

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Rust in PEACE

Ghost town relics hint
of times teeming with life





SIMPLIFY YOUR COMPLEX



**A PLACE FOR THE HORSES.
A PLACE FOR THE HAY. A PLACE FOR...**

Mueller's Choice Series buildings are completely customized to meet your needs. Whether you need one building or multiple structures for your farm, ranch or business, our buildings provide functionality to help simplify your life.

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



MUELLER, INC.
METAL BUILDINGS, ROOFING & COMPONENTS



FEATURES

Old Haunts Industries die and populations move on, leaving behind the shrinking shadows of ghost towns; we take you to four of them By Suzanne Haberman **8**

Where Cotton Doesn't Shrink On the vast High Plains, Texas' king crop is pure fluff, though its economic and social impact is anything but By John Morthland • Photos by Neal Hinkle **14**

Around Texas: What goes bump in the night? Head to La Grange for Trick or Treat on the Square (if you dare!) on October 31 and find out. **40**

FAVORITES

33 Texas History

William Travis' Ring

By Martha Deeringer

35 Recipes

Chili Our Way

39 Focus on Texas

Texas Landmarks

40 Around Texas

List of Local Events

42 Hit the Road

Mineral Wells

By Kevin Hargis

ONLINE TexasCoopPower.com

Texas USA

Dogs to the Rescue

By Michele Chan Santos

Observations

How Punk Rock Paid for My iPad

By Kaye Northcott



14



35



39



42

COVER PHOTO Benny Wilson grew up in Sher-Han, a ghost town that once bustled with natural gas company workers. By Rick Patrick

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Darryl Schriver, Chair, Merkel; Jerry B. Boze, Vice Chair, Kaufman; David Marricle, Secretary-Treasurer, Muleshoe; Debra A. Cole, Itasca; Kyle J. Kuntz, Livingston; Robert A. Loth III, Fredericksburg; Mark Rollans, Hondo **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo; Bryan Lightfoot, Bartlett; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Stan McClendon, Wellington; Blaine Warzecha, Victoria; Jerry Williams, Paris; Kathy Wood, Marshall **COMMUNICATIONS STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Jeff Joiner, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Suzi Sands, Art Director; Karen Nejtek, Production Manager; Ashley Clary-Carpenter, Field Editor; Andy Doughty, Production Designer/Web Content Manager; Sandra Forston, Communications Assistant; Suzanne Haberman, Staff Writer; Kevin Hargis, Copy Editor; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Ellen Stader, Proofreader

CANDY CORN CAULDRON: MATTHEW BENOIT | BIGSTOCK.COM



NO SALES PITCHES.
NO COMMISSIONS.
NO DELAYS.

PURE AND SIMPLE.



-RESELLERRATINGS.COM



-GOLDDEALERREVIEWS.COM



When the time is right, call us.

361-594-3624

DID YOU KNOW? SHINER, TEXAS

is home to **Texas Precious Metals** (a Kaspar Company), one of the largest bullion dealers in the United States. Since 1898, our family-owned company has been doing business the right way in southern Texas. We're proud to say that our company spans five generations, twenty recessions, one depression, two world wars, oil embargoes, steel shortages, and over twenty presidential administrations. We know a thing or two about asset diversification!

Texas Precious Metals is an authorized gold and silver bullion dealer for the United States Mint, the Royal Canadian Mint, and the Perth Mint of Australia. Our company is A+ rated with the Better Business Bureau, and a member of the Industry Council for Tangible Assets.

SHINER, TX 77984 • 361-594-3624 • www.texmetals.com • M-F 8am-4pm CST

BUSINESS THE **TEXAS** WAY SINCE **1898!**

Life-Changing Experience

I was on the Youth Tour in 1981. It was truly a life-changing experience. I was enthralled with Washington, the monuments, the memorials, the history. I came home, applied for an internship with my congressman (U.S. Rep. Charles W. Stenholm) but didn't get chosen. But one of my letters of reference was my state representative, Larry Don Shaw. He told me if I didn't get chosen I could come to Austin and intern for him. I did.

Went on to Texas A&M and became president of the student lobby group, and nearly 30 years later have my own election consulting company in Austin with stints in the governor's office and Texas Legislature, but it all began with Youth Tour.

JOHN R. HATCH | VIA FACEBOOK



Bat Bombs

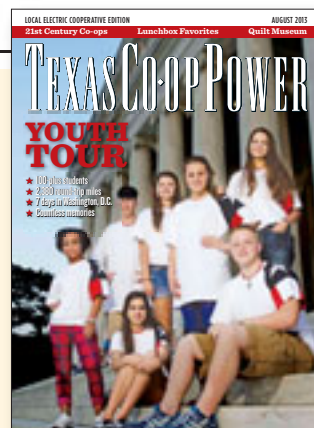
I was so happy to see E.R. Bills' story ["To the Bat Cave," July 2013]. I give lots of talks about bats, and Project X-Ray is one of my stories. Most folks don't believe me when I tell this story, so I am delighted to see it featured in your publication.

MICHAEELEN MOFFITT | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Youth Tour Revisited

Twelve years ago, I won the essay contest to enable me to go on the trip to Washington, D.C. ["It's the Trip of a Lifetime," August 2013] I now live in D.C. and just ran into the group today. So much fun. Was able to talk to a few of the kids and told them how I won 12 years ago. I was part of Lamar County Electric Co-op. Glad to know you guys are still making this trip happen.

MINDA CORSO | VIA FACEBOOK

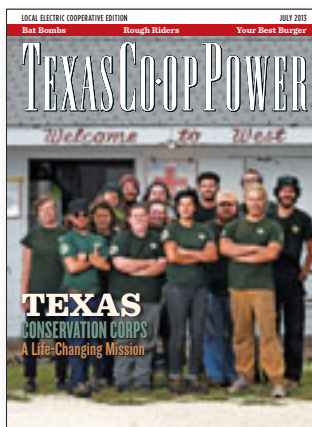


Empowering Members

This phrase near the end of "Light—and So Much More" [August 2013] really caught my eye: "powering communities and empowering members to improve the quality of their lives." One of the issues that many of us in rural areas today still grapple with is the lack of quality Internet access.

We have spent thousands of dollars trying to set up Internet connections through multiple companies and currently spend over \$120 per month for service that is inferior to the service my daughter gets in Houston for \$29 per month. Electric co-ops did a great job powering rural areas. Maybe they need to consider adding a new focus on affordable and dependable rural Internet services. I know we would sign up!

VIRGINIA TITTERINGTON | RUSK COUNTY EC



Meaningful Work

The Texas Conservation Corps and American YouthWorks should get so much more coverage than they do for all their meaningful work ["Improvement Projects," July 2013"]. Thanks for putting them on the July cover. I loved the article written about their efforts in West.

EMILY NEIMAN | JUNCTION

Climate Change

While reading about Gen. R.G. Dyrenforth ["Rain, You Blasted Sky!," August 2013], I realized his true legacy is being the father of the climate change movement. His successors use fluorescent light-bulbs instead of dynamite. Yet both mistakenly believe that man can control God's weather. Some things never change.

MARIANNE ROGERS | DEEP EAST TEXAS EC

Just the Facts

I was pleased to read in your July Currents that "Wikipedia ... is not a reliable source for fact-checking." As a professional librarian, I find Wikipedia to be an interesting place to start research, but it certainly should not be the final authoritative source for factual quotes.

There are those who say librari-

ans aren't needed because we have the Internet, but just because you found information on the Internet does not mean you have found the correct information. It is best to find multiple sources and check the validity of those who create the Internet site or print resource. That is where professional knowledge managers—aka librarians—are helpful.

TRACY E. LUSCOMBE | GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

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.



@TexasCoopPower

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 70, NUMBER 4 (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 \$4.08 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.

© 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 Texaswide Energy Partner

Cash Crop

Cotton is big money (see “Where Cotton Doesn’t Shrink” on Page 14). The crop adds about \$1 billion into the Texas economy every year.

Actually, cotton *is* money. U.S. paper currency is made from 75 percent cotton and 25 percent linen, according to the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Some of the cotton grown in Texas ends up back in Texas in the form of dollar bills.

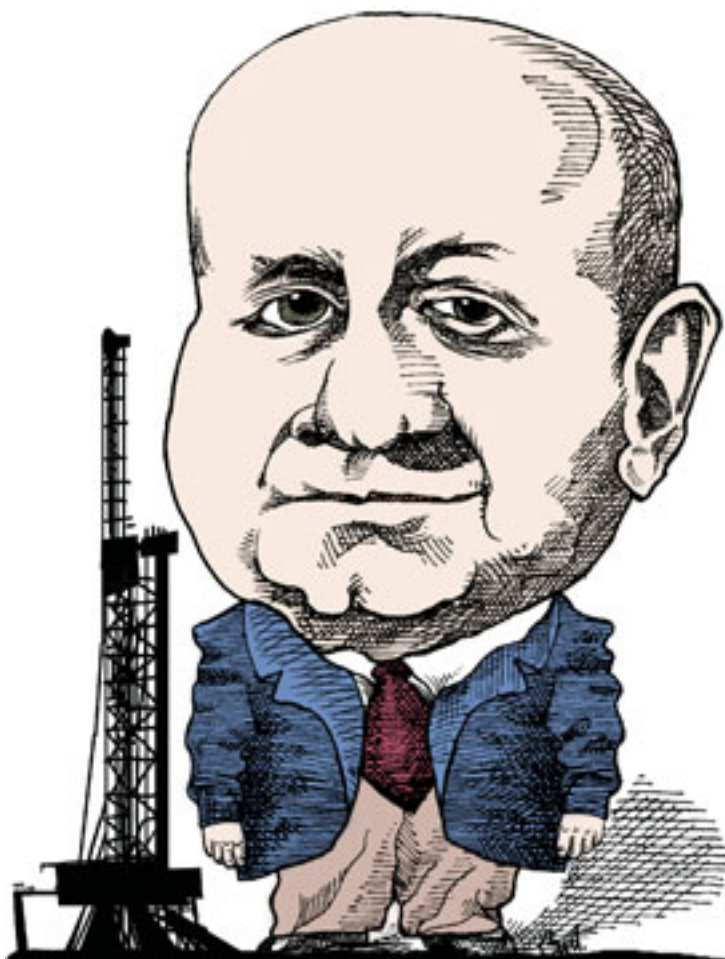
Not only that, one of the two printing plants used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to produce money is in Fort Worth. The other is in Washington, D.C.

More than 6 billion bills of all denominations were printed in the U.S. in fiscal year 2009, consuming 21,476 bales of cotton, according to the National Cotton Council of America. The total dollar value of these bills was \$219 billion.

One more thing: After about 4,000 double-folds (first forward and then backward), a paper bill will tear.



Number of interstate highway miles in Texas, according to the Texas Department of Transportation—more than any other state



ENERGY NEWS

‘Father of Fracking’ Changed World’s Energy Balance

George Mitchell, 94, the billionaire Texas oilman known as the father of fracking, died July 26 in his hometown of Galveston. Mitchell developed hydraulic fracturing, the oil and natural gas production technique that has rearranged the world’s energy production balance of power. He poured millions of dollars into restoring Galveston’s downtown historic district.

Mitchell graduated at the top of his 1940 Texas A&M class with degrees in petroleum engineering and geology. With a brother, he started an oil exploration company that sank more than 10,000 wells, mostly in the Barnett Shale oil and natural gas field near Fort Worth.

It took Mitchell nearly 20 years to develop viable fracking techniques, which force water, sand and chemicals into layers of shale, cracking the rock and releasing trapped oil and gas. Though fracking has created an energy boom in the U.S., critics are concerned about possible pollution of groundwater and air they believe is caused by the technique.

Mitchell’s fracking techniques could help “the United States, which currently imports 20 percent of its energy needs, become all but self-sufficient by 2035,” reported the International Energy Agency. The U.S. is now the world’s largest natural gas producer. “An energy renaissance in the United States is redrawing the global energy map,” according to the IEA.

WHO KNEW?

Proof Positive

In 1733, French scientist Charles François de Cisternay du Fay discovered that there are two kinds of electricity. He produced one by rubbing glass on silk and the other by rubbing resin on wool. He dubbed them vitreous and resinous. Later those terms were replaced by positive and negative. Du Fay arrived at his discovery after noticing objects that had been rubbed sometimes attracted and at other times repelled each other.

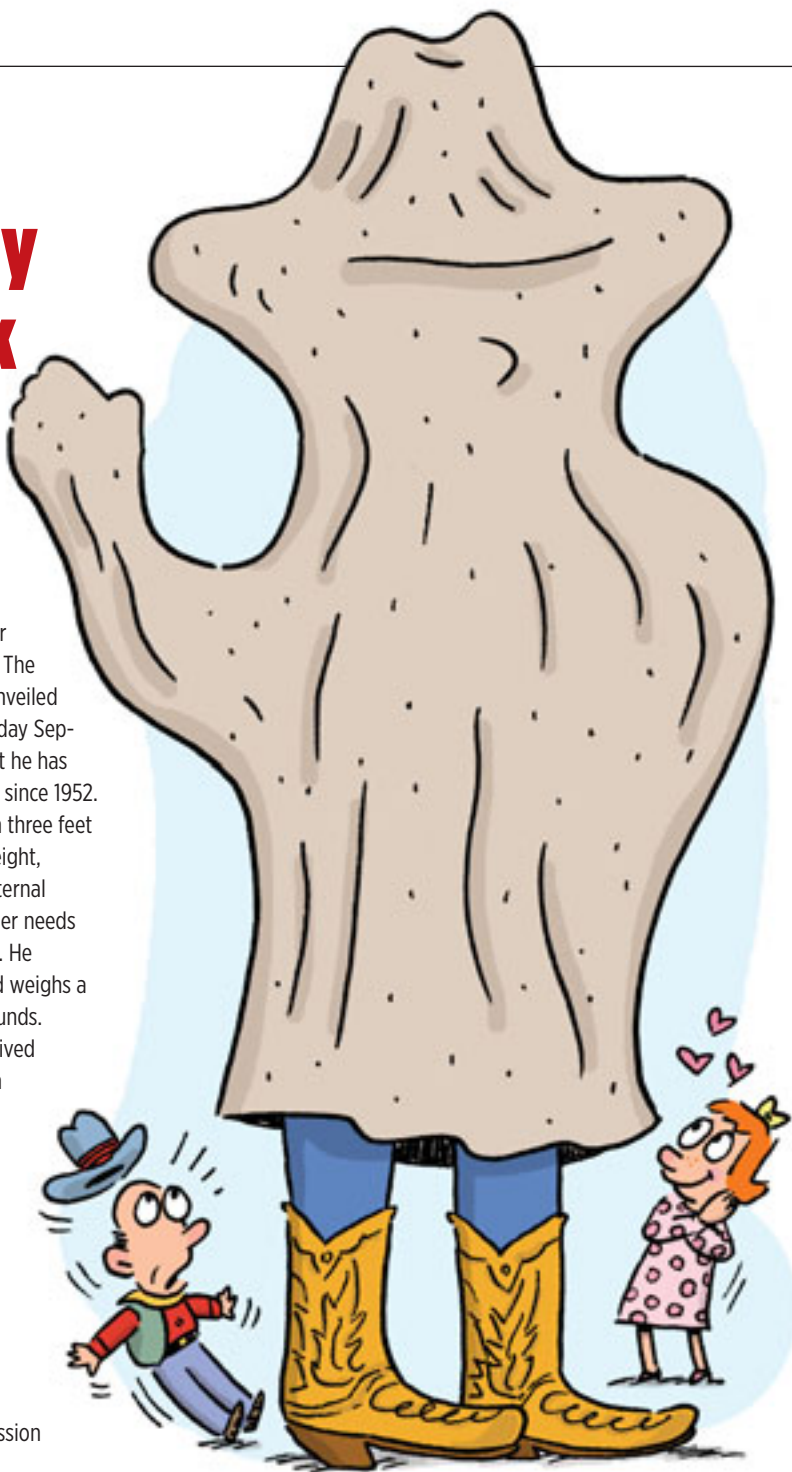


The Big Guy Is Back

The state's tallest cowboy is back. Big Tex returns to the State Fair of Texas nearly a year after a fire destroyed the iconic ambassador during last year's fair. The new Big Tex will be unveiled on the fair's opening day September 27 on the spot he has traditionally occupied since 1952.

Big Tex has grown three feet and quadrupled in weight, thanks to a beefier internal structure that no longer needs guy wires for support. He stands 55 feet tall and weighs a whopping 25,000 pounds.

The state fair received more than \$95,000 in public donations and \$155,000 from insurance to help with the expense of building the new Big Tex, which is expected to cost \$500,000, according to The Dallas Morning News. Part of that cost includes a fire suppression system.



HAPPENINGS

Mushrooms and More

Consider yourself a *fun guy*? The Texas Mushroom Festival on October 12 just might be the perfect destination for you. The fun in Madisonville starts with a Shiitake 5K Run/Walk. The free festival features more than 200 vendors, a grape stomp, Kids' Zone, quilt show, auto showcase, photo and art displays and live entertainment. For \$15, partake in the Texas wine tasting and sample tasty treats featuring mushrooms.

INFO: (877) 908-8808, texasmushroomfestival.com

Coming in January: Look for the best entries from our Mushroom Recipe Contest.

Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com



BY SUZANNE HABERMAN

OLD HAUNTS

Industries die and populations move on, leaving behind the shrinking shadows of ghost towns



Hansford County Judge Benny Wilson can remember when life moved along briskly in Sher-Han, the now-abandoned natural gas company town in the Panhandle where he grew up.

SIDEWALKS TO NOWHERE. WALLS WITHOUT roofs. Vacant hotels. Fallen trees. Graves. Seeing relics of abandoned towns along Texas highways, fields and railroads evoke questions about the past.

“There is just a ceaseless interest in this topic,” says T. Lindsay Baker, Tarleton State University history professor and Texas ghost town expert. “People connect with the dreams and the hopes of the people who once lived in the places.”

Baker identifies more than 1,000 former towns across the state in “Ghost Towns of Texas” (University of Oklahoma Press, 1986). Of the 88 sites he chronicles for the first of his two books on ghost towns, some still have skeleton populations or have been revitalized, he says, explaining that his definition of ghost towns are “places whose reason for being no longer exists.”

Guided by Baker’s definition, I explored four diverse sites, avoiding well-known destinations in favor of the obscure to sample why some Texas towns die. By visiting these places, I got to “see, smell, and touch Texas history where it was made,” as Baker implores the readers of his book to do. I learned history from the remains themselves—or lack thereof—and from the Texans who came from the dust, woods, mesas and pastures to share their stories.

SHER-HAN

A SERIES OF COLD CALLS LEADS TO HANSford County Judge Benny Wilson to see whether he’s heard of long-gone natural gas company town Sher-Han in the Panhandle.

“I grew up there,” Wilson chuckles. “I didn’t know I came from a ghost town.”

Phillips Petroleum Co. founded Sher-Han, named for Sherman and Hansford counties, in 1944 to process natural gas

RICK PATRICK



TOP: A rare snow circa 1920 chills a sawmill in the East Texas industrial town of Manning, destroyed by fire a little more than a decade later. **MIDDLE:** The Carter-Kelly Lumber Co. issued its own currency to Manning workers. **BOTTOM:** Besides memories, the mill manager's house—now a bed-and-breakfast—is about all that's left of Manning.

from a southern Great Plains oilfield. The company was growing to support industries during World War II, according to the book, "Phillips The First 66 Years" (Phillips Petroleum Co., 1983). The Michigan-Wisconsin and Panhandle Eastern pipeline companies also set up compressor stations there.

Wilson's father worked in the "Michigan-Wish" plant, and the family rented a company-provided house on-site for \$40 a month starting in 1959. The three companies provided a total of 105 homes, and Sher-Han's population reached about 400 and supported a vibrant town.

Having no paved roads leading to town, Sher-Han boasted its own community centers, a Baptist church that straddled the Texas-Oklahoma border, a grocery store with a Phillips 66 gas station, and recreational areas, including a golf course with sand greens.

But the companies dismantled Sher-Han in the 1960s. "Most of the companies realized the liabilities of having families that close to something that explosive," Wilson says. "They urged everyone—in fact, they gave a deadline—to get those houses out of there."

All the houses were moved or abandoned. Wilson's parents bought their house for about \$1,500 and moved it to Guymon, Oklahoma. Like his co-workers, Wilson's father then commuted about 15 miles on newly built roads to work at the stations, which still operate, served by North Plains Electric Cooperative, along with a helium plant.

This spring, Wilson, 64, made the trek from the Hansford County Courthouse in Spearman back to his boyhood home. He had not returned for decades.

"Even as close as it is, it's out of sight, out of mind," he says.

Where State Highway 136 intersects

the Oklahoma border, howling wind and high-swirling dust obscure Sher-Han from the modern world. From eroded roads with faded speed-limit signs, Wilson points out curbless sidewalks that lead to crumbling foundations among fallen dead elms, upturned roots sprawling. Low grass overtakes the basketball court, and cacti the baseball field.

"Just everything you look at," he says, "you think of someone you grew up with and wonder what happened to them."

Nearby, a labyrinth of tanks, pipes and warehouses comprises a gas compressor plant that thrums much like it did more than 50 years ago. On the horizon, wind turbines tower over the flatlands.

"I guess everything has its time in history," Wilson says, "but I'm proud that I got to grow up there because I had a lot of good friends."

MANNING

THE SMELL OF HONEYSUCKLE AND PINE floats on a breeze, and dewberries ripen in the sandy loam among the grasses in the Neches and Angelina rivers' bottomlands. At present-day Manning in East Texas, a white two-story bed-and-breakfast framed by sycamore trees overlooks a 15-acre pond that brims with bass.

This bucolic scene belies its history as one of Angelina County's largest industrial towns. Manning prospered starting in 1905 around a Carter-Kelly Lumber Co. sawmill, which capitalized on the area's virgin longleaf yellow pine forest before coming to a sudden end.

During its prime, the sawmill planed millions of board feet of lumber a year, and a company town grew to support the business. The population reached about 1,500 before the mid-1930s, according to firsthand accounts in the self-published book, "Were You At Manning?" compiled



by Robert Poland, 94. His father, Frank Poland, worked in the mill's lumberyard.

The town bustled with businesses, hotels, two picture-show venues, a church, school, jail, train depot and commissary, where townspeople could spend their company-issued currency. The finest and only painted house belonged to mill manager W.M. Gibbs.

One January morning in 1935, according to newspaper articles from that era, a fire consumed the sawmill with a blaze that could be seen from miles away. Kester Stanley, who was about 12 years old and living in Sweet Gum Valley at the time, remembers hearing sirens over the pop and crack of burning sap.

Because most of the area's pine forest was already cut, the company didn't rebuild, and most of the townspeople



Time and the West Texas sun have eroded the Girvin Social Club, which was owned by the mother of Arna Marie Helmers McCorkle, in a town that died twice.

moved away. Carter-Kelly Lumber Co. dismantled the homes—except the Gibbs house—and the remains of the charred mill were left to fade.

On the dam of the sawmill pond, Robert Flournoy, 72, begins a tour of the ruins. His father was the Manning schoolhouse superintendent who purchased the mill manager's property in 1941. The Lufkin lawyer grew up in, and now owns, the Gibbs house, which he recently converted into the bed-and-breakfast, served by Sam Houston Electric Cooperative. Guests of the Mansion at Sawmill Lake can stay in the Whip-poorwill Suites and fish the pond or hike around the ruins.

In a shady meadow that would have been the epicenter of Manning's industry, aggregate mortar binds the worn-down stone and redbrick walls of the mill complex, including the sawmill building, planer and dry kiln, where the forest's thick vines and spider webs thread the many cracks. Scraps of half-buried iron scattered in the grass mingle with abandoned farm equipment.

"It's amazing how nature reclaims places," Flournoy says. "We think we'll be forever."

GIRVIN

The mesas and West Texas sky seem closer than they actually are at U.S. Highway 67 and FM 11 in northeastern Pecos County. In this semiarid region, wisps of cirrus clouds cross the hazy blue sky over flat-topped mountains just as they have

before and after the rise and fall of the 20th-century railroad town of Girvin.

Named for early rancher John H. Girvin, the town developed around a cattle-shipping point on the former Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway constructed in 1912. As the town grew, a post office, general store, hotel, saloon, school and lumberyard joined the wooden depot and shipping pens by the tracks. Over the decades, people came to Girvin to work in myriad industries, including oil and electricity production, salt mining and farming.

In 1933 a new highway, U.S. 67, bypassed Girvin, and eventually the freight station closed and passenger rail service to the town ended, according to "Pecos County History" (Staked Plains Press, 1984).

Mildred Helmers, Girvin's postmaster for more than 30 years, and husband Arno purchased the depot building from the railroad for \$1,000 in 1956 and moved it to the highway. They lived there, operating a general store, gas station, the Girvin Social Club bar and later the relocated post office, until the mid-'80s.

"She is the only woman who has moved a whole town," says daughter Arna Marie Helmers McCorkle, 62.

The Girvin by the railroad became obsolete, but the town about a mile away by the highway, also called Girvin, lived on. The last residents left new Girvin as recently as 2000, McCorkle estimates. Today, the club is an abandoned sun-scorched building with broken windows, a dismantled porch and a rusty corru-

gated metal roof.

"Now it's a ghost town just like the other one," she says.

At old Girvin, roofless concrete block-and-plaster walls mark the site of the Helmers' first general store and residence. Next door, the western-style facade of an old store is feebly braced with 2-by-4s. Nearby, the rafters of a former gas station mingle with debris on the ground, and the bare windows in the upper-story walls yawn over silent railroad tracks.

On a postage stamp-sized cemetery lot with no gate, knee-high iron crosses adorn crude mounds of rock marking mostly the resting places of children. At the foot of a comparatively ornate tombstone for Asa Galloway, 1901-19, a century plant has died, tall stalk felled and leaves rotting. Out of its mulch grows a young verdigris-colored agave.

The 1930s-era schoolhouse is a bright spot among the ruins and blur of green mesquite. The pink brick school, where the father and uncle of rancher Snap Woodward, 49, attended classes, now serves as a voting location and a venue for the yearly Girvin reunion. In 2012, about 15 families at the reunion celebrated the town's 100th anniversary.

"Girvin has lived its glory," McCorkle says. "But those of us who were raised here will always remember the fun we had."

MORRIS RANCH

Wearing a sweat-stained cowboy hat and biting a Travis Club cigar, rancher William "Billy" Roeder, 71, leans on his truck parked along Morris Ranch Road southwest of Fredericksburg. He waits in the shade of a two-pronged live oak at the fence line of a former hotel that served guests of Morris Ranch, once a nationally known center for raising and training thoroughbred racehorses.

Francis Morris, breeder and owner of the filly Ruthless, who won the first Belmont Stakes in 1867, purchased 23,000 acres of Texas rangeland in 1856. He later hired his nephew Charles Morris to manage the equestrian complex. Morris Ranch reached its prime in the 1880s as a self-sufficient community entirely devoted to horses.

"They picked this corridor down here because they thought it was the best atmosphere, conditions, to raise horses," speculates Roeder, who served as a director of the Gillespie County Fair & Festivals Association for 28 years and helped

bring pari-mutuel horse racing to the county tracks.

Roeder, a Gillespie County commissioner, grew up on this land, and his ancestors were among the first settlers of Fredericksburg in 1846. His grandfather, whom he affectionately calls “Opa” after the German tradition, worked for the Morrisises, whose horses raced in other states including New York and Louisiana. Opa Roeder’s job was to transport the horses via train to and from the race-tracks.

The ranch’s decline began in 1895 after the death of Francis Morris’ son, John A. Morris, and the rise of a national movement to outlaw gambling that put most horse racetracks out of business.

When portions of the ranch went up for sale, Opa Roeder purchased 500 acres

for \$1 each. Roeder has preserved the slip of “yella notebook paper” that tallies his grandfather’s payments.

Having grown up on his ancestral land, the ruins of nearby Morris Ranch, now divided up and privately owned, are familiar landmarks to Roeder, and some harbor stories to which he is the last living connection.

“Once we’re gone, that generation isn’t going to know those people,” he says to longtime friend and fellow landowner Troy Ottmers, 57, of their children. Both men are members of Central Texas Electric Cooperative.

Roeder remembers the Morris Ranch hotel that served as a post office and general store where he, young and barefooted, would buy penny bubblegum in the 1950s. He attended several grades in the nearby Morris Ranch schoolhouse, a three-room limestone and gabled beauty with a bell and steeple.

Across a field where horses once thundered over a 1-mile training track, Roeder points out the roofless jockey house. Nearby, a hole in the ground marks the site of the former cotton gin.

Towering above, limestone masonry forms a cylindrical building with a look-out deck, possibly a mill. The headquarters home, a frame two-story with wraparound porches, demonstrates the Morris fortune.

“For me, it’s neat to look at this and think of what this would look like if it was the 1880s,” Ottmers says, imagining bustling buggies and women wearing long skirts.

At the Hill Crest Cemetery, the oldest legible monument—a rose granite pillar flecked with chartreuse- and rust-colored lichen—memorializes William Morris, 1804–91, brother of the ranch’s original owner.

The cemetery’s high vantage reveals the scope of the former ranch. “As far as you can see—those mountains—was part of this,” Roeder says, nostalgic. “It was just yesterday. That ain’t a long time ago.”

Suzanne Haberman is a staff writer.

On TexasCoopPower.com

- **Story:** A co-op lights up Manning.
- **Story:** A South Texas ghost town drowns.
- **Slideshow:** See more ghost town pictures.



INSET: The face of Lizzie Ellen Morris, 1891–1909, graces her tombstone at the Hill Crest Cemetery southwest of Fredericksburg where her relatives owned a ranch dedicated to raising thoroughbred racehorses. **ABOVE:** Rancher William ‘Billy’ Roeder’s grandfather worked for the Morrisises as part of the community that grew to support Morris Ranch, which included this hotel.

Do you suffer from:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Lack of Energy | ● Restless Legs Syndrome | ● Arthritis |
| ● Fibromyalgia | ● Poor Circulation | ● MS |
| ● Joint Pain | ● Obesity | ● Spinal Stenosis |
| ● Constipation | ● Edema | ● Lymphedema |
| ● Back Pain | ● Insomnia | ● Stress |
| ● Knee Pain | ● Neuropathy | |
| ● High Blood Pressure | ● Diabetes | |

Imagine feeling better . . . takes only 12–16 minutes, twice a day with the Exerciser Elite®



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

Exercising on a regular basis is known to help improve many different kinds of health issues. Millions of people suffer from various ailments that can be improved through regular exercise; however, we understand some individuals are unable to do aerobic type exercise. The Exerciser Elite® is your in-home solution and does the work for you. People of all ages have made improvements to their overall well-being by incorporating this revolutionary machine into their daily routine.

Operating the machine is simple... just lie down and relax. The machine creates a gentle, right to left movement. This gentle movement cycles up through the whole body, which, in turn, can promote loosening of the joints in the hips and spine and relaxation of the muscles in the back.

The Exerciser Elite® outperforms any other Chi-type swing machine on the market. It will easily accommodate individuals weighing up to 425 pounds and is built for long term use.

Increase circulation throughout the body

Relieve stiffness from head to toe

Energize the body

Increase mobility

Enjoy the Gentle Lateral Swinging Movement



Features

- 16 minute digital timer with safety shutoff
- Built in an ISO-9001 CERTIFIED facility
- FDA Class Registered
- ETL Approval
- Weighs only 15 pounds
- 15" wide x 13.5" deep x 9.5" high
- Controller cord 6'
- AC cord 7'2"
- 220/230 volt model available for International use

Exerciser Elite®

2-Year Parts and Labor Warranty

Want to learn more? View the online videos

www.cwmachines.com or call 800-748-7172

"The Exerciser Elite® is just SUPER!"

I cannot tell you how much I enjoy my relaxing sessions, 3 times a day. When I am finished I feel like I am back in the fast lane. I am so glad I decided to splurge and buy your magnificent machine."

—Irene R., Texas

"I have had both hips replaced and been through breast cancer."

Regular exercise was not something I could do every day and still move. But with this wonderful machine I can! Thank you again."

—Carol H., Ohio

"After using the Exerciser Elite® twice a day for one week, the swelling in my ankles went away."

It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you."

—Shirley H., Florida

"I am an 88 year old woman with multiple health problems."

After seeing the ad for the Exerciser Elite®, I ordered it and use it daily. I can tell it has improved circulation in my legs and by doing that it has helped my balance and walking problems. To those of you that think that you can't do regular exercise anymore, try this piece of equipment and you will be amazed how much better you will feel."

—Mildred F., Missouri

"I have had such lower back pain that I could hardly stand it."

I saw your ad two years ago and thought it wouldn't help me. But, I finally ordered one anyway. I have used it for four months now. I have very little back pain, am more regular, and I sleep much better thanks to the Exerciser Elite®."

—C. Cordes, Minnesota

You deserve to feel better—order the Exerciser Elite® now!



A+ Rating

Save on
reconditioned
units when
available.

\$359⁹⁵

— **50⁰⁰** Promotional Discount

\$309⁹⁵

Plus Shipping

Kansas residents add 8.2% sales tax.

Use promotional code **C500** to
receive the **\$50 Discount**

800-748-7172

**90 Day
Money Back
Guarantee**



Family owned since 1959
240 Berg Road • Salina, KS 67401
www.cwmachines.com

OTHER WELLNESS PRODUCTS BY CLARK



Do you have trouble getting down on the floor?

The Clark Exerciser Elite® Table is specially
designed to use with the Exerciser Elite®.

Discount code only applies to the Exerciser Elite®.



Reflex Wave™ Foot and Calf Massager

- Helps relieve tired achy feet
- Helps reduce fatigue
- Increases circulation



Kneading Fingers™ Neck and Back Massager

- Helps relax muscles
- Helps improve range of motion
- Relieves muscular aches and pains

©2013 Clark Enterprises 2000, Inc. Price, terms and conditions subject to change without notice.
These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any diseases.

On the vast High Plains, Texas' king crop is pure fluff, though its economic and social impact is anything but



WHERE COTTON DOESN'T SHRINK

AFTER EDDIE SMITH FINISHED HIS DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL economics at Texas Tech University in 1973, he planned to return to graduate school in the fall so he could ultimately become an ag banker. But when he got home to the High Plains that summer, he told his cotton farmer father, Ed, that he'd try farming for a year. "And I had a really good year," he says wryly, "and here I am now. This is my 40th crop."

Eddie is steering his pickup down narrow, packed-dirt roads between his fields as he speaks. It's a sunny, wind-free day in mid-May, and he's finally able to begin planting his 2,300 irrigated acres outside Floydada, northeast of Lubbock. He also grows dryland cotton on another 600 acres.

He's a couple of weeks behind schedule because it's been a cool spring. The last freeze, which normally occurs around April 10, was May 3, and Eddie says you want 10 straight days of temperatures at about 65 degrees to get the ground warm enough for quick and uniform germination. Thanks to the unpredictable

weather, including the ongoing drought, growing cotton is not getting easier, says the Lighthouse Electric Cooperative member.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST COTTON PATCH Texas, and especially its High Plains region, is cotton country. Since the late 1800s, Texas has led all states in cotton production nearly every year. The Lone Star State averages about 5.8 million bales annually, grown on about 4.9 million acres—an area more than 12 times as large as the city of Houston. This represents a quarter of the cotton grown in the United States, nearly all of which is exported.

Statewide, cotton is the largest cash crop, pumping more than \$1 billion into the economy, second only to the cattle industry in total cash receipts. Though 2011 was the worst year in a long time for Texas cotton producers, 2012 brought an improvement of about 43 percent, still well below predrought numbers. The High Plains region accounts for more than 60 percent of the state's total cotton output. Its 41 counties, between Midland and the

New Mexico state line and to the top of the Panhandle, comprise the largest contiguous cotton patch in the world.

For Eddie, the choice to grow cotton comes down to simple economics. “There’s not much you can do in this region except farm, and the semiarid desert conditions here give us a competitive edge in growing cotton,” he explains. “That’s what we can grow best, so that’s what we grow.”

PLANTING TIME The day begins around 6:30 a.m. for Eddie and his four employees, including his 36-year-old son, Eric, another Tech grad. They meet in Eddie’s office, an old farmhouse surrounded by flat, still-bare land. Ed, 84, who daily drives the 50 miles between his Lubbock home and the farm, will arrive shortly to run errands and do odd jobs.

Eric begins going over map reports, provided by the John Deere tractor’s GPS system, with Clint Bigham, whom Eddie calls “my computer gun.” Eddie’s been using guidance systems for about 10 years but just upgraded this year to a program that steers farmers through planting and then prints out exactly how much was planted on exactly how many acres.

After they’ve determined today’s agenda, they all go outside to fill the planter boxes. A huge white bag about half the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, filled with a ton of cottonseed, is hoisted by automated lift over a bin. Eric cuts its bottom open with a knife so the seeds spill out. The bin is driven to a tractor with a 28-foot-wide horizontal steel bar holding eight seed boxes. Seeds are loaded down a chute into each of the boxes. The process is repeated with a second tractor, and both vehicles rumble out to the first field.

FARMING AND TECHNOLOGY On one side of the field, Clint begins plotting 16 straight rows on the tractor’s GPS while Eric does the same for the circles of crop that will cover the rest of the field. The rows-and-circles system allows the necessary turning area for the sprayer and harvester that will traverse the field.

After establishing a starting point, Clint drives to the other end of the field and establishes a second point. The tractor’s satellite guidance system does the rest, moving in a perfect line between the two points to plant four seeds per foot, each 1 ¾ inches deep, eight rows at a time. The driver needn’t touch the steering wheel—in fact, it’s better if the wheel isn’t touched because it could throw the system out of alignment, bringing planting to a halt while everything is recalibrated.

“Technology’s pretty much where all farming’s headed. You’re always trying to reduce the amount of physical labor and manpower costs you need to do the job,” Eddie declares as he leaves Eric and Clint to plant this field while he makes his other rounds. At one stop, he punches in a code to release water to the center-pivot irrigation system in the adjacent field, which was planted the previous day. The center-pivot is a long network of horizontal pipes on wheels with sprinklers positioned along the entire length.

After waiting about a half-hour for the water to reach the machine’s pivot point and circulate through the pipes, Eddie sets another computerized tool beside the pivot that controls how water is dispersed from the sprinklers onto the crops as the entire machine slowly circles through the field. Throughout the day he crisscrosses his fields, spraying one, watching planting at another, irrigating a third, his cellphone ringing constantly as Eric, Clint and Ed ask questions and give status reports. Work

will continue until about 8 p.m., a 13-hour day at minimum. “Even with all the technology, it’s a physical challenge just being out in the sun and around these fields all day,” he says.

But the difference that technology makes is enormous. Because the size, precision and efficiency of machinery grow every year, it’s hard to quantify the improvement in the fields. But Eddie figures that this technology has allowed his production capacity per acre to double, at least, in the past 20 years—and the quality of the cotton is superior as well.

WATCHING AND WAITING The period between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day is crucial. That’s when Eddie most needs rain but also when High Plains winds are strongest, blowing sand through the fields that can damage the young cotton plants. If they survive that, the plants become more durable. “Extremes



OPPOSITE: The sun beats down on the arid High Plains as relentlessly as technology keeps tweaking the cotton farming ways of three generations of the Smith family: Eric, Ed and Eddie. **TOP:** Eric fills seed boxes while Clint Bigham helps guide the bulk seed handler. **ABOVE:** Harvesting of the opened bolls begins in mid-October and continues until about Thanksgiving.



LEFT: The satellite-guided planting process is so precise that after the GPS is calibrated, Eddie must remember that touching the steering wheel is pretty much a no-no. **MIDDLE:** An irrigation system stands ready to take over when Mother Nature falls short. **RIGHT:** Eddie says cotton production on his farm has roughly doubled in the past 20 years, thanks to technological advances.

are always what hurt you,” Eddie says, “extreme hot or cold, extreme wet or dry.”

At eight to 10 weeks, the cotton flower blooms and spreads pollen to help form the boll, which holds the lint and seeds. The bolls soon open to let in air that dries and fluffs the white fiber. Before the bolls can be harvested, the leaves must be removed from the plants. This is done by using crop dusters to spray the plants with a chemical that causes the leaves to fall off, known as defoliation. Beginning in mid-October and ending ideally by Thanksgiving, the cotton is harvested by machines called strippers and taken to the gin, where the lint is separated from the seed and the fiber is cleaned. The lint is then marketed to textile mills worldwide by the 25,000-member Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, whose board Eddie currently chairs. Cottonseeds can be used to plant a new crop or can be crushed into cottonseed oil, bringing in a small amount of additional revenue.

THE CYCLE BEGINS ANEW In the off-season he’ll grow some winter wheat, but like most cotton growers he considers rotating crops to be economically unfeasible. Instead, as the new year begins, he’s prepping his fields for more cotton. This is followed by what he jokingly calls “the season of meetings,” when growers attend trade shows, symposia and conventions, such as the one by the National Cotton Council of America, to learn about new technology, techniques and research.

During January and February, he also refinances with the bank and settles up his other business affairs. In mid-March, he sprays herbicides in the fields to prevent weeds and waters as much as he can afford, which these days is not nearly as much as he’d like. Then Eddie and his crew will start planning crop No. 41.

John Morthland is an Austin writer.

On TexasCoopPower.com

- **Learn more:** Texas Cotton Gin Museum showcases its historic process.

LOOKING BACK ON A GRAND LIFE

Ed Smith was born and raised about 18 miles east of Lubbock in Lorenzo, where he began helping on his family’s cotton farm as a child. It’s the only life the 84-year-old has ever known, which is why he still keeps a hand in the family operation by helping his son, Eddie.

He still remembers his first tractor, which he bought new in 1951. It had only a four-row planter. “Really, there was only so much it could do,” he recalls. But four rows soon grew to six, then eight, and ultimately to the much-bigger computerized tractors with 16 rows, guided by GPS, that his son uses today.

“When I was farming in the 1950s, I had one employee to farm three or four hundred acres, or I did it by myself—most of us did,” Ed says. “It’s necessary to farm a lot more land today because of the cost of all the equipment, which is much bigger and more complex.”

He used to irrigate by digging ditches with a tractor. Wells provided enough water for the small amount of land despite a six-year drought during the 1950s. Harvesting was done by hand, with the U.S. government running a program for *braceros*, or migrant farm workers from Mexico, who came to work seasonally. Pesticides and herbicides were nowhere near as effective as today’s chemicals.

“Education has to improve along with the improving technology,” Ed notes. “The technology has gotten past me at my age, but these younger guys are all able to handle it because they learned from U.S. agricultural experiment stations and from going to Tech and A&M.”

Indeed, Ed doesn’t even climb aboard a modern tractor with GPS because out of habit he always handles the steering wheel, which sabotages the calibrations and requires them to be computed again.

One substantial result of all this technology is that ag financing has changed drastically for farmers. “I never had any money when I was a farmer because everything I made went into equipment, and it’s still pretty much hand-to-mouth today but with much larger figures,” Ed says. “We had good years and bad years but we always managed because we didn’t have as much expense. The amount of money you have to borrow now, you can lose so much you’re out of business in a year, and it’ll take five or six years to get back in it.

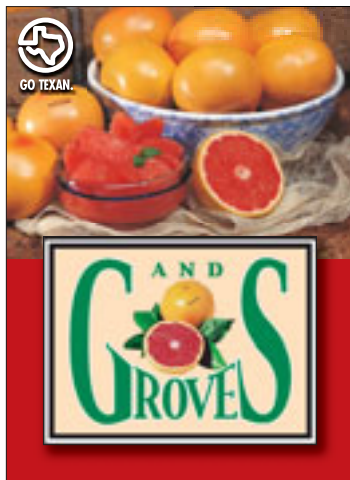
“But it’s still a grand life,” he quickly adds. “Your community, your church, your family, you’re all involved together.”

John Morthland

HOLIDAY

Gift Guide

In the magazine and on **TexasCoopPower.com**, we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



From Our Texas Trees to Your Table

Give a gift everyone will enjoy this holiday season. We sell Certified Organic Oranges and Rio Red Grapefruit directly to our customers.

(512) 246-0778
www.gandsgroves.com



Custom Crafted Personalized Gifts

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

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



THE ROOFING CHOICE THAT MAKES CENTS

281.385.6237 (BAYTOWN) | 281.659.0872 (CLEVELAND)
936.372.2244 (WALLER) | metaldepots.com/txcp

Save on energy bills and maintenance costs by choosing a metal roof from **Metal Depots**. With many different panel and color options, you're sure to find what you need with us.

Digital roof measurement with satellite mapping is available to create panel diagrams, cut lists and initial quotes. Please contact us for more information regarding this service.

For more information about metal roofing choices at Metal Depots, visit us at **www.metaldepots.com/txcp**.





YOUR **FREE PEARLS** ARE HERE

EXPERIENCE THE LUXURY OF MITSUKO ORGANIC CULTURED PEARLS REGULARLY \$299, GET THEM TODAY FOR **FREE***

We owe you an apology. This exclusive deal is guaranteed to ruin every jewelry purchase you make from now on. Once you realize that it's possible to own a genuine cultured pearl necklace for **FREE**, other luxury brands are bound to disappoint. They can't handle **FREE** jewelry. They can't even afford to try. But you can. And that's all that matters to us.

We're offering our *Mitsuko Organic Cultured Pearl Necklace* online for \$299. But if you'd like it for near **NOTHING** (you pay only the \$19.95 shipping & processing—see details below) all you need to do is call 1-800-859-1542.

It's okay to be skeptical. You have every right to be. Why would any company give away a pearl necklace? Good question. We believe that once you try us, you'll be back for more. But maybe a better question is why other luxury jewelers don't think twice about offering cultured pearls for hundreds—even thousands—more. I'm sure they have their reasons. But you don't have to fall for them. Not anymore. Call today for your **FREE Mitsuko Organic Cultured Pearl Necklace** and you'll realize that luxury doesn't have to cost a fortune.



By implanting a nucleus inside the oyster, farmers stimulate the natural creation of a pearl. Each Mitsuko cultured pearl is harvested, polished and strung by hand.

Mitsuko Organic Cultured Pearls—Exclusively from Stauer. Every necklace is the product of generations of expertise. From natural genesis to final selection, imported Mitsuko organic cultured pearls are held to the highest standard. This continuous, 26" strand showcases a collection of 6½-7mm white cultured pearls. Each necklace is hand-strung and double-knotted to keep every precious pearl secure.

This exclusive FREE offer can't last forever. Unfortunately, we are only able to make a limited number of these necklaces available to the public for free. Don't let this incredible opportunity pass you by! To ensure that you receive your **FREE Mitsuko Organic Cultured Pearl Necklace**, please call today. Your idea of luxury will never be the same!

Mitsuko Cultured Pearl Necklace

Regularly ~~\$299†~~

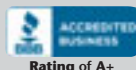
Yours FREE*

*Pay only \$19.95 shipping & processing

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. MFP143-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

† Free is for Call-In Customers only versus the original Stauer.com price.



Call now while our supplies last...

1-800-859-1542

Promotional Code MFP143-01

Please mention this code when you call.

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™

* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV and ID. These state residents will be charged one cent (\$.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address.



Foot Pain Cream

with Tea Tree

#1 in fighting Neuropathy Pain

Also helps to relieve

- Foot, Ankle, Leg and Knee Pain
- Tingling, Burning Sensations
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Restless Legs
- Foot & Leg Cramps
- Dry, Itchy, Flaky Skin
- Rough, Cracked Heels

Diabetic Friendly!

**ONLY
\$19.95
+S&H**

Clean, Fresh Scent
from natural botanicals of
Tea Tree, Arnica & Peppermint



2 oz / 60 ml

Testimonial

I cannot say enough about how good the foot pain cream is. I suffer from neuropathy in my feet and legs and at times the pain is so bad it's unbearable. The cream takes away the pain and burning from my feet and legs. I would like to see more diabetics and people who suffer from neuropathy have a chance to try this wonderful product. Thank you, thank you PhysAssist.

Diane T. / Greensboro, NC

Limited Time Offer

1 PHONE **800-362-8063**

*Mention coupon TXH13
to get \$2 OFF!

2 ONLINE at **PhysAssist.com**

*Apply coupon TXH13 to get
\$2 OFF!

3 MAIL: Send check or money order for \$22.90 (Includes \$4.95 S&H) to:

PhysAssist
PO Box 606, Fairfield, FL 32634

*Enclose coupon TXH13
to get \$2 off!

TXH13

**\$2.00 Off
Coupon**

Energy Vampires

Conquer the always-on electronics in your home

These creatures lurk in your home with never-blinking red and green glowing eyes. They could be in every room, always hungry for your energy.

Does that sound like the plot of a bad movie? It's closer to reality for millions of Americans who have electronic gadgets plugged into their wall outlets.

Many products use energy whenever power is available. Whether it's the cable/DVR box that records television shows, the TV awaiting a signal to turn on from a remote control, or your cellphone charger, these devices constantly siphon energy from your home's circuits.

Energy-efficiency experts call such devices vampire electronics. Individually, they drink only a small amount of electricity, but the total power drain can be significant. Almost 10 percent of a modern home's energy use can be attributed to vampire electronics, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Researchers have found that these power parasites can be tamed and their effect reduced by as much as 30 percent. The lab offers some suggestions for lessening the bite of vampire electronics:

- ▶ Unplug devices you aren't frequently using. (This works well for spare TVs or a DVD player.)
- ▶ Use a switchable power strip for clusters of computer or video products so you can switch everything off with one click.
- ▶ Shop for devices, such as Energy Star products, that have lower standby settings.
- ▶ Buy a low-cost wattmeter to identify vampire electronics in your home and take targeted action.

Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Unplug these items when you're not using them:



Computers, printers and other electronics with external power supplies



Televisions, game systems, DVD players and window AC units with remote controls



Washing machines, microwaves, televisions and DVD players with digital displays



Phones and power tools with electric chargers



Beware Power Line Hazards

When you see something every day, it can be easy to look right past it. Take, for example, the power lines in your neighborhood. When was the last time you noticed them?

Those lines strung high above your roof, along property lines and roadways or near trees are easy to take for granted. But power lines can pose serious electrical hazards.

Trees can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds can topple trees or break branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. Sometimes, even if heavily damaged, lines remain energized with the potential to electrify trees and nearby objects.

Arcing and flashovers between power lines and trees are also dangerous. In winter, extra weight from snow and ice can bend or break tree branches, bringing them close to power lines. During warm weather or when power lines are carrying heavy electrical loads, they can heat up and sag as much as 15 or 20 feet, dropping them toward nearby vegetation. Electric current caused by arcing or flashovers between power lines and trees in either situation can easily injure or even kill an individual nearby.

If you notice anything such as trees or branches that might interfere with power lines or pose a serious threat, notify your electric cooperative.

Getting Ready for Winter

The early days of fall are a good time of year to start thinking about preparing your home for winter. As temperatures begin to dip, your home requires maintenance to keep it in tip-top shape.

Here are some tips to help you prepare your home for winter:

1) Furnace Inspection

- ▶ Call a heating, ventilation and air-conditioning professional to inspect your furnace and clean ducts.
- ▶ Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly.
- ▶ Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace.

2) Get the Fireplace Ready

- ▶ Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- ▶ If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for a while, call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote and repair any damage.
- ▶ Buy firewood or chop wood. Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.
- ▶ Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing.

3) Check the Exterior, Doors and Windows

- ▶ Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal them.
- ▶ Use weatherstripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home, and caulk windows.
- ▶ Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood.

4) Inspect Roof, Gutters and Downspouts

- ▶ Check flashing to ensure that water cannot enter the home.
- ▶ Replace worn roof shingles or tiles.
- ▶ Clean out the gutters and use a hose to spray water down the downspouts to clear away debris.
- ▶ Consider installing leaf guards on the gutters and extensions on the downspouts to direct water away from the home.

5) Check Foundations

- ▶ Rake away debris and vegetation from the foundation.
- ▶ Seal up entry points to keep small animals from crawling under the house.
- ▶ Seal foundation cracks. Mice can slip through spaces as small as 1/4 inch.
- ▶ Inspect sill plates for dry rot or pest infestation.
- ▶ Secure crawlspace entrances.

6) Prevent Plumbing Freezes

- ▶ Locate your water main in case you need to shut it off in an emergency.
- ▶ Insulate exposed plumbing pipes.



FROM TOP: Insulating water pipes reduces heat loss and can prevent pipes from bursting in extremely cold temperatures. If the insulation in your attic isn't up to par, take advantage of cooler temperatures to upgrade attic insulation for year-round comfort.

- ▶ If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.

7) Prepare Landscaping and Outdoor Surfaces

- ▶ Trim trees if branches hang too close to the house or electrical wires. Don't get too close to wires.
- ▶ Plant spring bulbs that can and pull bulbs that cannot survive winter.
- ▶ Seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks.
- ▶ Move sensitive potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area for the winter season.

8) Prepare for Emergencies

- ▶ Buy candles and matches for use during a power shortage.
- ▶ Keep your electric cooperative's phone number on hand and call if you have an outage.
- ▶ Store bottled water and nonperishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy-to-access location.
- ▶ Prepare an emergency evacuation plan.

For Troubled Troops, Dogs to the Rescue



Train A Dog-Save A Warrior
organization counts on
calming effects of canines

BY MICHELE CHAN SANTOS

LUIS* IS A FORMER MARINE WHO SERVED in Vietnam in 1967. Like many veterans, he had terrible nightmares, which left him exhausted and sleepless. Since March, Luis has slept better than he has in years thanks to his dog, Blue, a blue heeler (also called an Australian cattle dog) he received from the Train A Dog-Save A Warrior program.

Blue sleeps next to his bed. "If I have a nightmare, Blue jumps up on the bed and snaps me out of it, and I can go right back to sleep," says Luis, a member of Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative. "I can't do without her now."

Train A Dog-Save A Warrior, or TADSAW, a nonprofit organization based in San Antonio, was founded by pharmacist Bart Sherwood. Active-duty and retired members of any branch of the military can qualify for a therapy dog by being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury or by having symptoms of these disorders, says Sherwood.

Dogs have been helping humans with disabilities for thousands of years. In the ruins of the Roman city Herculaneum, dating to the first century, archeologists found a fresco in which a dog is leading a blind man. The modern guide dog movement began in Germany after World War I, according to the International Guide Dog Federation, when thousands of soldiers blinded by mustard gas needed assistance.

By 1975, organizations were training dogs to help people with muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy. Today, many

medical studies have shown that holding and petting a dog can lower blood pressure, decrease production of the stress hormone cortisol and increase production of oxytocin, which can increase feelings of well-being.

Dogs can sense when someone is suffering, Sherwood says. He describes the experience of veterans who experience anxiety attacks. The dog comes into contact with the veteran, as if to say, "Focus on me, and we can make it through," he says.

TADSAW has established training groups near many military bases, including Fort Hood in Killeen, Fort Bliss in El Paso, Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

In San Antonio, veterans and dogs go through training together every Tuesday and Friday afternoon at a park near Randolph Air Force Base. Sometimes the dog is the soldier's personal pet that TADSAW trainers have deemed fit to become a therapy dog. Other times, the dog is provided by TADSAW—many come from shelters. They can be any breed.

"We select based on temperament and size," Sherwood says. "We look for a kind eye—how they respond to doing a task. We look for dogs that are not aggressive or aggressively friendly."

On a sunny day in May, more than a dozen service members went to the Bass Pro Shops in San Antonio so their dogs could be given TADSAW Public Access Temperament Test and AKC Canine Good Citizen tests. There's a Chihuahua in the group, a golden retriever, a German shepherd, some Labradors, a

Weimaraner and several mixed-breed dogs.

Gathered in the lobby, all dogs sit calmly on the floor, each one seated next to his or her owner. None of the dogs are pulling, growling, nudging or sniffing each other, the way an ordinary group of dogs might. Instead, they watch carefully, frequently looking at their owners for cues and not getting distracted when a small child carrying food runs past. The dogs are peaceful, their expressions serene.

Carolyn Keiser, the owner of K-9 Behavior in La Vernia and a member of GVEC, is the trainer who has been working with this group at Randolph. Keiser has more than 30 years of dog-training experience.

"The best part is seeing these veterans' lives change," Keiser says. "I learn a lot about them. When they first come to the training group, a lot of them don't socialize, go to restaurants or to their children's plays. Once they have a service dog, they can go out and live a regular life again. It's wonderful to watch the bond develop between the dog and the person. It's an amazing thing to watch the change in the people."

Jason has been in the Army since 2003. He went to Iraq in 2004, serving a 13-month tour of duty. Jason, a member of GVEC, heard about TADSAW through the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that helps wounded service members. His service dog is Reeve, a Weimaraner with compassionate golden eyes who was rescued from a shelter.

Before Reeve joined his family, Jason mostly stayed home. With her, he goes grocery shopping and to his children's school and even took a trip to Georgia, something that would have been unimaginable before having a therapy dog. "I keep my mind on her instead of on what I'm feeling," Jason says. "She's definitely been helpful with depression. Reeve makes me get up and get out of the house."

Nickol was in the Army from 2008 to 2012. Her service dog is Ava, a German shepherd also rescued from a shelter. Nickol, a single mother of a 3-year-old son, is pursuing a degree in multidisciplinary science at University of Texas at San Antonio. Looking at the other service members and their dogs, Nickol says, "Every single one of us has different needs and a different lifestyle. Each dog is paired up with a veteran to ensure the

dog meets the needs of the warrior. We all suffer from different forms of anxiety."

For her, having Ava has made the world a more inviting place. She and a friend from TADSAW took their service dogs to the Poteet Strawberry Festival in April. "Last year I wouldn't have gone," she says. "Now I can go because of my dog."

Michele Chan Santos is an Austin writer.

***Editor's note:** Only the first names of service members have been used at the request of the Train A Dog-Save A Warrior program.

More about TADSAW: Therapy dogs are provided at no charge, though it costs the organization about \$2,500 for each dog. For more information or to support TADSAW, go to tadsaw.org or call (210) 643-2901.



Jason, a Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative member, has been in the Army since 2003. He says Reeve, his Weimaraner trained in the Train A Dog-Save A Warrior program, 'makes me get up and get out of the house.' Jason has two children, ages 2 and 6, and Reeve is extremely gentle with them, he says. 'My kids jump all over her, and she loves it.'

How Punk Rock Paid for My iPad

Keepsakes from formative years of Austin's music scene turn into eBay jackpots

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT

I'D BEEN THINKING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS about auctioning off something on eBay, mainly for entertainment. But what? My books didn't seem to be worth much. Selling some of my Mexican folk art collection was a possibility, but I'd have to charge a lot to ship heavy pottery pieces. What did I have of value that I would be willing to part with? Grandma's Van Briggle pottery? No, I wanted to keep that. I don't have jewelry or silver, or vintage lunch boxes.

Finally, it hit me. I had at least 50 rock 'n' roll posters and handbills from the 1970s. I was never much of a music groupie, but I had a boyfriend who was one of the owners of the Armadillo World Headquarters, the famous venue that sparked Austin's musical renaissance. Posters from the Armadillo just wandered into my life, and I kept them. The only ones I really value are by artists Jim Franklin and Michael Priest, and they usually feature an armadillo.

I bought a copy of the book "eBay for Dummies," set up a PayPal account for receiving online payments, and in no time I was in the poster biz. (Fortunately, in my retirement I have developed enough patience to deal with computer programs, and eBay makes online auctions simple.)

My rationale for selling the posters now was that pretty soon nobody would remember what the Armadillo World Headquarters was. (It was the Texas equivalent of the concert halls Fillmore East in New York City and Fillmore West in San Francisco.) The people who went there are pretty long in the tooth now.

Better to sell before they get any older.

The first item I put up for auction was a Bill Monroe poster for a starting bid of \$30, and it sold for more than \$200. That wasn't too shabby. I followed with a Balcones Fault poster that sold for \$15, a Fats Domino handbill for \$36, a colorful Ravi Shankar handbill for \$71, a Doug Kershaw handbill for \$50, a Pointer Sisters poster for \$36 and a disappointing \$69.88 for a Frank Zappa poster by the Austin artist Guy Juke. Most of the bidders had computer monickers like AusTxPeaceLove, Vulcan Gas, 13th Floor Elevator, Snowblower, MSBluesman, Crawdaddy Jones—many of them from Austin. I was probably old enough to be the grandmother of most of my bidders.

MSBluesman, an Austinite in the broadcasting business, came by to pick up his Bill Monroe poster, and I showed him some of the others. He gave me an idea of what would probably sell well. The Monroe poster had made a good profit because he and another bidder had gone to war over it.

I didn't particularly want to sell any poster with an armadillo on it, so I was browsing my collection for bands that didn't mean anything to me but might mean something to others. I offered a poster, signed by Priest, of a band called the Ramones for a starting bid of \$35, and there seemed to be a lot of interest. People emailed me asking for confirmation that it was an original. Somebody wanted to buy it early if we could agree on a price (that's an eBay no-no, by the way). *Wow*, I thought, *this is going to sell for as much as*

the Bill Monroe poster.

I was away from home the afternoon the Ramones auction ended. I pulled up my eBay account on my Mac mini as soon as I returned, but what I saw made no sense at all. There had to be a mistake. EBay said the poster sold for \$887.77. I refreshed the page on my computer—it still said \$887.77. And I had a message from the winning bidder, Mario Panciera, identified in previous messages as Devil-dog, in Venice, Italy. Panciera said he had written a book about punk music, and the Ramones were credited by many as the first punk band. The poster was going to a punk museum in Venice. He said I should come visit. *Woah! \$887.77 and an invitation to visit Devildog in Venice!*

Well, of course, it has been downhill ever since. My eBay sales career had peaked. I did get to watch the final bidding for a Bruce Springsteen poster. Serious bidders rely on computer programs that allow them to bid up to a certain limit, usually in the last 30 seconds of an auction. Bruce went from \$50 to \$385 in that final 30 seconds. I couldn't refresh my screen fast enough to view the bids.

Some posters—Commander Cody, Kenneth Threadgill, Sons of Uranium Savages—didn't sell at all. I think I may have mined the best of them. And it isn't all pure profit. PayPal and eBay both take a small percentage of the sale, and the Internal Revenue Service will take even more.

But I still have my beloved whimsical posters and handbills of armadillos crossing the road, digging holes, dancing and wearing headbands. They may not be as valuable as some of the posters I sold, but they are dear to my heart.

In July, my sister Karen, in St. Paul, Minnesota, broke her left ankle in three places and sprained her right ankle. I flew up to help, which also includes tending to Lyle Leave It, her Irish wolfhound mix, and the garden. The proceeds from the Ramones poster was just sitting in my PayPal account, so I bought an iPad with a good keyboard on which I am spinning this tale.

Karen is mending, but it will be at least another month before the cast comes off. Fortunately, I'm retired and can spend a month in beautiful, cool Minnesota. I'm cruising garage sales looking for something new to sell on eBay. But I'll never find another goldmine like the Ramones.

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

When Kaye Northcott, shown sitting in her sister's backyard in Minnesota, decided to dabble in eBay commerce, she sparked a bidding war over a Ramones poster. She pocketed enough to purchase an iPad.



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 Might help my loose neck skin?

Turkey Neck, Harris County

DEAR TURKEY-NECK: In fact, there is a very potent cream on the market that is designed to firm, tighten and invigorate skin cells on the neck area. It is called the **Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream**.

This cream contains an instant-effect ingredient that aims to tighten the skin naturally, as well as deep-moisturizing ingredients aiming 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 apple stem cells target your skin’s aging cells, and strive to bring back their youthful firmness, and elasticity. As an alternative to the scary surgeries or face lifts that many people resort to, this cream has the potential to deliver a big punch to 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 10% off. The code was “TXN13”. It’s worth a try to see if it still works.

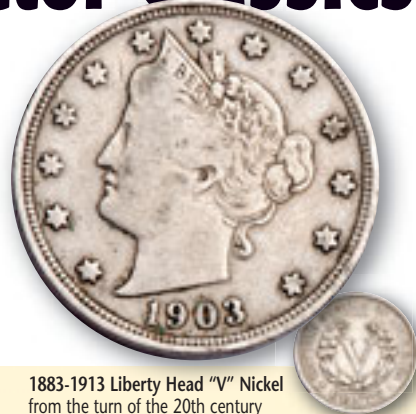
Own Three Scarce Collector Classics!



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 75% OFF** the regular price of ~~\$21.00~~. 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 \$21.00, 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, November 30, 2013

Special Offer for New Customers Only

Please send coupon to:

Littleton Coin Company
Dept. 2WC436
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



TV SIMPLY COSTS LESS!

iPad® 2
included
to enhance
your TV
experience
anywhere.



Cannot be combined with promotional pricing. Everyday prices start at \$49.99/mo. Requires 24-month commitment and credit qualification.

Call today for details.

dish™

\$19.99 /mo
for 12 months
Over 55
Essential
Channels!
SMART PACK

Not eligible for Hopper or iPad 2 offer

CHOOSE YOUR PACKAGE AND SAVE!

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AMERICA'S TOP 120 | AMERICA'S TOP 200 | AMERICA'S TOP 250 |
| Over 190 Channels | Over 220 Channels | Over 260 Channels |
| \$29.99 /mo for 12 months | \$39.99 /mo for 12 months | \$44.99 /mo for 12 months |

me conviene **dish \$24.99** /mo
al mes por 12 meses
LATINO
¡No te pierdas de tus programas favoritos en inglés ni tampoco del fútbol, novelas, noticias y caricaturas en español!

FREE PREMIUM CHANNELS!



OVER 50 CHANNELS FOR 3 MONTHS!

Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability.

enjoy
HIGH-SPEED INTERNET!
Starting at **\$19.99** per month
NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE!
NO TV SERVICE REQUIRED!

FREE HOPPER

WHOLE-HOME HD DVR UPGRADE

Instantly skip commercials!
Store up to 2000 hours of your favorite shows!

Watch all your live and recorded TV anywhere! *

*Feature must be enabled by customer. Available with qualifying packages. Monthly DVR and receiver fees apply. Live and recorded TV requires a broadband connected, Sling-enabled DVR.

1-866-549-5434

Mon-Fri: 7am - 11pm cst
Sat: 8am - 10pm cst Sun: 9am - 8pm cst

Call Today! GoDish.com



All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification. iPad 2 is 16 GB Wi-Fi only. Remote viewing requires Wi-Fi connection or use of Hopper Transfers app.

dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER



godish.com/demo



Important Terms and Conditions: Promotional Offers: Require activation of new qualifying DISH service with 24-month commitment and credit qualification. All prices, fees, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. After 12-month promotional period, then-current regular monthly price applies and is subject to change. **ET:** If you cancel service during first 24 months, early cancellation fee of \$20 for each month remaining applies. For iPad 2 offer, if you cancel service during first 24 months, early cancellation fee of \$30 for each month remaining applies. **Activation fee:** may apply. **Add'l Requirements: For iPad 2 offer:** customer must select Hopper system and minimum of America's Top 120 package; allow 4-6 weeks for delivery; offer not available in Puerto Rico or USVI. Available while supplies last. **Premium Channels:** 3-month premium movie offer value is \$135; after promotional period, then-current regular monthly price applies and is subject to change. **Hopper Features:** AutoHop feature is only available with playback the next day of select primetime shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC as part of PrimeTime Anytime feature. Both features are subject to availability. **Blockbuster @Home Offer:** 3 month offer value \$30. After 3 months, then-current regular monthly price applies and is subject to change. Requires online DISH account; broadband internet to stream content; HD DVR to record to TV. Streaming to TV and some channels not available with select packages. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Certain equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. Recording hours vary; 2000 hours based on SD programming. Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires a broadband-connected, Sling-enabled DVR and compatible mobile device. **Misc:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Nominal new connect processing fees may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 1/16/14.** HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. iPad is a registered trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Apple is not a participant in or sponsor of this promotion. Internet Regular monthly rate and Promotional Rates for High Speed Internet Product varies by providers available at each individual address. \$19.99 rate is most widely available product. Call for providers available.



Sutherlands

Texas Home Improvement Store



\$84

Wheeled Battery Charger

- 2 AMP trickle charge
- 20 AMP fast charge
- 55 AMP rapid charge
- 140 AMP engine starting

#52724 96710

Furney



Your Choice

\$54

Barn & Fence Latex Paint

- 5 gallons
- Exterior Latex Flat
- Red or White

#8-0046-5 30525

#8-0047-5 30535

Majik

Your Choice

9⁰⁰ each

EZ Read Jumbo Rain Gauge

- Measures rainfall up to 5 inches
- Colored float
- Assorted colors

#820-1024/1002 118615

headwind



\$79

Pole / Chain Saw

- Pole extends 6'7" - 9'11"

#41A222P6883 92970

REMINGTON



Reg. \$54.99

\$39

PORTER CABLE

4 1/2" Angle Grinder

- 6 Amp • 11,000 RPM

#PC670/DR650B 197090



\$719

6500W Pull-Start Generator

- Overhead Valve Engine
- Steel fuel tank w/fuel gauge
- Low tone muffler

#5940 8132151

GENERAC



9⁹⁵

CertainTeed

R-13** Value Kraft Faced Roll

- 3 1/2" x 15" x 32"
- Covers 40 sq. ft.

#900320 4474672



10⁹⁹

Green Fiber Insulation

- 40 sq. ft.
- Just pour it in & blow it out

#NS541LD 4192530

green fiber

Prices good through October 31, 2013

Amarillo

4717 S. Washington St.
Amarillo, TX 79110
(806) 373-3057

Ft. Worth

7909 Camp Bowie West
Ft. Worth, TX 76116
(817) 244-8140

Lubbock

3701 50th Street
Lubbock, TX 79413
(806) 281-9000

Mineral Wells

198 Garrett Morris Parkway
Mineral Wells, TX 76067
(940) 468-4540

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

MANUFACTURED HOME OR PIER & BEAM HOME INSULATED CEMENT SKIRTING

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



FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.

45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Call for Free Information • **1-800-310-1425**
www.ellisonmarine.com • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.

#1 TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER IN THE USA!

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

\$26,398.00
\$355
Per Month

JOHN DEERE

Foster's Package Includes:

- 2013 John Deere 5045D 2wd 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 33402 HWY. 290 West 2210 Highway 90
Beaumont, TX Hockley, TX 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

WE BUY MINERALS

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

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

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

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

1-800-582-BARN(2276)

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

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

nationalbarn.com

Farm • Industrial • Commercial

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

25 YEAR COLOR WARRANTY
PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 30' x 50' x 10'..... | \$8,681 |
| 40' x 60' x 12'..... | \$11,999 |
| 50' x 75' x 14..... | \$17,888 |
| 60' x 100' x 12'..... | \$23,995 |
| 100' x 150' x 14'..... | \$56,999 |

Arena Special
(roof & frame)
100' x 100' x 14'...\$35,499

Based In Texas
(Local codes may affect prices)

RHINO
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

Toll Free 1-888-875-8233

TEXAS MEDICAL PLANS

Independent, Authorized Agent for



BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

1-888-888-6698



M&W BUILDERS
CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

BARN • SHOPS • GARAGES
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE

FREE ESTIMATES • 1-800-457-2088



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

GET RESULTS! ADVERTISE IN THE

MARKETPLACE

CALL MARTIN FOR MORE INFORMATION

(512) 486-6249

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



Bank C.D.'s Due?
CALL US NOW

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 C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the FDIC.
All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered
through Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC
300 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 973-4336



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 for a free estimate.

Call Toll Free 800-228-1265

www.atlanticservice.com

6525 Baker Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76118

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

Burn **SAFELY** with the
Stainless Steel



**Portable
Burn-Cage™**

Perfect For...

- Old Leaves and Branches
- Sensitive Financial Documents
- Burnable Household Waste

- **CLEANER MORE EFFICIENT FIRES.** Perforated lid and sidewalls maximize airflow and trap burning embers. High burn temperatures mean thorough incineration with less residue and ash.

- **LIGHTWEIGHT** and portable.
- **PEACE OF MIND.** It's the SAFE way to burn.



No more
**UNSAFE Rusty
Barrel!**

8047TX © 2013

SPECIAL OFFER for TXCP Readers:

SAVE \$70

Use phone # or URL below to save \$70 off list price!

800-505-9359

DRpower.com/TXCP

**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

Foundation Problems???

Call Us Today For a Free Estimate!

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

SLAB REPAIR

- ❖ DuraSteel Piers
- ❖ Pilings
- ❖ Mud Pumping
- ❖ Raising & Leveling
- ❖ Brick Repairs

PIER & BEAM

- ❖ Sills Replaced
- ❖ Joist Replaced
- ❖ Rotten Floors Replaced
- ❖ Raising & Leveling
- ❖ Termite Damage Repair



HOME SERVICES, INC.

Call: 870-798-3807 • Toll Free: 1-877-256-7900

HOME SERVICES, INC. SAVES YOU MONEY!

www.homeservicesarkansas.com

The Fastest, Easiest Way EVER to

HALT INVASIVE TREES

LIMITED-TIME OFFER
**1★YEAR
TRIAL**



The Patented

DR® TREE-CHOPPER™

is like a pipe cutter for trees!

Attach the Tree-Chopper™ to your ATV and drive into trees up to 4" thick. Circular discs slice through the trunk, while a rear trailing blade shears the stump flush to the ground.

- CUT UP TO 300 TREES PER HOUR
- ELIMINATE RED CEDAR, MESQUITE and other invasive trees.

36 MONTH FINANCING AVAILABLE*

* For details please call or visit online. Limited time offer.

Call for a FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL-FREE

877-201-9779

DRTreeChopper.com



80868X © 2013

#1 TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER IN THE USA!

2013 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

\$21,998.00

\$339

Per Month



MADE IN THE USA



0% interest available for 60 months

10% down and \$339.00 per month WAC

FOSTERS
FAMILY OF FARM STORES

**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



- 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



HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ON ALL HAND TOOLS!

FACTORY DIRECT TO YOU!

How do we sell high quality tools at the lowest prices? We cut out the middle man and buy direct from the factories who supply other major brands. It's just that simple! Come see for yourself and use this 25% Off Coupon on one of our 7,000 products*, plus pick up a Free 6 Piece Screwdriver Set, a \$4.99 value. We stock Automotive Tools, Power Tools, Air Tools and Compressors, Engines and Generators, Welders, Hand Tools, Tool Storage, Tarps and much more.

- 1 Year Low Price Guarantee
- No Hassle Return Policy
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Over 25 Million Satisfied Customers
- 430+ Stores Nationwide

NOBODY BEATS OUR QUALITY, SERVICE AND PRICE!

SUPER COUPON!



Item 47770 shown

FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE
PITTSBURGH

6 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET
ITEM 47770/61313
REG. PRICE \$4.99

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

25% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM!

LIMIT 1 - Save 25% on any one item purchased at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. *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 65182), 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

Item 46163 shown

15" x 13" ALL PURPOSE SHOP TOWELS
PACK OF 50
LOT NO. 46163/68442/69649



SAVE 43%
\$8.99
REG. PRICE \$15.99

LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

Item 239 shown

TORQUE WRENCHES
PITTSBURGH PRO
1/4" DRIVE
LOT NO. 2696/61277



SAVE 71%
\$9.99
REG. PRICE \$34.99

LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

Item 91214 shown

AUTO-DARKENING WELDING HELMET WITH BLUE FLAME DESIGN
LOT NO. 91214/61610



SAVE 50%
\$39.99
REG. PRICE \$79.99

LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

Item 93068 shown

WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALERT SYSTEM
LOT NO. 93068/69590
Bunker Hill Security



SAVE 56%
\$12.99
REG. PRICE \$29.99

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

LOT NO. 68050/60678

PITTSBURGH RAPID PUMP®
2 TON LOW PROFILE LONG REACH HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK



WEIGHS 102 LBS.
SAVE \$60
\$109.99
REG. PRICE \$169.99

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

US* GENERAL 580 LB. CAPACITY FOUR DRAWER TOOL CART

SAVE \$160
\$99.99
REG. PRICE \$259.99

Item 95659 shown



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 2.5 HP, 21 GALLON, 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR
LOT NO. 67847/69091/61454

SAVE \$70
\$149.99
REG. PRICE \$219.99

Item 67847 shown



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

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



SAVE 50%
\$9.99
REG. PRICE \$19.99

LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

2.4" COLOR LCD DIGITAL INSPECTION CAMERA
CENTECH
LOT NO. 67979



SAVE \$62
\$67.99
REG. PRICE \$129.99

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

1.5 HP ELECTRIC POLE SAW
CHICAGO ELECTRIC TOOL CO. OUTDOOR
LOT NO. 68862



SAVE \$30
\$69.99
REG. PRICE \$99.99

LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

MECHANIC'S GLOVES

Item 93640 shown

SAVE 64%
\$3.59
REG. PRICE \$9.99

YOUR CHOICE!

MEDIUM
LOT NO. 61235

LARGE
LOT NO. 93640/60447

X-LARGE
LOT NO. 93641/60448



LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED DRILL BIT SET
drillmaster
LOT NO. 5889

SAVE 60%
\$9.99
REG. PRICE \$24.99



LIMIT 7 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

9" x 6 FT. 2 PIECE STEEL LOADING RAMPS
HaulMaster
LOT NO. 44649/69591/69646

Item 44649 shown

SAVE 50%
\$39.99
REG. PRICE \$79.99

1000 LB. CAPACITY



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON!

3-IN-1 JUMP STARTER AND POWER SUPPLY
CENTECH
LOT NO. 38391/60657

Item 60657 shown

SAVE 36%
\$37.99
REG. PRICE \$59.99

900 PEAK AMPS



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. 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 2/1/14. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

Order at HarborFreight.com or 800-423-2567
We FedEx Most Orders in 24 Hours for \$6.99

STORE LOCATIONS

Dallas
Denton

El Paso West
Houston-Federal

Lufkin
Pearland

San Antonio
South Arlington

William Travis' Ring

The poignant story of a small cat's-eye ring weaves together little-known threads in the fabric of Texas history. The hammered gold ring set with a banded agate, one of the few artifacts to survive the 1836 siege of the Alamo, was a gift to William Barret Travis from sweetheart Rebecca Cummings. More than a century after Travis' death, the ring was returned to the historic site. **BY MARTHA DEERING**

TRAVIS CAME TO TEXAS FROM ALABAMA in 1831 as a 22-year-old lawyer who, legend has it, was fleeing the law after killing a man he discovered trifling with his wife. He traveled alone, leaving his son and pregnant wife behind.

In Texas, Travis established a new life for himself. He was among the settlers of Stephen F. Austin's colony at San Felipe de Austin and opened a law practice in Anahuac, a port of entry along Galveston Bay where there were few attorneys and business was brisk.

While on a business trip, Travis stopped at an inn on Mill Creek owned by John Cummings and met Rebecca Cummings, John's sister. Repeated visits sparked a romance, but Travis, who had listed his marital status as single on Stephan F. Austin's records, had to tell Rebecca that he was still married to a woman in Alabama. It's unlikely that this was welcome news, but the two continued to keep company.

In 1835 Travis joined the Texian army as it prepared to battle Mexico for Texas independence, promising Cummings that as soon as his divorce was final they would marry. As a parting gesture of his affection, he gave her a brooch, and Cummings slid the cat's-eye ring from her finger and gave it to him. Travis threaded it on a piece of twine and wore it around his neck. He would never see Cummings again.

By late February 1836, Travis was in command at the Alamo, which was under siege by Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna's army. Knowing his death was imminent, wrote Betty Smith Meischen in her book "From Jamestown to Texas: A



History of Some Early Pioneers of Austin County" [iUniverse, 2002], Travis placed the string with the ring around the neck of 15-month-old Angelina Dickinson, one of the noncombatants who survived the siege. Every defender was killed.

When the battle ended, Santa Anna had Angelina's mother, Susanna, and her child brought before him. Legend says that the general was so taken by Angelina that he offered to take her to Mexico and raise her as his own child. Susanna refused. After the Texian victory at San Jacinto, Susanna and Angelina Dickinson settled in Houston.

It would be nice to think that after such a traumatic beginning, Angelina, the "babe of the Alamo" who inherited Travis' precious ring, went on to live a happy life. But this was not the case.

At 17, Angelina married a well-to-do farmer, reportedly handpicked by her mother. She bore three children, but the marriage ended in divorce, and Angelina

left home, abandoning the children. From there, her life continued a downward spiral. She married and divorced again in New Orleans and lived for a time in Galveston with a man named Jim Britton, to whom she gave Travis' ring.

Galveston newspapers reported in 1869 that Angelina, who by then called herself Emma Britton, "embraced the life of a courtesan (sic)." She died at age 37.

The ring was passed down through Britton family members and friends, ending up in the possession of Douglas McGregor, a Houston attorney. McGregor donated the relic to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in April 1955. More than 100 years after Travis placed his cat's-eye ring around Angelina's neck, it was returned to the Alamo, where it is now on display.

Martha Deeringer is a frequent contributor.

On TexasCoopPower.com

- **Learn more:** Follow the journey of the ring.
- **Photo:** See a picture of the ring.

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



STUMP REMOVAL FAST & EASY!

**ELIMINATE Landscape
Eyesores with a
DR® STUMP GRINDER!**

- **EXPAND** lawn areas.
- **OPEN UP** fields and meadows.
- **REMOVE** mowing hazards.

LIMITED-TIME OFFER
1*YEAR TRIAL

The DR® STUMP GRINDER uses carbide-tipped cutting teeth that take over 360 "bites" per second, pulverizing stumps into a pile of wood chips. Quickly and easily, you can grind any size tree stump below ground level. Gone forever!



36 MONTH FINANCING AVAILABLE*

* For details please call or visit online. Limited time offer.

Call for a FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL-FREE

877-201-9779
DRstumpgrinder.com



87153X © 2013

MY PROTEIN
CAN STEAL YOUR
PROTEIN'S
LUNCH MONEY.



{ Peanuts have more energy-boosting protein than any nut. }

PEANUTS:
Energy
for the
good Life



**Texas Peanut
Producers Board™**

TexasPeanutBoard.com

Chili Our Way

Raise your hand if you make the best chili in Texas.

We thought so. You're not alone, you know. A Google search for "best Texas chili" gets about 322,000 results, including recipes from San Francisco and by Weight Watchers. Bragging rights stretch a long way.

Our recipes this month aren't likely to settle any arguments, and we sure don't want to start any. Beans or no beans? It's your call. Spicy or mild? It can be good either way.

But chili is the official state dish of Texas, as proclaimed by the Legislature in 1977. So for this month's contest, we're staying right here in co-op country with our recipes.

Our feature recipe comes from the Texas Beef Council at txbeef.org.

SANDRA FORSTON

Texas-Style Chili

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 medium onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 pounds sirloin steak, cut into half-inch cubes
- 1 can (28 ounces) tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 2 ½ teaspoons salt
- 6 whole cloves
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste

- In a Dutch oven, heat vegetable oil over medium-high

heat. Add onions and garlic and sauté until onions are tender, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

- Add cubed beef and cook until no longer pink.
- Add tomatoes, tomato paste, chiles, chili powder, cumin, salt, cloves and cayenne.
- Reduce heat to low. Simmer covered for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 1 ¼ cups. Per serving: 515 calories, 44.7 g protein, 23.9 g fat, 24.1 g carbohydrates, 6.3 g dietary fiber, 1,514 mg sodium, 11.5 g sugars, 139 mg cholesterol

Tips:

- Make chili a day or two ahead of time.
- Chili freezes well. Double the recipe and save the extra for a quick meal.
- Cook chili in a Dutch oven if you have one. The flavor difference is remarkable.
- Serving chili to a crowd can make party planning easy. Set up a serve-yourself buffet for your guests.



Texas-Style Chili

JENNY SPARKS | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Our winning recipe in the Chili Cook-Off contest this month features venison chili—no surprise in my book. For cooks with hunters in the family, venison is a standard at the supper table. Venison can be purchased in the freezer section of some grocery stores or ordered online.




Venison Chili

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 chipotle peppers, chopped
- 2 pounds ground venison
- 2 teaspoons seasoned salt
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 1 cup beer
- 1 serving hot chocolate mix
- 1½ teaspoons adobo sauce (from chipotle peppers)
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chiles
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons oregano

- Heat oil in a heavy pot over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic and chipotle peppers; cook until onion is translucent.
- Add the venison and cook until done.
- Add seasoned salt, chili powder, red and black pepper, beer, chocolate mix, adobo sauce, Worcestershire, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, cumin and oregano and allow to simmer for about an hour.
- Add beer or water if mixture gets too thick.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 1¼ cups. Per serving: 301 calories, 37.1 g protein, 8.6 g fat, 15 g carbohydrates, 3 g dietary fiber, 1,616 mg sodium, 6.2 g sugars, 128 mg cholesterol

 **Cook's Tip:** Control the spiciness by adjusting the amount of red pepper and/or chipotle peppers to taste.



\$100 Recipe Contest

February's recipe contest topic is **Treats for Your Sweet**. Send your favorite Valentine's Day sweet treats and share your love of cooking with our readers. The deadline is October 10.



SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS PEANUT PRODUCERS BOARD.

There are three ways to enter: **ONLINE** at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; **MAIL** to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; **FAX** to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

Mama's Chili

- 2 pounds ground chuck
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 to 2 cans beef broth
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 1 can (15 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 1 to 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 to 2 tablespoons paprika
- Salt to taste
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 to 2 tablespoons cumin
- ¼ teaspoon oregano
- Pinch cayenne pepper

- Brown the ground chuck and onion in a cast-iron skillet or a Dutch oven. Add beef broth, tomato paste and crushed tomatoes.
- Simmer on medium heat for about 15 minutes. Stir in garlic powder, paprika, salt, chili powder, cumin, oregano and cayenne and simmer for at least 2 hours.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 1¼ cups. Per serving: 485 calories, 32 g protein, 27.4 g fat, 19.4 g carbohydrates, 5.6 g dietary fiber, 931 mg sodium, 5.2 g sugars, 107 mg cholesterol

DOREEN FINK | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC



Cook's Tip: Adjust thickness to your preference by adding or reducing broth.

White Chicken Chili

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons dried or chopped fresh cilantro, optional
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 5 cans (14½ ounces each) white beans, drained, divided
- 1 can (14½ ounces) chicken broth
- 1 can (4 ounces) green chiles
- ½ cup chopped pickled jalapeños, or more to taste
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese



White Chicken Chili

CAKE: JOEPHOTOSTUDIO | BIGSTOCK.COM. WHITE CHILI: STEPHANIEFREY | BIGSTOCK.COM

- In a Dutch oven or stewpot, sauté chicken, onion, garlic, cumin, salt and pepper and, if using, cilantro, in olive oil for 45 minutes.
- Mash two cans of the beans and add to the chicken mixture, along with the three other cans of beans. Add chicken broth, green chiles, jalapeños and parsley and simmer about 4 hours.
- Just before serving, add cheese and stir until melted.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 2 cups. Per serving: 818 calories, 84.1 g protein, 12.8 g fat, 85.5 g carbohydrates, 19.3 g dietary fiber, 575 mg sodium, 2.9 g sugars, 167 mg cholesterol

JUDY GUSTAFERRO | PEDERNALES EC

This Ain't Your Mama's Chili

- 2 pounds ground chuck
- 2 pounds hot sausage
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 tablespoon Hot Shot pepper blend (or substitute 1½ teaspoons red pepper and 1½ teaspoons black pepper)
- 2 large cans (46 ounces each) tomato juice
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) diced tomatoes with hot chiles
- 2 tablespoons ground chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 1 teaspoon chopped garlic
- 1½ tablespoons cumin
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ¼ cup masa
- 2 to 3 habanero peppers
- 1 small diced onion

- Brown meat. Add garlic salt, garlic powder, crushed red pepper and Hot Shot pepper. Drain and set aside.
- In a large pot, combine tomato juice and tomatoes with chiles. Add chili powder, salt, garlic, cumin, cayenne, paprika and masa. Purée habaneros and add to pot along with diced onion.
- Add meat mixture and simmer on medium heat for at least 30 minutes.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 1¼ cups. Per serving: 490 calories, 27.3 g protein, 31.7 g fat, 15.9 g carbohydrates, 2.2 g dietary fiber, 1,206 mg sodium, 8.4 g sugars, 108 mg cholesterol


CARLA AVENSON | COSERV ELECTRIC

On TexasCoopPower.com

- **Sound the alarm!** Find another chili recipe online—Firefighter First-Place Chili.
- **Hot enough for ya?** Tell us what you think about our chili recipes. Just click on the Post Your Comment link.
- **What do you feel like eating?** We have hundreds of recipes on our website. Plan your next meal.


Help for Today...Hope for Tomorrow®

Hope for the Cure
BELIEVE IN MIRACLES™ RING



EXCLUSIVELY FROM
THE
Concorde
COLLECTION

www.concordecollection.com

 NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION, INC.®

*Pink Topaz...White Topaz...14K Rose Gold...
solid Sterling Silver. The perfect Christmas gift
for yourself...or someone special. Just \$55*

A symbol of belief and hope for the cure for breast cancer blooms in this perfect blossom, unfolding its petals, glistening with dewdrops in the warmth of the sun. This tribute to the courage of those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer is artfully sculpted in Sterling Silver by award-winning designer Marjorie Andes. It is lavishly coated with 14K Rose Gold, set with sparkling Pink and White Topaz, and enhanced with braided leaf detail. A solid Silver band represents unity with women around the world. A symbolic inspiration of belief in miracles and the celebration of life.

Officially authorized by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®, 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.

ORDER FORM

Please mail within 30 days.

YES, I wish to order the HOPE FOR THE CURE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES™ RING. I need send no payment now. I will be billed \$55* 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


THE
CONCORDE
COLLECTION
BMCARDI

©2013 TCC



FREE SHIPPING
For a Limited Time

LIMITED-TIME OFFER
1★YEAR TRIAL

DR® LEAF and LAWN VACUUM

Leaves Nothing in its Path Except the Competition.

Put an end to fall cleanup hassle!

UNSTOPPABLE POWER Collect & shred acres of leaves, pine cones, pine needles, grass clippings.

HUGE CAPACITY Exclusive shredding action reduces debris, for more vacuuming and less unloading.

BUILT TO LAST Beefy steel frame, large hoses, hard shell collector, commercial engine options.

36 MONTH FINANCING AVAILABLE*

* For details please call or visit online. Limited time offer.

Call for a FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL-FREE
877-201-9779
DRleafvac.com



81152X © 2013



BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS



*Family owned,
Texas-built*

*Lifetime guarantee
against leaks*

*Great for circulation,
arthritis, stiff joints
and relaxation*

Visit our Showroom
4053 Acton Hwy, Granbury

Mention this ad for a **FREE LED Lighting System or Inline Heater Upgrade** with purchase.



Granbury Chamber of Commerce Member

888-713-8842 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

Sign up for our monthly E-Newsletter

Get links to our best content delivered to your inbox each month! Feature stories, recipe and photo contest winners, monthly giveaways—get it all in the TCP e-newsletter!



Sign up today at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.com

Surprisingly affordable.




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

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

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

800.756.2506 unitedbilt.net



United-Bilt Homes
Homemade just for you®

* With approved credit for qualified land owners.



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



▲ Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, Galveston—**Shelly Brown**, Bowie-Cass EC

Focus on Texas

Texas Landmarks

From scraping the sky in Galveston to remembering the Alamo, your photos take us on colorful road trips that can only be experienced in the Lone Star State.

ASHLEY CLARY-CARPENTER

On TexasCoopPower.com

Next up on our tour? See more photos for yourself.



▲ Pontotoc ruins, Pontotoc—**Lloyd Fields**, Bluebonnet EC

◀ Old University Building, Nacogdoches—**Tracy Pinkston**, Deep East Texas EC

The Lighthouse, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon—**Scott Everett**, Wood County EC ▼



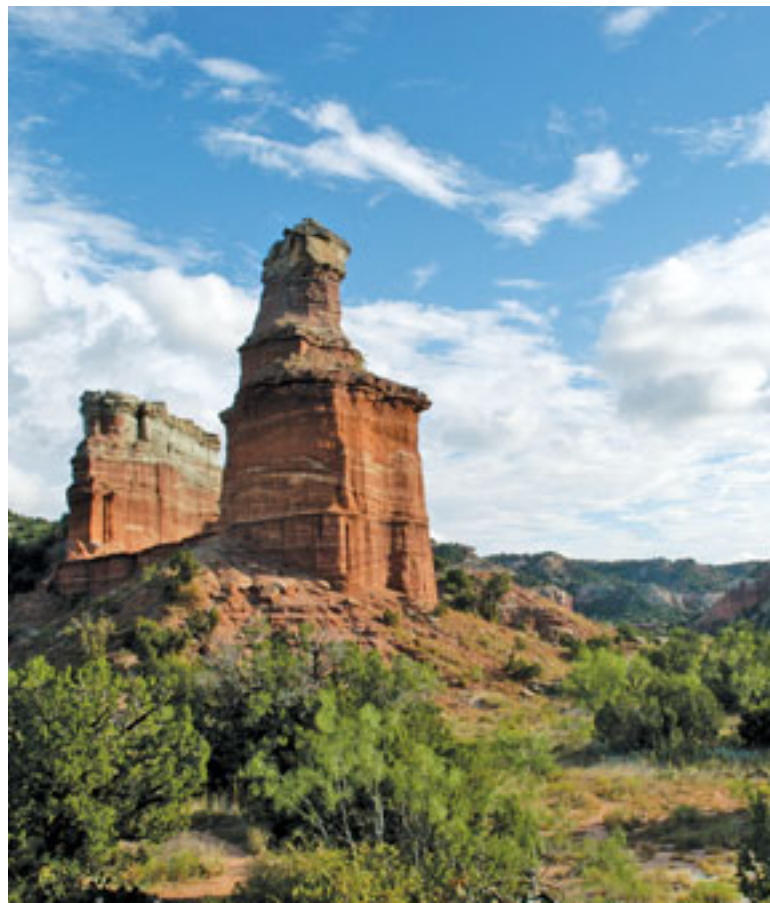
▲ 'The Spirit of Sacrifice,' the Alamo Cenotaph, San Antonio—**Michael Oldham**, Mid-South Synergy

Upcoming Contests

December Issue: Homemade *Deadline: October 10*

January: Looking Up **February: Looking Down**

All entries must include your name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo. Photos must be taken in Texas. **ONLINE:** Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Scarecrow Festival

Chappell Hill [October 12-13]
1-888-273-6426, chappellhillmuseum.org

Here's something to crow about: Make your way to this festival and enjoy more than 250 exhibitors, food, live entertainment and a children's corner that includes pony rides and a petting zoo.



SCARECROW: ALEXANDRE ZVEIGER | BIGSTOCK.COM. TERRIER: ERIC ISSELEE | BIGSTOCK.COM

05

Coleman Fiesta de la Paloma, (325) 625-2163, colemantexas.org

Gonzales Come & Take It, (210) 288-5264, thepioneervillage.com

Huntsville Fair on the Square, (936) 295-8113, chamber.huntsville.tx.us

06

Garden City St. Lawrence Fall Festival, (432) 397-2268

10

Conroe Lobsterfest, (936) 756-6644, conroe.org

11

Mineola [11-12] **Bigfoot Meets NatureFest**, (903) 569-6983, mineola.com

Paris [11-12] **Paris Texas Antique Fair**, (903) 249-4211, paristexasantiquefair.com

Fredericksburg [11-13] **Texas Mesquite Arts Festival**, (830) 997-8515, texasmesquiteartfestivals.com



October 19
Little Elm
WoofStock Festival

11

Smithville [11-13] **Chilirado**, (512) 360-3585, chilirado.com

12

Anderson Texian Day, (936) 878-2214, birthplaceoftexas.com

Burleson Founders Day, (817) 343-2589, burlesontx.com

Denison Eisenhower Birthday Celebration, (903) 465-8908, visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com

WILLKOMMEN ZU Fredericksburg, Texas

Oct. 4-6



Oktoberfest

Prosit! 33 Years of Texas Gemütlichkeit... Oompah at its Best! Oktubafest, Chicken Dance on Main, sing-a-longs, dance contest, local art, lots of food and drink, fun kid's area & more! OktoberfestinFbg.com



Oct. 26

Food & Wine Fest

Celebrate Texas Wine & Food downtown Fredericksburg! Three Special Events plus our great FEST- Guest Chefs at Cooking School, 29 Wineries, 40 Specialty Booths, Lively Music... FbgFoodandWineFest.com

Call 830-997-8515

HELPING YOU FINANCE YOUR PLACE IN THE COUNTRY

AND RETURNING
\$7 Million
IN PATRONGE DIVIDENDS THIS YEAR

WE ARE YOUR CREDIT SOURCE FOR:

- PURCHASING REAL ESTATE
- PURCHASING RECREATIONAL PROPERTY
- BUYING, REFINANCING OR BUILDING A COUNTRY HOME
- FARM OR RANCH OPERATING EXPENSES
- PURCHASING EQUIPMENT
- FINANCING FOR AGRIBUSINESS



Part of the Farm Credit System

LoneStarAgCredit.com | 800.530.1252

*Building Lifetime Relationships
Through Financial Solutions*

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

12

Mountain Home VFD Fundraising Dinner,
(830) 866-3788, mountainhomevfd.org

18

Farmers Branch [18-19] Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival and Chili Cook-Off,
(972) 919-2620, bloominbluegrass.com

19

Blanco True Grit Courthouse Gala,
(830) 833-2211, historicblanco.org

Little Elm WoofStock Festival,
(940) 595-8148, woofstockcamp.org

Marietta Fall Fest, (903) 835-5596

19

Robstown [19-20] Cottonfest,
(361) 387-9000, rmbfairgrounds.com

24

Raymondville [24-26] Wild in Willacy Nature and Heritage Festival,
(956) 689-1864, wildinwillacy.com

26

Fredericksburg Dogtoberfest,
(830) 990-9085, hillcountryspca.com

26

Parker Parkerfest, (972) 442-6811,
parkertexas.us

26

Wills Point BOO on the Bricks,
(903) 873-3111

31

La Grange Trick or Treat on the Square,
(979) 968-3017



October 24-26
Raymondville
Wild in Willacy Nature and Heritage Festival



November 2
Kyle
Día de los Muertos
Mariachi Extravaganza

November

01

Brenham [1-3] Fall Festival of Roses,
1-888-273-6426, wearerose.com

02

Kyle Día de los Muertos Mariachi Extravaganza, (512) 293-0966,
haysmariachi.com

Neches Sugar Cane Squeeze, (903) 721-9111

Submit Your Event!

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

OWL: ERIC ISSELEE | BIGSTOCK.COM. SKULL: ALISA FOYTIK | BIGSTOCK.COM

The Only Folk Life Festival in East Texas

25th Annual

HERITAGE SYRUP FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 9, 2013

HENDERSON, TEXAS

SUGAR CANE SYRUP MAKING • ANTIQUE CARS AND TRACTORS
FOLK ART DEMONSTRATIONS • MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
SHOPPING VENDORS AND MUCH MORE

WWW.VISITHENDERSONTX.COM
1-866-650-5529

THERE'S A BUNCH OF NUTS HERE!

WORLD'S LARGEST PECAN

LOL!

FIND YOUR NUTTY!

PECAN FEST HERITAGE DAYS
OCT 25-27

VISITSEGUIN.COM
800-580-7322

SEGUIN^{TX}
PECAN CAPITAL OF TEXAS

Former tourist mecca still draws those eager to sip or soak in its medicinal waters

BY KEVIN HARGIS



Martin Alexander, in the green shirt, and Zach Elder sit at the bar at the Famous Mineral Water Pavilion in Mineral Wells talking to Zach's parents, Carol and Scott Elder, owners of Famous Mineral Water Company and bottlers of Crazy Water. The 1904 building is the last of several mineral water pavilions built in Mineral Wells. The annual Crazy Water Festival, which features live music, antique cars and Crazy Beer brewed with Crazy Water, is October 11-12.

WATER PLAYS A STARRING ROLE IN Mineral Wells' history—and its present, as well.

Visitors to the small city about 50 miles west of Fort Worth can view tantalizing glimpses of its storied past as one of the country's premier spa resorts and explore the area's distant past at the bottom of an ancient sea.

A stroll around downtown gives one a sense of the prosperity that sprang from the earth around the turn of the 20th century. A mineral-rich aquifer tapped by a well driller in the 1880s spurred the establishment of dozens of businesses that catered to thousands of tourists who arrived to drink or bathe in the water, which gained the reputation for curing ailments both physical and mental.

Remnants of that water boom—downtown streets lined with brick buildings

that today house a few antique shops and a collection of Victorian-era homes—remain. Looming over them all is the abandoned but still impressive **BAKER HOTEL**, a 450-room, 14-story edifice that opened in 1929 and closed in the 1970s. Gazing at the crumbling structure, it's easy to imagine the days when the once-grand hotel hosted political conventions and Hollywood stars.

Just blocks from the hotel is the only remaining commercial source of the town's mineral water, the **FAMOUS MINERAL WATER COMPANY**. The company, founded in 1904, ships its **CRAZY WATER** to several states. It also has recently begun offering visitors the chance to soak. For \$28, you get a bottle of their mineral water in one of four formulations to sip as you settle into a deep bathtub in a quiet room and relax in a warm bath.

Water helped form another city attraction, with a history going back 300 million years. At the **MINERAL WELLS FOSSIL PARK**, visitors can pick through sand and rocks at a former city quarry to find the remains of prehistoric creatures that lived there when that area of Texas was covered by a shallow sea.

In about an hour's worth of casual hunting, I collected a pocketful of interesting specimens, including mollusk shells and bits of crinoid, a type of seabed-dwelling animal. There is no charge to look for or to take home fossils for personal use, but commercial collecting is forbidden. To get to the park, follow the partially paved Indian Creek Road, just west of town off U.S. 180. Take plenty of water. If I went again, I'd bring a garden rake for easier sifting.

Water plays a big role in a more colorful city attraction, this one about 3 miles east of town off U.S. 180. The **CLARK GARDENS BOTANICAL PARK** is a lush oasis in the middle of mesquite-dotted ranchland. Its 35 acres of carefully tended gardens, which began as the private garden of founders Max and Billie Clark, include hundreds of species of trees and plants in a variety of settings. Lakes, fountains, pavilions and statuary invite visitors to linger. One of my favorite features was an extensive model train layout that incorporated scenery and structures made of natural materials.

After all that traipsing, a rest was in order. The **SILK STOCKING ROW** bed-and-breakfast, housed in a turn-of-the-century mansion a couple of blocks from the Famous Mineral Water Company, provided a comfortable and peaceful respite. Hosts Wilene and Chuck Manis offer five themed rooms and a hearty breakfast to start the day.

Whether it's history, natural beauty or a peaceful day off, Mineral Wells lets you soak it all in.

Kevin Hargis is a staff copy editor.

On TexasCoopPower.com

• **Sidebar:** Some interesting notes about the Baker Hotel and how Crazy Water got its name.

• Comfort-Fit
Removable Insole

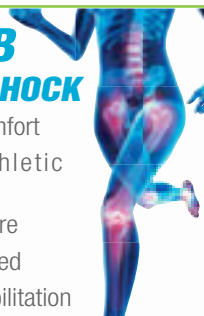
• Smart Memory
Master Shock Absorber
Adjusts to Your Weight

X-ray view simulated

Twin Stabilizers

ABSORB HARMFUL SHOCK

- Relieve discomfort
- Increase athletic performance
- Improve posture
- Feel rejuvenated
- Ideal for rehabilitation



The All New NEXTA

TB9001MBU
Men's Blue

IMAGINE LIFE PAIN FREE

ABSORB THE HARMFUL SHOCK THAT MAY CAUSE PAIN
IN YOUR FEET, KNEES, BACK OR JOINTS

Experience relief from standing on hard surfaces with a shoe that makes every step pillow-soft. As you age, the cartilage protecting your joints becomes dehydrated, thinner and less resilient. Movements you've done all your life—even those as simple as walking or going up and down stairs—can tear or bruise this vulnerable tissue leaving you suffering with sore joints.

If you dream of a healthier more active you, free from the stress and discomfort caused by leg pain, knee pain, or joint pain, then you're ready for Gravity Defyer. It is the wellness footwear that will not only help today, but protect your body for a better tomorrow.

Walk more, be more active and stay on your feet longer with the ultimate in comfort and protection!

Now, for a limited time only, try Gravity Defyer shoes **Free for 30 Days**.^{*} If you're not completely satisfied, return them and pay nothing—but we know you'll love them. And as a part of this special limited time offer you will save an additional \$30 off your purchase. Call or visit our website today. This offer will not last!

Dr. Arnold Ross, DPM

"I recommend Gravity Defyer shoes to my patients and friends... I wear them myself!"



Associate Clinical Professor: Western University College
of Podiatric Medicine, Private Practice: West Los Angeles
Board Certified, ABPOPPM

VS2 VersoShock™ Sole Exclusive Shock Absorbing System



ABSORBS SHOCK
ON HEEL STRIKE

PROPELS YOU
FORWARD

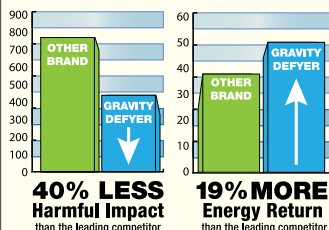
Our all-new VS2 VersoShock™ trampoline sole will help guard your joints against harmful shock,



scan to learn more

reducing peak forces so your body can adjust more naturally. Feel rejuvenated as the hidden

shock absorbers propel you forward: restoring energy!



NEXTA ~~\$129.95~~ \$99.95



MEN Sizes 7 - 15

A. TB9001MBS

B. TB9001MWBB



WOMEN Sizes 5 - 11

C. TB9001FBS

D. TB9001FWP

SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Try them **Free for 30 Days** and **SAVE \$30***

Don't miss this chance to change your life forever!

www.gravitydefyer.com/MQ8KDN2

or call (800) 429-0039

Coupon Code: **MQ8KDN2**



A+

FREE RETURNS • FREE EXCHANGES

MEN

MARSEILLE II
TB841L
Size 7.5-15
\$145



WOMEN

DIANE
TB7006FG
Size 6-11
\$130



JENDA
TB747FL
Size 5-11
\$139



*Minimum order \$120.00 available online and at participating retailers. Excludes outbound S/H. Deferred billing for 30 days from date shipped and is an optional selection during checkout. Credit card authorization required. See website for details.

Over 300 Styles for Men and Women Available Online

Want a country view?





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.

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



Follow us on  

PART OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

CapitalFarmCredit.com

877.944.5500

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