

de Stolfe
Journal
Candid

February 2015 | 4.2



Forever
Texas
Home

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www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe



www.pinterest.com/cowbovrg



<http://myworld.ebay.com/cowbovrg>



www.foap.com/market/tags/cowbovrg



www.etsy.com/shop/CowsChewinCud



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The Super Bowl was Sunday, February 1, 2015. On the Hallmark Channel, they presented the Kitten Bowl II. Take a look at their website to learn more about the game and about adopting cats.

<http://www.hallmarkchannel.com/kitten-bowl/>



Word for Life

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Many think this concept is utter hogwash, but do you understand that what you say has a direct impact as to what happens (or not happens) in your life? Proverbs 18:21 clearly and plainly states that the words coming off your tongue directly give death or directly give life. The word death is stated first because it is the most destructive and has the most need of caution! Sadly, this is what too many

people say first instead of speaking forth positive and constructive words. Also, this hate speech (and yes, it is hate speech) is all too often directed first to family members, because family is the easiest and most "convenient" to spout off too, and unfortunately, family members are being cursed, cut down, and condemned by their own family!

Instead of spouting off and saying hateful, destructive words, say words of life! Say words that are constructive and reaffirm the positive aspects of a person, especially if that person is having a difficult time with something!

Don't know what to say? Use positive, uplifting words of Deuteronomy 28:1-13!

3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

11 And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground...

*13 And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail... **Speak Life!***

Saddle Break Reads

Facebook Posts—February

Note: These are only a curated selection of my favorite posts I make on Facebook.

February 2

Happy Ground Hog Day! Now, everyone understand that we have 6 weeks of winter no matter what the weather does and no matter whether or not Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow!

February 4

To raise money for moving back to Texas, I am selling my handmade goods!

Here's what I have: cedar picket Crosses with rowels, horse nail Cross keyrings with several color choices of jewelry wire, yarn ball cat toys in six colors including camo, and some Cross necklaces on leather cord that are similar to the keyrings. I sell these on Etsy and eBay (along with other stuff). I can also sell to you directly.

My Etsy shop: www.etsy.com/shop/CowsChewinCud

[CowsChewinCud](http://www.etsy.com/shop/CowsChewinCud)

My eBay page: www.ebay.com/usr/cowboyrg.

To buy directly, send me a private message. I take credit cards and PayPal and cash by arrangement.

February 12

He was the Masked Rider horse the entire time I was in Lubbock. Also, I knew several of the Masked Riders. He was still a relatively young horse.

February 16

Any guesses as to what I just made? A small few of you will know exactly what it is. The rest of you will just be guessing that it is some sort of cookie. You will either know exactly what it is, or you will just vaguely call it a cookie.

February 22 at 11:28pm

Yee haw! Still above 0!

February 27

Here are the facts. The PHYSICAL dress is blue and black. The IMAGE of the dress is, first of all crappy and with very bad lighting, is white and gold with subtle bluish shading. If people realized just how much the color of an image of something can be tampered with, even just by bad lighting (or the lack of lighting) on an object, they wouldn't be so quick to declare an IMAGE as absolute fact!

Remember people, images are not real! They are only a representation of something real. Do not ever mistake an image for the real physical thing! (I deal with images as a graphic artist all the time. I know exactly how images can be manipulated, even to the point where they bear no resemblance to the real thing.)

Joe's Boot Shop Closed

If you have ever travelled to or through Clovis in New Mexico, you undoubtedly passed by Joe's Boot Shop. This boot store was a standard stop for rodeo cowboys and for the people of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico for over 40 years, opening in Muleshoe, then to Clovis in 2001. Joe's was even a sponsor for the Texas Tech Rodeo, among various others the shop supported. The store closed with very little stated as to the reason. Even their website is gone.

Klingenberg At It Again

Derek Klingenberg, the Kansas farmer I mentioned in the January 2015 issue, made another video posted to YouTube with a drone and cattle feed. Last time, he made a large smiley face in his pasture with his cows by pouring the feed on the ground in the shape of the smiley face and having the mostly black cattle form the lines all the while having the drone video the action. This time for Valentine's Day, he did the same thing, but made the shape into a heart!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3CBLGhocH4&feature=youtu.be>

[v=m3CBLGhocH4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3CBLGhocH4&feature=youtu.be)



Did you change your clock forward one hour on March 7? If you didn't, you are now an hour behind!

March Calendar

3.2.15—Texas Independence Day (1836)

3.5.15—Purim

3.8.15—Daylight Savings Time Starts

3.14.15— π Day! (3.14159265358979...)

[at 3.14.15 9:26:53 (AM)!]

3.17.15—St. Patrick's Day

3.20.15—First Day of Springs

3.29.15—Palm Sunday

4.3.15—Good Friday

4.4.15—Passover (starting sundown 4.3.15)

4.5.15—Easter Sunday

Midnight Matador Dies

Midnight Matador, the black horse of the Masked Rider for Texas Tech University, died February 3, 2015 from complications during colic surgery. This horse first started as a replacement horse starting in 2002 until he retired in 2013 (the 13th horse in the mascot program) serving as the Masked Rider horse for 11 Masked Riders (who are chosen annually). Midnight was the longest running horse in the program and died at age 15. The very first "masked rider" started in 1936 as the "Ghost Rider" because of a dare and no one knew who the rider was.

However, the Masked Rider did become an official mascot when Joe Kirk Fulton rode a black horse at a college football game at the Gator Bowl in 1954 in Jacksonville, Florida.

[Read more.](#)



RED RAIDERS



Saddle Break Reads

Alco Stores Closed

Alco Stores is based out of Coppel, Texas. In October 2014, they filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. At the time of this writing, I am guessing that all the stores have closed and all assets liquidated (you know, the crazy going out of business sales!)

Well before they were advanced in closing and when [their website](#) was still normal, I found that these stores mainly existed in small towns across the country. Leadville had an Alco, and for most of the time I was there, I shopped there often, usually getting good deals on many things when I went. I'm always sad when smaller chains go out of business because that gives the bully mega chain stores even more room to squeeze out more of the smaller businesses.



It's More Bueno

On March 2, official ground breaking happened for a new Taco Bueno restaurant in Colorado Springs. The ground breaking was in the north end of the town where many restaurants exist, and the store will be located between Chick-fil-a and Chipotle and across from Red Robin. Fortunately, the day was clear and warmer than it was. The food truck came up from Texas and gave out free Taco Bueno. A large percentage of the people who turned out were various Taco Bueno reps.

[Taco Bueno](#) first opened in Abilene, Texas in 1967. Today, restaurants are in several states. Lubbock had several Taco Buenos but closed sometime in the past two years from slow business. (And in all fairness, I usually would rather go to [Rosa's Café](#) instead!)



Remember This Cat?

In the January 2014 issue in the Saddle Break Reads, I mentioned about a skateboarding cat going around Malibu posted on YouTube. Well, this cat's name is Didga. The owner of Didga has a business in Malibu of training dogs. So, why not a cat too! You can follow Didga in photos and video on their Facebook page, [Catmantoo](#).

Small Cats to Big Cats

After Christmas, so many Christmas trees—bought or not—get dumped into landfills or perhaps recycled in some way. Here's a way to reuse the trees that I have never heard of! How about giving some to big cats! In Tampa, the Big Cat Rescue puts the trees in the play corrals. I was completely surprised how the big cats reacted! They loved them! Cats of various types and sizes all went to the trees and rubbed in them, climbed all over them, and just played in them! Here is a video showing what each type of cat did when going to the trees.

[View video.](#)



Black & White Cookies (a NY Specialty)

In mid February, I tackled some cookies that I remember having as a kid in south Florida. These cookies are called Black and White Cookies. They are a cakey type of cookie with frosting of white and chocolate on top, cutting the cookie in half and are very common particularly to New York. I found the recipe on Cook's Country on PBS (and by the way, Cook's Country and America's Test Kitchen are really interesting shows for learning to cook and retooling recipes to work better!)

Unfortunately, you need a subscription to get the recipe, but you can watch the video and they explain exactly the measurements and how to make them. So, you can watch the show and take notes.

[Here's the link to the video for the cookies.](#)





Texas



Texas: It's Like a Whole Other Country

Don't Mess with Texas

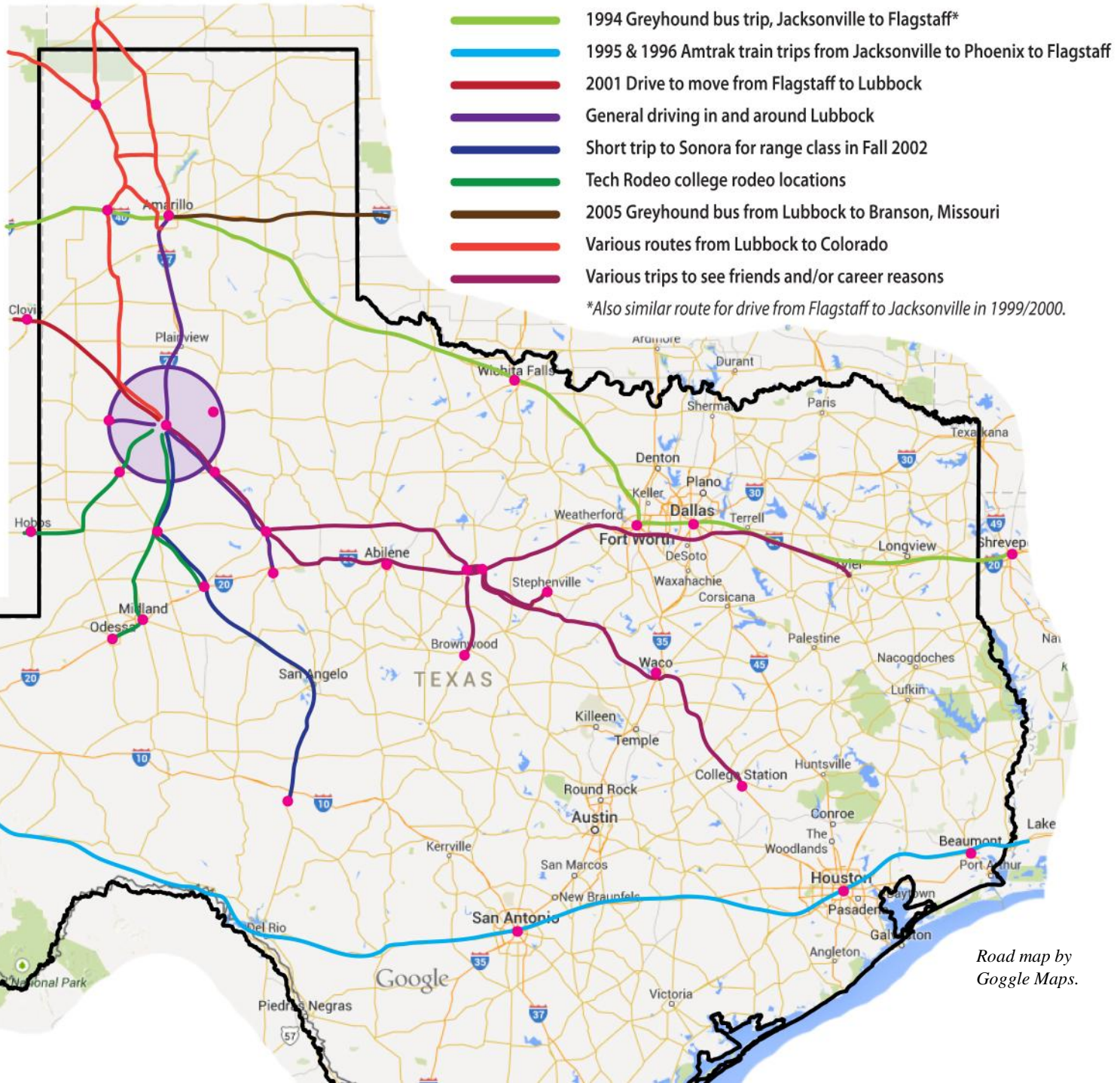
Everything's Bigger in Texas

Everything's More Texan in Texas



Places in Texas I've Been

The February issue of the de Stolfe Journal Candid is mostly dedicated to Texas! Texas is the 2nd longest state I lived in, with Florida being the first for 24 years. In addition, Texas was the only state where I EVER felt at home. Florida wasn't it, Arizona wasn't it, and Colorado was never it. For the 11 years I lived in Lubbock, Texas specifically, I gained much about what Texas is. These pages are not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to highlight various points about the state and the people. If there's one thing I've clearly understood by being away for a time, it is that life is far too short not to be where you want to be and not to be where you have been the happiest, no matter the ups and downs of the past! I refuse to listen to the naysayers who never have anything positive to say about your plans and ideas, especially those of your own family! (and sadly.) I hope you like this issue! Most everything here is something I personally experienced.



Road map by Goggle Maps.

Texas Sports

Texas Football

I can't do justice by talking about Texas if I don't at least mention football! No doubt, football is the number one sport in Texas in all levels. The regular tradition during football season is to have high school football games Friday night, college football games Saturday, and watch pro football on Sunday. And that's not even to mention the giant spread of tailgating tents in the parking lots of high school and college games! They become popup cities for the weekends during the big games!

Funny story. Around Halloween 2008, I was working that Friday and Saturday for Steak Express delivering steaks as usual. Friday was Halloween and Saturday was a huge game between Texas Tech and University of Texas. Because of the compound Halloween-football game against the other major college, the tailgating was crazy! Every open spot around the stadium and even as far away as half a mile was packed of tailgaters with their RVs, tents, BBQs, coolers, lounge chairs, and TVs! A couple of times I had to deliver to the

tailgaters. As much as I could though, I tried to stay away because the people, traffic, and overall congestion was insane!

Since I went to Texas Tech, I will talk about Texas Tech and the Red Raiders. Although, the other major college teams are University of Texas Longhorns in Austin and Texas A&M University Aggies in College Station. Here's a list of all of the head coaches of Texas Tech University (from [Wikipedia](#)).

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Ewing Y. Freeland | 1925–1928 |
| 2 | Grady Higginbotham | 1929 |
| 3 | Pete Cawthon | 1930–1940 |
| 4 | Dell Morgan | 1941–1950 |
| 5 | DeWitt Weaver | 1951–1960 |
| 6 | J.T. King | 1961–1969 |
| 7 | Jim Carlen | 1970–1974 |
| 8 | Steve Sloan | 1975–1977 |
| 9 | Rex Dockery | 1977–1980 |
| 10 | Jerry Moore | 1981–1985 |
| 11 | David McWilliams | 1986 |
| 12 | Spike Dykes | 1986–1999 |
| 13 | Mike Leach | 2000–2009 |
| <i>Int</i> | Ruffin McNeill | 2009 |
| 14 | Tommy Tuberville | 2010–2012 |
| <i>Int</i> | Chris Thomsen | 2012 |
| 15 | Kliff Kingsbury | 2013–present |

The American

Just as big, if not bigger, than the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo for rodeo contestants is The American. This two million dollar event features the best of the best to compete in this one day, two round event for serious money. The American is produced by RFD TV and was at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington on March 1, 2015. The overall competition is a three part system: qualifiers, semifinals, and the American. The qualifiers are scheduled throughout the year for each event at sanctioned rodeos. The contestants must meet minimum qualifications to compete in the semifinals, which was at the Stockyards in Fort Worth February 18-22, 2015. The top players of the semifinals then competed at The American for the two million dollar payout. Here are the winners.



Bareback Riding

Taylor Price of Huntsville, Texas
89.75 points on "Show Stomper", \$100,000 plus \$500,000 bonus

Team Roping

Kaleb Driggers of Albany, Georgia and Travis Graves of Jay, Oklahoma
4.52 seconds, \$100,000

Steer Wrestling

KC Jones of Decatur, Texas
4.19 seconds, \$100,000

Saddle Bronc Riding

Wade Sundell of Coleman, Oklahoma
90.75 points on "Medicine Woman", \$100,000

Tie Down Roping

Reese Riemer of Stinnett, Texas
7.59 seconds, \$100,000 plus \$500,000 bonus

Barrel Racing

Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, South Dakota
14.726 seconds, \$100,000

Bull Riding

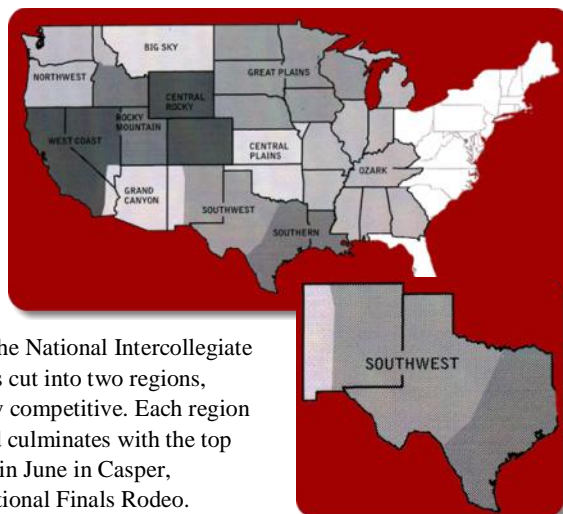
Silvano Alves of Pilar Do Sul, Brazil
88.25 points on "Raven Flyer", \$100,000

[Read more about the winners...](#)



College Rodeo

Next to football, rodeo is probably the next biggest sport in Texas. While it is not the largest sport after football, it does have a strong following both in participation and in watching. For college rodeo, the country is divided into 11 regions with each region governed separately with the guides of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. Texas specifically is cut into two regions, Southwest and Southern, both are highly competitive. Each region competes in 10 rodeos a school year and culminates with the top individuals and team qualifiers meeting in June in Casper, Wyoming to compete in the College National Finals Rodeo.



Music 'n' Other Stuff

Texas Music

While Nashville is often known as the hub for country music, technically, this is only one variety of country music, the "Nashville sound", with others type often mentioned like bluegrass, southern rock, folk, Cajun, western, outlaw, etc. However, Texas has a whole other variety of country music styles, most unique to Texas. Texans generally love live music and dancing to boot. Add some good food, and they have the evening all set!

Western Swing is the most often associated with Texas music (George Strait being a leader in this style), but so are the styles of Tex-Mex or Tejano (direct influence from Mexico), cowboy rooted music (as with cowboy poems set to music, often with Irish or German interpretations), the Lubbock sound (pioneered by Buddy Holly), Rodeo influenced music (with Chris LeDoux at the top of that genre), and Texas Honky Tonk, which is often basic, aggressive, and a take it or leave it style heavily influenced with beer.

Country Music Awards

2015 is the 50th anniversary of the Academy Of Country Music awards. Although the organization is based out of Los Angeles, the 50th anniversary award show will be it the AT&T Stadium in Arlington. With the stadium as the largest in the country, I suspect that they expect a huge turnout. The award show will be live on Sunday, April 20, 2015 at 8:00 ET on CBS. The hosts again are Luke Bryan and Blake Shelton. Should be big!

[Read more...](#)



Republic of Texas

Article from the New Orleans Times-Picayune from the late 1830s after Texas Independence.

Northern publishers are informed that all papers forwarded to Texas via New Orleans, remain dead in the post office, unless postage be paid on them to this place. The postmaster here has no authority to forward any of the United States mail to Texas, the post office department of this government having nothing to do with that of our sister republic. Persons forwarding papers, letters, and other documents to Texas, would do well to pay the postage on them as far as New Orleans. There are now two or three thousand papers in the New Orleans post office for persons in Texas, which will have to be sold for the postage.— Exchange papers for editors in Texas are forwarded through courtesy.

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My Favorite Texas Restaurants

Some of these restaurants were founded in Texas, while others are simply in Texas, but that I ate at many times. So, in no particular order, here are some of my favorite restaurants in Texas that I often eat at.



Taco Bueno



Cowboy Comics

As with most any culture, art imitates life. In this case, comics imitates cowboy life. Those who grew up in the ranching industry and/or through some range of their adult lives, have an intimate knowledge of the seasons, quirks, skills, frustrations, and flow of ranch life. This includes dealing with others, horses, cattle, dogs, weather, money (or lack thereof), food, generational differences, and relationships. While many of these themes

are quite universal, the ranch slant of them makes it quite different. These differences are no better captured than in the comics of cowboy cartoonists. In a simple frame, these hand drawings give so much depth and humor that others in the same profession will no doubt relate to them and probably have experienced the same scenarios too! Many of these cowboy comics span various decades and the themes are often particular to

those decades, while other themes are more timeless. Here is a small collection of the cowboy cartoonists of which I am aware.

Enjoy!

Note: I am including these copyrighted images/comics as part of an editorial. Refer to the respective links to go to the website and purchase merchandise. Each are copyright by the respective owners.

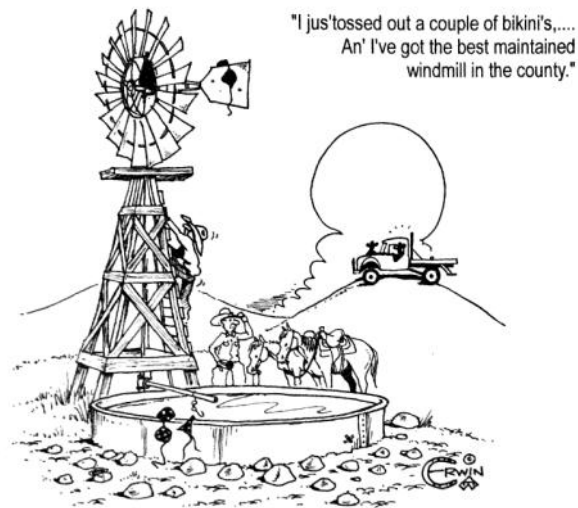
Cowpokes © by Ace Reid



"He sez if we're so dang smart, how come we're always borrowin' HIS money to stay in business?"

<http://cowpokes.com>

Hooves & Horns © by A.W. Erwin



<http://www.hooves-and-horns-cowtoons.com/>

The Back Forty © by Lex Graham



"Tell me about dinosaurs Grandpa. Daddy said they were probably still here when you were a kid."

<http://lexgraham.com/>

Cowboys © by Art Omans



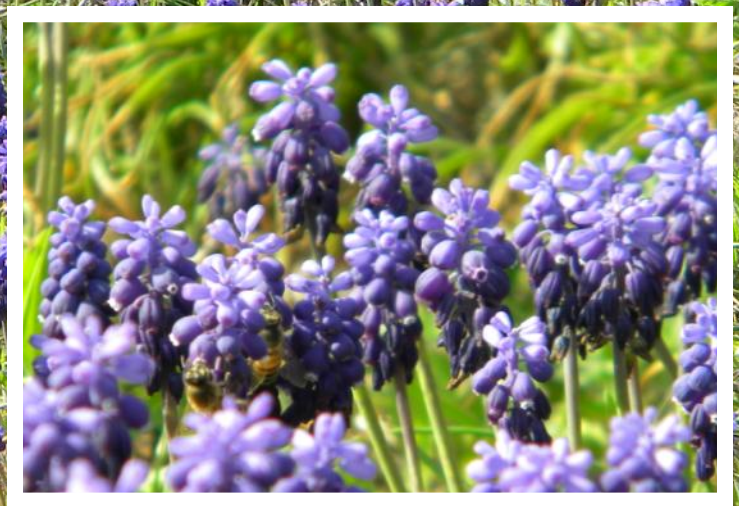
"I'VE SUNK EVERY CENT I OWNED INTO THEM COWS."

<http://www.vitronicpromotional.com/?p=viewitem&itemno=V8879>

Texas Bluebonnets!

Texas State Flower

*Mid March 2010
Texas Hill Country*



Famous Texans

Here are some famous people you probably did not know were born in Texas!

Beyoncé (Knowles)
Houston



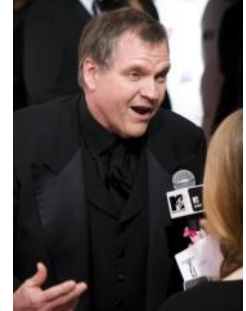
Larry Hagman
Fort Worth



Janis Joplin
Port Arthur



Meat Loaf (Marvin Lee Aday)
Dallas



Carol Burnett
San Antonio



Woody Harrelson
Midland



Lyle Lovett
Klein



Usher (Terry Raymond IV)
Dallas



Cyd Charisse
Amarillo



Waylon Jennings
Littlefield



Steve Martin
Waco



Vanilla Ice (Robert Matthew Van Winkle)
Dallas



Jamie Foxx (Eric Marlon Bishop)
Terrell



Tommy Lee Jones
San Saba



Matthew McConaughey
Uvalde



Owen Wilson
Dallas



COMEDY'S BIGGEST STARS COME HOME

ONE NIGHT ONLY SNL40

LIVE ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

On Sunday, February 15, Saturday Night Live had their Saturday Night Live 40 special. The only word to describe the 3.5 hour special was epic! (And this is a word I rarely use, despite many people using it a dead phrase.) While much about SNL comedy over the past 40 years was frankly stupid (and many people are quick to point out how stupid SNL is generally), no one can deny that great talent as well as great comedic moments came from SNL over the past 40 years!

The special started with a separate one hour show of the red carpet arrivals between the studio building and Rockefeller Center. Then the actual special started in studio 8H (the same studio over the past 40 years) with a cold open featuring Jimmy Fallon and the ever popular Justin Timberlake with interruption cameos of *Debbie Downer* and *Mary Katherine Gallagher*. Then, the monologue opened with Steve Martin and a host of SNL cameos. (Contrary to popular belief, Steve Martin was never part of the cast but does have the highest number of times hosting competing with Alec Baldwin who actually has one higher.) Monologue cameos included Tom Hanks, Alec Baldwin, Melissa McCarthy, Chris Rock, Peyton Manning, Miley Cyrus, Billy Crystal, Paul McCartney, and Paul Simon. The rest of the

special contained various segments dedicated to the different aspects of SNL.

A sequence of clips, introduced by Robert de Niro, dedicated New York as the host city of SNL, including the season that started just after the 9-11 attacks with Mayor Rudy Giuliani. The special compiled various favorite sketches along with reoccurring features. Some of the sketches were reprises of the original sketches (like Dan Aykroyd's *Bass-O-Matic*, even with a prop failure!), while other sketches were new variations with original characters. These new variations included: *Celebrity Jeopardy* with Will Ferrell as Alex Trebek and various character celebrities (playing Sean Connery, Justin Bieber, Tony Bennett, Burt Reynolds, Christoph Waltz, and Matthew McConaughey), *The Californians* (and ending with a *Buh-Bye* sketch), *Wayne's World* with a top ten list about SNL, and *Weekend Update* with Jane Curtin, Amy Poehler, and Tina Fey giving a short fake news broadcast with several Update guests, including Stephan.

They featured sports skits introduced by Derek Jeter and Peyton Manning, politics (including presidential impersonations) introduced by Jack Nicholson, films (later called digital shorts after 2000) introduced

by Louis CK, and an audience question period with Jerry Seinfeld. In addition, Martin Short and Beyoncé (Maya Rudolph) gave a musical tribute to the various musical sketches, including cameos with *Marty Culp* and *Bobbie Mohan Culp*, and Steve Martin's *King Tut*, among others. They showed clips of when performers broke character from laughter. They singled out and honored Chevy Chase, Tracy Morgan, and Eddie Murphy (who actually showed up for this anniversary celebration! He did not come for any previous anniversary celebrations.)

As with the regular shows, they provided musical entertainment. Musical performances included Paul McCartney, Miley Cyrus, Kanye West, and Paul Simon. They showed behind the scenes auditions, a dedication of those who died (on both sides of the camera), and thanked the crew and SNL band members. The entire evening had countless cameos of individuals, characters, and various references.

At the very end, as they do with the regular weekly shows, they ended with the host and cast members on stage playing the usual ending music. They brought up the producer, Lorne Michaels, and while he didn't speak, he was honored the whole evening.



A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like A Medicine...

(Proverbs 17:22)

Last month was for the ladies. This month is now for the guys!

Things Southern Boys Never Say

- My truck is too big.
- I've never shot a gun before.
- This tea is too sweet.
- Sorry, I don't have a pocket knife on me.
- What's a Harley?
- Oh. I didn't know it was deer season.
- I don't have any camouflage clothing.
- I have too many guns!
- I've never drank a beer.
- My truck is too loud.
- I don't really like bonfires.
- Why would I bring a fishin' pole?
- Skinny jeans are my favorite.
- I've never been swimming in a creek/pond.
- Can you pass the kale chips?
- My favorite hot tea is English Breakfast Tea.
- What's a Carhartt?
- I've never been in a duck blind.
- Who would want a deer feeder?
- I have too many pairs of boots.



Things You Likely Won't Hear Texans Say

- I like my chili mild and with beans.
- I'll take Shakespeare for \$1000. Alex.
- No kids in the back of the pickup. It's just not safe.
- Wrasslin's fake.
- We're vegetarians.
- Is my gut is too big?
- I'll have grapefruit for breakfast instead of biscuits n gravy.
- We don't need another dog.
- Why would I want deer heads in the house?
- Spittin' is such a nasty habit.
- Cappuccino tastes better than espresso.
- Slow down! You're gonna hit that deer!
- My fiancé Bobbie Jo is registered at Tiffany's.
- Little Debbie snacks have too many calories.
- Checkmate.
- Does the salad bar have arugula?
- Here's an episode of Dukes of Hazard we haven't seen!
- I don't have a favorite college team.
- Make sure to put the dressing on the side.
- You cooked the green beans too long.

In Upcoming Issues

The next issue is the March 2015 issue (4.3).
Here's a preview of topics to come in future issues.

More Texas Topics

I have a lot more fun stuff about Texas that I'll just have to include in future issues!

Cat Videos!

Meow, meow, meow, meow... We've all done it: watched cat videos online! I'll gather together a bunch of the funny ones I've seen so you can spend a couple of hours laughing away!

Pie for Pi day!

Read more about pi and why not have pie that day!

More New Millennium Terms

How about a few more terms of the new millennium.

Mustache Mania

Just for fun, how about a survey of mustaches!

International Styling II

If you liked the April 2014 International issue, how about another international issue for April 2015!

Très magnifique!

Things That Go Cluck In The Night

Besides going cluck and laying eggs, chickens are gaining popularity even for urban/suburban areas. Let's explore the varieties of chickens and cover some basic facts about this popular bird.

Farming is Important

Farming and ranching are industries that are often ignored, but ones that we cannot afford to lose! Our entire ways of life critically depend on the success of farming and ranching!