

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

A Future Untangled

High school students are smoothing out career uncertainty and preparing for such jobs as butchers, hair stylists and welders



HOW CAN SOMETHING MADE OF STEEL BE SO FLEXIBLE?



D.I.Y. SERIES



STANDARD SERIES



CHOICE SERIES

MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS FIT YOUR LIFE.

Mueller's steel buildings adapt to practically any need. For backyard storage, choose our easy-to-assemble D.I.Y. Series. If you need a garage or workshop, choose one of our pre-engineered Standard Series buildings. Or let the skilled engineers at Mueller design a multi-functional Choice Series facility just for you.



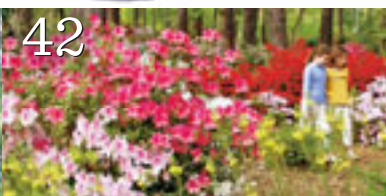


FEATURES

Honing Their Futures To meet the needs of graduates and the workforce, high schools offer specialized career training that is very much hands-on. By Mark Wangrin • Photos by Wyatt McSpadden **8**

Foreign Accents There's a world of difference between Texas towns and the more famous places they seem to share names with. Or is there? By John Morthland • Illustrations by John Margeson **14**

Around Texas: Here's food for thought: See how many of the upcoming cook-offs you can get to and then determine which number is higher, miles driven or calories consumed. **40**



COVER PHOTO Shelby Scallan awaits the processing of her highlights at the La Grange High School cosmetology salon. By Wyatt McSpadden

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ron Hughes, Chair, Sinton; Darryl Schriver, Vice Chair, Merkel; Jerry Boze, Secretary-Treasurer, Kaufman; Debra Cole, Itasca; Kyle Kuntz, Livingston; Randy Mahannah, Perryton; Bobby Waid, Bandera **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Bryan Lightfoot, Bartlett; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Stan McClendon, Wellington; Blaine Warzecha, Victoria; Buff Whitten, Eldorado; Jerry Williams, Paris; Kathy Wood, Marshall **COMMUNICATIONS STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Carol Moczygemba, Vice President, Executive Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Suzi Sands, Art Director; Karen Nejtsek, Production Manager; Ashley Clary-Carpenter, Field Editor; Andy Doughty, Production Designer/Web Content Manager; Sandra Forston, Communications Assistant; Suzanne Haberman, Staff Writer; Kevin Hargis, Food Editor; Blake Mitchell, Print Production Specialist; Ellen Stader, Proofreader; Brittany Lamas, Communications Intern

GUMBO: MICHAEL THOMPSON | BIGSTOCK.COM

FAVORITES

33 Texas History

Meet the Colorful Cactus Jack

By Brittany Lamas

35 Recipes

The Veggie Experience

39 Focus on Texas

Broken

40 Around Texas

List of Local Events

42 Hit the Road

Azalea Trails

By Jan Adamson

ONLINE

TexasCoopPower.com

Texas USA

An Invasive's Worst Nightmare

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

Observations

They Keep Messing Up

By Kevin Hargis



Introducing CoBank's new **PENSION PREPAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM**

Rural electric cooperatives participating in NRECA's Retirement Security Plan can now finance up to 100 percent of pension buy-downs with a customized, low-cost loan from CoBank. Reduce your pension expenses and take advantage of:

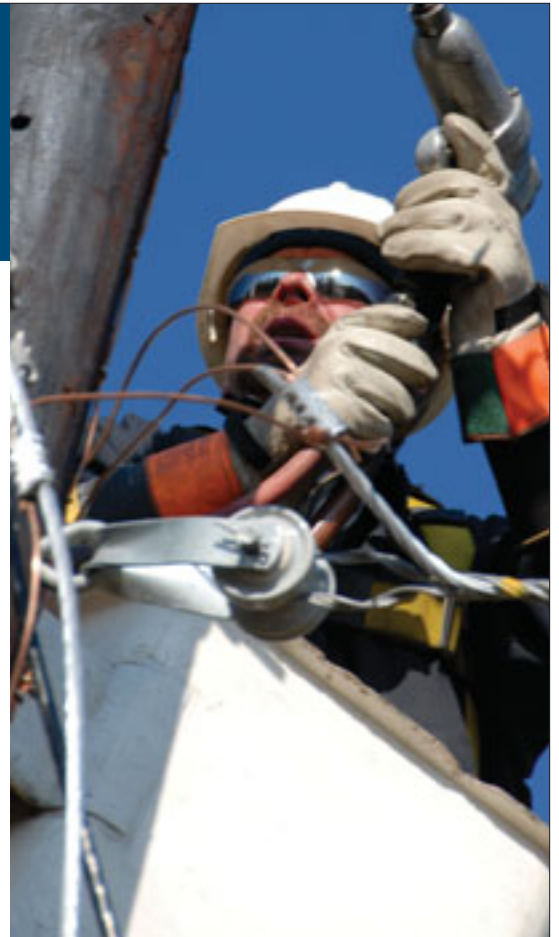
- ✓ Historically low interest rates
- ✓ Fixed and variable rates with tenors up to 10 years
- ✓ 100 percent unsecured credit
- ✓ Eligibility for patronage refunds

To learn more and start saving, call your
Relationship Manager or 512-330-9060 today.



www.cobank.com

Proud Member of the Farm Credit System 



The National Grass of Texas



www.TURFFALO.com

or 800-872-0522

Bred in Texas to help save one of our most precious resources - water! Order from your nursery or direct from Turffalo online. Your lawn will be shipped to you in plugs that are easy to install at one per square foot. Then get ready for a green lawn - in sun or in shade!

Turffalo

Flag Flap

The article about the huge American flag ["Texas Pride, in All Its Glory," January 2013] speaks volumes about the pride of the Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co., which took great pains to get it right. However, nobody at your magazine caught the fact that the flag was displayed backward.

Ask any good Boy Scout, and he will tell you that the blue, starred field always appears in the upper left corner. Please correct me if I am wrong.

LAURA COFFMAN | BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

I make a point of alerting businesses and others when I see them displaying the flag backward, as you are doing. Please make sure that in the future your proofreaders are aware of the proper procedures in displaying or printing the flag.

DAVE OGOZALIK | COSERV ELECTRIC

The union, or blue part, of the flag is on the right and it should be on the left. This is insulting to our country, along with being improper flag etiquette

JUDITH A. LITTLE | COSERV ELECTRIC

As a World War II veteran, I increasingly note and sense decreasing pride in and knowledge by our citizens of our great republic ... and its history, accomplishments, traditions, liberties and justices for all. Our USA has been and truly is an exceptional and unique nation.

JIM FOSTER | PEDERNALES EC

Displaying Old Glory in a proper manner is very important to me. I spent 38 years in the service for the

greatest country on Earth. Wake up and learn the proper way to display our flag.

ANGELO FALZARANO | PEDERNALES EC



Correct flag display

Editor's Note: *Well, we goofed. And we're sorry. It didn't take long after the latest issue landed in your mailboxes that we started hearing from readers, who are exceedingly observant and patriotic. We love that about you. Of all the details in the January issue that we checked and double-checked, the way the flag was facing simply got past us. While the U.S. Flag Code does not address the use of flag diagrams in print publications, it's clear from this paragraph that Texas Co-op Power showed the flag improperly:*

"When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left."

Still Learning

It's amazing what you can learn, even in your old age!

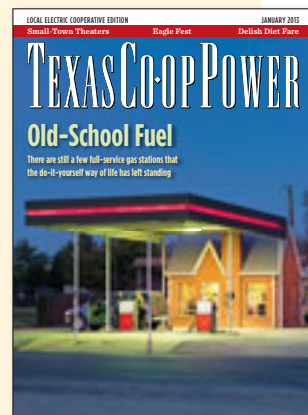
I grew up in Huntsville, was subjected to all the "Houston" lore,

Regular or Ethyl?

I miss those ["Gas With Class," January 2013]. Growing up in a small town, I used to pull in for my gas, sign a ticket that my parents had an account for and never thought a thing about how awesome it was to have full service. Plus gas was really cheap in the early 1970s.

If I shut my eyes and reminisce, I can still hear the "ding-ding" sound when you ran over the (signal) hose as you pulled in.

BELINDA EMBREY HILLEY ON FACEBOOK | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES



and nothing was ever taught, published or printed (that I knew of) about this other remarkable Houston—Joshua [January 2013]. Perhaps it was because I grew up and was gone from Huntsville before segregation ended, and the "white" schools were not allowed to promote the intelligence, acumen and contributions made by the "black" community.

More's the pity we had to suffer through all those years of not knowing the "rest of the story"

Joshua Houston



about our brothers and sisters of different races and colors. Segregation, prejudice and bias have no place in our lives—now or ever.

JOYCE D. SCHAEFER | VICTORIA, KARNES AND PEDERNALES ECS

GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

Find more letters online in the Table of Contents. Sign up for our E-Newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share

EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 69, NUMBER 9 (USPS 540-560). Texas Co-op Power is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power's website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$3.96 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 2013 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2013 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
Your "Tookhome Energy" Partner



1800

That was the weight, in pounds, of Bodacious, considered the world's most dangerous bull. Of the 135 attempts to ride this Charbray of the Professional Bull Riders tour, only six men held on for the entire eight seconds. One of them was Richard "Tuff" Hedeman, who turns 50 on March 2. Hedeman, born in El Paso, rode his first calf at 4. He won rodeo titles in high school and at Sul Ross State University. But back to Bodacious. He was nasty. He would drop his head low and buck his hind legs straight up, causing the rider to lean forward. Then he would jerk his head back and smash the rider's face. That's what he did to Hedeman in 1995, fracturing most of the bones in his face, which required 13 hours of reconstructive surgery to repair. Hedeman, the president of Championship Bull Riding, lives in Morgan Mill and is a member of United Cooperative Services. Bodacious died in 2000 in Addielou.

WHO KNEW?

Miles and Miles of Cigarette Butts in Texas

About 400 million cigarette butts end up on the state's roadways in one year, according to a Texas Department of Transportation study in 2009.

Placed end to end, they would stretch about 7,500 miles—or about five round trips from Padre Island to El Paso. How long would that take you? Depends on whether you drive the speed limit or go smokin' fast.

HAPPENINGS



Shuck for Bucks for Firetrucks

Got a hankering for some oysters? Look no further! Head on down to Fulton for Oysterfest, slated for March 7-10. The Fulton Volunteer Fire Department is pulling out all the stops for this year's celebration, which includes a parade, carnival rides, arts and crafts, live music, games and, of course, food. There also will be oyster-shucking and oyster-eating contests (last year's winner slurped down about 275). Oysterfest officials have been working with seafood sources along the Gulf Coast to locate the freshest oysters and other seafood for this annual event. Money raised this year will be saved toward a new fire station. So get shuckin'.

Tickets: \$3; children 12 and younger get in free.

Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com

FOR INFO: (361) 463-9955, FULTONOYSTERFEST.ORG

ON THIS DATE

Bluebonnet Proclaimed State Flower

On March 7, 1901, the Legislature proclaimed the bluebonnet the state flower, even though state Rep. John Nance Garner fervently pushed for the prickly pear cactus, thus earning him the nickname “Cactus Jack.” [See Brittany Lamas’ “Meet the Colorful Cactus Jack” about Garner on Page 29.] In the 1930s, the state began a high-way beautification program that included scattering bluebonnet seeds on roadsides. Bluebonnets should be in bloom this month.



Feel the Madness?

This month marks the 75th anniversary of March Madness, the NCAA Division I men’s basketball tournament—though the skimpy eight-team affair in 1939 hardly resulted in madness. In fact, the tournament wasn’t referred to as March Madness until the 1980s.

The only school from Texas to win the tournament was Texas Western, now The University of Texas-El Paso, in 1966. Coach Don Haskins made history when he started five African-Americans against the No. 1-seeded Kentucky Wildcats. The Miners defeated legendary Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp’s squad 72-65, giving Rupp his only loss in an NCAA title game. The 2006 movie “Glory Road” depicts that season.

The only Texas team to come close to winning the tournament since then was the University of Houston in 1983 and 1984. The Cougars lost in the championship game both times.

The University of Texas will host second- and third-round games at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, and the Big 12 Conference will host the South Regional at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.



Heavyweight Inventor

Galveston native Arthur John “Jack” Johnson won fame as the first African-American world heavyweight champion. But he made a name for himself with his brains as well as with his brawn.

Johnson, who grew up in poverty as the son of a former slave, rose to worldwide prominence in 1908 by beating Tommy Burns in the heavyweight title bout and stayed atop the boxing world with several successful title defenses.

His flashy lifestyle brought him enmity in some circles, and his relationship with his white fiancée at a time when interracial marriage was largely banned led to a federal prison sentence. While he was at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, he had an idea for improving a hand wrench.

He was issued Patent No. 1,413,121 in 1922 for that idea and No. 1,438,709 later that year for an automobile anti-theft device.

Johnson maintained a high-profile life, writing two memoirs and selling bonds during World War II, before his death in 1946 in a car accident at 68.



JOHN ‘JACK’ JOHNSON, ALSO KNOWN AS THE GALVESTON GIANT

HONING THEIR FUTURES

To meet the needs of graduates and the workforce, high schools offer career training in fields that include biotechnology, manufacturing, meat processing and cosmetology. And that instruction is very much hands-on.

MIKE AGUILAR IS IN THE RIGHT role at the right school. As leading man for the one-act play, “The Valiant,” at Sabinal High School—with an enrollment of 144, one of the smallest Class A high schools in Texas—the senior is waxing passionate about the role he plays as a convicted murderer who remains mum on his identity to protect his family.

“I won’t say whether he gets executed or not,” he says, coyly going for the big finish. “You’ll have to see it to find out.”

Passion is good, particularly at Class A schools, where a little bit of student goes a long way. It’s not unusual for a résumé to list several sports, band, Future Farmers of America and any other extracurricular activity that can be shoehorned into a teenager’s breathless schedule.

So when it came to a particular class that popped up on Aguilar’s schedule last year, he was game but maybe a little less enthused. The title on the schedule read “Meat Lab.” One class into the semester, and the slender, dark-haired Aguilar, 18, knew what it wasn’t.

“It wasn’t English III,” he recalls.

A clear indication that Meat Lab isn’t a traditional curriculum, or even hip, social media slang for something more conventional, was the word atop the blackboard—“castration”—and the presence of saws and many sharp knives. Many, many sharp knives.

Definitely not English III, unless the syllabus is heavy with Shakespeare.

In Charlie Black’s classroom, students don’t diagram a sentence; they diagram a side of beef. And prime is a cut of meat, not a number.

Know any English classrooms that have band saws, floor drains, walk-in freezers and grease traps? At Sabinal, which is surrounded by members of Medina Electric Cooperative, they learn English skills disguised as marketing

messages for the cuts of beef and pork they slice, process, pack and sell. Math comes in the form of calculating the right percentage blend of fat and lean meat for processing. When the students leave the two-year program, they have a food-handler certificate and skills that make them hireable at the local meat market—not to mention that those skills give them instant street cred on the tailgating scene.

This job-training curriculum is part of an approach many high schools across Texas are embracing. As the nation’s economy evolves, high schools are seeing a resurgence of vocational programs that teach students trades such as cosmetology, welding, computer technology or any of dozens of others that they can turn into careers.

It’s not English III anymore.

IN 1914, AS THE UNITED STATES struggled to maintain a workforce that could keep pace with a rapidly industrializing economy, President Woodrow Wilson appointed a commission to study vocational education. It found that more than 12 million Americans were involved in agriculture and 14 million in manufacturing—and yet fewer than 1 percent were adequately trained.

The Smith-Hughes Act, passed by Congress in 1917, was designed to train teachers and support public school programs that taught “agriculture, trades and industry, and home economics.”

From that simple, eight-page bill sprang a revolutionary educational approach that expanded vocational funding from less than \$3 million to \$176 million over the next three decades.

Rapidly changing technology has rendered increasingly obsolete the basics of vocational education funding—agriculture, trades and industry, and home economics—and that required a

new vision of career training.

The Central Texas Technology Center is one such approach.

In 2000, the city governments and school district administrations of Seguin and New Braunfels, in cooperation with the local economic development corporations and the Texas Workforce Commission, partnered with Alamo Colleges to find a way to provide more vocational training opportunities for local junior college and high school students.

The CTTC opened in 2005, offering high school credit courses determined by a marketing and demographics survey. The idea was to provide training that reflected the industry of the region, which is in Guadalupe Valley EC’s territory, so training would mirror opportunity. The 1,280 students enrolled each semester pursue credits in high-demand fields such as biotechnology, nursing, manufacturing and aerospace technology.

Caterpillar, which has an engine plant in Seguin, sent 1,500 employees to the center last year for training. Each semester, 21 high school students spend about a week touring the Caterpillar facilities for some hands-on learning, says Chester Jenke, CTTC manager.

As the program began to place graduates with local employers such as Texas Power Systems, CMC Steel and Caterpillar—as well as in various oil- and gas-related industries in the Eagle Ford Shale development—participation increased, and soon the center’s capacity was taxed to its limits.

“The survey results indicated that the actual market penetration within the local area was about 1 percent, but the center was still rapidly approaching capacity,” Jenke says. “The long-range planning for the future of the center—the partnerships with the local high schools and communities—has begun.”

He says a facility expansion, expected to double the center’s square footage to

50,000, should be in service in 2015. There's no guarantee it will be enough.

"More students are saying they're not college material, and they need to get a job and support themselves and their families," Jenke says. "A new buzzword is 'contemporary college student.' They may have already started a family, may live at home, and may go to school part time. That's changing. Education is an evolution mirroring society."

SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE. For 35 years, students at La Grange High School and surrounding Fayette EC communities have been putting a new face on vocational education.

That face has foundation, with purple eyeliner and hair latticed into a heart shape using a near-prohibitive amount of aluminum foil. Or it's got long eyelashes and a more traditional updo with a layered cut. Whatever the face, it's limited only by the imagination of the 35 girls who are working on their cosmetology certifications under the direction of Catherine Hill.

In Hill's class, a makeup test involves, you know, makeup. And coming to school with your hair orange, braided and lacquered in the form of a heart can get you an A+, not kicked out of class. (Well, not *your* hair but the hair of your mannequin.)

Hill, 33, is an alumna of the program, started in the early 1970s and nurtured for more than three decades by Shirley Norsworthy. She retired in 2004 and now works at Revitalize, a local day spa.

"Nobody knew about us at first," says Norsworthy, who earned her cosmetology degree in Austin after her 1971 graduation from LHS, only to return four years later to take over the fledgling program. "We were a lot like the kid from the other side of the tracks. It got to where we would get kids who were trouble in other classes but were no trouble in my class. Some kids stayed in school only because the cosmetology program gave them something to use for their future."

For three hours every day, each of the two classes of juniors and seniors—all girls this year, but they have included boys in the past—learn about more than just makeup and hair styling. They learn the geometry of making cuts, the language of marketing, the science of hair products, the art of design, and the



ABOVE: Using a commercial-grade meat saw, Robert Martinez cuts boneless pork loin chops in the meat lab at Sabinal High School. Students in the class actually slice, process, pack and sell cuts of beef and pork. Upon completion of the two-year program, a student obtains a food-handler certificate and skills that could start him or her in a career as a butcher. **LEFT:** Martinez and instructor Charlie Black, middle, are joined by students Anthony Alejandro, Andrew Guevara and Joaquin De La Peña, back row, and Lori Gonzalez and Allegra Reyes.



ABOVE: The La Grange High School cosmetology classroom is actually a 30-chair full-service salon in the old Fayette County Hospital building. Once a week, it turns into a real business with paying customers, which is one way Veronica Guajardo, above, gets to work on her colorizing technique. **RIGHT:** Catherine Hill, the director of the program, gives Selene Herrera hands-on instruction with a buzz cut. Hill herself is a graduate of the three-decade-old program, as are most of the cosmetologists at the five salons in La Grange.



anatomy of the face, skull, hands and feet.

Students come from across the area, including Giddings, Schulenburg, Round Top, Flatonia and even as far as Hallettsville, 45 minutes away, to get an education that can cost up to \$20,000 at a private cosmetology school. Support comes mostly from La Grange ISD funding but also from local salons, which provide encouragement and, just as important, product. Every Thursday, the classroom—a spiffy, 30-chair full-service salon in the old Fayette County Hospital building—turns into a real business with paying customers.

The program's alumni are everywhere. Norsworthy estimates that 90 percent of the cosmetologists at the five salons in the town of 4,923 are graduates of the program. Some move away to practice, and some, including the graduate who used her skills to help pay for her tuition at Texas A&M University as she works toward a veterinary degree, use it to reach other goals.

And then there's the hidden value of the skill set—it just might be recession-proof. "It doesn't matter how bad the economy gets," Hill says. "Every woman has a beauty budget. No matter how bad things get, that's not going away."

IT'S A BUSY WEEK BACK AT THE Sabinal Meat Lab. The Yellowjackets football team is preparing for the playoffs, the winter sports are gearing up, the state skills competition is approaching and representatives from the H-E-B grocery chain are set to visit to discuss a partnership that would provide training aids and possibly internships to the fledgling meat cutters.

"I feel like I'm running a small business," says Black, 45. With the \$10,000 in startup money, Black has guided the program into a moneymaking venture that sells to the public every Friday and combines with the school's culinary arts and floriculture programs to cater events.

That's a pretty big jump for a program that's only three years old and was started because the school already had a Future Farmers of America program, a couple of walk-in refrigerator/freezers left over from a cafeteria renovation and a superintendent with a vision to match his name.

Richard Grill grew up on a ranch near Fredericksburg, taught in Burnet and became Sabinal's superintendent in 2010. He immediately looked for ways to

SAVE When You Grow A Zoysia Lawn From Plugs!

From Plugs

To A Fabulous Lawn



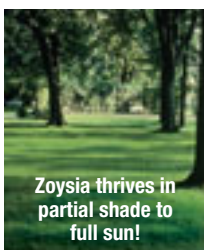
Zoysia Lawns are thick, dense and lush!

GRASS SEED WILL NEVER GROW A LAWN LIKE THIS!

Save Water! Save Time! Save Work! Save Money!

Grass Seed Is For The Birds!

Stop wasting money, time and work sowing new grass seed each spring, only to see birds eat the seed – or rain wash it away – before it can root. Plant a genuine Amazoy™ Zoysia lawn from our living Plugs only once... and never plant a new lawn again!



Zoysia thrives in partial shade to full sun!

Zoysia Grows Where Other Grass Doesn't!

Zoysia is the perfect choice for hard-to-cover spots, areas that are play-worn or have partial shade, and for stopping erosion on slopes. North, South, East, West – Zoysia will grow in any soil, no ifs, ands or buts!

Each Zoysia Plug You Plant In Your Soil Is **GUARANTEED TO GROW** Within 45 Days Or We'll Replace It FREE!

To ensure best results, we ship you living sheets of genuine Amazoy™ Zoysia Grass, harvested direct from our farms. Plugs are not cut all the way through. Before planting, simply finish the separation by cutting 1"-sq. Plugs with shears or knife. Then follow the included easy instructions to plant Plugs into small plug holes about a foot apart. Our guarantee and planting method are your assurance of lawn success backed by more than 5 decades of specialized lawn experience.

Eliminates Endless Weeds And Weeding!

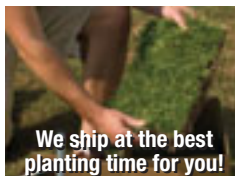
No more pulling out weeds by hand or weeds sprouting up all over your lawn. Zoysia Plugs spread into a dense, plush, deep-rooted, established lawn that drives out unwanted growth and stops crabgrass and summer weeds from germinating.

Environmentally Friendly, No Chemicals Needed!

No weeding means no chemicals. You'll never have to spray poisonous pesticides and weed killers again! Zoysia lawns are safer for the environment, as well as for family and pets!

Cuts Watering & Mowing By As Much As 2/3!

Many established Zoysia lawns only need to be mowed once or twice a season. Watering is rarely, if ever, needed – even in summer!



We ship at the best planting time for you!

Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by the U.S. Gov't, released in cooperation with the U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

Stays Green In Summer Through Heat & Drought!

When ordinary lawns brown up in summer heat and drought, your Zoysia lawn stays green and beautiful. The hotter it gets, the better it grows. Zoysia thrives in blistering heat (120°), yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It only goes off its green color after killing frosts, but color returns with consistent spring warmth. Zoysia is the perfect choice for water restrictions and drought areas!

Our Customers Love Their Zoysia Lawns!

One of our typical customers, Mrs. M.R. Mitter of PA, wrote how "I've never watered it, only when I put the Plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed 2 times... When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours just stays as green as ever!"

Order Now And Save!

The more Amazoy™ Zoysia Plugs you order, the more you SAVE! And remember, once your Zoysia lawn is established, you'll have an endless supply of new Plugs for planting wherever you need them. Order now!

FREE! PLANTING TOOL With Order of 500 Plugs or More!

Saves time, work and effort when making holes for Plugs!

©2013 Zoysia Farm Nurseries, 3617 Old Taneytown Rd, Taneytown, MD 21787

www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag

Order Now and Save Over 50% – Harvested Daily From Our Farms And Shipped To You Direct!

FREE Shipping On Larger Quantities!
Get Up To 900 Plugs — FREE!

Please send me guaranteed Amazoy plug packs as marked:

Quantity	# PLUGS	+ FREE Plugs	Your PRICE	+ Shipping	YOU SAVE	+FREE Planting Tool
	150	—	\$ 14.95	\$ 5.00	—	—
	500	+ 100	\$45.60	\$ 7.00	\$27.20	Free Step-on Plugger
	750	+ 150	\$74.50	\$10.00 FREE	\$45.20	Free Step-on Plugger
	1100	+ 400	\$99.10	\$15.00 FREE	\$100.40	Free Amazoy Power Auger
	1500	+ 900	\$147.50	\$25.00 FREE	\$171.70	Free Amazoy Power Auger AND Step-on Plugger

☐ Extra Step-on Plugger \$8.95 + \$3 Shipping

☐ Extra Amazoy Power Auger™ for 3/8" Drill \$24.95 + \$5 Shipping

Mail to: **ZOYSIA FARM NURSERIES**
3617 Old Taneytown Road, Taneytown, MD 21787

Dept. 5147

Write price of order here \$ _____

Md. residents add 6% tax \$ _____

Shipping \$ _____

ENCLOSED TOTAL \$ _____

Card # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Payment method (check one)

☐ Check ☐ MO

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

Exp. Date _____

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at earliest correct planting time in your area.

Amazoy is the trademark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia grass.

Order Now! www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag

Not shipped outside the USA or into WA or OR



Students at the Central Texas Technology Center between New Braunfels and Seguin, such as Kodak Griffin, above, and Chris Lazine, left, have good reason to heed instructor John Lange's lessons. Recruiters come looking for welders to hire to fill the growing demand in the state, especially in the flourishing petroleum industry. In time, welders willing to put in long hours in the field can earn upwards of \$100,000 a year. Students at the CTTC can learn such a trade while still in high school.



reach more students—and indulge his own interests as a former ag teacher and avid home meat processor.

"We like to say we're a small school with a big vision," he says. "And we have to be smart with what we do. Sabinal has the seventh-lowest tax rate in the state at 87 cents (per \$100 assessment). The state average is \$1.27."

Grill saw the success of Black's FFA program, which consistently fared as well or better than larger schools in state competitions, and saw he had the right man to spearhead the program.

"Knowing he had a reputation for getting things done, combined with my support, made it a reality," Grill says. "If we could clone Charlie, like they do with livestock, we could grow, but he has other passions, and we have limitations."

There was a need. In 2010 there wasn't a meat market in town, and the closest grocery store was at least 10 miles away. They devised the program as no-kill—they buy full sides of meat from suppliers and occasionally process hunting kills that have been skinned and gutted—which would lead to a food-handler certification. At the end of the first year, the proceeds from sales were paying for the meat and other perishables.

Buoyed by the quick success, the school district funded a renovation of the FFA building in summer 2012, adding floor drains, power washing, washable walls, electricity drop-downs and all the other accoutrements of a full-fledged meat processing facility.

For many of the students, the meat lab is a stepping-stone, and the complementary communication skills they learn will help them fulfill their dreams. Aguilar, the actor, plans to study film at the Brooks Institute in California. Joaquin De La Peña aims to major in kinesiology at The University of Texas-San Antonio and become a coach. Taylor Black is headed to Tarleton State University, her dad's alma mater, with the ultimate goal of a doctorate in agricultural science.

For now, it's cutting meat. They've got orders—among them 175 rib eyes for Medina EC and New York strip steaks for the Sabinal School Board appreciation dinner in January. All along the way, they process passion.

"Where there's a passion," Grill says, his voice rising and a smile breaking across his face, "you have productivity."

Mark Wangrin is an Austin writer.

LOW COST

Mobile Home Insurance



- Complete coverage
- Superior service
- Easy payment plans
(Including the option of Credit Cards)
- Low deductibles
- Free & easy online quotes

www.stdins.com

Call For A Custom Quote
800-522-0146

Start Saving
Today!

Serving
Texas Mobile
Homeowners
since 1961

STANDARD
DIRECT
INSURANCE AGENCY

Surprisingly affordable.



This is a great time to build your new home! Building materials are affordably priced and mortgage rates are at an all-time low. Get started today with United-Bilt Homes.

In-house financing with ZERO down & no payments for 6 mos!

Austin
Beaumont
Cleveland
Corpus
Christi

Dallas
Fort Worth
Houston
Rosenberg
San Antonio

Sherman
Terrell
Texarkana
Tyler

U **United-Bilt
Homes**

Homemade just for you®

800.756.2506 unitedbilt.net

* With approved credit for qualified land owners.



Lic Res Mort Lender AR,LA,MS,MO,OK,TX NMLS#39943

Wildseed Farms



Come on by!

We are located on Highway 290
east of Fredericksburg, Texas!
Come visit our working wildflower farm!
You can order our free wildflower seed catalog
by calling 1-800-848-0078 or visiting
www.wildseedfarms.com



Home of
Blossoms
Landscapes and Home Decor
LANTANA
NURSERY



OPEN
7 Days
a Week
9:30 am
to
5:00 pm



Great
Shopping!
(and bring
the
camera!)

FOREIGN ACCENTS



There's a world of difference between Texas towns and the more famous places they seem to share names with—Paris, Memphis, China, Cleveland, for example. Or is there?

.....

“WELL I DROVE MY TRUCK TO ITALY/AND ON TO NAPLES FAIR,” sings Bill Neely, the old-time country singer from McKinney and Austin who was popular mostly regionally from the 1950s through the '80s. Over the next several verses, he names another three dozen locales, many foreign (Palestine, Trinidad, Scotland, Paris) and even more American (New York, Detroit, Miami, Cleveland). Then, in the final two lines of his tune, Neely reveals, “I visited all those places named/Never left the Lone Star State.”

The boasting song is titled “Never Left the Lone Star State”—also known as “Texas Map Song”—and each of the places mentioned is in Texas.

So how did Texas wind up with so many municipalities seemingly named after others, even foreign ones? (Neely's delightful song fails to mention Odessa, Nazareth, Oslo and more.)

The first thing you must understand is that when a new settlement emerges, it's the post office that gets named, not the settlement itself. A name is submitted to postal authorities, and they approve or not, depending mainly on whether it's already been taken. It can be frustrating getting everyone to agree on a name and then get it approved.

(In 1880, a community in Travis County had six names rejected before folks rebelled and fumed, “Let the post office be nameless and be damned.” The Nameless Post Office lasted until 1890.)

The choice of what to call a place might be inspired by someone's last name, by topographic features of the region, by a Native American word, by the local industry, by whimsy or by the name of another town. But the explanation is not always

what it might first appear to be. Consider these four Texas towns with “foreign” names.

.....

ATHENS

ORIGINALLY NAMED ALFRED, AFTER POSTMASTER ALFRED F. Mallard in the 1840s, this East Texas town became Athens in 1850 after residents decided “Alfred is a silly name for a town,” says Phyllis Vermillion of the Henderson County Historical Commission. Athens was suggested by 16-year-old farmer's daughter Dulcinea Ann Holland, whose family had moved there in 1847 from Athens, Georgia, according to her state historical marker, though many other sources say the Hollands came from Athens, Alabama.

Dulcinea never attended school, but she pushed for the new name both in honor of her hometown and because she wanted her new town to become an educational incubator like the Greek city. (She's also responsible for naming College Street.)

Dulcinea's father died in 1848; in 1851 she married postmaster and county clerk E.J. Thompson. Her widowed mother married Judge John “Red” Brown. The judge helped Dulcinea indulge her penchant for civic affairs behind the scenes (the only way a woman could do so in that era).

The Thompsons were founding members of the local Methodist church. E.J. Thompson died in 1861, and several years later “Aunt Dul,” as Athenians dubbed her, was remarried, to James Avriett.

She is credited with influencing the town's street layouts, as well



as with planting oak and cedar trees. Years after Athens was named, townspeople realized it was built on seven hills, just like the Greek city, but it never became Dulcinea's hoped-for center of learning.

BACK TO GREECE: Athens, Texas—population 12,710—is the Black-Eyed Pea Capital of the World. Turns out black-eyed peas are a regular part of the Greek diet. Check out a recipe for black-eyed peas with greens and fennel (mavromatika me maratho) by Greek chef Diane Kochilas at dianekochilas.com.

CHINA

IN THE 1860S, A SMALL SETTLEMENT WAS GROWING AROUND A water stop in a grove of chinaberry trees on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad line about 10 miles west of Beaumont. The settlement became known as China Grove, and a post office bearing that name eventually was built in 1887; it lasted only a couple months.

In 1893, a post office with the shortened name of China was established while the train depot itself remained China Grove. Then in 1906, the depot burned to the ground. When it was rebuilt two miles east in the larger town of Nashland, the railroad insisted on keeping the name of China because that was better known. So the Nashland post office quickly changed its name to China, though it wasn't until 1971 that the community voted to incorporate as China.

(The shorter name was doubtless a good idea because there have been four communities named China Grove in Texas, including the real-life “sleepy little town down around San

Antone” memorialized by the Doobie Brothers’ 1973 song of the same name.)

Meanwhile, those chinaberry trees that started the whole naming process were becoming virtually extinct—until the 1990s, when the town and some residents began planting and nurturing new ones.



There's one other thing about the name that visitors to the town sometimes can't help remarking on, says Patricia Nantz, administrative assistant to Jefferson County commissioner Eddie Arnold: China—population 1,160—is located in the heart of rice-growing country.

BACK TO CHINA: Despite all that rice, you won't find a Chinese restaurant in town. “No, you can't come to China for Chinese food,” Nantz says.

EDINBURG

THIS SOUTH TEXAS CITY, WITH A POPULATION OF 77,100, GOT ITS name through the kind of chain of events that, for many, gives Texas its Wild West reputation. The first seat of Hidalgo County was originally named Edinburgh in honor of the supposed birthplace of prominent local merchant John Young (who was actually born in the Hebrides but perhaps lived in the Scottish capital before coming to America).

“And then here's where it gets really interesting,” laughs Lisa Adam, curator of collections at the Museum of South Texas History. In 1885, Edinburgh changed its name to Hidalgo (which it retains today). But in 1908, the town of Chapin—17 miles north



and named after Dennis B. Chapin, one of its developers and a county judge—became the county seat after a legal vote on the matter. The county’s files were transferred to Chapin late at night. But as these things go sometimes, that matter has become legendary and now gets described rather colorfully, Adam explains. Most sources say Chapinites pilfered the files during a daring midnight raid on county offices in Hidalgo.

Then, in 1911, Chapin shot former Texas Ranger Oscar J. Rountree dead in a San Antonio saloon, claiming he had proof a former business rival had hired Rountree to “get” him. But the law-abiding citizens of Chapin knew a potential scandal when they smelled one and wasted no time switching their town’s name back to that of the original county seat—except they dropped the “h” at the end to comply with a ruling from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names that “burg” become the standardized spelling.

And, by the way, apparently all’s well that ends well: Chapin was acquitted of all charges.

.....

BACK TO EDINBURGH: *There are lots of great Scots in Texas history, starting with Sam Houston. Others of Scottish or Scotch-Irish ancestry include Stephen F. Austin, David Crockett, Jim Bowie, Jim Hogg and J. Frank Dobie.*

.....

MEMPHIS

IT’S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON THE Mississippi River, was named after the capital city of ancient Egypt on the Nile River. But this riverless Texas town, which began taking shape in Hall County in the southeast corner of

the Panhandle in 1889, is a whole ‘nother story—even if that story is probably apocryphal.

The town began developing along the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway when J.C. Montgomery bought the land from W.H. Robertson. Those two, plus the Rev. J.W. Brice and T.J. Woods Jr. of Dallas, formed a company that platted the town in 1890.

For its name, a succession of surnames of prominent citizens was given to postal authorities, but each was rejected. One tale has it that a local history student then proposed Memphis. But the more popular explanation is that Brice was at the General Land Office in Austin on official business later that year when he just happened to spot an envelope accidentally addressed to Memphis, Texas, rather than Tennessee. “No such town in Texas” was written across its front, and there you go: Memphis was submitted and accepted, and the post office opened in September 1890.

“A lot of our mail still goes to Tennessee,” sighs Jacquelyn



Owens, director of the Memphis Public Library in this town of 2,290. “And I still receive shipments of books addressed to Memphis, Tennessee. They are very large shipments.”

.....

BACK TO MEMPHIS: *Memphis, Tennessee, is as proud of its barbecue as any place in Texas. Whose is better? Well, at the Pit Stop Bar BQ on Boykin Drive in the Panhandle town, they could say both. But a Texan could probably feel at home in some of the barbecue joints in Memphis, Tennessee. Local expert Sally Walker Davies of 10best.com, writes of one of them, Payne’s: “This is a cash-only spot, and your meal is best eaten in the sunshine, using the hood of your car as your dining table.” (It’s better with a pickup truck, but you get the point.) And she notes that the Bar-B-Q Shop includes Texas toast on its menu.*

John Morthland is an Austin writer.

Chicago Doctor Invents Affordable Hearing Aid Outperforms Many Higher Priced Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

CHICAGO: A local board-certified Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) physician, Dr. S. Cherukuri, has just shaken up the hearing aid industry with the invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid. **This revolutionary hearing aid is designed to help millions of people with hearing loss who cannot afford—or do not wish to pay—the much higher cost of traditional hearing aids.**

"Perhaps the best quality-to-price ratio in the hearing aid industry" – Dr. Babu, M.D. Board Certified ENT Physician

Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's dementia. **He could not understand why the cost for hearing aids was so high when the prices on so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones and digital cameras had fallen.**

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover the costs of hearing aids, which traditionally run between \$2000-\$6000 for a pair, many of the doctor's patients could not afford the expense. Dr. Cherukuri's goal was to find a reasonable solution that would help with the most common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, not unlike the "one-size-fits-most" reading glasses available at drug stores.

- **Designed By A Board Certified Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Doctor**
- **Doctor-Recommended, Audiologist-Tested**
- **★★★★★ Top rated hearing aid online—thousands of satisfied customers**
- **FDA-Registered**
- **Save Up To 90%**
- **Free Shipping Available**
- **Batteries Included! Comes Ready To Use**
- **100% Money Back Guarantee**



He evaluated numerous hearing devices and sound amplifiers, including those seen on television. Without fail, almost all of these were found to amplify bass/low frequencies (below 1000 Hz) and not useful in amplifying the frequencies related to the human voice.

Inspiration from a surprising source

The doctor's inspiration to defeat the powers-that-be that kept inexpensive hearing aids out of the hands of the public actually came from a new cell phone he had just purchased. **"I felt that if someone could devise an affordable device like an iPhone® for about \$200 that could do all sorts of things, I could create a hearing aid at a similar price."**

Affordable Hearing Aid With Superb Performance

The high cost of hearing aids is a result of layers of middlemen and expensive unnecessary features. Dr. Cherukuri concluded that it would be possible to develop a medical grade hearing aid without sacrificing the quality of components. The result is the MDHearingAid PRO®, starting well under \$200. **It has been declared to be the best low-cost hearing aid that amplifies the range of sounds associated with the human voice without overly amplifying background noise.**

Tested By Leading Doctors and Audiologists

The MDHearingAid PRO® has been rigorously tested by leading ENT physicians and audiologists who have unanimously agreed that the **sound quality and output in many cases exceeds more expensive hearing aids.**

DOCTORS AND PATIENTS AGREE: "BEST QUALITY SOUND" "LOWEST AFFORDABLE PRICE"

*"I have been wearing hearing aids for over 25 years and these are the best behind-the-ear aids I have tried. **Their sound quality rivals that of my \$3,000 custom pair of Phonak Xtra digital ITE**" —Gerald Levy*

*"I have a \$2,000 Resound Live hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid PRO® in the right ear. **I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two hearing aids.**" —Dr. May, ENT physician*

*"We ordered two hearing aids for my mother on Sunday, and the following Wednesday they were in our mailbox! Unbelievable! Now for the best part—they work so great, my mother says she hasn't heard so good for many years, even with her \$2,000 digital! **It was so great to see the joy on her face.** She is 90 years young again." —Al Peterson*

**For the Lowest Price Call Today
1-800-873-0680**

Phone Lines Open 24 Hours EVERY DAY

www.MDHearingAid.com/FS62

**Use Offer Code FS62 to get
FREE Batteries for a Full Year!**

FREE Shipping Available

MDHearingAidPRO® >>>
THE DOCTOR'S CHOICE FOR AFFORDABLE HEARING AIDS



**45 DAY
RISK FREE
TRIAL**


Proudly assembled in the USA





Limited to the first
2500 orders from
this ad only



Calling This a Diamond Would Be an Insult

Experts warn that millions of rings may be “romantically defective” when compared to the stunning DiamondAura® 5-Stone Ring for **ONLY \$99!**

She loves natural diamonds. She loves you even more. But when even 1-carat stones can sell for as much as \$9,000, it's time to reconsider your relationship... with diamonds. Compared to the Stauer DiamondAura® 5-Stone Ring with nearly 2 1/2 carats, a skimpy diamond is “romantically defective.” Have you overpaid only to be underwhelmed? Send it back. You can do better. You can do bigger. And you can absolutely take her breath away for **under \$100.**

When “cute” is a four-letter word. If you want to make a romantic impression, go big. Cute doesn't cut it. Your love deserves to be wowed. If you're a billionaire with money to burn, turn the page. Everyone else? What you read next just might change your life. There's only one way to find out...

Science not snobbery. Thanks to the advanced science behind our exclusive DiamondAura, you can experience superior clarity and larger carat weights without the outrageous cost of natural diamonds. DiamondAura is crafted using an incredibly complex process that involves heating rare minerals to temperatures of nearly 5000°F. After expert cutting and polishing, every lab-created DiamondAura retains the



**EXCLUSIVE
BONUS OFFER!**
Order today to get
these **FREE 1-Carat
DiamondAura®
sterling-silver studs**
PLUS
\$300 in Stauer
Gift Coupons!**

classic jeweler's specifications, including color, clarity, cut and carat weight. DiamondAura doesn't emulate the world's most perfect diamonds... it surpasses them. The color dispersion is **actually superior to mined diamonds.** You get more sparkle, fire and flawless beauty for a fraction of the price.

Scintillating in sterling silver. Our quest for perfection doesn't end in the lab. Passionate designers bring inspiration from history books and Fifth Avenue showrooms to every inch of the **5-Stone Ring.** The ring features a classic quintet of round-cut, lab-created DiamondAura, 2 1/3 carats prong-set in the finest .925 sterling silver. A spectacular alternative for those occasions when a lonely solitaire will simply not suffice.

Romantic satisfaction guaranteed. If for any reason she doesn't completely adore the **5-Stone DiamondAura Ring,**

return it within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price. We're so confident you'll fall for DiamondAura, that we'll include a stunning \$99 pair of 1-carat DiamondAura studs in sterling silver... absolutely **FREE.** ****Plus, when you call today, you'll also get \$300 in Stauer Gift Coupons (\$25 to use every month for 12 months with no minimum purchase required)! You played by the old rules and the big jewelry stores emptied your pockets. Our job is to fill them back up!**

JEWELRY SPECS:

- 2 1/3 ctw brilliant white DiamondAura®
- .925 sterling-silver setting

DiamondAura® 5-Stone Ring
(2 1/3 ctw) **\$99**

Include \$99 Stud Earrings (1 ctw) ~~\$198~~

NOW BOTH ONLY — \$99 + S&P

Specify ring whole size 5-10 when ordering.

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.

1-888-870-7382

Promotional Code FSR266-03

Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. FSR266-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com



Rating of A+

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices

Celebrate Lone Star State Spirit with the

TEXAS PRIDE

VARSITY TWILL JACKET

A Custom
Design
Exclusive

*State of Texas created in
embossed faux leather
with a dimensional
appliqué of a
longhorn



*Embroidered state flag in the shape of
Texas on front features the words
"The Lone Star State"

*Vintage varsity-style jacket in
comfortable twill accented with
faux suede trim

*Nylon lining reveals a history
of the state of Texas and
a vintage map

This is style you don't want to mess with

Combining the classic good looks of a vintage-style varsity jacket with a bold salute to the Lone Star State, our "Texas Pride" Men's Varsity Twill Jacket is an exclusive design that's sure to stand out... and it's only available from The Bradford Exchange.

Hand-crafted in dark brown twill, the front-zip jacket is accented with contrasting tan faux suede trim at the pockets and sleeves. A dramatic patch of Texas on the back is created of tooled faux leather along with a dimensional appliqué of a distinguished longhorn with embroidered details. The front of the jacket features embroidery of the Texas state flag along with the words: "The Lone Star State." Open the coat up, and a history of Texas and a vintage map is revealed on the quality nylon lining. The roomy fit includes knit cuffs, collar and hem. What could be a better way to show your love for the great state of Texas?

An Outstanding Value... And Your Satisfaction Guaranteed

With its custom design and hand-crafted quality, the "Texas Pride" Men's Varsity Twill Jacket is a remarkable value at \$179.95*, and you can pay in five easy installments of \$35.99. To order yours in sizes M-XXL, backed by our unconditional 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Reservation Application today!

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
- APPAREL & ACCESSORIES -

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "Texas Pride" Men's Varsity Twill Jacket for me as described in this announcement. I've indicated my size preference below.

Please Respond Promptly

☐ M(38-40) 01-16247-011

☐ L(42-44) 01-16247-012

☐ XL(46-48) 01-16247-013

☐ XXL(50-52) 01-16247-014

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

-E54801-

*Plus \$14.99 shipping and service. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

www.bradfordexchange.com/texaspride

©2012 BGE 01-16247-001-BI



Drips aren't just a noisy annoyance in the middle of the night. They can waste a gallon or more of water every day—water you've paid to heat, if it's a hot water leak.

It's Simple To Save Money on Water Heating

Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the typical family spends up to 18 percent of its utility dollars on water heating.

Good news: It's simple to lower that cost. Here are eight tips:

1. Get rid of your old showerheads and bathroom faucets: They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating showerheads. The less water you use, the less you have to pay to heat it.

2. If you notice a leaky faucet, repair it immediately. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to be hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.

3. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. The Department of Energy says that's a safe and sanitary temperature, and it will keep you comfortable at bath time, too.

4. Insulate your electric hot water tank—but don't cover the thermostat. Do-it-yourself kits are readily available and very affordable.

5. Wrap the hot and cold water pipes that connect to the water heater.

6. Drain about a quart of water from the tank every three months to remove sediment. Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work harder to transfer heat to the water.

7. If you're in the market for a new water heater, choose a high-efficiency model with the Energy Star label. High-efficiency water heaters use 10 to 50 percent less energy than traditional models.

8. Water heaters can last for up to 15 years, but new models are so much more energy efficient than older ones that it may be worth it to replace yours if you've had it for seven or more years.

Stay Safe Around Switches, Outlets

Switches are used to turn the power on and off. Outlets, or receptacles, are usually mounted on a wall or floor to supply electricity through a cord and plug to appliances, lamps, TV, etc.

These are the key points in our electrical systems that give us our first line of control of our electrical use, and they are critical connection points. With time and use, these connections can become loose, creating potential hazards.

Safety Tips

► Check to make sure outlet and switch plates are not unusually hot to the touch. Warm to the touch may be OK, but hot is not. If they are, immediately unplug cords from these outlets and do

not use the switches. Have a qualified, licensed electrician check the wiring as soon as possible.

► Look for discoloration as another indication of potentially dangerous heat buildup at these connections. Stand across the room and look for a teardrop-shaped darkening around and above the outlet and switch cover plates.



Covers, such as this one from Safety 1st, can keep little fingers out of power strips.

► Check that all outlet and switch cover plates are in good condition so that no wiring is exposed. Replace any missing, cracked or broken cover plates. Exposed wiring is a shock hazard.

► Be sure to use safety caps with unused outlets.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

STOCKPHOTO
DOREL JUVENILE GROUP

New Windows

Make an energy-smart investment

New windows are an investment in your home that can really pay off. If you're thinking about replacing your windows with more efficient, lower-maintenance models, consider:

COST. You get what you pay for when you buy windows. Buy the best ones you can afford, even if you have to purchase and install them a few at a time instead of all at once.

FEATURES. Choose high-performance windows that have at least two panes of glass and a low-emittance coating. Look for a low U-factor for better insulation in colder climates; the U-factor is the rate at which a window, door or skylight conducts non-solar heat flow. Look for a low solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC)—this is a measure of solar radiation emitted through a window, door or skylight. Low SHGCs reduce heat gain in warm climates. Select windows with both low U-factors and low SHGCs to maximize energy savings in temperate climates with both cold and hot seasons.

ENERGY BILLS. Once you replace your leaky, single-pane windows with double-pane models, you should notice a drop in your heating and cooling bills. Windows with the government's Energy Star label can reduce your energy bills by up to 15 percent.

MAINTENANCE. Wooden windows are beautiful, but they can rot unless you're willing to repaint them every few years. Once the wood rots, it's more than an eyesore. It's an invitation for rainwater to seep through soft, cracked wood and into your house. Sometimes, that water pours in right through the window, but it often leaks into the walls and you never see it.

APPEARANCE. If you replace your windows a few at a time instead of all at once, try to match the new ones so they look like the existing windows, even if they are made from a different material.

INTERIOR DÉCOR. If you want molding and a window sill on the interior wall around the window, you'll need to hire an installer who doubles as or works with a carpenter to install those decorative details, as they're not included with all windows.

INSTALLATION. You don't have to have your window sill and molding replaced when you get new windows. You have two options. For a full pull-out installation, the installer removes all traces of your old window and its surrounds and replaces it with a fresh new one. On a "pocket" installation, you replace just the window itself and keep the old sill and molding. The full pull-out, understandably, costs more than a pocket installation.

Although new windows may be energy efficient, it is still important to caulk and weatherstrip.



Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins March 10.

Set clocks one hour forward, and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

RENEGA | THINKSTOCK

POWER TIP

Save ENERGY • Save MONEY

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use.

▶ If your appliances and electronics have energy-saving settings, use them.

▶ If they're nearing voting age, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. Consider both the purchase price and operating cost when buying new appliances.

▶ Use smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

ISTOCKPHOTO | THINKSTOCK

An Invasive's Worst Nightmare



Central Texas teen is determined to destroy plants that don't belong here, one karate chop at a time

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

BE AFRAID, SALT CEDARS. LISTEN UP, giant reeds. Surrender or else, Chinese privets, bastard cabbage and wax ligustrums. Commander Ben, the Invasive Hunter, has declared intergalactic war against dastardly species of your kind, and he plans to win, one karate chop at a time.

Who might this fearless hero be? In real life, he's Benjamin Shrader, a 14-year-old home-schooler from Lakeway who has a flair for science, acting and moviemaking. Far from shy, the creative teen stars in and produces his own "Commander Ben" episodes, which he uploads to YouTube. He also posts interviews with noted scientists, researchers and other experts on such hot topics as Raspberry crazy ants, DNA sequencing and the Texas drought. One time he ate a live mealworm on camera.

"Commander Ben is a kid who just wants to help the ecosystems that he loves," Benjamin says of his goofy but tough alter ego who wears a white martial arts suit and red belt whenever fighting leafy villains. "It's real important that we teach kids about invasives early. Before the cement dries, so to speak."

Through his mobile Invasive Hunter Academy, Benjamin teaches kids about common invasive species, demonstrates how to palm-heel strike them down and has them draw up their own battle plan. Last year he took his academy to Kids Day at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., as part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week. He also participated in Nature Nights, a summer pro-

gram at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.

"Invasives are an ecological problem that few 14-year-olds are even aware of," says Damon Waitt, senior director and botanist at the Wildflower Center. "Ben is unique not only because of his own interest but also because he's engaged other youth in this important issue. It's great to have him in our camp."

On camera and off, the teen often participates in volunteer projects, such as clearing Chinese privet from areas of the Balcones Canyonland Preserve in Travis County. "Ben's a hard worker," says Louise Liller, volunteer coordinator with the Wildland Conservation Division at the City of Austin. "But more than that, he's interested in the bigger picture, like how invasives can impact a habitat."

At an early age, little rocks and shells fascinated Benjamin. "In his high chair, he'd examine small things but never put them in his mouth," recalls mom Mary Shrader. "One day after watching him, I called my husband, Ted, and told him, 'We have a scientist in the making!'"

A gifted storyteller, too. As soon as he could talk, Benjamin began weaving tales of make-believe heroes whom he named Action Mummy and Commander Ben. "Whenever we'd drive somewhere, he'd be in his car seat, sitting in the back seat and telling me, 'And then ... and then,'" Mary laughs. "Finally, Ted would tell him, 'OK, Benjamin, we're going to have some radio time now!'"

At 5, Benjamin scooped tadpoles from the family's pond and raised them in a

fish tank in his bedroom. Because toads can only detect food that's moving, he devised a way to use ripples from the tank's filter whenever he dropped fish flakes atop the water at mealtimes. After the tadpoles morphed into toads, all but two returned to the pond. Chub Chub and Medium Chub lived several more years in the tank before Benjamin released them, too.

Once, he rescued an albino catfish from an Asian fish market. Faced with a language barrier, Benjamin urgently pantomimed that he wanted to buy the white one alive. Finally, the butcher understood. The fish rode home with the Shraders in a water-filled bin hurriedly bought at a nearby discount store. It lies buried in Mary's garden, as do many of her son's deceased beetle buddies.

Life in the Shrader household turned even more interesting when Benjamin and his dad read a newspaper article about the economic and ecological damage caused by invasive plants in Texas. The story inspired Benjamin to put together a science fair project on giant reeds, an exotic perennial grass that can grow 20 or more feet high and quickly crowd out native plants. His entry snagged second place in the elementary school sixth-grade division in the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival in February 2011.

Not long thereafter, Benjamin—who uses technology to help him deal with dyslexia—heard about a video contest. So he took what he'd learned about giant reeds and produced a five-minute film. His entry, "Who Will Fell This Titan?," won first place in May 2011 at the Science Under the Stars contest sponsored by the Brackenridge Field Laboratory with The University of Texas at Austin. The spoof, featuring Benjamin's childhood character for the first time, entertains and educates.

"The giant reed is a dark plant," growls Commander Ben, standing in front of a reedy backdrop. "It must be destroyed, and I'm going to tell you why."

Hooked on his new endeavor, Benjamin set to work on more videos. "Tea Time with English Ivy" has Commander Ben in fumes at the aggressive vine, which has caused him to lose his appetite for a plate of scones. "In an Ecesis Far, Far Away," the exiled, one-eyed warrior recalls how he foolishly tried to teach his friend, the (invasive) elephant ear, how to hunt invasive plants.

In a few videos, Benjamin's father

makes a fleeting cameo appearance. Largely, though, Ted stays behind the camera and films. "Benjamin does everything else himself," Mary says. "He writes his own scripts, acts, directs and edits the films. He's incredibly tenacious and self-motivated."

As for the future, Benjamin's not sure where he's headed. "I love making movies

and acting," he muses. "I just know I want to help the good guys win!"

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, frequent contributor

The Shraders are members of Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

Benjamin Shrader blogs about his adventures fighting invasive plants and about having dyslexia at commanderben.com.



COMMANDING PRESENCE Benjamin Shrader, in character as Commander Ben, the Invasive Hunter, is at war with nonnative plant species that are taking over the Texas terrain—giant reeds in this case. And he's continually recruiting young troops because, as you can see, it's a jungle out there.

Don't Mess With My Bit of Texas

Litter crusader bends but
won't break when it comes to
those who give his roadways
the cold shoulder

BY KEVIN HARGIS

MY CALL TO TRASH ACTION STARTED WITH the television: a big, old tube TV someone had dumped at the side of a dead-end road in my neighborhood.

I'd passed it at least twice a week on jogging jaunts, each time thinking: *Someone should do something about that.* After several trips past the eyesore, it dawned on me: *You should be that someone.*

I enlisted a friend and drove the mile or so from my house to the derelict appliance. He helped me hoist it into the pickup bed, and we dismantled it and disposed of it in my garbage can.

My reward was a few bites from the fire ants that had taken up residence inside the TV and the feeling that I'd done something good. Not much of a reward, but I didn't have to look at the broken hulk anymore.

I credit Archimedes with the rest. He's the family dog who is at his happiest walking on the end of a leash. On our many sojourns through the rural subdivision in which I live, I started noticing litter everywhere. And, after the experience with the TV, it started to bother me.

So I began picking it up, at first just a few soda cans, beer bottles, fast-food wrappers and cigarette packages at a time. I'd fill the pockets of my shorts with as much garbage as they could hold.

I made steady progress, the roadside ditches becoming a little less cluttered as Archimedes and I got our daily exercise.

I'd dump the trash in our can, take the accumulated aluminum cans to a Kiwanis Club drop-off and tote the rest to a recycling center.

But there was still plenty of trash out there.

So I started carrying along a plastic shopping bag on each walk, filling it with debris, sometimes finding curious scraps of someone's life: a Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo parking pass, a plastic doll brush, bits of multicolored electrical wire, a photograph of three smiling people and a Chihuahua.

How did this end up on the roadside? I would wonder when I bent over to collect a scrap. Was it deliberately tossed out? Did it blow out of a truck bed? Did it get loose from a garbage can?

Some answers might come from the Texas Department of Transportation, which, through its Don't Mess With Texas campaign, commissions studies that look at the people who litter and what types of trash are found beside the state's roadways.

A 2009 survey found that 42 percent of 1,255 driving-aged respondents said they had littered, either intentionally or accidentally, in the month before the survey was taken. About a third of the litter they admitted to tossing was small pieces of paper or food items. About a quarter of those said the littering was accidental—either the litter flew out of the window or out of a pickup bed.

Whether accidental or not, that junk gunks up the roadside—to the tune of 1.1 billion pieces of litter a year—including cigarette butts, which accounted for 36 percent of that total—almost 400 million of the nasty little things.

TxDOT estimated these numbers in



Kevin Hargis along with his litter patrol pal Archimedes

the 2009 Visible Litter Survey. The survey involved crews performing intense litter pickup on 1,000-foot segments of roadway at 163 sites around the state and identifying each piece of litter, down to brand name (there are a lot of Marlboro smokers and Bud Light drinkers out there).

In a state that prides itself on freedom and individualism, there apparently is not an abundance of personal responsibility—at least where litter is concerned.

Overall, littering is up over the previous survey, taken in 2005. But when you

factor out tobacco litter (butts and packaging), littering has actually dropped. This drop comes despite an increase in the number of miles driven, which is a factor in creating more roadside trash.

There's no shortage of it, though. At least in my experience.

I didn't set out to be a litter crusader; I'm just one guy who got tired of seeing his piece of Texas being messed with. And some days, when yet another can or bottle or plastic cup appears in my path, I wonder why I even bother.

Too many people just don't care or

are oblivious to the problem.

But then I find that I just can't help myself. So I pick up the empty plastic water bottle and the stray bits of cardboard and the foam McDonald's cup emblazoned with the message "Don't Mess With Texas."

There's plenty of mess in Texas. But not as much in my neck of the woods these days.

Kevin Hargis, *food editor*

On TexasCoopPower.com

Find links to TxDOT litter studies.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WATER HEATER AS FAITHFUL AS THE MARATHON.

Old Faithful and Marathon provide hot water dependably, year-after-year, without a worry. But, one is owned by the government. Fortunately, Marathons are available from electric utilities. So now you can have your very own "Old Faithful" efficiently providing hot water for a lifetime.



Marathon Water Heaters are proudly made in the USA • For more information, visit www.marathonheaters.com

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

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

Have questions? Ready to buy? Call us!

1-866-390-4832



A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Loose Saggy Neck Skin – Can Any Cream Cure Turkey Neck?

DEAR DORRIS: I'm a woman who is 64 years young who suffers from really loose skin under my chin and on my lower neck. I hate the term, but my grandkids say I have "turkey neck" and frankly, I've had enough of it!



I have tried some creams designed to help tighten and firm that loose, saggy skin, but they did not work. Is there any cream out there that can truly help my loose neck skin?

Turkey Neck, Fort Bend County, TX

DEAR TURKEY-NECK: In fact, there is a very potent cream on the market that firms, tightens and regenerates new skin cells on the neck area. It is called the **Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream®**. This

cream contains an instant lift ingredient that tightens the skin naturally, as well as deep moisturizing ingredients to firm the skin and make it more supple. Amazingly, the **Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream®** also has Stem Cells taken from Malus Domestica, a special apple from Switzerland.

These stem cells are actually unprogrammed cells that can mimic those of young skin that stays tight, firm and wrinkle free. As an alternative to the scary surgeries or face lifts that many people resort to, this cream really packs a big punch on the loose saggy skin of the neck.

The **Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream®** is available online at **Dermagist.com** or you can order or learn more by calling toll-free, **888-771-5355**. Oh, I almost forgot... I was given a promo code when I placed my order that gave me **11% off**. The code was **"TXN10"**. It's worth a try to see if it still work.



- Retaining walls
- Patios
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Sustainable Landscaping
- Low Water Irrigation

"My company treasures the opportunity to earn your trust and friendship as we create a landscape masterpiece that is uniquely yours! From the recreation of iconic landmarks to quiet garden retreats, we have the experience and personnel to bring dreams to life. Your satisfaction is our first priority."
- Josiah Peterson, Owner

www.summitlandscapedesign.com

830-426-8800

Serving South Texas and the Hill Country

License #16881



**SPRING
DISCOUNTS**

FOR CO-OP
MEMBERS



Jonathan Peterson
Operations Director

Noah Zygmunt
Project Foreman

Walter Cross
Project Foreman

Josiah Peterson
Owner

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2013 SEASON

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

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



VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM

**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

STAYcation at Home in 2013!

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.





Actual size
is 40.6 mm

Millions Demand America's Purest Silver Dollar. Shouldn't You?

Secure Your New 2013 Silver Eagles Now!

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact it's been the country's most popular Silver Dollar for over two decades. Try as they might, that makes it a very hard "secret" to keep quiet. And right now, many of those same people are lining up to secure the new 2013 U.S. Eagle Silver Dollars — placing their orders now to ensure that they get America's newest Silver Dollar — in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition — before millions of others beat them to it.

America's Newest U.S. Eagle Silver Dollar

This is a newest release of one of the most beautiful silver coins in the world. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition. These legal tender United States Silver Dollars feature a nearly 100-year-old design of Lady Liberty striding confidently forward while draped in a U.S. flag, while the other side depicts a majestic U.S. eagle, thirteen stars, and an American shield. But the clock is ticking.

The Most Affordable Precious Metal— GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED

Silver is by far the most affordable of all precious metals — and each full Troy ounce American Eagle Silver Dollar is government-guaranteed for its 99.9% purity, authenticity, and legal tender status.

A Coin Flip You Can't Afford to Lose

Why are we releasing the most popular silver dollar in America for a remarkably affordable price? We're doing it to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of smart collectors and satisfied customers have known since 1984 — New York Mint is the place to find the world's finest coins.

Timing is Everything

Our advice? Keep this to yourself. Tear out the page if you have to, because the more people who know about this offer, the worse it is for you. Demand for Silver Eagles in recent years has shattered records. Experts predict that 2013 Silver Eagles may break them all over again. Supplies are limited and there is a strict limit of 40 per household.

30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

You must be 100% satisfied with your 2013 Brilliant Uncirculated American Eagle Silver Dollars or return them within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (*less s/h*). Don't miss out on this limited release. Call immediately to secure these American Eagle Silver Dollars ahead of the crowd.

2013 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

Your cost	1-4 Coins	- \$39.95 each + s/h
	5-9 Coins	- \$39.45 each + s/h
	10-19 Coins	- \$38.95 each + s/h
	20-40 Coins	- \$38.45 each + s/h

Offer Limited to 40 per Household

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day

1-800-935-7267

Offer Code TAE202-01
Please mention this code when you call.



New York Mint

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. TAE202-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.NewYorkMint.com

Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Past performance is not a predictor of future performance. NOTE: New York Mint® is a private distributor of worldwide government coin and currency issues and privately issued licensed collectibles and is not affiliated with the United States government. Facts and figures deemed accurate as of November 2012. ©2013 New York Mint, LLC.

MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

SPEARS BARN COMPANY
We Offer Different Sizes & Designs

One 10' sliding door.
One walk-through door.

30' x 50' x 10' Colored Metal
Ask About Our Special!

Materials, delivery, tax & labor
www.spearsbarnco.com

1-877-371-3501

USA BARN

1.877.USA.BARN (872.2276)
FAX: 1.918.686.5512 www.usabarn.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

M&W BUILDERS
CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

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

WE BUY MINERALS

We pay cash for producing or non-producing mineral interests.

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

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.

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'	\$8,390
40' x 60' x 12'	\$11,799
50' x 75' x 14'	\$17,606
60' x 100' x 12'	\$22,995
80' x 100' x 14'	\$31,549
100' x 150' x 14'	\$55,949

Arena Special (roof & frame)
100' x 100' x 14'...\$33,992

Based In Texas
(Local codes may affect prices)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE **RHINO** STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Fax: 940-484-6746 email: info@rhinobldg.com
Website: www.RHINOBLDG.COM

Toll Free 1-888-320-7466

#1 TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER IN THE USA!

2012 John Deere 3032E, 32 HP
Hydro Transmission • 4 Wheel Drive

Package includes:
• 305 Loader • 5' Box Blade • 5' Rotary Cutter
• Insulated Canopy Top • Post Hole Digger
• 16' HD Ranch King Trailer with ramps

MADE IN THE USA

\$21,598.00
\$329 Per Month

0% interest available for 48 months
10% down and \$329.00 per month WAC

FOSTERS
EASTEX FARM & HOME

WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!

9135 College Street
Beaumont, TX
(409) 842-1128

33402 HWY. 290 West
Hockley, TX
(281) 256-6900

2210 Highway 90
Liberty, TX
(936) 336-7226

Build your customized package online! • www.tractorpackages.com

BCI BARN BUILDERS

- 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

VISA

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ON ALL HAND TOOLS!

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! See for yourself at one of our 400 Stores Nationwide and use this 20% Off Coupon on one of our 7,000 products*, plus pick up a Free 6 Piece Screwdriver Set, a \$4.99 value. We stock Shop Equipment, Hand Tools, Tarps, Compressors, Air & Power Tools, Woodworking Tools, Welders, Tool Boxes, Generators, and much more.

- Over 20 Million Satisfied Customers!
- 1 Year Competitor's Low Price Guarantee
- No Hassle Return Policy!
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!
- Over 400 Stores Nationwide

Nobody Beats Our Quality, Service and Price!

SUPER COUPON!

FREE!
WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE OF \$9.99

PITTSBURGH

6 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET
ITEM 47770
REG. PRICE \$4.99



LIMIT 1 - Only available with qualifying minimum purchase (excludes gift value). Coupon good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Original coupon must be presented. Non-transferable. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

20% OFF
ANY SINGLE ITEM!

LIMIT 1 - Save 20% on any one item purchased at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount, coupon, gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans or on any of the following: compressors, generators, tool storage or carts, welders, floor jacks, Towable Ride-on Trencher (Item 65162), open box items, in-store event or parking lot sale items. Not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE WEATHER RESISTANT TARP
LOT NO. 877/69137/
69249/69129/69121

SAVE 60%

\$279
REG. PRICE \$6.99



LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

MULTI-USE TRANSFER PUMP
PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

SAVE 61%

\$499
REG. PRICE \$12.99



LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON ALUMINUM RACING JACK
WEIGHS 27 LBS.
3-1/2 PUMPS LIFTS MOST VEHICLES!

SAVE \$60

\$5999
REG. PRICE \$119.99



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

HaulMaster MOVER'S DOLLY
LOT NO. 93888/60497

SAVE 46%

\$799
REG. PRICE \$14.99



LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

drillmaster 1500 WATT DUAL TEMPERATURE HEAT GUN
(572°/1112°)

SAVE 60%

\$799
REG. PRICE \$19.99



LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

MECHANIC'S GLOVES
LARGE X-LARGE
LOT NO. 93640/60447 LOT NO. 93641/60448

YOUR CHOICE!

SAVE 64%

\$359
REG. PRICE \$9.99



LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

PNEUMATIC ADJUSTABLE ROLLER SEAT
US*GENERAL

SAVE 33%

\$1999
REG. PRICE \$29.99



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

800 RATED WATTS/ 900 MAX. WATTS PORTABLE GENERATOR
LOT NO. 66619/ 60338/69381

SAVE \$90

\$8999
REG. PRICE \$179.99



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

27 LED PORTABLE WORKLIGHT/FLASHLIGHT
GARDEN

SAVE 56%

\$259
REG. PRICE \$5.99



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

1-1/4" CAPACITY 15 AMP CHIPPER SHREDDER
CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

SAVE \$50

\$12999
REG. PRICE \$179.99



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

30", 11 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET
LOT NO. 67421 US*GENERAL

INCLUDES:

- 6 Drawer Top Chest
- 2 Drawer Middle Section
- 3 Drawer Roller Cabinet

SAVE \$150

\$14999
REG. PRICE \$299.99



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE
PITTSBURGH

SAVE 48%

\$2599
REG. PRICE \$49.99



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

1/2" INDUSTRIAL QUALITY SUPER HIGH TORQUE IMPACT WRENCH
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

SAVE \$50

\$6999
REG. PRICE \$119.99



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS HOT DOG STYLE AIR COMPRESSOR
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

SAVE 50%

\$3999
REG. PRICE \$79.99



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

PITTSBURGH 12" RATCHET BAR CLAMP/SPREADER
LOT NO. 46807/68975/69221/69222



Item 46807 shown

SAVE 63%

\$199 REG. PRICE \$5.49

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

CENTECH. AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER
LOT NO. 42292/69594/69955



Item 42292 shown

SAVE 61%

\$499 REG. PRICE \$12.99

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

HaulMaster TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH
LOT NO. 94141/69874



Item 94141 shown

SAVE 55%

\$1999 REG. PRICE \$44.99

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER drillmaster
LOT NO. 95578/69645/60625



Item 95578 shown

SAVE 50%

\$999 REG. PRICE \$19.99

LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

HaulMaster 4000 LB. CAPACITY CABLE WINCH PULLER
LOT NO. 30329/69854



Item 30329 shown

SAVE 48%

For dead loads only; not for lifting.

\$1299 REG. PRICE \$24.99

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

3 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED HIGH SPEED STEEL STEP DRILLS
LOT NO. 91616/69087/60379



Item 91616 shown

SAVE 60%

\$799 REG. PRICE \$19.99

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS
LOT NO. 42304/69043



Item 42304 shown

SAVE 53%

\$699 REG. PRICE \$14.99

SAE METRIC

YOUR CHOICE!

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

PITTSBURGH 6" DIGITAL CALIPER
LOT NO. 47257



Includes two 1.5V button cell batteries.

SAVE 66%

\$999 REG. PRICE \$29.99

LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

HaulMaster 2 PIECE STEEL LOADING RAMPS
LOT NO. 44649/69591/69646



Item 44649 shown

SAVE 50%

\$3999 REG. PRICE \$79.99

1000 LB. CAPACITY

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

4 CHANNEL SURVEILLANCE DVR WITH 4 INFRARED CAMERAS
LOT NO. 68332



Over 2500 hours of recording time.

Bunker Hill Security

SAVE \$100

\$24999 REG. PRICE \$349.99

LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER
LOT NO. 68887



CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING

SAVE \$60

\$8999 REG. PRICE \$149.99

NO GAS REQUIRED!

LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

2" CLEAR WATER PUMP WITH 6 HP GAS ENGINE (212 CC)
LOT NO. 68375/69774



PACIFICHYDROSTAR

9060 GPH

SAVE \$90

\$15999 REG. PRICE \$249.99

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

6.5 HP OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINES (212 CC)
LOT NO. 68120/60363/69730



PREDATOR ENGINES

LOT NO. 68121/69727, CALIFORNIA ONLY

SAVE \$80

\$9999 REG. PRICE \$179.99

Item 68120 shown

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALERT SYSTEM
LOT NO. 93068/69590



Bunker Hill Security

SAVE 56%

Requires one 9 volt and three C batteries (sold separately).

\$1299 REG. PRICE \$29.99

Item 93068 shown

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

PITTSBURGH 3 TON HEAVY DUTY JACK STANDS
LOT NO. 38846/69597



Item 38846 shown

SAVE 54%

\$1599 REG. PRICE \$34.99

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or website or by phone. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

Order at HarborFreight.com or 800-423-2567
We FedEx Most Orders in 24 Hours for \$6⁹⁹

GRAND OPENINGS Avondale, AZ Fontana, CA Sacramento, CA Bridgeport, CT New Haven, CT Kenneth City, FL Denton, TX Houston, TX

ATTENTION MOBILE HOME OWNERS

**EXPERT
INSTALLATION**
LIFETIME WARRANTY
REDUCED ELECTRIC BILL **INCREASED HOME VALUE**
INSURANCE CREDIT **STOP LEAKS**

NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE

PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders



Since 1983
roofover.com
800.633.8969



CAMP Co

SHIPPING CONTAINER MODIFICATIONS

SOLUTIONS FOR WORK & PLAY

Drew Bourgeois ♦ 830.832.0393

♦ Mobile Hunting Cabins ♦
Oil Field Housing
Site Offices
Storm Shelters
Guest Housing

MOBILE • SECURE • STRONG
GREEN • CUSTOMIZED



Starting at \$10,000.00
Financing Available
www.campcotexas.com

*She's not married...
to a steel building company.
Are you?*

A National Leader in Steel Buildings...
www.premierbuildings.com

PREMIER
Building Systems, Inc.
"Steel Buildings Any Size."
1.800.882.5150
Celebrating 16 years of ironclad customer service!

ATLANTIC
SERVICE & SUPPLY
"THE SERVICE CHOICE"

DUCTLESS A/C HP SYSTEMS

- Eliminate those noisy inefficient window units!
- Replace that old dirty central A/C system!
- Energy efficient up to 20+ SEER
- Save up to 30% or more on your electric bill
- Improved Air Quality/Extremely Quiet
- Cools and Heats – No Furnace Required
- Affordable / Financing Available (w.a.c.)

Discover what the rest of the world has known for years; all the advantages of ductless split systems. Call us today and come by and see us at the Fort Worth Stock Show.

Call Toll Free 800-228-1265
www.atlanticservice.com
6525 Baker Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76118

#1 TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER IN THE USA!

2013 John Deere 45 HP. 5045D
Full Size Utility Tractor Package Deal



JOHN DEERE



\$26,398.00
\$355
Per Month

Foster's Package Includes:

- 2013 John Deere 5045D Utility Diesel Tractor
- 6' Brushcutter with Slipclutch & Guards • 6' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- Post Hole Digger • 9" Auger • Insulated Green Tractor Canopy
- 42" Pallet Forks or Hay Spear • 20' HD Trailer with Treated Floor, Ramps and Brakes

WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!

FOSTERS
FAMILY OF FARM STORES

9135 College Street
Beaumont, TX

33402 HWY. 290 West
Hockley, TX

2210 Highway 90
Liberty, TX

(409) 842-1128

(281) 256-6900

(936) 336-7226

Build your customized package online!

www.tractorpackages.com

\$26,398.00 Cash or 10% down and \$355.00 per month @ 72 months WAC • 0 Down Available WAC
0% Financing for 60 months available • 4-wheel drive available for an additional \$90.00 per month

Meet the Colorful Cactus Jack

The first U.S. vice president from Texas was a gruff, outspoken career politician who spent much of his life in Washington. Historians consider him perhaps the most influential vice president ever, but he had such disdain for the office he is famous for saying it ‘is not worth a bucket of warm spit’—though there seems to be some uncertainty about exactly how he put it.

BY BRITTANY LAMAS

HOW IS IT, THEN, THAT MOST PEOPLE, even Texans, probably don’t know John Nance Garner? After all, he earned the colorful nickname Cactus Jack as a Texas legislator and became the catalyst for pushing President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal through Congress in the 1930s.

Patrick Cox, a Texas historian and vice president of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative board of directors, said the vice presidency received little media attention back then. “There wasn’t extensive media coverage of politics and political personalities,” said Cox, who has researched Garner’s life. “The current generation of political leaders has more exposure to the media.”

Garner, born in 1868 near Detroit, Texas, attended law school at Vanderbilt University but never finished. After returning to Texas, Garner worked to pass the bar and set up a law office in Uvalde.

“In that era, it was not uncommon to ‘read for the law’ and work as a clerk in a law office until you could pass the bar,” Cox said. Garner was elected county judge in 1893 and then state representative in 1898.

He didn’t say much in his three years in the Legislature, preferring to stay focused on his work rather than controversial issues, although one bill landed Garner attention and permanent acclaim. Garner campaigned for the cactus bloom to be the state flower of Texas, but it, of course, lost to the bluebonnet.

That saddled Garner with the lifelong moniker Cactus Jack, which Cox said Garner enjoyed. “He was known for having a prickly personality, with a sharp wit and sharp tongue,” Cox said.

While in the Legislature, he established the 15th Congressional District, which covered from Corpus Christi south

to Brownsville and west to Del Rio. He then ran for Congress in the 15th and won. Garner served as its representative for 15 terms, 1903-33.

Garner understood that influence came with seniority, so he used his years in office to build affiliations with prominent members of Congress. He was elected Speaker of the House in 1931, and it was during that term that he decided to run for president. After failing to secure the Democratic nomination in 1932, Garner pulled out of the race and became Roosevelt’s running mate.

Garner called the vice presidency the “spare tire of government” and “almost wholly unimportant,” Cox said. Garner even remarked, “When I was elected vice president of the United States, it was the worst thing that ever happened to me.” But while he was in office, Garner revolutionized the position from figurehead to vital member of the executive branch.

He played a role in major New Deal accomplishments, including the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, which led to the creation of rural cooperatives. In Texas, 2 percent of farms had electricity in 1936; by 1965, only 2 percent of farms were without power, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

Garner declined to be FDR’s running mate for a second re-election. He retired from politics and moved back to Uvalde. His time as vice president earned him respect from other Southern Democrats, and his birthday was an occasion for Democrats to get together and celebrate. “Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Sam Rayburn and Dolph Briscoe were known to attend,” Cox said.



In 1960, when Johnson was deliberating whether to become John Kennedy’s running mate, he called Garner for advice. Garner said, “I’ll tell you, Lyndon, the vice presidency isn’t worth a pitcher of warm spit.” Johnson joined the ticket anyway and became the second vice president from Texas.

While Kennedy was on his tour of Texas, he called the former vice president, who turned 95 on November 22, 1963, to wish him a happy birthday. Newspapers reported that directly after Kennedy made the call, he left his Fort Worth hotel for the parade through Dallas, where he was assassinated.

Garner died November 7, 1967, 15 days before turning 99. His home was converted into the John Nance Garner Museum. Garner State Park and Garner Field, an airport, are named for him.

Cactus Jack went to Washington with a simple goal—get elected, stay there and gain influence through seniority—but became the vice president who made things happen.

“The irony is Garner was so critical of the position, but he actually transformed the office into the modern-day vice presidency,” Cox said.

Brittany Lamas, *Texas Co-op Power* editorial intern

HIGH RATES on Bank CDs

1-800-359-4940 TEXAS
TOLL-FREE

www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

BLAKE MATTSO, CFP™

Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710

Serving Customers All Over Texas

All 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.

W.D. Metal Buildings



Steel shops, agriculture barns, RV buildings,
airplane hangars, barndominium homes.
Erection included. Concrete slabs available.



Instant Quotes Online: www.wdmb.com

Accessible Buildings Co.

EASY BOLT-UP CONSTRUCTION

SAVE! BUILD YOURSELF!



40 x 50 x 10 = \$8,637.00
40 x 60 x 12 = \$10,362.00
50 x 75 x 12 = \$14,376.00
60 x 80 x 14 = \$18,153.00
100 x 150 x 14 (M-1) = \$46,824.00
ALL SIZES MINI-STORAGE!

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
SHOP • FARM

CALL TODAY FOR
BUILDING QUOTE!

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



Four Colors Muscovy
Ducklings: Heritage
Bronze Turkeys.

Baby Chicks in Reds,
Orpingtons, Rocks,
Brahmas, Leghorns,
Ameraucanas, Austral-
orps and Old English
Games.

Call for a free color brochure

405-257-1236

www.countryhatchery.net

Country Hatchery • Box 747 • Wewoka, OK 74884



ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10' \$7,126
40' x 60' x 12' \$10,287
50' x 75' x 14' \$15,196
80' x 20' x 16' \$36,874

Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units - \$14,740

1.877.657.8335

www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

WATER PROBLEMS ??

NO MORE SAND

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



Own Three Scarce Collector Classics!

SAVE
OVER 70%!



1913-1938 Indian/Buffalo Nickel
with a uniquely American coin design



1859-1909 Indian Head Cent
last minted over a century ago



1883-1913 Liberty Head "V" Nickel
from the turn of the 20th century

Long vanished from circulation, you get all 3 of these scarce collector favorites in this special set for **ONLY \$4.95** – a savings of OVER 70% OFF the regular price of \$19.25. Order by deadline and you also get a **FREE** 4-coin set of Uncirculated 2009 Lincoln bicentennial cents, plus enjoy **FREE Shipping** to your home!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.
Order your 3-coin Collectors Set now and SAVE!

Mail coupon today or order online at: www.LittletonCoin.com/specials • 45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

Get a 3-Coin Collectors Set **PLUS** a FREE Lincoln Bicentennial Cent Set!

☒ **Yes!** Please send me my 3-Coin Collectors Set for **ONLY \$4.95** – regularly \$19.25, plus **FREE** Shipping (limit 4 sets). Please also send my **FREE** Uncirculated 4-Coin Set of 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial Cents (one per customer, please).

Name Please print your complete name and address clearly

Address Apt#

City State Zip

E-Mail

Method of payment:

- ☐ Check or Money Order payable to Littleton Coin Co.
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
☐ Discover Network

Card No. Exp. Date

America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945

How Many Sets (limit 4):

Total Cost at \$4.95 per set: \$

Add custom 20th Century Type Coin Display Folders and SAVE 28% at \$2.50 ea. (regularly \$3.49): \$

Shipping & Handling: **FREE!**

Total Amount: \$

Order Deadline:
Midnight, March 31, 2013

Special Offer for New Customers Only

Please send coupon to:

Littleton Coin Company
Dept. ZWC415
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
Littleton NH
03561-3737

FREE Gift!

when you order by deadline

Uncirculated
4-Coin Set of
2009 Cents, with
special one-year
bicentennial designs



The Veggie Experience

This month's topic is definitely not mainstream. If you're not a vegan, consider this a lesson in the vast literature of food and eating habits. At the very least, you will understand a little more about the diverse culinary possibilities of a plant-based diet. Vegetarians are not as strict as vegans but still adhere to a mostly vegetable diet, sometimes including fish or chicken.

Veganism, the practice of eating without consuming animals or animal-based products, is not new. However, the term “vegan” did not come into use until the latter half of the 20th century. And the profile of vegans and veganism has been raised in recent years, driven by health consciousness, the rise of animal rights philosophies and high-profile advocates for the diet.

Vegans eat nothing derived from an animal, not even eggs, milk or honey, depending on how strictly they follow the regimen.

Some people choose to follow a vegan diet for health reasons and some for environmental reasons. Others, known as ethical vegans, believe that any use of animals is wrong. Ethical vegans also tend not to wear animal products such as leather or silk.

Following a vegan diet or cooking for someone who is vegan can pose a challenge. There are a number of substitutes for products such as eggs or cheese, but using those substitutes in a recipe doesn't always produce the results you might be used to. Vegan cooking, with all its restrictions, can be a challenge for the uninitiated, but it also can inspire creativity.

One of those creative recipes comes from Austin's burgeoning trailer eatery scene. Chef Rishi Dhir, who opened his vegetarian trailer, Conscious Cravings, in 2010, offered this easy-to-prepare vegan recipe to cookbook author Tiffany Harelik, whose two-volume Austin edition of the Trailer Food Diaries Cookbook (2012, The History Press) covers the gamut of the city's diverse mobile food culture.

KEVIN HARGIS

Tofu Scramble

- 1 pound firm tofu
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon tamari or soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- About ½ cup vegetable broth

- Drain tofu and crumble into a large bowl.
- Heat olive oil in a large skillet and add bell pepper, onion and tamari. Sauté for 3 to 4 minutes over medium heat until onions begin to turn translucent.
- Add tofu, Italian seasoning, cumin and salt and pepper. Pour broth over all and heat through.

Servings: 2. Serving size: ½ of dish. Per serving: 207 calories, 17.1 g protein, 7.7 g fat, 18.4 g carbohydrates, 2.9 g dietary fiber, 840 mg sodium, 8.7 g sugars

Tofu Scramble



Chef Rishi Dhir



KERIC KETZEL | PEDERNALES EC

The winner of this month's Vegan and Vegetarian contest is not a vegan recipe, but it could easily be made so with nondairy cheese and margarine. The flavors of the Mediterranean come through in these hearty sandwiches with nary a shred of meat.

Tuscan Veggie Sandwiches

- 2 medium zucchini
- 1 large red onion
- 1 medium eggplant
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 ciabatta rolls
- 4 ounces mozzarella cheese, sliced
- Fresh-grated Parmesan or Romano cheese to taste
- Butter or margarine for bread
- 4 tablespoons basil pesto
- Baby arugula (optional)



- Slice each zucchini lengthwise into four planks. Slice onion into about 1/8-inch rounds. Peel and slice eggplant into 1/4-inch rounds.
- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Spread the olive oil on a rimmed baking sheet. Heat the sheet until the oil starts to smoke.
- Using tongs, lay the sliced vegetables on the sheet, turning to coat both sides with the olive oil, and roast in the oven until soft and lightly browned.
- As vegetables are roasting, split the ciabatta rolls and butter them lightly. When the vegetables are done, remove them to a platter and cover with a clean towel. Place the rolls butter-side down on the hot sheet, returning it to the oven for a moment to toast.
- After the rolls are toasted, flip them over and layer each half with the sliced mozzarella, returning to the oven to melt. When the cheese is soft and melted, remove from oven and garnish each half with a tablespoon of pesto and a sprinkle of Parmesan or Romano.
- Layer the vegetables as you wish. Top with arugula (if desired) and the other ciabatta half and press firmly.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1 sandwich. Per serving: 503 calories, 16.7 g protein, 25.7 g fat, 48.5 g carbohydrates, 7.4 g dietary fiber, 749 mg sodium, 11 g sugars

\$100 RECIPE CONTEST

July's recipe contest topic is **Your Best Burger, sponsored by the City of Athens, "Home of the Hamburger."** The Northeast Texas city is credited as the modern birthplace of the hamburger sandwich. Do you have a special take on the traditional burger? If yours is judged the best, you will win \$100.

There are three ways to enter: **ONLINE** at TexasCoopPower.com (under the Submit and Share tab); **MAIL** to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; **FAX** to (512) 763-3408. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op.

Beautiful Beets

- 1 can (16 ounces) sliced beets
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Roasted Sweet Pepper Cream (recipe follows)
- Parsley Pesto (recipe follows)

- Drain and rinse beets. In a bowl, toss beets with olive oil, add salt and pepper to taste and set aside.
- Spread 3 tablespoons of Roasted Sweet Pepper Cream on a plate, then gently set one slice of beet on cream, layer with Parsley Pesto. Top with a second beet slice, add another layer of Parsley Pesto, top with a third beet slice then top with a dollop of Roasted Sweet Pepper Cream.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1/4 of recipe. Per serving: 294 calories, 2.2 g protein, 25.4 g fat, 14.1 g carbohydrates, 3.9 g dietary fiber, 607 mg sodium, 9.2 g sugars

Roasted Sweet Pepper Cream

- 2 sweet red or orange bell peppers
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic
- Salt to taste

- Roast peppers under broiler set on high, rotating frequently, until skin just begins to bubble. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
- Once cooled, remove seeds and stem and place in blender along with carrots, olive oil and garlic. Blend until smooth; add salt to taste.

Parsley Pesto

- 1 1/2 cups raw pumpkin seeds
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 cup packed fresh parsley leaves
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt to taste

- Soak pumpkin seeds in water for 4-6 hours then drain and rinse.
- Place seeds in food processor with garlic, parsley and olive oil and process until coarsely chopped and mixed. Add salt to taste.

LAURA CRADDICK | NAVARRO COUNTY EC



Cook's Tip: Freeze leftover Parsley Pesto for a future meal.



Cranberry Almond Gluten-Free Vegan Cookies

- 1½ cups oat flour
- 1 cup gluten-free all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup flaxseed meal
- ¼ cup arrowroot starch
- 1½ teaspoons xanthan gum
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ teaspoons salt
- ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons liquid coconut oil or canola oil
- 6 tablespoons unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup sliced almonds, lightly crushed

- Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together the flours, sugar, flaxseed meal, arrowroot starch, xanthan gum, baking soda and salt. Add the oil, applesauce and vanilla and stir with a rubber spatula. The dough will be thick but soft.
- Stir in the cranberries and almonds. Drop the dough by heaping tablespoonsful onto the prepared baking sheets, about 1½ inches apart.



- Bake for 7 minutes then rotate the baking sheets and bake for 7 minutes more. The cookies should be golden brown and firm.
- Let the cookies stand on the baking sheets for 15 minutes before serving or remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

Servings: 18. Serving size: 2 cookies. Per serving: 266 calories, 3.4 g protein, 13.4 g fat, 32.6 g carbohydrates, 2.4 g dietary fiber, 170 mg sodium, 16.4 g sugars

DENISE CRUMRINE | COSERV ELECTRIC

On TexasCoopPower.com

Find another tasty, healthy vegan recipe along with favorites from years past on our website.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WAS SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD.



With every step, love grows...

THE Footprints® Journey RING



An original creation
by award-winning
designer
Thomas Sota

EXCLUSIVELY FROM
THE
Concorde
COLLECTION
www.concordecollection.com

3/4 Carat white Topaz... 14K Gold...
Sterling Silver. The perfect gift
for yourself... or someone special. Just \$45

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Master-jeweler Thomas Sota has created a very special Sterling Silver ring symbolizing the power of love and importance of faith as you travel on the winding road of life. Dazzling graduated White Topaz and a band of footprints represents the promise of God's eternal presence and support. Celebrate the power of Love. A special treasure to cherish and wear forever, this dramatic ring is offered exclusively through the Concorde Collection and is not sold in stores. Satisfaction guaranteed for 60 days. Mail your order today.

I Had a Dream (also known as Footprints and Footprints in the Sand)
was written by Margaret Fishback Powers.

ORDER FORM

Please mail within 30 days.

YES, I wish to order the FOOTPRINTS® JOURNEY RING. I need send no payment now. I will be billed \$45* when my ring is ready to be shipped.

Size: ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

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

Name PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Address

City

State Zip

Telephone (Include Area Code)

Mail to: The Concorde Collection
P.O. Box 8017, Aston, PA 19014

E
THE
CONCORDE
COLLECTION
FPJR49

©2013 TCC

OFFICIAL UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT GOLD
RELEASED TODAY AT-COST

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE MADE FOR GOLD
ORDERS OVER \$50,000

U.S. GOLD COIN RELEASE EXPERTS PREDICT \$10,000/OZ!

GOLD IS CURRENTLY
AROUND \$1,675/OZ.



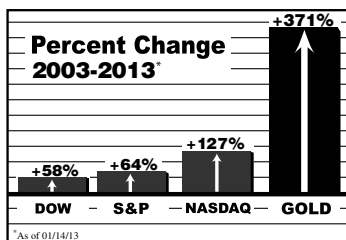
PURE COST:
NO DEALER MARKUP!

\$178.25

PRICES MAY BE MORE OR
LESS BASED ON CURRENT
MARKET CONDITIONS.
CALL NOW.

U.S. GOV'T GOLD COINS SPECIAL VAULT RELEASE

The U.S. Money Reserve Main Vault Facility today announces what could be the final release of U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins previously held in the West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. For the first time in recent history, **U.S. citizens can buy these 2013 Gov't-Issued \$5 Gold Coins at an incredible at-cost price of only \$178.25 each.** An amazing price because these U.S. Gov't-Issued Gold Coins are completely free of dealer markup. That's correct — our cost. Gold, which is currently around \$1,675 per ounce, is predicted by experts to have the explosive upside potential of reaching up to \$10,000 per ounce. **Please be advised: Our U.S. Gov't Gold inventory is priced at \$178.25 per coin while supplies last or for up to 30 days. These coins may sell out. Call immediately to avoid disappointment!** Orders that are not immediately received or reserved with the order center could be subject to cancellation and your checks returned uncashed. Order immediately before our vault sells out completely! **Call Toll-Free 1-855-426-7168 today.**



WHY BUY GOLD NOW

- Gold has outperformed the Nasdaq, Dow and S&P 500 over the past 10 years and counting.
- \$50,000 in U.S. Gov't Gold Coins could be worth up to \$300,000 in the future.
- Our U.S. Gov't Gold inventory will be priced at \$178.25 per coin while supplies last or for up to 30 days. Don't delay!

CALL NOW
THEY MAY NOT LAST LONG!

TOLL - FREE
1-855-426-7168

Vault No. TX8-17825



GOLD MAY BE BETTER THAN MONEY IN THE BANK

If you had \$50,000 in the bank and you transferred it into Gold at today's prices, your money could potentially grow to six times its current value. That's right — \$300,000. On the other hand, if you leave that same \$50,000 in the bank for 10 years, chances are it's only going to be worth the same \$50,000. When you convert your dollars to Gold, you haven't spent your money but have transferred its value from a declining paper currency to a precious metal that is rising in both market and numismatic value. This is how the genius of **owning Gold may protect your money in today's very volatile market.**

**CALL TO ORDER YOUR
U.S. GOLD COINS TODAY**

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX
DISCOVER • CHECK • BANK WIRE

1 - 2013 Gov't-Issued Gold Coin \$ 178.25
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$8.00)

5 - 2013 Gov't-Issued Gold Coins \$ 891.25
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$15.00)

10 - 2013 Gov't-Issued Gold Coins \$1,782.50
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$15.00)

THE MARKETS FOR COINS ARE UNREGULATED. PRICES CAN RISE OR FALL AND CARRY SOME RISKS. THE COMPANY IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. MINT. PAST PERFORMANCE OF THE COIN OR THE MARKET CANNOT PREDICT FUTURE PERFORMANCE. SPECIAL AT-COST OFFER IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ONLY ONE LIFETIME PURCHASE OF 10 AT-COST COINS (REGARDLESS OF PRICE PAID) PER HOUSEHOLD. PLUS SHIPPING AND INSURANCE. PRICE NOT VALID FOR PRECIOUS METALS DEALERS.



Broken No object is immortal; eventually, everything is lost to posterity or succumbs to the elements. That doesn't mean it can't still be beautiful. Finding the perfectly imperfect takes a nostalgic heart—and is open to interpretation. Thank you for all of the unique, beautifully broken objects you shared.

ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

On TexasCoopPower.com

It broke our hearts to leave some of your images out of this issue, but we put a bunch more online.

◀ Time has taken its toll on this headstone in Smith Cemetery in Lewisville. **Pepper McCarty**, CoServ Electric, sent in the photo.



▲ **Sandie Ward**, Lighthouse EC, spotted this old, broken-down truck hiding on a vacant lot in Dimmitt.

Resting near an abandoned homestead, this dilapidated horse-drawn wagon has just about collapsed under the weight of a dead tree and years of neglect. Thanks to **Tim Benson**, Lyntegar EC, for sending us the photo. ▼



Tammy Fetch, Navarro County EC, found this windmill, which has heralded and weathered many a storm, in Tellico. ▶

Upcoming Contests

May Issue: Black & White

Deadline: March 10

June: Underwater

July: Vintage

Send your photo for the May contest—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Black & White, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before **March 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 using a digital camera, submit your highest-resolution images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



▲ Something old, something blue: **Mildred Hempel**, Navarro County EC, says blue jays love to hang out on this long-retired tractor. Think the seeds on the seat might have something to do with that?

Pick of the Month

Bootin' Out Cerebral Palsy 5K Walk

Alvarado [March 30] (817) 704-8529, bootinoutcp.com

The whole family can participate in this walk benefiting the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children—strollers, wagons and wheelchairs are permitted. Afterward, enjoy a free lunch and plenty of activities for the kids.



SNEAKERS: JIRI HERA | BIGSTOCK.COM. CRAWFISH: OLEG ZHUKOV | BIGSTOCK.COM.

March

02

Center Republic of Texas Celebration, (936) 598-3682

05

Marshall Taste of the Arts, (903) 935-4484, marshallartscouncil.org

08

Luling [8-9] Rajun' Cajun Throwdown Festival & Gumbo Cookoff, (830) 875-3214, lulingmainstreet.com

09

Cat Spring [9-10] Antiques & Garden Festival, (979) 865-5618, ruraltexasantiques.com

12

Bryan [12-17] Diamonds and Dirt Barrel Horse Classic, (979) 229-3087, ddbarrelhorseclassic.com

15

Lockhart [15-16] Tolbert Texas State Chili Cook-Off, (512) 398-2818, centraltexaschili.com

Smithville [15-17] Thunder on the Colorado, (512) 237-2313, thunderonthe.colorado.com

16

Huntsville Herb Day at the Wynne Home, (936) 891-5024, facebook.com/texas.thymeunit

Nacogdoches Garden Tour of Homes, 1-888-653-3788, nacogdochesazaleas.com

Tomball Honky Tonk Music Festival, (281) 351-5484, tomballtx.gov

March 23
Port Arthur
Rotary Taste
of Gumbo



APPLY NOW
for **TREWA**
SCHOLARSHIPS

MORE THAN
\$22,500
AVAILABLE

FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

Apply by March 30 at
www.TREWA.org

The Texas Rural Women's Association (TREWA) will award fifteen \$1,500 scholarships to TREWA members or their children. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

"Building Solutions"
...with integrity!

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY

As Seen On

Extreme
MAKEOVER
HOME EDITION

nationalbarn.com
1-800-582-BARN(2276)

Full Service Post-Frame Design & Construction Since 1992

Serving 27 States and Over 10,000 Customers

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

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

and festivals around Texas. For a complete listing, please visit TexasCoopPower.com/events.



March 23
Victoria
Ballet Theatre
Spring Gala

21

Beaumont [21-31] South Texas State Fair,
(409) 832-9991, ymbbl.org

22

Tyler [22-23] Quilt Show, (903) 581-6176

23

Camp Wood Real County Centennial
Guided Historical Tour, (830) 232-5783,
realcounty1913.com

Port Arthur Rotary Taste of Gumbo,
(409) 718-0612

Victoria Ballet Theatre Spring Gala,
(361) 575-2313, victoriaballet.org

25

Hamilton Spring Fling, (254) 372-3120

28

The Colony Spring Eggstravaganza,
(972) 625-1106, visitthecolonytx.org

30

Jonestown Cajun Cook-Off, (512) 267-7952,
lagovista.org

Burton [30-4/6] La Bahia Antiques Show &
Sale, (979) 289-2684, labahiaantiques.com

April

02

Kenney [2-6] Hodges Farm Antique Show &
Sale, (979) 865-9077

03

Round Top [3-6] Spring Antiques Fair,
1-888-273-6426, roundtoptexasantiques.com

04

Brenham [4-5] The Big Bad Musical,
1-888-273-6426

05

Lampasas [5-6] Sulphur Creek Chuck
Wagon Cook-Off, (512) 525-3550, rafterts.com

April 3-6
Round Top
Spring Antiques Fair



Submit Your Event!

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

BALLET DANCER: ANDRIY BANDURENKO | BIGSTOCK.COM. CHAIR: FCKNCG | BIGSTOCK.COM.

WALK IN SWAGGER OUT



The women who shaped Texas have worn every kind of shoe – and boot. When you learn what they accomplished, you'll have something new to brag about – and – you might just hear a jingle on your shoe.

Discover *Women Shaping Texas*, on exhibit December 8, 2012-May 19, 2013.

Start your visit at **TheSTORYofTEXAS.com**



BULLOCK
TEXAS
STATE HISTORY
MUSEUM

Tyler, Nacogdoches

For these East Texas towns, azalea trails through gardens in full bloom—public and backyard—are the pot of gold and the rainbow every spring

BY JAN ADAMSON



AZALEAS: Towns' green thumbs turn the walk of the town into the talk of the town.

IF YOU THINK OF EAST TEXAS AS BEING rather sedate, you've never confronted the explosion of pink, white and red that heralds springtime. The small flowers that blanket azalea bushes when in full bloom create veritable clouds of color. There is nothing boring about spring in Tyler and Nacogdoches, which turn the season into parties that last for weeks.

The **TYLER AZALEA AND SPRING FLOWER TRAILS**, which has its roots in a 1930s flourish of azalea planting in town, provides an intimate wander right into the backyards and gardens of the city's oldest fine homes.

Driving the eight-mile trail allows a good look at the gardens, but walking parts

of it is definitely worthwhile.

On weekends, visitors are greeted along the way by freshman and sophomore high school girls dressed in antebellum attire. The Azalea Belles help answer questions, act as ambassadors for the city and pose for pictures if requested.

The trail, scheduled for March 15 through April 7, is at the mercy of Mother Nature, but she always comes through. "I think because of the beauty of it and because the homeowners take such pride and work very hard on it, it's always a success," says Susan Travis of the Tyler Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Joan and Guy Pyron's yard is part of the

trail and has been since even before they moved there from Plano about 18 years ago. "We saw the yard and didn't even see the house," Joan Pyron says. "The yard is the reason we bought the house."

The azaleas are the high point, but Tyler will be hopping with all sorts of activities—including arts and crafts, music, cycling and historic re-enactments. The event draws more than 100,000 visitors.

In Nacogdoches, the centerpiece of the **AZALEA TRAIL** is the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. "It's the largest azalea garden in the state of Texas," says Jannette Sparks of the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Center. The eight-acre garden is snuggled into a loblolly pine stand at an entrance of Stephen F. Austin State University and was developed by the university's horticulture program and the community.

The garden is built for strolling. Visitors can wander the trails that wind through 46 planting beds and rest on strategically placed benches. And azaleas aren't the only blooms to see—there are 550 varieties of rhododendrons, 100 varieties of camellias, more than 200 types of hydrangeas and other plantings.

Nacogdoches' Azalea Trail, set for March 1-31, includes learning opportunities at the Azalea Symposium on March 2 and the Art of Floral Design on March 23.

Other activities include a 10-kilometer run that goes past residential gardens, a juried photography show and a festival with entertainment, activities and vendors. Young girls get the chance to dress as a fairy, a princess or their favorite character at the Little Princess Garden Party on March 23.

Sparks says the best way to enjoy the Azalea Trail is to stroll through the Mize Garden. "Then hop in your car and drive the 25 miles of self-guided driving trails through the scenic residential areas," she says.

Spring might bring beautiful scenery all over Texas, but the azaleas of Tyler and Nacogdoches are breathtaking.

Jan Adamson is a writer from Grand Saline.



LIFE'S BUSY... MAKE THE MOMENTS COUNT.

*Home of
Texas' Largest
Azalea Garden*



Robert Johnson photo



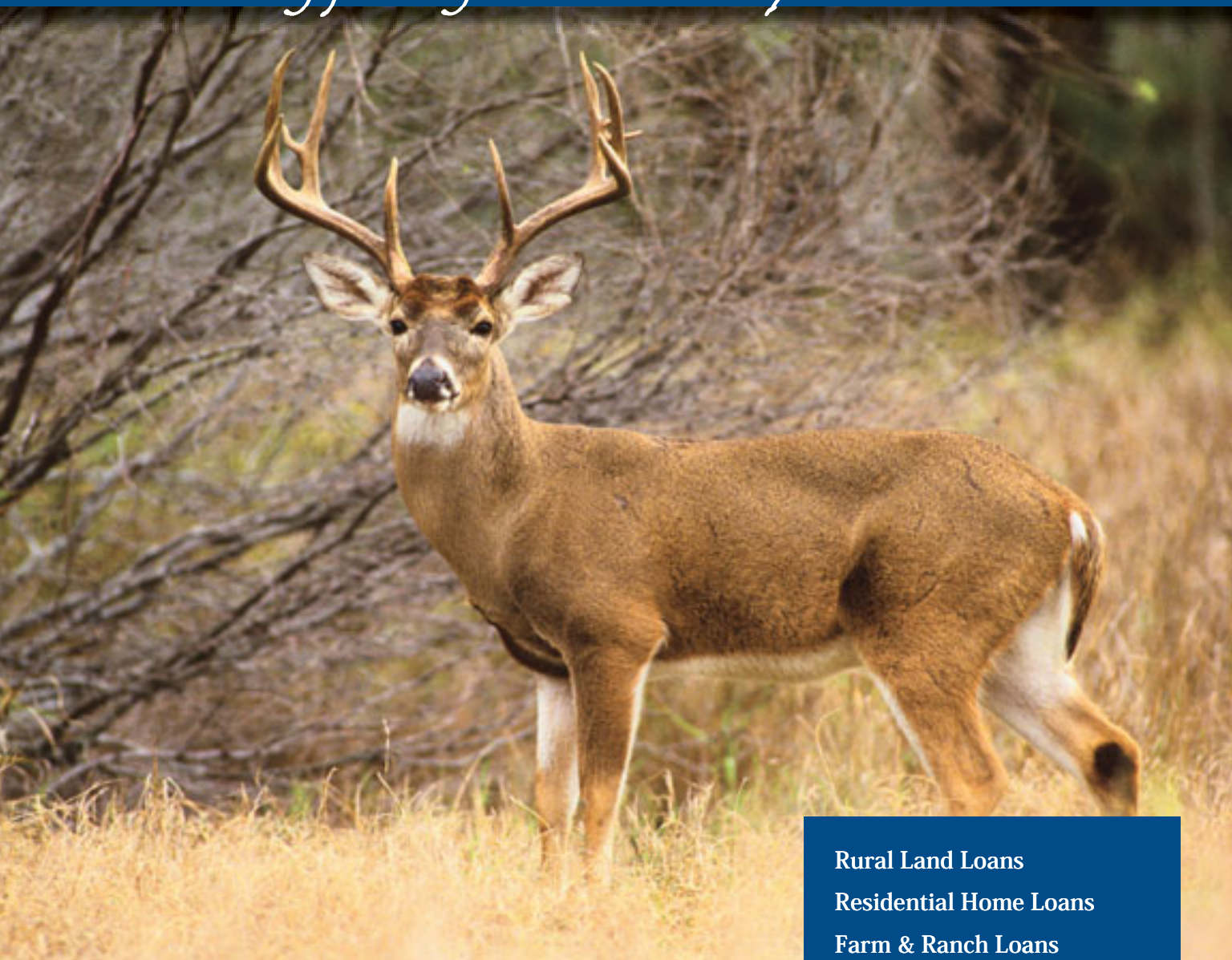
Stop and smell the flowers in Texas' hometown.

NACOGDOCHES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
888-OLDEST-TOWN (888-653-3788) ★ NacogdochesAzaleas.com



*Scan for exclusive
Azalea Trail Events,
March 1-31, 2013*

Looking for big buck country?



We're the answer.

Capital Farm Credit has made agricultural production, real estate and agribusiness loans for 95 years. We embrace our cooperative structure and our commitment to return profits to our customers. Through our patronage program, we return almost 100 percent of our net earnings back to our customers — a distinct benefit of doing business with us.

CapitalFarmCredit.com

877.944.5500

Rural Land Loans
Residential Home Loans
Farm & Ranch Loans
Livestock & Equipment Loans
Operating Capital
Real Estate Appraisal Services
Agribusiness Financing
Leasing



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