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Apps with special effects can give smartphone photography a leg up on digital cameras.

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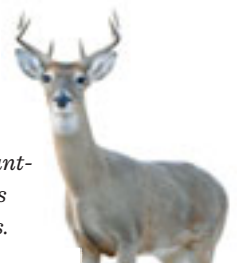
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COWBOY: RUSSELL GRAVES. DEER: MIKE LEGGETT

**ON THE COVER** Home canning turns today's fresh produce into tomorrow's special treat. Photo by Jo Ann Santangelo

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## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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### NEXT MONTH

**DEER CAMP LIFE** The hunting season offers a time to share the lessons of the outdoors and strengthen family ties.

**TEXAS SKIES** The big skies of the Lone Star State portend the weather as they offer dramatic cloudscapes.



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## Safe Wildlife Adoptions

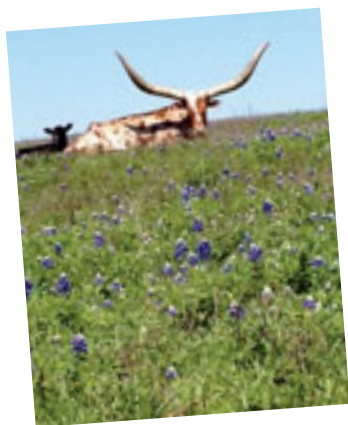
The March photography contest winners included two photographs of fawns being treated as pets [Focus on Texas: "Furry Friends," March 2015].

Mother deer usually leave their fawns hidden and go off to feed. If you find a fawn by itself, leave it alone unless it looks cold, hungry, injured or is in danger of attack by dogs, cats or people. The mother will return if no people or pets are present. If fire ants are around, on or under the fawn, it needs to be rescued since the fawn will not move—even when attacked by ants.

Please call your local game warden to obtain the name of the closest wildlife rehabilitation group in your area to assist you with a rescue.

LYDIA CLEMONS | MONTGOMERY COUNTY

TEXAS PERMITTED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR



## Watusi Longhorn

Just wanted to send you this photo of the Watusi we have on our ranch (Bar D) in Weimar, Texas. It has its baby calf laying next to her among the bluebonnets in our pasture.

MARK DUSEK | LAKE JACKSON

FAYETTE COUNTY EC

## Feed Sacks Redux

We thoroughly enjoyed Juddi Morris' article on fashioning garments

## A Wing and a Prayer

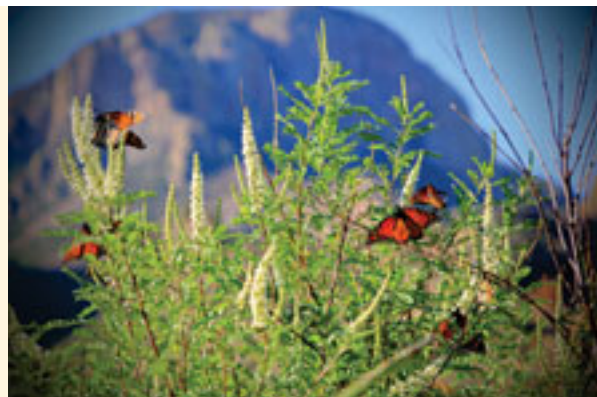
I just read "Trouble in the Kingdom" [September 2014] regarding the threatened habitat of the lovely monarch butterfly. I have myself witnessed this decline in recent years. We belong to a car club that makes a trip the first of each October to Lajitas and Terlingua in Big Bend country. Our first visit was in 2011, and

we saw a great number of monarchs. I was so excited to be able to see them again the next year but saw only a few. In 2013, I didn't see any at all.

For my part, I do plant "butterfly bushes" in hopes of giving the monarch and other butterflies safe feeding.

Here is a photograph I took in Big Bend National Park in October 2011.

DEBORAH WILLIAMS | SALADO | BARTLETT EC



and linens out of old feed sacks ["Feeding Their Fashion Sense," February 2015]. I've heard my neighbor, Bob Davis, talk about his mother doing just that when he was growing up in Uvalde back in the '30s and '40s.

Even though the article says that "by the 1950s, manufacturers started constructing their sacks from ... other materials," there is still a use for new feed sacks. Kay Ohrt, a Victoria Electric Cooperative member along with her husband, Dean, makes reusable bags from today's feed sacks. I work with Dean at Citizens Medical Center in Victoria, and he introduced us to Kay's handiwork.

My wife has one bag made from a birdseed sack with bright, colorful parrots across the front. I carry one in my truck that is from a sack of cubes. It has a picture of some hungry Angus cows on the front.

ROBBIE AND CINDY KIRK

CUERO AND PORT O'CONNOR

GUADALUPE VALLEY EC AND VICTORIA EC

## Austin, Not San Antonio

A note to correct the Texas hometown of my grandfather, wood sculptor Peter Mansbendel ["Quinta Mazatlan: Mother Nature's Mansion," May 2015]. In San Antonio, Peter carved the doors of the San Jose Mission and Spanish Governor's Palace, but he didn't live there. His birthplace was Basel, Switzerland, but around 1910, he chose Austin as his home. Talented AND smart!

VALERIE BROWN | NOCONA

COOKE COUNTY EC

## Loving Goodnight-Loving

Like Willie Nelson, "my heroes have always been cowboys," and up until this fine story ["The Goodnight-Loving Trail," March 2015], McCrae and Call were the last to enter my life.

NORRIS PREJEAN | HEMPHILL

## Last Summer's Trip

Your introduction to counties around Texas was refreshing ["Darting Around Texas," July 2014]. I was

especially delighted with Hemphill County because during high school and my freshman year at Trinity University, I was friends with Malouf Abraham Jr. and years later met his charming wife, Therese. Their gift of The Citadelle is so in character for this outstanding family.

ROSE SMITH HALL | KERRVILLE

BANDERA EC

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## Rescue Texas History

The University of North Texas is accepting applications for grants to help libraries, museums and historical societies digitize their archives. The Rescuing Texas History Mini-Grant program provides grants up to \$1,000.

All of the materials are scanned at UNT Libraries and hosted on The Portal to Texas History, a digital gateway containing more than 623,000 items. This includes photographs, maps, books, letters, manuscripts, newspapers and artifacts, dating to the 15th century. The portal provides free online access to Texas history materials that can be used by educators, students and the public.

Thanks to Rescuing Texas History grants, the Sam Rayburn House Museum was able to digitize archives such as the portrait of Cecil (Evans) Rayburn, Sam Rayburn's sister-in-law, shown above. And institutions such as the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas Municipal Archives have allowed access to collections relating to the John F. Kennedy assassination and the crimes of Bonnie and Clyde.

The application deadline for the grants is July 31. To learn more, visit [library.unt.edu](http://library.unt.edu) or call (940) 565-3023.



## RESEARCH

### Drought Help From the Heavens

A satellite launched by NASA earlier this year could help people around the world tackle the challenges of drought, StateImpact Texas reports. University of Texas researchers will play a part in the mission, which could also help forecast flooding and allow officials to better manage reservoirs.

The satellite carries equipment that measures heat from Earth's surface and helps pinpoint the location of land surveyed. Data collected by soil moisture monitors, some installed around the Hill Country by UT's Bureau of Economic Geology, will be combined with the satellite readings.

When "it rains, it's still got to saturate the soil before it runs off and fills up the reservoir," said Todd Caldwell with UT's Jackson School of Geosciences. "There's a time delay there. So to forecast the reservoir response, you really need to know what's going on in the soil first."

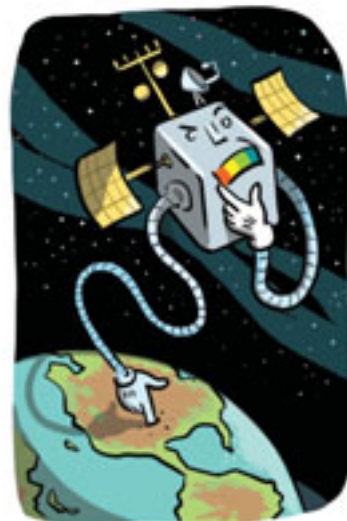
## Saving Alamo Village

Corpus Christi businessman David Jones wants to ensure that future generations remember the Alamo—not the mission in San Antonio, but the crumbling old movie set about 120 miles away. So Jones is trying to raise \$8 million to buy and renovate the buildings, according to The Associated Press.

Alamo Village, erected for the epic 1960 John Wayne film "The Alamo," is succumbing to neglect. The set, on 400 acres near Brackettville, was used in dozens of film and TV productions, including the 1989 miniseries "Lonesome Dove." For decades it was a tourist attraction, featuring musical shows and staged gunfights daily.

The set closed to the public after the last remaining owner died in 2009. The land now is used primarily for cattle grazing and hunting.

"The weather and elements are taking a toll on it," Texas Film Commission Director Heather Page told the AP. "I think it would be disappointing to lose something like that."



PORTAIT: COURTESY SAM RAYBURN HOUSE MUSEUM | TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, ALAMO VILLAGE: GERALD MCLEOD, SATELLITE: DAVE URBAN





#### CO-OP PEOPLE

## Tournament Honors Hamilton Champion Golfer

A very special golf tournament started 25 years ago to help a community carry on the only way it knew how in the face of a tragedy.

That tournament, the Gary Wayne Schoen Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament, takes place July 24–26 at Perry Country Club in Hamilton. As a senior at Hamilton High School, Schoen won the 1987 Class 2A state golf championship, the first in school history. He was a student at the University of Texas-San Antonio when he was killed in an automobile accident in October 1989.

The next summer, his family and friends started the invitational tournament in his honor. “It’s not a golf tournament, it’s a reunion,” says his father, Gary Schoen Sr., a businessman and rancher and member of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative. “All the kids he went to school with come to Hamilton for that tournament.”

The proceeds from the tournament benefit graduates from Hamilton High. To date, \$70,400 in scholarships has been given to 58 students.

That positive note helps Gary Schoen Sr. work through his pain. “I think about him every day,” he says. He believes his son would be honored by the tournament. “I think he would say this is tremendous work that people are doing in memory of him. He smiles every year when we get together.”

#### HAPPENINGS

## Leonard Picnic Continues for More Than a Century

When Alfred Scott takes his grandchildren to the 136th Leonard Picnic and All-School Reunion, they are the fifth generation of his family to enjoy the food, music and merriment on the town square.

“I remember being pretty young and riding the Ferris wheel, and when I got to the top, I could see the whole town of Leonard,” says Scott, a Fannin County Electric Cooperative director who raises cattle outside of Leonard.

The first picnic celebrated the 1880 auction at which the new town’s first land lots were sold off. This year’s picnic, July 15–18, includes the carnival, firemen’s barbecue, homemade ice cream contest and a fireworks show said to rival those of much bigger towns, put on by Leonard’s own Pyrotex fireworks display company.

**INFO:** (903) 587-3373, [leonardchamber.com](http://leonardchamber.com)



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

#### ALMANAC

## Remembering an Electricity Genius

Electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla’s birthday is in July, and his life was tied to electricity from the moment of birth. Tesla was born in 1856 in Croatia, reportedly during a severe lightning storm at the stroke of midnight as July 9 became July 10.

Tesla made dozens of breakthroughs in the production, transmission and application of electric power. He invented the first alternating current motor and developed AC generation and transmission technology. The AC system he championed and improved remains the global standard for power transmission.

In 1895, Tesla partnered with General Electric to install AC generators at Niagara Falls, creating the first modern power station, according to [history.com](http://history.com). And his Tesla coil, a high-voltage transformer, laid the foundation for wireless technologies used today.

He died in 1943 in New York.

Three glass jars filled with roasted red peppers in oil, stacked vertically. The peppers are vibrant red and yellow, and the oil is a deep red color. The jars are set against a light gray background and rest on a wooden surface.

YES,  
YOU  
CAN!



# Canning used to be considered hopelessly old-fashioned, but now it's the newest DIY pursuit.

**T**he three 50-year-old Mason jars of canned green beans clinked together in a box of family mementos my husband-to-be brought with him when we got married in 1993. They were the last of several jars salvaged from his grandmother's storm cellar near the community of Old Glory, where she had stashed them in the late 1940s.

These jars were miniature monuments to the virtue of hard work, the backbreaking processes of planting and harvesting and subsequent days of canning in a hot kitchen. It was part of farm life. But to me, a child of the city, the jars sloshing with murky liquid and stems eerily waving among the beans were scary. I wondered how fast I would die if I opened a jar and ate its contents.

My disconnectedness from the past is typical of a post-World War II generation that looks askance at food preparation. So much easier to go out to eat. But in the past five years, that default setting has changed. "2014 was a record year in the jar sales industry," says Steve Hungsberg, director of marketing for Jarden Home Brands. The statistic is meaningful because Jarden owns Ball, the leading manufacturer of Mason jars. The Ball brothers founded their company in 1880 and in 1884 began making home-canning jars, which could be easily sterilized and visually inspected for flaws. Mason jars have remained the most popular jars used for canning to this day.

Part of the reason for the sales explosion in Mason jars is the DIY boom, the do-it-yourself juggernaut whose culinary equivalent translates into food preservation. The phenomenon of eating healthier has tracked the same trajectory as the surge in popularity of farmers markets, where locally grown food is the main draw. "It's all about having control over what goes into our bodies," says Elizabeth Comiskey, who has monitored the tandem trends. She is the membership and outreach coordinator for the Farmers Market Coalition, which has staff in states all over the country, including Texas. "There is a movement toward more

healthy eating; and that is not a trend, it's a paradigm shift."

Canning is a symbol for this quiet revolution. "We started to see the revival

of canning from people interested in local food," says Comiskey, who notes that there has been a 76 percent increase in farmers markets since 2008, with Texas showing one of the biggest increase in numbers. It's not just among urbanites, either. Rural enthusiasts are eager to know more, too.

Amy Wagner is the county extension agent for family and consumer sciences for Randall County, in the Panhandle. Wagner started teaching canning five years ago. "Before that," she says, "there was no audience for it." She now turns people away from her classes, which vary from six to eight hours a day to two days. "People come here to refresh their knowledge," she says, "or to learn what they watched their grandmothers do."

Wagner's counterpart at the other end of the state is Connie Sheppard in Bexar County, whose job it is to revive what she calls "heritage" skills—all those things your grandmother did to keep the family going. Sheppard works with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Backyard Basics, an initiative that promotes healthy living by providing information about the benefits of homegrown and homemade foods.


"A lot of people aren't handing down those skills any more," says Sheppard. "So we teach classes, sponsor weekends at a ranch where we reintroduce heritage skills, and conduct expos in an eight-county region around San Antonio."

There's a lot to learn—or relearn. Canning can be quite complicated for an endeavor where the rules have hardly changed since 1880. Canners have two options: hot-water bath and pressure canning, which is suitable for processing low-acid or no-acid foods such as pumpkins, potatoes, meats, poultry and fish. Fruits, jams and pickles require the hot-water bath method.

Supplies for each are similar. The short version of the hours-long process: Clean the jars, line them up on the counter and get the equipment ready. Prep the ingredients, fill the jars, wipe the rims, and screw on the lids and bands. Boil. Remove and cool. When the lids make a popping sound, the seals are forming, which is the sign that the process is complete.

And for those, like me, who wonder how long the product will be safe to eat, Wagner has the answer: "You should consume what you have canned within the year." Those 50-year-old green beans from grandmother's cellar? "Definitely not safe," she says.

**Find the recipe for  
Roasted Jalapeños en  
Escabeche at Texas  
CoopPower.com.**



**“Canning** is a way for people to get together,” says Kate Payne, “to share time and food.” It’s also a bonus that some of the do-or-die rules of canning have been relaxed.

Safety in numbers is another of Wagner’s mantras. “I like to can with a group of friends,” she says, “because it’s more fun.” But it’s also a good idea because safety is always a concern. (The pressure cooker could explode, for instance.) “There’s so much to think about,” she says, “If you forget something, someone else will remember it.”

Communication is a huge factor in the endeavor. One of Wagner’s students is Joann Terrell, a homemaker who lives in Borger. She joined the class with her teenage daughter. “I wanted to make healthier meals for my family,” she says. But the community aspect beckoned. “Nobody talks to each other any more,” she says. “When we get a group together to can, it’s better than the Internet.”

In fact, the Internet has been instrumental in bringing old-fashioned values to a different audience. Austin-based Kate Payne could be the poster child for the new generation of food

**Kate Payne could be the poster child for the new generation of canners.**

preservationists. Her wildly popular blog, “The Hip Girl’s Guide to Home-making,” has revved up the 1,200 subscribers to her blog, the 4,000 recipients of her weekly email updates and the 25,000 other viewers who click in every month. Payne spreads the word about pickling, fermenting, making jams and jellies, and pressure canning (back by popular demand) in her classes—two a month in Austin (“Except last month I taught five,” she says). She’s also on the road with a daunting travel schedule that includes upcom-





#### Canning classes present opportunities for learning heritage skills.

ing trips to Marfa; Nashville, Tennessee; and Saratoga Springs, New York.

Payne developed a following after she wrote her first book, *“The Hip Girl’s Guide to Homemaking”* (Harper Design, 2011). That was followed by *“The Hip Girl’s Guide to the Kitchen”* (Harper Design, 2014). Payne expected her fan base for both books to be 20- or 30-something women, but that didn’t turn out to be the case. “It’s really 20- to 60-somethings, and that includes men,” she says. She attributes the surge in interest to several factors, but one in particular. “Canning is a way for people to get together,” she says, “to share time and food.” It’s also a bonus that some of the do-or-die rules of canning have been relaxed.

Changes in the canning process are rare, but when they do happen, people take notice. A recent announcement from Jarden that it is no longer necessary to sterilize lids caused a stir in the canning blogosphere. You also are no longer required to seal your jams and jellies with paraffin wax seals—a messy process that didn’t always work, anyway.

Payne notes that new equipment, such as small-batch canning baskets, is now available that enables the cook to make more manageable serving sizes. But the real revelation was that it was possible to make smaller batches—that what you canned wasn’t dependent on preserving the fruits of a big harvest as in bygone days. Had Payne known that when she plunged into her first canning adventure six years ago, she would have been spared the enormous yield she achieved from the 14-pound box of peaches.

Perhaps most important, though, is that canning is less laborious now. Sheppard still remembers some of the preliminaries to a weekend of canning, like picking blackberries along the side of the road when she was a young girl. “That was not fun,” she says. Now you can go to the farmers market and come home with your bounty.

“It’s also become more user-friendly,” notes Sheppard.

Canning was never a means to instant gratification, but time-saving options are available. For example, the website [mrswages.com](http://mrswages.com) now offers two ready-to-use mixes—salsa and jalapeño pickle relish. “You only have to stir and you’re done,” Sheppard says. “And you can still say you made it.”

Canning is not necessarily an all-day project. Payne cans 2 to 4 pounds of fruit or vegetables in a couple of hours or so. That represents a manageable commitment for a clunky process that’s survived against plenty of cultural odds. “Canning is here to stay,” predicts Sheppard, citing practical reasons such as health.

But canning is also about something else, such as how you spend your time, who you spend it with, and what’s important to you. Maybe that’s the real reason it’s booming now. As Hip Girl Kate Payne says, “I can’t imagine my life without it.”

Read more of author **Helen Thompson’s** work at [seeninhouse.com](http://seeninhouse.com).

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** Get started with recipes from the book *“Saving the Season,”* and learn why the prized jars are called Mason jars.

## Supplies You’ll Need for Canning



Supplies for both canning processes—pressure canning and hot-water bath canning—are similar, except that for the former you’ll need a pressure cooker, and for the latter, an enamel water bath pot with a rack. You’ll also need canning jars, lids, rings, a jar lifter, funnel, towels and potholders, pots and bowls, spoons and knives, food to be canned, and all the other ingredients for the recipe you are using.

### Why Mason Jars?

Getting a hermetic seal is one of the most important safety concerns in canning. Accompanied by heating, which kills microorganisms in your food, the seal prevents other microorganisms from entering the jars. Ball Mason jars are molded glass with screw threads on the perimeter of the mouth that accept a metal ring. When screwed down, the band presses a separate stamped-steel, disc-shaped lid against the rim of the jar. An integral rubber ring on the underside of the lid creates a hermetic seal with the jar. It’s recommended that you use jars in perfect condition, and new bands and rings every time.

# *THE SMARTPHONE*

*MOBILE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMS TRAVEL*



Smartphones have changed the landscape of travel photography.



# ROAD TRIP

*Story and photos by Russell Graves*

I love road trips. In fact, I travel for a living. For the past two decades, I've made a living as a professional writer and photographer, traveling back roads in search of great stories to tell. Planning each trip demands time and effort, so I'm always searching for the latest technology that will make me more productive and efficient. Even though the Internet has streamlined trip planning, on-the-fly changes to trips are not easy.

Smartphones make road trips much easier and more spontaneous. The paradigm has shifted: Instead of simply carrying a phone, I—like most road trippers now—carry a powerful handheld computer that just happens to make phone calls.

Just as the smartphone has largely replaced alarm clocks, cameras and wristwatches, it also has taken the place of common travel accessories, like the GPS locator.

Before the smartphone, I used a dedicated GPS unit that I switched from vehicle to vehicle. With my iPhone, I have a built-in GPS mapping program that gives me turn-by-turn directions until I reach my destination. It not only provides the quickest route to my destination, it also recommends other routes that take me off the beaten path. It's a good idea to take a map for times when the phone's map is wrong or you don't have cellphone service.

In addition to mapping, I also prepare for my trip by storing an automobile insurance card on my phone, along with a gas-tracking app that helps me identify the cheapest fuel stops, and a playlist customized to play my favorite traveling songs.

Along the way (while I'm stopped, of course), I check out Wikipedia on my phone's browser. The Wikipedia mobile site is

GPS-enabled and will suggest articles about nearby points of interest. You can immerse yourself in local culture by learning more about the people and places nearby.

## SMARTPHONES, SMART CAMERAS

One of the ways smartphones excel is as both a still and video camera. Sales totals indicate consumers have figured this out. In 2013, camera-enabled smartphone sales topped 1 billion—a 38 percent increase over the previous year, according to a report in PCWorld magazine. During the same time, digital camera sales dropped 36 percent.

For photography, the in-phone camera app is the best place to start. The phone I use has settings for standard images in the 4:3 format and square format, and it includes a panorama setting. I use the panorama mode to take wide-angle shots from the road and to capture the broad vistas that smaller formats can't.

While the standard camera settings are fine for most situations, I often use apps that utilize the camera and the processing power of the phone's computer to give pictures a vintage feel. Even though Hipstamatic is my favorite app, there are several others available in the Apple, Android or Google formats that add effects such as filters, filmstrip borders, frames and light leaks.

One of the greatest tricks that a smartphone camera performs is embedding GPS information in each picture. Now, instead of guessing where pictures were taken once you're back home, you can rely on any one of several low-cost photo-management software solutions to extract the GPS location from the photo and pinpoint the location on a software-generated map.



The Hipstamatic app can give photos taken on the road a vintage feel.



Smartphones also are equipped with high-definition video cameras. I use my HD phone camera sparingly because I own dedicated high-definition video cameras that I prefer. But the smartphone offers the ability to shoot slow motion, use apps to record video with a vintage 8mm look and do on-the-fly editing along with seamless posting to social sites like YouTube or Facebook. It's easy to see that you have a powerful video tool capable of faithfully recording and sharing your adventures on the open road.

### STAY CONNECTED

Speaking of sharing, wouldn't it be nice if you could take a picture and cross-post to multiple social media platforms so you can keep in touch with all of your family, friends and followers? You can. All it takes is a single touch of the screen.

Most social apps have the ability to cross-post to a variety of networks. If you post to one site, you can post to many other social accounts on the go, all at once. It is a real time-saver.

Staying connected has advantages beyond social interactions. When you are away on your travels, you can completely monitor your home from the road. Most security companies offer ways to monitor your home alarm and watch home-security cameras using your smartphone. You can also check to see whether doors are locked, close or open garage doors, and activate or adjust the thermostat from the phone.

I use a Nest thermostat system that I can turn off when I leave, and half an hour or so before I arrive home, I can log in from my phone and turn on the heat or air conditioning so the house is comfortable when I walk in the front door after a trip.

Television providers also have technology that allows customers to set and manage recordings from a smart device. Gone are the days of missing your favorite show or the big game because you are driving in the countryside. From anywhere I have cell-phone or Wi-Fi service, I can log in to my Dish Network account, set my home DVR to record a show, and either enjoy it from my phone while I am away or watch it when I get home.

Extending your trip longer than you'd initially planned? Use your smartphone to connect to your bank account and transfer money from one account to another or pay your bills remotely.

### MAKE A NOTE OF THAT

While it goes without saying that you should not divert your attention from the road by looking at your phone, you easily can use the notes or audio memo app on your phone to speak and record your thoughts. Recording an audio memo is just like it sounds: You talk to the phone, and it records your voice.

These recording apps, or speech recognition apps such as Dragon, make your trip journaling so easy. Using its built-in voice-recognition software, your phone transcribes speech to text right on the screen. When you get home, you are set to put your notes with photos or videos. It's easy to email your notes, edit them in word-processing software and then copy and paste them into a

book layout or any other presentation method of your choosing.

I've found that I often speak to my phone and take notes on topics of interest that I've seen, story ideas, great restaurants or various musings that come to mind. The ability to take notes without writing something down has really increased my efficiency.

### EATING AND SLEEPING ON THE GO

If you're like many travelers, the most important questions you face are, "Where am I going to stay?" and "What am I going to eat?" Not too long ago, staying in a hotel or eating at a restaurant with which you were unfamiliar was a hit-or-miss proposition. Even if you are choosing among locations of a national food or lodging chain, local management can make a significant difference in your experience. That's where the crowd can help.

Many downloadable apps double as social networks that offer input on lodging and eating establishments. The hotels.com app finds available lodging in a given area, publishes the price and provides user-generated feedback about the quality of the hotel's amenities. Once you've found a place you like, you can book it from your phone in a matter of seconds.

The Yelp app works in much the same way that hotel apps work. Yelp provides crowd-sourced reviews of restaurants by giving patrons an opportunity to rate the establishment and provide feedback about the quality of food and service. Take the time to read the reviews and gather as much information as possible.

The bottom line is that the technology in your hand lets you focus less on planning and more on traveling. Smartphones are an indispensable tool for road trippers.

The best tip? When you get to that cool destination, be sure to turn off your phone for a while and enjoy the trip.

Writer and photographer **Russell Graves** travels far and wide from his home in Childress. He is a member of South Plains EC.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com** Learn more about apps and smartphone functions before you hit the road.



# It was once a CRIME to own this gold coin. *These days, it's a crime NOT to!*

The greatest gold coins in history were born from a curse muttered under the breath of President Teddy Roosevelt.

In January of 1905, Roosevelt was touring a Smithsonian exhibit of ancient Greek & Roman coins. Overwhelmed by the stunning high relief and drama achieved by ancient artisans over 2000 years earlier, Roosevelt suddenly stopped in his tracks. His hand slipped into his vest pocket to finger the flat, uninspiring coins of his own U.S. government—and a frustrated curse slipped out.

## Roosevelt's Pet Crime

From that moment on, Roosevelt was determined that the greatest nation in the world deserved the most beautiful gold coins the world had ever seen. To achieve his goal, he sought out the greatest living American sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Working together on what Roosevelt called "my pet crime"; the two great men soon unveiled a number of stunning gold masterpieces—including the Saint-Gaudens \$10 Gold Indian.

First issued in 1907, the gold coins Saint-Gaudens designed quickly earned the title of the most beautiful coins in history. The \$10 Gold Indian's .48375 oz. gold weight and 90% purity made it a storehouse of wealth for the Rockefellers, Carnegies, Tiffanys, and J.P. Morgans of the early 20th century.

Roosevelt asked that Lady Liberty be shown in a purely American style, so the artist sculpted Liberty wearing a Native American feathered headdress. Thirteen stars encircle her head, symbolic of the original thirteen colonies. The majestic standing eagle and the motto "In God We Trust" completes the stunning design.

**Created by one Roosevelt.**  
**Nearly DESTROYED by the other!**  
Tragically, millions of these beloved and valuable gold coins were melted in 1933



Actual size: 27 mm  
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following President Franklin Roosevelt's ban on private gold ownership. Sadly, experts estimate that fewer than 5% of all the vintage U.S. gold coins ever minted have survived to this day. That's why so few of us have even seen a Saint-Gaudens \$10 Gold Indian in person!

## Don't Buy Gold, Buy Certified \$10 Gold Indians

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## Don't Miss This Opportunity

The U.S. Mint itself has estimated the number of U.S. coin collectors to have risen to over 140 million in recent years. You may never get a second chance to take advantage of this opportunity. Don't delay!

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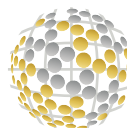
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## CONSERVATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION



# How Do Transformers Work?

**IF YOU WERE ASKED TO** describe your electric cooperative's system, you might say, "Poles, wires and those round gray things or green box things." Round gray things? Green box things? Those are often the descriptions given for transformers, the pieces of equipment crucial in converting electricity to a voltage that is safe for use in homes and businesses.

So how do they work? They transform the voltage of the electricity that passes through them.

## Electric System 101

Electricity loses voltage as it is transmitted because of the resistance in wires and other components. As a result, higher voltages are used to offset these "line losses," as they are called. It all starts at the power plant. There, generators produce electricity at high voltages and use transformers to step up this voltage. Because the power plants are far away, these high voltages are necessary to survive the trip over the system to where the electricity is needed.

Transmission lines connect to substations filled with transformers and control gear. This is where the transformers step down the voltage to safer, more manageable levels. Depending upon the distance to the farthest member and the amount of load served, distribution voltages can range from 7,200 to 24,900 volts. After a couple more step-downs, the electricity arrives at your home at 440 volts.

## Turning Highs Into Lows

Regardless of the shape and size of the transformer, they all work in the same manner. Transformers have two sides, a high-voltage side and a low-voltage side. In normal operation, electricity flows into the transformer on the high-voltage side,

where it goes into a coil of wire that is usually wound around an iron core. As the electricity flows through this coil, it creates a magnetic field that "induces" a voltage in another coil.

Here is where the magic (aka physics) of transformation takes place: Each coil has a different number of turns. The greater the number of turns, the higher the voltage. The coil on the high side will have more turns than the one on the low side. As the charge travels from the high side to the low, the voltage induced on the low side is less. It leaves the transformer at a level suitable for distribution to homes and businesses.

## Transformers at Home

Transformers can be found everywhere in our daily lives, even if they're not so obvious as those on the co-op's system. The best example is a cellphone charger. These small cousins of utility transformers basically perform the same function. Charging your cellphone with 120 volts would fry it instantly, so the charger converts the voltage to a more tolerable 5 volts or so. Take a moment to look around your home and see just how many of these miniature transformers you have. You might be surprised!

It also is important to note that transformers work in both directions. Electricity flowing in on the low side can be stepped up to the voltage of the high side. This is why your co-op educates members on proper connection of home generators. A generator feeding 220 volts into a residential transformer will produce whatever high voltage the transformer is rated for, creating a potentially deadly risk for line crews and your neighbors. So please, connect your generators according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Or call your co-op for advice. It's always best to be safe.



# Make One Green Change Per Year

**IF YOU'RE READY TO "GO GREEN,"** you have a lot of choices, from switching to energy-efficient lightbulbs to buying a "net zero" home that produces as much energy as it uses.

Making just one change each year can do wonders for your energy bill—and help you do your part to make your home more efficient so it uses fewer natural resources. Here are five ideas:

**1. Start small.** Replace your old incandescent lightbulbs and fixtures with LED light fixtures, which use 75 percent less energy. A bonus: Most of them last for about 10 years, so you can stop changing lightbulbs.

**2. Buy smart.** If your refrigerator, heating/air-conditioning unit or washing machine is 10 years old, it's probably an energy hog. When it's time to replace a home appliance, choose one with the Energy Star label, which means it meets stringent government standards for energy efficiency.

**3. Save water.** Some households waste more water than they use. You can remedy that by turning off faucets while brushing your teeth and shaving, and by taking shorter showers. Plus, if you install low-flow faucets and toilets, you'll use less water with every shower and flush.

**4. Think "green."** Homeowners have lots of opportunities to choose a sustainable or energy-efficient product over one that's less beneficial to the environment. Keep that in mind as you select cleaning products and items packaged in a lot of plastic that will wind up in a landfill. And if you're remodeling, consider using durable products that won't wind up in the trash after a few years, and use materials made from renewable sources and grown in sustainable forests.

**5. Take control.** There's no reason to heat or cool your house for maximum comfort when nobody's home. Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust the temperature to save energy when everyone leaves the house in the morning and then reset it for comfort just before you get home. New models let you control them using your smartphone, which means if your schedule changes, you can "tell" your house to get ready for your return.



**Have switches inspected by a professional as soon as you notice a problem.**

## Switch to Safety

**WITH THE FLIP OF A SWITCH,** we can light our world. But it's important to remember the powerful electric force that the switch controls and make sure it is operating safely.

**Don't ignore these warning signs:**

- ▶ The wall plate is hot to the touch.
- ▶ There is discoloration on or around the switch plate.
- ▶ Lights dim and/or flicker without apparent cause or when other appliances turn off or on.
- ▶ You hear crackling, popping or buzzing from a switch or outlet.
- ▶ Breakers trip or fuses blow when the switch is turned on.
- ▶ You detect an odor when a switch is used.
- ▶ The switch leans to one side or feels loose when operating.
- ▶ You experience a shock when operating the switch.
- ▶ The home is more than 40 years old and has aluminum wiring, but has not recently undergone a safety inspection by an electrician.

If any of these are happening in your home, have the electrical system inspected by a professional as soon as possible.

# Undisputed Champions

Photo heralds Mingus girls' prowess, but details have been lost to time

BY E.R. BILLS

FOR MOST OF ITS HISTORY, THE NORTH Texas town of Mingus in Palo Pinto County was famous, or infamous, for bare-fisted barroom brawls in its cluster of whisky joints that were the only establishments of their kind within an hour's drive in any direction. In some cases, that hour's drive was a pedal-to-the-metal escape in full flight. As one Texas newspaper suggested in 1975, "Mingus holds a place dear to the hearts of cowboys with broken noses and oil field roughnecks with missing teeth."

In those days it was an ill-advised stop to wet your whistle if you weren't a bona fide scrapper, and many of the scrappiest bona fides got broken-bone humbled. The population of the small town increased dramatically with the population in the bars every Saturday night. And the local jail, located in nearby Strawn, filled to capacity almost as quickly. Mingus was known far and wide and across the country as one of the meanest towns in Texas, and, like Luckenbach or Gruene, it enjoyed mythical allure in long-neck-bottled Lone Star lore.

But fisticuffs weren't the only game in Mingus, and cowboys and roughnecks weren't the only scrappers.

The community no longer supports a school—local children attend the Gordon Independent School District, located just five minutes east on State Highway 193—but if you walk through the Mingus City Hall or Gordon High School gymnasium, an 89-year-old photograph of the 1926 Mingus girls basketball squad is likely to draw your attention. The image features

seven teenage girls with flapper haircuts, knee socks and uniforms with bloomers. One holds a basketball with "M.H.S. 26" written on it, and three others hold up a pennant.

The caption below the photograph reads "1926 State Championship Mingus Girls Basketball Team" and features Marie Biondini Scopel, Delores Krajcar Raffaele, Vera Kenney Hanks, Eda Tiblets Bertino, Juanita Viean Green, Elizabeth Hare Jackson and Dottie Marine Shultz. cursory literature on the team indicates that, at a time when public high school athletic competition classifications were not based on the size of the school's enrollment, this Mingus team beat a Houston squad to claim the state crown.

Nonagenarian Leo S. Bielinski, a passionate proponent for the creation of Tarleton State University's W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas and an acknowledged expert on area history, says that during those years, the Mingus girls contested all takers, playing local high school, college and semipro teams. Their opponents often were sponsored by commercial enterprises such as Nehi Bottling Company. "They played against legends like Babe Didrikson [Zaharias]," Bielinski says, "but local townsfolk drove [the basketball team] around for the games."

Though the members of the 1926 team have all passed on, Bielinski knew a few of them and noted their modesty. "They didn't brag about it or anything," he says. "It was just something they did." Some of the girls on the 1926 Mingus team were recruited





**Photos of Mingus' 1926 championship team hang at Mingus City Hall and the Gordon High School gymnasium.**

to play at bigger high schools, and some went on to play on semipro teams.

The University Interscholastic League (formed to provide leadership and guidance to public school academic and athletic competitions) began organizing boys athletic championships at the state level in 1921 but didn't get involved in girls sports until 1951. During the 1920s, the high school girls basketball competition was loosely organized and generally unofficial, but the American Athletic Union did hold state high school basketball tournaments dating back to 1925.

In the AAU's 1926 tournament (in which the Mingus High School girls team might not have participated), Breckenridge won the championship, and Cisco was named runner-up. In 1927, the Mingus girls finished in the top five in the AAU tourney. In 1929, they placed third behind Breckenridge and Cisco (cities many times larger than Mingus at the time); and, in 1931, they were runners-up to Dimmitt.

Seventy years after the 1926 Mingus girls won their state championship in basketball, the 1996 Gordon boys won a state championship in six-man football and then repeated the feat again in 1999.

"Folks around here still have a deep-rooted competitive spirit," says Gordon High School principal (and alumna) Holly Campbell. "We're aware of who came before us and what they accomplished, and we try to remember that when we compete. And like that 1926 girls team, we still look at ourselves as underdogs."

There are no records left to verify the 1926 Mingus girls' high school basketball state championship in another league or tournament, so official recognition of their championship basketball season cannot be substantiated; but it's clear the community was home to a 1920s-era, girls hoops dynasty, and the 1926 squad presumably started the trend.

And considering Mingus' fabled reputation for melees, attempts at disputing the accomplishments of the teenage basketball stars in the 1926 photograph might get you a knuckle sandwich.

**E.R. Bills** is a writer from Aledo.

# Noisy Intersection

Manmade sounds increasingly disrupt Mother Nature's delicate symphony

BY MELISSA GASKILL

I HIKE WHENEVER I GET THE CHANCE, AND I never mind hitting the trail alone. Even though I love sharing the outdoors with family and friends, solitary hikes offer me the opportunity to tune into a place with no distractions. Alone, I can better hear nature's sounds and enjoy more fully the rustle of wind through the trees, the splash of flowing water or the surprising thrill of a birdcall.

More and more, human-made noise muffles natural sounds. Kurt Fristrup, a National Park Service senior scientist, reports that noise pollution is growing faster than the population of the United States, doubling or tripling every 20 to 30 years. Eighty-three percent of the continental U.S. lies within six-tenths of a mile of a road, and commercial air routes pass over even remote parks. Noise intrudes even where we wouldn't expect it.

This excess noise affects wildlife in many ways. A 2001 study found significantly higher levels of stress enzymes in elk and wolves in Yellowstone National Park whenever snowmobiles were around. (Researchers didn't add to the animals' stress by capturing them; they tested their scat.) Frogs are diminishing almost everywhere, and human noise is one reason. How? The creatures sing in chorus to prevent predators from drawing a bead on an individual, but when noise disrupts the chorus, predators can more easily pick off a specific singer.

Another recent study found that elevated noise reduced by one-third the number of certain bird species in parts of northern New Mexico. Excess noise inter-

feres with reproduction for birds that use songs to defend territory and attract mates. Noise also reduces how much time birds spend eating; reduced nutrition saps their energy and can flush birds off their nests, leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable.

The movement of wind through the leaves of cottonwood trees creates a distinctive rustling that is easily recognizable. It is immortalized in the old country song "Don't Fence Me In" as a "murmur." The wind is a talented musician. The tune it plays on a rocky peak is as different from its whisper through tall grass as a car horn is from a French horn, and those sounds are nothing like when wind thrums thousands of pine needles in an evergreen forest.

Water is another fine instrument in nature's symphony. It gurgles and mutters over rocks, roars over falls, plops on the dry ground as rain. Humans seem almost universally programmed to be soothed by its sound, and there is hardly anything finer than pitching camp near a healthy stream, such as the one in Garner State Park, and falling asleep to its music. And almost everyone enjoys the rhythm of waves pounding a beach, audible from campgrounds in a number of Texas parks.

This natural soundtrack is essential to our memories. My memories of Lost Maples include the rattle of dry leaves in fall and the cacophony of frog calls around a pond in spring. Recalling a hike along the Colorado River, I hear the high-pitched cry of a hawk. Thoughts of stargazing in Palo Duro Canyon bring to mind the yip of coyotes.

Less poetic but just as important, sounds





provide warning. The rumble of thunder sends a hiker scurrying from a dry wash or an exposed hill. Raindrops on the tent roof warn you to zip up the windows. A sharp rise in the wind or a sudden stillness can signal danger. Shrieking birds may mean a snake waits around the next rock, and that telltale rattle means you didn't heed the warning and got too close.

Fristrup worries about "learned deafness," which is what happens when we grow so accustomed to background noise that we lose the ability to appreciate the natural sound environment. He also notes that the practice of carrying our own audi-

tory environment reduces our natural interaction with the environment, both the pleasure of natural sounds and their value as signals.

Sounds are an important part of our memories. Years from now, as I remember trekking from Davis Mountains State Park to Fort Davis, I want to remember the dramatic rocks and blue sky, not an obscure pop song unrelated to the rest of the experience.

Even worse is the unavoidable imposition of those soundtracks. Campers next to my family at Garner once hooked up a television, and I've been trapped between

dueling boom boxes in both shady picnic areas and on the beach. The pulsing atmosphere can feel more like a downtown street or a sports bar than a beach or quiet campground.

Once, rounding a curve in the trail, I heard the whir of small, rapid wings. When I turned, I caught sight of the tiniest movement, raised my binoculars, and was rewarded with a long, rich close-up view of an iridescent hummingbird. In too many places, unnatural noise would have drowned out the delicate creature's flutter.

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

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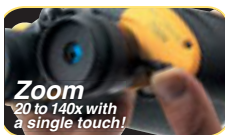
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# Granddaddy of Them All

The East Texas oil field created many fortunes, including that of the world's richest man

BY GENE FOWLER

TALES OF TEXAS OIL BOOMS CAN BE stranger than fiction, and none more so than the colossal East Texas oil field of Rusk, Gregg, Upshur, Smith and Cherokee counties. The 140,000-acre field was the world's largest when Dad Joiner and Doc Lloyd discovered it in 1930. One oil historian declared the behemoth of bubblin' crude the "Granddaddy of Them All."

Columbus Marion "Dad" Joiner, a 70-year-old, Shakespeare-quoting wildcatter, and A.D. "Doc" Lloyd, a self-taught geologist and former medicine show operator, might seem an unlikely pair for such a discovery.

Joiner had dreamed he would find an ocean of oil in the rolling hills of East Texas, and he found the landscape that matched his dream on Daisy Bradford's farm south of Kilgore. To raise drilling funds, Lloyd produced reports proclaiming that Daisy's acres contained a spot "known in the oil business as the apex of the apex, a situation not found anywhere else." Astonishingly, every statement Lloyd made was incorrect except for one: that Joiner would find an immense pool of oil in the Woodbine sand at 3,550 feet.

Because the underground oil ocean was sandwiched in a formation called a stratigraphic trap that was new to petroleum geologists at the time—the big oil companies had passed over this neck of the Pineywoods. But after the rig Daisy Bradford No. 3 hit black gold, the Lou Della Crim No. 1 struck a gusher further north. Then the Lathrop No. 1 came in near Longview, and suddenly it seemed, the whole world rushed to East Texas.

"It was the California Gold Rush, the Klondike, the Oklahoma land rush, and the wildest of past oil booms rolled into one," according to "The Last Boom." Kilgore became the heart of the boom as thousands of Depression-beaten job seekers arrived. Some 1,100 derricks went up in the city limits alone as wildcatters



drilled in churchyards, flowerbeds and even inside a barbershop.

"In a few weeks, there were men in khaki pants standing in every square inch of town," Kilgore resident Nanette Wickham reminisced. "People were coming in and building anything to give them shelter. Yards were full of shacks and cars."

Investors in the discovery well learned that Joiner had oversold shares in the Daisy Bradford No. 3. Beset with lawsuits, Joiner sold most of his East Texas holdings to H.L. Hunt, who parlayed the Pineywoods gushers into his status as "The World's Richest Man."

The abundance of East Texas oil and the breakneck pace of extracting it played havoc with the market, driving the price per barrel to as low as a nickel. To stabilize prices, the state passed laws limiting production, which were enforced by 1,200 National Guard soldiers dispatched to the giant field.

The wisdom of conservation and limits on production became even more evident a decade later, as the country was drawn into World War II. Delivered to East Coast

refineries through the Big Inch, the world's largest pipeline at the time, East Texas crude provided the Allied forces with more fuel than was produced by all the Axis powers combined.

To date, the giant field has produced more than 5.3 billion barrels. "And there's still hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil here, and there are wells from the 1930s still producing with the original pumpjacks and the original casing," says Kilgore oilman and historian Terry Stenbridge, who has collected thousands of vintage photographs of the East Texas field.

"Remember East Texas," say contemporary wildcatters who know their industry's history, when skepticism emerges about whether new wells will be dry holes or gushers. "Remember East Texas!"

When Gene Fowler's mother was born in 1922, her family was living in a Mexia oil field tent, and her father later worked for a Kilgore oil field supply company.

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## Spicy Foods

FROM THE MIGHTY HABANERO to the ever-popular jalapeño, this month's contest proved once again that readers know their way around the pepper patch. We sampled dozens of dishes (enjoying the heat along the way) and gave the sweet, hot habanero ice cream the highest marks. So leave room for dessert!

Actually, leave room for two—because our featured recipe is also sweet. It's from Austin's David Harap, executive recruiter by day, culinary instructor by night, and author of "Entertain Like a Gentleman," a clever cookbook from a single man's point of view. You can find the book on Amazon.

ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

### Chipotle Marshmallow Crispy Treats

If you are using fresh chipotle powder, 1 tablespoon should give you enough heat. If your chipotle powder has been in the pantry for a while, use up to 2 tablespoons. —AG

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon chipotle powder, or more to taste
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 10 ounces marshmallows
- ¾ cup dried cranberries
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal

1. Apply cooking spray to a 9-by-13-inch baking dish or line with parchment paper.
2. In a large saucepan, melt butter over low heat and blend in chipotle powder, paprika and salt.
3. Add marshmallows and cranberries, and stir until marshmallows are completely melted.
4. Remove from heat. Add cereal and stir until coated.
5. Pour mixture into the baking dish and press firmly. Allow to completely cool. Cut into squares and serve.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 1 square. Per serving: 179 calories, 1.56 g protein, 3.01 g fat, 37.57 g carbohydrates, 0.78 g dietary fiber, 197 mg sodium, 19.43 g sugars, 7 mg cholesterol

"Entertain Like a Gentleman" by David Harap, New Year Publishing, 2011



MELISSA SKORPIL



# Recipes

## Spicy Foods



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

DONNA LEE | COSERV ELECTRIC

Ask almost anyone from almost anywhere, and they'll tell you the food in Texas is spicy. But this month's creative recipe contest winners found plenty of ways to go beyond Tex-Mex and chili, injecting heat even into cold, sweet and creamy dishes. Some like it hot, indeed!

### Peach Habanero Amaretto Ice Cream

*"This is my father-in-law's favorite dessert—especially when I serve it on top of homemade peach cobbler!"*

- 2 cups milk
- 1¾ cups sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups half-and-half
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups whipping cream
- ½ cup amaretto (almond-flavored liqueur)
- 4 cups sliced peaches
- 2 habanero peppers, seeded
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

1. Scald milk until bubbles form around edges of pan. Remove from heat. Add sugar and salt, and stir until dissolved.
2. Stir in half-and-half, vanilla, whipping cream and amaretto. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. Purée peaches and habanero peppers until smooth. Add cinnamon to purée, mix thoroughly, then add to chilled mixture. Refrigerate another 15 minutes.
4. Freeze mixture in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's directions.

Servings: 18. Serving size: 6 ounces. Per serving: 283 calories, 3.45 g protein, 13.55 g fat, 37.32 g carbohydrates, 1.08 g dietary fiber, 112 mg sodium, 33.25 g sugars, 47 mg cholesterol



### \$100 Recipe Contest

January's recipe contest topic is **Creative Chili, Soup and Stew**. When it comes to the classic "meal in a bowl," options are endless for ingredients and preparation. Share your most creative chili, soup or stew recipes with us. The deadline is **July 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.

## Buffalo Chicken Nachos

ALI ALLIE | COSERV ELECTRIC

- 1 bag tortilla chips (13 ounces)
  - 3 cups cooked and shredded chicken
  - 1 cup hot sauce, or more to taste
  - 3 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
  - 1 cup crumbled blue cheese
  - 6 scallions, thinly sliced
  - 3 celery ribs, finely diced
  - 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
- Sour cream as desired for serving

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line an 18-by-10-inch rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Place a layer of tortilla chips on the baking sheet, overlapping some of the chips. Make sure the bottom of the sheet is covered.
2. In a bowl, combine the chicken and hot sauce. Spread the chicken evenly over the chips and sprinkle with cheddar and blue cheeses.
3. Bake 8–10 minutes or until the cheeses are melted.
4. Remove from oven and sprinkle nachos with scallions, celery and tomatoes. Top with sour cream.

**COOK'S TIP** Tortilla chips can be white corn or a combination of blue and white corn. The parchment paper makes cleanup easy.

Servings: 8–10. Serving size: 10 ounces. Per serving: 557 calories, 36.80 g protein, 28.50 g fat, 33.09 g carbohydrates, 4.28 g dietary fiber, 931 mg sodium, 3.11 g sugars, 115 mg cholesterol

## Fiery Sweet Chips

LINDA COLLINS | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

*"These were served as an appetizer at a Mexican-themed buffet during a bridal shower for a niece and her husband-to-be. The recipe was requested by several, and the few leftovers were eagerly carried home by the last guests."*

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1½ teaspoons water
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 6 whole wheat flour tortillas
- ⅓ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or more to taste

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Combine butter and water in a small, microwave-safe bowl and heat until butter is melted. Add brown sugar and stir



until smooth. Spread equal amounts of butter/sugar mixture over tortillas, leaving a ¼-inch border near edges.

**3.** Cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. Lightly sprinkle wedges with cayenne. Arrange tortilla wedges in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with nonstick foil or parchment paper.

**4.** Bake 7–9 minutes or until sugar mixture is bubbly and chips feel firm. Let cool on wire racks. Store in a closed container.

Servings: 6. Serving size: Approximately 8 chips. Per serving: 51 calories, 0.04 g protein, 1.79 g fat, 9.01 g carbohydrates, 0.01 g dietary fiber, 2 mg sodium, 8.9 g sugars, 5 mg cholesterol

## Creamy Mexican Street Corn

BRENDA BUSTILLOS | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

*"This is absolutely my favorite side dish. I prefer my street corn (elote) on a stick, but I created this deliciously spicy recipe for when I am in a pinch for time, or if fresh corn is out of season. I guarantee: If you make this once, you will make it again!"*

- 1 can whole kernel corn (15.25 ounces), drained
- 2 ounces cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons diced canned green chiles
- 1 teaspoon diced fresh or pickled jalapeño pepper, or more to taste
- Kosher salt and cracked pepper, to taste
- 1–2 tablespoons crumbled cotija cheese
- Chopped cilantro, to taste
- Paprika, to taste

- 1.** Place corn, cream cheese, chiles, jalapeños, salt and pepper in a small saucepan and cook until cream cheese is melted and ingredients thoroughly incorporated.
- 2.** Spoon heated mixture into small bowls and top with crumbled cotija cheese, cilantro and paprika.

Servings: 4. Serving size: 6 ounces. Per serving: 148 calories, 4.90 g protein, 5.45 g fat, 22.55 g carbohydrates, 3.76 g dietary fiber, 299 mg sodium, 4.39 g sugars, 15 mg cholesterol

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**Go to [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) for details and official rules.**



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Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries can all be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). **Entry deadline: August 10, 2015.**

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55-59	\$23.00	\$19.25	\$31.80	\$26.55	\$45.00	\$37.50	\$111.00	\$92.25
60-64	\$28.00	\$21.50	\$38.80	\$29.70	\$55.00	\$42.00	\$136.00	\$103.50
65-69	\$33.50	\$26.00	\$46.50	\$36.00	\$66.00	\$51.00	\$163.50	\$126.00
70-74	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$62.60	\$48.60	\$89.00	\$69.00	\$221.00	\$171.00
75-79	\$61.00	\$49.50	\$85.00	\$68.90	\$121.00	\$98.00	\$301.00	\$243.50
80-85	\$83.50	\$70.25	\$116.50	\$97.95	\$166.00	\$139.50	\$413.50	\$347.25

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# My First Car

YOUR FIRST CAR—OR TRUCK—will always hold a special place in your heart, whether it was a hunk of junk, a hand-me-down or a well-oiled machine. You sent in your first cars and trucks from all over Texas. Here are the ones that really drive us wild.

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**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com** Pull into our website and see what other first cars are parked there.

◀ **WALLACE BROWN**, Fayette EC: Brown naps beside his 1954 Ford in July 1956.

▼ **ARNOLD GALLOWAY**, Karnes EC: “I bought this old coupe [a 1947 Plymouth] for \$75 on my 15th birthday, over 40 years ago,” Galloway says. “I drove it through high school, and I still own it.”



▲ **PEGGY VASQUEZ**, Wharton County EC: Grandson Chico Vasquez III details his first car.



▲ **JOYCE MOORE**, Grayson-Collin EC: Young Joyce Tesar sits on her first car in 1949 on the family's farm near Southmayd in Grayson County.

▼ **PAM TOBIAS**, Pedernales EC: “My husband bought an old 1949 Chevy from a friend. Another friend worked on it for two years and brought it back to its original color and shine.” It made for a special graduation gift for the Tobias’ grandson.



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

NOVEMBER MUSIC	DUE JULY 10
DECEMBER BELT BUCKLES	DUE AUGUST 10
JANUARY PATTERNS	DUE SEPTEMBER 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 25th Annual Neches Wilderness Canoe Race

**Palestine** [August 1]

(903) 245-9490, [necheswildernessrace.com](http://necheswildernessrace.com)

The Neches River Runners is a nonprofit dedicated to conservation and education. The canoe race is their annual scholarship fundraiser for the Trinity Valley Community College's Palestine campus.

RACE: COURTESY NECHES RIVER RUNNERS. WATERMELON: © VITALIYMATEHA | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

## July

### 9

**Center** [9-11] 26th Annual WHAT-A-Melon Festival, (936) 598-3682

### 10

**Kemp** Annual Aley Picnic, (903) 498-6482

**McDade** [10-11] Watermelon Festival & Car Show, (512) 736-4302, [mcdadetexas.com](http://mcdadetexas.com)

**Clute** [10-12, 17-19] "Hairspray," (979) 265-7661, [bcfas.org](http://bcfas.org)

### 11

**Center Point** Fire Department Annual Barbecue Fundraiser, (830) 634-7593

**Levelland** Early Settlers Day, (806) 894-3157, [levelland.com](http://levelland.com)

**Weatherford** Parker County Peach Festival, (817) 596-3801, [parkercountypeachfestival.org](http://parkercountypeachfestival.org)

**Mount Pleasant** [11-12] Quake On Town Lake (¼-mile boat racing), (903) 466-1349 or (903) 572-8567

### 16

**Bulverde** [16-August 2] "Forbidden Broadway," a musical by Gerard Alessandrini, (830) 438-2339, [stagebulverde.org](http://stagebulverde.org)

### 17

**Gatesville** [17-18] Coryell Creek Critters Annual BBQ Cook-off, (254) 865-7163, [coryellcreekcritters.org](http://coryellcreekcritters.org)

July 9  
**Center**  
26th Annual  
WHAT-A-Melon  
Festival



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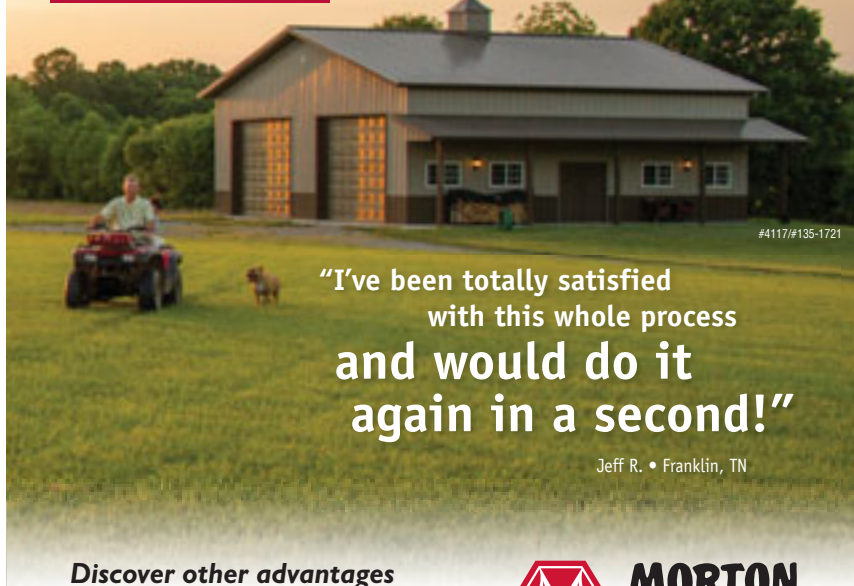
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Texas. For a complete listing, please visit [TexasCoopPower.com/events](http://TexasCoopPower.com/events).

18

**Fredericksburg** Night in Old Fredericksburg, (830) 997-2359, [gillespiefair.com](http://gillespiefair.com)

**Friona** Texas Cheeseburger Festival & Car Show, (806) 250-3491, [frionachamber.com](http://frionachamber.com)

**Granbury** [August 8, 22] Big City Music Revue: Singer/Songwriters of the '70s, (855) 823-5550, [bigcitymusicrevue.com](http://bigcitymusicrevue.com)

23

**Clute** [23-25] Great Texas Mosquito Festival, (979) 265-8392, [mosquitofestival.com](http://mosquitofestival.com)

**Palestine** [23-26, 30-August 2] Texas Theatre presents "Mary Poppins," (903) 922-1327, [visitpalestine.com](http://visitpalestine.com)

24

**Mobeetie** [24-26] Old Mobeetie Music Festival, (806) 845-2028, [mobeetie.com](http://mobeetie.com)

31

**New Braunfels** [31-August 2] Lone Star Gourd Festival, (409) 945-2892, [texasgourdsociety.org](http://texasgourdsociety.org)



July 18  
Friona  
Texas Cheeseburger  
Festival & Car Show

**Schulenburg** [31-August 2] Schulenburg Festival, (979) 743-0656, [schulenburgfestival.org](http://schulenburgfestival.org)

## August

1

**Brownwood** Remembering When—Eagles Tribute Show, (325) 660-8338, [WestTexasRehab.org](http://WestTexasRehab.org)

**Caldwell** Free Wine Tasting at Royalty Pecans, (979) 272-3904, [royaltypespecans.com/calendar](http://royaltypespecans.com/calendar)

**Lake Coleman** VFD Cook-Off Fundraiser, (325) 338-9876

2

**Frelsburg** Sts. Peter & Paul Country Festival, (979) 732-7603

6

**Lubbock** [6-8] Breast Fest, (806) 470-8702, [buffalospringslake.net](http://buffalospringslake.net)

7

**Rusk** The Teddy Bear's Train Ride, (903) 683-3098, [texasstaterr.com](http://texasstaterr.com)

**West** [7-8] 69th Annual West Fair and Rodeo, (254) 826-4533, [westfairandrodeo.org](http://westfairandrodeo.org)

## Submit Your Event!

We pick events for the magazine directly from [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Submit your event for September by July 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar!

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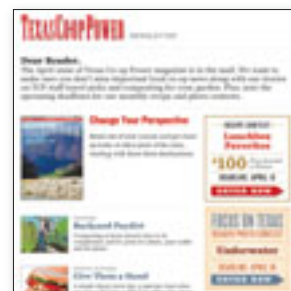
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# Crane Country

Exploring the Panhandle's Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

DAWN ARRIVES QUIETLY AT MULESHOE National Wildlife Refuge, a remote 6,440-acre parcel of the Panhandle's short-grass prairie. A light breeze shakes the refuge's blue grama, and gray clouds muffle the sound of the rustling grasses, smudging the sky as they cross the brightening horizon. A lone coyote pauses in a dry dirt track, listening for the titter of scaled quail. Mostly she'll be met with silence.

The refuge approaches its stillest moment at daybreak, unless you arrive at the refuge between late October and early February. Then you'll be treated to a rattling cacophony of morning performance so pervasive you'll wonder if the sky is falling.

The refuge serves as wintering home to one of the largest populations of lesser sandhill cranes in North America, sizable birds whose numbers can reach 250,000 at the refuge during the January peak. Most mornings from late fall to early spring, thousands of cranes rise from the refuge's three shallow, saline lakes, where they've spent the night. A great orchestration of crane song accompanies the birds as they take to the air, calling one another in high-pitched, staccato verse. The cranes fan out to the surrounding farmlands to feed on the milo, peanuts and corn abandoned in the dormant winter fields.

At dusk they return, cartwheeling out of the sky with loud cries, gliding down on massive wings until, flaps retracted, they stick a deft landing on thin legs. This gathering of sandhill cranes at dawn or dusk is one of the great wonders of the world, a sight to witness at least once in a lifetime.

Fortunately, the refuge makes sandhill crane watching easy by opening seven days a week, 24 hours a day with no admission fee. Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1935 (making it the oldest national wildlife refuge in the state) to preserve short-grass prairie, a rarity in the farmland-dominated Panhandle, and for



The refuge is a winter home to one of the largest populations of lesser sandhill cranes in North America.

its unusual habitat vital to a significant migratory bird population, including a catalog of ducks and the sandhill cranes.

But the refuge offers plenty of birding and wildlife watching year-round, even when the cranes are long gone. "The refuge provides the opportunity to see black-tailed prairie dogs, badgers, mule deer, foxes, bobcats and the occasional rattlesnake," says Jude Smith, project leader for the Muleshoe, Grulle and Buffalo Lake national wildlife refuges. "Birding enthusiasts should watch the Muleshoe skies for golden eagles and Swainson's hawks and look for burrowing owls around the prairie dog town," Smith suggests. "Also, if you're not familiar with saline lakes, then this is the place to see one for yourself. We have three, and they always attract wildlife. Or tackle our hiking trails. We maintain two official trails—a short, quarter-mile nature trail and a mile-long stroll around one of the saline lakes. Or stick to our primitive road network and bring your mountain bike."

The refuge is approximately 20 miles

south of Muleshoe off State Highway 214 and another 2 miles along County Road 1248. Other than restrooms and its headquarters (open weekdays 8 a.m.–4 p.m.), the refuge offers no amenities. Bring comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, water and something to eat. If you wish to spend the night at the refuge, prepare for primitive tent camping. Campsites, also free, come with picnic tables, fire pits and restroom facilities but no potable water.

The ecology of Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge represents its greatest allure for both naturalists and migrating sandhill cranes. But even if your enjoyment of the outdoors involves nothing more than backyard birding from your shaded patio, the refuge tenders an experience that you will not want to miss. After all, how could a quarter million birds be wrong?

Photographer, author and artist **E. Dan Klepper** lives in Marathon.

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Get handy contact information before you head to Muleshoe.



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