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Dunes are a prominent feature of Padre Island National Seashore.



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NEXT MONTH

Line of Duty Electric cooperative linemen head into trouble for the sake of the members.



PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE: E. DAN KLEPPER. LINEMAN JACOB VANOUS, NAVASOTA VALLEY EC: DAVE SHAFER

ON THE COVER Pinleaf vervain carpets a valley beneath the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park. Photo by E. Dan Klepper

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A Most Beautiful Lake

I spent every summer weekend at my grandparents' Possum Kingdom Lake cabin [Playing Possum, July 2016]. So many fond memories of water skiing through Hell's Gate, swimming at Sandy Beach and fishing with Granddad. To me, Possum Kingdom will always be the most beautiful Texas lake—with huge catfish and plentiful crappie.

SHARON PALADINO | KERRVILLE
BANDERA EC

The Butterfly Business

I attended a two-day class on raising butterflies several years ago [Honey, I Shrunk the Livestock, July 2016]. I then had to apply for permits from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each state I wanted to ship to.



I had more than 500 caterpillars to feed daily. More than six hours a day to feed and clean. Then I drove back roads looking for milkweed to feed the caterpillars. Very little return for your time and energy, but a lot of fun!

SHARON MCLAUGHLIN | ATHENS
TRINITY VALLEY EC AND FARMERS EC

Mistaken Identity?



I grew up in Fort Stockton and remember well the broadcasts from the border [Border Radio, March 2016]. The ad that I remember so well was to “get your autographed picture of Jesus Christ.” The memory still brings a chuckle.

BETTY LEBO | HONDO | MEDINA EC

Writer Gene Fowler responds: A newspaper columnist from Longview wrote that he once sent his dollar off to Del Rio for one of those photos. Turns out it was a photograph of a teenage boy named Jesus Christ (pronounced Hay-ZOOS KREEST-ay).

Southern Aircraft Bus

I noticed the mention of the Southern Aircraft Roadable built in Garland during and after World War II [From Hill Valley to Humble, Currents, July 2016]. The company also manufactured aluminum school bus bodies after most aircraft- and war-related production decreased after the war.

I have one of those buses. It was installed on a Diamond T truck-school bus chassis. It is the only one I have ever seen. I haven't been able to find any pictures or information about it. I am fairly certain that it is the only one left in existence.

STEPHEN DAVIS | FORNEY
FARMERS EC

A Boy and His Dog

I cannot find redeeming value in Clay Coppedge's *With a Pit Bull on My Knee* [July 2016]. I understand the analogy with *Old Yeller*. Both are stories of the relationship between a boy and his dog. But that's as far as it goes.

Old Yeller was a moving tale of sacrifice and love. Coppedge's version is a description of sending a family dog to the pound. The use of “pit bull” supports a negative stereotype.

RAYE E. WARD | DAVILLA
BARTLETT EC

Cool Story

It was very exciting to read about my great-grandfather and his refrigerating apparatus [The Iceman Came to San Antonio, June 2016]. I heard about his ice machine all my life and was thrilled to see the diagram.

My great-grandmother was Josephine Fischer Muhl. Her family members were stonemasons who helped build the Capitol and bridges in Austin. MARILYN TRAUTSCHOLD TOLLE | CALLENDER LAKE
TRINITY VALLEY EC

A Welcome Sight

When I was a child, my father was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. My grandparents lived in Temple, so we often drove the

300 miles south for visits. After we passed through Gatesville southbound, my siblings and I eagerly watched for the big red Kyle Hotel sign [Lofty Landmarks, June 2016]. When we saw it, we chanted, “I see Temple! I see Temple!” It was a pleasure to read a little of the hotel's history.

HENRY MECREDY | AUSTIN
BARTLETT EC

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HAPPENINGS

Good Stock on Display in Amarillo

THE TRI-STATE FAIR & RODEO in Amarillo brings out the best in the region's 4-H and FFA members who bring their top livestock projects for competition. It also brings out the best in electric cooperatives, which sponsor the calf scramble by offering 10 scholarships of \$250 each.

Deaf Smith, Greenbelt, Lamb County, North Plains, Rita Blanca, Swisher and Tri-County electric cooperatives, and their power supplier, Golden Spread EC, sponsor the scholarships.

The fair and rodeo, September 16–24, includes Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competition and American Quarter Horse Association shows, plus a carnival and concerts.

INFO ▶ (806) 376-7767, tristatefair.com

Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LABOR AND MATERIALS

LABOR DAY, September 5 this year, was created to recognize the advancements that various labor associations contribute to the American economy and workforce.

Many Texans observe their own custom around this end-of-summer holiday, switching from straw to felt cowboy hats. The thinking goes that felt is suited to cooler weather and straw is better for hot summers. Cowboy hat wearers generally switch back to straw around Memorial Day.

CO-OP PEOPLE

SHINE ON, YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS

TWO STUDENTS on the 2016 Government-in-Action Youth Tour hail from among the top-ranking public high schools in the country.

No. 62 overall on the U.S. *News & World News Report* national list is KIPP Austin Collegiate, from where Cedar Creek resident and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative delegate Jude Rios, 18, graduated. The school boasts 100 percent participation in advanced coursework.

The Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes ranks 75th. Magic Valley EC member Mark Torres, 17, of Edinburg, attends the academy, which focuses on preparing students for careers in math and science.

They follow in the footsteps of the future leaders who have been going to Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years as part of electric cooperatives' Youth Tour program.



▲ **JUDE RIOS**
MARK TORRES ▼

WEB EXTRAS at
TexasCoopPower.com

See which Texas high schools are in the nation's top 100 and link to the complete list by *U.S. News & World News Report*.

RURAL LIVING

Narrowing of Broadband



Broadband use is falling among homes in rural America, in part because residents say it's not worth the cost.

Only 55 percent of rural households have home broadband—a 5 percent drop between 2013 and 2015—the Pew Research Center finds. More than 40 percent of nonusers cited high costs as a reason they don't have broadband.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cheese Wiz

BECAUSE OF TRADITION and song, hot dogs, peanuts and Cracker Jack remain iconic fare at baseball games. But thanks to a vendor at Texas Rangers games, nachos have been a popular menu item at ballparks for 40 years.

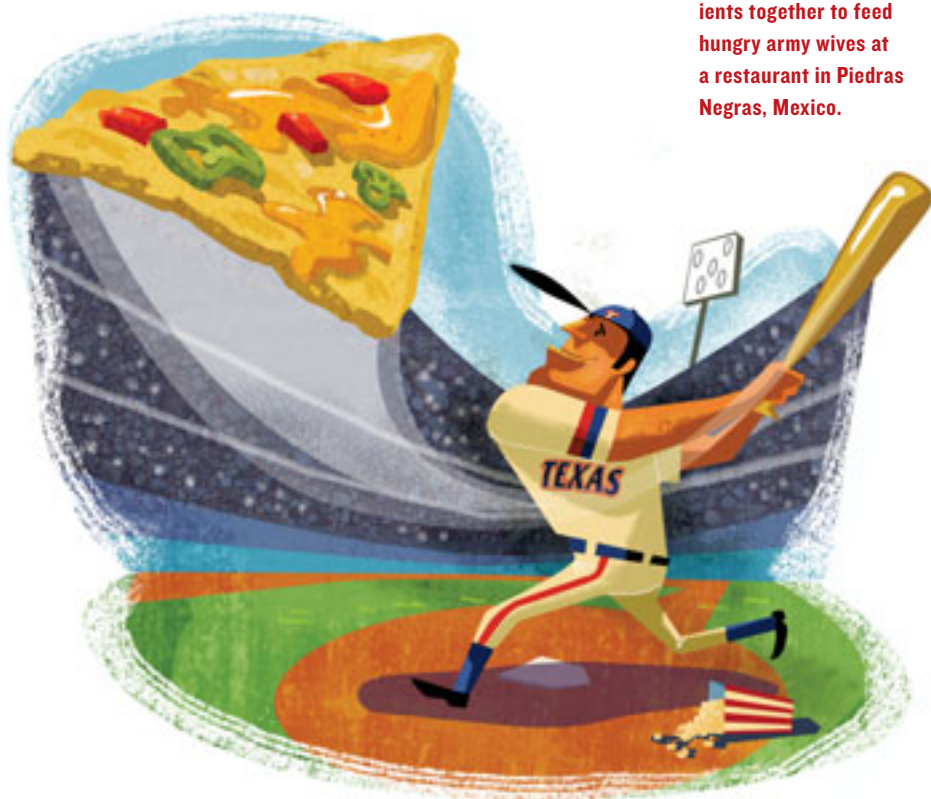
FRANK LIBERTO introduced nachos to fans at Arlington Stadium in 1976. Nachos were already popular at Texas restaurants when he concocted a “cheese sauce” that didn't need to be refrigerated and that could be pumped or ladled onto the chips so they could be served at a brisk pace.

Liberto's idea was an immediate success: The first season Arlington Stadium sold nachos, they went at the rate of one sale per every two-and-a-half patrons—over \$800,000 in sales. Popcorn, which previously had the highest sales, only sold to one in 14 patrons for a total of \$85,000.

Did you know?



NACHOS ORIGINATED in 1943 when maître d' Ignacio “Nacho” Anaya threw ingredients together to feed hungry army wives at a restaurant in Piedras Negras, Mexico.



ALMANAC

MILESTONE FOR TEXAS OIL

It's not entirely true to say that Texas marks 150 years as an oil-producing state, although Lyne Barret struck oil September 12, 1866, at Oil Springs, making it the first well in the state to bring oil out of the ground.

Oil had been seeping from the ground in southeastern Nacogdoches County for centuries. Native Americans used the oil for medicinal purposes. In the 18th century, Spanish and Anglo settlers used the seeping oil as a salve for their animals and to grease axles and wheels.

Then, 150 years ago, Barret and his Melrose Petroleum Oil Company drilled and struck oil at a depth of 106 feet. The well produced about 10 barrels a day, but the operation soon shut down because it lacked financial backing.

WORTH REPEATING

“What is a soul? It's like electricity—we don't really know what it is, but it's a force that can light a room.”

— RAY CHARLES

***“Big Bend
National Park***

is a wildness of panoramic landscapes, biologic diversity and a cultural history spanning thousands of years of human occupation,” says David Elkowitz, the park’s chief of interpretation.

THE NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL IN TEXAS

People preserve history and natural beauty at these timeless destinations

IN TEXAS,

16 National Park Service sites represent an archive of America's past as well as a vision for its future, honoring and conserving natural and cultural history. This year marks the 100-year anniversary of our national parks, as President Woodrow Wilson authorized the creation of the National Park Service in August 1916. In most cases, individuals have guided the transformation of a wild or historically significant place to national park status, recognizing its importance before official designation came to pass. The centennial spotlights accomplishments by Texans responsible for some of the state's national parks.

Congress established Guadalupe Mountains National Park, a desert mountain environment with more than half its 86,000-plus acres designated as wilderness, in 1972. The park lies along the northwestern edge of the state and shares a border with New Mexico, combining a 1959 land gift from geologist Wallace Pratt with the purchase of J.C. Hunter Jr.'s Guadalupe Mountain Ranch. Pratt built two summer homes on his ruggedly beautiful McKittrick Canyon property, a riparian landscape where bigtooth maples turn saffron and crimson in the fall. Thanks to Pratt's generosity, the McKittrick Canyon Trail has become one of the park's premiere autumn destinations. Hunter's ranch holdings comprise the lion's share of the national park, forged from several smaller ranches in the surrounding sierras and foothills. Pratt and Hunter, both conservationists, recognized the intrinsic natural beauty of the Guadalupe Mountains, and their enthusiasm spurred the national park's creation.

Park staff has planned

Big Bend National Park, opposite, is the largest and oldest national park in Texas. Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, above, is in Brownsville.



plenty of activities throughout the centennial year, but Park Superintendent Eric Brunnemann says he believes every day is a great day to visit the park. "For me," he says, "the Guadalupe are alive with strength and beauty. The massive Guadalupe Peak towers above the state line, visible for almost 100 miles." At more than 8,700 feet, the peak is the highest natural point in Texas.

South of the Guadalupe, Fort Davis National Historic Site highlights the state's military history. The post, established in 1854, served the frontier until 1891 by protecting settlers, mail coaches and wagon trains. Abandoned after the Civil War, Fort Davis was reoccupied by the 9th U.S. Cavalry in 1867. Today, the fort is one of the best surviving examples of a frontier military post. Twenty-four roofed buildings remain, along with more than 100 ruins and foundations.

Most of the fort's structures were in ruins until 1953, when Fort Davis locals Malcolm "Bish" and Sally Tweedy established the Fort Davis Historical Society. The group quickly organized a celebration of the fort's own centennial to draw attention to its plight. Their efforts brought much-needed resources to the historic area, and less than a decade later, President John F. Kennedy signed the bill designating the fort as a National Historic Site.

For this year's centennial celebration, the park held its first-ever 5K fun run/walk, says John Heiner, Fort Davis National Historic Site's chief of interpretation. "The race started with the firing of the park's 3-inch ordnance rifle," he said. The historic site is also sponsoring a Healthy Parks, Healthy People program for the centennial, promoting a combination of hiking and history.

The hospital at Fort Davis National Historic Site replicates the post's frontier days.



About 100 miles south of Fort Davis, Big Bend National Park is the largest national park in the state and, with more than 750,000 acres, the 14th largest in the country. Mountains, mesas, canyons and the Rio Grande occupy this expanse, which is part of the larger Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem. The region's beauty came to light early in the 20th century courtesy of Everett Townsend, state Rep. Robert M. Wagstaff from Abilene and Texas writer J. Frank Dobie. All three were enthusiastic about Big Bend's standout qualities and wanted to preserve as much of the rugged, undeveloped region as possible.

Townsend, considered the "father" of Big Bend National Park, joined the Texas Rangers at age 19 in 1890. He was elected sheriff of Brewster County, home to Big Bend, in 1918. By 1932, Townsend was serving in the Texas Legislature alongside Wagstaff. Together they shepherded a bill through the Legislature to designate 150,000 acres of Big Bend country as a state park. A decade later, Townsend watched as Texas Gov. Coke R. Stevenson deeded 750,000 acres to the National Park Service, creating Big Bend National Park.

"Big Bend National Park is a wildness of panoramic landscapes, biologic diversity and a cultural history spanning thousands of years," says David Elkowitz, the park's chief of interpretation. "One of our goals for the park service's centennial is to connect today's visitors with its rich and varied tapestry."

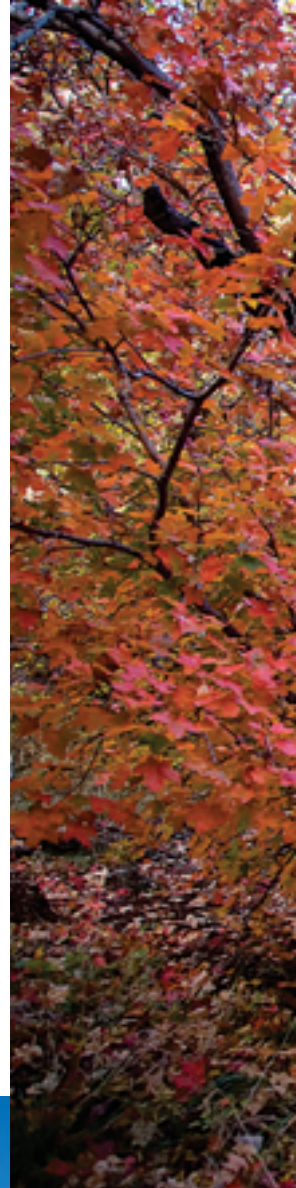
Padre Island National Seashore was established in 1962.

To do so, the national park, now almost 75 years old, is using some very modern tech-

niques. "To help get the word out about this fantastic area and these special events, we've developed a social media team to help share this park with Texas and the rest of the world," says Cindy Ott-Jones, Big Bend National Park superintendent. "We are experiencing what looks like our busiest spring on record."

Across the state, in the Rio Grande Valley, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park honors the memories of American and Mexican soldiers who fought and died in the first battle of the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846. Brownsville historian Walter Plitt, chairman of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Committee, championed a 15-year effort to establish the park, helping to acquire national park status for the battlefield in 2009. Today, the park features groomed trails leading out to the U.S. and Mexican battle lines, a visitor center with interactive exhibits and artifacts, and a living history program.

"The park provides an understanding



Padre Island National Seashore

graces the longest barrier island in the world. The park encompasses 70 of the island's 113 miles, protecting coastal prairies, dunes, tidal flats and nesting ground for the Kemp's ridley sea turtle and 380 species of birds.

Congress established
Guadalupe Mountains National Park,
a desert mountain environment with more than half its 86,000-plus acres designated as wilderness, in 1972.



of this conflict and offers a chance to reflect on its causes,” says Mark Spier, Palo Alto park superintendent. “It was a war that literally shaped two nations, and it changed the map of North America.”

Guadalupe Mountains National Park features McKittrick Canyon, above, and Guadalupe Peak, right, the highest point in Texas at 8,750 feet.

East of Palo Alto, Padre Island National Seashore graces the longest barrier island in the world. The park encompasses 70 of the island’s 113 miles, protecting coastal prairies, dunes, tidal flats and nesting ground for the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle and 380 species of birds.

By the 1920s, Padre Island began to see a considerable number of visitors along its shores despite its remoteness. Texans were determined to enjoy their beaches and did so by whatever means necessary. Two of Padre Island’s earliest advocates were David E. Colp, one of Gov. Pat Neff’s appointees to the newly established State Parks Board in 1923, and Colp’s longtime associate, Cameron County Judge Oscar Dancy.

Dancy’s lifelong dream was to create a national park on the island, complete with access and infrastructure. That project required 40 years, and in September 1962, Kennedy made Dancy’s dream a reality when he signed the bill creating Padre Island National Seashore.

“In our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National



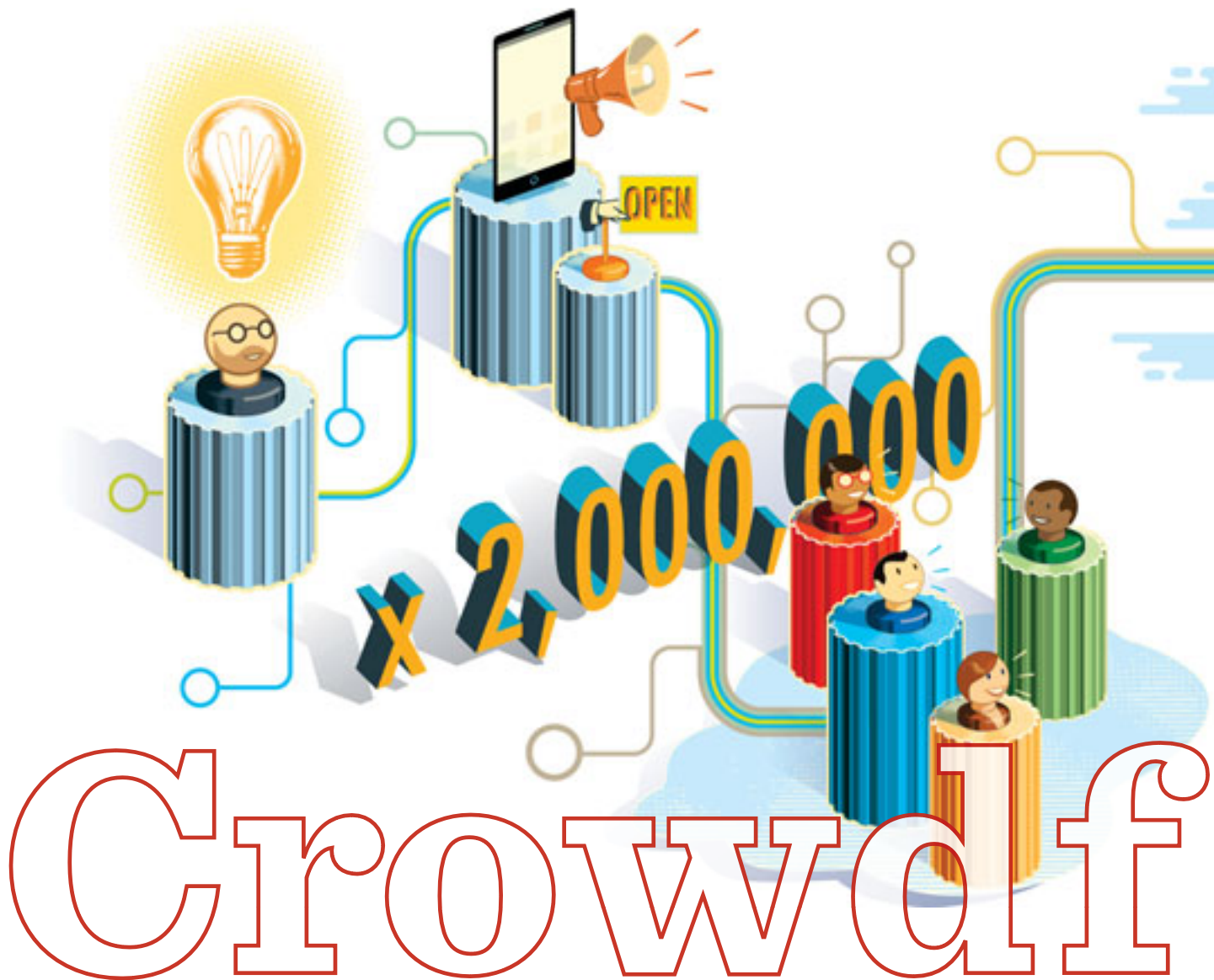
Park Service, I encourage all Texans to come out to Padre Island,” Spier says. “Visitors can witness the release of hatchling sea turtles into the Gulf, fly a kite, bird-watch, fish on the beach, learn about ranching and cowboys at Novillo Line Camp, or just walk in the surf and relax.”

Spier’s list features activities that

are remarkably similar to those that Texans engaged in 100 years ago along the same seashores. Today, thanks to the National Park Service, opportunities such as these are granted, whether on Texas beaches or across the state’s wild lands.

E. Dan Klepper is a photographer, author and artist who lives in Marathon.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com See a slideshow and more information about Texas national parks, and learn more about *America’s Best Idea*.



Crowdf

Gregg Lewis-Qualls knew the board game business, and he also knew that as a graphic designer in Abilene, he was not necessarily the industry's first choice to develop a new product.

"I had neither the ways, the means or the credit rating to produce a game," says Lewis-Qualls, a soft-spoken and self-professed board game geek. "I didn't have the connections, and I certainly didn't know anyone in

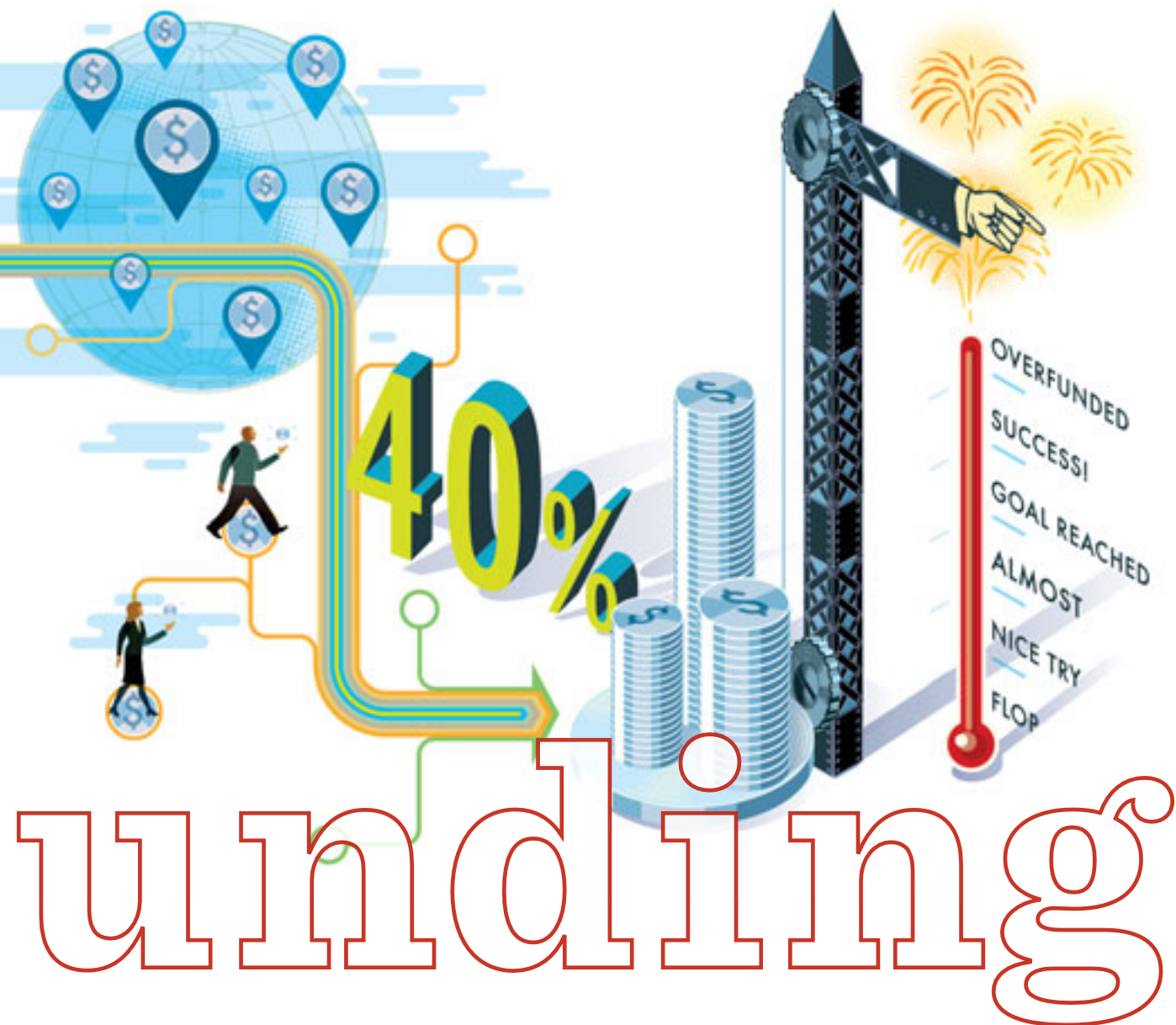
China who could produce and box and package the game."

Rather than let his lack of resources stop him, Lewis-Qualls turned to online crowdfunding to raise a target \$9,000 to publish a game called *Outrider*—think of it as *Mad Max* meets the Old West. In the end, he raised 250 percent of his goal (\$22,500). In the process, he learned something that other Texans have discovered when raising money for causes as diverse as high school bands, medical bills and solar-powered cars.

When it works, crowdfunding, through websites such as Kickstarter, GoFundMe, Indiegogo and the University of Texas' Horn-Raiser, can be a successful alternative for small businesses, individuals, nonprofits and even local governments seeking to fund a project without extensive application processes, credit

AN INTERNET-AGE VERSION OF THE CO-OP MODEL OFFERS A PERSPECTIVE ON BUSINESS TODAY

BY JEFF SIEGEL



reports, loans or grants. Often, crowdfunding is no more complicated than writing a simple business plan, shooting a short video and posting it online.

Crowdfunding matches well with the cooperative model and the cooperative values that have played an important role in Texas' history. The notion of people chipping in to turn a lofty goal into reality is hardly new. About 80 years ago, groups of rural Texans joined together and asked their neighbors for \$5 each to help everyone get electricity. The cooperatives that electrified the countryside are still in business—and still committed to making life better in their communities.

There are differences, of course, including legal requirements and accountability, which distinguish co-ops from crowdfunding efforts. But the underlying concepts are similar—a large group of people, each contributing one small part to the greater whole.

"You can see the analogy quite clearly," says Martin Lowery, the executive vice president for member and associate relations for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "It's about how to get the meat on the bone for a project—that people put a great deal of work into their vision and that if people come together, they can make a great dream come true."

The relationship is also apparent, Lowery says, in the way some food co-ops use crowdfunding to start operations, and in

how community solar projects acquire land for solar panel arrays—asking members to subscribe to a specific project.

"That crowdfunding democratizes the process? That's spot-on," says John Terry, who teaches entrepreneurial management courses at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "That's what makes the process so attractive—the idea that I can participate, too, even if I don't fit the profile."

Online crowdfunding is relatively new. Kickstarter, probably the best known of the platforms, is only seven years old. But the concept has drawn tremendous attention for its ability to give people with ideas access to capital through the internet. The "idea people" can be writers, filmmakers, historical preservationists or entrepreneurs. In the crowdfunding process, there are no bankers or collateral. Plus, the entity doing the crowdfunding always owns 100 percent of the project; the crowdfunding sites take their cut through

payment and processing fees. Some projects incentivize funding by offering rewards for backers, such as an advance copy of whatever is being funded, a mention in the credits or a piece of memorabilia. Once a project

Crowdfunding involves a large number of people cooperatively contributing small amounts of money to a common cause.

Crowdfunding success seems to rest on three points:

1. APPEAL A project must be more than a good idea. It needs to be a concept so appealing to a specific group that the group will back it for no other reason than that they like it. The board game *Outrider* struck a chord, while historic preservation in Fayette County didn't. But who is to say which was the better idea?

2. TIMING Does the world need this project at this moment? This may sound cruel because a winning idea should be a winning idea, regardless of when it's presented. But it's important for applicants to ask themselves, what is the economy like? Is there anything in the news or trending in the world that could help push a project toward success? The BeVolt team, for instance, timed its pitch to raise money to compete in one of the biggest solar car races in the country later this year.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA A 21st-century approach to fundraising requires a 21st-century approach to marketing. It also reinforces the sense of community that a successful project requires. Facebook and Twitter campaigns, given the ability of each platform to reach like-minded people in every corner of the internet, are crucial. A front-page story in the *La Grange* newspaper didn't do Brewer much good, but Twitter mentions—lots and lots of Twitter mentions—from people Lewis-Qualls had never heard of helped push *Outrider* far past its goal.

is funded, its owner can proceed without any other obligations.

That's because projects are funded by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people who pledge not because they get a piece of the deal but because they think it's a good idea—the cooperative concept taken into the 21st century. Out-

faculty and employees were using external services, and we wanted to help them take control of what they were doing," she says. "If it was a project related to UT, we wanted them to have the proper resources to do it successfully."

This strategy has paid off, with a success rate between two-thirds and three-quarters for the dozen or so projects funded by HornRaiser twice a year. These include an effort last fall that garnered \$22,070—

"THAT'S ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT IT, THAT ANYONE WITH AN IDEA WORTH FUNDING CAN REACH PEOPLE WHO MAY BE WILLING TO FUND THE IDEA THAT THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH BEFORE. THAT ALLOWS FOR SUCCESSES THAT MAY NOT BE TRADITIONAL."

rider, the board game, had 263 contributors. Almost 3,000 people participated in a GoFundMe drive last fall to cover medical expenses for Caleb Luttrell of Waller. The Lewisville High School band collected \$5,300 from 75 donors on YouCaring.

"I was able to strike a chord with the gaming community," Lewis-Qualls says. "People in that community like direct access to creators."

Crowdfunding may well be the postmodern version of the public television pledge drive—pledge a certain amount not because you want the gift that you might get for pledging, but because you believe in the idea of public television. And crowdfunding does the pledge drive one better because it has the ability to reach 200 million potential donors, thanks to the internet, Terry says.

"That's one of the most interesting things about it," he says, "that anyone with an idea worth funding can reach people who may be willing to fund the idea that they never would have been able to reach before. That allows for successes that may not be traditional."

Crowdfunding has evolved since Kickstarter's early days, when projects were more about technology and gadgets than anything else. Sites have been created for specific niches, such as PledgeCents and AdoptAClassroom for schools and education, while Fundable conducts small-business campaigns.

That niche approach was the basis for HornRaiser, says Marsha Reardon, student philanthropy and special campaign coordinator at the University of Texas. "We saw that UT students,

\$7,070 more than the goal—for the UT Solar Vehicles Team to build a solar-powered car called BeVolt.

However, UT's success rate isn't the norm. Crowdfunding projects fail to meet their need more often than not. Kickstarter's success rate is 40 percent. Talk to people who have done it, even those who have been successful, and they'll tell you that the road to their goal was much longer and much more difficult than they thought.

"I was very surprised at how little response I got," says Charlie Brewer, an artist whose Kickstarter campaign to fund restoration of the historic Von Minden Manor in Fayette County yielded just eight backers and \$485—a far cry from her \$34,440 goal.

Some crowdfunding platforms allow solicitors to keep the money they've raised even if they don't reach their goals. Kickstarter does not.

"When you start something like this, and you read the website and you see everyone who was successful," Brewer says, "you really think there are a whole bunch of people out there who are going to want to give you money."

For some, there are just enough.

"All I wanted to do when I started was to raise enough money to make a couple of hundred copies of the game with the board and the box," Lewis-Qualls says. "But I wouldn't have thought I would have been that successful in a million years. Needless to say, I was ecstatic."

And why not? Cooperation goes a long way toward success. Learn more about writer Jeff Siegel at winecurmudgeon.com.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Learn more about crowdfunding from a By the Numbers look at news and trends.



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BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH GUIDE SPONSORED BY NEIGHBORS EMERGENCY CENTER

Understanding Your Choices in Emergency Care

Tips for knowing which is the best choice when your child has an injury

Photos and contribution by Neighbors Emergency Center

FOUNDED IN 2008 by a group of emergency room physicians, Neighbors Emergency Center operates as a freestanding emergency room, providing patients with the same level of service as a traditional hospitalbased emergency room. We operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. All centers are staffed with qualified, local boardcertified physicians. Neighbors Emergency Center has grown greatly in the past seven years with more than 20 locations throughout Texas, and centers in Colorado and Rhode Island coming soon.

Understanding the difference between a freestanding ER, hospital ER, and an urgent care center can be confusing. Below is a simple breakdown to help you distinguish between them all:

- Freestanding emergency rooms are staffed 24/7, 365 days a year with board certified physicians. Urgent care centers typically function like a primary care physician's office with extended hours, and patients may be seen by a nurse, physician's assistant or doctor.
- Freestanding emergency rooms have reduced wait times when compared to a traditional hospital; 90% of Neighbors Emergency Center patients' are assessed by a board certified physician in less than five minutes.
- Freestanding emergency rooms have a full range of diagnostic services, such as labs and imaging, just like a traditional hospital ER. Urgent care centers do not have the same array of equipment and specialists.



- Freestanding emergency rooms treat all medical emergencies like a traditional hospital ER, unlike urgent cares which only treat nonlife threatening injuries or illnesses.
- The easiest way to identify a freestanding emergency room from a hospital ER and an urgent care facility is the signage. Freestanding emergency room signage is usually located on the building, the lobby and treatment rooms.
- Freestanding emergency rooms rates

are comparable to a traditional hospital ER and accept most major insurance.

- Freestanding emergency rooms provide a high quality of care and have convenient locations. Neighbors Emergency Center provides a purposeful culture of caring that sets us apart from the healthcare industry as a whole.

Our company purpose drives our vision which is inspired by our patients, culture and community. Neighbors Emergency Center believes in providing extraordinary care that is dedicated to making lives better every day. We also operate around an unfaltering vision to be "The Best Neighbors Ever" by providing unparalleled medical care driven by compassion, respect and dedication.

Along with our passion for caring, Neighbors Emergency Center is greatly involved in the communities we live and work in. From sponsoring youth and adult sports, to participating in local charitable events, as well as supporting local schools and activities and much more. Neighbors Emergency Center is committed to making lives better in the community every day.

Remember, when a medical emergency happens, trust your Best Neighbors Ever for extraordinary emergency care from local board certified physicians. Neighbors Emergency Center is Making Lives Better by providing exceptional medical care for you, and your family, 24/7, 365 days a year. Visit NEC24.com for more information or to find an area location.



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Procedural Sedations for			
Abscess drainage	✓	✓	?
Complex Lacerations	✓	✓	✗
Setting of broken bones	✓	✓	✗
Accreditations			
COLA	✓	✓	✗
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Outperforms Many Expensive Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

CHICAGO: A local board-certified Ear, Nose, 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.**

common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, similar to the **“one-size-fits-most” reading glasses** available at drug stores.

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—Dr. May, ENT Physician

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Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer’s disease. **He could not understand why the cost of hearing aids was so high when the prices of so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones, and digital cameras had fallen.** Since Medicare and most private insurance plans 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

medical-grade hearing aid without sacrificing the quality of components. The result is the **MDHearingAid PRO®**, your price \$179 each when buying a pair. **It has been declared to be the best low-cost hearing aid that amplifies the range of sounds associated with the human voice without overly amplifying background noise.**

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Residential Safety Checklist

10 quick reviews to help make your home's electricity use safer



Help ensure your family's safety by replacing broken and missing wall plates.

Outlets

Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets within reach of children.

Cords

Make sure cords are in good condition—not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are out of traffic areas where people could trip over them. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to walls, baseboards or any other objects. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest furniture on them.

Extension Cords

Check to see that extension cords are not overloaded. Extension cords should be used only on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help safeguard young children from shock hazards and burn injuries.

Plugs

Make sure your plugs fit your outlets. Never remove the

ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. Plugs should fit securely into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances.

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters

GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.

Lightbulbs

Check all bulbs to make sure they are the correct wattage for the fixture. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer of the fixture. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs can overheat.

Circuit Breakers and Fuses

Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size and current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same correct size fuse.

Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might come into contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, never reach in to pull it out—even if it's turned off. Unplug it first. If you have an appliance that has become wet, don't use it until it's been checked by a qualified service technician.

Appliances

If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker, or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

Entertainment and Computer Equipment

Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly; look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors. Use a surge protector bearing the seal of a nationally recognized safety certification agency.



Pressure cookers take the heat out of summertime meal preparation.

It's Still Storm Season

HURRICANES AND OTHER FALL STORMS

not only damage property, but they can also cause health and safety hazards. When a storm blows your way, your response can head off a disaster, so be prepared. Some tips:

Know the storm is coming. Listen to weather reports constantly during this hurricane-prone season.

Once a storm knocks the power out, unplug all major electrical appliances. This could prevent an electrical surge from damaging the motors of those appliances when the power is restored.

Unplug basement appliances; storms often cause flooding downstairs.

After the storm, turn off the electricity to areas of the home that got wet. If you step in water—even a puddle—that is touching a plugged-in appliance, you could be electrocuted.

Don't turn flooded or wet appliances back on until an electrician inspects them and gives you the OK.

Keep the refrigerator door closed during power outages. Food will stay good for four to six hours in an unopened refrigerator.

If someone in the house is on life support or relies on any electric medical device, make a plan for where to take the person in case of a power outage. The local hospital can help you with the plan.

No season in Texas is safe from flood risk.



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Think Outside the Range

IT'S BEEN A LONG, HOT SUMMER, and there's still a while to go before Texas sees cooler fall temperatures. For at least another month, nobody wants to stand over a hot stove or oven to prepare a good meal.

The good news is that a little creativity can make the rest of the kitchen pull its weight. Smaller countertop appliances—toaster ovens, microwaves, slow cookers and more—are capable of making the dishes usually cooked on the stove or in the oven, without adding extra heat.

Slow cookers are a great alternative for making one-dish wonders. They allow you to put in all the ingredients for a dish in the morning, turn the cooker on for the day and come home to a finished meal in the evening.

You can even consult a slow-cooker cookbook to learn how to make surprising things in them, like bread, yogurt and desserts.

Electric pressure cookers have more safety measures in place than the stovetop sort, and most of them can take the place of slow cookers and rice cookers. Some models can even cut out stovetop steps, such as browning meat, with a sauté function. Pressure cookers are also good for quick steaming, and that includes things you would normally boil or bake.

Using an electric pressure cooker is generally easy once you learn the various release methods—natural, quick and 10- or 5-minute—and their correct applications.

Rice cookers make cooking rice effortless and are good for steaming and for cooking other grains, such as quinoa. With the help of a cookbook, rice cookers can make entire one-pot meals, or quick versions of complicated dishes.

A steaming tray or basket is essential in many pressure and rice cooker recipes. A lot of rice cookers come with steaming baskets, but also they can be bought separately.

A good toaster oven can do much of the work of a full-sized oven, such as roasting vegetables or baking casseroles and cobblers.

Microwave ovens can do a lot more than heat up your leftovers. Microwaves work by spinning water molecules, which means they steam things easily. Also, they can melt chocolates and cheeses more easily than a double boiler or an oven, with a lot less excess heat.

Marfa Mystique

Avant-garde art and high-desert landscape define this Trans-Pecos hot spot

BY HELEN THOMPSON

IN THE 1880S, MARFA WAS JUST A RAILROAD water stop for Los Angeles-bound trains, but now the town of about 1,980 people—on a plateau between the Davis Mountains and Big Bend National Park—is an international tourist destination. Need proof? *The New York Times* placed Marfa at No. 48 on its list of *52 Places to Go in 2016*.

The Times opines that the oddball mix of Marfa's eccentric vibe with ultramodern art accounts for the desert town's appeal. The origin of this bipolar phenomenon lies in minimalist artist Donald Judd's settling in this dusty ranching town in 1971. Judd was looking for a place to display his stringently exacted art. Marfa's isolation, the long horizon and the everlasting sky lured Judd to the Trans-Pecos region, but his decision was regarded as the solipsistic quest of an antisocial celebrity. Now Judd is viewed as prescient.

Judd's lifestyle catalyzed seekers to aspire to live in a desert setting. Today, visitors can immerse themselves so completely in a heady mix of art, music, theater and style that they never want to leave. Many don't. For these newcomers, that often means buying and renovating houses, an activity at which Judd was exceptionally adept: He bought several buildings downtown, three ranches and the decommissioned Fort D.A. Russell. Judd renovated all of his acquisitions to reflect his rigorous vision. For that reason, he is revered not just as the patron saint of minimalist art but also as the muse of minimalist interiors, architecture and furniture.

That trend is what brought me to Marfa in 2014. Although I was already a frequent visitor, over the past two years I have been working with photographer Casey Dunn on a book that involves photographing houses in Marfa that reflect Judd's influence. Many of the houses belong to former big-city residents who, like Austinites Linda and Don Shafer, felt compelled to find a way to live here.

It may seem strange that in a far-flung nook of civilization, modern architecture and interior decoration thrive. But Marfa's status as a center of taste is well-deserved: There are two film festivals, two music festivals, a public radio station, a theater, the Chinati Foundation that Judd founded to showcase large installations by contemporary artists, and a handful of galleries.

"Marfa has so many amenities," says Linda Shafer, "that you have lots of options. You can choose to enjoy them or ignore them." The former director of the Software Quality Institute for the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin cites a recent evening. She and husband Don strolled down Highland Avenue, Marfa's main street, from their house on the north side of town to the Crowley Theater a few blocks west to see a one-act play. Other recent offerings at the theater included excerpts from Georges Bizet's *Carmen* and a performance by a band from Nigeria. There are low-key options, too, for the times when the Shafers want to ignore the artsy whirl: "Some nights," she says, "Don and I just sit on our deck and wave at people."

Waving at passersby might seem like a



The expansive view from the rooftop sun porch of this Marfa home takes in the mountains and some of Donald Judd's sculptures.

lame way to spend an evening, but the neighborly activity is at the heart of the town's charm. For all its aggressively hip art happenings, Marfa has a maddening capacity to look as if nothing is going on. The lack of obvious activity is a welcome respite for over-booked Houstonians and frenetic refugees from Los Angeles. But for the average tourist with the latest hipsters' guide to West Texas in hand, the indifference to commerce—which often

includes inexplicable closures of restaurants and bars—can be disturbing. Exasperated residents of other towns in the area—Marathon, let's say, or Alpine—snarkily sum up what they see as Marfa's fickle attitude. "Marfa—By Appointment Only" is an inside joke.

Actually, discovering what's going on can be achieved by stopping in at local hangouts such as Cochineal restaurant, El Cosmico campground or the Thunderbird Hotel. But the most reliable place to check in is the Marfa Book Company. It's always been the place where artists, writers, bikers and tourists alight. The bookstore occupies the

lobby of the Hotel Saint George, a 55-room boutique hostelry that's abuzz with wanderers, art exhibits and readings.

In the face of all these tantalizing options, remember that the desert is where you go to clear your mind. That's where Marfa wows. If all else fails, there's one pastime that will never let you down, which is why Don likes his station on the deck with Linda: "It's the iconic view," the busy executive says, "This is what Texas is supposed to look like."

See more of **Helen Thompson's** work at seeninhouse.com. *Marfa Modern*, published by Monacelli Press, will be released October 18.

The Brisket Whisperer

Celebrated pitmaster Aaron Franklin shares secrets that explain how he put the ‘queue’ in barbecue

BY PAULA DISBROWE

EVEN IF YOU’VE NEVER BEEN TO FRANKLIN Barbecue, the brisket mecca on East 11th Street in Austin, you might have heard about the infamous line. Hungry customers queue up as early as 6 a.m. (the doors open at 11) for fabulous smoked meats that sell out every day. Or you might have seen endorsements on television from the celebrities who have made a pilgrimage, including President Barack Obama, Anthony Bourdain, Jimmy Kimmel and Andrew Zimmern. If you’re a passionate backyard pitmaster whose heart races at the thought of a slab of ribs and stack of wood, you’ve definitely heard of Aaron Franklin.

I first met Aaron and Stacy Franklin in 2009, right after they opened Franklin Barbecue in a trailer just off Interstate 35. They’re an easy pair to like—both have the uncanny ability to be warm, friendly and funny even when they’re slammed with orders, which is most of the time. Because my husband is a bread baker and his kitchen clogs are forever flour-dusted, I noticed Aaron Franklin’s: His were splattered with fatty beef drippings from the smoker. “My dog really loves them,” he told me, laughing. During that first meal, a friend dipped a juicy slice of brisket in their espresso barbecue sauce, took a bite, and boldly mused, “Best barbecue in Texas?”

Since then, Franklin Barbecue has gone on to win awards including “Best Barbecue in Texas” from *Texas Monthly* and “Best Barbecue in America” from *Bon Appétit*. Last year, Franklin’s first cookbook, *Franklin Barbecue: A Meat-Smoking Manifesto* (Ten Speed Press, 2015) became a

New York Times best seller. With chapters on building or customizing your own smoker, curing wood, building perfect fires and, of course, cooking great barbecue, it’s an essential resource for backyard pitmasters. The book also reveals that Franklin’s efforts come from a specific place, with plenty of soul. “I didn’t learn how to cook barbecue to just master a craft,” he writes. “Its evolution in me is a true expression of who I am and where I come from.” A few months after publication, Franklin won a prestigious James Beard Award for “Best Chef: Southwest,” the first pitmaster to be recognized in the category.

Over the years, the Franklins and I have become friends, and we get together to eat gumbo, carve pumpkins and celebrate birthdays. As I’ve discovered, when you invite them to a potluck, it seriously ups the ante on the invitation. When Franklin arrived at a recent party and started slicing brisket in our kitchen, iPhones emerged, shameless meat selfies were snapped, and several women sent urgent texts to their husbands (who showed up minutes later). The perfectly charred bark and salty, fatty goodness of Franklin’s barbecue stirs that kind of reaction. As for his rapid rise to fame, no one is more surprised—or humbled by the customers who wait in line for hours to eat his food—than Franklin himself.

Initially it was music, not meat, that drew Franklin to Austin. He moved from Bryan-College Station in 1996, mostly to play rock ‘n’ roll while working construction. Although his parents briefly owned a barbecue joint when he was a kid, his



own interest didn't take hold until much later, after he met Stacy, purchased his first smoker and started throwing backyard parties. Exploring the variables of making good barbecue appealed to his love of tinkering. His ability to build almost anything, to take things apart and put them back together, gave Franklin an intuitive understanding of how to get the right results from smokers. As his interest

in perfecting briskets grew, so did their backyard barbecues, until they were ready to take the plunge and open a restaurant.

Franklin's personality, lack of pretension and willingness to share his hard-earned knowledge translated to the camera, and he became the host of the PBS television series *BBQ with Franklin*. As he reveals in his book and instructional videos (on everything from pulled pork to

brining and smoking turkey), there are no secrets to his barbecue, but there are a few key details. He uses a more expensive, higher-grade beef. He smokes brisket for about 18 hours (many operations smoke at higher temperatures for less time). But the real game-changer is his hard work and commitment to the grueling schedule required to get it consistently right.

Franklin's typical day begins in the middle of the night. Depending on the shift he's working, he might arrive at the restaurant at 2 in the morning and immediately pull an espresso from a high-end Italian machine reserved for the pitmasters—a perk of working around the clock. Over the next several hours, he'll tend fires; trim and season racks of ribs and turkey breasts; and flavor a cauldron of beans with smoky brisket trimmings. At about 6:30 a.m., he'll accept a delivery of thousands of pounds of meat (a day's supply), and load it into the cooler—all while keeping his cookers at a steady 275 degrees.

I'm convinced that the ultimate goodness that comes from gathering around a table with friends and family for a feast of smoked meat is at the heart of Franklin's vast appeal and the restaurant's cult following. A meal at Franklin's serves up a connection to the great, time-honored tradition of Central Texas barbecue and the people who practice it every single day.

Paula Disbrowe is *Texas Co-op Power's* food editor.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Learn more about Franklin Barbecue, including whether the long lines are worth it.

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

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

DEAR DORRIS: I'm a woman who is 64 years young who suffers from really loose skin under my chin and on my lower neck.



I hate the term, but my grandkids say I have "turkey neck" and frankly, I've had enough of it! I have tried some creams designed to help tighten and firm that loose, saggy skin, but they did not work. Is there any cream out there that Might help my loose neck skin?

Turkey Neck, Denton, TX

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

This cream contains an instant-effect ingredient that aims to tighten the skin naturally, as well as deep-moisturizing ingredients aiming to firm the skin and make it more supple. Amazingly, the Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream also has Stem Cells taken from Malus Domestica, a special apple from Switzerland.

These apple stem cells target your skin's aging cells, and strive to bring back their youthful firmness, and elasticity. As an alternative to the scary surgeries or face lifts that many people resort to, this cream has the potential to deliver a big punch to the loose saggy skin of the neck. **The Dermagist Neck Restoration Cream is available online at Dermagist.com** or you can order or learn more by **calling toll-free, 888-771-5355**. Oh, I almost forgot... I was given a promo code when I placed my order that gave me 10% off. The code was "TXN23". It's worth a try to see if it still works.

Drug Companies Nervous as Doctors and Patients Demand the AloeCure

Big Pharma execs stand to lose billions as doctors and their patients abandon drugs like Nexium® and Prilosec®. Drug free remedy could put Big Pharma out of the digestion business.

By David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That's because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about a new ingredient that's changing the lives of people who use it. Some call it "the greatest discovery since penicillin"! And others call it "a miracle!"

The name of the product is the AloeCure. It's not a drug. It's something completely different. And the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But demands may force future prices to rise.

Top Doc Warns:

Digestion Drugs Can Cripple You!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist out of Texas recommends AloeCure before she decides to prescribe any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA's stern warning about long-term use of drugs classified as proton pump inhibitors like Prilosec®, Nexium®, and Prevacid®. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking these digestion drugs for longer than three 14-day treatment periods because there is an increased risk of bone fractures. Many people take them daily and for decades.

Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs is to take the AloeCure.

The secret to AloeCure's "health adjusting" formula is scientifically tested Acemannan, a polysaccharide extracted from Aloe Vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and burns. This is a perfect strain of aloe that is organically grown in special Asian soil; under very strict conditions. AloeCure is so powerful it

begins to benefit your health the instant you take it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and you can avoid the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. We all know how well aloe works externally on cuts, scrapes and burns. But did you know Acemannan has many of other health benefits?...

Helps Calm Down Painful Inflammation

According to a leading aloe research scientist, the amazing Aloe plant has a powerful antiinflammatory effect. Aloe Vera calms the fire in your belly like it does the sunburn on your skin and in many ways helps heal damaged cells. Inflammation is your body's first reaction to damage. So whether it's damage that is physical, bacterial, chemical or auto-immune; the natural plant helps soothe inflammation — rapidly reducing redness, heat and swelling.

Rapid Acid and Heartburn Fix

Aloe has proved to have an astonishing effect on users who suffer with digestion problems like bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, cramping, gas and constipation because it acts as a natural acid buffer and soothes the digestive system. But new studies prove it does a whole lot more.

Side-Step Heart Concerns

So you've been taking proton pump inhibitors (PPI's) for years and you feel just fine. In June of 2015, a major study shows that chronic PPI use increases the risk of heart attack in general population.

Debilitating brain disorders are on the rise. New studies show PPI's are linked to an increased risk of dementia. Cutting edge research shows that the health of your brain is closely linked by the state of healthy bacteria that comes from your gut. The things happening in your belly today might be deciding your risk for any number of brain conditions. Studies have been ongoing since the 1990's. New studies suggest that taking PPI's at both low and high dosage also disrupts a healthy human gut!

Sleep Like A Baby

A night without sleep really damages your body. And continued lost sleep can



Drug companies are understandably upset since AloeCure delivers quicker and better health benefits.

lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you're not sleeping. I sometimes call it "Ghost Reflux". A low intensity form of acid discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. AloeCure helps digestion so you may find yourself sleeping through the night.

Celebrity Hair, Skin & Nails

One of the Best-Kept Secrets in Hollywood. Certain antacids may greatly reduce your body's ability to break down and absorb calcium. Aloe delivers calcium as it aids in balancing your stomach acidity. The result? Thicker, healthier looking hair... more youthful looking skin... And nails

Optimize Your Liver

News outlets are reporting cases of Liver Failure are linked to PPI's. Your liver cleans out your blood and neutralizes its toxins. Without it, your body would be overrun with deadly toxins. Aloe helps your liver function properly. Studies suggest, if you started taking aloe today, you'd see a big difference in the way you feel.

Special Opportunity For Readers of this Magazine

With this introductory offer the makers of the AloeCure are excited to offer you a *risk-free supply*. Readers of this magazine are pre-qualified for up to 3 FREE months of product with their order. Take advantage of this special opportunity to try AloeCure in your own home and find out how to test AloeCure for a full 90 days. But that's not all.... If you don't see remarkable changes in your digestion, your body, and your overall health... Simply return it for a full refund less shipping and handling (when applicable).

Just call 1-800-334-5467 to take advantage of this risk free offer before it's too late. This offer is limited, call now.

Field Dress For Success

The hunt for the perfect outdoorsman knife is over. There's only one tool you need: the Whitetail™ Hunting Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

The consummate outdoorsman never goes on deep woods hunting trips without the essentials. Not just the basics for every hunting trip, but the items he's come to depend on over the years.

Our new **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that's perfect for skinning. With the Whitetail at hand, you'll be ready for field dressing in only seconds, and you'll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to *Gear Patrol*, a full tang blade is key, saying "A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ...think one long steel beam versus two."

The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood. If hunting is your life, then the Whitetail™ Knife was designed to make your life easier.

With our limited edition **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won't get is the trumped up price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector's-quality knife that won't cut into your bank account.



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this heavy duty sheath!

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This knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 60 days for a complete refund of the item sale price. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the **Whitetail's** handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...

★★★★★

"Good value. Great looking. Sufficiently sharp. Overall an "A" purchase and I ordered three."

— B. of Maryland

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Not shown
actual size.



Rating of A+

• 5 1/4" 420HC stainless steel blade • Full-tang design with gut hook • Pakkawood handle with brass pins • Bonus heavy duty nylon sheath

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LOT 69488

38187884

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16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE

PITTSBURGH

CLAW RIP

LOT 69006 LOT 47873 shown

60715/60714 69005/61262

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\$399 comp at **\$17.99**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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US GENERAL 30", 5 DRAWER TOOL CART

SAVE \$230

LOT 69397 63308/61427 95272 shown

\$16999 comp at **\$399.99**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38248048

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1-1/4 GALLON HOME AND GARDEN SPRAYER

GREENWOOD

LOT 61280/63124 63145/95692 shown

\$899 **SAVE 39%**

comp at **\$14.97**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38186773

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PREDATOR 4000 PEAK 3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATORS

SAVE \$179

LOT 63079/63080/69729/69676 shown

LOT 63089/63090/69675/69728 CALIFORNIA ONLY

\$28999 comp at **\$469**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38191064

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12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE

SAVE \$453

LOT 61256 61889 60813 shown

\$29999 comp at **\$752.99**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38190361

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4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

drillmaster

LOT 95578 69645/60625 shown

\$1199 **SAVE 40%**

comp at **\$20.26**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38256258

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38193406

WOW SUPER COUPON

3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT NINE LED ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT

LOT 65020/69052 shown 69111/62522/62573

\$497 **VALUE**

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WOW SUPER COUPON

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR

LOT 95275 shown 60637/61615

\$4999 **SAVE 40%**

~~\$5999~~ comp at **\$98.62**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38197754

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10 FT. x 20 FT. PORTABLE CAR CANOPY

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\$9999 **SAVE \$106**

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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38193171

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1.5 HP ELECTRIC POLE SAW

PORTLAND

LOT 68862/63190 62896 shown

\$6999 **SAVE \$29**

comp at **\$99**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

38255508

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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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WOW SUPER COUPON

1-1/4 GALLON HOME AND GARDEN SPRAYER

GREENWOOD

LOT 61280/63124 63145/95692 shown

\$899 **SAVE 39%**

comp at **\$14.97**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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4000 PEAK 3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATORS

SAVE \$179

LOT 63079/63080/69729/69676 shown

LOT 63089/63090/69675/69728 CALIFORNIA ONLY

\$28999 comp at **\$469**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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WOW SUPER COUPON

12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE

SAVE \$453

LOT 61256 61889 60813 shown

\$29999 comp at **\$752.99**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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WOW SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

drillmaster

LOT 95578 69645/60625 shown

\$1199 **SAVE 40%**

comp at **\$20.26**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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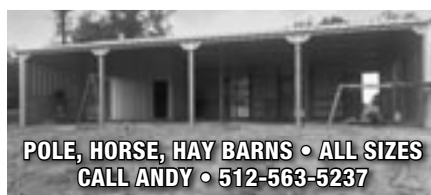
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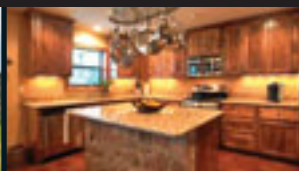
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Outlaw Healers

The Milling brothers, unlicensed medical men, claimed mysterious power over disease

BY GENE FOWLER

MANY A GANG OF BROTHERS RODE THE Old West outlaw trail, from Frank and Jesse James to the Newton Boys. But in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, brothers R.G. and G.R. Milling became notorious not for robbing folks but for mending their mortal frames. Jailed repeatedly for practicing medicine without licenses, the Millings were the outlaw healers of North Texas.

The brothers practiced magnetic healing, a treatment that purported to address energy imbalances in one's blood, bones, nerves, organs and skin. A flexible, drugless system, magnetic healing techniques varied among individual practitioners. Its applications ranged from noncontact, purportedly magnetic passes over the patient to rigorous manipulation. The "Milling Method" developed by elder brother R.G. involved a combination of massage, faith healing, hypnotism and showmanship.

The brothers called on their Cherokee heritage to boost their mystique. R.G. advertised himself as "the long-haired doctor" and "the Indian Adept." He appears to have arrived in Texas from Georgia in about 1890, settling first near Stephenville then practicing in Rising Star, Cisco, Putnam, Gunsight, Mineral Wells and other towns before his death in 1925. G.R. hung his shingle as a "rubbing doctor" in Glen Rose in 1911. Just three years later, the practice likely led to his death.

Tales passed down to Milling descendants explain that R.G. first experienced the gift of healing as a boy. His mother suffered from phlebitis, and physicians in Atlanta, Texas, could not provide relief. Desperate to comfort her, young Milling began to rub the woman, as though he could draw the sickness out of her body. She recovered quickly.

Testimonials from Texas patients swore to similar benefits, but in 1907 the



tightening of Texas medical laws threatened to put R.G. out of business. "All the sick and lame of Eastland and adjoining counties," announced one of Milling's ads in the *Cisco Round-up*, "who have dosed themselves with nostrums without relief and who in vain have sacrificed their hopes upon the altar of homeopathy, should see at once Dr. Milling, the famous drugless healer, before it is everlastingly too late."

In 1911, one Milling patient took the stand in the Stephens County Courthouse in Breckenridge to testify that Milling had practiced medicine upon him. Though he admitted under oath that the treatment relieved his rheumatism, he was upset by the \$2 price for room and board at R.G.'s country sanitarium.

Milling testified that the "scientific massage" was free and the \$2 charge included a stable fee for patients' horses. Nonetheless, the jury convicted the healer, fined him \$50—about \$1,200 in 2016 currency—and sentenced him to 20 minutes in jail.

The setback might have spurred Milling to become even more vocal. Handbills for the Hotel Milling Sanitarium, in Putnam on the Texas and Pacific Railway line, touted him as "The Renowned Healer!"

In a 1990 interview, John Boyd Harlin of Gordon, whose brother was treated for infantile paralysis by Doc Milling in about 1915, remembered that "the doctors said he would never walk again, and my dad was just grabbin' at straws when we went to Putnam. But Dr. Milling had him up and walking in three days."

Throughout his career, R.G. Milling railed against "the operating table with the horrid nightmare of the ether or chloroform," but when his kidney ailment stumped his own powers in 1925, he submitted to the knife at Dallas' Baylor Hospital, where he succumbed to complications.

G.R. Milling's outlawry in Glen Rose was more extreme, as he was nabbed five times for carrying a pistol in town.

In September 1914, the angry husband of a Milling patient confronted G.R. on the town square, then killed him with a double-barreled shotgun. Perhaps indicative of the outlaw healer's stormy relationship with fellow townsmen, the *Stephenville Empire* reported that the killer's \$3,500 bond was "furnished in a few minutes by several Glen Rose parties."

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.



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From the publishers of *Texas Co-op Power*

One-Dish Dinners

When *Texas Co-op Power* asked readers for their best one-dish meals, we received casserole, skillet-dinner and stew recipes galore, many handed down through generations or inspired by memories.

Jessica Dupuy's cookbook *United Tastes of Texas* maps a similar style of cuisine. The 125 recipes are inspired by five regions and show settlers' culinary influences. With smoked chicken, green chiles and cheese, Dupuy's King Ranch Chicken casserole embodies one-dish goodness, no matter where you live.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

King Ranch Chicken

"Though not an invention of the famed King Ranch—it's more likely the invention of a Junior League member," Dupuy writes, "the spicy flavors of chili powder, roasted peppers and cumin never fail to please."

Vegetable cooking spray

- 6 tablespoons ($\frac{3}{4}$ stick) butter
- 1½ cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped poblano peppers (about 2 medium peppers)
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 1¾ cups chicken broth
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes with green chiles, drained
- 1½ cups sour cream
- 2 pounds (about 5 cups) smoked or roasted chicken, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup loosely packed cilantro, chopped
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar
- 18 corn tortillas (6-inch)

Fresh cilantro, chopped, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and peppers; sauté 8–10 minutes, or until tender and lightly browned. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin, salt and pepper; cook 1 minute.

Recipes

One-Dish Dinners



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

BETSY KUEBLER | FARMERS EC

Kuebler loves this recipe because it's easy to prepare—"The older I get, the more wonderful that seems," she says—and the ingredients are usually on hand. "Everyone loves it, even the pickiest eaters, and it's impressive enough for potlucks."

Blue-Ribbon Pizza Casserole

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 jar (24 ounces) pasta sauce
- 3 cups elbow macaroni, cooked al dente and drained
- 4 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided use
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup sliced pepperoni
- 1 green bell pepper, cored and sliced into thin rings

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat interior of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Brown ground beef in a large skillet. Stir in pasta sauce and cooked macaroni, then remove from heat.
3. Spread half the beef mixture in the bottom of the baking dish. Sprinkle 2 cups mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers.
4. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese evenly on top, then scatter with the pepperoni slices and green pepper rings.
5. Bake 35 minutes, or until the cheese is bubbly and lightly browned. Serves 10–12.

\$100 Recipe Contest

February's recipe contest topic is **Ragin' Cajun**. Do you *laissez les bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll) with jambalaya, étouffée or gumbo? The deadline is **September 10**.

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

3. Sprinkle flour over vegetable mixture and cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Whisk in broth and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 1–2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat. Add tomatoes and sour cream.
4. Stir together chicken and cilantro, then stir in vegetable mixture.
5. Combine cheeses in a bowl.
6. Heat a large skillet over high heat. Lightly brush both sides of tortillas with oil, then fry in batches until lightly browned and crisp.
7. Line bottom of prepared baking dish with 6 fried tortillas, overlapping slightly. Top with half of chicken mixture and one-third of cheese. Repeat layers. Top with remaining tortillas and cheese.
8. Cover baking dish with aluminum foil lightly coated with cooking spray. Bake 20 minutes, then uncover and bake 10 more minutes, or until cheese is bubbly and lightly browned. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 12.

From *United Tastes of Texas* (Oxmoor House, 2016), used with permission

Burrito Squares

JENNIE DORSEY | PEDERNALES EC

What started out as a four-ingredient family favorite evolved into an often-requested meal. "I found this recipe in the newspaper when I was living in Southern California, when my love for food and cooking became apparent," Dorsey says. "I was 12 years old."

- 1 small red bell pepper
- 1 small yellow bell pepper
- 1 small green bell pepper
- 1 tube flaky crescent rolls
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ yellow onion, diced
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- Taco seasoning, as desired
- ½ pound grated cheese
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- Salsa of choice
- 1 large avocado, sliced or diced

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Apply nonstick cooking spray to a 9-by-13-inch

casserole dish. Cut bell peppers into fajita-style strips.

2. Line bottom and sides of dish with the crescent rolls. Bake 9–11 minutes until lightly toasted, then cool in dish on wire rack.
3. Heat the olive oil in a medium skillet and sauté the garlic just until fragrant. Add the onion, peppers and black beans; cook, stirring, about 10 minutes.
4. Stir in ground beef and cook until browned. Add cilantro, tomato and taco seasoning, then continue to cook, stirring, until combined.
5. Scrape the mixture into the casserole dish over the cooked crescent rolls and top with the grated cheese and scallions. Bake about 20 minutes, until the cheese is bubbly and lightly browned.
6. Allow the casserole to cool briefly, then cut into squares. Serve with salsa and avocado. Serves 6–8.

COOK'S TIP To keep the avocado from turning brown, toss with fresh lime juice.

Tarragon Chicken With Vegetables and Rice

RANDI TAYLOR | FARMERS EC

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 3 carrots, thinly sliced
- 2 cups chicken broth
- ½ cup cooking sherry
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cooked chicken breasts, diced
- 1 cup white rice

1. Heat olive oil in a deep skillet and add the onion, celery and carrots. Cook, stirring, until the onion turns translucent. Add the chicken broth, sherry, salt, tarragon, oregano, thyme and black pepper.
2. Cover skillet and bring mixture to a boil, then add the chicken and rice, stirring to combine. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and cook about 20 minutes, until the rice absorbs most of the liquid.
3. Remove skillet from heat and keep covered an additional 10 minutes, then serve. Serves 6–8.

Unstuffed Cabbage

JULI ENGEL | PEDERNALES EC

"My German grandmother used to make *kohlrouladen* for me when I was a little girl," Engel says, recalling traditional cabbage rolls. "I make [this dish] to mimic the tastes of childhood without all the time and trouble."

- 1 medium green cabbage
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ pounds extra-lean ground beef
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 cups cooked rice (optional)

1. Remove the outer leaves of the cabbage and cut out the core. Cut the cabbage in half lengthwise, then cut each half crosswise into thin slices.
2. Heat olive oil in a large pan on



BUILDING A BETTER CASSEROLE

1. Use ingredients that add complex flavors, such as fire-roasted canned tomatoes, corn, jalapeño or peppered bacon, or Italian or Mexican grated cheese blends.

2. Add a topping for extra flavor or texture: bread-crumbs or Panko crumbs (tossed with butter or olive oil and flavored with herbs

and garlic); grated, full-flavored cheeses (e.g., sharp cheddar or Parmesan); crumbled bits of crispy bacon; crushed potato or tortilla chips; or fried onions.

3. Using more than one meat yields a richer flavor. Consider combining ground beef with ground pork, sausage or lamb, and using both light and dark poultry meat. —PD

medium heat, then add the onion and sauté 5–7 minutes until soft. Add the garlic and continue to cook, stirring, for another minute.

3. Add ground beef and brown, breaking up the large pieces of meat while stirring. Drain excess fat from pan.

4. Add the cabbage, tomatoes, tomato sauce, apple cider vinegar, salt and pep-

per, and stir well to combine. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 45–60 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add up to ½ cup water if mixture appears dry.

5. Serve over rice, if desired. Serves 6–8.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

Find casseroles galore in our recipes archive.

RECIPE CONTEST WIN \$100

Submit your favorite recipes for a chance to win \$100 and see your entry in the magazine!

Upcoming Contests

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Ragin' Cajun

Deadline: September 10

MARCH ISSUE

Spring Vegetable Salads

Deadline: October 10

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Gone Fishin'

YOU'RE IN FOR A REEL TREAT! Readers took the bait and sent in a boatload of photos. Here are the top catches.

GRACE ARSIAGA

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com You should see the ones that got away. They're all online.

◀ **CHARLYN SPEED**, Guadalupe Valley EC: A 57-pound yellow catfish caught on Lake Texana

▼ **DONNA TYREE**, Deep East Texas EC: Tyree's husband, Jim, during a fishing tournament on Falcon Lake



▼ **WENDY GRUBBS**, Fort Belknap EC: "When Kali Jo heard she could go fishing early in the morning, she didn't even change out of her nightgown. She just put on her boots and hat and headed for the tank."

▲ **ALICIA WESTFALL**, Pedernales EC: "Ander caught his own fish out of the bait bucket."



▲ **JUDY HARMON**, Trinity Valley EC: "These hands have maintained jets and bombers for over 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, repaired farm equipment, and tenderly held the hand of his wife of 63 years. And they are still nimble enough to tie a hook on fishing line for his daughter. Thanks, Dad."

UPCOMING CONTESTS

JANUARY CHURCHES	DUE SEPTEMBER 10
FEBRUARY BARNs	DUE OCTOBER 10
MARCH IN MOTION	DUE NOVEMBER 10

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

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



Pick of the Month

Hodges Farm Antique Show

Bellville September 27–October 1

(979) 865-9077, hodgesfarmtexas.com

Looking for real primitives, one-of-a-kind handmades, baskets, boxes, filling station memorabilia, textiles or stoneware? You might find them at this antique show in Bellville, where San Bernard EC is headquartered.

September

9

Montalba [9–11] McKenzie Creek Trail Ride & Campout, (832) 427-9584

10

Ralls Cotton Boll, (806) 253-2342, rallschamberofcommerce.com

Sabine Pass Dick Dowling Day Memorial Commemoration, (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

11

Luling Reflections of Texas and Beyond Art Show, (830) 875-1922, discoverluling.com

Taylor St. Mary's Catholic School & Church Fall Festival, (512) 365-2175

13

McKinney [13–Dec. 13] Preschool Natural Science Programs, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org/preschool

15

Gainesville [15–25] Fall Art Show: The Great Outdoors, (214) 537-9120, gainesvilleareavisualarts.org

16

Sulphur Springs [16–17] Lone Star Heritage Quilt Show, (903) 994-2570, sulphurpringstxquilts.com

Grandview [16–18] Antique Alley Texas, (817) 240-4948, antiquealleytexas.com

Lexington [16–18] Fall Antique Show & Sale, (979) 540-7026, facebook.com/angelkissesantiques



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LINE OF DUTY Electric cooperative linemen head into trouble for the sake of the members.

HIGH-WIRE RODEO Linemen compete to see who's best in tests of skills at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo.

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TexasCoopPower.com



17

La Grange Texas Heroes Day,
(979) 968-5658

Seguin Cowboy Gathering, (830) 379-7652,
seguincowboygathering.org

Waco [17-18] Heart of Texas Airshow,
(303) 862-2869, heartoftexasairshow.com

18

Moulton Church Picnic, (361) 596-4674,
stjosephsmoulton.org

23

Post Oak [23-24] Busy Bee Quilt Show,
(940) 567-2771, postoakquilters.com

Wichita Falls [23-24] Quilting in the Falls,
(940) 704-3461, wichitafallsquiltguild.org

24

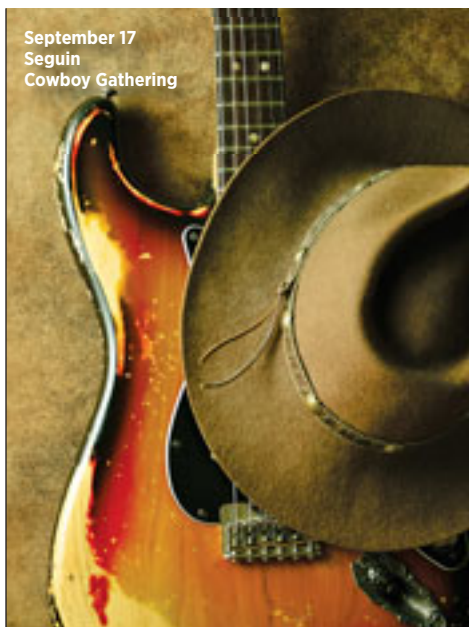
Bay City Jason Anderson Memorial Golf
Tournament, (979) 429-6886, jamgt.com

Burton White Linen Night, (937) 215-4732

Crockett St. Francis Day Festival,
(936) 687-5500, stfranciscrockett.org

Lakehills Medina Lake Cajun Festival,
(830) 751-3130, cajunfestival-medinalake.com

September 17
Seguin
Cowboy Gathering



Schertz Arts & Crafts Fair and Garden
Demos/Workshops, (210) 317-6202,
guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

30

Rhome [30-Oct. 1] Fall Festival,
(817) 636-2826, cityofrhome.com

October

1

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

Dime Box Black Bridge Festival and Mini
Marathon, (979) 884-3227

Fairfield Trinity Star Arts Council's Fall Arts
Fest, (903) 388-4765, trinitystarartscouncil.org

Gainesville History Alive Weekend,
(903) 819-4958, historyaliveweekend.com

Jasper Fall Festival, (409) 384-2762

Johnson City Wild Game Dinner,
(830) 833-5335, facebook.com/wildgamedinner

Seven Points Cedar Creek Brewery
Oktoberfest, (214) 502-9795,
cedarcreekbrewery.com

Texarkana Main Street Dine on the Line,
(903) 792-7191, visittexarkanadistrict.com

Submit Your Event!

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Town touts its charms and historic pride

BY RUTH FIELDS

ON A TYPICAL SMALL-TOWN SATURDAY, Montgomery is teeming with visitors who connect with the personality of one of the oldest towns in Texas. Fifty-six miles northwest of downtown Houston, Montgomery is a short drive for city dwellers looking for a country weekend. Other visitors have discovered the town on a side trip from nearby Lake Conroe.

Evidence suggests that the first residents were part of the 1820s Lake Creek Settlement. In 1837, the town became the first seat of Montgomery County, the third county formed in the Republic of Texas.

Start exploring at the **Nathaniel Hart Davis Museum**, says Bea Rouse, docent and member of the Montgomery Historical Society. “This museum is a great example of the homes that were here in the pioneer days,” she says. Part of the museum is inside the Davis family’s log cabin, which Davis—first mayor of Montgomery—acquired in payment for legal services. A short walk away, you will find more than a dozen historical markers designating well-preserved homes and commemorating two churches. The Methodist congregation was founded in the late 1830s, and the parsonage, built in 1842, was the first Methodist parsonage in Texas, says Billy Ray Duncan, president of the Montgomery Historical Society.

Fernland Historical Park downtown, a venture of a nonprofit, the city and Sam Houston State University, is home to the Arnold-Simonton House, a Republic of Texas-era home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The park also features the 1867 Crane cabin, along with a blacksmith’s shop, a Civil War-era house and the Jardine cabin, one of the five oldest log structures in Texas. It was built around 1830 with hand-hewn logs, a mud-and-stick chimney and leather-hinged rifle slots by the front door.



The Crane cabin at Fernland Historical Park

“I’ve seen a lot of log cabins around the country,” Duncan says, “but I’ve never seen another one with rifle slots.”

To find sites of historical interest, you might ask a Montgomery Junior High School student. In 1999, Brenda Beaven, a now-retired history teacher, member of the Montgomery Historical Society and co-founder of Lone Star Honor Flight (which honors World War II veterans), began requiring seventh-graders to participate in a scavenger hunt to familiarize them with local history. Since then, thousands of students trekked through the streets of Montgomery looking for historical sites. One topic that often impresses them, Beaven says, is that Sam Houston had such close ties to the town.

“He stayed in many of the houses,” she says, “and he used to come here to go bear hunting.” Sam Houston’s Bear Bend cabin was moved when it was threatened by the construction of Lake Conroe in the early 1970s, and was moved again, to the grounds of the **Sam Houston Memorial Museum**.

Any Montgomery resident, regardless of age, is likely to report that the town is the

birthplace of the Texas flag and was so recognized in 1997 by the 75th Texas Legislature. Physician Charles B. Stewart, signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first Texas secretary of state, designed the iconic Lone Star flag. You can find his grave at the “new” cemetery in Montgomery, which was established in 1868. (The “old” cemetery dates back to 1838.)

The first Saturday of each month, locals sell homemade, handmade and home-grown goods at Lone Star First Saturday. The second Saturday of every December, Christmas in Montgomery includes a parade, cookie walk and candlelight tour of historic homes; the Texian Heritage Festival is held every October. Each April, there’s an antique festival, and each September, a wine and music festival.

Or just visit next Saturday.

Writer **Ruth Fields** lives in Montgomery and is a member of Mid-South Synergy and Hamilton County Electric Cooperative.

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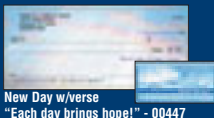
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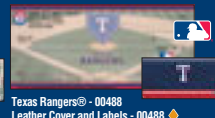
Words of Faith w/verse
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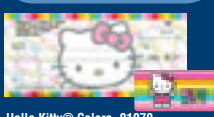
New Day w/verse
"Each day brings hope!" - 00447
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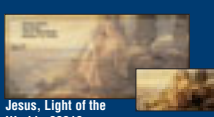
Lena Liu's Morning
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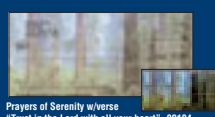
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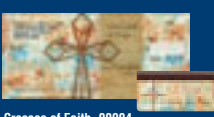
Jesus, Light of the
World - 00018
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Prayers of Serenity w/verse
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." - 00194
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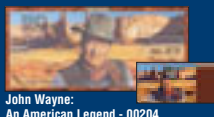
Footprints w/verse "One
night I dreamed that I was walking along
the beach with the Lord." - 00667
Leather Cover and Labels - 00667



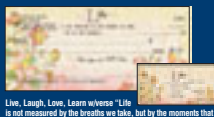
Crosses of Faith - 00904
Leather Cover and Labels - 00904



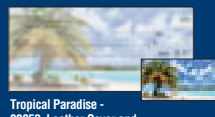
Winter Calm - 00017
Leather Cover and Labels - 00017



John Wayne:
An American Legend - 00204
Leather Cover and Labels - 00204



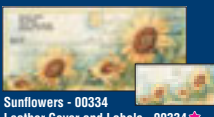
Live, Laugh, Love, Learn w/verse "Life
is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that
take our breath away." - 00332 Leather Cover and Labels - 00332



Tropical Paradise -
00052 Leather Cover and
Labels - 00052



Challis & Roos
Awesome Owls - 00337
Leather Cover and Labels - 00337



Sunflowers - 00334
Leather Cover and Labels - 00334



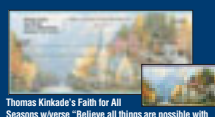
Farmall - 00328
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Cowboy Kids - 00527
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Cowboy Boots - 00434
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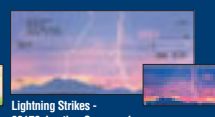
Thomas Kinkadee's Faith for All
Seasons where "Believe all things are possible with
God." - 00105 Leather Cover and Labels - 00105



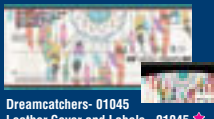
America's National
Parks - 00055 Leather Cover - 00151
Labels - 00055



Grandkids Rule! w/verse
"I'd rather be with my grandkids." - 00437
Leather Cover and Labels - 00437



Lightning Strikes -
00178 Leather Cover and
Labels - 00178



Dreamcatchers - 01045
Leather Cover and Labels - 01045



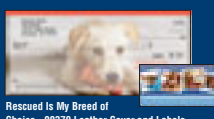
Cowboy Hats - 00965
Leather Cover and Labels - 00965



Lena Liu's Floral Borders -
00088 w/optional verse "Lord bless and keep
you." - 00117 Leather Cover and Labels - 00088



Spirit of the Wilderness -
00024 Leather Cover and Labels
- 00024



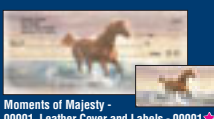
Rescued to My Breed of
Choice - 00379 Leather Cover and Labels
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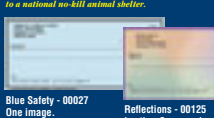
A Walk on the Beach - 01020
Leather Cover and Labels - 01020



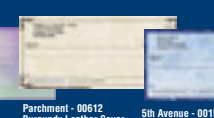
On the Wings of Hope -
00384 One image.
Leather Cover and Labels - 00384
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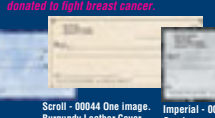
Moments of Majesty -
00001 Leather Cover and Labels - 00001



Blue Safety - 00027
One image.
Leather Cover and
Labels - 00155



Reflections - 00125
Leather Cover and
Labels - 00125



Parchment - 00612
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5th Avenue - 00155
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