

15.2 ■ Spring 2026



de Stolfe Journal



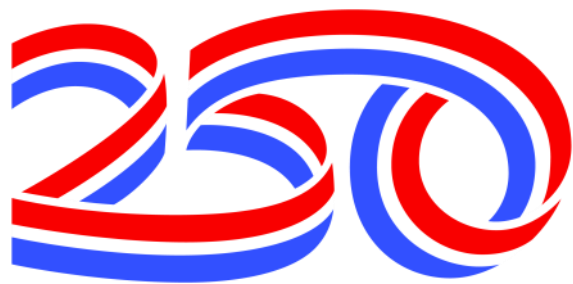
Contents

15.2 ■ Spring 2026

*Covers some activities from January through May.
(Page numbers correspond to the PDF page numbers.)*

- 2** Contents & On The Cover
- 3** Comments by RG
- 4-7** Word For Life
- 8-16** Random Things
- 8-16** Spring 2026 Wildflowers
- 17-18** Historic Structures
- 19** Late 70s Deer Encounter
- 20-21** Freak Tornado
- 22-25** Easter Eve Tornado 2025
- 26** Moscow Nights
- 26** Final Thought—1920s Slang, Bluecat!
- 27-28** Disc Cameras
- 29** Fine Print
- 30**

AMERICA



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On The Cover



While in the south of Houston for an event in early April, we took an unexpected day trip to Galveston Island for a few hours, taking Highway 6 over the bridge to the island. Driving along Seawall Boulevard, the Gulf of America is right there separated by a small beach! The weather that day was warm and nice but a little windy as evidenced by these waves.



We live in the 2020s, not the 1920s! Wherever a web link is like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com



Comments By RG

Lots of Activity In The First Half

With 2026 having many significant anniversaries at different levels, this first half of the year has been quite active! Just to highlight:

- ~ 250 years of the United States
- ~ 190 years of Texas independence
- ~ 100 years of Route 66
- ~ 40 years of the de Stolfe Journal
- ~ 30 years of my third trip to Flagstaff
- ~ 15 years of Top Hand Graphics

I have already created special issues for some of these, while other ones are soon to come.

While the 40 Anniversary issue was technically the first regular issue of 2026, this issue is the first general issue for the year. In this issue, I have some historical happenings, lots of random things, and a few current things. Although most of the current things of this year will be in the Summer issue after some of the special issues.

In this issue, I mention about two "historical" tornado encounters, one in 1996, and the other one last year in 2025.

Another mid 1990s activity included an evening of eating at a Russian restaurant as part of my Russian class.

I include an expanded feature about the late 1970s deer encounter, of which I had included specific photos in various past issues.

I give a summary of historic structures I encountered, which likely will each be featured more in depth in future issues.

I had a special issue about the bluebonnets, and so I include the various other wildflowers I saw.

While at an event for work, we took a short side trip to Galveston Island, a place I have never been to before.

This issue's Word For Life finally goes into a different direction after nearly three years of covering the book of Revelation!

And finally, nearly half of this issue includes pages of Random Things that don't need a whole article, but that are still interesting enough that I wanted to include. Some of these expand things from other recent issues.



ginkgo biloba

I have restrained myself to keep this issue strictly to 30 pages so as not to be overwhelming like other issues I have made! (Think the most recent 40th anniversary special issue or the Rest of 2025 issue!)

As for issues coming up, I have plans for special issues covering the third extended studies trip to Flagstaff and subsequent move to Flagstaff in 1996, comprehensive issue dedicated to the centennial of Route 66, and possibly another surprise special issue. I'll also have regular issues for the summer and the fall closer to the ends of each of those seasons.

So far, this has been either a very hot last few months or a very wet last few months, both taking turns alternating every week or two!

As always, I hope you enjoy this regular issue, and feel free to make suggestions of topics you would like for me to include. (I cannot guarantee that I will include any or all suggestions, but I would like to know what interests my readers!)

RG

Word For Life

Observations About The Garden In Eden

After finishing the unintended three year project of covering most of the book of Revelation, I went back to the beginning of the Bible with Genesis. I specifically wanted to cover the first garden and explain a few commonly forgotten details and to make some observations.

Before the garden existed, the earth had to be created first. Therefore, we go right to the very beginning of the Bible, Genesis 1:1! *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* The days of Creation described in the rest of Genesis 1 highlight each day's set of God's creations, which I am not going to cover in this writing. So we jump to day six,

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them..."

Genesis 1:26, 27

Just note here that this is not when God made Adam! Here is when God established male and female forms to make humans. Adam as a living being came later. Additionally,

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food....and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Genesis 1:29-31

Another point of note here is the expression, "the evening and the morning". To this day, the Jewish people celebrate their holidays starting in the evening (after sunset) prior to the official day of the holiday. Most everyone else uses the general expression of "day and

night", rather than this "night and day" order! Biblically, the world was in darkness until day four when God made two lights, the moon and sun, to give definition to daytime and nighttime. The *"greater light"* is the sun, while the *"lesser light"* is the moon, which is not a source of light in itself, but rather dimly reflects the light of the sun.

Genesis 2 then states that God *"ended His work which He had done"* (2:2) and rested on day seven and *"blessed the seventh day and sanctified it"* (2:3).

Verse seven tells us when God made the first living human.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

The first mention of the garden is in Genesis 2:8, which says,

The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

We usually refer to this garden as the "Garden of Eden", which I used to think was incorrect! I did not think the Word specifically said that the garden was actually "in" Eden but rather that it was "east" of Eden (probably thinking in reference to the wording of the John Steinbeck novel, *East of Eden*). But in the NKJV as shown above, it does say "in", "eastward in Eden". So, we are still correct in that east is the direction, but that it also does say "in" Eden. To be sure, I checked in multiple other versions, and they all have similar wording that the garden was in fact a subset of Eden. Moving on. Here are a few important notes about how the Word describes the garden.

Genesis 2:9 then tells us that *"the Lord God made every tree grow"* out of the ground to be *"pleasant to the sight and good for food"*. Another important thing to note is that the *"tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"*. These are TWO trees singled out, tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This second tree is what trips up the woman and the man by the serpent's words. More later about that. Verse ten then says,

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

We seem to forget or didn't know in the first place these other details about the garden! The four rivers that split from the headwater had names: 1 – Pishon, skirts the whole land of Havilah, with gold, Bdellium, and onyx 2 – Gihon, goes around the whole land of Cush 3 – Hiddekel (Tigris), goes toward the east of Assyria (Ashshur) 4 – Euphrates (Perath)

The exact locations of these rivers we do not know, especially considering that the Great Flood of Noah's time would have certainly messed up the original locations and flows of the rivers, as well as having destroyed Eden and the garden. We have rivers today called Tigris and Euphrates that form the Fertile Crescent from the Mediterranean Sea to the Arabian Gulf. But we do not know if these are anywhere near the location of those original rivers. We should also recall that Revelation describes the new Jerusalem as having a river flow from the throne of God! *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was*

the tree of life..." (Revelation 22:1-2)

God then took the man and put him in the garden and told him to tend to the garden. But God gave him a simple command and warning.

"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 2:16-17

Now, what is strange is that God mentions nothing about not eating from the Tree of Life. But later, the Tree of Life becomes an important tree to protect against those first humans! I have an idea about that I'll discuss later in that section.

Continuing from this point in Genesis 2, God states,

18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

20 But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made [built] into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

This is the first mention of the name of the man, that the man's name was Adam! Once Adam was awake again, he then saw the new creature God made into the female form that he precreated in Genesis 1:27, day six of creation. Adam was the only man to ever have one less rib because of this. All humans, male and female, after this had the same number of ribs, 12 pairs.

Word For Life

Adam's response was,

*"This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman
[Ishshah],
Because she was taken out of
Man [Ish]."*

Until this point, the female form God made did not have a name until Adam gave her the name "woman". Also, God made the Woman immediately as Adam's wife. But for all people who would come after them, He said,

*Therefore a man shall leave his
father and mother and be
joined [cling] to his wife, and
they shall become one flesh.*

The last verse in chapter 2 many people don't like to talk about, but it says,

*And they were both naked, the
man and his wife, and were not
ashamed.*

What this means is that the man and the woman were not wandering around the garden like at a nudist colony, they were "clothed" in the light of God, but that they also did not know they were "naked", in the sense of having no clothing, because that light or glow was their clothing. This will be an important point to remember later.

Chapter three is where the glorious garden and the earth get shattered! Right at the start of this chapter, the Word says,

*Now the serpent was more
cunning than any beast of the
field which the Lord God had
made. And he said to the
woman, "Has God indeed said,
'You shall not eat of every tree
of the garden'?" And the
woman said to the serpent, ...
(Genesis 3:1-2)*

Let's stop right here to make one observation. The woman was not at all disturbed or startled by this talking serpent! This makes us ask the question

that did animals have some form of audible communication with humans, or was the serpent a specific case only because of who was controlling the serpent (the Devil)? We must also understand here that the serpent was not specifically a snake as is often described because of what is said in verse 14-15. More on that later. Either way, the woman was comfortable in talking to the serpent like it was common or not unusual. Also note, that the enemy's tactic was simply to question the factuality and authority of God's command!

*And the woman said to the
serpent, "We may eat the fruit
of the trees of the garden; but
of the fruit of the tree which is
in the midst of the garden, God
has said, 'You shall not eat it,
nor shall you touch it, lest you
die.'" (Genesis 3:2-3)*

Clearly the woman knows about the one tree not to touch or eat from, either because God told her directly, or more likely because Adam said it to her after she was made.

*Then the serpent said to the
woman, "You will not surely
die. For God knows that in the
day you eat of it your eyes will
be opened, and you will be like
God, knowing good and evil."*

In typical craftiness that only the enemy brings, the words are twisted with enough truth to seem believable. The true parts of this are that their eyes would be open, and they would know the difference between good and evil, hence why the tree is called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"! However, death would still come, a spiritual death immediately, then a physical death much later. In the perfect garden and world God created, Adam and his wife were already like God! They could not be any more perfect, nor any more eternal! That was the lie and deception by the serpent!

This next action is what condemned humans, the earth, and eternity!

*So when the woman saw that
the tree was good for food, that
it was pleasant to the eyes, and
a tree desirable to make one
wise, she took of its fruit and
ate. She also gave to her
husband with her, and he ate. 7
Then the eyes of both of them
were opened, and they knew
that they were naked; and they
sewed fig leaves together and
made themselves coverings.*

Let's explain this piece by piece. "The woman saw that the tree was good for food... she took of its fruit and ate". Yes, it was food, but she ignored the fact that God said not to eat of it! She heeded the words of the serpent instead of heeding the words of God.

*"...it was pleasant to the eyes,
and a tree desirable to make
one wise..."* Sometimes, simple beauty of something can be its own deception, and desire for that "beauty" can be harmful!

The woman was already in the perfection of God's creation! She could not be any more wise! Somehow, she must have thought there was something more being withheld from her.

*"She also gave to her husband
with her, and he ate."* This action by Adam is confusing in that he knew what God said not to do, but passively he did it anyway. As head of the household, he had God's authority and right to halt the serpent's deceptions, and to use God's words against the serpent to shut him down! But instead, he was passive.

The result of the act of defiance resulted in, *"the eyes of both of them were opened"*. This we knew would happen. It was also at this point when the covering of light they had went away from them and *"they knew that they were naked"*, meaning now to be completely physically naked like on a nude beach.

Since they did not have God's covering of light, *"they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings"*.

This next interaction in Genesis 3 is probably the most gut wrenching and haunting to humans until the time of Jesus!

*8 And they heard the sound of
the Lord God walking in the
garden in the cool of the day,
and Adam and his wife hid
themselves from the presence
of the Lord God among the
trees of the garden.
9 Then the Lord God called to
Adam and said to him, "Where
are you?"
10 So he said, "I heard Your
voice in the garden, and I was
afraid because I was naked;
and I hid myself."
11 And He said, "Who told you
that you were naked? Have you
eaten from the tree of which I
commanded you that you
should not eat?"*

God is omniscient and already knew what the Woman and Adam did! Of course, they were not going to lie to God, as they had regularly walked with God *"in the garden in the cool of the day"*. Until now, they never had a reason or knowledge to be afraid of God! Apparently, to be aware of their physical nakedness made them afraid of God and why they hid, which was confirmed when God questioned them about eating from that one tree.

*12 Then the man said, "The
woman whom You gave to be
with me, she gave me of the
tree, and I ate."
13 And the Lord God said to the
woman, "What is this you have
done?"
The woman said, "The serpent
deceived me, and I ate."*

Just as we have done ever since this time, we play the blame game rejecting our own actions and blaming someone else for our own choices as if we "had no choice"! Adam did that about the woman, and the woman did that about the

Word For Life

serpent. God's response for Adam, the woman, and the serpent were harsh, which would also affect the earth and everything in it.

God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

It was at this point when the serpent became more like a snake. Before that point, the serpent could have had arms, legs, a head... we don't know. The note about enmity is interesting because it includes a prophesy of Jesus right here in Genesis! The Seed and His heel are direct references to the future Messiah. The enmity between the serpent and the woman might be referring to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Revelation gives vivid imagery in reference to Mary and the birth of Jesus. (Revelation 12:1-6) The bruising of the head and the heel is a direct reference to when Jesus died on the Cross and took the sins of the world to hell. Jesus in hell was still perfectly clean and holy as He was only a carrier of the sins of the world, and He would kick Satan so hard in the head with His foot as to bruise Satan's head and the heel of Jesus. It was likely at this point when Jesus took the keys of the Kingdom of God away from Satan that Adam and the woman unceremoniously gave to Satan upon eating the fruit of the tree they were not supposed to touch!

(Also note that there is a difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven! Jesse

Duplantis says it this way, "the Kingdom of God is a method He uses to work on earth—Kingdom of Heaven is a place.", the Heaven we are more familiar with.)

God then said to the woman,

"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

This response to the woman was not as lengthy but was much more consequential! The woman could have simply corrected and rebuked the serpent, and that would have been that. But now, God made Adam (and more broadly, husbands) rule over the woman (and more broadly, their wives, each husband to rule over his own wife.) In today's culture and environment, the mere mention of anything like this would rise up fierce anger by women who often reject this! If the curse included great pain in pregnancy and childbirth, then before the fall, perhaps there was no pain! The woman's desire for her husband, probably replaces the desire for the Father until the time of Jesus. I am certain there is more nuance than with what I'm saying here!

Finally, God said to Adam and in reference to the earth,

"Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken;

For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

This first part is what tells us that Adam was head of the household, "*Because you have heeded the voice of your wife!*" This does not mean that he was not to listen to his wife, but rather not to "take orders" from her, and certainly not to be passive about something God clearly said not to do, "*You shall not eat of it!*"

This next part still snags us today even though Jesus broke these bondages from our lives! As a result of the sins Adam and the woman committed, God forced Adam, and man generally, to labor that by the sweat of his face, he will have to raise up food to eat ("herb of the field", think rye, barley, wheat, etc. to make into bread), hence why the ground is cursed, instead of food being regularly provided like in the garden. In addition, he would have to fight thorns and thistles that will compete with the food he will be trying to grow, therefore constant maintenance and otherwise unnecessary extra work and labor.

Today, men take pride—which is evil—in working and laboring! The harder and longer the laboring even with drenching sweat, the better they think they are as men! What a lie! Working itself is not evil but being prideful about working and how much work a man does is evil and extremely wicked. It loudly declares, "I don't need God! I can do it myself!" And so Satan makes certain men labor until exhaustion making them think that they are still not doing enough! That will NEVER satisfy God! Jesus shed Blood from the crown of thorns to redeem *"us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us"* (Galatians 3:13).

The last part of what God spoke to Adam is truly tragic! Before the mistake, Adam and his wife would have lived for eternity.

But the curse brought forth death, "*all the days of your life*", to where every human since would have to physically die (which included aging), out of dust formed, and "*to dust you shall return*". Even with salvation through Jesus, this aspect of death is still upon us, "*it is appointed for men to die once*" (Hebrews 9:27), which is the physical death.

Not until Genesis 3:20 do we first hear of the name "Eve". "*And Adam called his wife's name Eve* [literally meaning Life or Living], *because she was the mother of all living*." Eve got her name after they were exiled from the garden. Today, we retroactively apply the name Eve to anywhere the Woman is mentioned.

(Just a side note, I cannot understand why many women get upset or annoyed by being called "woman"! It is a blessed term, and it identifies who they are and what God calls them. Even Jesus while hanging on the Cross said to his mother Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" Jesus used the term "woman" regularly and not as harsh term! Read through the Gospels.)

Then, Genesis 3:21 says, "*Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*" While at first this might seem like, "okay, so they get clothes!" This is actually the first reference to "being covered by the blood" because animals had to die—shedding of blood—to make the skins as coverings, which was much better than fig leaves! This very premise of shedding blood and being covered by blood is foundational to what would become the old Jewish traditions until the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. The last meaningful shedding of blood ended with Jesus shedding his Blood before His death on the Cross, then His burial and His Resurrection!

Word For Life

Speaking of the Blood, let us clear up one detail. Too many people will refer to this act as "spilled blood" as if spilling a glass of milk! This is a very obnoxious and sanitized view of what actually happened to Jesus! We are doing no justice to ourselves and to the Word by severely downplaying the violent means Jesus shed His Blood! We let our own egos and vanity get in the way of accurately interpreting the value of the Blood shed to redeem us! (The visuals shown in the film, Passion of The Christ, did not even come close to the fully brutal nature of the beatings, whippings, and utter splattering and pouring out of His Blood!)

This last part of Genesis 3 tells us about the actual expulsion from the garden.

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put

out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:22-24

The "Us" here refers to the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. Simply, God cast out Adam and Eve to grow their own food and get out of the Paradise where they lived because of the new curse upon them. The more important point here brings us back to the two trees. Before, we can assume that Adam and the woman could eat freely of the tree of life as perfectly clean and holy and eternal humans, perhaps to sustain that holy life. But after sinning by eating

the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they became unclean and dirty. But, if they were to have eaten of the tree of life after their mistake of eating from the other tree, it might have made them "immortal", meaning to live forever and not able to die despite their now sinful nature, to be both sinful and eternal. This is why God said, "...*lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever*". God is perfectly clean and holy and cannot have even a shred of sinfulness be in His eternity!

To guard against attempts by Adam and Eve and their descendants to get back in the garden, God "*placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life*." I can only imagine what this must have looked like, but I am certain that if they or their descendants even tried to get

into the garden, there would be fierce consequences or even immediate death!

The rest of Genesis describes life apart from the garden life and covers many generations of descendants of Adam and Eve. Later references of the word "Eden" refer to a specific person and the descendants of that person. Also, the book of Ezekiel makes multiple references to the garden in Eden and even of its destruction after the fall, but that is not the scope of this writing. At this point, I do not understand it enough to comment on it. But perhaps, I'll include it for a future writing since we also wonder what happened to the garden of Eden! Also, I did not find any obvious references to the garden in Eden by name in the New Testament, though it could still be there but referenced in a different way.

Scriptures Referenced

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Hebrews 9:27-28

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Revelation 12:1-6

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.
5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Revelation 22:1-2

1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits,

each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.



A very weathered sign still speaking truth! Hood County.

Random Things



Why is this manhole cover made in India??



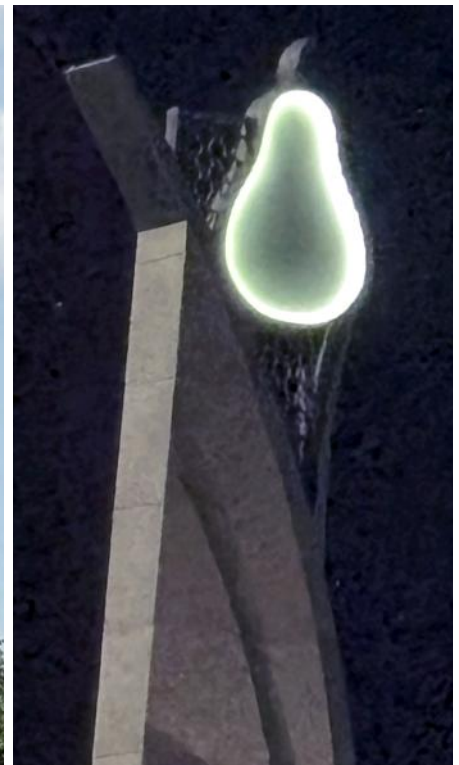
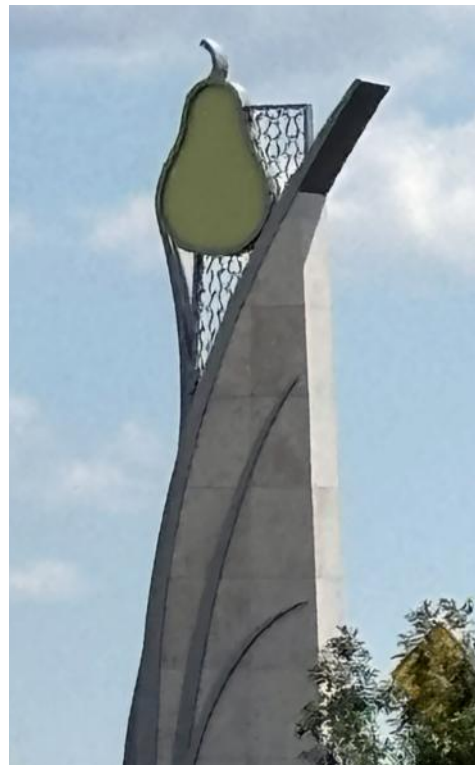
Stopped at a Buc-ee's in Pearland. Not as large as others!



Ate multiple times at Big Horn BBQ in Manvel and Pearland.



DK gas station and Horseshoe Convenience Store in Lenorah, Texas.



I was near Pearland, Texas for an event. They make great use of the imagery! Highway pears by day... and by night!

Random Things

Vehicles



Awesome car with Wyoming plates.



Saw this on the back of a flatbed trailer.



Sir, you are NO Bronco!



*You know you are in a different part of Texas when you see a sign like this! Many hurricanes have hit this area.
Manvel, Texas. April 2026.*

Random Things

Critters



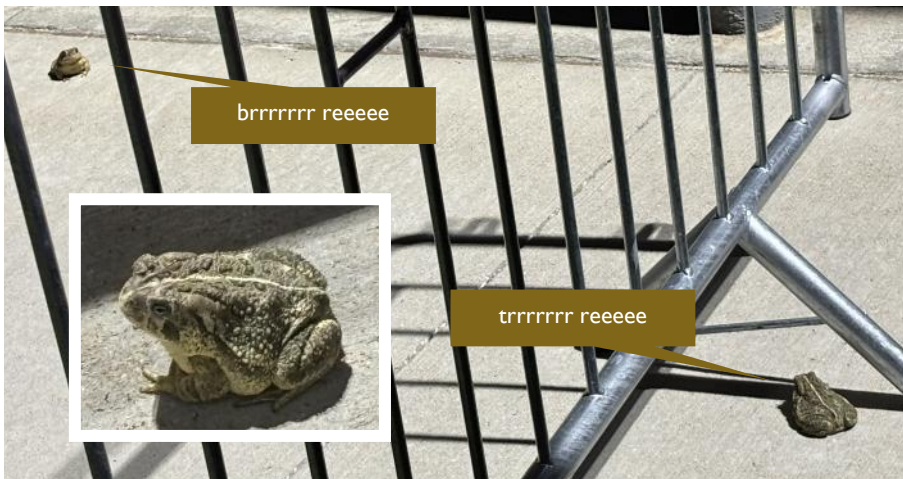
Ladybug. Invasive species, though.



No clue what kind of bug this is!



Sign seems a bit passive aggressive!



Toad to toad, fat suckers!



Insects known as lovebugs.



Always horses in Texas!



Striped lizard

Random Things

English of the 1600s

A YouTube channel I keep up with is called RobWords. He also has a weekly email with fun and interesting facts about words. A recent email included this passage from a book called The Art of Drawing With the

Pen by Henry Peacham from 1607. So this could even be considered English from the 1500s! Here is the graphic from the email along with a slightly easier to read text and the modern equivalent of the English.

Generall rules for Landskip.

YOU shall alwaies in your Landtskip shewe a fair Horizon, and expresse the heauen more or lesse either ouercast by clouds, or with a cleare sky, shewing the sunne rising or setting ouer some hill or other: you shall seldome, except vpon necessity, shew the moone or stars, because we imaginall things to be seene by day.

If

Original as shown above

Generall rules for Landt kip.

You hall alwaies in your Landtskip hewe a fair Horizon, and expre e the heauen more or le e either ouerca t by clouds, or with a cleare sky, hewing the unne ri ing or etting ouer ome hill or other :you hall eldome, except vpon nece ity, hew the moone or tars, becau e we imagin al things to be eene by day.

Modern English

General Rules For Landscape

You shall always in your landscape show a fair horizon, and express the heaven more or less either overcast by clouds, or with a clear sky, showing the sun rising or setting over some hill or other. You shall seldom, except upon necessity, show the moon or stars, because we imagine all things to be seen by day.

f

This is a smaller "long s", and it is an actual s sound.

ſ

This is the other long s, same s sound.

Recent Rainbows



Nice double rainbow on May 17, 2026.



Strong rainbow on June 2, 2026.

Random Things

Rodeo Clown

In the 40th Anniversary Issue, I had the photo to the right in the portraits of RG section. Well, here is the “rest of the photo” shown below.

The NAU Rodeo Association had a float in the homecoming parade in the fall of 1999 (I think). Several of us wore the old style red union suits and acted sort of as rodeo clowns, at least I did anyway. I also was not so

willing to “over expose” myself with the union suit unlike the others!



To note what is going on below, we had ropes tied to the back of the float, and we were trying to “whoa the float” like in calf roping.



First Signs Of Ban On Dyes

With the ban on artificial dyes in foods after the next administration took office, I finally saw some results back in March with the introduction of this series of products by Frito-Lay called Simply NKD™, or Simply Naked, referring to the absence of the brightly colored flavor powder they usually put on these series of snacks.



Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. with the FDA has initiated a Make America Healthy Again movement and has banned, specifically to “phase out” petroleum based synthetic dyes by the end of 2026, which Kennedy calls “poison”. The specific target is Red Dye 40, Yellow Dye 5, Yellow Dye 6, Blue Dye 1, Blue Dye 2, Green Dye 3, Citrus Red 2, and Orange B.

The Mars company is introducing four products that will be free of the synthetic dyes: M&Ms, Skittles, Starburst, and Extra gum. However, M&Ms will be missing the blue and brown colors, for now, until the company can work out the kinks in creating those colors. Mars is working to make all of the M&Ms colors naturally by 2028.

Cereals are the most notorious for having bright, unnatural colors. We will see what cereal manufacturers offer in the coming months.

How long do you think it will be before these companies completely abandon the natural dyes and go back to the brightly colored poison they have been using? Do you think the next administration, depending on who wins, will quietly lift the bans?

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/food/2026/06/25/mms-missing-blue-brown-mars-artificial-dyes/90682259007/>

Random Things

2026 Winter Olympics Results

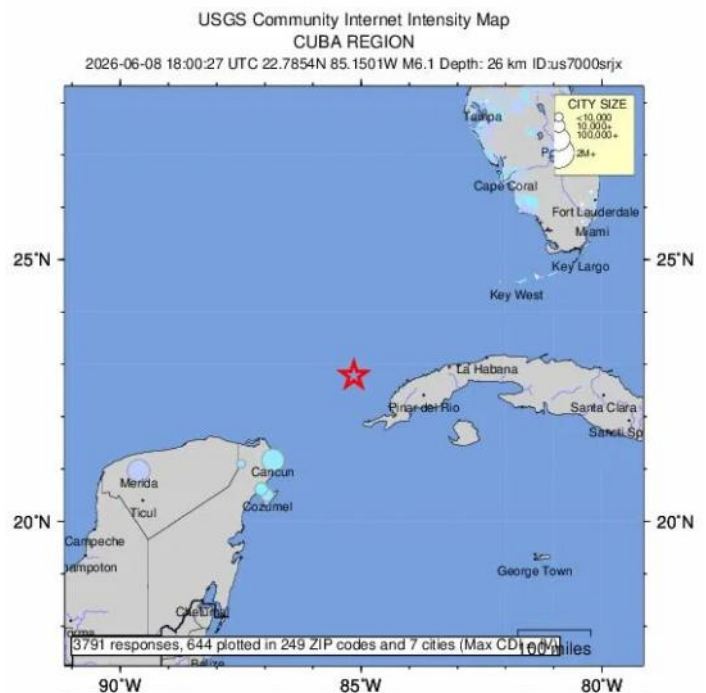
The winter Olympics were in mid February and here are the results for the gold, silver, and bronze. The countries are listed in order by most total medals won.

Order	NOC	G	S	B	
1	Norway	18	12	11	41
2	United States of America	12	12	9	33
3	Italy	10	6	14	30
4	Germany	8	10	8	26
5	Japan	5	7	12	24
6	France	8	9	6	23
6	Switzerland	6	9	8	23
8	Canada	5	7	9	21
9	Netherlands	10	7	3	20
10	Sweden	8	6	4	18
10	Austria	5	8	5	18

Earthquake in Gulf of America

According to the Keys Weekly newspaper, a 6.1 earthquake occurred to the west of Cuba in the Gulf of America. The earthquake was felt in Florida, the Florida Keys, Cuba, and the Yucatan, Mexico. The Keys Weekly stated, "USGS said it's the second largest earthquake recorded in the Gulf."

<https://keysweekly.com/42/earthquake-off-cuba-felt-in-the-florida-keys/>



Pink Flamingo Day

Pink Flamingo Day, the plastic kind, was June 23, 2026.



Texas Independence Day



Texas Independence Day was March 2, 2026, 190 years ago.

Random Things

Mobster Old Timey Photo

During our May trip in 2022, we went to Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. While there, I saw an old timey photography studio called Ashley's Antique Tintype & Photos that did those old west style photos. They also had a much later scene of a 1920s prohibition gangster period. I wanted to get a

photo made, and since I already had an old west scene photo made in the early 1990s, I thought I would do the gangster scene. After all, it was the 2020s! I had two outfits to choose, a bright red outfit and a more traditional zoot suit pin stripe outfit, which I went with. As standard for the process, they took photos of me in

various poses to choose after it was all done. Unlike the old photo from the early 1990s, which was a one off print, these studios are all digital now. Ultimately, I chose the photo that you now see as my profile photo printed onto a metal plate and framed. In my 40 Years anniversary issue, I included another photo

that I finally found of one of the poses. One pose was of me pointing the "Tommy gun" right at the camera. When I did this, Dad snuck a quick photo of me pointing at the camera having two angles of the same pose! All of the photos were available on a website but with watermarking to purchase later if I so chose.



This is the original photo of this pose that I did not buy.



This is the shot Dad got really fast of the same pose.

Random Things

When Dalgona Exploded In Popularity During The Lockdowns!

During the lockdowns in 2020, a viral trend spread on social media from South Korea of something called dalgona.

Traditionally, dalgona is a Korean sponge candy. But in the early days of the lockdowns in the United States, a coffee based drink by the same name became extremely popular.

Since the ingredients were simple and the process quite easy, I thought I would try making it. I made it several times through 2020, but oddly have not made it since even though it is really good. While I made my own version of it, as I explained in the article from the Winter 2021 issue, here is the actual recipe and process.

Dalgona, Whipped Coffee

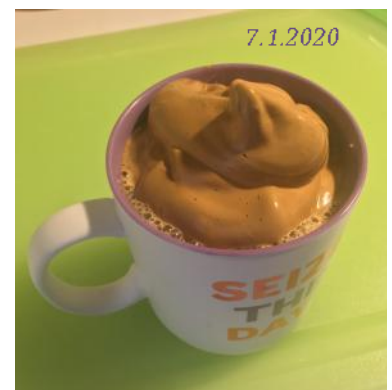
2 T instant coffee crystals*
2 T granulated sugar
2 T boiling water
1 cup cold milk
Ice

-Add the first three ingredients into a small bowl.

-Use a hand mixer with the whisk attachment to first mix the ingredients together, then whip on high for about two minutes. As needed, stop and scrape down the sides of the bowl and continue whipping.

-To serve, pour the milk into a glass with some ice and liberally spoon the whipped coffee mixture on top.

-Typically, to drink, you would mix everything together and enjoy through a straw.



Food: Dalgona

By the early spring of 2020, a new coffee drink was becoming “all the rage” on the internet. It was a South Korean coffee drink called dalgona. Basically, it is taking equal parts of instant coffee crystals (the very old fashioned kind), sugar, and water and whipping them together to form a coffee whip which is then spooned onto iced milk. With the right coffee crystals, it is quite good actually. The amount of sugar can vary, and technically, you can put it over hot or cold, milk or brewed coffee, which is what I did to make it since I rarely have milk.

From the Winter 2021 issue.

Random Things

First Visit To Galveston Island, Very Short Trip



Galveston surf rescue lifeguard vehicle.



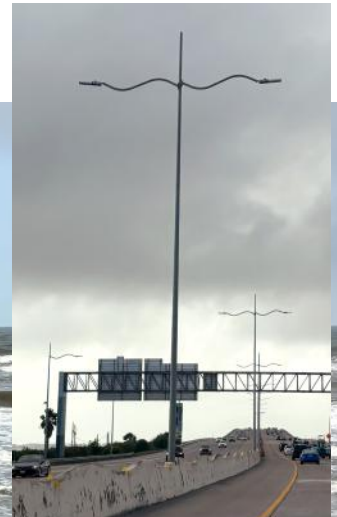
One of several trolley routes on Galveston Island. This one is the only trolley on rails, a Downtown Loop.

Driving along Seawall Boulevard, you are quite literally driving along the sea wall!



Next to the IHOP is a Rainforest Café with the Rainforest River Adventure Ride.

Wavy lights



Spring 2026 Wildflowers



Spring 2026 Wildflowers



Historic Architecture

Random Structures Encountered Recently

As I go around to different places, I see various buildings and other oddities that just stand out. I could have a page for each of these structures, and probably will in the future. But for this issue, I am just providing a photo summary.

I cannot understand why someone would tear down a house, but leave the fireplace and chimney intact!



Granbury Depot. I covered this last year, but I went inside!



Behind the depot. Looks like an old gas station.



Another structure behind depot near the railroad tracks.



Another abandoned homestead by the barn.



I showed this barn in the Bluebonnets issue of this year.

Late 70s Deer Encounter

Deers, Deers Everywhere!

In the Thanksgiving 2015 issue and in the 40 Years Special issue of recent, I included two photos of Mom and a young me on the side of the road with deers around. (Yes, I said deers! Deal with it!) I have only ever included those two photos, but there are more! So, here are the rest of the photos! This was during a cross country vacation in the 1970s, possibly 1977 or 1978, and these photos are probably from somewhere in the

Dakotas. Mount Rushmore was one of the destinations on that trip. So, it could be somewhere in western South Dakota. The plates on the cars seem like they are from Colorado. So, I have no idea. Dad took these photos. Dad was driving the white Impala. Mom and I were feeding the deer with some leftover bread we had while the deer was aggressively eating it!



Late 70s Deer Encounter



Freak Storm

Crazy Tornado

It was a Friday late afternoon in February 1996 and I walked home from the FCCJ campus because the weather was looking to turn bad. It was not yet dark while walking home. Mom and I were at home, she was in a bedroom working on things while I was in my bedroom at my desk. We were noticing that the lights were doing a weird flicker like what happens during a brownout. (A blackout is when the electricity goes out completely, while a brownout is where there is some minor electricity still on, but higher amperages are out.) a few minutes went by and the lights flickering was getting worse. It was a little after 6:30 PM. I got up and Mom came into my room asking if I noticed the lights flickering. Just as soon as she came into my room the electricity

went completely out and outside the windows we could see flashes of lightning in weird greenish hues. The noise was like violent gushes of wind and other loud noise coming from outside. Mom grabbed my arm and was freaking out! The whole thing only lasted like a minute before getting somewhat calm. The house was still black. I immediately went out the front door to look outside and the neighborhood was a shambled mess with debris scattered everywhere and some large trees downed. Eventually, the other neighbors went outside to survey what happened and how things looked. It was still dark outside as no one had any electricity. One house a few doors down had a big tree that fell over into the street completely blocking the

road and also ripped a water line in the process. Between our house and the next door neighbor's house (who by the way was a very old school Southern lady of some years), several trees fell over with one crashing into our back yard narrowly missing the car. The same neighbor had another tree that fell over onto their detached garage pinching everything down. I had a potted ficus tree on the front step that was blown over into the grass of the yard. There was only some minor damage to the shingles of the roof. There was one power pole down with a shattered transformer. The main trees in the area were pines or live oaks with a few crepe myrtles and cabbage palm trees. The only real damage was a branch that broke the glass of a window in the garage door.

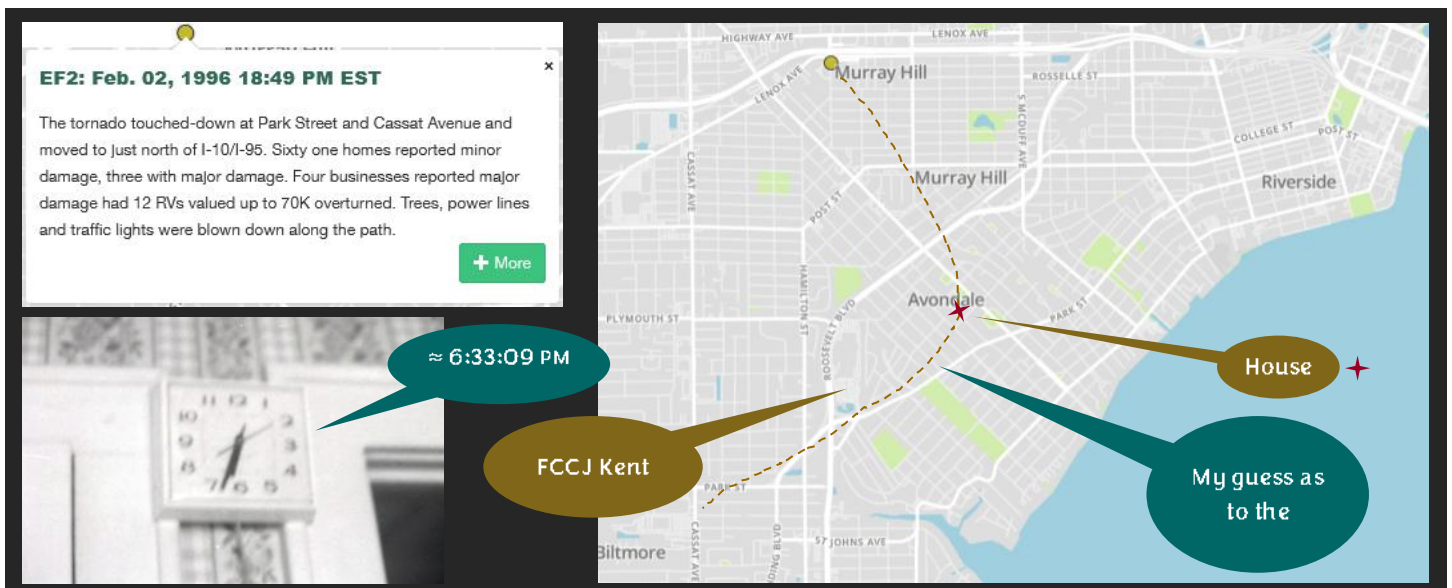
The next day in the morning, all of the neighbors were out in their yards cleaning up the mess, some vainly so. Also, I went out and took black and white photos with my camera.

The line of travel for the tornado had first hit the FCCJ campus where I was not long earlier and did some damage there.

Days or weeks later, I wrote a poem about that tornado that came crashing through.

It turned out that the nader was a F2. The exact path is known, but it appears it went at least from the FCCJ Kent Campus towards the direction of our houses and curved around past us to Lennox and I-10 area.

<https://data.tcpalm.com/tornado-archive/florida/5541779/>



Freak Storm



The front of our house... no real damage, just debris.



Our house and our neighbor's house, with Mrs. Sewell.



Of course, the street should be clear!



Not as bad in this direction.



This is why the electricity finally went out!



This was the power pole!

Freak Storm



The only damage to the garage was this window.



However, our neighbor's garage was flattened... with cars!



One tree did fall over and filled the back yard.

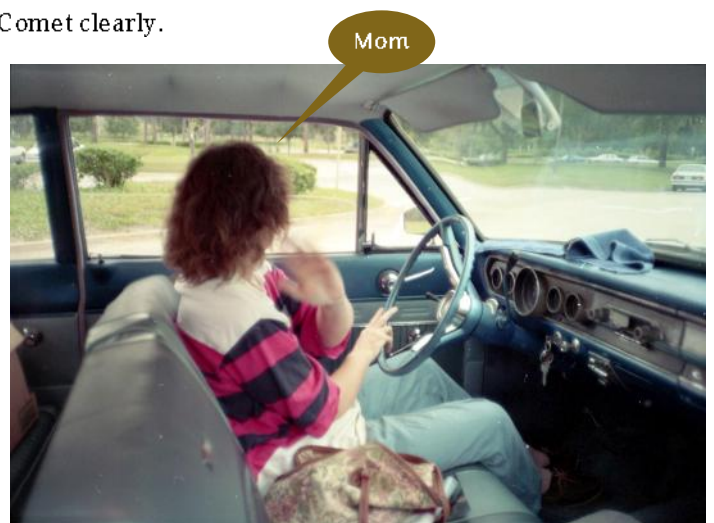


Only a few inches further before there would be problems!

These photos were taken just a few years earlier but show the Comet clearly.



This was the car, a 1965 Mercury Comet in Navy blue.



Mom clearly did not want to have her photo taken!

Freak Storm

Poem By RG About The Tornado

From de Stolfe Journal, #18 Summer-Fall 1996, Page 16.

Tornado

By: Robert-George de Stolfe

Whirling and spinning
Buzzing and wooshing
On you go
To scare more living

Fierce and loud
Busy and fast
Blowing up trees
And houses in a blast

Turbulent and wild
Windy and dark
Twistedly moving
To make your mark

You trashed our trees
And littered our lawns
Because of a cold front
That was coming on

Why did you
c o m e ?
To make us
p a y
F o r
otherwise
h a v i n g
A very
nice day?

Tornado

By Robert-George de Stolfe

Whirling and spinning
Buzzing and wooshing
On you go
To scare more living

Fierce and loud
Busy and fast
Blowing up trees
And houses in a blast

Turbulent and wild
Windy and dark
Twistedly moving
To make your mark

You trashed our trees
And littered our lawns
Because of a cold front
That was coming on

Why did you come?
To make us pay
For otherwise having
A very nice day?

Easter Eve Tornado 2025

Crazy Close Call!

In the Early Summer issue of the de Stolfe Journal last year, included a brief note about what I did for Easter that weekend. "Despite a nearby tornado...". Here is a little more info about that.

I went to Weatherford to get rolls for Easter the next day. On my drive back, the weather did seem ominous despite it also being past sunset. Weatherford is about a 20 minute drive from Granbury. I got back a little after 9:00 PM to the

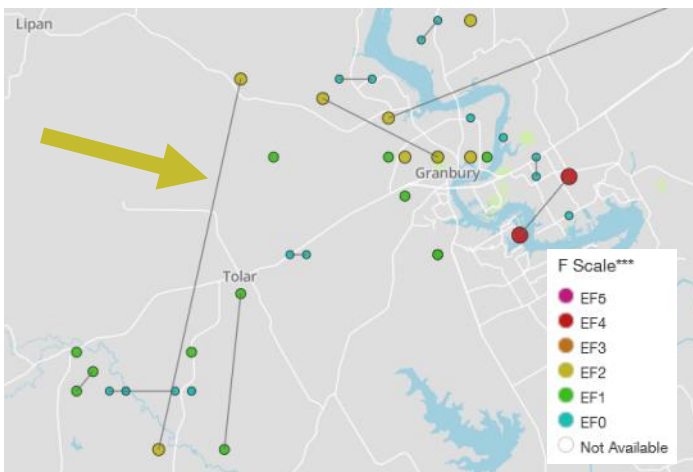
sound of tornado alarms in the city. My phone had already lit up with tornado warnings for the area. I went to the post office and back to the house where I was staying. The house alarm system was also freaking out alerting about the tornado watch. By that point, though, there wasn't much I could do other than just to wait until the weather passed.

Recently, I looked up some information about that event.

A Pleasant Easter Weekend

During the afternoon on Saturday, I drove up to Weatherford to get some rolls from Texas Roadhouse and a couple of other things. Despite a nearby tornado Saturday evening while I was on my drive back to Granbury, ~~~~

de Stolfe Journal, 14.2-Early Summer 2025. Page 12.



Map from TCPalm showing the path of the tornado. Ignore the historical weather events. The one with the yellow arrow is the tornado that occurred on 4.19.25.
<https://data.tcpalm.com/tornado-archive/texas/>

EF2: Apr. 19, 2025 19:55 PM CDT

Multiple upper level shortwaves moved overtop the Plains contributing to the development of severe storms near and along a cold front and dryline on and off between the 18th and 20th. Large hail, damaging winds, flash flooding, and tornadoes were all observed, particularly on the 19th. A total of 12 tornadoes occurred along and east of Highway 281 causing considerable damage: 1 EF-2, 5 EF-1s, and 6 EF-0s. An EF-2 tornado with maximum winds upwards of 115 mph touched down along the Hood/Erath County line around 4.2 miles northwest of Paluxy just south of Loftin Road. It then tracked northward before finally lifting 5.4 miles west of Thorp Spring. This tornado blew a 125 year old farm house several feet off of its foundation causing heavy damage to the home, snapped dozens of large trees in the area, and destroyed an outbuilding nearby. A woman was in the home when the tornado struck but was not injured. The tornado then moved north-northeast toward Glenn Cemetery Road, breaking some large tree branches. As the tornado continued north across US Highway 377 at Campbell Road, a side barn and house had metal roofing torn off which was scattered and blown up to 1/2 mile away across fields. The tornado continued north along Campbell Road and heavily damaged a double-wide mobile home roof and siding, a couple of RVs and outbuildings, and blew down several trees. Additional damage was found 2.5 miles northwest of Tolar where more large tree branches were broken on Tolar Highway. Several more trees and tree branches were blown down as the tornado weakened and crossed Lipan Highway, Stonehill Court, and Ridge Court before it dissipated.

EF2: Apr. 19, 2025 19:55 PM CDT (8:55 PM)

An EF-2 tornado with maximum winds upwards of 115 mph touched down along the Hood/Erath County line around 4.2 miles northwest of Paluxy just south of Loftin Road. It then tracked northward before finally lifting 5.4 miles west of Thorp Spring. This tornado blew a 125 year old farm house several feet off of its foundation causing heavy damage to the home, snapped dozens of large trees in the area, and destroyed an outbuilding nearby. A woman was in the home when the tornado struck but was not injured. The tornado then moved north-northeast toward Glenn Cemetery Road, breaking some large tree branches. As the tornado continued north across US Highway 377 at Campbell Road, a side barn and house had metal roofing torn off which was scattered and blown up to 1/2 mile away across fields. The tornado continued north along Campbell Road and heavily damaged a double-wide mobile home roof and siding, a couple of RVs and outbuildings, and blew down several trees. Additional damage was found 2.5 miles northwest of Tolar where more large tree branches were broken on Tolar Highway. Several more trees and tree branches were blown down as the tornado weakened and crossed Lipan Highway, Stonehill Court, and Ridge Court before it dissipated.

Moscow Nights

A Evening of Russian Food And Dancing

I originally published this small feature in the de Stolfe Journal, #17 Summer-Fall 1995 issue, and I included a little more about it in the 30 Years of Second Arizona Trip-1995-2025 special issue last year. Here is what that article was about.

During the Winter* Term 1995 as a student at Florida Community College in Jacksonville, I took a conversational

Russian class, the first time the college offered a Russian class. The professor was a young lady who came from Russia, and they were trying to get her a teaching job to teach the Russian language. (This was 1995, and so just a few years after the dissolution of the USSR.) The class barely made the minimum number of required students, but the class did make.

In the middle of the term, the professor planned a "field trip" to a local restaurant. There was apparently a Russian restaurant called Moscow Nights that was located at 5751 Beney Road in Jacksonville. The evening event was on Wednesday, March 15, 1995. Also, this was just after I had a group meeting at the South Campus of FCCJ for the extended studies trip to Flagstaff in 1995. That is why I included a note

about the evening event in the extended studies special issue last year. After the meeting, Mom and I went to the restaurant because Mom drove. I did not drive in the 1990s, not until 1999.

Here is a short writing I included in the 1995 issue of the de Stolfe Journal about the evening... in Russian! (And the transliteration.)

Русский Ресторан

На среда, пятнадцать март 1995, моя Русский класс идли в Русский ресторан, Москва Ночи. Я проехал двадцать часов тридцат. За ужин, я ель салат, холодный чай, и курца Киев с жарини картофель, рис, и зелеёный фасонии. Я не ель сладкое. Во ужин, мы говорили по-английски и по-русски. После вечерний, мы танцовали пока наще туфли упали! Мы имели великий ужин у Русский ресторан. ☼

Russian Restaurant

On Wednesday, March 15, 1995, my Russian class went to a Russian restaurant called Moscow nights. I arrived at 8:30 PM. For dinner, I had salad, iced tea, and chicken Kiev with fried potatoes, rice, and green beans, but no dessert. After dinner, we spoke in English and in Russian. Later in the evening, we danced until our shoes fell off! We had a great time and dinner at the Russian restaurant.

**FCCJ at the time had the following terms: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer, And Cross. The "Winter" term corresponds to what other colleges call the "Spring" term, January to May. While the Spring term was a short term in May and June. They have since changed their term structure to be consistent with most other colleges.*

Here are a few words of note.

Я	I
Москва	Moscow
Ночи	Nights
Ресторан	Restaurant
Салат	Salad
Рис	Rice
Зеленая фасоль	Green Beans
Котлета по-киевски	Chicken Kiev
Ужин	Dinner
Русский	Russian
Английский	English
Танцы	Dancing

Moscow Nights

A Evening of Russian Food And Dancing



I don't know who took these photos, but I recall that they were given to me later on. You can see part of the table of food, and the bottom photos are of the dancing. Mom declined to dance, but just watched instead.

This was the Russian professor, to the left smiling.

Me



Final Thought

1920s Slang

Before we get too far away from the 2020s, let's cover some 1920s slang! I have included bits of it already in recent years, and some of the phrases existed well into decades later. Here are a few that you can use even today!

Applesauce: an exclamation, same as horsefeathers

Baloney: nonsense!

Beat it: scram, get lost

Bee's Knees: extraordinary, ultimate

Beef: complaint, problem

Beeswax: business, like "None of your beeswax"

Bible Belt: Area of Fundamentalism in the South and Midwest

Blind Date: a date with someone you do not know

Breezer: convertible car

Caper: criminal act or robbery

Cat's Meow/Cat's Pajamas: splendid, stylish, best, greatest, wonderful, similar to bee's knees

Cheaters: glasses

Clam: dollar, money

Don't take any wooden nickels: Don't do anything stupid

Dough: money

Ducky: very good

Flivver: Model T, any old broken down car after (1928)

Fly boy: glamorous term for an aviator

Hayburner: gas guzzling car, also, horse one loses money on (racing)

Horsefeathers: same as applesauce

Heebie-Jeebies: jitters, unsettling feeling

Jalopy: old car

Java/Joe: coffee

John: toilet

Level with me: be honest

Nifty: great, excellent

"Now you're on the trolley!": Now you've got it!

On the level/On the up and up: legitimate, honest

Pipe down: stop talking
Putting on the Ritz: doing something in high style (after the Ritz hotel in Paris)

Rag-a-muffin: dirty, disheveled person

Real McCoy: genuine article

Ritz/Swanky: Elegant (after Ritz hotel)

Scram: telling someone to leave immediately

Sinker: doughnut

Spiffy: elegant appearance

Swell: Wonderful

Wet Blanket: solemn person, a killjoy (like party pooper)

Cannot have an issue of the de Stolfe Journal without including Bluecat!



de Stolfé Journal

Do you remember these? These are discs from the Kodak Disc cameras of the 1980s that took photos on these circular negatives. They could only hold 15 shots before needing to change film. They were somewhat gimmicky, but they were pretty cool. As you see, I had several from the mid 1980s. I'll include more of the images in future issues of the journal. Just a note, I have already included photos from one of the discs of the Miami Metro Zoo in the June 2024 issue.



These are my personal discs of photos taken in the mid 1980s.

From Wikipedia: Kodak Disc 4000 camera with developed film and cartridge.



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