try eating them. Supposedly, they taste like summer squash. We'll see.

Luffas produce a beautiful yellow flower that attracts all pollinators. In the past, I have had hummingbirds, honeybees, bumble bees, ants, and butterflies come to the blooms on my vines. Luffas take both a male and female flower to produce a gourd - and both kinds of flowers will grow on the same vine. The female will have a small gourd at its base while the male flower is attached to the vine only.

Luffas like full sun and well-drained, moist soil with lots of compost and produce a vigorous vine that needs lots of room to run. That's why I have mine planted on my backyard fence - they can run all around the top if they like. They take a long



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season to ripen (150 – 200 warm days). For that reason, leave the very first fruits that appear on the vine to mature into sponges.

Luffas are mature and ready to pick when the green skin turns dark yellow or brown and starts to separate from the fiber inside. It also feels much lighter when you pick them up. You'll want to leave the gourd on the vine as long as you can to get the maximum sponge fiber. Try not to leave it on the vine until the frost – but if you leave it long enough to be hit by frost, pick and process it immediately.

Now, once you have your mature sponges, peel off the tough outer skin – if it's already cracked, just pull it off in pieces. If the skin is intact, gently roll and squash the fruit until cracks appear and extend the cracks by pulling the torn edges of the skin with your thumbs. If the skin is really dry, you can soak the fruit in water for a minute or two to make it easier to dislodge.

Then, get a bowl, pull off an end, and pour the seeds into the bowl and set them aside so you will have some to share next year. Then, wash the sap out of the fiber of the sponge with a strong jet of water or a bucket with a little dishwashing soap in it. Then, dry your sponges in the sun, turning until they are completely dry. Store them in a fabric bag (an old pillowslip) to keep them from getting dusty and they will keep for years.

That's kind of the Reader's Digest version of growing luffas. I am excited that mine are growing. I planted some of the seeds Kristin gave me, and they are starting to take over the back yard. But the neat thing about growing these gourds – not only are they interesting to watch grow, and the sponges can be used in your home or hobbies, but they produce enough seeds to be able to share next year. ■



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TWO-BOARD BENCH

By Debbie Dickerson

Need outdoor seating in a hurry? This simple bench can be constructed in a couple of hours. All it takes is two boards.

Required Tools:

Circular saw
Cordless screw driver
Speed square

Materials:

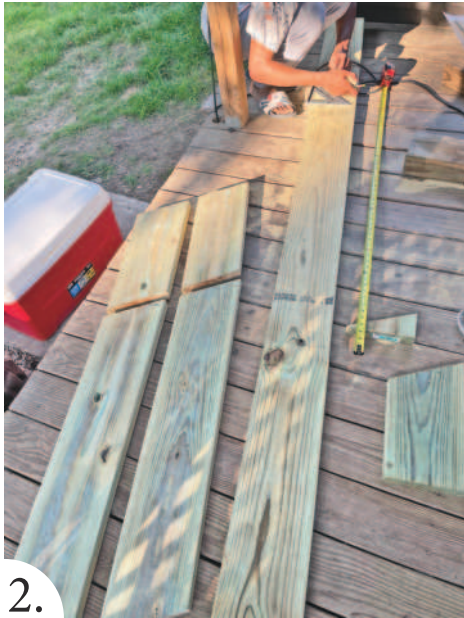
2½ inch deck screws
1 2x8x8 board, treated
1 2x8x10 board, treated
Wood glue
Exterior finish/stain

Cutting list:

Rear legs - 2x8x17¼ in. (22½ degree cuts)
Front legs - 2x8x36 in. (22½ degree cuts)
Seat - 2x8x42 in.
Seat back - 2x8x45 in.

Cut the legs from a 2x8x10 ft. piece of rot-resistant wood. Cut the seat and backrest from a 2x8x8 ft. board. Join the legs with three 2½ in. deck screws and construction adhesive. Set the sides up parallel to each other and glue and screw the seat and back into place. Finish the bench with a coat of exterior oil or stain. ■





Life & Legacy

By Brian Besch

It was a little past midnight and a little past my deadline as I leafed through Dorothy Steele's autobiography. The dilemma was how to tell the story.

We met for the first time earlier in the day, but I wanted to see what she didn't have time to tell in our 45-minute visit.

The story reads like a history book, but inserts Dorothy's experiences and surroundings into significant events in American history.

Dorothy's name was mentioned to me the first time a few months before, when talking with a friend in a press box waiting for an athletic event to begin.

He assured me that an article was warranted, but if I didn't have time to see her, something could be arranged for later.

"She's not going anywhere," he said. I knew what he meant, but there's irony in that Dorothy is always going somewhere.

We took the morning drive together past a few rodeo barrels and horses to her Livingston home.

She answered the door with a big smile and couldn't wait for us to come in.

High schoolers ask her for fashion advice, and on this day, she looked to be dressed for something more important than our gathering. A few stairs in the home were navigated in high heels, leading us to the living room where we could talk.

If you have already peeked at the photo, it's easy to see that Dorothy is in great shape for someone who is 83 years old. Only, that was 20 years ago. Dorothy turned 103 in late January.

With a look of disappointment, she admitted the treadmill isn't used every day like it was a year ago.

"My balance is not what it used to be," she says with

disappointment in her voice.

Just a decade before, she was featured in the Polk County Enterprise at the age of 92 for an exercise article instructing retirees on methods for maintaining health as they age.

Her family settled in Missouri in the 1800s, making Parkville her first home. Dorothy jokes how she is not quite old enough to have been around before that turn of the century.

"My kids used to say, 'Mom, did you come over on the Mayflower?'"

Her first time voting was for Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

"Roosevelt's birthday was on Jan. 30 like mine. At one time, he wrote me a letter when I was 12 years old. I've lost the letter. I think I wrote to him first to let him know that we had the same birthday.

"It was a foolish reason," she says giggling of her choice, "just voting for him because we had the same birthday."

Dorothy was nine when the stock market crashed to trigger the Great Depression.

"Because of my age and my parents taking care of me — my parents were never divorced — to me, it wasn't that earthshaking. You know I'm 103, right?" she reminded me. "I am the only one left in my family. I do have a niece that is 85."

She does turn a little more serious when speaking of World War II. Her husband, Dick, was an expert marksman and the two knew it was just a matter of time until he was off to battle. Weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, he reported for induction.

"Now, that was really hard. I didn't see him for two and a half years. He went to Canada and was up there for six months. He came home and they sent him out again after six months. I went to Camp Claiborne (in Louisiana) where he was and drove down there by myself. My parents and my family were

not very happy (of her making the trip alone). Of course, gas was rationed. I was 22 or 23. I promised them I wouldn't drive after dark.

"I got to this town in Arkansas and the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day at 5 p.m. I thought that I could get on down the road. I didn't get outside that town until it started pouring down raining. It was as dark as the ace of spades; it was really bad. In those days, Arkansas was really backward. I am driving along and I look, and there is somebody following me.

"I was so scared. I thought, 'What shall I do?' Every time I speed up, they speed up. Every time I slow down, they slow down. I thought they were probably men. Finally, I thought the next place I see to turn off, I'm going to turn off and see what they are up to. I pulled into this place on the left-hand side of the road. There were two men in it, of course. They said, 'We hope you don't mind, but we don't have any lights and we are following you.' They were using my lights."

Dick was part of the European theater after leaving the second time.

"He was in the engineers. He was in the 330th and he was transferred to the 359th, so he fought clear through the battle. He went into France first and hit Omaha Beach on June 6 (D-Day). That was really a sad time for me. I came back home and he didn't want me to work. I stayed with my parents some and I stayed with his parents some. I was pretty useless," she laughs, "but that is what he wanted me to do."

The couple moved to Livingston in 1988 from Houston without knowing anyone in the area. There was a desire for driving distance to family in Houston without living in a metropolitan area.

Until recently, Dorothy regularly traveled to the Polk County Jail each week to speak with women who were incarcerated.

"I had to give it up because I couldn't hear. I did it for 20 years. I have hearing aids now, but someone else had stepped into my place and she is still doing it. We had some women go in and they had church. We were trained counselors from Therapon. It is a healing of the mind. We would counsel them in salvation and tried to grow them up in the Lord. A lot of them are shy and some of them are embarrassed and would put their head down or put their hand over their face and I couldn't hear them at all. I felt really bad about having to ask them to repeat it. I didn't think it was fair to the women, and that is why I got out of it."



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Dorothy Marie Brown Steele

MY LIFE & LEGACY
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During that time period, she bought hundreds of Bibles and had them delivered to the local church. They would end as gifts to the women she counseled.

“I like to do whatever the Lord leads me to do. Sometimes I’m not able to go to church, because I have a driver’s license, but,” she leans in and whispers, “my family won’t let me drive. Here is how they did it — they have my calendar, so every time I would start to go somewhere, they would show up and say, ‘We are going to take you to so-and-so.’ It is my granddaughter and grandson — they’ll find somebody.”

There is still time to get behind the wheel. Her license is valid until she turns 105.

When asked the obvious, Dorothy was ready with a few different answers. There’s little doubt she’s been questioned on longevity more than once.

“A day without chocolate is a day without sunshine,” she said laughing. “Actually, it is Jesus Christ. The days of my birth were set and the day of my death is set and only He will change that.”

Exercise has always been part of Dorothy’s life. As a youth, she was a basketball star and captain of her team, also taking part in acrobatics.

When she turned 100, her insurance company would no longer foot the bill for a gym membership. However, the local gym comped her workouts after hearing the unfortunate news. The next day, a picture was passed amongst friends of Dorothy back on the treadmill. Three times a week she could be found burning calories.

The autobiography is titled “My Life and Legacy” but it is also a story of survival. While that is easy to say for someone who is 103, her endurance before electricity and indoor plumbing, through scarlet fever, mumps, Malta fever, dust storms, the Great Depression and World War II make for an entertaining read.

“Other people made me do it,” she says quietly. “I’m not a writer. People kept asking me and asking me, even strangers. I did belong to a writer’s club, and even those people kept telling me.”

There are plans for a book signing that should occur in November at Home Grown in Livingston, just off of Highway 59. Dorothy will no doubt be there, still wearing high heels. ■



STORIES OF TEXAS

By Jan White

When you think of East Texas, you picture acres of pine forests, historic towns and sites, great fishing lakes, and the abundance of trade days or vintage stores full of hidden treasures for hunters of antiquities from across the state to discover.

But one antique shop sets itself apart from the others. It's in a little building on the corner of Goliad and Fifth Street in Crockett. At first glance, it might be mistaken for a museum, an eclectic art gallery, or even a library. And truth be told, it is all of those things. But it's also so much more. Stories of Texas is exactly what the name implies – a collection of antiques, artifacts, and all things “Texas.”

Owners Wade and Gail Thomas have created an environment that quickly immerses visitors in the rich history of the Lone Star State. From the moment you enter the front door, you are surrounded by Texas history – from books to artwork to hand-carved representations of Texas wildlife, antique photographs, handmade jewelry, and locally built furniture. Every inch of the store is filled with collectibles that represent an homage to Texas.

Wade sells pocketknives from the Moore Maker Knife Company, Texas' premier manufacturer of Western knives, jewelry from a crafter near the Gulf of Mexico, and hand-carved birds created by local music legend Pipp Gillette, owner of the famous music venue -Camp Street Café and Store. His aim is to find artisans from across the state and showcase them at Stories of Texas.

On any given Friday or Saturday, you'll find Wade manning the 'cash register' (i.e. his desk) at Stories of Texas. Thomas is an affable salesman, quick to engage the customer in a

conversation about the Lone Star state and all the treasures his store offers. He credits his years as a landman for the petroleum industry for his gift of gab. “I'm a big talker,” Wade said. “So when we decided to open the store, it was Gail's idea to call it Stories of Texas. ‘You're the one who is going to be there,’ she told me. ‘You need to call it Stories of Texas because it's more than just selling antiques. Everything has a story.’”

And Gail was right. The stories come not only from Wade, who is a veritable encyclopedia of information and can give you a little history lesson on all the merchandise sold there, but also from the guests who visit the store. In the entryway, Wade has a map of Texas and a box of pushpins. He asks visitors to pinpoint where they live in the Lone Star State or where their ancestors landed when they came over from Europe. “Maybe I'm the one who tells them a story, or maybe they tell me a story about their experience.” Either way, Wade's goal is sharing the beauty, culture, spirit, and the stories of Texas.

Wade says the couple's interest in antiques began “the day after Gail and I got married. Our whole married life we have been involved in the antique business in some way.” Wade and Gail, along with several other couples, were the original owners of Bluebonnet Square Antiques in Huntsville. “I was a sports memorabilia dealer at the time,” said Wade. “My main interests were baseball cards, lead soldiers, and marbles – mostly ‘guy’ stuff.” When he and Gail came up with the concept of Stories of Texas, Wade wanted to make the store friendly for all shoppers, both male and female, because many times, antique stores cater to the female population, offering furniture, vintage housewares, knick-knacks and tchotchkes. “If I'm gonna be the one that mans the checkout stand,” said Wade, “it's going to be a more masculine shop.”

Stories of Texas is just that. The building is divided into

(top) Owner Wade Thomas at his desk, surrounded by some of his favorite Texas memorabilia.

(bottom left) Entrance to Stories of Texas. Photo by Jan White

(bottom middle) “Beautiful Texas” written by W. Lee O'Daniel – 1933 Sheet Music cover.

Photo by Wade Thomas

(bottom right) Baseball bats made by Lone Star Bat Company of Crockett. Photo by Jan White





themed rooms. The first room is home to Wade's famous marble collection, some enamel signs, the Moore Maker pocket knives, and assorted bottles and containers from defunct pharmacies. The next room is dedicated to Texas literature, the adjacent room is devoted to the history of cowboys, and another room contains Gail's windchimes, wall hangings, and other more feminine items.

One of Wade's unique collections is a handful of baseball bats made by a local business that operated around the 1940s - Lone Star Bat Company. The most famous bats produced by Lone Star Bat Company were the Lou Gehrig and the Ralph Kiner models. Although Gehrig is probably the more well-known of the two players, Kiner was considered the greatest home run-hitter of the World War II era. "There's no story circulating that Gehrig or Kiner used one of the bats," said Wade. "Best I can tell is that they might have been used as high up as the low minor leagues. But so much of the history has been forgotten." Wade also speculated that due to all the army camps in Texas during World War II, the bats might have been sold to the military for the soldiers to use during their off time. He was also told that the bat company was popular with the young boys in the area because the workers would chuck them out the door if any of the bats were split or chipped or the brand wasn't placed correctly. The kids would ride by on their bicycles and collect them to use during their backyard baseball games.

Once you've explored all the amazing treasures in Stories of Texas, you can't leave without asking Wade to crank up what could easily be the highlight of your visit - the antique jukebox. Wade proudly tells the story of how he came to own the jukebox. It took him several years of searching to find one that didn't have to be shipped across the country, but he eventually located one that started its life in California in 1963 but wound up in Spring, Texas. The jukebox weighs four-hundred pounds unloaded and holds eighty records and is unique in that it plays not only 45s but 33 1/3, 7-inch records. Wade has about 800 records in his personal collection, and he changes out a few of the records every Saturday. "If I hear a song and like it, I buy it," Wade said. One of his most prized records is a copy of Jr. Brown's Highway Patrol, which is one of three copies currently in existence.

Now that school is out and summer adventures await, why not plan a trip to visit Stories of Texas. As Wade says, "Come by and immerse yourself in captivating landscapes, diverse wildlife, awe-inspiring architecture, and the fascinating tales of the people of Texas." You won't be disappointed. ■

*(top) Texas-made items greet you as you enter Stories of Texas.
(bottom left) Wade Thomas explains how the juke box works
(bottom right) display of the hand-carved birds created by Pipp Gillette.
Photos by Jan White*

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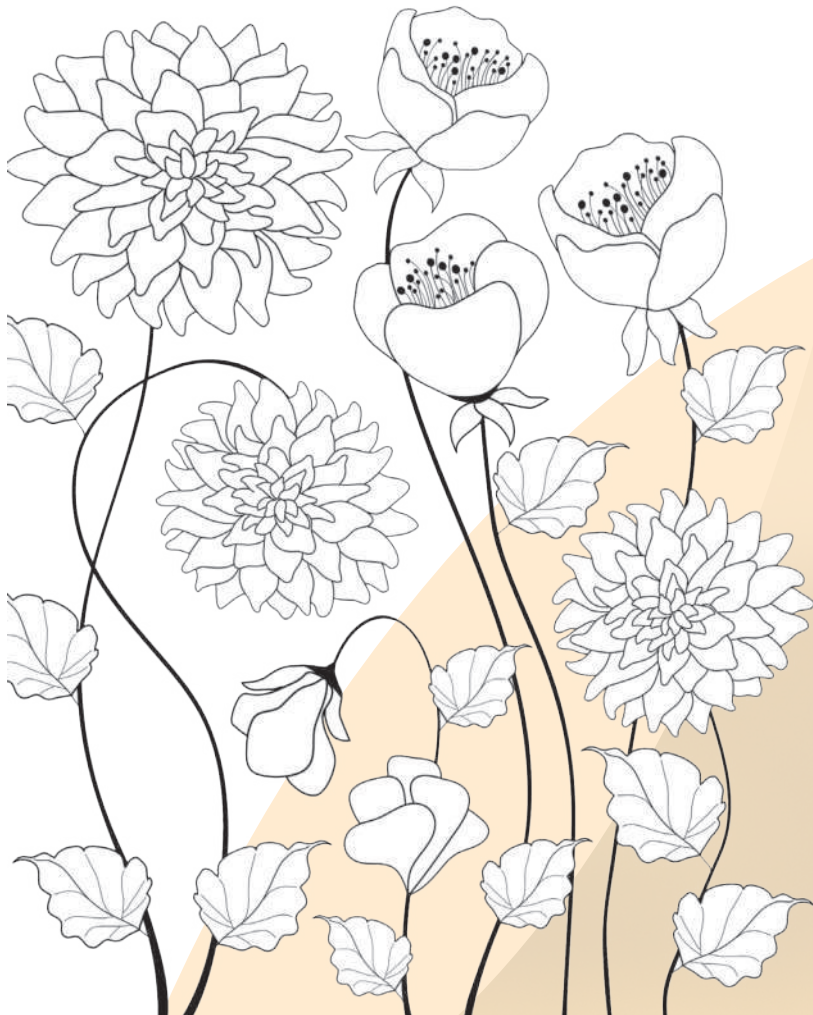
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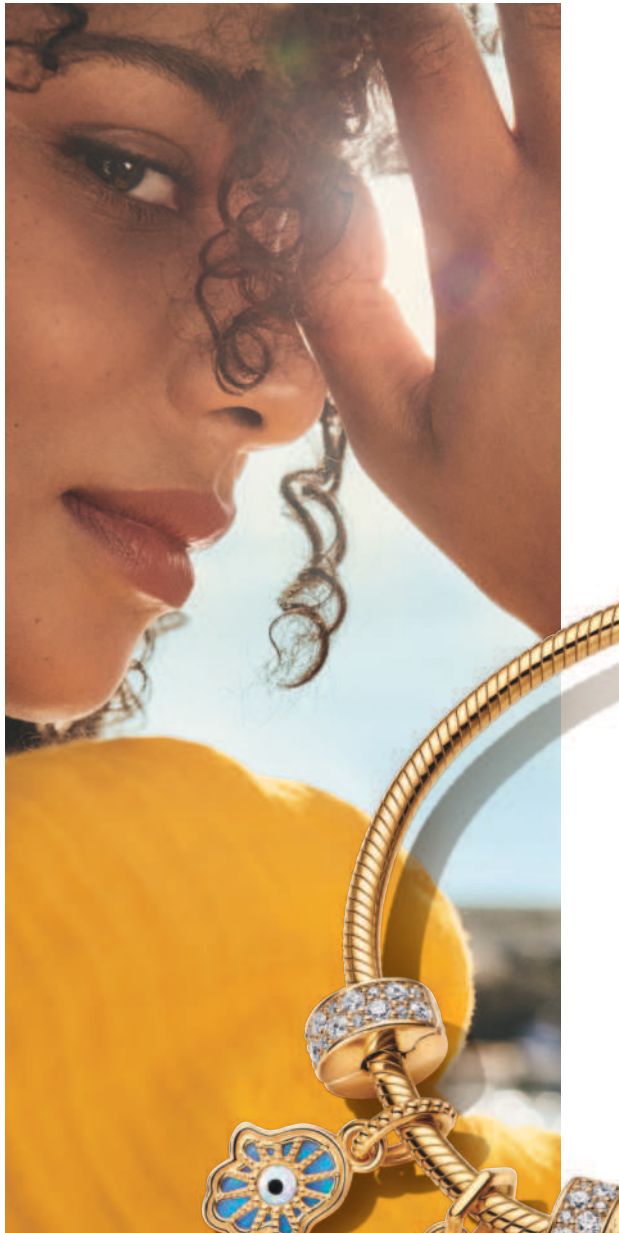


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LOCAL BUSINESSMAN MAKING A MARK DOWNTOWN

while embracing past, present and future

By Emily Banks Wooten

“Livingston is going to continue to grow and while we must restore and keep our small-town heritage, embracing the future with open arms has to be a focal point as well. I love our community. My family on both sides have been involved as early as the 1900s as well. This is our home – for now and forever,” Tracey Kincade said.

With roughly 30 years under his belt as a Houston firefighter and numerous other business ventures, Tracey is a hometown boy who has been successful and has traveled far and wide but has never forgotten his roots.

Tracey knows and understands the value of community and over the past few years has purchased two local businesses – Courthouse Whistle Stop Cafe and Billy’s Donuts – rehabilitating them and breathing new life into them.

Having owned a playground business, Kincade Recreation, for many years, he and the late city manager, Marilyn Sutton, wanted Livingston to have the first upgraded inclusive playground in the area. So, they made it happen.

“We have since added on to it again at Matthews Street Park with a synthetic turf and a sensory maze since all children may not have physical disabilities,” Tracey said.

His playground business allows him to travel throughout Texas and all over the state of Louisiana and spend a lot of time in small towns, villages and cities helping them to achieve quality playgrounds in their communities.

“In today’s times, the small cafes which I consider the nucleus of the community are going by the wayside so that is why we say, ‘We are your cafe,’ since we are the only one. I would see old gentlemen at chain restaurants eating and having their morning coffee, but it was just not the same as having a local cafe,” Tracey said.

“Mr. Eddie (Eddie Martin, the previous owner of Courthouse Whistle Stop Cafe) asked if we could ride around one day and go through his visions for Livingston and asked if I was interested in sharing and carrying the torch for future generations. In a small-town way, we shook hands. I wanted to make sure our community has a cafe to share our history and locals can solve the world’s problems each morning.

“I remember going there as a boy with my dad, along with many other businessmen in our community every day to play the high low game to see who would pay for breakfast, so I was going to make sure this continued through my lifetime, so we purchased the cafe and did some upgrades with the history on the walls and the future of our downtown right out the front door. I want to make sure this is a destination cafe for others to

see where we started and where we are headed. I wanted to add a wall for our first responders and military since they are the reason we have our freedoms and safety. We are very fortunate to be able to share this with customers passing through, along with our future residents.”

He has achieved that. The wall dedicated to first responders and military personnel is a walk down memory lane for those who have always called Livingston home. Tracey also tweaked the cafe’s name a little, now calling it Alma’s Courthouse Whistle Stop Cafe.

“Alma (Myers) was my grandmother, my mom’s mom. She had a cafe in Goodrich and a lot of the older generation talked of her giving the Livingston football team a steak dinner if they won on Friday night home games since Goodrich didn’t have a football team.”

Becoming owner of a local donut shop happened just as organically for Tracey, as did becoming the cafe’s proprietor.

“I had talked to Chief Cochran (Livingston Fire Chief C.L. “Corky” Cochran) who owns the land (where the donut shop is located) and Billy (Kimberlin) owned the building and Shipleys. Chief likes the Czech Stop in West, Texas and we both call each other and get each other something when we pass it. He goes by there when he goes to all the Baylor games. Billy was getting older and wasn’t able to be at the shop like he used to. Chief told Billy that he would only allow one person – me – to have the location if and when he sold it.

“Billy and Mr. Shipley’s son were best friends and Billy opened many Shipley Donuts for Mr. Shipley. When Billy retired, Mr. Shipley gave him a franchise of choice and Billy chose Livingston to settle and raise his family. He had service, quality Shipley donuts and was very involved in the community. Me and Billy agreed on a price and shook hands again. But Shipley Donuts had been purchased by a corporation and would not allow Billy to sell the franchise. ‘When you close or pass, the Shipley franchise goes away also.’ So, we weren’t able to complete the deal. When Billy passed, the Shipley name was removed, and the place operated approximately five more years. It became too much for the family to maintain, so therefore, talks resumed in the summer of 2022.

“We were able to make a deal and then we started renovating the building and dressing up the location. This is not a franchise and I wanted to bring back the yeast-based donuts and kolaches. We have other donut shops but there is definitely a difference in product – all a matter of opinion and taste. I wanted to give back to our community and give our kids ownership in the town like we had growing up. We were able to let them paint paw prints on the driveway. We also knew we wanted to erect the digital sign to display local sports and

achievements along with birthdays, like the First National Bank did in the 80s. We would actually stop in the road and watch the names go across over and over. We have had so many people get involved with this project and it is achieving the response and ownership in our community I wanted.

“By not being a chain, we are able to participate in events and make donations that we only have to ask for my permission to be a part of. We have to monitor our donations since we are in business. But they are all considered for sure. I think we have a good quality product and have set the base by allowing our community to get involved like we did in our school days. Our generation grew up on Billy’s donuts and yeast-based kolaches. It will take a while for the younger generation to think of Alma’s like we all think of Billy’s. Again, we are very fortunate for our business and the backing of the community.

“We put bakery on our sign. We hope to expand to a bakery and have fruit-based kolaches as well. This is where we are headed. This is what Chief wanted it to be, like the store in West.”

Tracey also opened Main Street Merchandise/Venue over the last year.

“Through my travels in Louisiana, there is a merchandise store that Main Street Merchandise is modeled after. It’s Frederick Hardware in Natchitoches. The store is a mirror image. It was built in the late 1800s, whereas our cafe and merchandise store were built back after the fire in 1902. The building has the original skylights that are covered up now but will be exposed and brought back in the future. The original rope elevator is still in operation and used as a freight elevator at this time. We have taken the floors back to the original wood floors and they have turned out great.

“I didn’t, and do not, want just new mass-produced products from a corporation. I searched out and found folks that make the products like when we had the Folklife Festival. We have Annie that makes homemade knives and leather products, handcrafted custom wood oversized rockers and swings, custom barbecue pits that you may find similar but these are made by a young gentleman that does custom welding. We have Lem “Buck” Burch that sells his canned jellies and okra. We have

(top) This wall of shelves in Main Street Merchandise features an array of canned jellies, okra, honey, salsa and barbecue sauce, all locally made, along with other custom-made products for sale.

(middle) Local Businessman Tracey Kincade has contributed to the recent resurgence of downtown Livingston.

(right) This lady shows off a selection of hot, home-made kolaches fresh out of the oven at Alma’s Donut Shop and Bakery.

Courtesy photos





This is just a portion of the 10,000-square-foot space that is above Main Street Merchandise and Alma's Courthouse Whistle Stop Cafe that Tracey Kincade plans to transform into something exciting. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten

custom quilts, aprons, paintings. We have local made honey, salsa and barbecue sauce. These are all by mom-and-pop shops. We support our local farmers market in the spring and buy our vegetables from them as well. We support local every chance we can. It is all local vendors. We have office spaces available also in the same location. We have one of the only boutiques in town and another clothing store with ladies apparel. I am proud to say we are 90% handcrafted or handmade products, along with some antiques. We also have some nostalgic candy along with fresh fudge. Supporting local is our goal and I think we have achieved it.”

Tracey, along with his wife Kerri, also own K&K Cattle Company and K&K Cattle Company T-shirts are available for purchase in the store.

“I grew up showing and raising cows and horses. I wanted our children and grandchildren to have the same experience. I had cattle back in the 90s but with everyday life going on, I didn't have the time to spend with them and decided to sell and start over in later years. The Texas longhorn is the oldest breed and I have been fascinated with them and all the cattle drives since grade school. I decided it was time to start enjoying them along with my grandkids and wanted to let our community enjoy the beauty of our Texas heritage in the Longhorn breed.

“They are fun and are very relaxing to watch. They have the smallest birth weight of many breeds and are actually born with small button horns. They are very graceful and to watch them control every move of their very long horns is amazing to watch. We plan to show our future babies and have a very quality bloodline in production. We have been selling off the young bull calves and many like to have them as yard art. They can be some of the best lean beef you can ever eat and therefore, there is another market for their existence just like the old days as well. We try and breed as much color and muscle as we can. They are an amazing breed of cattle.

“The Yellowstone boom is showing some of the basic challenges of everyday ranches. I know it is Hollywood, but

some exposure is better than none. Lonesome Dove is also a great movie about the early days of cattle drives. I decided to try and market some of our cattle products and get a following on our social media page as well. Lee Jones takes some great pictures and displays his work, along with several pictures of our cows, that hang on the walls that enter the merchandise store and cafe.”

There is 10,000 square feet of unused space on the second floor that is calling out to be transformed into something exciting.

“We purchased the two-story building over a year ago. We have several great ideas, and one is a venue upstairs. Again, I try and bring as much to downtown as possible. I understand we have a new venue coming in now and they were able to move forward a little faster than ours. My goal is to support downtown along with my competition. I want to co-exist and not feel like we are fighting over certain things. Others may feel differently.

“Over seven properties downtown sold last year, and a major movement is underway to restore, improve and maintain our small-town life that so many want to see nowadays. The venue is not out of the question, but I have been approached by several people wanting downtown office spaces or lofts. There is one brick wall that is amazing. It is smoke-stained from the fire that occurred on the Sunday before Thanksgiving in 1965. The reason the date sticks out is it was two days before Livingston's first new pumper truck, the Mack, was delivered the following Tuesday.

“So upstairs has so much potential, we will just have to pick a direction in which to move forward. The timeframe is later in 2023 or perhaps the spring of 2024. The area is over 10,000 square feet so there is so much to take into consideration. The biggest area is the ballroom, so to speak, and the decor to this day is the era of the Titanic so I can visualize this as a theme product of its time.”

To the delight of local citizens young and old, Tracey brought

a bit of magic to downtown this past Christmas with the addition of several snow machines strategically placed on the second floor of his building.

“I am very fortunate to get to travel with my family on vacations. I have friends and family that have never left Polk County and that is fine, but there is a huge world at our fingertips. We go to Disney and at the entrance inside the park they have real snow machines that you walk under with hot chocolate. We have a snow event in town every year or so and kids get out of school and pictures are taken all over. I wanted to bring this to our community without the cold and mess of the real snow. We have a two-story building so it was a no-brainer to have the machines elevated to give the best results. The real snow machines produce a wet product and tends to stay on the walk area; therefore, I wanted something a little different.

“It actually turned out bigger than I expected. The support and buzz was everywhere. Hometown Christmas was a huge success for our community, and I hope that next year maybe a few more machines can be added along the strip. I am working on that part as we speak. I am also working on a few other things to make downtown a scene out of a movie. With the renovation of the courthouse coming up, this is an exciting time to be downtown. I think it really turned out. We plan to continue the snow events in the future, on Friday and Saturday nights, starting when the city lights up for Christmas through New Year’s.

“I hear and am very fortunate to know a lot of the names from the past that helped start and mold our community. I guess I didn’t realize how fast, but at the same time how slow, time travels. I know the saying, ‘Only the names have changed’ and it’s true. I, along with a few others in our community, have taken to the history of Livingston and our community. It still sounds weird to me when I hear ‘Let’s go to historic downtown Livingston,’ or ‘We came to historic downtown Livingston.’ I think of it as a place where we grew up. But as you drive through town and remember who owned what and who lived where, or what has been torn down, it really starts to hit home.

“We have a wonderful community – a tourist community with Lake Livingston and now the most recent addition of Naskila Casino. I think downtown has made a huge comeback and is a destination place now more than ever. With people wanting to escape the hustle and bustle and with the ability to work from home, they have a lot more freedom to work and live on the outskirts of the big cities. They are taking advantage of it and I don’t blame them.” ■

- Alma’s Courthouse Whistle Stop Cafe is located at 318 N. Washington Ave. in Livingston. The phone number is 936-327-3222. It is open daily from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Alma’s Donuts and Bakery is located at 1026 W. Church St. in Livingston. The phone number is 936-327-3688. It is open daily from 5 a.m. to noon.
- Main Street Merchandise/Venue is located at 312 N. Washington Ave. in Livingston. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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A BLAST FROM THE SPORTING PAST



It's not a museum.
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place of worship.

~ Seen on a plaque in the
Texas Sports Hall of Fame



By Kevin Wooten

Sports fans of a certain age who grew up in Southeast Texas likely have deep and meaningful sports memories, good and bad, that resurface from time to time. I know that when I am surfing the internet on sites such as YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and others, there will be suggested links to different stories or videos that focus on some aspect of my sporting interests. (The all-knowing digital universe seems to have knowledge of all of my interests!?!)

First and foremost, I grew up in and around the Houston area. That, in and of itself, creates a bittersweet treasure trove of sports memories. While I won't share my specific age with everybody, I will say that my formative years of becoming a sports fan include names such as Earl Campbell, Roger Staubach, J.R. Richard, Bill Yeoman, Moses Malone and too many others to name. These memories include incredible highs when my favorite player dominated their sport (I'm looking at you, Tyler Rose), as well as incredible lows (thinking about Phi Slama Jama's last second loss to North Carolina State in the NCAA championship game still pains me deeply).

More recent memories include the Hakeem Olajuwon-led Rockets and Tim Duncan-led Spurs NBA championship teams. Let's not forget Dirk Nowitzki, the phenom from across the Atlantic, who opened the floodgates of great European players into the NBA. Of course, we could never leave out the dominant, multiple Super Bowl-winning Dallas Cowboys teams with the incredible offensive trio of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin, or two great Astros "Killer Bees," Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio, who never did get that elusive championship. When I do come across an internet site that draws my interest, it might possibly begin a trip down a rabbit-hole that could last for hours, searching for new reminders of these iconic times in Texas sports history. But this digital content doesn't nearly do the history of Texas sports the justice it deserves. So, I am here to share with you a place where there is a gold mine of historical artifacts that you can see up close and leisurely explore without having to look at them through the impersonal computer screen.

The Southwest Conference Gallery, which features artifacts and memorabilia of the teams of the former conference, is one of the highlights of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten



The Texas Sports Hall of Fame is located in Waco, Texas. It is a hidden gem of stories, photos, jerseys, game balls, gloves, bats, helmets, tennis rackets, golf clubs and any other sports paraphernalia that sports fans everywhere might find interesting. It covers not just my little slice of memories, but the history of Texas sports as far back as it has been documented.

The Hall of Fame includes the obvious professional teams, including the Oilers, Cowboys, Rockets, Mavericks, Spurs, Astros and Rangers. Also having extensive displays and dedicated artifacts are the major college teams such as the Texas A&M Aggies, Texas Longhorns, Baylor Bears, Houston Cougars, Texas Tech Red Raiders and SMU Mustangs, as well as others. One of my favorite things is a wall of college team logos that provide a button to push to hear each of their school fight songs. There is even a section for any professional hockey fans out there.

Besides the obvious professional and college sports teams and players mentioned above, some of the other artifacts include memorabilia highlighting:

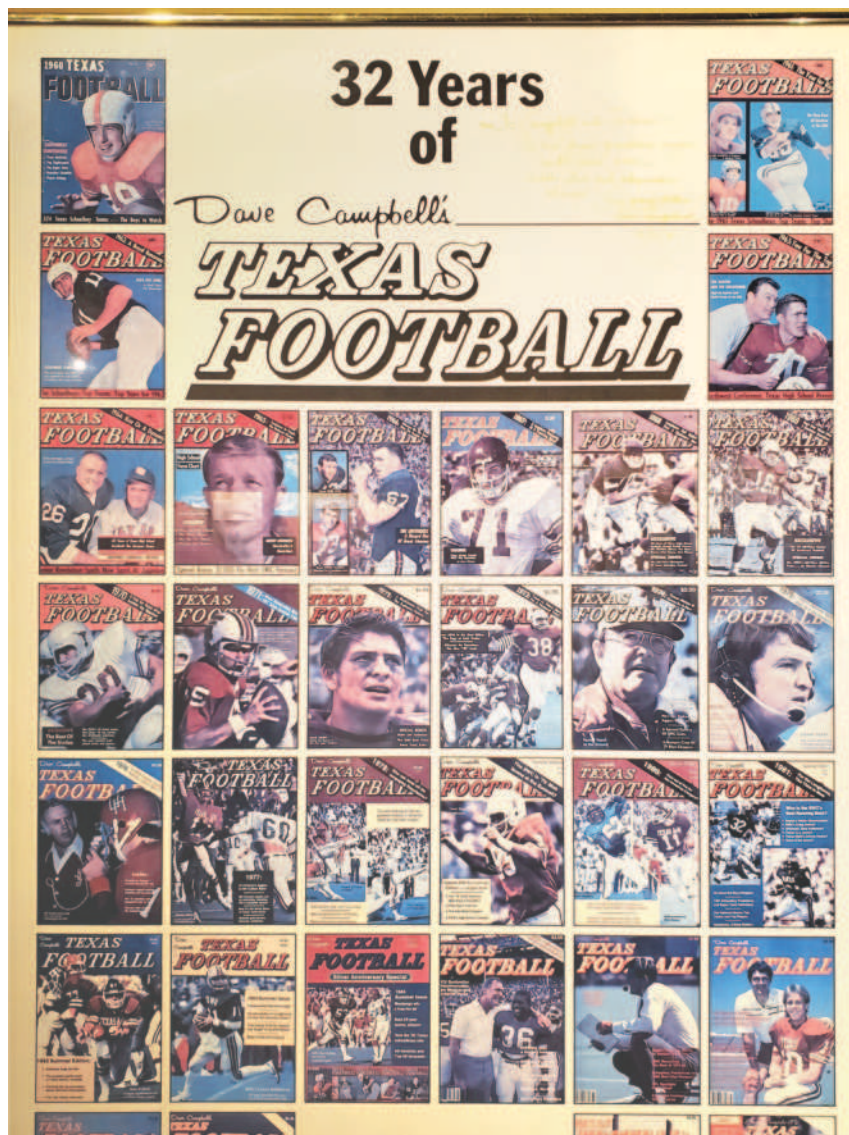
- Olympians such as Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson
- Kilgore Rangerettes
- Many high school football icons such as Austin Southlake's Drew Brees and Groveton's Rodney Thomas
- The Baseball Negro Leagues in Texas
- Boxers such as Jack Johnson and George Foreman
- Racecar driver A.J. Foyt
- Rodeo legend Ty Murray
- Golf greats Byron Nelson and Ben Crenshaw, among others.

The Hall of Fame Museum also includes more extensive and expanded areas dedicated to especially iconic Texas sports topics, including:

- An entire "field" dedicated to the Southwest Conference Texas teams
- Dave Campbell's Texas Football Research Center
- The Texas Tennis Museum
- The Tom Landry Theater

Of course, I have left out many athletes, teams and sports that have a place of honor here. I will leave it up to you to seek out those hidden gems.

The Texas Sports Hall of Fame is a truly amazing collection that will bring





back fond, and maybe not-so-fond, memories of a past when life, sports and heroes seemed simpler. Personally, I miss Earl Campbell running around, through and past entire defenses, ending up in the end zone, then simply handing the football to the nearest official and jogging to the sidelines. No celebrations needed ... simpler times. ■

The Texas Sports Hall of Fame is located at 1108 S. University Parks Drive in Waco, TX 76706. The website is <https://www.tshof.org/>



(top left) This portrait of the famed coach is at the entrance to the Tom Landry Theater in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

(left) A poster featuring 32 covers of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine is on display in the Dave Campbell Library in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

(top) An antique poster advertising the 1910 heavyweight match between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries can be viewed in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

(top right) Along with a commemorative football helmet-turned clock, one may see the 1989 and 1990 state championship medals belonging to Groveton Indian Football Player Rodney Thomas in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. A star player for Groveton, Thomas was named the 1989 2-A Player of the Year.

(right) A set of golf clubs belonging to Port Arthur-born Olympian Babe Didrikson Zaharias is on display in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. Photos by Kevin Wooten



Farm to table goodness is spot on

By Emily Banks Wooten

We wouldn't have even known about Cafe 257 had a co-worker not told me about it. It's not a place that you just stumble onto. Located at the tail end of a dead-end road, you have to know about it, secure the address and travel there with intent. It was discovered by my co-worker when his mother requested he take her there for her birthday. He described it as "an incredibly kick ass joint" that offered up "farm to table goodness." He added that if you are a fan of a good burger, this place "is tops in that regard."

That's how we found ourselves traveling to Jasper one recent Saturday. After checking out the restaurant's website we were more than ready to get there. The pictures of the various dishes were so enticing they made our mouths water. And the intriguing names of the dishes also had us a bit curious.

Divided into sections, the menu offers snacks (their name for appetizers), salads, burgers, sandwiches, tacos, pizza and wings.

For the salads, all dressings are made from scratch. The burgers are a blend of fresh ground beef brisket, short rib and chuck. "Between the Bread" and "Between the Tortilla" is how they refer to sandwiches and tacos. I noticed that all of their street tacos are served with fresh house-made tortilla chips and salsa. They also offer "Texas Pies," their name for pizza, and "Yard Birds," their name for wings. The children's menu is referred to as "Little Farmers." You can already see that it's going to be quite fun.

The selection of burgers includes the "Plain Jayne," the "Brushhog," the "Hangover" and the "Kitchen Sink" among others. The pizza selection includes the "Filthy Animal," the "Rosa Blanco," the "Hang Loose" and the "Berry Goat Gruff" among others. I love the whimsical names.

As soon as we saw "grazing board" with cheese, meats, pickles, olives, local and seasonal ingredients, we knew we had to have one. We ordered the grazing board to snack on while we continued to study the menu. We were both in awe when it arrived at the table. It was beautiful. There were three different meats, three different cheeses, multi-grain crackers, pretzels, grapes, olives, two kinds of pickles and a little wheel of brie that was drizzled with a fig balsamic reduction. Ordinarily, we could have made a meal of this. However, there were so many interesting things on the menu that we just had to try. We'd driven a little over an hour, so we just threw caution to the wind, said 'heck with keto' and pigged out, enjoying every single bite.

Hubby selected a "Hang Loose" Texas pie, their term for pizza. All of their pizza crusts are hand-rolled thin and crunchy like flatbread. They are oblong, about the size of a standard eight and a half by eleven-inch sheet of paper and come served on a wooden board. The "Hang Loose" pizza was topped with ham, bacon, pineapple, "cowboy jalapenos" (candied jalapenos), purple onion and their homemade barbecue sauce. He loved it.

I had already decided I would be blowing off my keto routine for this meal. I had heard so many good things about the burgers. Several of them caught my eye but I just felt pulled to the "Kitchen Sink" burger because the description sounded like nothing I'd ever had before. The patty – a blend of fresh ground beef brisket, short rib and chuck – was topped with homemade pimento cheese, a fried egg, tomato basil jam and "cowboy bacon" which was a thick-cut candied bacon. The burger came with a side of fresh-cut French fries. OH. MY. GOD. I think this may be the best burger I've ever eaten. And I'm not exaggerating. It was phenomenal. I highly recommend it and will definitely order it again. Next time, however, I may eat it with a knife and fork simply to avoid the inevitable mess

The "Grazing Board" is made up of cheese, meats, pickles, olives, local and seasonal ingredients. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten





that it makes. I left with a good bit of it down the front of my shirt but that didn't faze me one little bit. It was worth it.

Cafe 257 offers some interesting signature cocktails on its drink menu. Hubby and I both enjoy the occasional Old-Fashioned but didn't see it on the menu. He asked our server, who was also tending bar that day, and she admitted that she didn't know how to make an Old-Fashioned. Not a problem. In fact, we appreciated her honesty. He ended up ordering a bourbon and water and I opted for something that intrigued me when I saw it on the menu, the "King of Spades." It is a combination of Tall Pines pepper vodka, lemon lime soda and grenadine. It was most refreshing, and the pepper vodka gave it a nice little kick of heat.

In fact, many of Cafe 257's signature cocktails are made with the Tall Pines and 19 Oaks brands, both artisan craft spirits created at the family owned and operated Front Porch Distillery in Nacogdoches.

We thoroughly enjoyed our experience at Cafe 257 and will definitely go back. You know how it is when you discover something new that's so good that you want to shout it from the rooftop and make all your friends try it? That's how we feel about this place.

Cafe 257 Bar & Grill is located at 488 County Road 257 in Jasper, Texas. The phone number is 409-289-6843.

(left) The "King of Spades" is a refreshing signature cocktail that is a combination of Tall Pines pepper vodka, lemon lime soda and grenadine. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten

(right) The "Hang Loose" Texas pie, their term for pizza, is topped with ham, bacon, pineapple, "cowboy jalapenos" (candied jalapenos), purple onion with their homemade barbecue sauce. Photo by Kevin Wooten

(above) The "Kitchen Sink" burger is a patty that's a blend of fresh ground beef brisket, short rib and chuck, topped with pimento cheese, fried egg, tomato basil jam and "cowboy bacon" which is a thick-cut candied bacon. It comes with a side of their fresh-cut French fries. Photo by Emily Banks Wooten



Blueberry Peach Cobbler

By Barbara White

We are lucky enough to live in a place with an ample supply of fresh peaches and blueberries this time of the year. If you have never tried mixing the two, try this easy summer desert. Do not stir! The butter will rise to the top to help make a crispy crust. Make it extra special by adding a scoop of vanilla ice cream to the warm cobbler. Makes about 8 servings.

Ingredients

¾ cup butter cubed (6 ounces)
 1 ½ cups flour
 1 ½ cup granulated sugar
 3 teaspoons baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt
 1 ¼ cups milk
 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 cup fresh blueberries

3 cups fresh peach slices (peel them if you want, but it's not necessary.)
 2 teaspoons lemon juice
 ½ cup brown sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Add the cubed butter to a 9 x 13 inch baking dish or pan. Place the dish in the oven for a few minutes until the butter is melted.
3. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt. Add the milk and vanilla extract and stir until smooth.
4. Pour the batter evenly over the melted butter in the pan (DO NOT STIR).
5. Toss the peach slices and blueberries with the lemon juice and spread them evenly over the batter (again, do not stir).
6. Sprinkle the brown sugar evenly over the top and bake 40-50 minutes until the top is golden brown. Allow the cobbler to cool a few minutes before serving.

Note: In a pinch, you can use frozen peaches, but thaw and drain them first. If you use frozen blueberries, don't thaw them before using or you'll end up with a purple dessert. Fresh is best.





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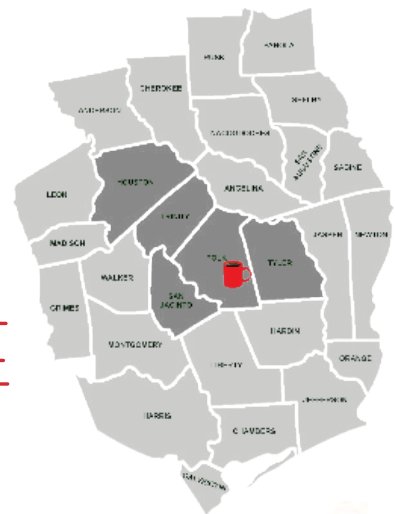


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Notorious Old West outlaw had pineywoods roots

By Chris Edwards

The Old West is full of larger-than-life characters who were documented, both in scholarly histories and lionized (or vilified) in grandiose ways on the big and little screens, as well as popular fiction.

One such figure has never quite translated into a warm-and-friendly pop culture version as some others have, and that is the notorious John Wesley Hardin, a man who is often called Texas' most famous gunfighter.

Hardin, who was born to Rev. James (some sources state Joseph or John) and Elizabeth Hardin in 1853, was named for the 18th century theologian and father of Methodism John Wesley.

James Hardin, a Methodist minister himself, likely hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps. It didn't take long for the youngster to get a taste of violence, however.

Hardin was born in Bonham, nestled in the Texoma region, but the family later migrated down into the pineywoods. The Reverend Hardin was a circuit preacher, and once established in Trinity County, in Sumpter, he established and taught at a school. Young John Wesley and his siblings attended the school.

When the Hardins were living at Sumpter in Trinity County, a nine-year-old John Wesley Hardin witnessed the killing of Turner Evans in a property dispute. According to the late regional historian Bob Bowman, Hardin later wrote about the incident, after seeing John Rulf slash Evans' jugular with a Bowie knife: "If you wish to be successful in life, be temperate and control your passions."

Passions got the best of Hardin at the age of 15 when a schoolyard scuffle erupted in the young man stabbing another student, Charles Slotter, twice in the chest and back. Hardin claimed the reason being that the student had accused him of besmirching a female student in writing on the schoolhouse wall. Hardin denied the allegation and claimed that Slotter wrote the offensive graffiti.

Although Hardin's schoolyard stabbing victim lived and he was nearly expelled over the incident, the next person who crossed his path was not so fortunate.

About a year later, at a sugar cane mill near Moscow, Hardin got into an altercation with a man named Mage, whom sources state was Hardin's uncle's former slave. According to Bowman's writing on the subject, onlookers were able to break up the fight. Whatever it was over is lost to the sands of time, but after the scuffle and intervention, Hardin shot and killed Mage on a lonely stretch of road.

When he found out that soldiers from the post-Civil War Reconstruction government were searching for him, he found them and ambushed them at a creek crossing in Trinity County.

According to Bowman, it was after this ambush, with his body count at four, that a teenaged John Wesley Hardin headed up the Chisolm Trail. While the cowboying way of life was short-lived for Hardin, his hobby of offing anyone who crossed him was not. Reportedly, he killed seven people on the trail, and three more in Abilene, Kansas. This was the locale where Hardin, according to lore, killed a man for snoring.

According to the often-told story, which has become a large part of the folklore around Hardin, he was in his hotel room sleeping off a drunk when another patron, in a neighboring room, was snoring too loud.

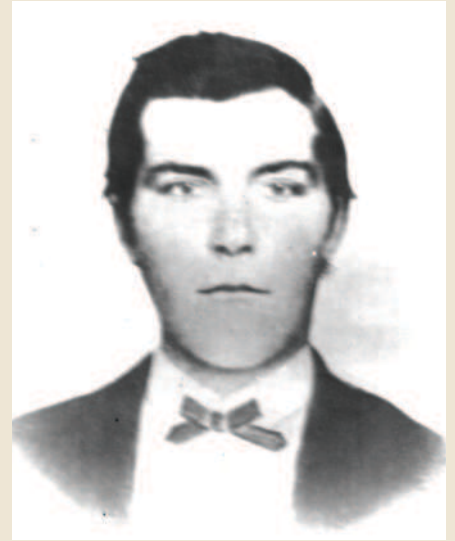
Hardin attempted to fire a warning shot through the wall in an attempt to wake up the snoring man, but instead, the bullet killed him.

After an encounter with city marshal Wild Bill Hickok, Hardin hit the trail again, in a southbound direction back home. It didn't take long for him to find more trouble in the pineywoods, where, Bowman wrote, he returned on numerous occasions.

A gambling argument in Trinity County in 1872, resulted in him being badly wounded, and when his friends carted him off to Redland to recuperate, he was surprised by a pair of lawmen who further put the hurt on him. Hardin got the upper hand, however, and killed them both.

The sheriff of Cherokee County at the time, Richard Reagan, was an old friend of Hardin's, and the only man to whom he would surrender. When he knew he could run no further, according to Bowman, Hardin gave up his pistol when Reagan and four deputies arrived. However, the deputies believed Hardin was

“And if you ever saw Wes Hardin draw,
you know he can skin his gun.
He won’t say how many tried and died.”
~ Johnny Cash,
“Hardin Wouldn’t Run”



drawing his weapon on the sheriff. One of them fired on him, wounding him again, and Reagan and his family nursed his old friend back to health.

In 1874, Hardin had an encounter that would prove a pivotal turning point in his life. He had become involved in raising cattle, and as he was wont to do, got drawn into a feud, the Sutton-Taylor Feud. Hardin aligned with Jim Taylor, an anti-Reconstructionist, and he killed the opposition leader Jack Helm, who was a former state police captain.

While on the run and driving cattle with Taylor, Hardin encountered, and killed, Brown County Sheriff Charlie Webb outside of a saloon.

The Pinkertons captured Hardin, who’d fled to Florida with his wife and child, three years later, and brought him back to Texas where he stood trial. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in the state penitentiary in Huntsville.

It was there that Hardin studied law and after serving 15 years, he was released and headed to El Paso where he began practicing law, having been admitted to the bar on March 16, 1894.

During his time in prison, Hardin made efforts to escape, but he also immersed himself in religious texts and even served as superintendent of the prison Sunday School class.

Hardin tried to stay on a straight and narrow path, but it did not take long for trouble to emerge. One of his clients, a man named Martin Morose, discovered that Hardin was having an affair with his wife.

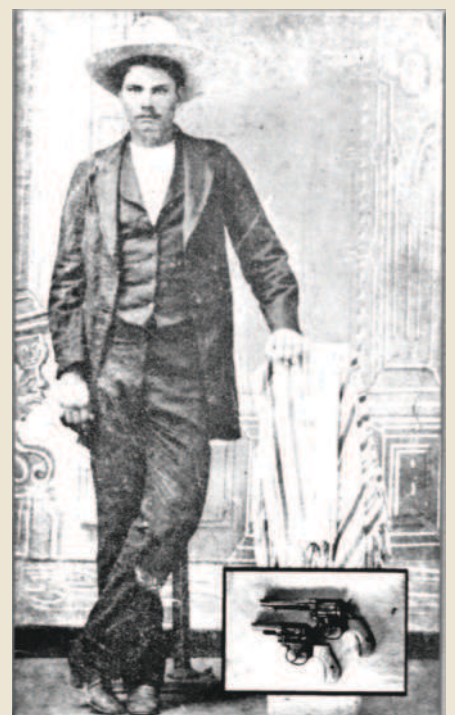
After Morose discovered what was going on, Hardin hired several men to kill his client. On the hot day of August 19, 1895, John Selman, who was one of the men Hardin had hired, shot and killed him in the Acme Saloon.

Bowman suggests that this was because Selman was never paid for killing Morose. Selman was also killed shortly after taking down the feared Hardin, in a gunfight. Both men are buried in El Paso’s Concordia Cemetery.

Hardin, like most of the legendary figures of the Old West, has only grown larger with the myths surrounding him as the years move forward. He was given to exaggerations, himself, and claimed credit for killings that could not be proven.

His total body count may remain a mystery. Some newspaper accounts place the number at 27, while Hardin, himself, claimed to have killed 42 men. Whatever the exact number was, the legend of John Wesley Hardin will continue to entertain, shock, appall, and interest casual students of history and fans of Old West lore, as well as the general public. Songs, books and other tributes have been written about the sharpshooting murderer/gambler/lawyer/cattlemen and will likely continue to be created. ■

In this new, regular feature, East Texas-based writer, historian and frequent East Texan contributor Chris Edwards explores regional topics of historic interest. If you have an idea for a feature in this series, feel free to hit him up at cedwards@polkcountypublishing.com



Images generously supplied by the Fannin County Museum of History in Bonham.



Martha Stewart doesn't live here

By Barbara White

A lot of people had opinions.

“JellyrollinNevada” thought it was just awful. “Ageless-in-Seattle” thought it was great. “Peri_Wrinkle65” said, in one word, what a lot of us were wondering: “Why?” Why would octogenarian and home and hospitality guru Martha Stewart be featured on the cover of a Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition? I don’t know, Peri_Wrinkle, I really don’t know.

I guess if an 81-year-old woman and a sports magazine that is pushing 70 agreed to a swimsuit photo shoot it is their business and not mine. Why should I even care?

I care because, airbrushed or not, Martha looks pretty darn good for her age. I, on the other hand, am quite a bit younger than Martha Stewart and haven’t worn a swimsuit in public since they started adding cameras to cell phones. First of all, I am just not that into swimming. Secondly, Martha Stewart lives in Maine and I live in East Texas.

It is probably easier to stay in shape if you live in New England, where I have it on good authority that it is hard to find a good barbecue joint, bagels outnumber biscuits and people probably don’t even save their bacon grease.

Martha told those who asked, and there were many, that she had always led a clean life, watched her diet and exercised, so other than cutting out carbs for a few months before the photo shoot, she stayed pretty much camera-ready. She said she wanted to show that people her age could still look and feel good.

I also want to look and feel good. I also want Mexican food, the aforementioned barbecue and biscuits, cocktails and evenings on the couch with Netflix. I have been known to fry bacon simply because my bacon grease supply is running low; I consider bacon grease a necessary ingredient for many things, including cornbread. The bacon itself does not go to waste. In the summer months, I like to add a little ice cream to my diet, served with a side of pure contentment. But I try to watch my intake. If the carton says there are three servings in a pint of ice cream, I try to adhere to that. I think it is implied that there should only be one serving a day, but I am not entirely sure so I leave that up to my own discretion.

I don’t want to brag, but I can still not only see my toes, I can touch them. I can also, when so inspired, devote an hour or two to yard work or several hours wandering store aisles. That counts as exercise in my book.

I also care about this topic because Martha Stewart, ever

the perfectionist, has been butting into my business for much of my adult life. For years she has been giving me unsolicited advice on everything from how to fry an egg to how to make a stunning centerpiece out of clothes drier lint and dental floss. I know how to fry an egg – I recommend using bacon grease – and I like to keep my centerpieces non-existent; they take up valuable table space that, in my opinion, is better used for food.

For years, I have had a small plaque in my kitchen that says, “Martha Stewart doesn’t live here.” If that reminds you of that “becoming your parents” insurance commercial where life coach Dr. Rick makes the homeowner dump her “Live, laugh, love” sign in the trash, you are not alone. He need never find out about the small sign over my bathroom scale with the picture of a sheep and the motto, “Ewe’s not fat, ewe’s just fluffy.” Let’s just keep the whole sign thing between us, OK?

I suspect Martha would not approve of either of my signs, in part because they do nothing to compliment the décor, such as it is, but also because their messages imply that the owner has given up on seeking perfection. She would be wrong; in order to give something up you have to have had it in the first place. I am all for self-improvement but, in my opinion, life is too short to dwell on such things.

I don’t know how I missed this story, but apparently the previous record for the oldest person ever to be a Sports Illustrated swimsuit model was set just last year by then 74-year-old Maye Musk, Elon’s mom. Again, it’s none of my business, but I fear there may be a pattern here. Maye Musk the septuagenarian in 2022, Martha the octogenarian in 2023.... I suspect there may be a 90-something nonagenarian named Mabel out there thinking, “Just wait ‘til next year!”

You didn’t ask, but my advice is this: Accept your flaws, have an occasional laugh even if it’s at your own expense and wear a swimsuit in public if you want to. Otherwise, I suggest loose clothing. What happens under the muumuu stays under the muumuu.

I am not sure, but I think it is probably safe to assume that the average reader of Sports Illustrated is a younger person who is interested in sports. Now that I have had time to think this thing through, it makes sense that Martha Stewart is trying to reach a whole new group of people to torment with her advice. That would also explain her friendships with P Diddy and Snoop Dog.

I probably haven’t answered our question, Peri_Wrinkle. For now, just live, laugh and love. If you think you are fat, you may just be a little fluffy. Martha Stewart doesn’t live here. ■

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SHOP EAST TEXAS



DOWNTOWN NACOGDOCHES has a variety of specialty businesses along its historic brick streets. One of the newer businesses, *Su Su's Popcorn*, spends the day making fresh spun cotton candy and a wide variety gourmet popcorn. They also carry vintage candy favorites.

Abel Bruce of *Huntsville* is ready for summer celebrations with three popcorn flavors: strawberry, vanilla, and blueberry. Happy Birthday America!

~ Kelli Barnes, Publisher

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DOWNTOWN ARTS & EMBROIDERY

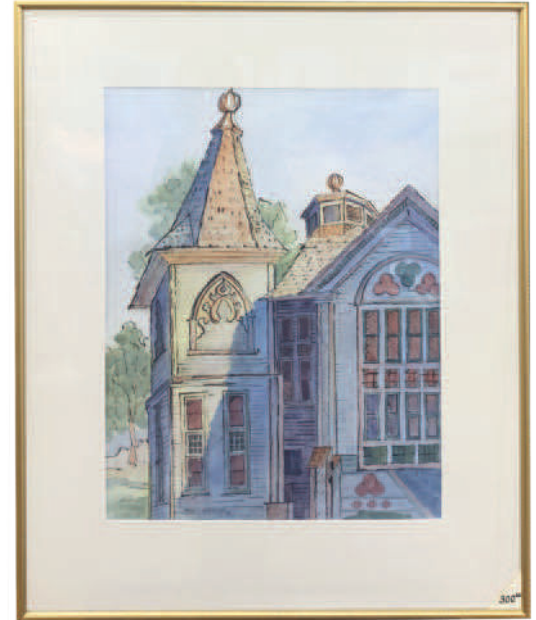


SHOP EAST TEXAS

Beaded Denim Shorts \$44
WILD BLEU BOUTIQUE



English Scenery Cup
and Saucer \$22
GREER'S



Church Painting, framed \$300
DOWNTOWN ARTS & EMBROIDERY

Original Print Greeting Cards \$4
DOWNTOWN ARTS & EMBROIDERY



Rocky Patel aged limited rare 2nd edition Cigars
\$16.25 each
NACOGDOCHES CIGAR CO.



NACOGDOCHES CIGAR CO.

325 E. Main Street
Nacogdoches

SU SU's POPCORN & CANDY CAFE

115 E. Main Street
Nacogdoches



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



Upholstery Service in-house
(sample fabrics)
GREER'S



Shiny Shorts Romper \$56
WILD BLEU BOUTIQUE



Fisher Price 1974
Helicopter \$20
NACOGDOCHES CIGAR CO.

Three Tier Tray \$54.95
GREER'S



Chess Set \$325
NACOGDOCHES
CIGAR CO.



SHOP EAST TEXAS

Vintage Gum \$1
SU SU'S POPCORN & CANDY CAFE



Duke Cannon Thick Hair Wash \$16.24
NACOGDOCHES CIGAR CO.



One Shoulder Black Romper \$44
WILD BLEU BOUTIQUE



Decorative Pottery Side Table \$173.95
GREER'S



Gourmet Popcorn Bags, small \$2
SU SU'S POPCORN & CANDY CAFE

Wax Fangs & Lips \$2.50
SU SU'S POPCORN & CANDY CAFE



WILD BLEU BOUTIQUE

106 N. Church Street
Nacogdoches



STORES FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



Decorative Lamp \$325.95
GREER'S

Denim Blouse \$42
WILD BLEU BOUTIQUE



Embroidery Services (backpack sample)
DOWNTOWN ARTS & EMBROIDERY



Armless Lounge Chair \$495
GREER'S

Candy & Popcorn Gift Baskets
\$24 & up
SU SU'S POPCORN
& CANDY CAFE



CALENDAR

JULY

Kilgore

Texas Shakespeare Festival
JULY 1-31

Conroe

Classic Car & Truck Throwdown 2023/
Lone Star Expo Center
JULY 1

Houston

Marlon Wayans at the Houston Improv
JULY 1

Carthage

Panola County 4th of July Celebration
JULY 1

Conroe

Classic Car, Truck Throwdown/Lonestar
Expo Center
JULY 1-2

The Woodlands

Matchbox Twenty/C W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 1

Gladewater

Crazy for Cline: Tribute to Patsy Cline/
Jackson's Theater
JULY 2

Houston

Freedom Over Texas Festival/Eleanor
Tinsley Park
JULY 3

The Woodlands

Star Spangled Salute/ C W Mitchell
Pavilion
JULY 3

Jefferson

Jefferson Salutes America Celebration
and Fireworks Show
JULY 4

Beaumont

37th Annual 4th of July Celebration/
Downtown Event Center
JULY 4

Nederland

4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza/
Doornbos Park
JULY 4

Groveton

Fireworks at the Y
JULY 4

The Woodlands

26th Annual Red, Hot and Blue Festival
and Fireworks
JULY 4

Cleveland

Moe Bandy at the Texan Theater
JULY 8

Houston

Blink 182 at the Toyota Center
JULY 8

Tomball

Main Street Crossing British Invasion
Show
JULY 9

Lufkin

Sister Act at the Pines Theater
JULY 14

Beaumont

Inaugural Taco and Margarita Festival/
Ford Park
JULY 15

Nacogdoches

Old Stone Fort Militaria Show/County
Expo Center
JULY 15-16

Longview

Longview Comic Con 2023/Cobb
Convention Center
JULY 15

The Woodlands

Shania Twain Queen of Me Tour/C W
Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 22

Longview

Longview Gun Show/Cobb Convention
Center
JULY 22-23

The Woodlands

Nickleback/C W Mitchell Pavilion
JULY 23

Livingston

Victory Kids Camp 2023/Lake Tomahawk
JULY 24-27

Tyler

John Conlee at Liberty Hall
JULY 26

Clute

Great Texas Mosquito Festival
JULY 27-29

Naples

Watermelon Festival and Rodeo
AUGUST 27-29

The Woodlands

ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd at C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 30

AUGUST

Houston

Thomas Rhett at the Toyota Center
AUGUST 4-5

Tyler

Elvis Gospel and Beyond/Liberty Hall
AUGUST 4

Houston

Houston Golf Show 2023/NRG Center
AUGUST 5-6

Jefferson

Civil War Symposium/Jefferson Visitor Center
AUGUST 4-5

Huntsville

Adam Grant-Garth Brooks Tribute/Old Town Theatre
AUGUST 5

Crystal Beach

2023 Bolivar Peninsula Golf Cart Poker Run
AUGUST 5

Tyler

Reflections of Patsy Cline/Liberty Hall
AUGUST 10

Conroe

The Hunchback of Notre Dame at the Creighton Theater
AUGUST 11-20

Carthage

26th Annual Classic Country Music Festival/Civic Center
AUGUST 11-13

Huntsville

8th Annual Car, Truck, Bike, Big Rig & More/Texas Wake & Scrape 2023
AUGUST 11

Beaumont

George Lopez Comedy Tour/Julie Rogers Theater
AUGUST 11

Palestine

Dogwood Jamboree/Palestine HS Auditorium
AUGUST 12

Galveston

36th Annual AIA Sandcastle Competition/Jones Beach
AUGUST 12

Houston

2023 Houston Reggae Fest/Hermann Square
AUGUST 12

The Woodlands

Foreigner at C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 12

Beaumont

Ted Nugent at Ford Park
AUGUST 18

Port Arthur

Sabine Causeway 5K
AUGUST 18

Houston

4th Annual Marachi Festival/Wortham Theater Center
AUGUST 18-20

The Woodlands

Snoop Dogg and Whiz Khalifa at the C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 19

Conroe

Conroe Gun and Knife Show/Lone Star Convention Center
AUGUST 19-20

Huntsville

Heat Wave 5K
AUGUST 19

Colmesneil

Back to School Rally/Victory Camp Colmesneil, 10 am-3 pm
AUGUST 19

The Woodlands

Beck & Phoenix at the C W Mitchell Pavilion
AUGUST 20

Marshall

G & S Marshall Gun Show/Convention Center
AUGUST 26-27

Huntsville

Bob Seager Tribute Concert/Old Town Theatre
AUGUST 26

SEPTEMBER

Huntsville

Rick Trevino at Old Town Theater
SEPTEMBER 2

Houston

Lady Gaga at the Toyota Center
SEPTEMBER 5

Tyler

Tyler Film Festival at Liberty Hall
SEPTEMBER 7-9

Spring

The Bellamy Brothers at Dosey Doe, the Big Barn
SEPTEMBER 8

Houston

Sam Smith at the Toyota Center
SEPTEMBER 8

Groveton

2023 Brent Phillips Memorial Benefit
SEPTEMBER 9

Lufkin

6th Annual Jeepin for Jesus Off Road Expo
SEPTEMBER 9

Pasadena

Pasadena Gun and Knife Show/Pasadena Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 9

Onalaska

Onalaska Half Marathon
SEPTEMBER 10

Longview

East Texas Bully Roundup/Cobb Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 9

Houston

Madonna at the Toyota Center
SEPTEMBER 13-14

Lufkin

Texas State Forest Festival/Expo Center
SEPTEMBER 14-17

CALENDAR

Lufkin

Lumber Jacked 5K and Fun Run
SEPTEMBER 16

Sugarland

Dwight Yoakum at Smart Financial Center
SEPTEMBER 16

Henderson

G & S Henderson Gun Show/Rusk County Expo Center
SEPTEMBER 16-17

Orange

Orange County Gun Show/Convention and Expo Center
SEPTEMBER 16-17

Huntsville

Huntsville Antique Show
SEPTEMBER 16-17

Beaumont

Elegance of the Dance/Julie Rogers Theater
SEPTEMBER 16

Sugarland

Chicago at Smart Financial Center
SEPTEMBER 20

Tyler

East Texas State Fair
SEPTEMBER 21-30

Houston

27th Annual Houston Turkish Festival/ Buffalo Bayou Park
SEPTEMBER 23-24

Tomball

Groove Fest 2023/Tomball Railroad Depot Plaza
SEPTEMBER 23

Houston

Beyonce at NRG Stadium
SEPTEMBER 23-24

Woodville

Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past/ Heritage Village
SEPTEMBER 25

Houston

Pink at Minute Maid Park
SEPTEMBER 27

Houston

Guns and Roses at Minute Maid Park
SEPTEMBER 28

Houston

The Mavericks at the House of Blues
SEPTEMBER 30

OCTOBER

Texas City

The Fab 5 in concert at Lagoon Fest
OCTOBER 1

Houston

Smashing Pumpkins at the Toyota Center
OCTOBER 3

Houston

Depeche Mode at the Toyota Center
OCTOBER 4

Center

East Texas Poultry Festival
OCTOBER 5-7

Hawkins

Hawkins Oil Festival 2023
OCTOBER 7

Galveston

Galveston Island Brewing Company 5K Beer Run
OCTOBER 7

Tyler

Corkscrew Half Marathon 10K and 5K
OCTOBER 7

Huntsville

49th Annual Fair on the Square
OCTOBER 7

Cleveland

Moe Bandy and Joe Stampley at the Texan Theater
OCTOBER 14

Houston

Wings over Houston Air Show/Ellington Field
OCTOBER 14-15

Huntsville

Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon and 5K
OCTOBER 14

Seabrook

Country, Folk and Blues Festival/Clear Lake Park
OCTOBER 14

Huntsville

3 Redneck Tenors/Old Town Theater
OCTOBER 14

Woodville
Harvest Festival/Heritage Village
OCTOBER 13-14

Marshall
Fire Ant Festival
OCTOBER 14

Kilgore
Oktoberfest at Kilgore City Park
OCTOBER 14

Gilmer
East Texas Yamboree
OCTOBER 18-21

Tyler
Texas Rose Festival
OCTOBER 19-22

Lindale
Piney Woods Wine Festival
OCTOBER 20

Jefferson
2023 Texas Bigfoot Conference
OCTOBER 20-22

Lufkin
Draggin and Pullin in the Pines/Pine
Valley Raceway
OCTOBER 20-22

Houston
Peter Gabriel at the Toyota Center
OCTOBER 21

Coldspring
38th Annual Car, Truck and Bike
Show
OCTOBER 21

LaMarque
Bayou Fest 2023
OCTOBER 21

Sugarland
Kansas at the Smart Financial
Center
OCTOBER 21

Pasadena
Pasadena Gun and Knife Show/
Pasadena Convention Center
OCTOBER 21-22

Houston
Celebrating David Bowie/House of
Blues
OCTOBER 24

Longview
Harvest Festival and Livestock
Show/Longview Fairgrounds
OCTOBER 24

Houston
Bayou City Art Festival 2023
OCTOBER 25-27

Alba
Golden Sweet Potato Festival
OCTOBER 26

Marshall
Judy Carmichael Trio/Memorial City
Performance Hall
OCTOBER 28

Colmesneil
Harvest Festival and Pumpkin
Patch/Victory Camp Colmesneil,
10 am-3 pm
OCTOBER 28

Houston
John Mayer at the Toyota Center
OCTOBER 30

*Events are subject to
change or cancellation.*

*To submit an event, email
events@easttexasmag.com*



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~ Jason Pedigo, President | Pedigo Furniture

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2024 FALL MARKETS
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JUNK IN THE TRUNK
KENZI'S KLOSET
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MADONNA'S RESALE & FLEA MARKET
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