

REACHING OUT TO  
BILINGUAL CHILDREN

WEEKNIGHT DINNERS  
MADE EASY

A FATHER'S  
ILLUMINATING WAYS

# Texas Coop Power

FOR BLUEBONNET EC MEMBERS

JUNE 2022

## Eating Wild

Texans are turning  
to foraging  
for fun and food

**BLUEBONNET  
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



## WE'RE **MORE** THAN METAL ROOFING

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at [muellerinc.com](http://muellerinc.com), then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



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

# June 2022



12

## 08 The Grazing Craze

Pushed along by the pandemic and prices, foraging for wild edibles is a growing trend.

*By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers*

## Speaking to Children

Meet the South Texas educator on a mission to instill a love of language in bilingual readers.

*By Carlos Sanchez  
Illustration by John Jay Cabuay*

04

### Currents

The latest buzz

06

### TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

### Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

### Footnotes in Texas History

Doctor's Orders  
*By Martha Deeringer*

30

### TCP Kitchen

Weeknight Dinners  
*By Megan Myers*

34

### Hit the Road

Eruption Evidence  
*By Chet Garner*

37

### Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Industrial

38

### Observations

Pop's Light Touch  
*By Babs Rodriguez*

#### ON THE COVER

Flowers from elderberry trees can be eaten right off the branch.

*Photo by Enciero | stock.adobe.com*

#### ABOVE

Zapata County author María Alma González Pérez.

*Illustration by John Jay Cabuay*

# First in a String



**LEGENDARY FIDDLER** Alexander "Eck" Robertson, left, who was raised on a farm in the Panhandle, made musical history 100 years ago this month.

Robertson and Henry C. Gilliland recorded four fiddle duets June 30, 1922, at the Victor Talking Machine Co. in New York City. The tracks are regarded as the first commercial recordings of country music.



## TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Holiday Sides

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Hometown Pride

**WIN BOOKS BY FEATURED AUTHOR**  
Enter online now to win the three bilingual alphabet books written by María Alma González Pérez, featured on Page 12.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE MY SINGING IS SO BAD ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our April prompt: **I remember when a dollar could buy ...**

A large soda, large French fries order and a hamburger big as a hubcap.

JOE TREVIÑO JR.  
BARTLETT EC  
KILLEEN

A day at the State Fair of Texas.

BRENDA WEBB  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
GUNTER

Three watermelons on the side of Highway 281 south of San Antonio.

DARREL MILLER  
PEDERNALES EC  
LAGO VISTA

To see more responses, read Currents online.

## GAMBUSIA IS GONE

A tiny Texas fish is among 23 species that federal wildlife officials want to declare extinct.

The San Marcos gambusia, an inch-long fish found only in the San Marcos River in Hays County, was last collected in the wild in 1983. The Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that it join 21 other animals and one plant in being removed from the endangered species list and declared extinct.



## Co-ops Rule

Electric cooperatives dominated the 2021 J.D. Power rankings for customer satisfaction, with 14 co-ops—including Texas' Magic Valley EC and CoServ—finishing among the top 20 U.S. residential power providers in the annual survey of electric customers.



## Gov. Jordan

AMONG BARBARA JORDAN'S many accomplishments was becoming Texas governor for a day 50 years ago this month.

Months before her election to the U.S. House, her colleagues in the Texas Senate unanimously elected Jordan president pro tem. Gov. Preston Smith and Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes both made plans to be out of state June 10, 1972, enabling Jordan to step in as acting governor, making her the first Black woman in the U.S. to preside over a legislative body.

*June 17*

### National Eat Your Vegetables Day

We know gardens across Co-op Country produce bounties of amazing crops. But this month we spotlight folks who look beyond cultivated patches for wild edibles. See *The Grazing Craze* on Page 8.



TRACI DABERKO

The Inside Track

“Many West Texas towns like Hamlin have no tracks left, and we could sure use some commerce that stops here today.”

JEFF CLATERBAUGH  
BIG COUNTRY EC  
HAMLIN

Enduring Cookware

I inherited my grandmother’s cast iron, which she inherited from her mother [*Cast-Iron Comeback*, March 2022]. It makes the best cornbread and fried eggs. To imagine how many meals were cooked in these pans just blows my mind.

David Krabbe  
Hamilton County EC  
Kempner

I have to say, besides the original chocolate Texas sheet cake, this is the best, most decadent cake I have EVER had [*Texas Praline Sheet Cake*, March 2022]. I’ve literally been thinking about it all week.

NICOLE PARKER  
VIA FACEBOOK

Using the cast-iron skillet my mother got for a wedding gift in 1943.

Larry Artz  
Via Facebook



RUSSELL A. GRAVES

Blessed Comfort

I want to participate in the Blessing Box Project when I retire [*Hope in a Box*, March 2022]. Such a hard time for a woman.

Jacky Manchester  
Grayson-Collin EC  
Van Alstyne

Well Put

I love that section in the magazine [*Finish This Sentence*]. It awakens the thought process in a lot of people.

Inocencia S. Martinez  
Magic Valley EC  
Mercedes

Threads of Truth

When I was 10, we visited cousins in Ingram [*Just Add Adventure*, March 2022].

We went to a river to play, and it had a smooth concrete small dam with water pouring over it. I had a blast sliding down it time after time until I realized that the seat of my favorite pair of shorts was in shreds.

Roberta McLaughlin  
Heart of Texas EC  
Lorena

**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 Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo • **Vice Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Neil Hesse, Muenster • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka  
Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burleson • Ron Hughes, Sinton  
Gary Miller, Bryan • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham  
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevins  
**Editor** Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski  
**Production Manager** Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty  
**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull  
**Communications Specialist** Alex Dal Santo • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz  
**Communications Specialist** Travis Hill • **Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe • **Proofreader** Shannon Oelrich

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 78, Number 12 (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 \$4.44 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 for the previous 12 months 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 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



**Make your home more comfortable than ever**

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

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



**NOW**  
available in plush  
and durable Brisa™  
(Saddle color pictured)

**Three Chairs  
in One  
Sleep/Recline/Lift**



**You can’t always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries.** Those are the nights you’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

Our **Perfect Sleep Chair®** does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. **Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation.** Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed,

oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. **It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.**

**White glove delivery** included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Genuine Italian Leather, plush and durable Brisa™, stain and liquid repellent DuraLux™ with the classic leather look or plush MicroLux™ microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. **Call now!**

**Also available in  
Genuine  
Italian  
Leather**

**The Perfect Sleep Chair®**  
**1-888-871-8598**

Please mention code 117020 when ordering.



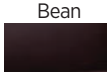
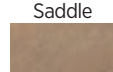
**REMOTE CONTROLLED**  
EASILY SHIFTS FROM FLAT TO  
A STAND-ASSIST POSITION

Now available in a variety  
of colors, fabrics and sizes.  
Footrests vary by model

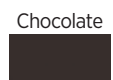
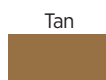
**Genuine Italian Leather**  
classic beauty & style



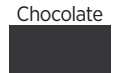
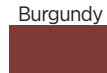
**New Brisa™**  
plush & durable



**Long Lasting DuraLux™**  
stain & liquid repellent



**MicroLux™ Microfiber**  
breathable & amazingly soft



Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



# The Grazing Craze

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

I've yanked henbit and chickweed for years from my native-plant gardens, nearly eradicating the weeds that pop up every winter.

If only I'd known that the European species make tasty additions to salads. So I decided in December to let them stay put. Then I'd have some fresh leaves and flowers to toss with spinach, tomatoes and dressing.

Many of the native plants are edible too, like turk's cap, dayflower, wood sorrel and spiderwort. Hold on—eat my natives? The concept boggles my mind. As a Texas master naturalist, I'm familiar with most of the ones that grow in my region. On the other hand, since childhood I've been conditioned to eat foods only bought at grocery stores or intentionally grown in gardens, not picked from a lawn or some wild place.

Then I recall our ancestors foraged to survive. Their hard-

## Pushed along by the pandemic and prices, foraging for wild edibles is a growing trend

scrabble lifestyles make me determined to loosen up. And I am. In March I picked blossoms from our eastern redbud tree and added them to salads. This summer I've been nibbling on turk's cap berries and pink evening primrose leaves. As I learn more about wild edibles, the plants that grow around my yard have taken on a different meaning.

I'm not alone in my new outlook. For a number of reasons, more and more people are hunting for edible plants.

"It used to be just adventurer eaters, foodies and cooks who mainly foraged," says Mark Vorderbruggen, author of an *Idiot's Guides* book on foraging. "Then the pandemic came, and people got scared about getting food if the markets closed. It made them go outside in search of alternative food sources. Now with inflation, food has become more expensive. People want to know where they can get free nutrition."





## Cut With Care

**S**o what makes a wild plant edible? In a nutshell, it's nonpoisonous, palatable and digestible. Many have health benefits too. "In vitamins, minerals and protein, wild food can match and even surpass the nutritional content of our common foods," writes Delena Tull in *Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest*. "Dandelion greens are more nutritious than spinach."

Foragers must always ask for permission before scouring private property. On public lands, it's illegal to take plant materials. Steer clear of toxic areas, like highway roadsides and places frequented by pets.

And some final words of caution: Before eating any wild plant, be absolutely certain of its identity. Read books on the subject, learn some basic botany, take foraging classes and go out with an experienced forager to gain an understanding of what you should and shouldn't eat.

Then start with easy plants, like turk's cap and pecans. As you gain knowledge, add species that you can readily identify. Also, eat wild edibles in moderation and be mindful of possible reactions. For example, if you're allergic to cashews and mangoes, avoid their cousins: evergreen and flameleaf sumacs.

"Nature is a mishmash of greens and browns," says foraging expert Courtney Taylor of Weston, north of Dallas. "To most people, plants all look the same. It takes time, patience and consistency to learn the nuances between them. Wood clover and clover, which are both edible, look similar but have subtle differences."

Taylor, a Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative member, teaches basic foraging classes and compiled a 60-page e-book on North Texas edibles. In every class, she stresses foraging etiquette.

"Leave an environment better than you found it," she says. "Only harvest what you're going to use. Only take a leaf or two from a small plant. If you take all the leaves, that plant won't go to flower. As a forager you want that plant to be there next year. I believe that conscientious foragers can actually increase an environment's health and wild food populations."

Depending on the month, Taylor harvests mulberries, persimmons, dewberries, pecans, black walnuts, hackberries and beautyberries among many others—often foraging in her rural neighborhood and along country roads. "The tastiest greens to me are lamb's-quarters and chickweed," she says. "I also eat a lot of dandelion leaves for their health benefits. I like to make smoothies with them."

Educating others about useful plants is a top priority for Vorderbruggen, who produces videos, podcasts and presentations on the subject. "Most people assume all

## Foraging Do's & Don'ts

**Know what you're picking before you eat it.**

**Stay off private land unless you have permission.**

**Don't take plant materials from public lands; it's illegal.**

**Steer clear of toxic areas, like highway roadsides and places frequented by pets.**

**Pick up any litter you find.**



### WATCH YOUR STEP

Look out for poison ivy when you get the itch to forage.

**OPPOSITE** Wild mulberries can be found all over Texas. Take a foraging class to learn to identify edible plants. **LEFT** Courtney Taylor is a 20-year foraging expert, especially on North Texas edibles.



COURTESY COURTNEY TAYLOR

plants are poisonous,” says the Houston resident, who holds a master’s in medicinal chemistry and a doctorate in physical organic chemistry. “Even people who want to forage and have read the books still have a fear of misidentifying something and dying as a result. My goal is to help them to trust themselves and eat a plant that they’ve properly identified.”

## Rooted to the Spot

In far North Texas, Kimberly Clark, a member of Fannin County EC, learned to forage by watching YouTube videos and joining foraging groups on Facebook. “Now my two kids like to forage with me on our acreage and in our area,” she says. “We harvest elderberry, cattails, water violets, peppergrass and sorrel. My son’s favorite is wild carrot, also known as Queen Anne’s lace.” (Caution: Queen Anne’s lace looks similar to two extremely toxic plants: poison hemlock and water hemlock.)

Come midsummer, Tom Mitchell Jr. of Cleburne steers a golf cart around his neighborhood, looking for clusters of ripe flameleaf sumac berries. “They make a great mock lemonade,” says Mitchell, a commercial pilot and United Cooperative Services member. “I put the berries in a pot of water and let them sit overnight. Then I strain the pink liquid and add some honey. The lemony flavor comes from the berries’ malic acid. I also dry sumac berries, then grind them up to use as a spice.”

Last year, forager Racheal Balliu—a Pedernales EC member and registered nurse who lives near Canyon Lake—took some “yard butter” to a party. At first her friends hesitated to sample the creamy condiment, mixed with chickweed, peppergrass, henbit and wild onions. “I’ve found that people are sometimes nervous to try foraged foods,” Balliu says. “But after trying my butter, they loved it. They also love the pesto that I make with chickweed, basil, parmesan and pecans.”

Her interest in wild foods has since morphed into a business called Forest Girl Wild American Tea. Her green and roasted yaupon teas are available online and sometimes at farmers markets. “Yaupon holly is the only natural caffeine in North America,” she explains. “I hand-pick



COURTESY MARK VORDERBRUGGEN

yaupon leaves on family land, wash and air-dry them, and then package the leaves as both tea bags and loose leaf.”

In the Rio Grande Valley, wild edibles aren’t as easy to find. That’s because more than 90% of native habitats have been cleared through the years for agriculture and urbanization. “The nature we see here is more sterilized,” says Jackelin Treviño of McAllen. “Buffalo grass and oaks are lovely, but they’re not forageable. I see that gradually changing as cities plant more native plants.

“Foragers here are basically limited to private property with permission and conserved areas, where foraging is discouraged,” she continues. “When I’m able to forage, my favorite wild edible in the Valley are berries from brasilwood. They look like blueberries, are shiny like grapes and taste like blackberries.”

Out west in El Paso, the Chihuahuan Desert would seemingly offer even fewer finds. But outdoorsman James Harris

## Sheryl's Top 5 Wild Edibles for Beginners



CHICKWEED

DANDELION

knows better. For nearly a decade, he's researched the vegetation and wildlife that inhabit the arid region that he's called home all his life. Now he shares his knowledge about wild foods and other survival skills through videos.

"Out here, one of our most plentiful wild edibles are honey mesquite pods and beans," he says. "They're very versatile. You can use them to make small cakes, teas, jellies, jams and energy bars. They also make a good coffee substitute, even though they don't have caffeine."

Prickly pear cacti are also very common, Harris says, and their pads and fruit are edible. "They're a pain to gather because of the thorns, so I always carry tweezers," he says. "Another edible is the banana yucca, which I call the 'super-market of the desert.' The young flower stalks can be cut and cooked like asparagus. The white flowers are edible. You can also cook the green fruits."

From yuccas to chickweed, I noted a common interest in my conversations with foragers from across the state: They all love getting outside and exploring wild places. As Harris explains, "Being outdoors grounds you closer to the earth. You have a higher appreciation for the seasons and the plants when you interact with nature."

I couldn't agree more. ■

## Texas' Most Toxic Plants

Castor bean

Jimsonweed  
(angel trumpet,  
moonflower,  
thornapple)

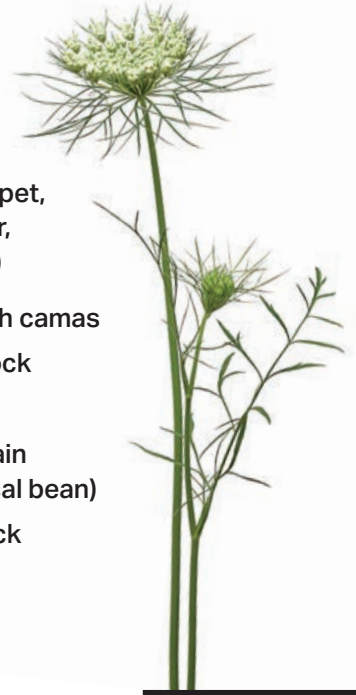
Nuttall's death camas

Poison hemlock

Poison ivy

Texas mountain  
laurel (mescal bean)

Water hemlock



OPPOSITE Mark Vorderbruggen, left, leads a foraging class at Spoke Hollow Outfitters near Wimberley in the Hill Country. RIGHT James Harris uses the fruit of prickly pear cactus, called tunas, to make refreshing juice.

COURTESY JAMES HARRIS

### CHECK BEFORE YOU PICK

Toxic hemlocks look similar to the edible Queen Anne's lace, above.



HENBIT



PINK EVENING PRIMROSE

TURK'S CAP





# Speaking to Children

Meet the South Texas educator who isn't slowing down in her mission to instill a love of language in bilingual readers

**T**o understand what drives María Alma González Pérez, one must understand her love of language. Because her mother had only a grade school education, González Pérez mostly spoke Spanish—the only language she knew until enrolling in school—with clarity and precision.

“She did not want us mispronouncing words,” González Pérez says. “She would say that the proper use of the language was something that defined you as an educated person.”

Upon that principle, González Pérez earned a doctorate in education, then became a professor, college administrator, children's book author and, most recently, an entrepreneur—all while advocating for the importance of language. González Pérez, 70, is now a decade into her latest career—a publisher on a quest to bring more Hispanic culture into children's books.

The native of Zapata County, on the border in South Texas, won a prestigious International Latino Book Award in 2021 for her book *¡Todos al rodeo! A Vaquero Alphabet Book*. The children's picture book is the third in her series of what she calls “ABC books,” which tell a story through the letters of the alphabet. She uses the genre to infuse Hispanic culture into children's literature to foster bilingual literacy.

It's the kind of book she wishes she had as a young student.

“I was always trying to unravel this mystery called English,” González Pérez says. “It was a sink-or-swim approach to learning.” Her moment of awakening, she says, came in the eighth grade, when she first enrolled in a Spanish course and received a textbook for that class. “This is the book they should have given me in the first grade,” she says. “They did it backwards.”

González Pérez's vaquero book teaches children that the American cowboy and the cattle industry itself emerged from the arrival of Spaniards who introduced the horse to North America. Words like “rodeo” and “lasso,” the book points out, are Spanish in origin.

The book also draws from the author's own life; González Pérez, a member of Medina Electric Cooperative, comes from a land-grant family whose large property holdings were bestowed on early Texas settlers by the Spanish crown. She grew up on a 1,000-acre ranch that touched the banks of the Rio Grande, so she's familiar with the vaquero way of life. Her Texas roots reach back so many generations that she calls herself a Tejana instead of a Mexicana.

González Pérez frequently uses the Spanish word for courage—*coraje*—as she speaks. Her cultural awareness in a part of the state where Hispanic culture is the norm gave her the *coraje* to excel in school even though she had to learn English while she was learning other subjects. And her mother's insistence on excelling gave González Pérez a sense of self, she says. “I never felt that I needed to be anybody else other than who I was.”

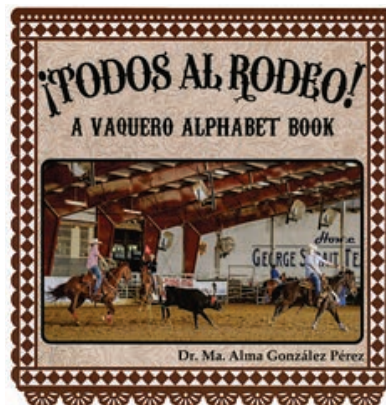
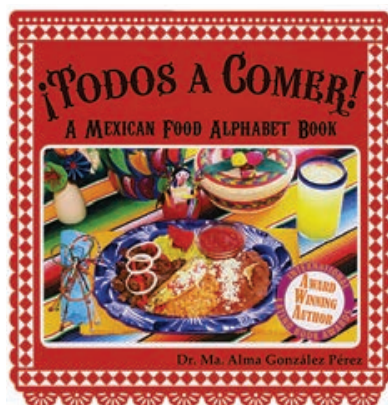
So with a sense of *coraje*, González Pérez left the cultural comfort of South Texas to master English by immersion. She attended Texas Woman's University in Denton in the 1970s, then “relatively devoid” of Hispanic people, she says.

After securing undergraduate and master's degrees, González Pérez returned to South Texas, where she taught, raised a family and eventually attended Texas A&M International University in Laredo for her doctorate. Her dissertation on the relationship between Spanish proficiency and academic achievement among high school graduates in South Texas fueled what would become a lifelong pursuit.

Literacy, her study showed her, extends beyond the pages of books into cultural understanding. It's the context on which idioms are built and understood, and it's the antitoxin of cultural misunderstanding and outright xenophobia.

González Pérez frequently uses the Spanish word for courage—*coraje*—as she speaks.

“I never felt that I needed to be anybody else other than who I was.”



Literature, she believes, immerses readers in the experiences of others—puts them in the shoes of protagonists. But as a professor at the University of Texas-Pan American (now UT Rio Grande Valley), González Pérez was frustrated by a lack of culturally relevant Hispanic literature available for her students. They were studying to become bilingual teachers using a curriculum based in English.

“I started gauging them, and that’s when I learned that they had not been exposed to any literature written by Hispanic authors,” González Pérez says. That sparked something in the professor.

Lino Garcia Jr., a retired UTRGV professor, sees the need for Hispanic stories from Hispanic authors.

“We should be doing that at the pre-K level,” he says. “Instead of talking about the Taj Mahal, we should be talking about Spanish missions, about the Camino Real—about things that Hispanic students can relate to. This gives them a sense of identity. This gives them a sense of worth.”

González Pérez’s first book was *¡Todos a Comer! A Mexican Food Alphabet Book*—the best-selling of her series for children. The second book, *¡Todos a Celebrar!*, spotlighted Hispanic customs and traditions.

Of course, writing culturally inclusive books is one thing; getting them distributed, González Pérez discovered, was a big, new challenge. So with the help of her three daughters, she launched Del Alma Publications (*del alma* means “of the soul”). An attorney, a business major, and an engineer and graphic designer, Anita Pérez, Maricia Rodriguez and Teresa Estrada, respectively, helped their mother get the

business going in 2008.

“I have a dream team in my daughters,” González Pérez says. “I told my daughters, ‘Let’s play with it for five years. If it flies, great. If it doesn’t, nothing was lost but a lot was learned.’”

It flew.

González Pérez’s initial goal was to target South Texas. But her first bulk order of more than 25 books came, instead, from Redondo Beach, California. Next came an order from Philadelphia for several hundred books. The demand was nationwide. Del Alma Publications has shipped thousands of books over the past 14 years—to individuals, schools, libraries, book donors and nationwide book distributors.

But she isn’t done yet.

“We’ve made great strides in meeting the biliteracy challenges of the Hispanic learner,” González Pérez says. “However, we still need to write many more books about stories that our children need to read.

“Not only to inform and educate but to help them develop a greater sense of cultural identity and pride.” ■

**TCP** Enter online to win González Pérez’s three bilingual alphabet books, above.





Good afternoon,

As a local business, we understand the importance of conserving energy and saving money, particularly in a world of **more frequent ice storms** and wildfires. The past couple years of winter storms have impacted us all. The challenge of keeping our homes warm and secure is always on our minds. And then there is the pain of **skyrocketing fuel prices...**

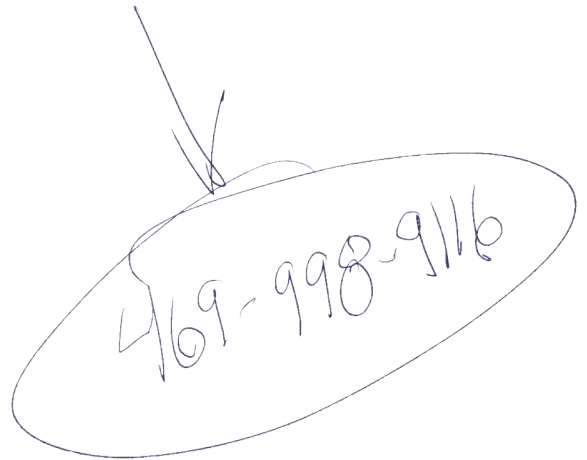
**The best windows and doors ensure an extra layer of security** for your family. They'll help retain the climate you pay for by keeping heat in in the winter and heat out in the summer.

If an upgrade to make your home comfy and efficient makes sense, I'm happy to offer you this special reader's discount this month! **Please give my team a call. We'll come work up a price at a time that fits your busy life!**

Warmly,

*Steve Johnston*

**Steve Johnston**  
General Manager  
Renewal by Andersen of North Texas  
www.LocalWindowDiscount.com



**Renewal by Andersen Savings Offer**

Month/Year June 2022

Publication Texas Coop Power

Save \$ 312 on windows<sup>1</sup>

Save \$ 700 on doors<sup>1</sup>

\$ 0 down 0 payments 0 % interest for 12 months<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 6/30/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 7/10/22. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

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

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



Dear Darryl

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

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

*Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX*

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

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

**SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unplug and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at [www.septicleanse.com](http://www.septicleanse.com) or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS16", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

**Beachcombing at home.**

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

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

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

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

From the publishers of **TexasCoopPower**

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



**Struck in 99.9%  
Fine Silver!**  
*For the First Time EVER!*

**First Legal-Tender  
Morgans in a Century!**

**VERY LIMITED!  
Sold Out at the Mint!**



O PRIVY MARK



Actual size  
is 38.1 mm

## The U.S. Mint Just Struck Morgan Silver Dollars for the First Time in 100 Years!

It's been more than 100 years since the last Morgan Silver Dollar was struck for circulation. Morgans were the preferred currency of cowboys, ranchers and outlaws and earned a reputation as the coin that helped build the Wild West. Struck in 90% silver from 1878 to 1904, then again in 1921, these silver dollars came to be known by the name of their designer, George T. Morgan. They are one of the most revered, most-collected, vintage U.S. Silver Dollars ever.

### Celebrating the 100th Anniversary with Legal-Tender Morgans

Honoring the 100th anniversary of the last year they were minted, the U.S. Mint struck five different versions of the Morgan in 2021, paying tribute to each of the mints that struck the coin. The coins here honor the historic New Orleans Mint, a U.S. Mint branch from 1838–1861 and again from 1879–1909. These coins, featuring an "O" privy mark, a small differentiating mark, were struck in Philadelphia since the New Orleans Mint no longer exists. These beautiful

coins are different than the originals because they're struck in 99.9% fine silver instead of 90% silver/10% copper, and they were struck using modern technology, serving to enhance the details of the iconic design.

### Very Limited. Sold Out at the Mint!

The U.S. Mint limited the production of these gorgeous coins to just 175,000, a ridiculously low number. Not surprisingly, they sold out almost instantly! That means you need to hurry to add these bright, shiny, new legal-tender Morgan Silver Dollars with the New Orleans privy mark, struck in 99.9% PURE Silver, to your collection. Call 1-888-395-3219 to secure yours now. PLUS, you'll receive a BONUS American Collectors Pack, valued at \$25, FREE with your order. Call now. These will not last!

**FREE SHIPPING!** Limited time only.  
Standard domestic shipping only.  
Not valid on previous purchases.

**To learn more, call now.  
First call, first served!**

 **SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

**1-888-395-3219**

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. NSD189-02, Eagan, MN 55121

**Offer Code NSD189-02**

Please mention this code when you call.

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](http://www.govmint.com/terms-conditions)) or call 1-800-721-0320; to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



‘ *Look up at the stars  
and not down at your feet.  
Try to make sense of what you  
see, and wonder about what  
makes the universe exist.*

*Be curious.*

— STEPHEN HAWKING

Story by Ed Crowell

**J**UST ASK ANY rural resident in the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative region why dark skies matter.

Strolling onto open land and looking up at an endless array of stars, constellations and our own Milky Way galaxy can be a profound experience. Whether the lofty nocturnal scenery brings mere peace of mind or an altered sense of place in the universe, it is a powerful part of the appeal of rural living.

Unfortunately, seeing those star-spangled dark skies in the Central Texas region is getting harder. Light from growing cities and busier highways is reaching into in the region. And across the country, and the globe, dark skies have become a treasured commodity.

In North America, more than 80% of the population cannot see the Milky Way from where they live, according to U.S. government researchers and other scientists.

Texans are fortunate to have a swath of Far West Texas with some of the world's best dark-sky viewing.

More than 15,000 square miles, stretching from Fort Davis into northern Mexico, were recently designated the Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve. It is the world's largest such reserve, determined by the International Dark-Sky Association. There are 20 smaller reserves in Australia, New Zealand, Africa and Europe.

The reserve includes the University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory, the Davis Mountains Preserve and Big Bend National Park, which has the least light pollution of any national park in the continental United States, according to the National Park Service.

Continued on page 20

# FRONT. the

**The stars at night are  
bigger and brighter  
deep in the heart of the  
Bluebonnet region.  
A guide to celestial  
viewing in Central Texas.**

# FRONT ROW SEAT TO universe



Photo by *Rodolfo Gonzalez*

Dr. Randall Light, inset above, helps set up a 10-inch refractor telescope in April at a refurbished observatory on private ranchland in Lee County. The observatory, at left, is used by members of the Brazos Valley Astronomy Club. A red glow illuminates the interior of the observatory dome in this ultra long-exposure photo, which shows the trails of stars over a period of hours.

## PEERING INTO THE FINAL FRONTIER

- In search of dark skies for good stargazing? Try some of the state parks in the region, **PAGE 20**
- Bluebonnet provides dark-sky compliant lights to help its members see the stars, **PAGE 21**
- The right pair of binoculars are a simpler way to start looking at the night sky, **PAGE 22**
- Get started with an area astronomy club, **PAGE 23**
- Check out helpful astronomy websites and apps, **PAGE 23**

**Find a schedule of upcoming celestial events accompanying this story online at [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop).**

*Photo by Randall Light*



Continued from page 18

The observatory's nearest major source of light interference is from large oil and gas drilling facilities to the northeast, said Stephen Hummel, dark skies initiative coordinator at the McDonald Observatory. "We're trying to get them to use sky-friendly lighting that aims down and saves them money, too."

**Star parties and telescopes**

There are still parts of the Bluebonnet service area where you can see starry sights on cloudless nights. The cooperative has been doing its part to preserve its members' nighttime views by installing dark-sky compliant outdoor security lights since 2014.

State parks and historic areas in Bluebonnet's service area offer some good places to stargaze.

Lake Somerville State Park, in Burleson and Lee counties, sometimes hosts star parties, and visitors can bring their own telescopes or use the park's large one. The park has been given a 4.5 Bortle rating, which promises some impressive night-sky viewing.

The Bortle Scale, devised in 2001 by amateur astronomer John E. Bortle of New York, ranges from 1 to 9. A rating of 1 indicates some of the darkest skies, such as those in Far West Texas, and a 9 represents cities where the night sky is lit brightly.

Five state parks in the Bluebonnet region rate a 4.5 or 5 on the Bortle Scale. McKin-

ney Falls State Park in southeast Travis County rates a 7 because of its proximity to Austin.

Lake Somerville park ranger Lauren Kubica has been trained for night-sky viewing by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and enjoys leading star parties for park visitors.

"We have one Celestron NexStar 8 telescope for people to look through, but many people bring their own telescopes," Kubica said. "They also can use binoculars, which are a great way to start if they are new to astronomy."

"The moon is an awesome thing for showing detail. We also like to focus on Saturn. It's really great to see its rings

- Bastrop State Park — 5
- Buescher State Park — 4.5
- Lake Somerville State Park — 4.5
- Lockhart State Park — 5
- McKinney Falls State Park — 7
- Palmetto State Park — 4.5

**STATE PARK STARGAZING**

Six state parks in or near the Bluebonnet region rate 4.5 or higher on the Bortle Scale, which rates skies from 1 (darkest) to 9 (brightest). Some parks offer special stargazing events and assistance. Call the park's headquarters for information. Check for events locally or around the state at Texas Parks and Wildlife's stargazing calendar: online at [tpwd.texas.gov/calendar](http://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar) (scroll down the index on the left to "stargazing.")

through our telescope."

Reservations for viewings with Kubica can be made through the park's Nails Creek Unit at 979-289-2392.

**Seeking the darkest skies**

Some of the other darkest sky areas in the Bluebonnet region are north of Dime Box in Lee County; west of Lake Somerville in Burleson County; near Industry in Austin County; Kovar in Bastrop County; and Stellar and Muldoon in Fayette County.

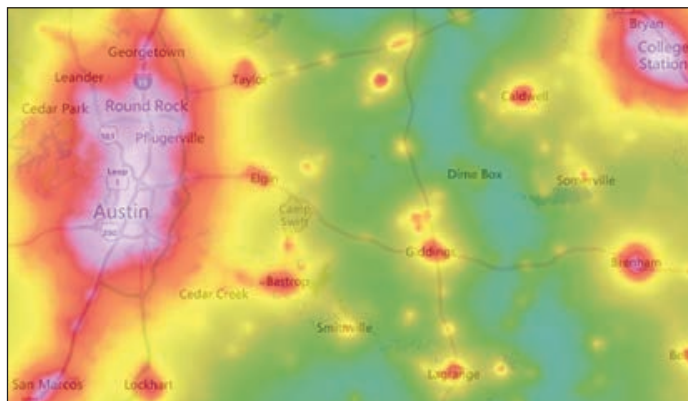
Many Texas state parks have been replacing their outdoor lighting with night-sky friendly fixtures and bulbs. Those measures, however, cannot block out light interference from nearby towns and highways.

So far, six communities in Texas have official "dark sky" designation, but none are in the Bluebonnet region. Five are in the Hill Country to the west and the sixth is in north Texas.

The city of Smithville in Bastrop County is in early discussions about what it would take to become an International Dark Sky Community. Smithville now replaces any city-owned lights that stop working with night-sky friendly lights.

There are several online light pollution maps and guides that pinpoint light and dark skies around the globe and in your area. Examples include the National Park Service's night-sky monitoring database at

Online light pollution maps show relative darkness and lightness around the globe. This one, from [lightpollutionmap.info](http://lightpollutionmap.info), shows a limited amount of darkness in the Bluebonnet region, indicated by light blue areas on the map.





A dark-sky compliant security light illuminates a Bluebonnet member's property in Paige. Bluebonnet installs lights that shine downward but are shielded on the sides and top to prevent light pollution. *Photo by Sarah Beal*

## Bluebonnet provides dark-sky compliant lights

By Will Holford

**AS THE POPULATION** increases across Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's service area and more rural land gives way to neighborhoods and businesses, preserving dark skies can help protect the quality of life that makes the region a desirable place to live and work.

For that reason, Bluebonnet has, since 2014, installed dark-sky compliant, LED lights when co-op members request security lights at their homes, businesses, farms and ranches.

The lights shine in a downward cone, with no light shining out from the side or above the fixture toward the sky.

This preserves the dark night sky while providing the safety and security of well-lighted ground.

A dark-sky compliant LED light can

still be seen from nearby or at a distance. It also appears brighter than a standard security light because its cone of illumination is focused on, and contained to, a smaller area. Such a shielded light pointing only downward allows for the same level of brightness and security, but does not illuminate the sky above.

"The important thing for people to know is that dark sky doesn't mean dark ground," said Thomas Ellis, Bluebonnet's manager of engineering. "The LED lights we install at our members' request are an improvement over the previous security lights. They are better for the environment because they use less energy and significantly reduce light pollution."

Although Bluebonnet has installed thousands of dark-sky compliant LED security lights in the last eight years, there are still many older lights on the

cooperative's power system. If one of these older lights stops working, and it cannot be repaired, Bluebonnet will replace it with a dark-sky compliant light at no additional cost beyond a standard \$10 to \$20 monthly fee per light. That fee varies depending on the size of the light.

Bluebonnet members who do not currently have a security light can request a dark-sky compliant light. Members who want to replace older security lights with a dark-sky compliant LED light will pay a one-time fee of \$125, in addition to the monthly charge of \$10 to \$20.

Get information or request a security light online at [bluebonnet.coop/security-lights](http://bluebonnet.coop/security-lights) or by calling a Bluebonnet member service representative at 800-842-7708, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

NPS.gov (search for "skymap") or the light pollution maps on [lightpollutionmap.info](http://lightpollutionmap.info) and [cleardarksky.com](http://cleardarksky.com).

Local astronomy clubs often sponsor viewing parties and other educational programs that can help anyone interested in learning about astronomy or astrophotography.

The Brazos Valley Astronomy Club, based in Bryan-College Station, operates an observatory dome on a ranch owned by Robert Smith, near the Lee County town of Lexington. The dome, which was refurbished by

club members, is named the S&Y Observatory after Smith's late wife, Sandy. The dome sits atop a small building held aloft by heavy concrete piers.

Four or five people at a time can squeeze into the 10-by-10-foot observatory and enjoy the night sky through telescopes they bring to the site. A warming room next to the observatory was added to help avoid condensation on telescopes in the open-air dome. The rural site often has "pretty good skies," Smith said, which are rated at about 4

on the Bortle Scale. Helpful neighbors also keep their outdoor lighting low, he said.

Binoculars and laser pointers are used in the observatory to give less experienced visitors a tour of the stars.

One club member, Dr. Randall Light, a retired Bryan neurologist, has been an avid photographer of deep space since 2013.

His website, [randalllight.com](http://randalllight.com), shows examples of different styles of astrophotography, and his time-lapse photo near the Lee

Continued on page 22



Dawn Davies writes online reports about night-sky viewing, focusing on state parks. Her tools include a variety of telescopes, binoculars, lens adapters, charts and books. The 80mm white telescope on the left is ideal for deep-sky viewing; the large copper telescope at right uses mirrors instead of lenses. *Photos by Sarah Beal*

### Continued from page 21

County observatory is on pages 18-19 of this magazine.

“When I look at the night sky ... it’s amazingly beautiful and complex,” he said, adding that he is often struck by the detail and complexity of what he photographs. “There’s both a sense of real gratitude for the glory (of it) and a sense of how small we are. Yet, here we are, looking at this magnificent creation.”

### Stargazing tips and guides

Amateur astronomer Dawn Davies of Austin created the Earthbound Astronomer website to help Central Texans interested in stargazing. She takes her telescopes and family to visit state parks and then writes an online report about each park’s night sky viewing conditions.

Davies, a volunteer with the Texas chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association, camped with her family at Bastrop State Park as part of her ongoing research. Her report on earthboundastronomer.com notes that the park’s hilly terrain and tall trees “limit the eastern sky and block visibility from on average 20 degrees down to the horizon. The western sky is a bit more forgiving with visibility from 10 degrees up.

“There is a more secluded clearing of (camp) sites in the back of the Copperas Creek camping area. Sites #46-49 yield level camp areas with good sky exposure and the least amount of noise” (from nearby Texas 71).



The Orion 20x80 Explorer Astronomy binoculars are favored by Dawn Davies, who launched the Earthbound Astronomer website. ‘Sometimes two eyes are better than one,’ for stargazing, she said.

## START STARGAZING WITH BINOCULARS

High-quality telescopes are expensive and require tripods and interchangeable eyepieces. The right binoculars are a simpler way to start looking at the night sky.

On space.com, a guide for beginners says the best binoculars balance magnification with how much light is let in. “For beginner stargazers, the ideal combination is a low magnification of around 7x to 10x and an aperture of about 42mm to 50mm. Such binoculars are generally small, lightweight and can be held reasonably steady.

Many stargazing binocular rankings can be found online, but those listed by several reputable third-party sources include:

- Celestron’s SkyMaster 15x70 (\$100) or Cometron 7x50 (\$36)
- Meade Instruments 15x70 AstroBinoculars (\$116)
- Nikon Action 7x50EX (\$138-\$145)
- Orion 20x80 Astronomy Explorer (\$160)
- Vortex Optics Crossfire HD (\$179)

‘ *There’s both a sense of real gratitude for the glory (of it) and a sense of how small we are. Yet, here we are, looking at this magnificent creation.*

**DR. RANDALL LIGHT,**  
retired Bryan neurologist  
and avid deep-space photographer

Soon after Davies moved to Texas in 2006, she joined the Austin Astronomical Society and remains an active member. She recommends astronomy clubs and their star parties for night-sky viewings because they are good places to learn the basics of observing planets and their moons, constellations, comets and eclipses. Astronomical Society members gladly share their telescopes and help new members identify celestial objects, she said.

Davies’ advice for novices is to start simple with a pair of good binoculars.

Consider gazing at the Pleiades (also known as the Seven Sisters), one of the nearest star clusters to Earth. It’s better seen with a pair of binoculars than a telescope, she said. “Start with a pair that don’t require a mount. It is easier to share with others, unlike a telescope that would have to be reset to a person’s height” for every viewer, she said.

Davies recently became night sky program manager for the Hill Country Alliance, a conservation organization. The group tries to help Texas communities improve their lighting to darken night skies. Smithville is planning an event with Davies as a speaker to discuss the city’s role in any possible dark-sky measures, said Jill Strube, grants administrator for Smithville.

Across Central Texas, Davies and others are encouraging developers of new subdivisions to install night-sky lighting.

Some planners and builders still “don’t think about light pollution because it’s a new form, unlike air or water pollution. Mostly it is about education,” Davies said.

Research suggests that artificial night light can harm mammals, amphibians, birds, insects and plants. “Plants and animals depend on Earth’s daily cycle of light-and-dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators,” according to the International Dark-Sky Association.

The sky above us is the ultimate outdoor classroom and anyone can be a student, learning the mysteries of our star-studded dark skies. ■

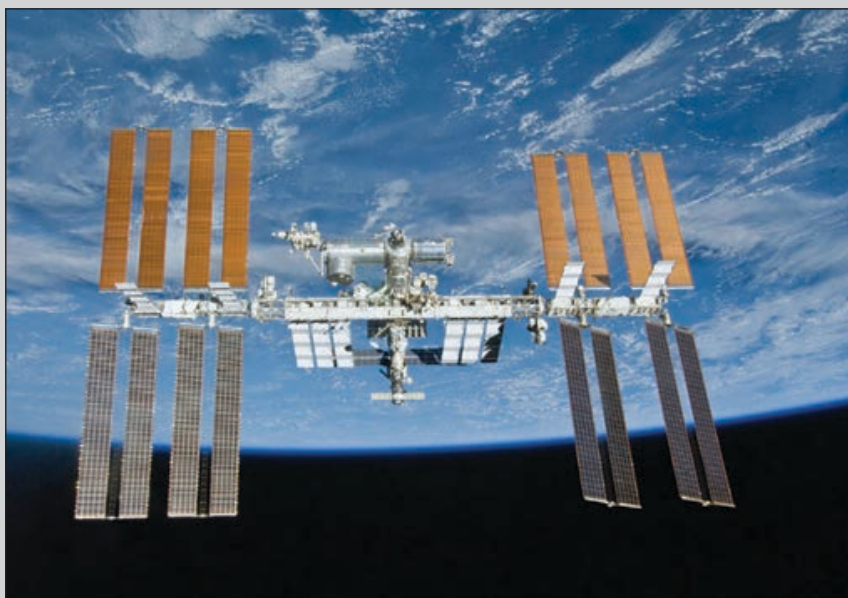
## GET STARTED WITH AN ASTRONOMY CLUB

These regional organizations offer a good way to connect with other people interested in astronomy and to attend their star-gazing gatherings.

**Brazos Valley Astronomy Club:** Based in Bryan-College Station, the club, with about 25 active members, meets monthly at Texas A&M University. The group has two donated telescopes and access to a small privately owned observatory dome in Lee County; [brazosvalleyastronomyclub.org](http://brazosvalleyastronomyclub.org).

**Houston Astronomical Society:** This large club, founded in 1955, offers programs for young people and novices as well as experienced astronomers. Trained members can use the society’s observatory site 80 miles west of Houston (at an undisclosed location.) Monthly virtual meetings feature speakers; [astronomyhouston.org](http://astronomyhouston.org).

**Austin Astronomical Society:** Monthly astronomy-oriented social and educational events include star-viewing parties at dark-sky locations and speakers ranging from former astronauts to Nobel Prize winners. Astronomy 101 classes are held for beginners. Recent issues of the club’s monthly magazine “Sidereal Times” are available at [austinastro.org](http://austinastro.org).



The International Space Station can be tracked on the website [spotthestation.nasa.gov](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov). The station orbits Earth every 90 minutes, traveling 17,500 mph at an average altitude of about 250 miles. *Photo courtesy of nasa.gov*

## WEBSITES & APPS WORTH WATCHING

- Spot the International Space Station at NASA’s [spotthestation.nasa.gov](http://spotthestation.nasa.gov). Enter your location and sign up for alerts when the space station will be visible from your location. Get a week’s worth of sighting dates on the site.
- Night Sky Network from NASA offers a guide to astronomy clubs and events, and a night-sky planner that allows you to type in your location for a forecast, [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov).
- EarthSky.org (from Austin-based science journalist Deborah Byrd) gives “updates on your cosmos and world” with everything from news about celestial events to a detailed “best places to stargaze” map of the globe.
- Clearoutside.com provides detailed forecasts of weather and sky conditions in your area for the next seven days.
- The University of Texas McDonald Observatory in Far West Texas offers StarDate.org, a website with lots of online resources, including an “In the Sky This Month” feature that lists key sky events to watch for, such as meteor showers, eclipses and constellation appearances.
- Apps: The Night Sky app for iPhone and the Star Chart app for Android devices let users point their smartphones at the sky and identify constellations, stars and planets.

# Bluebonnet awards scholarships to 60 outstanding students

**BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC** Cooperative awarded \$150,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors from across the cooperative's service area in April. Each Scholarship of Excellence is for \$2,500. This year more than 180 students applied for 60 scholarships. The cooperative awarded 43 academic scholarships to students who are pursuing bachelor's degrees and 17 scholarships to students pursuing trade or technical certification or degrees in a vocational field.

Recipients plan to study dental hygiene, land surveying, construction science, nursing and other fields at schools including Blinn College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas State Technical College and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Students pursuing bachelor's degrees plan to attend Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, Sam Houston State University and Texas Tech University, among others. Their planned areas of study include computer science, agriculture, biology, fashion merchandising, forensic and investigative science, and small business entrepreneurship.

The cooperative has given out more than \$600,000 in scholarships in the past five years. Get applications for 2023 scholarships in November on [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop).



The recipients of the trade and technical scholarships are, front row, from left, Mattie Konvicka, Whitney Hodges, Madison Creek, Justin Majewski, Anna Rother, Brooke David and Emery Brockenbush; back row, from left, Bryson Murphy, Barrett Spacek, Logan Marek, Kaden Schimank, John Bostic, Weston Beasley and Dillon Hernandez. Not pictured: Alexandra Alvarado, Sadie Claxton and Zyrah Scott. *Photos by Sarah Beal*

The academic recipients, above, are, front row from left, Weston Bauer, Weston Hinze, Kelsey Zientek, Bryan Gonzalez, Kenley Mikolajchak, Cassidy Fuchs, Caylee Garza, Garrett Tittle, Hadlee Ladewig, Chloe Callan, Jada Martin, Rachel Frerich, Jared Mueller, Katie Mikolajchak, Briana Torres and Eli Saunders; second row, from left, Carlee Edwards, Breanna Loredorayas, Hayden Bexley, Morgan Becka, Allison Schneider, Maile Escalona, Kiersten Reed, Avery Turner, Jamie Doggett, Madelyn Birnbaum, Grace Howe, Adrienne Zientek, Laci Marburger, Nathan Lucas and Piper Swisher; and back row, from left, Abby Kennon, Kacie Morriss, Briana Mutschink, Creed Whitfill, Avery Croft, Cole Heger, Emily Spiess and Gavin Gomez. Not pictured: Wylie Barrett, Kathleen Coleman, Waylon Hinze and Branson Warmke.

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

Bluebonnet offices will be closed May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a power outage, you can report it by texting OUT to 85700 (to register, text BBOUTAGE to that number), online at [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop), via our mobile app or by calling 800-949-4414. You can pay bills any time online, on our mobile app or call 800-842-7708 (press option 2 when prompted).

## HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

### Are you ready for storms?

The Atlantic hurricane season started on June 1 and lasts until Nov. 30. Learn how to create a family plan, prepare for and report a power outage, stay safe during severe weather and get outage updates at [bluebonnet.coop/hurricanes](http://bluebonnet.coop/hurricanes).



**CHECK IT OUT!**

**We've created a whole new look for Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's website!**

# the new **bluebonnet.coop**

**We've got fast, mobile-friendly ways to:**

- Report and track outages
- Start, stop or transfer service
- Learn about solar and renewable energy options
- Get the latest co-op news and information
- Explore varied career options at Bluebonnet

Clear, easy to use and navigate

●  
Quickly find the resources and information you need

●  
Step-by-step guidance for account management

Don't worry!

The way you pay your bill or access account information hasn't changed. Questions? Call member services at **800-842-7708** or email **memberservices@bluebonnet.coop**.



# RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid

BUY 1  
GET 1 FREE

NEW LOW  
PRICE

REG. \$299.98  
ONLY  
**\$149<sup>99</sup>**  
Each When You Buy a Pair  
PLUS FREE SHIPPING  
*Limited Time Only!*



How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$149<sup>99</sup> be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

**The answer:** Although tremendous strides have been made in Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The MDHearingAid® VOLT uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 600,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered rechargeable hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

**CHARGE** AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY

NEVER  
CHANGE  
A BATTERY  
AGAIN!



Carrying case is also the charger.

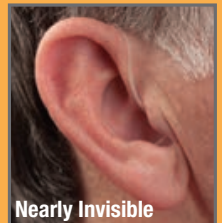
**45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**

If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!

For the Lowest Price Call

**1-800-890-6187**

[www.MDVolt.com](http://www.MDVolt.com)



Nearly Invisible

Use Code **SR17**  
and get **FREE** Shipping

MDHearingAid®

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Proudly assembled  
in America!



# SUMMER SAVINGS



## Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service  
Second to None

**DDM Brenham Office**  
979-251-9503  
301 Salem Road • Brenham

**DDM Bastrop Office**  
512-321-0336  
1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

\*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



### All Metal Structures



### 40'x15'x12'



### Made in Texas



### 30'x40'x12'



### Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



**Call today for  
our best pricing!**

[www.ddmbuildings.com](http://www.ddmbuildings.com)

### Low Cost Pole Barns

26' x 48' x 10'  
3 Sides Enclosed

**Call now for our best pricing!**

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

**Call Ron: 512-367-0428**

### WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

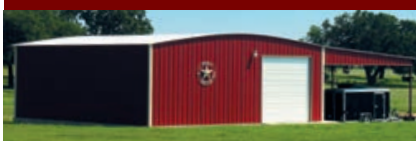
Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap  
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps  
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

**TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX**

All transactions private, confidential & secure.

**830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com**

### WD Metal Buildings



- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Metal Framework
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors
- Continuous Roof Design

**Instant Prices @ WDMB.com**

### TCP Gift Shop

**TCP Shop now**

[TexasCoopPower.com/shop](http://TexasCoopPower.com/shop)



### 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**



### ARK-LA-TEX

SHOP BUILDERS

"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARNs • CABINs • [WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM](http://WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM)

**830-730-0515**

8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



### BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

**WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

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 slab \*Dirt may be extra

**TCP Marketplace**  
Across Town | Across Texas

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

# 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

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

**ONLY  
\$29!**

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.

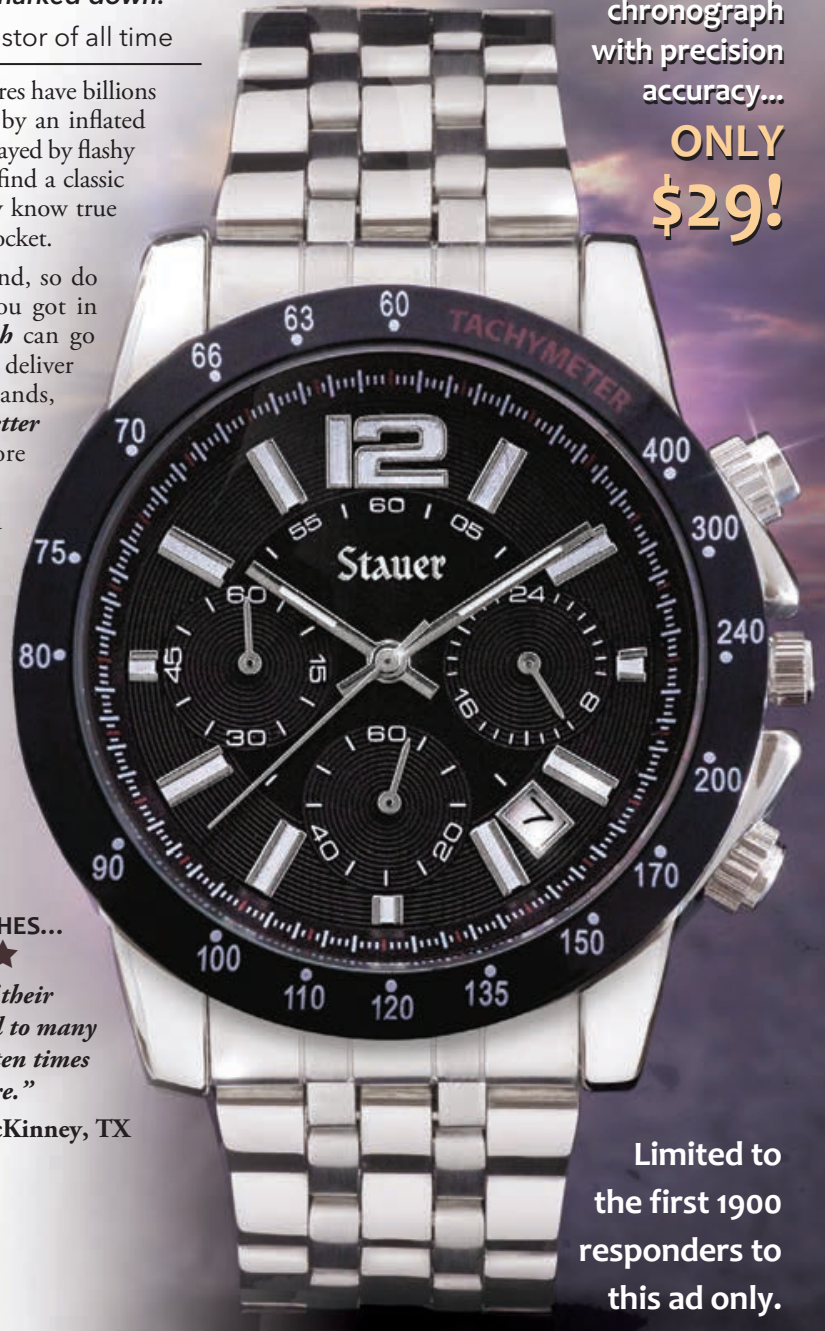
**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Experience the *Jet-Setter Chronograph* for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price.

**Time is running out.** Now that the secret's out, we can't guarantee this \$29 chronograph will stick around long. Don't overpay to be underwhelmed. Put a precision chronograph on your wrist for just \$29 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



Limited to  
the first 1900  
responders to  
this ad only.

**TAKE 90% OFF INSTANTLY!**

*When you use your OFFER CODE*

Jet-Setter Chronograph \$299

Offer Code Price \$29\* + S&P Save \$270

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Offer Code: JCW477-01

\*Special price only for customers using the offer code.



*Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.®*

*"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. JCW477-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)  
† Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.



# Doctor's Orders

UT medical school faculty left Galveston to provide aid during World War I

BY MARTHA DEERING • ILLUSTRATION BY DANA SMITH

WHEN DR. ETHEL LYON HEARD returned to Texas after serving overseas with the Red Cross during World War I, she was holding tightly to the hand of a 3-year-old orphan from France named Jean Thibaut. After the child's house was nearly destroyed by a mortar in 1918, he was discovered in a back room the following day and brought to the hospital where Lyon Heard worked.

Before the war, Lyon Heard taught classes in hygiene and child care at the University of Texas' medical school in Galveston. Making space in her life for a child orphaned by war was just one of the countless acts of service and moments of bravery undertaken by UT faculty when the U.S. joined the war effort.

"These men and women sacrificed their lives and future professions by en-

listing in the war effort in Europe," says Dwayne Jones, director of the Galveston Historical Foundation. "The effects of the war redirected each life and altered the direction of health care forever."

Known today as the University of Texas Medical Branch, the school started in October 1891 with 13 instructors, 23 students and one building.

The mettle of the school was tested right away when the devastating 1900 Galveston hurricane struck. Much of the city was destroyed, but Galveston doctors led recovery efforts.

When the U.S. formally entered World War I in 1917, new and catastrophic forms of combat—trench warfare and chemical and biological weapons—required increased medical care for troops. The situation worsened when the Spanish

flu pandemic swept across the battle-grounds of Europe, killing thousands in just a few days. The American Expeditionary Forces sent out an urgent call for physicians, medical faculty and medical students to assist in the war effort.

The Council of National Defense urged medical students to stay in school and faculty to continue their critical teaching duties. But that didn't stop some of UT's medical personnel, who joined personnel from other leading U.S. universities in enlisting.

Lyon Heard's husband, Dr. Allen George Heard, adjunct professor of pediatrics, joined the medical corps and was assigned to British forces in England. Wounded twice, he received two citations for "conspicuous bravery" in action on the battlefields of France.

Dr. Herbert Lee McNeil, an assistant professor of clinical pathology, was assigned to oversee a hospital with 4,000 patients, later serving on the front lines. Dr. Estill Lee Rice was business manager of the school's medical magazine as a student. He served aboard the USS Nicholson, where he led a rescue mission to treat sailors injured in a German U-boat attack. Dr. Jess Autry Flautt was an instructor in obstetrics and gynecology before enlisting in the Navy Medical Corps on the day after the U.S. declared war. He rescued men from a ship loaded with explosives.

In November 2019, UTMB unveiled a Texas Historical Commission marker to honor the extraordinary contributions of eight members of the school's faculty and 11 students who served during the war effort. Some of the physicians sacrificed their hard-earned professional positions, and in some cases their lives, to serve.

Dr. Ben Raimer, UTMB's president, hopes the marker inspires today's physicians. "The physicians honored on the new historical marker represent service before self, which is what we continue to instill in our students today." ■

HEADS: COURTESY GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION. CLASS: COURTESY MOODY MEDICAL LIBRARY

# Weeknight Dinners

Busy day? No need to sweat it with these stress-free dishes

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Quick and easy dinners are the backbone of our meals. One of my favorites is a stir-fry—you can throw almost anything you have on hand in, and less than 30 minutes later you have a full meal. This beef and green bean stir-fry is a go-to in my family, especially when we have lots of green beans from the garden or tucked away in the freezer. If you like it spicy, add your favorite hot sauce to the dish.

## Beef and Green Bean Stir-Fry

**1 pound ground beef**  
**1 pound green beans, trimmed**  
**3 tablespoons soy sauce**  
**2–3 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger**  
**1–2 teaspoons honey**  
**Crushed red chile flakes (optional)**  
**Cooked rice, to serve**

1. In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, cook the ground beef until browned, breaking into pieces as it cooks. Drain excess grease if desired.
2. Stir in the green beans and cook for about 5 minutes, until beans are bright green and crisp-tender.
3. Whisk together soy sauce, garlic, ginger and honey, then pour into sauté pan. Cook another 2–3 minutes, until heated through, stirring to coat. Finish with chile flakes if desired and serve with rice.

**SERVES 4**

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Stuffed Shells With Chicken.





## Spaghetti Carbonara

LINDA HARDWICK  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Carbonara is the ultimate comfort food and easier than you might think. This version brings in heat with crushed red chile flakes, so add according to your tastes.

- 1 pound spaghetti or other pasta**
- 4–6 slices bacon, chopped**
- 5–6 cloves garlic, minced**
- 1 teaspoon crushed red chile flakes, or to taste**
- ½ cup dry white wine**
- 2 eggs**
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- Salt and pepper**
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley (optional)**

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil and add pasta, cooking according to package instructions. Reserve ½ cup pasta water and drain pasta, setting aside to keep warm.
2. While the pasta cooks, in a large frying pan over medium heat cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon and set aside.
3. To the same pan, add garlic and red chile flakes and sauté for 1 minute, then add white wine, scraping up any stuck bits on the bottom of the pan.
4. Whisk together eggs and Parmesan, then add pasta, egg mixture, bacon and reserved pasta water to the frying pan, tossing with tongs to mix together and create a creamy sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste, and serve with parsley.

SERVES 6

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Eggplant Pizettes

KAY LEUSCHNER  
NUECES EC



Quick, easy and filling, this is a twist on standard eggplant Parmesan. Serve it as is for a lighter meal or add to a dish of pasta with extra sauce.

SERVES 4

- ½ cup breadcrumbs**
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano**
- ½ teaspoon dried basil**
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder**
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- ¼ cup mayonnaise**
- 1 eggplant, cut into ½-inch slices**
- 1 jar (26 ounces) spaghetti sauce**
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella or other cheese**

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a shallow bowl, combine breadcrumbs, spices, garlic powder and Parmesan.
2. Spread a thin layer of mayonnaise on both sides of eggplant slices. Dip each slice into breadcrumb mixture, pressing gently to adhere the coating to both sides.
3. Arrange eggplant on an ungreased rimmed baking sheet and bake 15 minutes or until tender.
4. Remove from oven and reduce temperature to 375 degrees. Spread each eggplant slice with a dollop of spaghetti sauce and top with mozzarella. Return pan to the oven for 10–15 minutes or until cheese is melted.

## \$500 Recipe Contest

**HOLIDAY SIDES** DUE JUNE 10

We know there's pride in the sides at your holiday feast. Submit your recipes on our website by June 10 for a chance to win \$500.





## Zuppa di Ceci

SIMONA CUDE  
BANDERA EC

This easy dish—the name means chickpea soup—gets a burst of vibrant flavor from lemon juice and capers. Cude recommends mashing some of the chickpeas before serving for a creamier soup.

**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**½ onion, finely chopped**  
**3 cloves garlic, minced**

**1 medium golden potato, diced**  
**1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed**  
**Pinch crushed red chile flakes**  
**3 cups vegetable broth**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**½ teaspoon pepper**  
**2 tablespoons lemon juice**  
**2 cups croutons, divided use**  
**2 tablespoons drained capers (optional)**  
**Chopped fresh parsley (optional)**

1. In a large soup pot over low heat, heat oil. Add onion and garlic and cook 2 minutes. Add potato and cook another 2 minutes.
2. Stir in chickpeas, chile flakes, broth, salt and pepper. Raise heat to medium-high and bring to a boil, then reduce to low and cook 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasonings if desired.
4. Add ½ cup croutons to each of 4 bowls and ladle soup over the top. Top with capers and parsley, if using.

SERVES 4

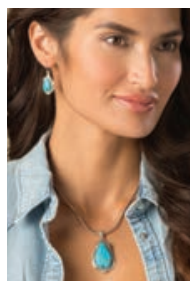
## Batching for Busy Days

BY MEGAN MYERS

You can freeze cooked beans and grains, like rice and quinoa, for easy use later.

1. Cook as usual, doubling or tripling the recipe for larger batches.
2. Let cool completely. Cool grains quickly by spreading onto a large sheet pan.
3. Scoop into freezer-safe bags or containers in 1- or 2-cup increments. Remove as much air as possible, then seal, label and store in the freezer.
4. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator or more quickly in a bowl of warm water; or add to your favorite soups while frozen.

## SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest—but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our *Sedona Turquoise Collection*. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for just \$99.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

### Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

#### Sedona Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (26 cts)	<del>\$299</del>	\$99*	+s&p	Save \$200
B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain		\$149	+s&p	
C. 1 ½" Earrings (10 ctw)	<del>\$299</del>	\$99*	+s&p	Save \$200
<b>Complete Set**</b>	<del>\$747</del>	<b>\$249*</b>	<b>+s&amp;p</b>	<b>Save \$498</b>

\*\*Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

**1-800-333-2045** | Offer Code STC657-09

**Stauer®**

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. STC657-09, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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



B.

26 carats  
of genuine  
Arizona turquoise  
**ONLY \$99**

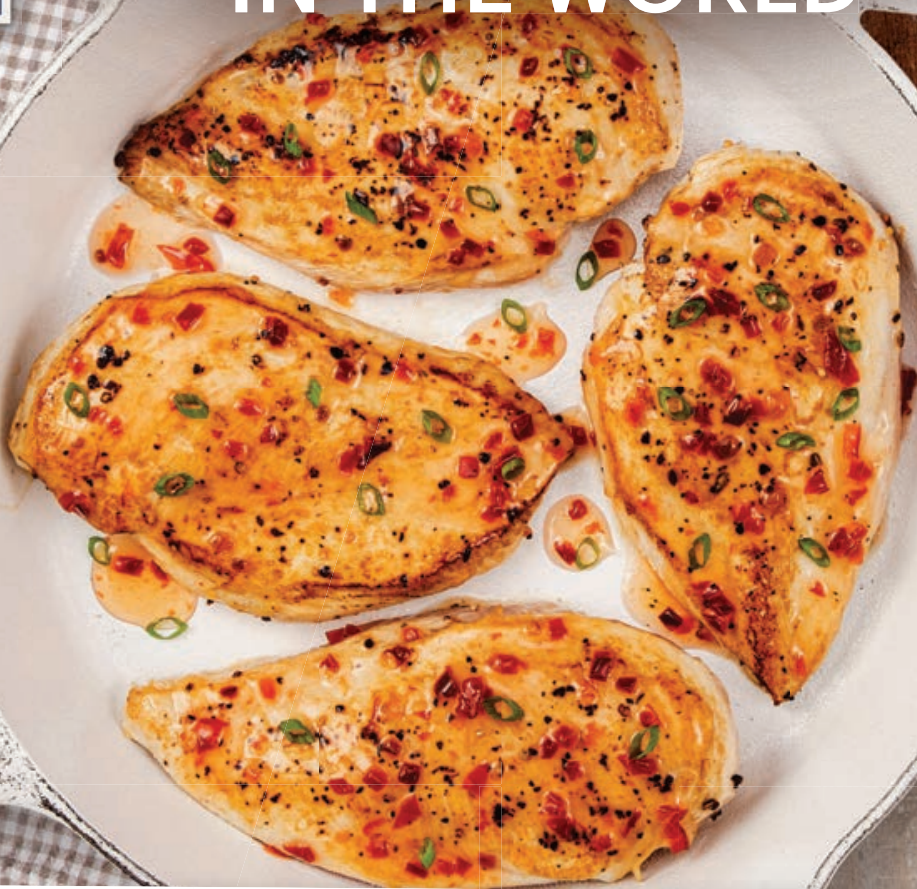
A.

Stauer...  
Afford the Extraordinary.®





# THE BEST TASTING CHICKEN — IN THE WORLD™ —



## Best of PERDUE Sampler

(11+ lb.) 14+ lb. = **55+ Servings**

- 2 Trays – Diced Chicken Breasts (2.4 lb.)
- 2 Trays – Chicken Breast Strips (2.4 lb.)
- 2 Trays – Thin-Sliced Chicken Breasts (2.4 lb.)
- 1 Bag – Boneless Chicken Breasts (2 lb.)
- 1 Bag – Boneless Chicken Tenderloins (2.5 lb.)
- + 2 More Trays - Chicken Breast Strips **FREE**

~~\$139.90\*~~ Separately

**\$60 OFF**

Your Price

**\$78.99**

PLUS 2 More Trays  
**FREE STRIPS**



## FREE SHIPPING

Call  
**1.800.473.7383**

Ask For  
**Perdue Box170**

– OR –  
**www.PerdueFarms.com/perduebox170**



No Antibiotics Ever

100% Veg Fed



Guaranteed Quality

Home Delivery



Offer Expires 9/30/2022. Not valid with any other offers. \*Savings shown based on total of single item base price. Free shipping available in select states.

Limited one order per household. Valid for new customers only. Visit [PerdueFarms.com](http://PerdueFarms.com) or call 1.800.473.7383 for full Terms and Conditions.

\*All pictures shown are for illustration purpose only. Product is frozen at peak freshness and carefully packaged in eco-friendly shipping materials to ensure safe delivery.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Eruption Evidence

Drive into the Paisano Pass Volcano in far West Texas to view prehistory

BY CHET GARNER

**IF I CLOSE** my eyes to imagine a volcano, I see a Polynesian island with palm trees, beaches and an endless ocean. I definitely don't imagine the cactus-filled landscapes of West Texas.

Yet there I was, standing on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 90, halfway between Alpine and Marfa, staring at the Paisano Pass Volcano, which—fortunately for visitors—has been dormant for about 30 million years.

The drive west from Alpine to the ancient site was impressive. Red cliffs and strange rock spires on each side of the road made me feel like I was traveling back to the Cretaceous Period. Honestly, I wouldn't have been surprised if a T. rex had crossed the road in front of me. I crested a hill and dropped into a valley, where I pulled into a roadside park to read an educational panel about the lava-formed landscape.

All around me were colorful cliffs, knobby boulders and crag-covered mountains that were formed during the Oligocene Epoch, 23–33 million years ago. Dinosaurs were extinct then, but giant mammals walked the earth, including 18-foot-tall beasts that looked like a mix between horses and rhinos. It was during this era that the Paisano Pass Volcano exploded and then collapsed back onto itself, leaving a 3-mile-wide caldera that stretches as far as you can see from the small park.

Geologists come from all over the world to study this volcano because it exposed layers of rock normally hidden miles below the surface of the earth. The Big Bend is still tectonically active and has even experienced violent earthquakes as recently as 1998. While another volcanic eruption is unlikely, I never say never in Texas. And so I promptly got back in my truck and continued down the road. ■

ABOVE Chet studies a roadside panel depicting the history and geology of the Paisano Pass Volcano.

**TCP** Chet vs. the volcano: It's not a movie, but it is a video on our website. Watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details.

# JUNE 09

**Lufkin Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**, (936) 633-5454, [angelinaarts.org](http://angelinaarts.org)

**Abilene [9–11] Children's Art and Literacy Festival**, (325) 677-1161, [abilenecalf.com](http://abilenecalf.com)

**Lockhart [9–11] Chisholm Trail Roundup**, (512) 398-2818, [chisholmtrailroundup.com](http://chisholmtrailroundup.com)

**Temple [9–11] Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival**, (254) 223-2484, [squaredancetx.com](http://squaredancetx.com)

# 10

**Levelland Sip & Swirl**, (806) 894-9079, [downtownlevelland.com](http://downtownlevelland.com)

**Fredericksburg [10–11] Craft Beer Festival**, (830) 997-8515, [fbgcrafterbeerfestival.com](http://fbgcrafterbeerfestival.com)

**Fredericksburg [10–11] Thomas Michael Riley Music Festival**, (830) 997-3224, [thomasmichaelriley.com](http://thomasmichaelriley.com)

**Blanco [10–12] Lavender Festival**, (830) 833-5101, [blancolavenderfest.com](http://blancolavenderfest.com)

**Elgin [10–11, 19] Juneteenth Festival**, (512) 963-2721, [elgintx.com/194/juneteenth-festival](http://elgintx.com/194/juneteenth-festival)

**San Antonio [10–Aug. 6] Fiesta Noche del Rio**, (210) 226-4651, [fiestanochesa.com](http://fiestanochesa.com)

# 11

**East Bernard Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival**, (979) 335-7907, [kkfest.com](http://kkfest.com)

**Fredericksburg Pride in the Pacific**, (830) 997-8600, pacificwarmuseum.org

**Jacksonville Tomato Fest**, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com/tomato-fest

**Kyle Market Days**, (512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com

**Mesquite Rodeo Road Rally**, (972) 284-9411, rodeoroadrally.com

**Nacogdoches Texas Blueberry Festival**, (936) 564-7351, texasblueberryfestival.com

**Lufkin [14-15] Blue Man Group**, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

**Stonewall [16-18] Peach JAMboree**, (830) 644-2735, stonewalltexas.com

**Kyle Ash Pavilion Skate Night**, (512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com

**Longview [17-19] Great Texas Balloon Race**, (903) 753-3281, greattexasballoonrace.com

**Comanche Rodeo Parade**, (325) 356-3233, comanchechamber.org

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**, (979) 480-0999, gcbo.org

**Bowie [18-25] Jim Bowie Days Rodeo and Celebration**, (940) 872-1114, jimbowiedays.org

MORE EVENTS >

**TCP** *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your September event by July 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

★ STONEWALLTEXAS.COM ★

# PEACH JAMBOREE

## Rodeo & Dance

### JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>-18<sup>TH</sup>

THURSDAY  
WAGON ACES

FRIDAY  
GRANGER SMITH

SATURDAY  
MUSCADINE  
BLOODLINE



PRESENTED BY  
McLane Ford  
of  
Fredericksburg

**STONEWALL** home of the  
sweetest peaches and  
the best wineries in **TEXAS**

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

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

**BLAKE MATTSON, 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.

**PERMA-ROOF**  
from Southern Builders

## Steel Mobile Home Roofing



High energy bill?  
Roof rumble?  
Leaks?

**MOBILE HOME  
ROOFOVER  
SYSTEMS**

Contact us at **800.633.8969**  
or **roofover.com**



CHRISTINOLA | DREAMSTIME.COM

### Pick of the Month

**100th Annual Freestone  
County Fair and Rodeo**  
Fairfield, June 13-18  
(903) 388-5003, fcfar.org

Check out the rodeo action, live-stock show, rides, food and other entertainment as Free-stone County's annual fair cele-brates the century mark. Fairfield is about 60 miles east of Waco.

#### JUNE EVENTS CONTINUED

**22** **Levelland [22-25] Golden  
Spread Classic Steer  
and Heifer Show,**  
(806) 759-1102,  
goldenspreadclassic.com

**23** **Mexia [23-25] Rodeo,**  
(254) 562-5569,  
mexiachamber.com

**25** **Arlington Tommy DeCarlo  
With Rudy Cardenas,**  
(817) 543-4308,  
levittpavilionarlington.org

**Brenham Crystal Gayle,**  
(979) 337-7240,  
thebarnhillcenter.com

**Comanche Red Dirt  
Dinner and Dancing,**  
(325) 325-3233,  
comanchechamber.org

**Ennis Freedom Fest,**  
(972) 878-4748,  
visitennis.org

**Belton [25, July 1-4]  
4th of July Celebration,**  
(254) 939-3551,  
beltonchamber.com

## JULY

**01** **Canadian [1-4] Fourth  
of July Celebration,**  
(806) 323-6234,  
canadiantx.com

**02** **Boerne Music in the  
Cave: American Stories  
by Marbrisha Trio,**  
(830) 537-4212,  
cavewithoutaname.com

**Fredericksburg [2-3,  
16-17] Pari-Mutuel Horse  
Racing,** (830) 997-2359,  
gillespiefair.com

**Granbury [2-4] Hometown  
4th of July,** (817) 573-1622,  
visitgranbury.com

**The Colony Liberty by  
the Lake,** (972) 625-1106,  
visitthecolonytx.com/events

**03** **Addison Kaboom Town,**  
(972) 450-2800,  
addisonkaboomtown.com

**Grand Prairie [3-4]  
Lone Stars & Stripes  
Fireworks Celebration,**  
(972) 263-7223,  
lonestarpark.com

**04** **Cameron 4th of July  
Fireworks,** (254) 697-4979,  
cameron-tx.com

**Fredericksburg 4th of July  
Parade and Fireworks,**  
(830) 997-6523,  
visitfredericksburgtx.com

**Lubbock 4th on Broadway,**  
(806) 749-2929,  
broadwayfestivals.com

**McKinney Red, White and  
Boom,** (972) 547-7480,  
mckinneytxas.org

**Tomball July 4th Fire-  
works and Street Fest,**  
(281) 351-5484,  
tomballtx.gov

# Industrial

Docks, factories, train yards and mills are all reminders of local industry that dot the Texas landscape—or used to. Rediscover remnants of the past and celebrate innovations that move us into the future.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



**1 LISA CORKER**  
**FAYETTE EC**  
 "Beautiful sunset at the Galveston shipyard."

**2 REAGAN FERGUSON**  
**CENTRAL TEXAS EC**  
 An abandoned Fort Worth incinerator.

**3 STEPHANIE EHLERT**  
**GREENBELT EC**  
 Pastureland in Jericho on what used to be part of Route 66.

**4 DANNY PICKENS**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY EC**  
 "This abandoned factory in Longview seems as though everyone just walked away and left it to decay."



## Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUN 10** Hometown Pride
- DUE JUL 10** Aerials
- DUE AUG 10** Winter Wildlife



Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Industrial photos from readers.



## Pop's Light Touch

A keepsake reminds a daughter of her father's illuminating ways

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
NAVINA CHHABRIA

**MY FATHER** was always telling someone to turn out a light.

Except when he was telling one of his five children to turn one on.

"Time for bed, turn out your light."

"Turn out the light you left on in the bathroom."

"Turn on your desk light, you'll ruin your eyes."

A military man who ran a tight ship at home, Pop had a sixth sense when it came to knowing who had left an unoccupied room without flipping a switch or who was reading in the dark.

I think about him whenever I set up the furnishings in a new household because he taught me the power of light to set a mood. He had strong opinions about which combination of lamps would generate the best conversation

or encourage lingering over dinner or—with a measured flipping of switches—not so subtly end an evening.

For my 13th birthday, I was allowed to host my very first boy-girl fiesta, made yet more festive by the number of string lights he hung in the backyard trees. However, that gesture may have been less about mood setting and more about oversight. That was definitely how he used the porch lights, flashing them on and off during my high school years and sending clear messages to any one of us daughters hovering outside with a date for what he considered too long.

Maybe his time on the air base or studying the lighted dials in a bomber's cockpit made him keenly attuned to messaging via lighting, but he never bought a lamp or a fixture without some research. Except for one.

Once, at an antiques show, he impulsively purchased a tiny brass lamp. He called it a fairy lamp, although it looked nothing like the glass Victorian-era candle lamps of that name. It was charming, with signs of the maker's hand in the unpolished brass base and a thin metal shade that looked like a pointed gnome's cap.

When he bought it, I was sad that the lamp's wiring was so dangerously undone that there was no doubt it was a fire hazard. And while he forbade me from ever actually using it, I kept that lamp in my room, imagining the places it might have illuminated in years past.

Pop had it rewired for me when I left for college, and it's traveled with me around the world. It is the most meaningful gift I ever received, but in case the metaphor eluded my young self, he included a card: "If you get homesick, Daughter, know I've always left a light on for you."

I think of him every time I switch it on, but only after I've turned out all the lights I'm not using. ■



# LIVE LIFE PAIN FREE



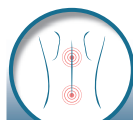
**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE  
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



**FREE (\$50 Value)  
Corrective Fit Orthotics**  
with every shoe purchase  
Excludes sandals.



**85%**  
LESS  
KNEE  
PAIN



**91%**  
LESS  
BACK  
PAIN



**92%**  
LESS  
ANKLE  
PAIN



**75%**  
LESS  
FOOT  
PAIN

## Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

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

In a 2017 double-blind study by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

## gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145

**X-WIDE  
WIDTH  
AVAILABLE**

This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease.

**Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

**Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black



## \$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

**Promo Code MQ8FPS4**

**www.gdefy.com**

Expires September 30, 2022

Free Exchanges • Free Returns

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Medical Technology Corp.  
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. \$20 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.

# WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

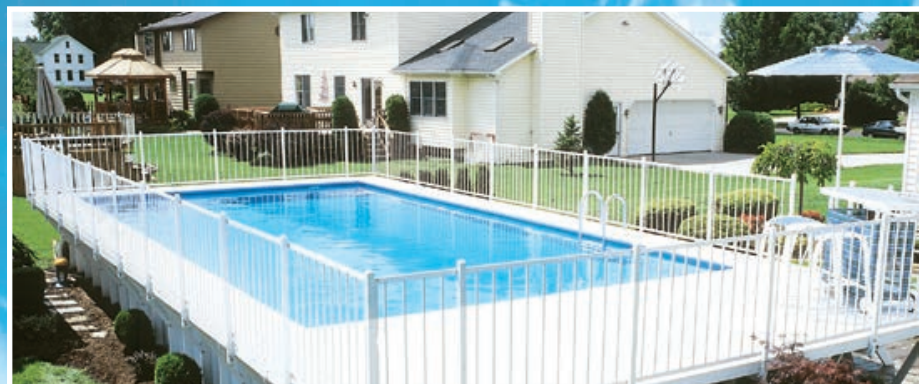


Display one of our beautiful Kayak maintenance-free pools and save \$\$\$!

*CALL NOW to qualify for this limited opportunity!*

## 1-800-794-6839

[www.swimtexsun.com](http://www.swimtexsun.com)



*A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.*



## SWIM TEXSUN

**STAYcation In Your Own Backyard!**

- Save Money: \$1000-\$4000 Instant Rebate
- Financing Available/Pre-Approvals
- We Consider Anything Of Value On Trade

**AMERICA'S BEST BUILT POOL—WE GUARANTEE IT!**

If within 30 days after your purchase of an Award Winning Kayak Pool, you find another brand name pool with all of Kayak's features and benefits, we'll refund 100% of your purchase price, plus we'll give you the Kayak Pool **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**