

SANTAS DELIVER
YEAR-ROUND JOY

CROCKETT'S FIDDLE:
AN ALAMO MYSTERY

MEADOW OASIS:
NATURE TAKES OVER

Texas Coop Power

FOR BLUEBONNET EC MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Texas, for Reel

Films that show
a state perfectly cast
for the big screen

**BLUEBONNET
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

At Mueller, we soar above the rest with our manufacturing capabilities, outstanding quality and long-lasting performance. From workshops and agricultural buildings to complex projects such as airplane hangars, we provide solid building solutions backed by an even stronger warranty. Contact us today to take-off on your dream building.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



September 2020



08

Reel Moments

Film trails guide cinephiles through a slice of the state's silver screen history.

By Jessica Ridge

14 'Tis Always the Season

Lone Star Santas deliver joy when and where children need it.

*Story by Melissa Gaskill
Illustration by David Moore*

04 **Currents**

06 **TCP Talk**

18 **Co-op News**
Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

29 **Footnotes in Texas History**
Davy Crockett's Fiddle
By Gene Fowler

30 **TCP Kitchen**
Game Day Eats
By Megan Myers

34 **Hit the Road**
Fronds in High Places
By Chet Garner

37 **Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: Shapes

38 **Observations**
Meadow Oasis
By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

ON THE COVER

Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean in *Giant*.

Photo by Warner Brothers | Getty Images

ABOVE

Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway in *Bonnie and Clyde*.

Photo by Fotos International | Getty Images

Where Trouble Was Brewing

JEFF GERRITT, editor of the *Palestine Herald-Press*, won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in May. He received the award for a series of editorials revealing medical neglect and horrific deaths of county jail inmates in the paper's own Anderson County and other county jails in rural Texas, where inmates are awaiting trial.

Gerritt had stepped out for a cup of coffee before word came that he had won one of journalism's highest honors. The *Herald-Press* publisher greeted an astonished Gerritt with the news in the newspaper parking lot when he returned. "I just broke down and fell to the ground," he said.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I CAN'T BELIEVE I BOUGHT ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and city. Here are some of the responses to our July prompt:

It's not really summer until ...



BALES OF BENJAMINS

There's enough cotton in one bale, which weighs about 500 pounds, to make about 300,000 \$100 bills. The Texas High Plains produces 3.7 million cotton bales a year.

More than 4,500 films have been shot in Texas since 1910.

You hear a Texan say, "It ain't the heat; it's the humidity."

JESSICA MURRAY
BLUEBONNET EC
CALDWELL

The cicada symphony starts playing at sunset.

TONY HALL
VIA FACEBOOK

The lines start getting longer at the raspa (snow cone) stand.

LUIS GARZA
NUECES EC
ALICE

To see more responses, read Currents online.

eBay turns 25

The online auction site launched Labor Day weekend 1995 in San Jose, California.

Did You Know?

Company founder Pierre Omidyar listed a broken laser pointer for \$1.

It ended up selling for \$14.83—the site's first transaction.



Roll Call

The *American City Business Journals* compiled enrollment figures for U.S. colleges and compared the 2019 numbers to those from 2013 to determine the fastest-growing colleges in Texas.

TEXAS' TOP FIVE

with their enrollment increase

- 1 University of Texas Permian Basin, Odessa **75%**
- 2 University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler **52%**
- 3 Angelo State University, San Angelo **51%**
- 4 Parker University, Dallas **46%**
- 5 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg **44%**

Pass the Guac

OUR RECIPES THIS MONTH, starting on Page 30, feature Game Day Eats. The largest crowd ever to see a football game in Texas, 110,633, was at Kyle Field in College Station on October 11, 2014, when Texas A&M University hosted Mississippi.

Kyle Field is the fourth-largest college football stadium in the country with a capacity of 102,733.

Our dishes may not feed quite that many.



TCP Contests and More

[ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://ONTEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST
Forests

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Quick Breads and Muffins
Easy dough if your recipe wins.
Enter online.

WEB EXTRA
Learn more about plein air painting in Texas.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Something's Fishy Here

“While I don’t believe in paranormal activities, all of the items and foods mentioned make me really homesick for the ‘old’ days.”

SARENA MICHAELS
COSERV
LITTLE ELM

Georgia O’Keeffe in Texas

Thank you for the brilliant story on Georgia O’Keeffe by Chris Burrows [*Palo Duro Love Letters*, July 2020]. It is great with the large photos and timely information about the new book. We had visited the Canyon campus in 2015 and had a very hard time locating the tiny O’Keeffe section of its holdings. I am so delighted that a new person has taken such an interest.

Priscilla Poupore
Taylor EC
Clyde



I used to see them all the time growing up [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. I was wondering what happened to them. Good to know they are trying to bring them back.

GLADYS CLARIDGE
VIA FACEBOOK

Who’s a Texan?

Pam LeBlanc’s decision that she is indeed a Texan [*No Longer a Yankee*, July 2020] may be a bit premature. Stating that her “personal vehicle is a bicycle, with a Fiat Spyder convertible as a backup” tends to make me believe she is an Austinite rather than a Texan.

Charles Busbey
Pedernales EC
Dripping Springs

Vintage Winedale

The performances and, most of all, the students bringing Shakespeare’s characters brilliantly to life are the highlight of the summer for me. I so enjoyed Clayton Maxwell’s memory of Shakespeare at Winedale [*Sweet Adversity*, July 2020], with her perspective on what it was like to be a part of it all, onstage, 30 years before.

Linda St. Clair
Pedernales EC
Austin



I have an opposite story from Pam’s. I am a 67-year-old native-born Texan who has lived out of Texas since I was 25. I am still Texan, not Floridian.

Gayl Mikeska Brotherton Laird
Taylor EC
DeFuniak Springs, Florida

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

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

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Email Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • Vice Chair Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo
Board Members Greg Henley, Tahoka • Billy Jones, Corsicana
David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Marty Haight, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • Mark McClain, Roby • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham
Robert Walker, Gilmer • Brandon Young, McGregor

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • Associate Editor Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtsek • Creative Manager Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • Senior Communications Specialist Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • Communications Specialist Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • Communications Specialist Jessica Ridge
Digital Field Editor Chris Salazar • Senior Designer Jane Sharpe • Proofreader Ellen Stader

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 3 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. 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 Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. 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 2020 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wiredhand © Copyright 2020 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Discovered! Unopened Bag of 138-Year-Old Morgan Silver Dollars

Unopened for
138 Years!

*Coin experts amazed by
“Incredible Opportunity”*

The Morgan Silver Dollar is the most popular and iconic vintage U.S. coin. They were the Silver Dollars of the Wild West, going on countless untold adventures in dusty saddlebags across the nation. Finding a secret hoard of Morgans doesn't happen often—and when it does, it's a *big deal*.

How big? Here's numismatist, author and consultant to the Smithsonian® Jeff Garrett:

“It's very rare to find large quantities of Morgan Silver Dollars, especially in bags that have been sealed... to find several thousand Morgan Silver Dollars that are from the U.S. Treasury Hoards, still unopened, is really an incredible opportunity.”

-Jeff Garrett

But where did this unique hoard come from? Read on...

Morgans from the New Orleans Mint

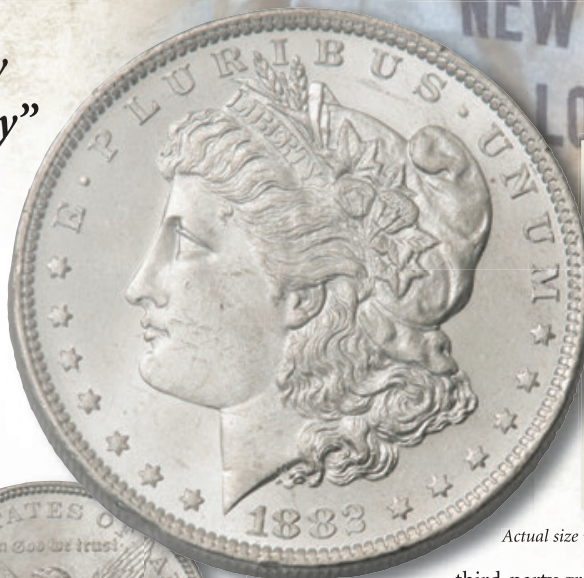
In 1859, Nevada's Comstock Lode was discovered, and soon its rich silver ore made its way across the nation, including to the fabled New Orleans Mint, the only U.S. Mint branch to have served under the U.S. government, the State of Louisiana and the Confederacy. In 1882, some of that silver was struck into Morgan Silver Dollars, each featuring the iconic “O” mint mark of the New Orleans Mint. Employees then placed the freshly struck coins into canvas bags...

The U.S. Treasury Hoard

Fast-forward nearly 80 years. In the 1960s, the U.S. government opened its vaults and revealed a massive store of Morgan Silver Dollars—including *full, unopened bags* of “fresh” 1882-O Morgan Silver Dollars. A number of bags were secured by a child of the Great Depression—a southern gentleman whose upbringing showed him the value of hard assets like silver. He stashed the unopened bags of “fresh” Morgans away, and there they stayed...

The Great Southern Treasury Hoard

That is, until *another* 50 years later, when the man's family finally decided to sell the coins—still in their unopened bags—which we secured, bag and all! We submitted the coins to respected



Actual size is 38.1 mm

- ✓ Historic Morgan Silver Dollars
- ✓ Minted in New Orleans
- ✓ Struck and bagged in 1882
- ✓ Unopened for 138 years
- ✓ 26.73 grams of 90% fine silver
- ✓ Hefty 38.1 mm diameter
- ✓ Certified Brilliant Uncirculated by NGC
- ✓ Certified “Great Southern Treasury Hoard” pedigree
- ✓ Limit five coins per household

third-party grading service Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), and they agreed to honor the southern gentleman by giving the coins the pedigree of the “Great Southern Treasury Hoard.”

These gorgeous 1882-O Morgans are as bright and new as the day they were struck and bagged 138 years ago. Coins are graded on a 70-point scale, with those graded at least Mint State-60 (MS60) often referred to as “Brilliant Uncirculated” or BU. Of all 1882-O Morgans struck, *LESS THAN 1% have earned a Mint State grade*. This makes these unopened bags of 1882-O Morgans extremely rare, certified as being in BU condition—nearly unheard of for coins 138 years old.

Don't Miss This Rare Opportunity—Order Now!

Regular 1882-O Morgans sell elsewhere for as much as \$133, and that's without the original brilliant shine these “fresh” 138-year-old coins have, without their special NGC hoard designation, and without their ability to tell their full, complete story from the Comstock Lode all the way to your collection.

Given the limited quantity of coins available from this historic hoard, we must set a strict limit of five coins per household. Call quickly to secure yours today as supplies are sure to sell out quickly!

1882-O Morgan Silver Dollar NGC Certified BU from the Great Southern Treasury Hoard — \$99 ea.

FREE SHIPPING on 2 or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service

1-888-324-9125

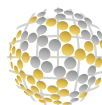
Offer Code MSH234-01

Please mention this code when you call



GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. MSH234-01, Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2020 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



GovMINT.COM®



BY JESSICA RIDGE

REEL MOMENTS

Film trails guide cinephiles through a slice of Texas' silver screen history



Giant's outsize reputation precedes it. The 1956 movie's 201-minute running time, wide-open West Texas landscape and generations-spanning timeline all connote epic. The film, based on Edna Ferber's book of the same name, also garnered its director an Oscar. Despite that accolade, and the film's nominations for a passel of others, some present-day viewers are wary.

"I show this to my graduate students, who expect to hate it, and they wind up—I don't want to say they love it—but they wind up being amazed by this movie," says Tom Schatz, author and film professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He acknowledges the movie's challenging running time and its parallel cultural heft. "In its own way, it's an extremely progressive movie," he says, that influenced the perception of Texas as "more nuanced, more sophisticated, and more oriented toward Mexico and the Southwest."

The Texas Film Commission includes *Giant* on its Texas Classics Trail, one of the self-guided tours it offers from which cinephiles can build itineraries of film production sites statewide. Since 1971, the film commission has supported the state as a production hub by connecting film-makers with locations, staff, grants and other resources. Through the choose-your-own-adventure setup of its film trails, the TFC encourages movie fans to explore Texas' silver screen history while supporting local communities and economies.

The making of *Giant* accomplished that latter aim, according to Vicki Barge, general manager of Marfa's Hotel Paisano, a stop on the trail and where the movie's cast stayed for the first two weeks of production. "At the time it

was filmed, it was this huge shot in the arm for Marfa," she says. "There were four hotels in town, and cast and crew filled every room."

Even after its famous guests had decamped to private residences nearby, the Paisano remained a hangout. "They took a lot of meals together here, even after they were not living here," says Barge. The U-shaped bar at the hotel's restaurant was at that time a lunch counter. Lined with windows at perpendicular angles, it's easy to imagine the film's stars—Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean among them—lingering there in a desert light-filled inverse of Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks*.

Giant cast photos today line the hotel's hallways, a primer for the uninitiated, who can watch the movie in full in a quiet corner of the gift shop. It's an opportunity at least some guests avail themselves of. "They don't often sit through the entire show but will watch for a while," Barge says. "It's a long movie!"

Still, "it's got its moments," according to Schatz, "where it's getting at the human element in a pretty touching way." The silent, somber homecoming of a Mexican American veteran of World War II; an underdog's insouciant wave as he exits a meeting; a woman's acidly articulated response to being shut out of a conversation about politics; and the film's parting look at two infants, whose contrasting skin tones don't preclude the sharing of a playpen and a lineage in 1950s Texas, despite the scene's discordant use of an epithet. "What it's doing with race and class and gender is pretty remarkable," Schatz says.

Elizabeth Taylor, foreground, on the set of *Giant*. The film's Reata Ranch and mansion facade are in the background.





★
SELENA

A trailblazer herself, Selena Quintanilla Pérez inspired the eponymous 1997 biopic on the Texas Classics Trail. And though it cites Corpus Christi’s Swantner Park, the waterfront backdrop for a scene in *Selena*, trail-goers can veer from the official path to the coastal city’s Selena Museum and bayside *Mirador de la Flor* to learn about the singer, who was murdered at 23 in 1995.

At the bilevel mirador, whose name translates to “view-point of the flower,” a bronze likeness of Selena stands, accompanied by narration about the barrier-breaking Tejano artist, interspersed with snippets of *Como la Flor*. The song was one of Selena y los Dinos’ first U.S. hits and has inspired a swath of genre-bridging covers from artists including country performer Kacey Musgraves and indie duo Dracula. The cumbia’s effervescence almost obscures its narrator’s lament, which likens the end of a love affair to a dying flower.

A performance of *Como la Flor* in *Selena* marks the sole instance in Jennifer Lopez’s portrayal of the artist in which Lopez sings, the song’s first few words only, in a scene where her



character must calm the crowd at an overcapacity outdoor venue, with the integrity of the band’s stage threatened.

A different moment in the film can be experienced vicariously at the Selena Museum. A studio in which Lopez’s Selena records in the movie—and where Selena herself recorded the song *Dreaming of You*—is housed at the museum. The studio’s acoustic panels are the same ones that appear in the film, in a scene punctuated with a simple request: “Hey, Dad, pizza!”

Selena’s Porsche, which has a cameo in the movie, is on display at the museum, along with her Grammy—the first awarded to a female Tejano artist for best Mexican American album. Outfits rendered iconic as markers of specific performances are displayed, along with clothing designs sketched by Selena.

A less-trafficked corner of the museum bears a collage of Selena snapshots. In many, she’s dressed casually and wears little or no makeup. Her smile radiates joy. In conjunction with *Selena*, the images hint at the person behind the performer. They also gesture to a lyric in *Como la Flor*: “*Cómo me duele.*”

How it hurts.

TOP LEFT Except for the first few words of *Como la Flor* in the Monterrey concert scene, Jennifer Lopez lip-synced her singing parts.
LEFT Selena in concert in 1995.

LOPEZ: RICCO TORRES | AFP | GETTY IMAGES; SELENA: ARLENE RICHELIE | MEDIA SOURCES | GETTY IMAGES



BONNIE AND CLYDE

Art imitates life again on the Texas Classics Trail, albeit several hours north and three decades earlier. Pilot Point's town square is home to the Farmers and Merchants Bank building, where a robbery scene from *Bonnie and Clyde* was filmed. To commemorate its spell in the limelight, the town north of Dallas hosts an annual Bonnie and Clyde Days Festival, which includes a reenactment of the scene.

Wayne Purser, a longtime member of CoServ, an electric cooperative in Corinth, coordinates, performs in and corals volunteers for the scene's annual reprise. Sometimes the wrangling requires some straight talk. In 2019 a prospective Clyde showed up to audition with long hair and a beard. Given the look's incongruity with hairstyles popular in the 1930s, when the movie is set, Purser put it plainly: "Dude, that's not gonna work." The man returned, less hirsute, and clinched the role, earning praise from Purser for his acting chops.

Purser plays the town sheriff in the reenactment, which is rife with antique vehicles, weapons that fire blanks, and actors and spectators in period dress. Whereas the movie scene occurs in and outside of the bank building, the reenactment satellites the Richardsonian Romanesque structure that today appears essentially identical to how it looks in the 1967 film.

Though the actual pair of outlaws never robbed Farmers and Merchants Bank, which closed during the Depression, the site doesn't want for history. The building dates to 1896 and has been home to Farmers and Merchants Gallery, a purveyor of antiques and art, since 1975. The space's erstwhile identity shines through occasionally. Marly McCullough, the gallery's manager, has found century-old checks tucked away in drawers used by the bank's tellers. "The oldest one I've come across was from 1906," she says. "I have a ton of those that I have kept."

Other handwritten finds have also popped up. A visitor in her 60s came across a book from her childhood. She knew it was hers because she had written her name in it, perhaps around the time a movie about a ragtag group on the lam was leaving its imprint on Pilot Point.

The alchemy of those moments echoes the power of movies to transport. "To me, it's magical. Like once I step inside there, it's another world, and the outside world is almost put on hold for a while," McCullough says. "It's my favorite place in the world."



TOP Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway played the title characters in 1967's *Bonnie and Clyde*.

ABOVE The gang races out of Pilot Point's Farmers and Merchants Bank building in a scene from the movie.



★
BOYHOOD

Boyhood is a different kind of movie. It follows its actors over 12 years as they age, change and criss-cross the state, then distills that footage into a 165-minute panorama of a fractured Texas family, moored in love, figuring it out as they go. Though its title implies a focus on a single character, the movie offers a naturalistic depiction of the interiority and ecology of a post-divorce family, anchored by Patricia Arquette’s Oscar-winning portrayal of single parenthood. The film is included on the Texas Film Commission’s Richard Linklater Trail, which guides visitors to seven *Boyhood* sites in Central, Southeast and West Texas.

From its second year of production in 2003 through *Boyhood*’s 2013 completion, Matt Lankes worked as the film’s still photographer, capturing behind-the-scenes photos of cast and crew. As he was shooting those images, Lankes conducted a parallel photography project on the film’s set: a series of black-and-white portraits of the movie’s four main actors that culminated in his book *Boyhood: Twelve Years on Film*.

“It was like we became a family over the years,” Lankes says. “It was always a wonderful reunion for the three to five days that we would shoot each year.” The portraits he

made suspend time and mark its passage for each of Lankes’ subjects. “We all were watching each other get older,” Lankes says, “and it was amazing.”

The closing scenes of *Boyhood* were filmed in West Texas in October 2013. Originally intended to be filmed in Big Bend National Park, a 16-day shutdown of the federal government scrambled those plans and diverted the movie’s cast and crew to Big Bend Ranch State Park. Even a cursory look at the film’s final few moments, backlit by a violet and pink sky, show that the finished product didn’t suffer from the ad hoc change in locale.

“Thankfully, you know, that part of our state is so wonderful,” Lankes says. The park’s otherworldly rock formations at its Hoodoos Trail appear in the movie, along with Closed Canyon, whose soaring walls approximate hiking in a natural cathedral.

Boyhood’s protagonist, Mason, college-age at this point in the film, meanders through the canyon with a trio of new friends near the film’s end. “It’s just a beautiful scene—they’re in a real moment, and it’s just kids doing what kids do,” Lankes says. “The landscape is irreplaceable.” ■

ABOVE Ellar Coltrane, left, and Jessi Mechler in the final scene of *Boyhood*, shot in Big Bend Ranch State Park.

TCP WEB EXTRA See a map of film trails in Texas.

Celebrate Your Love and Loyalty

for the Lone Star State



PRIDE of TEXAS

Ladies Black Sapphire Bracelet

Everything is bigger in Texas, especially Texas pride! Now you can show your love for the Lone Star State, and what it means to be a true Texan, with a bold and beautiful new jewelry exclusive—the "Pride of Texas" Ladies Black Sapphire Bracelet, only from The Bradford Exchange.

Stunning Style for Every Texas Gal

Hand-crafted in shimmering solid stainless steel ion-plated in rich 24K gold, this chain link bracelet features a bold and beautiful centerpiece that speaks to the spirit of Texas in every aspect of its design. In raised relief against a black enamel backdrop are the proud colors of the Texas flag, a sculpted Texas longhorn and a banner that reads TEXAS PRIDE. A tooled leather-look pattern and twisted rope detailing surround the centerpiece, while a pavé of genuine black sapphires glistens between rope borders at both ends. A Texas star stands out above the design on the front, and the reverse side is etched with the Texas motto: COURAGE, LIBERTY, LOYALTY, along with the distinctive shape of the state and two Texas stars. The 7½" bracelet with locking clasp comfortably fits most wrists.

A Remarkable Value... Available for a Limited Time

This impressive bracelet arrives in a velvet jewelry pouch with a gift box and a Certificate of Authenticity. Available at just \$129.99*, you can pay for it in 4 easy installments of \$32.50. To reserve yours, backed by our 120-day guarantee, order today! Just mail the attached Priority Reservation and we'll reserve one for you now.

Dazzling Pavé of Genuine Black Sapphires

Solid Stainless Steel Ion-plated with 24K Gold

Custom Details Honoring the Pride of Texas



Etched on the Back with the Texas Motto: COURAGE, LIBERTY, LOYALTY... Along with an Outline of the State and 2 Texas Stars

Exclusively from The Bradford Exchange

Connect with Us!

©2020 The Bradford Exchange 01-28435-002-B1

Order Today at bradfordexchange.com/284352

Satisfaction Guaranteed

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis. So please respond as soon as possible to reserve your bracelet.



9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "Pride of Texas" Ladies Black Sapphire Bracelet for me as described in this announcement.

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-Mail (Optional) _____

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

01-28435-002-E54801

BY MELISSA GASKILL
ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MOORE

'Tis Always the Season

Lone Star Santas
deliver joy when and
where there is a need

SANTA CLAUS LIVES IN TEXAS. Actually, hundreds of Santa Clauses do, and they spread cheer all year long through a group called Lone Star Santas.

"It's a calling," says Gene Goetz of San Antonio, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative. He got his first Santa gig in 1981 for a twins club where his boys participated. "I bought a suit and a fake beard, and it was a lot of fun," he says. "I did that for a few years and then started doing a lot of charity work." In 2014, Goetz took his first role as a professional Santa Claus at San Antonio's Ingram Park Mall. That's when he heard about Lone Star Santas.

One of the organization's co-founders, Jim Fletcher of Cypress—whose voicemail says, "Apparently, I'm off feeding the reindeer or packing toys or helping Mrs. Claus bake cookies"—became a Santa somewhat by accident. "My then-fiancée, Madge, invited me to a homeowners association meeting, where we learned that their usual Santa was ill," Fletcher says. "I didn't have a beard then, but I did have the girth. They asked me if I could be Santa, and I said sure, why not? I bought a suit and a book on how to be a Santa, dressed up, did the gig and fell in love with it."

When Fletcher and Madge married the following June, Madge walked down the aisle to the tune of *Here Comes Santa Claus* rather than the traditional *Here Comes the Bride*. In 2007 Fletcher and fellow Santa Gene Clayton decided to start Lone Star Santas. They welcome any Santa, Mrs. Claus, elf, reindeer herder or other Texan with the spirit—counting more than 400 members today.

After an EF5 tornado hit Joplin, Missouri, in 2011, Fletcher rounded up a bunch of members, collected toy donations and drove to Joplin to hand them out. The expedition inspired the group's ongoing mission, Convoy of Toys.

"When disaster strikes, we bring love, hope and joy, and a big Santa hug along with trailers full of toys," Goetz says.



"We go wherever houses get destroyed and kids are displaced and lose their toys. After the [Hurricane] Harvey flood in Houston, we went into the shelters. Everyone is sad, then a few Santas walk in and the entire mood changes."

The group also participates in the Belton Fourth of July parade each year, with many Santas wearing country-western-style suits. They attend a dinner with the Temple Elks Lodge and visit the area children's hospital and veterans facility. "The vets love us," Fletcher says. "We give them a stuffed toy and an American flag, and it brightens their day. And it brightens our day to see their reaction."

Karen Stagner, who works with the Elks Lodge to arrange the Fourth of July parade, says the Lone Star Santas are a hit wherever they go. "It's just a tremendous group," she says, "and some of the most caring people I've ever met."

Goetz says it takes a special heart to be a Santa. "You can go to all the classes and conventions you want, but if being a good Santa isn't in your heart, it isn't going to matter," he says. "People think it is easy, but you have to know how to talk to kids."

Even though 8 in 10 Santas bleach their hair white, Goetz's is naturally that way. His beard and belly are real,



TCP WEB EXTRA

Read about other co-op members who are making a difference in their communities in TCP's Power of Our People program.

too. “The more you look real,” he says, “the more you have kids saying they met the real Santa.”

That reality is not an inexpensive proposition, says member Dennis Queen. “I have about \$4,000 in each suit and have three or four of them,” he says. Queen and his wife, Jane, a Mrs. Claus, relocate from Kerrville to San Antonio in a motor home each Christmas season.

All Lone Star Santas are volunteers. They pay for their own gas, hotel stays and meals on convoys. “Every penny donated to Lone Star Santas stays in it; none of it goes to our members,” Goetz says.

Why go to all the trouble? “It’s important for kids to believe in Santa, to have something to believe in,” he says. “We try to make kids grow up too quick now. A lot of people say it is a calling, and I’m starting to believe it. I’ll probably be buried in my Santa suit.”

The organization sponsors at least one “Santa school” in Texas every year to help teach members the ropes. Jane Queen says she and Dennis also learn a lot from other participants. “Santas are so smart and willing to share their craft,” she says.

“This is who I’ve become, all year long,” Dennis Queen says. “I think I’ve become a different person because of it. Our Christmas tree is up all year long.”

Jane Queen says that when the couple goes out, people regularly call them Santa and Mrs. Claus. “We wouldn’t trade it for anything—meeting the other Santas, the friendships we’ve developed,” she says.

Fletcher agrees that being Santa is a calling. “Once I put on the red suit and walk into a store or restaurant, invariably someone stops me and wants to get a picture with Santa,” he says. When a child says “Hi,” Fletcher explains, all of the attention goes to that child. He appreciates the smiles on every face when he leaves a restaurant because those smiles mean that the people forget about things that are going on and just enjoy a moment.

“I can’t get over what we can do,” he says, “Our brand is love, hope and joy. There’s just a joy to being Santa.” ■

Quickly Absorbs for FAST Pain Relief

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE

Limited Time Only!

AS LOW AS

\$13.33 EACH

LARGE
4 OZ
JAR

90 DAY
MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE

- ✓ Arnica plus Eucalyptus and Emu Oil for muscle and joint pain
- ✓ Non-greasy formula can be used safely up to four times a day
- ✓ Mild scent disappears after application



Order Now!

MAGNILIFE®

PO Box 6789, Dept. TC3, McKinney, TX 75071

Call Toll Free or Order Online
1-800-516-3481
ArnicaPainGel.com

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check/Money Order enclosed payable to: **Magnilife**
 Charge my credit card



Acct. #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV #: _____ Signature: _____

ARNICA Pain Relief Gel

Buy 2 Get 1 FREE - Only \$13.33 per unit ~~\$59.97~~ **\$39.98**

Single unit - \$19.99 per unit **\$19.99**



2-DAY SHIPPING

TOTAL

\$5.95

Arthritis, Muscle, Joint Pain?

Do you suffer from arthritis, muscle or joint pain, stiffness or swelling? Is an aching neck or back keeping you from your daily activities? Now, you can...

Ease stiffness, inflammation and soreness naturally with the Magnilife Arnica Pain Relief Gel.

1-800-516-3481 / ArnicaPainGel.com



Walgreens

amazon

Please send coupon to:
Littleton
Coin Company®
Serving collectors since 1945
Dept. 517421
1309 Mt. Eustis Road
Littleton, NH 03561-3737

Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE**
Total Amount: \$ **FREE**

YES! Please send me the 2009 4-Coin Lincoln Cent Anniversary Set **FREE** (regularly \$1.75), plus **FREE** shipping (limit 1 set).

Number of Sets: **1**

Name _____ Please print clearly

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Special Offer for New Customers Only - Age 18+
ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS



Never to be minted again - **YOURS FREE!**

Birthplace

Formative Years

Professional Life

Presidency

YOURS FREE!

100th Anniversary Lincoln Cents



Get an Uncirculated Set of 100th Anniversary Lincoln Cents - minted only in 2009 to celebrate 4 major stages in Abraham Lincoln's life.

Get the Complete 4-Coin Anniversary Set FREE!

- Contains all 4 designs, each one honoring a stage in Abe Lincoln's life.
- Each design minted for about 3 months and then never again!
- All in preferred Uncirculated condition

Order within 30 days to receive your 4-coin set FREE - plus FREE shipping!

Why are we offering such a great deal? Because we're so sure you'll like this complete **FREE** set that you'll enjoy receiving a **RISK-FREE** trial selection of other popular coins to preview in your home. You'll receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance in 15 days - with option to cancel at any time. To receive your **FREE** 4-coin set, mail attached coupon today!

Special Offer for New Customers Only - Age 18+

END OF SUMMER WINDOW SALE

NO-CONTACT
CONSULTATIONS
AVAILABLE



5 YEARS

0% INTEREST*

— plus —

20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE WINDOW PROJECT



ACT NOW!

This special offer will not last!

HURRY!
SALE ENDS 9/30

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!

Renewal
by Andersen® 
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

CALL (469) 606-5229

rbaofdfw.com

*Offer not available in all areas and ends 9/30/2020 and appointment must occur within 10 days of the initial contact. Discount applies to minimum required purchase. Deferred interest for 60 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only with minimum monthly payment required. Financing is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or familial status. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

Preserving pieces of Texas

To keep their environmentally sensitive acreage pristine for future generations, owners turn to land trusts

Story by Ed Crowell

WHEN MELANIE PAVLAS can get away from paperwork at her small upstairs office on Main Street in Bastrop, she heads for the green part of her job amid rolling hills, prairies and riverfront trails.

As executive director of Pines and Prairies Land Trust, Pavlas is responsible for ownership and management of three nature preserves totaling more than 1,000 acres. At least once a year she visits seven privately owned farms and ranches in the Bluebonnet region to consult with landowners about how they're protecting their land under conservation easements held by the trust.

Founded as a nonprofit in 2001, Pines and Prairies operates in all of Bastrop, Caldwell, Fayette and Lee counties and in eastern Travis County.

Thirty-three other land trusts in Texas are chartered for similar work in specific eco-regions or statewide. Across the United States, 1,363 land trusts are intended to protect environmentally sensitive properties of all kinds, according to the most recent National Land Trust Census released in 2016.

Amid the forests, plains, deserts, mountains and beaches of Texas, 1.7 million acres are permanently protected by land trust ownership or conservation easements agreed to by landowners. No housing developments, shopping centers, gas stations or oil wells can ever be put on these lands.

Continued on page 20

Sarah Beal photo



Leigh Ann Moran photo





Melanie Pavlas, above, hikes with her dogs — poodle Ziggy, terrier Snoopy and big mastiff Clementine — at the Colorado River Refuge on the southeast side of Bastrop. This is the only refuge of Pines and Prairies Land Trust open daily to the public. At left, the sun rises over the Pecore Farm conservation easement in Fayette County, which includes 24 acres of never-plowed blackland prairie.



LAND TRUSTS

Land trusts are nonprofit organizations with a mission to conserve land and water. Such trusts began working in Texas in the 1960s and expanded in the 1990s. Today, more than 30 land trusts operate in Texas. They acquire parks and protected areas, own and manage nature preserves, and arrange conservation easements on private lands.

According to the Texas Land Trust Council, conservation acreage in or near the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative service area (including preserves owned by land trusts and private land under easements) includes:

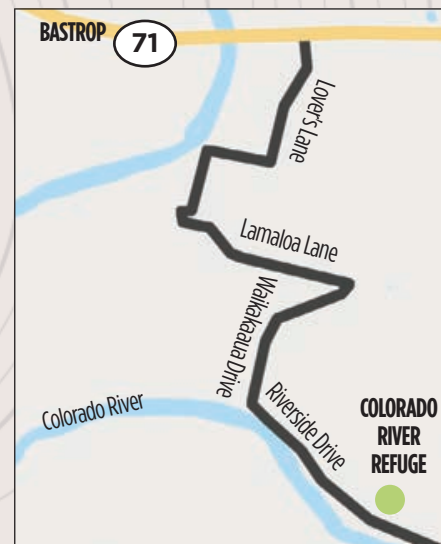
Travis County — 41,969 acres
Bastrop County — 2,409 acres
Williamson County — 2,224 acres
Fayette County — 1,717 acres

Washington County — 523 acres
Lee County — 493 acres
Caldwell County — 479 acres

Read more about conservation easements, page 22



The sole portion of the Pines and Prairies Land Trust open daily to the public, the Colorado River Refuge near Bastrop is home to a variety of wildlife. A trailhead sign illustrates the birds a visitor might spot on the river's banks.



Continued from page 18

That may seem like a lot of off-limits acreage, but consider that Texas spans nearly 172 million acres. Less than 6 percent of the land is public and managed by local, state or federal governments.

The Pines and Prairies Land Trust owns and maintains three preserves — Yegua Knobbs near McDade, the Billig Ranch near Paige and the Colorado River Refuge on the east side of Bastrop. Only the river refuge is open daily to the public. Nature group events and volunteer opportunities are available at all the preserves by contacting the trust at pplt.org/volunteer.

Pavlas, formerly a wildlife biologist with the Lower Colorado River Authority, has headed Pines and Prairies for eight years. At LCRA, she was involved in studies of the black-capped vireo, then an endangered bird species protected by thousands of acres of managed habitat land in Central Texas.

At Pines and Prairies, Pavlas is assisted by a dozen volunteers, many of them certified master naturalists, who work at the preserves. At conservation easement sites such as Pecore Farm, a grasslands and blackland prairie property near Fayetteville, “we depend on landowners to maintain their own properties. But we consult with them and do yearly visits to each place,” she said.

No new preserve acquisitions are on the horizon. “Our strategy is directed

more at doing new easements that landowners might donate to us. The growth of our area is definitely a factor in trying to compete with the development offers that landowners get.”

About 1,500 acres across the Pines and Prairies service area are now under easements that continue in perpetuity, even if the property is sold.

The benefit of a conservation easement to a landowner, in addition to assistance in protecting the land, water and wildlife, is a lower tax bill. Property valuation is greatly reduced once an easement prohibiting future development is signed.

COLORADO RIVER REFUGE

This is the smallest property owned by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust. It is in Bastrop upstream of the Tahitian Village golf course and a Bastrop County boat launch park. But on the three miles of riverfront trails winding through the 65-acre Colorado River Refuge, visitors can feel as if the river environment hasn't changed in a century.

Bald cypress tower over the shoreline. Tall grasses hug the hillsides. Small streams flow to the river in gullies bridged by the trail. Songbirds hide in the brambles and thick woods. And post-oak savannahs and meadowlands spread through the upland parts of the refuge.

The refuge also offers a half-mile wheelchair-accessible paved path, called

the Cottonwood Kings Trail. Three parking areas provide access to the trails (a map is available on the land trust's website at pplt.org/preserves).

The trust acquired the refuge in 2004. Visitors can turn south onto either Lovers Lane or Tahitian Drive from eastbound Texas 71 and drive about four miles to reach 315 Riverside Drive and refuge parking.

YEGUA KNOBBS PRESERVE

On the drive from Bastrop to the land trust's Yegua Knobbs Preserve, Pavlas noted that when she was in high school in Austin she knew the family that owned the property. It was used for recreation and leased for cattle grazing. There is no house on the 302 acres.

Pines and Prairies bought Yegua Knobbs in 2004 to protect the unusual geology, natural habitats and historical significance of the area. (Yegua is the Spanish name for mare.)

The knobbs are a scattered anomaly of seven sandstone mesas that reach up to 750 feet above sea level. Two of the mesas are on the preserve, which is mostly in Lee County but also includes some Bastrop County land.

Settlers moved into the area before the Civil War, locating their farms and ranches along creeks and springs. The nearby town of McDade was established in 1869 as a railroad shipping depot for cotton. It unfortunately also became a

target for cattle rustlers and robbers who hid amid the knobbs and dense woods.

In 1875, a series of killings by outlaws began and vigilantes retaliated with hangings. The violence continued until late 1883, when a deputy sheriff was killed and seven suspected outlaws were hanged. A gunfight in front of the McDade saloon on Christmas Day that year left three more dead.

Historians note that despite the rough-and-tumble past, a large pottery-making company and a lignite coal mining operation flourished in the area in the decades that followed. At the time of the Yegua Knobbs purchase, a strip-mining operation near Elgin was interested in expanding to the area. Pavlas said that helped spur the trust's acquisition.

Pavlas unlocked a couple of gates to the preserve earlier this year and drove to the base of a grassy slope. Atop the hillside, archaeologist Cristin Embree and a couple of volunteers were digging 3-foot-deep test holes in the ground. They found red clay beneath the fine sandy loam topsoil, which could indicate this land was used by brickmakers and potters.

"The famous Austin sculptor Elisabet Ney got clay from this region for her work," Embree said. Some of the earliest manufacturing in Texas after statehood in 1845 happened around McDade with brickmaking, she said.

"Settlers built what were called 'groundhog' kilns that were mostly buried in small hillsides. If we find one, we'll carefully excavate enough to record its size and location and then bury it again to protect it from looting."



Yegua Knobbs, at left, is near McDade. It includes a marshy, spring-fed bog seen as potential habitat for the endangered Houston toad.



Elisabet Ney, the famous Austin sculptor, found clay for her work around the area now protected by the Yegua Knobbs Preserve. Her statues of Texas heroes can be found in the Texas and U.S. capitols.

If an archaeology record is established, the site will be recorded as a State Antiquities Landmark, she said. The exact location will not be available to the public to protect it from vandalism or destruction.

Pavlas walked along an old farm road, pointing out natural features of the preserve. A marshy, spring-fed bog surrounded by grass and mud is where the endangered Houston toad might be found someday. "That's the perfect kind of habitat that the toad likes," she said. "So we keep looking for one."

The burrowing toad's largest known population in Texas is in nearby Bastrop

County. What Pavlas does not want to see is more evidence of wild hogs. The preserve is pocketed with areas where natural vegetation has been uprooted by the voracious animals. The land trust employs hog trappers to keep destruction down.

Pavlas pointed out stands of 40-year-old loblolly pines. "These trees are going to keep thriving here because they are protected forever," she said.

BILLIG RANCH

Billig Ranch, about 10 miles south of Yegua Knobbs, was gifted to the land trust in 2008 by Erwin Billig. The land is 677 acres of post oak savannah that was once a working ranch.

The trust manages the land for Houston toad and monarch butterfly habitats. Several pastures also have been replanted with native prairie grasses.

Although the land is not open to the public, in September 2019, Pines and

Continued on page 22



From right, archaeologist Cristin Embree and volunteers Paula Weisskopf and Sunnie Gonzales dig and sift for red clay beneath the fine sandy loam topsoil of Yegua Knobbs Preserve. Clay could indicate that section of land was used by brickmakers and potters.

Continued from page 21

Prairies hosted a one-day open preserve day at Billig. About 30 people came for a guided birding hike and a walk around the property to look at grasslands restoration. Other similar events are being planned.

Pavlas, who visits Billig Ranch often, said one land management goal there is to show that agriculture can co-exist with native ecology. A small number of cattle are likely to be reintroduced at Billig now that the prairie land has been restored. A tenant lives in the old ranch house on the property and would move the cattle around pastures to prevent overgrazing.

Erwin Billig “was a forward-thinking rancher who wanted to protect the land,” Pavlas said. “It was a big dream of his to restore the entire ranch to native prairie.” Billig died in 2013.

PECORE FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Albert “Bert” Pecore was a successful 30-year-old Houston architect in 1955 when he started looking for a getaway place in the country. A friend mentioned a farm for sale in Fayette County.

What Pecore found were 85 acres with “little grass and two hackberry trees near the house, broken down pens and outbuildings, a small barn and an abandoned house built in 1857.” He saw the land’s potential, and bought it.

A few years later, he bought adjacent land, expanding the farm to a total of 194 acres. He designed and built a small white house on stilts that resembled the Galveston homes near where he kept a sailboat. And he bought 25 head of cattle because that’s what many of his neighbors did – grow grass to be eaten by cows to sell at market.

Pecore died in 2019. His step-daughter Leigh Ann Moran, who lives in Houston, visits the farm most weekends with her mother, Wilda Pecore.

Moran loves what the property eventually became – a model for land conservation. In 2016, the Pecores received a Lone Star Land Steward Award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for turning their farm

Conservation easements

Conservation easements are legal agreements between landowners and the “holder” of the easement. Landowners restrict certain uses of the property to protect natural, productive or cultural features. A government entity or qualified conservation organization holds the conservation easement. Landowners keep the property’s title and determine how the land can and cannot be used.

into a showcase of native grasses and protected soil, including 24 acres of never-plowed blackland prairie.

“What Bert learned over time is that conservation is easy,” Moran said. “You just leave nature alone, manage the invasive growth, and then the native grasses and flowering plants will come back.”

The Pecores signed a conservation easement in 2007 with Pines and Prairies Land Trust for the entire farm. The land will always be subject to the legal agreement’s provisions for natural resources management and prohibition of residential or commercial development.

What the Pecores accomplished under the easement is a lush landscape of five ponds and 10 fenced sections with a wide variety of grasses, plants and colorful waist-high flowers. It didn’t look that way in earlier decades when Bert planted only coastal Bermuda grass for his cows. But he eventually realized how detrimental cattle can be

to the land, compacting soil and eating grasses down so far that recovery is difficult.

Moran showed off the variety of growth in each pasture now and a section the Pecores called their nursery.

This is where they seeded and nurtured native grasses such as Eastern gamagrass, Yellow Indiangrass and little and big bluestem for transplanting. When mature, the grasses form tall, water-retaining bunches above natural carpets of clover and low, broad-leaf flowering plants.

Early this summer, 3-foot American basket-flowers with hand-size lavender crowns spread like a spectacular sunset over fields.

“We never planted any of these. The seeds just blew in from somewhere and grew because we were keeping the cows off this field,” Moran said.

She stopped in another section amid tangles of low-growing plants in a 6- to 8-inch deep green blanket over the soil.

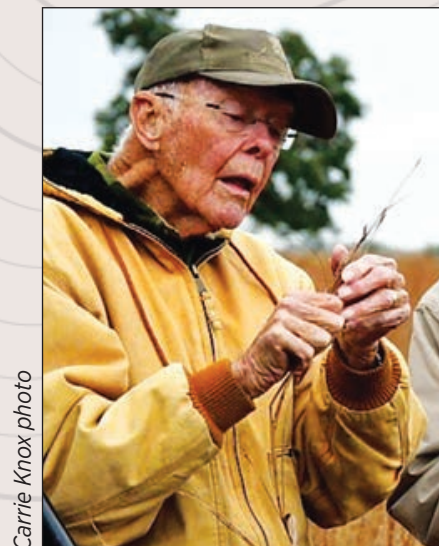
“Just feel the ground here. It’s soft and cool and damp,” she said, bringing up a handful of moist, black dirt from beneath the plants. “There’s no dry, cracked earth on this place because we let nature keep it covered.”

Neither Moran nor her three stepbrothers, all of whom will inherit Pecore Farm, are planning to move there or work the land. The property likely will be sold, she said.

What won’t change is the conservation easement and annual consultation visits by Pines and Prairies Land Trust. That oversight will continue no matter who owns the property.

As Bert Pecore said when given the 2016 award for his work on the farm: “We never really own the land. We are simply stewards for a time.”

Find out about open preserve days and other events at pplt.org. ■



Carrie Knox photo

Albert ‘Bert’ Pecore identifies a species of grass on the conservation easement he helped establish. Pecore died in 2019.

My **Bluebonnet**

is perfect for
the Hernandez family

Bluebonnet

They can:

- LOG IN TO A NEW DASHBOARD FOR ONLINE ACCOUNTS
- TRACK THEIR ENERGY USE
- MONITOR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS
- REPORT OUTAGES

At their Chappell Hill home, Lisa Hernandez helps 5-year-old Diana learn online. She and husband Adam run HDZ Builders, and everyone tries to keep up with 2-year-old Aiden.

THE *Power* IS YOURS!

[bluebonnet.coop/
mybluebonnet](http://bluebonnet.coop/mybluebonnet)

Bluebonnet supports fight against cancer in September, October

If you see any of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's member service centers or vehicles in September, they'll be sporting gold to put a spotlight on Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In October, they'll be pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Check the cooperative's Facebook and Twitter pages for information about these awareness campaigns and how you can join the fight.



Sarah Beal photo

Bluebonnet member service centers will glow in gold light in September to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, then pink in October to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Ralph Barrera photo



Community supporters who have been instrumental in raising money to restore the St. John Colony School, seen in the background, are, from left, Joe Carter, descendant of the property owners; Caldwell County Commissioner Joe Roland; museum board President Edna Rayford; Camille Doggett, grant writer and researcher; and area resident and museum supporter Pia Howard.

LCRA, Bluebonnet grant to upgrade St. John Colony School Museum

THE ST. JOHN School Museum Board can complete renovations on its nearly 145-year-old historic school building by adding restrooms, a new septic system and more, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$14,010 in matching contributions, will support the St. John School Restoration Project as it finishes renovations and opens the St. John School Museum housed in the former school building.

The museum will display artifacts and provide historical information about the St. John Colony, which was founded in

the 1870s by men and women who had been enslaved. The grounds will provide a space for picnics and recreation. The museum will be used for educational tours, public outreach and community meetings. In addition to restrooms and a septic system, the grant will provide fencing and storage space at the museum.

Museum board President Edna Rayford was a student at the school some 70 years ago. She began fundraising efforts three years ago to preserve the school for future generations.

"The school is so important," she said. "If we lose it, there will be nothing left to tell our story."

St. John Colony is on FM 672, 10 miles northeast of Lockhart.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW OUTAGE MAP



- See whether outages have been reported, verified or restored
- Find out whether a crew has been assigned to a given outage
- Use the weather feature to view temperature, precipitation, heat index and wind
- View it on your computer, Apple or Android device
- Check on outages 24/7

Go to bluebonnet.coop and click 'view outage map' today!

Bluebonnet opens new field operations facility near San Marcos

Sarah Beal photos



In July, Bluebonnet field employees began working out of the cooperative's new service center between San Marcos and Lockhart. Above, trucks are protected from the elements and loaded with equipment in a drive-through bay. At left, the front of the main building, which was built in the same architectural style as other Bluebonnet facilities. Also at left, the dedication plaque at the main entrance. Below, crews have access to a variety of vehicles, depending on the needs and conditions of the job they are assigned.

TO BETTER SERVE members in the fast-growing western portion of its service area, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative has opened a new service center for field operations personnel in Caldwell County.

Employees began working out of the facility located between San Marcos and Lockhart in Maxwell this summer. The facility will give line workers and other field employees access to needed material, tools, equipment and fuel, and ultimately reduce outage response times in Hays, Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe and surrounding counties.

This facility is not open to the public. If you want to pay your bill or do other Bluebonnet business in that area, please go to the cooperative's Lockhart Member Service Center at 1916 W. San Antonio St. The drive-through lane is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You can also call 800-842-7708, go to bluebonnet.coop or use our new mobile app to pay your bill.



SECRETS OF A BILLIONAIRE REVEALED

*"Price is what you pay; value is what you get.
Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like
buying quality merchandise when it is marked down."*

— wisdom from the most successful investor of all time

We're going to let you in on a secret. Billionaires have billions because they know value is not increased by an inflated price. They avoid big name markups, and aren't swayed by flashy advertising. When you look on their wrist you'll find a classic timepiece, not a cry for attention— because they know true value comes from keeping more money in their pocket.

We agree with this thinking wholeheartedly. And, so do our two-and-a-half million clients. It's time you got in on the secret too. The *Jet-Setter Chronograph* can go up against the best chronographs in the market, deliver more accuracy and style than the "luxury" brands, and all for far, far less. \$1,150 is what the *Jet-Setter Chronograph* would cost you with nothing more than a different name on the face.

With over two million timepieces sold (and counting), we know a thing or two about creating watches people love. The *Jet-Setter Chronograph* gives you what you need to master time and keeps the superfluous stuff out of the equation. A classic in the looks department and a stainless steel power tool of construction, this is all the watch you need. And, then some.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the *Jet-Setter Chronograph* for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price.

Time is running out. Now that the secret's out, we can't guarantee this \$39 chronograph will stick around long. Don't overpay to be underwhelmed. Put a precision chronograph on your wrist for just \$39 and laugh all the way to the bank. Call today!

**CLIENTS LOVE
STAUER WATCHES...**

★★★★★
*"The quality of their
watches is equal to many
that can go for ten times
the price or more."*

— Jeff from McKinney, TX

TAKE 87% OFF INSTANTLY!

When you use your OFFER CODE

Jet-Setter Chronograph ~~\$299~~†

Offer Code Price **\$39** + S&P **Save \$260**

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: **JCW320-02**

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

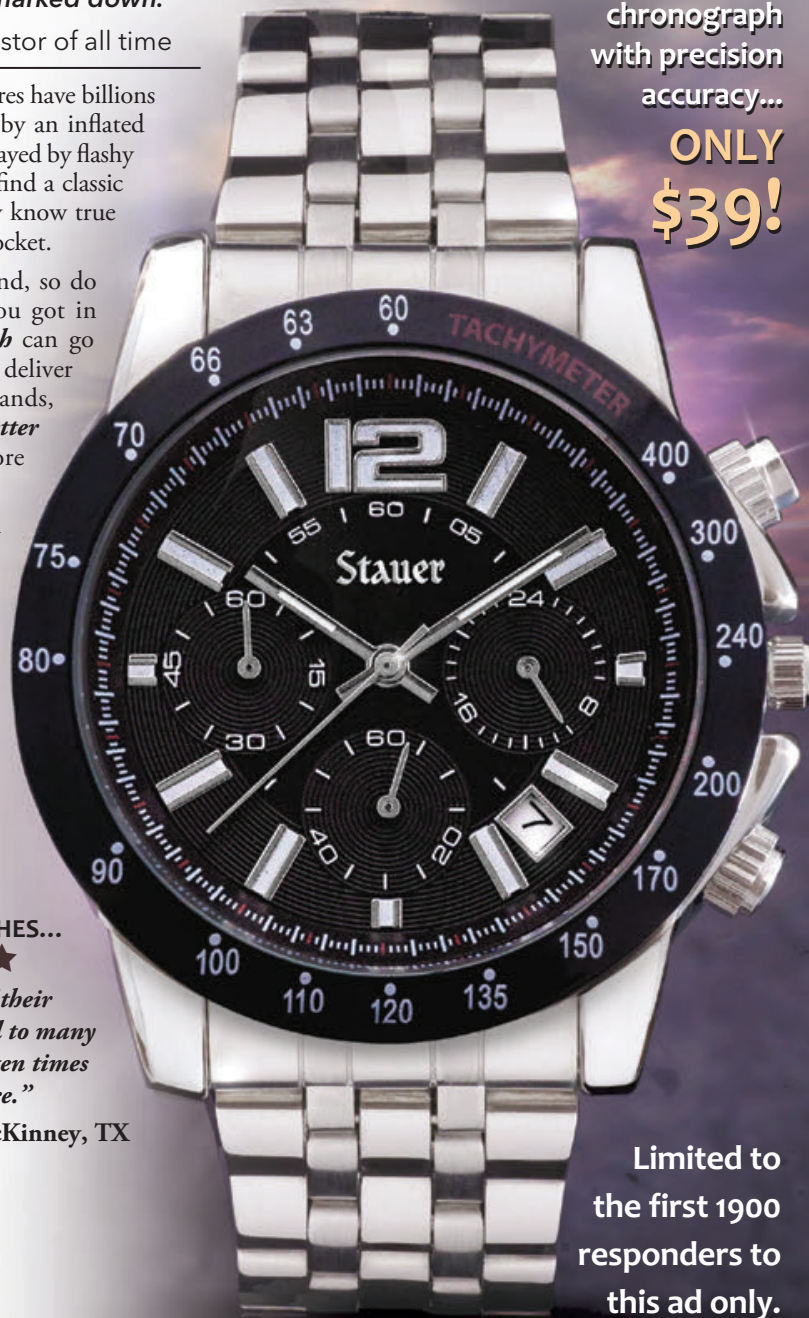


Rating of A+

Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.®

Absolute best price
for a fully-loaded
chronograph
with precision
accuracy...

**ONLY
\$39!**



Limited to
the first 1900
responders to
this ad only.

*"See a man with a functional chronograph
watch on his wrist, and it communicates a
spirit of precision." — AskMen.com®*

- Precision crystal movement • Stainless steel case back & bracelet with deployment buckle • 24 hour military time
- Chronograph minute & small second subdials; seconds hand • Water resistant to 3 ATM • Fits wrists 7" to 9"

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. JCW320-02, 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.

ARK-LA-TEX
SHOP BUILDERS
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"
SHOPS - BARNs - CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM
830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums
SHOPS STARTING AT \$10,300

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10"x10" heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric stub *(Dirt may be extra)

Steel Mobile Home Roofing
Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?
YOU NEED → **MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS**
PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders
Since 1983
Contact us at **800.633.8969** or roofover.com

RHINO[®]
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS
25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
Engineered Stamp Blueprints

Farm • Industrial • Commercial
RHINO.BUILDERS/TX 940-304-8068
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

WD METAL BUILDINGS
Turn-Key Solutions

- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Welded Metal Buildings
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

Instant Prices at WDMB.com

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 F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

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

ELLISON MARINE • FRANKLIN, TX.
45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • ellisonmarine@yahoo.com

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

TCP E-news
TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

Low Cost Pole Barns
26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed
\$7,995
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

TCP Gift Shop
TCP Shop now
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

WE BUY MINERALS
We pay cash for producing or non-producing mineral interests.
CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact, binoculars and a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable 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.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Huntsman Blade \$249*

Offer Code Price Only \$79 + S&P Save \$170

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: HUK248-01

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK248-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!



Rating of A+



**What Stauer Clients
Are Saying About
Our Knives**

"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®



Davy Crockett's Fiddle

Did the Alamo legend and frontiersman have musical chops?

BY GENE FOWLER • ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN A. WILSON

DAVID CROCKETT'S frontier celebrity arrived in San Antonio before he entered the city on February 5, 1836. The 1833 book *Sketches and Eccentricities of Col. David Crockett of West Tennessee* and the 1831 New York stage play *The Lion of the West* established his public image with more tall tales of wilderness exploits than truth about his accomplishments. As a three-term congressman from Tennessee, he'd been courted as a possible presidential candidate before he told his constituents that they could go to hell and he'd go to Texas.

After Crockett died at the Alamo, his legend grew like wildfire. And more than

a century later, as the 1955 Disney film *Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier* inspired coonskin cap mania, the Crockett story remained a swirling churn of folklore and fact. That same year, country-western singer Red River Dave McEnery recorded *When Davy Crockett Met the San Antonio Rose* with a fiddle that reportedly had belonged to Crockett himself. But as Alamo researcher William Groneman III, author of *David Crockett: Hero of the Common Man*, observes, "We don't really know for sure that it was Crockett's instrument or that he even played the fiddle."

Curators at San Antonio's Witte

TCM WEB EXTRA

Listen to the strains of the Witte Museum's Crockett fiddle.

Museum, which has possessed and periodically exhibited the fiddle since 1934 (it was lent in 1934 and formally donated to the museum in 1950), have always been careful to qualify that the instrument was *reportedly* owned by Crockett. Documents on file at the Witte track the fiddle's acquisition in 1934 by San Antonio Mayor C.K. Quinn from T.S. Quinn (no relation), an Alabama violin maker and repairman. The affidavits further state that Quinn obtained the fiddle from one Frank Hollis of Tennessee, whose father had obtained it from David Crockett's son, Joseph Crockett. But Davy Crockett did not have a son named Joseph.

Further—and equally uncertain—indication of ownership is penciled inside the instrument: "This fiddle is my property, Davy Crockett, Franklin County, Tenn. Feb. 14, 1819."

The earliest mention historians have found of Crockett playing a fiddle in San Antonio—or anywhere else for that matter—is a quote from Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson published in James M. Morphis' 1875 volume, *History of Texas, from its Discovery and Settlement*, that Crockett often took up his violin and "played his favorite tunes" during the siege. While it appears certain that Crockett did not tote the Witte's instrument to the Alamo, another Davy fiddle that could have been played during the siege surfaced in 1936.

John Houston Thurman of Longview, described in news reports as "an 80-year-old drover" and "an oil field fiddler," displayed an instrument his father had obtained in Mexico while fighting in the Mexican War. Carved into the fiddle's neck was "D. Crockett. Tenn. 1835. D. C. Texas, 1836." ■

Game Day Eats

We've got you covered, from tailgating to the fourth quarter

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Forget crunchy leaf piles, cozy sweaters and apple cider. In Texas, fall means football—a tradition we hope continues this year. Even if tailgating isn't an option this season, game day snacks are still a great opportunity to try new twists on favorite dishes. These chicken wings allow time to prep other snacks or catch some of the game while they bake. The plum jam adds a touch of sweetness, with even my 6-year-old gobbling these up.

Sticky Plum Chicken Wings

3 pounds chicken wings

½ cup plum jam

⅓ cup soy sauce

¼ cup water

1 green onion, diced, white and green parts divided

2 tablespoons rice vinegar

2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger

2 large garlic cloves, chopped

1–2 teaspoons chili garlic sauce or other hot sauce

COOK'S TIP I've used chili garlic sauce for a light heat, but you can use your favorite hot sauce to taste.

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil, then top with a wire baking rack (or use a broiler pan). Coat lightly with nonstick spray and arrange chicken on top. Bake 35 minutes.

2. While the chicken bakes, make the sauce. In a small saucepan, whisk together jam, soy sauce, water, white parts of green onion, rice vinegar, ginger, garlic and chili garlic sauce and simmer over medium heat. Cook until reduced by half, whisking occasionally, about 15 minutes.

3. When chicken is done, put pieces into a large bowl. Pour sauce over chicken and toss gently with tongs to fully coat, then put chicken wings back onto the baking pan and cook an additional 5–10 minutes, letting the sauce caramelize. Remove to a plate and garnish with remaining green onion.

SERVES 6

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Bacon Onion Dip.



Everything but the Kitchen Sink Cheeseball

PATRICIA HEFTI
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

This cheeseball is Hefti's favorite for game day snacking. She recommends making it a few days in advance so all the flavors have time to mingle. Be sure to let it stand at room temperature for 15–30 minutes before serving so that it's spreadable.

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened**
- ½ cup sour cream**
- ¼ cup finely chopped yellow onion**
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimientos, undrained, optional**
- 2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish**
- ½ cup chopped cooked bacon (about 4 slices) or bacon bits, divided use**
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans, divided use**
- Dash salt**
- Dash pepper**
- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese**
- 2 cups shredded colby or American cheese**
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley, optional**
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds**
- Assorted crackers, to serve**

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sour cream until fluffy. Add onion, undrained pimientos, pickle relish, ¼ cup bacon, ¼ cup pecans, salt and pepper and stir to incorporate. Stir in cheeses and mix well.
2. Cover with foil or plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator until firm, about 4 hours.
3. In a small bowl, combine the remaining bacon bits, remaining pecans, parsley and poppy seeds. Turn cheese mixture

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

Magic Red Chili

MAGDALENA AVILA
FARMERS EC



Chili is always a crowd-pleaser. This flavorful recipe gets a boost from cascabel chile sauce, which can easily be doubled to use for enchiladas or pork stew, says Avila. Serve the chili with onions and cheese or enjoy it atop hot dogs or corn chips.

SERVES 8

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil**
- 2 cups diced onion, divided use**
- 1½ pounds ground beef**
- 1 pound bulk chorizo**
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) chili sauce**
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, drained**
- 1 tablespoon chili powder**
- 1½ teaspoons garlic powder**
- 1½ teaspoons onion powder**
- 1½ teaspoons oregano**
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt**
- ½ teaspoon cumin**
- 1 bay leaf**
- 1 tablespoon crushed red pepper flakes, optional**
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper, optional**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 4 cascabel chiles**
- 2 large cloves garlic**
- 2 cups water**
- Shredded cheddar cheese, for topping**

1. Into a stock pot or Dutch oven set over medium heat, pour the vegetable oil. When the oil is hot, add 1 cup diced onion and sauté until softened, about 5 minutes.
2. Add ground beef and chorizo and cook until browned. Stir in chili sauce, pinto beans, chili powder, garlic powder, onion powder, oregano, seasoned salt, cumin and bay leaf. Add crushed red pepper flakes and cayenne pepper, if using, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer on medium-low while you make the red sauce.
3. To make the red sauce, remove stems and seeds from cascabel chiles, then rinse under warm water. Add to a small saucepan with garlic and cover with water. Bring to a boil and let simmer for 10 minutes, or until chiles are soft. Let cool slightly, then pour chiles, garlic and cooking water into a blender and purée, taking care to let steam escape. Strain if desired, then stir into chili.
4. Cook chili another 5 minutes to let flavors meld, then serve with remaining diced onion and cheddar cheese.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

QUICK BREADS AND MUFFINS DUE SEP 10

Do you love muffins? Does your family go crazy for your quick breads? Send us your tried-and-true favorites or heirloom recipes. Enter our February contest by September 10.

RECIPES CONTINUED

onto waxed paper and form into a ball. Roll the chilled cheeseball into the bacon mixture to coat, pressing gently to adhere to cheese.

4. Wrap the completed ball in waxed paper, then in plastic wrap or foil. Chill until ready to serve.

SERVES 16

Sweet and Spicy Pretzel and Nut Mix

BARBARA REISS
PEDERNALES EC

It will be hard to keep from diving into this snack mix while it cools. Fragrantly spiced with just a bit of heat, it will stay fresh for about a week when stored in an airtight container.

4 cups mixed raw nuts, such as pecans, almonds and cashews



- 1/3 cup dark brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4–1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, to taste
- 4 cups unsalted pretzels
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with foil or parchment. Spread the nuts in an

even layer and bake about 10 minutes, turning the sheet and stirring halfway through, just until the nuts are lightly toasted and become fragrant.

2. While the nuts are toasting, place the brown sugar, maple syrup, melted butter, cocoa and spices in a large bowl and stir to combine. Pour in the warm nuts and stir until well coated.

3. Add in the pretzels and salt, and stir until thoroughly blended and coated, taking care not to break up pretzels. Spread the mixture onto the baking sheet. Bake 12–15 minutes, stirring twice during baking and watching to make sure nuts do not burn.

4. Remove from the oven and let cool completely on the pan before storing in an airtight container.

SERVES 12

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2020 SEASON

Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$SAVE \$\$!

Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM



STAYcation at Home in 2020!

1-800-SWIMTEX (1-800-794-6839)

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

NO COUPON REQUIRED

3-Ply Disposable Face Masks

10 Masks per Pack

\$4.99

Less Than \$0¢ Per Mask



• Breathable
• Comfortable,
• Lightweight
• Single Use
• Non-Medical

In-Store Only

ITEM 57593

SUPER COUPON

TAILGATOR (1208)

900w Max. Starting 2 Cycle Gas Powered Generator

\$109.99

~~\$124.99~~

Save \$16



Compare to PowerSmart PFS5 \$126.10
ITEM 63024 63025 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17177080 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 10/16/20*

WOW! SUPER COUPON

SAVE 81%

4-in-1 Screwdriver

\$1.99

WOW! 74¢



Compare to HDX 12SD512D \$3.97
ITEM 39631 69970 61988 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17180487 Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

Use Online & In-Store

17172220

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 card, open box items, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, floor jacks, power stations, sales, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, welders, Amana, Amana, Atlas, Bauer, Central Machinery, Color, CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Iron Age, Jaxxon, Poulan, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 10/16/20.

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 (1034)

Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Low Profile Floor Jack

\$99.99

~~\$109.99~~

Save \$90



Compare to TED Correct T830018Z \$189.99
ITEM 56618/56619 56620/56617 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17185413 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

7 ft. 4" x 9 ft. 6" All Purpose/Weather Resistant Tarp

\$2.99

~~\$4.99~~

Save 65%



Compare to Blue Hawk 8G810-Y \$8.78
ITEM 69115/69121/69129 69137/69249/877 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17191470 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

BRAUN (8013)

5000 Lumen 4 ft. LED Hanging Shop Light

\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~

Save 33%



Compare to Coleman 63S354 \$39.99

Use Online & In-Store

17192562 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

PORTLAND (5913)

1750 psi Electric Pressure Washer

\$79.99

~~\$99.99~~

Save \$94



Compare to Briggs & Stratton 20600 \$174.44
ITEM 63255/63254 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17201524 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

drillmaster (6170)

4-1/2" Angle Grinder

\$9.99

~~\$14.99~~

Save 50%



Compare to Ironton 61451 \$19.99
ITEM 69465 60625 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17211188 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

PORTLAND (2806)

14", 9 AMP Electric Chainsaw

\$39.99

~~\$49.99~~

Save 50%



Compare to Craftsman 071-45247 \$80.74
ITEM 64498/64497 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17216210 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

Heavy Duty Foldable Aluminum Sports Chairs

\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~

Save 50%



Green ITEM 63066/62314 shown
Blue ITEM 56719

Compare to Coleman 63S354 \$39.99

Use Online & In-Store

17224039 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC (3930)

3 Gallon, 100 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressors

\$39.99

~~\$54.99~~

Save 55%



Hot Dog ITEM 69269 97080 shown
Pancake ITEM 61615 shown

Compare to Briggs & Stratton 110341 \$89.99

Use Online & In-Store

17226378 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

U.S. GENERAL (1172)

30", 4 Drawer Tech Cart

\$149.99

~~\$199.99~~

Save \$730



Compare to Snap-on Blue-Point KRBC10T8PC \$380
ITEM 56391 56392 4818 56392 56390 56394

Use Online & In-Store

17232646 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster (4828)

18" Working Platform Step Stool

\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~

Save 50%



Compare to Neorcraft 60635 \$39.99
ITEM 62515/64911 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17232876 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH (1884)

4" Ratcheting Bar Clamp/Spreader

\$1.99

~~\$9.99~~

Save 84%



Compare to Irwin 1964747 \$6.49
ITEM 46805/62242 68974 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17232935 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

drillmaster (2246)

18v, 3/8" Drill/Driver and Flashlight Kit

\$19.99

~~\$24.99~~

Save 74%



Includes one 18v NiCd battery and charger.

Compare to Ryobi P1811 \$79
ITEM 69652/62869 62872 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17235615 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

BUNKER HILL SECURITY (4314)

Wireless Security Alert System

\$9.99

~~\$14.99~~

Save 69%



Compare to First Alert SF600 \$32.99
ITEM 61910/62447 93068 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17236351 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH (1138)

1 Ton Capacity Foldable Shop Crane

\$139.99

~~\$189.99~~

Save \$90



Compare to Goplus GP-101040150 \$229.99
ITEM 69512 61858 shown

Use Online & In-Store

17256673 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster (1251)

3/8" x 14 ft., Grade 43 Towing Chain

\$19.99

~~\$39.99~~

Save 69%



Compare to Mirol 426920 \$64.99
ITEM 40462/60658 97711 shown

Use Online & In-Store

19652678 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

SUPER COUPON

0.30 cal. Ammo Box (7197)

\$34.99

~~\$59.99~~

Save 65%



Compare to RangeMax 1312-92 \$59.99
ITEM 63155/61451 shown

Use Online & In-Store

19661971 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/16/20*

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 10/16/20.

Pricing, promotions, and availability may vary by location and at www.harborfreight.com and are subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Compare to advertised price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. Although we make every effort to assure that our prices and products are advertised as accurately as possible, we are only human and in the event an error is made, we reserve the right to correct it.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Fronds in High Places

Sabal Palm Sanctuary in Brownsville brings hikers into archaic avian grove

BY CHET GARNER

THE PLANTS AROUND ME were so thick that I could barely see beyond the hiking trail. Above me, the fronds of native, 50-foot palm trees swayed with the breeze. Suddenly the green canopy overhead erupted into a squawking symphony so loud I thought I was being attacked. I wanted to run for my life. Instead I calmly looked up to see a flock of birds dancing atop the palms. My pocket guide identified them as chachalacas. It was the first of more than two dozen bird species I would identify that day.

I was hiking along the trails of the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, a 557-acre preserve operated by the Gorgas Science Foundation in southeast Brownsville, near the southernmost point in Texas. This refuge was part of a sugar cane plantation in the 19th century, when steamboats churned along the nearby Rio Grande. The sanctuary's visitors center sits inside the immaculate Rabb Plantation House that was built in 1892 and is worth a visit on its own. However, most visitors don't stay long in the mansion, as they're eager to hit the 3 miles of trails and identify avian species they can add to their birding life list.

Hiking below the palms was an experience that transported me to a tropical environment that seemed more likely to be in a different part of the world. Sabal palms, particularly native ones, are rare in Texas. This grove is the last piece left of a native palm forest that once extended 80 miles inland, throughout the Rio Grande Valley. As I stood on the Rio Grande observation deck without a fence or a building in sight, it wasn't hard to imagine a world without humans, where palm trees prosper and chachalacas can scream to their hearts' content. ■

ABOVE Chet Garner among the sabal palms and other tropical plants.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the Sabal Palm Sanctuary and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

SEPTEMBER

09

Tyler [9-13] Texas Rose Classic, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

11

Fairfield [11-12] Show of Wheels, (903) 389-5792, fairfieldtexaschamber.com

Fredericksburg [11-13] Fall Planting Days Kick-Off, (830) 990-8080, wildseedfarms.com

12

Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair and Old-Fashioned Quilt Show, (903) 268-1598

Kerrville Run for Riverside 5K, (830) 257-4837, riversidenaturecenter.org

Lake Jackson Farmers Market, (979) 285-2501, visitbrazport.com

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

17

Georgetown Virtual Benefit Concert, (512) 924-3911, faithinactiongt.org

18

Nacogdoches Wood & Wire, (936) 564-6631, facebook.com/millardscrossing

Fredericksburg [18-19] Admiral Nimitz Foundation Annual Symposium, (830) 997-8600, pacificwarmuseum.org

Levelland [18–20] Texas High School Rodeo Association Region 2 Rodeo, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

Tyler [18–20] Texas Rose Dressage Fall Classic, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

19

Freeport Texas Navy Day, (979) 233-0066, visitbrazosport.com

Onalaska Annual Cow Plop, (936) 433-2710, business.polkchamber.com

24

Amarillo [24–26] Tri-State Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, facebook.com/amarillo.tristate.fair

Kerrville [24–26] Texas Heritage Music Days, (830) 792-3535, schreiner.edu

25

Levelland [25–26] Senior Team Ropers Association Team Roping, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

26

Canadian Canadian River Beach Club Calf Fry & State Championship BBQ Cook-Off, (806) 323-9413, facebook.com/canadianriverbeachclub

New Braunfels Cody Johnson, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

Tyler [26–27] Feathered Horse Spring Classic, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP *Submit Your Event*

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

LOW COST Mobile Home Insurance

Covered with a national carrier?

Get your Declaration Page & call to compare!

Start Saving Today!



● Replacement Cost for Most Homes

● Escrow Billing, Payment Plans, Customer Portal and Online Payments

4.8 Google Rating
07/30/2020

www.stdins.com

CALL NOW

800-522-0146

Serving
Texas Mobile
Homeowners
since 1961



Perini Ranch

Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win an overnight getaway to picturesque Perini Ranch Guest Quarters and meal at Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap!

TCP *Enter Today*
TexasCoopPower.com

Restoring and Preserving Our History

The Friends of Gillespie County Country



In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

A Driving Tour map and an Open House schedule are available on our website.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG



All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of Country School Association of America.

WALK IN TUBS FROM \$7995 INSTALLED!



WE INSTALL ACROSS TEXAS!



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ★

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Our products have been made in Texas since 2006. We customize, so why pay for something you don't want? Get exactly what you want at an affordable price. So stop struggling and start enjoying your bath again. Call us for an in-home no-pressure presentation. What do you have to lose?

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com



Hit the Road

Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

TCP Plan now

TexasCoopPower.com/events



ANNAUSOVA75 | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Pick of the Month

Oktoberfest

McKinney, September 25–27
(972) 547-2660
mckinneytexas.org

The original Oktoberfest in Munich celebrated local breweries and their traditional craft. This festival showcases McKinney's own Franconia and Tupps breweries. Crafts and food, including German-style fare such as brats, sausages, schnitzel and strudel, are also main attractions.

EVENTS CONTINUED

OCTOBER

01

Tyler [1–4] Texas Rose Spring Festival—Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

02

Fort McKavett [2–4] 50 Miles by Wire, 1875, (325) 396-2358, facebook.com/visitfortmckavett

03

Bryan Buffalo Stampede Half Marathon & 5K, (979) 776-2195, brazosvalleymuseum.org/buffalo-stampede

Marble Falls Main Street Car Show, (512) 657-1699, marblefallskiwanis.org

Mason Mason County Republican Women's Home Tour, (325) 347-2221

Powderly Red River Valley Veterans Memorial Concert, (903) 517-0904, rrvvm.org/concert

Shapes

Ordinary objects become extraordinary on the right canvas, where repetition, lighting and perspective change everything. This month has shaped up to be one of our best. So don't be a square. Check out these diamonds in the rough.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

REAGAN FERGUSON
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Light fixtures cast shadows on a building in Fort Worth.

JOHNATHAN KANA
BLUEBONNET EC

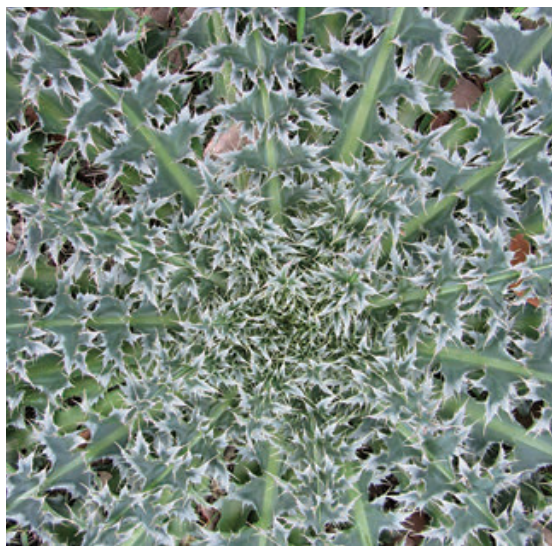
The Fred Hartman Bridge connects Baytown and La Porte.

RANDALL GAY
PEDERNALES EC

The amazing pattern of a thistle plant.

MARLENE VOTION
COSERV

Eggsactly three dozen.

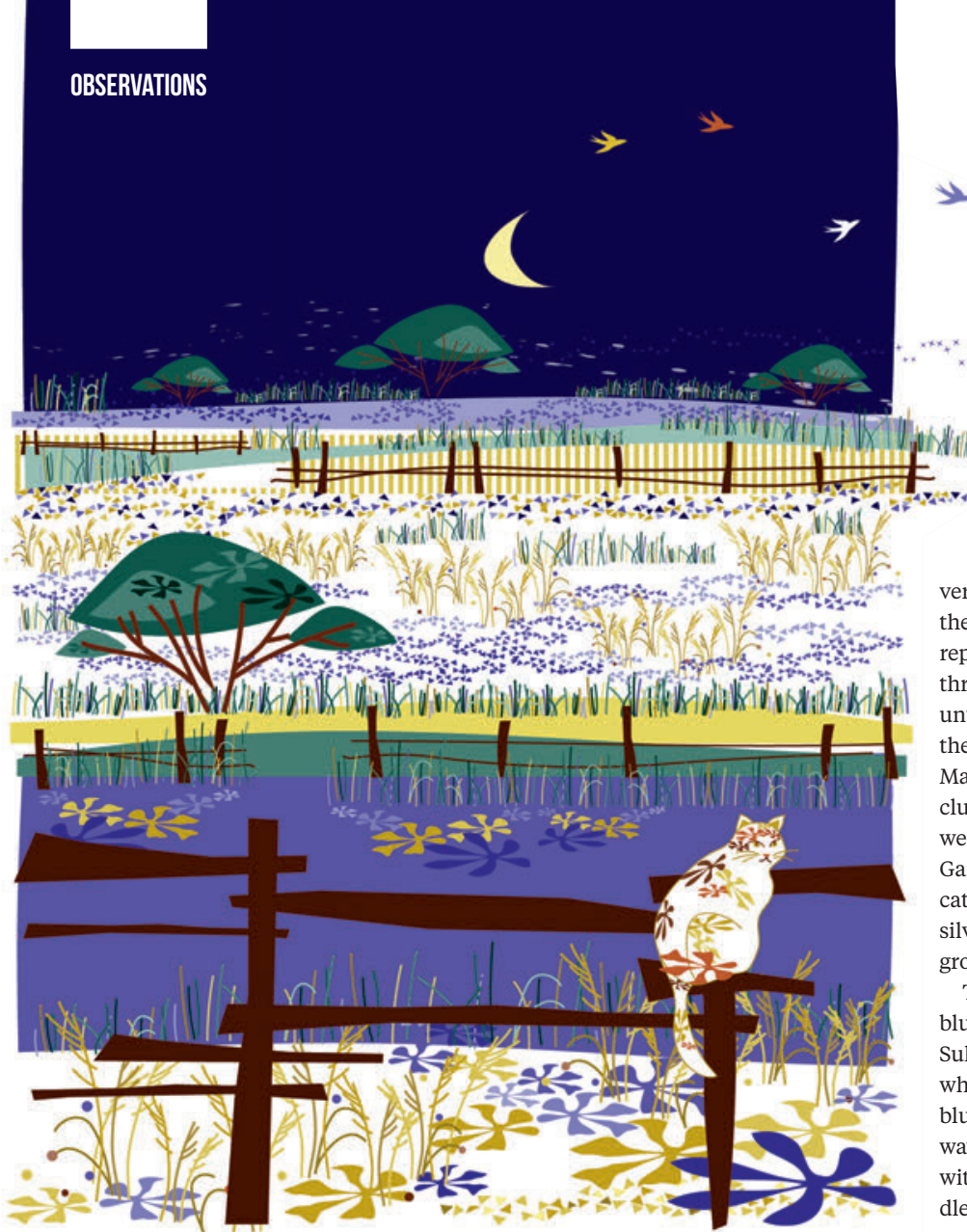


Upcoming Contests

- DUE SEP 10 **Forests**
- DUE OCT 10 **Saddles**
- DUE NOV 10 **Diners**

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



Meadow Oasis

Serene evenings at a vacant lot given over to nature leave the author grounded and grateful

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS
ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA COBB

JAMES CARRIES the lawn chairs. I follow behind with Prima, a sweet calico who claimed us not long after we buried our last elderly cat. Behind a low cedar-post fence, we unfold our chairs and plop down. Prima chooses a lap and nestles into a comfortable position.

Overhead, cedar waxwings fly across the open sky followed by some black-bellied whistling-ducks and a lone white-winged dove. With our feet propped up on the fence, we breathe in the evening air and gaze at what we call the Meadow, our adjoining vacant lot turned nature preserve.

Our evening “sits” in the Meadow go back more than a decade. Through the years, we’ve observed change, loss and rejuvenation. One spring, prairie

verbena laid a purple carpet across the property. That show has yet to be repeated. Another year, stiff green-threads bloomed in golden profusion—until coreopsis leaf beetles decimated their foliage. And we still talk about the Malta starthistle that grew in thick clumps along the street—then I learned we were hosting a nasty invasive. Garbage bags later, we finally eradicated the species. Gray vervain, fleabane, silverleaf nightshade and other natives grow there now.

This evening, we admire the abundant bluebonnets that grace our corner lot. Sulphurs, honeybees and an occasional white-lined sphinx moth flit among the blue flower heads. From our chairs, we wave at a couple walking their dog. Chat with a father who has brought his toddler son to see the wildflowers. Holler greetings at a nearby neighbor who tells us how much she loves her view of the Meadow.

It could be just another evening in our neighborhood. Only it’s not. Because a global pandemic keeps us apart. We must social distance and share air hugs.

Prima yawns and jumps down to nibble grass. James tracks a miniscule fly across the darkening sky. I lean over to watch a wolf spider scuttle through the grass. Virus or no virus, our sits in the Meadow keep us grounded and grateful. Our time there reminds us that we, too, as human beings, will always experience change, loss and rejuvenation. Like our vacant lot turned nature preserve, we will adapt and move on. That’s the cycle of life. ■

gravity defyer®

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

Plantar Fasciitis • Arthritis • Joint Pain • Heel Spurs • Back & Knee Pain



PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM

“ I’ve had lower back pain for years. Walking in these shoes was life changing for me. I feel like I’m walking on air. ”

– Bill F.



85%

LESS
KNEE
PAIN



91%

LESS
BACK
PAIN



92%

LESS
ANKLE
PAIN



75%

LESS
FOOT
PAIN

Enjoy the benefits of exercise
with proven pain relief.

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improved Posture

*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

G-DEFY ION \$155

X-WIDE
WIDTH
AVAILABLE

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- Black TB9025MBB
- Red/Gray TB9022MRG

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- Black/Blue TB9022FTL
- Gray/Teal TB9022FGU



**\$30 OFF
YOUR ORDER**

Promo Code MQ8JMJ5
www.gravitydefyer.com

Expires December 31, 2020

Free Exchanges • Free Returns
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. This product has not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$30 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$59⁹⁹ month for TV
2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

Add Internet!

+ Blazing-Fast Internet

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.


 Plus More!

FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX | **- Fully Integrated -**
 Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ month for Internet
\$40 per month for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

1-866-290-7151
Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

iSe Habla Español!
dish
 Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
 Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 1/13/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2020 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.