

## Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecture



Mark your calendars for **April 23rd** when we welcome **Cristen Wohlgemuth**, President and CEO of Mountain States Legal Foundation. Cristen earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas A&M and her Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law.

After graduating from Texas A&M, she taught Advanced Placement U.S. Government to high school seniors before moving into state government. While serving as Governor Rick Perry's budget and policy advisor, Cristen focused on natural resource issues. She also led the staff policy team for the Texas House Republican Caucus.

During her time in the Texas house, she pursued her law degree and then moved to California where she served as the Executive Director of the Claremont Institute for Constitutional Jurisprudence, specializing in constitutional law.

She joined Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF) in 2017, driven by its mission areas that include natural resources, equal protection and constitutional rights advocacy.

MSLF is a non-profit law firm founded in 1976, dedicated to restoring those rights enshrined in our Constitution. It fights to protect property rights, individual liberties and economic freedom. The organization has supported numerous cases against the EPA for government overreach. Their litigation has also involved the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause, particularly as it regards government affirmative action programs. MSLF's Center to Keep and Bear Arms is the United States' first in-house litigation center exclusively concerned with Second Amendment rights. Their Legal Fellowship Program trains future lawyers to protect constitutional rights through mentorship and experience working with MSLF's litigation areas.

Join us for a fascinating evening focused on freedom **Thursday, April 23, 2026**, at the Petroleum Museum! Thank you to the **Abell-Hanger Foundation** for sponsoring this great event.

**Thursday, April 23rd**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Free Admission**

**Reservations Recommended**

*Go to [pbpetro.org](http://pbpetro.org) to make your free reservation.*

**A-H Abell-Hanger  
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**MOUNTAIN STATES LEGAL  
FOUNDATION**



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***Permian Basin  
Petroleum Museum,  
Library, and  
Hall of Fame***

**CURRENT EVENTS**



**West Texas Oil & Gas Convention and Tailgate Party**

Join us at the 12th Annual West Texas Oil & Gas Convention & Tailgate Party March 25-26th at the Midland County Horseshoe Pavilion. Come learn about new trends, products, and resources for the industry. Register for a free ticket at [roselandconsulting.com/invite-your-guests/](http://roselandconsulting.com/invite-your-guests/) and come visit our booth on the exhibit floor!

**Chaparral at Riverside**

Keith and James traveled with Jim Hall's 2E Continuation car to Riverside, California to participate in the Historic Motor Sports Association's (HMSA) 60th Anniversary Can-Am Series Celebration. The gathering at the Historic Mission Inn in Riverside honored the Can-Am series which launched in 1966 and became the global symbol of speed, engineering innovation and competition. This series defined the golden era of American road racing, creating legends like Jim Hall who continue to inspire new generations of fans and racers alike.



We were proud to represent the Petroleum Museum at this event and help tell the story of Jim Hall's historic racing career.



Luanne and Stacie went to the 2026 NAPE Summit at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. NAPE (North American Prospect Expo) is the energy industry's marketplace for the buying, selling and trading of prospects and producing properties. We are proud to share information about the Museum and how we are advocates for the vital petroleum industry.



**Applause, Applause**

Let's give a round of applause for friends, organizations and businesses whose in-kind contributions of time and/or services have greatly benefitted the Museum.

ASCO Equipment Inc.

Museum of the Southwest

PermianLide

Sibley Nature Center

Society of Petroleum Engineers

Young Women's Leadership Association



Special thanks to Dawson Geophysical for donating a Kawasaki Mule to the Museum's facilities department. Their gift will assist with maintenance in the Oil Patch and around the property.



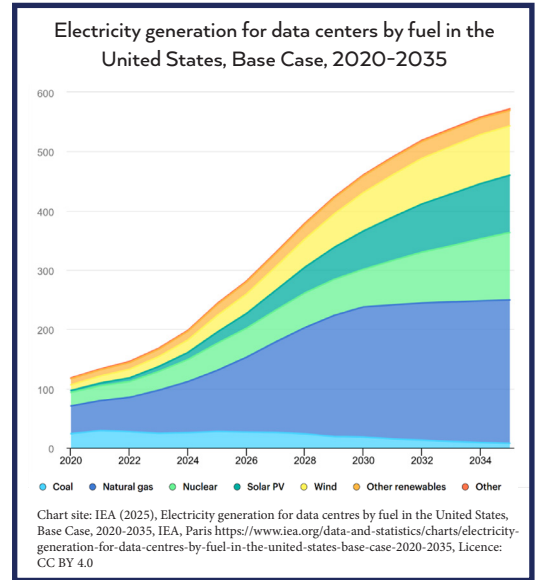
AI's integration into our lives is the most significant shift in online behavior in over a decade. Hundreds of millions of people now regularly turn to chatbots to aid with homework, research, coding, and/or to create images and videos.

According to a recent study by The Washington Post and the University of California, a single ChatGPT-generated email uses enough electricity to power 14 LED light bulbs for an hour—and enough water to fill a 20 ounce bottle just for cooling. Business Energy estimates that ChatGPT consumes four times the energy required to stage and broadcast the Super Bowl—every single week. Over a year, that's more than the total energy consumption of 117 countries. And that's just one AI platform. But what's powering all of that?

As data center construction outpaces grid capacity, energy supply has become the primary constraint shaping the AI industry. Companies such as Chevron and Exxon Mobil are investing heavily in large scale natural gas projects to deliver fast, reliable electricity to large data centers, signaling a larger shift where natural gas is increasingly sold as a contracted reliability service, rather than a commodity.

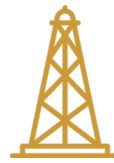
Today, global data centers consume roughly 1-2% of total electricity, a figure expected to double by 2030 as AI workloads expand. In the United States, about 56% of data center electricity comes from fossil fuels, and roughly 75% of planned on site power for new AI facilities is natural gas based. AI specific computing already accounts for 5-15% of data center demand and could reach 35-50% by the end of the decade.

Fossil fuels remain vital to meeting AI's energy requirements. Most grids deliver a fossil fuel heavy energy mix, and supplemental energy expansion has not kept pace with the rising electricity and cooling needs of large scale data centers. As a result, AI's current growth is tightly linked to fossil fuel infrastructure through grid supply, on site generation, and the need for reliable power.



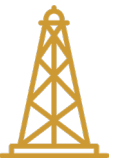
# Save the Date

*Saturday, September 19, 2026*

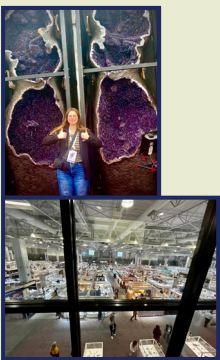


## 51st Birthday Bash

The Museum will turn 51 this year,  
A western night with black gold cheer.  
Boots shined bright and spirits high,  
We'll toast the years we've watched fly by.

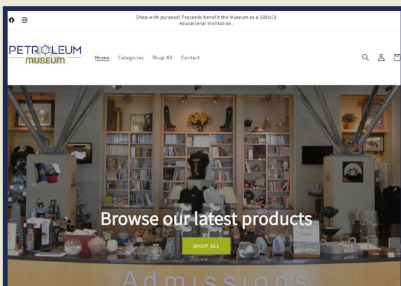
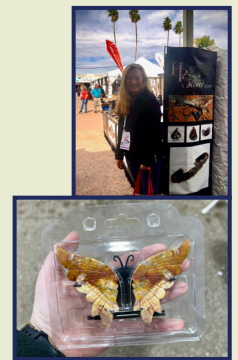


## Tucson Gem & Mineral Show Items Featured in the Store



Madison and Luanne recently returned from the renowned Tucson Gem and Mineral Show in Arizona, where they spent several days exploring exhibits and hand-selecting new items for the Museum Store. This year's trip brought back an exciting collection of jewelry, natural stone gifts, and fascinating fossils that capture the beauty and science of the natural world. Whether you're a collector, a gift-giver, or simply curious about the wonders of geology, the Museum Store now has fresh treasures waiting to be discovered.

*Stop by on your next visit and see what's new.  
You might just find a piece of the earth's story to take home!*



## Online Store Revamped!

Our Museum Store website has a new look! Check out the new site for an easier to use online shopping experience to purchase the latest industry items, mineral treasures, and unique gifts!

[store.petroleummuseum.org](https://store.petroleummuseum.org)

This summer, the Petroleum Museum is turning curiosity into discovery with a full lineup of hands-on, science-filled summer camps designed to inspire young minds at every age and stage!

For our youngest explorers, **STEAM Sprouts (ages 4-5)** offers a playful introduction to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Campers learn through stories, simple experiments, building activities, and creative play - all in a nurturing, age-appropriate environment that encourages curiosity and confidence. **New this summer, STEAM Sprouts will run 6 weeks through June and July.** Thank you to our 2026 STEAM Sprouts sponsor, **SM Energy!**

- Starlight Seekers - June 10-11
- Captain Tinker’s Ocean Lab - June 17-18
- Little STEAM Travelers - June 24-25
- Little Lab Detectives - July 8-9
- Gadgeteers in Training - July 15-16
- Planet Pals - July 22-23



Elementary-age campers can dive deeper into discovery with our **Summer Science Camps for ages 6-8.** With three different camp sessions, children will explore exciting themes through experiments, engineering challenges, and interactive learning that keeps them engaged and asking questions.

- Galactic Quest - June 9-11
- Ocean Explorers - June 16-18
- Around the World - June 23-25



Older campers looking for bigger challenges will enjoy our two camps for **ages 8-12**, where science comes alive through more advanced experiments, problem-solving activities, and collaborative projects. These camps are perfect for kids who love to tinker, test, and think like real scientists.

- Microscopic Marvels - July 7-9
- Expedition Earth - July 21-23



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE

We will also offer a special camp for **ages 10-15**, designed to push curiosity further with deeper investigations, hands-on labs, and real-world science connections that encourage critical thinking and creativity.

- Design Squad - July 14-16

All Petroleum Museum summer camps are led by experienced educators and emphasize hands-on learning, teamwork, and fun—because the best learning happens when kids don’t even realize they’re doing it! Thank you to Oxy for sponsoring 2026 Summer Science Camps!

Spots are limited, and camps fill quickly.

**Discover. Create. Explore.**

**Registration opens March 18th. Give your child a summer full of science adventures at the Petroleum Museum!**

## New Friends in the Critter Corner!

Our Education Department’s Critter Corner has some exciting new residents! Say hello to Noodle and Gizmo, our playful Marshall Ferrets, and Helix, our beautiful Super Pastel Ball Python. These animal ambassadors help us teach kids about habitats, adaptations, and how people care for animals responsibly. You’ll be able to meet them during programs, camps, and special events—so keep an eye out!

### Critter Corner Fun Facts

#### Noodle & Gizmo (Ferrets)

- Ferrets can sleep up to 18 hours a day.
- They love tunnels, toys, and exploring.
- Ferrets are mammals and are super flexible!

#### Helix (Ball Python)

- Ball pythons curl into a tight ball when they feel shy.
- They use their tongues to “smell” the air.
- Helix’s special coloring is called Super Pastel.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### George Marin

#### Society of Petroleum Engineers - Permian Basin Section

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Permian Basin Section has been sharing technical knowledge and supporting the next generation of energy professionals since 1945. This month, we spotlight **George Marin**, Community Relations Co-Chairman, for his dedicated volunteer work with the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum.

#### Volunteer in museum education:

Marin's love for museums and history, and his father's career as a history teacher made education a natural fit. Although he has 14 years of oil and gas experience, he was eager to learn more about the industry's history. A recommendation from his colleague, Ryan Smith, helped connect him with the Museum.

#### Museums matter:

Marin believes hands-on learning brings concepts to life. "Museums make knowledge tangible – something students can see, touch, and truly experience. It brings learning to life."

#### Connecting with the community:

For Marin, volunteering has opened doors to meet community members and create meaningful, memorable interactions. "It's a privilege to serve and learn together."

#### Advice for new volunteers:

"Come join us! Start with a Family Science Night and explore other ways to get involved. It's rewarding, enjoyable, and you'll make a real impact."

#### Hopes for students:

He hopes students leave with a deeper understanding of the region's energy history and see STEM concepts come alive.

#### Looking ahead:

Marin envisions continued collaboration between SPE Permian Basin and the Museum. "Our involvement supports both the Museum and SPE's mission to make a positive impact on our community."

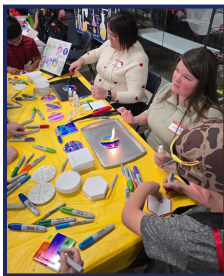
*Thank you to George Marin and SPE Permian Basin for volunteering and supporting the Petroleum Museum!*



Teachers, get ready to energize your classroom! Join the **West Texas Energy Summit** for a hands-on STEM workshop packed with classroom-ready activities. Deadline to apply is April 3, 2026.



## Science on the Move!



- Look for the Petroleum Museum's education team at **Midland College's Science Extravaganza** for hands-on STEM fun on March 20, 2026.
- We brought hands-on learning to the **Region 11 STEAM Carnival!** The Petroleum Museum's Virtual Outreach Teacher, Shayla Greenwood, shared engaging STEM activities that inspired curiosity and creativity.
- The Petroleum Museum's Education team enjoyed serving as judges at the **St. Ann's Science Fair** in January, encouraging students as they shared their scientific discoveries.
- STEM comes alive! Look for us at local STEM nights for curiosity-filled, hands-on fun. Thanks to **Scharbauer Elementary, Jane Long Elementary, Midland Christian, and Levelland Middle School** for inviting us to be a part of your events.

## Earth Unleashed Family Science Night



Thursday, May 7, 2026  
6:30-8:00 pm



**Earth Unleashed: Discover the power of our planet!**

This Family Science Night enables families to explore weather phenomena and catastrophic Earth events through interactive, hands-on experiences. Learn how hurricanes form, why earthquakes shake the ground, and what causes volcanic eruptions. Engage in science, engineering, and problem-solving activities designed for learners of every age.

Thank you to **Chevron** for sponsoring Family Science Nights.



Welcome to our newest and renewed members from  
**October 30, 2025 - January 27, 2026**

**Contributing Members**

**Family**

- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Brahaney
- Eric Brorman
- Brad Bullock
- Betsy Casselman-Porter
- Mr. & Mrs. William Chalfant
- Julie Cole
- Shannon & Jonathan Conners
- Charlotte & Keith Doucet
- Lexi & Julian Garcia
- Mindy & Jared Goldsmith
- Channon & Kris Gregg
- Paula Haynes
- Melissa Holt Handford
- Lauren & Jerry Jorgenson
- Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Lee
- Janet Munoz
- Benny Saenz
- Juan Vega

**Friend**

- Michael Brady
- Diane & Geoff Browne
- Megan & Paul Pausé
- Helen & Sam Sledge

**Associate**

- Luanne & Randy Thornton

**Supporter**

- Ernest Angelo, Jr.
- Linda Cowden
- Phyllis Stine

**Energy Circle Members**

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- Dee & Paul Morris
- Permian Basin Petroleum Association
- Kathy Shannon
- Texas Tech University School of Law

**Sustainer**

- Laurie & Miles Boldrick
- Robbie & Danny Campbell
- Mindy & Joe de Compiegne
- Summit Petroleum LLC

**Benefactor**

- Jamie & Kyle Stallings
- ExxonMobil
- Sharon & Bobby Floyd
- Jan & Joe O'Neill, III

***What Difference Did It Make?***

As you prepare to give Uncle Sam his due, we hope you'll also reflect on the difference your generosity made this year. If you've wondered, "What difference did I make?" the answer is simple: ***a meaningful one.***

Your support of the Museum sparked curiosity, inspired discovery, and strengthened our community. Because of you, children experienced the story of Texas energy and saw science come to life, families learned and explored together, and adults engaged with programs connecting history, innovation, and the future of energy. You helped preserve the remarkable legacy of the Chaparral racecars, allowing visitors to travel both back in time and forward into the future of engineering and design. You kept the Museum humming through dedicated staff and volunteers serving visitors from across Texas, the nation, and the world.

Together, we continued telling the petroleum and energy story and its profound impact on our lives. Most importantly, you showcased the very best of our community.

*You didn't just support the Museum; you made a difference.*



The ***Petroleum Museum*** partnered with ***Midland Community Theatre*** to host a special evening for Theatre and Museum members. Guests enjoyed dinner, drinks, and a special performance of ***Giant: The Musical***, offering an entertaining glimpse into the 1940s ranching and oil industries. The Museum complemented the experience with curated exhibits that immersed attendees in the culture of this dynamic, roaring era.

***Memorials***

Memorial contributions to the Petroleum Museum are deposited in the permanent endowment fund, unless donor advised, to provide ongoing tribute to the individuals recognized in bold.

*Donors are listed below the honoree.*

Contributions from October 30, 2025 - January 27, 2026 were:

**IN HONOR OF...**

- Brit Meadows**
- Melynda Meadows Weaver

**IN MEMORY OF...**

- John R. Dorr**
- Jon G. Massey

- Arlen Edgar**
- Jon G. Massey

- J. Stephen Guyton**
- Jon G. Massey

- Norma J. McGrew**
- KerryKay & Tom Cook
- JoAnne McClurg

- Budge McDonnold**
- Shirley McDonnold

- Albert Gallatin Talbot IV**
- Michael Hunt Talbot

# Notable Dates

## MARCH

### MARCH 17

Building Bots Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Grades: 3rd-8th  
Pre-registration is required  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

### MARCH 25-26

The Museum goes to **Roseland West Texas Oil & Gas Convention**. Register for a free ticket at [roselandconsulting.com/invite-your-guests/](http://roselandconsulting.com/invite-your-guests/) and visit our booth!

### MARCH 29

Space Nation Family Day  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Free Admission

## APRIL

### APRIL 5

Happy Easter! - Museum Closed

### APRIL 7

Building Bots Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Grades: K-2nd  
Pre-registration is required  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

### APRIL 14

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Speaker: Sara Harris  
*Executive Director, Midland Development Corporation*  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Free Admission  
Drinks and desserts provided  
Sponsor: **Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee**

### APRIL 21

Building Bots Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Grades: 3rd-8th  
Pre-registration is required  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

### APRIL 23

Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecture Series  
Speaker: Cristen Wohlgemuth  
*Mountain States Legal Foundation*  
7:00 p.m. Free event with limited seating  
For reservations, call 432-683-4403 or go online to [pbpetro.org](http://pbpetro.org)  
Sponsor: **Abell-Hanger Foundation**

## MAY

### MAY 5

Building Bots Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Grades: K-2nd  
Pre-registration is required  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

### MAY 7

Family Science Night *Earth Unleashed*  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. Early Admission for MEMBERS ONLY  
Hands-on Science Experiments & Activities  
Free Admission  
Sponsor: **Chevron**

### MAY 12

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Speaker: Misty Thomason  
*Education Director, Sibley Nature Center*  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Free Admission  
Drinks and desserts provided  
Sponsor: **Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee**

### MAY 19

Building Bots Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Grades: 3rd-8th  
Pre-registration is required  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

### MAY 25

Happy Memorial Day! - Museum Open

## JUNE

### JUNE 9

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Speaker: TBD  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Free Admission  
Drinks and desserts provided  
Sponsor: **Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee**

### JUNE 9-11

Summer Science Camp: Galactic Quest  
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Ages 6-8  
Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online visit [www.pbpetro.org](http://www.pbpetro.org).  
Sponsor: **Oxy**

*For more information about any of these programs or events, contact the Petroleum Museum at 432-683-4403 or [www.pbpetro.org](http://www.pbpetro.org).*



SCAN ME  
TO DONATE

*Since 1975, generous contributors and members have enabled the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum to educate and inspire thousands of visitors annually. This generosity enables the Museum to continue to share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives.*

*To join or donate, scan the QR codes or contact Luanne at [lthornton@petroleummuseum.org](mailto:lthornton@petroleummuseum.org) or 432-683-4403.*



SCAN ME  
TO JOIN

# PETROLEUM MUSEUM

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Facilities Assistant  
KEITH DOUCET  
Chaparral Car Specialist

**Museum Bits & Bytes is published quarterly by the  
Petroleum Museum. For more information call  
432-683-4403 or visit the website at [www.pbpetro.org](http://www.pbpetro.org).**

## Museum Store

### EASTER BASKET GOODIES

[www.store.petroleummuseum.org](http://www.store.petroleummuseum.org)



Hop to the Museum Store this Easter and fill your kids' basket with fun! Throw in a Plus Plus Build Tube for the future engineer, a Sea Monkey Kit for the marine life lover, or a Dino Surprise Egg for the little dino enthusiast! Museum Members always receive 15% off purchases. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Shop online at [store.petroleummuseum.org](http://store.petroleummuseum.org) anytime!

**Our Mission: We will share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives.**