

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

RAISING EXOTICS

Landowners turn to foreign breeds



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An axis doe in Central Texas

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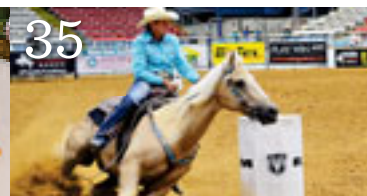
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 By Chris Burrows

NEXT MONTH

The State With the Most Texas Youth Tour contingent proves everything is bigger ... in Washington.



EXOTICS: WYATT MCSADDEN. YOUTH TOUR: ANNIE MCGINNIS | TEC

ON THE COVER Pamela and Gino Giannotti ride along the perimeter of Tillie's Game Ranch. Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

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Tracking Raiders

The article [*The Mystery of Sain-toh-oodie Goombi*, July 2017] also mentions Britt Johnson, who tracked raiders into Indian Territory and rescued his family. San Antonio author Paulette Jiles tells a fictionalized version of Britt Johnson's story in *The Color of Lightning*. In *News of the World*, Jiles writes about a young Kiowa captive who is reluctant to return to "civilization." Stories of this part of Texas history deserve to be told.

PAMALA NELSON | BUDA
PEDERNALES EC

A Home Unburdened

Home Made by Brenda Kissko [June 2017] was a delightful surprise and a sentimental journey. The house she wrote of was a favorite summer destination for my family and me. Her mother, my college roommate, and I gathered in the summer at the ranch to catch up after a year of visiting only in letters and by phone.

Morning coffee on the porch, the quiet of the landscape, the cool of the swamp cooler in the afternoon. Every child should be so fortunate to grow up without the burden of so much technology.

MARLENE TUCKER | AXTELL
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC



Finding Millie Durgan's Family

A big thank you for *The Mystery of Sain-toh-oodie Goombi* [July 2017], about my grandfather Ben J. Brothers' role in finding Millie Durgan's family. It contained some information I had never heard before. One reason he was successful was because he had been an early brand inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Through his investigations, he got to know many people in the area where Millie had been taken.

SARAH HARDY | ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



Another Poetry Whiz

Thanks to the reader from Port Lavaca for submitting this rhyme [*So Far By Car*, Letters, July 2017]. However, the true rhyme should be as follows:

*The sun has riz,
the sun has set,
and here we is,
in Texas yet.*

ELVIS GILMORE | GREENVILLE
FARMERS EC

Resurgence in Childress

I spent every summer in Childress [*Panhandle Prosperity*, July 2017] in the '50s and early '60s with my great-grandparents, Jake and Edna Swafford, and my great-aunt. My great-grandfather was the oldest citizen in Childress for several years and always was acknowledged at the Old Settlers Reunion.

I traveled to Childress last year to check on our family gravesite and just drove around,

remembering the bustling little town it was when I was growing up. So glad businesses are beginning to pop up again there.

LINDA PRICE | KATY
SOUTHWEST RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Books in the Barn

My book find was in a barn [*Blue Highway Literature*, June 2017]. Our son bought a home-stead from an elderly couple, and in the barn we found many plastic containers full of books.

The woman who lived there read extensively. Among the books was a 1938 publication of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, a collection of 75 Zane Grey books and a brown leatherette collection of 37 Louis L'Amour books. Of course, no book collection in Texas would be complete without Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* and *Comanche Moon*.

MYRA BLOUNT | LAMAR COUNTY
LAMAR ELECTRIC

The Best Chicken

The Strawberry, Basil & Goat Cheese Grilled Chicken [Recipes, April 2017] was wonderful. Thank you for your excellent recipes. We always enjoy them, but that chicken was the best.

SHARON FLOURNOY | ROSANKY
BLUEBONNET EC

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   Texas Co-op Power

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HAPPENINGS

Wish You Were Here

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SENT OR RECEIVED A POSTCARD?

“This month,” says Yvette Foster. “I often use old postcards to make birthday and special cards.”

In addition to being resourceful, Foster also is a collector and a member of the Capital of Texas Postcard Club, which hosts the **CAPITAL OF TEXAS ANTIQUE POSTCARDS & VINTAGE PAPER SHOW** on **OCTOBER 6-7** in Austin.

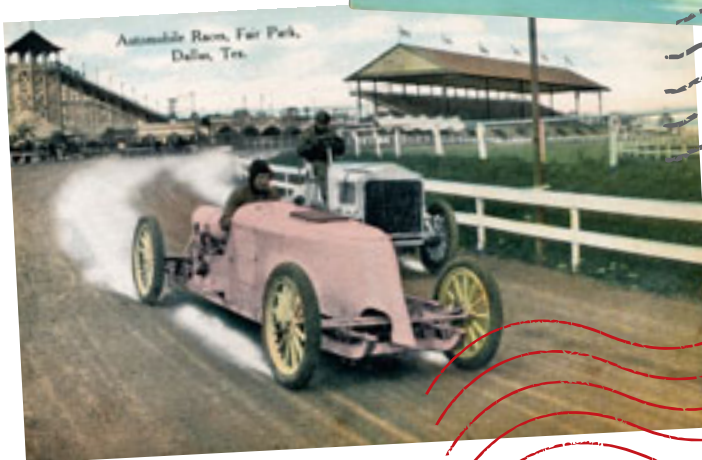
“They are like little works of art, and I enjoy reading the messages and seeing the often elegant writing on the back,” she says. “I have hundreds of Santa and Christmas postcards.”

Postcards came into existence in the mid-1800s and after the turn of the century grew into a popular way folks stayed in touch. Postcards depicted works of art, scenes and even photos of natural disasters.

“Postcards would be considered the texting of the current day,” says Foster, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative. “When there wasn’t time to write a full letter, a postcard often just said: I’ve arrived.

Or I’ll be home Saturday. Or I’m thinking of you.”

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WEB EXTRAS
▶ Find more happenings online.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

National Tailgating Day is **September 2**, the first full Saturday of college football season. Check out *Tailgating Favorites* on **Page 31** to kick off your season with winning recipes.



BY THE NUMBERS

Man, Verses, Words

There once was a writer who worked in a cube. He had so many words, he was one busy dude. He typed them all down five years in a row; Three hundred blurbs is what he can show.

Tom Widlowski recently celebrated his fifth anniversary as associate editor of *Texas Co-op Power*. In that time, he’s written an estimated 300 tidbits (but not this one), totaling about 15,000 words for this section of the magazine. How does that make him feel? “Somewhat dizzy—but proud,” he says. “On to the next 300.”

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HONORS

What in the World?

PEGGY WHITSON runs circles around every other American astronaut who has flown in space. Whitson, a biochemist who earned her doctorate at Rice University in Houston, surpassed the record for most accumulated time in orbit in late April. She is due to return to Earth in September, when she'll have logged 666 days off the planet after three missions to the International Space Station.

THE WORLD RECORD—879 days—is held by Russian Gennady Padalka.

WHITSON IS THE WORLD'S most experienced spacewoman and female spacewalker and, at 57, the oldest woman in space.

WEB EXTRAS

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Did You Know?



THE ISS ORBITS EARTH at about 17,500 mph. It travels at an altitude of around 250 miles, circling Earth about every 90 minutes. Track it at iss.astroviewer.net.

WORTH REPEATING

“It’s a fixer-upper of a planet, but we could make it work.”

—**ELON MUSK**, CEO of SpaceX, speaking in May 2013 about the possibility of humans eventually settling on Mars. SpaceX has a rocket-development facility in McGregor and offices in Houston, and is building a launch site at Boca Chica Beach in Brownsville.

ALMANAC

Speaking of the Wild Blue Yonder

The U.S. Air Force turns 70 on September 18.

Though the U.S. Army Signal Corps started an Aeronautical Division in 1907 and received its first airplane in 1909—from the Wright brothers—the Air Force didn’t become a separate branch of the military until 1947.



HISTORY LESSON

& NOW YOU KNOW

The English alphabet had a 27th letter until around 1900. Though it no longer is an honored member of the alphabet, it gets celebrated every September 8 on National Ampersand Day.

The ampersand started as a ligature of the letters “E” and “T” from the Latin word *et*, which means “and.” The word “ampersand” was added to dictionaries in 1837. It’s a slurred form of “and per se and.” Per se means “by itself,” and schoolchildren would end their recitations of the ABCs by saying, “X, Y, Z and per se and.”

EXOTIC ANSWERS



Landowners stock foreign breeds in quest to optimize family land

Gillespie County rancher Gino Giannotti slows his green Kawasaki Mule on a rocky road and gazes toward a distant motte of live oaks. Braking to a stop, he says, “Look!” and points toward a blackish-brown antelope with white eye patches and V-shaped, corkscrew horns. Startled, the animal bounds away and disappears into the trees. “That was a male blackbuck antelope,” Giannotti says, revving the off-road vehicle. “The females are tan and don’t have horns.”

Within a few minutes, he spots chestnut and white-spotted axis deer along with a large-bodied, scimitar-horned oryx, with its distinctive back-swept horns. Native white-tailed deer graze nearby. These animals help ensure that Tillie’s Game Ranch, a member of Central Texas Electric Cooperative, won’t be broken up and sold any time soon.

Giannotti and his wife, Pamela, inherited the Hill Country land in the 1990s from Pamela’s great-aunt, Tillie Evers Durden, a descendant of Ludwig Evers, who founded the ranch near Doss in the 1850s. For the first 16 years, the couple, who live and work in Austin, ran cattle on the ranch. Then, an extended drought brought uncertainty. Commercial hunts for white-tailed deer generated extra income—but for only a few months out of the year.

Something had to give. With iffy cattle markets and notorious Texas weather, the couple did not see how they could continue to afford the land *and* pass it along intact to their children. In-depth research and lengthy discussions finally led Giannotti and his wife to a solution.

“We decided to stock and breed exotic game,” he says. “The animals can be hunted year-around, and we could create a revenue stream that would cover the ranch’s expenses, and the land would not be a financial burden down the road for our two daughters.”

The Gianottis are not alone. Across Texas, more than 3,300 property owners run exotic game species on their land, according to the Exotic Wildlife Association, based in Ingram. Generally, the term “exotic” refers to animals brought into the state from foreign countries. In Texas, the majority of exotic hoofed deer, antelope, goats and sheep originate in Africa. Most are contained



STORY BY **Sheryl Smith-Rodgers**
PHOTOS BY **Wyatt McSpadden**



Opposite: A young bison (not an exotic) from a herd of about 15 at Tillie's Game Ranch. Left: Gino Giannotti searches for exotics. Below: Early spring wildflowers add color to a clearing at Tillie's.



From left: Giannotti brings feed to his bison. A skittish herd of blackbuck antelope from India scurry for cover. Gino and Pamela Giannotti and their dog, Hank, on the back porch of the lodge at Tillie's.



in high-fenced property. Some roam more freely in Central and South Texas, where the climate and terrain resemble that of their savannah homelands.

Over the years, the number of “Texotics” (a term likely first coined as the title of a 1976 bulletin published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) has increased dramatically. In 1963, a TPWD census counted 13 exotic species totaling some 13,000 animals in 46 counties. In 1988, a department survey found 67 species totaling an estimated 164,257 animals in 137 counties. A TPWD survey in 1996 numbered 76 species and 190,000 animals. Today, the EWA estimates that more than 1 million exotics representing 135 species live in the state.

All exotic animals are regulated by the Texas Animal Health Commission, which oversees the state’s livestock industry. Exotics are listed along with cattle, horses and other domestic animals.

Under TPWD regulations, hunters may harvest exotic animals with no bag limits at any time of the year. However, a valid hunting license and landowner permission are required. Also, hunting is not permitted on public roads or rights-of-way.

The exotic game industry’s economic impact in rural America is substantial. Exotic wildlife operations and sports enthusiasts spend more than \$822 million each year, according to a 2007 Texas A&M University study. The industry’s total impact amounts to \$1.3 billion and generates more than 14,300 jobs annually, largely in rural areas where exotic wildlife owners operate.

The first exotic game in Texas came to the legendary King

Balanced management is key, whether exotics are present or not.

Ranch. Starting in the 1920s, nilgai antelopes, purchased from the San Diego Zoo, were released on the ranch’s Norias Division. Today, more than 12,000 nilgai, a large brown or gray antelope indigenous to India, draw hunters and visitors from around the world to King Ranch.

In the 1930s, Richard Friedrich fenced off 775 acres of his Kerr County ranch and released sambar, fallow, axis and sika deer that he acquired from the San Antonio Zoo, where he served as a board member. Now under different ownership, the Patio Ranch, which bills itself as the state’s oldest exotic game ranch, breeds 15 exotic game species for commercial hunts and live animal sales.

In 1953, the late Charles Schreiner III acquired blackbuck antelope for his family’s famed Y.O. Ranch, established in 1880 in Kerr County. In the 1960s, Schreiner added more game species to boost the ranch’s reputation as a tourist and hunting destination. In 1967, Schreiner helped found the EWA to support and promote the industry. Today, Byron and Sandra Sadler, members of Pedernales EC, own the original portion of the historic ranch, which they renamed Y.O. Headquarters. Hunting, horseback riding and exotic game tours are available for visitors.

“We know the Schreiner family, and we’re native Texans, so we want to preserve the ranch and keep its legacy intact,” Byron Sadler says.



WEB EXTRAS

► Learn more about exotic species, including where to see them and how other landowners manage them.

of your land, exotics can be part of an overall wildlife management plan that focuses on the management of native wildlife species and their habitat. When requested, we give landowners technical guidance in managing habitat and wildlife, including exotics, for the benefit of native species. But if not managed, then exotics can have a detrimental impact on native species and habitat.”

“We learned at the Kerr Wildlife Management Area that exotics can outcompete white-tailed deer, which eat only forbs and browse,” Lockwood says. “Most of the common exotics also like browse and forbs, but they do well on grass, too. Past studies showed that unmanaged exotics enclosed with white-tailed deer always increased in numbers while the natives went to zero. That’s because white-tailed deer will starve to death on grass alone.”

Balanced management is key, whether exotics are present or not. “We don’t like the idea, but we recognize the economic importance of private landowners making money off their land,” says biologist Romey Swanson, a conservation project manager with the Hill Country Conservancy. “And sometimes the best way to do that is to offer hunting opportunities. But we would hope that landowners manage animals so that range conditions aren’t depleted over time.”

Back at Tillie’s Game Ranch, Giannotti drives through a final gate and locks it. Then he steers the dusty ATV into a carport at the ranch’s tin-roofed rock lodge, which houses two upstairs bedrooms for hunters. On the front porch, he pauses to gaze at the distant hills.

“Sometimes I look at how rugged this land is and think back to German immigrants who settled here,” Giannotti reflects. “They had to be a strong people to survive. You can’t walk a foot on this land without kicking a rock. But they worked it and made a living. We are, too. Someday our daughters will own this land after us. But in the meantime, I’m having a ball raising exotics!”

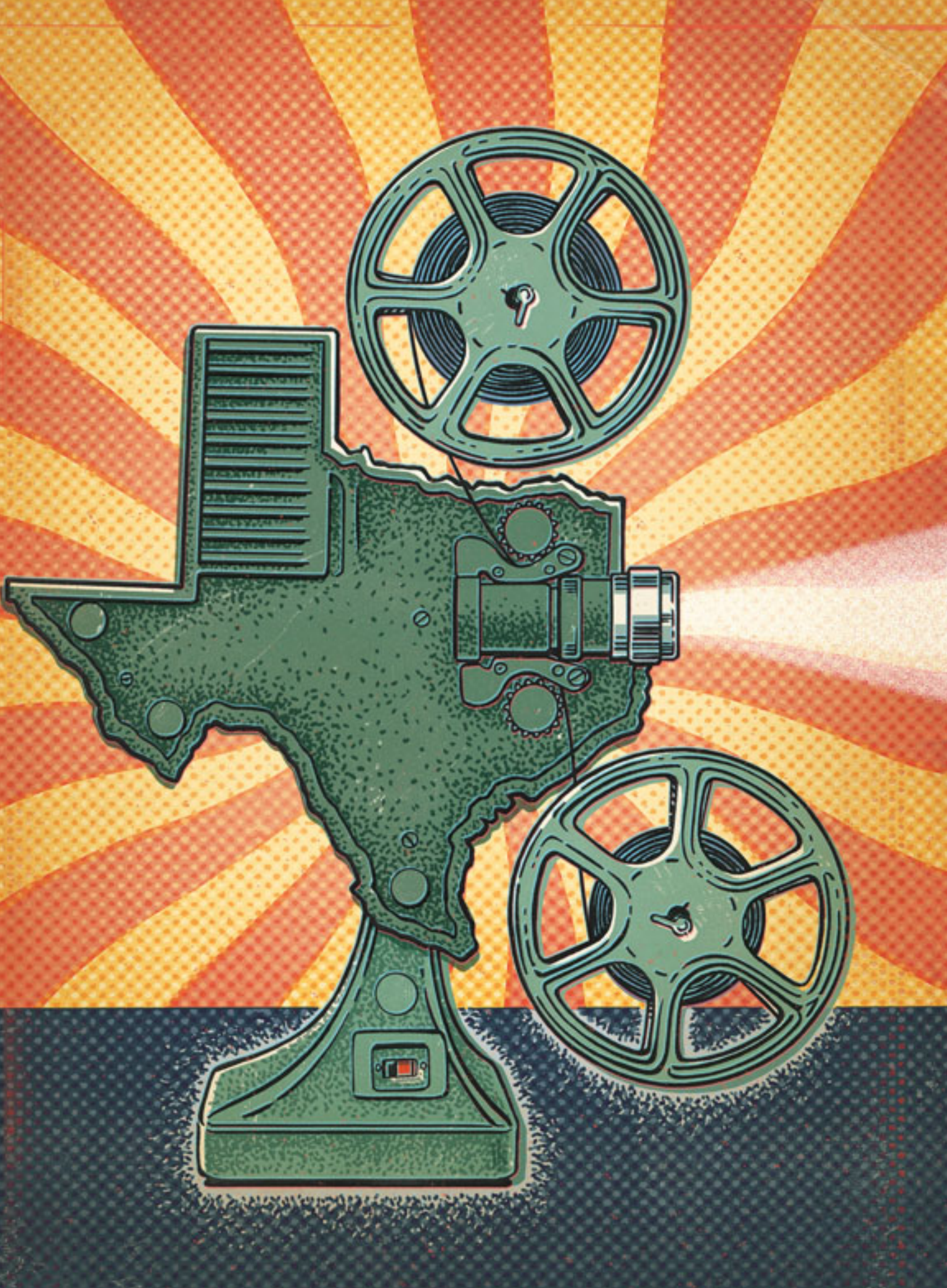
Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Blanco.

Across the state, private landowners own exotic game for numerous reasons. Many ranchers offer hunting packages that can cost a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Others breed and sell animals as breeding stock, for new releases on game ranches or as meat to restaurants. In some cases, ranchers tend endangered species in partnership with conservation projects, such as the Species Survival Plan program administered by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Landowners should do their homework before venturing into exotics. “We advise people to consider the three C’s first,” says James Gallagher, a TPWD biologist at the 5,300-acre, high-fenced Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area, a Central Texas EC member. “Can they *contain* exotics on their land? Can they *control* their numbers? Will exotics *compete* with native species?”

Gallagher, who manages greater kudu, Thompson’s gazelle and three other exotic species for demonstrations at the Mason WMA, also cautions potential owners to become well-versed in the behaviors and feeding habits of specific species. “One lesson we’ve learned here is that some exotics only use metal shelters when they are about to die,” he says.

What about the exotics’ effect on nature? “It’s all about numbers,” says Mitch Lockwood, TPWD big game program director. “As long as animal numbers remain within the carrying capacity



BIG SCREENS IN SMALL TOWNS

FILM FESTIVALS DRAW SERIOUS CROWDS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

Once upon a time, in the last century, an event as exotic as a film festival could only be experienced in an urban capital of culture. Today, however, such concentrated celebrations of the cinematic art seem to spring from the very soil of Texas. From Marfa to Nacogdoches, Rockport to Waxahachie, auteurs travel the Lone Star highways in search of an audience for their flicks. The film festival has come to the small towns of Texas.

Movies shown at the events run the gamut from traditional Westerns to the sometimes inscrutable creations of the avant-garde. Waxahachie's Crossroads of Texas Film Festival and the Nacogdoches Film Festival focus on films that were made in Texas, set in Texas or have a strong connection to the state.

Several of the movies shown at the Crossroads festival, which began in 2014, were at least partly shot in Waxahachie, including the 1984 picture *Places in the Heart*. Directed by Waxahachie native Robert Benton, the film stars Sally Field as a widow struggling to hold on to the family cotton farm. Festivalgoers also recognized the landscape in *Tender Mercies*, Horton Foote's 1983 redemption story about a fallen country-western singer played letter-perfectly by Robert Duvall.

And although some festival films can be viewed at home, seeing them with a crowd on the big screen provides a more immersive cinematic encounter. The Crossroads website says that the 2015 screening of *The Trip to Bountiful*, Foote's 1985 film about an elderly woman who sets out to visit her long-deserted homeplace, was the first time the movie had been seen on the big screen in 30 years.

The Waxahachie festival expands the viewing experience by screening films in historic or uncommon settings, such as the 1902 Chautauqua Auditorium, the 1925 Tudor-style Ellis County Woman's Building and the 1895 Texas Theatre. "We showed *8 Seconds*, the film about the late bull rider Lane Frost, at our local rodeo arena," says Amy Borders, director of the Crossroads of Texas Film Festival.

Music was the theme of the 2016 Crossroads festival, which included biopics on Tex-Mex powerhouses Selena and Doug Sahm. The 2017 fest in April, with the theme "Trailblazers and Outlaws," included *The Buddy Holly Story*, *The Newton Boys*, *Crazy Heart* and *The Last Picture Show*.

Inspired by the film program at Stephen F. Austin State University, the Nacogdoches Film Festival, which launched in 2012, also focuses on Texas films, every February. The 2016 festival included the documentary *Found Footage: Nacogdoches 1938*. The 16 mm footage of local people and places, shot in 1938, was lost and found at least twice through the years but is now restored and supplemented by recent interviews with some of its subjects. "It was great to see the modern interviews of familiar people now in their 80s and then to see them as teenagers in the original footage," says Bill King, festival chairman.

Past festivals have included such documentaries as *Road to Austin*, about the capital city's music scene; *Tomato Republic*, a quirky slice of East Texas life chronicling a recent Jacksonville mayoral race; *Barbecue: A Texas Love Story*, narrated by former Texas Gov. Ann Richards; and *For the Love of Books*, about the

tiara-wearing, book-loving Pulpwood Queens from the East Texas town of Jefferson.

When the Nacogdoches festival screened the 2011 film *Bernie*, directed by Austin's Richard Linklater, some eight or nine of the real-life people who were portrayed by actors in the film drove over from Carthage to attend. Several festival films—*Bubba Ho-Tep*, *Cold in July*, *By the Hair of the Head*—were based on stories by East Texas literary star Joe R. Lansdale, who has made it a practice to be on hand to offer tips to aspiring filmmakers.

Because Nacogdoches is the oldest city in Texas, its festival events and screenings often take place in historic settings, such as the century-old post office, which now houses the convention and visitors bureau. Another festival site, the Cole Art Center at the Old Opera House, had an inadvertent influence on a pivotal event in American film history. In 1907, the Marx brothers, touring as a noncomical musical ensemble called the Four Nightingales, played the opera house. In the middle of the performance, audience members heard someone hollering in the street about a runaway mule. The audience streamed out of the theater to witness the rampage. When the audience members returned, an insulted Groucho Marx began berating everyone present. Instead of taking offense, the Nacogdoches crowd roared with laughter. The comedy empire of the Marx Brothers was born, and Groucho was often heard to reprise one line from that memorable performance: "Nacogdoches is full of roaches."

When Hill Country Film Festival director Amy Moskovitz and her brother, writer-director Chad Matthews, decided to start a film festival in 2010, they felt that their home base of Austin already had enough cinema events. Moreover, says Moskovitz, "We felt that independent film went hand in hand with the independent spirit of a small town." The pair decided that Fredericksburg, 80 miles west, best embodied the festival's motto, "Reel Indie, Real Texas."

"We're a destination festival and a boutique festival," Moskovitz explains. "People network here and make connections. The audi-

ence has access to the filmmakers through Q&A sessions. A mom and her son volunteered one year, and then, when he was a high school senior, he had the opportunity to go to New York and intern with a filmmaker he met here." A summer film camp run by the fest offers hands-on opportunities for Fredericksburg students.

When HCFF showed the 2016 documentary *Tower*, about the 1966 shootings at the University of Texas, locals were especially moved to have in attendance in-laws and friends of Ramiro Martinez, one of the officers who stopped the shooter. The 85 films shown at the 2016 fest also included *A Song for You: The Austin City Limits Story* and the border patrol thriller *Transpecos*.

One of the newest festivals, the South Texas International Film Festival, founded in 2015, unfolds each September in Edinburg. "The Mexican Consulate here wanted us to show some films by Mexican filmmakers," says festival director Magdiel Alfonso, "and the idea just grew into a festival. The first year, we received 85 entries and showed six shorts and four features. We've gotten submissions from Mex-

ico, India, Pakistan, Russia, Europe, Canada—people submit them through the platforms FilmFreeway and Withoutabox. We're working to have our festival films be eligible for Oscar consideration."

Festival organizers also hope to establish a filmmaking presence in the Rio Grande Valley and create economic resources for actors, costume designers, cinematographers and other film professionals. This year's festival is September 7–9.

Movie-loving Valley folks surely will charm the film world with Texas hospitality, as did the late L.T. Felty of Waxahachie. Back in the '80s, when the town was becoming a Hollywood outpost in Texas, former high school coach Felty was the man to see if a film production needed a certain location or, say, 800 square dancers on one day's notice. Felty also found himself on the silver screen, appearing in Foote's film *1918*, and playing a duck hunter in David Byrne's *True Stories*.

Most of all, Felty mesmerized the occasionally cutthroat world of Tinseltown with his small-town values. "If you don't lie to them, they'll believe in you as long as you live," he told *The New York Times* in 1985. "Your handshake is your word."

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.

"WE FELT THAT INDEPENDENT
FILM WENT HAND IN HAND
WITH THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT
OF A SMALL TOWN."

Steel Yourself

At \$59, this blade of legendary Damascus steel is a real steal

Damascus steel is the stuff of legend. Using a technique first mastered in the ancient city, swords made from Damascus steel were known to slice gun barrels in half and separate single strands of hair in two, even if the hair simply floated down onto the blade.

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"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath. Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."

— R., Lacey, Washington



Not shown
actual size.



Rating of A+

• 7 ½" overall length • Genuine Damascus steel blade • Stainless steel guard • Leather handle • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.™

Drug Companies Fear Release of the New AloeCure

Big Pharma stands to lose billions as doctors' recommend drug-free "health cocktail" that adjusts and corrects your body's health conditions.

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That's because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about a new ingredient that's changing the lives of people who use it. Some call it "the greatest discovery since penicillin"!

The name of the product is the AloeCure. It's not a drug. It's something completely different. And the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But demands may force future prices to rise.

TOP DOC WARNS: DIGESTION DRUGS CAN CRIPPLE YOU!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist recommends AloeCure before she decides to prescribe any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA's stern warning about long-term use of drugs classified as proton pump inhibitors like **Prilosec®**, **Nexium®**, and **Prevacid®**. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking these digestion drugs for longer than three 14-day treatment periods because there is an increased risk of bone fractures. Many people take them daily and for decades.

Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs is to take the AloeCure.

Analysts expect the AloeCure to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

The secret to AloeCure's "health adjusting" formula is scientifically tested **Acemannan**, a polysaccharide extracted from Aloe Vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and burns. This is a perfect strain of aloe that is organically grown under very strict conditions. AloeCure is so powerful it begins to benefit your health the instant you take it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and you can avoid the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. We all know how well aloe works externally on cuts, scrapes and burns. But did you know



Acemannan has many of other health benefits?...

HELPS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO CALM INFLAMMATION

According to a leading aloe research, when correctly processed for digesting, the Aloe plant has a powerful component for regulating your immune system called Acemannan. So whether it's damage that is physical, bacterial, chemical or autoimmune; the natural plant helps the body stay healthy.

RAPID ACID AND HEARTBURN NEUTRALIZER

Aloe has proved to have an astonishing effect on users who suffer with digestion problems like bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, cramping, gas and constipation because it acts as a natural acid buffer and soothes the digestive system. But new studies prove it does a whole lot more.

SIDE-STEP HEART CONCERNS

So you've been taking proton pump inhibitors (PPI's) for years and you feel just fine. In June of 2015 a major study shows that chronic PPI use increases the risk of heart attack in general population.

UNLEASH YOUR MEMORY

Studies show that your brain needs the healthy bacteria from your gut in order function at its best. Both low and high dosages of digestion drugs are proven to destroy that healthy bacteria and get in the way of brain function. So you're left with a sluggish, slow-to-react brain without a lot of room to store information. The acemannan used in AloeCure actually makes your gut healthier, so healthy bacteria flows freely to your brain so you think better, faster and with a larger capacity for memory.

Doctors call it "The greatest health discovery in decades!"

SLEEP LIKE A BABY

A night without sleep really damages your body. And continued lost sleep can lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you're not sleeping. Some call it "Ghost Reflux". A low-intensity form of acid reflux discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. AloeCure helps digestion so you may find yourself sleeping through the night.

CELEBRITY HAIR, SKIN & NAILS

Certain antacids may greatly reduce your

body's ability to break down and absorb calcium. Aloe delivers calcium as it aids in balancing your stomach acidity. The result? Thicker, healthier looking hair...more youthful looking skin... And nails so strong they may never break again.

SAVE YOUR KIDNEY

National and local news outlets are reporting Kidney Failure linked to PPI's. Your Kidney extracts waste from blood, balance body fluids, form urine, and aid in other important functions of the body. Without it your body would be overrun by deadly toxins. Aloe helps your kidney function properly. Studies suggest, if you started taking aloe today; you'd see a big difference in the way you feel.

GUARANTEED RESULTS OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

Due to the incredible results people are reporting, AloeCure is being sold with an equally incredible guarantee.

"We can only offer this incredible guarantee because we are 100% certain this product will work for those who use it," Says Dr. Leal.

Here's how it works: Take the pill exactly as directed. You must see and feel remarkable improvements in your digestive health, your mental health, in your physical appearance, the amount inflammation you have throughout your body - even in your ability to fall asleep at night!

Otherwise, simply return the empty bottles with a short note about how you took the pills and followed the simple instructions and the company will send you...Double your money back!

HOW TO GET ALOECURE

This is the official nationwide release of the new AloeCure pill in the United States. And so, the company is offering our readers up to 3 FREE bottles with their order.

This special give-away is available for readers of this publication only. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE **1-800-748-5068** and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: JC025. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

“To you, it’s the perfect lift chair. To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



Sit up, lie down —
and anywhere
in between!

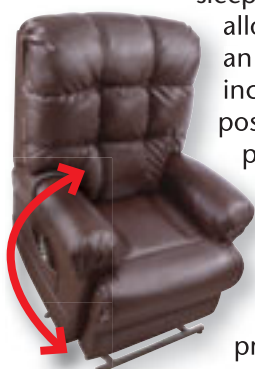
Easy-to-use remote for
massage, heat, recline and lift

We’ve all had nights when we just can’t lie down in bed and sleep, whether it’s from heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – it could be a variety of reasons. Those are the nights we’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in, one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises feet and legs to precisely the desired level, supports the head and shoulders properly, operates easily even in the dead of night, and sends a hopeful sleeper right off to dreamland.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair® is just the chair to do it all. It’s a chair, true – the finest of lift chairs – but this chair is so much more! It’s designed to provide total comfort and relaxation not found in other chairs. It can’t be beat for comfortable, long-term sitting, TV viewing, relaxed reclining and – yes! – peaceful

sleep. Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of positions, including the Trendelenburg position and the zero gravity position where your body

experiences a minimum of internal and external stresses. You’ll love the other benefits, too: It helps with correct spinal alignment, promotes back pressure relief, and encourages better posture to prevent back and muscle pain.



This lift chair puts you safely on your feet!

And there’s more! The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the multiple massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage. Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! Includes one year service warranty and your choice of fabrics and colors – **Call now!**

The Perfect Sleep Chair®

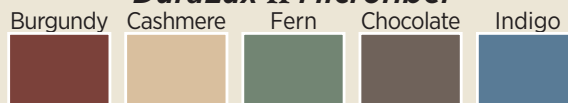
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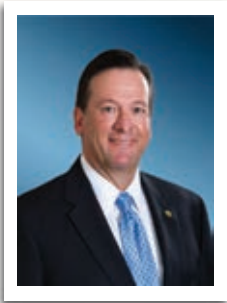
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Capital Credit Checks Coming to Members



John W. Herrera

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Capital credit checks are coming to members of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, thanks to the \$5.6 million capital credits retirement approved by the Board of Directors.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Magic Valley, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, Magic Valley allocates and periodically retires capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during a year and returns those funds to our members.

While this may sound like a complex term, capital credits simply represent your ownership in Magic Valley and are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits of being a Magic Valley member.


"We are always pleased when we can return capital credits back to the members," said Dane Hocott, Services Division Manager of Magic Valley Electric Co-op. "A big difference between electric cooperatives and other utilities is that co-op members are also owners and share in any margins that the cooperative generates."

This year, Magic Valley retired capital credits from 1995 and a portion of capital credits for 2015. To receive a capital credit check from Magic Valley, you must have been a member in 1995 or 2015.

- Members with 1995 allocations on record will receive a 100 percent distribution of their remaining capital credits for that year. The total distribution is roughly \$4,467,258.
- Members with 2015 allocations on record will receive a partial distribution this year, totaling about \$1,132,742. Approximately \$7,157,340 that will remain on record for 2015 will be distributed in future year(s).

Each year, the Board of Directors decides on a capital credits retirement based on the financial health of the Cooperative. Since 1945, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative has returned more than \$57 million back to its members in capital credits retirements

Respectfully,


John W. Herrera
General Manager

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 267
1 3/4 Mi. W. Hwy 83
Mercedes, TX 78570



GENERAL MANAGER

John W. Herrera

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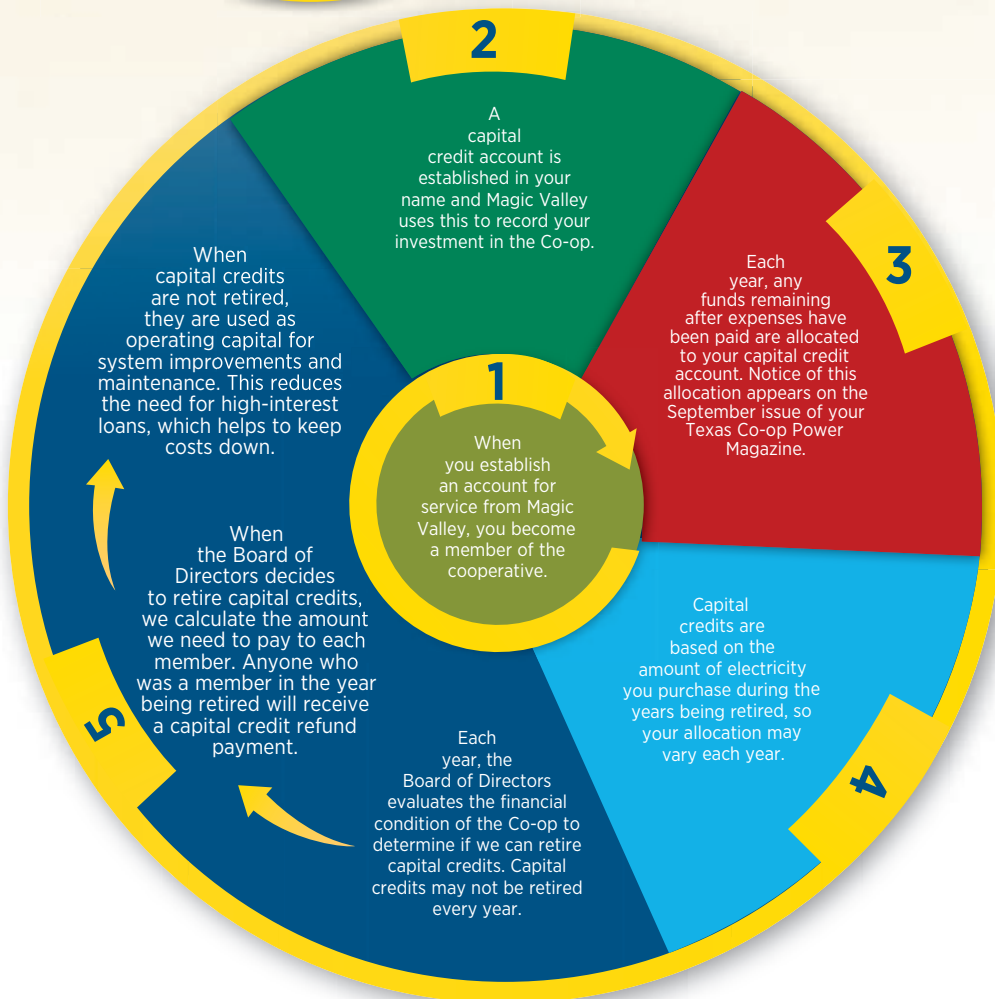
magicvalley.coop

FOLLOW US ON



HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of their electric cooperative. When financial conditions allow, eligible members get a piece of the pie. Here is how your cooperative membership pays you back:



Allocation vs. Retirement

An **Allocation** is made annually for each member, based upon the amount of electric service you purchased the previous year. An allocation is your share of the amount of net margins Magic Valley sets aside into a separate account to be used as operating capital for reliability improvements and maintenance over a period of years. You typically receive a notice of the amount allocated to your capital credit account in your September issue of Texas Co-op Power Magazine.

A **Retirement** is the amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount retired is decided annually by the Board of Directors based on the financial needs of the Cooperative.

Important reminders:

If you move outside Magic Valley's service territory, please be sure to leave your new address with us so we can continue to refund any capital credits you are eligible to receive in the future.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative recently allocated 2016 capital credits to each member's capital credit account in accordance with its Capital Credits Policy. Capital credits are the total revenues less the total expenses of the Cooperative for the year. Each fiscal year, the Cooperative determines the capital credits for that year and allocates capital credits to each member's capital credit account based on the member's bill for that year. Capital credits for each member in 2016 were calculated by multiplying the member's yearly bill of 2016 by 0.09009399. To compute your allocation from the cooperative for 2016, simply multiply your total annual bill for energy (consisting of customer charges, energy charges and power

cost adjustments, excluding taxes) by 0.09009399. For example, if your annual bill totaled \$2,000, you multiply \$2,000 by 0.09009399, resulting in \$180.19 as your 2016 capital credit allocation. Magic Valley Electric Cooperative has returned to members all capital credits from 1937 to 1994 and partial capital credits from 1995 to 2015. In 2017, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative will return all remaining 1995 capital credits and a portion of capital credits for 2015. If you have any questions concerning this calculation, please contact any of the Magic Valley Electric Cooperative offices. This article is intended to serve as an official notice of capital credit allocation for 2016.



Old Buildings Get a New Life

Story by: Eileen Mattei
Photos by: Pino Shah

What do these five buildings have in common? The Alamo Inn, The Reese in Harlingen, the Brownsville law office of Trey Mendez, the First National Ballroom in Mercedes, and the McAllen Heritage Center. Each is an older building that has been repurposed.

Generations after its construction, each structure remains a dynamic part of the community. What was an Alamo store became a birders' B&B, a 1927 hotel was transformed into a restaurant and professional offices, a bank is now an event center. You get the idea. Not all old buildings are historic, but many are worth saving and maintaining.

Why? "The more older buildings you preserve, the more the city holds on to identity, its beauty. Old buildings provide a sense of place and continuity. They connect us with the past, because of their cultural significance or the role they played in the community," said Nydia Tapia-Gonzales of Harlingen. She serves on the board of Preservation Texas, a private, non-profit dedicated to the preservation of older

and historic buildings. "Old buildings were built with better quality materials, to higher standards and made to last. Because of the workmanship, the human scale and the details, we still find them attractive and worth a trip to see." Older buildings usually occupy the heart of a city, where people once gathered and where memories linger like mesquite smoke.

Brownsville is exceptional in Texas, both because of the numerous buildings that date back to 1900 and before and its beautiful border brick architecture. The Alonso building, complete with New Orleans-style balcony, started life as a general store in 1877. About 100 years later, the building held a bridal store, and today it is a UTRGV event center. Today's Market Square Research Center occupies the building that was an open air market from 1852-1940.

Harlingen celebrates its repurposed buildings with a 122-foot-long mural, "Downtown Harlingen: Where the Past is Present." It showcases seven old buildings that



© ARTBY PINO

have been reincarnated, including Thompson's Mortuary which became an art studio, and the post office which became a bank. The mural makes people notice and appreciate buildings they have taken for granted.

Across the Valley, railroad stations built in the 1920s and 30s in Spanish Mediterranean style have been repurposed as law offices (McAllen), Chamber of Commerce (Edinburg) and a museum (Brownsville.) Mercedes' First National Bank is now an event center, the 1917 Planters National Bank houses Harlingen Downtown offices, while a 1930s ice plant became a night club; the Paris Bubblegum factory became a McAllen rug outlet. Houses gained new lives, too. Quinta Mazatlán in McAllen is now a nature and birding center, while the 1882 Rabb Plantation House is the visitor center for Sabal Palms Sanctuary.

"Recycling buildings is my favorite type of project," said Mercedes architect Steve McGarraugh, who hopes to begin repurposing another older property in 2018. In Mercedes alone, he pointed out the 1920 meat processing facility which has become an office building, a 1920 fraternal lodge that is now the Chamber of Commerce, and a former drugstore serving as the American Institute of Architects LRGV office.

"Preservation is evolving. There is a growing recognition of sites important to Hispanics, to African-Americans," said Tapia-Gonzales. "We are expanding the definition of what history is. People should decide what they value and want to preserve. A building may not be the work of a famous architect, but it can still be culturally significant

"Old buildings provide a sense of place and continuity. They connect us with the past, because of their cultural significance or the role they played in the community."

and historically meaningful to the community." That might include a dance hall, a theater, a church, a packing shed or a 1950's house. Maintenance is preservation, which takes commitment on old and new buildings alike.

Historic designation can be a time-consuming process, Tapia-Gonzales admitted, and not even necessary unless you intend to apply for tax credits (or want to protect a building from future demolition or alteration). Some fear that historic designation brings restrictions on their use of the property. "For a particular building, it means you can't alter the outside in any way. The interior can be modernized."

Well-preserved old buildings, besides bringing in rent and sales, attract cultural heritage tourists, including those who grew up nearby. Look around and rediscover your local history in vintage buildings.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

HESTEC

Week

OCTOBER 1-7, 2017



PERFORMANCES



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS



RENOWNED SPEAKERS



COMPETITIONS



EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

CHANGING THE
WORLD
THROUGH STEM

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HESTEC at UTRGV Inspires Students Toward STEM Careers

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

In early October, thousands of middle and high school students, educators and parents will converge at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for HESTEC Week. The Hispanic Engineering, Science, and Technology Week takes place from Oct 1-7. There are engaging presentations by world-renowned speakers, interactive educational exhibits, dynamic robotics competitions and much more.

"At UTRGV, we look forward to hosting HESTEC and all our events are geared to encouraging students to consider careers in STEM," said Velinda Reyes, UTRGV Assistant Vice President for Community Programs and Operations. "On behalf of UTRGV, I want to thank all our corporate and federal partners, for their support in helping to prepare the next generation of students who will be changing the world through STEM."

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative is one of more than 20 corporate and federal partners that have been supporting HESTEC. Sponsors play a vital part, and their support provides students the opportunities to interact with successful scientists, engineers, and corporate executives.

"Our investment in HESTEC is an investment in our students and the potential of the Rio Grande Valley," said John W. Herrera, MVEC General Manager. "Magic Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to be supporting this award winning program."

Events will take place in Edinburg, Brownsville and Harlingen. The final event of the week is HESTEC Community Day on Saturday, October 7 at UTRGV in Edinburg. The entire Rio Grande Valley is invited to the free festival featuring family-friendly activities, entertainment and more.



Save the date for HESTEC Community Day. The free festival will take place Saturday, October 7 at UTRGV in Edinburg.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



SPH | ISTOCK.COM

ITALIAN MEATBALLS

INGREDIENTES:

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 1 cup minced parsley
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 2 eggs, gently whisked
- 5 ounces Romano cheese, shredded
- 5 ounces Parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt

INSTRUCCIONES:

1. Mix all ingredients in a large mixing bowl until well combined. Roll into golf ball-sized meatballs and place on broiling pan.
2. Broil about 10 minutes, rotating to prevent burning, then drain on paper towels.
3. Once crisp, add meatballs to your favorite tomato sauce and simmer before serving.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WMASTER890 | ISTOCK.COM

Happy Labor Day

Magic Valley will be closed
Monday, September 4,
for Labor Day

Crews will be on standby
in case of outages.

¡Los cheques de crédito al capital llegarán pronto!



John W. Herrera

MENSAJE DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Los cheques de crédito al capital les llegarán a miembros de Magic Valley, gracias a la aprobación de \$5.6 millones de créditos al capital por la Junta Directiva.

Como miembro de Magic Valley, eres más que un cliente; tu participación de membresía se construye a través del consumo. Este beneficio implica la asignación de excedentes operativos o márgenes en la forma de créditos al capital. Al final de cada año, después de cubrir todos los gastos, asignamos una porción de los fondos excedentes a nuestros miembros en forma de créditos al capital.

Todo este proceso puede parecer complicado, pero en realidad, los créditos al capital representan tu propiedad en la cooperativa, que es uno de los beneficios más importantes de ser miembro de Magic Valley.

"Siempre nos da gusto cuando podemos rembolsar créditos al capital a las y los miembros," dijo Dane Hocott, Gerente de la División de Servicios de Magic Valley Electric Co-op. "Una de las diferencias más grandes entre las cooperativas y otras empresas eléctricas es que los miembros son propietarios de la cooperativa y también comparten en cualquier margen que la cooperativa genera."

Este año, Magic Valley retiró los créditos al capital de 1995 y una parte de los créditos al capital del 2015. Para recibir créditos al capital de Magic Valley, la persona debe haber sido miembro en 1995 o 2015.

- Los miembros que cuentan con asignaciones registradas en 1995 recibirán el 100 por ciento restante de sus créditos al capital para ese año. La distribución total es aproximadamente \$4,467,258 de dólares.
- Los miembros que cuentan con asignaciones registradas en 2015 recibirán una distribución parcial este año por un total \$1,132,742. La cantidad restante que quedará registrada de 2015 será de aproximadamente \$7,157,340 y esta cantidad será rembolsada en año(s) futuros.

Cada año, la Junta Directiva evalúa la posición financiera de la Cooperativa para determinar si se pueden retirar créditos al capital. Desde 1945, la Cooperativa Magic Valley Electric ha devuelto más de \$57 millones a sus miembros en forma de créditos al capital

Respetuosamente,


John W. Herrera
General Manager

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 267
1 3/4 Mi. W. Hwy 83
Mercedes, TX 78570



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John W. Herrera

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Brownsville, 78521
- 1311 S. Cage Blvd
Pharr, 78577

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magicvalley.coop/español

SÍGANOS EN





Edificios Antiguos Cobran Nueva Vida

Historia por: Eileen Mattei
Fotografías por: Pino Shah

¿Qué tienen en común estos edificios? El Alamo Inn, el Reese en Harlingen, la oficina de abogados de Trey Méndes en Brownsville, el First National Ballroom en Mercedes y el McAllen Heritage Center. Cada uno de estos edificios antiguos han sido transformado.

Varias generaciones después del inicio de su construcción, cada estructura sigue siendo una parte importante de la comunidad. Lo que fue una tienda de almacén en Álamo se convirtió en un hotel para observadores de aves, lo que era un hotel en 1927 fue transformado en un restaurante y oficinas profesionales, un banco es ahora un centro para eventos. Creo que ya entendiste la idea. No todos los edificios antiguos son históricos, pero muchos de ellos vale la pena conservarlos y mantenerlos.

¿Por qué? "Los edificios antiguos que se conservan, mantienen la identidad y belleza de la ciudad. Los edificios antiguos dan un sentido de lugar y continuidad. Nos conectan con el pasado, ya que tienen una gran importancia cultural o por el papel que desempeñan en la comunidad," dijo Nydia Tapia-Gonzales de Harlingen. Ella es parte de la junta directiva de preservación de Texas, una entidad

privada, sin fines de lucro, dedicada a la conservación de edificios históricos y antiguos. "Los edificios antiguos fueron construidos con materiales de mejor calidad, con estándares más altos y hechos para durar por muchos años. Por la mano de obra, la escala humana y los detalles, todavía podemos ver lo atractivo de los edificios." Los edificios antiguos suelen ocupar el centro de la ciudad, donde la gente se junta para recordar los viejos tiempos.

La ciudad de Brownsville es excepcional en Texas por sus numerosos edificios que datan de antes de 1900 y por su hermosa arquitectura de ladrillo fronterizo. El edificio Alonso, diseñado con un balcón estilo Nueva Orleans, empezó su vida como una tienda en 1877. Aproximadamente 100 años más tarde, el edificio fue convertido en una tienda de vestidos de novia y ahora es el centro de eventos de UTRGV. Hoy en día, la Plaza Market Square Research Center ocupa el edificio que fue un mercado al aire libre de 1852-1940.

La ciudad de Harlingen celebra la reasignación de sus edificios con un mural de 122 pies de largo, titulado "El centro de Harlingen: donde el pasado está presente." Se



exhiben siete edificios antiguos que han sido resucitados, incluyendo la funeraria Thompson, que se convirtió en un taller de arte y la oficina de correos que se convirtió en un banco. El mural hace que la gente observe y aprecie los edificios.

A través del Valle, estaciones de ferrocarril construidas en las décadas de 1920 y 1930 con estilo mediterráneo español han sido reasignadas como oficinas de abogados en (McAllen), Cámara de Comercio (Edinburg) y un museo (Brownsville.) El First National Bank de Mercedes es ahora un centro de eventos, el Planters National Bank alberga las oficinas del centro de Harlingen, mientras que una fábrica de hielo de 1930 se convirtió en un club nocturno; la fábrica de Paris Bubblegum se convirtió en una tienda de alfombras en McAllen. Las casas también cobraron nueva vida. La Quinta Mazatlán en McAllen es ahora un centro de aves y de naturaleza, mientras que la casa Rabb Plantation House de 1882 es ahora el centro de visitantes del Santuario Sabal Palms.

"Mi proyecto favorito es reciclar edificios," dice el arquitecto Steve McGarraugh, de Mercedes, quien espera emprender la reutilización de otra propiedad antigua en 2018. Solamente en Mercedes, señaló la planta procesadora de carne de 1920 que se ha convertido en un edificio de oficinas, un hotel de 1920 es ahora la Cámara de Comercio y una antigua farmacia es ahora el American Institute of Architects LRGV.

"La preservación está evolucionando. Hay un creciente reconocimiento de los sitios importantes para los hispanos, afro-americanos," dijo Tapia-Gonzales. "Estamos ampliando la definición de lo que es la historia. La gente debe decidir qué valoran y qué conservan. Un edificio no tiene que ser obra de un arquitecto famoso, pero aún así

"Los edificios antiguos que se conservan, mantienen la identidad y belleza de la ciudad. Los edificios antiguos dan un sentido de lugar y continuidad."

puede ser de importancia cultural o histórica con significado para la comunidad." Puede incluir un salón de baile, un teatro, una iglesia, una bodega o una casa construida en 1950. El mantenimiento significa preservación y requiere compromiso tanto con los edificios antiguos como con los nuevos.

La designación de lugares históricos puede ser un proceso largo, comentó Tapia-Gonzales y no es tan necesario, a menos que vayan a solicitar créditos fiscales (o deseen proteger un edificio por alguna posible demolición o alteración futura). Algunos temen que la denominación histórica traiga restricciones sobre el uso de la propiedad. "Para un edificio particular, significa que no se puede alterar el exterior de ninguna manera. El interior puede ser modernizado."

Los edificios antiguos bien conservados, además de traer rentas y ventas, atraen turistas de patrimonio cultural, incluyendo a quienes crecieron cerca. Mira a tu alrededor y descubre tu historia local en los edificios antiguos.

¿CÓMO FUNCIONA EL CRÉDITO DE CAPITAL?

Los miembros de la cooperativa participan en la construcción, el mantenimiento y la prosperidad de la cooperativa eléctrica. Cuando las condiciones financieras lo permitan, los miembros elegibles reciben su parte correspondiente. Este es el proceso de cómo la cooperativa reembolsa su dinero:



Asignación vs. Retiro

Hay una **Asignación** anual en la cuenta de cada uno de los miembros, basada en la compra de servicio eléctrico de ese año. La asignación de excedentes operativos es su parte de márgenes en Magic Valley que han sido asignadas a una cuenta de operaciones para mejorar la seguridad y el rendimiento por un periodo de años. Un aviso de la asignación de crédito es enviado en la revista Texas Co-op Power edición septiembre.

El **Retiro** es la cantidad de reembolso que recibe de crédito de capital. Es un porcentaje del balance total de créditos de capital. La cantidad que será retirada es decidida anualmente por la Junta Directiva con base a la situación financiera de la cooperativa.

Información Importante:

Si usted se muda fuera del territorio de servicio de Magic Valley, asegúrese de dejarnos su nueva dirección para poder reembolsarle créditos de capital que lleguen a retirarse en el futuro.

AVISO OFICIAL DE ASIGNACIÓN DE REEMBOLSOS

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative recientemente asignó los créditos de capital del año 2016 a la cuenta de cada uno de sus miembros, según nuestra política de créditos de capital. Los créditos de capital consisten de la diferencia entre los ingresos y los gastos totales de nuestra Cooperativa. Cada año fiscal, la Cooperativa determina los créditos de capital del año y distribuye los créditos de capital a la cuenta de cada miembro, basado en la factura total de ese año. Durante el año 2016, los créditos de capital para cada miembro fueron determinados al multiplicar la factura total para ese año por 0.09009399. Para calcular sus créditos asignados por la cooperativa para el año 2016, simplemente multiplique su factura anual de consumo de energía (incluye cargos a los miembros, cargos de energía y cargos de ajustes de energía, sin incluir impuestos) por

0.09009399. Por ejemplo, si su factura anual fue de \$2,000, solo multiplique \$2,000 por 0.09009399, resultando en \$180.19 de crédito de capital para el año 2016. Magic Valley Electric Cooperative ha regresado a sus miembros los créditos de capital de 1937 a 1994 y créditos de capital parciales de 1995 y 2015. Durante el año 2017, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative devolverá todos los cheques de créditos de capital correspondientes a 1995 y una porción de los créditos de capital del 2015. Si tiene cualquier pregunta sobre este cálculo, por favor llame a cualquiera de nuestras oficinas de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative.

Este artículo está escrito con la intención de servir como un aviso oficial de asignaciones de créditos de capital para el año 2016.

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INGREDIENTES:

- 1 libra de carne molida de cerdo
- 1 libra de carne molida de res
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- 1 taza de perejil picado
- 4 dientes de ajo, picados
- 2 tazas de pan rallado
- 2 huevos ligeramente batidos
- 5 onzas de queso romano, desmenuzado
- 5 onzas de queso parmesano rallado,
- 1 cucharadita de pimienta negra
- 1 cucharadita de sal

INSTRUCCIONES:

1. Mezclar todos los ingredientes en un recipiente grande hasta que estén bien combinados. Formar las albóndigas del tamaño de una pelota de golf y colocarlas en un recipiente para horno.
2. Hornear por unos 10 minutos, girando a fin de evitar que se quemen, luego escurirlas en una servilleta.
3. Una vez doradas, agregar las albóndigas a tu salsa de tomate favorita y cocinar a fuego lento antes de servir.

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Feliz Día del Trabajo

Las oficinas de Magic Valley estarán cerradas el lunes, 4 de septiembre, en observación al Día del Trabajo.

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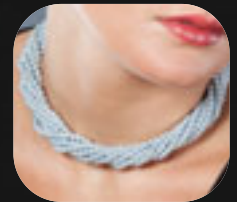


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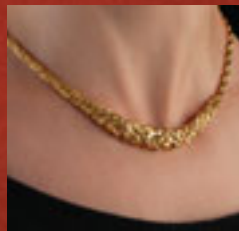
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Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

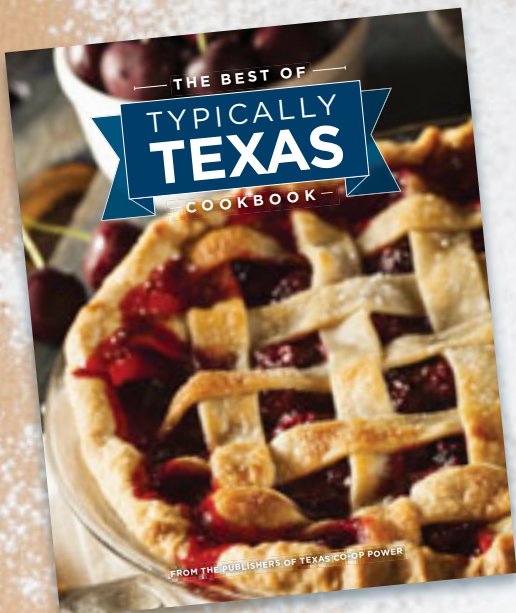
Clogged and Smelly – San Antonio , TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

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SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS2", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

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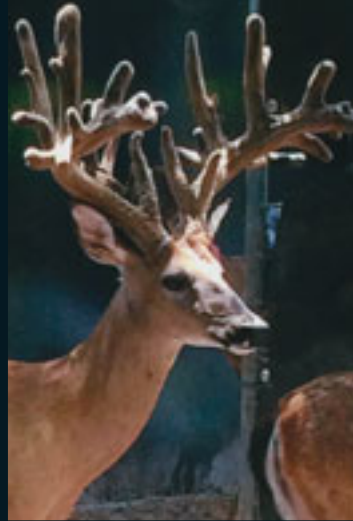


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The Winchester Quarantine

Texas ranchers turned to rifles when deadly tick-borne disease threatened their herds

BY MARTHA DEERING

IN JUNE 1868, WHEN A FATAL DISEASE broke out among cattle in North Texas, a group of ranchers decided to take matters into their own hands. They realized that the Texas fever, which had a 95 percent death rate among their cattle, came from South Texas longhorns on the way to market. These longhorns carried disease-causing bacteria in their blood, transferred to other animals by ticks.

The wiry longhorns of South Texas had developed immunity to the disease, but cattle in the Panhandle and Midwestern states died in droves within a few days of exposure.

Diplomacy preceded. North Texas cattlemen suggested that cattle infested with ticks be wintered in isolated pastures north of the quarantine line, which ran through Waco.

This idea was not popular with South Texas ranchers, who had to establish what amounted to a second ranch and hire another roster of cowboys to hold the cattle over the winter. In some cases, the year-long delay in getting the cattle to market resulted in bankruptcy.

Instead, the South Texas ranchers suggested a fenced cattle trail 20 miles wide that would run straight from South Texas to the railheads in Kansas. This proposed trail would cleave some ranches in half and fence off others' water supplies. And funding was not established. Other ideas included spraying or dipping cattle to kill ticks. Ranchers responded that dipping was too expensive and spraying might contaminate the beef with arsenic.

As tensions mounted, dipping vats were dynamited and law officers were fired upon. Loaded rifles appeared in more saddles. The Winchester Quarantine had begun.

First Kansas, then the Oklahoma Territory and finally Texas passed laws requiring



that cattle be certified disease-free before being driven or shipped north. In 1881, Panhandle ranchers formed the Panhandle Stock Association, which pitted North Texas cattlemen against their South Texas counterparts. Demand for cattle was high at the railheads, as buyers rushed to fill orders for beef.

The Panhandle Stock Association met in 1882 in Dallas, and members negotiated with drovers. Association members asked the drovers to establish a mile-and-a-half buffer zone around their ranches or to drive cattle around the Panhandle region altogether. Southern cattlemen scoffed, pointing out that their herds appeared perfectly healthy.

After much wrangling, Charles Goodnight of the JA Ranch and Orville Nelson of the Shoe Bar Ranch sent armed cowboys to guard a 45-mile stretch where the two ranches met. The cowboys had instructions to do whatever necessary to hold the Southern herds back until an injunction could stop the drive in its tracks.

Goodnight sent a letter to an old friend, George Reynolds, who had plans to drive a herd north. "I hope you will take this advice as yourselves and I have always been

good friends," Goodnight wrote, "but even friendship will not protect you in the drive through here. I hope you will not treat this as idle talk, for I mean every word of it. My cattle are now dying of the fever contracted from cattle driven from Ft. Worth, therefore do not have any hope that you can convince me that your cattle will not give mine the fever." In closing, he warned, "I simply say to you that you will never pass through here in good health."

The Panhandle Stock Association's procedure, backed by a forest of Winchester rifles, protected Panhandle cattle from Texas fever for several years.

By the mid-1880s, barbed-wire fences crisscrossed the region to help manage the movement of cattle and men. Dips and sprays made inroads on the tick population, but the long and bitter fight and the heavy losses among cattle had taken a toll.

A Bureau of Animal Industry report in 1884 stated that the conflict "enhanced the prejudice against Texas beef, unsettled the trails and markets, agitated the law-making bodies of the West as well as Congress and reduced the consumption of beef."

Martha Deering, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.

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Tailgating Favorites

JEFF SAVELL, LEADER OF THE MEAT Science Section in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University, is seasoned in the art of barbecue and pregame eating. This recipe, from his daughter, Jennifer Larriviere, is a family favorite.

“This is one of those recipes that everyone asks for because it’s the perfect combination of flavor and texture,” Larriviere says. “The Chili Cheese Fritos gives it just the right amount of crunch!”

Her father agrees. “With so many of our Aggie football games in September and October, we fight the heat more than cold when we tailgate,” he says. “This corn salad is refreshing and goes so well with so many grilled or barbecued meats.”

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Corn Salad With Fritos

- 1 can (15 ounces) whole-kernel corn, drained
- ½ cup diced red onion
- ½ cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ bag (10.5 ounces) crushed Chili Cheese Fritos

1. Combine all ingredients except Fritos. (You can do this the night before the game and refrigerate overnight.)
2. Just before serving, fold in Fritos. Serves 4–6.

MELISSA BRISKO

COOK'S TIP If you're multiplying this recipe to serve a crowd, use both green and red peppers for variety.

Tailgating Favorites



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

LISA WILLIAMS
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

"If you live in Texas or the South, you can't not like pimento cheese," Williams says. We fully agree. Her recipe is spicy, savory and delicious. She suggests preparing the cheese and bread slices at home before heading to the game, so on-site assembly is easy.

Pimento Chiko-Baco Bites

- 2 cups shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese
 - 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
 - ½ cup mayonnaise
 - 1 poblano pepper, seeded and minced
 - 1 jar (4 ounces) diced pimiento peppers, drained and minced
 - 3 tablespoons minced chives, plus more for garnish
 - ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
 - ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
 - ¼ teaspoon onion powder
 - 1 cup crisply cooked bacon crumbles
 - 1 cup shredded deli rotisserie chicken
- Salt and black pepper to taste

- 1 baguette, cut into ¼- to ½-inch slices
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

- 1. PREPARE EARLY:** Place the cheeses, mayonnaise, peppers, chives, cayenne pepper, and garlic and onion powders in a food processor and pulse until thoroughly combined.
- 2.** Add bacon crumbles and shredded chicken, and pulse to mix thoroughly. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to one week.
- 3. BEFORE TAILGATING:** Brush each slice of baguette with oil, then grill 3–5 minutes or until bread is lightly golden.
- 4.** Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or oil-sprayed foil. Take bread off the grill and place slices with sides touching in a single layer on the baking sheet. Spoon cheese mixture onto toasts and garnish with chives.
- 5.** Heat on a covered grill about 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted and golden brown. Serve warm. Makes 24 toasts (and a generous quart of pimento cheese).

COOK'S TIP The recipe also makes a great heated dip for crackers or tortilla chips.

Kimchi Deviled Eggs

A native Austinite, Longhorns fan and Florida State graduate (go, Seminoles!), Evan LeRoy, pit-master at LeRoy and Lewis Barbeque food truck, understands the essentials of pregame snacks. "Any tailgate food needs to be able to be consumed with one hand and, preferably, in one or two bites," he says. *Kimchi*, Korean salted and fermented vegetables, and *sambal*, an Asian red chile sauce, give his deviled eggs a zippy kick. —PD

- 12 eggs
 - ½ cup mayonnaise
 - ¼ cup yellow mustard
 - 2 tablespoons strained kimchi juice
 - 1 tablespoon sambal
- Salt, to taste
- 1 teaspoon Szechuan peppercorns, ground
 - 1 teaspoon minced parsley
 - 1 cup kimchi

- 1.** Bring a large pot of water to a rolling boil. Place eggs in a strainer basket and slowly lower into water. Boil 9 minutes.
- 2.** Remove strainer basket from boiling water and shock eggs in ice water, then cool 10 minutes and carefully peel.
- 3.** Slice eggs in half lengthwise, remove yolks and reserve. Place egg whites on a tray and reserve in the refrigerator.
- 4.** In a food processor, combine egg yolks, mayonnaise, mustard, kimchi juice and sambal. Purée until smooth. Taste and add salt if needed. (Kimchi juice is salty.)
- 5.** Artfully arrange kimchi on a plate, placing egg whites around and atop kimchi pieces. With a spoon or piping bag, fill each egg white with approximately 2 tablespoons yolk filling. Garnish with ground Szechuan peppercorns and parsley. Makes 24 deviled eggs.

COOK'S TIP Kimchi and sambal usually can be found in the international foods sections of most grocery stores.

Head-to-Tailgate Superchicken

ANASTASIA BARRINGER | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

A big, busy family with a desire for fun, on-the-go foods inspired Barringer to create this rustic, homey dish with sweet, buttery pan juices. For tailgating, she suggests serving the drumsticks in

\$100 Recipe Contest

February's recipe contest topic is **Chocolate + Peanut Butter (A Love Story)**—the "two great tastes that taste great together!" Send us your favorite recipes for this classic combo. The deadline is **September 10**.

ENTER ONLINE at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; **MAIL** to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; **FAX** to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

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a hollowed-out loaf of bread, with the juices on the side for dipping.

- 6 chicken drumsticks
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, divided use
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 dashes paprika
- 3 dashes ground coriander
- 1 dash cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 4 drops sesame oil
- 6 strips bacon (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pat the chicken dry with paper towels.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons butter with olive oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the chicken on all sides (in batches if necessary to avoid overcrowding), about 7–10 minutes total, then remove skillet from heat.
3. Arrange chicken in skillet, alternating

positions so drumsticks nestle side-by-side. Combine the spices with salt and sprinkle the mixture over chicken. Dot the meaty top of each drumstick with about a teaspoon of butter. Bake 15 minutes.

4. Make a basting syrup by combining the remaining butter, brown sugar, maple syrup and sesame oil, and microwaving until the butter melts.

5. Pour syrup over the chicken, wrap partially cooked bacon strips, if using, around each leg and bake an additional 15 minutes, or until cooked through. Makes 6 drumsticks.

Parking Lot Legs

LAURA SELLMAN | VICTORIA EC

With a kick of smoky heat (courtesy of chipotle seasoning or chile powder) and a coating of Parmesan cheese and fresh cilantro, these drumsticks deliver game-winning flavor.

- 8 large chicken drumsticks
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chipotle seasoning
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon garlic powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon lemon pepper
- Chopped cilantro, for garnish

1. Heat a grill to medium-high. Rinse drumsticks and pat dry with paper towels. Season them with chipotle seasoning. Grill them until cooked through. (They should reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees, and the juices should run clear when pierced with a knife.)

2. In a small bowl, combine Parmesan, garlic powder and lemon pepper.

3. Remove fully cooked chicken from grill. Roll the warm drumsticks in seasoning mixture, sprinkle with cilantro, and serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 8 drumsticks.

COOK'S TIP If you can't find chipotle seasoning, feel free to use an equal amount of any Mexican-style meat seasoning, or generously season the chicken with salt, pepper and about 3 tablespoons of pure ground chipotle chile. The chile seasoning provides plenty of flavor, so feel free to omit the garlic powder and lemon pepper.

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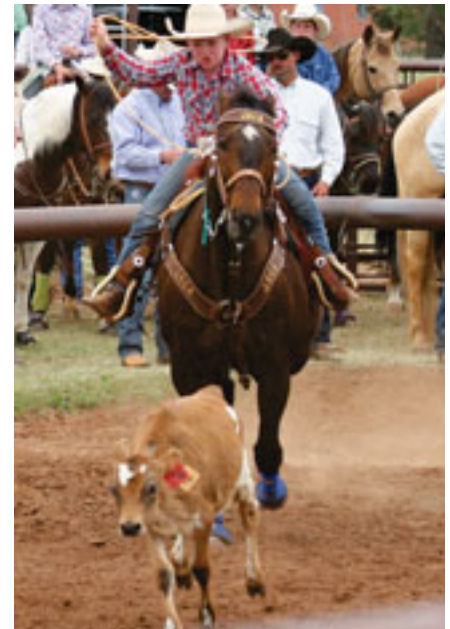
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▲ **BRANDI SWEENEY**, Farmers EC: "Kollin Sweeney dismounting Red for goat tying"

▶ **RICHARD BROWNE**: This woman cuts a tight turn while barrel racing at the Mesquite rodeo.

▼ **CAROL HOLBERT**, Concho Valley EC: "No fear, it is all about trust."



UPCOMING CONTESTS

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| JANUARY SNOW DAY | DUE SEPTEMBER 10 |
| FEBRUARY JAILHOUSES | DUE OCTOBER 10 |
| MARCH DOWNTOWN | DUE NOVEMBER 10 |

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



▲ **CHERYL BRUCE**, Lighthouse EC: Roping at 8 years old requires focus for Cutter T. Bruce, grandson of co-op members Gene and Cheryl Bruce.

◀ **JANICE JOHNSON**, Greenbelt EC: A boy ties a goat while his horse looks on.

Pick of the Month Kolache Fest 42 Tournament

Hallettsville September 30
(361) 798-2662, hallettsville.com

Kolache Fest, which celebrates the rich German and Czech heritage of Hallettsville, kicks off with a dominoes tournament that this year will pair 8-year-old Brynn Ebe, below, with two-time state champion Leslie Houston.



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September

8

Lubbock [8-10] National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, (806) 798-7825, cowboy.org

9

Cranfills Gap Septemberfest, (254) 597-2215, sept-fest.net

Miles Cotton Festival, (325) 245-7059, milestexas.com

Paige Founders Day, (512) 348-5882, e-clubhouse.org/sites/paigetx

Round Top Wine & Dine With Patsy Cline, (979) 249-2700, ilovetoread.org

Sanger SELLabration, (940) 458-7702, sangertexas.com

10

Inez St. Joseph Catholic Church Picnic, (361) 782-3181, stjosephineez.org

Marak Sts. Cyril and Methodius Homecoming Picnic, (254) 985-2280, marakchurch.org



September 9
Miles Cotton Festival

11

San Augustine An American Main Street, (936) 596-8411, sanaugustinemainstreet.com

14

Corpus Christi The Ark Gala 2017, (361) 241-6566, ark4kids.com

Victoria [14-15] Riding Therapy Center of Victoria Golf Tournament, (361) 578-8182, theridingtherapycenter.org



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Angleton Texas Navy Day Celebration, (979) 849-5965

Pontotoc Pontotoc Volunteer Fire Association Barbecue and Cake Auction, (325) 251-6670

17

Smithville Grace Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar, (512) 237-2108, glcs.org

22

Bryan [22-24] Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival, (979) 822-4920, downtownbryan.com

23

Boerne Paddle Battle, (210) 842-4057, visitboerne.org

Bonham Red River Valley Car Club Show, (903) 487-6698, facebook.com/RedRiverValleyCarClub

Martindale Texas Mamma Jamma Ride, (512) 297-7740, mammajammaride.org

24

Victoria Czech Heritage Festival, (361) 571-4777, victoriaczechs.org

28

DeSoto Taste of DeSoto, (972) 224-3565, desotochamber.org

29

Galveston [29-30] Galveston Island Shrimp Festival, (409) 770-0999, galvestonislandshrimpfestival.com

30

Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly, (469) 309-4045, waxahachiechautauqua.org



September 14-15
Victoria
Riding Therapy Center of
Victoria Golf Tournament

October

2

Livingston Deer Hunter's Chili Supper, (936) 327-4417, fbclivingston.org

5

Brownwood [Oct. 5-Dec. 30] Break Out Brownwood, (325) 998-5938, facebook.com/breakoutbrownwood

6

Greenville [6-7] A Harvest of Quilts, (503) 428-8445, cottonpatchquilt.com

7

Farmersville Old Time Saturday LSGTPA Tractor Pull, (214) 918-5596, lsgtpa.com

Glen Rose Paluxy Pedal, (817) 279-3549, paluxypedal.com

Grand Prairie Kids' Fishing Day, (972) 237-8100, grandfungp.com

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A Lake in the Desert

I-20 Wildlife Preserve offers unexpected nature viewing in the shadows of downtown Midland

BY BRENDA KISSKO

ON THE FLAT WEST TEXAS HORIZON, A stone's throw from the towering buildings of Midland, you might be surprised to find an urban playa lake. The 86-acre lake is the heart of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve and Jenna Welch Nature Study Center, which has almost 14 additional acres for exploration. The preserve opened in 2013 and now annually welcomes more than 24,000 visitors looking for a place to hike, bird or breathe fresh air and reconnect with nature.

In a land known for its abundance of oil and shortage of water, the preserve underscores the importance of water conservation and playa lakes, which are shallow wetlands that experience frequent, unpredictable wet-dry cycles. Playas are a vital part of the region's ecosystem, as they recharge the Ogallala Aquifer, the main water supply for residents of the High Plains (which runs through eight states), and support nearly one-fifth of the country's cattle, corn, cotton and wheat.

"Visitors walk in, and they're all so shocked it's here," says Elaine Magruder, board president and co-founder of the preserve. "It really is a jewel. We call it Midland's best-kept secret."

As you walk among the large cottonwoods, bigtooth maples, black willows and western soapberry trees, you forget you're so close to Interstate 20. Traffic is no longer audible, and the desert landscape vanishes, replaced by a peaceful oasis. Ducks dive underwater. Butterflies flutter from flower to flower, and a mockingbird sings.

Visitors can hike more than 3 miles of trails and boardwalk, of which nearly half is wheelchair accessible, bird-watch at seven observation blinds or from the two-story deck, and watch butterflies in the butterfly garden. The preserve teems with



life, including coyotes, foxes, porcupines and raccoons. Guests also are encouraged to keep an eye out for the resident bobcat.

Each season brings something new. In the spring, wildflowers appear, and hummingbirds flit through. In the summer and fall, several species of migratory birds such as egrets, ibis and Mississippi kites stop over. In winter, an array of ducks makes the preserve their home.

The original 86 acres were donated to the City of Midland in the late 1960s to become a park. At that time, the city was unable to budget for the park, and so for more than 30 years the Midland Naturalists volunteered to care for the land. Birding enthusiast Jenna Welch, mother of former first lady Laura Bush, was one of those volunteers. In 2006, a three-phase master plan for the preserve was developed and approved by the city. The I-20 Wildlife Preserve became a nonprofit in 2007 and later purchased additional acreage surrounding the playa as a buffer zone.

During the second phase of the plan, the preserve received a matching grant of \$1 million from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and these funds helped build the observation deck, boardwalk and trails. Now in phase three, the

preserve's board of directors has begun to raise money to build the Jenna Welch Nature Study Center, which is planned to house a visitors center.

"The Jenna Welch Nature Study Center will provide educational opportunities for children all across the Permian Basin and will give a great place for children to be able to see what the natural wildlife is here in our part of the state," Bush says. "That is my hope for every child, that they will come to know the simple pleasures of the natural world."

The I-20 Wildlife Preserve maintains a natural connection with early inhabitants of the area. Black willows often were planted near playas by Native Americans for the medicinal uses of its inner bark. The preserve's logo is a dragonfly because Native Americans regarded dragonflies as a sign that water was near.

Next time you're driving down I-20 on a quest for the great outdoors, stop by the I-20 Wildlife Preserve, where you can slow down and listen to nature.

Brenda Kissko is a member of South Plains EC. Visit her website at brendakissko.com.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read about previous visits to Midland and Odessa.

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