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



ERWIN E. SMITH (1886-1967) ERWIN E. SMITH FEEDING HORSE NEAR BONHAM, TEXAS, CELEBRATORY PLATE NEGATIVE, 1909 POSSIBLY AT 135 ANTON GARTNER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS. REQUEST OF MARY ALICE PETTIS, ERWIN E. SMITH FOUNDATION



**Erwin Smith lived the cowboy lifestyle as he photographed ranch life between 1905 and 1912.**

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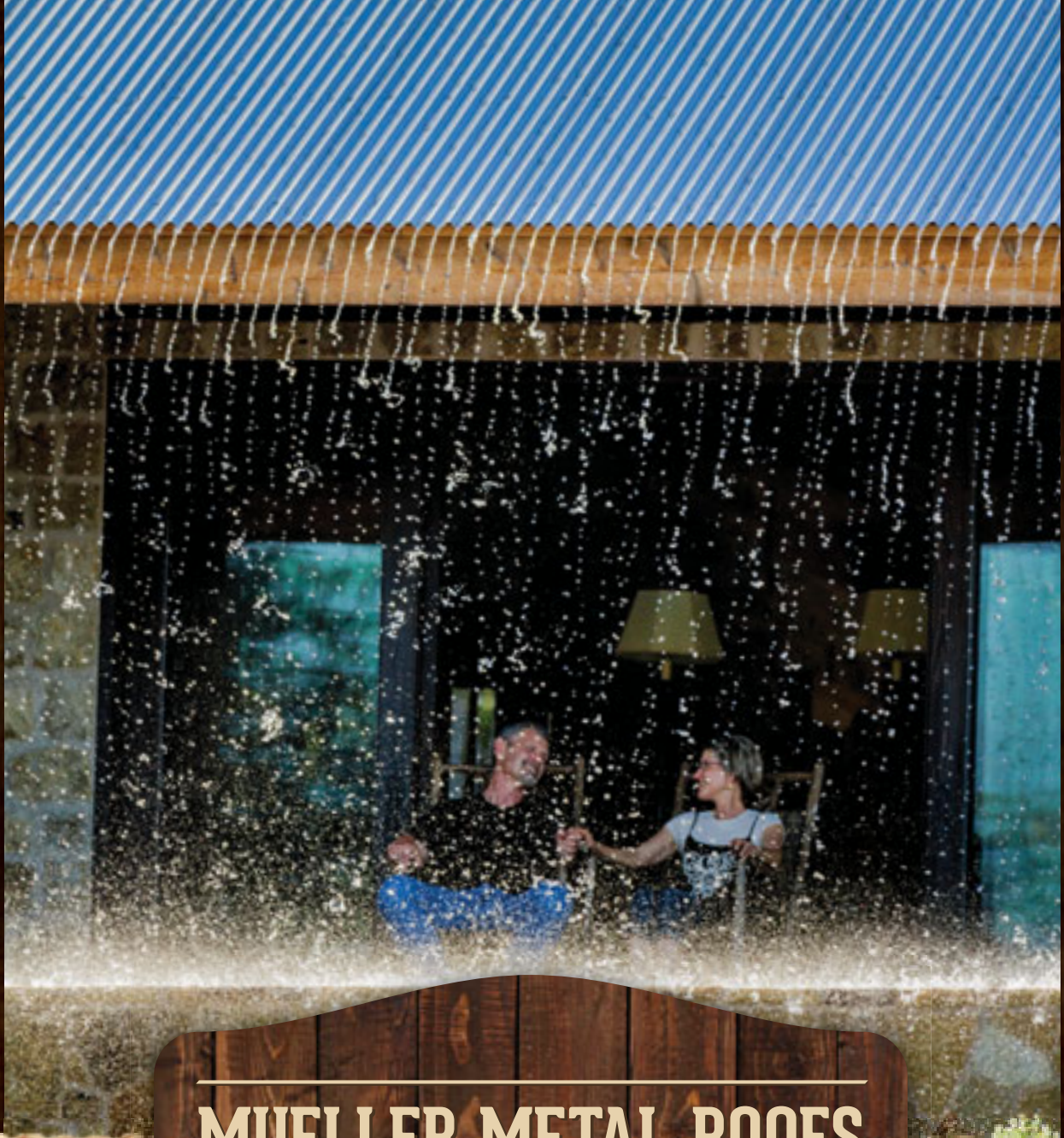


SHOES: © FLYNT | DREAMSTIME.COM

**ON THE COVER** *An adult brown pelican at the Gulf Coast* Photo © Larry Ditto

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## The Mystery of History

Since the mid-1700s, a lot of holes have been dug in the Llano region. It should not be surprising that artifacts from as far back as the 18th century can be found at these prospect sites. For more than 15 years now, James Stotts has been promoting some of these holes on Packsaddle Mountain as being the fabled Los Almagres mine. A search of the Internet produces many hits regarding this notion, and Stotts has published a book on the subject. The article in the September 2014 issue of Texas Co-op Power suggests there is evidence indicating those holes on Packsaddle Mountain are indeed Los Almagres.

The historical facts do not support this claim. For my translation of Bernardo de Miranda's report on his examination of Los Almagres, published in the October 1970, issue of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, I used a photocopy of the original report. Therefore, I was able to read what Miranda had to say in his own handwriting. His guides led him to a deposit of red ochre gossan (hence the name almagre) a short distance north of an arroyo known then as San Miguel (now easily identified as Honey Creek). Miranda followed the course of the stream down to where it joins the Llano River. He also described a unique topographic feature upstream from Los Almagres that matches Honey Creek Cove.

For holes on Packsaddle Mountain to be identified as Los Almagres, they would have to be a short distance north of a stream that flows into the Llano River. The closest stream south of Packsaddle Mountain is Sandy Creek, some five miles south of Stotts' prospect pits.

## Parks Create Memories

**Martin Dies Jr. State Park ["East Texas Autumn," September 2014] holds a special place in my heart, as three generations of my family used to camp outside the park for a long**

**weekend every summer. (I turned 10 the year the park was built, but my family camped in the area for years before that.)**

**I am planning a trip there this fall and can't wait to see how beautiful it is during that time. Thanks again for the article and the great photo.**

PAM FARMER | OLNEY | FORT BELKNAP EC



Furthermore, Sandy Creek empties into the Colorado River, not the Llano.

James Stotts is one of those dreamers called Coronado's children by J. Frank Dobie, renowned folklorist, in his book with that title.

ROD PATTEN | SUNRISE BEACH  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

## The (Small-Town) Presses Are NOT Stopping

"No Stopping the Presses" [September 2014] was such a wonderful story. When you have been a resident of Rockdale (and three other small towns since), The Rockdale Reporter becomes the yardstick by which all other small-town newspapers are measured, and I have never found its equal.

I knew three generations of the Cooke family. I had the pleasure of teaching all four of Bill and Peggy Cooke's children, and Mike Brown is a lifelong close friend. Their investment in their community is total, and their journalism is as good as it gets. The entire family is also very

musically gifted, being some of the best drummers I have ever taught or performed with.

JIM PERRY | DUBLIN  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

I enjoyed reading about my friends the Cookes, who still operate The Rockdale Reporter. It was a good story that will hopefully help to dispel the myth that newspapers are dying.

Coverage such as that given by writer Camille Wheeler and Texas Co-op Power certainly help tell the story that Texas' community newspapers are alive and well.

CHRIS BARBEE | EL CAMPO  
WHARTON COUNTY EC

"No Stopping the Presses" was right on and should encourage all those shoulders-to-the-wheel newspaper folks in smaller markets. They are my friends, too, since many of them carry my labor-of-love column I turn out each week called "The Idle American."

DON NEWBURY | BURLERSON

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## HAPPENINGS

### Salute to Nine Flags

So you know that six flags have flown over Texas. Did you realize, however, that nine flags have flown over Nacogdoches? The “oldest town in Texas,” home of three attempts to establish a Republic of Texas, has rested beneath the French, Spanish, Magee-Gutiérrez, Dr. James Long, Mexican, Fredonia Rebellion, Lone Star, Confederate Stars and Bars, and the United States flags. That rich heritage is celebrated annually at the Nine Flags Christmas Festival, this year kicking off November 21 and running through December 13. Enjoy shopping, a wassail fest, 5K, lighted parade, fireworks and historic home tour. Registration and prices vary for each event.

**INFO:** [nineflags.visitnacogdoches.org](http://nineflags.visitnacogdoches.org), 1-888-653-3788

Find more happenings all across the state at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

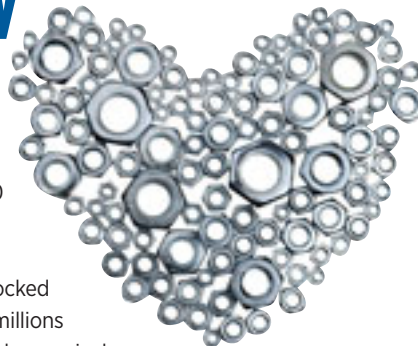
## ALMANAC

### Pioneering Heart Surgery

Houston surgeon Michael DeBakey and his team performed the world’s first successful coronary bypass graft surgery on November 23, 1964. Fifty years later, bypass surgery is the most common type of heart surgery, with more than 230,000 people undergoing the procedure in the United States each year, according to the Texas Heart Institute.

DeBakey’s pioneering surgical procedures in bypassing blocked arteries in the neck, legs and heart have been performed on millions of patients around the world. By the time he stopped his regular surgical schedule, when he was in his 80s, he had performed more than 60,000 operations.

When he died in 2008 at the age of 99, The New York Times headline described DeBakey as a “rebuilder of hearts.”



### Don’t Go Out on a Limb

If you plant a tree to celebrate Arbor Day, which in Texas is the first Friday in November, do two things before you dig a hole: Look up and call out.

If there are power lines overhead, choose another spot to plant your sapling. Even trees that don’t grow tall can be in the way if they are in a utility easement. Tall-growing trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning, according to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). A mature height of less than 25 feet is recommended if planting nearer to lines.



The call you should make is to 811, a free utility locator service. If you don’t call, and you and accidentally hit an underground utility line, not only could you be liable for any damage that ensues, you could be hurt or even killed.

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates according to their best tree-planting times.



# Recharging Your Body and Your Ride



Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa partnered in June to install two electric vehicle-charging stations at the Bastrop County resort hotel. The co-op's service area includes major highways connecting Austin, San Antonio and Houston.

"Hyatt Regency Lost Pines is an ideal partner for this project and a perfect, logical place for us to install the first electric vehicle charging stations in our service area," says Mark Rose, Bluebonnet's general manager. "It's one of the best resort hotels in the country and a prime destination for conferences, company retreats and meetings, and family vacations."

The charging stations have universal connectors compatible with electric cars made by major manufacturers, including Nissan, Chevrolet, Toyota, Tesla and BMW. Each charging station can accommodate two cars at a time.



## Light Bulb Johnson Shined

When President Lyndon B. Johnson moved into the White House, he was bothered by the size of the electric bill, according to U.S. News & World Report. So he took to turning off lights in unused rooms, which earned him the nickname Light Bulb Johnson.

Barry Goldwater, LBJ's opponent in the 1964 presidential election, incorporated that nickname into his campaign, producing pins that said, "Turn Out Light Bulb Johnson."

On Election Day 50 years ago, however, it was lights out for Goldwater. LBJ collected 61.1 percent of the popular vote, claiming one of the biggest landslide victories in presidential election history.



WHO KNEW?

## Gnaw News Is Bad News

More postal carriers suffered dog bites in Houston than in any other city last year. The U.S. Postal Service reported there were 63 dog attacks in Houston this year, putting it ahead of Los Angeles, which had 61. The Postal Service points out that San Antonio boasts one of the largest declines in dog bites, from 39 in 2011 to 22 in 2013.

"There's a myth we often hear at the Postal Service," says Linda DeCarlo, USPS manager of safety. "Don't worry, my dog won't bite."

CHARGING STATION: SARAH BEAL | BLUEBONNET EC. LBJ BUTTON: COUTESY LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, AUSTIN, TEXAS. MALLMAN: JOHN MARGESON



# western expos

**THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ERWIN E. SMITH**

**COWBOY PHOTOGRAPHER 1886-1947**

**BY CHARLES LOHRMANN**

**ONLY A COWBOY** can truly understand the cowboy way of life. That's the rule photographer Erwin Smith followed as he learned the rigors of ranching and documented the world of the working cowhand. Once he acquired cowboying skills, he relied on them to earn his access to the wranglers and range bosses and camp cooks who would become the subjects for his art. Even though he studied painting and sculpture in Chicago and Boston, Smith chose photography as the ideal medium to capture the old-time cowboy culture.

**O R RANCH 1909**

ERWIN E. SMITH (1886-1947) FIGHTING IT OUT GELATIN DRY PLATE NEGATIVE, 1909 ERWIN E. SMITH COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON DEPOSIT AT THE AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS. ©ERWIN E. SMITH FOUNDATION, LC56.046

*ure*







**FROM HIS EARLY YEARS** in Bonham, Erwin E. Smith observed that popular American films and literature created an inaccurate image of the American cowboy. The great trail rides were past, the roundups and chuck-wagon cooking and bronc-busting were very much present.

“Smith said he wanted to do with his photography what Charles Russell did with his painting: to maintain a sense of documentary realism by being truthful to the world with work created in an artistically pleasing way,” explains John Rohrbach, senior curator of photographs at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, where the definitive collection of Smith’s photographs now resides.



**SHOE BAR RANCH 1912**



**SPUR RANGE 1909**



**MATADOR RANCH 1908**

ERWIN E. SMITH FOUNDATION, PHOTOGRAPHER ERWIN E. SMITH, EATING A MID-MORNING SNACK OF CANNED TOMATOES, AN IMPORTANT ITEM IN THE EARLY DAYS OF COWBOYS' DIET, JOB RANCH, ARIZONA, GELATIN DRY PLATE NEGATIVE, 1909 LC.56.001 | ERWIN E. SMITH (1886-1947), TWO SHOE BAR COWBOYS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME "TALKING DOWN" A COW, SHOE BAR RANCH, TEXAS, INTERNE  
 NEGATIVE, 1912 LC.59.025 | ERWIN E. SMITH (1886-1947), COWBOYS AND THE US ARMY BAND OF MUSICIANS TO SOPE, OUT MOUNTAINS, SPUR RANGE, TEXAS, GELATIN DRY PLATE NEGATIVE, 1909 LC.56.085 | ERWIN E. SMITH (1886-1947), GEORGE PATULLO, WRITER AND COWBOY FROM BOSTON, RECEIVES A HAIRCUT FROM HARRY CAMPBELL, MATADOR COWBOY GELATIN DRY PLATE NEGATIVE,  
 1908 LC.56.228 | ALL PHOTOS FROM THE ERWIN E. SMITH COLLECTION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON DEPOSIT AT THE AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS.



# Out for the Count

*Annual Christmas Bird Count provides thrills for birders, valuable data for Audubon conservation efforts*    **By Melissa Gaskill**



The boardwalk and observation deck at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas nestles birders in coastal wetlands.

**T**he early-morning air held a slight chill as eight people gathered in an open area along the shore of the Colorado River near the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa on December 28, 2013. They peered through binoculars up into winter-bare trees, looking for a bluebird someone thought they had spotted. As he searched, Gus Cothran heard a soft voice say, “Is that a bald eagle?” Re-aiming his gaze, Cothran found himself looking at one of the majestic birds. It turned out to be half of a pair, the other sitting on a nearby nest.

“The eagles were definitely a surprise,” says Cothran, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Marian, had come to Lost Pines to participate in the 2013–14 Christmas Bird Count. Some 70,000 volunteers across the Northern Hemisphere counted species and individual birds in their respective specific areas, each for designated 24-hour periods between December 14, 2013, and January 5, 2014. The count, an annual event sponsored by the National Audubon Society, began in 1900 and ranks as the longest-running citizen science project in the world. Data collected by participants help Audubon identify species at risk and guide the organization’s public policy and conservation strategies.

Citizen science efforts such as this one are “foundational to conservation policy in the United States,” wrote David Yarnold, Audubon president and CEO, in the organization’s magazine in 2012. These programs influence allocation of state and federal conservation dollars, land-management decisions and wildlife policy.

Christmas Bird Count data in particular are also increasingly important in documenting changes in bird populations. The yearly counts have spotlighted a decline in the numbers of many common birds, including the northern bobwhite, and also helped document how conservation efforts brought back bald eagles and led to significant increases in some waterfowl populations.

Texas hosts dozens of Christmas Bird Count events each year, and thanks to the state’s geographic diversity and location along migration paths, participants routinely tally more species than just about anywhere else. Matagorda County, on the Gulf Coast between Houston and Corpus Christi, led the nation for the 2013–14 count with 228 species. Statewide, Texas events have totaled as many as 630 species.

### Lost Pines Count

The Cothrans had participated in five previous counts in Brazos County before heading to Bastrop for this one. “We just did a half day at Lost Pines but saw some excellent birds,” Gus Cothran says. “In addition to the eagles, we saw two or three ospreys, one of them carrying around a fish and then eating it in a tree. We must have seen at least 10 caracaras, and I’ve never seen that many.”

The day before the count, Lost Pines held workshops in which participants learned about types of feathers, bird sketching and how to create a bird-friendly backyard habitat. They also got tips on identifying birds that look alike, such as all those maddeningly similar sparrows or the oft-confused orange-crowned warbler and

ruby-crowned kinglet. Groups went to work at 6 a.m. the day of the count, although those in Birding 101 met at 10 a.m. for basic instruction before heading into the field.

### Matagorda County Count

The Nature Conservancy’s Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve takes in 7,063 acres of marsh and wetland that provide habitat for some 250 species of birds along with other wildlife. The preserve is part of the Matagorda County–Mad Island Marsh Preserve Bird Count.

“We started right at a minute after midnight and had our first bird within 10 minutes,” says Richard Kostecke, associate director of conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Texas. Although there’s always that hard-core group of people raring to go right at midnight, most participants come out around sunrise, he says. “The official count period is midnight to midnight, but we generally wrap up by midafternoon. Odds are you’ve found everything you’re likely to find by then.”

The day started off cold at Mad Island but turned mild and sunny with no wind—excellent birding conditions. The highlight was a family of whooping cranes. “During 21 years of holding counts, this was only the second time that we found whooping cranes during the event,” Kostecke says. “The past few years, they’ve just disappeared on the day of the count.” Other good finds on the preserve were a broad-winged hawk, Swainson’s hawk and wood stork.

Participants don’t need impressive birding credentials. “We welcome anyone and everyone,” Kostecke says. “We’ve had a range of people—families with young kids, college-age kids and older folks—with a variety of experience, from professional researchers to those who have barely paid attention to birds before. We pair new folks with people who know the area and the birds. Someone new to it can serve as an additional pair of eyes to spot things.



Spotting bald eagles during the annual bird count is a real treat.





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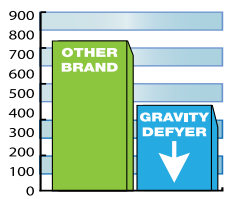


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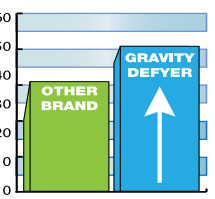
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The Mad Island Marsh Preserve provides habitat for some 250 species of birds.

### Texas Tallies

Final numbers from the three 2013 Christmas Bird Count locations featured in our story:

	Observers	Species	Total Birds
<b>Matagorda County</b>	129	228	1,700,226
<b>Lost Pines</b>	72	133	9,877
<b>Brownsville</b>	28	145	7,933

The whole spectacle of it and the activities and excitement can get people interested in birds and conservation.”

While official success is measured in how many species are seen, Kostecke says the real value of the count as a citizen science project is counting the number of individual birds year after year. “That provides information on population trends, what is happening, how certain species may be reacting to climate or habitat changes and so forth,” he explains. “The most useful scientific information is often from the more common birds, too, as we just don’t have enough information on rarities.”

The Matagorda event participants counted 1.7 million individual birds—1.4 million of them red-winged blackbirds or brown-headed cowbirds. Both types of blackbirds roost in dense marsh vegetation and forage on waste grain and seeds in the area’s agricultural fields, and so are easy to count when flying between the two. Experienced observers estimate the number of birds in a large flock by extrapolating from a known number, explains Brent Ortega, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist and bird count veteran. He counted birds with oysterman and ecotourism guide Ozzie Arnold and brother James, who drove their boat around the maze of intracoastal waterway and river channels toward East Matagorda Bay.

Blackbirds and cowbirds aside, the wetlands of Matagorda

County attract many species in large numbers, and they tend to be more visible in the open coastal landscape, which helped boost the count there.

That evening, organizers announced the final compilation of counts from around the county: Matagorda County’s number, at 228 species, was the highest in the U.S.

### Brownsville Count

The Rio Grande Valley has some of the most diverse habitat in Texas, home to 1,200 plant, 300 butterfly and about 700 vertebrate species, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This swath of South Texas is home to the World Birding Center, nine sites along a 120-mile stretch that as many as 500 bird species call home or pass through at some point during the year.

The Brownsville Christmas Bird Count was held December 18 at eight locations: Resaca de la Palma State Park, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, The Nature Conservancy’s Southmost Preserve, Sabal Palm Grove Audubon Center and Sanctuary, Fish Hatchery Road, Padre Island Boulevard, downtown Brownsville and the University of Texas at Brownsville campus.

Matagorda County plans to hold its count on Monday, December 15. The Lost Pines event will offer workshops and events on December 20 and plans to hold its count the next day.

“I absolutely think the count is a good way for beginners to get involved in birding,” says Lost Pines 2013–14 participant Cothran. “The beginners in our group were very happy to have experienced people along. They got a good look at a nice-looking pine warbler, bluebirds and roadrunners—and good photos as well.”

Melissa Gaskill is an Austin writer who specializes in nature topics.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com** View a slideshow with more photos.

**FACEBOOK** Share your pics from the Christmas Bird Count or other birding experiences with fellow readers.

Sign up for the Christmas Bird Count at [birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count](http://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count)



# HOLIDAY

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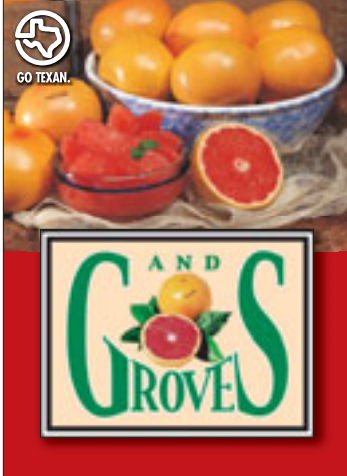
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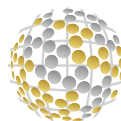
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# You're Not Alone in the Dark

**Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. So we understand how frustrating it can be when you're left in the dark.**

Power outages are never convenient for anyone. It takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it back up and running after an outage. Your co-op appreciates the patience and consideration that members show to line crews and other cooperative employees during these inconvenient times.

Your electric cooperative works hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there are methodical steps to take to ensure that power is restored to the majority of members as quickly—and safely—as possible.

After a major storm, line crews must identify which towers, poles and lines have incurred damage. Very rarely, but occasionally in the case of a major storm such as a hurricane or tornado, transmission towers can be damaged. If that is the case, tens of thousands of members could be affected. Repairing damage to transmission lines is the top priority when it comes to restoring power.

High-voltage transmission stations feed power to distribution substations. These substations serve thousands of members. If there is no damage done to transmission towers, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved at the substation level, that means thousands of people can get their power restored at once.

At times, the issue cannot be isolated to a distribution substa-

tion. If that is the case, crews inspect supply lines between the substations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored to the towns and homes served by those lines, as long as there is no damage to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to transformers located underground or connected to poles outside of homes and other buildings. Our line crews identify which damaged lines to work on first, based on which lines will restore power to the greatest number of members.

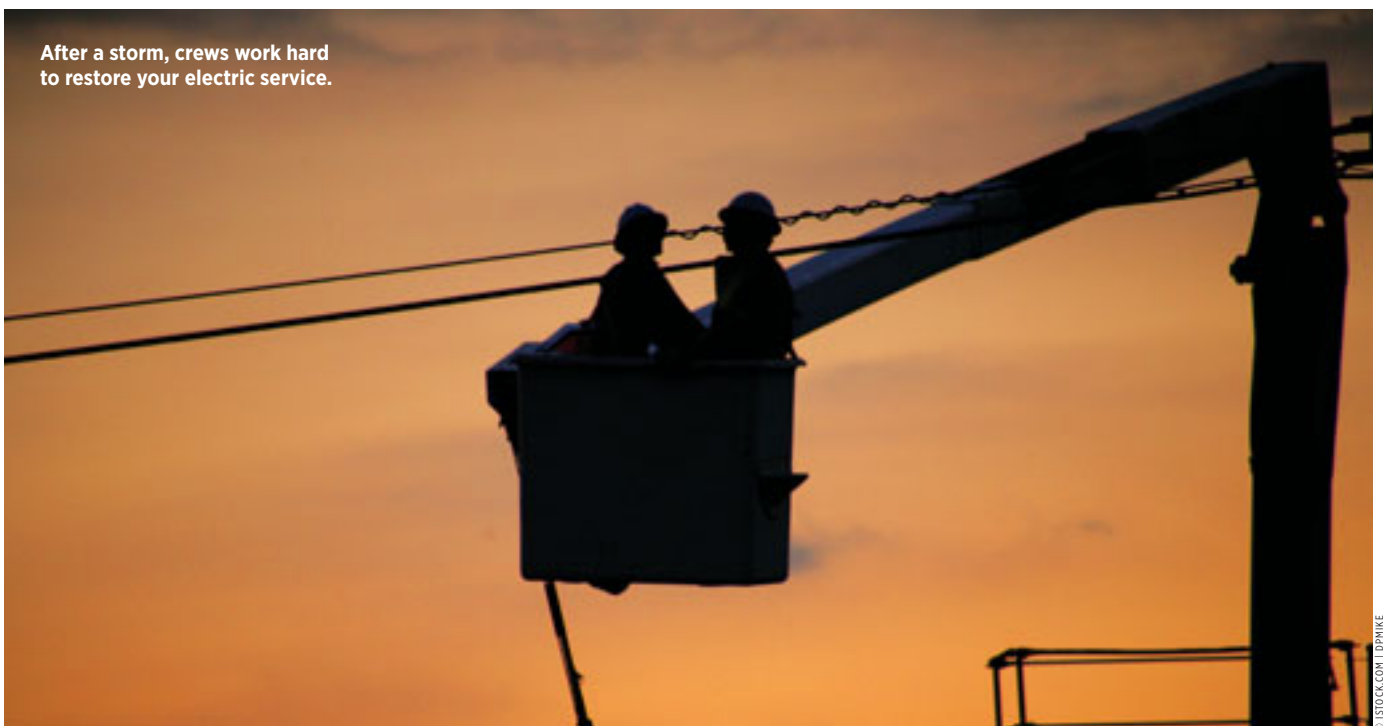
Many times, the issue is resolved once the tap lines are repaired. But have you ever lost power, only to look next door and see the lights still blazing from your neighbor's window? When this happens, it generally means that the service line between your home and the nearby transformer has been damaged. If this happens, call your co-op right away so we can send a line crew to your home.

Power restoration can be a tricky business, so if you lose service in your home or neighborhood, please remember the following:

- ▶ Report the outage as soon as possible.
- ▶ Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life-threatening.
- ▶ Make sure to inform us immediately if loss of power to your home affects life-support systems or could cause any additional threat to the health and safety of anyone in your home.

Your co-op appreciates your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs.

After a storm, crews work hard to restore your electric service.





Use slow cookers to keep the heat out of your kitchen this holiday season.

## Keep Your Holidays Cool

It's hard enough to keep your cool when you've got a house full of company to entertain—much less while you're slaving over a hot stove all day. Here are a few tips to keep your cool, at least in the kitchen:

- 1. GET UP A LITTLE EARLIER.** The house and the outdoor temperature usually are cooler in the morning than in the afternoon. The more cooking and baking you can do before noon, the more comfortable you'll feel physically.
- 2. OPEN THE WINDOWS.** That will keep the air circulating, which will keep the kitchen cooler and help odors leave the house. For strong odors, turn on the vent over your stove—but make sure you turn it off once the odor subsides. Vent and exhaust fans suck heated air out of the house and waste it.
- 3. TURN THE OVEN OFF.** Baking heats up the kitchen like nothing else. And stagger baking times. Bake the pies in the early morning and then give the oven a break for a few hours before putting the turkey in.
- 4. WORK AHEAD.** Choose side dishes and desserts that you can start making a little at a time during the week before Thanksgiving, and then freeze them until the big day. That will make lighter work of Thanksgiving, keep your kitchen cooler and allow the chef to enjoy the holiday a bit more.
- 5. INVEST IN A PRESSURE COOKER.** It's one of the fastest ways to cook food.
- 6. DUST OFF YOUR CROCK-POT.** Slow cookers don't produce much heat. If you're making chili, stew or meat for a pre- or post-Thanksgiving meal, throw in the ingredients and let the Crock-Pot do all the work for you.
- 7. PUT YOUR OTHER ELECTRIC COOKING APPLIANCES TO WORK.** An electric frying pan or grill cooks up side dishes and main courses quickly, which means they create heat for only short spurts.
- 8. IF YOU'RE REPLACING YOUR STOVE ANYWAY, INVEST IN AN INDUCTION COOKTOP.** Its burners are so powerful and efficient that they cook your food with less heat, in less time.
- 9. SERVE SOME COLD DISHES.** Fruit cups and side salads don't require any cooking.
- 10. TURN EVERYTHING OFF WHEN YOU'RE NOT USING IT.** Don't leave the oven on after the pies are done just because you might be baking cookies in a couple of hours. Turn off anything that creates heat when it's not in use—including the lights.

## Time for a Fireplace Check

Crisp, cool days are here, so now is a good time to check your fireplace for safety and efficiency. If you're using an energy-inefficient wood fireplace, you can minimize the heat loss it causes by taking a few precautions:

- ▶ Close the fireplace damper until you're ready to burn a fire. Open it only while the fire is burning, and close it again once you have extinguished the fire. An open damper in an unused fireplace sucks heated air out of your house through the chimney.
- ▶ Minimize heat loss by installing tempered glass doors on the front of the fireplace. Direct heat from the fire into your room by installing a heat/air exchange system to blow that warm air into the house.
- ▶ Reinforce the seals around your fireplace flue damper. Tight seals prevent home heating from escaping through the fireplace and chimney.



- ▶ Insulate your chimney with liners to prevent a buildup of creosote—a byproduct of exhaust from the fire. That buildup can make your fireplace less efficient and create the risk for an unintended chimney fire.
- ▶ Call a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America to clean your fireplace and chimney every year before heating season begins. The chimney sweep can advise you about safety issues and any malfunctioning parts.
- ▶ If you never use your fireplace, have a chimney expert plug and seal it so that it won't rob your home of comfortable, heated air.

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# Sentries to a Mystery

Scant remains hint  
at Fort Phantom Hill's  
days as a frontier post

BY SUZANNE HALKO

WHEN JAMES ALEXANDER WAS A BOY IN the 1940s, he wondered about the mysterious ruins on a slight rise in the countryside north of Abilene. He and his father, a town physician since about 1900, would drive by the lonely stone chimneys and vacant masonry buildings on their way to nearby family land.

"I'd see all those chimneys, and it always interested me," Alexander says. "Nobody knew anything about it back then."

About 30 years later, as a successful rancher, Alexander acted on his boyhood curiosity and purchased Fort Phantom Hill, a U.S. military post developed and abandoned in the mid-1800s. He delved into discovering and sharing the site's history.

"Good history starts with great questions," says Don Frazier, a history professor at McMurry University in Abilene. "When you start asking the questions is when you start the research hunt. When you walk out there among the chimneys, it leads to all kinds of evocative questions. They lead you down a path that ends up being the story of Fort Phantom Hill."

A self-guided tour on dirt walking trails reveals partial structures of stone. The imagination works to fill in the gaps of this big picture, today marked only by two buildings, 15 chimneys and a four-walled edifice without a roof. Cacti grow atop jagged masonry, and tall, ragged mesquite claw the sky as wind whistles by. Amid these, a small well has been sealed. A cannon points toward the road. A chuck wagon's wheels root among dry prairie grasses. On this spring day, raindrops fall from a mostly cloudless sky, landing with

an audible crack on the parched ground.

In the 1850s, pioneers began settling the newly annexed state, and prospectors trekked across Texas while heading west during the California gold rush. The federal government sent troops to establish forts for protection against Native American attacks. The first set of forts, built by 1852 from Fort Worth to Eagle Pass, protected a north-south corridor. Fort Phantom Hill, officially called Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos, was in a second set of forts added to bolster the original defenses. Locals named the location Phantom Hill because the small mound visible from a distance seemed to disappear up close, according to "Fort Phantom Hill: The Mysterious Ruins on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River" by Bill Wright (State House Press, 2013).

"It was a very lonely, remote frontier post," says Frazier.

The U.S. Army regiment assigned to establish the fort in 1851 faced extreme hot and cold temperatures, including a "blue norther," and had limited building supplies. The West Texas landscape afforded little clean water, grass for grazing or wood to burn as fuel.

One first lieutenant wrote home to his wife about the conditions. "When I say to you that we have a beautiful valley to look upon, I have said everything favorable that could be said of this place," he wrote, according to Wright. "Indeed, I cannot imagine that God ever intended for white man to occupy such a barren waste."

Although the company experienced few encounters with Native Americans at first, tribes soon became more hostile, attacking



The U.S. Army abandoned Fort Phantom Hill, north of Abilene, after about two and a half years of use.

wagons, and kidnapping and slaying travelers. The military changed its approach to protecting the frontier and abandoned Fort Phantom Hill after about two and a half years of use. Upon leaving in 1854, the last lieutenant in charge reportedly ordered his slave to set fire to the fort, “so that no other soldiers would ever have to be stationed at such a forsaken spot,” Wright wrote, quoting the lieutenant. The slave was charged with arson.

Yet that era is only one chapter in the existence of Fort Phantom Hill, Frazier explains. The place also served as a stop on an overland mail and passenger route from Missouri to California, became a field operations base during the Civil War, provided a landmark for buffalo hunters and ushered in the development of Abilene.

Because it “has layers and layers and layers of stories to tell,” Frazier says, “it really needs to be in an artistic, symbolic state that really evokes a lot of different stories.”

Therefore, Alexander has made no attempt to restore the ruins of Fort Phantom Hill. He simply stabilized them. The stark chimneys likely look the same as they did when they first fascinated him as a boy.

Alexander opened Fort Phantom Hill to the public in 1972 and founded the Fort Phantom Foundation in 1997, contributing acreage including the ruins to the non-profit that maintains and operates the site. He also has facilitated archeological exploration, welcomed TV producers to film an episode of “Dig Wars,” which aired nationwide in 2013, and hosted living history

re-enactments on the 36-acre property.

“We just think the ruins are more meaningful as they are, rather than trying to rebuild them. I think the ruins are important—the original ruins,” Alexander says. “We think a lot of it. We really do. It’s about the oldest thing in this part of the world.”

Suzanne Halko, staff writer

**IF YOU GO** Fort Phantom Hill is about 11 miles north of Interstate 20 on FM 600 north of Abilene. The site, with parking and restrooms, is open to the public for self-guided tours during daylight hours and is free of charge. (325) 677-1309, fortphantom.org

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# Confessions of a Head Busboy

A street gang cut me some slack because of how I settled the silverware standoff

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME TO SUM UP WHAT it was like to work on Bourbon Street in 1975, I would think back to a batch of silverware and how a decision I made concerning that silverware might have saved my life.

In fall that year, I was working in New Orleans as a busboy at Houlihan's Restaurant while waiting with the impatience of youth for my ship to come in. For a kid not many years removed from his childhood in Lubbock, the chance to work on Bourbon Street was heady stuff, even if my ticket came as a lowly busboy.

But I proved myself to be no ordinary busboy. Within a matter of weeks, my boss informed me that I was now the "head busboy." This meant that I was still a busboy in name and deed but would now be able to work "oyster hour" as a waiter and keep my tips. There was one other thing: As head busboy, I had the responsibility of settling disputes between the other busboys.

In other words, I wasn't being promoted. I was simply being told to take control of a workplace issue the boss couldn't handle. An intense and often highly vocal animosity had developed between two of our busboys. They probably should have been fired because their flare-ups had disrupted the restaurant's dining tranquility more than a few times. But I don't think my boss had the stomach for that, either.

My suggestion was to let the two antagonists work it out between themselves and let busboys be busboys, but the boss didn't ask for my opinion and paid no attention to it. "You Texans think you're so macho. You're not afraid of them, are you?"

I said that Texans are smart, too, and, yes, I was a little leery of mixing it up with those guys. He appointed me anyway.

That meant it was up to me to intervene when, not many nights later, a loud and profane argument between the two busboys erupted. We will call them Charles and Donald and hope those weren't their real names. The object of their dispute on this night was a tub of clean silverware. Each busboy had servers waiting for that silverware. Because the waiters and waitresses tipped the busboys based on their own tips, both Charles and Donald were in a hurry to get more tables set up for the waitresses in their respective stations. That tub of silverware was worth at least a dollar to either one of those guys.

It took me a minute to make my way to the scene of the disturbance, burdened as I was by a tray of dirty dishes I was lugging back to the kitchen. On the way, we all learned what Charles and Donald thought of each other's mothers and which body part would soon be missing from one or the other.

My boss was glaring at me. *Fix this! You're the head busboy!*

I arrived to find Charles and Donald engaged in a tug of war for the silverware. I said something brilliant like, "Hey, guys. Cool it."

Charles and Donald each turned their attention to me. Who was I, they wanted to know, to be telling them what to do?

"I'm the head busboy!"

Neither was suitably impressed by my new title, but by then another tub of clean silverware was coming down the line, so I



made a decision. “Charles, you take that silverware. Donald, you get the one that’s coming down now.”

This made Charles very happy, but it made Donald so upset that he began to insult my family, whom he didn’t even know. In the end, everybody except me had a tub of fresh silverware, and I had shown myself to be a capable and decisive head busboy.

I might not have remembered the incident or my bold decision concerning the silverware if not for another incident a few nights later. As I walked home to my place on Magazine Street, flush with a night’s worth of tips after working the late shift, I heard the sound of footsteps, many footsteps, behind me. I walked faster. The footsteps moved faster. I slowed down, and so did the footsteps.

Finally, realizing I wasn’t going to make it home without some kind of confrontation, I turned around to see what I viewed as a street gang. At this point in my young and naïve life, I might have thought a

street gang was simply a literary device. But this one was real.

The gang leader stepped forward and peered at me as I stood, trembling I’m sure, in the glare of a streetlight. He looked familiar, and then he called me by my name. “Biscuit Nose!” (Why he called me Biscuit Nose is a whole ‘nother story.)

“Charles!”

Charles informed his troops that not only was I was all right, that I also could walk the turf; I was cool. On my way home, I thought some heavy thoughts centering on what might have become of me had I given that silverware to Donald instead of Charles.

Was my decision guided by God? A guardian angel? Was it just a happy coincidence? Beats me. But Charles and his gang didn’t, and I like stories with happy endings.

Happily, my career as a busboy ran its course. And after a few twists and turns in the long and winding road to my dreams, I came home to Texas.

**Clay Coppedge**, a member of Bartlett EC, lives near Walburg.





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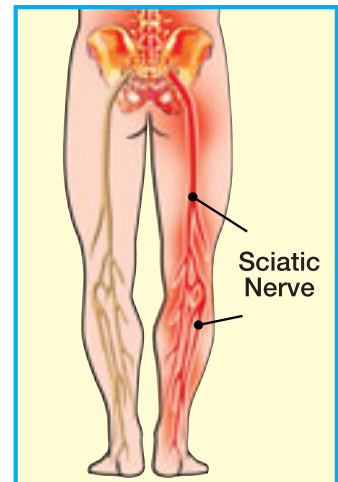
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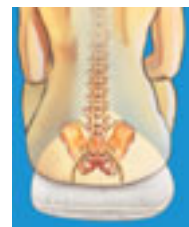


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# Affordable ***New*** Digital Hearing Aid ***Outperforms*** Expensive Competitors Delivers ***Crystal -Clear*** Natural Sound

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical grade ALL DIGITAL affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,000 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear, natural sound—in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind—without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.

After years of extensive research, Dr. Cherukuri has now created a ***state-of-the-art*** digital hearing aid that’s packed with the features of those expensive \$3,000 competitors – at a ***fraction of the price***.

## New Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased at a fraction of that price), yet the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remained out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn’t afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance.

The doctor evaluated all the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version—called the MDHearingAid® ***AIR*** for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

- ✓ Nearly ***invisible***
- ✓ ***Crystal-clear*** natural sound
- ✓ No suffering with ***‘whistling’*** or background noise
- ✓ ***Outperforms*** \$3,000 models
- ✓ Amazing ***low price***

## Affordable Digital Technology

Using advanced digital technology, the MDHearingAid® ***AIR*** automatically adjusts to your listening environment—prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise. Experience all of the sounds you’ve been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor designed and approved hearing aid comes with a full year’s supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear buds are so comfortable you won’t realize you’re wearing them.

## Try It Yourself At Home With Our 45 Day Risk-Free Trial

Of course, hearing is believing and we invite you to try it for yourself with our RISK-FREE 45-day home trial. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within that time period for a full refund of your purchase price.

MDHearingAid® ***AIR***

**FREE  
Batteries  
For A Year!**



Nearly  
Invisible!

## Ecstatic Users Cheer

*“I recently purchased an MDHearingAid AIR for both ears. They are as small and work as well as a \$5,000 pair I had previously tried.”*

— Dennis

*“I’m a physician, and this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional overly-priced hearing aids. I will be recommending (it).”*

— Dr. Chang

*“As a retired advanced practice nurse, I purchased the MDHearingAid AIR after the Wall Street Journal review. I am so pleased with the quality. You are providing a real service to our affordable health care.”*

— Ned Rubin

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Item 90899 shown  
ITEM 90899/98025/69096

## \$14.99 VALUE

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**CENTRALPNEUMATIC 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR**

Item 95275 shown  
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60637/69486/61615

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**SUPER COUPON**

**PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK**

Item 68048 shown  
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**SAVE \$85**

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• Weighs 74 lbs.

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Item 60813 shown  
LOT NO. 68142/61256/60813/61889

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**SUPER COUPON**

**WINNER Truckin' Magazine 26", 4 DRAWER TOOL CART**

US\*GENERAL  
Item 95659 shown  
LOT NO. 95659  
61634/61952

**SAVE \$180**

**\$99.99** REG. PRICE \$279.99

• 580 lb. Capacity

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**SUPER COUPON**

**40 PIECE 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SOCKET SET**

PITTSBURGH  
Item 47902 shown  
LOT NO. 47902  
61328

**SAVE 66%**

**\$3.99** REG. PRICE \$9.99

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**SUPER COUPON**

**3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER**

CENTECH.  
• 900 Peak Amps  
Item 60657 shown  
LOT NO. 38391/60657  
62306/62376

**SAVE 33%**

**\$39.99** REG. PRICE \$59.99

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**SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH**

Item 94141 shown  
LOT NO. 94141  
69874  
61320  
61913  
61914

**SAVE 66%**

**\$19.99** REG. PRICE \$59.99

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**SUPER COUPON**

**WINNER The Family Handyman 12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW WITH LASER GUIDE**

NEW  
Item 69684 shown  
LOT NO. 69684/61776/61969/61970  
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HaulMaster  
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HFT  
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LOT NO. 69039  
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CENTECH.  
Item 67979 shown  
LOT NO. 67979  
61839/62359

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	1,361,831	1,376,237
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1,350,755	1,365,342
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions		
(2-4) In-County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other Mailed Circulation	none	none
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1,350,755	1,365,342
d. Free Distribution	3,992	3,930
(1) Free Outside-County Mailed Copies		
(2-3) Free In-County/Other Outside the Mail	5,502	5,344
e. Total Free Distribution	9,494	9,274
f. Total Distribution	1,360,249	1,374,616
g. Copies not Distributed	1,582	1,621
h. Total	1,361,831	1,376,237
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested	99.30%	99.32%

16. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	none	none
b. Total Paid Print Copies	1,350,755	1,365,342
c. Total Print Distribution	1,360,249	1,374,616
d. Percent Paid	99.30	99.32

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 Date: October 1, 2014

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

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



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

*Turkey Neck, Travis County*

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

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

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

The **Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream®** is available online at **Dermagist.com** or you can order or learn more by calling toll-free, **888-771-5355**. Oh, I almost forgot... I was given a promo code when I placed my order that gave me **11% off**. The code was "TXN17". It's worth a try to see if it still works.

# Deer Camp Folk Medicine

A 19th-century rabies cure required a madstone, sometimes found in a deer's stomach

BY GENE FOWLER

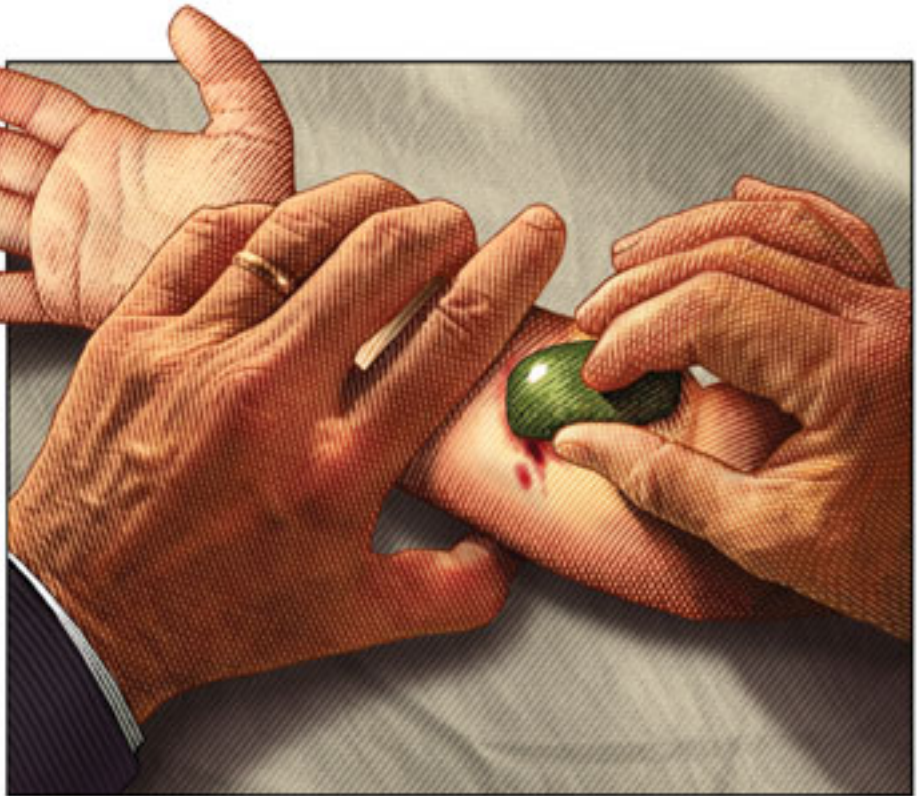
IN FRONTIER DAYS, HUNTERS WOULD often check a deer's stomach for a "madstone," a rock-like mass that many believed could draw the poison out of wounds caused by the bite of a rabid dog, skunk or other creature. Even though hunters today rarely examine a deer so closely, tales of folk medicine add an interesting topic for sharing in the deer camp.

Where did these fables originate? Accounts show the madstone treatment was used well before 1885, and a story about a madstone's use appeared in the *Floyd County Hesperian* on July 6, 1922. In most accounts, the stone was heated in warm milk before application to the wound, where it stuck fast. When the stone fell off the wound, it was again placed in warm milk to cleanse it before repeated applications. The stone was reputed to draw the poison out of the wound, and when the madstone no longer adhered, the patient was believed to be cured.

These treatments seem far-fetched, but before Pasteur discovered inoculation against rabies in 1885, the only treatment available for a rabid animal bite was cutting and scarifying the wound.

Descriptions of madstones varied widely. A legendary stone in Menard was said to be the size of a guinea egg, while a stone in Yoakum weighed nearly a pound and resembled a beef heart in shape. Descendants of "the Old Indian Doctor," Benjamin Thomas Crumley, who practiced herbal medicine in Williamson and Lampasas counties, recall his madstone as oval-shaped and quartz-like, about 1 1/2 inches in diameter and 3/4 of an inch thick.

Dr. J.M. Noell and his descendants in the Alto area used a crystal-clear stone with a maze of small fissures. This stone, used on bites for more than 80 years, was



said to have come from India. A trusted madstone in Van Horn was reportedly found on the bottom of a sailing vessel. Lavaca County's wealthiest planter, Washington Green Lee Foley, claimed to have come upon a deer burying a madstone. He took the stone and eventually applied it to hundreds of bites.

Many stories tell of bite victims "riding for their lives" to reach a madstone. In 1879, the *Galveston Daily News* carried a report of a man from the Panhandle who rode for 96 hours to reach a madstone in Gainesville.

That same year, the *Boston Journal of Chemistry* reported that "a druggist in Texas lately paid \$250 for a madstone." Treasured as heirlooms and passed between generations, many a stone came west with pioneers. Ben Milam, a central figure in the Texas revolution prior to the battle of the Alamo, gave a third of his family madstone to Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and namesake of Collin County and its county seat, McKinney.

Like Noell in Cherokee County, many early physicians either utilized madstones

themselves or recommended them to patients. Dr. W.J.W. Kerr, who settled in Corsicana after serving as a surgeon at Andersonville Prison during the Civil War, became widely known for the madstone in his medicine chest.

In 1921, years after madstones began to lose their popularity, Dr. Martha A. Wood of Houston wrote in the *Texas State Journal of Medicine*: "Madstones or enteroliths from the alimentary tract of the lower animals, are chiefly tricalcium phosphate, and possess none of the powers attributed to them."

The following year, however, the story in the *Floyd County Hesperian* recounted the use of a local madstone to draw poison from the bite of a young Center boy. Floyd County Historical Museum board member Nancy Marble ran across the report and tracked down family members of the stone's owner. She obtained the madstone for display in the museum and it can be seen there still, along with copies of the newspaper account.

**Gene Fowler** is an Austin writer who specializes in history.



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# Trolling for Options

THERE'S PLENTY OF TURKEY TALK IN NOVEMBER, so we decided to switch things up and focus on seafood. Seafood is protein-packed and relatively simple to prepare—and it lightens up richer holiday menus. We received a wide range of wonderful recipes ranging from simple weeknight fare to holiday appetizers. We published the top scorers here and posted the others at [texascooppower.com](http://texascooppower.com).

And here's another recipe I'd like to share with you: The fish in this recipe is salmon, but you can use this quick glaze with your favorite catch and adjust the broiling time accordingly. Using a meat thermometer is the best way to ensure that your fish is done, but there's a range for the perfect temperature. I go with 135 to 140 degrees for salmon, but other sources recommend as low as 125. Salmon is done when it's opaque and flakes off the fork.

ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

## Teriyaki Glazed Broiled Salmon

- 4 5-ounce salmon fillets, with skin
- ¼ cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Asian sesame oil
- 4 teaspoons seasoned rice vinegar
- 4 teaspoons honey or agave nectar
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh ginger root
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon minced green onion
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

**1.** In a small bowl, mix together all ingredients except the salmon. Grease the rack of a broiler pan. If desired, line the bottom with foil for easy cleanup. Position your pan so that the fish sits about 6 inches from the broiler element. If you're not used to broiling, you may want to measure with a ruler before you preheat the broiler. Preheat the broiler using the full broil setting.

**2.** Set the salmon steaks skin-side down on the greased broiler pan and brush steaks generously with half the sauce. Broil salmon for about 4 minutes. Turn the salmon over and broil for another 3 minutes. At this point, you may want to loosen or remove the skin. Turn the salmon one more time and brush top with all the remaining sauce. Broil for another 2 minutes or until fish is flaky. Test for doneness with a meat thermometer if desired.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1 fillet. Per serving: 272 calories, 31.53 g protein, 10.28 g fat, 10.08 g carbohydrates, 0.70 g dietary fiber, 1,172 mg sodium, 6.53 g sugars, 55 mg cholesterol





## Recipe Contest: Seafood



### THIS MONTH'S WINNING RECIPE

TAMMY BROWNLOW | BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

If you live in other parts of Texas, it's easy to forget how much of the Lone Star state is coastline. But no matter where in the state you find yourself, you can always find fantastic dishes from the sea. Get hooked on this month's recipes, including our prize catch.

### Blackened Red Snapper With Fresh Salsa

- 3 Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
- ½ small onion, diced
- 6 Spanish olives, diced
- 1 jalapeño or pepper of your choice, seeded and diced
- Handful cilantro leaves, chopped
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 red snapper fillets

1. In a medium bowl, combine tomatoes, onion, olives, pepper, cilantro and lime juice to make salsa. Refrigerate for a minimum of 4 hours or overnight.
2. Mix together cumin, paprika, salt and pepper for fish seasoning.
3. In a large nonstick skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. While skillet is warming, sprinkle fillets generously with the fish seasoning on both sides. Cook fish 5 minutes on each side until cooked through. Turn fillets gently with a fish spatula to avoid breaking.
4. Serve snapper over pasta or alone with the salsa over the top.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1 fillet. Per serving: 192 calories, 30.11 g protein, 5 g fat, 4.37 g carbohydrates, 1.47 g dietary fiber, 685 mg sodium, 1.33 g sugars, 52 mg cholesterol



### \$100 Recipe Contest

April's recipe contest topic is **Dinner for Two**. Mini-casseroles, roasted meat dishes or small-batch desserts—sometimes, great things really do come in small packages. What do you whip up when it's just the two of you? The deadline is **November 10**.

There are three ways to enter: **ONLINE** at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://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.

### Greek Pasta With Shrimp

KAREN MAYO | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

- ¼ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 can diced tomatoes (14–15 ounces)
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- ½ teaspoon basil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pound raw shrimp, peeled
- 1 lemon
- 8 ounces crumbled feta cheese
- 12 kalamata olives, halved and pitted
- Cooked pasta (angel hair, linguine, your choice)

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. Sauté onion in olive oil until soft, 4 or 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, garlic, basil, salt and pepper. Cook for another 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add raw shrimp. Place mixture in a 9-by-13-inch ovenproof dish.
3. Squeeze lemon juice over mixture. Sprinkle with feta cheese and olives. Bake about 18 to 20 minutes, until the shrimp turns pink.
4. Serve over pasta.

Servings: 10. Serving size: 6.5 ounces. Per serving: 392 calories, 13.71 g protein, 16.29 g fat, 50.42 g carbohydrates, 6.40 g dietary fiber, 1,204 mg sodium, 17.98 g sugars, 20 mg cholesterol

### Salmon With Dill and Lemon Sauce

MATTHEW HANDY | COSERV ELECTRIC

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 lemons
- 1 salmon fillet (12 ounce), with skin
- 15 sprigs dill (or to taste)
- 1 clove garlic
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon horseradish sauce
- Ground pepper

1. Pour olive oil into a gallon-size plastic freezer bag.
2. Zest one lemon evenly across salmon fillet. Break apart enough sprigs of dill to spread evenly across fillet. Juice the zested lemon into the bag containing olive oil. Place salmon in bag, remove air from bag and let salmon marinate 1 hour.
3. Finely chop remaining sprigs of dill. Mince garlic clove.

MARY PAT WALDRON

4. In a small bowl, mix together juice from remaining lemon, finely chopped dill, minced garlic clove, sour cream, mayonnaise, horseradish sauce and a dash of pepper. Set aside in refrigerator to chill.

5. Grill salmon meat-side down over medium-low heat for approximately 5 minutes. Turn salmon over to skin-side down and cook until done, 5 to 10 minutes. When salmon appears done, check with a fork or test with a meat thermometer. Serve salmon with sauce on side.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 3 ounces. Per serving: 352 calories, 22.55 g protein, 23.46 g fat, 14.48 g carbohydrates, 5.35 g dietary fiber, 504 mg sodium, 0.65 g sugars, 40 mg cholesterol

## Sweet and Spicy Orange Shrimp

KAREN MAYO | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

- ½ cup butter
- 1 orange, peeled and sliced
- ½ cup frozen orange juice concentrate
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoons Sriracha sauce (or to taste)
- 1 pound large, raw, peeled shrimp
- Lemon wedges for serving (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in saucepan. Add orange slices, orange juice concentrate, spices and Sriracha sauce. Simmer until the orange slices break up.

2. Pour sauce over the shrimp in an ovenproof dish.

3. Bake uncovered for about 20 minutes until the shrimp turns pink.

**COOK'S TIP** Sriracha is available in most grocery stores' Asian food section.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 323 calories, 16.3 g protein, 21.84 g fat, 10.52 g carbohydrates, 1.02 g dietary fiber, 795 mg sodium, 7.19 g sugars, 203 mg cholesterol

## Gratin of Shrimp With Chile Peppers and Cheese

JANET RAINES | NUECES EC

- 8 ounces large, raw shrimp, frozen, with shells on
- Juice of 1 lime
- Tabasco sauce

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 small red onions, peeled and sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
- 2 fresh red chile peppers, deseeded and chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

- 10 ounces heavy cream
- 3 ounces Fontina or Port Salut cheese, grated

1. Rinse shrimp and allow to defrost for about an hour. Peel off shells and devein with the point of a sharp knife. Preheat oven broiler to its highest setting.

2. Place shrimp in a bowl and sprinkle with lime juice and a few drops of Tabasco. Marinate for 15 minutes or longer.

3. Heat oil in a frying pan and cook the onions about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and chile peppers, and continue to cook 2 to 3 minutes more.

4. Divide the onion mixture into two or more ovenproof dishes (depending on size). Drain shrimp, divide and place on top of onions.

5. Season well with salt and pepper. Pour cream over shrimp, then scatter grated cheese on top.

6. Place dishes under the broiler (about 10 inches from the heat). Cook until the shrimp turns pink and the cheese is golden and bubbly.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 376 calories, 10.05 g protein, 31.68 g fat, 10.19 g carbohydrates, 1.34 g dietary fiber, 499 mg sodium, 3.38 g sugars, 168 mg cholesterol

## Shrimp Chowder

KATHRYN BOLTON | FARMERS EC

- 1½ cups chopped green onions
- 1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms
- ½ stick butter (2 ounces)
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 can cream of potato soup (10.75 ounces)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup (10.75 ounces)
- 1 can yellow corn (15 ounces), drained
- 1 can white corn (15 ounces), drained
- 1 pound small shrimp, peeled, deveined and cooked
- 1 pint half-and-half

Salt and pepper to taste

Chicken broth, as needed

1. In a large saucepan or Dutch oven,

## FUN FACTS

The Texas seafood industry produces more than \$840 million in sales and employs over 14,000 people.

Texas produces a large amount of wild-caught Gulf shrimp, which are sweeter, firmer and have a distinctive, fuller flavor than imported, farm-raised shrimp.

Texas has 367 miles of coastline, 15 major rivers and thousands of streams, man-made lakes and reservoirs.

sauté green onions and mushrooms in butter, then blend in cream cheese.

2. Add soups and corn. Heat thoroughly. Add shrimp and half-and-half. Season to taste. Add chicken broth to thin if chowder is too thick.

3. Continue heating for about 25 to 30 minutes on low.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 8.75 ounces. Per serving: 247 calories, 5.24 g protein, 15.42 g fat, 20.32 g carbohydrates, 2.02 g dietary fiber, 624 mg sodium, 2.65 g sugars, 46 mg cholesterol

## Shrimp Creole Cajun Style

SHARON RIOS | BANDERA EC

- 1 cup diced celery
- ⅔ cup chopped fresh green onions
- ⅔ cup chopped bell peppers
- ¼ cup cooking oil
- 2 cans tomato sauce (16 ounces each)
- 2 tablespoons flour
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Worcestershire sauce
- 16 ounces frozen okra
- 2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined

1. Sauté celery, onions and bell peppers in oil until soft.

2. Add tomato sauce and 2 cups water, then add flour to thicken.

3. Season to taste with salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce. Cook 30 minutes.

4. Add okra to mixture. Cook 10 minutes more. Add shrimp. Continue cooking until shrimp are fully cooked. Serve over rice.

Servings: 14. Serving size: 8 ounces. Per serving: 157 calories, 11.47 g protein, 4.18 g fat, 17.63 g carbohydrates, 2.2 g dietary fiber, 770 mg sodium, 4.47 g sugars, 81 mg cholesterol

**WEB EXTRAS** at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

Our archive runs deep with more seafood recipes.



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GRACE ARSIAGA

**WEB EXTRAS** at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) All aboard! Next stop is our website, where there's so much to look at.

**JARED BODUCH**, Taylor EC: A reflection against a white work van, made with an iPhone, shows a hailstorm rolling in at sunset. ▶



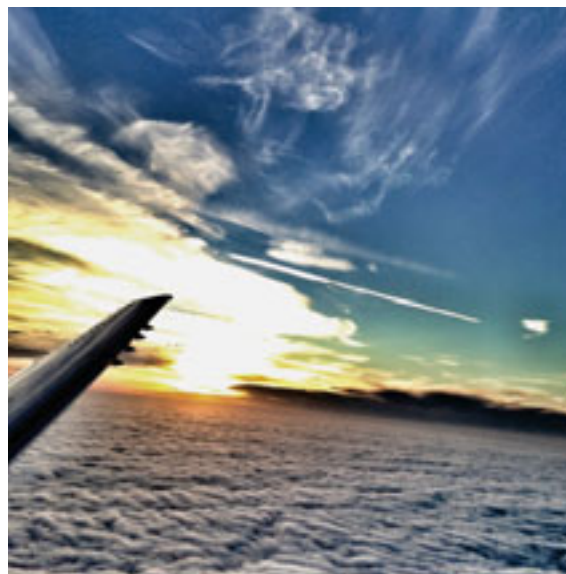
▲ **RICHARD TODD**, CoServ Electric: The beauty of these classic fins makes us nostalgic.

**SANDY RAYBURN**, Cherokee County EC: The sun sets on a flight home from a business trip. ▼

**RON CARLSON**, Trinity Valley EC: 'The wet and dreary day wasn't great for sightseeing, but I got some great photos' on the Texas State Railroad. ▼



▲ **CHELSEA SPRINGETT**: Kade Allen and great-grandfather Tony Peters ride the Grapevine Vintage Railroad; submitted by David Springett and Keri Fischer of Farmers EC.



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

JANUARY **HATS** DUE NOV 10

FEBRUARY **FROZEN** ALSO DUE NOV 10

MARCH **FURRY FRIENDS** DUE DEC 10

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

**ONLINE:** Submit highest-resolution digital images at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://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**

**69th Annual Thanksgiving Festival**

**Pep [November 27]**

(806) 933-4696

The entire ZIP code where the community of Pep is located in far northwest Hockley County has a population of 10, according to the 2010 census. But 1,300 to 1,500 people turn out for a feast of German sausage and sauerkraut and the more traditional turkey and dressing for the annual fundraiser for St. Philip Neri Catholic Church. The people in and around Pep are members of Lamb County EC.



FOOD: © MYTHJA | DREAMSTIME.COM. KITE: © TATIANA MOROZOVA | DREAMSTIME.COM

**November**

**7**

**Decatur [7-9] Holistic Management Rendezvous**, (940) 768-2740, dixonwater.org

**8**

**Corpus Christi Corpus Christi Kite Festival**, (361) 960-0730, ccmayorsfitnesscouncil.com

**Edgewood Heritage Festival**, (214) 673-1882, edgewoodheritagefestival.com

**Los Fresnos Veterans Memorial Endurance Mud Run**, (956) 233-5768, facebook.com/boots.onground

**The Colony American Heroes: A Salute to Veterans**, (972) 625-1106, saluteamericanheroes.com

**9**

**College Station [9-16] Bryan Rotary Field of Valor**, (979) 571-9826, bryan-rotary.org

**13**

**Levelland Ladies Night Out**, (806) 894-3157, levellandtexas.org

**15**

**Bandera Run/Walk for Diabetes**, (830) 796-3448, diabetes.org/communitywalk

**Brenham "Ringing in the Seasons" Handbell Concert**, (713) 553-4395

**McAllen All Valley Veterans Arts & Crafts Expo**, (956) 585-8160, facebook.com/VFWPost8788

**McKinney Fish of North Texas & Flycasting Workshop**, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

**Schertz Senior Citizens Christmas Bazaar**, (985) 956-0212



November 8  
Corpus Christi  
Corpus Christi Kite Festival

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November 28  
Clute  
Elizabethan Madrigal Feast

**16**  
**Nacogdoches** East Texas Half Marathon,  
(888) 653-3788, easttexashalf.com

**21**  
**Marble Falls** Christmas Light-Up Parade,  
(830) 693-2815, marblefalls.org

**Lake Jackson** [21-22] Mums & Mistletoe  
Market, (979) 297-3041

**Milam** [21-22] Settlers Day Weekend,  
(409) 625-4876, milamsettlersday.org

**Waco** [21-22] Apple Tree Bazaar,  
(254) 752-0316, mealsandwheelswaco.org

ELIZABETHAN MADRIGAL FEAST: TOM FOWLER

**22**  
**Freeport** Schuster Home Museum  
Open House, (979) 297-0868

**Kerrville** Holiday Lighted Parade and  
Courthouse Lighting, (830) 257-8000,  
mainstreetkerrville.com

**Trinity** Classic Car & Truck Show,  
(936) 594-0149, marina-village.com

**Hempstead** [22-23] Civil War Weekend,  
(979) 826-3126, liendoplantation.com

**27**  
**Athens** Turkey Trot, (903) 677-2000,  
athens.tx.org

**Riviera** 100th Annual Thanksgiving Day Picnic,  
(361) 297-5255, www.ourladyatriviera.com

**28**  
**Clute** [28-30] Elizabethan Madrigal Feast,  
(979) 265-7661, bcfas.org

**29**  
**Luling** Christmas Arts & Crafts Show,  
(830) 875-3214, lulingcc.org

## December

**4**  
**Levelland** Christmas on the Square,  
(806) 894-3157, levellandtexas.org

**5**  
**Lufkin** Texas Forestry Museum's Santa  
Claus Express, (936) 632-9535, treetexas.com  
**Seguin** Cocoa Sip-N-Stroll, (830) 401-0810,  
visitseguin.com

**6**  
**Clifton** Norwegian Country Christmas Tour,  
(254) 675-3720, cliflontexas.org

**Huntsville** Christmas in the Pines 5K  
Color Fun Run/Walk, (936) 295-8113,  
chamber.huntsville.tx.us

### Submit Your Event!

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



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# Relics and Regaling in Brady

This antique store is like a museum where everything is for sale, though the history lessons are free

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

EN ROUTE HOME FROM A RECENT TRIP, WE have time for one last stop in Brady, located in the Texas heartland. So I suggest a gingerbread-trimmed storefront on the courthouse square.

"Looks like arts and craft stuff," James whispers as we walk past a white bike, rusted birdcage and wooden window shutter arranged on the sidewalk.

*Just another antique store, I think. Oh, well. This won't take long.*

Past the creaky screen door, Patsy Cline croons "crazy for feeling so lonely." Her sad strains follow us as we step into a dimly lit shop artfully crammed with yesteryear.

Two hours later, spellbound and amazed, we finally tear ourselves away from owners DeAnn and Joe Evridge, who know the histories and stories behind nearly every button, book, hook, boat and more that fill the walls, ceilings and floors inside D and J's Good Ole Days.

"We're selling memorabilia that we've collected from our families and also bought since we married 25 years ago," DeAnn says. "Our home looks just like this." She laughs. "In fact, we've added on five times to our house just to make more room!"

The Evridges already owned the former dime store building that houses D and J's Good Ole Days. Before opening for business last December, they quickly filled up the space. "So we knocked a hole in the wall and expanded into the adjoining building, which used to be a jewelry store," DeAnn says. That explains the room-sized black vault built into a far corner and decorated with a claw-foot tub and "suds-covered" (cotton) doll.

Behind a rack of vintage clothing, DeAnn opens a wooden display case and shows us canvas swimming boots that hid a woman's ankles in the early 1900s. There's also Victorian hair art from the 1800s that preserved remnants of beloved family members, and a funeral invitation that recalls a time when people could attend a funeral only if invited.



DeAnn and Joe Evridge are eager tour guides for shoppers at D and J's Good Ole Days.

Standing by yet another display case and tapping on the glass, Joe points to a small porcelain container that reminded me of a gravy bowl. "That's an infant-to-invalid feeder," Joe says. "They'd use that to feed you pabulum as a baby and then get it out again to feed you gruel when you're old."

At the other end of the store, Joe picks up a comb-looking contraption. "This is a solid brass hair straightener," he says. "You don't see these any more!" From the ceiling above us hangs a 1922 sculling boat with built-in lace-up boots and custom-made seats. "The rowers had wooden seats made to fit their butts," Joe says.

In the middle of the store, a 1950s soda fountain display features authentic stools, including one from Brady's long-gone drugstore. Kids can buy old-time candy (like sassafras, horehound, licorice and taffy) from wooden bins and pick out vinyl records to hear on an old turntable.

In a crowded aisle, Lee Scott of Houston, seated on a low stool, scoops up handfuls of buttons from a baby's metal bathtub. "This

is heaven," she sighs. "I make jewelry from these. I've never seen so many in one place."

At a back counter, Kay Beardsley of San Angelo is paying for a hatbox shelf (crafted by Dee) and a gingerbread man cookie cutter. "There's so much to look at," Kay says. "You just can't see everything. Anybody who loves antiques would love this place."

Naturally, we buy a few treasures, too—a 1929 Western Electric desk phone, a 1937 Philco Tombstone radio that still works, and a heavy wrought iron garden chair.

"That was like browsing in a museum," James says on the way home. "I'm so glad you found that store." I just smile.

**Sheryl Smith-Rodgers**, a member of Peder-nales EC, lives in Blanco.

**IF YOU GO** D and J's Good Ole Days is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; after 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Call ahead to make sure they're open. 109 W. Commerce St., Brady, (325) 456-9030.

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