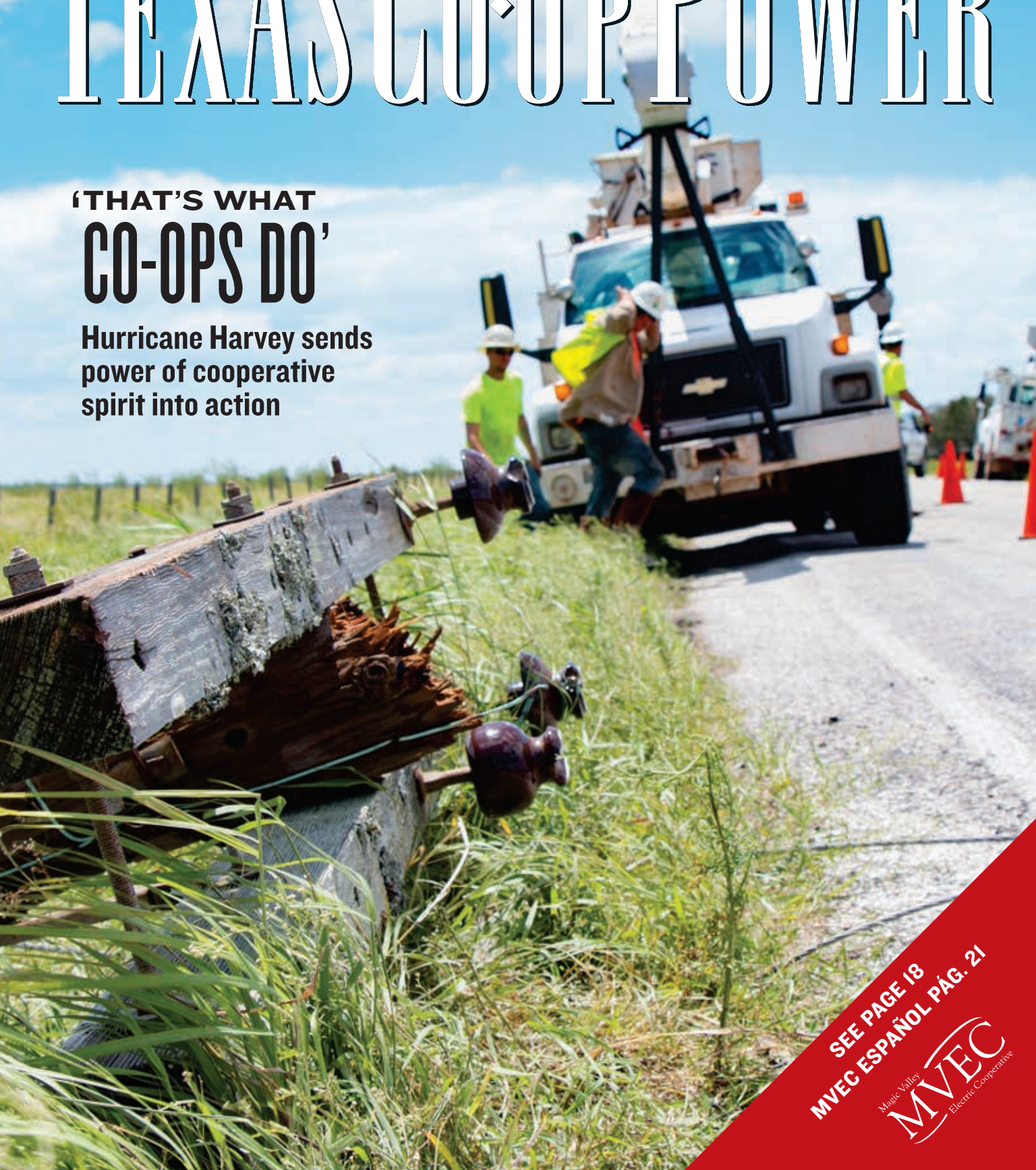


Gary Sinise Provides Custom Homes for Veterans

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

'THAT'S WHAT CO-OPS DO'

Hurricane Harvey sends
power of cooperative
spirit into action



SEE PAGE 18
MVEC ESPAÑOL PÁG. 21





THE PERFECT FIT

A CUSTOM BUILDING SOLUTION JUST FOR YOU



Mueller steel buildings can be tailored to suit your needs. From small, backyard designs to custom, engineered structures, we have the perfect building to accommodate your lifestyle.

www.muellerinc.com | 877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)


MUELLER, INC.
METAL BUILDINGS, ROOFING & COMPONENTS



South Texas EC crews rebuild lines after Hurricane Harvey.

FEATURES

8 Welcome Home Gary Sinise Foundation gives a new start to disabled veterans

Story and photos by Julia Robinson

12 'It's Just What You Do' Hurricane Harvey spotlights the hope and heart of the co-op family

Story and photos by Chris Burrows

FAVORITES

5 Letters

6 Currents

18 Local Co-op News

Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

29 Texas History

Buffalo Bilked

By Martha Deeringer

31 Recipes

Thanksgiving Sides

35 Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Into the Woods

36 Around Texas

List of Local Events

38 Hit the Road

Saving Face in Malakoff

By Marilyn Jones

ONLINE

TexasCoopPower.com

Find these stories online if they don't appear in your edition of the magazine.

Observations

Nature Works for Nothing

By E. Dan Klepper

Texas USA

A Mesquite Treat

By Eileen Mattei

NEXT MONTH

Christmas in the Parks State parks decorate and celebrate in special ways for the Yuletide.



AERIAL: CHRIS BURROWS | TEC. WREATH: BALONCICI | DREAMSTIME.COM

ON THE COVER Crews work to repair Victoria EC power lines east of Victoria after Hurricane Harvey. Photo by Chris Burrows | TEC

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bryan Lightfoot, Chair, Bartlett; Blaine Warzecha, Vice Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Secretary-Treasurer, Comanche; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; William F. Hetherington, Bandera; Anne Vaden, Corinth; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Jerry Boze, Kaufman; Clint Gardner, Coleman; Rick Haile, McGregor; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; Kathy Wood, Marshall • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtsek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Communications & Member Services Assistant; Paula Disbrow, Food Editor; Taylor Montgomery, Digital Field Editor; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Ellen Stader, Senior Communications Specialist; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader



2016 MF GC1705L



MASSEY FERGUSON
THE LEGEND SINCE 1847



2016 MF 1526L

23 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,
Quick Attach DL 95 Front End Loader
\$11,998 Cash or \$149.00 per month

25 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,
Quick Attach L 100 Front End Loader
\$16,998 Cash or \$219.00 per month



2016 MF 1734EL

34 HP, 4WD, Gear Drive Transmission,
Quick Attach L 105 Front End Loader
\$17,998 Cash or \$229.00 per month



2016 MF 2705EL

50 HP, 4WD, Shuttle-Transmission,
Quick Attach L 135 Front End Loader
\$24,998 Cash or \$309.00 per month



WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!

FOSTERS WORK & PLAY

3601 US Hwy. 190 W
Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 967 - 0011

www.fostersworknplay.com
sales@fostersworknplay.com

*Disclaimer: All payments based on 3.49% Interest rate (for a term of 72 months) with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices do not include sales taxes, freight or set up charges where applicable. All HP ratings listed are approximate base engine HP.

Give friends and family the Best of Texas this holiday season.



Texas Co-op Power presents a collection of best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks ever, the *Typically Texas Cookbook* and *The Second Typically Texas Cookbook*.

This cookbook is filled with more than 700 recipes, including more than 300 dessert recipes.

Contact your local co-op today, or place your order online at TexasCoopPower.com and put *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook* in your kitchen for only \$29.95 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

To order by mail, send a check or money order payable to TEC for \$29.95 to Best of Typically Texas Cookbook, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

\$29.95

From the publishers of *Texas Co-op Power*

Special Ranch Hand

The August 2017 issue said that President Lyndon B. Johnson flew to his LBJ Ranch 74 times during his five years in office [Currents, *Smoke-Filled Shindigs*]. My uncle, Marine Corps Maj. Kenneth Evans Sr., was one of Johnson's helicopter pilots.
**MARCY EVANS-COLE | HEMPSTEAD
 SAN BERNARD EC**

Workshop Remedy

Tame the Flame [Recipes, August 2017] recommended wearing rubber gloves when chopping hot peppers. I simply chop them and then go to the garage. I spray my fingers liberally with WD-40 and wipe them down with a paper towel. Then I wash my hands as I normally would. The WD-40 dissolves the oil in the peppers, and soap removes the WD-40. No problem.
**ROGER WERCHAN | CONROE
 FORMER MID-SOUTH SYNERGY**

Life-Changing Event

I was born in 1943 at home in a rural part of Bowie County near Old Boston. My dad bought a Servel butane fridge in 1945 [below], a remarkable appliance that I still own today—but no comparison to what followed in



Doting Mother

Enjoyed the article on the Rio Grande Valley at night [*What Lurks in the Murk*, August 2017]. The picture of the people looking at the wolf spider was good, but you cannot see the spider.



It brought back a memory from last August: watching a female wolf carrying her babies on her back on my driveway. Quite a sight to see with her back covered, and if one got off she would pick it up and place it back on her back.

MICHAEL LANTY | ORIENT | CONCHO VALLEY EC

1946: Dad had our 750-square-foot home wired for electricity.

The family gathered in the living room when the first wall switch was turned on to see the light from a single bulb in a ceramic fixture in the center of the ceiling. A lifetime-changing event.

It is easy to take for granted the advances in technology we all enjoy today through the success of Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative powering rural East Texas.

**KENNETH ELLIOTT | TEXARKANA
 BOWIE-CASS EC**

Memories of Fort Hood

The Dawn of Fort Hood [Currents, January 2017] brought back fond memories for my mom. She and my dad married in June 1942 and moved to Killeen, where my dad (Bob Foster) worked at Fort Hood. He was a timekeeper, and

because of the size of the property, he was given a horse to ride to ensure that the men who clocked in to work were still working and did not wander off.

**SHARON HORINE | BROWN COUNTY
 COMANCHE EC**

New London Lesson

A very important result of the tragedy [*The New London School Explosion*, January 2017] was the establishment of the Texas Engineering Practice Act. The act requires those who engineer public projects (roads, bridges, dams, schools, water supply systems, etc.) to be duly licensed by the state as having the education, experience and ability to design such projects in a way that protects the health, safety and welfare of the public.

**ERIC RATZMAN | LEANDER
 PEDERNALES EC**

Familiar Face

I loved *Outlaw Healers* [September 2016], about the Milling brothers. My great-grandfather lived in Cisco about that time, and I am sure that they probably met.

The photo of the man is a dead ringer for (a younger) James Keach!
**ANITA KEMPER VIA FACEBOOK | COLEMAN
 COLEMAN COUNTY EC**

GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

Sign up for our E-Newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share
EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com
MAIL: Editor, Texas Co-op Power, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701

Please include your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 74, NUMBER 5 (USPS 540-560). Texas Electric Cooperatives publishes *Texas Co-op Power* monthly on behalf of your electric cooperative to communicate important co-op news and information to members. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.08 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Martin Bevins at (512) 486-6249. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

© Copyright 2017 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2017 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



WEB EXTRAS

► Find more happenings online.

HAPPENINGS

Free Time With Santa

GRANBURY SANTA HOUSE returns to the Hood County Courthouse, southwest of Fort Worth, this Christmas season, thanks to the efforts of some United Cooperative Services members who wish to remain anonymous, county officials and area businesses. Granbury High School honor roll students help round up elves who assist Santa Claus every weekend

NOVEMBER 24–DECEMBER 23.

Mrs. Claus and the elves welcome children—and pets—who want to see Santa. They pass the time in line by playing games and talking about Christmas lists. Then, it's onto Santa's lap.

Parents, grandparents and friends are free to take as many pictures as they like. The entire experience is free. The Granbury Santa House Facebook page has more details.

"The main purpose of Santa House is to provide a place to forget even for one minute the craziness Christmas can bring," Mrs. Claus says.

INFO ► (817) 964-7220, facebook.com/granburysanta.house

SPORTS SECTION

LAST LAPS

Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Texas Motor Speedway have a lot of history. It was at the Fort Worth track that the NASCAR driver earned his first Busch Series and Cup Series wins, and in April he placed fifth, one of his best races of the season.

But Junior will take his last Texas laps when the No. 88 Chevrolet returns to the Texas Motor Speedway on November 5 for the AAA Texas 500. The 43-year-old driver announced in April that this would be his final year of driving after concussions haunted him in 2016.



Texas Motor Speedway put out the call for fans who attended Earnhardt's 2000 Cup Series win in anticipation of this month's event. If history is any indication, maybe they'll end up seeing his last win, too.

WORTH REPEATING

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

— **WILLIE NELSON**

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Tear Down That Wall



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT NOVEMBER 15, AMERICA RECYCLES DAY:

Americans throw away enough office paper each year to build a 36-foot-high wall from the northwest corner of the Panhandle to the extreme southern tip of Texas below Brownsville, a distance of 801 miles.

If that doesn't blow your mind, consider this: Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles *every hour*.

HISTORY LESSON

Filmmaker Portrays Co-op Origins

DEPRESSION-ERA DAIRY FARMER John Grimes struggles to make ends meet in Central Texas as World War II looms and cities leave rural areas in the dust of development. When a representative of the Rural Electrification Administration offers federal loans to farmers and ranchers to build electric lines, Grimes rallies his friends and neighbors to support the cause.

That is how the 2015 film *Let There Be Light* portrays the history of Mid-South Synergy, an electric cooperative whose founding is much like other electric co-ops across the country. Andy Conner, former Mid-South multimedia specialist, produced the 25-minute short in honor of the co-op's 75th anniversary.

"One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and that's what we wanted out of this short film," Conner says. "Since co-ops nationwide have a sort of shared history, we wanted to be able to share this to raise awareness to a new generation about what exactly a cooperative is. So, it's a short film with long-term implications."

The film premiered at a Navasota movie theater and played at Mid-South's annual meeting in June 2015. Since then, it has won several awards, including WorldFest-Houston film festival's Platinum Remi Award for Short Subject and Silver Telly Award for directing, plus two Bronze Telly Awards and the Gold Award for Best Total Communication Program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



HONORS

REST STOPS HONOR NELDA LANEY



The rest stops on Interstate 27 in Hale County, north of Lubbock, have been renamed in honor of Nelda Laney, considered the First Lady of West Texas and known as the Capitol Ornament Lady.

Laney, who died August 24, 2016, was the wife of Pete Laney, a five-term speaker of the Texas House and 17-term state representative. Among the many accomplishments in her life was creating and selling Capitol Christmas ornaments to raise funds for the preservation of Texas' Capitol, built in 1888. [See *The Capitol Ornament Lady*, November 2016.]

More than 1 million ornaments have been sold, raising more than \$8 million since Laney started the program in 1996.

The Nelda Laney Safety Rest Areas are about 8 miles south of the Laney homestead near Hale Center.

Welcome



Home

≡ GARY SINISE FOUNDATION GIVES A NEW START TO INJURED VETS ≡

In May 2013, Lucas Cifka almost lost everything. The 6-foot-1-inch Army sniper from Olympia, Washington, stepped on a pressure-plated IED while on foot patrol in eastern Afghanistan.

“I remember the medic running over, and I was helping to put the tourniquet on, and they immediately put them very high up on my legs, and I knew that wasn’t good because you only do that as a last resort,” Cifka says. “I realized very quickly that I was bleeding to death, and the first thought that went through my mind was: I’ve got a 3-month-old baby at home, and I can’t die on this hilltop.”

The blast took both legs, fractured his pelvis, hands and face, and left him with a traumatic brain injury. Cifka, his wife, Kait, and young son, Wyatt, spent more than two years at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He endured more than 30 surgeries to restore his ability to perform everyday tasks and walk with prosthetics.

On a hot July day this year, Cifka, now a retired sergeant, and his family had a special homecoming in Canyon Lake, where they moved into a specially adapted smart home built by the

Gary Sinise Foundation’s Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment program.

The Gary Sinise Foundation launched in 2011, when the Academy Award-nominated actor helped build a home on Staten Island, New York, for Brendan Marrocco, the first surviving quadruple amputee from the war in Iraq. After Marrocco, there was another quadruple amputee in need. Then another.

Sinise builds on a long history of special support for veterans. In the 1980s, he reached out to Vietnam vets, offering a night out at the Steppenwolf Theatre, which he co-founded in his native Chicago. During the 1990s, he started work for the Disabled American Veterans organization. His seminal role as double-amputee Lieutenant Dan in the 1994 film *Forrest Gump* amplified his outreach with USO tours and the creation of the Lt. Dan Band, which performs more than 20 shows every year to raise spirits and money for veterans and first responders.

“We have a whole new generation,

Lucas Cifka, above, with his family, and Guillermo Tejada live in specially adapted homes in Canyon Lake.

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JULIA ROBINSON**

DOG TAGS: J. HELGASON | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



GARY ZINISE
PROUDLY SERVING THE U.S. ARMY

FRONT

ALLY



Left: Cifka displays sand from Omaha Beach, a letter from his mother and his grandfather's dog tags. His home features a pull-down rack in his kitchen. **Above:** Tejada plays with his youngest son, David, in his home built with wide doorways and hallways for maneuvering his wheelchair. **Opposite:** Travis Green, left, Cifka and Tejada live in Sinise Foundation-built homes in the same neighborhood in Canyon Lake.

because of 9/11, of real-life Lieutenant Dans out there," Sinise says. "My foundation is sort of the umbrella to bring people together. I wanted to create a foundation that would offer the American people this way forward if they wanted to help veterans."

In Cifka's new home, every room is wheelchair-accessible, including the shower. "I can sit right here, take a shower, controls are all right here," he says, gesturing at a panel. "I can turn around and roll through doorways and not hit my hands all the time."

Moving to the kitchen, Cifka demonstrates the oven, stove, microwave and cabinet pull-downs that he can operate from his chair. "The biggest point of contention for me and my wife was not putting dishes away," he says. "Now I don't have any excuse to do that."

He wheels into his son's room and watches him play with the green army men, colored blocks and Hot Wheels cars provided by the foundation's design team. "From day one with this injury, I wanted to be able to take care of my son," Cifka says. "With this house, I can watch him on my own because I can go everywhere and do everything."

Next door, Guillermo Tejada knows the hardships of injury

WEB EXTRAS

▶ See a slideshow with this story online.

and the benefits of the smart-home enhancements. In September 2010, while returning from foot patrol in Afghanistan, Tejada, a gunnery sergeant in the Marines, suffered an IED blast that took both his legs above the knee, ruptured an eardrum and inflicted devastating injuries to his left arm and hand as well as his brain.

Before receiving his new smart home, Tejada struggled with the everyday tasks required of a young father. "When I can't do something or I have a limitation because of my disabilities, it takes [me] back to that day that it happened," he says. "After something catastrophic like this happens, it's the small things that act as a constant reminder that your life is not the same anymore. That can play some pretty bad tricks with your mind."

Tejada moved into his smart home with wife, Veronica, and their four children in September 2016. He offers a glimpse of the life Cifka and his family can look forward to. "The best thing is being able to get everywhere with no obstacles. Being able to take care of myself without the worry of injuring myself, that's a big plus. The house has given me back a lot of things



‘The house has given me back a lot of things that were taken away from me. I’m fully independent.’



that were taken away from me. I’m fully independent.”

A third veteran, Travis Green, also a Marines gunnery sergeant, lives down the street with his four daughters. Green enlisted in 1999 and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and finally Afghanistan. In September 2011, shortly before the completion of his tour, Green came under fire and lost both legs above the knee to an IED.

His home, completed in 2015, made space for his girls and a base of operations for his business, Stump Armour, which makes affordable, durable prosthetic feet for amputees.

All three veterans in the Canyon Lake area are members of Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

Cifka is appreciative of his new neighbors. “Already knowing two people in the neighborhood who are both in similar circumstances, who have kids who are used to seeing combat-wounded people, there’s a lot of camaraderie right there.”

“It’s a million little things that all add up to a brand-new life. The Gary Sinise Foundation is part of our extended family, and we’ll never be able to put into words what this means for our family,” says Cifka.

Working with more than a dozen charitable organizations and corporations, the Gary Sinise Foundation has completed 38 homes, with another 22 under construction across the country by the end of 2017. The families move into their fully furnished homes without a mortgage to pay.

Brad Morris, senior project manager for the RISE program, oversees the construction of many of these homes. Morris is a former Marine and owner of G. Morris Homes, a custom home-builder in Bulverde, just north of San Antonio. “Being a combat veteran myself, I found the opportunity to merge two passions, homebuilding and veterans’ causes, into ... one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” says Morris.

The list of adaptations is long, explains Morris: wider hallways and doorways, zero-height thresholds, large showers with benches and handheld shower heads, bathrooms with expanded turning areas, grab bars, lighting controls, video-enabled security and intercom systems, along with home-automation features controlled with an iPad or iPhone. Some veterans need motorized lifts to get in and out of bed, special accessible bathtubs, or voice and motion activation.

“These homes are designed and built specifically to meet the needs of the veteran and his family and to restore their independence,” says Morris. “These homes remove all physical barriers that many of us may not realize even exist.”

The foundation has plans for three more homes in Texas this year—in Lakeway, Southlake and McKinney.

“Many years ago, when I began this journey, it became abundantly clear that we can never do enough for those who serve and sacrifice while defending and providing our precious freedom and liberty,” says Sinise, “but I also learned we can always do a little more.”

Learn more about [Julia Robinson](http://juliarobinsonphoto.com) at juliarobinsonphoto.com.



'IT'S JUST WHAT YOU DO'

Hurricane Harvey spotlights hope, heart of statewide co-op family

Ashley Hadley and her mother, Shelia Dierschke, pulled out a white folding table and chairs because the dining room table didn't have enough space. They set out piles of fried shrimp, hush puppies and all the fixings on Dierschke's Port Lavaca kitchen counter—all the makings of a family Labor Day feast.

Their guests were hundreds of miles from their own homes, a dozen worn, weary and mud-caked linemen at the end of another in a string of 15-plus-hour days of restoring power in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. They are family, all the same.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY Chris Burrows

"We had them all line up and get food, and we were just kind of serving them," said Hadley, whose husband, Michael, a Victoria Electric Cooperative lineman, invited the men, his co-workers

since the storm hit August 25. Hadley and her parents had for days taken turns providing warm meals in the field for the linemen, who were there from Trinity Valley and Grayson-Collin electric cooperatives, east and north of Dallas, respectively.

"Everybody just kind of pitched in," Hadley said. Other families provided laundry services and meals, on top of the three meals VEC provided daily for the more than 300 linemen who rushed in to help. "We did whatever we could."

After the strongest hurricane to make landfall in Texas in decades wrought destruction along the coastal bend and in East Texas, the co-op family did whatever it could to help restore power to some 179,000 and hope to many more. Stories of hope and heart reveal the awesome power of the cooperative spirit.

"That's what co-ops do," said David Nerada, service foreman for Victoria EC, which lost power to all 22,467 of its meters dur-



Left: Victoria EC lineman Corey Turner, in the green hat, briefs Magic Valley EC linemen on power restoration strategy days after Harvey hit. Top: Amanda Reyes processes work orders in Victoria EC's operations center. Above: Anthony Landry, left, and Jackson EC lineman Ray Fitzgerald use an airboat along the Lavaca River.

ing the storm's 130 mph winds. "We're a family. You need help? We drop everything and go help."

HOPE | One day before the storm's landfall, Randy Mahannah, general manager for North Plains EC, anticipated the destruction and asked his linemen stationed in Canadian, in the Texas Panhandle, if they were interested in helping with restoration efforts.

They were prepped and ready the next day. "They sat there all weekend, bothering the line superintendent, wondering when they were leaving," Mahannah said of his crew that months earlier battled ice storm and wildfire damage on its own system with the help of other co-ops.

Along the coast, San Patricio, Victoria and Jackson ECs mobi-

lized quickly as the storm approached, strengthened and made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane.

Mike Myers, manager of corporate services at Jackson EC, collected satellite radios and reviewed his co-op's emergency response plan as Harvey moved into the Gulf. "Before we knew it, we were on Page 5," he said.

Many employees spent nights on cots or air mattresses in their own co-op offices, fielding phone calls and Facebook comments from members and waiting for more help to arrive.

As the storm's eye passed through Rockport and Refugio, it entered San Patricio EC's service territory. Operations Manager Albert Gaitan's Beeville home survived, but "it was devastating to see that some people weren't so lucky," he said.

More than 600 outside personnel, from co-ops around the state and private companies, arrived to help the three coastal



Wind damage from Harvey near Bonnie View in San Patricio EC service territory

co-ops, as did supplies from still other co-ops and donations of food and water from grateful members. The storm eventually would affect 15 co-ops with wind and flood damage.

On Monday, August 28, North Plains EC's Canadian crew finally got the call it hoped for and made the 10-hour drive to San Patricio EC in two parts—the linemen's chance to pay it forward.

"I can't tell you how many of them [co-ops] have reached out to us: 'What do you need? What can we do? We're sending people. How can we help?'" said Nina Campos, manager of human resources and communications at VEC.

For David McGinnis, general manager at Grayson-Collin EC, who made the trip with his linemen, it was just another in a long line of co-ops helping co-ops.

"It's just what you do," McGinnis said, "and, like I say, it doesn't matter if it's our members here at Grayson... or whoever it is, they're still members of a co-op, and that's what we do—help each other out."

HEART | Keith Stapleton always will remember how great and how eerie it sounded when the rain finally stopped.

"With a hurricane, usually six hours or so and it's through—it's gone—but this lasted for six *days*," said Sam Houston EC's chief communications officer.

Harvey made its second and third landfalls in East Texas, dumping unprecedented rainfall measured in feet, not inches. Sam Houston and Jasper-Newton ECs battled hard-to-reach outages that moved with the floodwaters amid wind-weary

trees and rain-soaked ground.

One night, around 2 a.m., 18 hours after a Sam Houston EC crew had won the fight to bring a substation back online: heartbreak.

"Fourteen minutes later, a tree falls near that substation on the transmission line and takes power out again," Stapleton said. "That was what the whole week was like. ... You just drop your head, take a breath and say, 'OK, we'll keep working.'"

Rivers swelled elsewhere, too, taking Jackson EC lineman Jimmie Scott's Bayside home, which his father built on family land decades ago.

"Everything's gone," Scott said. "My roof caved in. Everything was just destroyed."

But Scott never missed a day of work.

"How can you not stand in awe of someone who is so dedicated to their profession that they will, regardless of their personal tragedy, continue to do their job in a professional manner?" said Jim Coleman, Jackson EC general manager.

On September 10, Hurricane Irma struck Florida, knocking out power to 65 percent of the state before hitting Georgia and the Carolinas. With 99 percent of Harvey-affected co-op meters back up, Texas co-ops answered the call, including Jackson EC, whose weary linemen had just finished restoring their own power.

"The biggest thanks I could give some of my best linemen for working so hard here after Harvey was to let them rush off to Florida to answer the call of another cooperative in need," Coleman said. "It's our way."

Chris Burrows is a Texas Electric Cooperatives senior communications specialist.

WEB EXTRAS

▶ See video and more photos from Harvey's aftermath, a list of co-ops that sent aid, and how Texans helped with Irma recovery.

Belief and hope in the wondrous power of God

Believe in Miracles® Earrings



An original creation by
award-winning designer
Thomas Sota

EXCLUSIVELY FROM
THE
Concorde
COLLECTION
www.concordecollection.com

White Topaz... 14K Gold... Sterling Silver
The perfect gift for yourself...
or someone special. Just \$45

As we observe with awe God's creation of a perfect blossom unfolding its petals, glistening with dewdrops to the first golden rays of the sun, we behold the miracle of creation and open ourselves to the belief that with God's power anything is possible. These artfully sculpted Sterling Silver earrings by master jeweler Thomas Sota are lavishly coated with 14K Gold and sparkling with White Topaz. A constant reminder of your faith in Heaven's promise of love and hope.

A special treasure to cherish and wear forever, these earrings are offered exclusively through the Concorde Collection and are not sold in stores. *Satisfaction guaranteed for 60 days.* Mail your order today.

ORDER FORM *Please mail within 30 days.*

YES, I wish to order the BELIEVE IN MIRACLES® EARRINGS.
I need send no payment now. I will be billed \$45* when my earrings are ready to be shipped.

* Plus \$5.95 shipping and handling. Plus 6% sales tax, PA residents only.


Name _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Include Area Code) _____

Mail to: The Concorde Collection
P.O. Box 8017, Aston, PA 19014


 THE CONCORDE
COLLECTION
BEMED6
©2017 TCC

Fast relief from **ARTHRITIS** pain and **STIFFNESS**



30 DAY Money Back Guarantee

plus FREE SHIPPING

Pay Only:
\$19.95
Large 4-oz jar

SAY YES TO SAFE RELIEF!

Get deep penetrating relief for painful joints and muscles

Old fashion recipe with Arnica, Australian Tea Tree, Eucalyptus, Peppermint and Rosemary Oils combined with pain relieving and anti-inflammatory properties that help:

Reduce swelling, restore joint flexibility and soothes pain away naturally

**Non-Greasy
Fresh Scent from botanicals**

TO ORDER

Smith's Amish:
Po Box 996, Fairfield, FL 32634

**TOLL-FREE
866-419-3567
www.MyZeroPain.com**

Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check or money order enclosed
(Make payable to Smith's Amish)
- Charge my credit/debit card

***LIMIT 5 at this special price**

DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Smith's Amish Arthritis Cream- 4 oz		\$19.95	
		S&H	\$4.95
		TOTAL	FREE

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____
m m y y

Signature _____



★ holiday★ GIFT★GUIDE

In the magazine and on TexasCoopPower.com, we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



Special Gifts for Special People

Personalized livestock brands, logos and names on custom-made metal bootjacks (including new powder-coated steel), leather coaster sets, luggage tags and black marble trivets. Lasting gifts for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions. Call for free brochure.

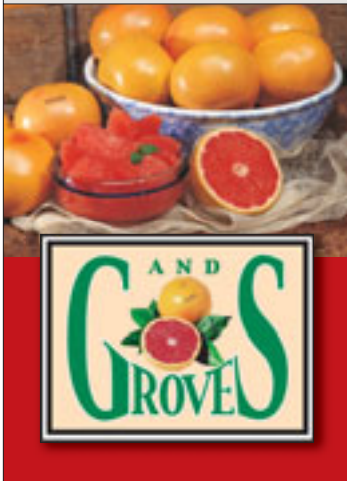
1-888-301-1967
www.crawjacks.com



We Ship Your Love ... In a Texas Tin!

Our breads are handmade in Dallas, Texas, to our exacting recipe specifications with only the finest fresh and natural ingredients using NO preservatives.

1-888-839-2771
www.texasbread.com



From Our Texas Trees to Your Table

Give a gift everyone will enjoy this holiday season. We sell Certified Organic Oranges and Rio Red Grapefruit directly to our customers.

www.gandsgroves.com



The Chair Specifically Designed For Sleeping!

High-quality craftsmanship in ultra-comfortable leather or microfiber, the Perfect Sleeper Chair is fully adjustable with heat and massage functions to support your physical well-being. One-year service warranty and white glove service included.

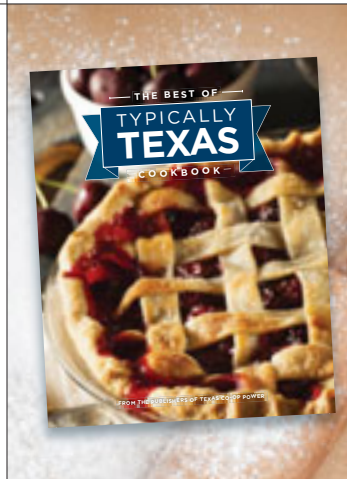
1-877-731-2086
Key Code: 106936



Perfect Power

Surprise your special someone with a practical gift for the shop or garage. The 21 gallon, 2½ HP, 125 PSI Cast Iron Vertical Air Compressor by CentralPneumatic easily powers tools and inflates tires.

800-423-2567
www.HarborFreight.com



The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook

Texas Co-op Power presents a collection of best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks ever. Contact your local co-op today, or place your order online.

www.TexasCoopPower.com/shop



Texas Red Grapefruit & Avocados

Always a gift in good taste! Orchard-fresh grapefruit, sweet oranges, Lula avocados and other Texas products are all hand selected, carefully packed and shipped to be delivered just in time for the holidays.

1-800-580-1900
www.crockettfarms.com



100% Texas Gourmet Food Gift Baskets

Choose from our online selections or use our DESIGN-YOUR-OWN feature to hand pick every product in your gift. Corporate discounts available.

512-963-1312
www.lonestargiftbaskets.com



Fresh "New Crop" Pecans

New crop pecans, chocolate-covered nuts, bakers boxes, specialty gift baskets, fudge, pecan pies. Our very own specialty roasted and salted pecans & gifts galore!

325-356-3616
www.sorrellsfarms.com



2018 Texas Icons Calendar

Large 20" x 15" Calendar with 12 of Texas State Artist George Boutwell's watercolors of Texas Icons. Scenes that just scream "TEXAS." \$12.50 each plus sales tax and \$3.50 S&H. Quantity prices on website!

1-800-243-4316
www.gboutwell.com



Bring Texas nature home for the holidays.

Texas Co-op Power presents an illustrated *Seashells of Texas* poster by artist Aletha St. Romain, 20x16 inches, suitable for framing.

Order online at TexasCoopPower.com for only \$20 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

Bonus offer: Get 2 posters shipped to the same address for just \$30.

**\$20
or 2 for
\$30**

From the publishers of **TEXAS COOP POWER**

Cooperative History, Cooperative Future

Looking back provides the path forward



John W. Herrera

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally-owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is at Magic Valley Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities (or IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone

of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the Co-op every day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

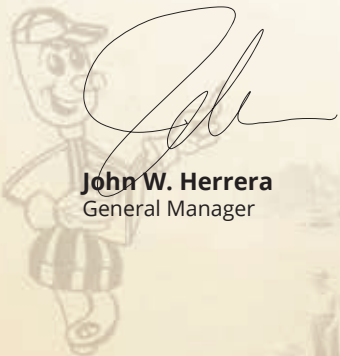
Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

You see, Magic Valley is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development, community service projects and non-profit organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House Charities RGV, Renaissance Cancer Foundation, Safe Haven for Kids and the Fallen Lineman Organization.

I hope that you view Magic Valley not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the co-op or give us a call. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too!

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martin E. Garcia,

President

Reynaldo L. Lopez,

Vice President

Barbara S. Miller,

Secretary-Treasurer

Rolando Alaniz,

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Doug Martin,

Board Member

Nila T. Wipf,

Board Member

Adrienne Peña-Garza,

Board Member

Payment Options

- MVEC Smart Phone App
- Online bill payment
- Average payment plan
- Bank draft
- Visa, Discover, AMEX and Master Card accepted

District Offices

- 2910 W. Monte Cristo Road
Edinburg, 78541
- 1825 N. Indiana Road
Brownsville, 78521
- 1311 S. Cage Blvd
Pharr, 78577

CONTACT US

For outages and all customer service inquiries

CALL US

1-866-225-5683 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

magicvalley.coop

FOLLOW US ON





The appeal of electric vehicles (EV) is gaining momentum as prices are dropping and range is expanding. EV owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a bit of planning. The Nissan Leaf, shown here, is a popular EV choice among consumers. Photo Credit: Nissan

Appeal of Electric Vehicles Gaining Momentum

The appeal of electric vehicles (EV) is gaining momentum. The push for greater mileage in terms of MPG that began in the second half of the last century has been joined by the push for greater miles per charge. But before getting too far into this transportation evolution, a quick history lesson about EVs is in order.

The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Early variants were powered by galvanic cells rather than rechargeable batteries. The lead-acid battery was invented in France in 1859 with further French development leading to manufacturing of these batteries on an industrial scale in the early 1880s. This allowed a rechargeable battery to be installed on the vehicle.

Soon manufacturers were selling a wide array of EVs ranging from trams to trolleys, to cars and even locomotives. Interest in electric cars blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in number of EVs on the roads.

But the rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile and EVs simply did not have the range required. Enter Henry Ford and the mass-produced, affordable internal combustion engine, and the EV's fate was sealed.

Fast forward to modern times and EVs are dominating the automotive news. Thanks to the electric cooperative movement, electricity is available everywhere in the U.S., the majority of roads are paved and environmental concerns are increasing awareness.

While many drawbacks of EVs are gone, there is still a major concern limiting EV growth dubbed "range anxiety." This stems from the persistent limited range of all EVs. While the Tesla offering provides 270 miles for their all-wheel drive model and 355 miles on their

standard models, that pales in comparison to most internal combustion cars. And, the lack of a rapid charging infrastructure is an ongoing impediment. Just like their 20th century predecessors, pure EVs are great "city cars."

Fortunately, advances in battery technology are hammering away at the range issue. Range is steadily expanding and battery management systems are squeezing out more miles. At the same time, more companies and utilities are installing efficient charging stations at their places of business and in popular public locations.

Range anxiety notwithstanding, EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. On top of this, the cars are just plain cool. The Tesla Model 3 promises a minimalist interior with all the necessary controls and information presented on a large touchscreen in the center of the console as opposed to using the traditional instrument cluster.

Further, if you've never driven an electric vehicle, you are in for a treat. While an internal combustion engine must rev up to speed, an EV has full power at its disposal instantly. Of course, there are limits on this 0-60 mph capability to prevent inexperienced and over-eager drivers from launching themselves into accidents and speeding tickets. They are quiet, wellappointed inside and allow you to forever bypass the lines at the gas station--unless you are in need of some snacks and a slushy.

One final word, if you do purchase an EV, be sure to let your electric cooperative know. The service to your home is sized to meet the demands of your house as they existed when service was connected. Adding the EV charger creates a risk of overloading the wires and transformers powering your home. Overloaded services can fail and leave you in the dark with an uncharged EV.

Someday, we'll all be gliding silently--and cleanly--on our travels.



Boca Chica Beach: *Where the Road Ends*

..... Story by: Eileen Mattei | Photos by: Anita Westervelt

For a winter staycation, drive east on Brownsville's Boca Chica Blvd and Highway 4 for glimpses of the past and the future as well as a shell-covered, secluded beach. The 22-mile drive from the Valley's largest city across coastal plains ends along with the pavement at Boca Chica Beach, a few yards from Gulf waters. Like most trips, part of the fun is getting here.

About 10 miles east of International Blvd., a sign invites you to tune to 1610 AM for a 10-minute podcast about Palmito Ranch National Historic Landmark. The last battle of the Civil War was fought here, even though both Union and Confederate troops knew the war had ended. Turn right down Palmito Ranch Road and get surrounded by the coastal plains, prickly pears and spot chestnut-brown Harris hawks perched on poles. On the right, below the loma and almost hidden, an observation deck overlooks the area. Back on Highway 4, pull over to read the informational markers about Palmito Ranch and Boca Chica with a useful map. Down the road, you will spot the UTRGV Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy under construction. Nearby, a white space-age array with a huge dish, protected by a high fence and prickly pears, is labeled Space X South Texas Ground Tracking Station.

Farther down, a stone historical marker nestles between agaves. Stubby palmetto pilings are remnants of a railroad that Gen. Phil Sheridan completed across Boca Chica Inlet after the Civil War. With binoculars, you can spot cypress pilings about 1,000 feet away, left from a floating bridge built by Gen. Zachary Taylor to move supplies during the Mexican-American War. To the south, a security fence encloses SpaceX property, but no structures are visible, although the first launch is slated for late 2018.

Great blue herons pose for pictures on Boca Chica dunes, framed by sea oats and long runners of flowering railroad vines. Although Boca Chica was once a tidal pass, it became choked with sand after the Brownsville Ship Channel opened in 1936. Few people come to Boca Chica's tranquil shoreline on weekdays, at least, so you start to feel like a castaway or Gilligan on a private island. The Rio Grande is about five miles south and Brazos Santiago Pass is about six miles north.

While you can drive down the beach if the sand has packed hard (check first), the most satisfying way to enjoy this secluded beach is by walking near the surf,



stopping to explore the mysteries tossed ashore. Beachcombers find more shells in the winter than the summer for a reason. Tropical sea creatures- hydras, urchins, mollusks – that live in waters south of us die – off when the water cools in winter. Their shells wash on to the beach December through March.

Besides shells, some living creatures make landfall, like the gorgeous Blue button we found. (Use caution because some critters can sting or irritate your skin.) Water-polished driftwood washes in covered in goose barnacles: white shells trimmed in orange. Sea beans, which fell off trees and vines along the Amazon or Central American rivers, drift north with currents and wash up at your feet. Named for their appearance, sea bean finds can include brain fruit, hamburger beans, crucifix bean and sea heart. Other flotsam and jetsam – debris washed ashore – are buoys, bottles and ropes.

The peacefulness found on a practically private beach is hard to beat. Bring a full picnic basket, fishing gear and whatever you need. Boca Chica is not a state or county park and has zero amenities.

Heading home, after the CBP check point, turn left onto Oklahoma Ave (FM 14910) to reach Sabal Palms Sanctuary. The Valley's last stand of native sabal palms dot this wildlife preserve, which has a bird feeding station thronged with green jays, chachalacas plus butterfly gardens. Among the several walking trails, one short trail leads to an observation platform above the Rio Grande.

Thousands come to the Valley to enjoy our semi-tropical winter. Pack up the family and take a day trip to Boca Chica.





\$15K SCHOLARSHIP

- **Do you want to go to college?**

Every year we **award scholarships** to aspiring young men and women to help make their college dreams a reality.

- **Are you a Magic Valley member?**

If you're a graduating high school senior, you're eligible for our **\$15,000 scholarship!**



**DEADLINE:
DEC. 7, 2017**

For more information
visit our website
www.magicvalley.coop &
download an application.

facebook

twitter

@MagicValleyEC

@MagicValleyEC

For more information about our Scholarship opportunity, contact us at:

Email: info@magicvalley.coop

Phone: 866-225-5683



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MSHELDRAKE | ISTOCK.COM

Baked Mashed Sweet Potatoes

- 1¾ pounds russet potatoes
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) sweet potatoes, drained and mashed
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- ½ cup light sour cream
- ⅓ cup chicken broth
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-inch square baking dish.
2. Boil potatoes with garlic until tender, then drain.
3. Add remaining ingredients and beat with mixer until blended.
4. Pour into baking dish. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes.

This recipe was a winner in the January 2011 *All Eyes on Potatoes* recipe contest. Submit your best pastry recipes to *Texas Co-op Power* by November 10 for a chance to win the *Breakfast Pastries* recipe contest. Visit texas.cooppower.com/contests for rules and details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MIVPIV | ISTOCK.COM

Veterans Day November 11

MVEC salutes veterans
for their service.



IRYNA MELNYK | ISTOCK.COM

Happy Thanksgiving

from MVEC

Our offices will be closed Thursday
and Friday, November 23–24, to
celebrate the holiday.



*Give friends and family
the Best of Texas.*

The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook features more than 700 best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks.

Now available at YOURNAME EC.
Come by and purchase your copy today!



Texas Division of Emergency Management Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1 - Nov. 30

Evacuation Planning: When a hurricane threatens, listen for instructions from local officials. When they call for an evacuation in your area, get going without delay.

Discuss evacuation plans with your family **BEFORE** hurricane season June 1 – Nov. 30. Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave town and review it.

Monitor NOAA weather radio and local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.

Prepare an emergency supply kit including: radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra eye glasses, bottled water, non-perishable food, dry clothes, bedding, insurance information, important documents, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, seniors, medically fragile family members, and pets.

Learn evacuation routes before storm season. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf, keep your gas tank as full as possible. Expect traffic delays in an evacuation.

Register in the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or Dial 2-1-1 to register if you have a disability or medical needs or if you simply do not have transportation: Gulf coast residents in evacuation zones with a disability or medical needs -- who do not have friends or family to help -- or do not have transportation should register in STEAR in advance.



División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

Evacuación en caso de Huracán: Cuando exista una amenaza de huracán, escucha las instrucciones de funcionarios locales. Cuando llamen para una evacuación en su área, sálgase del área lo más pronto posible.

Discute los planes de evacuación con su familia **ANTES** de la temporada de huracán, que comienza el 1 de junio hasta 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revisela.

Escuche la radio y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.

Prepare un equipo de emergencia incluyendo: radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguro, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores, miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles, y animales domesticos.

Aprenda sus rutas de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando hay un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Este consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.

Puede registrarse con el 'State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry' (STEAR) via su sitio web: <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> o llamando al 211 para registrarse, si usted tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas o si simplemente no tiene transporte. Los residentes de la costa del golfo en zonas de evacuación con una discapacidad o necesidades médicas - quienes no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudarlo--o no tienen transporte debe registrarse con STEAR por adelantado.

La Sensación Cooperativista



MENSAJE DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Me gusta la sensación de poder entrar a mi tienda o restaurante local preferido y saber que la ganancia, el producto y la mano de obra pueden tener un impacto positivo en mi comunidad. El espíritu de la Calle Principal también conocida como "Main Street" se personifica en estas empresas locales, al igual que sucede en Magic Valley Electric Cooperative.

John W. Herrera

Las cooperativas eléctricas son locales y se concentran en apoyar a la comunidad. Creadas para llevar electricidad a las comunidades ignoradas por las empresas privadas, las cooperativas eléctricas han sido pilares de la comunidad y del desarrollo económico en las zonas rurales de Estados Unidos desde hace mucho tiempo.

La sensación que tengo al frecuentar empresas locales en nuestra comunidad es la misma que tengo cuando llego a mi trabajo en la cooperativa cada día. Es un sentimiento de orgullo. Estoy orgulloso de ser parte de una organización que apoya a la comunidad en la que vivimos, en lugar de un grupo de accionistas que quizás nunca han puesto pie en nuestro territorio de servicio.

Vivir en el frente de servicio de la cooperativa es algo más que el simple conocimiento de que hay gente trabajando para traerte energía segura, confiable y accesible. Vivir en el frente de servicio de la cooperativa es una inversión en nuestra comunidad y en los miembros.

Magic Valley es una organización sin fines de lucro. Cuando la cooperativa genera más dinero del que es necesario para mantener las luces encendidas de forma segura, confiable y accesible, regresamos el dinero a los miembros en forma de créditos de capital. Esto significa que después de todos los gastos de la cooperativa son pagados, cualquier dinero restante que se haya generado se regresa a nuestra comunidad, en lugar de regresarse a los bolsillos de accionistas, ¡Esto está muy bien!

Ya que los dueños son nuestros miembros, tenemos un gran interés en asegurarnos que nuestra comunidad prospere. Lo hacemos a través de apoyar el desarrollo económico, proyectos de servicio comunitario y organizaciones como el Ronald McDonald House Charities RGV, Renaissance Cancer Foundation, Safe Have for Kids y Fallen Lineman Organization.

Ojalá que puedas ver a Magic Valley no solo como tu proveedor de servicios eléctrico, sino también como un negocio local que aporta orgullo y prosperidad a nuestra comunidad. Si estás interesado en tener más información sobre cómo mantenemos las luces encendidas y más, por favor visítanos en cualquiera de nuestras oficinas o llámanos. Nos encanta ser parte de esta comunidad y esperamos que tú también los disfrutes.

Respetuosamente,

John W. Herrera
General Manager

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

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



DIRECTOR GENERAL

John W. Herrera

MESA DIRECTIVA

Martin E. Garcia,

Presidente

Reynaldo L. Lopez,

Vicepresidente

Barbara S. Miller,

Secretaria-Tesorera

Rolando Alaniz,

Asistente Secretario-Tesorero

Doug Martin,

Director

Nila T. Wipf,

Director

Adrienne Peña-Garza,

Director

Opción de Pago

- Pago en Línea
- Plan de Pago Promedio
- Giro Bancario Automático
- Visa, Discover, AMEX y Master Card aceptadas como forma de pago
- Numerosos Centros de Pago

Oficinas de Distrito

- 2910 W. Monte Cristo Road
Edinburg, 78541
- 1825 N. Indiana Road
Brownsville, 78521
- 1311 S. Cage Blvd
Pharr, 78577

CONTACTO

Servicio al cliente y
reportar apagones

LLÁMENOS AL

1-866-225-5683 Llamada gratis

VÍSTENOS EN INTERNET

magicvalley.coop/español

SÍGANOS EN





El Interés En Los Vehículos Eléctricos Está Ganando Impulso

El interés en los vehículos eléctricos está ganando impulso. La exigencia de mayor millaje en términos de MPH (millas por hora) que empezó en la segunda mitad del siglo pasado se ha sumado a la exigencia de generar más millas por carga. Pero antes de profundizar en la evolución del transporte, hace falta una lección de historia sobre los vehículos eléctricos.

El primer carro eléctrico fue desarrollado en 1837 en Aberdeen, Escocia. Los primeros modelos fueron alimentados por celdas galvánicas en lugar de pilas recargables. La batería de ácido sólido fue inventada en Francia en 1859 y después desarrollada por franceses que lo cual permitió su fabricación y producción en escala industrial a principios de la década de 1880. Esto facilitó la instalación de una batería recargable en el vehículo.

Muy pronto, los fabricantes estaban vendiendo una amplia escala de vehículos eléctricos, desde tranvías hasta carros, automóviles e incluso locomotoras. El interés en los coches eléctricos aumentó a finales de 1890 y principios de 1900. En cuanto las carreteras mejoraron y se extendieron, surgió la demanda de un mayor alcance. Una variedad de soluciones fueron planteadas, incluyendo el primer intercambio de baterías por una empresa eléctrica en Connecticut en 1910 y el primer automóvil híbrido en 1911. No pasaría mucho tiempo para que Estados Unidos fuera el líder en el mundo en número de carros eléctricos en las carreteras.

Pero la rápida expansión del país y las limitaciones de la electricidad solo a las principales ciudades y pueblos significó el final del coche eléctrico. Todo el mundo quería transportarse a largas distancias y los carros eléctricos simplemente no tenían el rango requerido. Cuando Henry Ford, introdujo la producción en masa del motor de combustión interna a precios accesibles, la suerte del carro eléctrico se terminó.

Si avanzamos a los tiempos modernos, los vehículos eléctricos están dominando las noticias. Gracias al movimiento de las cooperativas eléctricas, la electricidad está disponible en todas partes de Estados Unidos, la mayoría de las carreteras están pavimentadas y la protección del medio ambiente está aumentando.

Aunque muchos inconvenientes del vehículo eléctrico han desaparecido, todavía existe una gran preocupación que limita el aumento en el número de vehículos eléctricos y que se llama "ansiedad de alcance." Esta ansiedad se deriva del limitado alcance de todos los vehículos eléctricos. Aunque el carro Tesla proporciona 270 millas

para su modelo de doble tracción y 355 millas en sus modelos estándar, eso es muy bajo en comparación con la mayoría de vehículos de combustión interna. Además, la falta de una infraestructura para carga rápida sigue siendo un impedimento. Al igual que sus predecesores del siglo XX, los vehículos eléctricos son "coches de ciudad."

Afortunadamente, los avances en la tecnología de baterías están mejorando el asunto del alcance. El alcance está aumentando constantemente y los sistemas de administración de la batería están dando más millas. Al mismo tiempo, cada vez más compañías y empresas eléctricas están instalando estaciones de carga eficientes en sus instalaciones y en lugares públicos populares.

Descontando la ansiedad de alcance, los vehículos eléctricos tienen un futuro brillante. Los precios están disminuyendo y el alcance se está ampliando, por lo que los propietarios pueden conducir con confianza en casi todas partes con un poco de planificación. Además de esto, los coches son simplemente fantásticos. El Tesla Modelo 3 cuenta un interior minimalista con todos los controles necesarios y la información que se presenta en una pantalla táctil de gran tamaño en el centro de la consola, en contraste con el uso de los instrumentos tradicionales.

Además, si nunca has conducido un vehículo eléctrico, te va a encantar. Mientras que un motor de combustión interna aumenta la velocidad poco a poco, un vehículo eléctrico tiene pleno poder a su disposición al instante. Por supuesto, existen limitaciones a esta capacidad 0-60 mph para evitar que conductores inexpertos o demasiado entusiastas tengan accidentes y para prevenir infracciones por exceso de velocidad. Son muy silenciosos, con interiores bien equipados y te permiten brincarte la fila de carros en las gasolineras, a menos que necesites comprar bocadillos o una raspa.

Una última recomendación, si compras un vehículo eléctrico, asegúrate de informar a tu cooperativa eléctrica. El servicio de tu casa está diseñado para satisfacer las demandas que tenía tu casa cuando el servicio fue conectado originalmente. Agregar el cargador del vehículo eléctrico crea el riesgo de sobrecargar los cables y transformadores que suministran tu vivienda. Los servicios sobrecargados pueden fallar y dejarte en la oscuridad, con un vehículo eléctrico descargado.

Algún día, todos iremos deslizándonos silenciosamente y limpiamente en nuestros viajes.

RECETA DEL MES



MSHELDRAKE | ISTOCK.COM

Puré de Papas Horneadas

- 1 ¾ libras de papas, de preferencia "russet"
- 1 diente de ajo picado
- 1 ½ cucharadita de sal
- 1 lata (14.5 onzas) de puré de camote (sweet potato), escurrida
- 4 onzas de queso crema suavizado
- 3 rebanadas de tocino, cocido y desmenuzado
- ½ taza de crema agria (sour cream)
- ½ taza de caldo de pollo
- ¼ de cucharadita de pimienta negra

1. Precalienta el horno a 350 grados. Engrasa un recipiente cuadrado para hornear de 9-pulgadas.
2. Hierva las papas con el ajo hasta que estén suaves, luego escúrrelas.
3. Agrega los ingredientes restantes y bate con la batidora hasta que todo esté mezclado.
4. Coloca la mezcla en el recipiente para hornear. Hornéalo sin tapar por 20 minutos.



*Give friends and family
the Best of Texas.*

The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook features more than 700 best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks.

Now available at YOURNAME EC.

Come by and purchase your copy today!

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS



MIVPIV | ISTOCK.COM

Día de los Veteranos

Magic Valley les da las gracias a todas y todos los veteranos por su servicio.



IRYNA MELNYK | ISTOCK.COM

Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias

Les desea Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

Nuestras oficinas estarán cerradas jueves y viernes, 23 y 24 de noviembre, para celebrar las fiestas.



La Playa Boca Chica:

Donde la Carretera Termina

..... Por Eileen Mattei | Fotografías por: Anita Westervelt

Para unas vacaciones locales de invierno, dirígete hacia el este en el Boca Chica Blvd. de Brownsville y Highway 4 para vislumbrar el pasado y el futuro y aparte descubrir una playa aislada, repleta de conchas marinas. El trayecto de 22 millas desde la ciudad más grande del Valle a través del paisaje costero termina junto con el pavimento en la playa Boca Chica, a poco metros de las aguas del Golfo de México. Como la mayoría de los viajes, parte de la diversión es llegar allí.

Unas 10 millas al este del International Blvd., un anuncio te invita a sintonizar 1610 AM para escuchar un podcast de 10 minutos acerca del Palmito Ranch National Historic Landmark. La última batalla de la Guerra Civil se peleó aquí, aunque tanto las tropas confederadas como las de la unión sabían que la guerra había terminado. Voltea a la derecha hacia Palmito Ranch Road y te encontrarás rodeado de llanuras costeras, de tunas y de halcones posados en postes. A la derecha, al bajar la loma y casi escondido, hay un mirador para apreciar la vista. De regreso por el Highway 4, estacionate para poder leer más de cerca los anuncios informativos acerca de Palmito Ranch y Boca Chica, con un práctico mapa.

Al seguir por el camino, podrás ver el centro de UTRGV Center of Advanced Radio Astronomy (Centro de Astronomía Radial Avanzada) en construcción. Cerca, una enorme parabólica blanca, protegida por una cerca

de gran altura y tunas, tiene un anuncio que dice Space X South Texas Ground Tracking Station, que significa estación de rastreo de tierra del sur de Texas.

Más adelante, un marcador histórico de piedra se encuentra entre los agaves. Algunas cuantas palmeras bajas son restos de una vía de ferrocarril que el Gral. Phil Sheridan construyó en Boca Chica después de la Guerra Civil. Con binoculares, alcanzarás a ver unos pilotes de ciprés a 1,000 pies de distancia, restos del puente flotante construido por el General Zachary Taylor para transportar suministros durante la guerra Mexicano-Americana. Al sur, una cerca de seguridad rodea la propiedad de SpaceX, pero no hay estructuras visibles, aunque el primer lanzamiento está previsto para finales de 2018.

Grandes garzas azules posan para fotos en las dunas de Boca Chica, enmarcadas por las plantas conocidas como avena de mar y flores de ipomea. Aunque Boca Chica fue una vez un pase de marea, fue invadida de arena después que se abriera el canal para barcos de Brownsville en 1936. Al menos entre semana, pocas personas vienen a tranquilidad de Boca Chica, así que puedes empezarte a sentir como náufrago o Gilligan en una isla privada. El Río Grande se encuentra aproximadamente cinco millas hacia el sur y el Paso Brazos Santiago está unas 6 millas hacia el norte.



Aunque puedes conducir por la playa si la arena se encuentra compactada (primero verifica), la manera más agradable de disfrutar de este lugar solitario es caminar por la playa, detenerte para explorar los misterios que ha traído la corriente. Las y los buscadores de conchas pueden encontrar más ejemplares en el invierno que en el verano por una razón. Las criaturas de los mares tropicales – como las hidras, erizos, moluscos – que viven en las aguas del sur mueren cuando el agua se enfría en el invierno. El agua arroja las conchas a la playa de diciembre a marzo.

Además de conchas, algunas criaturas vivientes llegan a la playa, como la magnífica medusa botón azul que encontramos. (Ten cuidado, porque algunos bichos pueden picar o irritar tu piel.) Troncos secos pulidos por el agua llegan a la playa cubiertos de percebes: conchas blancas enmarcadas en color naranja. Las semillas “ojos de venado” que cayeron de las ramas de los árboles del Amazonas o ríos de América Central, son arrojadas a la playa por las corrientes ecuatoriales hacia el norte. Llamados así por su apariencia, los “frijoles marinos” pueden incluir diversas semillas interesantes de árboles del sur de México y otros países tropicales. Puedes encontrar semillas con forma de corazón, de crucifijo y de cerebro, entre otros. La corriente también trae escombros y basuras que fueron arrojados a la costa como boyas, botellas y cuerdas.

La tranquilidad que hay en lo que es prácticamente una playa privada es difícil de superar. Lleva contigo una canasta de picnic con comida, equipo de pesca y cualquier otra cosa que necesites. La Playa Boca Chica

no es parque estatal ni del condado, así que cuenta con cero comodidades. Al dirigirte de regreso casa, después del punto de revisión del CBP, voltea a la izquierda en Oklahoma Ave (FM 14910) y llegarás al santuario de palmas sabal (Sabal Palms Sanctuary). Una muestra de las últimas palmas sabal nativas del Valle salpica esta reserva de fauna silvestre, que cuenta con una estación de alimentación para aves atestada de chara verdes (green jays), chachalacas además de jardines con mariposas. Entre los varios senderos para elegir, una corta vereda te lleva a una plataforma de observación sobre el Río Grande.

Miles de personas viajan al Valle para disfrutar de nuestro clima semi-tropical durante el invierno. Lleva a tu familia y dedica un día para visitar la playa Boca Chica.



A Mesquite Treat

Beans from the ubiquitous Texas trees surprise with flavor and nutrition

BY EILEEN MATTEI

A TANTALIZING AROMA FLOATS THROUGH Victoria Cappadona's kitchen, where mesquite bean pods are simmering. She offers me a taste of the warm Cappadona Ranch mesquite jelly she creates from an infusion of mesquite pods mixed with lemon, sugar and pectin. The silky, amber jelly melts on my tongue and makes me want to eat it by the spoonful. Imagine honey collected from hives in a sun-drenched grove of flowering mesquites.

When city girl Victoria Barrera from McAllen married into a Hidalgo County ranching family (members of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative), she asked her father-in-law about uses for all the mesquite beans. Fred Cappadona told her that cattle and wildlife eat them. Years ago, he explained, he heard stories about Native Americans and early settlers making flour from the pods and medicinal remedies from the tree's leaves, sap and bark.

In 2012, while researching traditional uses of mesquite, Victoria Cappadona found that mesquite concoctions, lotions and teas had long been used for fevers, burns, wounds, headaches, eye inflammations and digestive problems. The potential use of mesquite beans in recipes captured her attention.

"Who would have thought mesquite would be so amazing a food? The shell is what has the natural sugar and flavor of the mesquite," she explains. "The natural fructose means it doesn't initially require insulin to break it down. And since it takes hours to metab-

olize, you don't get sugar spikes." Nutritional studies have revealed that mesquite beans have a low glycemic index and are high in fiber, calcium and iron.

Victoria Cappadona perfected a mesquite bean jelly recipe and made jars for family and friends. As demand soared, she developed another mesquite jelly with chile pequin that balances sweet and hot. She designed the Cappadona Ranch Mesquite Bean Jelly logo and began selling both varieties at livestock shows, festivals and online.

"Many older people say, 'Oh, my gosh, that jelly reminds me of when I was a kid chewing on a mesquite bean,' " said Cappadona's husband, Justin. And her father, a retired physician, recalled eating mesquite pods as candy. That's no surprise, since the pods' sugar content can reach 30 percent.

During June and July, the Cappadonas and their three sons—Cayetano, 15; Federico, 13; and Vicente, 10—harvest mesquite beans on the 2,500-acre ranch. "A good mesquite looks like a Christmas tree covered in golden pods," she said. Justin Cappadona drives the front-end loader fitted with a railed platform where the boys stand and harvest the beans. In 2016, they picked enough to fill sixteen 55-gallon drums. That supplies enough for all the flour, tea, coffee and jelly they produce in a year. About 2 pounds of beans can be simmered into enough jelly for more than 100 eight-ounce jars.

"The kids are learning re-



VICTORIA CAPPADONA



WEB EXTRAS

▶ See more photos and a recipe for Cappadona Ranch Mesquite Ribs.

sponsibility and the value of a dollar,” Victoria Cappadona said. “We have a limited window for picking, so when there is work to be done, they need to help out.

When they are involved, they appreciate the results more.”

Victoria Cappadona sun-dries the pods and stores them to make jelly year-round. “Heaven knows we have enough mesquite trees to do that.” Previously, even after doubling production every year, she ran out of jelly before Christmas. She has moved the operation to a commercial kitchen in McAllen to accommodate growth.

The website, cappadonaranch.com, offers Victoria’s video recipes, including mesquite flour pancakes. “The nut-flavored flour, ground from the whole bean, is great for baking and gluten-free,” she said. “You

replace one cup of wheat flour with one-quarter to one-half cup of mesquite flour. The pancakes taste so nutty and sweet, they don’t need syrup.”

An accident led to another tasty product. “The boys were squabbling, a delivery man was at the door and beans were drying in the oven. When I got back to the beans, they were roasted,” Victoria Cappadona said. Recalling a story that Civil War soldiers made camp coffee from roasted mesquite beans, she decided to grind the pods in a coffee grinder and brew them. The result was a savory, high-protein coffee substitute. She also ground roasted mesquite seeds for tea. “With their natural sugar, the tea and coffee provide an energy rush without caffeine.

“We suspected mesquite’s nutritional value was remarkable, but we wanted

Cayetano, Federico and Vicente Cappadona collect mesquite bean pods that their mother will make into mesquite jelly, coffee and flour.

proof—and got it,” she said, thanks to a McAllen Chamber of Commerce Innovation Grant. It enabled Cappadona Ranch to order nutritional studies that cost \$1,000 per product. A USDA Value-Added Producer Grant helped buy ingredients and packaging. The brand participates in the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Go Texan program, which promotes the state’s products.

While cattlemen might have a love-hate relationship with the mesquite tree itself, Cappadona Ranch has transformed the tree’s beans into delectable native Texan foods.

Eileen Mattei, a member of Nueces and Magic Valley ECs, lives in Harlingen.

Own the "Gem of the Century"



Incredibly rare find is now available to the public for **ONLY \$59!**

For centuries, the "Big Four"—diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires—ruled the gem world. When tanzanite debuted in 1967, it was a sensation. Unlike those other stones, which are mined all over the world, tanzanite can be found in only one place on Earth: in the remote Merelani Hills in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

HUGE SAVINGS
TAKE 85% OFF THE
KARATU TANZANITE RING
WHEN YOU USE YOUR OFFER CODE

Gem of the century meets deal of the century. With its remarkable rarity and unique gemstone qualities, it's no wonder that experts have dubbed it, "the gemstone of the 20th century." In recent years, top-quality tanzanite gems have fetched higher prices at auction than rubies, emeralds or diamonds! But because we buy direct and use our own designers, we are able to offer you this rare beauty for **ONLY \$59!**

What makes tanzanite so irresistible to jewelers and gem experts? Part of its appeal is the beautiful violet blue color. Tanzanite is also trichroic—which means that three different colors are visible when the stone is viewed from different angles.

"This ring is unbelievable. I've owned some spectacular high-dollar gemstones in my life and this ring will compete with any of them!" —Katharine, Shreveport, LA

Henry Platt, past president and chairman of Tiffany & Company, called Tanzanite "The most important gemstone discovery in over 2,000 years."

A gemstone found only one place on earth, means supply is extremely limited. Get your hands on the *Karatu Tanzanite Ring* before they're gone!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the rare beauty of the *Karatu Tanzanite Ring* for two months. If you're not completely awestruck, simply send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the sale price. We want you to feel like you got the deal of the century!

With over 4,000 sold, we currently have less than 2,000 in stock!

Karatu Tanzanite Ring ~~\$399*~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$59 + S&P Save \$340!**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: KTR316-02

Please use this code when you order to receive your discount.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. KTR316-02,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

1 1/5 carats of genuine tanzanite • Lab-created white DiamondAura accents • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™

What our clients are saying about Stauer Helenite jewelry:

"My wife received more compliments on this stone on the first day she wore it than any other piece of jewelry I've ever given her."

– J. from Orlando, FL
Stauer Client



This 4-carat stunner was created from the aftermath of Mount St. Helens eruption!

Famous Volcano Has Strange Effect On Women

Man and nature collaborate to create a glamorous green ring guaranteed to rock her world! Own it today for **ONLY \$99 plus FREE studs with ring purchase!**

On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted, sending a column of ash and smoke 80,000 feet into the atmosphere. From that chaos, something beautiful emerged—our spectacular **Spirit Lake Helenite Ring**.

Created from the superheated volcanic rock dust of the historic Mount St. Helens eruption, helenite has become the green stone of choice for jewelry and fashion designers worldwide. Helenite's vivid color and immaculate clarity rivals mined emeralds that can sell for as much as \$3,000 per carat. Today you can wear this 4-carat stunner for **only \$99!**

EXCLUSIVE FREE Helenite Studs
-a \$129 value-
with purchase of Spirit Lake Ring



Our exclusive design highlights the visually stunning stone with a concave cut set in .925 sterling silver loaded with brilliant white, lab-created **DiamondAura®**. The classic pairing of colors in a vintage-inspired setting makes for a statement ring that's simply impossible to ignore!

Beauty from the beast. Also known as "America's Emerald," helenite is not an emerald at all, but a brighter and clearer green stone that gem cutters can facet into

spectacular large carat weight jewelry. "It's just recently that luxury jewelers have fallen in love with helenite," says James Fent, GIA certified gemologist. "Clear green color in a stone this size is rarely found in emeralds but helenite has come to the rescue."

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Bring home the **Spirit Lake Helenite Ring** and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the exceptional beauty of this rare American stone, simply return the ring within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price. It's that simple. But we're betting that once you slide this gorgeous green beauty on your finger, it will take a force of nature to get you two apart!

Spirit Lake Helenite Ring

Total value with FREE studs ~~\$478*~~

Now, Offer Code Price Only \$99 + S&P Save \$379!

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: SLR481-02

You must use this insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. SLR481-02,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



Rating of A+

* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

4 carat Helenite center stone • Lab-created white DiamondAura accents • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5–10

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™

Steel of Approval

At \$49, this blade of Damascus steel is a real steal

Damascus steel is legendary. Tales of its unmatched strength, sharpness and durability ring through the ages. There are stories of gun rifles being sliced in two by Damascus steel swords and individual strands of hair being sliced in half, even if they gently floated down on to the edge of the blade.

Now, you can be a part of the legend. The *Legend Knife* boasts nearly 4" of famed Damascus steel with its signature, wavy pattern. Damascus steel blade knives can cost thousands. So, at **\$49**, the price itself is almost legendary.

Cast Damascus steel, known as wootz, was popular in the East and it's an exacting process that's part metalwork, part chemistry. It's produced by melting pieces of iron and steel with charcoal in a low oxygen environment. During the process, the metals absorb carbon from the charcoal and the resulting alloy is cooled at a very slow rate. The outcome is a beautiful one-of-a-kind pattern of banding and mottling reminiscent of flowing water.

Once a lost art, we sought out a knifemaker who has resurrected the craftsmanship of Damascus steel to create the *Legend Knife*. The genuine Damascus steel blade folds into a tri-colored pakkawood handle that's prepared to resist the ravages of the great outdoors. When not in use or on display, The *Legend Knife* stays protected in the included genuine leather sheath.

"If you have a Damascus steel blade knife, you have a knife blade with unique beauty. With its historical reputation as the metal used for the best swords over hundreds of years, and its distinctive wavy design, Damascus steel is a beauty to behold."

— knifeart.com

With our limited edition *Legend Knife* you're getting the best blade money can buy. What you won't get is the inflated price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector's-quality knife that won't cut into your bank account. Priced at an amazing \$49, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.

Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the *Legend's* handle and experience the beauty of its Damascus steel blade, you'll be ready to carve out your own legend.

Legend Knife \$149*

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P Save **\$70**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **LGK171-01**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. LGK171-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



"Good value. Great looking. Sufficiently sharp. Overall an "A" purchase and I ordered three."

— B. of Maryland



Not shown actual size.



Rating of A+

- High quality, etched Damascus steel lock back blade
- Pakkawood handle with steel bolster
- Open: 7 3/4"L; blade: 3 1/2"L
- Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.™

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

800+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

M-REG105829 TexasCoOpPower

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON



3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS
 A. HOT DOG
 ITEM 69269/97080 shown
 B. PANCAKE
 ITEM 95275 shown
 60637/61615

• Air delivery:
 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI,
 1 CFM @ 40 PSI

Customer Rating **SAVE 59%** **\$56.99** Compare **\$98.62**
YOUR CHOICE \$39.99

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE SUPER COUPON



RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK
 • Lifts from 5" to 18-1/4"
 • Weighs 74 lbs.

Customer Rating **SAVE \$66** **\$149.99** Compare **\$141.88**
~~\$85.99~~

ITEM 69227/62116
 62584/68048 shown
 LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

FREE WITH ANY PURCHASE
CENTECH
7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER
\$16.45 VALUE
 ITEM 63604/63758
 98025/69096/63759/90899 shown
 27142340

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-425-2527. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/7/18. Limit one FREE DIRT coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF ANY SINGLE ITEM
 27126032

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift cards, open box items, 3-day Pickup Lot Sale items, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Acrylic, Glass, Cobra, CoverPro, Dynaflex, Earthquake, Hercules, Jambie, Lynx, Poulan, Predator, StormCall, Tallgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/7/18.

HARDY SUPER COUPON

MECHANIC'S GLOVES
 Customer Rating **SAVE 75%**

SIZE	ITEM
MED	62434/62426
LG	62433/62428
X-LG	62432/62429

YOUR CHOICE \$3.99 Compare **\$5.99**
 Item 62429 shown
 Item **\$16.12**
 27156789
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$230** **\$99.99** Compare **\$329.99**
~~\$119.99~~
 ITEM 69727 shown, CALIFORNIA ONLY
 27229270
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

26", 16 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$653** **\$299.99** Compare **\$952.99**
~~\$399.99~~
 • 14,600 cu. in. of storage
 • 1060 lb. capacity
 • Weighs 235 lbs.
 ITEM 61609
 67831 shown
 27231427
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

4000 MAX. STARTING/3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATOR
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$1709** **\$289.99** Compare **\$1999**
~~\$329.99~~
 • GFCI outlets
 Wheel kit sold separately.
 ITEM 69676/69729/63080/63079 shown
 ITEM 69675/69728/63090/63089 CALIFORNIA ONLY
 27254367
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

Bauer SUPER COUPON

20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$89** **\$59.99** Compare **\$99**
~~\$69.99~~
 • 450 in. lbs. of torque
 • 1.5 amp hour battery
 • Weighs 3.4 lbs.
 ITEM 63531
 27256807
 LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

FULL-MOTION TV WALL MOUNT
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$160** **\$399.99** Compare **\$199.99**
~~\$49.99~~
 • Supports 130 lbs.
 • Fits most 37" to 80"
 ITEM 64037/63155 shown
 27272793
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$170** **\$79.99** Compare **\$229.99**
~~\$79.99~~
 ITEM 93897 shown
 69265/62344
 27283034
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS SUPER COUPON

10" SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$94** **\$84.99** Compare **\$179**
~~\$114.99~~
 • Powerful 15 amp motor
 Blade sold separately.
 ITEM 61971/61972/98199 shown
 27286287
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET
 Customer Rating **SAVE 66%** **\$5.99** Compare **\$17.97**
~~\$8.99~~
 ITEM 69505/62418
 66537 shown
 27287271
 LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

COVER PRO SUPER COUPON

10 FT. x 10 FT. PORTABLE SHED
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$96** **\$139.99** Compare **\$236.89**
~~\$159.99~~
 ITEM 63297
 27289689
 LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

TWO TIER COLLAPSIBLE EASY-STORE STEP LADDER
 Customer Rating **SAVE 50%** **\$19.99** Compare **\$39.99**
~~\$29.99~~
 • 225 lb. capacity
 ITEM 67514
 27291917
 LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

VIKING SUPER COUPON

JUMP STARTER AND POWER PACK
 Customer Rating **SAVE 16%** **\$69.99** Compare **\$84.19**
~~\$79.99~~
 ITEM 62749
 27296245
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

3-POINT QUICK HITCH
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$90** **\$79.99** Compare **\$169.99**
~~\$99.99~~
 • 2000 lb. capacity
 • 27-3/16" Clearance
 ITEM 97214
 27298040
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

luminar OUTDOOR SUPER COUPON

24 FT., 18 BULB, 12 SOCKET OUTDOOR STRING LIGHTS
 Customer Rating **SAVE 63%** **\$19.99** Compare **\$54.98**
~~\$24.99~~
 ITEM 63483
 27308621
 LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE
 Customer Rating **YOUR CHOICE \$2.99** Compare **\$4.99**
~~\$9.97~~
 CLAW ITEM 69006
 60715/60714
 47873 shown
 RIP ITEM 69005/61262
 60715/60714
 47873 shown
 ITEM 69005/61262
 60715/60714
 47873 shown
 27307328
 LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

EARTHQUAKE SUPER COUPON

1/2" INDUSTRIAL QUALITY SUPER HIGH TORQUE AIR IMPACT WRENCH
 Customer Rating **SAVE \$190** **\$199.99** Compare **\$269.99**
~~\$99.99~~
 • Weighs 6 lbs.
 ITEM 62627/68424 shown
 27304513
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 3/7/18*

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 3/7/18. At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare" or "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare" or "comp at" price at another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare" or "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

WD METAL BUILDINGS

Instant Pricing @ wdmb.com

STEEL BUILDINGS TO COUNTRY HOMES

AG BUILDINGS Hay Barns Equipment Buildings Livestock Shelters	METAL BUILDINGS Steel Shops Storage Buildings RV Buildings	BARNDOMINIUMS Country Homes Hunting Cabins Ranch Houses
---	--	---

REINFORCED CONCRETE SLABS • EXPERIENCED ERECTION CREWS • ALL WELDED FRAME WORK

Permanent Mesquite and Huisache Removal By Tap Root (Not a Grubber)

Skid Steer Model (S²TB)
Tractor Model (T²B)
Tractors with Quick Attach Front End Loaders
Tool Bars with fulcrum gain mechanical advantage for pulling larger trees faster and more efficiently.

Check out the video at <http://bit.ly/bigskid>.
bigskidsteer.com
info@bigskidsteer.com | (512) 753-4944

Bank C.D.'s Due? CALL US NOW

1-800-359-4940 TEXAS TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

BLAKE MATTSO, CFP™
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710
Serving Customers All Over Texas

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the FDIC. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102, 817-673-4256.

RHINO STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
Engineered Stamp Blueprints

Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINOBLDG.COM 888-875-8233
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.

45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.

Low Cost Pole Barns

28' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed
\$6,995

Hay-Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

Call: Ron 512-367-0428

BRUSH SHARK

SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR
• 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
• Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

TEXAS MEDICAL PLANS

Independent, Authorized Agent for

BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT COVERAGE
1-888-888-6698

POLE, HORSE, HAY BARNs • ALL SIZES
CALL ANDY • 512-563-5237

CARY DIETZMANN
BROKER ASSOCIATE
979.203.3942

... come home to your heritage™

☉ FARM - RANCH - ACREAGE
☉ Wildlife & Habitat
☉ Country Living

www.har.com/carydietzmann

1.800.582.2276

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY

NATIONALBARN.COM

Buffalo Bilked

Delivering American bison to the king of Spain proved nearly impossible

BY MARTHA DEERING

WHEN KING CARLOS III TOOK THE SPANISH throne in 1759, he vowed to increase Spain's influence in the European scientific community and diversify the Spanish economy. With these ideas in mind, Carlos ordered officials to ship him foreign creatures from all over the world so he could display them in his personal zoos. According to Bradley Folsom's article *An Interesting and Odd Present in Southwestern Historical Quarterly* [July 2016], Carlos acquired alligators, monkeys, anteaters, leopard cubs, iguanas and a hermaphroditic horse. But he longed to possess a herd of American bison, which he planned to domesticate for their wool and "tasty meat" and for use as draft animals.

The bison had other ideas.

Texas, then a part of New Spain, seemed the most likely place to capture the animals, and the king sent word to acquire and transport as many American bison as possible. The order landed on the desk of Texas Gov. Domingo Cabello y Robles, who sent an experienced hunter, Carlos Rioja, to capture the animals alive, drive them hundreds of miles to Veracruz and launch them on a voyage to Spain. Had he consulted Native Americans, he would have known that a herd of cantankerous bison, when threatened, scatters in every direction.

Europe has bison, but they are smaller and lack the pronounced hump, low-hanging head, short horns and wooly coats of American bison, which had been described by Spanish explorers as "large hump-backed animals with very long beards like goats, tails they carry erect like a scorpion when running and hair rough as a lion's mane but wooly like a sheep."

In May 1779, Rioja gathered some assistants from the San Antonio area along with "substantial provisions" provided by the governor and set out on a bison roundup. They were successful in locating and cap-



turing bison; the difficulty came when they tried to drive the animals across the plains. Rioja discovered that the bison were inclined to "kill themselves in anger" when restrained, or succumbed to heat stroke along the way. The herders arrived at their destination with only a single female.

Rioja's second expedition did slightly better, rounding up 20 animals. But the searing June heat winnowed them out on the trail, and only two 6-month-old calves reached San Antonio. This dismal record prompted a decision to wait for winter to launch a third expedition. In the interim, ranchers in La Bahia sent word that they had captured four bison.

"It is impossible to explain to Your Lordship," the governor wrote on January 10, 1780, "the pains I am taking to ensure success, sparing no expense or other requirement, for it is my hope to pursue the delight of serving and pleasing Your Lordship."

Cabello assigned an officer and well-known hunter to escort the six remaining animals to the ship. Four of the six died, leaving a single male and a female for the king. Recognizing the stakes, the officer suspended the animals in leather har-

nesses in the hold of the ship to keep them from harming themselves, fed them corn and soaked them with water every day to avoid overheating. In spite of these extreme measures, the male bison died upon arrival in the Spanish port of Cádiz.

Carlos developed a great fondness for the remaining animal, moving it to the royal family's spring residence, where it joined camels, ostriches, an elephant and other exotic animals. A sculpture of the buffalo graced the estate's entrance. The military officer who escorted the buffalo to Spain remained until the animal died in 1784, whereupon he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and given a reward of 10,000 *reales* and return passage to Texas.

"It has always been customary for monarchs to display their greatness by keeping the rarest and most unusual species of animals, plants and fruits from other countries in their palaces and royal houses," says Carlos Gómez-Centurión in his article *Treasures Fit for a King*, but European courts were hard-pressed to secure America's largest land mammal for their collections.

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

COLLIN STREET BAKERY
Since 1896

DeLuxe
TRADE MARK

No Other Fruitcake Comes Close!
As different from ordinary store-bought as night and day!



World
Famous
DeLuxe®
Fruitcake



Each cake comes
in its own tin



**Pineapple
Pecan Cake**



**Apricot
Pecan Cake**

FREE!
Shipping on orders
over \$55.00

You haven't tasted REAL fruitcake until you've tasted Collin Street DeLuxe® Fruitcake! It truly puts ordinary fruitcake to shame. This is why people around the world have come back to us year after year, ordering our fruitcake as gifts for their families, friends - and themselves! We honor that trust with every single order, using the same time-honored recipe we started with in 1896. Every shipment guaranteed fresh, moist and delicious.

Our Customers Say -
"...It outstrips all cakes I have ever tasted (including my mother's)."
"Throughout the office it was unanimous that none of us had ever met a fruitcake we liked. We had one of your FABULOUS DeLuxe® Fruitcakes at work this past week and changed our tune."

"It is made just the way I like Christmas cakes to be, rich and moist, and totally packed with fruit and nuts - I am almost ashamed to say that I consumed one whole one myself - in the space of a week I hasten to add."

- No. 101 Regular Size DeLuxe® (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20) \$29.95
- No. 102 Medium Size DeLuxe® (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30) \$42.95
- No. 113 Apricot Pecan Cake (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20) \$36.95
- No. 175 Apricot Pecan Cake (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30) \$49.95
- No. 115 Pineapple Pecan Cake (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20) \$36.95
- No. 149 Pineapple Pecan Cake (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30) \$49.95

FREE STANDARD U.S. SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$55.

For orders under \$55, please add \$6.45 per U.S. shipment, for products above.

Not valid on orders previously placed. Not valid with other offers.

Offer expires December 10, 2017.

Order at www.collinstreet.com or phone 1-800-292-7400

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Card # _____ Exp. ____/____
Signature _____

Visa MasterCard American Express Diners Club Discover

FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$55.00

Please send order/gift list to:

Collin Street Bakery
P.O. Box 79, Corsicana, TX 75151

Check Money Order Credit Card

KEYCODE
710301
Required

Thanksgiving Side Dishes

WHEN IT COMES TO THANKSGIVING, often you're either in it for the main event—a gorgeous roasted turkey—or for the side dishes. I dream about giblet gravy, stuffing and mashed potatoes that round out the table. The other essential item on our menu is cranberry relish: I love how the burst of color and tart-sweet flavor brightens a meal that tends to be mostly beige. Best of all, this recipe can be made ahead and refrigerated up to a week in advance, meaning one less thing on the turkey-day to-do list. We wish you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Paula's Cranberry Relish

- 1 pound fresh or thawed frozen cranberries
- 1½ cups dried sour cherries or dried cranberries
- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup red wine (or pure, unsweetened cranberry juice)
- 2 pods star anise
- 1 cinnamon stick
- ½ cup freshly squeezed Satsuma tangerine juice (or orange juice)
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt

1. In a heavy medium saucepan, combine all the ingredients and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Cook the sauce about 10–15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the cranberries burst and the texture becomes thick and jam-like.
2. Use a spatula to transfer the sauce into a heatproof bowl and let cool completely. Season with salt to taste and refrigerate until chilled.
3. Serve the sauce cold or at room temperature. Remove cinnamon stick and star anise just before serving.

COOK'S TIP The sauce will thicken upon standing. Stir in a few tablespoons of water, if desired, for a thinner consistency.

JODY HORTON

Recipes

Thanksgiving Side Dishes



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

BETSY KUEBLER | FARMERS EC

"This ultrarich, incredibly delicious side has all the smooth consistency of silk," says Kuebler. *Texas Co-op Power* staff loved the versatility: The custard-like pie could be flavored with sliced scallions and fresh cilantro, cubed ham or crumbled bacon, roasted red peppers or countless other options.

Cornsilk Pudding Pie

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon each black pepper and cayenne pepper, or less, as desired for heat
- 1 pound frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly mist interior of a 9-inch pie dish with nonstick cooking spray (or lightly coat with olive oil or butter).
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat together the eggs, cream, butter and seasonings. Stir in corn.
3. Pour half of corn mixture into prepared pie dish. Sprinkle cheddar cheese over corn mixture. Pour remaining corn mixture over cheddar layer. Sprinkle with Parmesan.
4. Bake 50 minutes, or until set. Makes one 9-inch pie.

Sweet Potato Casserole

JULIE REAMES | COSERV

Staffers judged this sweet potato casserole (fragrant with spices and finished with a crunchy pecan topping) to be the best they'd tasted. No wonder it has a permanent place on Reames' holiday table. "It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without this dish," she says.

SWEET POTATOES

2-3 medium sweet potatoes
(2½-3 pounds)

- 1 cup evaporated milk
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, melted
 - 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 - ½ teaspoon nutmeg
 - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
 - ½ teaspoon vanilla
- Pinch salt, or more as desired

TOPPING

- 1 cup crushed cornflakes
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, melted

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. **SWEET POTATOES:** Bring a large saucepan of water to a boil. While the water heats, peel the sweet potatoes and slice them into 1½-inch cubes. Add the sweet potatoes and 1 teaspoon salt to the boiling water, reduce heat to a lively simmer and cook until the sweet potatoes are tender when pierced with a knife, about 7-9 minutes. Drain and mash potatoes.
3. Combine the mashed sweet potatoes, evaporated milk, sugar, butter, eggs, nutmeg, cinnamon, vanilla and salt; mix well. Use a spatula to transfer the mixture to a 9-by-12-inch baking dish. Bake about 15 minutes.
4. **TOPPING:** While the potatoes are baking, combine the cornflakes, brown sugar, pecans and butter in a small bowl and mix well.
5. Remove sweet potatoes from oven, lower the heat to 400 degrees and add the topping. Bake about 15 minutes more, until the topping is golden brown. Serves 8-10.

COOK'S TIP To balance the sweet flavors in this casserole, generously season the sweet potatoes with kosher salt when you mash them.



MY
WINNING
RECIPE
SERVES
13 MILLION
PEOPLE

IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,
YOU'LL WIN A TCP APRON!

\$100 Recipe Contest

April's recipe contest topic is **Breakfast Pastries**. Muffins, biscuits, scones—is there a tastier way to start the day? Send us your best recipes. The deadline is **November 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.

Thanksgiving Countdown

The secret to making turkey day fun and worry-free? Start early!

3 WEEKS AHEAD

Plan your pretty holiday table (name cards? flowers? candles?).

Choose strategic side dishes that free up the oven and finalize menu.

2 WEEKS AHEAD

Prepare frozen foods such as pie dough and chicken stock in advance.

Stock beverages, including cocktails or wine as well as drinks for the kids.

1 WEEK AHEAD

Purge and clean your fridge to make room for holiday cooking.

Thaw turkey. (This can take a couple of days.)

Match serving dishes to recipes.

Shop for fresh ingredients to avoid the crowds.

2-3 DAYS BEFORE

Soups, appetizers (dips) and cranberry sauces all improve if made in advance.

If you're doing a liquid brine, now's the time.

Go over recipes one last time to make sure you have everything you need. Consider organizing them on sheet pans.

DAY BEFORE

Bake pies, make salad dressings, prepare crudités and refrigerate in zip-close bags.

Cube and dry bread or cornbread for stuffing.

GAME DAY

You've got this. Happy Thanksgiving!

—PD

Zucchini Gratin Casserole

KATHI BURTON | PEDERNALES EC

The ingredients in Burton's casserole come together in a particularly rich, creamy base. Buttery crackers and Gruyere create a delicious, crunchy topping. (Or you can use Parmesan or sharp cheddar.) Mix up the vegetables with yellow crookneck squash or a few sweet red peppers.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped onion
- 3 large zucchini, stemmed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt

- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon hot or smoked paprika (optional)
- 1 tablespoon flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, heated
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mayonnaise
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup crushed butter crackers
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup grated Gruyere cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat; add onion and sauté until light brown. Add the zucchini and

seasonings. Cook until squash is browned and barely tender, about 6–8 minutes.

3. Sprinkle in flour and cook about 2 minutes, stirring constantly, until the vegetables are coated. Pour in the milk and continue stirring until mixture thickens. Remove from heat and stir in mayonnaise. Pour the mixture into a 1½-quart baking dish.

4. In a separate bowl, combine the crushed crackers and Gruyere. Sprinkle evenly over casserole. Bake until brown and bubbly, about 25 minutes. Serves 6–8.

SCHWAN'S
Est. 1952

SAVE \$25
WITH YOUR FIRST PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE

*Delicious Meals
Delivered To Your Door*

Visit Schwans.com/taste1 for details. | ENTER COUPON CODE: **Savor143**

Expires 02/25/18. ©2017 Schwan's Home Service, Inc. All rights reserved.



WHATEVER YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS ...

We'll help you reach them.

Thrivent Financial offers a full range of products and services to help you achieve financial security, including:

- Life insurance
- Retirement options
- Annuities
- Health insurance
- Mutual funds
- Estate and legacy strategies
- Education funding options
- Managed accounts
- Retail brokerage

We'll create a financial strategy that reflects your goals and values.

Nathan Cyr • 512-522-8778
 Associate Representative

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. They are also licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent.

Investment advisory services, including fee-based financial planning services, are available through qualified investment advisor representatives only.

For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

20328 R9-16



Exotic and Trophy Whitetail Hunting • Corporate Retreat
Trophy Bass Fishing • Trap and Skeet Shooting
Long Range Rifle Range • Stocker Bucks and Bred Does For Sale



Located just 90 minutes
 from Dallas / Ft. Worth
 in beautiful Iredell, TX

Class One Breeder
Transportation Available

For more information, contact: John Barber (817) 239-3037
www.flying5B.com

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title **Texas Co-op Power** 2. Publication Number **0540-560** 3. Filing Date **October 1, 2017**
 4. Issue Frequency **Monthly** 5. Number of Issues Published Annually **Twelve** 6. Annual Subscription Price **\$7.50**
 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167
 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167
 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
Texas Electric Cooperatives, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Texas 78701-2167

Editor
Charles Lohmann, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701
 Managing Editor
Karen Nejtcek, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701


10. Owner
 Full Name Complete Mailing Address
Texas ECs, Inc., is a nonprofit association of rural electric cooperatives organized as a cooperative membership corporation under Article 1528b, Texas Civil Statutes. Its members are: Bailey County EC Association, Muleshoe; Bandera EC, Bandera; Bartlett EC, Bartlett; Big Country EC, Roby; Bluebonnet EC, Giddings; Bowie-Cass EC, Douglassville; Brazos EC, Waco; Bryan Texas Utilities, Bryan; Central Texas EC, Fredericksburg; Cherokee County EC Association, Rusk; Coleman County EC, Coleman; Comanche County EC Association, Comanche; Concho Valley EC, San Angelo; Cooke County EC Association, Muenster; CoServ EC, Corinth; Deaf Smith EC, Hereford; Deep East Texas EC, San Augustine; East Texas EC, Nacogdoches; Fannin County EC, Bonham; Farmers EC, Greenville; Fayette EC, LaGrange; Fort Belknap EC, Olney; Golden Spread EC, Amarillo; Grayson-Collin EC, Van Alstyne; Greenbelt EC, Wellington; Guadalupe Valley EC, Gonzales; Hamilton County EC Association, Hamilton; Harmon Electric Association, Hollis, Oklahoma; Heart of Texas EC, McGregor; HILCO EC, Itasca; Houston County EC, Crockett; J-A-C EC, Bluegrove; Jackson EC, Edna; Jasper-Newton EC, Kirbyville; Kames EC, Kames City; Lamar County EC Association, Paris; Lamb County EC, Littlefield; Lea County EC, Lovington, New Mexico; Lighthouse EC, Floydada; Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin; Lyntegar EC, Tahoka; Magic Valley EC, Mercedes; Medina EC, Hondo; Mid-South Synergy, Navasota; Navarro County EC, Corsicana; Navasota Valley EC, Franklin; North Plains EC, Perryton; Northeast Texas EC, Longview; Nueces EC, Robstown; Panola-Harrison EC, Marshall; Pedemales EC, Johnson City; Rayburn County EC, Rockwall; Rita Blanca EC, Dalhart; Rusk County EC, Henderson; Sam Houston EC, Livingston; Sam Rayburn Dam G&T EC, Nacogdoches; San Bernard EC, Bellville; San Miguel EC, Jourdanston; San Patricio EC, Sinton; South Plains EC, Lubbock; South Texas EC, Victoria; Southwest Rural Electric Association, Tipton, Oklahoma; Southwest Texas EC, Eldorado; Swisher EC, Tulia; Taylor EC, Merkel; Tex-La EC of Texas, Nacogdoches; Tri-County EC, Azle; Trinity Valley EC, Kaufman; United Cooperative Services, Cleburne; Upshur-Rural EC, Gilmer; Victoria EC Company, Victoria; Wharton County EC, El Campo; Wise EC, Decatur; Wood County EC, Quitman.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders None
 12. Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 13. Publication Title **Texas Co-op Power** 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below **October 1, 2017**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	1,449,102	1,470,111
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1,440,758	1,461,760
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions		
(2-4) In County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other mailed Circulation	none	none
c. Total Paid and/or Requested	1,440,758	1,461,760
d. Free Distribution	1,835	1,821
(1) Free Outside-County Mailed Copies		
(2-3) Free In-County/Other	none	none
(4) Free Distributed Outside the Mail	6,509	6,324
e. Total Free Distribution	8,344	8,145
f. Total Distribution	1,449,102	1,469,905
g. Copies not Distributed	257	206
h. Total	1,449,359	1,470,111
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested	99.42%	99.45%

16. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	none	none
b. Total Paid Print Copies	1,440,758	1,461,760
c. Total Print Distribution	1,449,102	1,469,905
d. Percent Paid	99.42%	99.45%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2017 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date
, Managing Editor October 1, 2017

Into the Woods

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS, our readers love the thrill of adventure—and, boy, do they have an eye for nature! They rooted around and dug up more good stuff than you can shake a stick at. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

WEB EXTRAS ▶ See more photos online.



▲ **JACK MILCHANOWSKI**, Wise EC: A cougar stalks prey in the woods.

▶ **SARAH ELKINS**, Wood County EC: “Sunday afternoon at Tyler State Park”

▼ **STEVE STEGER**, Karnes EC: “A lone fisherman out at sunrise in a cypress forest at Caddo Lake”



UPCOMING CONTESTS

MARCH DOWNTOWN	DUE NOVEMBER 10
APRIL WESTERN WEAR	DUE DECEMBER 10
MAY PROM NIGHT	DUE JANUARY 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.



▲ **LINDA BRANNEN**, Pedernales EC: “Seaside to Indian Beach, Oregon, is a portion of the Lewis and Clark trail.”

◀ **BOBBY NORRIS**, Pedernales EC: “Small wooden footbridge leading into the woods at Rocky Mountain National Park”

Pick of the Month Scottish Gathering & Highland Games

Salado November 10-12
(254) 947-5232, saladoscottishfestival.com

The gathering, which began in 1961 and is said to be the oldest Scottish festival in Texas, includes the skirl of the bagpipes, the wearing of the tartan, tossing the caber, highland dancing and Celtic entertainers. A main feature is the Clan Village, where Scottish clan members speak about history and genealogy.



November

7

Tyler First Tuesday in the Garden/Master Gardeners, (903) 590-2980, txmg.org/smith

8

Harlingen [8-12] Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, (956) 423-5565, rgvbf.org

9

Neches [9-12] Mudaholic Convention, (903) 724-4100, riverrunpark.com

10

Bastrop [10-11] Heroes & Hotrods Car Show, (512) 303-0558, bastropdowntown.com

Winnsboro [10-11] Art and Wine Festival, (903) 850-1772, facebook.com/winnsborartwine

11

Lucas Ribs n' Raptors, (469) 964-9696, bpraptorcenter.org



November 18
Jasper
Lakes Area Cruisers Car Show

Schulenburg Freyburg UMC Country Christmas Bazaar, (979) 217-1151, freyburgumc.org/country-christmas-bazaar

Bulverde [11-12] The Enjoyment of Model Railroading, (830) 438-4864, santrak.org

16

Bedias Country Market and Baked Potato Supper, (936) 577-0536

PIPERS: COURTESY SALADO MUSEUM AND COLLEGE PARK. CARS: MITRANDIR | DREAMTIME.COM. GIRL: ACIK | DREAMTIME.COM

BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS



Family owned, Texas-built

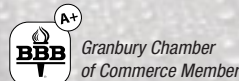
Lifetime guarantee against leaks

Great for circulation, arthritis, stiff joints and relaxation

Now Offering ONYX Custom Showers

CALL FOR PRICING
(we give approximate pricing for the tubs and showers)
If you have any questions, please give us a call.

Visit Our Showroom
3411 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury



888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

ATTENTION MOBILE HOME OWNERS

EXPERT INSTALLATION
LIFETIME WARRANTY
REDUCED ELECTRIC BILL INCREASED HOME VALUE
INSURANCE CREDIT STOP LEAKS
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE

PERMA-ROOF[®]
from Southern Builders



Since 1983
roofover.com
800.633.8969



Longview [16-19] *My Son Pinocchio Jr.*, (903) 236-7535, artsviewchildrenstheatre.com

17

Bryan Lights On!, (979) 822-4920, downtownbryan.com

Milam [17-18] Settlers Day Weekend, (409) 625-4876, milamsettlersday.org

18

Jasper [18-19] Lakes Area Cruisers Car Show, (409) 384-2762, jaspercoc.org

20

Cleburne Whistle Stop Christmas Lighting Ceremony, (817) 645-2455, visitcleburne.com

23

Boerne [23-Dec. 31] Christmas Light Fest, (210) 434-2340, christmaslightfest.com

24

Galveston Holiday Lighting Celebration, (409) 765-7721, hotelgalvez.com

25

Coldspring Town Lighting, (936) 653-2332

Granbury Rio Brazos Star Party, (817) 326-6005, actontx.com/events

December

1

Fredericksburg Light the Night Christmas Parade & Afterglow, (830) 997-5000, lightthenightchristmasparade.com

2

Elgin Holiday by the Tracks, (512) 285-4515, eljintx.com

Farmersville Farmers & Fleas Market, (972) 784-6846, farmersvilletx.com



December 2
Lampasas
Carol of Lights

La Grange Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center Christmas Open House and Gala, 1-888-785-4500, czechtexas.org

Lampasas Carol of Lights, (512) 556-2224, lampasaschamber.org

Smithville Festival of Lights, (512) 237-2313, explorebastropcounty.com

Wylie Arts Festival Parade and Tree Lighting, (972) 516-6000, wylitexas.gov/artsfestival

Denison [Dec. 9, 16] Home Front Christmas Saturdays, (903) 465-8908, visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com

5

Nederland Lighted Christmas Parade, (409) 722-0279, nederlandtx.com

7

Columbus Ladies Night Out, (979) 732-8385, columbus-texas.org

Jacksonville Christmas Parade, (903) 586-2217

Submit Your Event!

We pick events for the magazine directly from *TexasCoopPower.com*. Submit your event for January by November 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

**TRACTOR
GEAR
FOR
YOUR
FRONTIER**

Visit www.bucketeegear.com
for product video, testimonials and dealer locations.

david@bucketeegear.com
254-640-5014

**MULTIPLE TOOL IMPLEMENT WITH
UNLIMITED USES!
DEALER INQUIRES WELCOME!**

GET THE TEXAS CO-OP POWER
E-NEWSLETTER

**SIGN UP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com**

WARD WHITETAILS

GREAT HUNTING
High Concentration and Lots of Variety
Trophy Bucks | Shooters-Stockers | Bred Does

WE ARE A CLASS ONE DEALER
Transportation Available
Call Neal To Reserve Your Preferred Dates

361-537-9329
3141 Vicksburg | Corpus Christi, TX 78410

Saving Face in Malakoff

Mystique of the Malakoff Man started with discovery of carved head 90 years ago

BY MARILYN JONES

MANY TEXANS HAVE LONG BEEN CURIOUS about the large carved heads found near Malakoff, population 2,300, on Texas Highway 31 in Henderson County.

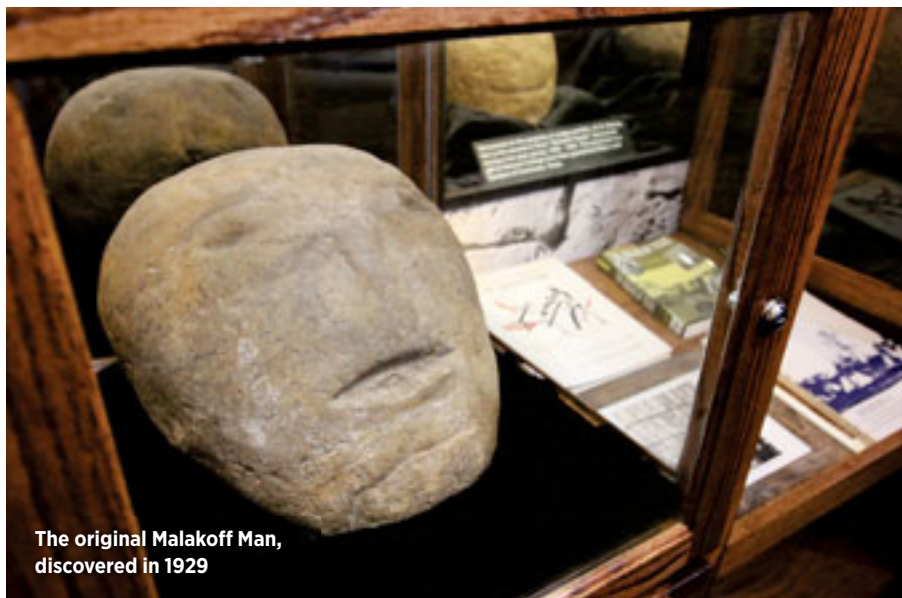
Most visitors drive through Malakoff on their way to Athens or Corsicana. The town dates to the early 1800s and thrived with the arrival of a railroad and the discovery of lignite (brown coal) in 1912. In 1904, Malakoff had nine general stores, three hotels, two grocery stores, three drugstores, a furniture store, two lumberyards, three theaters, a brick company, a butcher shop, six doctors, two barbers, an undertaker and nine builders.

To understand the area's greatest natural mystery, I check in with Pat Isaacson, director of the **Malakoff Historical Society and Museum**. The museum occupies a grand house on East Main Street and contains exact casts of the three heads designated as "the Malakoff Man."

Isaacson explains that in 1929, Thomas Bartlett, owner of Malakoff Pressed Brick Company (now Acme Brick Company), sent a crew to the Trinity River for a load of gravel. The workers knew when they found a 98-pound, 16-inch-long sculpture of a head that "they had something valuable. They brought it back to Mr. Bartlett," Isaacson says.

Bartlett displayed the head in his store until mining engineer V.C. Doctorman contacted the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin.

According to the Texas State Historical Association, Elias Howard Sellards, geologist and paleontologist, inspected the head and proclaimed it authentic. When a second head was discovered, in 1935, Glen Evans of the University of Texas at Austin decided further excavation was



The original Malakoff Man, discovered in 1929

justified. From 1929 to 1939, "they found three heads and the remains of mastodons, camels and sloths as big as steers," Isaacson says.

To view the original heads, I drive to Corsicana and visit the **Pearce Museum** at Navarro College. Ann Zembala, museum director, explains that one of the heads was donated to the museum several years ago by Mary Love Sanders, who had inherited the head from her great uncle, who owned the quarry where it was found.

With the help of state Rep. Byron Cook, the other two heads were moved to Corsicana from the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas.

"They were discovered on the same piece of land within a 10-year time frame, but until now they have never been housed or displayed together," Zembala says. "Our new *Hunter Gatherers of the Blackland Prairie* exhibit is the perfect place for the three heads to be on permanent display."

The exhibit also features 44,000 prehistoric Native American tools and relics, many used for hunting mammoths, buffalo and other animals.

According to the TSHA, Sellards believed the first head came from an Eocene geological formation dating 50,000–

100,000 years ago and predates the first-known occupation of the continent by Paleo-Indians. More recent studies, however, show the deposit is Late Pleistocene and dates the heads to the era of the Paleo-Indians. As noted in the *Handbook of Texas*, other experts place the finds in the Archaic period, 3,000–4,000 years ago, based on a vague similarity to the colossal heads found along the Gulf and made by craftsmen of the Olmec civilization.

Some authorities ignore the validity of the Malakoff Man, while skeptics believe modern metal tools were used to carve the first head.

Another question arises because no other relics were unearthed with the heads. The excavation stopped in 1939 after discovery of the third head. The excavation site was inundated by Cedar Creek Reservoir, a recreational site north of Malakoff. Because no further excavation or research can take place, there always will be speculation surrounding the Malakoff Man. The mystery will remain.

Marilyn Jones lives in Henderson and writes about travel.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read about previous visits to Henderson County.

IT'S AGGIE® TIME!

CUSTOM DESIGN FEATURES INCLUDE

- Dramatic Texas A&M Aggies® team colors and logo
- 3 chronograph sub-dials and date window
 - Precision quartz movement
 - Adjustable c-clasp bracelet

Now, you can support your Aggies® and show your pride in style with a new jewelry exclusive—the “Texas A&M Aggies® Collector’s Watch” available only from The Bradford Exchange. This striking team watch is hand-crafted in a bold design enhanced with the team colors and logo on the dial. The watch features 3 sub-dials to track seconds, minutes and hours, and a date window. Styled with a brushed silver-tone stainless steel bracelet, bezel, hands and hour markers, the watch’s Precision Quartz Movement provides dependable accuracy while the adjustable “C-clasp” allows for a comfortable fit. Etched on the stainless steel case back is the university logo, name, and the founding year and the side is etched with “12TH MAN®!”. It’s also water resistant up to 3 ATMs.

A Remarkable Value ... Available for a Limited Time

An impressive way to show your team loyalty and pride, or a wonderful gift for a Texas A&M Aggies® fan that you know, the watch comes with Certificate of Authenticity in a custom presentation case. An exceptional value at \$149*, you can pay for it in 5 easy monthly installments of \$29.80.



Comes in a custom-designed case

To reserve your watch, backed by our unconditional, money-back, 120-day guarantee and a full-year limited warranty, send no money now; just fill out and send in the Priority Reservation. But don't delay... this is a limited-time offer not available in stores!

*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to bradfordexchange.com/use-tax.

www.bradfordexchange.com/20886

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW



9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the “Texas A&M Aggies® Collector’s Watch” for me as described in this announcement. **Please Respond Promptly**

*Plus a total of \$11.98 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment of your jewelry item. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

TEXAS A&M AGGIES® COLLECTOR'S WATCH



Etched on the back with the team logo, name and the year the university was founded—1876



Etched on the side with 12TH MAN®!

An Officially Licensed Custom Jewelry Design

The indicia featured on this product are protected trademarks of the Texas A&M University Aggies®.

©2017 The Bradford Exchange Printed in U.S.A. 01-20886-001-BIB

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

01-20886-001-E54802

YOU WEREN'T BORN IN A BARN, BUT YOU CAN LIVE IN ONE.

There's probably nothing more popular right now than barndominiums. Texans have always loved to do things in a unique way and their choice of living spaces is no different.

More Texans are building barndominiums on their rural property, and they're also trusting Germania to insure their unique metal home.

Barndominiums are affordable to build, easy to maintain and more energy efficient than most conventional construction rural homes.

And Germania has unique coverages for the barndominiums that Texans love.

For more than 120 years Germania has specialized in protecting rural Texas property, so we know a lot about the unique places that Texans call home – including barndominiums!

Find your local Germania agent at www.GermaniaInsurance.com and let Germania insure *your* barndominium!



The Insurance Texans Trust

www.GermaniaInsurance.com


Germania Insurance
BARNDOMINIUM
TEXAS UNIQUE