

LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EDITION

AUGUST 2010

COLLEGE RODEO: A SPORT LIKE NO OTHER

DIVINE SWINE

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

MEET OUR  
**WINNING**  
FAMILIES







# THINK OUTSIDE THE METAL BOX.



When most people think of metal buildings, they think of boxes, like storage buildings and barns. The reality is, metal is ideal for buildings of all shapes, sizes and functions. Just look at this spread, which features a home, a storage space, and a horse stable in a single structure. So next time you're thinking outside the box – think Mueller.

**877-2-MUELLER** (877-268-3553) • See our online photo gallery: [www.MuellerInc.com](http://www.MuellerInc.com)





## FEATURES

### 8 Home Energy Makeover Winners

Stories and photos by Stephan Myers

*Meet the five families who won energy-efficiency upgrades in Texas Co-op Power's Home Energy Makeover contest. Find out what you can learn from their experiences.*

### 16 Rope Courses

By Charles Boisseau

Photos by Jennifer Nichols

*College rodeo is both a sport and an income opportunity for participating students. From saddle bronc riding to barrel racing, this time-honored tradition is truly a different animal.*

## FAVORITES

Footnotes by Clay Coppedge *Ice in Summer* 29

Recipe Roundup *Divine Swine* 30

Focus on Texas *Birds* 43

Around Texas *Local Events Listings* 44

Hit the Road by Melissa Gaskill *East Texas Wine Tour* 46



## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Texas Co-op Power is published by your electric cooperative to enhance the quality of life of its member-customers in an educational and entertaining format.

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Darren Schauer, Chair, Gonzales; Kendall Montgomery, Vice Chair, Olney; Rick Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, McGregor; Steve Louder, Hereford; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark Stubbs, Greenville; Larry Warren, San Augustine

**PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Bill Harbin, Chair, Floydada; Gary Nietzsche, La Grange; Roy Griffin, Edna; Bryan Lightfoot, Bartlett; Melody Pinnell, Crockett; Anne Vaden, Corinth; William "Buff" Whitten, Eldorado

**COMMUNICATIONS STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Sales Director; Carol Moczygemba, Executive Editor; Charles Boisseau, Associate Editor; Suzi Sands, Art Director; Karen Nejtek, Production Manager; Ashley Clary, Field Editor; Andy Doughty, Production Designer; Sandra Forston, Communications Assistant; Kevin Hargis, Food Editor; Camille Wheeler, Staff Writer; Donnie Hogan, Intern



# letters

## THESE GUYS ROCK!

We really enjoy our Texas Co-op Power magazine. I even give a copy to my sister in Texas City. I'm mostly writing to recognize some of our Houston County Electric Cooperative guys. All we have met are courteous, helpful and nice. On Sunday, May 16, we had an outage and had to make that call for help. The guys were in Buffalo, but they finished there and came on to fix us—less than three hours.

Our guys rock!

**DON AND FRANCES MANNING**  
*Houston County Electric Cooperative*

## CIRCUS QUEEN OF THE SOUTHWEST

The article about the Mollie Bailey Circus (June 2010) brought back memories of my wife's dear cousin, Geraldine Hill Styles, who passed away in the mid-'90s. Among the books in her large Texana collection was Mollie Bailey: The Circus Queen of the Southwest by her daughter Olga Bailey, published in 1943. Carefully placed between the pages was a letter from Geraldine with the memories of her childhood in Mount Vernon: "There was a lot that

# POWER TALK

was set aside in town for the annual visit of Mollie Bailey's Circus," she wrote. "The circus was a real event ... I remember the antics of the clowns especially. Mount Vernon was a small town and could not expect visits from the big circuses. Mollie Bailey was always welcome."

**PATRICK BRADY**  
*Austin Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

In the early 1950s, I was managing editor of the Garland Daily News. In response to a loud noise, many of the old-time residents would say the sound was "louder than Mollie Bailey's calliope." I am a native Texan, but I had never heard that expression before, nor have I heard it since. It must have been some calliope.

**HILTON HAGAN**  
*Austin*

I really enjoy the magazine every month. I love the story of Mollie Bailey's circus. I live

in Donna, and Magic Valley co-op is my electric company, and I am very satisfied to be part of it.

**VERNA HOFFMAN**  
*Magic Valley Electric Cooperative*

## ROLLER RINK REVERIE

I really enjoyed the "Coming Full Circle" article (June 2010). I learned to skate in the 1940s when visiting cousins in Three Rivers, where a portable roller rink came every summer. While in high school in the early '50s, we skated at Lake Corpus Christi State Park. My wife, Jessie May, grew up in Refugio and could skate circles around me. She learned with the clamp-on shoe skates on the school side-walks. Oh, to be young again!

**EDWIN WALLEK JR.**  
*San Patricio Electric Cooperative*

Your article about skating rinks brought back good memories. I met my husband at a "tent skating rink" in

Killeen in May 1946. We have been married 63 years and our three children are also skaters. We lived in Decatur from 1967 until 1969 and skated at Whispering Wheels rink there.

**VIRGINIA SHOPE**  
*Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative*

The fine article on skating rinks brought back fond memories of the upstairs rink at Lake Cisco's huge swimming pool. Many a starting and ending romance were at that rink. All cherished things must come to an end, but it is my hope that the wheels keep rolling on those old hardwood floors!

**CARL W. BAILEY**  
*Comanche Electric Cooperative*

## DEVILISH HELLGRAMMITES

In 1946, two of my brothers were home from World War II, and my third brother cooked up a trip to Devils River (May 2010). We loaded up the camping gear into Dad's bobtail truck, started out at bedtime and got there about sunup. The river was beautiful and hot. My sister-in-law and I had the job of catching hellgrammites for bait. They looked like centipedes. She put the tin can of the varmints in her hip pocket. All of a sudden they escaped and navigated down the inside of her coveralls, and with a yell she came out of those coveralls. I was the only one to witness this impromptu stripping, but we had a lot of fun around the campfire that night describing the event.

From then on this was recounted at every reunion with much laughter from everyone, and not any of us could recall if we ever caught any fish.

**BETTY HARLAN**  
*Bailey County Electric Cooperative*

We want to hear from our readers. Send letters to: Editor, Texas Co-op Power, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, or e-mail us at [letters@texas-coop.org](mailto:letters@texas-coop.org). Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and will be printed as space allows. Read additional letters at [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com).

## DOCTOR MAKES CIRCUS CALLS

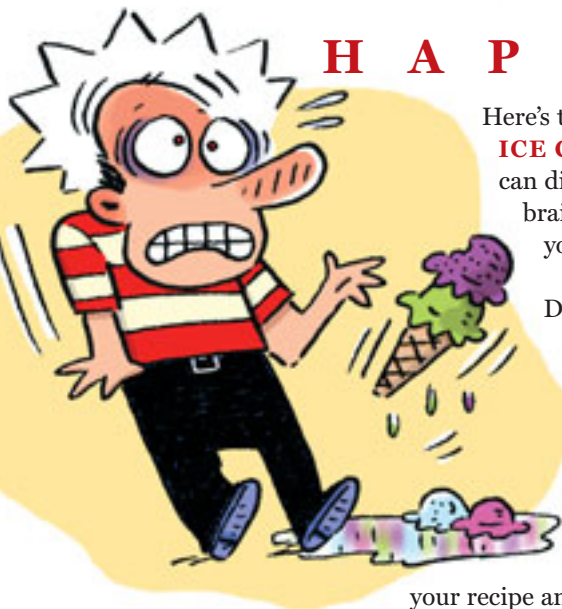
My grandfather, Dr. J.F. Peek, was a country doctor in Rockwall County from 1887 to 1910. The story is told that when the Mollie Bailey Circus came to town, Mollie became very ill and was cared for by Dr. Peek. She was so pleased with his services that she never forgot him. Ever after, when the circus came to town, the whole family was given tickets.

**Ben Peek**, *Bandera Electric Cooperative*



ALETHA ST. ROMAIN





## H A P P E N I N G S

Here's the scoop: At the fourth annual **AUSTIN ICE CREAM FESTIVAL**, they'll find out who can dish it out—and who can take it ... as in the brain freeze that hits like a sledgehammer when you eat too much ice cream too fast.

The festival, set for August 14 at The Domain shopping center in North Austin, serves up some of the coolest contests around, starting with the ice-cream eating championship that's open to the first 30 entrants (\$10 entrance fee; competitors must be at least 18).

Or, if you'd rather spoon it out than shovel it in, try your luck in the home-made ice-cream making contest. Just bring your recipe and ice-cream maker (\$20 entrance fee).

Meanwhile, I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream ... and whoever screams the loudest will win a contest that's judged on decibel level, style and technique.

All contest winners, including the maker of the best Popsicle stick sculpture, will receive the perfect trophy: an oversized, custom-made iron spoon.

Admission is \$5 for adults, and children 8 and younger are admitted free. For more information, call (512) 480-5966 or go to [www.austinicecreamfestival.com](http://www.austinicecreamfestival.com).

## CO-OP PEOPLE

John R. Erickson is arguably one of Texas' most successful writers and storytellers. So how come you probably have never heard of him?

It may be because he doesn't do the talk-show circuit, his books are not found on the best-seller lists, and he doesn't hang out with other writers.

And yet, Erickson has now sold more than 7.5 million books—mostly stories about an unlikely protagonist and mistake-prone

cowdog named Hank who prowls a Texas ranch as the self-appointed "head of ranch security."

This summer, Erickson came out with No. 56 in the Hank the Cowdog series (*The Case of the Coyote Invasion*), published by Viking-Penguin. Hank reportedly is the longest-running audio book series in the United States, with the author playing banjo, voicing most of the characters, and assisted by his wife, Kris, on the mandolin.

Speaking recently from his ranch about 40 miles south of Perryton in the Panhandle (where he is a member of North Plains Electric Cooperative), Erickson recounted his accidental

*Catching Up with John R. Erickson, Creator of Hank the Cowdog*

career as a children's author. A native of Perryton, Erickson considered becoming a minister (he left Harvard Divinity School three hours short of earning a master's) and then a serious novelist. While collecting rejection letters from publishers, he worked as a cowboy, a handyman and a bartender before he started his own publishing company. In 1983, he wrote his first Hank book and found his biggest audience: children.

Showing no signs of slowing down, Erickson, 66, continues writing two books and appearing 50 or more times at schools each year. He also hosts college students on his ranch for a one-week course about writing and ranch life.

Last year, he returned to self-publishing with a book called *Story Craft: Reflections on Faith, Culture & Writing from the Author of Hank the Cowdog* (Maverick Books, 168 pages). He writes about how his worldview shapes his books, why most Christian books and films fail (they're boring and lack humor), and why he turned down a film contract with Disney. Comparing his writing discipline to a mule pulling a plow, he reveals 20 keys to good writing and strategies for success. His final bit of advice: Never write anything that would embarrass your mother.

*Have a suggestion for a future Co-op People? E-mail Charles Boisseau at [editor@texas-ec.org](mailto:editor@texas-ec.org).*



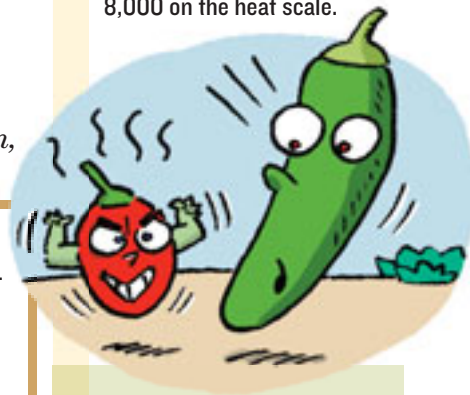
JOHN R. ERICKSON

## WHO KNEW?

### A Two-Pepper State

Texas has two official peppers. In 1995, the Legislature named the jalapeño as the state's official pepper. Just two years later, legislators turned up the "heat" when they designated the chiltepin as the state's official *native* pepper.

Jalapeños may be better known, but the smaller chiltepins are hotter than jalapeños. Chiltepins measure between 100,000 and 250,000 Scoville Units, which is a scientific measure of the "heat" of a pepper. Jalapeños range from 3,500 to 8,000 on the heat scale.



Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560) is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 74 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power's website is [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com). Call (512) 454-0311 or e-mail [cmoczygemba@texas-ec.org](mailto:cmoczygemba@texas-ec.org).

Subscription price is \$3.84 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of Texas Co-op Power showing old address and key numbers.

**ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in Texas Co-op Power and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Martin Bevins at (512) 486-6249.

Advertisements in Texas Co-op Power are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. Direct questions or comments about advertising to Martin Bevins, Sales Director.

© Copyright 2010 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2010 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

 **Texas Electric Cooperatives**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



©2010 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox dealers include independently owned and operated businesses.



## PERFECTLY ENGINEERED. FOR YOUR HOME.

All the parts in a Lennox® system work together with precision to create absolute comfort. And because it performs heating, cooling and purification functions with peak efficiency, it can reduce your heating and cooling bill by up to half. To learn more about the highest level of engineering for your home and find the nearest Lennox dealer, call 1-800-9-LENNOX or simply visit [lennox.com](http://lennox.com).



I N N O V A T I O N   N E V E R



F E E L T   S O   G O O D™

*Dave Lennox*

Special thanks to Lennox dealers who sponsored the Texas Co-op Power Home Energy Makeover Contest.

**Ben Maines Air Conditioning, Inc.**  
[benmaines.com](http://benmaines.com)  
Longview  
(903) 758-0701

**Ken Parker Service**  
[kenparkerservice.com](http://kenparkerservice.com)  
Greenville  
(903) 883-2829

**Armstrong Mechanical**  
[armstrongservices.com](http://armstrongservices.com)  
Lubbock  
(806) 747-4217

**San Antonio Air Service Experts**  
[saairco.com](http://saairco.com)  
San Antonio  
(210) 525-8040

**Lochridge-Priest, Inc.**  
[lochridgepriest.com](http://lochridgepriest.com)  
Waco  
(254) 772-0670



# A Big Thank You to All Who Helped Make our First Ever Home Energy Makeover a Huge Success!



## Home Energy Makeover Statewide Sponsors



DISTRIBUTED BY TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES,  
UTILITY SUPPLY & SERVICE

## Home Energy Makeover Local Sponsors

### RANDOLPH HOME

Grand Saline  
Wood County EC

Comprehensive Home  
Energy Analysis

**SOLAR SOLUTIONS**  
[www.relieffromtheheat.com](http://www.relieffromtheheat.com)  
(214) 729-6838

**ENERGYATTIC**  
[www.energyattic.com](http://www.energyattic.com)  
(972) 548-0088

Attic Insulation

**JOHNS MANVILLE**  
[www.jmhomeowner.com](http://www.jmhomeowner.com)

Installed by  
**GARLAND INSULATING**  
[www.garlandinsulating.com](http://www.garlandinsulating.com)  
(214) 341-0254

Heating and Cooling System

**LENNOX**  
[www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com)

Installed by  
**BEN MAINES AIR  
CONDITIONING**  
[www.benmaines.com](http://www.benmaines.com)  
(903) 758-0701

Water Heater

**RHEEM MARATHON**  
[www.marathonheaters.com](http://www.marathonheaters.com)

**TEXAS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**  
[www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org)  
(877) 868-8610 x302

Installed by  
**HOLEY PLUMBING**  
[www.holeyplumbing.com](http://www.holeyplumbing.com)  
(903) 882-9686

Additional Construction Support

**HEATH GREGORY  
CUSTOM HOMES**  
(903) 873-4981

**GRAND SALINE LUMBER  
& BUILDING SUPPLY**  
(903) 962-7789

### ZUNIGA HOME

Sherman  
Grayson-Collin EC

Comprehensive Home  
Energy Analysis

**ENERGYATTIC**  
[www.energyattic.com](http://www.energyattic.com)  
(972) 548-0088

**SOLAR SOLUTIONS**  
[www.relieffromtheheat.com](http://www.relieffromtheheat.com)  
(214) 729-6838

Attic Insulation

**JOHNS MANVILLE**  
[www.jmhomeowner.com](http://www.jmhomeowner.com)

Installed by  
**ENERGYATTIC**  
[www.energyattic.com](http://www.energyattic.com)  
(972) 548-0088

Heating and Cooling System

**LENNOX**  
[www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com)

Installed by  
**KEN PARKER SERVICE**  
[www.kenparkerservice.com](http://www.kenparkerservice.com)  
(903) 883-2829

Water Heater

**RHEEM MARATHON**  
[www.marathonheaters.com](http://www.marathonheaters.com)

**TEXAS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**  
[www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org)  
(877) 868-8610 x302

Installed by  
**MIKE MORAVEC PLUMBING**  
(903) 815-3901

### STARK HOME

Lubbock  
South Plains EC

Comprehensive Home  
Energy Analysis

**TEXAS ENERGY RATERS**  
(432) 967-4212  
[pawalper@msn.com](mailto:pawalper@msn.com)

Attic Insulation

**JOHNS MANVILLE**  
[www.jmhomeowner.com](http://www.jmhomeowner.com)

Installed by  
**AMERICAN INSULATION**  
(806) 239-9306

Heating and Cooling System

**LENNOX**  
[www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com)

Installed by  
**ARMSTRONG MECHANICAL**  
[www.armstrongservices.com](http://www.armstrongservices.com)  
(806) 747-4217

Water Heater

**RHEEM MARATHON**  
[www.marathonheaters.com](http://www.marathonheaters.com)

**TEXAS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**  
[www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org)  
(877) 868-8610 x302

Installed by  
**PAT PATTERSON PLUMBING**  
(806) 765-7759

Electrical Work

**LARCON ELECTRIC**  
[www.larconelectric.com](http://www.larconelectric.com)  
(806) 745-5012

### JIMENEZ HOME

Cibola  
Guadalupe Valley EC

Comprehensive Home  
Energy Analysis

**BUILDERS ENERGY RATER**  
[www.buildersenergyrater.com](http://www.buildersenergyrater.com)  
(210) 657-4237

Attic Insulation

**JOHNS MANVILLE**  
[www.jmhomeowner.com](http://www.jmhomeowner.com)

Installed by  
**GARLAND INSULATING**  
[www.garlandinsulating.com](http://www.garlandinsulating.com)  
(214) 341-0254

Heating and Cooling System

**SAN ANTONIO AIR  
SERVICE EXPERTS**  
[www.saaairco.com](http://www.saaairco.com)  
(210) 525-8040

Water Heater

**RHEEM MARATHON**  
[www.marathonheaters.com](http://www.marathonheaters.com)

**TEXAS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**  
[www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org)  
(877) 868-8610 x302

Installed by  
**BRACKEN PLUMBING**  
(210) 651-1313

Refrigerator, Freezer and  
Window-unit Heat Pump

**GVEC HOME**  
[www.gvec.org/ycoopGVECHome.aspx](http://www.gvec.org/ycoopGVECHome.aspx)  
1-800-223-4832

### DONALDSON HOME

Waco  
Heart of Texas EC

Comprehensive Home  
Energy Analysis

**HEART OF TEXAS  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
[www.hotec.coop](http://www.hotec.coop)

Attic Insulation

**JOHNS MANVILLE**  
[www.jmhomeowner.com](http://www.jmhomeowner.com)

Installed by  
**GARLAND INSULATING**  
[www.garlandinsulating.com](http://www.garlandinsulating.com)  
(214) 341-0254

Heating and Cooling System

**LENNOX**  
[www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com)

Installed by  
**LOCHRIDGE-PRIEST**  
[www.lochridgepriest.com](http://www.lochridgepriest.com)  
(254) 772-0670

Water Heater

**RHEEM MARATHON**  
[www.marathonheaters.com](http://www.marathonheaters.com)

**TEXAS ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**  
[www.texas-ec.org](http://www.texas-ec.org)  
(877) 868-8610 x302

Installed by  
**MR. ROOTER OF  
CENTRAL TEXAS**  
<http://centraltexas.mrrooter.com>  
(254) 755-6661

For the latest in energy-efficiency solutions for your home,  
contact the Home Energy Makeover sponsor nearest you.



# RealPEOPLERealHOMES

*Home Energy Makeover Winners See Real Savings*

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY STEPHAN MYERS

**T**he **Texas Co-op Power Home Energy Makeover** contest drew nearly 13,000 entries from electric cooperative members across the state who wanted a chance to win up to \$10,000 in home energy-efficiency improvements. Entries were accepted from January through March 10 and were evaluated for their potential to show noticeable energy savings, with equipment and materials provided by three corporate sponsors: **Lennox Corporation** (air conditioning/heating), **Johns Manville** (insulation) and **Rheem Marathon** (water heater).

In addition to the corporate sponsors, local contractors contributed time and resources to conduct energy audits and help with installation of the new energy-efficiency upgrades. The five winning families and their homes are featured in the following pages, along with specific information on the type of improvements received, the companies and contractors who donated their services and the estimated savings in energy costs.

The five winners and their respective homes represent a cross section of co-op members who are aware of the relationship between energy efficiency and their electric bills. They might have initiated efficiency practices but did not have the resources to implement material improvements. While none of the homes needed a complete overhaul, all will benefit significantly from the modest investments offered by the contest.

The stories of the five winning families are as different as the diverse geography of our state. But what they all have in common is the recognition that efficient energy use demands a brand new mindset that can help save energy and money for years to come.

**For complete details on each winning home, go to the Texas Co-op Power website, [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com).**

**In the December issue of Texas Co-op Power, we will follow up with the winning families to find out what they've learned about energy conservation and how the Home Energy Makeover improvements are affecting their electric bills.**



## Slimmed-down Energy Hog

**F**ive years ago, John and Cindy Randolph moved with their two daughters, Lacie, 12, and Alyse, 11, from Plano to the country to provide a higher quality of life for their family.

They settled in Grand Saline in Northeast Texas, where they raise goats, an undertaking Cindy calls “our new family hobby.” The only issue was a hog problem—not an actual swine, mind you—but a real problem just the same: Their nearly 40-year-old, 1,900-square-foot home was an energy hog.

The Randolphs already worked at conserving energy. They kept the thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer. They installed a clothesline to dry clothes instead of using a dryer. But they consistently received electric bills averaging \$300 to \$400 or more a month, about \$150 to \$200 more than at their previous, larger home.

To better monitor their energy use, they signed up for Wood County’s SmartPower system. They prepay for electricity by buying credits on a SmartCard, which they insert into a small, digital SmartPower unit that keeps a running tab of power usage 24 hours a day. That helped, but they really needed an energy overhaul.



The Randolph family: from left, Lacie, John, Cindy and Alyse

Home Energy Makeover energy auditors found so many air leakages it was the equivalent of having a 13-by-13-inch hole to the outside.

Less than a week after the Randolphs received a new Lennox heating and air-conditioning system, John said the SmartPower readout showed electricity expenses of about \$7 a day compared to an earlier aver-

age of \$10 to \$15 daily. Once the insulation is installed and all the leaks have been sealed, they expect to save even more.

“We’re cutting close to \$5 a day on average, just with a new A/C system. We should be able to cut \$100 to \$120 off our [monthly] bill,” John said. “It’s absolutely been an eye-opening experience for us.”

### The Randolph Home

*Serious air leaks around doors and windows*



Comprehensive home energy analysis by **Solar Solutions** indicated inadequate HVAC system and insulation.

Increased attic insulation to an R-49 rating and sealed ceiling leaks using **Johns Manville** insulation products. Installed by **Garland Insulating**.

New **Lennox** SEER 15 heat pump and duct system replacement; new duct work in converted garage. System installed by **Ben Maines Air Conditioning**.

Replaced water heater with 40-gallon **Rheem Marathon** high-efficiency model. Installed by **Holey Plumbing**.

## California Dreamin' to Lone Star Livin'



The Zuniga family: from left, Brandon, Dawn, Asher, Powell and Izabella

In 2005, California natives Brandon and Dawn Zuniga moved their growing family to the Texas countryside for a higher quality of life and a more affordable home. Brandon works as an employment manager for Tyson Foods, and Dawn is a rehabilitation director at a nursing facility.

Their home was built in 1986 and

sits on a grassy hill in a sparsely developed part of Sherman.

The Zunigas embraced the Lone Star State, but they brought along a part of their California lifestyle. Brandon and Dawn and their three children—Izabella, 12, Powell, 9, and Asher, 4—are into skateboards. So they built a swimming pool with a highly

curved surface that, when drained, doubles as a skateboarding course.

But even the most proficient skateboarder couldn't skate around the fact that the Zunigas' 1,800-square-foot home was draining their energy budget.

The Home Energy Makeover energy audit used a blower-door test to show where outdoor air was leaking into the home by way of cracks, holes and leaky doors.

"I could not believe what we were actually losing," Brandon said. "You could feel that air blowing through the door seals and windows and stuff like that. I said, 'Oh geez. No wonder my bills are so high!'"

Brandon was shocked to find out that the attic had less than one quarter the recommended insulation. "I didn't know how far under the bar we were," he said. "We are supposed to have 18 inches (of insulation) and we had four, and in some places we had none."

Winning the contest has helped heighten energy awareness for the busy family members, Brandon said. Now the kids come in and out more quickly, not wanting to let air-conditioned air escape, and they're more apt to turn off lights when they're not in use.

### The Zuniga Home

*Less than one quarter the recommended level of attic insulation*

Comprehensive home energy analysis from **Energy Attic** indicated an inefficient HVAC system, air leakage and insufficient insulation.



New **Lennox** SEER 15 heat pump installed to replace existing 20-year-old system. Complete system installed by **Ken Parker Service**.

Increased attic insulation to R-49 using **Johns Manville** insulation products, extensive air sealing around windows and doors and installation of radiant barrier by **Energy Attic**.

Replaced existing inefficient water heater with a high-efficiency **Rheem Marathon** water heater.



## From Energy Drain to Savings Gain

Life on the High Plains Caprock is like no place else in Texas. This is a place where the land defines the people, and it is the home of Aubrey and Jacque Stark, lifelong residents of the Lubbock area.

The Starks enjoy busy and engaging lives now that their children are grown and on their own. A registered nurse, Jacque operates her own company, coordinating clinical research trials for pharmaceutical companies. Aubrey retired a few years ago after working 33 years as a Lubbock police officer. He keeps busy caring for the couple's two horses and working on remodeling and repair projects, having gained a reputation as a neighborhood Mr. Fix Anything.

In 2003, the Starks moved to their 2,100-square-foot ranch-style home on the outskirts of Lubbock. Soon after, they noticed that their electricity use—and their bills—had increased.

The all-electric home had some hidden flaws, discovered after Home Energy Makeover energy auditor Peter Walper conducted tests and inspected the home for inefficiencies.

Among other things, Walper found that the six large recessed lights in the kitchen ceiling had no insulation, creating an energy drain, especially con-

sidering that attic temperatures reach 150 degrees or more during South Plains summers.

In addition to new insulation, the Starks' home received a new energy-efficient heating and air-conditioning system, a water heater and a programmable thermostat. The improvements are expected to save the couple an estimated \$930 on their annual electricity bills.

"We knew our heat pump was old and inefficient and that many of our appliances were dated and costing us money," Jacque says. "But we had no idea the recessed lighting fixtures in our ceilings had almost no insulation over them, which caused serious air penetration and wasted energy. The pressurization tests performed by the auditors brought these leaks to our attention."



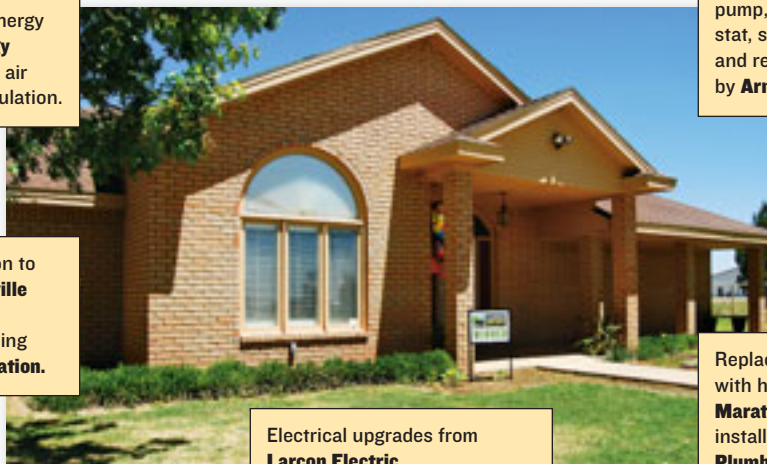
The Stark family: Jacque and Aubrey enjoy their horses and life on the High Plains.

### The Stark Home

*Surprising sources of wasted energy*

Comprehensive home energy analysis by **Texas Energy Rater**: inefficient HVAC, air leakage, inadequate insulation.

Increased attic insulation to R-49 using **Johns Manville** insulation products. Installation with air sealing done by **American Insulation**.



Electrical upgrades from **Larcon Electric**.

New **Lennox** SEER 15 heat pump, programmable thermostat, sealing of duct system and relocation of outdoor unit by **Armstrong Mechanical**.

Replaced existing water heater with high-efficiency **Rheem Marathon** water heater, installed by **Patterson Plumbing**.

## The Creative Life

**R**ichard and Nancie Jimenez live in a cozy country home on two acres in Cibolo, northeast of San Antonio, with their teenage sons, Dakota and August.

Richard is an executive chef whose business caters to stars and crew in the movie industry. Nancie is a professional photographer specializing in portraits and weddings.

An energy audit of the family's 1,600-square-foot home, built in

1971, indicated inadequate air conditioning and insulation and major heating and cooling loss in the rear porch, which had been converted into a bedroom with 11 windows and no insulation in the attic.

The Jimenezes were already controlling their energy use by taking short showers and running their dishwasher only when full to save on hot water costs. They installed a skylight in the kitchen to cut back on

lighting expenses.

But the family's lack of do-it-yourself know-how and budget constraints were obstacles for making significant energy-efficiency upgrades. The Home Energy Makeover surmounted the obstacles.

The Jimenezes received an extensive tuneup of their fairly new central heating and air-conditioning unit. All the ducts were cleaned and sealed, and a programmable thermostat was installed to further increase the unit's efficiency. A new Energy Star-rated refrigerator and a deep freezer replaced aging, inefficient appliances. And an ultra-efficient Marathon Rheem water heater replaced one that was more than a decade old.

Workers installed new insulation, and they caulked and sealed numerous air leaks in the walls, floors and ceilings. In the converted bedroom, they installed solar screens to help block the summer sun and placed a new window unit in the room, which was unconnected to the central heating and A/C system.

Energy auditor Brett Dillon estimated that with the improvements, the family could save 11 percent on heating, 50 percent on cooling and 65 percent on water-heating costs.



The Jimenez family: from left, August, Richard, Nancie and Dakota

### The Jimenez Home

*Inadequate air conditioning, major air leakage and lack of insulation*

Replaced inefficient window-unit air conditioner with high-efficiency, window-unit heat pump from **GVEC Home**.

Tuneup of existing heat pump, addition of programmable thermostat and complete duct system sealing performed by **San Antonio Air Service Experts**.

Sealed ceiling air leaks, increased attic insulation to R-49 level. **Johns Manville insulation**. Installed by **Garland Insulating**.



Replaced 20-year-old refrigerator and low-efficiency deep freeze. Energy Star appliances from **GVEC Home**.



## Energy Efficiency Ambassadors

**B**.J. and Linda Donaldson live on a five-acre homestead in Speegleville, west of Waco, surrounded by endless corn and wheat fields.

B.J. has spent his career at Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, where he now is vice president of underwriting. Linda, his high school sweetheart, retired after working many years at a Hallmark shop.

Now that their two children are grown, the couple spends more time on their hobbies: B.J. restores old furniture; Linda hunts for angels—like the elegant, ceramic seraphim displayed prominently in the family living room.

But the most recent angel to visit the house came in the form of a person—a Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative employee—who told the Donaldsons they had won the Home Energy Makeover contest.

The couple knew their two-story home was wasting energy and money. Much of the equipment in the home, including one of two air-conditioning units, was installed when the 1,952-square-foot house was built in 1987. The water heater was well past its prime, and the insulation was skimpy.

Now B.J. is an unofficial energy-



The Donaldson family: B.J. restores old furniture, and Linda collects angels.

efficiency ambassador. “I’ve had so many people coming up to me and congratulating me and wanting to know what we are doing (to improve energy efficiency),” B.J. said. “It’s giving us and the co-op quite a lot of exposure.”

In addition to a new air-conditioning system, water heater and other improvements, B.J. said he is acting on tips he has learned from Heart of Texas employees and in the pages of

Texas Co-op Power magazine.

“It’s certainly heightened my awareness,” B.J. said of entering the contest. “We’ve now replaced every light in the house (with energy-efficient compact fluorescent light-bulbs), including the porch lights. I think all this will combine to create some energy savings for us—little tips like this—not to mention the things the co-op is doing for the energy-efficiency makeover.”

### The Donaldson Home

*Energy-wasting air-conditioning unit; water heater past its prime*

Home energy analysis performed by **Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative**: inadequate insulation, inefficient heating and cooling systems.



New **Lennox** SEER 15 heat pump replacements for upstairs and downstairs with ductwork replacement in attic. Installed by **Lochridge-Priest**.

Increased attic insulation to R-49 using **Johns Manville** insulation products. Insulation and air sealing by **Garland Insulation**.

Replaced existing inefficient water heater with high-efficiency **Rheem Marathon** water heater. Installed by **Mr. Rooter**.

**D**id you know that heating and cooling can account for more than half of your home's total utility bill? When looking for ways to cut your energy costs, be sure to think about a high-efficiency system. How do you know if a heating or cooling system is efficient? Take a look at the yellow and black EnergyGuide label, which displays efficiency ratings for the product. In addition, be sure to look for the Energy Star label on products and research available tax credits.

In February 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which expands tax credits for homeowners who purchase certain energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment. These tax credits, totaling up to \$1,500, are available on qualifying equipment purchased and installed through December 31, 2010.

Lennox offers a complete selection of high-efficiency systems that can yield up to 20 percent annual savings on total energy costs. With technological innovations, energy-efficient products can lower costs and keep you comfortable, all while contributing to a cleaner global environment with measurable benefits.

For more details on energy-efficient heating and cooling products or federal tax credits, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or [www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com).

**Sources:** Lennox; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network, U.S. Department of Energy



**LENNOX**  
Innovation never felt so good.™



## Achieve easy custom-fit installations that last with JM Climate Pro® insulation.

Johns Manville certified Formaldehyde-free™ Climate Pro loose-fill fiber glass insulation is the superior choice when insulating attics. It is easily blown into attics of all sizes, nonconforming spaces and hard-to-reach areas such as corners, edges and around framing. When applied to the recommended thickness and specifications, you can be assured that your home is energy efficient, with minimal heat loss—for the entire life of your home. For more information or to find a contractor near you, call (800) 654-3103 or visit [JMHomeowner.com](http://JMHomeowner.com).



© 2010 Johns Manville





# HOME LOAN

- 5.25% Interest Rate
- 5.274% Annual Percentage Rate (based on loan amount of \$100,000)
- Monthly term up to 30 years
- Home purchase or refinance of owner-occupied property
- Purchase or refinance of rural property
- No prepayment penalty
- Assumes 20% down payment
- No balloon payment
- LOW closing costs
- Fast Approval



Contact  
**Vanessa Burkhalter**  
**800.588.6714**



Minimum loan amount of \$75,000. Loans are adjustable rate mortgages. The first 3 years will be fixed at an Interest Rate of 5.25% (with an Annual Percentage Rate of 5.274%), then adjust annually for the remaining years to Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate plus a margin of 2.00%. Based on the current Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate, the remaining 27 years would also be at 5.25% with an Annual Percentage Rate of 5.274% (not to exceed 17.00% nor fall below 5.25%). The interest rate may increase after the loan is made. The Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate as of May 6, 2010 was 3.25% and the current margin is 2.00%; for an interest rate of 5.25%.



EXPERIENCE LIFE  
WITH A VIEW

## CABINS

Back 2 Basics Series



**Ready to downsize? Need a basic cabin for your deer lease or lake lot?**

**Introducing our factory-produced Log Cabin starting at \$8,489.**

\*Includes delivery & setup within 150 miles of factory

AC/Heater, Electric, Tin Ceiling,  
Metal Roof, Insulation, Laminate Floor

**FREE CATALOG AND PRICE GUIDE**

**1-877-269-5445**

**www.ulrichloghomes.com**

## MARATHON WATER HEATERS. READY FOR THE FUTURE TODAY.



- Quality, durability and dependability you can count on
- Lower energy costs for the long haul
- Warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home
- Green Power ready



**Get a Marathon and invest in the future.**

**Marathon, America's most durable and efficient water heater. Now available at these member-owned cooperatives:**

Bailey EC	Mid-South Synergy
Bandera EC	North Plains EC
Bowie-Cass EC	Rusk County EC
Central Texas EC	San Bernard EC
Deaf Smith EC	Southwest Rural EA
Fannin EC	Taylor EC
Farmers EC	Wharton EC
Greenbelt EC	Wise EC
Hamilton EC	
Heart of Texas EC	<b>In New Mexico:</b>
Lamb County EC	Central Valley EC
Lighthouse EC	Farmers EC
Lyntegar EC	Lea County EC
Magic Valley EC	Roosevelt EC
Medina EC	

For buying information, call

**1-866-390-4832**



**Texas Electric Cooperatives**  
Utility Supply & Service Division

Your Sustainable Energy Partner



# ROPE COURSES

**With cash prizes on the line, college rodeo is unlike any other sport on campus**

BY CHARLES BOISSEAU • PHOTOS BY JENNIFER NICHOLS

AH, THOSE GOLDEN FALL SATURDAYS on campus, abuzz with the anticipation of a major college sporting event. There are big crowds and bright lights and a sensory smorgasbord: announcers chattering, scholarship athletes prancing, coaches prowling, spectators cheering and parents praying no one gets hurt.

When it's all over, the roar fades, the fans head for the exits and, of course, the winners collect their payments.

Whoa! Hold your horses!

College athletes receiving payoffs? If this were big-time college football, there'd be a scandal, possibly penalties levied by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and banishment of players from a sport reserved exclusively for amateur student-athletes.

But this is college rodeo, the only

sport on campus in which the athletes openly compete for money. In a typical college rodeo, the top finishers in each of nine events win \$400 to \$1,000 or more, depending on the number of competitors and the event.

The money is just one of the many quirks that make college rodeo unlike any other sport.

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA)—the NCAA of college rodeo—considers cash prizes an integral part of the competition. This dates to the beginning of rodeos, which developed in the western United States in the late 1800s when cowboys bet against each other in roping and riding contests, said Roger Walters, the NIRA commissioner and former rodeo coach at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. Rodeo has remained a

“jackpot” sport, meaning contestants pay entry fees, and the winners split the pot. “It’s a tradition. It’s the way it evolved,” Walters said.

Sure, there are similarities with other college sports: Rodeo athletes are recruited out of high school, earn scholarships, have four years of eligibility (which they must complete within six years) and must maintain academic standards.

Even so, it's clear that college rodeo is a different animal.

Unlike NCAA-sanctioned sports, the NIRA also allows college rodeo athletes to compete in pro rodeos at the same time as college events. This rule has helped colleges attract the sport's biggest stars, many of whom have won both the college and world titles. Perhaps most famous is cowboy king Ty



Murray, whom TV viewers watched last year as a contestant on the popular TV show, "Dancing with the Stars."

In 1989, Murray won the bull riding, saddle bronc and all-around events at the College National Finals Rodeo to lead little Odessa College to the national title. Later that same year, he won the all-around title on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association tour, the first of a record seven All-Around World Championship buckles he earned before retiring with \$3 million in career winnings.

"The College National Finals Rodeo is as good as a lot of pro rodeos you see," said Darrell Barron, the 1975 college steer wrestling champion at the University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University-Pueblo). Barron, who lives in Paradise, spent a career marketing college rodeos for the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company and helping run college and pro rodeos.

Men's and women's college teams travel together to compete in the same rodeos, typically five in the fall and five in the spring, making college rodeo a virtual year-round sport. There are nine events, and men compete in six: saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, and calf and team roping. Women compete in four: barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying and team roping. A cowboy and a cowgirl can pair up to form a

two-person roping team.

The best athletes and top-ranked teams are invited to the finals, held in Casper, Wyoming, each June. Two-year colleges compete head-to-head with four-year universities for the same titles—another thing that makes rodeo unlike other college sports, Walters said.

THE SPORT'S POPULARITY IS SURGING, with about 3,500 college rodeo athletes competing last school year—the most since 1999, he said. More than 120 colleges now have rodeo teams, some as far east as Michigan and Georgia.

Still, rodeo remains largely a Western sport. Texas has more college rodeo teams than any other state and dominates two of the largest and most powerful conferences: the Southern Region and the Southwest Region.

One of the most successful rodeo programs these days is found in Stephenville, home of Tarleton State University. This past year, Tarleton had a combined 104 athletes on its men's and women's teams—more than any other school and five times more than regional rival Sul Ross State University in Alpine, among the sport's powerhouses in its early years.

Tarleton's deep and talented group won the most recent men's and women's Southwest Region titles.

Tarleton Coach Mark Eakin succeeds in recruiting top athletes, some of



**PREVIOUS PAGE:** You need a fast, well-trained horse and a quick release to win timed events such as breakaway roping.

**TOP:** A rodeo pickup man, who helps safely separate bareback and saddle-bronc riders from bucking horses during competition, proudly carries the Texas flag into the arena at Tarleton State University's annual college rodeo. **BOTTOM LEFT:** As if preparing for battle, two competitors tape up before entering the arena. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** College bull riders such as Jamon Turner of Sul Ross State University have the same goal: Hang on for eight seconds.



IVYONE ARELLANO, SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY





**TOP LEFT:** Finals were approaching as athletes competed at Tarleton State University's rodeo in late April. Victor Iglesias, a team roper and an English major at Sul Ross State University, catches up on required reading.

**TOP RIGHT:** Teal Hampton, left, and her mother, Tonya, work on their laptops prior to Teal's barrel-racing event. The Hamptons live in Florida, but Teal decided to attend Western Texas College in Snyder so she could compete in rodeos. **RIGHT:** Florence Youree, 77, second from right, won the Girls Rodeo Association (now the Women's Professional Rodeo Association) All-Around world title in 1966. Her daughter, Renee Ward, second from left, and her twin granddaughters, Kylie, left, and Cassie, right, have carried on the Addington, Oklahoma, ranching family's tradition of competing in rodeos and raising and training barrel-racing horses.



whom have impressive rodeo pedigrees. These include twin sisters Cassie and Kylie Ward, among the region's top barrel racers, ropers and goat tyers. They grew up on a ranch in Addington, Oklahoma, where their parents and grandparents raise and train horses, including horses specially bred to fly through an arena's cloverleaf-shaped barrel course.

The twins' mother, Renee, was a champion barrel racer, as was their grandmother, Florence Youree, who won the Girls Rodeo Association (now the Women's Professional Rodeo Association) All-Around title in 1966. Moreover, their older sister, Janae, earned more than \$100,000 in 2003 on her way to the World Rodeo Finals title. A few years later, she graduated

from Oklahoma State University with a marketing degree.

Since rodeo doesn't get the same support enjoyed by big-time sports like football and basketball, athletes have to raise most of the money for expenses and their own supplies—everything from boots and saddles to trailers and trucks to haul their horses.

Athletes making their school's official 10-member competition team each week may receive school money—typically \$100—to pay entry fees and travel costs, but it usually doesn't cover expenses.

"I probably go through a rope a week, and they're \$40," said Russell Garlick, a team roper and animal science major at Sul Ross. To help pay bills, he and his roping partner,

English major Victor Iglesias, shoe horses, perform chores for ranchers and compete in small "jackpot" rodeos. They also must care for their own horses, attend practices and try to find time to study. "I work constantly," said Garlick, who was practically raised in a roping pen in his hometown of Balmorhea. "But I love it. It's the only way I've known."

WINNING THOSE JACKPOTS IS ALL-IMPORTANT for college athletes who consider rodeoing a job while they go to school.

Tarleton State's Eakin said, "Some rodeos are seven hours away. They are easily spending \$400 a weekend for feed, fees and gas. Unlike other sports, the kids are paying their own way even though they are wearing your [school] vest and



# GREAT

## HOME, FARM & RANCH INSURANCE



{ WITHOUT THE BULL }

At RVOS, we're Texans first. We say what we mean and do what we say. It's that simple. And who has time for insurance companies that won't do the same. At RVOS we understand what Texans want from an insurance company, because, like you, we value honesty and integrity. So if you're ready for straight talk, competitive rates and friendly agents, give us a call or visit us online.

**800-381-0867**



**rvos.com**



they are competing for the school.”

To get to and from rodeos, the Ward twins drive a heavy-duty pickup and pull a \$70,000 trailer, equipped with living quarters for them and space for their five competition horses. Why five horses? Each sister has her own specially trained horse for the barrel-racing and goat-tying competitions, and they share a roping horse. Who paid for all the stuff? “Mom and Dad,” their grandmother said with a laugh. Cassie and Kylie have each turned pro, and they use their winnings to pitch in. They compete in pro and amateur rodeos, plus train horses on the side. The pair often place in several rodeo events over a weekend and can pull in \$2,000 to \$3,000.

“We better win some money, or else we can’t afford continuing to go,” Cassie said.

“They’ve learned to try to make their own living,” said their proud grandmother.

JAMON TURNER, THE TOP BULL RIDER for Sul Ross, said he relies on rodeo winnings to pay his rent and other living expenses. “This is more than a hobby,” said Turner, one of a few African-American college cowboys. “This is work.”

From January to April this year, Turner estimated he entered more than 40 competitions—including five college rodeos. He and his traveling buddies frequently drive hundreds of miles over a weekend to get in multiple rodeos. They take turns driving, and Turner, who is majoring in kinesiology and minoring in conservation biology, studies when riding shotgun—or at places like college libraries and McDonald’s restaurants with free wireless Internet service.

After graduation, Turner wants to try bull riding full-time. If that doesn’t work out, “I want to go rodeo and would love to put on clinics and work with contractors learning the bucking trade,” he said.

*Charles Boisseau is Texas Co-op Power’s associate editor. Reach him at [editor@texas-ec.org](mailto:editor@texas-ec.org).*

**Web Extra:** Go to [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com) for a video about college rodeo, including an interview with the Ward twins, and a story about Larry O’Neill, the University of Texas’ only rodeo champion.



You can tell which schools college rodeo athletes represent by the vests they’re required to wear.

## TEXAS

### Cradle of College Rodeo

Not surprisingly, college rodeo traces its earliest history to Texas. In 1920, college cowboys at Texas A&M University organized the first college rodeo to help raise money to travel to a livestock judging contest in Chicago, according to Sylvia Gann Mahoney, author of the book *College Rodeo: From Show to Sport* (Texas A&M University Press, 2004).

The rodeo offered bronco busting, goat roping, saddle racing, polo, a greased-pig contest and country ballads from a quartet. While the then-all male school’s rodeo was just for A&M athletes, the organizers invited women rodeo performers, highlighting how cowgirls were involved in the college sport from its earliest days.

“They invited women to compete because they knew they’d bring cowboys to watch,” Mahoney said in a telephone interview. “Women have just always been a part of college rodeo.”

College rodeos spread rapidly in the 1930s, especially at land-grant colleges, Mahoney said. But the first intercollegiate rodeo—in which schools battled each other—was in April 1939 at a dude ranch in Victorville, California, where an entrepreneur brought together 11 college teams.

Even so, some cite 1949 as the year rodeo really became a legitimate college sport with the founding of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) and the adoption of its constitution. Much of the leadership came from cowboy student athletes at Sul Ross State University and a few others, such as Texas A&M’s Charlie Rankin, the organization’s first president.

“Cultural aspects hindered rodeos’ acceptance into college athletic departments,” Mahoney writes. “The word *show*, a carry-over from the Wild-West Show days, continued in the contestants’ daily references to college rodeos. Recognizing this problem, NIRA leaders and rodeo coaches made an effort to replace rodeo’s vaudeville show image as they promoted rodeo as a college sport in athletic departments.”

In 1950, delegates to the NIRA convention voted to replace the word “show” with “rodeo” in its constitution.

No matter the name, cowboys from Sul Ross, the little-known college in remote Alpine, dominated those early years. The late, legendary rodeo champion Harley May helped lead Sul Ross to the first four national men’s titles, 1949–52. All told, Sul Ross has won nine team titles, seven men’s and two women’s. That is tied for the most with Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Mahoney, a one-time English professor, was roped into coaching the team at New Mexico Junior College despite having never participated in a rodeo. Now retired, she lives in Vernon with her husband John Mahoney, who coached four national champion rodeo teams—three at Sul Ross and one at Vernon College.

There’s much more about this largely overlooked college sport in Mahoney’s book, which includes 60 photos. Find out more on Texas A&M’s website at [www.tamupress.com/product/College-Rodeo,1472.aspx](http://www.tamupress.com/product/College-Rodeo,1472.aspx).





Actual size is 16.5 mm

# 2009 Gold Eagles Sold Out at the U.S. Mint. But you can have them **TODAY** for under \$200!

The economic crisis has sparked a huge demand for U.S. Mint Gold Eagles. Collectors, investors, dealers and the public alike are scouring the country to obtain them. Many are coming up empty-handed—but as a special offer to new customers you can buy these scarce 2009 Gold Eagles today at one of the best values in the U.S.—only \$199 each!

## You Cannot Buy This Coin From The Mint!

The U.S. Mint does not sell Gold Eagles to the public. You can only obtain them through an authorized distributor. We have just accepted delivery on the last shipment of 2009 dated U.S. Mint Gold Eagles—the current U.S. \$5 gold piece. **These coins are now sold out at the mint.** Struck in one-tenth Troy ounce of 92% gold, they feature the historic image of Miss Liberty first authorized for U.S. gold coins by Teddy Roosevelt in 1907.

## No, We're Not Crazy!

We are making this offer to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of satisfied customers already know—we're your one best source for coins worldwide. And we're making these most sought after coins in the U.S. available to you—at one of the best values in the U.S.—\$199\*—to get you in on the ground floor of deals like this—*deals our customers enjoy all the time.*

\*plus a nominal shipping and handling charge

Note: GovMint.com. is a private distributor of worldwide government coin issues and is not affiliated with the United States government. Prices and availability subject to change without notice. ©GovMint.com, 2010

## Buy More And Save More

At these prices Gold Eagle Buyers will want to purchase more than one coin. So as a **bonus**, in addition to getting one coin for \$199, you may purchase 3 coins for only \$195 each—that's even a better deal! AND—you can buy 5 for only \$189 each—a truly remarkable deal! Savvy gold buyers will agree, dramatic savings like this on gold presents an unprecedented opportunity—they will act FAST to take full advantage.

## Don't Miss out!

**These Gold Eagles are sold out at the Mint.** Our limited supply is selling out rapidly. Don't miss out! Call now toll free 1-888-324-6498 to add these elusive Gold Eagles to your holdings—at one of the best values anywhere!

TOLL-FREE 24 HOURS A DAY  
**1-888-324-6498**

Promotional Code FGE151  
Please mention this code when you call.

 **GOVMINT.COM**  
YOUR ONE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. FGE151  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

[www.GovMint.com/goldeagle](http://www.GovMint.com/goldeagle)





© NAGY-BAGOLY ILONA | DREAMSTIME.COM

## HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

**Protect your family from fire and other electrical hazards by using this short checklist. These simple and easy steps will help you identify and correct electrical dangers commonly found in homes.**

### THE BASICS

#### 1. Check the wattage of all lightbulbs.

- Are the bulbs the appropriate wattage for the size of the fixtures? A bulb of too-high wattage could lead to fire through overheating.

#### 2. Check all lamp cords and extension cords.

- Are cords placed out of walking areas and free of furniture resting on them? If not, tripping hazards may result. Also, stepping on cords or placing furniture on them can damage the cord and create a fire hazard.
- Are cords in good condition (not damaged or cracked)? Shock or fire hazards can result from damaged cords. Do

not attempt to repair cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center or safely dispose of the item and purchase a new one.

- Are cords unwrapped? Tightly coiled cords can lead to overheating.
- Are extension cords being used only on a temporary basis? Extension cords are not as safe as permanent house wiring. Have receptacles installed where they are needed.

#### 3. Check all wall outlets and switches.

- Are all outlets and switches working properly? Improperly operating outlets or switches indicate that an unsafe wiring condition may exist.



- Are all outlets and switches cool to the touch? Unusually warm outlets or switches may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- Do you hear crackling, sizzling or buzzing from your outlets? Call a licensed electrician to identify the cause.
- Are all outlet and switch-cover plates in good condition? Replace any missing, cracked or broken cover plates.

### THE BEDROOM

**1. Check for tamper-resistant outlets. These are particularly important if there are young children in the home.**

**2. Check portable heaters.**

- Are they placed away from things that can catch fire such as drapes and newspapers? Relocate heaters away from passageways and keep all flammable materials such as curtains, rugs, furniture or newspaper at least 3 feet away.
- Is the equipment stable and placed where it will not tip over? A tipped-over heater poses a fire hazard. Animals and even blowing drapes can be factors.

**3. Check for the presence and proper placement of smoke alarms and test each one.**

- Are there smoke detectors on every level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area?

### THE KITCHEN

**1. Check all countertop appliances.**

- Are all appliance cords placed away from hot surfaces? Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Excess heat can damage cords.
- Are all appliances located away from the sink? Electrical appliances can cause a shock if they come in contact with water. Plug kitchen appliances into GFCI-protected outlets.
- Do appliance cords hang off countertops or tabletops? Such placement could cause a tripping hazard.

**2. Check all large appliances.**

- Have you ever received even a slight shock (other than one from static electricity) from any of these appliances? If so, do not touch the appliance until it has been checked by an electrician.

- Is the top and area above the cooking range free of combustibles (for example, potholders and plastic utensils)? Using the range to store noncooking equipment may result in fires or burns.
- Is there excessive vibration or movement when the washer or dryer is operating? Movement during operation can put undue stress on electrical connections.

### THE BATHROOM

**1. Check for ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).**

- Are bathroom outlets protected by GFCIs? GFCIs should be installed in kitchens, bathrooms and other areas around water where the risk of electric shock is high.
- If you have any GFCIs, do you test them regularly? GFCIs must be operating properly to protect against electric shock.

**2. Check small electrical products such as hair dryers and curling irons.**

- Are they plugged in when not in use? Plugged-in electrical appliances (even when switched off) may result in an electric shock hazard if they fall into water.
- Are small appliances in good condition? Pay particular attention to erratic operation and damaged wiring or other parts.

### THE BASEMENT & GARAGE

**1. Check your breaker box.**

- Is your fuse box or circuit breaker box appropriately labeled? Labeling helps to easily identify what circuits power which areas in your home.
- Does everyone of appropriate age know where the fuse box or circuit breaker box is and how to turn off and restore power to the home?
- Are you regularly resetting tripped circuit breakers? Circuit breakers that are constantly tripping indicate that the circuit is overloaded or that other electrical hazards exist. Consult a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Is your home protected by arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)? AFCIs replace standard circuit breakers in the electrical service panel and greatly reduce the risk of home electrical fires. To add AFCI protection to your home, consult a qualified, licensed electrician.

# The News that Fits

*Weekly papers in remote West Texas are still kicking.*

By Charles Boisseau



It's old news by now. Newspaper circulation is dropping, advertising revenues are plunging, and papers have suffered an unprecedented wave of layoffs, bankruptcies and closings.

The conventional wisdom: Newspapers are dying! Print journalism is being replaced by newer technology—the mighty Internet, of course, which has siphoned off readers and advertisers with “free” news and classified sites.

Under these clouds, I toured a handful of weekly newspapers across the mountainous Chihuahuan Desert and the Big Bend region—the remotest corner of Texas.

Even here, the questions are the same: Will the papers survive? And, would it matter if they disappeared? No one can definitively answer the first question, but leading citizens don't hesitate to answer the second.

“It's the glue to hold things together in a town,” Fort Davis businessman Joe Duncan said of the importance of local newspapers. Duncan owns historic hotels in Fort Davis, Marfa and Van Horn. “I think it's really critical in a small town to have one. If it's not there, I think it will be a loss to the town.”

**Sanderson:** Jim Street, a 74-year-old with a curly, gray moustache, owns and edits the Terrell County News Leader, the lone news outlet in the sparsely populated county along the Rio Grande. The county seat, Sanderson, is an unincorporated hamlet of 800 where the nearest traffic light is 60 miles away.

Street admits his paper isn't much of a moneymaker, though he says he has increased its circulation since he purchased it in 2001. He relies on two part-timers to help put out the 16-page tabloid that's published every Friday. He has tried many ways to trim costs and increase revenues, with mixed results. Finances got so bad last summer that he decided to close, but he reversed course when officials with the county, the school district and the local bank increased advertising.

“I'm trying to do everything we can to sustain Terrell County,” said Terrell County Judge Leo Smith, confirming that the county stepped up its advertising. “We desperately need a newspaper.”

**Alpine:** The Alpine Avalanche—the region's oldest (founded 1891) and largest (circulation 3,000) newspaper—is undergoing an unexpected transition.

Veteran Texas journalist Mike Perry, the editor and publisher, resigned in May when his health suddenly deteriorated. Perry and his wife, Cindy, decided the long and stressful hours were too big a price to continue to pay.

“He still enjoyed what he was doing, but he just couldn't keep going. We decided to make his health the number one priority,” said Cindy, speaking via cell phone from a hospital in Odessa after Mike underwent surgery to have a pacemaker installed to regulate his heart.

Cindy said she planned to continue as reporter and copy editor under new leadership appointed by Granite Publications, the Taylor-based owner of the newspaper.

Not only are there big shoes to fill, there is a big territory to cover: The Avalanche is the only weekly serving Brewster County, the state's largest county, with an area



slightly less than the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

**Marfa:** Robert Halpern is proud of the hard-hitting reporting his team has produced at the Big Bend Sentinel in Marfa, 25 miles west of Alpine.

Halpern cited several stories his paper broke: a U.S. Border Patrol program that operated last fall in which illegal immigrants detained in Arizona were repatriated to Mexico over Presidio's international bridge; a program at Big Bend Ranch State Park to kill wild donkeys (a practice that stopped after the newspaper's stories); and a Midland businessman's thwarted plan to pump water from an underground aquifer on state-owned land within arid Presidio County.

The economic downturn has made the business tougher: Advertising revenues declined last year, and Halpern increased the single-copy price to \$1 from 75 cents. He and his wife, Rosario, who manages finances, are considering charging online users for access to The Sentinel's website.

"None of us work for free," Halpern said. "We have to find a way, and the reader needs to understand that it takes resources to go to city council meetings and to cover what we cover. It costs money to put out a quality product like we do."

**Fort Davis:** Bob Dillard is the editor and publisher of the Jeff Davis Mountain Dispatch. Every week, he commutes some 200 miles each way between Fort Davis and Stanton, where he owns another weekly.

The Fort Davis paper, which Dillard runs with his wife, Christi, is a traditional mix of local news, lengthy letters to the editor, a church page and humorous columns.

"When you are in a small rural area, there's a need (for local news). We try to supply as much information as possible—kids' names, faces, obits. When you have a baby, it's news. When you get married, it's news," Dillard said.

**Van Horn:** Larry Simpson runs the paper from an office supply store on the town's main drag, a down-on-its luck stretch of asphalt a few blocks north of Interstate 10.

Simpson and his wife, Dawn, have owned the Van Horn Advocate since 1975. The couple prints 1,000 copies of the broadsheet each week—the same number they printed 35 years ago. They have survived by branching into other businesses—office supplies and selling fuel to private pilots at the airport.

The paper reflects the couple's conservative philosophy. They try to mostly report positive community news, said Simpson, the paper's only regular employee except Dawn, who writes a weekly column, and occasional part-timers.

Not surprisingly, you can count Simpson among the ink-stained, small-town editors who strongly believe they are providing a public service that helps strengthen their communities, places where people still come together to work and live and die far from the bustling big cities. And yet it's also clear that these bastions of community news are not spared today's cold economic realities and changes in readers' habits.

With Larry now in his late 60s, the couple is quietly looking to sell the paper, but they're not optimistic someone will buy it.

"The biggest problem is it's just too much work for anybody," Simpson said. "I'm gone three, four nights every week, at meetings, and I work all during the day. A lot of people flat out don't want to work that hard."

Simpson said he plans to keep publishing—as long as he stays healthy. Already, he has planned his last headline: a big "30," old journalism slang that denotes the end of a story.



CHARLES BOISSEAU, RETOUCHING BY ROBERT BURMAN

Old-fashioned weekly newspapers, such as the Big Bend Sentinel in Marfa, are threatened by the rise of the Internet and changes in readers' habits.

# The Great Depression

*The tin roof is a  
distant memory, but  
I can still hear music  
in the patter of rain.*

BY HARRY NOBLE

M

y dad, a native of Sabine County in East Texas, moved to Wichita Falls shortly after the end of World War I, borrowed money from an uncle and opened a small radio shop. The stock market crashed in October 1929, six weeks before I was born. This fiscal collapse ended seven years of unparalleled prosperity for the United States. Prices plummeted, banks began to fold, and in less than a month, some \$30 billion in stock value had disappeared. Within four months, 3.2 million people were unemployed.

Dad entered into a bleak struggle to find customers to keep his shop open. By winter of 1934, the depression had a death grip on the economy. With three children to feed, he had to give up the shop. Having inherited a 270-acre farm in San Augustine County, he decided to return to East Texas where the family could survive with a large garden, chickens for eggs, milk cows for dairy products and steers and hogs for meat.

Since there wasn't a spare inch of room left inside our Model T Ford coupe, Ginger, my collie, already a seasoned "running-board rider" on short trips, was allotted space on the left running board for the entire journey—more than half of which was driven on gravel roads. The time was marked by fixing flats, stopping for gasoline, stretching cramped muscles and traveling through downtown Dallas. We averaged slightly less than 25 mph. We left Wichita Falls around 6 a.m., spent the night in a tourist court in Henderson and arrived at my grandparents' home in deep East Texas about 10 a.m. the following day.

Two scenes remain vivid: As we made the grueling trip, Dad sang "Pennies from Heaven" without the slightest hint of defeat or fear. And when we arrived in East Texas and my grandparents met us at the front gate, I was last to be hugged by my grandmother, who whispered, "Well, bless your little heart." At that moment a "pet" relationship was established with my grandparents that lasted the rest of their lives. When my grandmother asked my grandfather why he was standing at the foot of the bed where I was napping, he replied, "I was just listening to him breathe."

We lived with my grandparents on their farm for three months, waiting for the tenants to move out of Dad's house. Then on July 4, 1935, we began an all-day cleanup. The three-room, frame house was unpainted with a tin roof and two small porches, on the east and west. A giant walnut tree also shaded the west side. The floors were made of rough lumber, and the walls were bare, with no canvas or



wallpaper. The total living space, not counting the porches, was 700 square feet. The ceilings consisted of bare boards with a large attic above. Outside was a privy, a barn and a 62-foot-deep hand-dug well, with a bucket, rope and pulley.

Mom cooked on a kerosene stove, while a secondhand ice box provided minimal storage for milk, butter and eggs. Pallets on the floor left sleeping arrangements far short of adequate. As winter approached, the situation worsened. Necessity driving ingenuity, Dad built a ladder straight up the pantry wall to the trap door that opened into the attic.

Since it wasn't floored, an 8-foot square was covered in the northeast corner, and several loose boards were laid across the rafters to provide a walkway to my newly installed bed. Although I didn't have a light, chair, table, window or floor, I had my own room—and a bed.

An outstanding feature of my private space was the tin roof just 3 feet above my bed. My young ears could hear a walnut leaf land on the roof and slowly slide down the incline. My ears picked up the various sounds of precipitation and its densities. Drizzle had a faint, steady murmur, while light rain showers also contained the murmur but were overlaid with a tiny splattering. The murmur disappeared with full rain showers and was replaced with a tattooing roar. If there was wind with the rain, the tattoo undulated in sweeping waves. Snow was almost absent of sound, just a faint click now and then. Hail, on the other hand, made such a clamor of violent reverberations it drove me out of bed and down the ladder. The duet between the tin roof and raindrops produced beautiful lullabies.

Things slowly improved. As hardships arose, we met them with new efforts. Two rooms were added downstairs, and the attic turned into an upstairs area. A little brother joined the family, as did electricity, indoor plumbing and butane gas. Dad's entrepreneurial spirit took him through several ventures, culminating in a butane delivery business with five outlet stores in East Texas.

As for me, three-quarters of a century later, even without the tin roof or the Great Depression, I can still hear music in the patter of rain.

---

*Harry Noble is a freelance writer living in San Augustine.*





Suggested Retail \$395...

NOW, on your  
wrist for \$49

For a limited  
Time Only

Analog and digital display

Stop watch function

Built-in alarm

LCD complications

Electro-luminescence backlight

## Amazing New Hybrid Runs Without Gas

*The new face of time? Stauer's Compendium Hybrid fuses form and functionality for UNDER \$50! Read on...*

Innovation is the path to the future. Stauer takes that seriously. That's why we developed the *Compendium Hybrid*, a stunningly-designed hybrid chronograph with over one dozen analog and digital functions that is more versatile than any watch that we have ever engineered.

New technology usually starts out at astronomical prices and then comes down years later. We skipped that step to allow everyone the chance to experience this watch's brilliant fusion of technology and style. We originally priced the Stauer *Compendium Hybrid* at \$395 based on the market for advanced sports watches... but then stopped ourselves. Since this is no ordinary economy, we decided to start at **88% off** from day one. That means this new technological marvel can be yours for only \$49!

**Welcome a new Digital Revolution.** With the release of the dynamic new *Compendium*, those boxy, plastic wrist calculators of the past have been replaced by this luxurious LCD chronograph that is sophisticated enough for a formal evening out, but rugged and tough

enough to feel at home in a cockpit, camping expedition or covert mission.

The watch's extraordinary dial seamlessly blends an analog watch face with a stylish digital display. Three super-bright luminous hands keep time along the inner dial, while a trio of circular LCD windows track the hour, minutes and seconds. An eye-catching digital semi-circle animates in time with the second hand and shows the day of the week. The watch also features a rotating bezel, stopwatch and alarm functions and blue, electro-luminescence backlight. The *Compendium Hybrid* secures with a rugged stainless steel band and is water-resistant to 3 ATMs.

**Guaranteed to change the way you look at time.** At Stauer, we believe that when faced with an uphill economy, innovation and better value will always provide a much-needed boost. Stauer is so

confident of their latest hybrid timepiece that we offer a money-back-guarantee. If for any reason you aren't fully impressed by the performance and innovation of the Stauer *Compendium Hybrid* for \$49, simply return the watch within 30 days for a full refund of the purchase price. The unique design of the *Compendium* greatly limits our production, so don't hesitate to order! Remember: progress and innovation wait for no one!

### WATCH SPECS:

- Three LCD windows show hour, minute and second
- Stop watch function
- Water resistant to 3 ATMs
- Fits 6 3/4"-8 3/4" wrist

**88%  
OFF**



*The Compendium: The spectacular face of the latest watch technology.*

*Exclusively Through Stauer*

**Stauer Compendium Hybrid Watch—~~\$395~~  
Now \$49 +S&P Save \$346**

*Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.*

**1-888-324-4370**

Promotional Code VHW237-02  
Please mention this code when you call.

**Stauer**

14101 Southcross Drive W.,  
Dept. VHW237-02  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337  
[www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

*Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices*



# An Era Frozen in Time

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

Legendary Old West gambler and lawman-turned-sportswriter Bat Masterson observed, in the last column he wrote before he died in 1921, that the rich and poor get the same amount of ice in a lifetime, but the rich get their ice in the summer and the poor get theirs in the winter.

Masterson used ice in this instance as a metaphor, but the truth, in Masterson's day, was that the North had ice about any time it wanted it, and the sultry South had precious little of it in the good ol' summertime. Ships laden with ice that had been sawed from northern ponds and lakes the previous winter visited the Gulf Coast in Texas' early days of statehood, but most of Texas never saw so much as a single cube of the stuff.

When railroads came to Texas in the mid-1800s, the northern ice was packed in sawdust-insulated cars and shipped to a hot and thirsty South, bringing that cool commodity to communities far from the coast.

We don't think of ice as an agricultural crop, but in those days the plentiful ice crop was almost as important to the economy of the northern states as grain. Even so, supplies in Texas rarely lasted past mid-July. Those fortunate few with the ways and means to build their own icehouses did just that and shipped in their own private supplies of ice, which makes us realize that Masterson was probably more literally correct than we're giving him credit for.

When the Civil War stopped shipments from the North, one of the main complaints in Texas was the lack of ice, which led to Texas' pioneering artificial ice making and refrigeration. An ice-making machine developed in France made it through the Union blockade and was quickly installed in San Antonio. The icehouse and the icebox weren't far behind.

Glance at brief histories of Texas communities where businesses from a given year are listed, and you'll notice how many towns included an icehouse right along with churches, stores, post offices and cotton gins. In its time, the icehouse served not only as a purveyor of frozen water but also as a sort of community center and a convenience store, long before the term "convenience store" was invented. In fact, one of the world's best-known convenience store chains, 7-Eleven, was originally known as the Consumers Ice Company and later as the Southland Ice Company.

Enterprising icehouse operators realized that people might buy a cold beer or soda pop if such items were put on ice and sold. Milk, too. And butter. And why not have the baker drop off some bread? Before long, enterprising icehouse operators were selling more groceries than ice.

At home, before the advent of the modern refrigerator, people used iceboxes. The old iceboxes, which people didn't seem to miss once refrigerators came along, had hollow walls lined with tin or zinc. They were packed with insulation like cork, sawdust, straw or seaweed. A large block of ice was stored in an area near the top of the box, allowing cool air to circulate to otherwise perishable items—milk, butter and the like—in the lower compartments. When the ice was gone, it was time for another trip to the icehouse, or it was delivered by an iceman.

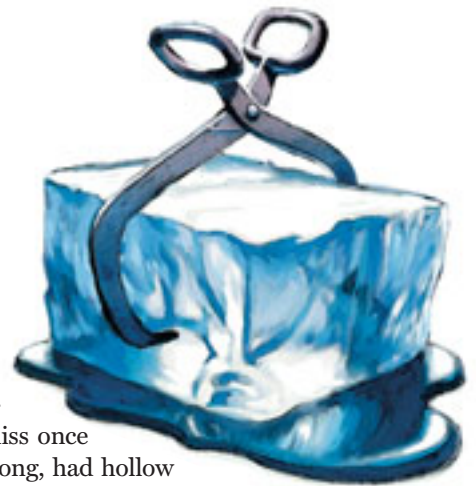
John Daniel Wolf, speaking to editor Thad Sitton in the book *Harder than Hardscrabble: Oral Recollections of the Farming Life from the Edge of the Texas Hill Country* (2003, University of Texas Press), remembered the iceman making his appointed rounds, same as the mailman. The iceman showed up in a truck with the ice in the back of it, covered by big tarps. "You could swap two dozen eggs for a block of ice," Wolf recalled. "And many a time we had a tremendous treat, because we made homemade ice cream with that block of ice."

As early as the 1920s, the number of Texas icehouses began to decline as more homes got electricity and more refrigerators were sold—but Texas still had more iceboxes than refrigerators in the 1940s. By 1950, most Texas families had some kind of refrigeration, and that fact quickly made the community icehouse and the family iceboxes relics from the past, relegated to long-ago census counts.

The old icehouses still dot the Texas landscape. Some have been abandoned, shells of a once-thriving business, but others have been converted into various enterprises, and many of them specialize in beer. A new generation of Texans is more inclined to think of the icehouse as a place to grab a cold beer, which, if you think about it, isn't that different from the function the icehouse served in its heyday.

The day of the icehouse and the icebox has come and gone and won't be coming back. We don't sit on our porches in front of a block of ice to get cool anymore. Come to think of it, we don't sit outside on our porches much at all anymore. Mostly we go inside and turn on another marvel of the modern world—the air conditioner.

*Clay Coppedge is a regular contributor to Footnotes in Texas History.*



## From the Belly of the Beast

**BY KEVIN HARGIS** Pork comes in many forms and flavors: Hams, roasts, tenderloins, chops and, oh yes ... bacon. Those salty, smoky pieces of cured pork belly ain't just for breakfast anymore.

Bacon—and recipes featuring bacon—are sizzling among food-o-philes. There are people making bacon cupcakes, bacon ice cream and bacon-infused liquors. There are online bacon newsletters and businesses devoted to bacon paraphernalia.

So it's not surprising that cooking classes are focused on dishes made with the succulent strips of swine.

I recently attended such a class at a Central Market store, part of the H-E-B family, in Austin. Instructor/Chef Cindy Haenel teaches a very popular series of classes focused on bacon.

Haenel, who hails from the Houston suburb of Alvin, taught eager and hungry students the ins and outs of bacon, running through the preparation of five different recipes, dishing out tips and advice as she fried up and baked pounds of crispy bacon.

She displayed her deft knife skills (another class she teaches) and an equally sharp sense of humor as she cooked her way through the dishes, samples of which were handed out to each student.

She expounded on the virtues of bacon and how to wring the most flavor out of it. Don't discard the drippings ("pig butter" she called it), but save the excess for other cooking (delicious, but not for the diet-conscious). And those little bits of

meat stuck in the pan after frying bacon, called the fond, contain big dollops of flavor. Scrape the pan and deglaze with a bit of water to get the most out of this bacon resource.

Here are a couple of my favorite recipes I brought home from her class. Haenel graciously allowed me to share them with you.

### SAVORY LEEK AND APPLE WOOD BACON TART

Flaky Butter Crust—recipe on following page

- 8 leeks, white portions only
- 4 slices thick-cut apple wood-smoked bacon
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch ground nutmeg
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup grated Gruyère cheese

Prepare tart shell according to recipe on next page. Roll out dough to an 11-inch circle on a lightly floured surface. Transfer to 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom and trim edges. Refrigerate in pan at least 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut leeks in half lengthwise and then crosswise into ¼-inch-thick half circles. Place in bowl and rinse well in two changes of water. Drain. Line pastry with parchment paper and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake until crust is set, about 12 minutes. Remove paper and weights and bake until golden brown, about another 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack.

In medium skillet, cook bacon over medium-high heat until crisp and fat is rendered, about 5 minutes. Remove and drain on paper towels. Add butter to remaining fat in pan. When foamy, add drained leeks, garlic, salt, pepper and nutmeg and stir well to combine. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until leeks are very soft but not browned, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Combine eggs and cream in medium bowl and whisk well. Add bacon, Parmesan and Gruyère and whisk well. Add leeks and whisk to

SAVORY LEEK AND APPLE WOOD BACON TART





combine. Pour into prepared tart shell and bake until risen and golden brown, about 40 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on rack at least 20 minutes before serving.

Servings: 8. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 365 calories, 9.4 g protein, 22.6 g fat, 28.2 g carbohydrates, 2.2 g dietary fiber, 550 mg sodium, 117 mg cholesterol

## FLAKY BUTTER CRUST

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 7 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons ice water, or more as needed

For food processor: Combine flour, butter and salt in food processor. Pulse 10 seconds, then add ice water. Pulse quickly 5 or 6 times until dough comes together. Remove dough and place on floured surface. Using hands, work dough into ball and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes before using.

To make by hand: Combine flour, butter and salt in medium bowl and mix with pastry knife or fingertips until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add water, 1 tablespoon at time, and mix until dough comes together and is no longer dry, taking care not to over-mix. Form into ball, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least 30 minutes before using.

For both preparations, roll out on lightly floured surface as directed in recipe, then allow to rest again in refrigerator 30 minutes before baking.

## CHOCOLATE-COVERED BACON WITH ALMONDS

- 1 pound thickly sliced slab bacon
- 1/2 pound milk chocolate
- 1/4 pound toasted almonds

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place bacon on sheet tray and cook until crisp, about 35 minutes. Melt chocolate in double boiler over low heat. Dip crisp bacon in chocolate and place back on sheet tray. Sprinkle with almonds and refrigerate 30 minutes, or until ready to serve.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 1 strip. Per serving: 330 calories, 7.9 g protein, 27.1 g fat, 13.3 g carbohydrates, 1.8 g dietary fiber, 329 mg sodium, 30 mg cholesterol



## 1<sup>st</sup> TONY ALVAREZ, *Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

Prize-winning recipe: **Tony's Mojo Pork Roast**

The pig may be humble, but it is a very useful animal. As the old saying goes, you can use everything but the squeal. For this month's recipe contest, Divine Swine, we received recipes using almost every cut imaginable, from the shoulder to the belly. Recipe testers went hog wild for this Cuban-style pork roast that resulted in a tender, juicy, flavorful treat. Pedernales Electric Cooperative member Tony Alvarez, who sent it in, suggests serving it with fried plantains, black beans and white rice—a real Caribbean feast.

## TONY'S MOJO PORK ROAST

- 1 Boston butt bone-in pork shoulder, about 6-7 pounds
- Mojo Criollo Marinade (see below)
- 4 bay leaves
- 2 yellow onions, thinly sliced

Place roast, marinade and bay leaves in a 2 1/2-gallon zip-top bag. Squeeze as much air from the bag as possible, seal it and place in baking pan. Marinate for 24 hours in refrigerator, turning every several hours. When ready to cook, heat oven to 275 degrees. Line bottom of roasting pan with sliced onions. Place roast, fat side up, on onions and cover tightly with foil. Pour marinade in saucepan, boil until thickened and allow to cool. Cook roast until tender, about 4 1/2 hours, or until internal temperature reaches a minimum of 170 degrees. At that point, flip roast fat side down on baking sheet and baste with thickened marinade. Cook another 30 minutes, uncovered, while basting frequently. Allow roast to rest for 15 minutes before cutting.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 618 calories, 46.8 g protein, 38.8 g fat, 6.9 g carbohydrates, 0.6 g dietary fiber, 1,008 mg sodium, 170 mg cholesterol

## MOJO CRIOLLO MARINADE

- 1 1/2 cups sour orange juice (about 6 oranges)
- 1/2 cup lime juice (about 4 limes)
- 1 head garlic, peeled
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons Mexican oregano
- 6 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper

Slice oranges and limes down the middle and squeeze the juice into a food processor. Add all other ingredients into food processor and pulse four to five times.

**COOK'S TIP** If you can't find sour oranges or the juice, you can substitute 1 cup sweet orange juice plus 1/2 cup of lime or lemon juice for the 1 1/2 cups of sour orange juice.

## HAROLD'S FAMOUS BOURBON-BAKED HAM

12- to 14-pound bone-in, smoked ham

- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 cup bourbon
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/3 cup Dijon-style mustard

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Skin ham; trim fat to 1/4-inch thick, and score. In bowl, mix sugar and bourbon; brush one-third of mixture over ham. Bake 1 1/2 hours, basting twice with remaining sugar mixture. Add 1/4 cup of water to pan after 1 hour so drippings will not burn. In separate bowl, mix pepper with mustard mixture. Brush ham with drippings and mustard. Bake one hour; add water to pan as necessary to keep drippings from burning. Let ham stand 15 minutes. Baste with drippings; slice.

Servings: 40 (approx.). Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 316 calories, 38.1 g protein, 12.6 g fat, 6.2 g carbohydrates, 0.1 g dietary fiber, 1,336 mg sodium, 112 mg cholesterol

## HAROLD HOUSLEY

*Navarro County Electric Cooperative*

## CRANBERRY-ORANGE PORK ROAST

- 1 boneless pork loin roast, 2 1/2-3 pounds
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (14 ounces) whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1/2 cup orange marmalade
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

# RECIPE ROUNDUP

Cut roast in half and place in slow cooker. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over roast. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 5 hours. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 343 calories, 22.7 g protein, 14.3 g fat, 27.6 g carbohydrates, 0.5 g dietary fiber, 161 mg sodium, 68 mg cholesterol

**VICKI SLEDGE**  
*CoServ Electric*

## PORK CHOPS AU POIVRE

- 8 center-cut pork loin chops
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons dried tarragon, divided
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cognac or brandy
- $\frac{1}{2}$  pint heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons green peppercorns, crushed
- Lemon juice
- Parsley

Remove pork chops from refrigerator and let stand for 15 minutes or so. Salt and pepper both sides and sprinkle on some of the tarragon. Melt butter in heavy skillet and brown chops on both sides over high heat. Reduce heat to moderate and cook chops about 7 minutes on both sides, depending on thickness. Remove chops to preheated platter. Pour off excess fat, leaving only a glaze. Deglaze pan over high heat with vinegar and liquor, scraping particles from sides and bottom. Reduce liquid to about one-third. Add cream, peppercorns, a squeeze of lemon juice and remaining tarragon. Reduce mixture to thick sauce. Add salt, pepper and more lemon juice to taste. Garnish with parsley. Serve immediately.

Servings: 8. Serving size: 1 chop with sauce. Per serving: 349 calories, 35.4 g protein, 19.5 g fat, 2.1 g carbohydrates, 0.5 g dietary fiber, 379 mg sodium, 130 mg cholesterol

**JAN STEELE**  
*Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

## RECIPE CONTEST

December's recipe contest is the Holiday Recipe Contest sponsored by the Texas Pecan Board.

The clock is ticking down for your chance at a portion of the \$5,000 in prizes. All recipes must contain pecans. Please see the ad below or read the rules online at [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com).

The deadline is September 10.



2010 © HANNAH ECKMAN. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## 6th Annual Holiday Recipe Contest

# \$5,000 in Total Prizes!

GRAND PRIZEWINNER TAKES HOME \$3,000.

FOUR RUNNERS-UP WILL EACH WIN \$500.

SPONSORED BY  
TEXAS PECAN BOARD



**Attention, cooks:** We'd like to share your best original holiday recipes with 2.8 million Texas Co-op Power readers and give you a chance to win cash prizes—and the acclaim of your friends and family. All recipes must include pecans. Be sure to use real Texas pecans for the best results. **Deadline for receipt of entries is September 10, 2010.**

Winners will be featured in our December 2010 issue.

Each entry **MUST** include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Send entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can fax recipes to (512) 763-3408 or e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org). E-mails must include "Holiday Recipe Contest" in the subject line and contain only one recipe (no attachments). Up to three entries are allowed per person/co-op member. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries can all be in one envelope. For official rules, visit [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).



RANCH HOMES • COTTAGES • PARK MODELS • MODULAR

# Building TEXAS DREAM HOMES

Anywhere In  
**TEXAS**



**The La Linda**

2,280 Sq. Ft. • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths



- ★ We Build on Your Land or Ours
- ★ Turn Key Construction
- ★ Zero Down if You Own Your Own Land\*
- ★ Homes from **\$35/Sq. Ft.**

\* See model center for details.



**TOLL FREE**  
**866-550-3696**

**ON THE WEB:** [Texas.PalmHarbor.com](http://Texas.PalmHarbor.com)

**FREE**  
**How We**  
**Build DVD**

**MAIL TO:**

Palm Harbor Homes  
Attn: DVD  
15303 Dallas Pkwy, Suite 800  
Addison, TX 75001

☐ Send Free DVD

☐ Send Info Package

Name.....

Address .....

City..... State ..... Zip .....

Email..... Phone .....

**Psssst!!!**

I know where you  
can **save thousands**  
on those beautiful  
Palm Harbor homes!

**INVENTORY  
CLEARANCE  
BLOWOUT**

Deep  
Discounts!  
**FACTORY  
MODEL  
CLOSEOUTS**

● **REPO'S!** ● **LAND!**  
● **MOVE-IN-READY'S!**

[www.clearance.palmharbor.com](http://www.clearance.palmharbor.com)

**SAND HILL**  
COASTAL HOMES

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

Vacation  
Retirement  
&  
Investment  
Homes

**1-877-800-3696**

*The Palmdale* 1,042 Sq. Ft., 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths

**SPECIALIZING IN TEXAS  
COASTAL MODULAR HOMES**

IHB - 1373

# LONESTAR MARKET

TOWN & COUNTRY



## M&W BUILDERS

CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

BARNs • SHOPS • GARAGES

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE  
FOR FREE ESTIMATES CALL

**1-800-457-2088**

## W.D. Metal Buildings



Instant Quotes Online [www.wdmb.com](http://www.wdmb.com)



## 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](http://www.brushshark.com)**

## OIL & GAS

Cash for Producing Royalties

Up Front Lump Sum Payments

**1-800-806-7453**

## FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.

All sizes—installation available.



**45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE**



Call for Free Information • 1-800-310-1425

[www.ellisonmarine.com](http://www.ellisonmarine.com) • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.



## FUTURE STEEL BUILDINGS

Do-It-Yourself Steel Buildings



### Ideal For:

- Recreational Use
- Boat Storage
- Bunkie
- Equipment Storage
- Garage/Shop
- PWC/Snowmobile

- 30-year perforation warranty
- Full technical support from start to finish
- Fully customized to meet your needs
- Factory-direct savings

Call Toll Free  
Today for a  
**FREE!**  
INFORMATION PACKAGE

Our building consultants are ready to take your call

**1-800-668-5111**

Ask  
for  
ext.  
91

## CONTAINER KING

**866-961-5464**

WATER TIGHT • RODENT PROOF

20' 40' & 40'-Office/Storage



## SPEARS BARN COMPANY

We Offer Different Sizes & Designs

30X50X10 Color Metal

Delivered & Built • Free Estimates  
We are covered by workers comp.

**1-877-371-3501** [www.spearsbarnco.com](http://www.spearsbarnco.com)

## WATER PROBLEMS ??

NO MORE  
**IRON!**

NO MORE  
**SULFUR!**

NO MORE  
**HARDNESS!**

NO MORE  
**BACTERIA!**



PROBLEMS SOLVED WITH  
♦ **NO SALT & NO CHEMICALS**

FREE BROCHURE~1-800-392-8882

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!  
[www.waterproblems.net](http://www.waterproblems.net)



140 MPH Wind Load



♦STRONG ♦AFFORDABLE ♦EASY TO BUILD

Red iron, metal roof, and wood-grain steel siding.  
Resists mold, termites and fire. Call or click today!

[kodiaksteelhomes.com](http://kodiaksteelhomes.com) or 800-278-0888

## BEST BUY WALK IN BATH TUBS

Bathe Safely & Independently!



- Family-Owned, Texas-Built
- Lifetime guarantee against leaks\*
- Fits any standard bathtub or shower space
- Full installation available
- Great for circulation, arthritis, stiff joints and relaxation
- Call for pricing and other details
- We do not believe in high-pressure sales tactics

**888-825-2362**

Now VA Approved



Member Better Business Bureau

Showroom located at  
4053 Acton Hwy in Granbury, TX  
... or we will come to you!

[www.bestbuywalkintubs.com/tx](http://www.bestbuywalkintubs.com/tx)

## HIGH RATES on Bank CDs TEXAS TOLL-FREE 1-800-359-4940

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™

Signal Securities, Inc.

5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710

"Serving Customers All Over Texas"

All CDs are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the FDIC. All CDs are subject to availability. Securities offered through Signal Securities, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102 (817)877-4256.



COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • AGRICULTURAL



**Lone Star Welding of Texas**

Toll-Free: 866-903-5898

[uselonestar@aol.com](mailto:uselonestar@aol.com)

North Texas: (903) 482-5462 • Fax: (903) 482-5569

Call or e-mail for FREE QUOTE

## MALLET BUILDINGS AND HOMES

All Size Buildings Available



SIZE	GALVOLUME W/SLAB
30x50x10	\$12,999
30x30x10	\$9,999
20x20x10	\$6,999



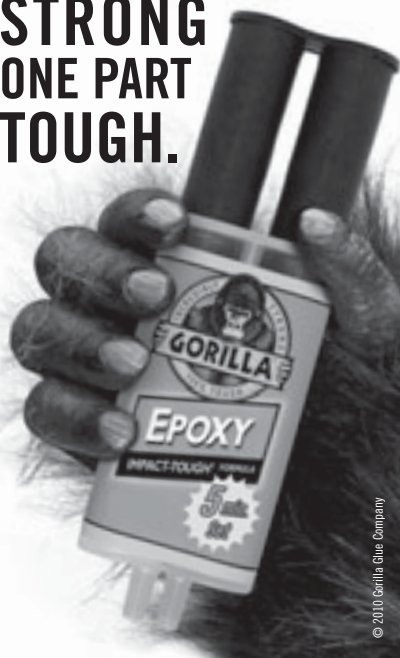
- Color Metal Available at Additional Costs
- Buildings Include 1 10x8 Roll-Up Door and 1 Standard Walk-Through Door
- Freight Costs May Vary

[www.mallettbuildings.com](http://www.mallettbuildings.com)  
**(337) 214-0428**





ONE PART  
STRONG  
ONE PART  
TOUGH.



© 2010 Gorilla Glue Company

FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH®

**GORILLA TOUGH** .COM

1-800-966-3458 Made in U.S.A.

# LOW COST

## Mobile Home Insurance



- Complete coverage
- Superior service
- Easy payment plans  
(Including credit cards)
- Low deductibles
- Free & easy online quotes

Serving  
Texas Mobile  
Homeowners  
since 1961

**STANDARD  
DIRECT**  
INSURANCE AGENCY

**www.stdins.com**

Start Saving  
*Today!*

OR CALL BECKY AT  
**800-522-0146**

## MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?

**PERMA-ROOF®**

from Southern Builders

The Mobile Home Roofover  
Specialist Can Help!



**LIFETIME WARRANTY  
ONE FOOT OVER-HANG  
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE  
COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL  
2"or 3" FOIL BACKED INSULATION**

**CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!**

**www.roofover.com**

**1-800-633-8969**



**ZERO down • 100% financing • No payments for 6 mos**



Austin	Fort Worth	Sherman
Beaumont	Houston	Terrell
Cleveland	Rosenberg	Texarkana
Corpus Christi	San Antonio	Tyler
Dallas		

Save thousands in up-front closing costs! While other builders arrange financing with local lenders, United-Bilt Homes is the **ONLY** on-your-site builder in Texas that offers true in-house financing. That means you can be in your home, custom built for you, without spending a penny in up-front closing costs. Come by today and learn how you can save on a new, custom-built home.

**United-Bilt  
Homes™**

Homemade just for you®

\* With approved credit for qualified land owners.



**800.756.2506 ubh.com**

## MANUFACTURED HOME OR PIER & BEAM HOME INSULATED CEMENT SKIRTING

3 designs & 11 colors to choose from!

Replace your vinyl skirting with STONECOTE.

1-830-833-2547

www.stonecote.com



## ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10' ..... \$6,250

40' x 60' x 12' ..... \$9,049

50' x 75' x 14' ..... \$13,000

80' x 120' x 16 (M-1)..... \$32,000

Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units - \$11,610

1.877.657.8335

www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

**NATIONAL BARN COMPANY** "Building Solutions" ...with integrity!

Full Service Post-Frame Design & Construction Since 1992  
Serving 27 States and Over 10,000 Customers

**1-800-582-BARN (2276)**

- No Money Down • Licensed, Bonded & Fully Insured
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted

FAX: 1-866-582-1400  
E-mail: sales@nationalbarn.com

**NEW! TEXAS SALES REP Now Available**

**nationalbarn.com**

## KEEP IT SIMPLE. KEEP IT HERITAGE.



At Heritage, we're constantly evolving to meet farmer's needs head-on. Whether you're in the market for a building to protect your tractors, or something to keep your livestock sheltered, we can help. Today's farmer has never had so many options. **Call us today for solutions that best suit your farm.**

**HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS**  
Established 1979  
1.800.643.5555  
HeritageBuildings.com



## Accessible Buildings Co.

EASY BOLT-UP CONSTRUCTION

SAVE! BUILD YOURSELF!

40 x 50 x 10 = \$8,437.00  
40 x 60 x 12 = \$9,362.00  
50 x 75 x 12 = \$14,350.00  
60 x 80 x 14 = \$16,953.00  
100 x 150 x 14 (M-1) = \$45,824.00  
ALL SIZES MINI-STORAGE!

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
SHOP • FARM

CALL TODAY FOR  
BUILDING QUOTE!



**1-800-509-4949**

www.accessiblebuildings.com



**USA BARN**

"Proudly serving rural America"

Log on for 24 hour information  
www.usabarn.com

Built to fit your needs, Any size or design.  
Call and speak with one of our knowledgeable associates today!

We accept:

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 \* Sat 8-12 Central  
**1-877-872-2276 Fax: 1-918-686-5512**  
**1-877-USA-BARN**



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants;  
Seal Stamped Blue Prints;  
Easy Bolt Together Design.

### 25 YEAR COLOR WARRANTY

PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

30' x 50' x 10' ..... \$7,617  
40' x 60' x 12' ..... \$10,696  
60' x 100' x 12' ..... \$21,164  
80' x 100' x 14' ..... \$27,660  
100' x 150' x 14' ..... \$53,164

**Arena Special**  
(roof & frame)  
100' x 100' x 14'...\$30,715

Based In  
Texas

(Local codes may affect prices)

VISIT  
OUR  
WEBSITE

**RHINO**  
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

VISIT  
OUR  
WEBSITE

Fax: 940-484-6746 email: info@rhinobldg.com  
Website: www.RHINOBLDG.COM  
Toll Free **1-888-320-7466**



Price includes material delivery, construction, one pre-hung door, one sliding door, factory trusses that meet the new 90+ mph wind load requirement, 6 skylights and warranty on labor and materials.

Ask for our brochure. Prices may be higher south of College Station and west of Abilene.

**30x50x10**

**GALVANIZED  
ENCLOSED**

**\$8,450<sup>00</sup>**

**40x60x12**

**WITH 15X60 SHED  
GALVANIZED**

**\$15,150<sup>00</sup>**

COLOR AND OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

- Serving Texas over 20 years
- NFBA (National Frame Building Association) Accredited Builder
- NFBA Building of the Year winner
- BBB Accredited Business with an A-Plus Rating
- The siding we manufacture is UL Listed, file #R26370
- Our Vice President recently passed the National Standard General Building Contractor Exam



All buildings constructed with pre-built trusses w/stamped engineered drawings

**1-800-766-5793**

www.bcibarns.com

e-mail: barn@bcibarns.com

8:00 to 5:00 Mon. to Fri.  
8:00 to 12:00 Sat. CST





# HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

## FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How does Harbor Freight Tools sell high quality tools at such ridiculously low prices? We buy direct from the factories who also supply the major brands and sell direct to you. It's just that simple! Come see for yourself at one of our 330 STORES NATIONWIDE and use this 20% OFF Coupon on any of our 7,000 products, plus pick up a FREE 9 LED Aluminum Flashlight. No Strings Attached, No Purchase Required! We stock Automotive products, Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Tarps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Material Handling, Woodworking Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Outdoor Equipment, Generators, and much more.

**NOBODY BEATS OUR QUALITY, SERVICE AND PRICE!**

- ✓ We Have 10 Million Satisfied Customers
  - ✓ We Buy Factory Direct and Pass the SAVINGS on to YOU!
  - ✓ Shop & Compare Our Quality Brands Against Other National Brands
  - ✓ Thousands of People Switch to Harbor Freight Tools Every Day!
  - ✓ NO HASSLE RETURN POLICY ✓ Family Owned & Operated
- We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price Within 1 Year Of Purchase!**

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**  
ON ALL HAND TOOLS!

**330 STORES NATIONWIDE**  
Store Locator: 1-800-657-8001

Shop Online at  
**HarborFreight.com**

**SUPER COUPON!**



**FREE!**  
3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT  
NINE LED ALUMINUM  
FLASHLIGHT

ITEM 65020

**NO PURCHASE REQUIRED!**

72875792

Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10. Limit one per customer.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM!

Use this coupon to save 20% on any one single item purchased when you shop at a Harbor Freight Tools store. Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. One coupon per customer. Coupon not valid on any of the following - prior purchases, gift cards, or extended service plans. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store in order to receive the offer. All Campbell Hausfeld products are excluded from this offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

88 565 245 4 35 32

**Get More Coupons at HarborFreight.com/texaspower**

**SUPER COUPON!**

**13 HP, 5500 RATED WATTS/  
6500 MAX WATTS GENERATOR  
WITH ELECTRIC START**



LOT NO.  
98838/98839  
**CHICAGO**  
ElectricGenerators

**SAVE \$170**

**\$429.99**

REG. PRICE \$599.99

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**HAUL-MASTER®**

LOT NO.  
96933/67455/  
94413

**12 VOLT  
MAGNETIC  
TOWING  
LIGHT KIT**



**SAVE 66%**

**\$9.99**

REG. PRICE \$29.99

Item 96933 shown

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**11 DRAWER  
ROLLER CABINET**

INCLUDES:  
• 6 Drawer Top Chest  
• 2 Drawer Middle Section  
• 3 Drawer Roller Cabinet

LOT NO. 67421

**\$139.99**

**SAVE \$160**

REG. PRICE \$299.99

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**OSCILLATING  
MULTIFUNCTION  
POWER TOOL**

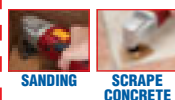


LOT NO. 67256

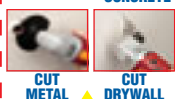
**\$34.99**

REG. PRICE \$59.99

**CHICAGO**  
ElectricPowerTools



**17 DIFFERENT ATTACHMENTS  
AVAILABLE IN OUR STORES!**



**SAVE 41%**

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**

This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC®**

**2 HP, 8 GALLON,  
115 PSI PORTABLE  
AIR COMPRESSOR**



LOT NO. 95386/40400/67501

**\$89.99**

REG. PRICE \$139.99

**SAVE \$50**

Item 95386 shown

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER**



LOT NO. 95578

**\$9.99**

REG. PRICE \$17.99

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**HAUL-MASTER®**

**500 LB. CAPACITY  
ALUMINUM  
CARGO  
CARRIER**



**\$59.99**

REG. PRICE \$109.99

**SAVE \$50**

LOT NO. 92655

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW  
SHARPENER**



4-1/4" GRINDING  
WHEEL INCLUDED

LOT NO. 93213  
**CHICAGO**  
ElectricPowerTools

**\$29.99**

REG. PRICE \$49.99

**SAVE 40%**

**HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1**  
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 11/25/10.

**SAVE UP TO 80% TODAY - SHOP ONLINE at HarborFreight.com**

5045D Utility Tractor = \$13,998 or \$228/mo\*



ZERO DOWN & 0% FINANCING!

5045D Utility Tractor  
45HP, Diesel, 2WD, Syncro  
Transmission, R1 Tires  
Add a John Deere 512 Loader for  
\$79/mo



**JOHN DEERE**  
Nothing Runs Like A Deere

Only at Fosters Family of Farm Stores!

**FOSTERS**  
Farm  
& Equipment Supply

www.tractorpackages.com

**WE DELIVER  
NATIONWIDE!**



Hockley, TX  
(888) 869-6202

Liberty, TX  
(888) 502-1888

Beaumont, TX  
(877) 301-0111

\*Offer ends 10/30/2010. Prices and model availability may vary by dealer. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Available at participating dealers. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installment Plan. \$0 down payment. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price and model availability vary by dealer and subject to change without notice. Example: based on a purchase of \$13,998 with \$0 down payment, monthly payment of \$228 at 4.9% APR for 72 months.

AS1CUFF0035N-HOU5x51201TCP-4C-00304294

# HOME LOAN

- 5.25% Interest Rate
- 5.274% Annual Percentage Rate (based on loan amount of \$100,000)
- Monthly term up to 30 years
- Home purchase or refinance of owner-occupied property
- Purchase or refinance of rural property
- No prepayment penalty
- Assumes 20% down payment
- No balloon payment
- LOW closing costs
- Fast Approval



Contact  
**Vanessa Burkhalter**  
**800.588.6714**

**CROCKETT NATIONAL BANK** .com  
IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU ARE TREATED!



Minimum loan amount of \$75,000. Loans are adjustable rate mortgages. The first 3 years will be fixed at an Interest Rate of 5.25% (with an Annual Percentage Rate of 5.274%), then adjust annually for the remaining years to Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate plus a margin of 2.00%. Based on the current Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate, the remaining 27 years would also be at 5.25% with an Annual Percentage Rate of 5.274% (not to exceed 17.00% nor fall below 5.25%). The interest rate may increase after the loan is made. The Wall Street Journal Prime Interest Rate as of May 6, 2010 was 3.25% and the current margin is 2.00%; for an interest rate of 5.25%.

60 YEARS OF  
**Home  
Cooking**  
1940 TEXAS CO-OP POWER 2000

**Six Decades  
of Texas'  
Favorite  
Foods, Fads  
& Facts**



*Full Color, Hardbound,  
More Than 600 Recipes  
From 60 Years of  
Texas Co-op Power*

*Discover authentic recipes true to  
each decade from the readers and  
archives of Texas Co-op Power.*

*Remember what life was  
like "back when" with an  
introduction to each decade.*

*Learn about great, and not-so-  
great, moments in food history  
with our culinary timelines.*

**Only \$29<sup>95</sup>**

*Includes tax, shipping and handling*

Get yours today at

**www.texascooppower.com**



As Seen  
On TV!



**We wanted to  
give Mom and Dad  
something back...  
Their independence.**

Mom and Dad have done a lot for us, that's why we wanted to do something for them in return.

So, we talked to Premier Care about their extensive range of Walk-In Baths which have helped improve the lives of thousands of people.

Low entry, a built-in seat and temperature control are some of the benefits their baths offer.

Call or send for a **FREE** brochure.

**Premier Care**  
in Bathing



Financing by  
GE Money  
Offer subject to  
approval from  
GE Money Bank



CALL NOW • TOLL FREE

**1-800-578-2899**

SOURCE CODE 1757080

**Please send me a FREE Premier Care brochure today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Premier Care in Bathing Inc.  
2330 South Nova Road, South Daytona, Florida 32119

1757080

# Bug Free...Naturally!

Now Available  
On-Line!

Mosquito Magic® is a blend of natural oils formulated into one patented compound that is extremely effective in chasing away flying and biting insect pests like: mosquitoes, flies, gnats, no-see-ums, bees, ticks and fleas.

*Safe for Children, Pets & Sensitive Skin!*

Visit: [www.NoBugsOnline.com](http://www.NoBugsOnline.com)



Full Line of Natural Insect Repellent Products

## DIAMOND POLE BARN

◆◆◆ Your Pole Barn Specialists ◆◆◆

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES

**1-877-315-4021**

(918) 797-0050 Fax

## LAND CLEARING & FENCE BUILDING

State Of The Art Mulching Equipment & Vibrating Post Installer

**ALL OUT** Ranch / Net Wire & Gateproof  
Fencing  
RANCH IMPROVEMENTS Cattle Pens & Gate Entrances

361-772-7901 FREE ESTIMATES

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

# When you want to retire to the country



## We're the answer.



*Grow your interests.*

*Set your own pace.*

*Discover nature in your own backyard.*

Find your perfect place in the country, then call Capital Farm Credit. We are experts in rural home lending, and we also share our earnings. We've returned more than \$300 million to our customers.

FINANCING FOR: Rural Land • Country Homes

Farms & Ranches • Livestock & Equipment • Operating Capital



Part of the Farm Credit System

[CapitalFarmCredit.com](http://CapitalFarmCredit.com) 877-944-5500

T E X A S ' L A R G E S T R U R A L L E N D E R



# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Texas Co-op Power is the Texas living magazine with a rural, suburban and small town focus. Each month you will read entertaining articles about Texas people, Texas history, Texas nature, Texas travel and Texas food.



A gift subscription lets you share Texas Co-op Power with a far-away friend or family member. Order yours today at [www.texascoopower.com](http://www.texascoopower.com)



*"May you have love that never ends,  
And may God send love again and again"*

# The Irish Blessing

## ETERNITY RING



An original creation by  
award-winning designer  
Marjorie Andes

EXCLUSIVELY FROM  
THE  
*Concorde*  
COLLECTION  
[www.concordecollection.com](http://www.concordecollection.com)

*1/4 Carat Emeralds...Diamonds...hand-set in solid Sterling Silver  
The perfect Christmas gift for yourself...or someone special. Just \$55*

Show your eternal love forever, with this new original ring by award-winning designer Marjorie Andes. A beautiful Irish Blessing is the inspiration for this eternal symbol of love. Petite emerald shamrocks adorn an intricately sculpted solid sterling silver filigree ring accented with four sparkling diamonds—creating a lasting expression of your love. A special treasure of love and good fortune inspired by the Emerald Isle.

This dramatic ring is offered exclusively through the Concorde Collection and is not sold in stores. *Satisfaction guaranteed for 60 days.* Please mail your order today.

### ORDER FORM

*Please mail within 30 days.*

YES, I wish to order THE IRISH BLESSING ETERNITY RING.  
*I need send no payment now.* I will be billed \$55\* when my ring is ready to be shipped.

\* Plus \$4.95 shipping and handling. Plus 6% sales tax, PA residents only.

Size: ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

Name PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (Include Area Code)

Mail to: The Concorde Collection,  
P.O. Box 663, Holmes, PA 19043

*E*  
THE  
CONCORDE  
COLLECTION  
IBER76

©2009 TTC

**No  
Contract**

# Finally, a cell phone that's... a phone!

"Well, I finally did it. I finally decided to enter the digital age and get a cell phone. My kids have been bugging me, my book group made fun of me, and the last straw was when my car broke down, and I was stuck by the highway for an hour before someone stopped to help. But when I went to the cell phone store, I almost changed my mind. The phones are so small I can't see the numbers, much less push the right one. They all have cameras, computers and a "global-positioning" something or other that's supposed to spot me from space. Goodness, all I want to do is to be able to talk to my grandkids! The people at the store weren't much help. They couldn't understand why someone wouldn't want a phone the size of a postage stamp. And the rate plans! They were complicated, confusing, and expensive... and the contract lasted for two years! I'd almost given up when a friend told me about her new Jitterbug phone. Now, I have the convenience and safety of being able to stay in touch... with a phone I can actually use."

## Questions about Jitterbug?

**Try our pre-recorded Toll-Free Hotline 1-877-751-0038.**

**The cell phone that's right for me.** Sometimes I think the people who designed this phone and the rate plans had me in mind. The phone fits easily in my pocket, but it flips open and reaches from my mouth to my ear. The display is large and backlit, so I can actually see who is calling. With a push of a button I can amplify the volume, and if I don't know a number, I can simply push one for a friendly, helpful operator that will look it up and even dial it for me. The Jitterbug also reduces background noise, making the sound loud and clear. There's even a dial tone, so I know the phone is ready to use.

**Affordable plans that I can understand – and no contract to sign!** Unlike other cell phones, Jitterbug has plans that make sense. Why should I pay for minutes I'm never going to use? And if I do talk more than I plan, I won't find myself with no minutes like my friend who has a prepaid phone. Best of all, there is no contract to sign – so I'm not locked in for years at a time or subject to termination fees. The U.S. – based customer service is second to none, and the phone gets service virtually anywhere in the country.

Monthly Minutes	50	100
Monthly Rate	\$14.99	\$19.99
Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
911 Access	FREE	FREE
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	Yes	Yes
Trial Period	30 days	30 days

Other plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

## FREE Gift

Order now  
and receive a  
free Car Charger.  
**A \$24 value!**



Available in  
Red, White,  
and Graphite  
(shown).



**Call now and get a FREE GIFT.** Try Jitterbug for 30 days and if you don't love it, just return it. Why wait, the Jitterbug comes ready to use right out of the box. The phone comes preprogrammed with your favorite numbers, and if you aren't as happy with it as I am you can return it for a refund of the purchase price. Call now, the Jitterbug product experts are ready to answer your questions.

**jitterbug®**

**SAMSUNG**

**firstSTREET**  
for Boomers and Beyond®  
1998 Ruffin Mill Road  
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

## Jitterbug Cell Phone

**Call now for our lowest price.**

Please mention promotional code 39991.

**1-888-779-5866**

**www.jitterbugdirect.com**

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: All rate plans require the purchase of a Jitterbug phone and a one-time set up fee of \$35.00. Coverage and service is not available everywhere. There are no additional fees to call Jitterbug's 24-hour U.S. Based Customer Service. However, for calls to an Operator in which a service is completed, minutes will be deducted from your monthly balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator, plus an additional 5 minutes. Rate plans do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges. Prices and fees are subject to change. Savings are based on marketing materials from nationally available cellular companies as of June, 2010 (not including family share plans). The full price of the Jitterbug Phone will be refunded if it is returned within 30 days of purchase, in like-new condition, and with less than 30 minutes of usage. A Jitterbug Phone purchased from a retail location is subject to the return policy of that retail location. The Jitterbug phone is created together with worldwide leader Samsung. Jitterbug is a registered trademark of GreatCall, Inc. Samsung is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and its related entities. Created together with worldwide leader Samsung. Copyright © 2010 by firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc. All rights reserved.





▲ Brown Pelican, **Claudia Caudill**, CoServ Electric

◀ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, **Sherri Jackson**, Medina Electric Cooperative



## BIRDS

Bird-watchers abound in Texas, likely because of the 636 species that have been seen and recorded at least once in the state, as officially listed by the Texas Bird Records Committee. It was a joy to go through the more than 300 entries for this month's category, and it was an arduous task to choose only five finalists. What you see here is only a sampling—we urge you to go to our website, [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com), to see just how many favorites there really were.

—ASHLEY CLARY



▲ Fledgling Green Heron, **Doris Fontaine**, Central Texas Electric Cooperative (*photo by Jordan Fontaine*)



◀ Ruby-throated Hummingbird, **Penny Garsee**, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative

Prothonotary Warbler, **Perry Cox**, United Cooperative Services ▼

### Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Oct	Eeeek!	Aug 10
Nov	Fall Leaves	Sep 10
Dec	Curious Cats	Oct 10
Jan	Man's Best Friend	Nov 10
Feb	Heroes	Dec 10
Mar	Springtime in Texas	Jan 10

**EEEEK!** is the topic for our **OCTOBER 2010** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Eeeek!, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before **AUGUST 10**. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. Please note that we cannot provide individual critiques of submitted photos. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to [focus@texas-ec.org](mailto:focus@texas-ec.org), or submit them on our website at [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com).





# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

This is just a sampling of the events and festivals around and about Texas. For the complete listing, please visit [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com)

## PICK OF THE MONTH AUGUST 14 FAYETTEVILLE

Texas Pickin' Park Jam Session  
(979) 378-2753,  
[www.texaspickinpark.com](http://www.texaspickinpark.com)



## AUGUST

- 01 PALACIOS** [1-4]  
Shrimporee,  
(361) 972-2615,  
[www.palacioschamber.com](http://www.palacioschamber.com)
- 05 ATHENS** [5-7]  
MDA Benefit Rodeo,  
(903) 489-2652
- 07 INDUSTRY**  
Tommy Richter  
Scholarship Fundraiser,  
(713) 724-1047
- MCKINNEY**  
Historical Run 5K/1 Mile,  
(214) 557-1483
- 09 ALVARADO** [9-14]  
Johnson County Pioneers  
& Old Settlers Reunion,  
(817) 517-9920
- 13 LILLIAN**  
Free All-Gospel Show,  
(817) 929-8391,  
[www.ntbbbluegrass.com](http://www.ntbbbluegrass.com)



**PALACIOS**  
Shrimporee

**14 CHAPPELL HILL**  
Lavender Fest, (979) 251-8114, [www.chappellhilllavender.com](http://www.chappellhilllavender.com)

**GUSTINE**  
Barrel Bash, (325) 330-1375, [www.gustinerodeoclub.webs.com](http://www.gustinerodeoclub.webs.com)

**14 LUCKENBACH**  
Ring of Fire Bike Ride or Race, 1-888-311-8990,  
[www.luckenbachtexas.com](http://www.luckenbachtexas.com)

**SEGUIN**  
Birthday Celebration,  
1-800-580-7322,  
[www.visitseguin.com](http://www.visitseguin.com)

**STONEWALL**  
Movies Under the Stars  
at the LBJ Ranch,  
(830) 868-7128,  
[www.nps.gov/lyjo](http://www.nps.gov/lyjo)

**19 JOHNSON CITY** [19-21]  
Blanco County Fair & Rodeo, (830) 868-9392,  
[www.bcfra.org](http://www.bcfra.org)



**14 CHAPPELL HILL**  
Lavender Fest

MUSICIANS: 2010 © HAL STALL. SHRIMP COCKTAIL: 2010 © DAVID SMITH. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. LAVENDER: 2010 © JOHN JOHNSON. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM.

## WANTED:

### DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2010 SEASON

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

Call **TODAY** to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



**PRE-APPROVED  
FINANCING  
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER  
ANYTHING  
ON TRADE!**

VISIT US ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM](http://WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM)

**STAYcation at Home in 2010!**

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.



**Texas Renaissance Festival**

**Saturdays, Sundays  
and  
Thanksgiving & Friday**

**October 9th - November 28th**

Redeem this coupon for  
**One Free Child's Ticket**

Tickets at Gate: Adult \$23.00 Child \$11.00  
Redeemable at the Texas Renaissance Festival  
Box Office Only. No Cash Value.

Children are ages 3 - 12. Children 4 and under are free.  
Ages 13 and up are considered adults.

**Discount Tickets available at**  
[texrenfest.com](http://texrenfest.com) 800-458-3435



# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

## SEPTEMBER

**03 BANDERA** [3-5]  
Celebrate Bandera,  
(830) 796-4447,  
[www.celebratebandera.com](http://www.celebratebandera.com)



**SWEETWATER** [3-5]  
Trade Days, (325) 721-  
2874, [www.tradedays-sweetwater.com](http://www.tradedays-sweetwater.com)

Event information can be mailed to **Around Texas**, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, faxed to (512) 763-3407, e-mailed to [aroundtx@texas-ec.org](mailto:aroundtx@texas-ec.org), or submitted on our website at [www.TexasCoopPower.com](http://www.TexasCoopPower.com). Please submit events for October by August 10.

**21 GRUENE** [21-22]  
Old Gruene Market Days,  
(830) 832-1721,  
[www.gruenemarketdays.com](http://www.gruenemarketdays.com)

**25 SHERMAN** [25-28]  
Melody Ranch Deep  
Summer Festival,  
(903) 546-6893,  
[www.melodyranch-bluegrassfestival.com](http://www.melodyranch-bluegrassfestival.com)

**28 GRAFORD**  
State Bowfishing  
Tournament, (940) 779-  
2757, [www.pklodgelp.com](http://www.pklodgelp.com)

**28 MINERAL WELLS**  
Hot n Crazy Golf  
Tournament, (940) 325-  
7919, [www.mowppc.com](http://www.mowppc.com)

**PORT ARTHUR**  
Gulf Coast Jam,  
(409) 548-4444

**BLANCO** [28-29]  
Trade Days, (830) 833-  
4460, [www.blancotrade-days.i8.com](http://www.blancotrade-days.i8.com)

**GRAPEVINE** [28-29]  
Looking Glass Metroplex,  
(972) 672-6213,  
[www.meyersshows.com](http://www.meyersshows.com)



**21 BRONTE**  
"Oldies But Goodies" Car Show



**20 HIGHLAND VILLAGE**  
[20-22] Balloon Festival &  
Fair, (972) 317-6745,  
[www.hvballoonfest.org](http://www.hvballoonfest.org)

**21 ABILENE**  
Senior Team Roping  
Association,  
(325) 677-4376

**BRONTE**  
"Oldies But Goodies" Car  
Show, (325) 473-3501,  
[www.brontetexas.org](http://www.brontetexas.org)

BALLOON: 2010 © LIT LIU. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. CAR: 2010 © EUGENE TOCHILIN. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. SPURS: 2010 © TERESA LEVITE. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM.

**Celebrate the heroism.**

**DENTON FIREFIGHTERS' MUSEUM**  
332 E. Hickory  
940/349-8840  
Free Admission

**DISCOVER DENTON**

Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau  
888/381-1818  
[discoverdenton.com](http://discoverdenton.com)

**Lake Whitney**

*Remember the last time you felt this good?*

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

**Cabins  
Rental Cottages  
Full Service  
Resorts  
Luxury B&B's  
Reunion Facilities  
Corporate Retreats**

**Boat Rentals  
Award Winning  
Marinas  
Fine Dining  
Golf  
Skiing and  
Wakeboarding on the  
Brazos  
Airboat & Canoe Trips  
on the Brazos  
Outlet & Antique  
Shopping  
in  
Clifton, Hillsboro,  
Meridian, & Whitney**

A handful of wineries and bed-and-breakfasts within a square-shaped area of East Texas framed by Tyler, Rusk, Palestine and Athens makes for an excellent road trip. Roads slice through pine woods interspersed with lush fields, swaths of green pasture grazed by fat cattle, sparkling ponds and even a few lakes. You'll find friendly folks, reasonable prices—and delightful wines.

## TYLER

Known as **AMERICA'S ROSE CAPITAL**, the city of Tyler offers rose gardens, of course, but also everything from art and ballet to a zoo.

For a calm oasis, go to **KE CELLARS**—part of the Kiepersol Estates wine family—at the busy corner of Loop 323 and U.S. Highway 69. KE Cellars' European-style tasting room rotates the roughly 215 Texas wines it sells. Select a bottle and a meat and cheese platter and enjoy live music Tuesday through Saturday evenings. KE's owner and founder, South Africa native Pierre de Wet, also founded the Kiepersol Estates winery and vineyards south of town on FM 344. Tour the winemaking facility built with recycled materials. Then try a few of the 14 or so varieties of wine made from grapes grown on-site. The tasting room's deck overlooks some of Kiepersol's 60 acres of vineyards. The restaurant serves fine steaks and seafood accompanied by wines from the impressive floor-to-ceiling cellar. Of the five guest rooms, three have private porches and hot tubs.

**Kiepersol Estates**, (903) 894-8995, [www.kiepersol.com](http://www.kiepersol.com)

## RUSK

Once you're sufficiently rested and fueled by Kiepersol's comfy beds and hearty breakfast, continue 20 miles south from Tyler on U.S. Highway 69 to Rusk, headquarters for Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, then head west on U.S. Highway 84. Next to the tracks of the Texas State Railroad, **MAYDELLE COUNTRY WINES** occupies a century-old depot building moved here in 1954; inside, owner Steven Harper

# WINE & WOODS

*Enjoy East Texas' fruit of the vine in comfort and style.*

**BY MELISSA GASKILL**



churns out about 1,500 gallons of fruit wines a year. Tastings are free, he says, "because my wine is so weird, you have to taste it." In five years, only six people have tasted the wines and not bought at least one, he says. Harper picks his own elderberries wild and buys other fruit locally as much as possible.

**Maydelle Country Wines**, (903) 795-3915, [www.maydellewines.com](http://www.maydellewines.com)

## PALESTINE

Thirty-one miles west on U.S. Highway 84 lies Palestine, a charming Southern town of Victorian homes and magnolia trees—and wineries. Ten miles north on twisting, turning country roads, **SWEET DREAMS WINERY** ferments, bottles and caps fruit wines from mostly local produce as well as two wild-grape wines and three local muscadines. Many people like sweet wines, say owners Mike and Sandra Pell, so that's what they make (hence the name). The facility, open on

weekends and "whenever we're here," offers two covered porches for enjoying wine, food and live music in the evenings.

Nearby, a few miles off U.S. Highway 79 on County Road 2133, **TEXAS VINEYARD & SMOKEHAUS** produces 16 dry red and sweet wines. Owners Rafael and Cheryl Hernandez also sell a variety of custom-smoked meats, pies and cakes, homemade pizzas, sandwiches, cheese trays and sinful desserts. Enjoy the latter on the front patio, perhaps with a glass of Portejas Zinfandel port or Cherry Chocolate wine.

**Sweet Dreams Winery**, (903) 549-2027, [www.sweetdreamswinery.com](http://www.sweetdreamswinery.com)

**Texas Vineyard & Smokehaus**, (903) 538-2950, [www.texasvineyard.org](http://www.texasvineyard.org)

## ATHENS

State Highway 19 travels northwest from Palestine to Athens. Continue northwest on U.S. Highway 175 and follow CR 3918 to CR 3914. You'll know you've reached **TARA VINEYARD & WINERY** by the stately, Scarlett O'Hara-like house on the hill—a two-story mansion with three guest rooms upstairs. Across a vineyard, the wine production facility and tasting room occupy a large building with a covered pavilion where dinner and live music occur regularly. Buy a bottle of wine for dinner in the tasting room, perhaps a chilled Gone with the Zin.

While things are hopping at Tara, peace and quiet await nearby at **OAK CREEK BED & BREAKFAST**, so far off the beaten path on CR 2800 that directions are a must. Two cabins with front porches, hammocks and Adirondack chairs overlook a private pond and acres of woodlands. Owners Randell and Marilyn Tarin will gladly light a campfire, or dust off the table and chairs on the pond-side deck, a perfect spot to enjoy your favorite bottle of wine.

**Tara Vineyard & Winery**, (903) 675-7023, [www.tarawinery.com](http://www.tarawinery.com)

**Oak Creek Bed & Breakfast**, (903) 675-5509, [www.oakcreekbnb.com](http://www.oakcreekbnb.com)

*Melissa Gaskill is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.*



# U.S. GOV'T GOLD AT-COST

TODAY - The United States Rare Coin & Bullion Reserve has scheduled the final release of U.S. Gov't Issued \$5 Gold Coins previously held at the U.S. Mint at West Point. These Gov't Issued Gold Coins are being released on a first-come, first-serve basis, for the incredible markup-free price of \$139 each. This "at-cost" Gov't Gold offer could be cancelled at any time. Do not delay. Call a Sr. Gold Specialist today.

## OWN GOV'T ISSUED GOLD COINS

*DUE TO STRICT LIMITED AVAILABILITY, TELEPHONE ORDERS  
WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS  
ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER.*

Markup-Free Price of ONLY

**\$139<sup>00</sup>**  
EACH



If you've been waiting to move your hard-earned money into precious metals, the time is now to consider transferring your U.S. dollars into United

States Government Gold. The Gold market is on the move, up more than 300% over the past 10 years - outpacing the DOW, NASDAQ and S&P 500. Call immediately to order your United States Gold Coins direct from our Main Vault Facility, "at-cost", for the amazing price of only \$139 per coin. Special arrangements can be made for Gold purchases over \$50,000. Order your Gold today!

1 - Gov't Issued Gold Coin	\$	139.00
5 - Gov't Issued Gold Coins	\$	695.00
10 - Gov't Issued Gold Coins	\$	1,390.00

AT-COST OFFER LIMITED TO PURCHASES OF 10 COINS (\$1,390) PER HOUSEHOLD PLUS SHIPPING & INSURANCE. MINIMUM ORDER 5 GOLD COINS.

**CALL TOLL FREE (24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week)**

**1-800-916-4685**

**MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX • DISCOVER • CHECK**

**UNITED STATES**  
RARE COIN & BULLION RESERVE  
Distributor of Government Gold. Not affiliated with the U.S. Government.

**Vault No. TX2-139**

Coins enlarged  
to show detail.

No one, including the United States Rare Coin and Bullion Reserve, can guarantee a Gold Coin's future value will go up or down. © 2010 United States Rare Coin and Bullion Reserve



regular price ~~\$39.99~~

**\$24<sup>99</sup>** a month  
for 12 months

over 120 channels *locals included!*  
(where available)

**HD FREE** *for life!*  
(with agreement)



Watch every **touchdown** from every game!



**for a limited time receive:**

**Free**



**Activation**  
(\$99 Value)

**Free**



**18 channels** for 3 mo.  
(with agreement)

**Free**



**2 Room  
HD-DVR Upgrade**  
1 HD-DVR + 1 SD-DVR  
(\$6/mo DVR service fee applies)

**Free**



**Up to 6 Room  
Installation**

**CALL TODAY**

**1.877.344.3375**

**WWW.INFINITYDISH.COM**



**WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8 AM - MIDNIGHT EST • SUNDAY 9 AM - MIDNIGHT EST • OFFER ONLY GOOD TO NEW DISH SUBSCRIBERS • SE HABLA ESPAÑOL**

Digital Home Advantage plan requires 24-month agreement and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of agreement, a cancellation fee of \$1750/month remaining applies. Programming credits apply during first 12 months. Free HD for life of current account; requires Agreement, AutoPay with Paperless Billing. HBO/Showtime offer requires AutoPay with Paperless Billing; credits apply during first 3 months (\$72 value); customer must downgrade or then-current price applies. Requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay and Paperless Billing. Free Standard Professional Installation only. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limit 6 leased tuners per account; lease upgrade fees apply for select receivers; monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. HD channel availability will vary based on package. 200 HD channels require subscription to additional packages and VIP® 922 receiver. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels may not be available in all areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions may apply. First-time DISH Network customers only. Offer ends 9/28/10. HBO® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME and related marks are registered trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. T.S. 10-1006.