

LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EDITION

MARCH 2015

Prause Meat Market

Recipes: Secret Ingredients

Junction

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

ADVENTURES *along the*
GOODNIGHT LOVING TRAIL





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The town of Goodnight sprang up from this settlement after Charles Goodnight and wife Molly moved here in 1887.

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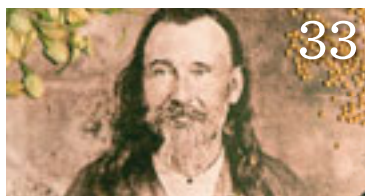
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Lens on the Texas Frontier

By Lawrence T. Jones III

NEXT MONTH

Wildflowers! It's hard work being a native—invasives are everywhere. Plus best-bet wildflower drives and tips for how to make your own meadow.



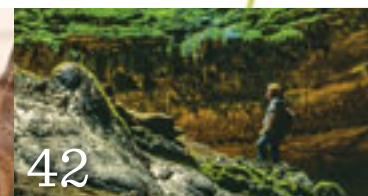
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HOME: JULIA ROBINSON. BLUEBONNET: © WARREN PRICE | DREAMSTIME.COM

ON THE COVER This bison, a descendant of Charles Goodnight's famous herd, roams Caprock Canyons State Park. Photo by Julia Robinson

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Long Live the Flatlanders

I enjoyed the brilliant article about an extraordinary group ["The Flatlanders: Now It's Now Again," December 2014]. I saw them perform several times, at the Galveston Mardi Gras and at the Houston International Festival. Relatives in Germany first raved about them. I am playing "One Endless Night" right now.

URSULA SLUIS | ROCKPORT
NUECES EC

The Story of Bad Santa Gets Worse

Your story of the Santa Claus Bandit ["Bad Santa," December 2014] is one that I heard over and over again growing up. My late father, Jim Clements, who would have been 99 on December 4, witnessed the lynching of Marshall Ratliff in Eastland when he was 14.

After riding with his older sister from Cleburne to shop in Eastland that day, they were caught up in the crowd frenzy. He told the story just like it happened. After the first rope broke, he remembered them holding Ratliff while someone ran into the hardware store for another rope.

There are other aspects of the crowd that are definitely too graphic to print. I heard this story long, long before I ever heard anything about the Santa Claus Bandit outside my own home.

MICHAEL DAVIS | BAYTOWN
MEDINA EC

Plan of San Diego

Thank you for the excellent history article on the Plan of San Diego ["Plan of San Diego Uprising," January 2015].

Briscoe Center for American History

I was so delighted when I opened the December 2014 issue of Texas Co-op Power and there, on Page 3, with the table of contents, was a picture of some of my grandfather's wood carvings. He was O.W.H. Giese (1872-1960), who resided in Washington County. Upon his death, his daughter, my Aunt Myra Giese Brandt, donated a number of his wood carvings to the Winedale Museum, which is now part of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

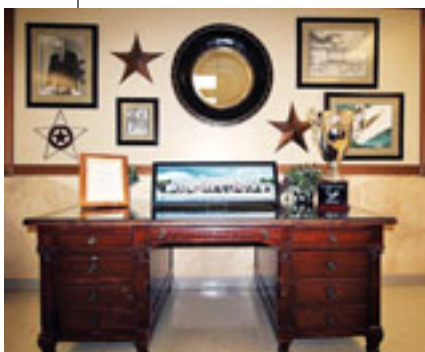
Thank you for sharing this with all the members of the electric co-ops.

DIANA GIESE RHODES | NURSERY | VICTORIA EC



Readers may like to know that movement is still alive and well in several organizations, including the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.).

D. MARTINEZ | BASTROP COUNTY
BLUEBONNET EC



Sam Rayburn's Desk

The article about Sam Rayburn and John Nance Garner was really enjoyable ["Cooperative Legislative Legends," December 2014].

I especially liked seeing the replica of Sam Rayburn's office in Washington, D.C.

I taught theater arts at Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena and am glad to report that Sam Rayburn's desk from Washington is on display in the main office of that school [at left], along with a photograph of "Mr. Sam."

No one seems to know exactly how it came to be in the Pasadena school, only that the desk was donated from his Washington office to the school when it opened in 1964.

JANICE LEVI | GROESBECK
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Incandescents vs. CFLs

Everyone these days seems to be talking of saving energy, which I guess is a good thing. However, your "Six Easy Ways Kids Can Help Save Energy" in the January 2015 issue recommends changing light-bulbs to CFLs or LEDs.

How can kids afford these high-dollar bulbs? I can, but I generally refuse to pay that much for a bulb that I find does not last any longer than an old-fashioned one.

I have CFLs in my home office

and have changed them twice in the year and a half we've been in our home. That does not seem to be a savings for the consumer (me!).

Sorry, but if given a choice, I'll stick with the old incandescents and change them every six months or so.

DON DIEU | LUBBOCK
SOUTH PLAINS EC

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Barrington Living History Farm

HAPPENINGS

Beasts of Burden

Visitors to Barrington Living History Farm can discover where the term “horsepower” originated with demonstrations March 28–29 featuring horses, mules and oxen trained to do farmwork. These livestock played a vital role in the operations of early Texas farms by pulling plows, harrowing fields, hauling cotton or cultivating corn.

Many of us come from families that, generations ago, relied on draft animals for their livelihoods, says Jonathan Failor, the park ranger at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park who started the Beasts of Burden weekend two years ago. “Farming is something that lives in all of us,” he says.

The Texas Draft Horse and Mule Association joins with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in putting animals to work in a small cotton patch at Barrington farm, which is adjacent to the state park and was the home of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas.

INFO: (936) 878-2214, ext. 246; tpwd.state.tx.us

Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com

ENERGY NEWS

Energy Spending Takes Less Out of Our Wallets

Consumer energy expenditures as a percent of disposable income were lower in 2013 than the average since 1960, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Energy expenditures have averaged between 4 and 8 percent of disposable income since 1960, for a 5.5 percent total average. Expenditures accounted for slightly more than 5 percent in 2013.

Because electricity and transportation spending accounts for more than two-thirds of consumer energy expenditures, increasing vehicle fuel efficiencies and changing fuels used for home heating have contributed to lower consumer energy expenditures relative to disposable income.

The Alamo Rocks

Thanks to British rock legend Phil Collins, some 200 Alamo artifacts are back in San Antonio, where they will remain in storage until a plan to exhibit them can be realized.

Collins donated much of his massive collection in October. Relics included a fringed leather pouch owned by Davy Crockett that was recovered after the 1836 battle at the Alamo and a knife that Jim Bowie had at the battle.

While growing up in London, Collins fell in love with the Alamo when he watched the Walt Disney movie “Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier.” Wealth acquired first as the frontman and drummer for the rock band Genesis and later during a solo career enabled him to collect historical items, starting in the 1980s.

“When I got older and became successful, I decided to spend my money on original items from the Alamo rather than on Ferraris,” Collins said. He told Rolling Stone magazine: “I’ve bought pretty much every book ever written about the Alamo.”

He also wrote one himself. “The Alamo and Beyond: A Collector’s Journey” was published in 2012 by State House Press (tfhcc.com).



Mexican Dolores Cavalry Helmet

FARM: BOBBY L. HICKMAN; HELMET: © ANDREW ALDEN MILLER | STATE HOUSE PRESS

INNOVATION

Texas Tech Tweaks Turbine

New radar technology could help provide measurements of complex airflow conditions among wind turbines. The U.S. Department of Energy granted \$1.4 million to researchers at Texas Tech University to develop the technology to increase wind energy output.

John Schroeder, a professor of atmospheric sciences and principal investigator for the project, said existing wind farms are not performing as expected.

“Wind farms are not putting out as much power as we would expect from them,” Schroeder said. “With a better understanding of how turbines interact with each other, we may be able to make small adjustments that could be worth millions of dollars.”

The research is expected to last for 18 months in Lubbock, home of South Plains Electric Cooperative.

Texas is the national leader in wind energy with 12,755 megawatts of installed capacity, 7,986 wind turbines—mostly in the Panhandle Plains—and as many as 9,000 jobs in the industry, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

Hug a Peanut Farmer—Even if You’re Allergic

March is National Peanut Month, when the spotlight shines on Texas peanut farmers and the 433 million pounds of nuts they grow.

Think Americans aren’t nuts about this product (which is technically a legume)? The amount of peanut butter eaten in a year could wrap the earth in a ribbon of 18-ounce peanut butter jars $1\frac{1}{3}$ times, according to the National Peanut Board.

But for people who are allergic to peanuts and peanut products—0.6 percent of Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health—peanut farmers in Texas and nationally have committed more than \$10 million to food allergy research. The Texas Peanut Producers Board also has announced the launch of PeanutAllergyFacts.org, a website for schools and parents that offers science-based information about peanut and food allergies, and links to resources about effective allergy treatments.

Texas is the fourth-largest peanut-producing state in the country, and the industry is worth more than \$1 billion to the state’s economy, according to the Texas Peanut Producers Board.



The State Steed

The American Quarter Horse Association (aqha.com) turns 75 this month.

The breed traces its origins to the original sire named Steel Dust [“Where Quarter Horses Get Their Mettle,” October 2014], who came to Texas from Kentucky in 1844.

“For it was in Texas that the western range cattle industry had its origins, and it was the quarter horse that took farm boys out of cotton patches, made them into cowboys and carried them up the longhorn trails into history,” the association describes on its website.

A group of influential ranchers formed the AQHA in March 1940 when they gathered in Fort Worth for the annual Fat Stock Show. The association has registered more than 5 million horses since its inception.

The American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum in Amarillo showcases the people and horses influential in the breed’s history.



PEANUT BUTTER: TIM CARROLL; HORSES: COURTESY AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

THE GOODNIGHT LOVING



TRAIL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA ROBINSON

NE OF TEXAS' LEGENDARY FIGURES

grew up with the state. Charles Goodnight was born March 5, 1836, in Macoupin County, Illinois, just three days after Texas achieved independence. Goodnight came to Texas riding bareback into Milam County, 30 miles northwest of present-day College Station, in late 1845, the year Texas joined the Union. Goodnight was proud of those dates, and some biographers suggest it was this close chronological identity that inspired him to lead a life that followed such a sweeping arc across the Lone Star State.

Goodnight made history for his gutsy cattle drive with partner Oliver Loving. The two blazed a new trail to lucrative markets in the west through hostile Indian territory. The tale is familiar to fans of Larry McMurtry's epic novel "Lonesome Dove" and the star-studded miniseries borne from the book, but even without the embellishment of Hollywood, the real story describes an epic journey. Today's history buffs can follow Goodnight's trail through Texas, beginning where he did, in the tiny town of Oran.

Goodnight was still a young man of 30 when the Civil War ended. After serving as a scout for the Texas Rangers and as part of the Confederate frontier defense, he returned to the rough country of north-central Texas to find that uncontrolled cattle rustling had left untamed herds roaming the landscape. Goodnight was devastated and saw little cause for hope.

But that hopelessness and desperation spawned a daring idea. Popular trail drive logic directed cattlemen to aim for northern markets at trailheads in Kansas and elsewhere by following proven routes such as the Chisholm Trail. Knowing that with risk comes the promise of greater reward, Goodnight turned his sights west, betting on the underserved markets of New Mexico and Colorado. For this unprecedented plan to succeed, he would have to navigate the edge of the Comanche-controlled regions of the Panhandle and drive the cattle first south and then west for three days across the dry and featureless Llano Estacado.

As the upstart Goodnight prepared for the never-before-attempted drive in spring 1866, he traveled to nearby Weatherford and met up with Loving, an established cattleman almost a full generation older, who was then gathering his own herd for a drive. Goodnight recalled the chivalrous tone of that meeting at Black Springs, present-day Oran, years later.

Two historical markers acknowledge that historic Goodnight-Loving partnership in Oran. A thriving trade center in cattle-drive days, Oran today seems an unlikely spot for the genesis of

any historic undertaking: Only a clutch of battered buildings and down-at-the-heels houses define the town now.

Charles Goodnight's legacy includes the official state bison herd.



In early June 1866, they moved southwest with a herd estimated at 2,000 head

On the eastern edge of the Keechi Valley, FM 52 traverses hilly prairies interspersed with mottes of oak.

As the legend goes, Goodnight and Loving combined herds a few miles southwest of Fort Belknap on the western banks of the Brazos River. In early June 1866, they moved southwest with a herd estimated at 2,000 head managed by fewer than two dozen men and followed by a surplus Army wagon that Goodnight designed to serve as the outfit's chuck wagon. Today, the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Forts Trail follows the early sections of the original Goodnight-Loving Trail, marking a path southwest toward San Angelo.

Goodnight's biggest gamble came west of San Angelo. The hands led the cattle to the Middle Concho River, where man and beast consumed as much water as possible in preparation for a near-100-mile trek across a barren and arid plain that would last three days and nights.

After that grueling, waterless drive, the herd stampeded for the Pecos River. The ensuing crush to relieve their torrid thirst created bedlam for cowboys, horses and cattle: A hundred head were lost.

Despite these losses, Goodnight and Loving pushed on north to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, where the U.S. Army bought much of the herd. Loving managed to guide the remaining cattle on to

Colorado, while Goodnight returned to Texas carrying a relative fortune in gold with dreams of even greater rewards.

In 1867, in the course of the partners' final drive, Loving made plans to travel ahead of the herd. He was wounded in an attack in New Mexico, just north of today's state line, and succumbed to his wounds not long after.

Goodnight not only continued to pay Loving's heirs his share of the business proceeds after Loving's death but also promised to return Loving's body to Texas. It wasn't long before Loving returned home to Weatherford. An iron fence surrounds Loving's grave on a hill in the Greenwood Cemetery overlooking the picturesque downtown neighborhood and the Parker County courthouse.

Goodnight continued ranching, working his cattle in the arid Llano Estacado country. He founded the JA Ranch with Englishman John Adair and established his own herds in Palo Duro Canyon. A replica of the one-room dugout he burrowed into the red clay earth of the canyon walls and roofed with cedar and cottonwood logs is open to tourists in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Visitors to the "The Grand Canyon of Texas" can hike among colorful sandstone formations that Goodnight considered "nature's fencing," as it kept his cattle from wandering in those early days of Texas ranching.



managed by fewer than two dozen men



As the American bison numbers dwindled in the late 1800s, Goodnight's wife, Molly, encouraged him to save several orphan calves. In doing this, Goodnight established one of the five buffalo herds remaining in North America today. Descendants of this herd became the official Texas State Bison Herd in 1996 and now roam freely on 10,000 acres in Caprock Canyon State Park. Driving that park's scenic loop, visitors can encounter buffalo bulls nibbling grass at the road's edge and witness new calves testing their legs.

The Goodnights built their homestead north of Palo Duro Canyon and founded the town of Goodnight. The home was restored and opened to the public as the Charles Goodnight Historical Center in 2013. The two-story Victorian house, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, sits just south of U.S. 287, 40 miles east of Amarillo.

With the Goodnight house as the center of an imaginary compass, Goodnight's legacy appears today to reach in every direction: To the east, his humble beginnings in the Keechi Valley. To the west, traces of the Goodnight-Loving Trail. To the north, the almost-deserted town of Goodnight that he founded in 1887. A historical marker on Ranch Road 294, just past Juliet-John Road, marks the site where Charles and Molly established the Goodnight College in 1898, a coed academy for the children of settlers

Clockwise from left: Will Craddock manages the official Texas long-horn herd at Fort Griffin State Park. The Goodnight Cemetery contains Charles and Molly Goodnight's graves. A replica of the original Goodnight dugout is at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

and ranch hands. To the south, the JA Ranch, one of the most renowned ranching operations in the Texas Panhandle.

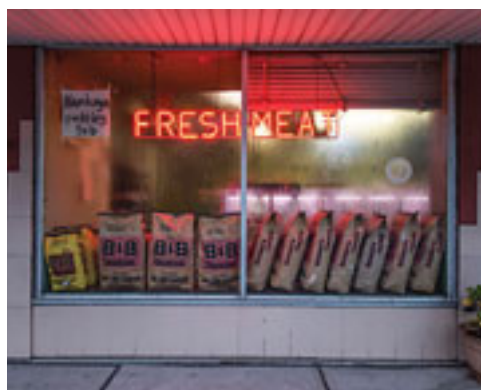
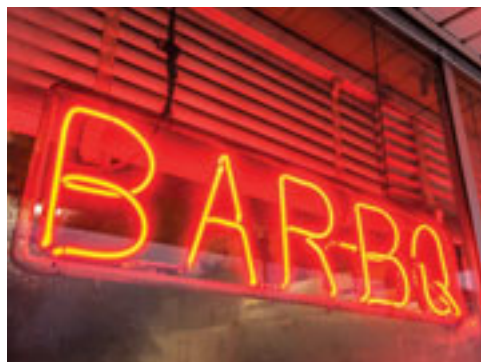
Late in life, Goodnight became known for his abrupt manner and quick temper. Even so, he remained active in ranching and civic life. He is credited with Armstrong County's first wheat crop, among other agricultural experiments. He also developed a friendship with Quanah Parker, one of the last Comanche chiefs.

Goodnight died early on a December morning in 1929. His remains now lie next to Molly's in the cemetery in Goodnight. The cemetery occupies a slight elevation, just a short, 2-mile ride from the Goodnight homestead and north of U.S. 287. Dozens of handkerchiefs tied to the fence flutter in the breeze, paying silent homage to a man who grew up with Texas and was one of the last cowmen to experience the open frontier.

Julia Robinson is an Austin photojournalist.

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

PRAUSE MEAT MARKET



BARBECUE TRADITIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY WYATT McSPADDEN

In the summer of 1995, when I was in the early stages of my long love affair with the Texas barbecue scene, I lucked into an assignment to photograph small-town barbecue joints throughout Central Texas. The locations on my shot list included Llano, Lockhart, Taylor, Smithville and La Grange. My destination in La Grange was Prause Meat Market, situated on the historic courthouse square. As I walked through the door, I was surprised to see a place unlike any of the other spots I'd visited.

Prause was then and is now primarily a meat market. Prussian-born Arnold Prause (pronounced PROW-zee) established the family's first butcher shop in 1904 on the north side of the square. The Prauses' business eventually outgrew the original location, and they moved it south in 1953 to the current space. The market is owned and operated for now by fourth-generation members of the Prause family.

What I saw in Prause on that first visit nearly 20 years ago took me back to my youth in Amarillo, working in the family grocery store, Central Grocery, the heart of which was our meat market. Prause's beautiful glass-fronted, refrigerated display cases were filled with carefully prepared cuts of beef and pork. The massive meat block was worn down from years—and tons—of meat trimming. The battered cutlery, the sawdust on the floor and the friendly, helpful folks behind the cases all reminded me of familiar images from my past.

As my education about and interaction with the Texas barbecue world grew, so did my appreciation of Prause Meat Market. It is a living reminder of the origins of our state's barbecue traditions. In the early days, when refrigeration was scarce, markets would smoke and sell meats to avoid losses to spoilage. Several present-day barbecue joints still have "market" as part of their names—Kreuz Market in Lockhart, City Market in both Luling and Giddings—but they no longer butcher and sell fresh meats. Years ago, the income from barbecue surpassed the meat market revenue, and the emphasis turned to smoked meats. From those modest beginnings and that simple business model, what we know as Texas-style barbecue was born, and beef brisket is the star of the show. Pit-smoked brisket is the foundation of the Texas barbecue tradition and what separates our barbecue from the pork-centric styles in other parts of the U.S.

On more recent photo excursions to Prause, I've paid particular attention to the names of the customers who've come to buy fresh meats or sit down to a barbecue lunch: Wanjura, Machicek, Dvorak and Schmidt. They are likely the descendants of early settlers—German, Polish and Czech immigrants who also grew up knowing and patronizing their small-town meat markets.

Prause Meat Market, around since 1904, seems unfazed by the barbecue explosion turning heads across the state. Opposite: The "eatin' room" is available for folks who choose to dine in.



Preparing sausage and cuts of beef and pork for the display cases is as much a part of the mission at Prause as serving up barbecue.

The meat market is owned by fourth-generation members of the Prause family, though they are making plans to sell the business. The photos below show two generations of Prauses at the massive meat block.



But the Texas barbecue scene has changed dramatically over the past few years. The excitement is in the cities, where energetic, urbanized young professionals have taken on the challenge of producing true pit-smoked barbecue. In Austin, folks happily stand in line for three hours or more at Franklin Barbecue for the pleasure of tasting the amazingly succulent brisket.

Citified barbecue isn't happening just in Austin. Dallas has its own long lines for barbecue at Pecan Lodge, which recently moved from the farmers market near downtown to new digs in Deep Ellum, a business and entertainment district in East Dallas that is enjoying revitalization. Every major city in the state is experiencing the barbecue boom fueled both by great new joints and the Internet. Google "Texas barbecue," and you'll get hundreds of websites, blogs, critics and editorial content on the subject. Prause's doesn't have a website, although the young daughter of one of the owners has created a Facebook page for the shop.

This urban 'cue explosion has produced shock waves, but they haven't reached Prause. The barbecue here is prepped as it always has been, served on a paper plate with traditional sides at a reasonable price. Prause's barbecue is affordable for a workingman's lunch, and the line may have as many as three folks in front of you, or none. Grab lunch in the "eatin' room," and you'll sit next to working people—cattlemen, merchants—and occasionally a few pilgrims from out of town or even out of state.

It's likely the team of Prauses running the shop today will be the last family members to do so. The newest generation of offspring is turning elsewhere to make a living, so the current owners are planning to sell. Take my advice: Head to Prause Meat Market now, while it's still a virtual museum for a way of life that's disappearing faster than wood smoke into the Texas sky.

Versatile and accomplished photographer **Wyatt McSpadden** stands on impressive barbecue credentials. Check wyattmcspadden.com for more proof.

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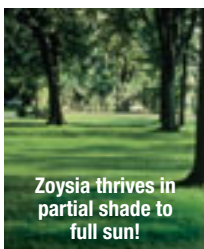


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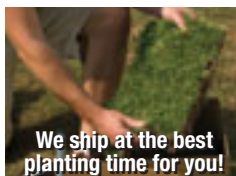
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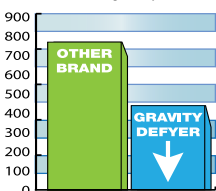
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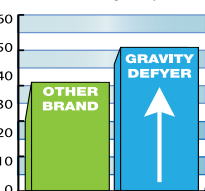
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SHOCK ABSORPTION STUDY HPW Biomechanics, 2012

Shock absorption: Measurement of maximum pressure (KPI).
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Using a surge protector is a good way to protect electronics at their point of use, but be sure it's actually equipped with surge protection and not just a power strip. Look for a "Ground & Surge" or "Surge Protection" indicator light and make sure it is green when plugged in. If it ever turns red, the surge protection feature is no longer working, and the unit needs to be replaced.

Implementing Surge Protection

THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, YOU CAN BUY TODAY that does not have some electronic component—even clothing with wearable electronics is starting to take hold. So it's time to take a look at making sure your electronics last as long as possible by protecting them from electrical surges.

The first order of business is to define a surge. Here's one definition: "Alternatively known as a line surge, a surge is an unexpected increase in voltage of an electrical current that causes damage to electrical equipment. For example, the standard United States voltage is 120V. If an electrical current above this rating was to come through a power outlet for more than three nanoseconds, this would be considered a surge. Anything less is considered a spike. A surge is often created by lightning and can damage unprotected computers—and sometimes even protected computers."

Many people think a blink from your co-op's system is a surge, but blinks are generally caused by something like a tree contacting a line. In such cases, the system's protective devices work, causing an interruption to protect the wires and other components. These are not surges but blinks, and are more like turning a light on and off.

True surges will enter a home through any number of avenues. The most obvious way is through the power lines. Less obvious ways are through the telephone lines, cable/satellite connections, water lines, etc. To protect against surges, you need to take a three-pronged approach.

Step One

Perhaps the most important thing to do is to be sure all the grounds in your home are solid and that they are bonded

together. Over the years, grounds can deteriorate, or perhaps new services were added without adequate grounding. A faulty ground will allow surges into the home rather than bleeding them off into the earth. Get a qualified electrician to test and correct your grounding system.

Step Two

Next, protect your electrical service entrance with a surge protector. The easiest to install are those mounted behind the meter. They can also be mounted at the main electric panel. When a surge travels down the electric lines, a surge protector will act to "clamp" the surge and reduce its power, allowing itself to be destroyed in the process rather than allowing the surge to pass through and damage your home's system.

Step Three

The third line of defense is to protect expensive devices at their point of use. Computers and entertainment equipment are prime examples. Remember that surges can enter the home via avenues other than the power lines. Computers and entertainment equipment are frequently connected to cable or phone lines. Those devices need to have protection at the point of use that covers all possible avenues.

These guards are generally found in the form of a power strip or wall device. Look for one with a rating of at least 1,000 joules, a connected equipment warranty and compatibility with digital signals from cable and satellite. While you are at it, look for a "smart" strip that turns off all but one connected device when not in use. Not only will it protect your equipment, but it also will help you save electricity.

10 Ways To Cut Energy Bills

IT COSTS MORE THAN \$2,200 A YEAR in energy bills to run the average American home, and more than half of that is for heating and cooling.

The experts at personal finance resource WalletHub have this advice for lowering those bills:

- 1. Get an energy audit.** You'll have an easier time sealing energy leaks if you know where they are, and an auditor can show you.
- 2. Replace all of your incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs—even if they're not burned out yet.** They're wasting more money in energy costs than you'll waste by replacing them before they're spent.
- 3. Use caulk to seal cracks** and gaps around windows.
- 4. Add attic insulation** and make sure it's properly attached.
- 5. Learn about the energy use of your appliances.** The more you understand about energy, the less of it you'll waste.
- 6. If you're planning to move into a newly built home,** choose an architect or builder who is committed to "green building" and energy efficiency. Many green building strategies don't cost any more when they're incorporated during construction—like making energy-efficient choices for the direction the house faces and where the windows are placed.
- 7. Replace outdated furnaces and air-conditioning systems** with updated models that are designed to work more efficiently, waste less energy and save you money.
- 8. When you replace appliances, look at more than the price tag.** Consider how much it will cost you each year to operate the equipment. Often, the savings on your energy bill will more than make up for the slightly higher price you pay for more efficient models.
- 9. If you're remodeling your home,** make energy efficiency as high a priority as more visible upgrades like granite countertops or new cabinets. You can't "see" energy efficiency, so it's too often out of sight, out of mind.
- 10. Installing high-performance windows** will improve your home's energy performance. While it may take many years for new windows to pay off in energy savings, the benefits of functionality, added comfort and improved aesthetics can easily offset the cost.

Use the energy-saving features on your appliances so they operate at maximum efficiency—using less electricity and saving you more money.



Stay Safe From Lightning

SPRING WEATHER CAN BRING THUNDER

and electrical storms. Fortunately, accidents involving lightning are avoidable. Safe Electricity marks Texas' Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 1-7 this year, with the following suggestions to stay safe from the dangers of lightning:

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. It is important to be aware of weather forecasts and watch for developing thunderstorms, which occur more often in spring and summer.

Lightning can strike many miles ahead of a storm front. Hearing thunder indicates that lightning is within 10 miles of you. Seek shelter immediately. Safe shelters include inside a building or in an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.

If you are inside a building, the National Weather Service advises you to stay off corded telephones and away from any electrical device that could carry an electrical surge if lightning entered the building through wiring. Turn off or unplug such appliances. Do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike. A house's plumbing can also act as a conductor, so avoid taking a shower or bath during a storm.

Authorities warn against outdoor activity until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard.

If a person near you is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim.

The Return of La Belle

Bullock Museum assembles remnants of 1686 shipwreck from Matagorda Bay

BY MARTHA DEERING

THE STORY OF THE FAILED FRENCH SETTLEMENT of Texas holds center stage at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum with the reconstruction of La Belle, the centuries-old lost ship of Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle.

“The sinking of La Belle doomed La Salle’s effort to colonize the Texas coast,” says Jim Bruseth, guest curator of the exhibit, “and it opened the door for Spain’s occupation of Texas.”

In the 1990s, Bruseth led a team of Texas Historical Commission archaeologists responsible for recovering the ship from Matagorda Bay. The archeologists’ efforts launched an unprecedented excavation and restoration effort that tells the story of an early attempt to colonize North America.

La Salle’s dream of establishing a French colony sank in Matagorda Bay in February 1686 when his last surviving ship, La Belle, ran aground a quarter mile from shore in 12 feet of water. The cantankerous La Salle was away searching for the mouth of the Mississippi when his beautiful *barque longue* listed to starboard and settled onto the seabed. Soon after this disaster, La Salle’s crew assassinated him.

The Bullock exhibit is more than 30 years in the making. In 1978, Barto Arnold, Texas state marine archaeologist, discovered the probable site of the wreck in a magnetometer survey. Lost for more than 300 years, the 60-foot vessel presented challenges for archaeologists as soon as recovery work began in 1995. The ship lay in a remote part of the bay where the muddy water made underwater excavation impossible. The THC elected to con-

struct a cofferdam, a huge double steel wall driven into the seabed, to surround the wreck. With the cofferdam in place, water could be pumped out to allow a relatively dry excavation.

Most of La Belle’s cargo was intact, housed in wooden boxes and barrels, some of which could be removed in their entirety. The challenge for archaeologists was to keep the waterlogged artifacts and the hull itself from drying out and decomposing. “Wood that has been submerged in seawater for 300 years shrinks, cracks and warps within a matter of days if allowed to dry out,” explains Amy Borgens, THC nautical archaeologist. “The enormous physical stress on the timbers causes them to crumble and break into pieces if exposed to the air.”

Before proceeding with restoration, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act required Texas to sign a treaty with France for conservatorship of the vessel for 99 years. Because La Belle was a French flagship, France will retain ownership, and the THC will serve as principal steward.

Carefully wrapped timbers from the ship’s hull traveled by truck to Texas A&M University’s Conservation Research Laboratory, where scientists working in partnership with the THC processed the artifacts and timbers. “The greatest enemy of shipwrecks is ship worms, which riddle submerged wood with tunnels in temperate waters,” says Peter Fix, lead conservator on the La Belle project at Texas A&M. “The bulk of La Belle’s hull was already decimated by ship worms when it was located by the Spanish in 1689. Only the



parts buried beneath the mud, about the bottom third of the hull, have survived.”

Scientists at A&M soaked La Belle’s timbers in fresh water in a cradle built to support the wood in its original shape. After leaching out the salt, they submerged the wood in a solution of polyethylene glycol, also known as PEG, in a preservation process that normally would have required 10 years. During this process, PEG is gradually impregnated into the wood to replace water. Unfortunately, the price of polyethylene glycol skyrocketed from \$330,000 for the project to more than \$1.5 million, and the THC was forced to consider other options.

The laboratory submitted a proposal to the THC that listed other available methods for preserving waterlogged wood. At the top of the list was freeze-drying, an alternative that had not been tried on such a large scale. Freeze-drying, also known as sublimation, requires only 10 percent of the amount of PEG needed for the originally proposed method.

Although freeze-drying a ship would prove much more difficult than freeze-drying a tomato, scientists felt confident the system would work. Inside the freeze-dryer, which is set to minus 40 degrees and 0.06 atmospheres of pressure, ice transforms directly from a solid into a gas, thus re-reducing the time needed to treat the hull and simultaneously imbuing the

wood with a more natural appearance. “Planking took approximately six weeks to dry sufficiently, but larger wood like the keel and frames took longer—three to four months,” says Donny Hamilton, nautical archaeology program director at A&M.

Built specifically for this project, the freeze-dryer is the largest archaeological freeze-dryer in the hemisphere. The tube-shaped, computer-controlled instrument measures 8 feet in internal diameter by 40 feet in length. Five racks inside the freeze-dryer compartment hold artifacts in position. The freeze-dryer will have a waiting list of projects after La Belle, including restoration of objects from a museum that suffered water damage during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

La Belle began to take shape on the ground floor of the Bullock Museum on October 25, 2014. Visitors are invited to watch the reconstruction process. The ancient timbers need the support of an endoskeleton made of carbon fiber laminate. “Many of the artifacts will eventually be displayed in the hold in their original positions,” says one official, “including a mold of the skeleton of an unfortunate sailor who went down with the ship.” The museum, still in its planning phase when La Belle was discovered in 1995, has a gallery especially designed to display the ship.

Completion is scheduled for May 17,

A life-sized reconstruction of La Belle in Austin’s Bullock Museum (above left). An artifact emblem of the “Sun King,” France’s King Louis XIV (above).

at which time the finished ship will move to its permanent location inside the museum. The artifacts, which number 1.6 million, will change over time. Most have never been on display before. The museum will recreate the ship’s original three masts and support beams so that visitors can see an interpretation of the parts that rotted away over the centuries while the ship lay on the floor of Matagorda Bay.

“La Belle is the only wreck where the supplies needed to start a New World Colony have been found together and so well preserved,” says Bruseth. “They represent a ‘kit’ for building a colony.”

Martha Deering, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

A live stream shows the step-by-step reconstruction of La Belle. The camera focuses on the ship in the museum’s gallery continuously, Wednesday through Saturday, at thestoryoftexas.com/la-belle.

Lens on the Texas Frontier

Excerpt from new volume that represents premier collection of historic Texas photography

BY LAWRENCE T. JONES III

COLLECTORS ARE A STRANGE BUT DRIVEN lot. We are passionate about what we do and tend to think others should feel the same. I hesitate to say “obsessed,” but it is not far off the mark in describing hardcore collectors. Since 1976, I have collected, studied, researched, and written about antique American photography. My initial interest was Civil War photographs taken in the southern states of the old Confederacy. For over three decades I researched images and published a calendar featuring Confederate photography. As the years passed, my interest changed somewhat, and I began to focus more on the history (from the 1840s up to 1900) of my home state of Texas. Soon it became obvious to me that early Texas photography should be the focus of my collecting.

Early Texas photographs are extremely rare compared with other geographical regions of the United States. During the 1980s, when I began to focus seriously upon Texas as a collecting theme, I realized that no private individuals were collecting or studying antique Texas photography. This was not a new realization. The lack of interest in historic Texas photography was mentioned in 1941 in *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* by Samuel Wood Geiser of Southern Methodist University at Dallas.

In a letter addressed to Walter Prescott Webb, noteworthy Texas historian, and then managing editor of the *Quarterly*, Geiser mentioned the “splendid history” Robert Taft wrote on the history of photography in America. Geiser bemoaned

the fact that Taft’s 500-plus-page book contained only a single paragraph devoted to early Texas photography. The obvious conclusion for Geiser was “the need for some thoroughgoing work on the history of photography in early Texas.” The professor briefly touched on the identity and work of some of the earliest photographers in Texas, stating that his brief notes might serve as a “starting point” for someone in extending that single, brief paragraph on Texas in Taft’s “Photography and the American Scene.”

No doubt Geiser’s comments were of particular interest to Webb, who was married to the daughter of William James Oliphant, a prominent and important nineteenth-century Austin photographer. Oliphant was a Confederate veteran who took up photography as a profession after the American Civil War. He photographed important people and events, and he had also known and studied with two of America’s best-known photographers, Alexander Gardner and Timothy O’Sullivan of Washington, D.C. Oliphant also was an early collector of photographs, especially those by his friends and associates. Included in his collection are previously unknown and unpublished photographs of his own, O’Sullivan, and other photographers that worked at Gardner’s Gallery, such as William R. Pywell. After Oliphant’s death Webb and his wife preserved Oliphant’s collection of photographs.

I like to think that Webb understood the historical value of what he had saved. Years later in a quirk of fate and a stroke



A daguerrotype titled "Unidentified Mother with three children" made in Galveston in 1854 in an ornate folding frame with facing of blue velvet

of luck, I was able to acquire the bulk of the Oliphant photograph collection from Webb family descendants. This collection

now is preserved as a sub-collection in the Lawrence T. Jones III Collection at the DeGolyer Library [at SMU].

When I became serious about collecting early Texas photography during the 1980s, I found that very little had been written or published about nineteenth-

century Texas photography since the Geiser-Webb discussions in 1941. One notable exception was "The Diamond Years of Texas Photography," written and published in 1975 by Ava Crofford. However, this book is primarily a history of the Texas Professional Photographers Association from 1898 to 1973, and it contained very little information about what I consider the heyday of early Texas photography, from the 1840s through the 1870s. Another important edition was "Catching Shadows: A Directory of Nineteenth-Century Texas Photographers" by David Haynes. Published by the Texas State Historical Association in 1993, Haynes's comprehensive work is a checklist of more than twenty-five hundred working photographers in Texas from 1843 to 1900. Haynes provided not only a listing of early Texas photographers in alphabetical order, but he also included known biographical information and dates of

operation. His work continues to be an invaluable reference for anyone interested in nineteenth-century Texas photography.

Excerpted from the book "Lens on the Texas Frontier" by Lawrence T. Jones III (Texas A&M University Press, 2014).

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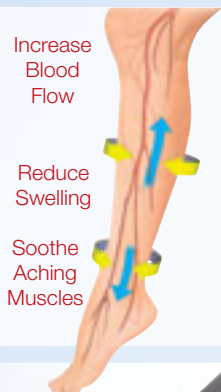
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The Old Indian Doctor

Crumley treated ailments in 19th-century Texas with roots, seeds, bark and plants

BY GENE FOWLER

WHEN DR. BENJAMIN THOMAS CRUMLEY died in Lampasas County in 1901, family members could not believe that “the Old Indian Doctor” was truly gone. They held a mirror under his nose to check for breath. After all, Crumley had treated Central Texans with plant-based remedies for nearly half a century.

In 1879, the Williamson County Sun reported that Crumley “was considered, to some extent, an oddity because he wore his hair very long.” The Sun noted that at his third wedding, “the Doctor had his hair platted up and roses stuck about it.”

Crumley’s descendants have traced his story through an intriguing tangle of fact and folklore. Great-grandson Larion Crumley of San Antonio says the doctor was born in Cherokee Nation, South Carolina, in 1822. Some believed that he did attend medical school. One legend says that he was expelled from a university after a night of heavy drinking.

Crumley maintained that he was part Cherokee, and another family story has him studying medicine with the Cherokee for seven years. After serving in the Civil War (and possibly in the Mexican War before that), he was living and doctoring near Martindale in Hays County during the 1870s. When a flood destroyed his home, he relocated to Buttercup near present-day Cedar Park, where he also served as postmaster.

Descendants report that physicians in Austin often called on the Old Indian Doctor for consultation. Another story holds that mysterious horsemen once came to Buttercup, blindfolded Doc Crumley and led him to a remote hideout, where he patched up the wounds of outlaw Sam Bass.

Jim Sims, another great-grandson, was treated with the Old Indian Doctor’s remedies, as they were passed down through

the family’s oral tradition. “He used horehound for coughs, colds, sore throats and lung troubles,” says Sims. “It was administered as a syrup made by boiling the plants in water. Sassafras was administered as a relaxant and to settle the stomach. It was prepared from thin shavings off the roots that were steeped to make a tea. He treated chest colds with mustard seeds that were crushed and placed in a small amount of hot water to make a paste that was used in a poultice. Willow bark was used as a pain reliever, and Johnson grass or broomcorn tea was prescribed for kidney and urinary problems. Chicory root was roasted, ground and brewed in hot water to be consumed as a sedative and also for its laxative effect.”

Crumley also relieved pain with opium and morphine. Great-great-grandson Scott Crumley, an Austin pharmacist, says family history indicates that the doctor himself became dependent on morphine, which he took to treat a chronic war wound. Whiskey, coal oil, castor oil and the patent medicine

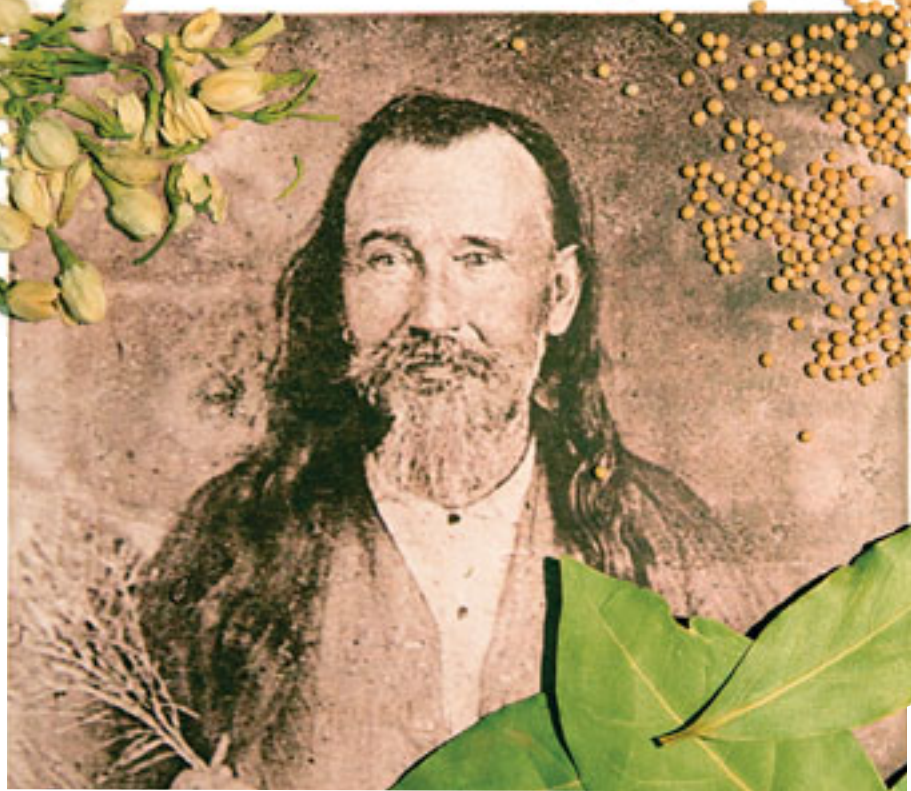
Pitcher’s Castoria rounded out the Old Indian Doctor’s pharmacopeia.

The doctor’s saddlebag held a trusty madstone for treating rabid animal bites. Said to be found in the stomachs of deer, madstones could reportedly draw the poison out of a fresh wound or bite. Larion Crumley recalls seeing the heirloom stone as a boy: “It was an oval, quartz-like stone about an inch and a half in diameter and three-quarters of an inch thick.”

Crumley relocated to northern Lampasas County near the community of Evant in 1890, where folks long remembered seeing him wearing a white linen suit, riding a white horse to visit patients.

One evening in 1901, as granddaughter Beulah Thomas Crumley combed his hair, the doctor said with tears in his eyes, “Sweet, this is the last time I’ll see you.” Called out to deliver a set of twins, Crumley suffered a heart attack on the trip home. By morning, the Old Indian Doctor was gone.

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.



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Your Secret Ingredient

FROM BANANA PUDDING MADE WITH Ritz crackers to a pork loin slow-cooked in cinnamon applesauce, submissions to the Your Secret Ingredient contest earned high scores across the board.

My contribution is my daughter's favorite black bean soup. There are two secret ingredients: a dash of honey and smoked Spanish paprika. You'll want to adjust the salt level to taste, as vegetable broth tends to vary in flavor and sodium levels.

ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

Emma's Vegetarian Black Bean Soup

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup finely chopped onion
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup finely chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped carrots
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon smoked Spanish paprika
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 can fire-roasted diced tomatoes (14 ounces), drained
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups vegetable broth, salted
- 2 cans black beans (15 ounces each), drained
- Salt to taste
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen or canned corn, drained (optional)

1. Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large pot. Add onion, celery, carrots and cumin and cook 2 to 3 minutes or until onion is tender and fragrant. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more.
2. Stir in smoked paprika, honey, tomatoes, vegetable broth and black beans. Stir well and season to taste with salt, if needed.
3. If desired, purée the soup in a blender, return to stove and heat until warm. Alternatively, skip the puréeing step, add frozen or canned corn, rewarm, and serve the soup chunky-style.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 10 ounces. Per serving: 228 calories, 10.50 g protein, 3.90 g fat, 45.64 g carbohydrates, 9.57 g dietary fiber, 1,666 mg sodium, 28.25 g sugars, 0 mg cholesterol



Recipes

Your Secret Ingredient

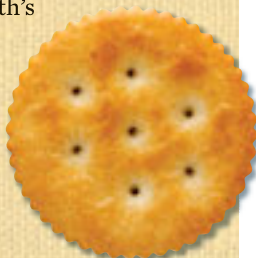


THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

PEGGY DECKER | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Peanut butter on your pork chops? Cloves in your chili? Many cooks have un-

expected tricks up their sleeves. This month's winner also came up with a witty name for her recipe, based on its surprising—and delicious—substitution.



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Pudding on the Ritz

"I stumbled upon this recipe one day when I had all the ingredients on hand [for banana pudding] but the vanilla wafers. I looked around and [found] Ritz crackers instead. I like sweet and salty, so I gave it a try. Tested it with my family, and it became an immediate success!"

- 2 boxes instant banana cream pudding (3.4 ounces each)
- Milk, as indicated in pudding box recipe
- 2 sleeves round butter crackers
- 4 large bananas, sliced
- 1 container whipped topping (8 ounces)

1. Prepare the pudding as directed on the box, using the amount of milk indicated.
2. Cover the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch dish with crackers. Cover the cracker layer with sliced bananas, then cover the banana layer with prepared pudding.
3. Repeat layers with remaining crackers, bananas and pudding.
4. Spread whipped topping over the top and chill dessert at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.

Servings: 14. Serving size: 7 ounces. Per serving: 329 calories, 5.02 g protein, 12.91 g fat, 48.35 g carbohydrates, 1.71 g dietary fiber, 514 mg sodium, 25.31 g sugars, 6 mg cholesterol

Pork Shoulder Roast

STEPHANIE BALDOCK | WOOD COUNTY EC

"The cinnamon in the applesauce is the secret ingredient."

- 2-3 pound pork shoulder roast
- ½ cup cinnamon applesauce
- 1 sweet onion, sliced
- 2 generous splashes teriyaki sauce

1. Apply nonstick cooking spray inside a slow cooker, or use a liner.
2. Place pork shoulder in slow cooker and top with cinnamon applesauce, onion slices and teriyaki sauce.
3. Cook 1 hour on high heat, then reduce heat to low and continue cooking another 4-5 hours or until pork is tender and fully cooked.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 8 ounces. Per serving: 118 calories, 5.43 g protein, 5.06 g fat, 12.05 g carbohydrates, 1.03 g dietary fiber, 866 mg sodium, 3.59 g sugars, 13 mg cholesterol

Banana Muffins

KAREN WOOD | WHARTON COUNTY EC

"Mayonnaise is the secret ingredient in these muffins. They are so moist and tasty."

- 1½ cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 3 bananas, mashed
- ½ cup chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease or line 2 muffin pans.
2. In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking soda and salt. In a small bowl, beat together the egg and mayonnaise. Add to dry ingredients, stirring until moistened, then stir in mashed bananas.

3. Spoon batter into muffin pans to about ¾ full and top with chocolate chips. Bake 20 minutes.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 1 muffin. Per serving: 253 calories, 2.66 g protein, 9.77 g fat, 39.84 g carbohydrates, 1.55 g dietary fiber, 352 mg sodium, 24.18 g sugars, 15 mg cholesterol

Chicken Chili

MILLIE KIRCHOFF | NUECES EC

"Ground cloves add that secret something."

- 1 cup diced onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced and sprinkled lightly with salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 4-6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, precooked and diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 4 cans cannellini beans (15.5 ounces each), drained and rinsed
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 2 cans diced green chiles (4 ounces each)
- 2 cups frozen whole-kernel corn
- 1 lime
- ¾ cup Monterey jack cheese, shredded

1. In a Dutch oven over high heat, sauté the onion and garlic in butter about 2 minutes.
2. Reduce heat to medium-high and add precooked chicken and seasonings.
3. Add beans, chicken broth, chiles and corn. Cook 45-60 minutes.
4. Serve in individual bowls with a squeeze of lime juice and 1 tablespoon shredded cheese over each.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 9 ounces. Per serving: 204 calories, 12.66 g protein, 4.73 g fat, 29.05 g carbohydrates, 7.33 g dietary fiber, 510 mg sodium, 2.44 g sugars, 14 mg cholesterol

\$100 Recipe Contest

August's recipe contest topic is **Breakfast Foods**. Mom was right: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Do you start the morning with bacon and eggs, pastries and fruit, tacos and salsa—or something else entirely? Let us know. The deadline is **March 10**.

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.

Salsa With a Secret

VALARIE WALKER | SOUTH PLAINS EC

"Who would have thought to put sauerkraut in salsa?"

- 4 pounds fresh beefsteak tomatoes, blanching, peeled and chopped
- ¼ cup cilantro leaves
- ½ cup roasted red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 cup rinsed, drained sauerkraut
- 1 can chipotle peppers (7.5 ounces), chopped, undrained

Juice reserved from red pepper while roasting

- 4 tomatillos, sliced
- ½ cup lime juice
- 1 can mild green chiles (4 ounces), undrained
- 4 cloves garlic, pressed
- 4 cloves pickled garlic, pressed
- 2 teaspoons white sugar

Dash black pepper

- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 bunch chopped scallions

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine tomatoes, cilantro, roasted red pepper, sauerkraut and chipotle peppers.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the reserved red pepper liquid and the tomatillos. Cover with plastic wrap, leaving a small vent hole, and microwave on high 1 minute or until tomatillos are tender. Let cool, then stir into tomato mixture.
3. Add all remaining ingredients except scallions and stir. Mix in scallions 1 hour before serving. Makes about 1 gallon.

Servings: 32. Serving size: 4 ounces. Per serving: 153 calories, 8.13 g protein, 1.28 g fat, 33.17 g carbohydrates, 7.50 g dietary fiber, 1,424 mg sodium, 21.81 g sugars, 0 mg cholesterol

Texas-Style Peanut Butter Baked Pork Chops

ELVIS AND GINGER MCQUINN | BARTLETT EC

"Peanut butter adds a twist to these chops."

- 4 thick-cut pork chops
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 5 tablespoons honey

- 2 teaspoons light brown sugar
- 3 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a large pan with foil and apply nonstick cooking spray.
2. Rub pork chops with olive oil and place in pan. Bake 30 minutes.
3. Whisk together any leftover olive oil with remaining ingredients and set aside.
4. After chops have baked 30 minutes, remove from oven and brush them evenly with peanut butter mixture. Return to oven and bake an additional 10–15 minutes until chops are fully cooked and sauce is thickened and caramelized.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 1 chop. Per serving: 332 calories, 5.44 g protein, 23.19 g fat, 29.09 g carbohydrates, 1.99 g dietary fiber, 707 mg sodium, 25.78 g sugars, 0 mg cholesterol

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

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.**

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 for less), the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remains out of reach.

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“Almost work too well. I am a teacher and hearing much better now” —Lillian Barden, California

“I have used many expensive hearing aids, some over \$5,000. The Airls have greatly improved my enjoyment of life” —Som Y., Michigan

“I would definitely recommend them to my patients with hearing loss” —Amy S., Audiologist, Indiana



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.

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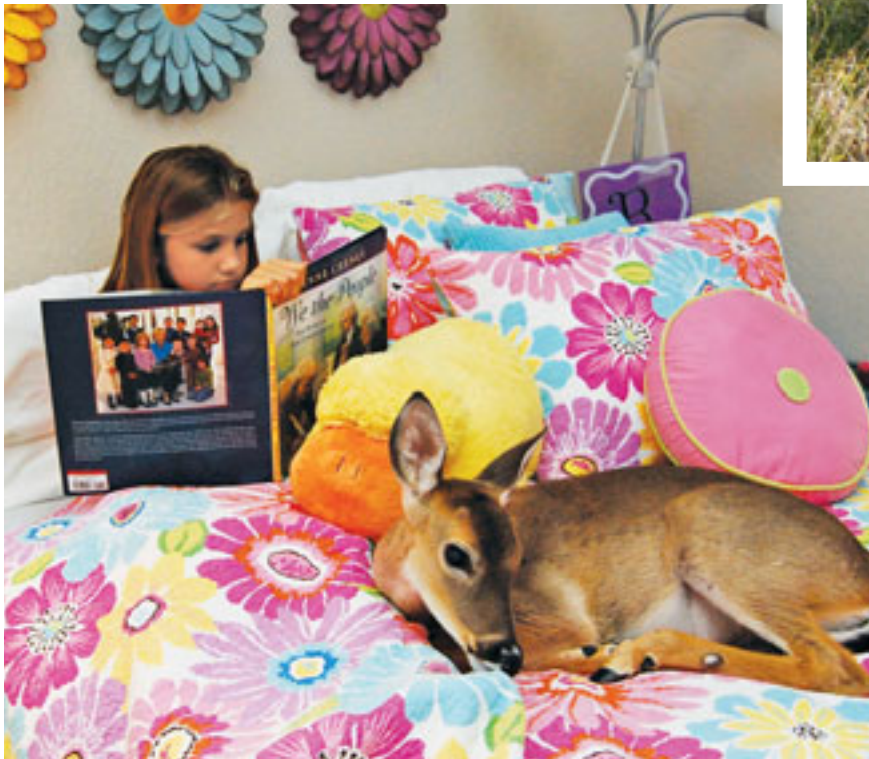
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▲ **BRETT GORDON**, Navasota Valley EC: Every night, daughter Reagan would read Charlie a bedtime story. Charlie now runs wild in the NVEC area.



▲ **REBEKAH BONGATO**, Sam Houston EC: What big teeth you have!



▲ **SUSAN MATT**, Pedernales EC: Kiki, the pit bull, plays with a fawn on a walk.

▼ **HEATHER EILERS**, Pedernales EC: Molly Ann sure misses Lance Eilers while he's gone all day at work.



UPCOMING CONTESTS

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|
| JUNE | SLOW DOWN | DUE MAR 10 |
| JULY | MY FIRST CAR | DUE APR 10 |
| AUGUST | AROUND THE FARM | DUE APR 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. **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.

◀ **ASHLEY MCFADIN**, Guadalupe Valley EC: Horses enjoy a lovely spring day.

Pick of the Month Goliad Massacre Re-enactment

Goliad [March 28-29]

(361) 645-3752; presidiolabahia.org

This two-day event brings the last days of Col. James W. Fannin's command to life through battle re-enactments, re-created camps and touching candlelit scenes at Presidio La Bahia. The Goliad Massacre, March 27, 1836, claimed the lives of 342 men at the hands of Mexican soldiers during the Texas Revolution.



GOLIAD: J. GRIFFIS SMITH | TXDOT. AGATE: © HALILIN | DREAMTIME.COM

March

6

Uvalde [6-7] Piecemakers Quilt Show, (830) 278-4317, lcpoehler@yahoo.com

Houston [6-8] River Oaks Garden Club's 80th Azalea Trail, (713) 523-2483, riveroaksgardenclub.org

7

Crockett Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives, (936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

Johnson City Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo, (830) 868-4469, jclibrarysite.org

Robstown [7-8] GCGMS Gem and Mineral Show, (361) 877-5820, gcgms.org

12

Denton [12-15] Texas Storytelling Festival, (940) 380-9320, tejasstorytelling.com

13

Lufkin [13-14] Needles in the Pines Quilt Show, (936) 422-9892



March 7-8
Robstown
GCGMS Gem and Mineral Show

14

Luling Rajun Cajun Gumbo Throwdown Cookoff, (830) 875-3214, lulingmainstreet.com

20

Round Top [20-21] Herbal Forum, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org

Palestine [20-22, 27-29, April 3-5] Dogwood Trails Celebration, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

Lexington [20-22] Lexington Spring Antique Show and Sale, (979) 540-7026, facebook.com/angelkissesantiques

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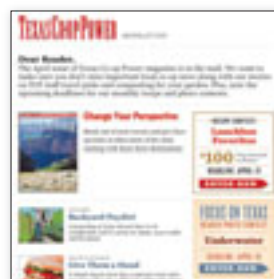
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Texas. For a complete listing, please visit TexasCoopPower.com/events.

21

Lakehills LUMC Annual Fish Fry and Auction, (830) 751-2404, lakehillsumc.org

Gonzales Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale, (830) 672-2953, gonzalesmastergardeners.org

Jasper [21-22] Jasper Airshow, (409) 384-2626, jasperairshow.net

San Patricio [21-22] World Championship Rattlesnake Races, (361) 547-5561, wcrattlesnakeraces.com



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West [21-22] Central Texas Ceramic Expo, (254) 716-5227, westceramicshow.com

Woodville [21-22] Festival of the Arts, (409) 283-2272, heritage-village.org

Cypress Mill [21-22, 28-29] Bunkhouse Gallery Fine Art Show and Sale, (512) 517-3453, wenmohsranh.com

22

Groesbeck [22, 25-28] Limestone County Fair and Youth Livestock Show, (254) 729-3712, limestone-co-fair-grounds.com

26

Priddy [26-28] Melody Oaks Ranch Spring Cookoff and Tractor Pull, (325) 330-0336, melodyoaksranch.com

Beaumont [26-April 5] South Texas State Fair, (409) 832-9991, ymbi.org

Warrenton [26-April 5] Warrenton Antique Show and Sale, (979) 249-3141, warrentonantiques-renckhall.com

27

Georgetown [27-28] Quilt and Stitchery Show, (512) 658-6973, handcraftsunlimited.com

Victoria [27-28] Quilt Guild of Greater Victoria Quilt Show, (281) 794-0068, QuiltGuildVictoria.org

Woodville [27-28, April 4] Western Weekend, (409) 283-2632, tylercountydoggwoodfestival.org

28

Quitman Texas Master Gardeners Wood County Spring Conference, (817) 455-4599

Waxahachie Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, (972) 938-1181, waxahachiesymphony.org

April

4

Comanche Comanche-Wide Garage Sale, (325) 356-3233, comanchechamber.org

Submit Your Event!

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



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

A Jaunt to Junction

Experience the allure of this Hill Country town, either as a destination or a cross-state stopover

BY MELISSA GASKILL

NAMED FOR THE NEARBY INTERSECTION of the north and south forks of the Llano River, Junction is a laid-back town that entertains travelers as a worthy destination itself or as a welcome stopover on a trip across Texas.

One of the area's jewels is **South Llano River State Park**, which offers RV camping and a walk-in tent campground that helps create a car-free experience of camping as it was meant to be. Swim, fish or tube on the river for an afternoon, but much of the river bottom is closed from October through March to protect roosting turkeys. That limits river access for swimming to a bridge area near the park entrance, but canoes and kayaks are permitted on the water during the turkey roosting season.

If you decide on canoeing or kayaking, local outfitter **South Llano River Canoes & Kayaks** rents boats and will transport you 6.2 miles upriver to start the three- to four-hour adventure that ends at the company headquarters about a mile south of the park. Along the way, cast for perch and bass, navigate the occasional mild rapid, or just drift along beneath the overhead canopy of oaks and pecans.

Fall and winter offer ideal weather for a short stroll or a longer hike, and more than 20 miles of trails meander through the park and the adjacent 2,630-acre wildlife management area. Most of the trails also are open to mountain biking. For a more sedate experience of the park's natural beauty, sit in one of the comfy bird blinds overlooking wildlife watering and feeding stations. Birds frequent these sites most of the day, although morning and evening consistently offer the best viewing. Expect to see flycatchers, swallows, wrens, warblers, hawks and hummingbirds. Laminated photos and guidebooks in the blinds will help you identify the birds you see.

At nearby **Fort McKavett**, you'll find evidence of the chain of military posts built in the mid-1800s to protect the much-



Devil's Sinkhole is home to millions of bats from spring to fall.

traveled road between San Antonio and El Paso. The military withdrew from Fort McKavett in 1883, but many structures survived. Peruse the visitors center's account of the fort's history and then amble through a self-guided walking tour of the restored buildings and ruins surrounding the spacious parade ground. A well-marked trail leads you the short distance into a wooded valley where springs feed the headwaters of the San Saba River (also a great kayaking destination).

Plan a 50-minute trip south from Junction to **Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area**, the site of what is believed to be Texas' largest single-chamber cave. Best known for morning and evening bat tours May to October, Devil's Sinkhole is worth a day tour anytime. Tours take place Wednesday through Sunday and include panoramic views of the surrounding Hill Country, guided hikes, two bird blinds for spotting golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos, and the overlook above the 360-foot sinkhole.

Upwards of 3 million Mexican free-tailed bats arrive here in spring from their winter home in Mexico. It takes nearly an hour for all of these flying mammals to spiral up out of the cave each night on their

way to gobble a collective 30 tons of insects. Tours begin at the Rocksprings Visitors Center and make the 16-mile drive to the site by car convoy. Make reservations.

Back in Junction, consider **Cooper's BBQ** just north of Interstate 10 on North Main Street for lunch or dinner. Cooper's serves smoked pork chops, ribs, turkey, chicken and brisket, all prepared daily in outdoor pits. Picnic tables under the sprawling oak tree out back invite you to feast on the meat, sides, homemade sauces and cobbler outside. Another proven dining option is **Isaack's Restaurant** on Main Street, open since 1950 and serving breakfast all day along with seafood, chicken-fried steak, catfish and steaks.

Noncampers can consider **Schuster Ranch**, which has two cabins overlooking a wooded creek, perfect for birding, stargazing or relaxing around the fire pit. Or chill out at spacious **Cool River Cabin** on the peaceful grounds of **Native American Seed Company** just a short walk from the river.

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

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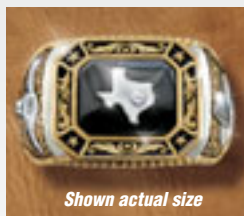
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