

TEXAS COOP POWER

**GIVING THANKS
for FOOD BANKS**



THE EASY WAY TO PLANT A GREENHOUSE IN YOUR YARD.



Here's an idea that'll grow on you: the new Greenhouse Kit from Mueller. It's the easy, affordable way to indulge your love for flowers and plants.

The kit features:

- A sturdy, galvanized steel frame
- Durable polycarbonate panels
- Ventilation windows and lockable door
- Easy Bolt-Together design

Just another reason why Mueller is the natural choice.

\$1995 for the 9'x12' version shown.
Also available in 6'x9' and 12'x15' sizes.

Prices subject to change without notice.
Note: These greenhouses are not engineered.
Check local building codes before ordering.



877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553) • www.MuellerInc.com



FEATURES

8 Giving Thanks for Food Banks

By Kaye Northcott

Photographs by Will van Overbeek

Texas faces a growing risk of hunger, particularly among children. It's a problem that many food banks, people and organizations—including electric cooperatives—are working to alleviate.

16 El Paso: As Far West As You Can Get

By Eileen Mattei

Photographs by Woody Welch

Tracing its beginnings to 1581, Texas' westernmost city offers safe, low-cost fun and high-grade adventures for families, history buffs and hikers.

FAVORITES

Footnotes by Clay Coppedge *Llano County's Rare Mineral Craze* 29

Recipe Roundup *Thanksgiving with a Twist* 30

Focus on Texas *Fall Leaves* 43

Around Texas *Local Events Listings* 44

Hit the Road by Staci Semrad *Touring the Seguin Area* 46



TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Kendall Montgomery, Chair, Olney; Rick Haile, Vice Chair, McGregor; Ron Hughes, Secretary-Treasurer, Sinton; Randy Mahannah, Perryton; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark Stubbs, Greenville; Larry Warren, San Augustine

PRESIDENT/CEO: Mike Williams, Austin

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: William (Buff) Whitten, Chair, Eldorado; Melody Pinnell, Vice Chair, Crockett; Roy Griffin, Edna; Bryan Lightfoot, Bartlett; Stan McClendon, Wellington; Gary Nietzsche, La Grange; Anne Vaden, Corinth

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

letters

POWER ANGELS

I am handicapped, getting a small monthly check from Social Security disability. In November of 2009, I bought an old mobile home and moved it to Kempner, in the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative service area. For the first two months, I had to live in my van. People at Hamilton County Electric expressed caring and kindness to me and worked with me on the deposit and during months when money was tight. Thank you—you've made me feel like family.

ROGER BISHOP
Hamilton County
Electric Cooperative

WOODEN NICKELS BRING A SMILE

When I opened the September 2010 issue of Texas Co-op Power, a grin as big as all Texas spread across my face thanks to Susan Petty and her "Nickel's Worth of Memories" letter about the story on roller-skating rinks in the June issue.

POWER TALK

I, too, skated at Deuback's rink as a child on Saturdays, after my friends and I had been to the kiddie shows at the Granada theater on lower Greenville. And, yes, I skated backward wearing my beautiful white boot skates I was

SEE MORE LETTERS

on our new website

www.TexasCoopPower.com

given for my birthday. We also had relay races on skates. What wonderful childhood memories!

Thank you for your wonderful wealth of information in the magazine and bringing back memories to us baby boomers.

BEVERLY ZIMMERMAN
Pedernales Electric Cooperative

CORRECTING CADDO LAKE INFORMATION

A travel article in the September 2010 issue incorrectly states that Caddo Lake is "the only natural lake in Texas." This is a widely held misconception and repeats an error that appeared in a November 2008 story about Caddo Lake and efforts to protect it against destructive giant salvinia.

Caddo Lake is Texas' largest natural freshwater lake. However, there are many natural lakes in Texas, from small to large. The largest is Sabine Lake into which the Sabine and Neches rivers discharge before it empties into the Gulf of Mexico through Sabine Pass (Orange/Jefferson counties). Thus, Caddo Lake is the second largest lake; however,

although originally a natural swamp lake, its surface area and capacity have been increased by the construction of dams. Third is Green Lake in Calhoun County. Then, in East Texas, there are many small oxbow or horseshoe lakes as well as along the Rio Grande where they are called *resacas*. Finally, there are numerous playa lakes scattered throughout the High Plains and South Plains.

RAY C. TELFAIR II, PH.D.
Certified wildlife biologist
Cherokee County
Electric Cooperative

NEWSPAPERS AND ICE

I really enjoyed Clay Coppedge's article "An Era Frozen in Time" (August 2010). Back in the '50s I had a red Allstate scooter that I used to deliver the three San Antonio newspapers to customers in Marion. One of my customers was Ms. Emmie Kailer.

She had one of the old ice-boxes that utilized a block of ice in an enclosed area on top, and the food items were kept cold in the enclosed area below. About once a week, she would ask me to go to Reeder's Ice House at the east end of Marion to purchase about a half block of ice for her for 25 cents. For delivering the ice, I was paid 25 cents also.

It was a real treat to go to Reeder's Ice House and go inside the ice storage vault, especially during the summer when it was very hot. They also sold ice cream at Reeder's so we'd buy an ice cream and then go inside so it wouldn't melt as quickly.

JIM SCHULZ
Schertz

BULLISH ON COLLEGE RODEO



A. JAMES CATHEY FROM THE NIRA ALUMNI ARCHIVES

I really appreciated your story on college rodeo ("Rope Courses," August 2010). You have written about one of the most difficult parts of collegiate rodeo; that is, making some cash. It's been very difficult to make some large university leaders understand how rodeo, and particularly how prize money (even if it's just a jackpot), enters into a college sport. The money involved certainly hasn't corrupted the athletes. All we need now is to promote the team concept and not so much the individual. As I have been in radio and television marketing all my life, I realize this has been lacking. More exposure for college teams is definitely needed! Thanks again for your story.

Charlie Rankin, Fair Oaks Ranch

Editor's note: While a student at Texas A&M University in the late 1940s, Rankin helped found the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and was the organization's first president. The photo shows Rankin riding "Snow Ball" at the 1949 Texas A&M rodeo.

We want to hear from our readers. Submit letters online at www.TexasCoopPower.com, e-mail us at letters@TexasCoopPower.com, or mail to Editor, Texas Co-op Power, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. 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.



HAPPENINGS

Even if you don't know beans about chili, you'll get a bellyful of food, fun and history at one of Texas' most storied events—the **TERLINGUA INTERNATIONAL CHILI COOKOFF**, set for November 4-6.

The full title is a mouthful—the 44th annual Original Terlingua International Frank X. Tolbert-Wick Fowler Championship Chili Cookoff—and, if you ask real nice, contestants in this tiny far West Texas town might let you sample a bowl of red.

The rules are easy to digest: Contestants can throw in just about any ingredient they want, but to keep things fair, each batch of chili must cook down and look pretty much the same.

"You can't have anything floating in it," says Dwight Hamilton, the cook-off's vice president. "That way, you can't tell the judges, 'mine is the one with the carrots in it.'"

And don't forget the biggest taboo of all: "You can put chili in your beans, but you can't put beans in your chili," Hamilton says. For more information about the event, including live music and a full slate of other activities, go to www.abowlofred.com.

CO-OP PEOPLE

Imagine living in a house surrounded by stacks of 55-gallon drums filled with water.

Tom Dunnam does, and he makes it all seem perfectly logical.

Dunnam, a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, says when he built his home in Caldwell in 1982, he read everything he could about passive solar technology because he was

worried about the world running out of oil and gas. So, among other things, he added lots of insulation, thick walls and—most unconventionally—small ventilated rooms on the west and east sides to store water-filled drums. He has 70 of the sealed

drums—filled with treated water that he says won't rust—stacked on top of each other.

Why? Dunnam says it is a relatively inexpensive way to keep his 2,780-square-foot house cool. "There's nothing exotic or magic about it," Dunnam says. "It's routine heat mechanics."

Dunnam explains that he sets his central air conditioner to cool the house to 72 degrees by

Drums of Water Help Homeowner Keep Cool

early morning. As the temperature rises to 78 degrees during the day, the 35,000 pounds of stored water in the drums absorb the heat, acting as a passive solar heat sink. (More specifics: The water absorbs 210,000 British thermal units of heat; one Btu is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of a pound of water 1 degree.) There is a constant movement of air and interchange of heat throughout the house without any mechanical energy exerted, making this a passive system, he says.

Bill Christensen, owner of Sustainable Sources, a Hays County-based information source for green building techniques, says the concept is sound. "It was more common in the '80s and not as common now. You get water leaks sometimes," he says. (Years ago, Dunnam replaced some drums that he says were leaking because they were dented containers he salvaged from the oil patch.)

A retired builder and accountant, Dunnam provided a binder with copies of his energy bills and detailed notes, showing that he paid an average of \$60 a month for electricity during 2009. And yet he says he keeps his indoor temperature a comfortable 72 to 78 degrees.

Despite the track record, Dunnam concedes that few homeowners would install walls of water. "People just won't pay for it, and they won't believe it," he says.

—Charles Boisseau, associate editor

WHO KNEW?

We live in a world of microwaves and fast food, but Texas also has its share of slow cookers. The Lone Star Dutch Oven Society is the nation's largest statewide Dutch oven advocacy group, with more than 600 members from 11 states, according to the society's president, Mansel Clay of Early.

In 2005, with the society supporting the bill, the Texas Legislature designated the cast-iron Dutch oven the state's official cooking implement. Since the early days of Texas, the dependable black campfire pots have been used by early settlers, ranchers and chuck-wagon cooks.



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 carolm@TexasCoopPower.com.

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

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

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

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



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

Texas Electric Cooperatives
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Power House

Building energy-efficiency solutions under one roof

By Kaye Northcott

Some of the best plans are hatched on napkins over coffee and completed with a handshake. That's how James McKee, director of business development for Taylor Electric Cooperative, and Aaron Waldrop, developer of Pack Saddle Prairie subdivision, agreed to help build Abilene's most energy-efficient home. Taylor EC, which provides electricity for portions of Abilene, including Waldrop's subdivision, serves nine counties in the Abilene area.

Both men wanted to test-drive some of the latest energy technology that their customers were asking about: Can you save money with solar panels? Are double-paned windows worth the extra cost? Should I save rainwater?

They contacted Mike Moyer, owner of Sela Builders, about constructing a unique house for Abilene. "When the developer approached me, it took only a couple of seconds to decide I wanted to do it," Moyer said. The idea was to build a house that would produce as much of its own electricity as possible and consume energy as efficiently as possible. They call it a "near-net-zero energy" home.

McKee and two other Taylor Electric Cooperative employees traveled with

Moyer and Waldrop to meet William Peck, owner of William Peck & Assoc., Inc., Architects in Lewisville, northwest of Dallas. Having designed several energy-stingy homes in the Metroplex, Peck came up with a plan for a home in Abilene. Taylor Electric contributed funds for top-of-the-line, energy-saving equipment such as solar panels, Energy Star appliances, a heat-pump water tank, a standing-seam galvanized steel roof with light- and heat-reflecting properties, extensive foam insulation in the exterior walls and a handsome electric fireplace that burns wood pellets made from discarded sawdust. The fireplace is capable of heating 1,000 square feet or more of the home without drafts.

The underside of the roof and the attic walls are insulated with so much foam that there is little deviation between the temperature-controlled house and the attic, which resembles a foam grotto. The cooperative also paid for rain gutters and a 1,200-gallon water storage tank that helps keep the yard green.

The carefully constructed 2,507-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-bath home was completed in time for

Abilene's spring Parade of Homes. Brad Robinson, Taylor Electric's meter expert, said that many of the people visiting the home wanted to learn more about the nuts and bolts of energy savings.

The typical energy usage for a home this size is 16,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year. But with an estimated solar output of 7,200 kWh a year plus 2,800 kWh in savings from energy-efficient appliances and other upgrades, the home's total annual energy usage is projected at 6,000 kWh. That means the estimated electric bill is \$690 a year, less than \$60 a month, (based on a rate of 11.5 cents per kWh and not including the monthly service fee)—a savings of \$1,150 per year or nearly \$100 a month over a typical home.

McKee said they learned that many of the best conservation practices were out of the past—deep overhangs to shade windows, the proper north-south home orientation for the climate, and an extra-large, covered back porch with an outdoor kitchen.

The house, which was under contract at press time, is priced at \$329,995 and cost approximately \$117 a square foot to construct. It is offered at approximately \$130 per square foot. Moyer said his traditionally built homes cost \$78 to \$88 a square foot and sell for about \$120 per square foot.

Between mid-February and June 3, the empty house had generated 1,929 kilowatt-hours of power. Every month, Moyer pays Taylor Electric a \$30 connection fee, but the home generates more power than it uses. "The home has 20 solar panels and would need 20 more to achieve a net-zero electricity bill," Moyer said.

At current prices, it would take 15 to 20 years to recoup the investment in energy equipment.

Robinson said the information gained from monitoring the new home's electricity and water use will be especially useful to him as he does home and building energy audits for members of Taylor Electric Cooperative and answers queries about energy-efficient practices. "There are many questionable claims out there, but we will know exactly what can be accomplished with energy technology in our area," he said.

Kaye Northcott is editor emeritus of Texas Co-op Power.



Wish you were HERE.

T E X A S S T A T E P A R K S



Experience all the great things to see and do at more than 90 State Parks across Texas. From high desert mountains, incredible sunsets and pine forests, to gulf coast breezes and hill country canyons, you can find it here. Hike, camp, fish, swim, canoe or just relax around a peaceful campfire. There's even cabins, lodges and great interpretive programs and museums. Find out what makes this land so unique and our state so grand. Rediscover everything you love about Texas – visit a State Park today.

STILL ONLY
\$60
PER CARD
MEMBERSHIP

OR JUST
\$75
FOR 2-CARD
MEMBERSHIP



No entry fee for a year for you and carload of guests with the Texas State Park Pass!



Everything you love about Texas.
Call or make a reservation today. (512)389-8900
www.texasstateparks.org

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT • PHOTOS BY WILL VAN OVERBEEK

FEEDING *the* HUNGRY *in* TEXAS: 'ANYTHING HELPS'

Texans step up to the plate in a big way



Coordinator Debi Raines makes sure the shelves stay stocked at the Son-Shine Outreach Center in Madisonville.

THESE DAYS, ONE HEARS MORE ABOUT OBESITY THAN HUNGER. But almost 3 million Texans visited a soup kitchen or food pantry to feed themselves in 2009. Indeed, between July 2008 and July 2009, Texas had the highest rate of children—one in five—at risk of hunger among all 50 states.

The statistics are appalling, but many organizations and individuals—including electric cooperatives—are seriously working on short-term and long-term solutions to the hunger problem.

The problem is well documented by the census and by an exhaustive survey in 2009 by Feeding America, formerly known as America's Second Harvest. This does not mean the children went without food but rather that their families lived—at least for a time—with uncertainty over whether there would be enough food in the home. A 10-year-old named Benny describes the dilemma in terms that everyone can understand: "It's bad when kids lose energy. They might not have enough energy to think in school." He says sometimes he has to wait a long time to eat, and it makes his head hurt: "It's important for kids to get enough food so they can be strong and healthy."

In statistics released in July by Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, Arkansas, Texas and Arizona, respectively, lead the nation with the highest rates of food insecurity—meaning those who don't receive three healthy meals a day—for children younger than 18.

In Texas, people who go to food banks tend to earn less than the poverty level. More than half of those surveyed said they have had to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities. More than 40 percent counted their money at the end of some months and didn't have enough for food and rent.

Although a network of nonprofit organizations, businesses and government programs are working to combat this quiet crisis, "It's a growing problem," says JC Dwyer, state policy director for the Texas Food Bank Network. And volunteers have a major role to play in making sure everyone gets fed. The Hunger in America 2010 Texas State Report indicated that about 26 percent of Texas food pantries turned away qualified candidates for lack of food resources.

Almost 20 percent of food pantries indicated that they sometimes or always have to stretch their food resources by reducing meal portions or the quantity of food in food boxes.

One family's story

MICHELLE GUTIERREZ IS ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE FILING into a fellowship room at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Kyle, south of Austin, waiting for their number to be called.

All are here to pick up groceries funneled through the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas in Austin. Its giant food warehouse distributes food to smaller food pantries and provides emergency food needs at 350 partner agencies in 21 counties in Central Texas.

This is the first visit for Gutierrez, a wispy blonde with a husband and three children. They can usually get by on what her husband, Javier, earns from his construction job, but work has dried up, and the kids got sick. The eldest, Evita, had to be treated in the hospital for breathing difficulties. "It's all OK until it all goes wrong," Michelle explains of their precarious finances.

So it is for most of the people throughout the state who,

like Michelle, are grateful to pick up what this and other food banks have to offer when times are temporarily tough. Today, the warehouse has sent bread, pineapple and other fruits and vegetables, breakfast sausage, cakes and canned goods.

Among the 100 or so who have come for food are young people and old. Thelma O. Johnson, who has fluffy white hair and a smooth complexion belying her advanced age, offers a point that is important to her. "God bless food banks



TOP: Michelle Gutierrez, holding her daughter Brianna, is grateful for the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas and hopes to produce enough in her own garden to give to the organization that's temporarily helping feed her family.
BOTTOM: Abby Gonzales volunteers at the Austin food bank.

for old people. People that have money in the bank and food in their pantry don't know what a blessing this is," she said.

Where there's help

MANY TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND THEIR MEMBERS provide contributions and volunteer at food banks and

pantries. Many have Operation Round Up programs that “round up” a member’s power bill to the nearest dollar, with that amount donated to local charities.

Mid-South Synergy, based in Navasota, is one of those that participates in Operation Round Up. Among its beneficiaries is the Brazos Valley Food Bank, which supplies food to over 40 hunger-relief organizations in six counties. Food bank offerings include a backpack program in which schoolchildren at risk of hunger over the weekend receive food items. The food bank also provides Meals on Wheels with 300 Senior Bags each week for volunteers to distribute.

And then there’s KBTX-TV3’s Food For Families Food Drive before Christmas every year. Mid-South Synergy oversees two drop-offs for the food drive, one in Navasota and one in Madisonville. In December 2009, the electric co-op collected 23,900 pounds of food and \$9,025 in contributions.

There are too many co-op efforts to highlight, but from the western side of the state here’s another example: Big

Country Electric Cooperative, based in Roby, collects non-perishable food items at each of its offices each fall. “We donate to local food pantries and charitable organizations for distribution,” said Sarah Dickson, the co-op’s member service representative. “Also, many of our co-op employees are members of the Roby Lions Club. We meet each Thursday, and our ‘admission’ to the meeting is to bring at least one canned food item for donation to the Fisher County Food Pantry.”

Food banks play huge role

FEEDING AMERICA IS A NATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION comprising about 80 percent of all food banks in the United States. Feeding America supports the emergency food system by obtaining food from national organizations, such as major food companies (see accompanying story below on the role of Texas grocery stores), and providing technical assistance and other services to the food banks and food rescue organizations.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Grocery stores keep the food chain moving

Have you ever watched your local grocer removing unsold produce and wondered where the food was going next? Food manufacturers stamp canned goods with guidelines indicating optimum shelf life. At that point, products are removed even though they are still nourishing. There are also purely cosmetic concerns: If a can is dented or a label torn, out they go. Customer returns are usually not reshelfed. A perfectly good head of lettuce with a few bruised leaves is removed from its misted, refrigerated manger. Seasonal promotional items disappear after a holiday.

A well-organized grocery store donates such products to food banks instead of sending them to the landfill. In fact, an elaborate national network has developed over the past three decades to get surplus foods to

people who are hungry. Now called Feeding America, it was organized in 1979 as America’s Second Harvest. The idea was to enlist food growers, distributors, retail grocery stores and food processors to work at the highest levels to collect nutritious surplus food and tax-deductible products. It has turned out to be a win-win proposition for all involved. Food bank personnel add that in recent years, grocery stores have made great advances in waste reduction.

Feeding America’s role usually ends before food is distributed. Nineteen food banks in Texas with refrigeration and warehousing collect, store and distribute the surplus. Feeding America’s first major partner in Texas was H-E-B groceries. The Texas-based chain has now expanded its food charities into Mexico. In addition, most all the large grocers are linked up to the surplus chain.

It’s usually up to a big-city food bank to pick up large food donations from participating grocers. They follow the same strict food-handling guidelines as wholesale and retail facilities. Meticulous records must be kept, particularly when it comes to meat and poultry donations.

Many grocery stores offer shoppers the option to donate \$1 or more to a food charity or to purchase food and leave it for distribution.

“Twenty years ago, food banks mainly received staples,” said JC Dwyer, state policy director for the Texas Food Bank Network. “Now, more food pantries can handle a variety of fresh goods. But infrastructure is still a problem.” Food distribution facilities—food pantries and food kitchens—in small towns and rural areas still handle mainly staples, although food bank officials say there are grants available to upgrade local storage facilities with refrigeration and kitchen equipment.

But even this evolved food distribution system relies on ground-level people to keep the process humming. Adrienne Longenecker, chief development officer of the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas, says the effectiveness of a single store’s recycling process usually can be traced back to a single dedicated employee who takes responsibility for seeing that “sell by” dates are carefully monitored, that waste is reduced to a minimum in the store, and surplus food is made available to a food bank. They deserve recognition for going the extra mile.

Kaye Northcott

The Capital Area Food Bank of Texas can always use a helping hand.



Nineteen food banks—warehouse-size operations—based in major Texas cities account for 83 percent of the food distributed by pantries. Food banks collect, store, repackage and distribute food to the smaller pantries. The pantries can be found in towns of all sizes. Some provide only staples, and others are equipped to handle refrigerated meat and produce. In Texas, according to the latest statistics, 72.6 percent of food pantries are run by faith-based groups, 18.5 percent by other private nonprofit groups, 4.3 percent by various levels of government and 4.5 percent by other entities.

A family in need may qualify for a government nutrition program such as SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program). There are also government-sponsored nutrition programs for women, infants and children, public school students and senior citizens. The 2009 Feeding America survey found that only 36.5 percent of food-pantry clients received food via government mass distribution. However, many of these clients did receive commodities through local pantries.

Big cities have an advantage

THE AVAILABILITY OF FRESH FOODS AND THE FREQUENCY OF distribution may well depend on one's proximity to a major food bank. In Austin, for example, anyone is welcome to pick up a box of produce and staples at any mobile food pantry stop. The trucks normally visit designated sites twice monthly. "Anything helps," says Elena Sanchez, who received a box of groceries that included frozen pizza, carrots, potatoes and canned goods for the four people she feeds at her house.

In Madison County, there are only two free emergency food pantries: the monthly mobile food pantry at the Madison County Fairgrounds run by the Bryan-based Brazos Valley Food Bank; and the Son-Shine Outreach Center in Madisonville, a food pantry operated by about a dozen churches.

If a board of directors-approved change goes into effect this year, those in need would be able to receive food once a month instead of twice yearly from the outreach center, and individuals would no longer need a voucher from a church to receive food.

To finance wholesale food purchases and other supplies, the center runs a thriving thrift shop. Even with the thrift shop revenue, the assistance center has money to help only about 75 people per month. Coordinator Debi Raines, the wife of a rancher, says she wishes the center could do more: "The need has increased because of the economy. So many people are out of work in Leon and Madison counties."

Growing and giving

IN HER HOME'S GENEROUS YARD NEAR DOWNTOWN KYLE, Michelle Gutierrez tries to catch some time each morning to work in her ambitious garden as Evita, 5, waits exuberantly for the school bus to pick her up, Westin, 3, sprawls on the trampoline, and 1-year-old Brianna eats a handful of Cheerios in the shade of a backyard tree. Michelle's corn, beans, squash, okra and other produce are thriving, thanks to generous spring rains.

She worries, however, that she will not be able to sustain



Early Houston accepts food from worker Christina Vara at a Capital Area Food Bank of Texas mobile pantry. Produce and staples are available to anyone in need at Austin's mobile food pantries.

the garden over the summer as drier months increase her water bills. Meanwhile, she harbors a hope: "My dream is getting my garden to produce enough to be able to donate to the food bank."

For more information: visit <http://feedingamerica.org> or www.austinfoodbank.org

Kaye Northcott is editor emeritus of *Texas Co-op Power*.

How to help

- Donate food.
- Even better, contribute money so your area food bank or pantry can purchase food at wholesale prices. As a rule of thumb, a food bank buying wholesale can get four times as much food for your dollar contribution than you can.
- Organize food collections. (For example, postal carriers do a house-to-house campaign once a year.)
- Work with your co-op, church or civic organization to support food collection efforts.
- Ask your elected officials to make food policy a major issue.
- Volunteer at a local food pantry or food bank. As many as 92 percent of food warehouses, pantries and kitchens rely on volunteers to keep the programs going.

But save your goodwill until after the holidays. Food pantries and food banks are inundated with volunteers at Thanksgiving and Christmas, so concentrate your efforts on other times of the year.

• Encourage your local grocery store to work with the nearest food bank to recycle seasonal, promotional or cosmetically damaged but healthful products. Be on the lookout for waste. While some individual stores are deeply committed to food bank donations, others have no strong advocates. See if you can get your store more interested in the cause.

Kaye Northcott

LONESTAR MARKET

Discover what's new in the market.

Gift-giving is a cinch when you

choose to use this handy

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



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



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.crawfordjacks.com



PECANS: PICK OF THE CROP

Fresh Texas Pecans: The perfect Texas treat! Raw & frosted pecans, gift tins & baskets. Custom tins and gift baskets are our specialty.

(254) 879-4677
www.sorrellsfarms.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-1011)

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



MIILLER'S LLANO SMOKEHOUSE

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

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



WE SHIP YOUR LOVE

St. Lucia Bread Company offers 10 delicious flavors, all hand-crafted in our Dallas bakery from scratch—for over 20 years.
• All natural ingredients
• No preservatives

All breads shipped in a commemorative Texas tin.

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



2010 TEXAS CAPITOL COLLECTIBLE ORNAMENT

In celebration of 15 years of Capitol preservation and education projects, the State Preservation Board is pleased to introduce the 2010 Capitol Ornament. The cost is \$18 plus tax and S&H.

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



CELEBRATE TEXAS' QUATROSEPTCENTENNIAL!

Flaunt your patriotism in style with a handmade, beaded Texas Flag Bag: durable, unique with an original design. Limited quantity. DIY kits available!

(512) 752-8730
www.PhyllisPcreations.etsy.com



2011 TEXAS CLASSIC MOTEL CALENDAR

Too Cool! George Boutwell, "2006 Official Texas State Artist," scoured Texas looking for cool motels, found 12, and added classic cars to produce this 2011 calendar. \$10 each, quantity discounts.

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



COLORADO BUCK SIGNATURE SERIES GIFT SET

Tantalize your taste buds with this delicious gift set. Includes a bottle of Colorado Buck's BBQ Sauce, along with Buck's Beef, Pork, Poultry and Venison Seasoning.

www.buckshotenterprises.com/
giftset



OPERATION CAMP COOKIE CHRISTMAS

Support our troops and send them the history of Texas in song. For every CD purchased, a CD of your choice will be sent to a soldier serving in our armed forces. Contact karen@campcookieville.com for more information.

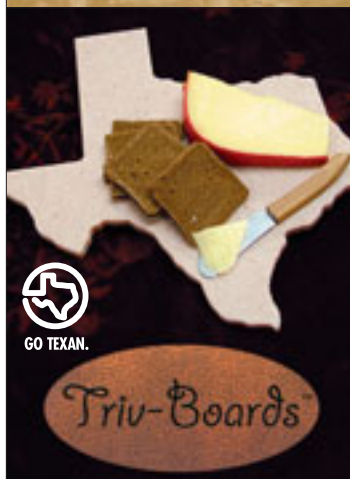
(512) 203-7921
www.texannarecords.com



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



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



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

**MAKES
A GREAT
HOLIDAY
GIFT!**

60 YEARS OF Home Cooking

Six Decades of Texas' Favorite Foods, Fads & Facts



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



Order your copy today at

www.TexasCoopPower.com


GoBible® Give the Word of God to those you love this Christmas.

Every GoBible is preloaded with the entire Bible and ready to play. The entire Old and New Testaments - over 70 hours, are recorded by award winning narrators. Easy to use for all ages, the GoBible is great for Bible study, commuting, traveling or as a gift - especially at Christmas.

Choose from the King James, New King James or

New International versions.

Select the pocket-size, lightweight GoBible with the features that fit your lifestyle and budget. Ear buds and battery included with each. Call or visit www.GoBible.com for these and other inspirational Christian products including MP3 downloads and iPhone apps.




**DOWNLOAD A
FREE
AUDIO BOOK
AT GOBIBLE.COM
WITH PURCHASE**

The GoBible® Voyager

- 3GB for personal downloads
- Over 70 Hours of Bible audio preloaded
- Searchable by Verse
- Story index of over 225 popular Bible stories
- Bible-in-a-Year Plan
- Topic Index
- Holiday/Events Index
- Holds 36 Bookmarks
- Easy-to-use navigation
- Available in the KJV, NKJV & NIV

\$99⁹⁵

**GoBible®
VOYAGER**




The Original GoBible®

- Over 70 Hours of Bible audio preloaded
- Searchable by Verse
- Story index of over 225 popular Bible stories
- Bible-in-a-Year Plan
- Topic Index
- Holiday/Events Index
- Holds 36 Bookmarks
- Easy-to-use navigation
- Available in the KJV, NKJV & NIV

\$79⁹⁵

**The Original
GoBible®**



The GoBible® Traveler

- Over 70 Hours of Bible audio preloaded
- Bible-in-a-Year Plan
- Holds 36 Bookmarks
- Lightweight & Portable
- Searchable by Chapter
- Available in the KJV, NIV & NIV (Spanish)

\$59⁹⁵

**GoBible®
Traveler**

**Order now online at
www.GoBible.com
or call 866-353-5427**

**For FREE shipping,
please enter the promotion
code **TPCH** at checkout.**

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

©2010 GoBible All Rights Reserved

Give Them A Delicious Texas Christmas Tradition

COLLIN STREET BAKERY

BONUS
FREE 1/4. lb. Cinchona
Costa Rican Coffee
with your first order!

Native Texas
Pecan Cakes

Original Deluxe Fruitcake



Collin Street Bakery's Deluxe Fruitcake is elegantly presented, festively decorated, and combines the world's finest ingredients for a delicacy like none other you have tasted. This delicious cake is baked with a blend of golden sweet pineapple and papaya, hand-picked from our farm in Costa Rica. Ripe red cherries, plump golden raisins and the finest native pecans (27% by weight) are added to make a spectacular medley of ingredients. We gently combine these hand-chosen ingredients and blend in our honey-rich batter, then it's drizzled with our secret glaze. Your cake is hand-decorated with glacéed cherries, pineapples and neatly placed mammoth pecan halves.

#101 (serves 16-20 people)

1-lb. 14 oz. \$23.95

#102 (serves 24-30 people)

2-lbs. 14 oz. \$34.95

U.S. shipping is only \$3.95 per shipment—for 1 cake or a thousand!

Also available online: Apricot Pecan Cake, Pineapple Pecan Cake, Apple Cinnamon Pecan Cake, and Texas Blonde Pecan Cake.

Mention Code 010354 to get your 1/4-lb. of Coffee FREE!

Toll-Free: 800-292-7400 www.CollinStreet.com

Collin Street Bakery 401 W. Seventh Ave., Corsicana, TX 75110

Prices good if ordered by December 1, 2010



PICTURE- PERFECT EL PASO

Framed by mountains, desert and the Rio Grande, this legendary border city will hold anyone's focus.

BY EILEEN MATTEI
PHOTOS BY WOODY WELCH

The big screen lights up the desert night as hundreds of people pack the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre for El Paso's Movies in the Canyon night. It's a rollicking wrestling flick this August evening: 'Nacho Libre,' starring Jack Black.

OUT IN THE WEST TEXAS TOWN OF EL Paso, I fell in love with Texas' largest border city. With a backdrop of mile-high peaks spiking the desert air, El Paso combines friendly, big-sky Texas, an entire mountain range within city limits, and the most exotic University of Texas campus imaginable.

Operating in Mountain Standard Time—one hour earlier than Central Standard Time, which most of Texas uses—at the state's westernmost tip, El Paso offers low-cost fun and high-grade adventures for families and shoppers, history buffs and hikers.

Rising north of the curving Rio Grande, El Paso traces its beginnings to 1581 when Spanish explorers approached the river from the south and saw a pass between two mountain ranges rising from the Chihuahuan Desert. The site they named El Paso del Norte—the Pass of the North—someday would hold two border cities: Ciudad Juárez on the river's south bank, in Mexico; and El Paso on the north bank, in Texas.

Spanish adventurers were followed by missionaries and travelers on El Camino Real—the Royal Road. In 1827, Juan María Ponce de León became the first owner of the site now called El Paso when he acquired about 215 acres of mud flats on the north bank of the Rio Grande to farm and develop. El

Paso initially was made up of tiny American trading settlements—Magoffinsville, Franklin, Concordia and Hart's Mill—beginning in 1849.

My husband, Guy, and I arrived in El Paso late one December afternoon on Amtrak's Sunset Limited. We stepped off the train into Union Depot, a lofty, deep-red brick station that opened in 1906, ready to explore this colorful Texas city.

The next morning, we headed to sprawling Fort Bliss, which is scheduled to be the headquarters of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division. In the midst of modern Army hustle, we found the Old Fort Bliss Museum, an authentic, tranquil replica that represents life in 1857 at the frontier fort built to protect settlers and wagon trains. We wandered through the old fort's store stocked with tallow lanterns and cast-iron pots and into the adjacent barracks room. A checkerboard with checkers made of corn-cob slices sat ready for soldiers whose canteens, one-piece long johns, boots and banjo were nearby. The saddlery shop, redolent of leather bridles, along with the carpentry and blacksmithing exhibits, revealed the self-sufficiency necessary during that era. Old Fort Bliss even brought a teaching moment to the restrooms where posters illustrate how the 1857 three-holer garrison latrine was part of

the evolution of port-a-potties.

South of Fort Bliss, weathered crosses, worn-out angel statues and forlorn, sandy plots spread across the vast Concordia Cemetery. Markers crowding the grassless graves unveil a condensed history of early El Paso. Here are the resting places of gunslinger/El Paso lawyer John Wesley Hardin and the Chinese-American workers who built the southern transcontinental railroad route that reached El Paso in 1881. Here, too, you'll find the graves of Polish cowboys, cattle rustlers, miners and the sadness that still surrounds the section of tiny crosses—children who died in the 1917-18 influenza epidemic.

Enthusiastic guides to El Paso's frontier era greeted us at the Magoffin Home State Historic Site, an 1875 example of Territorial architecture and a Mexican hacienda-style home built for a culturally blended family. Tours of the 5,000-square-foot home take in several rooms, including some with 14-foot-high ceilings, that are complete with period furnishings and decorations and the minutiae of life: chamber pots, an old-fashioned corset and a 3-D stereopticon (a precursor to the View-Master).

Jumping more than a century ahead, we walked into the bistro atmosphere of the Pot-Au-Feu International Restaurant for a late lunch. Although tempted



by the homemade corned beef, we followed the appetizer of calamari and roasted tomatoes with the savory smoked duck breast and the lamb burger. Then we were off on a walking tour of downtown, starting underneath the stunning, huge Tiffany stained glass dome that tops the 1912 Camino Real Hotel's Dome Bar. Architect Henry Trost, who died in 1933, designed the hotel and many other downtown buildings here about 100 years ago, a fact that lends harmony to the area's structural environment.

Throngs of Mexican shoppers milled around the southernmost part of downtown, near one of El Paso's four international bridges. Ready to shop ourselves, we headed west to roam the two acres of the El Paso Saddleblanket Co. and its wildly entertaining collection of Southwest borderland décor and curios: a cornucopia including boots and baskets, saddles, sheepskins and sombreros.

From our hotel that evening, we looked downhill, geographically and emotionally, to embattled Ciudad Juárez, twinkling forlornly across the river. Drug cartel wars in Juárez have decimated the city's economy, forcing dozens of Juárez restaurants and stores to relocate in El Paso.

Although its neighbor across the border is ravaged by violence, El Paso is

one of America's safest cities. According to a 2009 report from CQ Press, a leading publisher on American government and politics, El Paso trails only Honolulu for the nation's lowest crime rates among cities with populations of 500,000 or more.

We felt totally safe, totally in Texas, as we walked and drove El Paso's neighborhoods, shops and parks.

The next morning, luminous Renaissance paintings by Sandro Botticelli and Filippino Lippi held us spellbound inside the El Paso Museum of Art. Suzanne Klotz's multimedia "La Migra/Border Patrol" captivated me, as well, with its complexity of action heroes, crosses, milagros (tiny votive offerings), Huichol Indian bead work and Mexican *dichos*, or sayings.

At Insights El Paso Science Museum, I stepped inside a kaleidoscope, played with a gyroscope, and changed my shape—dropping 30 pounds and growing a foot taller with the dials of a fun-house mirror. Between manipulating brain teaser puzzles, trying weather experiments and eyeing a fossilized dinosaur egg, kids and adults become animated: "Hey! Come see this!"

Farther west, The University of Texas at El Paso is a mirage of Himalayan architecture wedged in the foothills of the arid Franklin Moun-

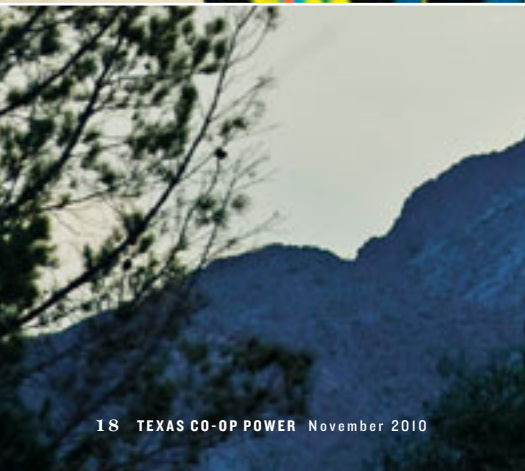


TOP: A Tiffany stained glass dome casts a mesmerizing spell in the Camino Real Hotel's Dome Bar.

BOTTOM: The mouth-watering Chiles Rellenos plate at Andale Restaurant. The menu says it all: 'We don't have customers ... we have guests.'

tains and not looking out of place. The Bhutanese-style buildings (a fixation of the college president's wife in 1914) give the one-time mining college a serene and appealing coherence, which is underscored by a large prayer wheel, given by the people of Bhutan, and metal temple bells that tinkle in the breeze. In contrast, directly across the Rio Grande from UTEP, a hodgepodge of houses crowd the unpaved hillside streets of Juárez.

UTEP's Chihuahuan Desert Gardens proved to me that native plants—sage, ocotillo, turpentine bush, aromatic sumac and various cacti—create attractive, low-maintenance landscapes. The adjacent Centennial Museum showcases regional wonders: a 2-billion-



year-old local algae fossil, prehistoric mastodons and Huichol effigies.

El Paso's Transmountain Road sped us through the arid Franklin Mountains, the only American mountain range wholly within city limits. From Smugglers Gap at 5,280 feet, we descended to the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. Offering an easy introduction to archaeology, the modest but engaging museum displays artifacts and dioramas of regional Native American cultures, from prehistoric to the present. We roamed the facility's nature trails edged with pink-striped rainbow cactus with great care: The desert gardens occupy a former Fort Bliss artillery firing range. Next door, the National Border Patrol Museum notes that in 1924, the Border Patrol post here targeted liquor smugglers and rustlers.

Our to-do list remained long: visit El Paso's delightful zoo, ride the Wyler Aerial Tramway to the top of the 5,632-foot Ranger Peak, savor El Paso's signature salsa of roasted green (Anaheim) chiles, oregano, and onions, and shop for boots at the city's numerous custom bootmakers and factory outlets. On the east side of the city, we followed the El Paso Mission Trail to Socorro, a narrow

adobe mission plastered in white stucco, its entrance facing the rising sun.

Traveling for us means trying local dishes. The Andale Restaurant dished up succulent California-style carne asada, tacos poblano with cream sauce, 30-ounce margaritas and a festive ambiance. At Julio's Café Corona, we enjoyed hearty portions of the darkest chicken mole, heavy on chocolate. Way east of town but worth the drive, the Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch cooked the perfect steak in beautiful surroundings. Roam the ranch and enjoy a free hayride, but do not go in the spooky wood post maze alone.

On my next trip to El Paso, I intend to search for Rosa's Cantina. Not that the late Marty Robbins ever did. He wrote the cowboy ballad "El Paso," which references the mythical watering hole, half a century ago while flying over the Southwest. He missed a chance to see the real El Paso, a safe and wonderfully entertaining destination.

El Paso Convention Center and Visitors Bureau: 1-800-351-6024, <http://visitelpaso.com>

Eileen Mattei is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.

TOP TO BOTTOM: UTEP's Himalayan architecture is on full display from the campus' Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. The heart and sole of El Paso: Handmade boots start at \$950 at the 20-year-old Rocketbuster Boots (check out the cool website, www.rocketbuster.com), where owner Nevena Christi, the 'Boss Lady,' makes sure everybody gets a good fit. Dusty Henson flashes his famous smile at the El Paso Saddleblanket Co. Dusty and his wife, Bonnie, are the store's founders and owners. A rainbow seems to touch a white cross on a hill where Texas, New Mexico and Mexico meet.





SPECIAL MARKET OPPORTUNITY

Your Expert Guide to the World's Finest Coins

Nicholas J. Bruyer, CEO, First Federal Coin Corp.
ANA Life Member Since 1974



How can two \$5 Gold Eagles have a 600% difference in value?

If you're not interested in the answer, give this to your best friend.

Almost everyday, very successful, very sophisticated business people tell us they're interested in buying gold. The problem is, they don't have the first notion of where to begin.

Our response is always the same: there's bullion gold, and then there's collectible gold. We're not talking about bullion gold. We're talking about a special kind of gold that collectors climb all over themselves to get their hands on.

Use our Collector's Checklist when you go shopping for gold.

First on our list: *collectors look for a coin that's in demand.* And there are few gold coins that collectors want more than the American Gold Eagle. It was created during Ronald Reagan's administration.

In real estate, value is driven by location, location, location. In coins, it's quality.

For collectors, the higher a coin's grade, the higher the coin's value. That's number #2 on our checklist. One of those \$5 Gold Eagles is the highest collectible grade possible: the absolutely flawless grade of MS70 (MS stands for "Mint State"). It's referred to as the "perfect" coin.

Consider this: In its bullion grade, a 2001 \$5 Gold Eagle is valued at \$150—but a perfect grade MS70 is valued at \$950—a **staggering 600% difference!**

Of course you have to understand that the population of this MS70 coin is small, but it's an example of a coin in its finest Mint State grade.

No. 3 on our checklist: Collectors covet First Strikes.

If a \$5 Gold American Eagle in MS70 is sizzling hot, what happens when it achieves the exalted status called First Strike™?

This is the pinnacle of a coin's state of quality. It just doesn't get any higher. Bottom line: collectors often pay more for them.

You want to buy collectible gold, but not just any collectible gold.

You've paid close attention to our collector's checklist: Is it in demand? Has it earned the highest grade possible? Is it a First Strike?

Our recommendation:

A 2010 \$5 Gold American Eagle MS70 First Strike.

You'd expect to pay a premium for such a unique combination of quality factors.

But we have a special opportunity for you:

\$279 each for up to 4 coins
\$265 each for 5 to 9 coins
The best deal—\$249 each for 10 coins or more!

Hurry! This is a first come, first served offer!
Call 1-888-201-7047 to find out how you can qualify for free shipping. Mention offer code: PGE155-02

Call First Federal Toll-FREE today 1-888-201-7047 to Reserve Your 2010 \$5 Eagle MS70 First Strike!

Offer Code PGE155-02
Please mention this code when you call.



Actual size is 16.5 mm

Past performance is not an indicator of future performance. Prices subject to change without notice.

Note: First Federal Coin Corp. is a private distributor of government and private coin and medallion issues and is not affiliated with the United States government. Facts and figures were deemed accurate as of August 2010.



American Numismatic Association
Nicholas Bruyer
Life Member 4489

1-888-201-7047

www.1stfederalcoin.com/10eagle42



No
Contract

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

Price
Reduced by
\$48

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

Questions about Jitterbug?

Try our pre-recorded Toll-Free Hotline 1-888-878-3102.

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

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

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

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

FREE Gift

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



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



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

jitterbug®

SAMSUNG

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

Jitterbug Cell Phone

Call now for our NEW low price.

Please mention promotional code 41408.

1-888-812-9432

www.jitterbugdirect.com

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

Perfect imperfection, the natural raw 2 carat diamond

**Ready for some rough stuff?
We recently found a rare cache of
extremely large uncut diamonds at
an extraordinary price.**

Sometimes it's impossible to improve on perfection. When the world's most desired stone is pulled from the ground, why not just brush off the earth and leave it alone? White cut diamonds may be nice for a polite kiss on the cheek, but extra large uncut diamonds can really ignite some raw passion. And isn't that what a great piece of jewelry is all about? These few rare 2 carat plus natural stones will certainly turn up your thermostat.

A real diamond in the rough

For centuries, large raw diamonds were treasured without a hint of facet or polish. We believe the early artisans were on to something. After a search through countries on four continents, we have found a cache of rare, very large, 2 carat



Similar rough diamonds sell elsewhere for thousands! Please compare the size and price of our raw diamond in the Stauer Raw Diamond Necklace with those at your local jewelry store.

plus uncut diamonds at a spectacular price from our Belgium dealer. Major gemstone experts across the globe have commented that rough diamonds will be the fastest growing trend on "the red carpet" this year and our long love affair with flawless cut white gemstones may have some competition.

All one has to do is flip

through the world's most exclusive catalog to find that "rough is all the rage." Our luxury retail friends in Texas recently featured a raw solitaire for \$6,000, but they buy in such small quantities that they cannot compete with us on price. You see, Stauer is one of the largest gemstone buyers in the world and last year bought over 3 million carats of emeralds. No regular jewelry store can come anywhere close to that volume.

Equal parts "rough" and "refined"

Our **Raw Diamond Necklace** is a balanced blend of geology and geometry. Each one-of-a-kind raw diamond is fitted by hand into its "cage," a crisscross embrace of gold vermeil over the finest .925 sterling silver, bead-set with 18 round



diamonds. The caged diamond hangs from a triangular bail with an additional 8 diamonds (26 total). The pendant is suspended from an 18" gold vermeil rope chain with spring ring clasp. Each raw diamond is naturally unique. This is an extremely limited edition since it took us 3 years to find this small cache of stones.

Show off your Stauer **Raw Diamond Necklace** for 30 days. If you're not feeling the rush of raw, large diamonds, simply return it for a full refund of your purchase price. But if you feel like experiencing the unique perfection of natural uncut beauty, you have found the way.

Keep in mind that each raw diamond is completely different. The shape, shine and color will vary. But your caged Raw Diamond Necklace will forever remain a reminder of the unspoiled, organic beauty of nature.

Stauer Raw Diamond Necklace only \$295 +s&h
(2 carat minimum for raw stone)

Also available—5 carat raw diamond in solid 14K gold
Please call for details.

Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.

1-800-806-1674

Promotional Code RDN234-02
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer
HERITAGE OF ART & SCIENCE
14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. RDN234-02
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

Layer Bathroom Lighting to Save

BY JAMES DULLEY

DEAR JIM: I plan to remodel my master bath and dressing area and my children's bathroom. The previous lighting was terrible. What is the best and most efficient lighting for bathroom projects?

— Judi L.

DEAR JUDI: People don't often think about lighting and energy efficiency when it comes to bathroom remodeling, but it's as important as installing the proper vanity or plumbing fixtures. Today's modern master bathrooms and dressing areas are often as large as some second bedrooms and are more than just a place to shower, shave, etc.

If the lighting in both of your bathrooms is like most older bathrooms, it consists of an overhead light, perhaps built into a vent fan if there is no window. If there is a window in the bathroom, very few builders went to the expense of installing a vent fan. Today, vent fans are almost always installed to address indoor-air-quality concerns in modern, more airtight houses. While remodeling, definitely install a vent fan.

The lighting for your children's bathroom will be simpler, so tackle it first. A basic overhead light should be adequate until your children are old enough to shave or wear makeup. There's likely already an incandescent overhead light only or a fan/light fixture. In either case, replace it with a new Energy Star-qualified fan with a compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL). It will use 75 percent less electricity for lighting, and the fan will be much quieter.

Since children tend to forget to turn lights or vent fans off when they leave the bathroom, select a vent fan with a motion or humidity sensor to automatically shut it off at the right

time. This can save a significant amount of electricity. If you have only a light fixture, use a motion-sensing switch. This allows you to program the length of time the light stays on after no motion is detected.

Planning efficient and effective lighting for your master bathroom and dressing area is a bit more complicated. Use the basic lighting design technique called layering to provide



This attractive overhead five-light fixture is attached to the mirror and provides plentiful task lighting.

proper lighting for various activities.

The three basic lighting layers are task, ambient and accent or decorative. Bathrooms are relatively task-oriented (showering, grooming, etc.), so adequate task lighting is most important. Other than showering or bathing, the task lighting at the mirror and vanity is most often used.

Ideally, place lighting on both sides of the mirror and perhaps also on top for three-direction lighting. This eliminates shadows, which can be problematic when shaving or applying makeup. If the mirror is not too wide, wall-mounted vertical fluorescent tube light-

ing on each side of the mirror is best.

Several companies offer efficient decorative T2 or T5 fluorescent fixtures. Some are designed to be attached to wide mirrors, and decorative sconces with CFLs are effective around narrow mirrors. Daylight-type CFLs provide the best color rendition for makeup. Halogen bulbs may also be used; they offer a longer life, are somewhat more efficient than standard incandescent bulbs and provide a whiter light.

For over-the-mirror task lighting, Kichler offers a new decorative rail light design (the design also works well for accent lighting). It is similar to track lighting with three or four directional fixtures, but they are mounted on a rail that drops down a couple of inches from the ceiling. It mounts to the ceiling over a standard ceiling electrical box. Several of the rail fixtures use super-efficient, long-lasting, white light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

For the bath/shower area, recessed overhead task lighting works well. Since you are remodeling on your own, consider installing low-voltage fixtures for safety and easy installation. Broan/ Nutone offers recessed light fixtures with built-in exhaust fans. These are efficient because excess moisture is drawn from the shower stall before it ever enters the room.

For ambient and accent lighting, lower-wattage incandescent fixtures—either overhead or sconces—are effective. These can be controlled by dimmer switches to save energy. The new Lutron Eco-Minder dimmer is a good choice. On some models, the switch also functions as an efficient night light. It is wise to install separate dimmer switches for the various layers of light. Another daytime ambient light option is a tubular skylight with a solar-powered remote dimmer.

© James Dulley



If you can insert a pencil eraser in a crack, it likely needs some serious attention.

Cracks Could Mean Trouble

Those little cracks in your home's walls, doors and floors might not be as harmless as they look. Not every crack is a problem beyond an eyesore. In fact, as a home ages, it's a given that cracks will form in overused areas, like around doors and windows. Temperature fluctuations can cause building materials to expand and contract—and crack.

But a crack also could be the only visible symptom of a hidden and potentially serious problem with your home—one that will be harder to fix and more expensive to deal with later if you don't figure out what's causing that crack now.

A tip: Arm yourself with a magnifying glass and a pencil and inspect your home, inside and out, for cracks. Use the magnifying glass to find the tiniest cracks in indoor and outdoor walls. If a crack is just big enough to let the point of the pencil through, you probably don't have to worry about it. But if the eraser end fits into the crack, it's time to do some serious repair work.

Here are four places to stop a crack before it starts trouble:

1. YOUR WOODEN FRONT DOOR. Unless you clean, sand and refinish your door regularly, it's bound to dry out and warp or crack. Apply a protective urethane-based finish every couple of years or replace it with a fiberglass door.

2. ANY HOLE, GAP, CRACK OR OPENING ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSE. Culprits: cracks around exterior light fixtures, outdoor taps; exhaust vents and fans; electrical outlets. Seal the gaps with caulk.

3. TILE FLOORS. Chances are, a cracked tile floor is covering up a cracked concrete floor underneath. To solve the problem, remove all of the cracked tiles and repair the cracked concrete before replacing the tiles.

4. BRICKS AND MORTAR. Simple cracks that follow the pattern of the block underneath are normal, but cracks that cut straight through the blocks can signal a serious issue. Same goes for deep crevices in your stucco, or for substantial, diagonal cracks in interior or exterior walls at the corners of doors and windows. Large cracks like these can reveal that your home's foundation is shifting. Consult with a foundation expert to learn how bad the problem is.



© FRANK CURRY

ELECTRIC METERS

More than Kilowatt Counters

No matter the size, style or age, all homes across the country have one thing in common: a small meter, constantly keeping a tally of electricity use. Some dutifully track kilowatts with spinning discs—a technology that dates back to 1888—while many have been upgraded to handle the information demands of our digital age.

Most digital meters contain chips that enable them to send kilowatt-hour use readings and other data to your electric cooperative—that's called automated meter reading, or AMR. Some units can send and receive signals, allowing co-ops to install AMI, or advanced meter infrastructures.

AMR has existed since the mid-1980s and began as a more efficient way to conduct meter readings. Today, the collection of meter readings is just the tip of the iceberg. When teamed with other equipment, AMR can evolve into an AMI providing electricity theft detection, outage management and "blink" monitoring.

AMR and AMI are also key components of the smart grid, an evolving, self-healing transmission and distribution network that can track the flow of electricity with great precision and efficiency.

Texas Tongue Twisters

From BEW-da to eye-ruh-ANN, here's a guide guaranteed to keep you out of the pronunciation doghouse.

By Sheryl
Smith-Rodgers



Years ago, I worked as a newspaper editor in the back-then rural community of Buda just south of Austin. Whenever I had questions, I'd phone Annette at city hall. She kept me straight on local names and happenings. But most important, she taught me how to say **Buda**.

"Just remember—beau-tiful BEW-da," she said. Her advice stuck. I never embarrassed myself in public.

That's not to say I haven't in other towns and places across Texas. Sure, I'm a native Texan, but that doesn't make a hill of beans of difference when it comes to talking Texan. After all these years, I've concluded that unless you're "from around there," chances are you won't say the name "right." Even when the name looks easy. Say, for instance, **Manchaca** (MAN-shack), just north of Buda.

Or **Leakey** (LAY-key), **Hico** (HI-ko), **Palestine** (PAL-us-teen), **Fulshear** (FUL-shur), **Eldorado** (el-duh-RAY-doe). Try **Gruene** (green), **Boerne** (BER-nee), **Llano** (LAN-o), **Bexar County** (bear) and **Joaquin** (waw-KEEN).

How about **Tow** (rhymes with cow), **Burnet** (BURN-it), **Tivoli** (tie-VO-luh), **Weesatche** (WEE-sash), **Humble** (um-BULL), **Waxahachie** (wawks-uh-HATCH-ee) and **Montague** (mahn-TAG)?

Frustrated yet? Don't fret. Help's available online. Visit www.texasstripper.com/pronounce where travel writer John Bigley pronounces 106 Texas locales. Also, check out the online Texas Almanac pronunciation guide (www.texasalmanac.com/images/TownPronunciationGuide.pdf). The handy A-to-Z reference is based on one compiled in the 1940s by the late George Mitchel Stokes, then a graduate student at Baylor University who later served as director of the speech division in the school's communications studies department.

Serious Texas talkers might want to search used bookstores for *Texas Towns From A to Z: Pronunciation Guide* by Bill and Clare Bradfield (1996, Three Forks Press). They wrote the 118-page reference—which covers 1,400 cities—in hopes of keeping broadcasters and politicians from embarrassing themselves in Texas.

Meanwhile, east of **Waco** (WAKE-o), folks in one town gave up years ago and simply made the pronunciation dilemma part of their city slogan: "**Mexia**—a great place to live, no matter how you pronounce it!" Indeed, Linda Archibald, the chamber of commerce's executive director, reports that she hears a number of variations, even among locals: MY-hair, Muh-HEE-uh, MEX-ia.

So what's the right way to say **Mexia**? "Muh-HAY-uh," answers Archibald. She should know. After all, she's from there.

At one library in West Texas, it's not uncommon to get packages of books in the mail marked with huge block letters: USA. So says an assistant librarian, who grew up on a ranch east of **Iraan**. Yep, you guessed their problem. But pronunciation, says Linda Gage, wasn't a big deal until relations turned tense with the Middle East. "Back in the early '80s, when my brother was a professional roper, he'd get booed in the arena," she recalls. "So he changed his address to Sheffield."

Back to **Iraan**. That's eye-ruh-ANN, if you please. "The town's named for Ira and Ann Yates, who owned a nearby ranch where oil was discovered in 1926," Gage explains. "A contest was held to name the new town, and Iraan was the winning entry." Neat story, I enthuse. "Frankly, it's a headache," Gage laments.

I couldn't resist calling **Miami**, northeast of Amarillo. Mayor Chad Breeding answered the phone at city hall. "Yeah, we get lots of funny looks when we say my-AM-muh," he tells. "Then people ask how we spell it!"

Study Butte. Stumped? Jim Burr, justice of the peace Precinct 2 for Study Butte and Terlingua in the Big Bend region, set me straight. "Stew-DE bYOOT," he says. "The town's named after Will Study, who started a mercury mine on the butte." Burr had more to share. "MAR-uh-thn, all drug together—that's how everyone down here says **Marathon**," says the Houston transplant. "And you know the difference between a butte and a mesa, right?" I didn't. Now I do.

No commentary on Texas talk would be complete without mention of a bona fide head scratcher down south. "We get this all the time," sighs Rene Mascorro, the county judge in **Refugio County**. "People ask how we get an 'r' in our name." Mascorro's from there so you can only imagine how many times he's shared this story: "Back when the train came through here, the Irish conductor couldn't pronounce **Refugio** the Spanish way so he said re-FURY-oh. The name stuck." Boy, did it.

In my linguistic wanderings, I discovered an omission in the Almanac's pronunciation guide: **Pedernales**. So I called Iris Neffendorf at the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site. She, too, was a bit surprised at the oversight but not at my pronunciation question. "The correct way is ped-er-NAL-is," says the park manager. "It's Native American for flint rock or arrowhead."

"LBJ, though, always said perd-n-alice," she adds. And, as most of us know, the president was from around there. Case closed.

Longtime contributor Sheryl Smith-Rodgers writes on all sorts of subjects at her home in Blanco (blank-O), Texas. She's betting this hot topic generates a lot of mail.



As the Table Turns

*Decades later, a
child's imagination
keeps magic alive
beneath this
old, oak table.*

BY WINTER PROSAPIO



It starts with a table.

It's an old, oak table, the strongest table I've ever known. Even though it stands only on one center post, the table has never, ever wobbled. Four huge claw feet extend from the center trunk, each holding onto carved wooden balls with a visceral tenacity. This table is still my grandmother's, even if it is in my house.

When I was a little girl, I spent hours under that table, crawling around the feet of what I imagined were a pair of mated eagles, their big oaken wings a perfect circle over my head.

The table was huge in those days, and everyone I knew and loved in the world could sit around it. Their voices were distant as clouds and as immutable. There were stories, murmurs and many, many peals of laughter. The table was in the middle of the biggest kitchen in the world, which was the center of my known universe. I'd guess 95 percent of our waking hours were spent in the kitchen, with light streaming in from every window, even on rainy days.

That was the magic of that kitchen at my grandmother's house.

The table held the best food in the world, all of it made from scratch, and the smell alone drew everyone in from outdoors no matter what they were doing. At each place setting was a cold Coca-Cola, the kind made with real sugar. Ice sparkled in tall glasses, and condensation glistened on their sides like jewels. I dined below with ease, reaching up periodically for a few bits of flour tortillas and rice to hold me over until dinner.

The space under the table transformed so often, it surprised me that I was the only one who noticed. Some days it was a coral reef, with mermaids and neon-colored fish swimming through. I'd swim through too, sometimes quickly as I evaded sharks, sometimes just floating with graceful and gentle jellyfish.

Other times it was the front gate to the castle and was guarded by a beautiful white horse with a mane that nearly touched the ground. I'd hold court with salt-and-pepper shakers and potholders until someone needed to get some cooking done.

Sometimes, usually late in the day, it became a cave. In my mind, bystanders were often taken by surprise by the bats that suddenly flew out from the cave, screeching and whirling around the kitchen right as the sun started to set outside and bedtime was announced.

I don't remember the day that I stopped spending most of my time below the

table and began to sit in the chairs around it. But I do remember even then feeling those strong eagles' feet with my toes, my mind drifting back to oceans, castles and caves.

Then, in a blink of an eye, the kitchen was gone, the table had to be moved and, with great anticipation and the help of many strong backs, it had come inside my house.

But something strange happened in transit. The oak table was much smaller. I looked at it in the corner of the room, not sure it was even the same table. I wondered if oak could shrink after 35 years. I theorized that when tables travel from cotton farms in El Paso to the Hill Country, there was a miniaturizing effect.

The first day it was in our house, I ran my hand over the golden wood, puzzled. Everyone I knew and loved in the world couldn't begin to sit around it. It hardly seemed big enough to serve a meal on. It stood in the corner of the room, dwarfed by everything around it.

Then, after a few weeks I spotted something from the corner of my eye. It was my daughter, crawling around the base, arranging stuffed animals and a few books around the eagles' claws. The next day there was a sign up next to the table, indicating when it was "open."

Right then, the table grew.

Today, all I have to do is peek around it, and I can see silvery mermaids jumping under the eagles' feet, a proud white horse galloping up the curved wood, and the bats hanging from underneath, blinking their eyes, waiting for dusk to fall.

There are new additions, too—gallivanting snow leopards hunting in the mountains of Nepal, fashion divas working the runway in Paris, and a few artfully placed drawings in the Louvre.

It starts with a table. And from there it goes on—forever.

Winter Prosapio, an award-winning humor and travel writer, lives in Canyon Lake.





Actual size
is 11.6 mm

LOW AS
\$44.95!

Who said kangaroos aren't found in America.

These Australian Gold Kangaroos are one of the most affordable gold coins in the world. They're struck in 99.99% pure gold.

They're also a first-year-of-issue coin *and* a one-year-only design, making them highly sought after by gold-coin collectors.

Gold coins of similar size are offered elsewhere for as much as \$99.99 each.

You get the exclusive benefit!

We're the exclusive distributor for Australia's newest 2010 Gold Kangaroo coin. You can't get these anywhere else in the U.S.—not at any price!

Order now—Risk free!

Best of all, you own your 2010 Gold Kangaroos risk free, with our 30-day unconditional-return privilege. If you're not satisfied, return your coins within 30 days for a full refund (less s & h).

Don't wait! Get your affordable Gold Kangaroos before they leap out of your grasp!

Buy more and save more!

One Gold Kangaroo coin for only \$59.95 + s/h

Three for only \$54.95 each + s/h **SAVE \$15**

Five for only \$49.95 each + s/h **SAVE \$50**

Ten for only \$44.95 each + s/h **SAVE \$150**

Toll-Free 24 hours a day

1-888-870-8530

Offer Code GKC137

Please mention this code when you call.



GovMINT.COM
YOUR ONE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. GKC137
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

www.GovMint.com/kangaroo

All That Glitters is Sometimes Yttrium

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

No one was exactly yelling out, “There’s yttrium in them thar hills” when the rare mineral was discovered in Llano County in the late 1880s. No one other than a few scientists and businessmen had even heard of the stuff, but it turned out to be the most valuable mineral ever discovered in the county. An ounce of yttrium sold for \$144 in 1887, a year in which gold went for \$19 an ounce on the London exchange.

This was also about the time that Llano County came down with a case of gold fever—despite the fact that very little gold was actually found there. The gold strike in the Klondike and the rush to Alaska were still in the news, and the prospect of a possible gold strike in Texas made people pay attention to the rocks and formations of the land.

Barringer Hill, on the banks of the Colorado River about 12 miles north of Kingsland, wasn’t at first glance a likely looking site for a jackpot. It was only about 35 feet high and unremarkable except for its unique mineral content, which made it more resistant to erosion than the granite that surrounded it. One observer who saw Barringer Hill in the 1930s said it looked like a lot of the rest of the Hill Country “except that it stood out like a sore thumb.”

A young carpenter named John Barringer acquired the hill and the land surrounding it when a Mr. Wills offered it to him in lieu of payment for a house he had hired Barringer to build. Wills probably figured a house in exchange for a bunch of rocks on a flood plain was a pretty good deal.

Barringer did a little prospecting on the hill named for him, and one day he spied an outcropping of heavy, greenish-black rock. Local geologist N.J. Badu sent samples to New York and Philadelphia for analysis. The rock was found to be composed largely of gadolinite, a radioactive yttria mineral. Yttrium minerals, because they were so rare, were extremely valuable. When shipped, it was wrapped in tissue paper and packed in iron-bound boxes.

The discovery caught the immediate attention of two of the country’s greatest inventors, Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse, who were looking for a suitable material to be used as a filament in early-day electric lightbulbs.

A young mineralogist named William Niven was sent by William Hidden, a New Jersey mineralogist with connections to Edison and Westinghouse, to Llano County to see how much gadolinite might be available there. Niven found himself in somewhat of a mineral wonderland where he discovered 47 minerals, including five that were new to science; one is named nivenite. He paid Barringer either \$5,000 or \$10,000 in gold (sources vary) for the hill in the name of the Piedmont Mining Company of London in 1889, but it would

be several years before full-scale mining operations began at Barringer Hill.

By 1903, after Edison’s company had experimented with all 47 minerals but found no use for them, a German chemist working for Westinghouse, Walther Hermann Nernst, developed a street lamp that used raw gadolinite as a filament. Nernst, who developed the Third Law of Thermodynamics, would go on to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1920, but his street lamp only had a life expectancy of about two hours. Also, the only known sources of gadolinite were in Russia and Norway—and Llano County. Another Westinghouse engineer, Marshall Hanks, came up with a filament composed of 25 percent yttria and 75 percent zirconium. The ingredients were made into a paste and squirted into strips, baked and cut to the proper lengths. When heated, it gave off a brilliant light and increased the life expectancy of Nernst’s street lamp to 700 hours.

Today, Barringer Hill minerals can only be seen at museums, including the Llano County Historical Museum, the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin, the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

As for the actual hill, it disappeared under the dammed waters of Lake Buchanan in 1937, closing the books on one of the world’s richest deposits of rare earth minerals ... but not the stories and dreams they spawned.

Clay Coppedge is a regular contributor to Footnotes in Texas History. His book Hill Country Chronicles recently was published by The History Press.



Carve Off a New Bit of Tradition



Twice-Baked Chipotle Sweet Potatoes

BY KEVIN HARGIS Ah, the traditional Thanksgiving feast. Turkey? You bet! Mashed potatoes and giblet gravy? Seconds, please. Stuffing? Cranberry sauce? Green bean casserole? Yes, yes, and burp (pardon me)!

Then, belly swollen, comes the best part of the day: dozing in your easy chair with the Cowboys playing on TV in the background.

There is nothing wrong with tradition. But those old traditions handed down over the years had to start somewhere. Thus, new traditions are born all the time.

For instance, instead of the baked 20-pound gobbler, some smart cookie decided to drop a turkey into a vat of hot oil, and the deep-fried turkey was born. Someone else decided to stuff a chicken inside a duck inside a turkey, and the legendary Turducken became a staple of John Madden's Thanksgiving Day football commentary.

So, this holiday, try something new. You never know what is going to catch on and become a new holiday tradition at your home.

These potatoes will give you a spicy-sweet combination that many folks enjoy. If you don't like goat cheese, you can substitute cream cheese. Like a little more spice? Add a bit more chipotle (but be careful—those little peppers are potent).

TWICE-BAKED CHIPOTLE SWEET POTATOES

- 6 medium sweet potatoes
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 8 ounces goat cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- ½ cup cilantro, minced
- ½ chipotle pepper from can
- ¼ cup adobo sauce from canned chipotle
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon chili powder

Scrub sweet potatoes and rub skins with oil. Wrap each potato in foil. Bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour, or until potatoes become soft. Meanwhile, combine remaining ingredients in mixing bowl. When potatoes are done baking, remove from foil and allow to sit until cool enough to handle, about 5 to 10 minutes. Cut potatoes in half and scrape out most of flesh, taking care not to tear skins. Add potato to goat cheese mixture. Mix well, using potato masher or mixer. Spoon into potato skins, or, for a fancier presentation, use a pastry bag and star tip to fill skins. Return to oven until tops are browned and potatoes are warmed through, 10 to 15 minutes.

Servings: 12. Serving size: ½ potato. Per serving: 142 calories, 4.7 g protein, 6.9 g fat, 14.9 g carbohydrates, 2.1 g dietary fiber, 1,330 mg sodium, 13 mg cholesterol, 4.7 g sugars

COOK'S TIP: Choose potatoes that are uniform in size and that are more round than long.

TRY LIFESHIELD, A COMPLETE HOME SECURITY SYSTEM FREE*

GET 30 FULL DAYS OF FREE HOME SECURITY†

"Protecting my family is the most important thing to me. That's why I trust LifeShield Home Security. Now everyone can afford to protect what matters most!"

— Dan Marino
Father of six,
LifeShield
customer



Other companies charge \$1000 or more for comparable home protection.*

Now you can try the **BEST VALUE** in home security — **for FREE!** LifeShield's easy and convenient with no long appointments, no waiting around for a technician or pushy salesperson, and no hidden fees.

Is your home secure?

You have a family and home to protect. With LifeShield no matter where you are, control is at your fingertips with technology that allows you to arm, disarm, and monitor your home from anywhere in the world — **for FREE!** All you need is an internet connection.



LifeShield protects you when other systems don't.

Intruders can defeat old-style hardwired systems in less than 30 seconds. LifeShield's wireless system provides 3 layers of backup so your system stays on when:

- ✓ Your Internet goes down
- ✓ There is a power outage
- ✓ EVEN if your phone lines are cut**

PLUS—
Save up to
20% on your
homeowner's
insurance!

TRY LIFESHIELD FOR FREE†

Call today to start your 30-Day FREE trial of LifeShield Security and ask how you can also get

• **FREE** professional security monitoring† • **FREE** keychain remote†

Call **1.877.946.6318** or visit **www.LifeShield.com/power**

*Based on pricing for comparable equipment from ADT and Broadview as of 4/14/2010.

**If all three instances occur simultaneously, the system will maintain power and monitoring capability with the additional purchase of GSM gateway.

†Offer valid on Home Kit only. \$15.99 shipping will be charged on the day the order is placed. If no return request is made, the Home Kit hardware cost and monitoring charges will begin approximately 31 days post order date. Returns: Return Authorization Number must be requested no later than 30 days from the date of purchase. Kit must be returned in original packaging and condition. Limited 1 per customer. Other restrictions apply. Call or see website for details.

Licensed by: **AR** E 08-012; **CA** ACO 6556; **DE** 07-220; **FL** EF20000783; **GA** LVA205828; **IL** 127-001355; **MD** 107-1421; **MT** 217; **NJ** 34BX00006900; **NY** 12000262896; **NC** BPN 006272P5; **OK** 1563; **RI** 7974; **SC** BAC13292; **TN** 1334; **TX** B14642; **UT** 6672683-6501; **VA** 11-5293. Visit www.lifeshield.com for full list of licenses.





BARBARA BERRY, *Bryan Texas Utilities*

Prize-winning recipe: **Tamales and Jalapeño Cornbread Dressing**

Give your Thanksgiving dinner a different look this year with these recipes that have taken a familiar menu item and given it a new twist. Our first-place winner combines a bit of spice with five forms of corn to create a tasty combo that taste testers loved.

TAMALES AND JALAPEÑO CORNBREAD DRESSING

- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1½ cups chopped onion
- 1½ cups stemmed and seeded red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 large stemmed and seeded jalapeños, chopped
- 2 cups chopped poblanos, stems and seeds removed
- 1½ tablespoons dried oregano
- 6 cups crumbled cornbread (enough for a 13x9-inch pan)
- ¾ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1½ cups crumbled corn chips
- 1½ cups frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 1¼ cups canned cream-style corn
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 dozen pork tamales, unwrapped, chopped in 1-inch chunks
- Salt and pepper

Melt butter in heavy large skillet over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, chilies and oregano. Sauté until vegetables are tender. Transfer to a bowl with cornbread. Mix in cilantro, corn chips, corn kernels, cream-style corn and heated chicken stock. Fold in tamales at the end and do not break up. Salt and pepper to taste. If stuffing is too dry, add a little melted butter.

Place dressing in a large buttered baking pan. Cover with foil and bake dressing in a preheated 325-degree oven for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 15 minutes, until brown.

Servings: 12. Serving size: ¾ cup. Per serving: 374 calories, 7.4 g protein, 16.6 g fat, 48.1 g carbohydrates, 4.9 g dietary fiber, 735 mg sodium, 4.6 g sugars, 35 mg cholesterol

BLEU GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

- 2 pounds fresh green beans, washed and snapped to 1-inch length
- ½ pound mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 1 ounce slivered almonds (optional)
- 6 or 7 slices bacon
- 4 green onions

- 2½ tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons bacon grease
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 4 ounces bleu (or Gorgonzola) cheese
- 4 ounces fresh grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 can (6 ounces) French-fried onions

Line bottom of 13x9-inch pan with green beans. Top with layer of sliced mushrooms, then sprinkle with almonds, if using. In large skillet, fry bacon until crispy. Drain and return 3 tablespoons of drippings to pan. Chop bacon and set aside. Chop green onions, including whites, set aside. Add flour to drippings in skillet and whisk over medium heat until flour browns. Whisk in cream and allow to just boil around edges of pan. Add bleu cheese, reserved bacon and onions and allow cheese to melt, but not boil, in cream sauce. Pour cream mixture over beans, then sprinkle with Parmesan, then French-fried onions. Cover with foil and bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees, remove foil and bake another 30 minutes.

Servings: 16. Serving size: ½ cup. Per serving: 202 calories, 7.5 g protein, 16.3 g fat, 5.7 g carbohydrates, 1.9 g dietary fiber, 421 mg sodium, 1.3 g sugars, 54 mg cholesterol

STEPHANIE NICHOLS

Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative

COOK'S TIP Hot out of the oven, the cream mixture may seem a little runny; it will set up as the pan cools.

RED QUINOA COCONUT YAMS

- 3 cups mashed, cooked sweet potatoes
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups cooked red quinoa

TOPPING

- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ⅓ cup flour
- ⅓ cup butter, melted
- ½ teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix potatoes, sugar, milk, butter, eggs, vanilla and salt and spread into a greased 8x8-inch baking dish, then top with the quinoa. Combine coconut, nuts, brown sugar, flour, melted butter and pie spice, then add in layers atop quinoa. Bake 35 minutes.

Servings: 12. Serving size: ½ cup. Per serving: 562 calories, 7.2 g protein, 30.8 g fat, 62.0 g carbohydrates, 7.4 g dietary fiber, 149 mg sodium, 35.5 g sugars, 70 mg cholesterol

DEBORAH GELDARSKI

South Plains Electric Cooperative

COOK'S TIP Quinoa (pronounced keen-WAH) is a grain that originated in South America. It is high in fiber and nutrients and is gluten free.

\$100 RECIPE CONTEST

March's recipe contest topic is *Hot Off the Griddle*. Do you make your own pancakes, waffles and other battered breakfast delights? Have a recipe for homemade syrup or other toppings? Send us your recipes. The deadline is **November 10.**

Send recipes to Home Cooking, 1122 Colorado, 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, or go to www.TexasCoopPower.com and click on Submit and Share. You may also fax them to (512) 763-3408, or e-mail them to recipes@texas-ec.org. Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The top winner will receive \$100, a copy of 60 Years of Home Cooking and a Texas-shaped trivet. Runners-up will also receive a prize.

2010 © TODD ARENA. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM



What should I do with my shrimp?



What's a good soup?



Where's that biscuit recipe?



Finding that lost recipe is easier than ever with our new website. You can locate all the recipes from recent years in our online archive. So even if you cannot remember when a recipe appeared—or its name—there is no need to go hungry. You can still find it!

Search For Recipes

Any Course

Any Main Ingredient

Keywords

FIND IT

You'll also find cooking tips and other information to help you plan dinner tonight.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER.com

TEXAS CO-OP POWER. WITH A KICK.

A spicy twist on Thanksgiving.

Poblano Chicken with Peanuts

- 1 (6–8 oz.) boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into strips
- 2 oz. peanut oil
- 2 skinless, seedless poblano peppers, roasted on the stovetop or grill
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup cilantro
- salted peanuts

In a saucepan at medium heat, heat the oil for 30 seconds and add chicken. Cook for about 1 minute on each side. In a blender, add poblano peppers, water and cilantro. Puree for 1 minute. Add pepper puree to the chicken and cook for about 3 more minutes. Add the peanuts, stir well and serve.

PEANUTS:
Energy for the good life.

Brought to you by the Texas Peanut Producers Board and the National Peanut Board
www.texaspeanutboard.com

LOW COST Mobile Home Insurance



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

Serving
Texas Mobile
Homeowners
since 1961

**STANDARD
DIRECT**
INSURANCE AGENCY

www.stdins.com

Start Saving
Today!

OR CALL BECKY AT
800-522-0146

LONESTAR MARKET

TOWN & COUNTRY

SPEARS BARN COMPANY
We Offer Different Sizes & Designs

One 10' sliding door.
One walk-through door.
Materials, delivery, tax & labor.

30' x 50' x 10'
Colored Metal
\$8,400

1-877-371-3501 www.spearsbarnco.com
*Shipping prices may be higher south of College Station or west of Abilene

#1 Value. Escorted Tours Since 1952.

Caravan.com

New from \$995! Panama Canal, Rainforests and Beaches.
Call 1.800.CARAVAN for free 28 page info guide. Or, visit us online at Caravan.com.

MANUFACTURED HOME OR PIER & BEAM HOME INSULATED CEMENT SKIRTING

3 designs & 11 colors to choose from!
Replace your vinyl skirting with STONECOTE.
1-830-833-2547
www.stonecote.com



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.

W.D. Metal Buildings



Instant Quotes Online www.wdmb.com

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>



BRUSH SHARK



SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR
• 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
• Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.
(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

MID - AMERICA POLE BARN COMPANY

30X50X10 SPECIAL
Galvalume. Material, Delivery, and const.
Factory trusses and screws.
TOLL FREE 1-866-456-0959

WE BUY MINERALS



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

Accessible Buildings Co.

EASY BOLT-UP CONSTRUCTION
SAVE! BUILD YOURSELF!

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

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
SHOP • FARM

CALL TODAY FOR BUILDING QUOTE!

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



ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10' \$6,440
40' x 60' x 12' \$9,399
50' x 75' x 14' \$13,693
80' x 120' x 16 (M-1)..... \$33,000

Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units - \$11,000

1.877.657.8335
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

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

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

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:     

1-877-USA-BARN

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY

"Building Solutions" ...with integrity!

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

1-800-582-BARN (2276)

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

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

NEW! TEXAS SALES REP Now Available

nationalbarn.com

GIVE YOUR FEET A HOLIDAY FROM THE COLD!

Great For
Men &
Women



**MEMORY FOAM
MOCCASIN BOOTS**

only
\$19.97

**FREE
SHIPPING!**



Memory Foam Molds
To The Contours
Of Your Feet



**FULL COVERAGE
COZY COMFORT!**
From Ankle
To Toes



Deep Pile
Fleece Lining

**NON-SKID
SOLE FOR
INDOOR/OUTDOOR
SAFETY**



Adjustable For
A Perfect Fit!

www.DreamProductsCatalog.com (website offers may vary) **OR ORDER NOW TOLL-FREE 1-800-530-2689**

BETTER THAN BARE FEET!

Step out of the cold and into the cozy warmth of these fabulous import fleece-lined moccasin boots. They surround your feet with cushy comfort courtesy of unique memory foam insoles. Ultra-soft suede look polyester and sturdy non-skid rubber sole with adjustable side closure makes them easy to slip on & off. Hurry, order today & get a **FREE SURPRISE GIFT** and **FREE SHIPPING!**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

#297 Ladies'	XS (5-5½)	S (6-6½)	M (7-8½)	L (9-10)	MEMORY FOAM MOCCASIN BOOTS Dept. 62871 <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check or money order payable to Dream Products, Inc. Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS SM Cards Card# _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____
Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	
#298 Men's	S (6-7)	M (7½-8½)	L (9-10½)	XL (11-12)	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	Qty _____	
_____ Memory Foam Moccasin Boots(s) @ \$19.97 \$ _____					
CA residents must add 8.25% sales tax \$ _____					
FREE SHIPPING \$ FREE					
Add \$1.00 Handling (no matter how many you order) \$ 1.00					
Please Print Clearly				TOTAL \$ _____	

Dream Products, Inc. 412 DREAM LANE, VAN NUYS, CA 91496

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

GET RESULTS! ADVERTISE IN THE

**LONESTAR
MARKET**
TOWN & COUNTRY

CALL MARTIN FOR MORE INFORMATION

(512) 486-6249**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**M&W BUILDERS**

CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

BARN • SHOPS • GARAGES

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
FOR FREE ESTIMATES CALL**1-800-457-2088****KEEP IT SIMPLE.
KEEP IT HERITAGE.**

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

HERITAGE
BUILDING SYSTEMS.
Established 1979

1.800.643.5555

HeritageBuildings.com**FREE EVALUATION**of Your Producing Oil & Gas
Minerals by a Geologist**1-800-806-7453**

Farm • Industrial • Commercial

Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants;
Seal Stamped Blue Prints;
Easy Bolt Together Design.**25 YEAR COLOR WARRANTY**

PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

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

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

(Local codes may affect prices)

VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE**RHINO®**
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMSVISIT
OUR
WEBSITEFax: 940-484-6746 email: info@rhinobldg.com
Website: www.RHINOBLDG.COMToll Free **1-888-320-7466****MARATHON WATER HEATERS.
READY FOR THE FUTURE TODAY.**

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

**Marathon®**
WATER HEATERS**Get a Marathon and invest in the future.****Marathon, America's most
durable and efficient water
heater. Now available at these
member-owned cooperatives:**

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

For buying information, call

1-866-390-4832**Texas Electric Cooperatives**
Utility Supply & Service Division
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

RELIEVE PAIN...REGAIN MOBILITY!



THERAPEUTIC WRIST SUPPORTS

Only **\$9.97**

FREE
SHIPPING & HANDLING
when buying 2 or more

- Great For:
- Arthritis
 - Strains
 - Tendinitis
 - Carpal Tunnel Syndrome



MAGNETIC THERAPY

- Stabilizes Thumb & Wrist
- Helps Relieve Stiffness & Swelling

**COMPLETELY
ADJUSTABLE
FOR A
PERFECT FIT**

MAKES ONCE PAINFUL TASKS **EASY AGAIN!**



WRITING



DRIVING



OPENING JARS



TYPING



SEWING

ORDER TOLL FREE 1-800-530-2689

www.DreamProductsCatalog.com (WEB OFFERS MAY VARY)

PUT THE POWER OF MAGNETIC THERAPY TO WORK FOR YOU!

Slip on these amazing Therapeutic Wrist Supports and feel the magnetic forces go to work reducing swelling, pain & discomfort. Soothe tense aching muscles & increase mobility. Magical magnetic power is embedded in each wrist support to wrap you in its miraculous healing powers. One size fits left or right hand. Fashion import of neoprene/nylon & magnets. Hurry, order today and get **FREE shipping & handling** when buying 2 or more.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

THERAPEUTIC WRIST SUPPORTS

Dept. 62872

(97378)	(Ladies') _____ Therapeutic Wrist Support(s) @ \$9.97	\$	<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 SM Cards Card# _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____
(97379)	(Men's) _____ Therapeutic Wrist Support(s) @ \$9.97	\$	
CA residents must add 8.25% sales tax		\$	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Add \$4.95 Shipping & Handling 1st Item		\$	
FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more		\$	
TOTAL		\$	

Please Print Clearly

Dream Products, Inc. 412 DREAM LANE, VAN NUYS, CA 91496

Dept. 62872 © 2010 Dream Products, Inc.

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



ZERO DOWN & 0% FINANCING!

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



JOHN DEERE
Nothing Runs Like A Deere®

Only at Fosters Family of Farm Stores!

FOSTERS
Farm
& Equipment Supply

www.tractorpackages.com

**WE DELIVER
NATIONWIDE!**



Hockley, TX
(888) 869-6202

Liberty, TX
(888) 502-1888

Beaumont, TX
(877) 301-0111

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

AS1CUFF0035N-HOU5x51201TCP-4C-00304294



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



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

1-800-766-5793

www.bcibarns.com

e-mail: barn@bcibarns.com

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



None. Zero. Zilch.



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



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

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



**United-Bilt
Homes™**

Homemade just for you®

* With approved credit for qualified land owners.



800.756.2506 ubh.com

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

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

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

NOBODY BEATS OUR QUALITY, SERVICE AND PRICE!

- ✓ We Have 10 Million Satisfied Customers
- ✓ We Buy Factory Direct and Pass the SAVINGS on to YOU!
- ✓ Shop & Compare Our Quality Brands Against Other National Brands
- ✓ Thousands of People Switch to Harbor Freight Tools Every Day!
- ✓ NO HASSLE RETURN POLICY ✓ Family Owned & Operated

We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price Within 1 Year Of Purchase!

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ON ALL HAND TOOLS!

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

Shop Online at
HarborFreight.com

SUPER COUPON!

FREE!

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

ITEM 65020

NO PURCHASE REQUIRED!

REG. PRICE \$7.99

51246635

Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold or transferred. Original coupon must be presented at your local Harbor Freight store in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11. Limit one per customer.

SUPER COUPON!

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM!

Use this coupon to save 20% on any one single item purchased when you shop at a Harbor Freight Tools store. Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. One coupon per customer. Coupon not valid on any of the following - prior purchases, gift cards, inside Track Club membership or Extended Service Plans. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store in order to receive the offer. All Campbell Hausfeld products are excluded from this offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

84971605

Get More Coupons at HarborFreight.com/texaspower

SUPER COUPON!

CHICAGO WELDING

90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER

LOT NO. 98871/94056

\$89.99

REG. PRICE \$149.99

NO GAS REQUIRED!

Item 98871 shown

SAVE \$60

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

2 HP, 8 GALLON, 115 PSI PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSOR

LOT NO. 95386/67501/40400

\$89.99

REG. PRICE \$139.99

SAVE \$50

Item 95386 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

3000 LB. CAPACITY LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM RACING JACK

U.S. GENERAL

LOT NO. 91039/67408

\$59.99

REG. PRICE \$99.99

SAVE \$40

Item 91039 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

CHICAGO Electric Power Tools

OSCILLATING MULTIFUNCTION POWER TOOL

LOT NO. 67256

\$29.99

REG. PRICE \$59.99

17 DIFFERENT ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE IN OUR STORES!

SAVE 50%

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

Attachments shown: SANDING, SCRAPE CONCRETE, CUT METAL, CUT DRYWALL, CUT PLASTIC, PLUNGE CUTTING, CUT FLOORING.

SUPER COUPON!

500 LB. CAPACITY ALUMINUM CARGO CARRIER

LOT NO. 92655

\$59.99

REG. PRICE \$129.99

SAVE \$70

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

LOT NO. 95578

\$9.99

REG. PRICE \$17.99

SAVE 44%

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

6" DIGITAL CALIPER CEN-TECH

LOT NO. 47257/98563

\$9.99

REG. PRICE \$29.99

SAVE 66%

Item 47257 shown

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

SUPER COUPON!

WEATHERPROOF COLOR SECURITY CAMERA WITH NIGHT VISION

LOT NO. 95914

\$24.99

REG. PRICE \$39.99

SAVE 37%

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 1
This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or catalog). Coupon not valid on prior purchases. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in store, or with your catalog order form or entered online in order to receive the offer. Valid through 2/25/11.

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

NOTICE OF NEW U.S. COINS



■ **GOV'T KICKS OFF BRAND NEW STATE QUARTER PROGRAM:** Congress has now given their approval to begin the release of the new State Quarter Dollars. There will be 56 coins in all, each featuring a newly designed coin from every state and territory. Don't be mistaken, these are not the old State Quarters that you get in your pocket change every day. These are all new coins from the U.S. Mint's new America the Beautiful Quarters™ Program.



New state coins go to public free

State population figures used by the World Reserve determine how many residents from each state who beat the order deadline to claim the Collectors Coin Chest for just \$9 get the entire first year of never-circulated U.S. Gov't issued coins free

By R. K. Berry
UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

(UMS) - "They'll be practically clawing each other's eyes out to get the new State Quarters free."

So says Timothy Shisler, Chief of Coin Operations at the private World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"Everyone who gets in on this will be among the first to get the U.S. Government's dazzling new coins," Shisler said.

The entire first year of these valuable coins are being given away free to everyone who beats the deadline to cover shipping and the \$9 claim for the new Collectors Coin Chest.

So, what's the catch?

Just be absolutely sure to call the toll free hotline before the 7-day deadline ends if you want to get the entire first year's coins free.

This is all happening because the World Reserve is issuing the new Collectors Coin Chest to the general public to protect and display the entire first year's set of the U.S. Mint's

first ever America the Beautiful Quarters™.

"This new State Quarter Program could end up being even more popular than the original 50 State Quarters® Program," Shisler said.

Coin values always fluctuate, but believe it or not, the original State Quarters have already increased up to an amazing 400% in collector value just months after the program ended. "So who knows what these new coins could bring someday," Shisler said.

Never-circulated coins like these are among those most likely to increase in value. That makes getting the Collectors Coin Chest a real steal since everyone who does is getting the entire first year of the new U.S. Gov't issued coins free.

Rations of the new coins are uncertain because each one is only minted for a limited time and all of them will be released and delivered according to the U.S. Government's release schedule. So once they're gone, they're gone. These coins will never be



■ **HANDOUT BEGINS:** The free money giveaway begins for state residents precisely at 8:00 am today. The World Reserve is giving residents the entire first year of the new U.S. Gov't issued coins free. But residents need to be absolutely sure to call the Toll Free Hotline at 1-866-941-7865 before the 7-day order deadline ends to get the coins free.

minted again. "That's why readers need to call right now to get the entire first year of never-circulated coins for free," he said.

"These new State Quarters will be highly sought after and are extremely popular to hand out as gifts for friends and family. They are the perfect gift for any occasion," he said.

To make sure readers don't

get left out of this free giveaway they need to call the Toll Free Hotline number before the 7-day deadline ends.

"At the rate we anticipate giving these coins away we may be forced to give away more than \$1 million dollars of these valuable new coins to the general public. So, if lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered," Shisler said. ■

How to get your Free Coins

Find your state below and be among the first to call the number before the 7-day deadline ends. State residents who do are getting the entire first year of the new Gov't issued U.S. coins free just by covering shipping and only \$9 for the new Collectors Coin Chest. All of your free coins will be delivered in accordance with the U.S. Mint's* release schedule. However, if you miss the deadline you will be turned away from this free offer and forced to wait for future announcements in this or other U.S. publications, if any.

ALABAMA
1-866-522-6288
CODE: NQ1522
1st 14,126
residents
get coins free

ALASKA
1-866-729-5804
CODE: NQ1522
1st 4,889
residents
get coins free

ARIZONA
1-866-744-4502
CODE: NQ1522
1st 19,787
residents
get coins free

ARKANSAS
1-866-779-6662
CODE: NQ1522
1st 8,668
residents
get coins free

CALIFORNIA
NOT
AVAILABLE

COLORADO
1-866-928-8269
CODE: NQ1522
1st 15,074
residents
get coins free

CONNECTICUT
1-866-941-7617
CODE: NQ1522
1st 10,555
residents
get coins free

DELAWARE
1-866-941-7623
CODE: NQ1522
1st 2,655
residents
get coins free

FLORIDA
NOT
AVAILABLE

GEORGIA
1-866-941-7630
CODE: NQ1522
1st 29,488
residents
get coins free

HAWAII
1-866-941-7635
CODE: NQ1522
1st 9,066
residents
get coins free

IDAHO
1-866-941-7764
CODE: NQ1522
1st 4,637
residents
get coins free

ILLINOIS
1-866-941-7769
CODE: NQ1522
1st 38,731
residents
get coins free

INDIANA
1-866-941-7820
CODE: NQ1522
1st 19,269
residents
get coins free

IOWA
1-866-941-7824
CODE: NQ1522
1st 9,024
residents
get coins free

KANSAS
1-866-941-7842
CODE: NQ1522
1st 8,456
residents
get coins free

KENTUCKY
1-866-941-7868
CODE: NQ1522
1st 12,942
residents
get coins free

LOUISIANA
1-866-941-7879
CODE: NQ1522
1st 13,476
residents
get coins free

MAINE
1-866-721-8117
CODE: NQ1522
1st 3,955
residents
get coins free

MARYLAND
1-866-729-5805
CODE: NQ1522
1st 17,098
residents
get coins free

MICHIGAN
1-866-746-4813
CODE: NQ1522
1st 29,909
residents
get coins free

MINNESOTA
1-866-907-7106
CODE: NQ1522
1st 15,799
residents
get coins free

MISSISSIPPI
1-866-934-4330
CODE: NQ1522
1st 8,856
residents
get coins free

MISSOURI
1-866-941-7620
CODE: NQ1522
1st 17,963
residents
get coins free

MONTANA
1-866-941-7624
CODE: NQ1522
1st 2,925
residents
get coins free

NEBRASKA
1-866-941-7631
CODE: NQ1522
1st 2,390
residents
get coins free

NEVADA
1-866-941-7640
CODE: NQ1522
1st 7,929
residents
get coins free

NEW HAMPSHIRE
1-866-941-7765
CODE: NQ1522
1st 3,974
residents
get coins free

NEW JERSEY
1-866-941-7818
CODE: NQ1522
1st 26,123
residents
get coins free

NEW MEXICO
1-866-941-7821
CODE: NQ1522
1st 6,029
residents
get coins free

NEW YORK
1-866-941-7826
CODE: NQ1522
1st 58,624
residents
get coins free

N. CAROLINA
1-866-941-7843
CODE: NQ1522
1st 28,143
residents
get coins free

N. DAKOTA
1-866-941-7869
CODE: NQ1522
1st 1,941
residents
get coins free

OHIO
1-866-729-5803
CODE: NQ1522
1st 34,628
residents
get coins free

OKLAHOMA
1-866-735-6434
CODE: NQ1522
1st 11,061
residents
get coins free

OREGON
1-866-779-6661
CODE: NQ1522
1st 11,477
residents
get coins free

PENNSYLVANIA
NOT
AVAILABLE

RHODE ISLAND
1-866-926-2063
CODE: NQ1522
1st 3,160
residents
get coins free

S. CAROLINA
1-866-941-7616
CODE: NQ1522
1st 13,684
residents
get coins free

S. DAKOTA
1-866-941-7621
CODE: NQ1522
1st 2,437
residents
get coins free

TENNESSEE
1-866-941-7626
CODE: NQ1522
1st 18,889
residents
get coins free

TEXAS
1-866-941-7633
CODE: NQ1522
1st 74,347
residents
get coins free

UTAH
1-866-941-7642
CODE: NQ1522
1st 8,354
residents
get coins free

VIRGINIA
1-866-941-7768
CODE: NQ1522
1st 23,648
residents
get coins free

WASHINGTON
1-866-941-7819
CODE: NQ1522
1st 19,993
residents
get coins free

W. VIRGINIA
1-866-941-7823
CODE: NQ1522
1st 5,459
residents
get coins free

WISCONSIN
1-866-941-7841
CODE: NQ1522
1st 16,964
residents
get coins free

WYOMING
1-866-941-7865
CODE: NQ1522
1st 1,633
residents
get coins free

THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE, INC. IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. MINT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, A BANK OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF U.S. COINS DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. ALL TRANSACTIONS LESS SHIPPING ARE BACKED BY THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE, INC. WITH A LIMITED 90 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE UP TO \$10,000.00. ADVERTISEMENT FOR WRME, INC. 8000 FREEDOM AVE., N. CANTON OH 44720. VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.THEWORLDRESERVE.COM

©2010 WRME P5426A OF12749R-1

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

BLAKE MATTSO, 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.

BEST BUY WALK IN BATH TUBS

Bathe Safely & Independently!



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

888-825-2362

Now VA Approved
member Better Business Bureau

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

www.bestbuywalkintubs.com/tx



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, 2010

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
Carol Moczygemba, 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 Country 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, Jourdanton; 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, 2010

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	1,226,093	1,230,517
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions (2-4) In County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other mailed	1,211,768	1,217,927
c. Total Paid and/or Requested	1,211,768	1,217,927
d. Free Distribution by Mail (1) Outside County (2-3) In County and other	5,550	5,760
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	none	none
f. Total Free Distribution	5,550	5,760
g. Total Distribution	1,217,318	1,223,687
h. Copies not Distributed	8,775	6,830
i. Total	1,226,093	1,230,517
Percent Paid and/or Requested	99.54%	99.53%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2010 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Carol Moczygemba, Executive Editor
Date
October 1, 2010

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 \$300 million to our customers.

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



Part of the Farm Credit System

CapitalFarmCredit.com 877-944-5500

TEXAS' LARGEST RURAL LENDER





▲ Buffalo and a spectacular backdrop near Medina: **Pat Rogers**, Medina Electric Cooperative



▲ A resplendent red oak against a bright-blue sky: **Gabriele Rendon**, Karnes Electric Cooperative



Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Jan	Man's Best Friend	Nov 10
Feb	Heroes	Dec 10
Mar	Springtime in Texas	Jan 10
Apr	Catch of the Day	Feb 10
May	Unlikely Duos	Mar 10
June	Murals	Apr 10

MAN'S BEST FRIEND is the topic for our JANUARY 2011 issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Man's Best Friend, 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. If you use a digital camera, submit your highest resolution images on our website at www.TexasCoopPower.com. 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.

FALL LEAVES

Autumn in Texas brings many delights. Besides the welcome relief from summer's heat, we are blessed with one of Mother Nature's most colorful of canvases: the changing of the leaves. It's not very long that our landscapes are painted deep in yellows, oranges and reds. Be sure to take the time to enjoy this brief and magical spectacle—winter will be here before you know it.

—ASHLEY CLARY



▲ Swimming hole in Weimar: **Ken Sparks**, San Bernard Electric Cooperative

◀ Playing hide-and-seek in raked leaves: **Jackie Hatfield**, Central Texas Electric Cooperative

▼ A maple tree in full regalia in Guadalupe Mountains National Park: **Charles Carlson**, Bandera Electric Cooperative



AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

This is just a sampling of the events and festivals around and about Texas. For the complete listing, please visit www.TexasCoopPower.com

PICK OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 10-14 HARLINGEN

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival,
1-800-531-7346, www.rgvbirdfest.com



BIRDERS: 2010 © SCOTT GRIESEL, IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. MERRY-GO-ROUND: 2010 © ANDREW ORLEMANN, IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. TOY: 2010 © MILOS LUZANIN, IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. SUGAR MAKING: 2010 © CITY OF HENDERSON DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

NOVEMBER

06

BLOOMBURG

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

SMITHVILLE

Music Festival,
(512) 237-2313

UTOPIA

Arts & Crafts Fall Fair,
(830) 966-5569

PLANO [6-7]

Texas Pet Expo,
1-877-349-0999,
www.texaspetexpo.com



6

BLOOMBURG
Cullen Baker Country Fair

05

COLUMBUS [5-6]

Live Oaks & Dead Folks
Cemetery Tour,
(979) 732-8385



6

UTOPIA
Arts & Crafts Fall Fair



13

HENDERSON
Heritage Syrup Festival

13

COLLEGE STATION

Brazos Valley Worldfest,
(979) 862-6700

HENDERSON

Heritage Syrup Festival,
1-866-650-5529,
www.hendersontx.us

KINGSLAND [13-14]

House of Arts & Crafts
Fall Show, (325) 388-
6159, www.kingslandcrafts.com

Texas Renaissance Festival

Saturdays, Sundays
and
Special Holiday Holiday
October 9th - November 28th

Redeem this coupon for
One Free Child's Ticket
Tickets at Gate: Adult \$23.00 Child \$11.00
Redeemable at the Texas Renaissance Festival
Box Office Only. No Cash Value.
Children are ages 5 - 12. Children 4 and under are free.
Ages 13 and up are considered adults.
Discount Tickets available at
texrenfest.com 800-458-3435



Send a Gift
Subscription

TODAY!

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

A gift subscription lets you share Texas Co-op Power with a far-away friend or family member. Visit the Marketplace at www.TexasCoopPower.com and order yours today.

AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

19 MILAM [19-20]
Settlers Day,
(409) 625-4876

20 BRENHAM [20-21]
Poinsettia Celebration,
1-888-273-6426,
www.ellisonsgreenhouses.com

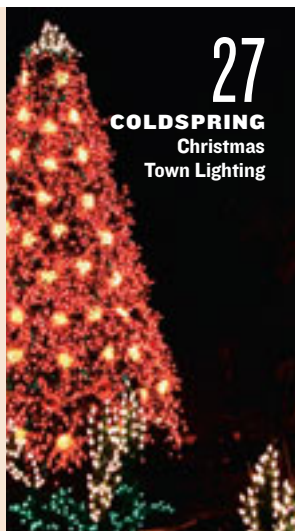
25 PEP
Thanksgiving Festival,
(806) 933-4696

27 ANDERSON
Twilight Firelight
at Fanthorp Inn,
(936) 878-2214,
www.birthplaceoftexas.com



**25
PEP**

Thanksgiving Festival



**27
COLDSPRING**
Christmas
Town Lighting

COLDSPRING
Christmas Town Lighting,
(936) 539-8825,
www.coldspringtexas.org

LEXINGTON
Christmas Bazaar,
(979) 773-4620

27 PALACIOS
Christmas on Main
Street, (361) 972-2615,
www.palacioschamber.com

DECEMBER

02 GRAPEVINE
Parade of Lights,
1-800-457-6338

03 BELLVILLE [3-4]
Small Town Christmas,
(979) 865-3407,
www.bellville.com/stc

SALADO [3-4; 10-11]
Dickens' "A Christmas
Carol," (254) 947-9205

04 BUDA [4-5]
Budafest, (512) 694-3413,
www.budafest.org

READY TO GO? GO ONLINE FIRST.

Before you hit the road, stop at the new and improved www.TexasCoopPower.com to search for events by date, region, type and keyword. You can also find the easy-to-navigate Travel section with all our popular Hit the Road and travel features.

So no matter if you're fixin' to get away to the Piney Woods or the Panhandle Plains (and all points between), your getaway just got easier.

Get a move on at www.TexasCoopPower.com.

Event information can be submitted on our website at www.TexasCoopPower.com, mailed to Around Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, or faxed to (512) 763-3407. **Please Note:** We are no longer accepting e-mailed submissions. Please submit events for January by November 10.

PIE: 2010 © LISA F. YOUNG. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: 2010 © PRESIYAN PANAYOTOV. IMAGE FROM BIGSTOCK.COM.

The #1 SELLING BRAND
of Handheld Outdoor Power Equipment
in America

*"Number one selling brand" is based on syndicated Irwin Broh Research (commercial landscapers) as well as independent consumer research of 2009 U.S. sales and market share data for the gasoline-powered handheld outdoor power equipment category combined sales to consumers and commercial landscapers.

Are you ready for a **STIHL**?

**BLOWERS
STARTING AT
\$149⁹⁹**
8G 55



**CHAIN SAWS
STARTING AT
\$179⁹⁹**
MS 170
14" bar



STIHLdealers.com

All prices are BME-SRP. Available at participating dealers. © 2010 STIHL

Our family has traveled the road between San Antonio and Houston many times, unaware of the riches just beyond our usual path. On one recent trip, however, we diverged from our usual course to discover a few Texas treasures we marked on our map, with one “X” south of Interstate 10 and two off to the north. Like any treasure hunt, this one was full of twists and turns.

SEGUIN

Pursuing the first X, south of the interstate, we headed for Seguin (pronounced seh-GEEN), which originally, in 1838, was a settlement laid out among beautiful live oaks beside Walnut Springs on the Guadalupe River. In 1839, the name was changed to Seguin in honor of Juan Seguín, a Tejano who helped Texas fight for independence from Mexico.

Seguin is known as the **PECAN CAPITAL OF TEXAS** for its pecan-producing industry, and pecan trees abound on the town square, where a pecan-shaped sculpture nearly the size of a Smart Car graces the front lawn of the Guadalupe County Courthouse. Strolling around the square, we also found an antique shop, an Internet café, a bar and grill, and the **PALACE THEATRE**.

Nearby, a couple of charming places to stay the night are: the **MOSHEIM MANSION**, originally the home of Emil Mosheim, a prominent German-born attorney; and the Victorian-era **WEINERT HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST**.

Perhaps Seguin’s greatest treasure is **MAX STARCKE PARK** on the south side of town along the Guadalupe River. It features an 18-hole golf course, numerous shaded picnic tables, access to the river for fishing, a children’s playground, an outdoor wave pool, and facilities for baseball/softball, tennis, volleyball and basketball.

If you have kiddos along (or adults young at heart), you might also enjoy **ZDT’S AMUSEMENT PARK**, just north of downtown.

TREASURE ISLAND

Riches of all kinds are well within reach on Seguin-area tour.

BY STACI SEMRAD



TREASURE ISLAND

LAKE MCQUEENEY, northwest of Seguin, is mostly private and residential, but it has several gems worth checking out, including **TREASURE ISLAND**, our second X, which we drove across a bridge to reach in the center of the lake.

Turning onto Admiral Benbow Lane and taking in all that surrounded us, we cruised slowly into this little paradise, named after the famed island in the 1883 adventure novel by Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson. We savored the beauty of the scene—water skiers zooming around Lake McQueeney, ducks waddling and paddling along the water’s edge, lined by lily pads, stylish boat docks and unique lakeside homes. On the half-mile-long Treasure Island, street names such as Trelawney and Spyglass harken back to Stevenson’s novel, and quaint canals wind through homes of a variety of architectural styles, shaded by massive

oak and pecan trees. Though it had no public area at which to stop for a picnic, we thoroughly enjoyed our drive through the island.

MCQUEENEY

Speaking of picnics, we were in need of a snack, so we left the island and headed on toward downtown McQueeney, our third X, where we stopped at **BLAKE’S CAFE** on FM 725. One of its featured items is frog legs, although we opted for the onion rings and delicious dipping sauce.

Other places to eat in McQueeney include the **BOOT SCOOTIN** bar and grill, **LAS LOMITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, **LAKE MCQUEENEY THAI CUISINE**, **BAIT AND BREW BAR**, and **PICA TACO**.

Next door to Blake’s Cafe, you can kick up your heels at **MCQUEENEY HALL**, where dances are held the first Friday of each month. The building was constructed in 1914 as the first general store in McQueeney. The store sold clothes, groceries, seed, feed and other supplies to the small community. In 2004, it was renovated and converted into McQueeney Hall, a true Texas honky-tonk ballroom.

On the other side of Blake’s is what appears to be an old gas station converted into a thrift, or antique, store of sorts, bearing a “Mission Possible” sign and selling donated goods ranging from VCR tapes and clothes to toys and kitchenware. Much of the stuff can be purchased with spare change. As a familiar saying goes, “One man’s junk is another man’s treasure.”

The best lodging options around the lake appear to be individual lake houses and condominiums for rent, which can be found with a search for McQueeney sites, such as at www.vacationrentals.com.

Staci Semrad is an Austin-based writer who contributes periodically to Texas Co-op Power.



regular price \$~~39.99~~

\$24⁹⁹ a month
for 12 months

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

HD FREE
for life!
(with agreement)



FOR A **LIMITED** TIME RECEIVE:

FREE

HBO® & SHOWTIME®

18 channels for 3 mo.
(with agreement)

FREE



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

FREE



**Activation
(\$99 Value)**

FREE



**Up to 6 Room
Installation**

CALL TODAY

1.877.457.5628

WWW.INFINITYDISH.COM



\$25 Visa® gift card
with activation (certain conditions apply)
Respond by: 12/15/2010

Scan this
QR Barcode
with your phone
and learn more
about our promos!



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

Get FREE barcode scanning software at: www.i-nigma.mobi

Digital Home Advantage plan requires 24-month agreement and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of agreement, a cancellation fee of \$17.50/month remaining applies. Programming credits apply during first 12 months. Free HD for life of current account; requires Agreement, AutoPay with Paperless Billing. HBO/Showtime offer requires AutoPay with Paperless Billing; credits apply during first 3 months (\$72 value); customer must downgrade or then-current price applies. Requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay and Paperless Billing. Free Standard Professional Installation only. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limit 6 leased tuners per account; lease upgrade fees apply for select receivers; monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. HD channel availability will vary based on package. 200 HD channels require subscription to additional packages and VIP® 922 receiver. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels may not be available in all areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions may apply. First-time DISH Network customers only. Offer ends 12/15/10. HBO® and related channels and service marks are the property of HomeBox Office, Inc. SHOWTIME and related marks are registered trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. \$25 Visa® gift card requires activation and \$2.95 shipping and handling fee. You will receive a claim voucher within 3-4 weeks and the voucher must be returned within 30 days. Your Visa® gift card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. T.S. 10-1006.



“quiet evening on the front porch”

insurance

For more than 110 years, Germania Insurance has specialized in insuring rural homes and property. That's why Germania is the largest farm mutual insurance company in Texas, and why we're still **The Insurance Texans' Trust.**®

- Competitive rates
- Multiple discount options
- Exceptional, responsive claims service 24/7
- Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company

It's time to trust Germania Insurance with *your* rural property, too.



HOME • AUTO • LIFE

www.GermaniaInsurance.com