

# 1920s Derrick Going Up In Oil Patch

The Museum is erecting its newest Oil Patch exhibit – a late 1920s Emsco metal derrick used in the Darst Creek Oilfield in eastern Guadalupe County. Hundreds of these derricks, often only 350 to 400 feet apart, dotted the oil fields around Luling.

The Darst Creek field discovery well was made by the Texas Company on July 18, 1929. Several major companies were responsible for drilling the field, including Humble Oil and Refining, Gulf Production Company, Magnolia Petroleum as well as the Texas Company (later Texaco). The field produced from an average depth of 2,650 feet in a trap along a sealing fault in the Edwards limestone of the Lower Cretaceous. From initial production until September 1, 1960, the field yielded almost 107 million barrels of oil.

Attorney and amateur geologist A. B. Bauchman found evidence of a substructure fault structure in a gully near Darst Creek, five miles from the southwestern edge of the Luling oilfield. Bauchman told geologist Dilworth Hager and, with the help of Robert Franks, the men mapped the structure. Humble Oil agreed to drill a test well and on July 18, 1929, the well came in with an initial production of 1,000 barrels of oil per day.

Active drilling began in November 1929 with rotary rigs that could drill a well in 15 days at an average cost of \$22,500. To avoid the risks of unregulated production with a resulting loss of reservoir pressure, water encroachment and cheap crude prices, the operators agreed to voluntary proration in the field. H.H. Fitzpatrick was appointed field umpire and arrived on December 19, 1929, to prepare allowable schedules for the new year. The field is significant because it was the first to operate under proration in its region of Texas.

By the end of 1929, the field had produced 243,000 barrels of oil. On January 1, 1930, Fitzpatrick placed the field on 20-acre units and based allowables 50 percent on the unity and 50 percent on the potential of unit wells. Under regulation, Darst Creek field produced only 15,369



barrels per day. But by February, 44 wells were completed for a potential of 44,768 barrels of oil and by the end of the month operators were violating the voluntary proration. By April 1 operators increased the number of productive wells to 92 with a daily potential of 135,014 barrels of oil. Voluntary proration proved to be difficult to maintain and the annual production peaked in 1930 when 11,552,000 barrels of oil were brought to the surface.

The Museum is proud to reassemble this historic drilling rig on our grounds and tell the story of oil in Texas. It definitely takes a village for a project of this scope and we are very grateful to the “village” of companies who made this exhibit possible:

**American Crane and Rigging**, who donated the use of a crane to set the sections together;

**Anchor Nut & Bolt**, for the donation of nuts and bolts to build the rig;

**ASCO Rentals**, for the donation of one of the boom lifts;

**H&P Inc.**, who hauled the rig from Luling;

**Tommy Bottoms**, rig builder extraordinaire for his guidance and tireless work;

**Chaparral Nut & Bolt**, for the donation of more nuts and bolts;

**HB Rentals**, who provided housing for the rig builders;

**J & J Steel**, who provided the steel to make the plates for the base;

**United Rentals**, who provided the second boom lift;

**Warren CAT Rentals**, who provided the man-lift for the project;

**XTO**, who believed in this project and donated the funds used to purchase the drilling rig.



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Petroleum Museum,  
Library and  
Hall of Fame  
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innovations  
and legends...**

## Volunteer

## Mission Attracts Board Member

The Museum's mission to tell the energy story to the world and enable people to understand its benefits and challenges attracted **Travis Counts** to the Board of Trustees when asked to serve.

Counts, who serves as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Concho Resources, willingly agreed to serve on the board two years ago.

"Our company has historically been very involved with the Museum," he said, and board membership is one of those supportive roles. Another reason, though, is he has seen the need for educating people about the industry and that aspect fits the Museum's mission.

"I want to support the communication and education the Museum is offering," Counts said. "Kathy and her team do a great job with community outreach and with regional and national outreach. They give people some perspective about what the industry does and the impact it has on their lives."

"We in Midland can nod our heads that we understand what the industry is accomplishing, but outside of this area there is a lot of misunderstanding about the risks and benefits associated with what we do," he said, pointing to horizontal drilling as an example. Drilling down two miles or out three miles is a monumental undertaking and accomplishment, and the Museum can explain it in terms visitors understand.

In addition, the Museum is taking a leading role in STEM education, which is part of the strategic vision. "Education is an important part of the Museum and it needs to continue," Counts said.

**(Note: See more about the Museum's STEM efforts on Pages 4 and 5.)**



## Shopping Ideas? Try the Museum

Have you ever wondered what the impact of a museum store really is? Of course, sales dollars contribute to operating budgets of museums worldwide. But there are many more reasons to support the Petroleum Museum Store every day!

Museums are traditionally perceived as trusted resources for their communities. Products sold in our Museum Store reflect our mission, collections and programs. Many of our products extend the Museum's mission by expanding visitors' experiences and educational outreach. Some products are created exclusively for us, giving the visitor distinct and unique items from which to choose.

Museum stores also boast broad market bases, offering a range of items targeted for schoolchildren to professionals, families to single adults, college students to retirees. We are able to serve this diverse client base by offering a wide variety of items and price points, all of which take our story beyond our doors. Take home an item from our store and you are taking home a piece of the Museum to enjoy and extend the memory of your Museum experience. The Museum Store encourages long-term patrons with its products by engaging children, teens and adults in programming and events.

This holiday season consider doing your Christmas shopping at the Petroleum Museum Store. It's a good deal for all of us!



## Jewelry Appraisal

A visitor listens as Thomas Elliott, CJG, GIA, appraises a gem during his visit to the Museum on November 19. Elliott has built a reputation for accuracy in his 30 years of experience in the jewelry industry. Owner of Catalyst Gems, he offers gem and jewelry appraisals and evaluates antique and estate pieces.



## Coming Events

# Harpists to Present Christmas Music

Come enjoy the sounds of the season at the December Brown Bag Lunch program on December 10. Featured will be the **Cooley Sisters, Helen and Hannah**, of the renowned **Cooley Sister Harp Trio**. Helen and Hannah were trained under Virginia Bethun, Certified Music Practitioner with the Music for Healing and Transition Program in southwest Virginia. Helen and Hannah, along with their sister Emily, have performed as a trio with numerous symphony orchestras all over the world. In December 2018 they were honored to perform at the White House.



White House, 2018

Helen graduated with a BSN from Texas A&M University and a MA in from the University of Florida. She maintains an active schedule working with Visit Midland. Hannah graduated with a BSN from Baylor University and works at a high-risk pregnancy unit at the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

The trio's first recording, *Hymns for the Harp & Soul*, was followed in 2014 by their second record, *A Christmas Album*.

Bring your lunch, enjoy sweets and a bit of cider and delight in joyful harpist renditions of your favorite Christmas carols. Invite friends to this special presentation. Auditorium doors open at 11 a.m. Performance will start at 11:30 a.m.

**Sponsoring the Brown Bag Lunch & Lectures are Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.**

**December 10**  
**Brown Bag**  
**Lunch & Lecture**

**Helen & Hannah**  
**Cooley**  
**Harpists**

**11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Museum Auditorium**

# Video Illustrates Earth Over Millions of Years



The **January 14 Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture** will feature a 46-minute video documentary titled *"Faces of Earth: Assembling America."* We'll see new technologies that allow today's geoscientists to strip back the layers of Earth. Explore the geological forces that shaped the United States over hundreds of millions of years. Prepare to witness the explosion that formed Earth and travel back in time to explore the evolution of the Earth we know today.

The Lunch & Lecture will start at 11:30 a.m. in the Museum Auditorium. Admission is free. Bring your lunch. The Museum will provide drinks and desserts.

Speaking at the **February 11** Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture will be **Angela Staples** with Tall City Exploration. As General Counsel for the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, she will review case studies of litigations relating to the oil and gas industry.

**Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture sponsors are Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.**

**January 14**  
**"Faces of Earth:**  
**Assembling**  
**America"**

**11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Museum Auditorium**

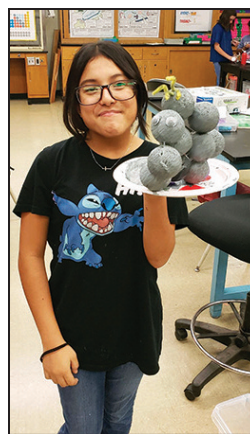
# Tours Teach History to Fourth Graders

We are excited to schedule our annual fourth grade tours during December and January. Students from Midland ISD visit the Museum for a special Texas History tour to learn about the Permian Basin, renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, geology, the economics of oil, and much more! To make it more fun and memorable, we have hands-on exhibits for the students.

We extend a special thank you to our docents for making these tours possible and for impacting the young minds of our community in such a positive way! We thank our partners at MISD, particularly **Chris Hightower**, Director of Social Studies, and **Orlando Riddick**, Superintendent, for their support in making these educational enrichment opportunities possible for the students in MISD.



## STEM Gems: Developing Tomorrow's Leaders



It's no surprise that fields in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) world have historically been ruled almost exclusively by men. Women make up roughly 50 percent of the total U.S. labor market, but only 28 percent of the STEM workforce.

The Petroleum Museum, in partnership with Communities in Schools, has joined efforts to close the gender gap with the creation of **STEM Gems**, an afterschool program at Goddard Junior High School. Sponsored by **Encana**, STEM Gems is designed to engage

seventh and eighth grade at-risk girls in STEM-based projects that reinforce what students are learning in the classroom. The program also brings in female role models who currently work in STEM fields to help create real world connections for the students. These connections are critical in helping the young female students to sustain an interest in STEM. The projects' hands-on nature give students a variety of insights into the STEM world as opposed to simply learning about concepts in a textbook.

STEM Gems was piloted during the 2018-2019 school year and served 30 at-risk students in the seventh and eighth grade. The curriculum was structured around the eighth grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) test. The curriculum assists eighth grade students in what they are currently learning while preparing seventh grade students for the next grade level. Not only did the girls learn concepts that are tested by the state, they enhanced a variety of nonacademic skills including communication, collaboration, and

adapting to a growth mindset. The girls participated in a kick-off event at the Petroleum Museum. This event featured hands-on engineering challenges, a tour of the Museum, and a special guest speaker. To conclude the year, the girls travelled to the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis, where they participated in a variety of educational programs at one of the Observatory's Star Parties.

The 2019-2020 STEM Gems program includes several new students as well as some returning students. New curriculum and guest speakers will be introduced to keep students engaged throughout the school year. The girls in the STEM Gems program also may compete in the Science Fair at their school. The annual kick-off event has been held at the Museum and featured activities centered around women in science. A guest speaker from **Encana**, as well as several members of **WEN (Women's Energy Network)**, attended to talk with the girls about their careers and the girls' future interests.

Since the program's beginning, the Museum has seen a tremendous growth in the students who have attended in both seventh and eighth grades. The girls are pursuing learning on their own and taking the initiative to help younger students with projects. With each weekly meeting, the confidence level of the girls is rising. The Museum believes this program will spark an interest in STEM that the girls can pursue later in their academic careers. We plan to expand the program to other campuses in the coming years.

Thank you to **Encana** for generously sponsoring STEM Gems. You are creating the tomorrow's future today!



## Critter Corner: Slither in and Meet Kaa

**M**et Kaa, the newest addition to the Museum's Critter Corner. Kaa is a Desert Enchi Ball Python that was donated to the Museum this summer.

Ball Pythons, which are known as the royal python in many parts of the world, are native to central and western Africa. Ball Pythons average two to five feet in length with females being much larger than males, averaging three to five feet long. Some lengths of six feet or more have been reported. With proper care, these snakes can live 30 years or more. As with all snakes, Ball Pythons are carnivorous reptiles whose diet is primarily rats. This breed of snake is the most popular pet python in the world due to its size, friendly temperament, and the variety of colors and patterns, such as Kaa's desert enchi morph. Kaa is a wonderful addition to the Museum's animal program that helps to teach young minds about animal classifications, adaptations, habitats, food chains, and ecosystems. Slither into the Museum's Critter Corner to say hi to Kaa the next time you visit!





## Family Science Night: “Science of the Ages”

6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, January 23, 2020

Join us for an innovative night of fun on **Thursday, January 23, 2020**, from **6:30 to 8 p.m.** as we explore science through the ages. Travel back in time to experience firsthand the discoveries that changed the world of science, technology, engineering, and math into what we know it as today. Explore the Laws of Motion established by Sir Isaac Newton, witness the electrifying power of the Tesla Coil invented by Nikola Tesla, create your own X-Ray in honor of Marie Curie, and much more!



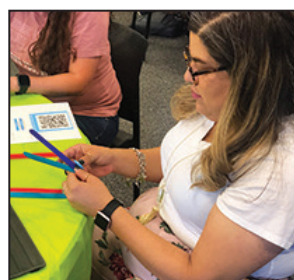
**Museum Members enjoy the added bonus of early admission from 6 to 6:30 p.m.** For information on becoming a Museum member, contact Luanne Thornton at [ltornton@petroleummuseum.org](mailto:ltornton@petroleummuseum.org).

Special thanks to **Chevron** for making this free, science-packed night possible!

## Getting STEM Savvy ...

This October, more than 30 educators from across Region 18 attended a professional development session that engaged them in ways to incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) across the curriculum. In partnership with Region 18, the Museum brought in the *Tech Chicks* who engaged participants in hands-on activities that gave them a better understanding of different STEM strategies and tools that can be incorporated across grade levels and content areas. Educators participated in building, coding, engineering, and problem solving through activities such as paper circuits, Ozobots, coding apps, and Spheros.

The session also featured a variety of resources the Museum has available for educators in surrounding communities to check out and utilize in their own classrooms. These tools include a cross-curricular Ozobot robotics trunk, LEGO Maker Simple Machines trunk, Geology and Earth Sciences trunks, and many more.



## ...Going Even Savvier

Calling all educators! Mark your calendars for our upcoming professional development session titled *STEM Savvier: Even MORE Strategies for Incorporating STEM Across the Curriculum*. Join the *Tech Chicks* for a hands-on session and discover even more STEM strategies and tools that can be incorporated across grade levels and content areas. Learn how to foster the essential skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration all while engaging students in fun content. Explore Makey Makey, green screen techniques, QR codes, augmented reality, virtual reality, and more with us on Saturday, **March 28, 2020**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration can be found on the Region 18 website at [www.esc18.net](http://www.esc18.net). Attendance at the fall STEM Savvy session is not a prerequisite.

## ASK Dr. Petro

## Proppants Designed for Each Frac Job



Often subsurface rock layers contain petroleum fluids that cannot flow freely to a well because the pore spaces in the rock are isolated, trapping the fluids or gases. Hydraulic fracturing solves this problem by producing breaks in the rock by drilling a well, sealing the portion of the well in the petroleum-bearing zone, and pumping water under high pressure into that portion of the well. Surface pumps increase the water pressure in the sealed portion of the well until it is high enough to cause cracks in the surrounding rocks. When their breaking point is reached, the rock fractures and water, generally treated with chemicals and thickeners to create a viscous gel and frac sand (proppants), is pushed into the fissures. These new fractures in the rock form a network of pore spaces that allow fluids to flow out of the rock and into the well hole.

The type of proppant used by the industry varies. Frac sand is a high-purity quartz sand from sandstone with durable, round grains. Frac sand is not used straight from the ground. It re-

quires processing to optimize its performance. After mining, it is washed to remove fine particles, drained, and dried. Then the dry grains are screened to get precise size elements for specific jobs.

Manufactured proppants provide a wide selection of granular sizes and specific gravity compared to a natural frac sand. Other materials that have been used include ceramic beads, aluminum beads, and bauxite. Powdered bauxite can be fused into tiny beads at very high temperatures. These beads have a very high crush resistance making them suitable for use as a proppant. The specific gravity of the beads and their size can be matched to the viscosity of the hydraulic fracturing fluid and to the size of fractures that are expected to develop in the rock.

So, when you hear about hydraulic fracturing or the term proppants, now you know about the fracs of life!



# YOU Made Us Successful

YOU are at the center of everything the Museum has accomplished over this past year. You have helped us encourage, elevate, and educate all who pass through the doors of this institution. We worked to create new and exciting ways to share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives. Your generosity and belief in the Museum's mission made it possible for us to inspire interest in the sciences and promote a positive view of the industry for visitors of all ages.

You can help us continue the legacy of all the Petroleum Museum represents by considering a donation to the Museum. Your donation may be designated as a year-end gift to the annual fund which allows us to meet our most pressing needs, the permanent endowment for the long-term security of the Museum, or the capi-

tal campaign for the new STEM Education Center. If you choose to donate privately, please check for matching funds through your employer.

We are dedicated to preserving our cultural history, promoting science education and serving as an advocate for the petroleum industry.

We hope you will join us in this unique and important mission. To donate online, go to [www.pbpetro.org](http://www.pbpetro.org) or contact Luanne Thornton at [lthornton@petroleummuseum.org](mailto:lthornton@petroleummuseum.org) or 432-683-4403.



## Join Now for Holiday Perks

No time like the present to join or renew Museum membership! Museum membership has many perks beginning with free admission and store discounts. To become a member, log on to our secure website at [www.pbpetro.org](http://www.pbpetro.org) or contact Luanne Thornton at 432-683-4403.

Welcome to our newest and renewed members of the Museum as of November 5, 2019!

### Contributing Family

Holly & Eric Aspeitia  
John Bargas  
Paul Becker  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brito  
Mr. & Mrs. John Burkholder  
David B. Dale  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray del Llano  
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Susannah & Briggs Donaldson  
Laura & Dillon Ferguson  
Jeana Gobar  
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Sarah Mitchell  
JoDee & Rodolfo Molina  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nelson  
Yolanda Ponce  
Johana & Martin Salazar

Denise & Marc Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Thornhill  
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Viktora

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## APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

We want to give a round of applause to the following friends, companies and businesses. Their in-kind contributions of time, assistance or services are appreciated:

*ASCO Equipment*  
*Helmerich & Payne*  
*Midland College Chemistry Club*  
*Midland College Engineering Club*  
*United Rentals*  
*Warren CAT Equipment Rentals*

## Memorials

Memorial contributions to the Petroleum Museum are deposited in the permanent endowment fund to provide ongoing tribute to the individuals recognized in bold. Donors are listed below the honoree. Contributors from August 14, through November 5, 2019, were:

### IN MEMORY OF...

**Elsie Hugly**  
Arlen Edgar

**Henry H. "Hank" Krusekopf, Jr.**  
Nancy N. Buffaloe  
Annelle Covington  
Janette & Tom Minihan

# Notable Dates

## DECEMBER

### December 10

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Harpists Helen and Hannah Cooley  
"A Harpist Christmas"  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.  
Sponsor: **Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**

### December 24-25:

*Merry Christmas!*  
Museum closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

## JANUARY 2020

### January 1

*Happy New Year!*  
Museum closed on New Year's Day.

### January 14

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
"Faces of Earth: Assembling America"  
A 46-minute video documentary  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.  
Sponsor: **Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**

### January 23

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

## FEBRUARY

### February 4

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades K-2nd  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### February 11

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Speaker: Angela Staples, Tall City Exploration & General Counsel for PBPA  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.  
Sponsor: **Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**

### February 18

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades 3rd - 6th  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

## MARCH

### March 3

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades K-2nd  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### March 10

Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series  
Speaker: Cristina Odenborg Burns, City of Midland Planning Division Manager  
"Projections for Downtown Midland"  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.  
Sponsor: **Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee**

### March 16, 23, 30

STEAM Sprouts  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. OR 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Ages 4-5  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### March 17

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades 3rd - 6th  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### March 28

Teacher Professional Development  
STEM Savvier: Even MORE Strategies for Incorporating STEM Across the Curriculum  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Kindergarten - 8th grade educators.  
Free Admission.  
Pre-registration required. Register online at **www.esc18.net**  
Credits: 6 CPE/Gifted Talented

## APRIL

### April 6, 13, 20

STEAM Sprouts  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. OR 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Ages 4-5  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### April 7

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades K-2nd  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### April 21

Building Bots: Robotics & Engineering FunLab  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Grades 3rd - 6th  
Pre-registration required. To register online, go to **www.pbpetro.org**.  
Sponsor: **Occidental Petroleum**

### April 30

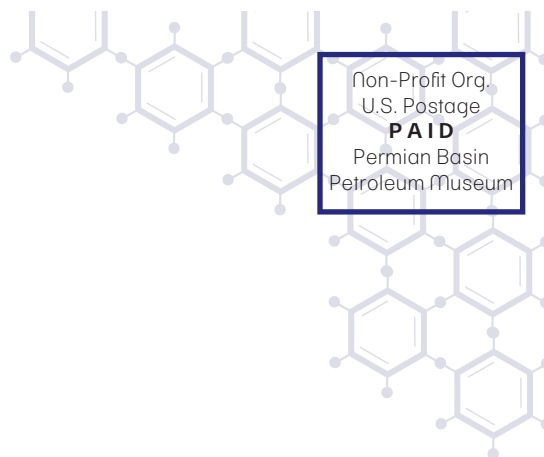
Family Science Night: *Science Does a Body Good*  
6:30 to 8 p.m.  
6 p.m. Early Admission for MEMBERS ONLY  
Hands-on Science Experiments & Activities  
Free Admission.  
Sponsor: **Chevron**

**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).**

# PETROLEUM MUSEUM

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

12/19

## The Museum Store



**Let us help you find the perfect gifts for friends and family this Christmas.** With the Museum Store's exceptional selection of industry gifts and a variety of other exclusive items, there is something for everyone on your list! Museum Members always receive **15 percent off** purchases. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, or shop online at [pbpetro.org/shop](http://pbpetro.org/shop) anytime.

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