



48 REASONS TO LOVE WACO

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*Photographs by Matt Tolbert & Kathleen McKinney
Bosque River Stage photograph courtesy of McLennan Community College
Waco Mammoth Site photographs courtesy of the City of Waco*

What's so great about Waco?

It's located on the dynamic I-35 corridor. It provides easy access to Texas' largest cities, yet it stands apart. It has virtually no rush hour, a wonderful zoo, great museums, excellent institutions of higher education and an unexpected selection of cuisine. Waco has a small-town feel, but retains elements of a big city (although the big-city element I'm waiting for is an off-leash dog park!). Whoever started the mantra, "there's nothing to do in Waco," didn't look very hard. In no particular order, *Wacoan* contributors celebrate some of the reasons that make Waco a great place to live.

BOSQUE RIVER STAGE. Raise your hands if you've been there. You haven't? Well, stop complaining about what Waco doesn't have and buy some tickets to the next event. Really, what a setting! We are truly lucky to have this idyllic event space, with a stage backing up to the Bosque River, leafy trees reaching over the banks and boaters floating past to catch some free sounds coming over the water. There's not a bad seat in the house – even if you're on the lawn – and the stage hosts a wide range of events from plays to live music that appeal to all sorts of folks. If the kids get antsy, they can play on the other side of the hill, running and squealing to their hearts' desire, without disturbing a single adult who's out to enjoy an evening on the river. – MH

No. 23



NO. 1 DAVID CROWDER BAND CD

RELEASE PARTIES. My eyes lit up when my Baylor recruiter told me that the David Crowder Band was based in Waco. Since I was a freshman, I've been faithful to attend the CD release parties every two years since. I have yet to find a better deal. Not only do I get the latest CD, but I also get to see one of my favorite bands kick off its new tour, all for \$20. It's always a fun, exciting show, too. You never know what to expect. They've rigged Guitar Hero guitars to play their songs, built a robotic drummer to accompany the band and sang into their iPhones using the latest app fad, "I Am T-Pain," to alter their voices. — HG

NO. 2 APRIL ALLISON COLE.

She always seems to be there at H-E-B — mingling in the aisles, chatting with customers, saving us from dinner party disasters. What in the world would Waco do without the easy-going guidance of our favorite wine connoisseur? A former wine shop owner, then a wine distributor and now the wine specialist at H-E-B, April Allison Cole introduces us to her favorite Malbecs, recommends Prosecco when we're overly attached to champagne, brainstorms desserts to go with that must-have rosé and reminds us of that 10 percent discount when you buy six bottles of wine. Oh, you didn't know about that one? You'll know for next time. They even offer a cardboard carrying case. And do try the Vouvray. It's perfect for this weather. — MH

NO. 4 HOT URBAN GARDENING

COALITION. How many cities have a coalition ready to assist residents with resources, knowledge and manpower for starting urban community gardens? We do! They are not only improving our children's education by working with area schools to plant community gardens, but they are also educating all of us about the value of home-grown, nutritious foods. — SM

NO. 5 RUSSELL BOYD.

For more than five years now, this Waco icon, better known as the Piano Man, has consistently performed for a packed house at Treff's Bar & Grill. Wildly popular and always different, the show is every Thursday and starts around 11 p.m., but get there early if you want one of the coveted booths. — KM

NO. 6 A QUICK, HEALTHY AND RELAX-

ING LUNCH ON THE BAYLOR CAMPUS. If you like good, fresh sushi and treasure a peaceful time in a quiet garden by a fountain, the perfect spot is Season's Sushi, the relatively new restaurant on the northwest corner of the Baylor campus near North Village. Be warned that unless you have a Baylor parking permit, you may have trouble finding a visitor's parking space. For made-to-order sushi boxes or for a good selection of pick-up boxes to-go, this is a superb — and for sushi — a reasonably priced lunch escape. — MLD

NO. 7 THE REVITALIZATION OF DOWN-

TOWN. Yes, we've been hearing for years about how downtown Waco is about to turn the corner and become a hip, happening place to live and work. This time, however, it may be happening. The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce recently completed its gorgeous new building which sits near some new lofts and businesses. That development had its challenges, but it appears to be on its way to stability. Along Austin and Franklin Avenues, new businesses continue to open. Barnett's Pub is open in a building that housed J.S. Barnett Printing and Supply Company for more than 70 years. Suit City recently moved from its location on Memorial Drive to Austin Avenue, possibly filling a niche formerly held by the Hub Clothiers. Other storefronts continue to show signs of new development as well. — KT

NO. 8 THE COUNTRY.

Drive 10 minutes in any direction from Waco (save for I-35) and you'll be out of the city, out of the suburbs and into the original Texas landscape of farms, ranches and disorganized scrubland. From an emotional standpoint, it's a good idea to do this every once in a while. Some guy named Thoreau wrote about this a lot. I think he was right. — RD

NO. 9 BRIAN BOYD'S EAGLE BLOG.

Every day I receive an update about the wonderful eagles on Lake Waco from Brian Boyd's blog "Lake Waco Wildlife Connection" at lakewacowildlife.wordpress.com. Brian takes beautiful photos and keeps his followers up-to-date on the progress of the eagle couple. His hobby gives regular Wacoans a chance to appreciate the

beauty we have right here in Waco — up-close! I hope that one of these days he'll start giving lessons in nature photography. — MJ

NO. 10 CATHAY HOUSE. When I arrived in Waco after spending two years in China, I began looking for an authentic way to get my Chinese food fix. I found it tucked away on Wooded Acres Drive, across the street from the Westview Post Office. Whether I'm eating chicken and rice soup, sipping jasmine tea or negotiating noodles with chopsticks, my senses relish each moment. And when I'm feeling particularly nostalgic, I order the steamed jiaozi (dumplings, also known as potstickers). They're always as tasty as I remember. — DA

NO. 11 HAPPY HOUR AT DIAMOND

BACK'S. How much would you pay for lobster BLT sliders? A portabello mushroom quesadilla? Sashimi-grade yellow tail with cucumber, spicy mayonnaise and sticky rice? A deep-fried tempura version with cream cheese? (Take that, white wing aficionados!) A crock of hot spinach-artichoke dip and crispy chips? The house martini? All in a setting of comfy leather chairs, live music and dim lighting that makes everyone look hot? If you said \$4, then you win an evening at Diamond Back's legendary happy hour. It's the one place in Waco that feels alive — consistently — every Thursday night, with happy hour extending all the way from 4 p.m. until close on Thursdays, and from 4 to 7 p.m. on other weeknights. Good food, good drinks, good times. — MH

NO. 12 FREE-RANGE EGGS, FRESH VEGETABLES AND GOAT CHEESE AT WORLD HUNGER FARM.

Although it is located on the outskirts of north Waco, World Hunger Relief, Inc. is an integral part of the greater Waco community. Each fall and spring they host a Farm Day with many fun and educational family events. It is also a one-stop store for delicious and wholesome in-season vegetables and fruits, as well as homemade goat cheese and home-raised fresh eggs. Try a more recent addition — farm sausage (goat or beef). It is definitely worth the short drive to the country for the food, but doubly worth it because the proceeds go to support hunger initiatives throughout the world. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. are good times

to head out to the farm for the surplus produce, but if you want regular supplies, ask to join their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) food club. For more information, including directions to the farm, visit their website, www.world-hungerrelief.org. — MLD

NO. 13 UNCORKED WINE BAR. Dark chocolate fondue — need I say more? — DA

NO. 14 CHRISTMAS ON FIFTH STREET. This is still one of my favorite events that Baylor hosts — a huge Christmas party right in the center of campus. Early in December, Fifth Street is inhabited by camels, donkeys, sheep and goats at the live nativity scene and petting zoo. Horse-drawn carriages clip-clop across campus carrying people bundled up for the cold, and the giant Christmas tree at the Burleson Quad is lit up for the first time of the year. As a reward for braving the cold, you can enjoy free Common Grounds hot chocolate and apple cider while you listen to

big name bands and artists on stage. When you find yourself gravitating toward a temperature-controlled indoor setting, the Bill Daniel Student Center offers even more interaction. Wrap gifts for kids in need, shop for your own loved ones or decorate a sugar cookie (my favorite part). The Barfield Drawing Room upstairs is filled with Christmas-themed concerts, and the wonderful antique rooms along the side are given a Christmas facelift for the perfect photo opportunity. You might find Santa and Mrs. Claus in one of those rooms, too. Christmas on Fifth Street is a great way to say goodbye to Thanksgiving belly-aches and usher in the Christmas season with friends and family. — HG

NO. 16 BODIES OF WATER. I miss seeing either the Brazos River or Lake Waco on a daily basis. On a good day, I saw both. Sometimes, when I really needed a lift, I'd drive the whole loop around the city so that I could pass by both bodies of water and put my life into perspective. — MW

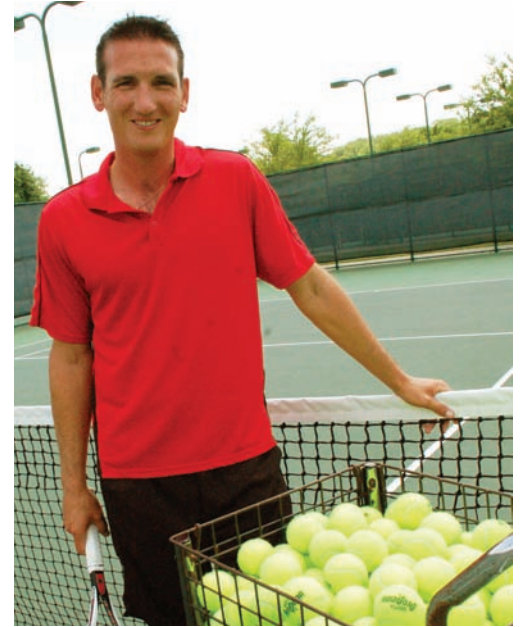
NO. 17 WACO SPRAY PARKS. When you need to entertain a lot (or a few) kids this summer and you're strapped for cash, check out any of the six spray parks located around the city. They are free and open to the public. You can find locations on the City of Waco's Parks & Recreation webpage. — KM

NO. 18 CROFT ART GALLERY. Waco's got an art gallery. No, not a Thomas Kinkadee affair. A real, live, curated gallery. Where you can buy original artwork! From talented artists! Kudos to Katie Croft for having a vision and seeing it through to a reality that we have all been able to enjoy this past year. The stark space lets the artwork shine without competing with its surroundings, and Katie's exhibits truly celebrate local talent. Through May, Croft is showing the work of Scott Wright, a native Wacoan now living in Dallas. He focuses on multi-media paintings and three-dimensional pieces, using found objects to provide depth to the aesthetic and the context and

MAYBORN MUSEUM CHILDREN'S AREAS. If we would let him, our grandbaby would move in to the Mayborn Museum's children's area where he can drive a school bus, race a hot-rod, shop at a grocery store, fill his little car with imaginary gasoline and watch running model trains to his heart's delight. Costing not much more than an average family dinner out, a year's family membership is one of the best entertainment bargains in town. This is the ideal rainy (or hot) day adventure for children and adults. The museum is located just a block off of I-35 on University Parks Drive, next door to the Baylor Alumni Association. — MLD



No. 39



No. 19

MARC JOHNSON AND JULIEN CURATELLA. Two tennis pros, two different clubs. Our family loves to play tennis. At Ridgewood Country Club, I look forward to hearing Marc say, “Chaaaaange sides!” or “WINNER!” during lessons for intermediate kids on Tuesdays and Thursdays. My daughter, Madeline, had her first “WINNER” this spring. With Marc’s encouraging coaching style, he has turned Madeline into a tennis player and given the love of tennis to our kids. For the past five years, Julien at Waco Regional Tennis & Fitness has given my husband and me lessons every Wednesday. It’s something that we look forward to all week – not only for the workout and instruction, but we’ve also become really good friends. Julien greets us with “what’s up!” and he really wants to know. Raised in France, Julien’s French ways are oh, so cool! – MJ

meaning of each piece. His favorite place for picking up items for his work? It’s none other than Laverty’s Antiques Furnishings, where we’re told he has running monthly expenses that rival his mortgage. — MH

NO. 20 JESSE’S TORTILLA FACTORY. Yes, I know we have written repeatedly about what we believe is the world’s best hot sauce (salsa) and chips that you can buy. Jesse’s is only a few blocks east of Franklin Avenue on the corner of 13th Street and Webster (1226 Webster Avenue), but there is so much more to love about this unique local business. Its commitment to customer service and its warm caring atmosphere is second-to-none. Every product that they offer in their very specialized repertoire is outstanding — tamales, tortillas, guacamole dip with a kick and more. It is carry-out only, but it is worth the trip. If you are having a party, you will find yummy, affordable and ready-to-serve goodies that your guests will remember and request next time. Jesse’s is a “must” for all my parties ... and a Waco treasure. — MLD

NO. 21 NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO. KWBU (FM 103.3). Another priceless asset that needs our consistent support. My goodness — what did we ever do before we had NPR? — RD

NO. 22 HOMES AND ARCHITECTURE. Gelett Burgess, an artist, art critic and poet (he wrote the poem “The Purple Cow”) once said, “I don’t know anything about art, but I know what I like.” That quote describes me and architecture. I know nothing about architecture. I don’t know the difference between a Victorian and an Arts & Crafts, or what makes early modern different from modern, post-modern or corporate modern. But I do know that I love the design of many buildings in Waco, both residential and commercial, and some that have made the transition from one to the other. When we lived on Austin Avenue, we would often take walks through Castle Heights and discuss the different styles of homes. I don’t know how much exercise we got as we slowly walked and admired the details of the houses, the grand ones as well as the more modest ones. Now, we often drive through neighborhoods or

down certain streets — Colcord and Maple Avenues are two of our favorites — just to view the homes. Our children sometimes ask, “Why are we looking at houses?” Our answer: “It’s just what we do.” — KT

NO. 24 CESAR LEAL. I could easily order at the drive-thru window or get my food to go, but Cesar Leal is what completes the dining experience at Leal’s Mexican Restaurant. The friendliest owner I’ve ever met, Cesar Leal truly makes every customer feel important, special and appreciated. Everyone that walks in the door is treated as a regular and welcomed as an old friend. He’s got good banter, he jokes and teases, and his charisma can’t be denied as he charms the ladies by calling them “Baby Girl,” “Sweetheart,” or “Doll” (and easily gets away with it). A burrito from Leal’s is always going to be tasty, but when it is served up by Cesar Leal himself, it’s just a little bit more delicious. — KM

NO. 25 ANTIOCH COMMUNITY CHURCH. When family and friends come to

visit, my church is the place I'm most excited to take them. I church-hopped for about two years when I moved to Waco. Eventually I agreed to try Antioch after I'd met several members who were genuine and loving. And what I've discovered is that it's the most active church I've been a part of in my life. Their passion for Jesus spills out into action, sending out members nearly every week to share God's love with the rest of the world. They put hands and feet to the Word of God, and they do it whole-heartedly. It's a passion for Jesus that's contagious and makes you want more of him. — HG

NO. 26 WELL-ORGANIZED SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUES FOR THOUSANDS OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS FROM ALL OVER TOWN. Every weekend, a small army of volunteers ensures that kids from every economic background have safe, carefully-manicured places to play and grow — away from videogames, cell phones and iPods. Some are city leagues, some are church leagues and some are school-sponsored leagues. The end result is happier, more physically-adept and aware kids. A priceless asset that takes a lot of work and support. — RD

NO. 27 LAKE AIR DRIVE. Driving or walking beneath the dense canopy of hundred-year-old oak trees along Lake Air Drive between Cobbs and Hillcrest Drives is like stepping back in time. I imagine a day when there was no street, just trees. Filled with thick, knotty trunks and beautiful low-hanging branches that somehow seem to connect with the ground, this forest of evergreen giants extends to the quiet neighborhoods both east and west of Lake Air. As a kid, I rode my bike down Lake Air Drive on the way to friends' houses. Now, I probably drive it several times a day on the way to pick up my kids at school or drop them off at guitar lessons, and I never tire of that cool, out-of-the-sun, urban forest feeling. I go out of my way to drive down that stretch of pavement, lined with majestic oaks. Of course, I live just one street off Lake Air — it's my neighborhood. And, if a power company tries to trim one branch from those trees, they'll have to answer to me! — GE

NO. 28 THRIFT STORES. I know a lot of

cities have good thrift stores, but I love to go thrifting in Waco. I always find a hidden treasure at the Family Abuse Center's 2nd Chance Thrift Store, the Salvation Army Thrift Store (new location on Waco Drive), Caritas Thrift Store or Goodwill. I have found old-fashioned wooden toys, toddler shirts for \$.50 and even, on occasion, popular children's books. Another consignment (not thrift) store that I love is Smarty Pants. They have really good prices and quality clothing, shoes, toys and baby furniture, and you can even get your child's hair cut by Erika while you shop — she has a fun jeep to sit in and kids' movies playing on her television. — SM

NO. 29 TROJAN CORK & KEG. Located under the Shops of River Square Center, this is a neat little bar. It's quickly becoming known for its Fish Bowl, a concoction of coconut rum, Blue Curacao, Peach Schnapps and Sprite served in an actual glass fish bowl. It's only \$10 and can easily be shared with straws by four — or two! — people. When a single cocktail regularly costs about \$5, finding a drink like the Fish Bowl, that can keep both you and a friend satisfied for the evening, is a steal. But the main reason why I constantly find myself enjoying Trojan's? It's smoke-free! — KM

NO. 30 AFFORDABLE HOUSING. It's one of those things you don't appreciate until you don't have it anymore. My kids still long for our old house on Rambler Drive, but it would cost twice as much if it were located in the Hill Country. If retiring Californians really wanted a good deal, then they'd look in Waco. — MW

NO. 31 ROSALINDA JAIMES PONCE AT EL TAPATIO. Daughter of Noel Jaimes, Rosalinda waits on us with a smile every time we come to eat — usually a weekly event, although our schedule is always changing. Through the years, she has surprised us with baby gifts and one day, she brought us authentic beer from Mexico! She has a heart of gold and truly makes us feel like we are her only customers that day. Of course, we know that she treats everyone that way! — MJ

NO. 32 CAMERON PARK ZOO. There's a new show on PBS called "The Daytripper." Host Chet Garner takes viewers on, well, day trips from

Austin where he's based. In one recent episode dedicated to Waco, he called the Cameron Park Zoo one of Waco's best-kept secrets. There's no reason the zoo should be a secret. It's a great, great place to visit. We buy an annual pass each year (priced from \$15) and more than get our money's worth. With the pass, we can visit as often as we want and stay all day or for just a few minutes. And the Cameron Park Zoo has a reciprocal agreement with more than 100 other zoos and aquariums across the country, giving pass holders free or reduced-price admission to those places as well. — KT

NO. 33 THE BRAZOS AND BOSQUE RIVERS. We go days, even weeks, without seeing them. And yet they shelter some of the most serene, restorative landscapes in the county. When did we get away from the water? And at what cost? The Brazos may never be the San Antonio Riverwalk. But who needs another version of what San Antonio natives call "Touristan," with row after row of cookie-cutter national chain restaurants more famous for their alcohol than their food? — RD

NO. 34 CZECH STOP. I never heard of kolaches until I moved to Waco. Soon after that secret was revealed, I was whisked to West to experience the Czech Stop and Little Czech Bakery. It was just as good as my friends claimed. After that, I loved taking the short jaunt up I-35 to buy the tasty treats at Exit 353. Open 24-hours, Czech Stop makes for a perfect little adventure any time you might get the craving. The dessert ones are my favorite. One cream cheese and one apple kolache, please! — HG

NO. 35 OPEN MIC JAM AT POP-A-TOP CAFÉ. On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, Pop-a-Top Café on 29th Street, just off Valley Mills Drive, hosts an open mic night from 8 p.m. to close with \$2 draft and bottles. All musicians are welcome — including those under 21 — and the styles range from Jimi Hendrix to blues. The vibe is completely different from the old-school days of Jazz Night at the Hilton, but the one thing these evenings share with those fun times is the sense of camaraderie among the patrons and an appreciation of live music. Order some cheap eats and a cold beer

No. 15



MS. VIVIAN AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY'S STORY TIME. She is famous among the under-5 crowd! Full of energy and love, Ms. Vivian greets babies, toddlers and preschoolers at the Central Library with a song, dance and a wonderful story or two each week. Sometimes she brings delicious homemade snacks – my son is still talking about the kitty litter cake! She brings smiles to children while educating parents about home literacy. She is a Waco treasure, and her sincere love of children and story is apparent in all that she does. – SM

and kick back for a freestyle jam session. Heck – bring your own guitar! – MH

NO. 36 LOCAL FOOD RESOURCES. It is often difficult to find locally-grown food that is produced in an ethical, sustainable environment and is also nutritionally sound. Fortunately, Waco is surrounded by numerous options for finding home-grown vegetables, grass-fed beef, raw milk, local grains, honey and more. Sand Creek Farm, World Hunger Farm, Homestead Heritage and the Texas Cheese House are a few of the popular local food alternatives for Wacoans. – SM

NO. 37 LIBRARIES. If I still lived in Waco, I would not need to own a Kindle just to find the books I want. Instead, I could find them in one of Waco's four library branches. If I wanted something obscure, the kind people behind the counter would order anything for me through InterLibrary Loan for only \$1. – MW

NO. 38 NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE. NCL is a national service organization for mothers and daughters ages 12 to 18. It came to Waco two years ago. As new members, my daughter Madeline and I are looking forward to

working with this group and the organizations it serves, including Family Abuse Center, Compassion Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Talitha Koum, Meals on Wheels, Waco Cultural Arts Festival, American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. What a way to bond with my daughter and meet other families throughout Waco! – MJ

NO. 40 FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED SMALL MEXICAN RESTAURANTS. They've become as Texan as barbecue and they've enriched our culture and our cuisine. Forget the chains – try just about any of these unpretentious little jewels and you'll find a warm, family atmosphere where the food is lovingly made by hand. – RD

NO. 41 CHURCH UNDER THE BRIDGE. Started as a simple Bible study nearly 18 years ago, Church Under the Bridge has grown into a diverse congregation that gathers weekly under I-35 and Fourth Street. It purposefully attempts to avoid denominational, cultural, economic or racial distinctions – and it succeeds. Members include residents of nursing homes, dormitories, homeless shelters and the suburbs. – DA

NO. 42 MR. SNOW'S SELF-SERVE FROZEN YOGURT. A simple, fun, hands-on food experience. Walk in, grab a cup and fill it up with as much frozen yogurt as you want, then top it off with fruit, candy, syrup or all of the above. You're charged by the ounce, so what'll it be? Vanilla yogurt with crushed Oreos? New York cheesecake yogurt with fresh strawberries? Something funky like a mix of Yellow Cake Batter and mango yogurt? Or will you go down the wall of flavors, squirting in a sample of everything? Located on La Salle by the Baylor campus, students are lining up to help themselves to their own frozen yogurt creations. – KM

NO. 43 BAYLOR SPORTS. This one is for my husband – a man who chose Baylor over another private college because Baylor was part of the Big XII. Now that we live in a non-Big XII town, he is absolutely starving for Baylor sports news. It was extremely frustrating to try to keep up with the men's and women's basketball teams during March Madness. – MW

NO. 44 SUNSET AT THE DAM. I can't think of anything more mesmerizing than water and fire. When you hit the Hike and Bike Trail at

just the right time, you can catch the breathtaking sight of the fiery sun sparkling over the lapping water of Lake Waco. And that's only looking at one side of the dam. If you look over your other shoulder, it's all green and trees — an uncommon treat in Texas. Word to the wise: bug spray might come in handy if you come up from the Airport Drive parking lot, which I recommend. — HG

NO. 45 CARING DOCTORS AND NURSES. As a patient, the wife of a patient and the mother of a patient, I've experienced firsthand the way our local health care professionals provide skilled and compassionate care in stressful situations. Thanks to this magazine, I've also had the opportunity to interview dozens of health professionals in nearly every branch of medicine. I'm convinced Wacoans are in excellent hands. — DA

NO. 46 LOCALLY-OWNED RESTAURANTS WITH YUMMY FOOD. When I moved to Waco from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, I was worried that I would not find many unique, local

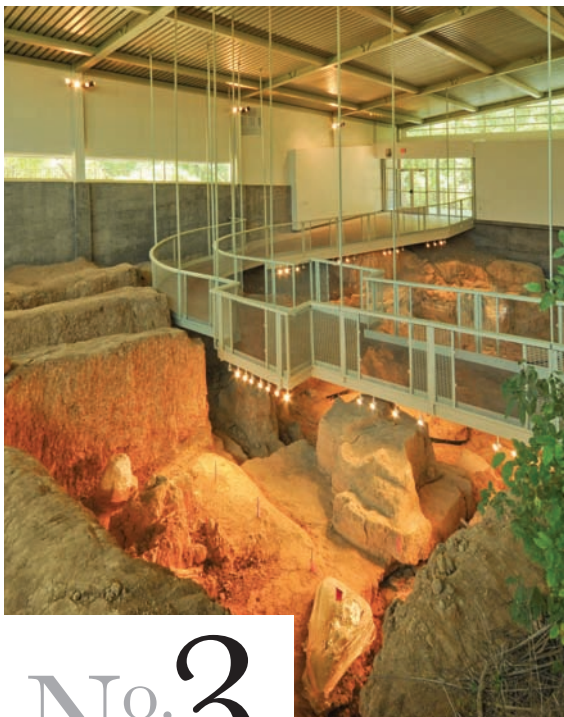
restaurant options. I was pleasantly surprised to discover delicious food at the Clay Pot (love the curry clay pots), D's Mediterranean Grill (the gyro plate is more food than I can — I mean should — eat!) and the new Jakarta Mud Hut (the Friday buffet has nutritious, fresh vegetarian options, and the vegan chocolate chip muffins are amazing!). — SM

NO. 47 THE GARDEN LEVEL OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S MOODY MEMORIAL LIBRARY. When you walk down the wide outdoor stairway to the lower level of Moody Memorial Library, you step away from the noisy world into a tranquil garden with flowers constantly in bloom. It is a quiet place to sit, read or meditate. Inside, on the garden level, you will find a coffee shop that serves outstanding coffee, smoothies, light lunches and snack foods. Next to the stairwell and elevators you will find a free BookCrossing book exchange where you can drop off your old books and pick up new ones. Just register at the website at www.bookcrossing.com. If you venture through the glass doors near the elevators, you will find

a state-of-the-art study environment, where small groups can meet to discuss research, draw formulas or plans on giant boards and work in a collaborative, futuristic learning environment. If there are little readers in your family, don't forget to stop at the substantial children's book section. Visitor parking can be a challenge, but there are some visitor parking spaces on the first floor of the Dutton Parking Garage. — MLD

NO. 48 THE RENAISSANCE OF OLD NEIGHBORHOODS. I'm particularly attracted to what's slowly emerging along North 25th Street, between west Waco Drive and Bosque Boulevard. New restaurants, shops, street-side vendors and — on weekends — the beginnings of life on the sidewalks. It's also happening around the intersection of Colcord and 15th Streets. People reclaiming their neighborhoods and infusing them with life, color and activity — this is a good thing. — RD

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We want to know what YOU think.
 Leave your comments at wacoan.com



No. 3

NEW WACO MAMMOTH SITE. I admit that I haven't seen it yet, but I have been anxious for this park to become a reality. Back in 1997, I toured the site along with several downtown businesspeople. I was wearing high heels and carrying a 1-year-old, so it was quite an adventure. But the story captured my imagination, and for years, whenever we rode bikes out Steinbeck Bend Road, I would look toward the site and hope that someday I could show it to my family. Now, I can! — MW