

The **PULSE**

MAY
2023

A Blast From the Past

Discover unique and historic

treasures at one of Waco's

many antique shops

A Guide Through the Heart of Texas

A Breath of Fresh Air

Where creativity and

community meet, there is

something for everyone at the

Waco Outdoor Markets



Letter From the Editors

After a long week, nothing is better than using the weekend to relax and recharge. It is a time to enjoy the company of loved ones, to eat well and enjoy the outdoors. In this edition of The Pulse, we are showcasing the best ways to spend your weekend.

From dawn till dusk, we offer you our hand-picked selections for churches, food, shopping and museums. We hope that you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we enjoyed putting it together, and that you get to experience all of these great things in Waco, the Heart of Texas.



Kahalley Anton



Lukas Reyes



Olivia Eiken



Finley Hamilton

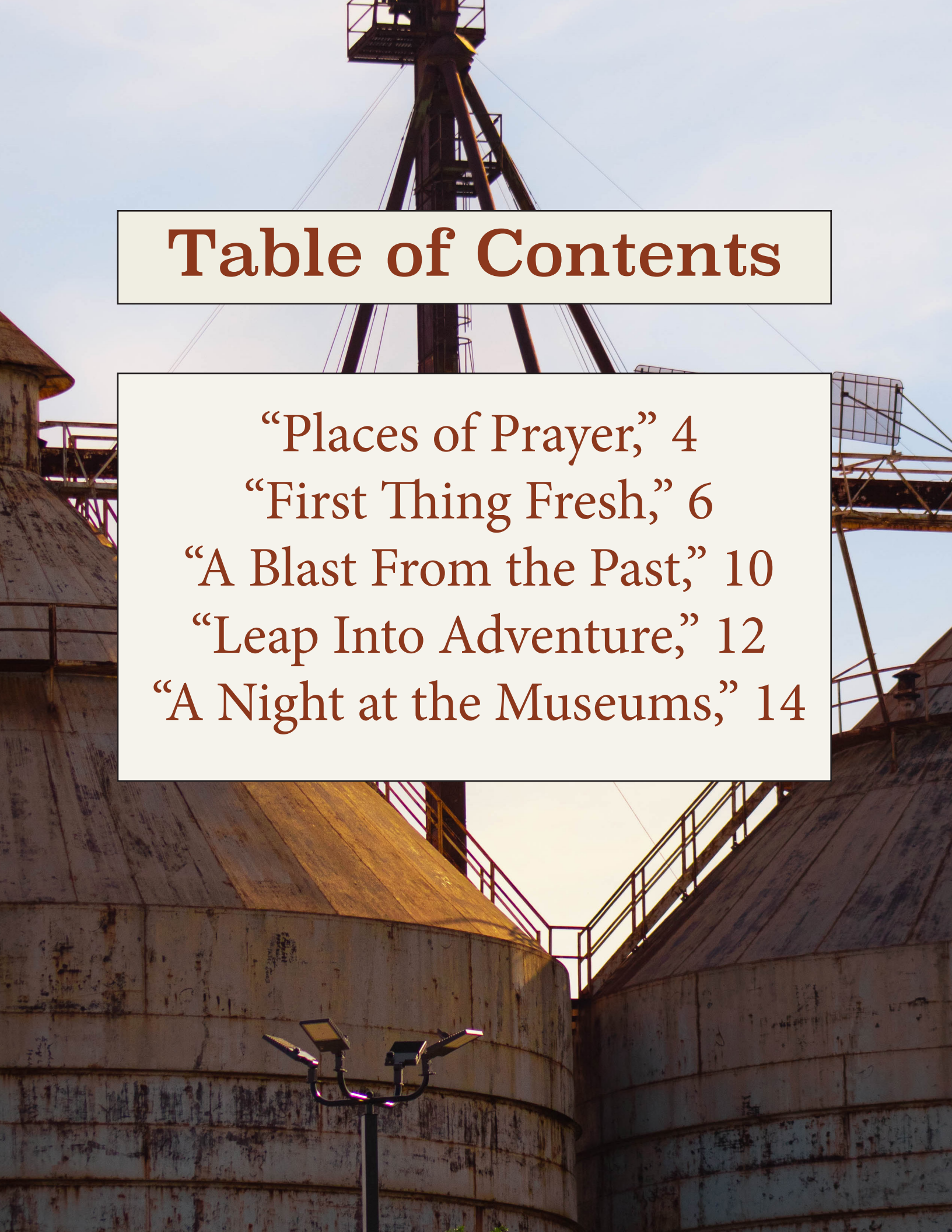


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Places for Prayer

Chip and Jo Aren't The Only Well Known Property Owners in Waco

By Tyson Arnold

Everything is bigger in Texas: cattle ranches, barbecues, cities and church life. For many people outside the Bible Belt, attending a church in Waco, Texas, is a unique experience and a bit of a culture shock.

According to the Waco Regional Baptist Association, there are 90 Baptist churches in the Waco area. The Baptist denomination has a strong influence on the community. The city's preeminent university, Baylor, is a Baptist university that is "unambiguously Christian."

"The Baptist religion is certainly emphasized because of Baylor," former university employee, Don Riley, said. "Baylor has a big influence on the whole community."

Don Riley and his wife, Nancy, have been members of First Baptist Church of Waco for over 30 years. Don said Waco is one of the "churchiest places" he and Nancy have ever been: a list that includes Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Germany, Belgium and other cities around the United States.

First Baptist Waco worships in a unique and historic building. The building was constructed in 1907, according to First Baptist Church of Waco. Don said the sanctuary is in the shape of a cross and the church is full of beautiful stained glass windows.

"Something like 200 or so stained glass windows in the whole church," Don said. "I tell everybody when I give a tour, it's probably the most unique church in Texas ... or all over the world because it has stained glass windows in two closets. There's not many churches that have stained glass windows in closets!"

The Rileys said they originally chose First Baptist Waco because their daughter enjoyed attending its youth events. Over the past three decades, Don and Nancy have seen their daughter baptized at the church, they have seen her get married at the church and they have seen their grandchildren dedicated at the church.

"I especially liked it when they were going to our church," Nancy said. "[My grandkids] sat by me every Sunday. I loved that."

Intergenerational worship is important to the Rileys and the First Baptist Waco congregation at large.

According to the church's webpage on core values, "intergenerational study, fellowship and witness" are central to First Baptist Waco's mission and identity.

"We have some people that are almost 100 in the church, and then we have some that are infants," Don said.

Lauren Daniels said the college girls associate at Highland Baptist Church. Daniels also said there is a multigenerational aspect at Highland as well. She said the 8:40 am service is more multigenerational, while the 10 am service is mostly college students.

Daniels is a junior at Baylor in addition to working at Highland. Daniels said her first visit at Highland was "just different" than anything she had experienced. She said the people were very welcoming toward her. She also said she appreciates that Highland's lead pastor, "Pastor John," preaches sermons that are grounded in scripture.

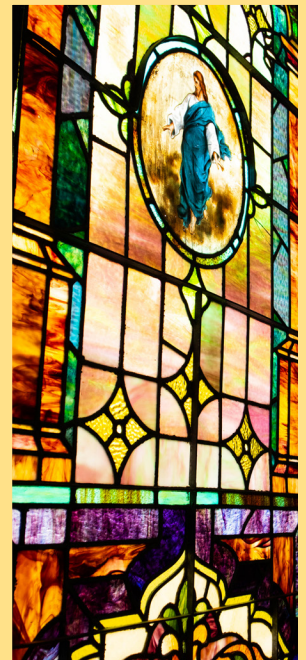
Baylor senior, and Highland member, Patrick Doerstling also said that the church's teaching is deeply rooted in the Bible. That biblical teaching, along with other tenants like community and conviction, led Doerstling to Highland.

TOP LEFT: Holy and historic First Baptist Church Waco has been an iconic part of the town since 1851.

TOP RIGHT: First Baptist Church Waco's old stained glass windows are cherished, however, they also have a more modern neon sign outside adding color.

BOTTOM LEFT: Under the Dome Architect Roy E. Lane has worked on landmarks around Waco, include First Baptist Church Waco and it's famous stained glass dome.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Members of First Baptist Church Waco worship in rich warm colors from the stained glass windows.



Photos by Olivia Eiken

He said there is a difference between “tenants” and “tastes” when choosing a church. Doerstling explained that tenants are the aspects of a church that are non-negotiables, whereas tastes are less important aspects that line up with a person’s preferences.

For example, “what type of music they play... what the lights are like.” Doerstling said Highland meets his tenants, and he has made special memories there that have surpassed his expectations.

There are three scenes at Highland that stick out to him.

“A lot of hands being held high during worship,” he said. “... Just praising God all together and ultimately just surrendering to Jesus.”

Daniels said Highland members want to be a people of prayer, as well as a people of worship. Sometimes church leadership will call people to come pray on their hands and knees at the altars in the church.

Doerstling said the altar call is one of those three scenes that sticks out to him.

“Another scene I think of is a lot of people on their knees as well,” he said. “The altars they have at the front of the worship center, those are full a lot of times ... That’s a scene that I think about a lot.”

His third memorable scene he reminisced on a pre-COVID tradition that he hopes will return. “They used to end every

service with a chorus of one song that they sang in worship, and we would all kind of like hold hands through the entire auditorium,” he said.

“Rows would hold hands all the way across even on aisles they would just go across the aisles and grab hands.”

Doerstling said that scene is a picture of what church and community ought to be: “Fellow believers kind of coming together as one.” He said that interchurch unity is important for the Waco community. “I don’t think we’re necessarily in the business of putting down other churches,” he said. “But rather, we come together as one and we try to make the community a better place.”

On the evening of April 10, Highland hosted three other churches – Harris Creek Baptist Church, Viento Fuerte Church and Greater New Life Missionary Baptist Church. The event was called The Gathering.

“I think the whole purpose was . . . to come together and recognize that we’re all part of this ‘big C’ church,” Daniels said. “So let’s come together and still worship.”

The event also included a sermon and an after party with food trucks. Daniels said The Gathering was an opportunity for people to build community regardless of what church they attend.

Nate Hilgenkamp is the college minister at Harris Creek Baptist Church, one of the churches that attended The Gathering.

Hilgenkamp, who has worked at Harris Creek for six years and attended the church for 10 years, said he believes there is good church unity in Waco.

Baylor sophomore Kaylie Thrun has been attending Harris Creek for nearly two years. Thrun, a religion major, said choosing Harris Creek was an easy choice.

“Some people in my religion class judged me,” Thrun said. “... They were like ‘you’re just going for the famous pastor.’”

That pastor is Jonathan “J.P.” Pokluda, who has been leading Harris Creek for the past 3 1/2 years. Prior to working at Harris Creek, J.P. led a young adults ministry in Dallas called “The Porch.”

Hilgenkamp said Harris Creek had experienced adversity a couple years before J.P. came to the church. Harris Creek had



recently expanded its worship hall when its former lead pastor left the church.

“[We] couldn’t fill it, couldn’t pay for it, and it was just like – it felt like I was on a sinking ship,” Hilgenkamp said. “And ever since then, these last 3 1/2 years, God has just blown the doors open.”

Similarly to Highland, Harris Creek has a strong college ministry. Many of those college students, like Thrun, volunteer at the church on Sundays.

Thrun used to help direct cars into the parking lot. Now she leads a small group of fourth and fifth grade girls. She said she gets to teach the girls about the Bible in an applicable way. She also gets to invest in some of the girls and be like a mentor to them.

Thrun said, “Jesus actually loves you for who you are and not just what you are doing.”

Hilgenkamp said he hopes that everyone who comes into Harris Creek would know they are loved.

“I would hope that everyone feels welcomed here,” he said. “That’s our mission statement: to help everyone follow Jesus. So, it doesn’t matter if you’ve been in church your whole life or if church is brand new to you, we hope that everyone would feel inspired and encouraged and welcomed and loved.”

Lauren Daniels shared a similar hope for visitors attending Highland.

“My hope would be that they would be pointed to Jesus through just scripture and through everyone they meet,” Daniels said. “And that they would feel welcomed [and] that would ultimately push them into asking questions and just growing in their faith or relationship with Jesus.”

Church in Waco is as diverse as it is big. “They’re not all Baptist churches,” Daniels said.

There is also diversity between Baptist churches. Visitors could experience a traditional, multigenerational service in a beautiful building at First Baptist Waco. They could visit Harris Creek and worship alongside zealous college students. They could also attend Highland and observe the altar call that has left an impact on Doerstling.



TOP: Existential education Students follow Highland Baptist Church’s mission to “gather, grow, and go for God’s glory” in their education building.

BOTTOM: Highland Baptist Church’s Life Center is a place for community organization, such as Hoops Huddle, to meet.

Photos by Olivia Eiken

First



Thing



Fresh

Story by Abby Gan
Photos by Olivia Eiken and Finley Hamilton





FAR LEFT: Gardening questions? The owners and workers at Da' Shack Farmers Market are ready to help find the plants that will suit your needs best. **TOP RIGHT:** If you aren't looking for produce, the Waco Downtown Farmers Market also has plenty of craft and food vendors that you'll love exploring. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Stop by and get some merch at the Waco Downtown Farmers Market booth, workers are there to help you navigate the market to make the best of your experience.

Waco's outdoor markets provide a space for the community to gather and shop for products they might not find elsewhere.

Waco Downtown Farmers Market

The sun shines as customers stroll down the aisles, stopping to talk with vendors and browse a variety of items. The vendors vary from food trucks and fresh fruits and veggies to artistic accessories and decor. The environment is light and carefree as people eat, explore and strike up conversations. Welcome to the Waco Downtown Farmers Market.

According to the Waco Downtown Farmers Market's website, the market features local agricultural producers and artisan vendors in the Waco area. The market began in 2011 with 14 vendors and has continued to grow in vendors and customers into the market it is today.

Lance and Becky Bee are vendors at the Waco Downtown Farmers Market and own the business Bee's Greens. Lance said that the market provides an opportunity for exposure that would not be found elsewhere.

"The farmers market kind of gives you an opportunity to have what would be a storefront, only you don't have to pay the rent for a storefront. So it gives you an opportunity to come out and be face to face with your customers," Lance said.

Paige Grace, a local resident and regular visitor of the farmers market, said she likes that the Waco Downtown Farmers Market is the only place where certain products can be obtained.

"I always get a breakfast taco over at Muchos Tacos and they don't have an actual restaurant to go to. So this is the one place that you can get to come and get all of that so I love it," Grace said.

Visitors of the Waco Downtown Farmers Market said that the variety of

booths, people and cultures combined into one market creates an appealing community experience.

"I loved the sprinkle of culture with seeing the Mexican cuisines and then the Thai cuisines. And I liked seeing the little bits of the Texas country in different parts of the vendors," Zariel Rivas, Baylor University student from Corpus Christi, said.

Rivas said this had been her first time at a farmers market and she had already noticed an environment that distinguished it from other types of stores and markets.

"I did notice, it has such a different atmosphere just because you can just walk up to anyone to start talking with anyone. A lot of people had smiles on their faces and the fact that it's outside too, so you get a little bit of sun," Rivas said.

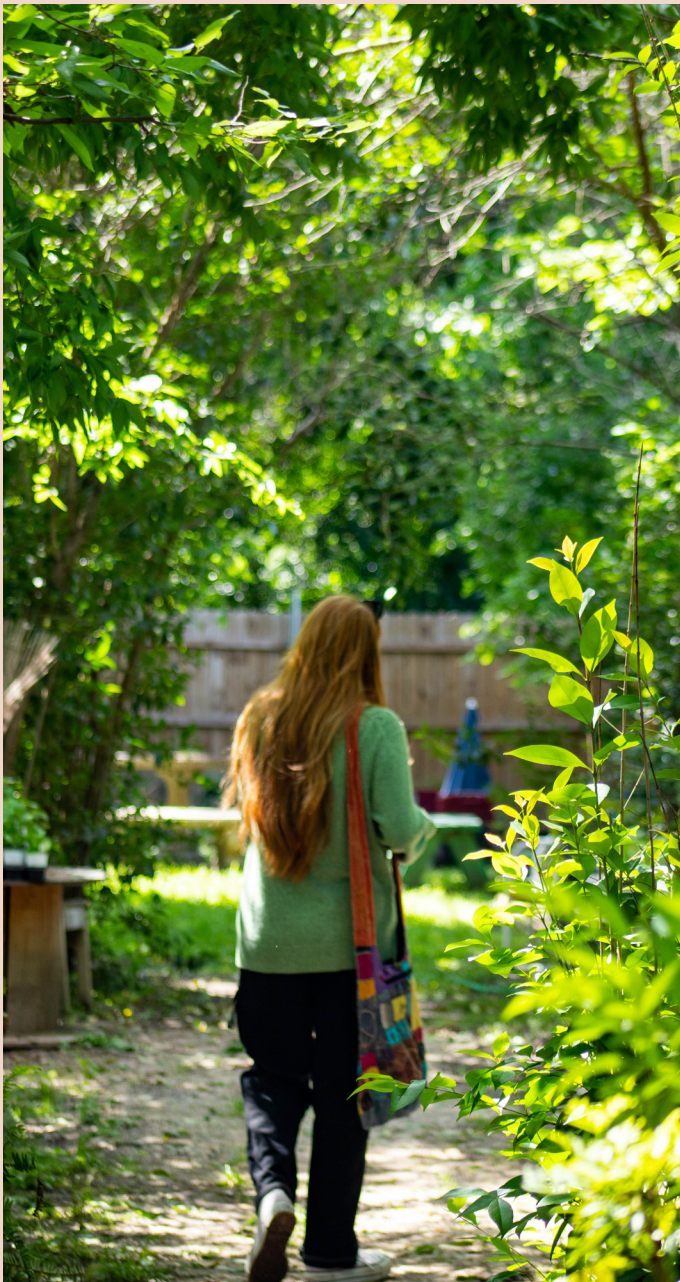
Grace said that the farmers market helped to make the community feel smaller than it actually is.

"I love that it's a little social community activity for Waco. I come from a very small community back home and so this just kind of makes me feel more at home," Grace said.

The customers were not the only ones who felt that the Waco Downtown Farmers Market is an outlet that draws the community together.

The Waco Downtown Farmers Market is "a great way to get embedded in this community. It's all the local farmers and the small business owners, and all of us here together kind of creates an environment where we can trade information, we you know, we help each other out," Lance Bee said.

ABOVE: Greens galore. The Waco Downtown Farmers Market has plenty of vendors selling ripe produce and gorgeous plants, you won't need to get your perishables anywhere else.





"So it just kind of becomes a big family which is really cool. You don't really get that if you're on your own in your own little business somewhere."

While the Waco Downtown Farmers Market sticks out in the heart of Waco, it is not the only outdoor market in town. Just over two miles away from the Waco Downtown Farmers Market lies Da' Shack Farmers Market.

Da' Shack Farmers Market

Da' Shack Farmers Market provides an additional opportunity to shop locally in an outdoor setting. While the Waco Downtown Farmers Market is held in a central location that's easy to find and normally bustling with activity, Da' Shack Farmers Market is tucked away on an East Waco street.

Upon arrival, a sign labeled Da' Shack stands outside a wooden structure that connects the street to the luscious green gardens of the farmers market.

After entering Da' Shack Farmers Market one will find a serene abundance of plants and multiple different planting areas, including a greenhouse.

Elizabeth Guttenberg, a customer at Da' Shack and first-year student at Baylor University, said she enjoyed the calm atmosphere of Da' Shack. Guttenberg said that as a nursing major often in a high stress environment, being at Da' Shack was a nice change for her.

"Literally just looking at plants and just getting to experience the fresh air and everything is such a relaxing experience that a lot of times we don't take time for ourselves to realize. And so just to sit and enjoy, and seeing God's beauty and plants and just beautiful things around you. It's just such a nice, relaxing and surreal experience," Guttenberg said.

Donna Nickerson, founder of Da' Shack Farmers Market, said that Da' Shack is different from the more stereotypical farmers market.

"We don't have tables, we actually go to the garden and cut it fresh and we educate. So anybody that's new to gardening, we like to teach people how to garden if they have questions. So when our customers come, we tell them, you know how to garden, how to do the soil, how to compost, flowers. So we're also a nursery," Nickerson said.

Guttenberg said that she was happy to see that Da' Shack was not trying to fit into the same stereotypical "aesthetic" or "vibe" that many farmers markets try to fit into.

"I think it was really cool to see that they had their own personality to the place which a lot of times it's something you don't necessarily see in businesses," Guttenberg said. "And so to see this individual business have its own cute personality, where it's very real and genuine and it was like this is us and we're not gonna hide it from you, just to see that and experience is so beautiful and just so nice."

Nickerson had a different goal than the Waco Downtown Farmers Market when she set out to start Da' Shack Farmers Market. She said that in 2017, she saw a need in the area of East Waco for more productive businesses that would cater to the community.

"I saw the need here, and wanted to provide organic fruits and herbs and vegetables to this community at an affordable rate," Nickerson said. Nickerson said that Da' Shack also applied and received access for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in 2017 to aid this goal of allowing everyone to be able to access their produce.

"Everybody can shop here, and we wanted to break down any kind of financial barriers for anyone, so anybody from any level of socio-economic status can come," Nickerson said.

Nickerson said the inclusivity of different peoples extends beyond socio-economic status. Nickerson said that Da' Shack sells plants that come from all over the U.S. and outside of the U.S.

"So different cultures, we try to have a little bit of something for every culture because we have a very diverse population that shops here," Nickerson said.

How to Visit

The Waco Downtown Farmers Market is located on 500 Washington Ave, Waco, Texas 76701, and open year-round on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Da' Shack Farmers Market is located on 925 Houston Street, Waco, Texas 76706, and open seasonally on Fridays.

TOP LEFT: Flower power. Norma's offers beautiful flowers seasonally that customers can place into a bouquet of their choice for a gorgeous decoration.

TOP RIGHT: Da' Shack offers a variety of plants that customers can look through to find the perfect addition to their garden.

BOTTOM LEFT: Taking a calming walk through Da' Shack's gardens is a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

MIDDLE: Chic and unique. If that creative bug isn't hitting you, Norma's vendors will work with you to help you create the perfect flower combination for any occasion.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Bees Greens is your one stop shop for all things produce to start your vegetable garden off strong.

Leap Into Adventure!

Embrace the Nature of Central Texas at Cameron Park

Story by Chloe Vartanian

Looking for outdoor family activities to do in Waco, Texas? Cameron Park is the place to go for all things fun. Located north of downtown and along the Brazos River, families can find a multitude of things to do there in a close vicinity. Whether you're looking for adventure, relaxation or quality time with your family, Cameron Park offers it all.

Cameron Park is one of Waco's most treasured locations and exploring its grounds is endless. According to The City of Waco Texas, the 400-acre park was founded more than 100 years ago. Children and their families flood the playgrounds to have picnics, enjoy the fresh air and even host birthday parties, festivals and sporting events there.

Families from all over Central Texas travel to Cameron Park to enjoy the scenery and public playgrounds it has to offer. Selina Acosta, a Central Texas native, said that her favorite place to visit is Pecan Bottoms, where there is

an open field next to the play area and gorgeous scenery. There are swings, slides, a splashpad that operates mostly during the summertime and disc golfing.

"I'm not from Waco, but I come here to visit my siblings and play around here," Acosta said. "This is a great place for my family to come together."

Just a short walk along the river past Pecan Bottoms playground is where one of the most traveled trail systems, the River Trail, begins. This trail is known for its quality running and biking trails, but it's also known for being a great place to take a family stroll. Acosta's younger brother Nathaniel said that he enjoys spending time walking there with his father on a beautiful sunny day, especially during the fall season with the cool breeze.

"One time when I came with my dad, we started walking up the trail and went up one of the cliffs," Nathaniel Acosta said. "He had to pull me though when got to the top. It's super high."

It's important for families to stay safe and cautious when walking on Cameron Park's trails and by its cliffs. The park officials prevent danger from occurring by providing sturdy guardrails and fences, direction signs and many maps for families to stay safe.

Cameron Park has breathtaking scenery where families can take pictures or have picnics at. Walking about one mile at the start of the River Trail brings you to the

Mouth of the Bosque, where you can see the Bosque and Brazos Rivers join. Then, a short but twisty drive up Cameron Park Avenue is Lover's Leap, the highest viewpoint at the park and one of the most popular spots to take family pictures at. There is a beautiful view and observation area that looks over the Bosque River and Waco's landscape.

There are two other main attractions for children to play at that are close to the observation areas. The placement of these playgrounds is perfect for families who want both fun and relaxation. Anniversary Park is right across the street from Miss Nellie's Pretty Place, which is a popular location for family photos and relaxation by its fountain. The other and newest playground is Northern Gateway playground, which is down the road from Lover's Leap.

Waco resident Alex Burnett said that he takes his mom and little sister to their two favorite playgrounds: Pecan Bottoms and Anniversary Park. Since they aren't too far apart from each other, he said they ditch the car and instead walk along the river and through the trails to each playground. "The

playground is great for my sister, the one down here and one up top," Burnett said. "It's just a really good place to be."

Left: **Greenery Galore** at the Lover's Leap lookout point Boaters and hikers can be seen walking along the Bosque River below. Photo by Olivia Eiken

Below: **Views can be seen** for miles at the Lover's Leap viewpoint. The cliff looks over the Bosque River and the endless greenery. Photo by Olivia Eiken



What is somewhat hard but also a fun challenge for families to do during their walk up to Anniversary Park from Pecan Bottoms is to take part in hiking up the famous Jacob's Ladder. It is a steep concrete staircase that has 88 steps. Burnett said he likes to challenge his little sister to see who can get up the stairs the fastest. Once you get to the top, Anniversary Park and the Cameron Park Clubhouse are seen.

"It does a number on the legs, but once you get up there you feel really good," Burnett said.

Another adventurous activity families can participate in at Cameron Park is kayaking. According to the Waco Tribune, Cameron Park is part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife paddling trail system. The main kayak launching area is in Middle Lagoon, which is across the river from Cameron Park in Brazos Park East. There are two other shorelines near Pecan Bottoms that families can launch out of as well. Kayak rentals are not available directly in the park, so families should bring their own kayaks.

After spending some time at the

Boaters enjoying their evening on the Bosque River. The river is 115 miles through Central Texas. Photo by Olivia Eiken



parks, families can easily make their way toward Cameron Park Zoo. Located across the river walk and Pecan Bottoms on University Parks Drive, the zoo is a 52-acre wild and natural habitat. According to Cameron Park Zoo's website, there is something for everyone to experience there. From the African Savanna to the Asian Forest, to the Brazos River Country fish and saltwater aquarium, exploring their grounds makes visitors feel transported out of Waco.

Aquatics zookeeper at Cameron Park Zoo Shirley Stewart has been working at the zoo for about three months. Stewart works in the aquatics department with all the stingrays, eels, fish and corals. She said she loves the atmosphere at their zoo and the excitement on the children's faces when they see animals they may have never seen before.

"I really like that so many little kids enjoy the fish and things here. They always say, 'There's Dory,'" Stewart said. "I love telling them about the corals and things like that since lots of people don't realize that they are animals."

Cameron Park Zoo also offers a variety of special memberships to their customers for

purchase. Liz Cortez, a Waco native and mother of her 3-year-old daughter Charlotte, said purchasing a family membership pass at the zoo was a great investment for her family. Only \$85 for an entire year, Cortez can bring her family and friends to visit as much as they desire. Cortez's daughter Charlotte said she loves "to watch the monkeys swing" at the zoo, so they always make sure to visit the lemurs' and apes' habitats every time they come.

The variety of things to do at Cameron Park can give you the opportunity to make new family traditions. Weekly family days or picnics at the park or monthly visits to the zoo can be ways for your family to bond and create memories that can last for generations.

Whether you're looking for adventure, relaxation or quality time with your family, Cameron Park is the place to be. It is the perfect local spot for all families looking to get out and experience both outdoor adventure and relaxation.

For more information on Cameron Park and its amenities, visit The City of Waco Texas website.

A beautiful night for bongos at Cameron Park! Lover's Leap has large grass areas perfect for relaxing and enjoying the evening breeze.

Photo by Olivia Eiken



A Blast From the Past

Discover Unique Items in Waco's Antique Shops

Antique shopping is more than just shopping, it can be an educational, inspirational, exciting and nostalgic experience. Waco, for being a small city, happens to offer a vast variety of fascinating antique shops.

One of the beauties of antique stores is that you never know what you will find. Each store varies by the type of antiques (Victorian items to old windows), organization style (scattered to orderly), value (the front end of a 1970s Lincoln to old records) and the list goes on. Every owner has a deep passion for the beauty of antiques and for serving their customers. They each love antiques for a unique reason and this influences the style of their stores. Customers shouldn't stop by in a hurry as they will likely shop longer than expected or get lost in conversation with the owner. If someone is seeking inspiration, they should consider antique shopping around Waco.

Riverside Relics, Home of the Solid Wood

Riverside Relics, owned by Sharon Wells, gives off shabby chic, farmhouse vibes. The store may seem small, but she was able to fit several pieces of antique, farmhouse furniture in every corner of the store. There was also an entire outdoor section of her store full of solid woods and other goods. All of Sharon's furniture was refurbished and sanded by her, so all the pieces paired perfectly together. She didn't match the furniture for the style of the store, but for her customers' needs. Sharon cares deeply for her customers.

"When I paint, I use wispy white so I stay consistent. The main reason being is because I've had newlyweds who have freshly gotten married and they're furnishing their new apartment. And then two years later they're getting ready for their nursery, and I get to furnish the nursery. A little bit of me goes to every home," Sharon said. When her family wanted her to retire, she told them she had too many close customer relationships to quit. She said to her family, "You don't understand. It's not just a store anymore, it's my life."

Sharon said that the biggest thing that sets antiques apart from products today is their quality, since most antiques are made with sturdy solid wood. "You grow to appreciate the detail when you go and look at other furniture, and it doesn't have that quality," Sharon said. "Ikea is going to maybe last you three years." Solid wood can also be sanded with sandpaper to erase any scratches the furniture may develop. While analyzing a solid wood dresser, Sharon said, "That's a piece of art, not just a piece of furniture."

Consider shopping at antique stores like Riverside Relics not just for the furniture finds, but the sweet conversations and educational lessons



Riverside Relics on LaSalle Avenue has an inviting exterior and a cozy interior.

Organized Junk at Junque In The Trunk

Organized antique stores are a rare site to see. Junque In The Trunk strays from the average antique store for its tidiness. From the very first step inside the store, customers are likely to notice how every item in the store is carefully placed in a spot as opposed to randomly placed, overlaying other items. The store also had sections that were easy to identify: a designated location for car posters, war items, farmhouse frames and so on. It was like a breath of fresh air.

Dennis Phipps, the owner of the store, said he wanted the store to be different from other antique stores. He even rearranges his inventory often like a retail store would, so the store seems up to date even though the items are old. "It makes you feel good that they walk in here and they're surprised," Dennis said.

Dennis encourages people to purchase antiques so old items aren't forgotten. He said that little kids come into his store and play on the old typewriters, and they have no idea what they are. Not only that, but college kids don't even know what some of the most basic home items were used for. "I had one college kid that was in here a couple years ago. We had the dial phone in here, and they didn't know what it was. They didn't know how to make a phone call on it," Dennis said. "It's kind of neat. You keep these things alive." These items may not be for reuse, but they can be used as a neat decoration that sparks curiosity in someone's mind about how people used to live.

The value of an antique item is based on more than just its actual price, but what it means to someone. Many people buy antiques just because they discover an old emotional connection they have with an item. Antiques give people a sense of nostalgia. Dennis said people have bought pieces just because their grandma had owned it years ago. He won't sell his favorite piece, a 1948 barber light, because of the same nostalgic feelings. The antique is like his "childhood growing up," Dennis said. He turned on the old barber light and looked at it with such appreciation.

Dennis seems to value his customers as much as he values antiques. He keeps his store up to date and orderly for his customer's positive reactions.



Junque In The Trunk grabs the attention of passerbys with a vintage looking sign, marking the vintage filled building.

The Junky Monkey, Cozy Yet Chaotic

The Junky Monkey has the most welcoming atmosphere. Music was playing softly in the background and fresh cookies were set out by the door. Then the owner, Jill Turner, greets customers with a kind hello. The warm atmosphere likely causes customers to relax and take their time as they shift through items. The style of Jill's store was like a traditional, cluttered antique store, except more cute and cozy. In the front she had fun jewelry and clothes, then in the back she had older antique items placed sporadically. She also had an outside portion with outdoor furniture, signs, frames and other durable items. The exterior of the store was painted with bright blue and yellow paint and with a monkey mural on the side. It is chaotic and eye-catching. Her store wasn't as organized as some, but that was her style. Jill said that antique shopping is supposed to be like a treasure hunt.

Jill has several ways of finding items to sell in her store. She said that she started out traveling all over the United States searching for unique items. Now she has several contacts who give her their old items, or she will go on antique hunts. "Oh, it's fun finding the treasures," Jill said. "I dig in barns and go in places most people don't go, so I get to see what I can find as a treasure hunt." Her love for finding antiques is one of the reasons she opened her store.

One of Jill's favorite discoveries is a vintage oil holder, which were rare even when they were in style. "You can tell that it came from a very high-end home," Jill said. Items like this are items many people didn't know existed, so selling it in an antique store is a great way to preserve history. Antique shopping "keeps history alive," Jill said.

Decorating with antiques can make homes look unique. "Antiques give homes a different look. You can go to Hobby Lobby and your house can look like anybody else's," Jill said. When someone styles their home with antiques it can also reflect their personality because they specifically picked the antiques out, she said.



Junky Monkey is known for its fun and attention grabbing exterior that can be seen driving on LaSalle Avenue.



The outside of the building is as colorful and unique as the goods it contains inside.

Two Blind (Antique Loving) Mice

Two ladies named Laurie and Linda Hyde reference themselves as the "two blind mice" because they are legally blind twin sisters. These twins share the same passion for antiques, and it's evident because they can literally finish each other's sentences. In 2022, they plan on opening and naming an antique store after them, calling it Two Blind Mice.

They listed several reasons why they personally love to antique shop. One of their reasons benefits everyone, and that is that purchasing antiques is economically friendly. "I hate seeing things go to the garbage, to our landfills," Laurie said. Not only that, but these items that are being discarded offer quality. They can still be used today. "We need to bring back quality merchandise," Laurie said.

They're confident that antique items last longer, especially when they are made in America, so they prefer to buy and sell only American made antiques. "I don't want to buy anything from China," Laurie said. "We need to go back to the small businesses of the good hard workers that made the United States what it is now."

They think antiques offer an emotional aspect as well. "They bring back good memories," Linda said. They once saw a lady come into an antique shop, "And the next thing you know she was crying her eyes out," Laurie said. The antiques reminded her of her grandmother, which caused her to become emotional. "And then we were all crying," Laurie said.

A Night at the Museums: Just What the Dr Pepper Ordered

By Haley Burrow

Waco Museums Showcase History of Texas, Waco

Walking around for what seems like hours on a school trip.

Staring at paintings that appear almost indecipherable.

Trying to figure out the meaning of whatever the exhibit in front of you is.

Some museums can seem intimidating when you first walk in. Whether you enter an art gallery with paintings and sculptures filled with complex shapes and an underlying meaning, or you attend a science museum filled with different exhibits that you never learned about after graduating high school, chances are that you've visited a museum you didn't necessarily find interesting.

The Dr Pepper Museum and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum hope that their uniqueness brings an exciting edge to the Waco museum industry.

"Our hope is you come here, you feel like you belong, you enjoy a museum, and you get an understanding for how museums work so that you might feel comfortable going to the next museum," Dr Pepper Museum educational experience manager Rachel Moore said.

The Dr Pepper Museum, which opened in 1991, is housed in one of the original Dr Pepper bottling warehouses and opened its doors to the public as a way to engage the community in the history of the soda.

"I refer to this museum as a gateway museum," Moore said. "We're not intimidating. We're something everyone loves. No one is going to walk into the Dr Pepper Museum and think [they] aren't smart enough."

Dr Pepper is the oldest major brand of soda in the United States, and the museum welcomes many visitors who

share their love of the soft drink every year, hitting its peak visitation numbers in 2019 with 174,000 guests attending the museum.

"People are finding validation in this thing that they love, which is something unique," Moore said.

The Dr Pepper museum is also home to the W.W. Clements Free Enterprise Institute which was created in 1997 as a way for guests to learn more about the economic system that not only faced the Dr Pepper company, but also the average American citizen.

"We hope that [the guests] leave with a practical understanding of economics and marketing," Moore said. "But as a museum person, we really hope we teach people about museum literacy."



The Dr Pepper Museum, originally used for manufacturing, was called The Artesian Manufacturing and Bottling Company

Photo by Olivia Eiken

Waco's Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, which opened in 1968, hopes to teach and inspire appreciation for the Rangers who have served the state of Texas since the organization started in 1835.

"For a lot of people, [their favorite part is] the Lone Ranger mask, or for a lot of people, it's the guns or the badges," Texas Ranger Museum marketing and development specialist Christine Rothenbush said. "I actually really like some of the stories that are a little bit less well known, but that just kind of leave an impression on you."



Several baseball players are featured in Texas Sports Hall of Fame including Jake Atz who played for the Chicago White Sox.

Photos by Olivia Eiken

Rothenbush said her favorite piece of history in the museum surrounded the Aten family of Round Rock, Texas, which had several Rangers in the family.

She said that the ranch brand of the Aten family consisted of the number eight and the letter "N" and when put together, sounded the same as the family name when said aloud.

"Those are like the thing I like about the museum," Rothenbush said. "Where unless you were paying attention, you wouldn't have necessarily have known, but when you realize it and look at it, you are able to see that it's cool."

Rothenbush, who mainly creates advertisements and does promotion for the museum, said that she really enjoys talking individually with visitors of the museum.

"I really like that one-on-one interaction and being able to see people learn something new and get excited," Rothenbush said. "That's the best part of my job, when those come along."

Dallas native, Linda Cook, said that she visited the Texas Ranger Museum in hopes of learning more about the organization's history.

"My great-great-grandfather was a Ranger many years ago," Cook said. "I never got to meet him, and a lot of his story hasn't been passed down to my generation, so getting to learn about the history of the Rangers makes me feel a little bit closer to him."



Dr Pepper Museum's East West Building including the Liquid Lab is decorated outside with a neon sign

Photo by Olivia Eiken



The Texas Sports Hall of Fame, prior to being moved to Waco in 1993, was located, but dormant in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Photo by Olivia Eiken

The recent pandemic forced a lot of changes in the world, and the Dr Pepper Museum was able to see growth as a result of changes.

“We had the privilege during [COVID-19] when we were thinking about, ‘What do we do now that we don’t have field trips?’” Moore said. “We had the opportunity to be really creative and so we created five new programs, and they’re all pretty successful now.”

The new programs that the Dr Pepper Museum incorporated since the beginning of the pandemic include Make-A-Soda, Taste-A-Soda, Extreme Pepper Experience, an Augmented Reality Mystery Game, and the Paranormal Experience.

“[The paranormal tours are] an interesting concept,” Moore



Hitting all the bases The Texas Sports Hall of Fame has a Health, Fitness and Education Center.

Photo by Olivia Eiken

said. “As a skeptic, I really enjoy the fact that we have a creative community here.”

The Paranormal Experience allows adult guests to tour the museum at nighttime to learn about the history of the building and its paranormal activity.

“We have yet to make it to one of the paranormal tours, but it’s something my husband and I are really looking forward to trying out,” Houston, Texas visitor Nicole Johnson said. “Adding all of these new programs compared to before the pandemic is a great way that the museum has broadened the experience of visiting.”

Moore said she hopes that the new programs will inspire more of the Waco community and surrounding areas to visit the museum and take the time to enjoy the experience.

“We are big fans of our tourists and our tourism,” Moore said. “But I think we also really appreciate our community and giving back to community members, now that we’ve developed our experiences that generate revenue and make this a great experience for our tourism. I’d love to see the museum grow in our community.”

Both the Dr Pepper Museum and the Texas Ranger Museum encourage guests of all ages to attend and often have visits from a variety of people including school groups and niche communities.

“I love being able to take my kids here,” Belton, Texas resident Becca Vasek said. “It’s somewhere that I remember visiting on school trips in high school right after the [Dr Pepper] museum opened up, and to be able to bring my kids and show them around is really great.”

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-LINDA COOK

Rothenbush said that she often hears guests complain about not having enough time to get through the entire museum in their one visit and says there is more to the museum than one might think from the outside.

“A lot of times, you can’t really see a lot of the museum from the highway,” Rothenbush said. “A lot of people think, because of what they can see from the outside, that it is only a 30-minute trip. I try my best to get the word out that you need to plan time for your visit like you would plan time for a movie.”

Rothenbush said she hopes that the future of the Texas Ranger Museum incorporates more interest from the local community.

“We have a lot of out-of-state and out-of-country visitors, and they tend to understand the admiration of the Rangers,” Rothenbush said. “I wish Waco did as well. Waco has a gem, and sometimes they don’t even know it.”



A photograph of a street at dusk. The street is lined with large, leafy trees. In the foreground, a traffic light hangs over the road, showing a red light. To the right, a green street sign reads "S 100 8 Th". Further down the road, a car is visible, and there are more traffic lights and street signs. The sky is a soft, hazy pink and orange.

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this edition of The Pulse.**

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