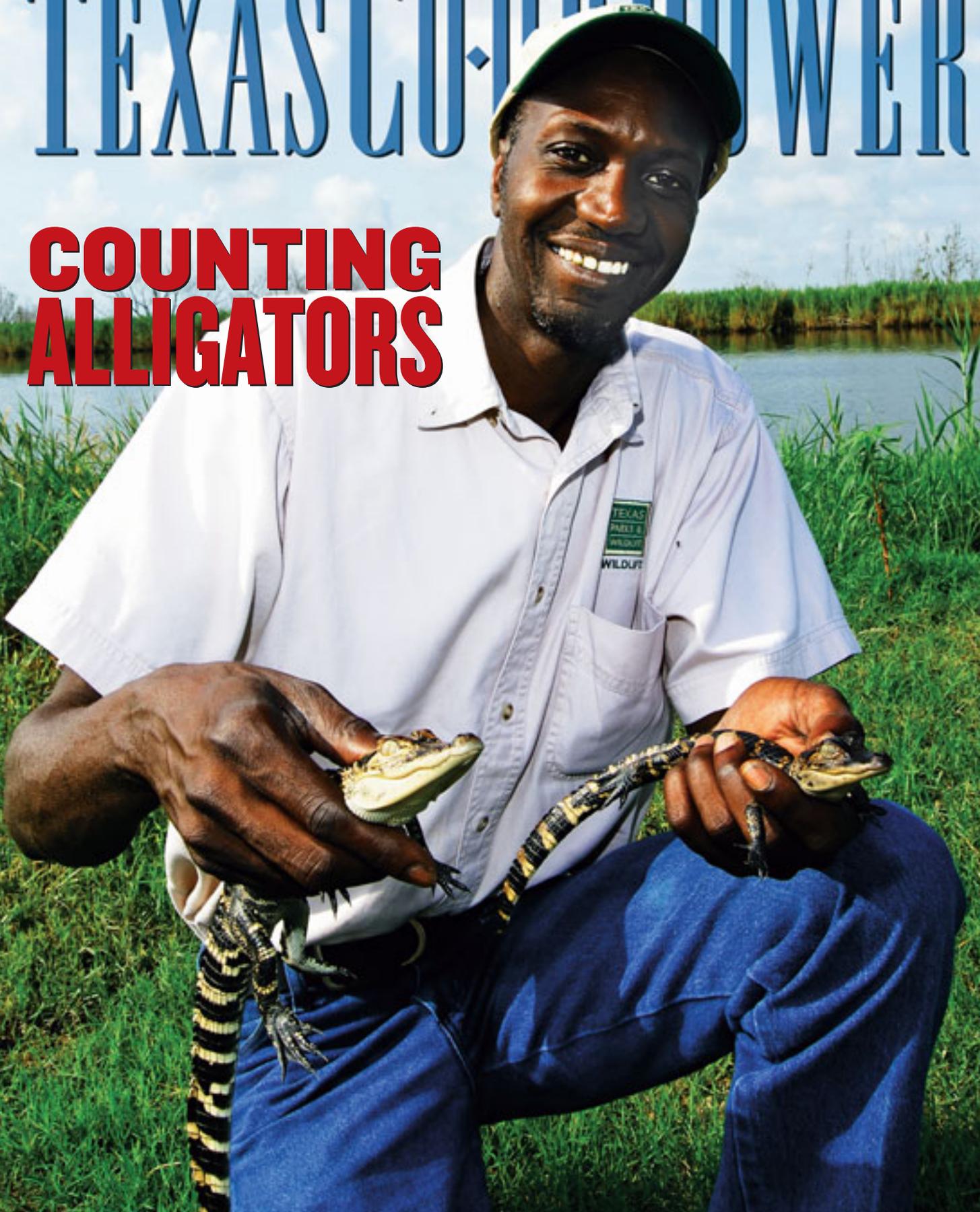


TEXAS Co-OP POWER

COUNTING ALLIGATORS



BOSE

Presenting the Acoustic Wave® music system II.

Our best one-piece music system.



When we introduced the original Acoustic Wave® music system, *Sound & Vision* said it delivered “possibly the best-reproduced sound many people have ever heard.” And the *Oregonian* reported it had “changed the way many Americans listen to music.”

Today, the improved Acoustic Wave® music system II builds on our more than 40 years of industry-leading innovation to deliver even better sound. This is the best one-piece music system we’ve ever made, with sound that rivals large and complicated stereos. There’s no stack of equipment. No tangle of wires. Just all-in-one convenience and lifelike sound.

Even better sound than its award-winning predecessor. With recently developed Bose® technologies, our engineers were able to make the acclaimed sound even more natural. We believe you’ll appreciate the quality even at volume levels approaching that of a live performance.

Use it where you like.

This small system fits almost anywhere. You can move it from room to room, or take it outside. It has what you need to enjoy your music, including a built-in CD player and digital FM/AM tuner. You also can easily connect additional sources like your MP3 player or TV.



Shown in Graphite Gray with optional 5-CD Changer.

Hear it yourself risk free for 30 days. Use our 30-day, risk-free trial to try it in your home. When you call, ask about making **12 easy payments**, with no interest charges from Bose.* And if you order now, you’ll receive the optional 5-CD Changer free – a \$299 value. The changer lets you enjoy your music for hours without stopping to change CDs. And a slim, credit card-style remote lets you conveniently control both the Acoustic Wave® music system II and the changer. Compare the performance with large, multi-component stereos costing much more. And discover why Bose is the most respected name in sound.

FREE 5-CD Changer when you order by November 30, 2009.

To order or learn more:
1-800-314-3416, ext. G8600
www.Bose.com/AWMS2

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail (Optional) _____

Mail to: Bose Corp., Dept. DMG MS730A, The Mountain, Framingham, MA 01701-9168

BOSE®
Better sound through research®

IN THE HOME • AROUND THE HOME • AWAY FROM HOME

*Bose payment plan available on orders of \$299-\$1500 paid by major credit card. Separate financing offers may be available for select products. See website for details. Down payment is 1/12 the product price plus applicable tax and shipping charges, charged when your order is shipped. Then, your credit card will be billed for 11 equal monthly installments beginning approximately one month from the date your order is shipped, with 0% APR and no interest charges from Bose. Credit card rules and interest may apply. U.S. residents only. Limit one active financing program per customer. ©2009 Bose Corporation. Patent rights issued and/or pending. The Acoustic Wave® music system II design is a registered trademark of Bose Corporation. Financing and free 5-CD Changer offers not to be combined with other offers or applied to previous purchases, and subject to change without notice. If the Acoustic Wave® music system II is returned, the 5-CD Changer must be returned for a full refund. Offers are limited to purchases made from Bose and participating authorized dealers. Offer valid 10/1/09-11/30/09. Risk free refers to 30-day trial only and does not include return shipping. Delivery is subject to product availability. Quotes reprinted with permission: *Sound & Vision*, 3/85; Wayne Thompson, *Oregonian*, 9/10/96.



FEATURES

8 Counting Alligators

By Camille Wheeler

Photos by Stephan Myers

Hurricane Ike dealt a violent blow to Texas' alligators—but with a little help, they'll be back. Travel along on a night count, where multiple pairs of alligator eyes burn like orange embers in the dark.

18 Texas Treasure Tales

By Paul Cline Jr.

If you believe the tales, the Lone Star State is a land of lost mines, buried treasure and hidden outlaw loot. There's untold—and unfound—wealth in almost all of its 254 counties.

FAVORITES

Footnotes by Kaye Northcott *Indian Lodge Almost Wasn't* 31

Recipe Roundup *Soups To Warm Your Winter* 34

Focus on Texas *Daredevils* 43

Around Texas *Local Events Listings* 44

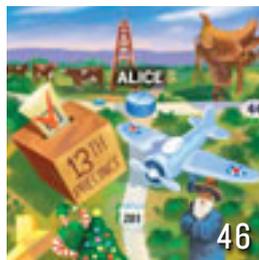
Hit the Road by Eileen Mattei *Alice to Edinburg* 46



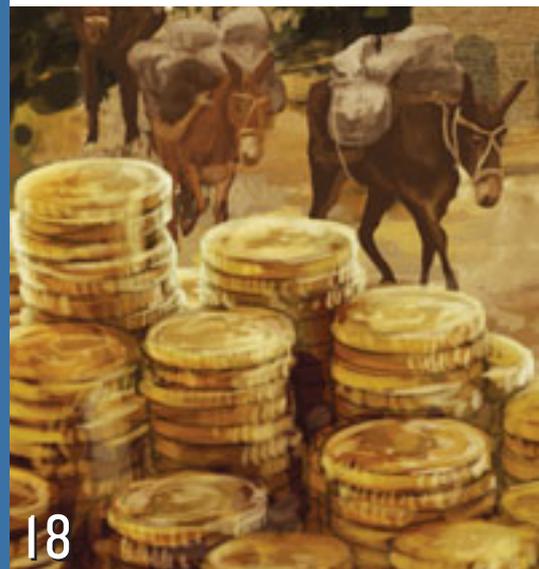
31



34



46



18

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; **Kaye Northcott**, Editor; **Suzi Sands**, Art Director; **Karen Nejteck**, Production Manager; **Ashley Clary**, Field Editor; **Andy Doughty**, Production Designer; **Sandra Forston**, Communications Assistant; **Kevin Hargis**, Food Editor; **Camille Wheeler**, Staff Writer; **Monica Vasquez**, Intern

POWER TALK



ETEC BUILDING BIOMASS PLANT

Continuing its search for renewable sources of energy, East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) has finalized a contract with the North American Procurement Company to build a wood-fueled biomass plant next to NAPCO's operations in Woodville. The plant, the first of its kind for the area, will produce 50 megawatts of power as it converts excess, or scrap, wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral energy for ETEC's 10 electric distribution co-op members. When used for energy, biomass such as wood scraps is considered clean, or carbon neutral, because a plant releases no more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than it absorbed during its lifetime.

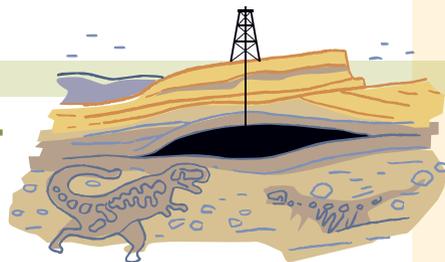
Ryan Thomas, ETEC's chief financial officer, thanked NAPCO for its efforts on the innovative project and said the co-op "is delighted to invest money in our local economy while providing renewable energy for our members."

Kyle Kuntz, general manager/CEO of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, one of ETEC's members, said: "In addition to bringing reliable, renewable power generation to our cooperative members, this new facility will improve the availability of power following major outages such as those caused in recent years by Hurricanes Rita and Ike."

GLOSSARY

FOSSIL FUEL

Hydrocarbons such as coal, oil or natural gas found within the top layer of the earth's crust that are used to produce heat or power. Also called conventional fuels, these materials were formed millions of years ago from plant and animal remains.



letters

PHANTOMS RAID YOUR ELECTRICITY

I noticed in your article "2 Good 2 Be True = False" (Power Connections, July 2009 issue) that you mentioned saving on electricity by unplugging devices that are not being used. I have heard this and wondered how true it is. Can you explain why and how it works and how much of your electricity bill you can expect to save? It seems that if your switches on your device work properly, unplugging the device should not be necessary.

GENE SHULL

Wood County Electric Cooperative

Editor's note: The usual suspect is "phantom" or "stand-by" power such as that used by televisions, computers and microwaves. They continue to consume small amounts of electricity when they are turned off. This is the power that allows a TV to come on instantly without warming up. Some estimates are that phantom electricity accounts for up to 10 percent of a household's electricity budget.

SWEETWATER SCOUTS MET FOOTBALL GREAT

I remember meeting Sammy Baugh much the way Joe Holley did ("Slingin' Sammy Baugh," September 2009 issue), only it was my scoutmaster, not my father, who presented Mr. Baugh to me and my fellow Sweetwater Boy Scouts. We had gone out to Baugh's ranch to climb some of those rocky hills that dot that area of Texas. Just as Mr. Holley, I had no idea who Baugh was. I do remember him as being very tall and slender and "old." I now realize he was only in his 40s at the time and was probably coaching at

Hardin-Simmons University. Of course, since that time I have read of his gridiron exploits at Texas Christian University and with the Washington Redskins. But until I read the article in Texas Co-op Power, I did not know that he began his athletic career in my hometown. Had my family not moved from Sweetwater to Irving the summer before I started junior high, I am sure I would have seen his name in the trophy case at Sweetwater High.

STANLEY STATSER

Wood County Electric Cooperative

SAMMY WAS SLINGIN'

You outdid yourself with the article on Sammy Baugh by Joe Holley. I got to accompany my uncle out to the Baugh ranch one day, and when we arrived, there was Slingin' Sammy Baugh throwing a football through a swinging tire. I was impressed and have been to this day on the accomplishments of a great football star.

CARL BAILEY

Comanche Electric Cooperative

FAMILY SURVIVES PANDEMIC

I read with much interest the article "The Forgotten Pandemic" (Footnotes in Texas History, August 2009). I know it was indeed the flu that took three of my mother's siblings and her father in the space of one month from May to June 1918. My mother was born two months later. Left pregnant with four remaining children, my grandmother, Anna Horn Johnson, had her faith as a devout Christian tested. She, like countless others, "survived" this tragedy and raised her family well.

CATHERINE HALL-WOMACK

Pedernales 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, e-mail us at letters@texas-ec.org, or submit online at www.texascoopower.com. Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and are printed as space allows. Read additional letters at www.texascoopower.com.

HAPPENINGS

Take a spin around the globe without leaving Texas at the **BRAZOS VALLEY WORLDFEST**, scheduled for November 14 in College Station.

The festival celebrates the international diversity and heritage of the Brazos Valley, a seven-county area rich with the influence of many cultures, including Native American, African-American, Chinese, Czech, German, Hispanic and Italian.

As part of the festival's biggest draw, people stroll from one display booth to the next, getting their souvenir passports stamped with something representative of a particular culture or their names written in another language.

The festival also serves up international cuisine, children's activities and numerous cultural performances, which this year feature Japanese drumming from a Kaminari Taiko (thunder drum) group and Native American dancing and drumming.

Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. Admission is free. For more information, call (979) 862-6700 or go to www.brazosvalleyworldfest.org.



WHO KNEW?

Bury yourself in a macabre collection of industry paraphernalia at the National Museum of Funeral History in Houston. Save this trek for a gloomy day and learn about 20th- and 21st-century funerary rituals and customs. Here, grave-minded visitors can peruse a number of fascinating areas, from an exhibit detailing funeral and burial rituals for popes to ancient and present-day embalming methods. Check out a huge selection of hearses—horse-drawn to motorized—and coffins. And if you're looking for that perfect gift, try the black coffee cup inscribed with the museum's motto: "Any day above ground is a good one." Or how about a piece of coffin-shaped chocolate embedded with a white skeleton? To get particulars, call (281) 876-3063 or go to www.nmfh.org.

THE MAGNIFICENT BALD CYPRESS

"Especially in areas where water levels fluctuate, they tend to form knobby protuberances, called knees. These outgrowths from the lateral roots sometimes reach 12 feet in height, but their precise function—whether support, food storage, or aeration—is unknown."

—Matt Warnock Turner, *Remarkable Plants of Texas: Uncommon Accounts of Our Common Natives*, University of Texas Press, 2009



PAISY CHANEY

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. Call (512) 454-0311 or e-mail knorthcott@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, 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 2009 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2009 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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

CHECK IT OUT

BED & BUFFALO

On the flat prairie northwest of Denton, grazing bison provide an unusual backdrop to the Buffalo Valley Event Center on the Meritt Bois D'Arc Buffalo Ranch. The modern facility, created by Jackie and Bob Meritt, includes 19 hotel rooms and 10 RV sites with full hook-up capabilities. Bob spent most of his career building high-rises, and his background is reflected in the massive, open-air atrium with a floating patio at the center of the hotel. His Native American roots inspired him to acquire the buffalo herd.

This is a good, no-frills location for weddings, business retreats and family reunions.

But guests feel as coddled as if they were surrounded by chintz and porcelain. For more information, call (940) 482-3409 or go to www.buffalovalleyeventcenter.com.



Load up Your Washer for Energy Savings

Energy Star appliances save money in the long run

By Brian Sloboda

Hardly anyone enjoys doing the laundry, but today the task is much easier than it was a few decades ago. A job that once required a washboard and considerable elbow grease now requires little more than the push of a button. These days, the hard part is picking the right washing machine to buy.

Anyone who goes to an appliance store to look at washing machines encounters what seem to be unlimited choices. A few years ago, the choices were simple: Do you want white or off-white? Today, consumers must decide

among top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency, water-saving, steaming and wrinkle-remover models, just to name only a few. Of course, as the number of options increases, so does the price.

One option that no one should overlook is an energy-efficient washing machine, which can be identified most easily by the Energy Star label. Energy Star-rated washing machines do cost slightly more than their less efficient counterparts, running from \$400 to \$1,500, depending upon what features the consumer desires. Obviously, the more bells and whistles added, the greater the cost. Those bells and whistles do not always mean more savings, however. For this reason, pay careful attention to the yellow energy guide on a washing machine when making a purchase.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner around \$50 a year, or \$540 to \$600 over the life of the appliance. Efficient washing machines also could save more than 5,000 gallons of water a year. Careful shopping could mean that the resulting savings will pay for the washing machine over its lifetime.

Energy Star qualification is usually restricted to front-loading and newer top-loading models. These clothes washers use the latest technology to reduce energy and water consumption substantially,

compared to nonqualified models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. A clothes washer consumes the most energy when it heats the water. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, thereby reducing both drying time and energy use.

Energy Star-qualified top-loading models typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. The spray-rinse cycle consists of repeated high-pressure rinses to remove soap residue. This method not only reduces the energy required for water heating, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash, compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loading models also feature sensors that monitor incoming water temperature, which is then adjusted to maintain an optimal setting. This temperature keeps the water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot water damage to fabrics. This technology results in less hot water consumption and therefore less energy consumption. One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is that many models do not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

Hardly anyone decides to retire a working clothes washer. Consumers typically start looking for a replacement only after their current one fails. Price and features generally are the two criteria considered for the new purchase. If you remember to look for the Energy Star logo and shop at a store with knowledgeable staff, you should be able to leave the store knowing that, over time, your new energy-efficient washing machine will pay for itself.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



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

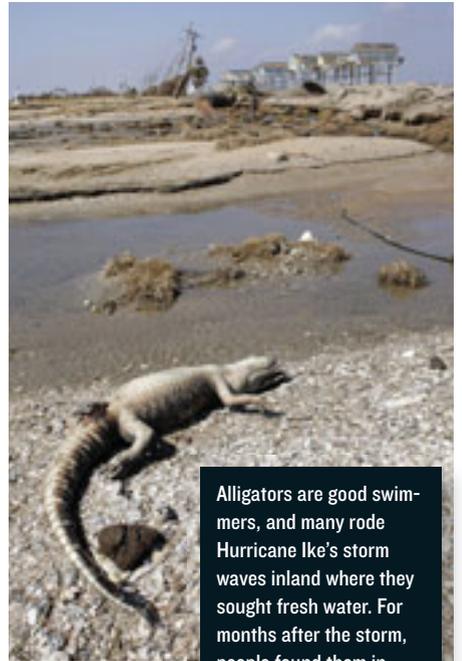
**RVOS**
INSURANCE

rvos.com

DON'T COUNT 'EM OUT

Hurricane Ike dealt a violent blow to Texas' alligators—but with a little help, they'll be back

BY CAMILLE WHEELER



Alligators are good swimmers, and many rode Hurricane Ike's storm waves inland where they sought fresh water. For months after the storm, people found them in ditches, swimming pools and on golf courses. But sadly, many gators, such as this one found dead on a beach, drowned or died from saltwater exposure.

EARL NOTTINGHAM, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



Alligators, members of the ancient crocodylian family, are survivors—it takes more than a hurricane to knock them out.

I stank of mosquito repellent and fear. The hot summer night creaked like an old rocking chair, soothing me with the sweet music of crickets rising from Salt Bayou.

Stars shimmered in a moonless sky the color of dark-blue denim.

The airboat slid off the trailer into the brown-green water. Reality sank in. In just a few minutes, I'd be boarding the boat, skimming through the swampy unknown south of Port Arthur on the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area.

JUNE 17, 2009

Night of the dark moon. Night of alligators.

And I was here to help count them. I stared down at my jeans stuffed into my black, rubber wading boots. I wore them on the orders of Amos Cooper, head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) alligator program and assistant area manager for Murphree.

"We might have to get out of the boat," he said. "You never know. Just be prepared."

I shuddered at the thought of actually needing my boots to wade through the marshy bayou—or worse yet, kicking them off if I had to swim—if we somehow fell off the narrow boat or flipped or got stuck in the mud or alligators sprang from the darkness to attack us en masse. But I bit my tongue and silently watched Cooper and Monique Slaughter, his partner in the alligator program and a fellow biologist, hook two spotlights to the airboat's battery.

The more gators we see tonight, the better. Hurricane Ike brutalized the upper Texas Gulf Coast in 2008, killing or relocating hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of alligators with its storm surge. Alligator biologists such as the 52-year-old Cooper are calling it the worst displacement of gators they've seen in their lifetimes.

Cooper started the airboat, its single-propeller airplane engine sputtering to life. "You want to see something?" he yelled. "Get on the boat right here."

"Look," Cooper said excitedly, shining the spotlight over the water. "See all those eyes?"

I gasped. Multiple pairs of alligator eyes burned like orange embers in the blackness. I made an unintelligible sound, like that of a scared animal. "Oh, Amos, I don't know about this."

He laughed. "They can't hurt us. How are they going to get up here?"

I could think of a thousand ways, but I kept my mouth shut. Cooper climbed into the 6-foot-high driver's seat.

Slaughter pushed us off and sat beside me. "At some point," she said, casually, "we're going to jump a levee, so you'll want to hold on."

"Uh, OK ..." I replied, confused, checking that my brown life vest was securely buckled and pulling my plastic eye goggles and hearing-protection earmuffs into place.

Suddenly, Slaughter was yelling "HANG ON!" I desperately clawed at the two-person bench seat. "I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DOOOOOOO ..." I screamed as the airboat, its engine whirring like a giant blender, hit the levee, lurching side to side like a writhing earthworm in a blur of grass and sky. "WE'RE JUMPING A LEVEE! WE'RE JUMPING A LEVEE!" I blathered like a mad woman into my tape recorder.

This was a rollercoaster ride without the hydraulic safety harness, an airboat with no seatbelts. But this was no joy ride: We're countin' gators.

'IT WAS SINK OR SWIM'

September 13, 2008. Hurricane Ike slams into the Texas coast. Alligators are flushed out of their dens. Some swim. Some drown. Some are washed out to sea. Some are washed inland. Frogs, turtles, river otters, skunks, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, possums, salamanders, snakes, spiders and lizards are swept away.

And when the winds depart, the saltwater stays—for days, for weeks, for months, contaminating the soil, crippling an



entire ecosystem and jeopardizing an already threatened coastal prairie.

In the eerie aftermath of the storm, when all is silent and not a single frog sings, the depth of the damage becomes clear.

"We have to assume that everything that walks, crawls or slithers drowned because it couldn't tolerate saltwater or it got washed inland," said Jim Sutherlin, the Upper Coast Wetlands Ecosystem Project leader for TPWD and area manager for Murphree. "It was sink or swim—if you can imagine how deep the floodwater was, you can imagine a lot of sinkers."

It was easy to imagine at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, a member of the Texas Chenier Plain Refuges Complex that boasted thousands of alligators before Ike hit.

Seven months after the storm, the refuge, in many ways, resembled a cemetery. Some trees, brown and stooped, looked dead. I saw no turtles, no snakes, heard no frogs. The interior marshes, their soil still clogged with salt, lay dry in the throes of a drought. And I spotted one alligator—a scrawny 6-footer dozing on the bank of a canal.

Viewing Anahuac as a microcosm for wildlife displacement along the coast, I had one main question: Where did all the alligators go?

"They went anywhere the water took them," Cooper said. "As long as it was a freshwater pond, you found alligators."

But in their natural habitats, they were virtually

nowhere to be seen. In early July, TPWD conducted its annual nest survey, flying north to south over transect lines in Chambers, Jefferson and Orange counties—the primary habitat for Texas alligators—by helicopter to determine the state's official population. The results were significantly lower than expected: an estimated 24 nests, compared with 128 last year and 278 in 2007.

At first glance—based on TPWD's complex population estimate model that includes 35 eggs per clutch, life expectancy, size and average population trends—it appeared that Texas' alligator numbers within their primary habitat had taken almost a 90 percent nose dive, from an estimated quarter million last year to about 32,000.

But, Cooper cautioned, "It doesn't mean they're not there, it just means they're not nesting." Gators, he explained, are stressed from overexposure to saltwater. Dehydrated and weak, many gators didn't breed in the spring and the females didn't build nests.

The alligator population, Cooper said, is "going to bounce back, but we don't know when or to what extent."

CATCHING A GATOR

Out in Salt Bayou, we're winding through canals, one so narrow that the tall grass on its banks brushes the boat. We slow down, speed up, slow down, speed up, the soft *kuh-kuh-kuh* of the engine harmonizing with the crickets

Cooper, who has swapped places with Slaughter so he can record notes on the clipboard in his lap, maintains a running commentary: "He's about 6 feet ... that's an 8-footer there ... Now that's a horse!" And with that said, the biggest gator of the night, a 10-to-11-footer, silently glides away.



STEPHAN MYERS



STEPHAN MEERS

© PHILIP GOULD/CORBIS

An alligator freezes in the spotlight during a TPWD night count.

Hello, world! A baby alligator breaks its shell.

AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

(*Alligator mississippiensis*)

Texas range: 120 counties from the Red River to the Rio Grande

U.S. range: 10 southeastern states, from Texas east to Florida and up to North Carolina

Status: Listed as endangered in 1967; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pronounced a complete recovery in 1987.

Diet: Young eat spiders, insects, snails, crayfish, shrimp, minnows and crabs. Adults feed on fish, turtles, frogs, snakes, birds, muskrats, nutria, otters, raccoons and even deer. And, yes, they'll eat each other.

Size: Up to 14 feet long and 700 pounds for adult males and up to 10 feet and 400 pounds for females

Lifespan: 45 years in the wild, 60 in captivity

Salt tolerance: The American crocodile excretes excess salt from its body through glands on its tongue. Alligators have no such mechanism and typically can only tolerate saltwater within narrow limits.

Take a deep breath: Large adults can stay underwater for up to 45 minutes.

Gator holes: Alligators dig dens, or gator holes, in banks. During droughts, these holes may be the only water source for them and other wildlife.

Breeding season: April through May

Nests: Females typically build nests in mid-June. The nests, which resemble small tepees (about 3 feet tall and 4 feet

wide), consist primarily of marsh hay cordgrass.

Baby gators: Eggs hatch from mid-August to early September. Babies, or hatchlings, are 6 to 8 inches long.

Swimming goggles: A third, translucent eyelid called a nictitating membrane covers the eye for a better view underwater.

Evolution: The American alligator species dates back roughly 2 million years. Animals more closely related to alligators than caimans (Central and South American crocodylians that are similar to alligators) date back about 80 million.

Texas alligator hunting seasons: April 1-June 30; September 10-30

For more information: Call the TPWD's alligator program at (409) 736-2551 or go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Do ...

- Treat alligators with respect.

- Observe alligators from a safe distance of at least 30 feet on land. Gators can sprint at speeds of up to 30 mph over short distances.
- Discourage others from feeding them.

Don't ...

- Feed alligators—they'll overcome their natural shyness and start associating humans with food.
- Throw fish scraps into water or leave them onshore where alligators are known to live.
- Throw a stick for a dog to fetch in water where alligators are known to live.
- Let your pets near them.
- Remove an alligator from its natural habitat or accept one as a pet. That's a violation of state law.
- Approach an alligator's nest.
- Swim or wade near alligators.

Night Counts

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) conducts at least 33 alligator night counts every year—done during a dark moon so spotlights shining from airboats will better illuminate gators—to help determine population trends and to set harvest, or hunting, rates. The counts are held on public and private land in 14 counties. TPWD also trains and certifies private landowners to conduct their own night counts.



2008 © WEEZER. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM.

This little gator is more than 2 feet shorter than the one that Amos Cooper plucked from Salt Bayou. But with a little luck and cooperation from Mother Nature, he'll grow up big and strong, living a long life in the wild just as his ancestors have done for millions of years.



STEPHAN MYERS

whenever we come to a complete stop.

Eyes in the water ahead shine like orange headlights on an alligator highway. The eyes glow, then go, as most of the gators sink beneath the surface as we approach. But some, curious, stay up, swimming beside or in front of the boat as Cooper, who has swapped places with Slaughter so he can record notes on the clipboard in his lap, maintains a running commentary: “He’s about 6 feet ... that’s an 8-footer there ... Now that’s a horse!”

And with that said, the biggest gator of the night, a 10-to-11-footer, silently glides away.

Then one of my nightmares comes true: We get stuck on top of a levee. Cooper, clenching his pencil between his teeth, jumps off, running back and forth in front of the boat, pushing it on one side and then the other, trying to spin it into the water. Convinced that gators are about to board the boat at any second, I’m screaming like an idiot: “WHAT ARE WE DOING?”

The boat goes spinning into the canal from whence we came, and I make a horrid discovery: Cooper is not sitting beside me. He’s standing on top of the levee. Alone. In the dark. We go roaring back up the levee, slow down, and Cooper jumps on. He’s not breathing hard. I am. “Were you afraid an alligator was going to get you?”

“No,” he says, laughing easily. “They’re not aggressive like crocodiles.”

The night crescendos in a quiet canal. We stop, and Cooper stands. “Amos, what are you doing?” I ask, alarmed. He ignores me. Again clenching the pencil between his teeth, he drops to his hands and knees, then his belly, wiggling to the front of the boat. He reaches his gloved hands over the edge and, without warning, yanks a 3-foot-long gator out of the water.

Slaughter jumps down from the driver’s seat. “There’ll be tape in the first-aid kit,” she matter-of-factly says. They wrap white tape around the gator’s snout, slip him inside a blue nylon bag like a pair of shoes and zip it shut.

After the count—which yielded a surprisingly high 49 gators in Compartment 12, the section of the wildlife management area that we canvassed—Cooper says he’s taking the gator to Port Arthur’s First Baptist Church on Saturday for a live demonstration. The kids will love it. Then, he’ll return the gator to the bayou.

I chicken out on holding the little gator. But with Slaughter clutching him, I stroke his surprisingly soft and slippery belly and touch one of his dangling feet.

I have high hopes for this little guy. Years from now, I see him swimming and hunting in the lush-green grass and fresh water of the bayou. I see him growing big and strong. Big enough to weather any storm.

Camille Wheeler is staff writer for Texas Co-op Power.

DIG HERE, SAVE THOUSANDS.

30% TAX CREDIT
CUT ENERGY BILL IN HALF
FINANCING AVAILABLE



An underground loop system and the constant temperature of the Earth combine to create a comfortable climate in your home.

For deep savings on your energy bills, look no further than your own backyard. With a ClimateMaster Heating and Cooling System, you get a 30% tax credit and can save more than half on your energy bill. ClimateMaster uses geothermal energy to tap the constant temperature of the Earth, keeping your home comfortable year-round. Best of all, a new system usually pays for itself in about five years and is a cleaner choice for the environment. If you're ready to uncover extra cash each month, visit climatemaster.com.

Midland/Odessa & Surrounding Areas

ARTIC AIR CONDITIONING
432-332-3061 TACLA00015792E

Hunt/Hopkin/Wood Counties
A&S AIR CONDITIONING
800-897-8072 TACLA00011387E

Longview & Surrounding Areas
BEN MAINES AIR CONDITIONING
903-758-0701 TACLA00006042C

Abilene, TX & Surrounding Areas
AIR TECH
325-692-5850 TACLB5448C

Collin/Denton/Cooke Counties
ABC HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
972-423-7380 TACLB005952C

Dallas/Rockwall/Kaufman Counties
PRIORITY HTG. & COOLING, INC.
214-221-8811 TACLA21567E

Fort Worth, TX & Surrounding Areas
AIR CO.
817-590-0088 TACLB012263E

Tyler, TX & Surrounding Areas
MADDOX AIR CONDITIONING
903-592-6531 TACLA00003795C

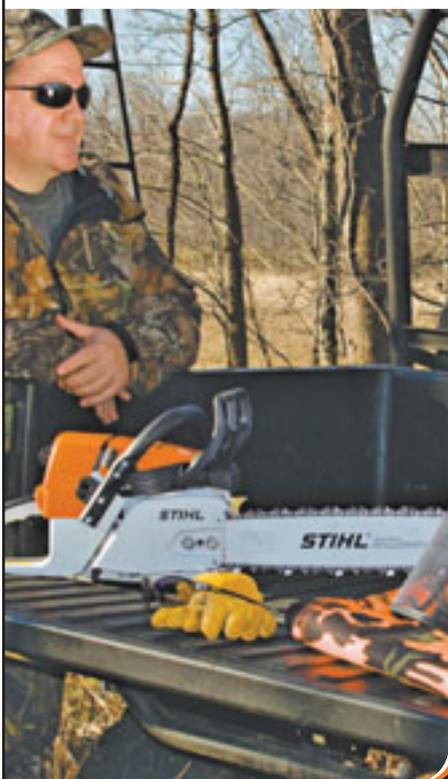
Waco/Central, TX
LOCHRIDGE PRIEST, INC.
254-772-0670 TACLA00028343C

Weatherford, TX & Surrounding Areas
PMS HEATING & AIR
817-444-1555 TACLB27679E

CLIMATEMASTER
Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

THIS SEASON I WANT A CHAIN SAW THAT IS RELIABLE

STIHL®



HANDHELD BLOWERS
STARTING AT **\$149.99**
BG 55



STIHL® express
When you're ready, it's ready.

ORDER ONLINE
PICK IT UP IN THE STORE

Look for
STIHL
Express on
participating
Dealer Web
sites.



MS 180 C-BE **\$259.99**
CHAIN SAW 14" bar

FREE
CARRYING CASE | **\$49.99**
WITH MS 180 C-BE | **VALUE**
PURCHASE



Offer good through 11/30/09

All prices and promotions are BME-SRP at participating dealers while supplies last. © 2009 STIHL.

Reliable solutions start at
STIHLdealers.com

DEALER LOCATIONS • PRODUCTS & PRICING • CURRENT PROMOTIONS

LONESTAR MARKET

Discover what's new in the market.
Gift-giving is a cinch when you
choose to use this handy

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



MILLER'S LLANO SMOKEHOUSE

Retail Location
705 W. Young, Llano TX 78643.
Mail Order
Corporate discounts available.
Wild game processing

1-866-570-0315
www.millerssmokehouse.com



TEXAS WILDFLOWER GIFT BASKETS

For wildflower lovers, a selection of pure wildflower seeds to plant for months of colorful flowers, or a combination of jams, jellies and a wildflower mix for early spring Texas fun!

1-800-848-0078
www.wildseedfarms.com



GIVE THE TEXAS TREAT THAT EVERYBODY LOVES

- All natural ingredients
- No preservatives

10 delicious flavors, all hand-crafted in our Dallas bakery from scratch—for over 20 years.

All breads shipped in a commemorative Texas tin.

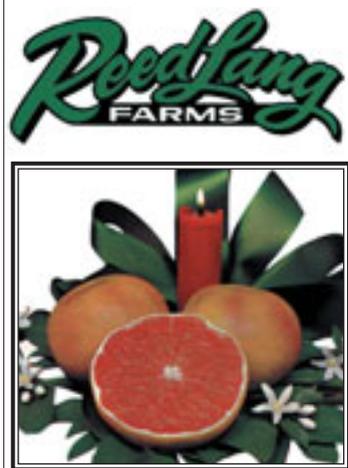
1-888-839-2771
www.texasbread.com



RATTLESNAKE RANCH TEXAS TREATS

Treat your family and friends to the most delicious pecans and candies in Texas. Try our new pecan flavors: Honey Crisp, Sugar-Free Chocolate and White Chocolate, and Cajun Roasted. Call today for our gift catalog, or visit our website and order online.

1-888-PECAN75
www.rattlesnakeranchpecans.com



REED LANG GIFT FRUIT

TEXAS-grown Lula avocados, Navel oranges, Ruby and Rio Red grapefruit, orange blossom honey. FREE UPS SHIPPING. Request FREE BROCHURE.

P.O. Box 219
Rio Hondo, TX 78583
(956) 748-2354 phone
(956) 748-2888 fax
reedlanggiftfruit@att.net
www.reedlanggiftfruit.com



2010 TEXAS WATERFALL CALENDAR

2006 official state artist George Boutwell has painted twelve of the better ones for this large 15"x20" 2010 Texas Waterfall Calendar! \$10 each, quantity discounts available.

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



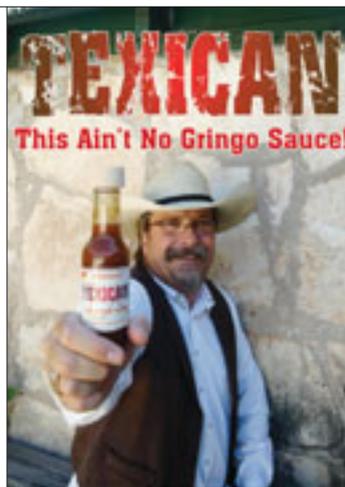
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HEAVEN®

Pewter Christmas Ornament

- Includes your loved one's name professionally engraved on the back.
- Gift boxed with the complete poem by John Mooney.
- \$19.95 plus shipping.



1-800-731-7498



HOMEMADE TEXICAN® CHILIPITIN PRODUCTS

Experience the flavor of pequin peppers! Stolen from an old Mexican recipe, our sauces and salsas are homemade at the historic Dixie Dude Ranch in Bandera.

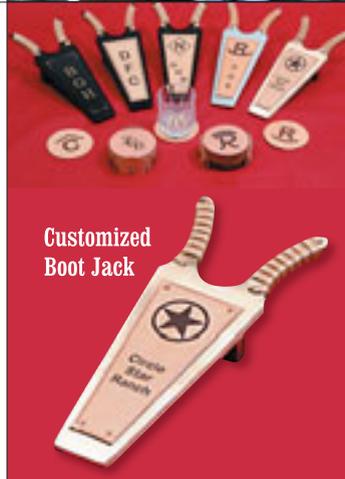
1-800-375-Y'ALL (9255)
www.dixieduderanch.com/texican



TEXAS TRIV-BOARDS™

Our Texas-shaped Triv-Boards are made of Corian solid surface. They're nonporous and easily maintained. Use as a trivet, cutting board, serving dish, conversation piece and more. Excellent gifts! \$26.95 plus S&H. Dealers welcome.

(325) 660-7210
www.TrivBoards.com



CUSTOM CRAFTED PERSONALIZED GIFTS

Capture unique brands, logos & names on custom-made bootjacks, leather coaster sets, luggage tags & marble trivets. Lasting gifts for Christmas, weddings, birthdays & rodeos.

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



PANHANDLE POPCORN

We've been popping perfection since 1942! Beautifully decorated tins filled with gourmet popcorn. Call for our free Christmas catalog of popcorn goodies.

1-800-332-1365
www.panhandlepopcorn.com



THOMPSON RIO PRIDE CITRUS GROVES

Give a gift everyone will enjoy this holiday season. Our tree-ripened, hand-picked & packed oranges and grapefruit are the sweetest in the world! Mention source code for discount on gift fruit. (Source Code: TCP-0910)

1-888-667-2644
www.riopride.com



2009 CAPITOL COLLECTIBLE ORNAMENT

Fourteenth in the series of annual collectible ornaments, the 2009 Texas Capitol Ornament features the ornate Capitol door knob. Cost is \$18.00 plus tax and S&H.

1-888-678-5556
www.texascapitolgiftshop.com



MYTIE—TIE ONE ON™ FOR YOUR TEAM!

Handmade MyTie necklaces are made in the colors that let others know who you support! Aggie? Longhorn? Red Raider? MyTie is the sophisticated way to wear your team colors. Tie one on today!
Texas A&M MyTie shown.

(702) 466-2404
www.mytienecklace.com



TEXAS PECANS

Farm fresh Texas Pecans. Buy direct from the farm and save. We sell fresh paper-shell pecans grown at our farm. Shelled, in-shell and gift packs.

1-888-785-4492
www.westpecans.com

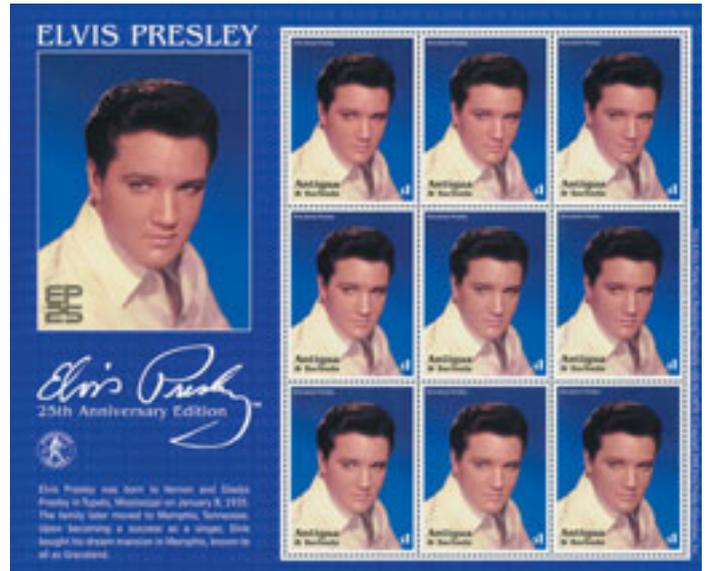


TEXAS RUBY & RIO RED GRAPEFRUIT

Juicy red grapefruit and sweet oranges from the Rio Grande Valley. Tree-fresh, hand-selected gifts delivered nationwide. Texas 1015 onions, tomatoes, smoked meats, nuts and candies. FREE BROCHURE. Mention code TXCP for discount with first order.

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

Elvis Presley® 25th Anniversary Mint Stamp Sheet



Now get a memorable Elvis Presley Commemorative stamp sheet for just \$2.

Issued on the 25th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley, this mint stamp sheet is a meaningful keepsake and powerful reminder of the impact "The King of Rock 'n' Roll"

has had on generations of music fans around the world.

Order today and you'll also receive special collector's information and other interesting stamps on approval. Limit one sheet at this special price. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

Elvis Presley Stamp Sheet

Yes! Send me the Elvis Presley stamp sheet. Enclosed is \$2. My satisfaction is guaranteed. Limit one sheet at this special price. **FREE DELIVERY GUARANTEED.**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ Zip _____

Please send payment with coupon to:
Mystic Stamp Company, Dept. TK273
9700 Mill Street, Camden, NY 13316-9111

Earth, Wind and Solar Systems is honored to be a part of this changing world — a world that is becoming more and more aware of the earth's sensitivities. A world headed down the path to clean, efficient and renewable energy.

Call us today at 254-386-3107 to start your journey in this evolutionary process.

EarthWind and SolarSystems L.L.C.

find out more at
earthwindandsolarsystems.com

Six Decades of Texas' Favorite Foods

To order, visit our website at
www.texascoopower.com

ORDER NOW FOR
FREE SHIPPING

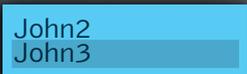
GoBible®

This Christmas Season, we're proud to introduce the GoBible® Traveler.™

The latest innovation from GoBible®, the leader in Digital Audio Bibles.

The Complete Old and New Testaments.

Over 70 hours preloaded and read by award-winning narrators.



Find and play the book and chapter you want instantly.

The GoBible® Traveler™ makes it easy to find what you want to hear in seconds.

Available in English and Spanish translations.

Available in the New International Version (NIV), King James Version (KJV), or in Spanish, the Nueva Versión Internacional (NVI).



Shown approximately actual size: 3½" x 2"



Includes a Bible-in-a-Year Plan and bookmark feature.

The Traveler's special features help you organize your Bible study.



Ready to play.

The pocket-size, lightweight audio player comes complete with ergonomically designed earbuds and a AAA battery. Optional portable speakers and FM car transmitter are available.

Now only
\$59.95

For **FREE SHIPPING**, enter the promotion code **TPC** at checkout.

GoBible®
Traveler™

Order now online at www.GoBible.com or call 800-940-0067

Makes a great gift! Order before 12/17 to receive for Christmas.

T E X A S T R E A S U R E T A L E S

BURIED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

BY PAUL CLINE JR. ★ ILLUSTRATION BY KURT ASPLAND

If you believe the tales, the Lone Star State is a land of lost mines, buried treasure and hidden outlaw loot. There's untold—and unfound—wealth in almost all of its 254 counties.

Although these tales may inspire treasure seekers of all ages to try to strike it rich, pull back on the reins a bit: The vast majority of lands in the state are privately owned, and access to them requires a property owner's permission. In state and national parks, the collecting of artifacts, minerals and natural objects is strictly prohibited. With that in mind, grab an imaginary pick and shovel, metal detector and dowsing rod and mine the fabulous fortunes of your own fantasies.

THE LOST SAN SABA MINE

The Lost San Saba Mine, believed to be located somewhere within the Menard-San Saba-Llano triangle of the Hill Country, has been the Holy Grail of Texas treasure tales for more than 250 years.

In 1756, a dispatch reached Madrid from the region of New Spain known as Texas. The report was from Bernardo de Miranda y Flores, an agent of the crown who had been prospecting for mineral wealth in what is now called the Hill Country, 5,000 miles from Spain. Detailing the discovery of a massive, rich vein of silver ore, the document reportedly read, in part: "The mines which are in the Cerro del Almagre (a hill of red ocher) are so numerous that I guarantee to give to every settler of the province of Texas a full claim."

The Spanish established a mission on the western San Saba River near what is now Menard, and a presidio was established a few miles away. The mining reportedly was very profitable until 1758, when several allied Indian tribes attacked and destroyed the mission, wiping out all but a few who escaped to the presidio. The mission was never re-established, and the presidio was abandoned a decade or so later.

The lure of the silver continued, though, and many searched for the mine, or mines, or hidden caches of silver ingots believed left behind by the Spaniards. The most famous seeker of the treasure was Jim Bowie, who would later find glory in a crumbling mission called the Alamo. He, his brother Rezin and nine other men left San Antonio in 1831 to retrieve the silver. According to some stories, Jim Bowie wanted to use the windfall to help fund the Texas Revolution.

While meandering toward their goal, the adventurers were attacked by more than 100 Indians at Calf Creek in McCulloch County in a skirmish reported to be about 30 miles east of the old mission and presidio.





lot of things
about
down
but put
been out in
supper at
date

K. Lind

The greatly outnumbered troops took cover, and in the ensuing battle the Texans lost one man, while 50 or so Indians were killed. The Bowie party made its way back to San Antonio, but subsequent historical events prevented a return attempt to seek the fortune.

Short-story writer William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry, worked in the Texas General Land Office in Austin in the late 1800s. Information he gleaned there led him to search for the Lost San Saba Mine and to write the short story "Buried Treasure."

Fact or Fiction? *Early maps of Texas in the 1820s and '30s, including at least one compiled by Stephen F. Austin, are clearly marked in the general area of the San Saba-Llano-Colorado river areas with the words "Silver Mines" on them. But The Handbook of Texas, an authoritative source on Texas history, calls the story of the Lost San Saba Mine a legend.*

THE ROCK PENS

On his deathbed in Austin in 1873, Daniel Dunham revealed an incredible tale of buried treasure in the South Texas brush country. He and a band of outlaws had looted a silver mine and a church in Mexico and were returning to Texas across the Rio Grande when Indians and/or Mexican pursuers set upon them.

The outlaws hastily made low-walled rock pens, buried the loot in one enclosure and repeatedly ran their mules over the site to cover the signs of digging. In the ensuing battle, only one of the bandits, Dunham, escaped alive. He claimed that buried inside the treasure pen were 31 mule loads of silver bullion and other valuables. His rough directions—six or seven miles below the Laredo Crossing south of the Nueces River—are so vague, relative to the vast ranch land of that part of Texas, that the pens have never been pinpointed. Most treasure seekers believe that they are in La Salle, Live Oak or McMullen counties.

Fact or Fiction? *Folklorist J. Frank Dobie was a big believer in this treasure, having passed along the tale in several of his writings. He also implied that during his research, he saw the deathbed letter written by Dunham that vaguely alluded to the location of the loot.*

THE LOST GOLD OF THE GUADALUPES

In the mid-1800s, Ben Sublett was considered a crazy prospector in the far reaches of West Texas. A widower, he would often disappear into the badlands along the Texas-New Mexico border for weeks on end, leaving his children to fend for themselves in Odessa. But when he reportedly started returning to town with pouches of gleaming yellow nuggets, the locals took notice.

When the latest pouch of gold ran out, most of it spent in frontier saloons, he would head back west, and many tried to follow him to the source—all unsuccessfully. Sublett once took his young son to the mine, somewhere in or near the Guadalupe Mountains—at that time one of the last great Apache strongholds—but after his father's death in 1892, the son could never return to the exact location.

Many believe the mine is somewhere near McKittrick Canyon in what is now Guadalupe Mountains National Park, but others put its location in the Rustler Hills at the base of the range.

Fact or Fiction? *According to The Handbook of Texas, "Rumors of fabulously wealthy gold mines in the Guadalupe seem to be mere wishful thinking."*

STEINHEIMER'S MILLIONS

Karl Steinheimer, a German-born adventurer, was a well-known and feared smuggler and privateer based in Galveston before 1820. In the late 1820s, he moved south to pursue riches in Mexico mines.

His destiny changed in 1838, in the early days of the Republic of Texas. Deciding to rekindle an old romance in St. Louis, he cashed in his mining interests, which were said to amount to 10 mule loads of gold and silver, and for protection he hired several men to accompany the caravan to St. Louis.

Tensions between Mexicans and Texans were still high after the Texas Revolution ended in 1836, and Steinheimer and his group came upon trouble after joining up with a Mexican military contingent on the San Antonio road. When it became clear that there was a skirmish looming between the Mexicans and Texans in the area, Steinheimer's caravan separated from

the military contingent and turned off the road, heading across the wilds of the Hill Country.

Realizing their dire circumstances, Steinheimer decided to bury his cargo, driving a brass spike into a nearby oak tree as a marker. A few miles farther on, Indians attacked the small band. All of his escorts were killed, but Steinheimer, badly injured and on foot, somehow managed to draw a rough map to the treasure and write a letter to his sweetheart, telling her that if he didn't appear within a certain time, she should assume that he was dead and should retrieve the treasure. According to legend, he was not heard from again.

Awaiting a more settled Texas, his sweetheart eventually sent a contingent to seek the fortune, but the brass spike could not be found and the treasure remains undiscovered. According to some accounts, it is in Bell County near where the Lampasas and Leon rivers meet to form the Little River.

Fact or Fiction? *The tradition of Steinheimer's treasure is deeply rooted in Central Texas, and scores of articles and stories about it have been printed and passed down since the early 20th century and even before. The treasure is not mentioned in The Handbook of Texas.*

All or any of these treasure tales may or may not be true. Remember Shakespeare's famous admonition: All that glitters is not gold.

Paul Cline Jr., a native Texan, started his journalism career in 1980. A freelance writer/editor living in Fort Worth, he is always hoping to strike it rich.

MORE TEXAS TREASURE

There are plenty of other Texas treasure tales to fire the imagination, including:

- ★ The lost Seminole mine of the Big Bend
- ★ The buried treasure in Palo Duro Canyon
- ★ The lost copper and lead mines of the upper Brazos River
- ★ Jean Laffite's pirate treasure along the Texas coast
- ★ Maximilian's treasure at Castle Gap
- ★ The buried outlaw treasure of El Muerto Springs in Jeff Davis County
- ★ The missing loot of outlaw Sam Bass from Denton County to Round Rock
- ★ Santa Anna's lost payroll chest on the Nueces River

Have you ever wished...

You could come home to a stress relieving massage after a hard day's work?

Now you can with the

Kneading Fingers 2000™

"It doesn't get tired or complain and it is there for you when you need it!"

The #1 kneading massager is still available and improved to be more user friendly.

Enjoy the benefits of massage when you need it. The Kneading Fingers 2000™ is designed to duplicate the firm kneading action of a trained masseur. It can be used with most any high back upholstered chair or a high back office chair.

The Kneading Fingers 2000™ is a professional grade machine and comes with a standard 2 year parts and labor warranty! In addition,

your machine is backed by our 90 day no-risk money back guarantee. If you are not completely satisfied, you can return the machine for a full refund. The Kneading Fingers 2000™ is not available in stores and should not be confused with cheap imitations.

With over one million sold worldwide, the Kneading Fingers 2000™ is absolutely the best therapeutic, kneading massager on the market.

Relieves headaches

Promotes muscle relaxation

Restores the body's vigor

Promotes sinus drainage

Helps improve range of motion

Relieves muscle spasms and tightness

Alleviates pain from arthritis and fibromyalgia



Order factory direct today! **\$199.95**

Use code **C500** for **FREE Shipping** in the Lower 48 States

800-748-7172 www.clarkenterprises2000.com



Clark ENTERPRISES 2000 INC
The helping people feel better company

240 Berg Road, Salina, KS 67401

Price, terms and conditions subject to change without notice. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any diseases.



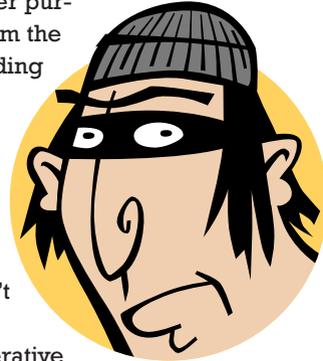
Change Seasons Safely

As the leaves change to their beautiful autumn hues and the weather gets colder, keep in mind the following electrical safety tips:

- Make sure space heaters are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Also check that power cords are not frayed, cracked or cut.
 - Do not use an extension cord to power a space heater. Plug directly into the electrical outlet. Make sure the circuit can handle the power demands of the space heater and any other appliances plugged into it.
 - Space heaters should have an automatic shut-off in the event they tip over.
 - Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable materials such as curtains, draperies, loose paper and upholstery. Never use heaters as drying racks.
 - Keep space heaters out of reach of small children and pets.
 - If the heater is running on fuels such as gas, kerosene or wood, follow manufacturer's instructions carefully. Make sure carbon monoxide detectors are installed. Keep chimneys and flues free from corrosion or blockages.
 - Check to see if electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab like UL. Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and don't put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.
 - Check cold-weather tools, like leaf blowers, to ensure power cords are in good repair. Extension cords need to be approved for outdoor use.
 - Use only weatherproof electrical appliances for outdoor activities.
- Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*

DON'T FALL FOR COLLECTION SCAMS

Electric cooperatives across the country are reporting that scam artists are targeting members with phone calls in which the caller purports to be from the co-op, demanding payments, account numbers, Social Security numbers or credit card numbers. Don't fall for it. Your electric cooperative will NEVER call seeking such information. In fact, you should NEVER give such information out over the telephone to ANYONE who calls.



Electric Co-op Today, a national newsletter published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), reported recently about another scam, in which callers allude to the federal stimulus program for energy efficiency and encourage people to give their information to "apply" for a grant. Those calls are most likely just another attempt to steal personal information.

NRECA Senior Corporate Counsel Tracey Steiner, who tracks consumer protection legal issues, told Electric Co-op Today, "In today's economy, it's not surprising that we are seeing an uptick in identity theft and other fraud schemes."

If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent your electric cooperative, ask for the individual's name and callback number. Contact your co-op and report any such calls. You should also report scam attempts to local authorities.

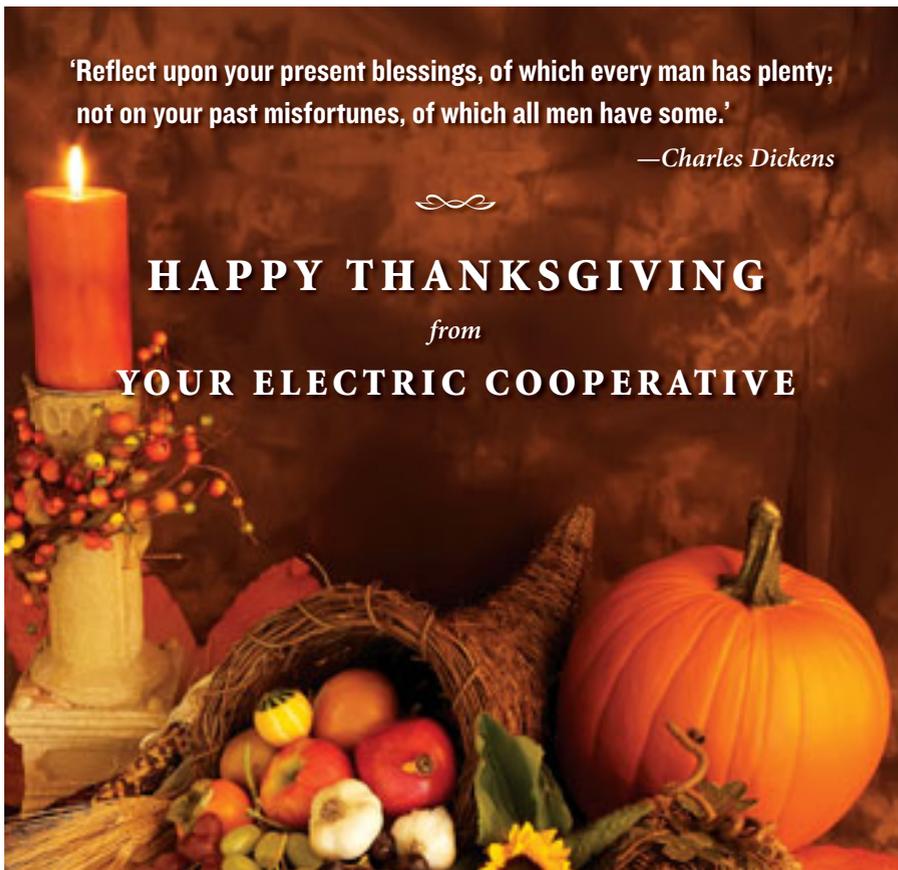
Once scammers have your personal information, they can use it to set up fake accounts in your name or sell it to someone who could use it to defraud you. Don't be a victim.

'Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.'

—Charles Dickens



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
from
YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE





IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK

Sunday, November 1, marks the start of standard time in the United States. Remember to “fall back” by setting your clocks back one hour before going to bed. And take the opportunity to change the battery in your smoke detector.



SAVE ENERGY ■ SAVE MONEY

Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 are properly insulated.

You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing heating and cooling needs up to 10 percent by investing in proper insulation and sealing air leaks.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

STAY CLEAR!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FROM YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO STAY SAFE:

- Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- Never touch a downed power line! And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her. You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.
- Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line. Then call your local co-op.

CLEBURNE

What's Shakin'

*North Texans,
scientists are trying
to get to the bottom
of earthquakes*

By Tom Dodge



In Cleburne, folks like to call each other and say, “What are y’all doing?” They’ve been doing this since the Pleistocene Epoch—well at least since the beginning of the Telephone Epoch. But in the tremulous summer of ’09, they were more likely to say: “Did you feel anything?”

In most cases, this question stems from the at least eight earthquakes that have occurred since June 2 in or near Cleburne, a city of about 30,000 that lies 25 miles south of Fort Worth. Experts are mystified by these quakes and by a series of other small ones that rattled the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 2008—on Halloween and November 1—and on May 16 of this year, preceding the ones in Cleburne.

City officials say that as far as they know, Cleburne never experienced an earthquake before exploration companies started drilling within the Barnett Shale. There are now approximately 200 natural gas wells within city limits. Some here believe the events are related. But other Cleburnites, such as those receiving gas royalties, think the quakes are just coincidental.

There may be a natural explanation for the quakes. So Cleburne and area leaders are working with Southern Methodist University scientists who have set up seismographs near the recent activity to get to the bottom of all this, so to speak.

No damage or visible evidence occurred during any of the quakes, just some minor blips on the Richter scale and a flurry of 911 calls reporting that the ground “shook,” “rumbled,” went “boom,” rattled windows or even whole houses. One woman told the operator, “The couch dropped and the hair rose on my arms.”

Patty Russell, who lives west of town near Pat Cleburne Lake, felt them all. She enumerates them in rapid order: “The first one, 2.8, the second, 2.6, third, 2.3, fourth 2.1, fifth, 2.4, and sixth, 2.2.” She’s also precise in her description: “They were like the dynamiting maneuvers at Fort Bragg that you could hear and feel at your house.” (Her husband, Robert, trained at the North Carolina base with the 82nd Airborne Division before the 1991 Gulf War.) Their daughter Kara Grisham lives nearby and also felt all of them. She said her cat acted weird and its fur stood up.

But folks not living in the shaky sections missed the excitement and the spotlight when all the news media swarmed through town, aiming cameras only at those with horripilating tales to tell. Chaf-In, a popular diner on West Henderson Street since the 1940s, was in the “epicenter,” says owner Dan Roberts. He said he and his waitstaff were interviewed by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Dallas Morning News, ABC, CBS, NBC and a lot of smaller outlets. During the excitement he had a sign that said, “Six hours and no new quakes. Just a few old quacks.”

Despite youth’s obvious importance and modern society’s emphasis on it, in nature it is age that brings the most bounty. The 350-million-year-old, 5,000-square-mile layer of gas-filled shale a mile below the North Texas surface now provides, according to some in the industry, up to 7 percent of the country’s gas needs.

Some experts say it could hold as much as 30 trillion cubic feet of gas resources. So far, it is estimated it has added about \$500 million in revenues to the Texas treasury and about \$230 million to those of local governments. Experts predict it could generate close to 110,000 jobs by 2015.

In recent years, new technology has helped free the gas from the dense rock. In a relatively new technique called hydraulic fracturing, or “fracing,” water and sand are pumped at high pressure into the shale, creating cracks in its formation. The sand holds the cracks, or fissures, open so the gas can escape and be extracted.

Such information is becoming part of the conversations around town these days, such as at the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, a block from the Johnson County courthouse. Here, I met Roberts, who was palavering with agent Louis Homesley and Louis’ daughter Kendall, 25, who teaches in the nearby Grandview Independent School District and coaches basketball.

The venerable Woodmen building is almost a century old. I’m thankful that the forces of change, including earthquakes, have spared it. My uncle, Wayne Conner, took me up its long flight of stairs when I was 6 years old and bought me a life insurance policy, which is still in effect. Louis is venerable, too, graduating five years ahead of me at Cleburne High School. His Uncle L.C. Homesley and my Uncle Wayne fought in World War II. My uncle came home; his didn’t. I was in the National Guard with his brother, Pete. In the lives of old fissures like us there are many tributaries.

While the drilling’s role in the earthquakes is uncertain, there’s no doubt that it has elevated Cleburne economically. The town’s \$30 million in royalties since 2002, although not included in its annual operating budget, has helped beautify the downtown area and, along with the “mailbox money” going out in royalties to local landowners, has greatly stimulated business.

Until recently, at least. The drop in gas prices last year reduced the mailbox munificence by half. I learned this when I stopped at Cleburne’s Layland Museum. Julie Baker, the director, also told me she noticed little predictors before the reduction registered in the town’s consciousness. The number of leasing scouts coming into the museum to search the land titles for heirs began to dwindle. Also, the clerk at the food trailer where she stops told her that burrito sales had dropped off. I myself noted the decline in the number of gas company water trucks on U.S. Highway 67.

Another indicator of the diminished gas flow was the increased activity at the Eastside Pawn Shop on East Henderson Street. Melissa Hasty, who has worked there 10 years, said, “When the gas price was up they bought lots of new stuff. When it went down, the stuff ended up with us.”

Not all felt the quakes, but the economy touches everybody.

To see more works from Tom Dodge, a Midlothian-based writer, go to www.tomdodgebooks.com.



My Wandering Horse

W

Wrangler, ordered to mend his fences, was put on probation.

BY JOHN BIRD

Wrangler was my companion before I met my wife. Not having been in South Texas long, I didn't know many people; all of my family lived in North Texas, and I wasn't very social anyway. So when I wasn't teaching agriculture and science at Lytle Middle School in Lytle, southwest of San Antonio, I was spending time with Wrangler.

I bought the little gelding when he was 3. Day after day, Wrangler and I traveled the rights-of-way along irrigation canals. Medina County had black, flood-irrigated farmland. Small canals that ran across the back of each field were fed from the main canal that went for miles to Medina Lake, north of Castroville. When a farmer needed to irrigate, he or she ordered water from the local water district. The water was directed to the farmer's canal by other canals, and the water flow was controlled by a series of dams. When the water arrived, the farmer opened the stops on his canal, and the property was flooded.

The canal rights-of-way made an open path to roam and explore. We went through miles of corn, grain sorghum and warm-season vegetables in the summer. During the winter there were cabbage, carrots and wheat. Along the canals there was always something new to see. Wrangler had a long, smooth running walk; we could cover a lot of ground.

When I was at work, Wrangler was turned out with the Barbados sheep. Sometimes he pinned his ears and tried to herd them; sometimes the lambs followed Wrangler when they couldn't find their mother. Mr. Salinas, my landlord, didn't mind the horse being with his sheep—he made a fine guard dog.

But being the young horse that he was, Wrangler had a mischievous side. When we left his pasture to start out on a ride, I'd drop the reins when I opened the gate. He would follow me with his nose right at my shoulder. Where I turned, he turned. Once through, Wrangler would stand facing me until I latched the gate, took the reins and swung onto his back; I thought I was a regular horse whisperer.

One day we went through our normal gate routine. Wrangler stood facing me with a sleepy and innocent look as I turned to latch the gate. But this time, as soon as I took my eyes off of him, he bolted out of the yard and down the road—saddle, reins and all. When he had a half mile or so between us, he stopped, turned and waited until I got to him, as if he were showing me that he could get away when he wanted to.

Another time, it had been a long day at work when I drove down the lane to

home. Wrangler wasn't in his normal place. I looked in the back pasture, and then in the barn, but no horse. The fences were up and the gates were closed; he must have been stolen, I thought.

A Medina County sheriff's deputy asked me to describe my horse. "He's a little sorrel gelding," I said, "with a freeze brand of a rising sun on his left hip."

"Your horse is here in Hondo," the deputy said. "You can pick him up at the stockyards along with his citation."

With trailer in tow, I made the 30-mile trip to the stockyards where my horse was in custody. It seemed that he had jumped the fence, traveled a mile down the road and run my neighbor's yearlings through the one-line electric fence that was holding them in. When a sheriff's deputy found him, he was herding the calves down the highway toward LaCoste. The deputy wasn't pleased with either of us. I accepted my scolding and headed for home with a ticket and a troublemaking horse.

I'm not the type to appeal a ticket, but this one said that my offense was "allowing livestock to roam on (the) highway." There wasn't any doubt that the horse was on the highway—I wasn't contesting that, but he certainly wasn't allowed to be there.

My court date arrived; I appeared in Hondo before the proper authorities and pled my case as they listened patiently. It was my luck that the district attorney had horses of his own. He said he knew that when "a horse had a mind to go somewhere, he would go." Wrangler got off with 90 days probation, but the fee would be doubled if he were found roaming the highway again during that time. I assured the authorities that he would stay put.

The days of testing passed, and my little friend stayed out of trouble. After that, the only time he ran off was when I decided that he didn't need a bridle and tried to ride him with just a halter and lead rope, or when someone else rode him and ignored my warning to keep him at a walk.

After a year or two, it was time for me to go back to college for more schooling. Knowing that I couldn't afford to take care of Wrangler and pay tuition, I sold him to a junior barrel racer from Castroville. It was rumored that he became a good rodeo horse. I never saw him again, but I'll always remember my little troublemaking gelding.

John Bird lives with his wife and three children in Eastland, where he works for the USDA Farm Service Agency.



IT'S A NEW DAY FOR RURAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET!



YOUR DIAL-UP PAIN ENDS HERE.

UP TO
30x
FASTER
THAN DIAL-UP*

- Enjoy using the Internet again. No dialing up, no waiting to connect, no second phone line needed!
- Enjoy using the Web for the cool stuff everyone talks about: watching online videos, checking the latest news and weather, sharing photos online, watching sports highlights, participating in fantasy sports leagues, using social networking Web sites and thousands more!
- Great features including email powered by Google,™ spam filtering and more!

WildBlue is available in areas that DSL and Cable Internet service just don't reach! Why wait?

Call today and start enjoying the Internet again!



Lowest Price Ever!

\$39⁹⁵
MONTH

FOR THE FIRST 12 MONTHS†

INCLUDES

FREE

- Standard installation
- 24/7 technical advice
- Anti-virus/anti-spyware software for the first 12 months**

Save \$50 off one time set-up fee. Now only **\$99⁹⁵**

Plus S+H • Regularly \$149.95



CALL 877-290-9394

Visit www.wildblue.com to find your local retailer.

*Based on file download speed comparison between Pro package and 42 Kbps dial-up. Actual speeds will vary depending on time of day and how many customers are simultaneously using the WildBlue network in your area. WildBlue's Pro package starts at \$79.95/month plus terms listed below.

**Automatic charge of \$2.95/month applies for optional anti-virus/anti-spyware software after first 12 months. Offer ends 12/31/09.

†Value package only. Offer not available in all areas. Visit www.wildblue.com and enter your ZIP code to check for service availability and promotional offers in your area. Additional one-time activation fee of \$149.95 applies, currently on special through 12/31/2009 for \$99.95. Equipment lease fee is \$5.95 per month. Minimum commitment term is 24 months. Equipment must be returned upon cancellation of service, otherwise unreturned equipment fees will apply. Taxes and monthly service fees apply. Prices subject to change. All offers valid for a limited time and may be changed or withdrawn at any time. Requires a clear view of the southern sky. Use of the WildBlue service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a 30-day rolling basis as described in the Fair Access Policy. For complete details and the Fair Access Policy, visit www.wildblue.com/legal. © 2009 WildBlue Communications, Inc.

HE TALKS! HE TEACHES! Best Educational Bear Ever!



ONLY
\$12⁹⁷

**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

**FREE
SHIPPING**
when ordering in 7 days

- Huggably Soft Imported Cotton/Polyester
- A Full 12" Tall
- Teach Kids To:
 - Count
 - Say ABC'S
 - Dress Themselves
 - Colors

⚠ WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—
Small Parts.
Not for children
under 3 years.

*Squeeze My Hand &
I Say My ABC's!
Squeeze My Foot & I'll
Count For You!*

Button

Buckle

Squeeze
For
ABC's

Zipper

Snap

Lace
& Tie

Squeeze
For
Counting

Dept. 61803 © 2009 Dream Products, Inc.

TEACHING BEAR		Dept 61803
(95523)	Teaching Bear(s) @ \$12.97 each	\$
For each Bear I order @ \$12.97, I'll receive one FREE		FREE
CA residents must add 8.25% sales tax		\$
Add \$2.00 Handling (no matter how many you order!)		\$2.00
<input type="checkbox"/> YES! I've ordered within 7 days. SHIPPING IS FREE!		
<input type="checkbox"/> NO! I have not ordered within 7 days. Add Shipping: \$3.95 1st bear Add \$2.00 Shipping For Each Add'l		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check or money order payable to Dream Products, Inc.		TOTAL \$
Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS™ Cards		Card#
		Expiration Date: / /
_____ Name		
_____ Address		
_____ City		_____ ST _____ Zip

Call Toll Free 1-800-530-2689
www.DreamProductsCatalog.com (WEB OFFERS MAY VARY)

DREAM PRODUCTS, INC.
412 DREAM LANE, VAN NUYS, CA 91496

BAGS OF VINTAGE U.S. SILVER COINS SAVED FROM GOVT. MELT-DOWN!

GovMint.com is releasing to the public bags of historic U.S. silver coins not seen in circulation for decades. They are priced not by the rarity of the individual coin but by silver weight...in full size Quarter Pound, Half Pound and One Pound bags.

VALUABLE COLLECTOR COINS

Every U.S. silver coin bag is guaranteed to contain a Quarter, Half, or Full Pound in Troy (precious metal) weight. But that's just the beginning. 100% of them are valuable U.S. collector coins and have premium value above and beyond the silver! Every coin will have a numismatic collector grade of Very Good or higher with FULL dates and mint marks — Guaranteed!

GUARANTEED IN EVERY BAG

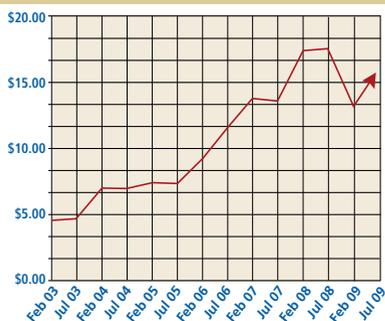
- Walking Liberty Half Dollar (1916-1947)
- Franklin Half Dollar (1948-1963)
- Kennedy Half Dollar (1965-1970)
- Roosevelt Dime (1946-1964)
- Washington Quarter (1932-1964)
- Mercury Dime (1916-1945)
- Barber Dime (1892-1916)

All Silver — All GUARANTEED!

LONG-LOST SILVER HIDDEN FOR DECADES

Imagine if you could step back in time to hold in your hands the historic U.S. silver coins from a half century ago. How much would they be worth? Hundreds of millions of dollars of these precious coins were officially melted down by the government decades ago, until at last they were gone. Our coins today are nothing but copper, nickel and zinc. All surviving American silver coins are becoming more sought-after with each passing day.

Price of Silver on the Rise



Silver Trend Chart: Prices based on monthly averages. ©AMS, 2009.



Coins shown larger than actual size

CASH IN ON THE SILVER MARKET NOW

Today, demand for vintage U.S. silver coins is near all-time highs, with record-breaking prices. Dealers report one of the strongest coin markets since the 1970s! What's more, the price of silver itself is roaring upward, reaching prices not seen for years. Will it rocket past the \$50 per ounce mark it set in 1980? Time will tell, but thousands of savvy coin buyers are now stashing away old U.S. silver coins, anticipating a bright future.

ORDER TODAY BEFORE PRICES GO HIGHER

Our supply of historic U.S. silver coins is very limited and the supply continues to shrink. While there is no guarantee, we think these precious survivors are sure to be appreciated in years to come and will make a treasured gift or legacy for your children.

NOTICE: Due to recent increases in the price of silver, coins cannot be guaranteed at this special price, and the price is subject to change without notice. Supplies are limited, call now to avoid disappointment.

ORDER RISK FREE!

You must be 100% satisfied with your bag of silver coins or simply return it via insured mail within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (less s&h).

FREE MORGAN DOLLAR FOR FIRST 50 CALLERS

The first 50 callers will also receive this FREE authentic Pre-1922 Morgan Silver Dollar with each half pound of silver coins you order! CALL NOW!

ORDER MORE TO SAVE MORE Quarter Pound Bag U.S. Silver Coins \$99*

Half Pound Bag \$182* **SAVE \$16**
(Plus BONUS Morgan Silver Dollar!)

Full Pound Bag \$359* **SAVE \$37**
(Plus BONUS Two Morgan Silver Dollars!)

*Plus shipping and handling

TOLL-FREE 24 HOURS A DAY
1-888-201-7661

Offer Code MBS151
Please mention this code when you call.

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

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. MBS151
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

Prices and availability subject to change without notice.

Note: GovMint.com is a private distributor of worldwide government coin issues and is not affiliated with the United States Government. Facts and figures were deemed accurate as of May 2009. ©GovMint.com, 2009



The Lodge That Almost Wasn't

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT

If Indian Lodge—inside Davis Mountains State Park north of Big Bend National Park—seems remote today, imagine what it was like in 1933 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt dispatched two companies of Depression-era youths to carve a park and retreat out of donated acreage, including land in Keesey and Limpia canyons.

Skilled labor and materials shortages were endemic. What's more, bad planning soon earned Indian Lodge, just outside Fort Davis, a reputation as the white elephant of all the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) projects across the United States. Seventy-six years later, however, Indian Lodge is considered the crown jewel of the Texas parks system. It just goes to show that some great projects take a long time to prove themselves.

Indian Lodge, originally called Indian Village, is a romanticized adaptation of a pueblo village with Arts and Crafts architectural detailing by architects J.B. Roberts, Arthur Fehr and William Calhoun Caldwell. It has rounded, whitewashed adobe walls, flat roofs, myriad stair-stepped levels turning this way and that and small, shaded, semi-private terraces. The rooms are by no means luxurious, but Indian Lodge has the feel of a lost world in a valley at 5,200 feet elevation surrounded by foothills and desert flora and fauna.

The lodge was officially completed in 1935, not counting such major oversights as the lack of hot water and electricity and 17 leaking roofs that required closures and additional construction. These sobering details come from historian Lonn Taylor of Fort Davis, who delved into National Park Service (NPS) papers and issues of the Alpine Avalanche for details. A letter from NPS Inspector George Nason to his superior on March 23, 1935, confessed, "I am writing this letter so that you will know that this white elephant is practically ready for burial."

Nonetheless, Davis Mountains State Park and Indian Lodge were dedicated on July 4, 1935, with state legislators and other dignitaries in attendance. The less-than-reverential Alpine Avalanche quoted local resident Al Kensey as saying, "You sure ought to see that Indian Village just as quick as you can. It's liable to fall down if you wait too long."

The 400 minimally paid CCC workers (ages 17 to 25), who each earned \$30 a month, were largely country boys with little construction experience. The primary purpose of the project was to stimulate the economy and put people to work. The workers lived in tents as they built fireplaces and picnic tables and strenuously carved out a 5-mile scenic loop that parkgoers still relish today.

The youths no doubt had the muscle to supply hewn pine



CHASE FOUNTAIN, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

timbers and roof supports for the lodge, but the finer points of building were not their strong suit. As for the lack of a hot water system, the architects must be blamed. They simply had not designed one. According to a paper Taylor delivered to the Texas State Historical Association, "The first manager tried to explain the defect away by telling visitors that Indians did not take hot baths." Visitors did not find the answer satisfactory, so hot water pipes were installed in 1936.

Part of the problem was that the federal grant for the Indian Lodge project (which eventually swelled to more than \$50,000 because of cost overruns) was one of the first CCC grants, and the money arrived before a decent governing structure could be set up. It didn't help any that Miriam Amanda "Ma" Ferguson was governor (serving after her husband, James "Pa" Ferguson, was impeached for misapplication of public funds). The Fergusons were known more for political favoritism than for bureaucratic finesse.

Some of the more successful concepts of the Indian Lodge still grace the buildings today, such as the wooden doors and distinctive furniture made at a mill established by the CCC at Bastrop State Park in Central Texas. After a first round of early American-style furniture was rejected, architect Caldwell personally designed a second set with a Spanish Colonial Revival theme and hand-carved designs that may have been derived from Navajo rugs. Almost 200 pieces of the original furniture can be found in the 15 original rooms and the lobby area, both of which are now supplemented by 24 newer rooms, a swimming pool, a restaurant and a large assembly room.

For more information about Indian Lodge, call (432) 426-3254 or go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Kaye Northcott is editor of Texas Co-op Power.

The Peanut Sun-Times



November 2009 News from the Texas Peanut Producers Board



November is Peanut Butter Lovers Month!

Peanut butter has become a staple in Texas households and across America. Did you know it even had its own month?

November was named “National Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month” to celebrate each year the great taste and nutritional benefits of peanut butter. More peanuts are used to make peanut butter than any other peanut product.

To promote this tasty month, the Texas Peanut Producers Board will be sending peanut butter product baskets to TV weathermen across the state of Texas to encourage them to mention Peanut Butter Lovers’ Month on the air.

So, whether you eat peanut butter on a cracker, with bread and jelly, or by the spoon, be sure to enjoy America’s favorite snack during the month of November!

Peanut butter and autumn: The perfect combination

This fall season remember to use peanuts and peanut butter in all your autumn treats!

Peanuts and peanut butter make a great tasting and healthy addition to any fall snack. Peanut butter cookies, peanut caramel apples and peanut popcorn balls all make great tasting snacks for fall parties and holiday gatherings,

In this issue of the Peanut Sun-Times, we are sharing a couple of our favorite tasty fall treats with you in hopes that you will make peanuts a part of your autumn get-togethers.

While you’re enjoying America’s favorite snack this fall, peanut farmers in Texas will be completing the 2009 peanut harvest. Last year, Texas farmers produced over 860 million pounds of peanuts, making it the largest peanut crop in the state’s history!

To learn more about how peanuts are grown and how the Texas Peanut Producers Board is helping farmers produce great tasting peanuts, go to TexasPeanutBoard.com or follow the TPPB blog at TexasPeanutBoard.blogspot.com.



Recipe

Classic Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients: 1 cup unsalted butter, 1 cup crunchy peanut butter, 1 cup white sugar, 1 cup packed brown sugar, 2 eggs, 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda

Directions: Cream together butter, peanut butter and sugars. Beat in eggs. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir into batter. Put batter in refrigerator for one hour. Roll into one inch balls and put on baking sheets. Flatten each ball with a fork, making a criss-cross pattern. Bake in a preheated 375 degrees F oven for about 10 minutes or until cookies begin to brown. Do not over-bake.



Recipe

Peanut Caramel Apples

Ingredients: 1 cup butter, softened, 2 cups packed brown sugar, 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk, 1 cup light corn syrup, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1/2 cup chopped roasted peanuts, 10 Gala apples - peeled, cored and sliced, 1/2 cup butter, 3/4 cup packed brown sugar, 1/4 cup white sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg, 1/4 cup chopped peanuts

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Place 1 cup butter, 2 cups brown sugar, condensed milk, corn syrup, and vanilla extract in a pan over medium-high heat. Stirring constantly, bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat to medium, and continue to stir while mixture simmers for about 12 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in 1/2 cup peanuts. Place apples in a mixing bowl. Pour in the caramel sauce, and toss gently to coat apples. Pour into the prepared pan. To make the crumb topping, use a pastry blender or two forks to mix 1/2 cup butter with 3/4 cup brown sugar, white sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a mixing bowl until crumbly. Stir in 1/4 cup peanuts. Sprinkle over the top of the apples. Place baking dish on a cookie sheet to prevent spills while baking. Bake in preheated oven until top is crisped and apples can be pierced with a fork, about 45 minutes.



A Little This, a Little That

BY KEVIN HARGIS There's not a whole lot I like about winter—too cold and too gray for my sunny disposition. But there is at least one bright, warm spot in the season, and I can find it in my kitchen, specifically in a 2-gallon soup pot.

There's not much simpler or more satisfying than a warm broth on a cold evening. And with so many possibilities—different combinations of ingredi-

Try serving a winter stew in a bread bowl for a change of pace on a chilly, rainy day.



ents, spices and flavors—you could make a different soup every day until spring has sprung.

When I'm in a mood for a good winter soup, I often start with a peek in the refrigerator/freezer.

I'm what you might call a this 'n' that kind of cook. When I find an ingredient that I want to build a dish around, I'll toss it in the pot with a bit of this, then add a bit of that, and before you know it, dinner's ready. The biggest drawback to that kind of cooking, besides the occasional barely edible misfires, is that if I make something truly delicious, I sometimes have problems re-creating it. Thus, I've started taking notes when I'm cooking.

The this 'n' that method is how I concocted this stew, which pairs lamb—a meat that often gets overlooked—with root vegetables and fresh herbs.

LAMB AND ROOT VEGETABLE STEW

- 2 pounds lamb shoulder or roast, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium sweet yellow onions, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ cup white wine
- 2 cups water or chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 6 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 pound "A"-size red potatoes, quartered
- ½ teaspoon red pepper
- 1 teaspoon sea salt

Put lamb in large storage bag with flour and black pepper and shake to coat thoroughly. Heat olive oil in large soup pot on medium heat and cook lamb until pieces are lightly browned. Add onion and garlic and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Deglaze with wine. Transfer to slow cooker, add remaining ingredients and stir thoroughly. Cook on slow for 4-5 hours, or until carrots and potatoes are soft. Taste and adjust seasonings.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 527 calories, 34.2 g protein, 25.4 g fat, 34.8 g carbohydrates, 4.2 g fiber, 564 mg sodium, 102 mg cholesterol



MARY BRUCK ALLEN *Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

Prize-winning recipe: **Tomatillo Cilantro Chicken Soup**

Spicy, creamy and cheesy and full of chicken—that's the way we like our winter soups. A wide variety of recipes were submitted for this month's contest, featuring everything from mushroom and pumpkin cream soups to hearty beef and vegetable stews.

But it was the chicken-based soups that won the battle for the judges' taste buds, including the crème de la crème, a tortilla soup-like creation made zippy with the twang of tomatillos.

TOMATILLO CILANTRO CHICKEN SOUP

- 1/2 pounds tomatillos, husks removed
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1/4 cup minced garlic
- Salt to taste
- 2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) cream-style corn
- 1 tablespoon black pepper

Quarter tomatillos. Sauté onion in butter and add garlic and tomatillos. Cook until soft, then salt. Add broth, chicken breasts and cilantro and simmer 30 minutes. Remove chicken to plate to cool and continue to simmer soup for another 30 minutes. Chop chicken and add back to soup with creamed corn and pepper.

Serve with shredded cheese and tortilla chips, if desired.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 345 calories, 26.3 g protein, 13.3 g fat, 31.5 g carbohydrates, 3.7 g fiber, 100 mg sodium, 81 mg cholesterol

GREEN CHILE CHICKEN SOUP

- 1/2 stick butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups chopped yellow onions
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup mild salsa
- 2 cans (4 1/2 ounces each) chopped green chilies
- 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons crushed red pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups chopped fresh tomatoes
- 2 cans (8 ounces each) whole kernel corn (drained)

- 4 cups (about 2 pounds) diced or shredded cooked chicken
- 4 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded American or Cheddar cheese

Combine butter and olive oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions, carrots, celery and garlic and sauté 4 minutes. Stir often. Add flour and stir well 1 minute. Add salsa, green chilies, cumin and red pepper. Stir until a thick paste forms. Add chicken broth, tomatoes and corn. Stir well, scraping sides and bottom of pan to loosen all the flour. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and add chicken. Cook 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Warm cream in microwave or on stovetop, then add to soup along with cilantro. Bring back to a simmer. Add cheese, remove pan from heat and stir until cheese is melted. Serve immediately.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 589 calories, 23.5 g protein, 43.4 g fat, 24.3 g carbohydrates, 3.2 g fiber, 830 mg sodium, 177 mg cholesterol

B. J. WILLIS

Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative

COCONUT-GINGER CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

- 2 chicken breasts
- 2 teaspoons coarse ground sea salt
- 1 2-inch piece ginger root, peeled
- 5 medium carrots, diced
- 1/4 cup onion, thinly sliced
- 1 can coconut milk
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 1 tablespoon sweet basil
- 8 ounces fettuccini (use brown rice pasta for gluten-free soup)

Place first five ingredients in Crock-Pot along with two quarts water and cook overnight on low setting.

In the morning, remove ginger root and discard. Remove chicken breasts

and cut into small pieces and return to pot, then add coconut milk, frozen peas and sweet basil. Taste for seasoning and add more salt, if needed. After one to two more hours, break fettuccini into 1-inch pieces and add to soup. Cook until noodles are done.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 367 calories, 26.2 g protein, 9 g fat, 43.6 g carbohydrates, 4.4 g fiber, 899 mg sodium, 45 mg cholesterol

CYNTHIA HAWKINS

Farmers Electric Cooperative

SLOW COOKER POZOLE

- 1 medium chile negra, rehydrated
- 2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
- 3/4 pound pork tenderloin
- 3/4 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast
- 2 cups onion, chopped
- 1 medium bay leaf
- 3/4 tablespoon Mexican oregano
- 3/4 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 1/2 teaspoons crushed garlic
- 1 can (4 1/2 ounces) green chiles
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) beef broth
- 1 can (15 ounces) white hominy (pozole)
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) yellow hominy
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Puree rehydrated chile with about half of chicken broth. Scrape into 5-quart Crock-Pot and add remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours or on high for 4-5 hours.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 165 calories, 22.8 g protein, 2.6 g fat, 11.7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 573 mg sodium, 52 mg cholesterol

DANA B. NORMAN

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

Go Low and Slow If you have time in the morning before you head to work, why not slow-cook a soup or stew in a Crock-Pot? Stewing at the low setting on a slow cooker for several hours is safer and more energy efficient than leaving a soup to simmer on the stove.

If you don't want your soup to cook for eight hours, you can invest in a slow cooker with a delay timer or an auto-off setting.

SEMOLINA BREAD BOWLS

- 1 cup semolina flour
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2¼ teaspoons (one packet) instant or fast-acting yeast
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt

Combine dry ingredients in bowl and add 1½ cups warm water (about 110 degrees). Using the bread hook attachment of a mixer or your hands, knead dough until all bits of dry ingredients are incorporated and mixture becomes soft, smooth and elastic. Cover dough in bowl with dish towel and put in warm place to rise, about 1 to 1½ hours, or until dough has about doubled in size.

Divide dough in three pieces and shape into round loaves, but don't flatten. Place on a baking sheet that's been lightly greased or lined with parchment paper at least 4 inches apart (dough will spread). Cover with a light cloth and allow to rise another hour and a half or until dough balls have doubled in size.

Uncover balls and expose to air for about 10 to 15 minutes so outer crust will toughen. With about 5 minutes left in this process, preheat oven to 425 degrees. When oven is hot, heavily mist loaves with water. Bake for about 20 minutes or until loaves turn golden brown. Turn oven off and crack door open for about 15 minutes before removing to rack to finish cooling.

When ready to serve soup, cut a round out of the top of the bowl, remove

some of the soft bread inside and freeze in a plastic bag to use later when a recipe calls for breadcrumbs.

COOK'S TIP To measure water temperature to 110 degrees without a thermometer, test with your wrist. It should feel just warm to the touch, but not hot.

Past recipes are available in the Recipes Archive at www.texascoopower.com.

RECIPE CONTEST

March's recipe contest topic is **Green Cooking**. Slow cookers and toaster ovens are great ways to reduce energy use in the kitchen. So is choosing foods that require less preparation or cooking time. Send your recipes and tips for cooking green. The deadline is November 10.

Send recipes to Home Cooking, 1122 Colorado, 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You may also fax them to (512) 763-3408, e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org, or submit online at www.texascoopower.com. Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The top winner will receive a copy of 60 Years of Home Cooking and a Texas-shaped trivet. Runners-up will also receive a prize.



Hockley, TX
(888) 869-6202

Liberty, TX
(888) 502-1888

Beaumont, TX
(877) 301-0111



The Low-Price Leader Year After Year.
Over 100 Customized Tractor Packages Available
www.tractorpackages.com

5045D Tractor & Loader Package
\$18,699 or \$299/mo**



\$0 DOWN!

- 5045D 45HP, 2WD Utility Tractor
- 512 Loader

3032E Tractor & Loader Package **\$15,499**
\$0 DOWN!
• 3032E 32HP, 4WD,
Hydro Transmission Tractor
• 305 Loader
\$215/mo**

WE DELIVER NATIONWIDE

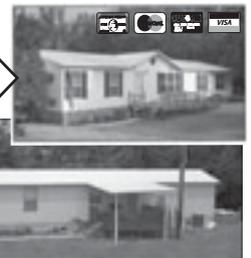


*Offer ends 12/31/2009. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installment Plan. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price and model availability vary by dealer. Price, payment and financing subject to change without notice. **Example: based on a purchase of \$18,699 with \$0 down payment, monthly payment of \$299 at 4.9% APR for 72 months. #Example: based on a purchase of \$15,499 with \$0 down payment, monthly payment of \$215 at 4.9% APR for 84 months. Manufacturer's estimate of power (ISO) per 97/68/ED. All attachments and/or implements included in offers are John Deere and/or Frontier branded. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.

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

Are you tired of dealing with...

- ✓ Stress
- ✓ Fibromyalgia
- ✓ Joint Pain
- ✓ Constipation
- ✓ Back Pain
- ✓ High Blood Pressure
- ✓ Restless Legs Syndrome
- ✓ Poor Circulation
- ✓ Obesity
- ✓ Edema
- ✓ Insomnia
- ✓ Neuropathy
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Arthritis



Finally, improve the way you feel with minimum effort!

The Exerciser 2000 Elite® is a passive exercise machine capable of providing positive results to the complex human body. It does not take up a great deal of space and is low maintenance. Operating the machine is simple... just lie down and relax. The machine creates a gentle, right to left movement, which cycles up through the whole body.

Receive some of the benefits of aerobic exercise without stress or impact on the joints!

Tone muscles

Relieve stiffness from head to toe

Increase mobility

Energize the body

Increase circulation throughout the body

There are numerous factors to consider when purchasing this type of machine. **The Exerciser 2000 Elite®** does not fall into the lower priced category, as it is built for long term use and is not a typical consumer, throw-away product. It is designed for Western physiques using the latest technology and manufacturing procedures.

The Exerciser 2000 Elite® comes with a standard **4 year parts and 2 years labor warranty!** It will provide many years of in-home therapy, as well as peace of mind knowing you own the highest quality machine available. In addition, your machine is backed by our **90 day no risk money back guarantee.** If you are not completely satisfied, you can return the machine for a full refund.

For additional information and **testimonies** from our satisfied customers visit

www.exerciser2000.com

You deserve to feel better!

People of all ages, with a wide variety of health issues, are using the **Exerciser 2000 Elite®** on a daily basis and receiving wonderful results.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$349.95 and FREE shipping in the lower 48 states. **Use code C500** when ordering. Offer expires 12-31-09. *Save on reconditioned units when available.*



Clark ENTERPRISES 2000 INC
The helping people feel better company

240 Berg Road, Salina, KS 67401

1-800-748-7172



LONESTAR MARKET

TOWN & COUNTRY

W.D. Metal Buildings



Instant Quotes Online www.wdmb.com

M&W BUILDERS
CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

BARNs • SHOPS • GARAGES
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
FOR FREE ESTIMATES CALL
1-800-457-2088

OCEAN FREIGHT CONTAINER SALES

SECURE STORAGE
Water-Tight/Rodent Proof

LARRY SINGLEY
CALL **1-866-992-9122**
CALL (817) 992-9122



WC POLE BARNs
14 years experience

30 x 50 x 10 galvalume metal \$7,200
price includes 12' sliding door and
one entry door and 10 year warranty

866-757-6561

**MID - AMERICA
POLE BARN COMPANY**

30X50X10 SPECIAL
Galvalume. Material, Delivery, and const.
Factory trusses and screws.

TOLL FREE 1-866-456-0959

BRUSH SHARK

Skid Steer mounted shear.
1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon,
mesquite.

512-422-7950 • www.brushshark.com



USED CONTAINERS

Equipment
Storage
Service

1-866-377-2289
Selling for Less at ESS for over 20 years!

America's Oldest & Largest Rare Breed Hatchery.
Free Color Catalog. Over 140 varieties of Baby Chicks,
Bantams, Turkeys, Guineas, Peafowl, Game Birds, Waterfowl.
Also Eggs, Incubators, Books, Equipment and Medications.

Call **1-800-456-3280** (24 Hours A Day)
Murray McMurray Hatchery
C 122, Webster City, Iowa 50595-0458
Website: <http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com>



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 • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.




AMERISTALL



* MAINTENANCE FREE GALVANIZED STEEL FRAMING
*26 GAUGE 40 YEAR WARRANTY ROOF, WALL, & TRIM
* HORSE BARN KITS, STALLS, & STALL COMPONENTS

888.234.BARN(2276)
www.horsebarnsonline.com

ROB-BILT
THE POLE BARN PROFESSIONALS

American-Made 29 ga. Metal
Includes Labor & Material
Turn Key • Satisfaction Guaranteed

SPECIAL - \$8,115
30x50x10 FULLY ENCLOSED
Galvalume • Colors available at additional cost
One sliding door • One walk-in door • Metal is screwed

1-800-245-9325 • www.rob-bilt.com
Covered by Workmen's Compensation

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



**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.

Attractive and Affordable
greenhouses

- FREE delivery on all greenhouses!

Large variety of sizes and styles.
Full-length hanging rods and built-in bench frames.



The Greenhouse Catalog
3740 TX Brooklake Rd NE
Salem, OR 97303
www.greenhousecatalog.com/tx

FREE sample and catalog, call...
1-800-825-1925

"Building Solutions" ...with integrity!

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY
NATIONAL ACCREDITED MEMBER NABA

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

nationalbarn.com



GET IN & OUT OF THE CAR WITH EASE

360° SWIVEL CUSHION
Only **\$1248**

SAVE 50%
OFF CATALOG PRICE



Memory Foam

FREE SHIPPING!



Easy Entry Or Exit

Swivels 360°

Helps To Reduce Pain On:
•Back •Hips •Knees •Neck



WITH



WITHOUT

Dept. 62141 ©2009 Dream Products, Inc.

Order Toll Free 1-800-530-2689

www.DreamProductsCatalog.com web offers may vary

No More Painful Twisting!

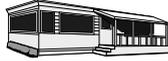
Stop working so hard to get in & out of the car! Let this handy swivel seat do all the work for you. Soft comfortable cushion with memory foam swivels a full 360° and conforms to any car seat eliminating unsteady or painful entry or exit. Ideal for those with stiffness or pain in back, hips or knees. 15½" diameter and includes non-slip base. Hurry, order today and get **FREE shipping!**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

360° SWIVEL CUSHION		Dept. 62142
(98316)	_____ 360° Swivel Cushion @ \$12.48	\$ _____
	CA residents must add 8.25% sales tax	\$ _____
	FREE Shipping	\$FREE
	Add \$2.00 Handling	\$ 2.00
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	TOTAL	\$ _____
SEND ORDER TO: Dream Products, Inc.		
412 DREAM LANE, VAN NUYS, CA 91496		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check or money order payable to: Dream Products, Inc. Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS™ Cards Card# _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____		Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

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



CIRCLE T BARN BUILDERS

QUALITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS
 DELIVERED AND ERECTED ON YOUR PROPERTY
 • CALL 1-888-837-0638 •
 25 YRS. EXPERIENCE

SPEARS BARN COMPANY SPECIAL

30x50x10 Galavume
\$7995.00 Delivered and Built
 WWW.SPEARSBARNS.CO.COM
877-371-3501
 *Price May Vary Due to Location & Building Codes

Accessible Buildings Co.

EASY BOLT-UP CONSTRUCTION
 SAVE! BUILD YOURSELF!
 40' x 50' x 10' = \$9810.00
 40' x 60' x 12' = \$11,757.00
 50' x 100' x 12' = \$19,453.00
 60' x 80' x 14' = \$19,907.00
 100' x 150' x 14' (M-1) = \$55,649.00
 ALL SIZES MINI-STORAGE!
 COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL SHOP • FARM
 CALL TODAY FOR BUILDING QUOTE!

1-800-509-4949
 www.accessiblebuildings.com

Buildings That Work For You

You work hard, so should your metal building. Call Heritage today.

Size	*Price
24x36x10	\$ 4,357
33x45x10	\$ 5,919
45x60x12	\$ 9,439
54x80x14	\$14,197

*Prices vary based on codes, loads and accessories.

HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS
 Established 1979

1.800.643.5555 | HeritageBuildings.com

Diamond H Construction



POST FRAME BUILDING SPECIALIST

877-301-3807
 gotbarns.com

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

legally forgiven on appreciated assets (real estate, stocks, annuities, family business) without having to do a 1031 exchange.
Hoffman Assoc.
 Call 1-866-500-8600

ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10'	\$6,990
40' x 60' x 12'	\$10,289
50' x 75' x 14'	\$15,115
80' x 120' x 16 (M-1)	\$35,570
Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units	\$11,610

1.877.657.8335

www.advantagesteelbuildings.com



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'	\$7,395
40' x 60' x 12'	\$10,195
60' x 100' x 12'	\$19,950
80' x 100' x 14'	\$26,995
100' x 150' x 14'	\$49,995

Arena Special
 (roof & frame)
 100' x 100' x 14'...\$28,995

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

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE™ Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power
 2. Publication Number
0540-560
 3. Filing Date
October 1, 2009
 4. Issue Frequency
Monthly
 5. Number of Issues Published Annually
Twelve
 6. Annual Subscription Price
\$7.50
 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167
 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167
 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
Publisher
Texas Electric Cooperatives, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Texas 78701-2167
Editor
Kaye Northcott, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701
Managing Editor
Carol Moczygemba, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701
 10. Owner
Full Name
Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is a nonprofit association of rural electric cooperatives organized as a cooperative membership corporation under Article 1528b, Texas Civil Statutes. Its members are: Bailey County Electric Cooperative Association, Muleshoe; Bandera Electric Cooperative, Bandera; Bartlett Electric Cooperative, Bartlett; Big County Electric Cooperative, Roby; Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Giddings; Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, Douglassville; Brazos Electric Cooperative, Waco; Bryan Texas Utilities, Bryan; Central Texas Electric Cooperative, Fredericksburg; Cherokee County Electric Cooperative Association, Rusk; Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Coleman; Comanche County Electric Cooperative Association, Comanche; Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, San Angelo; Cooke County Electric Cooperative Association, Muenster; CoServ Electric Cooperative, Corinth; Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Hereford; Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, San Augustine; East Texas Electric Cooperative, Nacogdoches; Fannin County Electric Cooperative, Bonham; Farmers Electric Cooperative, Greenville; Fayette Electric Cooperative, LaGrange; Fort Belknap Electric Cooperative, Olney; Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Amarillo; Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, Van Alstyne; Greenbelt Electric Cooperative, Wellington; Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Gonzales; Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association, Hamilton; Harmon Electric Association, Hollis, Oklahoma; Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, McGregor; HILCO Electric Cooperative, Itasca; Houston County Electric Cooperative, Crockett; J-A-C Electric Cooperative, Bluegrove; Jackson Electric Cooperative, Edna; Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Kirbyville; Karnes Electric Cooperative, Karnes City; Lamar County Electric Cooperative Association, Paris; Lamb County Electric Cooperative, Littlefield; Lea County Electric Cooperative, Lovington, New Mexico; Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, Floydada; Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin; Lyntegar Electric Cooperative, Tahoka; Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Mercedes; Medina Electric Cooperative, Hondo; Mid-South Synergy, Navasota; Navarro County Electric Cooperative, Corsicana; Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative, Franklin; North Plains Electric Cooperative, Perryton; Northeast Texas Electric Cooperative, Longview; Nueces Electric Cooperative, Robstown; Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Marshall; Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Johnson City; Rayburn County Electric Cooperative, Rockwall; Rita Blanca Electric Cooperative, Dalhart; Rusk County Electric Cooperative, Henderson; Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Livingston; Sam Rayburn Dam G&T Electric Cooperative, Nacogdoches; San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Bellville; San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Jourdanont; San Patricio Electric Cooperative, Sinton; South Plains Electric Cooperative, Lubbock; South Texas Electric Cooperative, Victoria; Southwest Rural Electric Association, Tipton, Oklahoma; Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Eldorado; Swisher Electric Cooperative, Tulia; Taylor Electric Cooperative, Merkel; Tex-La Electric Cooperative of Texas, Nacogdoches; Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Azle; Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, Kaufman; United Cooperative Services, Cleburne; Upshur-Rural Electric Cooperative, Gilmer; Victoria Electric Cooperative Company, Victoria; Wharton County Electric Cooperative, El Campo; Wise Electric Cooperative, Decatur; Wood County Electric Cooperative, Quitman.
 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders None
 12. Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 13. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power
 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
October 1, 2009
 15. Average No. Copies Each Issue
Actual No. Copies of Single Issue
- | Issue | Extent and Nature of Circulation | During Preceding 12 Months | Published Nearest to Filing Date |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Total Number of Copies | | 1,204,542 | 1,205,217 |
| b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation | (1) Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions
(2-4) In County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other mailed | 1,186,680 | 1,196,795 |
| c. Total Paid and/or Requested | | 1,186,680 | 1,196,795 |
| d. Free Distribution by Mail | (1) Outside County
(2-3) In County and other | 3,907 | 3,055 |
| e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail | | none | none |
| f. Total Free Distribution | | 3,907 | 3,055 |
| g. Total Distribution | | 1,190,587 | 1,199,850 |
| h. Copies not Distributed | | 13,955 | 5,367 |
| i. Total | | 1,204,542 | 1,205,217 |
| Percent Paid and/or Requested | | 99.67% | 99.75% |
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2009 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date

Carol Moczygemba, Executive Editor October 1, 2009

A&C BARN BUILDERS INC.



Over 4,500 Barns Built Across The US
Specializing in Post Frame & Red Iron Buildings

• **800-889-1096** •
www.aandcbuilders.com

BEST BUY **Bathe Safely & Independently!**
WALK IN BATH TUBS



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

www.bestbuywalkintubs.com/tx

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

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

WIN THE BRUSH WAR WITH



TREE TERMINATOR

- 3 models cut 20", 12" and 5" trees in one bite
- Hitches to fit most tractors and skid steer loaders
- Built to last with a 24 month warranty
- Swivel hitch, sprayer and grapple options

For a free color brochure call or visit our website
(417) 458-4350 • www.treeterminator.com
Grace Manufacturing • Plato, MO

LOWEST COST
Term Life Insurance
Issue ages through 90

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
45	12.78	22.75
55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users

BRANDON RAMLET
(888) 250-5054
TALIC FORM NO. 1-32207-198

When the country calls



We're the answer. 

*Buy a homesite.
Build a house.
Add more space.*

Let Capital Farm Credit help finance your dreams.
We also share our earnings — we've returned more than \$265 million to our customers.

FINANCING FOR: Rural Land • Country Homes
Farms & Ranches • Livestock & Equipment • Operating Capital

 Part of the Farm Credit System **CapitalFarmCredit.com 877-944-5500**

TEXAS' LARGEST RURAL LENDER 



"We wanted the best value possible for our roof. **Mueller was the top choice.**"

Why is a Mueller metal roof a better value than conventional roofs? First, it lasts decades longer than most roofs – with practically no maintenance. Second, it can save you up to 35 percent on your home insurance. And third, it can help you lower your electricity bills. Add it all up, and a Mueller metal roof is the right answer. Call us today, or drop by one of our 27 locations across the Southwest.

www.MuellerInc.com
online color selector

877-2-MUELLER
(877-268-3553)





DAREDEVILS

CAUTION: These photos are not for the faint of heart! Plenty of you out there delight in all kinds of different thrills ... and a few spills! Thanks for sharing your heart-stopping adventures with us. —ASHLEY CLARY

◀ Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative member **Jessika Haworth** sent us this photo of her son **Elliott Sunshine** at the Pioneer Days Festival in New Boston. “No matter how big or small you are, there’s always room for daring fun in Texas,” she says.



▲ South Plains Electric Cooperative member **Don Carpenter** sent us this photo he took of **Chase Butler**, a competitor giving it his all at Rip Tide’s annual wakeboard competition at Buffalo Springs Lake in Lubbock.

▶ The aptly named **Skye**, a West Highland terrier owned by Central Texas Electric Cooperative members **Ray** and **Mary Ellen Walls**, is a daredevil when it comes to chasing squirrels up trees. “A fence had to be erected around this live oak when she fell about 15 feet to the ground,” says Mary Ellen.

Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Jan	Snow Daze	Nov 10
Feb	Firsts	Dec 10
Mar	Backyard Gardens	Jan 10
Apr	Barnyard Babies	Feb 10
May	Farmers Bounty	Mar 10
June	Only in Texas	Apr 10

SNOW DAZE is the topic for our **JANUARY 2010** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Snow Daze, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St. 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before **NOVEMBER 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, or submit them on our website at www.texascooppower.com.



▲ This is what **Dalton Wharton** (jumping) and his friends **Ben Patty** (lying down) and **Preston Wenger** (holding sign) decided was the best cure for boredom at a garage sale in Buda. Dalton’s parents, **Becky** and **Bert Wharton**, are members of Pedernales Electric Cooperative.



Kara Kleimann sent us this shot of family friend **Cody Valenta** ▲ executing a daring back flip from a rock cliff into the Medina River. The Kleimann and Valenta families are both members of San Bernard Electric Cooperative.

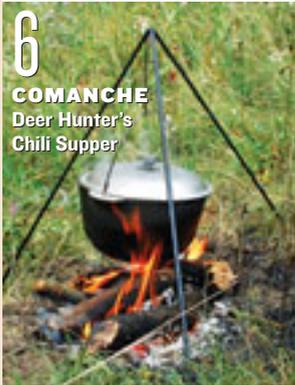


AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

NOVEMBER

6

COMANCHE
Deer Hunter's
Chili Supper



02

WALBURG
Wurstbraten, (512) 863-3065, www.zionwalburg.org

05

ROCKPORT [5-8]
Film Festival, (361) 729-5519, www.rockportfilmfest.com

06

COMANCHE
Deer Hunter's Chili Supper, (325) 356-3233

06

GRANITE SHOALS
Veterans Parade & Celebration, (830) 598-6971

UVALDE
Hunter's Roundup, (830) 278-3361, www.uvalde.org

INDEPENDENCE [6-8]
Festival of Roses, (979) 836-5548, www.weareroses.com

07

BLOOMBURG
Cullen Baker Country Fair, (903) 728-5597, www.cullenbakercountryfair.com

DRIPPING SPRINGS
Community Art Festival, (512) 858-9758

NEEDVILLE
Prairie Heritage Day, (281) 346-0099, www.coastalprairie.org

UTOPIA
Fall Fair, (830) 966-4224, www.utopiatexas.net

07

ANGLETON [7-8]
Austin Town, (979) 864-1208, www.bchm.org

BERGHEIM [7-8]
Arts & Crafts Holiday Open House, (830) 229-5573, www.olgamereditth.com

WINNSBORO [7-8]
Fine Art Market, (903) 342-3438, www.winnsboroart.com

PLANTERSVILLE [7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29]
Texas Renaissance Festival, 1-800-458-3435, www.texrenfest.com

14

DEER PARK
St. Hyacinth Arts & Crafts Show, (281) 479-4065

GOLIAD
Market Days, (361) 645-3563, www.goliadcc.org

HONDO
Wild Game Dinner, (830) 426-3037, www.hondochamber.com

14

PIPE CREEK
Harvest Festival, (830) 510-6131, www.pipecreekchristianschool.org

WINNSBORO
Christmas in the Park, (903) 342-5446

BROWNWOOD [14-15]
Rotary Club Arts & Crafts Festival, (325) 646-9535, www.brownwoodchamber.org



7

PLANTERSVILLE
Texas Renaissance Festival

Texas Renaissance Festival

Saturdays, Sundays and Thanksgiving Friday

October 10th - November 29th

Special Discount Tickets

Adult \$19.00 Child (11-12) \$9.00 (4 and under are free)

Tickets at the gate - Adult \$23.00 Child \$11.00

Discount Tickets available at

HEB, WENDYS, RANDALLS, MARKET SANDEE

www.texasrenfest.com

The Highland

United-Bilt Homes EST. 1958

IN-HOUSE FINANCING!

For qualified land owners, our no-fuss financing makes it *easy* to own a new custom-built home!

We offer **ZERO down, 100% financing, and no payments for 6 months.**

And we build every home from scratch, using the finest materials and craftsmanship.

You're practically home free!

Austin
Beaumont
Cleveland
Corpus Christi
Dallas

Fort Worth
Houston
Rosenberg
San Antonio

Sherman
Terrell
Texarkana
Tyler

* With approved credit for qualified land owners

800.756.2506 ubh.com

United-Bilt Homes
Homemade just for you.®

AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS



17

GOLIAD
Missions Tour de Goliad Bike Ride

17

ABILENE
Festival of Trees,
(325) 676-6211

GOLIAD
Missions Tour de Goliad
Bike Ride, (361) 645-3563,
www.goliadcc.org

18

ATHENS [18-20]
Cutting Horse Futurity
Work, (903) 677-6354

20

MILAM [20-21]
Settlers Day,
(409) 625-4876

20

MOUNT PLEASANT [20-21]
Deck the Halls,
(903) 572-8567,
www.mtleasanttx.com

21

ANDICE
Arts & Crafts Show,
(254) 793-2565

ANSON
3rd Saturday Musical,
(325) 823-2013

KERRVILLE
Holiday Lighted Parade,
(830) 792-8395,
www.kerrville.org

BRENNHAM [21-22]
Poinsettia Celebration,
(979) 836-6011,
www.ellisonsgreenhouses.com

27

LEDBETTER [27-28]
VFD Christmas Lane of
Lights, (979) 249-5227

ELM MOTT [27-29]
Homestead Craft Fair,
(254) 754-9681,
www.homesteadcraftfair.com



28

LEXINGTON
Christmas Bazaar

27

FREDERICKSBURG [27-29]
Peddler Show,
(830) 997-6523

28

ANDERSON
Holiday in Historic
Anderson,
(936) 825-6600

LEXINGTON
Christmas Bazaar,
(979) 773-4620

MASON
Tannenbaum Arts & Crafts
Show, (325) 347-5151

NACOGDOCHES
Wassail Festival,
1-888-653-3788,
www.nineflagsfestival.com

DECEMBER

01

ABILENE
City Sidewalks,
(325) 676-6211

03

JACKSONVILLE
Christmas Parade,
(903) 586-2217

04

LOCKHART
Lighted Christmas
Parade, (512) 398-2818,
www.lockhartchamber.com

To view our complete list of events, please go to www.texascoopower.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, or submitted on our website at www.texascoopower.com. Please submit events for January by November 10.



Sprinkle your holidays with plenty of **Gemütlichkeit**.

NEW THIS YEAR!
Visit our new handcrafted 26' tall Christmas Pyramid at Marktplatz—a German tradition brought to Fredericksburg.

Gemütlichkeit is German for cozy, comfortable, warm, inviting and hospitable. And that's the perfect way to describe the holidays around here. Come and enjoy our many charming German Christmas traditions — with a colorful Texas accent. Call for a free *Christmas Holiday Guide* listing holiday events in Fredericksburg through December 31st or visit our website for a downloadable calendar.

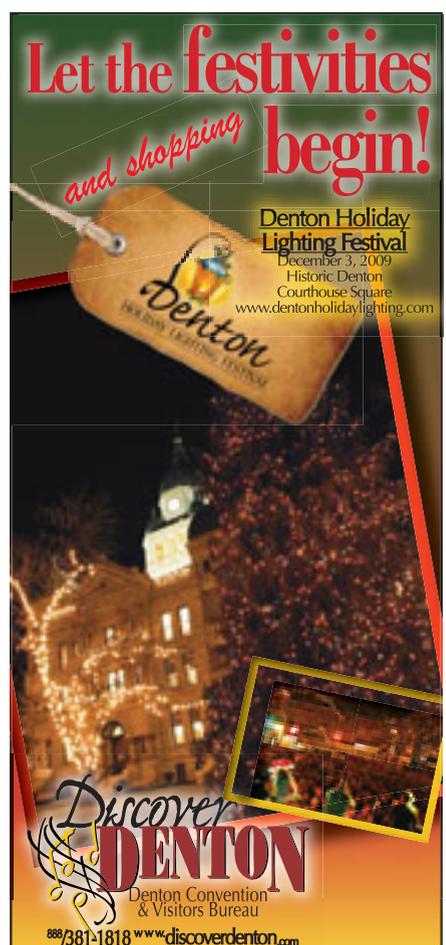
FREDERICKSBURG
in the Texas Hill Country!
German heritage. Texan hospitality.

Toll free 1-866-997-3600
www.FredTexLodging.com
Visitor Information Center
302 E. Austin
(Downtown Fredericksburg)

Let the festivities
and shopping begin!

Denton Holiday
Lighting Festival

December 3, 2009
Historic Denton
Courthouse Square
www.dentonholidaylighting.com



Discover
DENTON
Denton Convention
& Visitors Bureau
888/381-1818 www.discoverdenton.com

Alice and Edinburg, county seats about 100 miles apart on U.S. Highway 281, contrast the changes that can reshape South Texas towns over the span of 100 years. The almost arrow-straight highway between the cities takes you south from Alice and the slightly rolling terrain of Jim Wells County in brush country, to Hidalgo County and the flat-as-a-tortilla semitropics of the Rio Grande Valley, lush with citrus and palms.

ALICE

In 1888, Alice became known as the world's busiest cattle shipping point, thanks to its position astride a major railroad junction. For almost a decade, lines of cattle stretched into the distance waiting to be loaded onto rail cars in the town named after cattleman Richard King's daughter, according to Joyce Dunn of the **SOUTH TEXAS MUSEUM**. The museum, a handsome limestone building that once served as headquarters for a ranch, displays prized saddles and the longhorns of lead steers on cattle drives, as well as wonderful oddities such as antique hair curling irons and horse collars woven of corn shucks. Nearby, the oil strikes that revitalized Alice in the 1930s are commemorated with a 1926 oil derrick relocated to the middle of town.

A block from the museum sits the former **TEXAS STATE BANK** building where the notorious stuffed ballot box from Precinct 13 was discovered in 1948, giving Lyndon B. Johnson his U.S. Senate seat by a narrow margin. You won't find a marker, but older residents readily gossip about the incident. Next, check out the recently expanded **THIRD COAST SQUADRON MUSEUM**. All the museum's aircraft and equipment displays relate to Coastal Bend veterans. The museum offers great maps, photos, flying gear and a flight trainer in which visitors may sit.

Alice Chamber of Commerce, (361) 664-3454, www.alicetx.org

FALFURRIAS

From Alice, head south on U.S. Highway 281 about 36 miles to reach Falfurrias, the Brooks County seat once famous for its dairy herds and butter.

ALICE to EDINBURG

From rich, spicy history—and food—to wildlife viewing, this trip serves up a little of everything.

BY EILEEN MATTEI



Just north of town, turn east on FM 1418. Here, a simple shrine to **DON PEDRITO JARAMILLO**, a noted faith healer, or curandero, who died in 1907, still draws applicants.

Also just north of town is **THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE**, where the three Minten sisters keep the spirit of Christmas ringing out in their decked-out home that's open for tours from late September through the end of March by reservation only. The adjoining **SANTA'S TEXAS WORKSHOP** stocks some of the fabulous decorations. It is open year-round by appointment for shopping.

Cruise on south past old ranches. At

Linn/San Manuel, about 47 miles south of Falfurrias, turn southeast off U.S. Highway 281 and go four miles on Texas Highway 186 to the amazing **LA SAL DE REY** tract of the **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**. From the kiosk, an easy one-mile walk brings you to the glittering white salt lake, La Sal de Rey. Long a salt source for Native Americans and ranchers, this shallow lake attracts javelina, deer and a wide variety of birds.

Falfurrias Chamber of Commerce, (361) 325-3333

The Christmas House, 1-800-276-4339

EDINBURG

About 18 miles south of Falfurrias is Edinburg, home of the **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN**. The city bustles with cafés, exhibitions of art, dance and theater and 17,000 college students. Nearby McAllen's population has overflowed into Edinburg, making it a boomtown. **THE MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY**, which features Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, immerses visitors in the borderlands heritage, including from the Mexican colonial and riverboat eras. Exhibits cover the prehistoric through the 20th century. The addition of old cowboy ballads to the Cattle Kingdom exhibit emphasizes ranch life's solitude and makes one feel a bit lonesome.

Forget about being lonesome across town at the **EDINBURG SCENIC WETLANDS AND WORLD BIRDING CENTER**. Waterside trees are dotted with migrating and semitropical birds, including herons, while many species of ducks paddle the two ponds and dragonflies zip through the wetlands. The native plant gardens are covered by a froth of hundreds of butterflies. Two miles of walking trails yield lots of watchable wildlife.

On Saturday nights, there's barrel racing and horse speed events, such as pole bending, at the **SHERIFF'S POSSE ARENA**, a free facility.

Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-800-7214, www.edinburg.com

Eileen Mattei wrote about the Brownsville Gladys Porter Zoo in the July 2009 issue of Texas Co-op Power.



AUTHORIZED RETAILER

START SAVING TODAY!

REGULAR PRICE
~~\$34.99~~

\$19.99

A Month
FOR 12 MONTHS

LOCK IN
YOUR SAVINGS
FOR A YEAR

NOW OVER 120 CHANNELS

FREE



8 Channels for 3 mo.



10 Channels for 3 mo.



5 Channels

One YEAR
One CENT

FREE

(4) ROOM
INSTALLATION

- No Equipment to buy
- Installation within 24 hours in most areas



FREE

HD-DVR UPGRADE

- Record 2 Different Shows on 2 Different TV's
- Pause and Rewind Live TV
- Skip Recorded Commercials



Best HD-DVR Available

Madagascar:
Escape 2 Africa™ on
HBO



FIRST TIME AVAILABLE



- See every play within the 20 yard line
- Every Touchdown From Every Game

Call Today 1.877.291.4904

Se Habla Español
www.infinityDISH.com

RESPOND BY: 11/30/09

Open 7 days a week Monday - Saturday 8:00 am - 12 Midnight EST • Sunday 10:00 am - 10 pm EST • Offer only good to new DISH subscribers

Digital Home Advantage offer requires 24-month commitment and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of commitment, a cancellation fee of \$15/month remaining will apply. Programming credits will apply during the first 12 months. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network® upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limit 4 leased tuners per account; lease upgrade fees will apply for select receivers; monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. All prices, packages, and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels only available in certain areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions and fees may apply. First-time DISH Network® customers only. Offer ends 1/31/10. HBO/Showtime: Programming credits will apply during the first 3 months. Customer must downgrade or then-current price will apply. Cinemax: Requires enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS company. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Please see www.InfinityDish.com for terms, conditions and privacy policy.



A Big Part of Texas

On game day, Germania Insurance understands what matters most to Texans. We're cheering right along side of our policyholders because we're part of the same community. Win or lose, we're in it together!

Germania is no ordinary insurance company. We've been insuring Texans for over 110 years. From El Paso to Texarkana and McAllen to Amarillo, we have agents all across the Lone Star State that understand the needs of our neighbors and the communities in which we live. For their home and their automobile and even their families, Texans look to Germania Insurance to be there when they need us most. We have competitive rates, discount options and exceptional claims service, 24/7.

Contact us today to find an agent near you and discover for yourself why Germania is

The Insurance Texans Trust.



HOME • AUTO • LIFE

www.GermaniaInsurance.com

1-800-392-2202