

LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EDITION

JUNE 2013

Bees Are Big Business

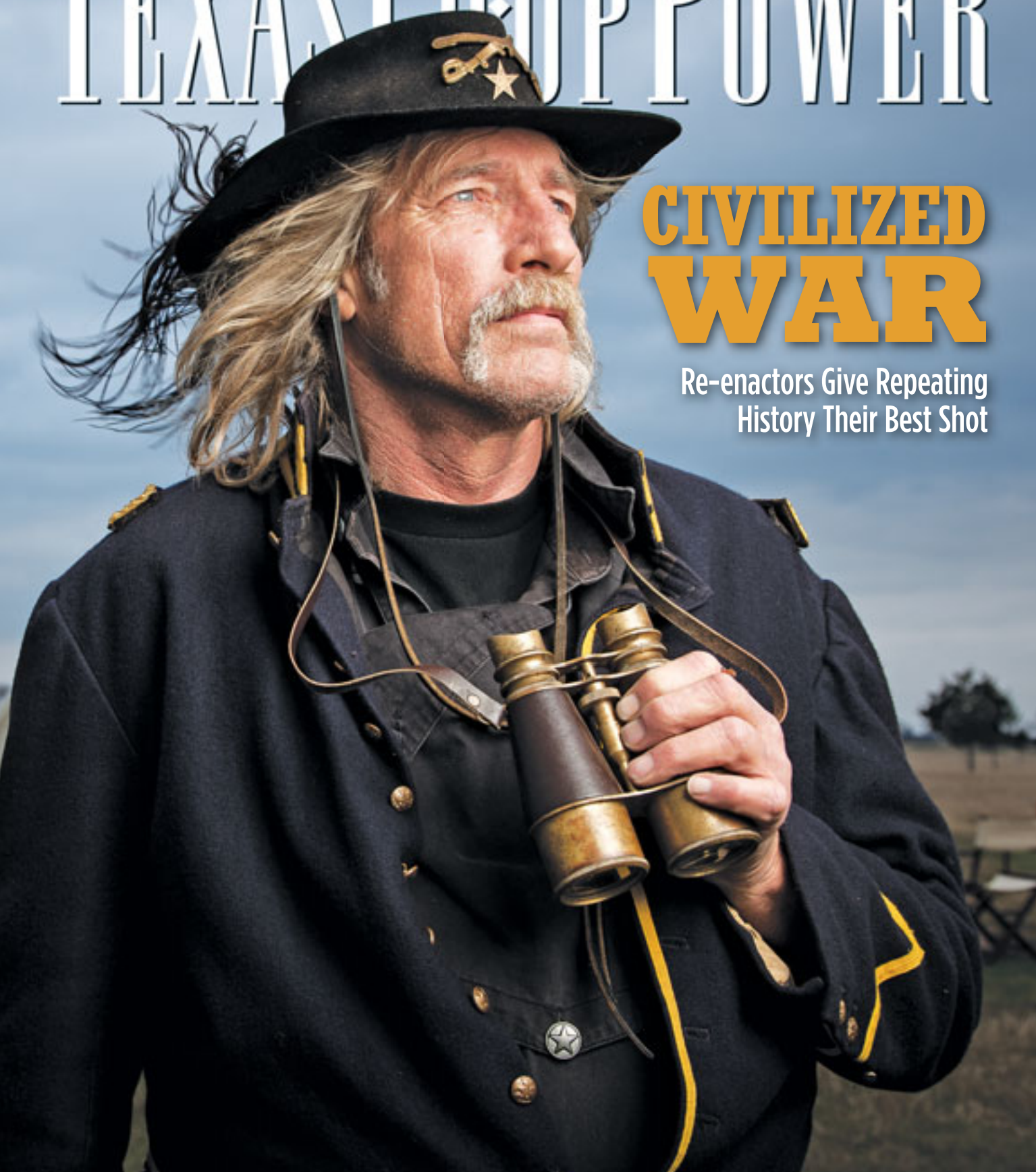
Blueberries

Caddo Mounds

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Re-enactors Give Repeating
History Their Best Shot



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Breaking Bread, Binding the Family
By Martha Deeringer



COVER PHOTO Wardrobe and wary gaze give Howard Green the authentic look of a Union major. By Robert Seale

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But If You Have a Dryer ...

An additional suggestion for composting ["Backyard Paydirt," April 2013] is how to make your own barrel. Years ago I had an old clothes dryer that was destined for the trash. I salvaged the drum, set it on a supporting stand and used it as a composting drum. It's still working great after a dozen years of use.

TEX NORTON | PEDERNALES EC

Correction

I read your article on Bill Pickett ["A Cowboy's Unusual Dental Work," April 2013] with interest. However, the person shown in the photograph is not Bill Pickett; it's his brother. Don't feel bad. The U.S. Postal Service made the same error a few years ago and had to recall a printing of their stamps.

BOB COFFELT | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Editor's note: Below is a photo of bulldogger Bill Pickett.



More on the VP

I enjoyed your story about Vice President John Nance Garner ["Meet the Colorful Cactus Jack," March 2013] since I grew up near

Wonderful Childhood Memories

I couldn't resist commenting on Suzanne Haberman's story of her memories of her mom's clothesline ["Hanging Out With Mom," April 2013*]. Almost everything she wrote took me back in time: from the steel pipes that I would swing on to the twisted galvanized wire line—only two lines for us, but they stretched the entire length of our backyard, which was bigger than our garden and which I would have sworn was the size of a football field—to the frozen clothes in the wintertime, doo-dlebugs, my mother's bonnets, hanging shirts by the tails and using three clothespins instead of four. I, too, could entertain myself for great lengths of time in between the sheets.

What wonderful childhood memories. Thanks, Suzanne, for taking me back there once again.

RUTH CASKEY | BARTLETT EC



Uvalde. I think it also should be mentioned that Garner was very instrumental in the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation [FDIC] in 1932, which still protects all participating bank account holders up to \$250,000 per account.

BILL ARMSTRONG | BANDERA EC

Recipes

My husband and I just finished eating a delicious lunch straight out of the latest issue. I fixed the Mango, Chicken and Chorizo Quesadillas [April 2013], and they were absolutely delicious. This is definitely a keeper.

CARMEN B. SANCHEZ | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Thanks for having more vegan/vegetarian meal ideas ["The Veggie Experience," March 2013]. I have hundreds of vegan/vegetarian

cookbooks, but many of your vegan recipes are new to me.

JENNIFER DE VILLEZ | MEDINA EC

This is Messed Up

I bonded with Kevin Hargis' "Don't Mess With My Bit of Texas" [March 2013*] and hope that there are more than just he, my brother and I who leave the house with a dog and three Kroger's bags and return with more trash.

I try to keep my Dallas block clean five days a week and walk our county road near Winnsboro on weekends. Somehow city trash makes a wee bit of sense, but I'll never understand how those living in the country are OK with lining their roads through the East Texas trees with garbage.

Aluminum cans net me \$30 every three months at the Sulfur Springs recycle plant. If only glass bottles and fast food bags had value, I could retire early.

SCOTT POWRIE | WOOD COUNTY EC

* Appeared online and in some local co-op editions.

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ENERGY NEWS

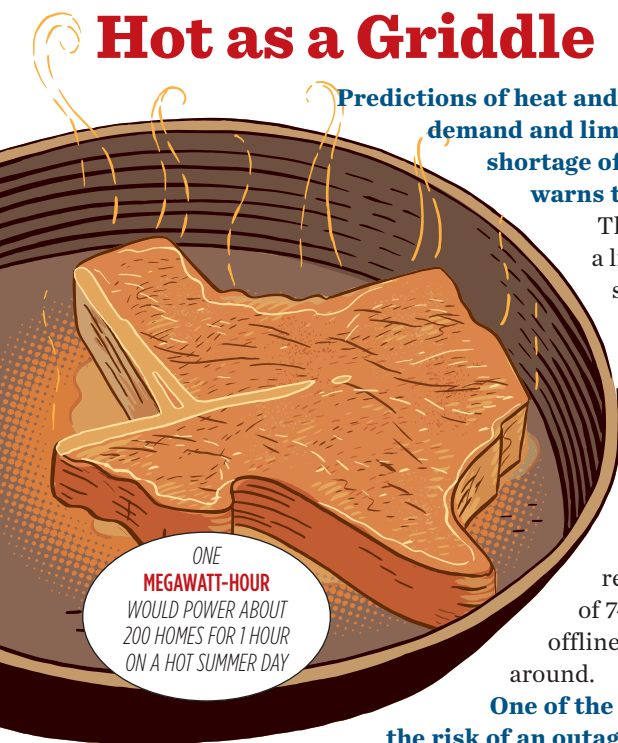
Hot as a Griddle

Predictions of heat and drought combined with high electricity demand and limited generation resources could mean a shortage of electricity for Texans this summer, warns the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

The forecast might seem daunting, but with a little cooperation from everyone to conserve, Texans can ensure that the lights—and the air conditioner—stay on.

Texans in the ERCOT region could require 68,383 megawatts during a period of peak demand this summer, predicts the grid operator for 85 percent of the state's load. The predicted demand is higher than the all-time record of 68,305 MW set in August 2011. The forecast creeps close to the region's expected summer generation capacity of 74,438 MW. If power plants unexpectedly go offline, there might not be enough electricity to go around.

One of the simplest steps Texans can take to reduce the risk of an outage this summer is to set the thermostat just 2 degrees warmer. For more ideas on how to conserve electricity this summer and throughout the year, visit energy.gov.



ALMANAC

The Flood and the Reign



Music fans might find it hard to believe, but June 13 marks 30 years since Stevie Ray Vaughan's debut album "Texas Flood" was released. The album received critical acclaim, garnering two Grammy nominations. Vaughan's energized bluesy guitar playing—described as gritty and raw—earned him Best Electric Blues Guitarist in the Guitar Player's Readers Poll in 1983.

Vaughan was born October 3, 1954, in Dallas. He died tragically on August 27, 1990. After a concert in East Troy, Wisconsin, that included a guitar jam with Eric Clapton, brother Jimmie Vaughan, Buddy Guy and Robert Cray, he boarded a helicopter to fly to Chicago. Minutes after takeoff the helicopter smashed into a cloud-shrouded hill, killing Vaughan, the pilot and three members of Clapton's entourage. By then, according to The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll (Simon & Schuster, 2001), Vaughan was firmly established as the era's premier blues-rock performer.

HAPPENINGS

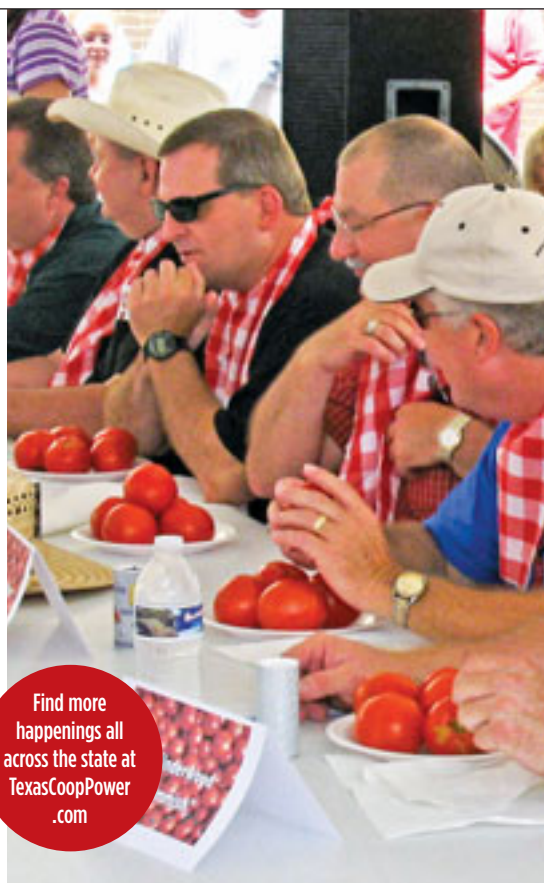
Tomato Fest

Make your plans now—we know you can

If you've been reading Texas Co-op Power long enough, you'll know Texas' official snack is chips and salsa. And Jacksonville knows salsa. Head on out June 8 to the East Texas town for the annual Tomato Fest, held downtown. One of the many activities planned for the day is a salsa-making contest. (Sorry, no samples unless you make a purchase!) Jacksonville holds the mark as recognized by Guinness World Records for the largest bowl of salsa, earned in 2010. It weighed 2,672 pounds.

This free festival also features many contests involving the juicy red fruit, including eating, shooting, peeling and mashing. There will be food and arts and craft booths, a farmers market, motorcycle and antique car shows, a fishing tournament and live entertainment. So bring a crate (you'll want to take some tomatoes home), bring the kids and don't be late. Or you'll have to ketchup.

FOR INFO: (903) 586-2217,
JACKSONVILLETEXAS.COM/PAGES/TOMATOFEST



WHO KNEW?

Just Follow Those



Footprints

We don't know whether Bigfoot exists, but if you get him in your sights, you can pull the trigger—at least if you're in Texas. The matter came up when Oregon-based Bigfoot buff John Lloyd Scharf contacted Texas Parks & Wildlife's David Sinclair to see if he could hunt the mythical beasts without getting busted. Turns out you can, the way the law is written. Killing an exotic nonendangered animal in Texas is legal. While there may be very few Sasquatches in existence, undocumented species are not protected. Therefore, Bigfoot could be the biggest trophy that will ever hang above a fireplace.



TOTALLY TEXAS

Hungry for Maybe the Best Burger Ever?

I suggest Jacoby's Cafe in Melvin, just off Highway 87 in far western McCulloch County. Melvin, population 178, is a jaunt off the beaten path, but this 11-year-old, family-owned restaurant is as vibrant as any urban mecca.

One busy Friday, I ordered the Keltz Burger, a grilled, seemingly caramelized half-pound patty stuffed with a combination of onions, jalapeños and cheddar that seeped flavor into the tender meat. Stuffed on-site, the burger is served on a glistening grilled bun with all the fixin's—crispy lettuce, tomatoes, onions and pickles that crunch. On the side, get the sweet-tangy onion rings, battered in a peppery coating and deep-fried a golden brown.

The Jacobys serve the family's fresh Jacoby Brand, all-natural, USDA-inspected beef from cattle grazed nearby. They're fed Jacoby's Feed and Seed—another family venture since 1981—raised without hormones and aged at least 21 days before being hand cut. One taste and I knew I'd eat the whole delectable burger. And I did, except for one tiny bite (to be ladylike). From the deep freeze at checkout, I also bought some frozen Jacoby Brand beef, which can be ordered and shipped.

This winter, the family plans to open a second Jacoby's Cafe in East Austin.

FOR INFO: 1-800-329-2080, JACOBYFEED.COM

Suzanne Haberman | Staff Writer

Coming in July Results of Your Best Burger recipe contest

CO-OP PEOPLE

Time To Call the Bug Guy

Meet Michael Warriner, invertebrate biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He's a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative—and Texas Co-op Power's go-to "bug guy."

You might be asking yourself, "Why does my favorite magazine need a bug guy?" Well, the answer is simple: because of readers like you.

Our monthly Focus on Texas department is a hit with readers. But sometimes, those reader-submitted photos contain bugs—or birds or snakes or trees or flowers—that must be identified. Last month Rebecca Steele said the butterfly in her picture was a hackberry emperor. We'd like to take her word for it, but, as sticklers for accuracy, we have to be absolutely sure. That's where our bug guy comes in. One quick email, and *BOOM!*, we have our answer. Hackberry emperor it is, Warriner confirms.

Another recent Focus featured what the reader said were dragonflies. An editor wondered whether they might be damselflies. Turns out the reader was right. And Warriner was precise: "Easy one. Common green darner (*Anax junius*) male (left) and female (right)."

"One of the biggest things I enjoy about my job is helping people identify what they see," says the Austin scientist. For example, that's a Texas brown tarantula on the back of his hand. "It's a fun part of my job. Sometimes I know what it is and sometimes I don't, and I have to identify it. It's a challenge."

Glad to hear we're not bugging you, Michael. Thanks for all your help.

Ashley Clary-Carpenter | Field Editor

Co-op People Ideas? Send them to editor@TexasCoopPower.com.



THE REAL CROP DUSTERS



Amid threats to their population, bees are busy hopscotching through farms and orchards so we can enjoy the fruits of their labor—and we don't just mean honey



PULLING OUT A RECTANGULAR FRAME from a boxy wooden beehive, Clint Weaver is unperturbed as hundreds of bees zoom out, their combined buzzing creating an unearthly, vibrating wave of sound. He points out the swollen form of the queen bee amid her thousands of offspring and doesn't even wince when he gets stung on the thumb.

"Bees blow my mind every day. Every spring, there's a new excitement," Weaver says. "I love it. This is a beautiful job."

It's a job he was born to do. R Weaver Apiaries, the company Clint Weaver owns and operates with his father, Richard Weaver, in Navasota, originated 125 years ago.

In 1888, Clint Weaver's great-great-grandparents Zachariah and Florence Weaver were given 10 hives of bees as a wedding present. They expanded the number of hives they owned, and then their son, Roy Weaver Sr., took over. He was followed by Roy Weaver Jr., then Richard and now Clint. In 1926, Roy Weaver Sr. was approached by T.W. Burleson, founder of Burleson's Honey, who requested at least 1,000 queens a year. Weaver Apiaries was born.

Today, R Weaver Apiaries' primary business is selling queen bees to commercial beekeepers. R Weaver develops the queens by removing larvae from the hives and feeding them royal jelly. Other beekeepers buy the queens, so when they split a large number of hives, they have the number of queens they need. The price for one All-American Queen is \$26, or \$18 each for 100 or more. In addition, the Weavers sell everything a hobbyist would need to get started. You can order bee "veils" (the screened masks beekeepers

wear), helmets, leather gloves, bee smokers, wooden hives and frames, as well as the bees themselves, roughly 10,500 bees in every 3-pound package.

big business

BEES AND HONEY ARE BIG BUSINESS. BEES and pollination services contribute \$589 million a year to the Texas economy, says Blake Shook, president of the Texas Beekeepers Association. Shook, a member of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, is the owner of Desert Creek Honey in McKinney, where his company bottles and sells its honey.

"A vast majority of honey on box store shelves says it is local, raw and unfiltered, and in fact it is none of those things," Shook says. "That's really hurting local beekeepers." A good place for consumers to buy honey is their local farmers markets and at texasbeekeepers.org, where there soon will be an interactive map so people can find their closest local honey producer, he says. The association is working on establishing standards so the labels "raw" and "local" on honey will have more validity.

Honeybees pollinate 80 percent of all fruit, vegetable and seed crops in the United States, according to the National Honey Board (honey.com).

Most people have no idea how much their daily diet depends on honeybees, says wildlife biologist and beekeeper Dennis Herbert, owner of Conservation One, a wildlife and land management services company.

"All of your apples, blueberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, vegetables, citrus fruits—all of those are bee-dependent,"

Herbert says. "All the things that make living and eating our foods enjoyable depend on bees."

Every year, in fact, many commercial beekeepers from Texas and elsewhere haul their bees to California to pollinate almond trees. Some also travel to other states to pollinate cranberry and blueberry crops.

Shook owns about 2,000 hives. He recently transported 75 percent of them to almond groves in California. "Almonds are incredibly dependent on bees for pollination," he says. "With bees, an acre of almond trees can make two to three thousand pounds of almonds. Without bees, the same acre would only produce two to three hundred pounds."

Thus, there is a tremendous demand in California for bees and not enough bees in the state to handle the workload. So the bees make the trip on big flatbed trucks—400 hives to a flatbed. Shook and his staff load them at night when they're asleep, place a net over them and head west. They leave the bees there to pollinate for about a month and a half. During that time, the almond trees' 10- to 12-day blooming period occurs.

A beekeeper works hard all year, Shook says. In the spring, the hives are split (this means taking some of the bees out of each hive and creating a new hive with a new queen.) Summer is the time to harvest honey from the bees and make sure they have enough water. In the fall, beekeepers make sure the bees have plenty of honey to prepare them for winter. In the winter months, bees need to be kept out of the wind. Beekeepers start feeding their bees in January.

"Beekeepers are incredibly resilient



Clint Weaver, 39, proudly displays part of a thriving hive of bees at R Weaver Apiaries in Navasota. 'This is a booming hive for the last week of February,' he says. 'That means Mother Nature is smiling on us.'

and creative," Shook says. "They are good at overcoming challenges."

losses to CCD and varroa mite

THOSE CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE in the past 20 years. Colony collapse disorder, or CCD, has devastated bee colonies around the world, including in Texas. The main symptom of CCD is a hive with a live queen but very few or no

adult honeybees present, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The total number of managed honeybee colonies in the United States has dropped from 5 million in the 1940s to 2.5 million today, according to the USDA.

"One year you can have great hives that have 60 or 70 thousand bees," says Herbert, a member of Bartlett Electric Cooperative. "Then over the winter you may lose half of them to colony collapse disorder."

Bill Baxter is assistant chief apiary inspector for Texas A&M AgriLife Research. He is also a beekeeper and longtime member of Navarro County Electric Cooperative.

"A lot of beekeepers in Texas have lost 50 to 60 percent of their colonies because of colony collapse disorder," Baxter says.

Many people, including Herbert, think CCD is linked to the use of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids. "In



From left: Clint Weaver points toward a frame with capsules containing bee larvae. There they get fed royal jelly, a milky secretion produced by worker bees that enables the larvae to develop into queen bees. Beekeepers use smoke to mask the alarm pheromones that are released by guard bees. This allows beekeepers to open the hive and work without triggering an attack response from the bees. Richard Weaver's great-grandparents started the business. 'I've done my part,' he says. 'Not many businesses are 125 years old in the same family. We've just hung on because we've got a little niche in the industry.'

countries where neonicotinoids have been banned, it is improving for the bees," Herbert says.

Baxter is more circumspect. "They still don't know what causes CCD," he says. "There are a lot of different ideas, and a lot of universities and organizations are studying that."

Varroa mites, a parasite of honeybees, are frequently found in hives suffering from CCD. The mite attacks adult bees and developing larvae.

The Weavers have firsthand experience with the varroa mite. In early 2000, they bought a truckload of bees that they didn't realize was infested with varroa mites. The deaths of the bees from the infected hives cost them \$35,000.

"We came real close to losing our business," Clint Weaver says. "That's a big lick for a tiny company."

The devastation from CCD might be abating. Total losses of managed honeybee colonies were 21.9 percent nationwide for the winter of 2011-12, according

to the USDA. This is substantially less than the mortality rate of the previous five years. However, scientists are not sure whether the improvement is due simply to a warmer-than-average winter or to progress against the disease.

are beekeepers a dying breed?

AT ONLY 23 YEARS OLD, SHOOK IS AN anomaly among beekeepers. What is now a large and thriving business started when, at the age of 12, he won a beehive and equipment from a local association in McKinney. By the time he graduated from high school, he had a decent-sized business with about 350 hives.

Nationally, "only 5 percent of commercial beekeepers in the United States are under 40," Shook says. "That trend gets worse every year. It's a hard job, with long hours, and you need lots of knowledge about a huge variety of things." That includes knowing how to manage the financial aspect of the business as well as

the knowledge about entomology and agriculture needed to care for the bees and increase their honey production.

Having five generations of Weavers maintain the family business means, of course, that each succeeding generation chose to do what his father and grandfather did before him. That wasn't always a sure thing for Richard Weaver. When he was 20 years old—back in the early 1960s—he decided to move to Houston and pursue a life there. He lasted six months.

"I missed living in the country," Richard Weaver says. When he came back, he started learning the business. "I certainly didn't come in thinking I knew everything," he recalls.

How much did his dad pay him per hour? He laughs. "Fifty cents."

Clint Weaver also had years when he didn't know whether he wanted to follow in the family footsteps. In high school, he didn't want to be a beekeeper, he says. Then one summer when he was in college, he came back to work at the bee farm. "When I really understood beekeeping, I fell in love with it," he says. "It's a fascinating job. It's art; it's science."

The next generation of the Weaver family is only 5 years old. Clint Weaver's daughter, Lela, has said she wants to be an astronaut or a dancer. "I keep asking her if she wants to raise queen bees with Dad," he says. "It's a hard way to make a living, but it's a fun way."

Michele Chan Santos is an Austin writer.



Pollination, as most of us learn in school, occurs when one flower's pollen gets transferred to another flower's ovary, which then turns into a fruit or vegetable. Wind can make this happen, but birds, bees, butterflies and other insects—even bats—cause much of it. They are attracted to flowers' nectar as a food source, brush up against parts of the flower containing pollen and then inadvertently transfer pollen to the parts that get it to the ovaries.

Honey Bee (Apis mellifera) covered with pollen while feeding on dandelion nectar

On TexasCoopPower.com

Agricultural exemption now includes beekeepers



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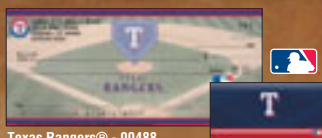


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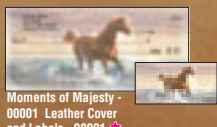
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Thomas Kinkade's Faith for All Seasons w/verse "Believe all things are possible with God" - 00105
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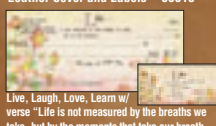
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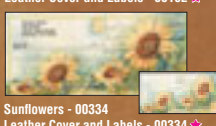
Live, Laugh, Love, Learn w/verse "Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away" - 00332
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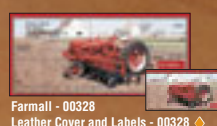
Words of Faith w/verse "With God all things are possible." - 00551
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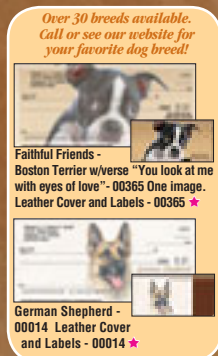
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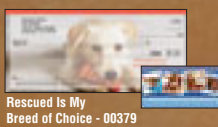
Farmall - 00328
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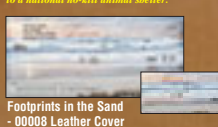
Faithful Friends - Boston Terrier w/verse "You look at me with eyes of love" - 00365 One image.
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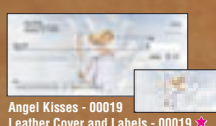
German Shepherd - 00014
Leather Cover and Labels - 00014 ♦



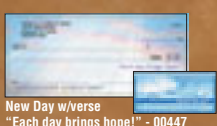
Rescued Is My Breed of Choice - 00379
Leather Cover and Labels - 00379 ♦
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Footprints in the Sand - 00008
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Angel Kisses - 00019
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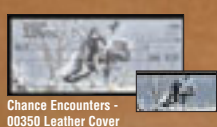
New Day w/verse "Each day brings hope!" - 00447
Leather Cover and Labels - 00447 ♦



Spirit of the Wilderness - 00024
Leather Cover and Labels - 00024 ♦



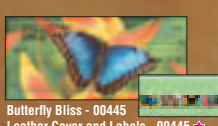
Tropical Paradise - 00052
Leather Cover and Labels - 00052 ♦



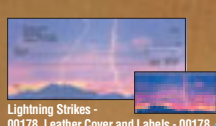
Chance Encounters - 00350
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On the Wings of Hope - 00384
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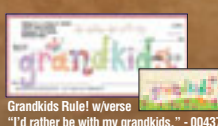
Butterfly Bliss - 00445
Leather Cover and Labels - 00445 ♦



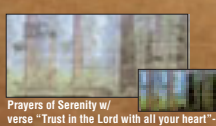
Lightning Strikes - 00178
Leather Cover and Labels - 00178 ♦



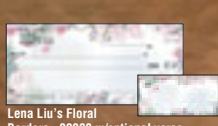
Prayers of Serenity w/verse "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" - 00194
Leather Cover and Labels - 00194 ♦



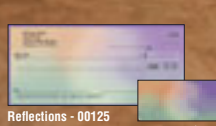
Grandkids Rule! w/verse "I'd rather be with my grandkids." - 00437
Leather Cover and Labels - 00437 ♦



Lena Liu's Floral Borders - 00088 w/optional verse "Lord bless and keep you." - 00117
Leather Cover and Labels - 00088 ♦



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History

CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTORS SUMMON THE STRIFE OF OUR FOREFATHERS
FOR THE HONOR OF MEMORY AND THE LOVE OF BURNING POWDER



The 3-inch ordnance rifle was one of the most-used light artillery pieces of the Civil War, firing shells that weighed 8 or 9 pounds.

ALIGHT BREEZE PUSHES THE ACRID SMELL OF battle across a couple hundred acres of rolling prairie on Mosser Longhorn Ranch outside Midway in Madison County on a cool, drizzly, winter Saturday afternoon.

A glance at your cellphone tells you it's February 2013. A glance at the horizon tells you something much different.

To the left, on a small hillock beneath a handful of mesquite trees, is a Union cannon, flanked by a company of blue-clad infantry and nine cavalry troopers, their horses snorting and pawing the mud. Ahead, in the distance, is another line of soldiers. Hues of gray, tan, brown, blue and even a dash of red are visible after the smoke from their rifles clears. To their right is a 10-pound Parrott rifle, what passed for a weapon of mass destruction 150 years ago, pulled by four horses and accompanied by cavalry.

A yellow nylon rope separates fantasy from reality. You and about a hundred curious spectators stand behind it, a figurative foot in two centuries. Beyond the rope, there's only one. For those men, women and children, it's 1863, and the American Civil War is in full fury.

Out on the line, Union Maj. Howard Green cracks a smile beneath his flowing moustache and shouts to his men, "You guys know we win today, right? Yeah we win today, but tomorrow they kick our butts."

On this overcast afternoon, the gray may rule the sky but the Blue will win the day.

That's the rewarding thing for re-enactors: Lose today; win tomorrow. Take a shot in the chest today; live to fight again tomorrow. Re-enactors don't care so much who wins—well, some do—as much as getting it right. That means eating, sleeping, drinking and fighting like they did in the Civil War, without cellphones, wristwatches or any other modern conveniences.

You find this land that time forgot after you arrive in the early morning fog about 11 miles off Interstate 45 and park your vehicle near the red pickup with the Stars and Bars sticker emblazoned with the slogan "Fighting Terrorism Since 1861." You walk past the tents of sutlers selling modern food and drink and souvenirs and enter a row of tents, horses picketed on paths of straw, and campfires. Unlike some hardcore re-enactments, the Midway event is a family affair, so women and children—dressed as camp followers, color bearers and even soldiers—are alongside the men.

Halfway down on the left is the camp of Lt. Billy Blow of the 8th Texas Mounted Cavalry. While his wife, Carolyn, in a striped print hoop dress and bonnet, bakes bread, Blow prepares for combat. Wearing wire-rim glasses and the weary look that befits him as one of the event's organizers, Blow, 63, is bent over a trunk, loading a massive Walker Colt .44 revolver.

Blow, a member of Houston County Electric Cooperative, knows there's a trick to loading firearms of the period, particularly muzzle loaders. Without a projectile to hold back the powder, the re-enactors need a substitute. They use a lump of Cream of Wheat wadded together with water.

"We in the cavalry call it 'the breakfast shot,'" he quips.



The Birkners—Jason Birkner, left, and parents Russell and Kim—fought on opposite sides this day. Jason is a lieutenant and Russell a first sergeant for the Confederacy, and Kim is with a Union artillery unit. They are joined by friend Camron Gilland, right, whose family belongs to Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

Sounds harmless. Blow sets a can on the ground, points the pistol toward it, yells "fire in the hole," as you're supposed to when discharging a firearm in camp, and pulls the trigger. The can flies as if hit with a baseball bat.

Re-enactors began arriving on Friday to set up. It's chilly and wet, so they're in winter camp. Some enjoy the relative luxury of a cot, some only a wool blanket on a patch of soft grass. At a large-scale national event, such as the 150th Gettysburg this summer, which a smattering of this group will be attending, you'll see the entire spectrum, including re-enactors who'll just sleep wherever they stop, with only a blanket of stars.

They'll eat what the soldiers then ate, healthy servings of hardtack (a tough, flat, bland cracker) and beans with the occasional treat of chicken and dumplings and beer bread cooked in a Dutch oven. At Midway, one unit was roasting a pig they'd killed earlier in the week.

They fire the same weapons, wear period uniforms made from the same wool and canvas as the real soldiers wore and fight with the same tactics. They'll soak a brass button in urine for a few weeks to get it to look aged. While most will wear brogans or a pair of boots from the era, some will fight barefoot, just as great-granddad did.

When it comes to realism, though, Texas re-enactors face a problem that those in most Southern states don't. There weren't many Federal forays into Texas—Galveston, Port Lavaca, Indianola, Brownsville, Laredo, Corpus Christi and Sabine Pass, plus an attempt by way of the Red River—which means there isn't much to faithfully re-enact. So they impro-



TOP: Civil War re-enactors slip into the 1860s with remarkable accuracy. Hunter Kramer of White Oak goes down shooting. **MIDDLE:** Terry Phillips, a member of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, portrays a member of the Kansas Redlegs, staunch Union loyalists who patrolled the Kansas-Missouri border. **BOTTOM:** How does a re-enactor know when his number is up? The unit commander might shout, 'All soldiers with birthdays in May die on the next crisp volley.'

wise. The Battle for El Camino Real wasn't a real event, but everything else—with the notable exception of the portable toilets beyond the camp—is straight out of the Civil War.

It's a time that obviously pulls at the souls of the 150 or so re-enactors on hand. Like any hobby, re-enacting draws from a predictable pool of candidates. Most are men, though units like the ones in Midway also include women as nurses, camp followers and even combatants; and children as flag bearers, drummers and camp aides. Many are history buffs, keen on the Civil War. Some are military veterans; some are gun enthusiasts; and some are horsemen and horsewomen.

Many say they have kin who fought in the war. Dennis Partrich, chaplain of the 36th Texas Dismounted Cavalry, says he has relatives from Alabama listed on the surrender rolls from Appomattox. Col. Randy Cohen, commander of the 36th, claims his stepfather's bloodline stretches back to Union Gen. Alfred Terry, the man whose orders Gen. George Custer disobeyed on the way to a date with infamy at Little Big Horn.

Some just came as spectators once and loved it. Dyson Nickle, 49, who wears the charcoal gray wool coat of the commander of the 3rd Mounted Cavalry, sleeves festooned with braiding, went to an event 20 years ago a volunteer paramedic and left a re-enactor. "So I escaped from work into the 19th century," he says. "I loved it right away."

"If nothing else, we see ourselves as amateur historians," says Partrich, an adjunct instructor at Dallas Baptist College. "A lot of us guys like to burn powder, but we also like to honor the memory of those who fought in the Civil War, Blue and Gray."

To balance perspective, and the ranks, all re-enactors are required to have two uniforms, one from each side. As a Confederate, the mutton-chopped Nickle portrays Patrick Edward Peabody, who dies at Bentonville, North Carolina, about an hour before Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrenders in one of the last engagements of the war. As a Federal, Nickle, a counselor at Stephen F. Austin University, plays a random officer of a New York cavalry unit that would remain in Texas during Reconstruction.

Most re-enactors are around age 40 and up—no surprise because it takes awhile to acquire the necessary equipment, different for each side, and it's not cheap. A replica jacket can cost upwards of \$150. The gear almost \$200. Accurate period boots go for \$150. A period rifle can set you back \$800. A full 10-pound Parrott cannon, complete with caisson and rigging, as Col. Johnnie Holley of Douglas' Texas Battery has carried, has a replacement value of \$40,000.

Such an expensive hobby has its downside. Holley, a member of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative, won't be making the trip to Gettysburg because toting the full rig, including horses, all the way to Pennsylvania, is just too expensive. "It would take three diesel trucks to pull everything," says Holley, 78, a retired Delta pilot. "I wish we could afford it, but we can't."

Money is just one of the factors that decides what kind of re-enactor one becomes. Commitment and attention to detail are also important.

There are three types of re-enactors—the Farbs, the mainstream and the stitch counters. The Farbs—a term apparently derived from the German word for color (*Farbe*)—are the casual re-enactors who capture the spirit, if not the authenticity. They might wear boots that aren't like the ones worn in the

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1860s or uniforms of inaccurate colors (hence the Farb nickname), but they help place the joy in participation.

The mainstream are more serious, striving for accuracy but not demanding it. Close is good enough.

Most re-enactors, like the ones in Midway, seem to fall between this category and the hard core.

Known as stitch counters, hard-core re-enactors crave absolute accuracy in gear and tactics. When at a re-enactment, they are always in character and attire. Did the Texas units they're depicting wear white jean cloth pants, which were made and worn by the prisoners at Huntsville State Prison in the mid-1860s and then dyed with ground pecan shells or coffee grounds to get a shade of tan? Then, dadgummit, that's what they're wearing, right down to the correct number of stitches on the buttonholes.

Go ahead. Count 'em.

Re-enactments aren't just shooting and dying. There are many sides of the Civil War that don't get much play in history books and documentaries.

Trooper Jackie "Jack" Cook, 25, a chemist from Magnolia,



In real life, David Butchee is a college student from Spring majoring in psychology.

portrays a woman who eats, sleeps, lives and fights among the men without giving a hint of her true identity. After getting tired of the politics of competitive horse riding as a teen, she yearned for an outlet to keep riding. Then a cavalry unit sent out a call for re-enactors. At 14, she was in.

Her hair short and face free of makeup, she wears up to five layers of restrictive clothes to hide her figure. Sometimes in a re-enactment she'll be wounded and the surgeon will discover her secret, and she'll be summarily court-martialed. And there are other tales, ones that cause her green eyes to light up as she tells about what she learned from the book, *They Fought Like Demons* (LSU Press, 2003).

"Just because you didn't read it in your history book doesn't mean it didn't happen," says Cook.

On this day, no more than a dozen combatants get "shot."

"Studies show that in the Civil War it took about 300 pounds of lead and 400 pounds of powder for every 10 casualties," says Russell Birkner, 47, a former history major at The University of Texas at Arlington who's first sergeant for the 36th. "So there aren't a lot of casualties. Still, no one wants to be one. At national events, a lot of re-enactors drive 900 miles, and it's not fun to take a hit in the first volley and be dead for the next 90 minutes."

Particularly when it's hot and sunny. "You'll be surprised how many die conveniently in the shade," he says. "We'll joke, 'That shade is deadly.'"

How do you know when your number is up? Sometimes line officers will shout, "All soldiers with birthdays in May die on the next crisp volley." Or, as the 36th sometimes does, the officers will slip powder charges wrapped in red instead of white paper into the men's bags. When the soldiers draw one in battle, they die—grudgingly, because these are folks who fight to live and live to fight.

If they're lucky, they'll experience the moment that all re-enactors crave, when fantasy and reality become one. Veterans call it "seeing the white elephant."

"It's when you get so absorbed in the event you feel like you're really back in 1863," Cohen says. "It's like when an athlete's in a zone. It doesn't last long, but it's there. It's like a modern time machine."

It's late in the afternoon. The spectators are gone; the sun is setting. The time machine has returned the soldiers to 2013, at least physically if not spiritually. They put up their weapons, maybe splash some water on their faces and prepare for dinner.

In an hour, they'll gather in the open area between the lines of tents for a dance. A band, complete with fiddles, bones, mandolin, banjo and guitars, will play Civil War songs, and the women, clad in their period-specific finery, will dance with their partners.

Cook is excited. She gets to wash off the grime of a soldier and become a genteel Southern belle.

"It's the best of both worlds," she says, echoing a now-familiar theme.

Mark Wangrin is an Austin writer.




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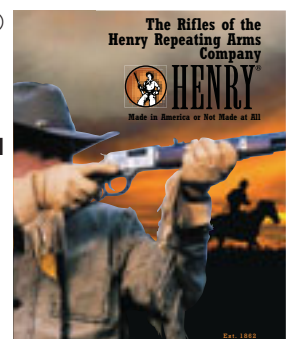
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CONSERVATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION



Share the work and reduce the heat by setting up a make-your-own sandwich bar for dinner.

Keep Your Cool in the Kitchen

When the sun is blazing outside, making a hot meal for your family could cause your air-conditioning system to work harder to keep up with the extra heat generated by cooking appliances.

Here are some simple ways to minimize the amount of wasted heat and still put a meal on the table.

DON'T COOK, CHILL. Try a cool offering: a meal from the refrigerator. Serve up a refreshing salad. Offer a build-your-own sandwich platter with a variety of fillings, breads and spreads that might suit everyone's appetite. Make a cold dish like ceviche or gazpacho.

And for dessert, a bowl of ice cream or fruit ice will hit the spot.

GIVE THE OVEN THE DAY OFF. Avoid using your oven if you can. Not only does the oven use considerable energy, but it also adds waste heat to your living area. Instead, employ a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven, to brown or bake. It will take less power and not raise your kitchen's temperature as much.

If you do choose to use the oven, bake two or three meals' worth of food at once. Refrigerate the extras and use the microwave to heat it up the next day.

GIVE THE STOVE THE DAY OFF. A portable appliance such as a rice cooker or slow cooker can handle a whole meal's worth of food at a fraction of the energy of cooking on the stovetop. Because many of those appliances are insulated, they keep much of the heat they generate contained, leaving your air system with less to handle.

If you do need to use the stove, remember to match the size of pots and pans to their burners, which will improve their heating efficiency. Plus, use a tight-fitting lid. That will keep more heat contained to the pan, which will help cook the food faster.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE. Nothing says summer like firing up the grill. Hot dogs and hamburgers don't have to be the only items on the menu, either. Many veggies, and even fruits such as pineapple or peaches, work great on the grill.

Cooking outside will keep 100 percent of the extra heat that cooking produces outside your home, instead of inside, where it taxes your cooling system.

Want To Save Energy? Save Water

You can save energy—and your energy dollars—by conserving water.

The water company uses electricity to purify water and pump it through your pipes. You might use electricity to heat water for showering, washing dishes and doing laundry.

► Buy water-saving, high-efficiency toilets and showerheads when it's time to replace your old ones. Look for the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label on products that meet EPA performance and efficiency standards. These typically save at least 20 percent more water than comparable products.

► Don't do laundry until you have a full load.

Smaller loads waste energy and water compared with full, large loads.

► Run the dishwasher only when it's full and let the dishes air-dry.

► Repair dripping or

leaky faucets immediately. Even a very slow leak wastes a lot of water. And if it's water you've paid to heat, even more money is going down the drain.

► Use a timer for your lawn sprinkler to more efficiently water. And remember to cut the length of or skip watering after it rains or the weather cools.

► Find out how much water each plant in your garden needs and water accordingly. Overwatering certain types of plants can kill them.

► If you have a pool, invest in a swimming pool cover. It will keep heat in your pool and help prevent water evaporation.



The WaterSense label indicates the product meets the EPA's water-efficiency standards.

Tips To Help Your Air Conditioner Take a Load Off

Your air conditioner has to work harder every time the temperature rises one degree. Make sure it's up to the task.

At the start of every cooling season, hire a licensed professional to give it a tuneup. If your unit is old or requires some major repairs, it could be cheaper to replace it with a super-efficient model—one with a SEER rating of at least 12—than to repair it.

SEER stands for “seasonal energy-efficiency ratio.” The higher the number, the more efficient the air conditioner—and the more money you save.

Relieve some strain on your air conditioner and knock a few dollars off your energy bill this summer. Here's how:

- ▶ Change the air filter every time you pay your energy bill. The unit doesn't have to work as hard to push air through a clean filter as it does through a dirty one.
- ▶ Turn up the thermostat and turn on ceiling fans. They circulate the air and help you feel cooler. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you will save 2 to 3 percent on air conditioning.

▶ Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows isn't just for winter. It can keep hot air from coming into your home during the summer, too. Seal leaky joints and seams around windows and doors to keep cool air in and hot air out.

▶ Draw blinds or shades during the day. If your windows don't have reflective coatings, add window film to keep the sun's heat from seeping in.

▶ Cook and operate washing machines, dishwashers and other heat-generating appliances after 9 p.m. Using appliances during these “off-peak” hours can save you money and reduce indoor heat when the sun is blazing.

▶ Don't use your oven when the weather is hot. Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.

▶ Install patio covers, awnings and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. Use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.

▶ Consider changing your old thermostat to a programmable one. You can save up to \$100 a year by properly using a setback thermostat.

What Do Different Air Filters Block?

Air filters are rated by Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Filters with a higher MERV block more dirt, but also reduce airflow and system efficiency. Use this guide to find the right filter for your home or business.

	1-4 MERV \$2-\$10	5-8 MERV \$10-\$20	9-12 MERV \$18-\$25	13-20 MERV \$\$\$			
BLOCKED ITEMS	Pollen, sanding dust, large insect bodies 	+	Pet dander, mold, spores, dust mites, hair spray 	+	Lead dust, milled flour, car emission particles 	+	Bacteria, virus, face powder, smoke, sneezes, paint pigments, oil, carbon dust
FILTER TYPES	Disposable, washable	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	High-efficiency particulate arrestance (HEPA), box 6-12 inches thick, flexible 12-36 inches thick			
COMMON USES	Homes, window air-conditioning units	Better homes, general office buildings	Superior homes, better office buildings, businesses	Hospitals, drug and electronic labs			

Source: [epa.gov/iaq](https://www.epa.gov/iaq)

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In Another Era, Room for All



One of the oldest remaining one-room schoolhouses met book-learning needs for generations in Zimmerscheidt community

BY MARTHA DEERING

I THOUGHT TIME TRAVEL HAPPENED ONLY in novels and movies until I visited Zimmerscheidt School, which is thought to be the oldest one-room schoolhouse in Texas. In the rustic wooden building, a stone's throw north of Columbus, I met silver-haired former students and their families and listened as their stories carried me back to the days when a lone teacher taught 20-odd students in seven grade levels. Their warm-hearted tales made it easy to imagine a long-ago time when schools offered a different educational experience that involved the entire community.

Zimmerscheidt School—first built in 1857—is a small, rectangular building with a wood-burning stove in the center and windows on three sides to let in natural light. It is beside a narrow farm road in the once-thriving community of Zimmerscheidt, which is in the San Bernard Electric Cooperative service area. Children worked here on lessons without the benefit of electric lights or running water for nearly 100 years. Desks with scrolled iron legs form rows below a painted wooden blackboard, and shelves hold library books long out of circulation, such as Rudyard Kipling's *Soldiers Three*, published in 1888. The feeling of fellowship among former students is strong. This old schoolhouse is where they learned not only reading and writing but also the morals and values of their community.

Leroy Weishuhn, trim and only slightly bent at 94, tells me he walked a mile to school beginning when he was 7 years old and continuing through seventh grade. He remembers the old school

with fondness. "Things were different then," he says. "We carried our drinking water in a bucket from the neighbor's well each morning, and the bathrooms were outdoor privies. Still, we got a good education even though our teacher taught seven grade levels at once."

One group of students traveled to school in a hack (two-seated buggy) pulled by an old mule—the predecessor of a modern school bus. Others rode horses. "They tied their horses to the hackberry trees out front," Weishuhn remembers. "Some of the kids opened and closed gates along the way because there weren't many public roads, and they had to cross private property to get to school. In cold weather, we gathered dry broom weeds on the way to school to start a fire in the woodstove."

Weishuhn's memory for details from his school days is astonishing. "My first-grade teacher, Miss Landig, couldn't go home at night because unmarried female teachers were supposed to be supervised," he recalls, "so she boarded and took her meals with the family of one of the students." Landig's salary of \$70 a month was a significant increase over the previous teacher's \$40. On a scrap of paper, Weishuhn lists the first and last names of each teacher from his seven years of schooling. "We had almost all nice teachers here," he says.

Named for Frederick A. Zimmerscheidt and his wife, Margaret, who arrived in Texas in 1832 and founded, with other families, the first German settlement in the area, the school drew stu-

dents from up to 6 miles away. “My great-grandfather, J.F. Leyendecker, attended the school the first year it opened and said that classes were taught in German the first few years,” Mary Anne Pickens remembers. Pickens’ father, grandparents and great-grandfather all attended Zimmerscheidt School. Although not a former student herself, she treasures her grandmother’s 1898 geography textbook. “My grandparents boarded the teachers at times,” she says. “Families were large in those days, and the teacher had to share a room.”

Stories of classroom discipline shared a common thread. “I don’t remember much bad behavior at school,” Weishuhn says. “We were mostly all nice kids, and the teachers didn’t have no trouble with us. But when I was in second grade, we had a mean teacher who made kids stand in the corners. Every corner was filled. So one day, when she had to go to the privy out back, we all went home. Of course, our parents made us go back the next day,” he says, smiling at the memory.

“Our desks were homemade when I went to school here,” Weishuhn recalls. “Everyone brought lunches from home, including the teacher, and we ate in the schoolyard in nice weather. Very few kids went beyond the seventh grade. We were all farm kids and were needed to work.”

Zimmerscheidt School burned sometime before 1884 but was rebuilt across the road. It continued to function as a neighborhood school, without electricity or running water, until 1948, when it was consolidated with the Columbus Independent School District. Billie Halamicek was one of the last students to attend. “There were only four of us in 1948,” she remembers, “and we were all in different grades. After the school closed, we rode the bus to Columbus.”

Teacher Tennie Kickler Gross, now deceased, began her career at Zimmerscheidt School in 1933 and left handwritten memories of her experiences. “We taught the three R’s ... correlated with history, English, geography, agriculture and health,” she wrote. “Our enrollment was too small to compete in sports with other schools. We played baseball, volleyball and yard games during our recreational period.” Weishuhn remembers his favorite game as “dog and rabbit” which, as you might imagine, involved a lot of chasing.

Teachers had little time to provide individual attention; teaching lessons

and listening to recitations on seven different grade levels each day kept them busy. “We each had seven textbooks on different subjects provided by the state,” Weishuhn says, “and there was a set time during the day to work on every subject. We had to carry some of the books home at night to do our homework.”

Decisions about the school fell to three men appointed by the community as trustees. The trustees were farmers in this small agricultural community, and the school year matched the agricultural schedule. “The year started on the first of October after harvest and went for nine months straight when I started first grade,” Weishuhn says.

In 1948, four years after Weishuhn returned from military service during World War II, Zimmerscheidt School added a building for use as a veterans vocational school, where he attended night classes in welding, electricity, carpentry and agriculture. Community activities were held in the evenings at the schoolhouse. Some aided the war effort and included wrapping bandages for the Red Cross.

Since 1974, the building has benefited from restoration projects. In 2010, the title of the school and land was transferred to Friends of Zimmerscheidt Historic School, a nonprofit organization.

“Restoring the school was a labor of

love which served two purposes,” says Patti Glaeser, chairwoman of the Friends of Zimmerscheidt School. “It kept the building and its history intact for future generations, and it drew the community together, renewing close ties that were once such an important part of Zimmerscheidt School.”

Inside the old building, the smell of chalk, old textbooks and youthful high spirits still clings to the walls. As if by time travel, Zimmerscheidt still broadens minds in the 21st century.

Martha Deeringer, frequent contributor

Zimmerscheidt School To learn more, email zimmerscheidt@gmail.com or go to facebook.com/FriendsOfZimmerscheidtHistoricSchool/info.

ZIMMERSCHIEDT SCHOOL, spiffed up and in full color in top photo, handled all the students below—teens and young’uns—in 1922.



Breaking Bread, Binding the Family

Over sit-down dinners,
extended family passes the
gravy and forks over the
accounts of the day

BY MARTHA DEERING

FOOTBALL PRACTICE. BAND REHEARSALS. Staff meetings. Overtime. So many things conspire to deprive us of the old-fashioned pleasure of the sit-down family dinner. And some experts warn that we might pay a high price for our frenetic lifestyles and launch our kids on a collision course with obesity or worse—smoking, alcohol abuse, depression. Who'd have dreamed that choking down your vegetables and having to ask to be excused from the table would pay such dividends?

"Medical research has shown that children who have regular meals with their families have healthier relationships, do better in school, and are more grounded and well-rounded," said Dr. Kathy Kimmey, who practices community internal medicine at Scott & White Hospital in Temple.

"Some of my fondest childhood memories involved family sit-down evening meals with my sisters and parents. My grandmother cooked a feast every Sunday after church, and we still talk about those good times."

My own large extended family has found a solution to the looming health risks of separate meals and fast food. Me.

Our two children and their families work long hours and arrive home from their distant job locations with our four grandchildren exhausted, as we did when we were young. But we have an advantage many other families lack—all of us live together, albeit in three separate houses, on a large family farm near McGregor, and the famished multitudes can gather around a single crowded table

to take sustenance together.

The head chef at these weeknight gatherings is me, and I think I remember volunteering to take over the food service on school nights some years ago. It just made sense to avoid task duplication in all three houses. Retired after many years of teaching history to sixth-graders, I now work at home on a schedule that is, for the most part, adjustable.

Lest you think that I'm an abused old lady chained to the stove or an aproned June Cleaver bent on martyrdom, I should admit that I seldom spend more time preparing family dinners for nine people than it takes to watch an episode of "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." A huge pot of chili or a turkey roaster full of chicken potpie fills the hollow legs of five adults and four children, two of them teenage boys. One of my most valuable possessions is a supersized slow cooker, which requires an early morning effort but only a quick stir at suppertime.

Is there a payoff for me? You bet there is. When they all come trooping in the door, I am the first person they seek out. "What's for dinner, Gram?" they ask. I've finally taught them to precede this question with at least a brief "Hi, Gram." If the menu involves something unidentifiable that's in the oven covered with tinfoil, I make them pay for information with a kiss on the cheek.

Because we all sit down at the table together, I know things that less fortunate grandmas may not know. I know that Noah desperately wants to be quarterback for the New Orleans Saints,



although at 13 he's 5 feet 8 inches tall but weighs only 110 pounds. Can you say 'beanpole?' I know that Tyler's face turns red at the mere mention of the name Elizabeth. I know that Hannah plans to try out for the equestrian team at Texas A&M University. (Her beloved 24-year-old horse might have something to say about this.) I know the name of our daughter, Lindsay's, most challenging third-grade student. Not every mealtime conversation is rife with future significance, but the things that prey on the mind have an opportunity to come out around the dinner table.

A lifelong gardener, I've helped my grandchildren develop a taste for fresh food. In the case of Hannah and Katie, this has taken the form of a homemade salsa addiction. They are so enamored with making their own salsa that they help with planting tomatoes and peppers and poking the hundreds of thread-like onion sets into the ground, a job that makes my back and knees complain for days. Their fresh salsa is often the featured appetizer at dinnertime.

Of course, this family-feeding operation doesn't always work perfectly. Katie, for example, hates pasta, and Lindsay won't eat anything that has spent its early life underwater. But I refuse to take on the role of food police, because I know that Katie would sit in front of an untouched plate of spaghetti until starvation took her. If they don't like what

we're having, it's up to them to find something else in the bowels of the refrigerator. And, yes, I do occasionally grow my own penicillin back there.

When dinner is over, someone else clears the table and washes dishes, although homework can trump this, and I have a chronic case of dishpan hands. Years ago I unashamedly made the switch to paper plates. On weekends our son, Justin, the grill king, or our daughter-in-law, Stephanie, cooks for all of us. Grandpa, who has the temperament of a spoiled pastry chef in a gourmet restaurant, refuses to expand his role beyond breakfast, a meal at which he is the undisputed master.

When courage runs low and I can't think of a single thing to cook, I cheat and raid the freezer for a box of frozen pizzas. I think this still counts, as long as we sit down together at the table. It's the family support that's most important. Mealtime is when kids learn to be civilized members of our culture. Next year, Tyler will take driver's ed and gain a new mobility, and the others will follow in the blink of an eye.

Chopping vegetables and stirring up a stew seems like a small price to pay for helping to hold them close a little longer.

Martha Deeringer is a regular contributor and a member of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

On TexasCoopPower.com

10 tips for organizing family dinners



DEERINGER, PARTY OF 9: That's Martha, top photo, doling out chicken pot pie. Sitting around the table to her left is son Justin, grandchildren Katie, Noah and Hannah; husband Alec; daughter Lindsay; grandson Tyler; and daughter-in-law Stephanie. Katie and Hannah watch Stephanie dice an apple for the fruit salad, middle photo. And, of course, there is dessert. Lindsay Turner—'our dessert expert,' says Martha—shows off the first batch of cookies.

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SPLIT LEATHER SAFETY COLORED WORK GLOVES 1 PAIR

Item 97115 shown

ITEM 97115/67440/69455

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 10/1/13. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

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15" x 13" ALL PURPOSE SHOP TOWELS PACK OF 50

LOT NO. 46163/68442/69649

SAVE 43%

\$8.99

REG. PRICE \$15.99

Item 46163 shown

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3200 WATT/4000 MAX. WATTS PORTABLE GENERATORS (212 CC)

PREDATOR GENERATORS

LOT NO. 68528/69676/69729

LOT NO. 68527/69675/69728

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Item 68528 shown

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CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 2.5 HP, 21 GALLON, 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR

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CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

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SAVE 66%

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LOT NO. 95659

SAVE \$130

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Bunker Hill Security

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4 PIECE 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWN SET

LOT NO. 90984/60405

SAVE 52%

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REG. PRICE \$16.99

Item 90984 shown

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2000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE

SAFARI

LOT NO. 68146/61258/61297

SAVE \$50

\$49.99

REG. PRICE \$99.99

Item 68146 shown

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4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

drillmaster

LOT NO. 95578/69645/60625

SAVE 50%

\$9.99

REG. PRICE \$19.99

Item 95578 shown

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2.4" COLOR LCD DIGITAL INSPECTION CAMERA

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LOT NO. 67979

Requires four AA batteries (included).

SAVE \$50

\$69.99

REG. PRICE \$119.99

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SAVE 50%

\$19.99

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SUPER COUPON!

LOT NO. 93888/60497 **MOVER'S DOLLY**
HaulMaster

Item 93888 shown

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SUPER COUPON!

SAVE \$70

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LOT NO. 68049/60688/61282

Item 68049 shown

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SUPER COUPON!

SUPER-WIDE TRI-FOLD LOADING RAMP
HaulMaster

LOT NO. 90018/69595/60334

SAVE \$65

\$79.99 REG. PRICE \$144.99

Item 90018 shown

1500 LB. CAPACITY

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SUPER COUPON!

SAVE 50%

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 17 PIECE AIR TOOL ACCESSORY KIT

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SUPER COUPON!

27 LED PORTABLE WORKLIGHT/FLASHLIGHT
Garden

LOT NO. 67227/60566/69567

SAVE 56%

Item 67227 shown

Requires three AAA batteries (included).

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SUPER COUPON!

Item 93640 shown

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

SAVE 64%

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SUPER COUPON!

17 FT. TYPE 1A MULTI-TASK LADDER
300 LB. CAPACITY
LOT NO. 67646

23 CONFIGURATIONS

SAVE \$55

\$114.99 REG. PRICE \$169.99

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SUPER COUPON!

16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE
PITTSBURGH

Item 47872 shown

CLAW LOT NO. 47872/69006/60715/60714
RIP LOT NO. 47873/69005/61262

SAVE 62%

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SUPER COUPON!

500 LB. CAPACITY ALUMINUM CARGO CARRIER
HaulMaster

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SAVE \$60

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Item 92655 shown

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SUPER COUPON!

TORQUE WRENCHES
PITTSBURGH PRO

Item 239 shown

1/4" DRIVE LOT NO. 2696/61277
3/8" DRIVE LOT NO. 807/61276
1/2" DRIVE LOT NO. 239

SAVE 71%

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SUPER COUPON!

PORTABLE GARAGE
HFT

LOT NO. 69039/68217/60727

SAVE \$125

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Item 69039 shown

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SUPER COUPON!

7 PIECE RATCHETING COMBINATION WRENCH SETS
PITTSBURGH PRO

LOT NO. 96654
SAE
METRIC
LOT NO. 95552

SAVE 55%

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SUPER COUPON!

18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT
drillmaster

Item 68287 shown

Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

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SUPER COUPON!

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The First Madam Sheriffs

When I started writing this story about the first female sheriff in Texas, I thought I was dealing with one woman. I thought all I'd have to do is find her, figure out who she was and tell her story. It seemed simple, but it wasn't. There was more than one first female sheriff in Texas, and both of them warranted mention. **BY E.R. BILLS**

THE FIRST APPOINTED FEMALE SHERIFF in Texas also was most likely the first female sheriff in the United States. Her name was Emma Daugherty Banister.

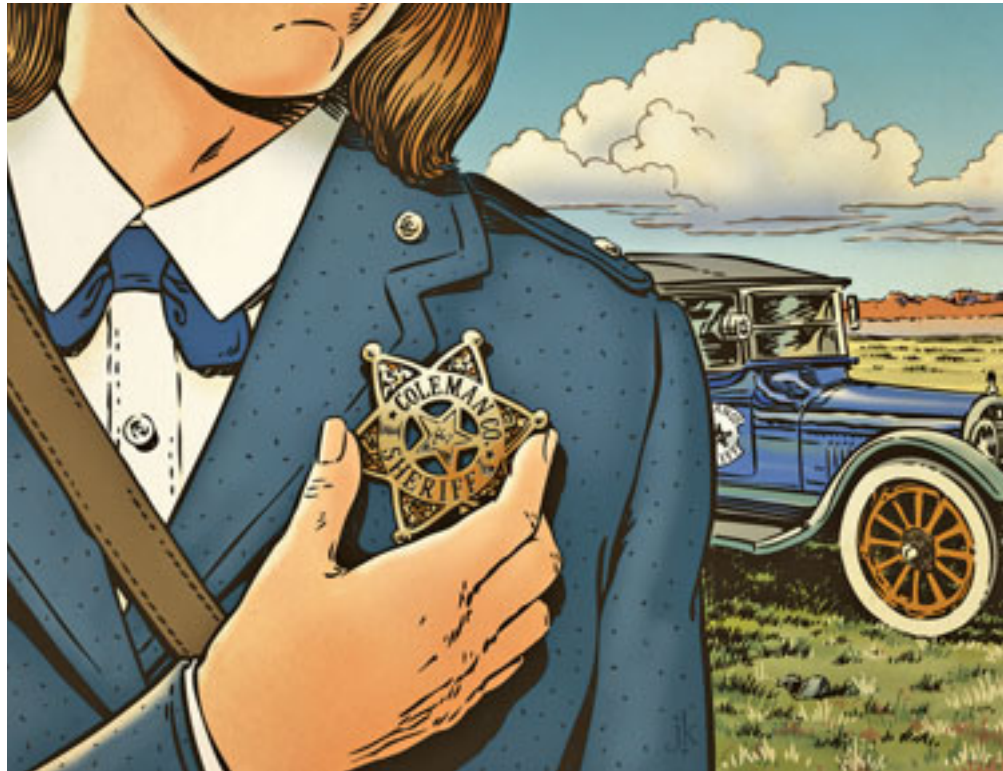
Emma Daugherty was born in Forney on October 20, 1871. After the murder of her father in 1878, she stayed in Forney a few more years and then moved in with an uncle in Goldthwaite to finish school. After receiving her teaching certificate, she taught at Turkey Creek in Mills County and Needmore (now known as Echo) in Coleman County.

On September 25, 1894, Daugherty married widower and former Texas Ranger John R. Banister. They settled in Santa Anna, and in 1914, John Banister was elected Coleman County sheriff. The Banisters moved their nine children to the first floor of the county jail in Coleman, and John Banister served as sheriff until he died of a stroke on August 1, 1918.

Because the county election was just a few months away and Emma Banister had served as her husband's office deputy, the Coleman County commissioners asked her to finish his term. She accepted.

Newspapers from New York to California sensationalized the appointment, portraying her as a fearless, six-shooter-strapping matron of whom troublemakers should be wary, but the truth was probably less lurid. She served the final three months of her husband's term effectively and then moved her children back to the Banister family farm in Santa Anna.

In her later years, Emma never sought credit or recognition for her short season behind the badge, and the eventual oil boom allowed her to live comfortably, dabbling in real estate. Before her death at Brownwood Memorial Hospital on



June 4, 1956, she donated a sizable collection of Indian artifacts and mementos from her husband's long law enforcement career to the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark Museum in San Angelo. She is buried at the Santa Anna Cemetery, and a historical marker commemorating her life was placed there in 1986.

The first elected female sheriff in Texas took office 27 years after Emma Banister's original appointment.

Edna Reed Clayton Dewees was born in Mississippi on September 5, 1921. Her parents moved to Texas in her first year, and she attended school in Breckenridge. After high school, she remained in Breckenridge, working as a deputy district clerk for Stephens County.

Reed spent the early years of World War II working as a lathe operator at the Vultee Aircraft Corp. in Fort Worth and was later employed by the special serv-

ices office at the Pecos Army Air Field.

Reed was appointed sheriff of Loving County in 1945 and, shortly thereafter, was elected to the office. She was 24. Although she didn't carry a firearm, she kept the peace for two years in the sparsely populated county.

Known for her kindness and generosity, Reed wouldn't hear of a needy child going without a pair of eyeglasses or shoes in Loving County and always worked to make sure proper clothing was available to those without. She raised five children and was married twice. Her husbands, George C. Clayton and Lawrence Dewees, each preceded her in death.

Edna spent her retirement on a ranch near Mentone, dying at the age of 87 after living with Alzheimer's disease for a long time. She is buried at the Mt. Evergreen Cemetery in Pecos.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.

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The Morning Blues

There's nothing wrong with the occasional sweet start to the morning, especially if a day of activity lies ahead.

If a big breakfast is on your agenda, why not include a serving of blueberries, which are a source of antioxidants and Vitamin C. And if those are Texas blueberries, you can be sure they are at the peak of their ripeness and flavor right now. This elaborate and attractive breakfast recipe is from the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council's website, blueberrycouncil.org, where you will find many more ideas for serving up blueberries.

Blueberry Stuffed French Toast

- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- Pinch salt, optional
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries (thawed and drained, if frozen)
- 8 slices ($1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick) Italian bread
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sliced almonds

- > Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray a large baking sheet with cooking spray and set aside.
- > In a medium bowl beat eggs, orange peel and juice, 2 tablespoons of sugar and the salt until well blended. Pour into a 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking pan and set aside.
- > In a small bowl, combine the blueberries and the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar.
- > With the tip of a sharp knife, cut a $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide pocket in the side of each bread slice. Fill pockets with the blueberry mixture, dividing evenly. Place filled slices into the egg mixture. Let stand, turning once, until egg mixture is absorbed, about 5 minutes on each side. Arrange bread on the prepared baking sheet and sprinkle with almonds
- > Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes, turning slices after 10 minutes. Serve with Blueberry Orange Sauce (recipe follows).

Servings: 4. Serving size: 2 slices. Per serving: 414 calories, 17.7 g protein, 14.2 g fat, 52.1 g carbohydrates, 3.9 g dietary fiber, 457 mg sodium, 17.9 g sugars, 279 mg cholesterol

Blueberry Orange Sauce

- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt, optional
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1 cup orange sections (about 2 oranges)

- > In a cup combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Set aside.
- > In a small saucepan bring orange juice and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water to a boil. Add blueberries and orange sections and return to a boil.
- > Cook until liquid is released from fruit, about 2 minutes, then stir in sugar mixture.

- > Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce thickens, 1 to 2 minutes.

Servings: 4. Serving size: About $\frac{1}{2}$ cup. Per serving: 92 calories, 0.7 g protein, 0.2 g fat, 23.5 g carbohydrates, 2.1 g dietary fiber, 72 mg sodium, 18.6 g sugars



Blueberry Stuffed French Toast

TAMRA THAVARADHARA | BARTLETT EC

Raw, cooked, sauced and syruped: There are plenty of ways that Texas blueberries can be incorporated into the first meal of the day. They add a dash of sweet-tartness to any breakfast.

The recipe for these beautiful, indulgent muffins worthy of a bakeshop window was submitted by Tamra Thavaradhara. For this first-place winner, Thavaradhara won a two-night stay at the historic Hardeman House Inn bed-and-breakfast in Nacogdoches, courtesy of our contest sponsors, the Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Texas Blueberry Festival. The festival, June 8 in Nacogdoches, will feature vendors, contests and plenty of Texas-grown blueberries.

Blueberry-Almond Coffeecake Muffins

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tube (7 ounces) almond paste
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1½ cups Texas blueberries
- ¼ cup packed light brown sugar
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup sliced almonds



- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, sift together 1½ cups flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
- In a large mixing bowl, cream almond paste and cream cheese until well combined. Add eggs, sugar, lemon juice, almond extract and lemon zest and mix well.
- With mixer on slow speed, blend in flour mixture until batter is just combined. Fold in blueberries gently with a spatula until well incorporated. With an ice cream scoop, divide batter among 6 paper-lined jumbo muffin tins or 12 paper-lined regular muffin tins.
- To make streusel topping, combine remaining ½ cup flour with brown sugar, butter and cinnamon until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Gently fold in the almond slices with your fingers. Sprinkle an even amount of the topping atop each muffin.
- Bake for 30 minutes on center rack or until a toothpick inserted into center of muffin comes out clean.

Servings: 12. Serving size: ½ of a jumbo or 1 regular-sized muffin. Per serving: 352 calories, 6.7 g protein, 14.5 g fat, 48.3 g carbohydrates, 2.6 g dietary fiber, 457 mg sodium, 28.2 g sugars, 51 mg cholesterol

Sue Dorris enhanced blueberries' sugary-tangy quality in this fruit mixture that she developed, resulting in a delicious combination that could be used as a topping for pancakes or waffles, folded into yogurt or even enjoyed as a breakfast side dish.

Blueberry and Mango Delight

- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 mangoes, peeled, pitted and sliced
- 3 teaspoons grated lime zest
- Juice of one lime
- Dash nutmeg
- 1½ cups Texas blueberries

- Melt butter in a skillet over medium-high heat and add brown sugar. Stir and cook until the mixture is bubbling and caramelized, about 2 to 3 minutes.
- Add sliced mangoes and cook another 2 to 3 minutes. Do not overcook.
- Add lime zest and juice, nutmeg and blueberries and stir to coat well. Serve warm.

Servings: 4. Serving size: ½ cup. Per serving: 220 calories, 1.9 g protein, 6 g fat, 43.1 g carbohydrates, 4.2 g dietary fiber, 5 mg sodium, 37.5 g sugars, 15 mg cholesterol

SUE DORRIS | PEDERNALES EC

Blueberry Gingerbread

- ½ cup cooking oil
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons molasses
- 1 egg
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup Texas blueberries
- 1 cup buttermilk

- Beat together oil, 1 cup of sugar, salt and molasses with an electric mixer until smooth; beat in egg.
- In a separate bowl, combine flour, spices and baking soda. Toss blueberries with 2 tablespoons of the flour mixture. Add the remaining flour mixture to oil mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating after each addition. Stir in blueberries.
- Pour into a greased and floured 12-by-8-inch pan. Sprinkle top with remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes. Cut into squares and serve with butter.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 271 calories, 3.6 g protein, 9.9 g fat, 41.7 g carbohydrates, 1 g dietary fiber, 227 mg sodium, 24.1 g sugars, 17 mg cholesterol

MAUDE COLEMAN | BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

Mimi's Blueberry Monkey Bread

- ¾ cup Texas blueberries
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 cans buttermilk biscuit dough
- ¾ cup maple syrup, divided
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ¾ cup chopped pecans, divided
- 1½ tablespoons cinnamon, divided
- ½ cup canned vanilla frosting

- About 15 minutes before baking, macerate blueberries with sugar and place biscuit dough cans into freezer.
- Preheat oven to the temperature specified on the rolls. Spray a 9-by-9-inch square, round or loaf pan with non-stick spray.
- Remove cans from freezer and open. Tear each biscuit into small pieces and place into a large mixing bowl. Pour in ½ cup of the maple syrup and add blueberries, brown sugar, ½ cup of pecans and 1 tablespoon of the cinnamon and mix well by hand.
- When the mixture is well incorporated, pour it into the prepared pan and bake for about 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.
- Microwave the frosting in a glass container for about 20 seconds, or until it can be poured.

- Drizzle top of bread with remaining ¼ cup of maple syrup, then the softened frosting. Sprinkle with the remaining ½ tablespoon of cinnamon and ¼ cup of pecans.
- Cool and remove from the pan and place it on a serving dish. Slice and serve.

Servings: 16. Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 270 calories, 4.6 g protein, 5 g fat, 49.1 g carbohydrates, 2.1 g dietary fiber, 585 mg sodium, 21.3 g sugars

TARSA STEAGALL | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

On TexasCoopPower.com

You'll find another delicious recipe that will let you start your day with a blast of Texas blueberries.

\$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest topic is **Chili Cook-Off**. Good chili cooks have their recipes, and they're sticking to them. Send us your favorite chili recipes (if you're willing to share). The deadline is June 10.

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. Also, let us know where you found the recipe or if you created it yourself. The winner gets \$100; runners-up also get prizes.

9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

Texas pecans make healthy side dishes even better.

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\$500 Best Appetizer Recipe. \$500 Best Main Dish Recipe. \$500 Best Side Dish Recipe. \$500 Best Dessert Recipe.

Can Texas pecans be a delicious part of your entire meal? Of COURSE, they peCAN!

Send us your best original Texas pecan recipes. (These are recipes you develop, not ones copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine.) Show us how you use Texas pecans to create dishes that cover every part of a meal. All recipes must include pecans (Texas pecans are our favorite). Winners will be featured in our December 2013 issue. Enter by August 10, 2013, at TexasCoopPower.com. Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

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Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Appetizer, Main Dish, Side Dish or Dessert, on each recipe. Send entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can fax recipes to (512) 763-3408. Up to three entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries can all be in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com. **Entry deadline: August 10, 2013.**

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Underwater

And now, we lower our periscopes and travel to another world. Whether we're having fun or saying hello to our fishy friends, underwater certainly is a wondrous place to be. So take a deep breath and slip with us beneath the surface as we admire our favorite photos.

ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

On TexasCoopPower.com

Check out Focus on Texas from previous issues.



▲ This tiger cichlid looks like he might be ready to fight for his own space, says **Kristy Stewart**, HILCO EC.

Sandra Backer, Guadalupe Valley EC, captured an idyllic underwater scene at the Aquarium at Moody Gardens. ►

Kim Prater, Pedernales EC, snapped this shot of daughter **Kamryn** blowing bubbles. ▼



Kelly Magnuson, Magic Valley EC, gives us a different perspective: a look up from beneath the surface off South Padre Island. ►

Upcoming Contests

August Issue: Let's Eat *Deadline: June 10*

September: Portraits **October: Landmarks**

Send your photo for the August contest—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Let's Eat, Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, before **June 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.



Cora Borden, daughter of **Mary Borden**, Victoria EC, dips beneath the surface during her swimming lesson in Victoria. ▼



Pick of the Month

RanchFest 2013

Childress [June 29] (940) 585-8208

The outdoors country music festival at the lake in historic Fair Park, from 4 p.m. to midnight, features Trent Willmon, Charla Corn, Thrift Store Cowboys and Zach Edwards and benefits the restoration of the Palace Theater downtown.



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June

07

Littlefield [7-8] ACS Relay For Life of Lamb County, (806) 789-6619, relayforlife.org

08

Denton Widows of America Jamboree, (940) 648-2540

East Bernard Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 335-7907, kkfest.com

Granbury Acton Nature Fun Run, (817) 326-6005, actonnaturecenter.org

13

Lockhart [13-15] Chisholm Trail Roundup, (512) 398-2818, chisholmtrailroundup.com

14

Huntsville [14-15] Huntsville Community Theatre Presents 'Aladdin,' (936) 291-7933, huntsvillecommunitytheatre.org

Plano [14-15] Heart of Texas Arts & Crafts Show, (281) 304-0160, heartoftexasshow.com

June 21-23
DeLeon
Quilt Show



14

Marble Falls [14-16] Soapbox Classic, (830) 385-9289, adultsoapboxderby.com

15

Harper [June 15] Sesquicentennial (830) 864-4416, harperpioneeremuseum.com

20

Albany [20-22, 27-29] Fort Griffin Fandangle, (325) 762-3838, fortgriffinfandangle.org

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

21

Bremond [21-22] Polski Dzień Festival,
(254) 746-7771, bremondtxas.org



June 27
Luling
Watermelon
Thump

21

DeLeon [21-23] Quilt Show, (254) 842-8108,
thirdwednesdayquilters.com

23

Bowie [23-29] Jim Bowie Days,
(940) 841-3418, bowietxchamber.org

27

Luling [27-30] Watermelon Thump,
(830) 875-3214, watermelonthump.com

July

03

Caldwell July 3rd Celebration & Fireworks
Display, (979) 567-4286,
elizabeth-lutheran.org

Waller [3-4] Freedom Fest, (936) 372-3880,
wallerfreedomfest.com

Wimberley [3-6] July Jubilee,
(512) 847-2201, wimberley.org



July 4
Nacogdoches
Freedom Fest

04

Giddings July 4th Fireman's Celebration,
(979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

Nacogdoches Freedom Fest,
1-888-653-3788, visitnacogdoches.org

Submit Your Event!

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

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Hasinai people left behind remarkable proof of their culture at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site—not to mention their friendly nature

BY E.R. BILLS



CADDO MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE preserves what remains of a complex community of the Hasinai culture, which belonged to the Caddo Indians. Most prominent at the site are three mounds—a burial mound more than two stories high and two temple mounds. The Hasinai men were generally responsible for hunting, and the women specialized in agriculture, foraging and clothes-making.

THE NEAR-MYTHICAL EXPANSE OF TEXAS is difficult for many folks to get their heads around, including Texans, and most perceptions are based on our state and our state of mind since the Spanish laid claim to it in 1519. It's mind-boggling to think that there could be more to Texas, but there is, and one of the best places to experience this revelation is at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site.

Located about 25 miles west of Nacogdoches, the 397-acre site is the only preserve of Caddo Indian mounds in the state, and it features evidence of occupation for more than 12,000 years. A Southern Caddo Indian culture known as the Hasinai flourished in the area from about A.D. 800 to about 1300.

Unlike their hunter-gatherer predecessors, the Hasinai arrived with highly developed horticultural methods and a fixed, complex culture. Their success and productivity fostered remarkable communities with extensive trade networks (stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes), advanced social and political

hierarchies, and large ceremonial centers. The three mounds preserved at Caddo Mounds, which is in Cherokee County Electric Cooperative Association's service area, are remnants of one such center.

The Burial Mound is more than two stories high and contains the remains of about 90 Hasinai political and spiritual elite. The High Temple Mound comprises the remnants of a large, formally L-shaped pyramidal base upon which temples were built for ceremonial purposes. After each ceremonial cycle, the existing constructions were burned, and new ones were built on the ashes of the previous. The Lower Temple Mound was also a pyramidal base structure for ceremonial functions, but it was used only toward the end of Hasinai occupation and never achieved the heights of the Burial or High Temple mounds.

In addition to the three preserved mounds, the historic complex also includes the remains of a "borrow pit." The borrow pits were human-made depressions created during the construction of the mounds. Year after year and

one ceremonial cycle after another, the Caddos transported millions of baskets of soil from the remaining borrow pit and others to create and maintain their burial and temple mounds.

The Caddos lived interspersed among the mounds in large beehive-shaped dwellings that could reach 40 to 50 feet in height and 60 feet in diameter. Dwelling size and location were based on social rank, and each structure housed two to four families. In terms of sustenance and security, Caddo men were generally responsible for hunting (deer, bison, bears, small birds, mammals and fish) and tribal defense while Caddo women specialized in agriculture (corn, pumpkins, beans, watermelons, squash, sunflowers and tobacco), foraging (nuts, wild fruit, edible roots) and clothes-making.

Before six European, Mexican and U.S. flags flew over Texas, the Caddos thrived for almost 500 years, virtually peerless, masters of agriculture, production, exchange, diplomacy and early architecture in the region. They adorned their apparel with elegant ornaments and their bodies with vibrant paint and tattoo art. They created fascinating ceremonial blades and effigies and crafted some of the finest aboriginal ceramics on American soil.

By the time the Spanish met them in the late 1600s, however, the impressive Caddo culture had moved on, leaving only remnants of Hasinai presence in scattered farms and villages. They no longer built ceremonial centers or mounds, but one word from their language proved to be their most recognized and long-lasting contribution to the state of Texas. They called the first Spanish explorers they encountered "tayshas," meaning allies and friends. The Spanish later pronounced the word "tejas" and referred to the area as the Kingdom of Tejas.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.

Getting There: Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, administered by the Texas Historical Commission, is 6 miles southwest of Alto (and U.S. Highway 69) on Texas 21.

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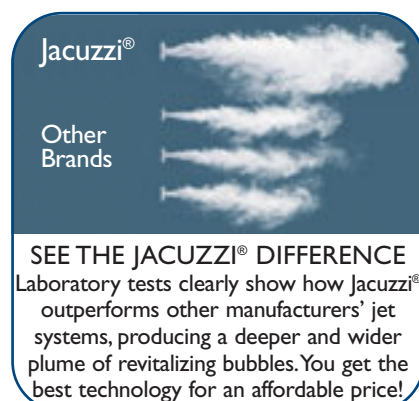
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