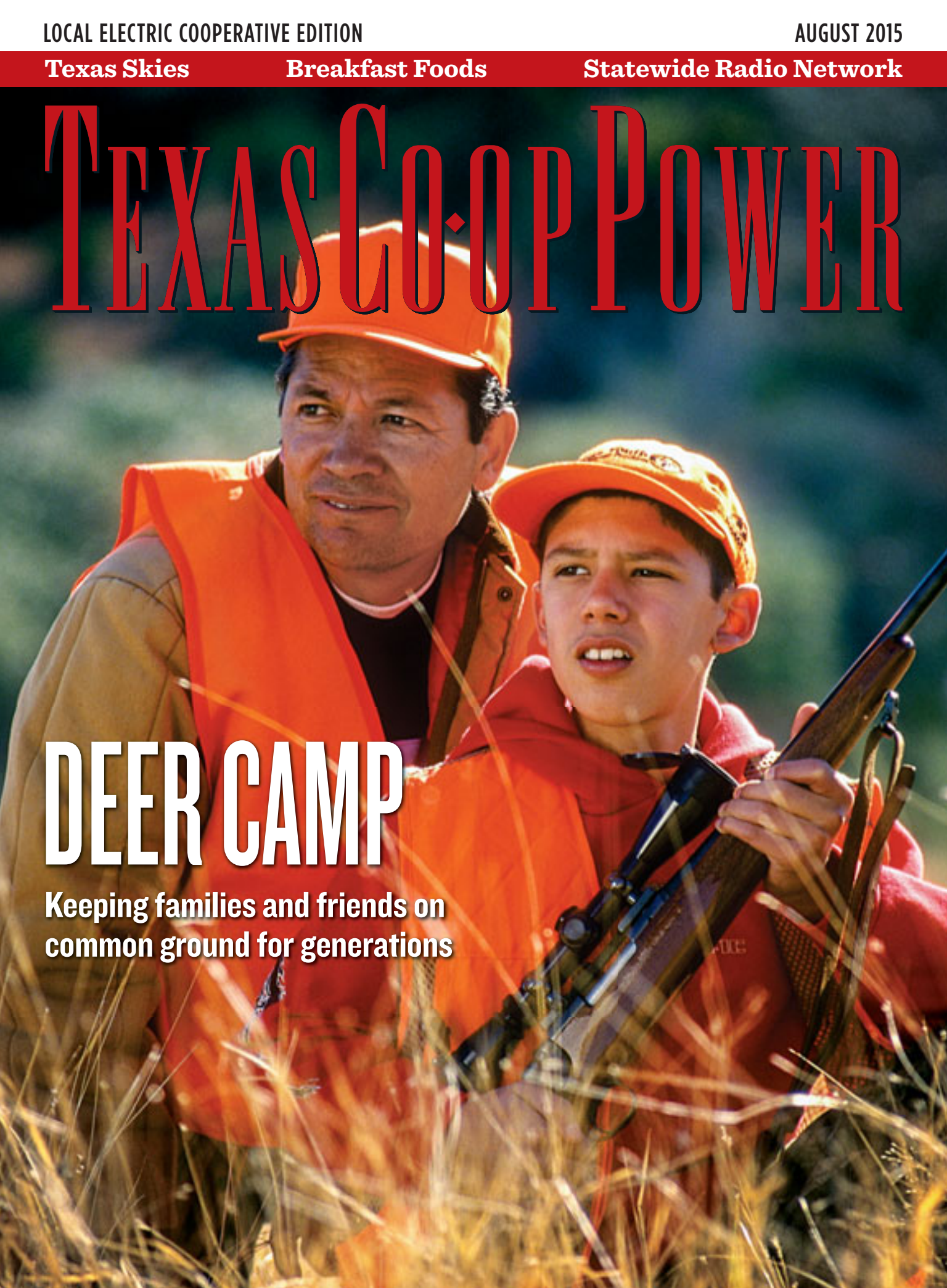


# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## DEER CAMP

Keeping families and friends on common ground for generations





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Clouds roll in above U.S. Highway 385 north of Marathon.

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SKY: E. DAN KLEPPER. CHARRRO: FRANCOISE DE VALERA JAMES | DREAMSTIME.COM

**ON THE COVER** Bonds formed in the field and around a campsite can last a lifetime. Photo by Earl Nottingham | TPWD

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## Who Are the “Indians?”

I am disappointed with the comment in the May 2015 Letters [in reference to “The Old Indian Doctor,” March 2015] regarding the naming of the Native Americans by Christopher Columbus—calling them Indians. The ethnic identity of Indians in India is not being hijacked, at least not by the Native Americans. They have been on this continent for about 14,000 years. I am part Native American (Choctaw) and adopted and raised a full-blood Navajo daughter. America is my country, and I stand proud, not only of my heritage but of my country.

JERRI FAULDS | HIGHLAND VILLAGE  
COSERVE ELECTRIC

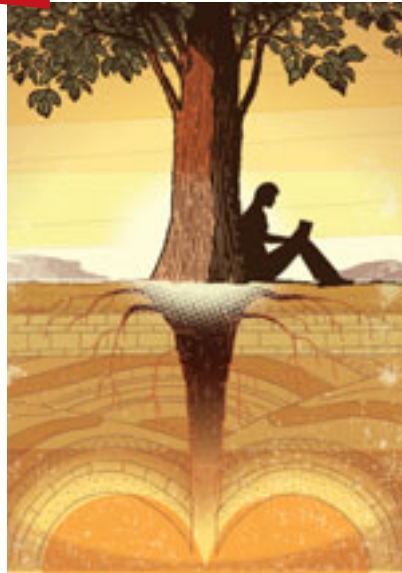
In response to the comment in Letters, I am grateful that Columbus discovered America and it progressed to the great nation in which we live. American Indians have had a lot of influence on American life.

It is my understanding that the North American Indians migrated here from somewhere in Asia. I guess that when they got here, they settled the land and established their culture. It seems like the American Indians should be the ones complaining about Columbus’ “mistake.” After all, their race has truly been discriminated against in this country.

BEN MOORE | COMAL COUNTY  
PEDERNALES EC

## Eating Healthy Portions

I was delighted to find recipes in the March 2015 edition that contained healthy ingredients and proper nutritional content for a reasonable diet. So often the recipes look great, but no way am I cooking anything with 800 calories or more per serving. A step in



**Remembering Mama**  
Your heartfelt article by Laurie Greenwell in the May 2015 issue [“Remembering Mom”] really brought my mother’s battle with cancer into perspective and helped ease my heart.

My mom died in November 2010. I have struggled ever since the day she was told she had cancer. At the time, it was perplexing to me, and I felt guilty because I was not able to relate to her quiet acceptance of declining health. It was torture for us both.

Much like Laurie’s mother, Mama put her affairs in order, gave away things to people she chose, saw all who she could and prepared for her last days.

Laurie helped me tremendously with her words: “Mama showed me how to die.” I watched my own mother starve when her body could no longer tolerate food, and the effort to eat was too much.

SHAWNEE BOWLIN | ATLANTA | BOWIE-CASS EC

the right direction to help the public, which is in need of some discipline with its food choices.

JERI PORTER | FISCHER  
PEDERNALES EC

## A Different View of 1833 Texas

“Journey to Texas, 1833” by Detlef Dunt [May 2015] quotes the diary of someone who describes life in new Texas as paradise. The illustration, with its well-built homes and waterfront, seems a bit ahead of what was happening in Texas in 1833.

One example is the Johann Friedrich Ernst family, which settled in Austin County in 1831, living in a thatched-roof hut made of logs and moss, which was not always waterproof or warm. In 1838, he built a large house that served as an oasis for immigrants.

Records indicate that there were

only 115 German settlers in Texas before 1836. Many later settlers died at sea from bubonic plague, and because inland transportation wasn’t available, hundreds died of the plague in Indianola. Along the wagon trails, there were visible burial mounds, reminders of the many who died on the trek to the Hill Country.

Early German settlers dealt with many hardships but adapted to strange food, different climate and new types of housing. It was difficult, but they did it!

NAOMI MITCHUM | HOUSTON  
AND NEW BRAUNFELS  
PEDERNALES EC

## Flour Sack Dresses

I read in the Letters in the April and May issues about the feed sack clothing [“Feeding Their Fashion Sense,” February 2015]. I made most of my girls’ outfits out of flour

sack material in the early ’60s, and those outfits are still around and passed down to their daughters.

LOUISE GROHMAN | LOYAL VALLEY  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

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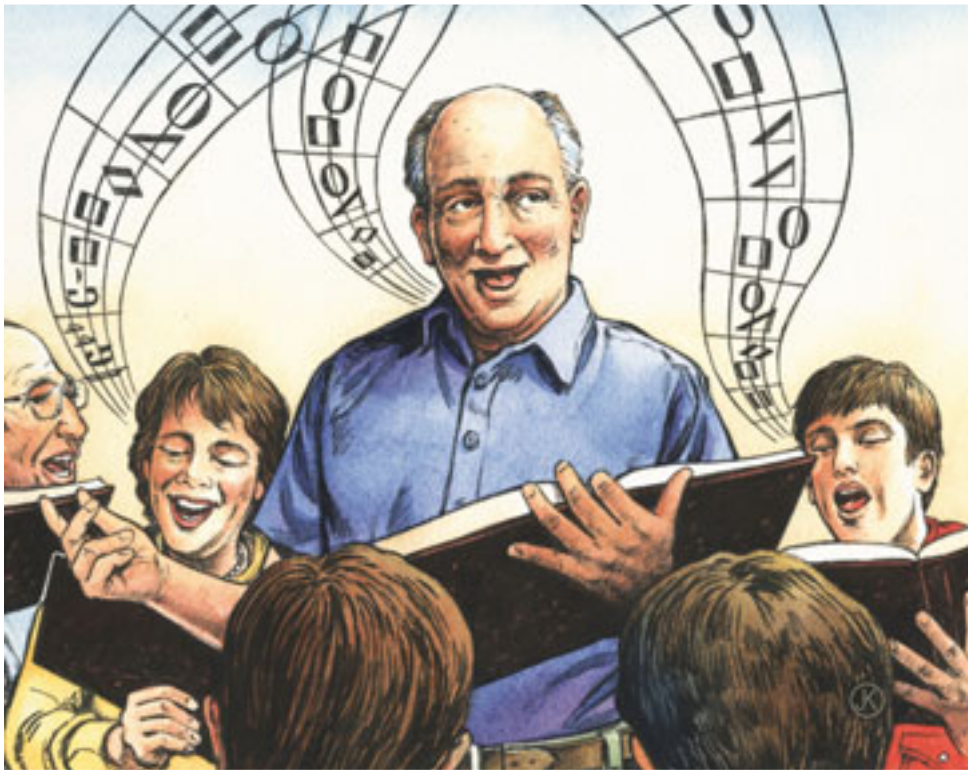
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## HAPPENINGS

### In Harmony and in Shape

A centuries-old form of religious folk music gets showcased at the East Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention, August 8–9 in Henderson.

The songs are performed a cappella and in harmony from an 1844 shape-note songbook, “The Sacred Harp.” Shape-note singing uses the syllables “fa, sol, la, mi” to denote the tones of a musical scale, explains Robert Vaughn, a member of Rusk County Electric Cooperative and a shape-note singer for 35 years.

Shaped notes were invented in the late 1700s to help teach singers who could not read music. Each syllable is associated with a shape: triangle, circle, rectangle or diamond.

The East Texas Sacred Harp Singing Convention was organized in 1868 and is the second-oldest continuous singing convention in the U.S.

**INFO:** [texasfasola.org](http://texasfasola.org), (903) 863-5379

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

## TECH KNOWLEDGE

### Deflating Electric Vehicle Anxiety

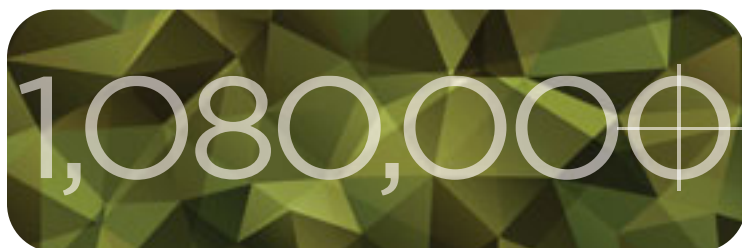


So you're hesitant to buy an electric vehicle because you might get stranded. What if your tires could charge the battery as you drive?

At the 85th Geneva International Motor Show in Switzerland in March, Goodyear unveiled a concept tire called BHO3, Electric Co-op Today reports. Tires create heat while you drive, and materials in the BHO3 capture the energy from that heat and transform it to charge an EV battery.

Gizmag.com explains that the ultrablack tire absorbs light and heat, and the tread absorbs heat. A special fishnet lining inside the tire turns the heat into electrical current. A cooling system in the sidewalls prevents overheating.

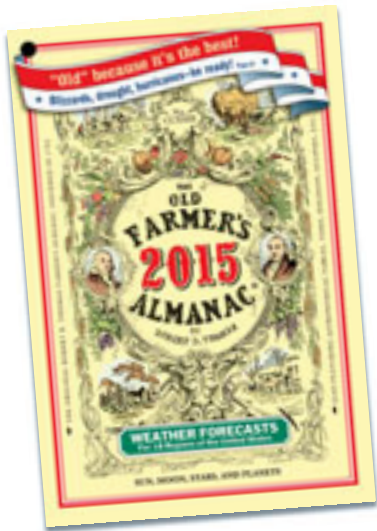
Goodyear says the tire could be the solution to range anxiety—the fear of being left with a drained battery—that keeps many people from considering an electric vehicle.



## THE NUMBER OF HUNTING ACTIVITIES

by Texas residents in state and out of state in 2011, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. The survey is conducted every five years; the next one will be in 2016. Texas hunters spent an average of \$1,622 each. To learn more about hunting in Texas, see “Right With the World,” Page 12.





## Wisdom for Every Season

Texans' fascination with weather is on the radar this month (see "Texas Skies," Page 8). Part of the staying power of "The Old Farmer's Almanac," which began publishing 223 years ago, is its weather forecasts and planting charts. Modern agriculture relies on computer data, not the long-term prognostications in the old annual, but the almanac continues to churn out guiding wisdom from its office in Dublin, New Hampshire, including:

### Folklore for the Season

Observe on what day in August the first heavy fog occurs, and expect a hard frost on the same day in October. If the first week of August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long.

### Best Days in August

Based on moon phases, these are the best dates for cutting hay: 4, 5, 31; for setting eggs: 1, 8, 26-28; and for fishing: 14-29.

### Moon Folklore

Clothes washed for the first time in the full moon will not last long. If you glimpse the new moon over your right shoulder, you will have good luck. To have a project prosper, start it during the new moon. Babies born a day after the full moon enjoy success and endurance.

## ALMANAC

# Rock Hall of Fame Welcomes Texas Legend

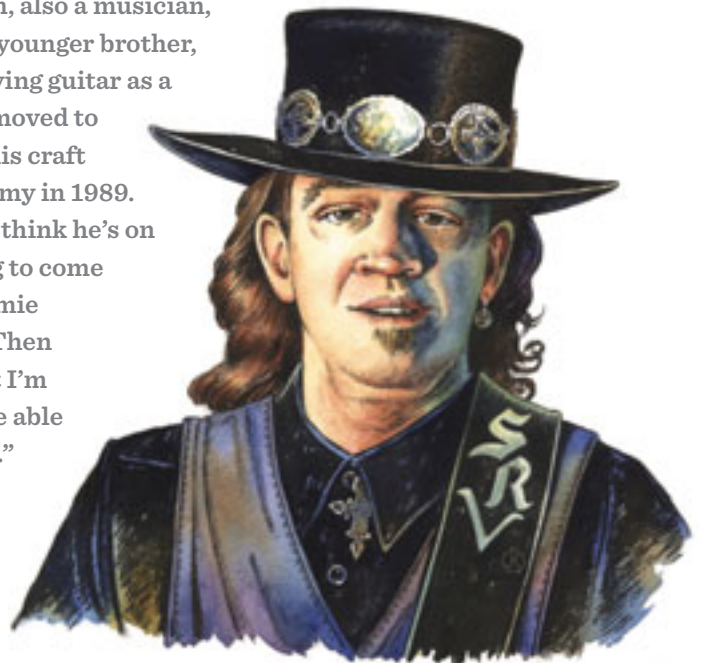
Stevie Ray Vaughan, the late Texas blues-rock legend, and his band Double Trouble were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April. Vaughan died 25 years ago, August 27, 1990, in a late-night helicopter crash on the way to Chicago after a concert in Wisconsin.

The three members of Double Trouble participated in the induction ceremony in Cleveland.

Jimmie Vaughan, also a musician, spoke about his younger brother, who started playing guitar as a child in Dallas, moved to Austin to hone his craft and won a Grammy in 1989.

"I sometimes think he's on tour and is going to come back soon," Jimmie Vaughan said. "Then I remember that I'm never going to be able to see him again."

Stevie Ray Vaughan was 35 when he died.



## En-Lightning Facts

**LIGHTNING FLASHES** globally per year: 1.4 billion

**LIGHTNING STRIKES** in the U.S. per year: 25 million

**CLOUD-TO-GROUND FLASHES** in 2014 in Texas: 2,687,765, most in the nation

**ODDS OF BEING STRUCK** by lightning in a given year in the U.S.: 1 in 1.19 million

**UP TO 5 PERCENT** of lightning strike victims are hit indoors while talking on landlines.

**UP TO 90 PERCENT** of lightning strike victims survive. The odds are increased if the victim is with others who know CPR.

PONDERING WEATHER CONNECTS US TO THE NATURAL WORLD

TE





**TEXAS SKIES** are their most enigmatic when they appear to be most calamitous, a pinnacle moment in a journey that begins with cotton-white puffing against a bright blue horizon and peaks with a dramatic exhibition of lightning, rain and the full voice of thunder.

When observed from a safe place, a storm-loaded sky captures our attention with its power and beauty, an inscrutable behemoth unlikely to release its hold on us even after it passes. Then, we love the calm as much as the commotion that preceded it, the trailing rainbows that alight as quickly as they disappear, and the dewy twilight that follows.

In fact, we're enamored with weather of all kinds. We love the mists of spring, the dense fog of mornings and the regional Texas snowfalls of deep, midwinter nights. We anticipate with joy and melancholy the arrival of autumn's first frost, the frigid Texas blue northers and hazy summer dusks.

Why the obsession? Perhaps because weather connects us to the natural world with a mere glance out the window. Pondering its variables offers the pleasure of puzzling out the catalysts of our sky's constantly changing conditions. Despite advances in meteorology, weather remains unpredictable. Consequently, just about everyone feels qualified to speculate about it, and Texas, with its robust skies and plenty of action, offers a lot to speculate about.

Among the lists of weather extremes for the nation compiled by the National Climatic Data Center, Texas occupies three dominant spots for frequency and severity of hail, one for highest number of tornadoes, one for the all-time hottest and driest, two positions for the top 10 windiest, and three for the most humid.

Professional weather services sort out most of the details, but many of us enjoy documenting the skies from our own backyards under the Citizen Weather Observer Program. Texans across the state collect weather data and upload it daily, providing pinpoint details for the country's official sky watchdog, the National Weather Service, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The NWS maintains a network of official weather data sites across the country, and many have been gathering records for at least a century, including dozens of the Cooperative Observer Program sites throughout Texas. By 1910, Texas sky watchers in rural outposts such as Alpine, Beeville and Temple began archiving weather conditions by hand. Early records, a weather legacy written in fountain pen ink, include such oddities as number of days with "windstorms" and "fogs" recorded in pages of ones and zeros, foreshadowing the digital age.

Texans are not alone in their zeal for observing the skies. It's a national enthusiasm. Chris Davis, senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, says we have a good reason for our passion.

"The severity of weather in America is generally much greater than in other parts of the world, when one considers extremes of heat and cold, snow, rain and wind," explains Davis. "Many locations [in the U.S.] experience a range of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit between their high and low temperatures for a given year. Such a

**A rainbow punctuates the ominous sky near Marathon.**



## TEXANS WHO WISH TO DO A LITTLE FORECASTING ON THEIR OWN SHOULD ENGAGE AND THEIR SHAPES SERVES AS A GOOD GAUGE FOR JUDGING UPCOMING WEATHER

range occurs in very few populated areas elsewhere in the world.”

Tornadoes occur with frequency in the U.S. but are relatively unusual in many other countries and, unlike Europe, hurricanes routinely threaten the U.S. coastline. None of these weather patterns, however, has proved to be reliably predictable.

The oldest official weather prognosticator in the country, “The Old Farmer’s Almanac,” has been around since 1792. Considered America’s most enduring reference manual for weather forecasts, planting charts, astronomy and tide tables, “The Old Farmer’s Almanac” continues to use the same secret forecasting formula today that its publisher and founder, Robert B. Thomas, developed more than 200 years ago. Thomas based his forecasting technique

**A wind farm producing electricity in the Panhandle is upstaged by Mother Nature, above left. Shafts of sunlight drill through cloud cover.**

on weather, solar and astronomical patterns, following a formula that appears to be more successful than many. Today, the formula is re-

ported to be kept in a locked black box in the publication’s offices and removed only once a year for the annual forecast.

Texans who wish to do a little forecasting on their own should engage in an age-old pastime—cloud watching. The simple observation of clouds and their shapes serves as a good gauge for judging upcoming weather conditions, a technique in use by humans for centuries. Puffy, rolling giants (cumulonimbus) suggest possible thunderstorms; low, overcast cloud cover (nimbostratus) usually contains drizzle; white, wispy clouds (cirrus) often predict fair weather or a change; and high, thin, sheet-like clouds (cirrostratus) often indicate wetter weather on the way.

If you’re venturing out to observe changing weather, you should keep a few rules in mind. Always put safety first. Seek shelter at the first sign of a thunderstorm. When driving, don’t try to negotiate a flooded low-water crossing. Wait it out. Your tires, like balloons, are filled with air. They float. If the skies are looking green, you might want to pull under the nearest overpass,





## IN AN AGE-OLD PASTIME—CLOUD WATCHING. THE SIMPLE OBSERVATION OF CLOUDS CONDITIONS, A TECHNIQUE IN USE BY HUMANS FOR CENTURIES.

as hail may be on its way. If you have to pull onto the road shoulder, don't forget to switch on your hazard lights, and never leave your car when lightning is striking. Stay inside. A lightning strike can be deadly, even when it lands a short distance away.

Weather appears to provide a common denominator that links humanity across the centuries. As weather unites us, it also is the great equalizer, providing daily challenges for coping with conditions that appear completely out of our control.

A change in the climate seems to be on almost everyone's mind today. But what does our weather data tell us about the climate, and what does it portend for future Texans and our natural environment? Many of our climate scientists are making headway with the answers, including John W. Nielsen-Gammon, the Texas state climatologist.

"The climate in Texas has varied considerably during the past century," Nielsen-Gammon says. "By far the most significant climate event was the drought of the early to mid-1950s, when

Texas experienced some of its driest and hottest years." Although the drought broke with a long cooling period, the rise in temperatures thereafter has been more rapid, says Nielsen-Gammon.

"Just based on temperatures alone," he explains, "one could not conclude that the temperature in Texas will continue rising. However, there is plenty of other evidence that temperatures should continue to rise, in general. And Texas temperatures are now at their historical highs compared to the past century, so any continued warming will take temperatures beyond the realm of past experience in Texas."

So what does the changing climate hold for Texans? Will it be hotter? Drier? Opinions abound. Every Texan has one. But one factor about the weather will remain the same—our enthusiasm for keeping an eye on the sky.

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

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** View a slideshow with more photos.

An English springer spaniel dog with black and white speckled fur is shown from the chest up, holding a duck in its mouth. The dog's eyes are focused on the camera. The duck is held horizontally, with its head to the right and tail to the left. The background is a blurred natural setting with warm, golden light. The text 'RIGHT WITH THE WORLD' is overlaid in the top right corner, with 'RIGHT' in a light blue font and 'WITH THE WORLD' in a white font. A dotted line circles the text. Below the title, the text 'STORY AND PHOTOS BY MIKE LEGGETT' is written in a smaller white font.

# RIGHT WITH THE WORLD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MIKE LEGGETT

An English springer spaniel shows off her first retrieved duck, a gadwall hen.



# Memories made at deer leases keep families and friends on common ground for generations

## I was a lucky kid GROWING UP in Panola County in deep EAST TEXAS.

That was near Caddo Lake and Big Cypress Bayou, which feeds it. The headwaters of

the Sabine River weren't far away, nor was the fabled Big Thicket, home of Ben Lilly, the legendary bear hunter who guided Teddy Roosevelt in the early 20th century.

We all read "The Ben Lilly Legend" by J. Frank Dobie. It was in our school library, along with "Hunter," by African guide J.A. Hunter. I read those books over and over. They instilled in me a desire to stalk wild game on the African plains, not to mention chase deer and wild hogs and gray squirrels in the big woods along the Sabine.

My luck continued through my father's work as a Baptist minister. His status opened lots of doors and gates for my brothers and me. Hunting clubs made room for us during dog hunts for whitetails, and I always had a place I could go to hunt squirrels. Not to brag, but I got good at squirrel hunting, too, killing my limit of 10 per day more often than the men who showed up to hunt still a little queasy from a night's whiskey tipping around the campfire. I still can't understand why a limit of squirrels isn't more to be desired than a belly full of booze.

But those nights spent in ramshackle cabins heated by a woodstove, with the chain-saw snores of old men rattling the windows, created a desire in me to recreate those same campfires and that same woodstove.

That's why I still need to have a lease somewhere in the Hill Country, a place to spend the night in a camper, with my grandkids wrapped in their sleeping bags, dreaming their own dreams of big racks and rattlesnakes and wild hogs and rabbits begging for a .22 short or a .410 to rearrange their gray fur and send them to a frying pan full of bacon grease and then on to smother in a pot of gravy to get tender before they're ladled onto a couple of cathead biscuits split open on a plate.

But good leases can be hard to come by. Most have been over-hunted or ransacked by wild hogs or cut up by oil field roads and drilling rigs. All these things leave true hunters shaking their heads at what the search for water and oil and the unchecked shooting by folks without a feel for animals and land can do.

I've looked and looked close to our home in Burnet County for the right place to be able to take my grandchildren, who now number seven. I finally found a nice spot out near Buchanan Dam, just 12 miles from my front door.

There were lots of hogs, plenty of deer (though they were depleted by years of day hunting on a neighboring ranch), Rio Grande wild turkeys, and a 7-acre lake with lots of bass and ducks throughout the season. There was a community camping area; all we had to do was petition Pedernales Electric Cooper-



ative for service for our trailers, and we were in business.

**A good hunting lease includes access to deer—and so much more.**

Our first night at the camp, I arranged several granite boulders to create a fire pit and gathered mesquite and oak logs for the fire. My daughter's 8-year-old twins, Ben and Connie, thought it was perfect and right, and loved spending time there with me on the weekends. We could hike and fish and talk and watch the stars and animals. Life could not have been more right than it was when they were there. And isn't that what a deer lease or a hunting camp should be? Kids and dogs and a deer hanging from a tree off to one side, sweet wood smoke and an occasional chain saw cutting up firewood.

Now I'm getting a renewed appreciation for the impact of deer camp life on kids. I see in my own grandchildren the wonder and awe and fear of things that go bump in the night that kept me from sleeping when I was their age.

During a late afternoon adventure, the grandkids and I walk around the lease. I am bombarded with questions—from the always-asked "What was that sound?" to the absurd "Why does the captus [sic] stick you?" to the tender "Come on, Pop, I think you could climb that hill." Translated, that means, "We want to climb those rocks and are afraid you might not make it, but we hope you will at least let us do it."

I've used my grandson Ben as a retriever a few times on dove hunts, and he did pretty well for not having a shock collar around his neck. And Connie is absolutely fearless about picking up all the toads and frogs and grasshoppers that abound out in the woods. If I catch a snake, she's the first to hold it and let it wrap around her arm.

We've been squirrel hunting since they were 4 years old, when



**We could hike and fish and talk and watch the stars and animals. LIFE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE RIGHT than it was when they were there.**

Ben offered to hold Connie's hand so she wouldn't be afraid going into the dark woods. After I shot a squirrel, she was the first to pick it up and hold it by the tail.

**A pair of mallards takes off from a lake on a Hill Country lease.**

"See, Ben, this is how you do it," she said, adding, "I want to take it back and clean it so I can see the stomach and lungs and heart."

I'm slowly getting over the urge to run every time I hear one of them squeal when they're outside playing while I'm in the camper relaxing. It's usually Ben who yells first, and Connie will say, "He always does that."

Back in the camper for the night, we put on "Ghostbusters" and then "Young Frankenstein." Luckily, I have the same taste in movies as the kids and can fall asleep with them piled on my feet and legs like dogs on a cold country night.

It's about as perfect as a night could be.

**A LIFELONG RITUAL** For me, life around deer camp has a sameness that's comforting: up well before dawn for a Little Debbie cherry pie and a Diet Coke with my friend, Killis LaGrone, then off into the darkness to our bow blinds, cellphones handy in case one of us needs help. We've been hunting together since the mid-1960s, when I was invited to join their family deer camp in the old Beckville Hunting Club in East Texas.

Back then, we stayed in a makeshift shack that was part cooking tent, part bedroom. It was constructed using four sweet gum trees as corner posts with long two-by-fours as framing for the walls, two of which were old storefront signs from Killis' grandfather's Deadwood General Store.

Supper would often be baloney sandwiches stacked with meat from the store's meat counter, or, if we were lucky, chicken-fried backstrap sandwiches cooked over his dad's battered Coleman stove, which spewed fumes and monstrous heat and always left us on the verge of having to bail out of the little shack to stand outside in the cold.

There was a constant hickory wood fire going outside, close to the dog pens, where Killis' dad, Clenton Sr., would store the cherished beagle hounds he used to move deer around in the woods. The sweet, peppery smell of hickory wood smoke today sends me sailing decades into the past.

Clenton would throw out his standard old saws about hunting, none of which had to do with camouflage or scent control but mostly had to do with, "Well, you go back down that old road to the leaning tree, then walk out across that flat to the right. There's a big pin oak out there, and if you sit down under that tree, a deer is going to come by."

Usually he was right—if we could find the tree in the dark of a cold morning. Today Killis and I will sit around the breakfast table and share stories while we plan our morning bow hunts. "Granddaddy never thought you should do that," he will say of a plan we might be considering.

To this day, I'd rather have that warning ringing in my ears than anything else I can imagine when I start a day in the woods. I'm also spoiled by the attention Clenton paid to those of us he considered knotheads in need of help.

There are times I'll be sitting in a blind with a fine deer in front of me, and I'll make a decision not to take that particular deer because I don't have anyone to share the moment with when it's over.

I try to keep my own kids and grandkids interested and excited the same way, and it can bring tears to my eyes to have one of them say to me, "That was really great. Thanks for taking us, Pop."

**Mike Leggett** is a writer and photojournalist based in Burnet.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** Download "Mike Leggett's Rules of the Hunting Lease."



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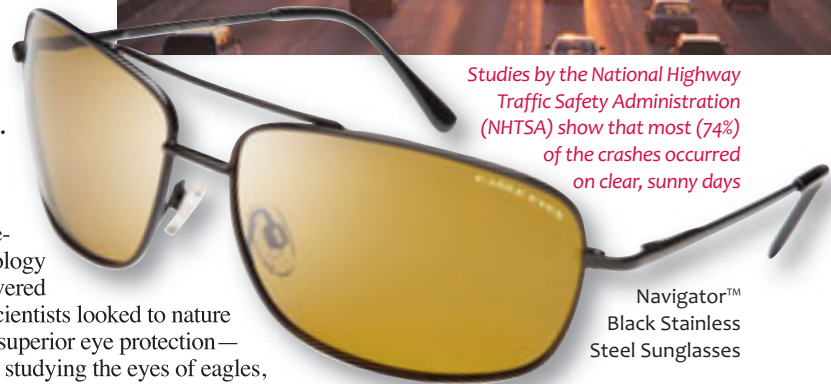
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# Residential Generators

## *A buyer's guide*

**LET'S FACE IT: ROUGH WEATHER HAPPENS.** At your electric cooperative, our goal is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. But when a major storm hits, power may be out for an extended period of time. Anyone who has experienced an extended power outage has likely mulled over the idea of buying a generator. Before you do, make sure you have all the facts.

The purchase and installation of a generator is an important and serious decision. Properly done, you gain peace of mind knowing your family can ride out any outage with some degree of safety and comfort. An incorrectly implemented generator can become deadly to you, your family, your neighbors and your electric cooperative's employees.

So let's look at the decisions you'll need to make when it comes to purchasing a residential generator. First, do you want to back up your entire home or just portions of it? The biggest drawback to a permanently installed, whole-house generator is the cost, despite significant advantages.

The next decision is sizing the generator to your particular situation. Online tools abound, so if you like to research, just type "generator sizing guide" into your browser, and off you go. Or contact your co-op to help you determine the correct size. All this being said, a reasonable size for a portable generator is at least 6,500 watts, with a startup capacity of about 8,000 watts. (The difference in those numbers is because of this: When motor loads start, they draw more power than they use when running. This "inrush" of power gets them spinning, then their demand for electricity decreases.)

The third consideration is how to integrate the generator with your home. Permanent models have dedicated switching devices that handle this chore, but portable models can require

you to remove them from storage, set them up, connect them and start them up.

This is where the danger mentioned above comes into play: Improperly connected generators can easily backfeed into your co-op's grid. As electricity flows back into the lines, the transformers boost the voltage to lethal levels, endangering

line crews working to restore power or anyone who might come into contact with a downed line. Be sure to closely follow connection instructions, and contact us if you have any questions regarding connecting your generator safely.

Use of the generator can be as simple as plugging appliances directly into it—but this is cumbersome and limiting. It's better to have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician. This device connects to the circuits you want to power. You connect your generator to the dedicated plug, follow the disconnect procedure and fire it up—and you've got power for your home that's safe for all.

Next, a word about quality: With generators, you definitely get what you pay for. Cheap models are just that. They may last a couple of years, but after that, parts

can be impossible to get. Few things are worse than your generator failing to operate when the lights are out. Go for engines with recognizable brand names. They may cost more but will certainly be worth the extra cost.

Also, it's important to exercise your portable generator regularly. Don't worry, you don't need to walk your generator—it's not that type of exercise. "Exercising" means connecting load to the generator and turning it on to be sure it will run.

And while you're at it, why not let your co-op know you have a generator? It can provide safety and connection tips if needed, and knowing will enhance line crews' safety.



**Anyone who has experienced an outage has likely thought of buying a generator—but before you do, know all the facts.**





Save on your energy bill by planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

# Take Control of Summer Energy Bills

**HERE ARE FIVE EASY WAYS** to minimize your energy use during the hot months:

**Sun block.** Half of all of the heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the summer sun. Save up to 15 percent on your cooling bill by shading west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of windows to shade the house.

**Quick change.** A filter for your air-conditioning system costs only a few dollars (about \$5 for a high-quality, pleated model) but can save you much more if you change it every month during the summer. Dirty air-conditioning filters prevent air-flow and make the system work harder. That means a higher bill.

**One degree.** For every degree warmer that you turn up your thermostat during air-conditioning season, you'll save up to 2 percent on your cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees and turn on a ceiling fan to help circulate the air.

**Wind chill.** Fans don't cool the air, but they make the air feel cooler by moving it around the room and against your skin, which creates a sort of wind chill effect. When the fan is running, you can move your thermostat 3 to 4 degrees higher without noticing a difference in your comfort level.

**Cool touch.** Replace every incandescent lightbulb in your house with compact fluorescent or light-emitting diode lightbulbs. The replacements cost more to buy than incandescents, but CFLs use 75 percent less energy, and LEDs use less than one-tenth. Both of these energy-efficient versions pay for themselves and then some over their lifetimes. Plus, they emit far less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they don't add heat to your home's air or make the air conditioner work harder.

## Keep Outdoor Playtime Safe

**BEFORE YOU SEND YOUR KIDS** outside to have some summer fun, make sure they are aware of electrical dangers that could put a frightening halt to playtime.

Teach children to look up and look out for power lines, and to keep themselves and any play items away from power lines or anything in contact with lines.

Children also must avoid climbing trees near power lines. A tree branch tangled in a power line can energize the whole tree with electricity, leading to electric shock or death for anyone climbing or touching it.

Ensure that your kids are protected from the electrical service connection to your home. Be aware of these lines around pools. Pool skimmers can be long enough to reach service connection lines.

Teach your children never to play around pad-mounted transformers—the green metal boxes that contain the aboveground portion of an underground electrical installation. They carry high voltages and are safe when locked but can be deadly if someone reaches inside. If you see one in your neighborhood that is open, call your co-op immediately.

Also, teach children never to enter an electrical substation for any reason. If a ball or other toy crosses the fence surrounding the substation, call your utility for help. Substations hold deadly amounts of electricity and should be entered only by professionals.

**Children must avoid climbing trees near power lines.**



# Bang for Your Buck

The day The Shredder blew up marked the end of our junkyard jobs

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

MY FIRST JOB WHEN I MOVED TO AUSTIN in 1973 was at a salvage company on what was then the southern outskirts of town. Three of us, all fresh from Lubbock and eager to work anywhere as long as it was in Austin, showed up in response to a help-wanted ad in the paper. A fourth Lubbock expatriate would arrive on the scene a few days later.

The boss, a bald-headed, energetic, middle-aged man, interviewed us one by one. I was the first to meet him. Where, he asked, was I from? When I said Lubbock, he reacted like I had just said, “China.”

“I was in Lubbock—once!” he answered, excitedly. Then he calmed down a little and told me a story about when he was driving to Lubbock one night and ascended the Caprock and kept cruising toward the Lubbock lights he saw glimmering in the distance. “I drove for an hour, and the lights never got any closer. I couldn’t believe it!”

Apparently, this disbelief, combined with all the coffee he had been drinking, made him particularly anxious to arrive, if not in Lubbock, at any place with a restroom. Finally, with no one else on that long, lonesome highway and the Lubbock lights still not any closer, he stopped his truck in the middle of nowhere and got out.

What he didn’t fully realize was that the weather had changed on him somewhere around the Caprock. A bitterly cold north wind was howling about 30 miles an hour across the Llano Estacado, and the shock of it, when he stepped out of the truck, caused him to have the kind of accident he hadn’t had since he was a little boy. He held the city of Lubbock respon-

sible for this, but I got the job, anyway. I didn’t even have to mention that I was a published writer. Ernie, Steve and our friend, Doak, were all hired and assigned jobs, each to our abilities.

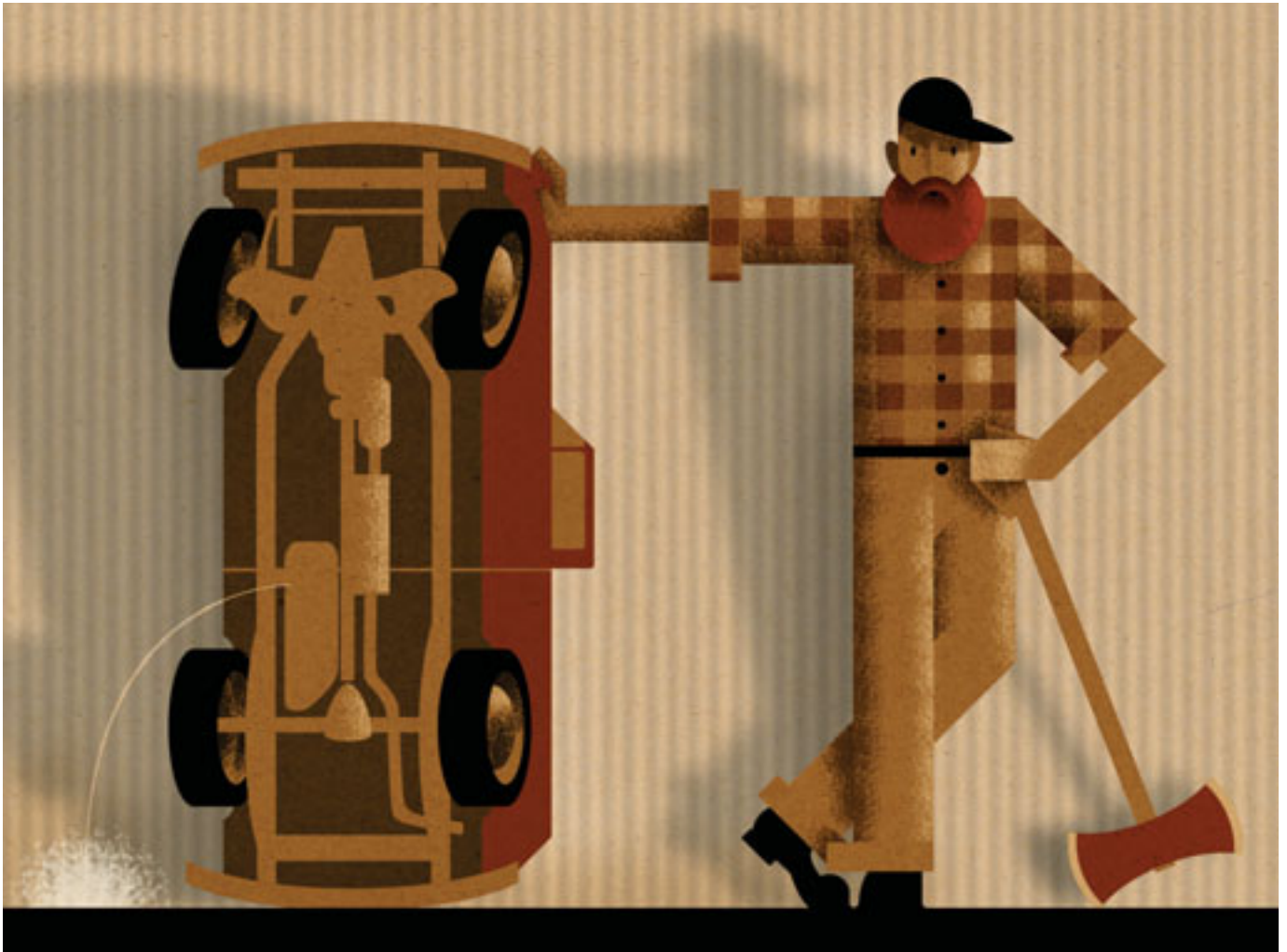
Ernie was by far the most responsible and mechanical of all us, so he was given the job with the most responsibility: operating The Shredder. (Like all monsters, its name deserves to be uppercased.) The Shredder was the central piece of machinery at the salvage company. A unique subculture of folks would bring in abandoned cars and sell them for junk by the pound. The Shredder then chewed them into small pieces of metal that moved up a conveyor belt and emptied into a pile of junk on the ground.

Steve was given an ax, which, combined with his red beard and lumberjack build, made him look like a lot like Paul Bunyan. He was told to chop the gas tanks out of the vehicles before Ernie hoisted them into the jaws of The Shredder. This was to prevent any gasoline that might have been left in the tank from igniting and exploding when The Shredder went to work on it.

Because I had no identifiable skills, I was the handyman. I got all the menial jobs, such as cutting the stems out of inner tubes.

Doak joined the crew a few days later and was sent to the crow’s nest at the end of the conveyor belt with instructions to knock all the nonmetal stuff like upholstery and seat-cushion foam off the belt and into a pile of nonmetal junk. Then a truck would come and take all the metal to San Antonio. The operation hummed like a well-oiled machine, which The Shredder actually was.





Then one day it went “Bang!” And most of South Austin heard it.

Here’s what happened: There usually weren’t any cars waiting to be shredded when we arrived at work, and it took awhile for Ernie to get The Shredder cranked up and ready to go. For the rest of us, there was a certain amount of dead time right after we clocked in. Steve had developed the bad habit of crawling into one of the pneumatic tubes at the base of The Shredder and catching a few extra winks of sleep before Ernie blew a horn to let everybody know the action was about to begin.

On that particular morning, Steve was slow climbing out of the tube and didn’t have time to chop the gas tank out of the waiting pickup before Ernie maneuvered a giant magnet over the old truck and hoisted it airborne on its way to The Shredder.

Steve and I laid odds on the probability of the truck having any gas left in the tank. Steve said they usually didn’t, which was about the time The Shredder blew up. More accurately, it blew out. It was equipped with

explosion doors that flew open in case something like this happened. Otherwise, Ernie would have been launched into orbit.

As it was, Doak was the only who got any airtime; he bailed out of the crow’s nest to the ground many feet below. From his vantage point, Ernie heard the boom, saw smoke roll out from the explosion doors and Doak’s rapidly descending silhouette. Doak hit the ground, rolled, and went running for water because, judging from the amount of smoke, he was certain there was fire.

Doak bruised his knee and the boss chewed out Steve, but business went on pretty much as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened that day. The case could be made that nothing had.

We didn’t stick around, though. We found what Doak described as “a dream job.”

We drove ice cream trucks for the rest of the summer.

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

# Natural Wisdom

Rio Grande adventure decades ago leaves lifelong lessons

BY E.R. BILLS

YEARS AGO, WHEN I STOOD STRAIGHTER and stepped more lightly, I was bent on staving off the responsibilities of adulthood. I did it by rambling cross-country, camping and hiking, sleeping on the ground and sometimes wandering for days and even weeks on end. Finally, a family and monthly bills caught up with me, but I still managed to sneak away regularly.

Inexorably, the years slowly encroached. Now the ground feels harder, and a week away from my favorite pillow or chair is less appealing. I still have some “go” left in me, but not the same stride. It’s frustrating, and I blame my dad.

In the late 1970s, I grew up surrounded by inklings of the future. Technology began to displace outdoor activities. Pay-per-view TV became popular, and Atari was all the rage. Microwave ovens appeared, and cassette tape players allowed us to record music off the radio. We still had bikes to ride and had to actually stand up to physically change the channels on the TV or the cartridge on the video game console, but the seeds of what was to come had already sprouted. We would slowly and incrementally become less active and spend less time outside after that. It seemed inevitable.

I don’t think it bothered my father much because he had worked hard to expose us to outdoor experiences that left lasting impressions. But it must have registered on some level because it led to the greatest adventure of my young life.

My dad had taken me on canoe trips before, the first of which was down the Guadalupe River when I was 7 or 8. But in 1980, just before I turned 13, he took me

on a 10-day river trek through the lower canyons of the Rio Grande, easily one of the most remote places in Texas.

No television, video games, microwaves, air conditioning, electricity, radio, telephone or tent—much less soft drinks or showers. We put in at the Boquillas Canyon Ranger Station of Big Bend National Park and plied for Langtry, roughly 160 miles east. We bathed in the river and drank from canteens. We cooked food over open fires and studied desert sky constellations for evening entertainment. If a rain interrupted our open-air slumbers, we rolled off our cots and slid underneath them and went back to sleep. If it got too hot on the river during the day, we took turns sliding into the water and drifting along with the canoe or banked our canoes and lounged under the shade of the cots.

My hands, previously most comfortable with a football, baseball glove or, more recently, an Atari controller, now brandished a wooden paddle, and I learned to navigate like a seasoned river rat.

In the quiet, crevassed solitude of the lower canyons, we could hear a serious rapid or waterfall at least a quarter of a mile away. We banked our canoe and hiked down to judge whether it was passable or if we needed to portage around it. I can’t say our judgment was always correct or that we didn’t luck through some tricky turns or get tumped over by a harrowing rock combination or two; but I can say I’ve experienced very little that compares to the exhilaration I felt during and after successfully traversing a rough, whitewater stretch of the Rio Grande a little farther





out than the middle of nowhere during that remarkable journey.

Today, I can hardly cross a bridge over a decent flowing river without thinking back to my time on the Rio. Technology and convenience are practically an inescapable part of our lives now, and that's fine. But it doesn't mean we shouldn't know our way around an oar or campfire or cot. It's easy to forget that the excitement and adventures we witness on a television, computer or cellphone screen are not actually happening to us, and that we're living them vicariously or virtually via the offspring of Atari and pay-per-view,

instead of firsthand. I don't know whether my father knew or sensed what was coming or simply wanted to instill in me a sense of adventure, but our Rio jaunt put me way ahead of the curve. And I've tried to do the same with my children.

Texas has thousands of real-life experiences available at hundreds of state and national parks, rivers, lakes, waves, rocks, caves, canyons, deserts, mountains, forests, swamps and hike-and-bike trails. I've exposed my kids to as many as I could. An adventure is always calling, and it's never too late, even if you've lost a step.

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

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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# Chicago Doctor Invents Affordable Hearing Aid

## Outperforms Many Expensive Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

**CHICAGO:** A local board-certified Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physician, Dr. S. Cherukuri, has just shaken up the hearing aid industry with the invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid. **This revolutionary hearing aid is designed to help millions of people with hearing loss who cannot afford—or do not wish to pay—the much higher cost of traditional hearing aids.**

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—Dr. May, ENT Physician

**"Perhaps the best quality-to-price ratio in the hearing aid industry" —Dr. Babu, M.D. Board-Certified ENT Physician**

Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's dementia. **He could not understand why the cost for hearing aids was so high when the prices on so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones, and digital cameras had fallen.**

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover the costs of hearing aids, which traditionally run between \$2,000 — \$6,000 for a pair, many of the doctor's patients could not afford the expense. Dr. Cherukuri's goal was to find a reasonable solution that would help with the most common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, not unlike the **"one-size-fits-most" reading glasses** available at drug stores.

He evaluated numerous hearing devices and sound amplifiers, including those seen on television. Without fail, almost all of these were found to amplify bass/low frequencies (below 1000 Hz) and not useful in amplifying the frequencies related to the human voice.

### Inspiration From a Surprising Source

The doctor's inspiration to defeat the powers-that-be that kept inexpensive hearing aids out of the hands of the public actually came from a new cell phone he had just purchased. **"I felt that if someone could devise an affordable device like an iPhone® for about \$200 that could do all sorts of things, I could create a hearing aid at a similar price."**

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Patterns

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T

## Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

**DEAR DARRYL:** My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

*Clogged and Smelly – Austin, TX*

**DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY:** As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

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**SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at [www.septiccleanse.com](http://www.septiccleanse.com) or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "DARTX14", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

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# Radio Nexus of Texas

Texas State Networks programming reaches 3 million listeners on 130 stations

BY BOB MCCULLOUGH

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE RADIO GODS HAVE succeeded in cloning Jim Forsyth, the energetic news director of WOAI-AM in San Antonio. He delivers news and commentary to South Texas listeners, and his voice can be heard daily on stations in Alpine, Orange and Eastland.

For almost 30 years, Forsyth has been a key contributor to the Texas State Networks, which shares news, information and entertainment with 3 million listeners on 130 AM and FM stations.

Forsyth and other correspondents funnel story ideas to TSN's flagship station, KRLD-AM in Dallas. There, a team of 30 headed by Director of News and Programming Paul Mann edits the information and voice recordings into five-minute newscasts then distributes them to affiliates beginning at 5:55 a.m. TSN also offers the half-hour show "Texas in the Morning" and 15-minute roundups at midday and in the late afternoon.

During legislative sessions, TSN's Austin bureau contributes to the newscasts. And listenership spikes whenever there's a tornado or a hurricane.

Oscar Rodriguez, president of the 1,300-member Texas Association of Broadcasters, calls TSN "an eyewitness to Texas history," covering practically every major newsworthy occurrence of the past four decades. The Rio Grande Valley native recalls becoming a TSN listener in the 1960s and marveling at stories about Houston's new Astrodome and HemisFair '68, the world's fair in San Antonio.

"TSN provides a window to the world, no matter where you are in Texas," he contends. "It exists as a real lifeline, especially to smaller stations without a news department."

Mann adds that TSN "constitutes an



innovative way of getting news and information across the state. Our programming includes lifestyle and entertainment features, but news is still king."

The innovation began in 1937 when Ruth G. Roosevelt, daughter-in-law of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, acquired KFJZ-AM in Fort Worth. Then she and husband Elliott moved quickly to establish a Texas network of affiliates.

The first and now largest of 30 state radio networks in the U.S., TSN was chartered August 2, 1938, and the new enterprise went on the air September 15, 1938, at the Casa Mañana outdoor theater in Fort Worth. That first broadcast drew a crowd of 5,000 with luminaries such as comedian Bob Hope and Texas Gov. James V. Allred.

As TSN's flagship station then, KFJZ recruited affiliates with the promise of "the world's finest radio entertainment and educational features."

Some of those programming genres remain, such as "Texas Road Trippin',"

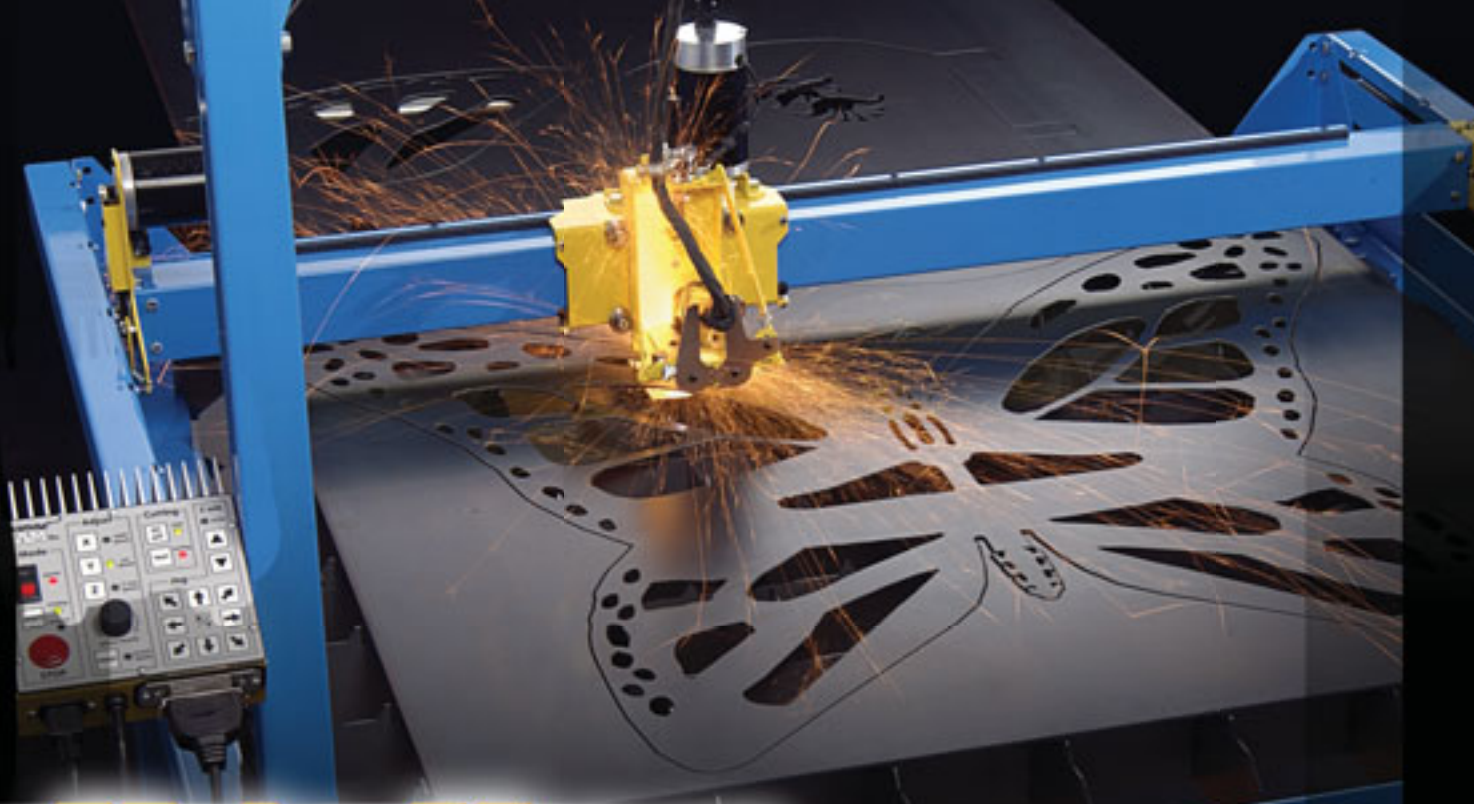
hosted by JD Ryan; "Texas Overnight with Charley Jones"; and "Texas Red Dirt Roads," a musical entertainment program.

For a time, TSN headquartered at what was then called the Ballpark in Arlington, the Texas Rangers baseball team's home field, and sports programming continues to be a specialty. The network distributes Dallas Cowboys and Houston Texans football games, Houston Astros baseball games and University of Texas Longhorns football games. Today TSN and KRLD are owned and operated by CBS Radio.

Forsyth says radio and TSN are more relevant today than ever. "Since nobody 'sits down and listens to the radio,' we fit in well with today's media world," he says.

He further believes TSN will remain vital because "there's no state in the country in which people identify with their state and its image more than Texas. Even as this state grows and absorbs people from around the world, they quickly become part of the story of this state."

Bob McCullough is a writer in the Hill Country.



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## Breakfast Foods

IS BREAKFAST THE MOST IMPORTANT meal of the day? It depends on whom you ask, but in my opinion, waking up to the smell of coffee brewing and bacon sizzling is one of the most pleasurable things in life. I hope my fellow “morning people” carve out time to enjoy a leisurely breakfast made with one of this month’s recipes. And for you night owls, there’s no rule saying you can’t have breakfast for dinner!

Our winning reader recipes are splurge-worthy and delicious, but our feature is a slightly lighter dish from chef Virginia Willis’ book, “Lighten Up, Y’all: Classic Southern Recipes Made Healthy and Wholesome.”

ANNA GINSBERG, FOOD EDITOR

### Multigrain Pecan Waffles

- 2 cups low-fat buttermilk
- ½ cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- ⅔ cup whole-wheat pastry flour
- ⅔ cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- ⅓ cup chopped pecans
- ¼ cup whole-grain cornmeal
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1. Mix well the buttermilk and oats in a medium bowl and set aside for 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together the pastry flour, all-purpose flour, pecans, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt

and cinnamon in a large bowl.

3. Stir eggs, oil and vanilla into the buttermilk-oat mixture. With a rubber spatula, mix in dry ingredients just until moistened.

4. Coat a waffle iron with nonstick cooking spray and preheat. When the iron is hot, spoon in enough batter to cover three-quarters of the surface (about ⅔ cup for an 8-inch round waffle iron). Cook until the waffles are crisp and golden brown, 4–5 minutes. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve immediately.

Servings: 6. Serving size: 1 8-inch round waffle. Per serving: 256 calories, 9.27 g protein, 11.92 g fat, 27.30 g carbohydrates, 3.09 g dietary fiber, 532 mg sodium, 4.76 g sugars, 65 mg cholesterol

Reprinted from “Lighten Up, Y’all: Classic Southern Recipes Made Healthy and Wholesome” (Ten Speed Press, 2015) by Virginia Willis



## Breakfast Foods



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

PATTY ALLCORN | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Breakfast sets the tone for the rest of the day—so it's a good idea to make it as nutritious and delicious as possible. Our readers clearly take that concept to heart, as they sent some fantastic recipes for sweet and savory breakfast treats.

### Upside-Down Banana Nut French Toast

*"This is the most delicious and memorable breakfast dish I have ever had or prepared. If you like bread pudding, you will love this dish. It can be served for breakfast, brunch or even dessert."*

- 1½ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup light corn syrup
- ½ cup salted butter, melted
- ½ cup walnuts, halves or pieces
- 1 loaf firm cinnamon bread
- 3 medium ripe bananas
- 6 eggs
- 1½ cups whole milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- Powdered sugar for garnish
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour

1. Coat bottom and sides of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, stir together brown sugar, corn syrup and butter until smooth. Spread on bottom of baking dish. Sprinkle walnuts on top.
3. Arrange a layer of bread over sugar

mixture and walnuts, tearing bread if needed to cover entirely. Slice bananas over first layer of bread, then add another layer of bread on top.

4. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and vanilla. Pour over layers in dish. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least one hour or overnight, but not more than 24 hours.

5. After chilling, preheat oven to 325 degrees. Bake 45–55 minutes until center is firm and knife inserted in center comes out clean. Run a knife around edges to loosen, then flip pan upside down onto a large platter or cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

6. Using a spatula, scoop up any sugar mixture left in the pan and spread it over the French toast. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve warm.

**COOK'S TIP** Pepperidge Farm or Sara Lee brands work well for the cinnamon bread. Pecans can be substituted for walnuts, if desired.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 5 ounces. Per serving: 413 calories, 8.71 g protein, 15.59 g fat, 59.92 g carbohydrates, 1.86 g dietary fiber, 273 mg sodium, 38.85 g sugars, 116 mg cholesterol

### \$5,000 Holiday Recipe Contest

December's issue will feature winners of the **Holiday Recipe Contest**, sponsored by the Texas Pecan Board. Send us your best **ORIGINAL** pecan recipes in the **Savory Dish** or **Sweet Dish** category, and your recipe could appear in Texas Co-op Power and win you a cash prize. The deadline is **August 10**. See complete rules at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).

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.

### Cowgirl Quiche

KARIS LOOP | CONCHO VALLEY EC

- 6 pieces of bacon (preferably thick-sliced)
- 2 cups frozen potatoes O'Brien (diced potatoes with peppers and onions)
- 1 jalapeño pepper, chopped (remove seeds to reduce heat, if desired)
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup whipping cream
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 9-inch prepared pie crust
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cut the bacon into 1-inch pieces and cook in a sauté pan over medium heat until brown. Remove bacon from pan. Cook the potatoes and jalapeño in the bacon grease until the potatoes start to brown a little. Remove from heat.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, cumin, garlic powder, nutmeg, salt and pepper.
4. Put the pie crust in a deep-dish 9-inch pie pan and crimp the edge. Add the ingredients in layers: first ¾ cup of the combined cheeses, then the potato and jalapeño mixture, then the crumbled bacon, then the egg mixture. Top with the remaining cheese.
5. Bake 45–60 minutes, until a knife inserted into the middle of the quiche comes out clean.

Servings: 8. Serving size: 8 ounces. Per serving: 436 calories, 17.76 g protein, 30.26 g fat, 18.19 g carbohydrates, 1.43 g dietary fiber, 809 mg sodium, 0.31 g sugars, 153 mg cholesterol

### Bacon Cornbread Breakfast Muffins

JAMES FELDMAN | BANDERA EC

- 2 packages sliced bacon (2 pounds)
- 1¼ cups cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 3 eggs



- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped mushrooms
- 1 chopped bell pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Halve bacon slices. Line two 12-count muffin pans with bacon, covering bottom and sides of each cup with two half-slices.
2. In a large bowl, stir together cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.
3. In a second bowl, whisk together milk, butter and eggs. Add liquid ingredients to flour mixture and stir just until mixed (do not overmix). Stir onion, mushrooms and bell pepper into batter.
4. Remove bacon-lined muffin pans from oven and scoop batter into the cups, filling each about ¾ full.
5. Return pans to oven and continue to bake 20–25 minutes more, until muffins are golden-brown. Let muffins cool slightly after baking, then serve.

Servings: 24. Serving size: 1 muffin. Per serving: 298 calories, 15.81 g protein, 17.19 g fat, 14.22 g carbohydrates, 0.52 g dietary fiber, 952 mg sodium, 2.94 g sugars, 69 mg cholesterol

## Easy Breakfast Casserole

MILLIE KIRCHOFF | NUECES EC

- Butter for dish, plus 2 teaspoons extra
- 8 slices bread, toasted and broken into pieces
- 1 cup diced sweet bell peppers, green and red
- 2 green onions, diced, including top
- ⅔ cup diced onion
- 1 pound breakfast sausage, cooked and crumbled
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 cups half-and-half, divided use
- 1½ cups grated cheddar cheese
- ½ cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 can cream mushroom soup (10.5 ounces)
- 1 small can sliced black olives (4 ounces)

1. Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and place bread pieces in bottom.
2. Sauté bell peppers and onions in 2 teaspoons butter. Spread pepper mix-

- ture and cooked sausage over bread pieces; sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. In a medium bowl, mix eggs, mustard and 1½ cups half-and-half, and pour evenly over mixture in dish. Sprinkle cheeses over the top. Cover dish tightly with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
  4. In the morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix the can of soup and the remaining ½ cup of half-and-half, and pour over dish. Sprinkle olives on top and cover loosely with foil.
  5. Bake 40–45 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand 5 minutes before cutting and serving.

**COOK'S TIP** Top with salsa or picante sauce and serve with fresh fruit.

Servings: 12. Serving size: 8 ounces. Per serving: 348 calories, 16.73 g protein, 25.38 g fat, 7.28 g carbohydrates, 1.32 g dietary fiber, 665 mg sodium, 1.76 g sugars, 189 mg cholesterol

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Find more Breakfast Foods recipes from readers.



## 11TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

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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.**

2014 Holiday Recipe Contest \$2,500 Grand Prizewinner  
Ultimate Chocolate Pecan Pie by Griffin Clarke | Heart of Texas EC  
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**LIMIT 1** - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 12/1/15. Limit one FREE gift coupon per customer per day.

26891621

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$70**

**2.5 HP, 21 GALLON 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR**  
CENTRALPNEUMATIC

LOT 67847 shown  
61454/61693

**\$149.99** REG. PRICE \$219.99

26673093

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**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**NEW SAVE 58%**

**EMERGENCY 39 LED TRIANGLE WORKLIGHT**  
HFT

LOT 62158 shown  
62417/62574

**\$329** REG. PRICE \$7.99

Batteries included.

26681164

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**SCISSOR WOW SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$50**

**PACIFIC HYDROSTAR 1650 PSI PRESSURE WASHER**

LOT 69488  
• 1.3 GPM

**\$79.99** REG. PRICE \$129.99

26702322

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**SAVE 46%**

**60 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT**  
Bunker Hill Security

LOT 62534/69643 shown

**\$31.99** REG. PRICE \$59.99

Includes 6V, 900 mAh NiCd battery pack.

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**SCISSOR WOW SUPER COUPON**

**NEW SAVE \$165**

**12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW WITH LASER GUIDE**  
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LOT 61776/61969/61970/69684 shown

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**SAVE 40%**

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LOT 60497/93888 shown  
61899/62399

• 1000 lb. Capacity

**\$8.99** REG. PRICE \$14.99

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**SCISSOR WOW SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$330**

**44", 13 DRAWER INDUSTRIAL QUALITY ROLLER CABINET**  
US • GENERAL

LOT 62744/69387/62270/62591/68784 shown

**\$369.99** REG. PRICE \$699.99

26695092

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**SCISSOR WOW SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE 62%**

**9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS**  
PITTSBURGH

SAE LOT 69043 42304 shown  
METRIC LOT 69044 42305

**\$5.99** REG. PRICE \$15.99

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**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$60**

**RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON ALUMINUM RACING JACK**  
PITTSBURGH ATMOTIVE

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• Weighs 27 lbs.

LOT 69252 60569/62160 62496/62516 68053 shown

**\$59.99** REG. PRICE \$119.99

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• 225 lb. Capacity

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**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**NEW SAVE \$80**

**900 PEAK/700 RUNNING WATTS 2 HP (63 CC) 2 CYCLE GAS RECREATIONAL GENERATOR**  
STORMWAT

LOT 66619/60338 62472/69381 shown

**\$99.99** REG. PRICE \$179.99

26651285

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**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$100**

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BADLAND WORLD

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61840/61297/68146

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# Around the Farm

WHETHER YOU ARE A SPRING CHICKEN or ready to be put out to pasture, you put all your eggs in one basket with this month's contest. We are as happy as pigs in mud with the photos you sent in. Now, we could crow about our favorites until the cows come home, but we'd rather show you what life looks like on a Texas farm.

GRACE ARSIAGA

**WEB EXTRAS** at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) Find more ways to horse around online.



▲ **LAURA HENSLEY**, United Cooperative Services: Cissy, a 4-month-old goat, hops on Annabelle the donkey's back whenever she gets the chance!

▼ **LINDA TIPTON**, Nueces EC: A young man with his horse and dog cool off in the Guadalupe River.



▼ **EMILY BURGER**, Greenbelt EC: Logan Burger, right, jumps from one bale to the next—just before friend Owen Britten attempts a shove.



► **SHELLY BROWN**, Bowie-Cass EC: "I was feeding the chickens when this one demanded a little extra attention. She really wanted a peck (kiss)."

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

DECEMBER BELT BUCKLES DUE AUGUST 10

JANUARY PATTERNS DUE SEPTEMBER 10

DECEMBER BETTER TOGETHER DUE OCTOBER 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.



▲ **CARLA WALDRON**, United Cooperative Services: This little farm boy's love for tractors is bigger than Texas!

**Pick of the Month**  
**Center City Block Party**

**Amarillo** [August 15]

(806) 372-6744, [centercity.org](http://centercity.org)

The Saturday night outdoor festival on historic Polk Street, celebrating its 20th year, features a kids' area, three entertainment stages, karaoke and a car show.



**August**

**7**

**Ingram** [7-22] "The Addams Family," (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

**8**

**Athens Bird and Nature Walk**, (903) 676-2277, [athenstx.org](http://athenstx.org)

**Brenham Chappell Hill Lavender & Wine Fest**, 1-888-273-6426, [chappellhilllavender.com](http://chappellhilllavender.com)

**Granbury** [8, 22] Big City Music Revue: Singer/Songwriters of the '70s, 1-855-823-5550, [bigcitymusicrevue.com](http://bigcitymusicrevue.com)

**Fredericksburg** [8-9, 22-23] Pari-mutuel Horse Racing, (830) 997-2359, [gillespiefair.com](http://gillespiefair.com)

**14**

**Navasota** [14-15] Blues Fest, (936) 825-6600, [navasotabluesfest.org](http://navasotabluesfest.org)

**15**

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**, (979) 480-0999, [gcbo.org](http://gcbo.org)



**August 8**  
**Brenham**  
**Chappell Hill Lavender & Wine Fest**

**Palestine Dogwood Jamboree's "All American Country,"** (903) 729-7080, [dogwoodjamboree.org](http://dogwoodjamboree.org)

**Washington Living History Saturday**, (936) 878-2214, [wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org)

**West Columbia Dog Days of Summer at Varner Hogg Plantation**, (979) 345-4656, [visitvarnerhogplantation.com](http://visitvarnerhogplantation.com)

**20**

**Fredericksburg** [20-23] Gillespie County Fair, (830) 997-2359, [gillespiefair.com](http://gillespiefair.com)

AMARILLO: RALPH DUKE. LAVENDER: NITO | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB. BANJO: JOSE GILL | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

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## 21

**Kerrville** [21–Sept. 6] “The Octette Bridge Club,” (830) 896-9393, [playhouse2000.com](http://playhouse2000.com)

## 22

**Grand Prairie** Hatch Chile Fest, (972) 237-8100, [grandfungp.com](http://grandfungp.com)

**Muleshoe** Shop Stop, (806) 553-0568

**Jasper** [22–23] Pine Country Gem & Mineral Show, (409) 384-3974, [pinecountry-gms.org](http://pinecountry-gms.org)

## 26

**Sherman** [26–29] Deep Summer Bluegrass Festival, (903) 546-6893, [melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com](http://melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com)

## 27

**Roaring Springs** [27–29] Motley-Dickens Counties Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo, (806) 269-2659

## 29

**Tomball** Texas Music Festival, (281) 351-5484, [tomballtx.gov](http://tomballtx.gov)

## September

### 2

**Temple** [2–5] Labor Day Used Book Sale, (254) 231-1487, [friendsofthetemplepubliclibrary.org](http://friendsofthetemplepubliclibrary.org)

### 4

**Freeport** [4–5] Summertime Bikes and Blues Festival, (979) 233-3526, [freeportsummertimebluesfest.com](http://freeportsummertimebluesfest.com)



August 26–29  
Sherman  
Deep Summer  
Bluegrass Festival

**Bandera** [4–6] Celebrate Bandera, (830) 796-3045, [banderacowboycapital.com](http://banderacowboycapital.com)

**Bedford** [4–6] Blues & BBQ Festival, (817) 952-2128, [bedfordbluesfest.com](http://bedfordbluesfest.com)

**Kerrville** [4–6] Kerrville Fall Music Festival, (830) 257-3600, [kerrvillefolkfestival.org](http://kerrvillefolkfestival.org)

**Utopia** [4–6] UTOPIAfest, (512) 496-2789, [utopiafest.com](http://utopiafest.com)

### 5

**Winnsboro** Classic Car & Truck Cruise-in, (903) 342-3654, [winnsborotexas.com](http://winnsborotexas.com)

**Lindsay** [5–6] Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show, (940) 736-4541, [antiquetractorshow.net](http://antiquetractorshow.net)

### 6

**New Berlin** Sausage Festival, (830) 420-3185

### Submit Your Event!

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

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(Plus Professional Bull Riding Sept 12)



Info & Tickets!

[GillespieFair.com](http://GillespieFair.com)

# A Kerrville Keepsake

Iconic jewelry designer James Avery celebrates 60th anniversary with destination showroom

BY ROB MCCORKLE

TRAVELERS ATTRACTED TO THE PICTURESQUE Guadalupe River hamlet of Kerrville by the promise of wildflowers, homegrown music, arts and crafts or exotic wildlife sanctuaries such as the Y.O. Ranch can now add the James Avery Visitor Center & Store to their itinerary.

Housed in a handsome, 4,300-square-foot limestone building that anchors the company's pastoral, 43-acre campus less than a mile from Interstate 10, the center combines a retail outlet and exhibit hall. Both are full of Avery's creations as well as artifacts dating to the jeweler's early days in his mother-in-law's garage, where the budding artist began fashioning crosses and other creations.

The center's opening in late 2014 marked James Avery's 60th anniversary of creating iconic Christian-themed and nature-inspired necklaces, pendants, rings, bracelets and other keepsakes.

Customers who visit the Avery campus just off FM 783 (Harper Road) and make their way past cases displaying hand-crafted works of sterling silver, gold, turquoise and other gems will discover the visitor center, which tells the James Avery story through six exhibits. A design studio exhibit includes a drafting table, sketches and tools used by craftspeople. The exhibit details the artisan's career through vintage photographs on panels describing Avery's guiding principles: integrity, meaning, simplicity and universality.

A visit to the Avery campus today brings memories for Stacy Larrazabal of Kerrville.

"I would accompany my mom and grandmother on a shopping trip to Kerrville to pick out a piece of jewelry," Larrazabal says. "I can spot James Avery jewelry from 20 feet away because of its



A craftsman at James Avery works on a piece of jewelry.

special look and character."

Avery, 93, reminiscing one time about his first year of designing furniture and jewelry, says he loved playing the 19th-century craftsman. Visitors learn that the Wisconsin native, who earned a degree in fine arts and industrial design from the University of Illinois, considered himself more a craftsman than artist.

Several Avery design team creations command attention: the four papal vessels made for Pope John Paul II's visit to San Antonio in 1987; the 14-karat gold pins worn by Apollo 12 astronauts on their 1969 flight to the moon; and a tiny astronaut charm commissioned by an Endeavor crewmember in 1996.

The evolution of Avery's jewelry style unfolds through a half-century timeline. In the 1950s, the artisan created a plain sterling silver Latin cross (still produced today) that's emblematic of the quest for simplicity and quality. In the 1960s and '70s, the company designers embraced a minimalist yet nature-inspired aesthetic. Contemporary designs incorporate more color and new materials.

A series of videos explain Avery's embrace of community and his commitment


to his employees. The display also depicts the three fabrication methods employed: hand, tool and die, and lost-wax modeling.

Here, too, are handwritten letters from Avery aficionados and a touch screen that reveals the meaning behind various popular Avery designs. Miniscule charms of horses and cabins illustrate the Kerrville jeweler's affection for nearby Hill Country youth camps, such as Waldemar and Kickapoo.

As impressive as it is, this facility isn't the end of Avery's growth. The family-owned company's leaders plan to build and equip a production facility near Kerrville's municipal airport. The craftsman center's workforce will include 180 employees from the current north Kerrville campus.

The legendary days when Avery traveled back roads, peddling his creations from a wooden jewelry cabinet, belong to a bygone era. But as James Avery celebrates its 60th anniversary, customers can rediscover the enduring quality craftsmanship.

Rob McCorkle is a Kerrville-based writer.

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