

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



RISING ABOVE

Blue Angels
amaze at
Kingsville
air show



1 Col
Ryan Bernard

0891 Lane
Crew Chief



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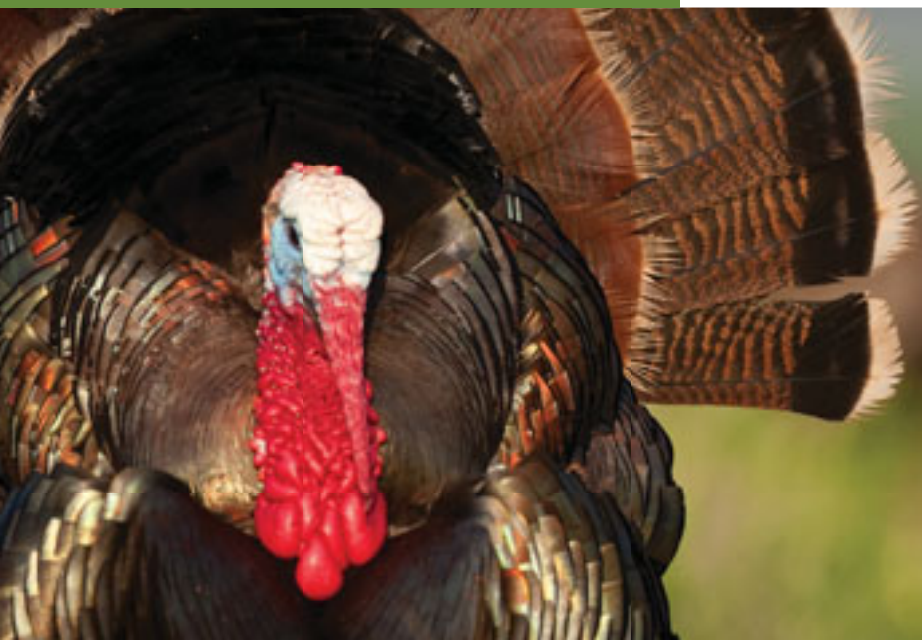
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NEXT MONTH

Yuletide Out Yonder
Texans rewind to pioneer days with Christmas festivities.



HELICOPTER: JOHN FAULK. ROCKING HORSE: ROBERT CERNOHLAVEK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ON THE COVER Navy Cmdr. Ryan J. Bernacchi, center, stands with Blue Angels crewmates in front of his F/A-18 Hornet. Photo by John Faulk

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Broadband Challenge

The small rural broadband item really hit home with me [Currents, *Narrowing of Broadband*, September 2016].

We started getting promises of affordable rural broadband more than 20 years ago, and we still don't have affordable broadband where I need it in Comanche County. We have had almost zero upload speed for over a month and have endured dozens of outages this year. Even sending an email is a struggle.

The telephone company offers 1.5-megabit internet for \$39.99 per month, and a land-line is required. Total cost is about \$80 per month for primitive 1.5-Mb speed. This severely limits data usage.

MARIA MILLER VIA FACEBOOK
COMANCHE EC

Editor's Note: Thanks for sharing your experience. As you point out, this is a challenge in rural Texas and rural America. We included the brief item in *Texas Co-op Power* to share

Chiropractic Forefathers

I so enjoyed *Outlaw Healers* [September 2016], the story of R.G. and G.R. Milling. Reading this makes me want more information. Roscoe G. Milling is buried in Mineral Wells. His son Roscoe Jr. was a chiropractor. Interesting because that was basically what his father and uncle were doing.



ANGIE SMITH | CUMBY | FARMERS EC

Writer Gene Fowler responds: You are right on the money. Magnetic healing was a forerunner of both chiropractic and osteopathic medicine. Many of R.G.'s descendants and people who married his descendants were (are) chiropractors and practitioners of other forms of drugless healing.

information and build awareness of the problem.

A Very Sweet Dog

I understand the reader's comment saying the use of "pit bull" supports a negative stereotype [Letters, *A Boy and His Dog*, September 2016].

I personally will never have one, but a brother did, and his dog was so well-trained and happy. He would let my brother's

two young grandchildren grab his tail, and he would drag them around the house. When I went to visit, he would sleep by my door and was waiting to lick my hand when I got up the next morning. His was a very sweet dog.

MARTHA RAMSAY | ELGIN
BLUEBONNET EC

Border Radio

The border radio ad I remember best, which I believe came from XELO in Clint, was for a 1-foot-tall statue of Jesus Christ that glowed in the dark [Letters, *Mistaken Identity?*, September 2016]. Listeners were advised to send \$1 to "Jesus Christ, Clint, Texas." Then the announcer spelled it out.

Border radio was the only way to stay awake while driving across Texas at night in the 1970s.

JAMES C. HENDERSON | MIDLAND
TRI-COUNTY EC

Hungry for Seafood

Absolutely loved the write-up on Gulf Coast seafood [Seafood

Quest: Galveston, August 2016]. Great information on where to go and what each place served up. I loved the little history bits, as well.

It made me want to pack up and leave for the weekend to go visit and taste some of the delicious dishes mentioned. I could feel the salt air and water as I read the article. I'm hungry now!

TALLI JONES | IOLA
MID-SOUTH SYNERGY



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HAPPENINGS

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

COMFORT IS HOME to a set of life-sized Nativity figures that originally sat atop the Sears building in San Antonio beginning in 1969. When Sears no longer needed them, they found their way about an hour northwest to **COMFORT**.

The ensuing years took a toll on the figures, and by 2015 they were in need of repair. Thanks to the oversight of David Guthrie, a member of Bandera Electric Cooperative, the talent of Boerne artist Jeannette MacDougall and the support of the Comfort Chamber of Commerce, the figures were restored.

They will help usher in the holiday season during the Christmas in Comfort event, November 26. The festival includes craft and food vendors, music, and activities for children.

INFO ▶ (830) 995-3131, comfortchamber.com



Find more happenings all across the state at TexasCoopPower.com



WORTH REPEATING

“Electricity is really just organized lightning.”

— **COMEDIAN GEORGE CARLIN**

CO-OP PEOPLE

CLARITY FOR COSERV'S CLARY

DONNIE CLARY, president and CEO of Corinth-based electric cooperative CoServ, had hints of his calling growing up near Southland but didn't fully realize the predetermined nature of his career until recently.

Before age 12, Clary spent days at his great-grandparents' home and cotton farm outside of Lubbock, where R.L. and Altha Hagler watched him while his parents worked. The home and farm was one of the first to be connected to electricity through Lyntegar Electric Cooperative in 1939, and the Haglers were founding members of the co-op. Clary recently saw a clipping from an early 1960s publication that declared the Haglers the first co-op members to have an all-electric home.

“I knew they were some of the first members of the co-op, but I had no idea that they were pioneers with an all-electric home,” Clary says. “Pretty amazing that 50 years later, their great-grandson is in the co-op business.”

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Aikman Turns 50

FOR COWBOYS FANS, it probably doesn't seem like more than 20 years have passed since **TROY AIKMAN** helped bring three Super Bowl trophies to Dallas, but it's true. The Hall of Fame quarterback turns 50 on November 21.

NOVEMBER ALSO MARKS the birthdays of these beloved Texans: Newsman **WALTER CRONKITE** would have turned 100 on November 4. Singer-songwriters **DOUG SAHM** and **GUY CLARK** would have turned 75 on their shared birthday, November 6.

NATURE

FULLY CHARGED FISH

Eels jolt their prey by sending more than 600 volts made by modified muscle cells through the water, reports Kenneth Catania, a scientist who specializes in *Electrophorus electricus* (electric eels, to you and me). That's five times the electricity coming out of a typical home outlet.

They also can send quick pairs of shocks that cause their prey to twitch, allowing eels to locate it, immobilize it and swallow it whole.

Shockinglly, they can also raise their bodies almost completely out of the water to zap an intruder, usually in self-defense. You might be stunned to know that they can't bite or chew.



Did you know?

EELS ARE NATIVE to northeastern portions of South America. Locals occasionally eat them, but eels are commonly avoided because they can deliver electrical shocks up to eight hours after death.



FLASHBACK (OR FLASH FORWARD?)

Man of Vision

NIKOLA TESLA'S genius made much of our highly electrified world possible. He invented the first alternating current motor and developed AC generation and transmission technology.

Could it be he saw into the future? Consider these comments by Tesla from an interview published in *Colliers* magazine January 30, 1926:

"When wireless is perfectly applied, the whole earth will be converted into a huge brain, which in fact it is, all things being

particles of a real and rhythmic whole. We shall be able to communicate with one another instantly, irrespective of distance. Not only this, but through television and telephony we shall see and hear one another as perfectly as though we were face-to-face, despite intervening distances of thousands of miles; and the instruments through which we shall be able to do this will be amazingly simple compared with our present telephone. A man will be able to carry one in his vest pocket."

ALMANAC

Daughters Make History

AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 125 years ago—November 6, 1891—established the Daughters of Female Descendants of the Heroes of '36, later renamed Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The group strives to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the people who achieved Texas independence.

STELLA



Texan Paul Spain and fellow POWs preserve vanquished flag's 48 stars in symbol of triumph

By Lonny Taylor ☆☆☆ **Illustration by David Vogin**

The most popular item in the shop at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg is a postcard depicting an American flag that is on exhibit in the museum. The flag was stitched together in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp by a Texas boy, Paul Ray Spain, and two fellow prisoners during World War II.

Spain was a 22-year-old farm boy from Olton when he joined the U.S. Army in Riverside, California, in September 1940. Like a lot of young men during the Depression, Spain dropped out of high school and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. When he completed his CCC service, he enlisted in the Army rather than returning to his family's cotton farm, hoping for adventure instead of backbreaking work.

He got more adventure than he bargained for.

In California, Spain was mustered into the 440th Ordnance Company, part of the ground echelon of the 19th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces. After training in Albuquerque, New Mexico, his unit was sent to San Francisco, and in October 1941, it boarded the USAT Willard A. Holbrook, a troop ship headed for the Philippines. Spain and his buddies in the 440th ended up at the remote Del Monte Airfield in Mindanao.

The airfield, built in the middle of the 12,000-acre Del Monte pineapple plantation in the fall of 1941, was a three-runway landing field for the long-range B-17 Flying Fortress bombers of the 19th, which was normally based at Clark Air Base on the island of Luzon. The field was so new that the men stationed there lived in tents; no barracks had been built when Spain and the rest of the 440th arrived December 3, 1941.

They accompanied 16 of the big B-17s that were flown from Clark Field to Del Monte; the rest of the 19th's planes were

R

Allegiance

destroyed on the ground when the Japanese bombed Clark Field on December 8. Nichols Field, closer to Manila, was bombed that same day, and Del Monte was suddenly the only operative large American air base in the Philippines. From December 18 to the first week of May 1942, the airfield was under constant air attack.

The B-17s on the ground at Del Monte were useless because there were no spare parts and little fuel, and they were flown to Darwin, Australia. Before the bombers left, Spain and his buddies dismounted some of the twin 50-caliber machine guns from the B-17 gun turrets and mounted them on tripods to create anti-aircraft batteries on the ground. Even though they shot down a few of the Japanese fighters escorting the high-altitude bombers, the guns could not reach the bombers themselves.

Del Monte Airfield withstood Japanese air attacks for 4½ months while the main Japanese army was occupied trying to dislodge

the combined American and Philippine forces from the Bataan Peninsula, across the bay from Manila.

Early in January 1942, Gen. William Sharp arrived at Del Monte with a small force to organize the defense of Mindanao, and he made the airfield his headquarters. He asked the men of the 440th to help repair his troops' weapons and make anti-tank mines by filling pineapple juice cans with dynamite and improvised detonators.

Del Monte Airfield became the last exit from the Philippines. In mid-March 1942, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his family and staff evacuated the island fortress of Corregidor in Manila Bay and spent two nights at Del Monte. Next they flew to Australia in three B-17s sent from Darwin. A week and a half later, Philippine President Manuel Quezon and his entourage stopped at Del Monte on the way to Australia. Quezon's son, Manuel Jr., wrote in his memoirs that there was "an overpowering smell of rotting pineapples, because no one was picking the fruit."

On April 12, Gen. Ralph Royce arrived with 10 B-25 and three

B-17 bombers to attack Japanese positions in the region as a prelude to Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle's raid on Tokyo.

Japanese troops finally landed in northern Mindanao on May 3, and Del Monte Airfield, just 10 miles from the coast, was quickly overrun. Before the formal surrender, the post commander gave the American flag that flew over the field to Spain, by now a corporal, and two other members of the 440th, Privates Joe Victoria and Edwin Lindros. His order was for them to burn the flag to keep it from falling into Japanese hands. They complied, but before setting fire to the flag, they cut the 48 stars from its field and hid them in their clothing.

Miraculously, the three men managed to stay together through 40 months of Japanese captivity. They were first taken to Davao Penal Colony on the southeast coast of Mindanao, where they remained for two years, and then in June 1944, Spain, Lindros and Victoria were loaded into the holds of Japanese freighters—the notorious "hell ships"—and taken to Japan.

At war's end, the three men were in Nagoya Prison Camp No. 7 in the city of Toyama, where they were beaten, starved and forced to work 12 hours a day in a steel mill. On August 22, 1945, a week after Emperor Hirohito's announcement that Japan would surrender to the Allies, guards told them the war was over.

Spain, Lindros and Victoria retrieved the stars they had hidden for 3½ years in the steel mill. Using an old sewing machine and a rusty nail, they sewed the stars onto a 4-by-6-foot American flag they made from parachute silk. They hoisted the flag over the camp gate, and it was flying there when American troops finally reached the camp September 7.

The three men agreed that when they got home, they would pass the flag among themselves as long as they were alive. "The deal was that one would keep it and then send it to the next one," said Spain's son, Greg.

Spain was the last survivor, and when he died in Austin in 1986, the flag was placed on his coffin and then given by his widow to the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Marty Kaderli, the museum's director of membership and development, has been with the museum for 30 years. "Because the prisoners of war made it a symbol of not surrendering," she says, "it is the most visited and revered item in the museum's collection."

Lonn Taylor, former historian at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, lives in Fort Davis. He is the author of *The Star-Spangled Banner: The Flag That Inspired the National Anthem* (Harry N. Abrams, 2000).

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Plan your visit to the National Museum of the Pacific War and visit its online photo galleries.



An

BY EILEEN MATTEI PHOTOS BY JOHN FAULK

gels and Daredevils

EXCITEMENT SOARS DURING AERIAL ACROBATICS OF THE WINGS OVER SOUTH TEXAS AIR SHOW



As the Blue Angels' F/A-18 Hornets rocket overhead at 400 mph, my eyes instinctively track the sleek Navy jets. My chest rumbles with the engines' roar. During the two-day Wings Over South Texas Air Show at Naval Air Station Kingsville, military jets, nimble aerobatic planes and vintage flying machines fill the skies.

On the ground, crews of restored World War II planes and operational aircraft of the Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force welcome the questions of the curious, the enthralled and the reminiscing veterans. The thrill and glory of flight attract about 60,000 people daily to the free event, sponsored in part by Nueces Electric Cooperative.

The Blue Angels are renowned for tight-formation aerobatics.



At this air show and the 30 others held in Texas each year, captivated crowds gawk as planes and their pilots defy gravity, like winged gods of mythology. Planes spiral, plunge and tumble, dancing across the sky followed by trails of biodegradable smoke.

NAS Kingsville trains half of the Navy's carrier-based pilots. The field, established in 1942, receives enthusiastic community support. At the 2016 air show in April, Will Selby remembers recess when he was a kid in Kingsville. "The low-flying jets would vibrate the leaves off the trees, but I loved to see the planes overhead," he says.

The aerial show opens with the Army's Special Operations Command Black Daggers parachute demonstration team, whose canopy parachutes zigzag like wind surfers across the sky. Precision flying at its finest takes "center sky" as Rob Holland, world champion freestyle aerobatic champion, flies upside down, and performs hammerhead turns and inside tumbles. The Twin Tigers team glides into lyrical loops while *America the Beautiful* plays, outlining a heart with their smoke trails. Flying a vintage Great Lakes biplane, Paul Fiala, former chief pilot for King Ranch, is a hometown favorite as he evokes the barnstormers of a bygone era. "Flying a biplane is like holding on to an umbrella in the wind," says announcer Matt Jolley. "Paul flies to inspire the next generation of aviators."

Even novices begin to recognize the four-point hesitation roll, the barrel roll, the snap roll and the dramatic knife-edge pass (with one wing pointed straight at the ground). All these maneuvers sustain the illusion that flying is magical.

When air-raid sirens wail, planes emerge from every direction through black smoke and flames as the planes and pilots of the Commemorative Air Force re-enact the day of infamy, the attack on Pearl Harbor. Planes from the Tora! Tora! Tora! air show depict the chaos of air combat and the fog of war, brought to terrifying life as bombers simulate dropping bombs on Pearl Harbor, and A6M Zeros in Japanese livery fly repeated strafing runs over the field to a soundtrack of machine-gun fire and explosions.

"It's a living history lesson," says Gordon Webb, who heads

the CAF pyrotechnic team that stages the special effects. "It's not meant to glorify war. We honor those who served and continue to serve." He directs the volunteers and keeps them on script while they use commercial explosives and gasoline for the re-enactment.

Excitement for the Blue Angels' performance builds as the C-130 Hercules affectionately known as "Fat Albert," which carries the Blue Angels ground team to air shows, lifts from the runway in a 45-degree climb—astounding for such a hefty plane. The U.S. Marine Corps pilot tilts her gleaming white, yellow and blue plane toward the crowd.

With drill-team precision, the ground crew, wearing blue coveralls and yellow hearing protectors, readies six planes for takeoff. Four jets lift off in a tight diamond formation. That's the beginning of a ballet of athletic, muscular planes performing diamond rolls, turns and what looks like crack-the-whip at high speeds. Known for their close formations, the Blue Angels often fly only 18 inches apart at 350–500 mph. The sight is heart-stoppingly beautiful. When the planes separate, their smoke trails resemble a graceful fountain.

The roar of the crowd is drowned by the engines pushing the 30-year-old airplanes to their limits. Now I see why guys adopted the term "wingman" for buddies who can be trusted.

The performance continues after the Blue Angels return to earth, as the ground crew secures the planes with equal finesse. The pilots climb out, shake hands with the crew and march off in formation. Watching the crew tending to the planes, I gasp when one man dives headfirst into a jet's air scoop. That is called "duct diving," I find out, and he's checking for debris and fluids that could block the intake.

The U.S. Army's Black Daggers parachute team nails its landings inside Javelina Stadium, above. Opposite page, top photos: Crew Chief Sarah Schenk checks the cockpit of an F/A-18, left, and Marine Maj. Mark Hamilton signs an autograph for Jaiden Rodriguez of Harlingen.



The Twin Tigers team glides into lyrical loops
while *America the Beautiful* plays,
outlining a heart with their smoke trails.



Visitors get close-up looks at planes such as a B-25 Mitchell bomber, above. Planes and pyrotechnic experts such as Gordon Webb of the Commemorative Air Force re-enact the bombing of Pearl Harbor, left.

After their twice-daily jumps, members of the Black Daggers repack their black parachutes at the Army recruiting display. They invite fascinated kids to help them keep the billowing nylon under control as they meticulously compress the fabric, align the cords and squeeze it all into a compact backpack, ready to jump again.

The Air Force Performance Lab entices teens and adults with touch-screen flight simulators and timed games that promise to “test your skills, smarts and wits to see if you have what it takes.” Outside, cheered on by friends, young men and women do chin-ups. The wind spins the turbines of the huge C-17 cargo plane that has flown in from Travis Air Force Base in California. Eavesdropping on the pilot chatting with naval aviation cadets about flying is like listening to a foreign language.

I turn around to watch a formation barrel roll, a plane in a flat spin and another one hovering like a hawk. The Blue Angels staff, which includes specialists in videography, logistics and aviation medicine, walk around talking with the public and posing for selfies. The pilots emerge to sign plane posters and miniature flight helmets.

Is it my imagination that everyone seems to stand up a little straighter around these servicemen and women? The air show, after all, does more than demonstrate precision flying: It reminds me that we live in the home of the free because of the brave.

Eileen Mattei, a member of Nueces and Magic Valley ECs, lives in Harlingen.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com See a slideshow from the Wings Over South Texas Air Show.

Throughout the day, the taxiway of NAS Kingsville bustles with crowds wandering past displays of vintage and active-duty aircraft, recruiting activities and vendors. In the shade of aircraft wings, families picnic, nap and photograph the planes. Bill Fier of the CAF helps me cross the wing of a P-39 and step inside the cockpit, where I straddle the flight control console.

Admitted air show groupie John Rodriguez tells me he brought his 8-year-old son Jaiden from Harlingen to share a love of planes that began when he was Jaiden’s age. I inch into the cockpit of a vintage B-25 Mitchell bomber, the plane my dad did his pilot training in 64 years ago. But can I squirm down the tunnel to the nose gunner section? I leave that to the more agile.

Visitors crawl into the Coast Guard’s orange-and-white MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and talk to the crew, which includes a rescue swimmer. “This is awesome. I want to be in the Air Force,” says Robert Rios, sitting next to me at the chopper’s controls. The Corpus Christi high school senior says he fell in love with planes while attending Wings Over South Texas Air Shows like the one today.

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face, blued Breguet-style hands, an easy-to-read date window at the 3 o'clock position, and a crown of sapphire blue. It secures with a crocodile-patterned, genuine black leather strap and is water resistant to 3 ATM.

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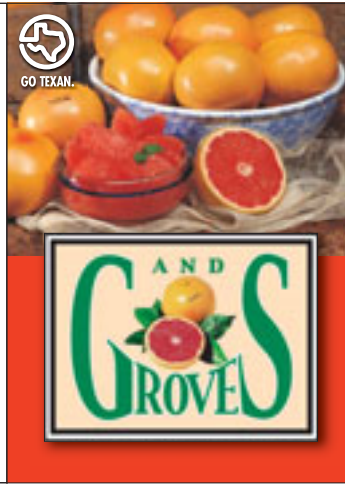
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Tips for a Safe and Healthy Thanksgiving



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HERE ARE SOME TIPS from your electric cooperative to help keep your Thanksgiving Day celebration a little safer, healthier and more energy efficient.

Preparing the Feast

Thawing a turkey? Planning ahead can make a big difference.

- ▶ Put the still-wrapped bird on a tray to keep fluids from contaminating food in the refrigerator.
- ▶ Thaw it in the refrigerator one day for every 4 pounds. That means you'll have to start thawing a 20-pound gobbler the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
- ▶ Clean your stove and oven before you start cooking your holiday meal.
- ▶ To take advantage of residual heat, use the self-cleaning mode on your oven just after you've used it.
- ▶ Make the kitchen off-limits to kids who aren't helping with the meal. This lessens chances of an accident.
- ▶ Don't wear dangling jewelry or loose long sleeves while cooking. They could catch fire or snag pot handles.
- ▶ Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.

Fry the Turkey, Not Yourself

Deep-frying a turkey can result in a juicy, crispy treat. The production also can go very wrong. Here are some tips to consider:

- ▶ Don't try to deep-fry a turkey indoors. Use a propane-fired burner and deep pot made for frying.
- ▶ Set the propane tank upwind away from the burner.
- ▶ Position the fryer in an open area away from structures or fences. Don't fry in a garage, carport or porch that can catch fire.
- ▶ Make sure turkey skin is completely dry to prevent spatter burns. Ease the turkey into and out of the hot oil.
- ▶ Keep a close eye on the oil temperature and turn off the burner if the oil begins to smoke.
- ▶ If the oil catches fire, call 911 immediately. **DO NOT** try to put out the fire with water, which will only spread the flames.

Going to Memaw's?

If you're taking a toddler to a home that's not child-proof:

- ▶ Take medicines off bedside tables and out of unlocked drawers. Store them in a locked box or on a high shelf. Iron pills or iron-fortified vitamins can pose a poisoning risk.
- ▶ Bring along one or more safety gates to block

little ones from danger.

- ▶ Make sure bathroom doors stay closed or block them off with a gate.
- ▶ Watch out for small objects such as coins or batteries that a curious youngster might swallow. If it can fit through a toilet paper tube, it's a choking hazard.
- ▶ Traveling by plane? Don't forget the car seat!

Have a Serving of Energy Savings

With added holiday expenses, saving a little energy—and money—can be a big help.

- ▶ Replace your lightbulbs with compact fluorescent or light-emitting diode bulbs. Your guests won't notice a difference in lighting, but you'll see a difference in your bill.
- ▶ Cook at least one dish from start to finish in the microwave, which uses about a third of the electricity of a conventional oven. Slow cookers can help trim costs, too, and they don't add as much heat to the room as the oven.
- ▶ Load the dishwasher completely full. With a mountain of dinner plates, using the dishwasher will be more efficient than hand-washing.



Running your dryer and dishwasher at night provides added warmth to the home during colder months.

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Lower Home Energy Bills When It's Cold Outside

WANT TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS this winter—without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are 10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

- 1. Use ceiling fans to make rooms feel warmer.** Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
- 2. Add weatherstripping or caulk around windows and doors.** Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
- 3. Rearrange furniture.** Move sofas and rugs that are blocking vents, which can cause uneven heating. Situate the most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
- 4. Install a "smart" thermostat** that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
- 5. Keep the shades open during daylight hours.** The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
- 6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks.** Repair leaks with a duct-sealing compound.
- 7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature.** You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.
- 8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark.** They produce heat that can help keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
- 9. Install compact fluorescent or LED bulbs in the fixtures you use the most.** These use far less energy than incandescents.
- 10. Limit your hot water use.** Wash clothes in cold water and take shorter showers.

Decorate Safely

HOMEOWNERS HAVE STARTED decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier—often before Thanksgiving.

If you're ready to start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are some ways to keep yourself safe if you're on decorating duty this season:

Inspect last year's lights before using them again this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.

Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.

Some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets. Keep them out of your home—or at least out of reach. Keep the number for the Poison Control Center handy: 1-800-222-1222.

Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, climb onto stepladders instead of chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in the standing position.

Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and catch on fire. When you take down the tree, unplug extension cords. They're not designed for permanent use.



SHANGAREY | ISTOCK.COM

Picturing Texas Politics

Visionary photographers recognize the truth in their subjects

BY JOHN ANDERSON



Edward Burleson (1798–1851), circa 1850

EDITOR'S NOTE: THERE WAS A TIME—about 160 years ago—when photographs of politicians were a rarity in Texas. That's hard to believe, but consider this passage from *Picturing Texas Politics*:

As Edward Burleson's daughters tell it, they had traveled the short distance into town one day in 1850 and passed a photographer's studio. Their father was unshaven and dressed "in his every day farm suit." General Burleson had served in the Second Congress, had been elected vice president of the Republic of Texas, and had run against Anson Jones for president of Texas, later serving as Texas Senate President Pro Tempore until the end of his life in 1851. From today's perspective, his curriculum vitae reads like that of a politician. But according to his cousin Rufus Burleson, the general was much

more a statesman than a politician—and intentionally never had his photograph made until he gave in to his daughters' loving entreaties that day in San Marcos.

In 1887 Rufus Burleson recounted his late cousin's "utter disregard of notariety [sic] or rather his unutterable contempt for seeking fame," and explained that Edward Burleson had not had his photographic likeness made because "he had such contempt for all the tricks and artifice that little souls rise [sic] to magnify themselves..." That day in San Marcos, Edward Burleson bent to family politics, if no other politics, and sat for the iconic daguerreotype portrait now held in the Texas State Archives.

The many pictures that [author Chuck] Bailey has selected for [*Picturing Texas Politics*] are extraordinary examples of Texas photography, images not only political but also remarkably human. This is a collection of photographs both made and taken by visionary photographers who exploited the technology available to them in their time.

Some of the photographers represented here are well known, while the names of others are already lost. Most of them were steady and reliable. They strove to recognize the truth in their subjects and they captured that truth in their photos. For the most part, they were charismatic people who liked to get along, but they did what they needed to get their shot. They found their spot and they let their cameras do the talking.

Text and photos excerpted from *Picturing Texas Politics* (University of Texas Press, 2015).

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

See a slideshow of other Texas political figures.



Clockwise from top: Suffragette veterans show support for the Democratic Party in Texas, circa 1952–1956. James H. “Cyclone” Davis (1853–1940), circa 1914; U.S. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn with a bag of sweet Texas onions, July 1948

My Flight With a Doolittle Raider

A personal experience as a passenger with a history-making pilot in a restored B-25 bomber

BY MATT JOLLEY

IT WAS A HOT FLORIDA DAY IN 2010 when Col. R.E. Cole, former co-pilot to Jimmy Doolittle, strapped himself into the right-hand seat of pilot Larry Kelley's restored World War II-era B-25 bomber, Panchito. Seventy years had passed since Cole followed that routine aboard the USS Hornet and flew a daring mission over imperial Japan.

In April 1942, Cole, then a lieutenant colonel, flew with Doolittle, who led 80 volunteers on the legendary Doolittle Tokyo Raid. That attack provided a boost to the hearts and morale of their fellow Americans, who were still reeling from Japan's disastrous attack on Pearl Harbor four months earlier.

Cole, 101, is the last living member of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. He lives in Comfort and is a member of Bandera Electric Cooperative.

On this day, we wouldn't be taking off from the short deck of an aircraft carrier, as they did in 1942. The only missions on this adventure were a short flight to a weekend air show and for photographer Robert Seale to capture images of Cole flying a B-25 again. Cole's 90-plus-year-old hands gripped the flight controls and performed the preflight checks from memory.

Within minutes, the giant engines popped and thumped to life, and the aromas of burned oil, hydraulic fluid and all the usual perfumes of a vintage bomber assailed our senses. Time was suspended, and for a moment, it was 1942 again. Cole and Kelley advanced the throttles, and the 3,400-horsepower engines pulled us down the runway until the air over the wings

lifted our time machine toward the clouds. In his professionalism, Cole displayed no giant grin or boyish transformation, rather the quiet confidence of a man completely in control of his flying machine.

Like so many of the World War II generation, Cole's service was all-in; they served until victory was complete. After the Doolittle Raid, Cole volunteered for ferry command, which meant flying critical cargo across the most treacherous, unforgiving mountains in the world, the Himalayas. This route was called "flying the hump." He navigated with inadequate maps through horrible weather in ill-equipped aircraft, but managed to survive. Cole found his way back to the U.S. in 1943, but quickly volunteered to become an Air Commando and took part in an invasion of Burma.

After our short flight, we arrived at the show where Kelley was scheduled to fly the B-25. Kelley had arranged with the air boss for us to perform a low-level pass as part of the rehearsal for the air show. Cole's eyes fixed on the end of the runway and his arms, hands and legs, in one coordinated effort, deftly rotated the control wheel and rudder pedals to send Panchito zooming toward Earth. Flying a B-25 is much like driving a massive truck without power steering, but Cole made it look easy.

Our speed increased, and our trajectory was established; a perfect low pass was imminent. As the sound of the roaring B-25 announced our approach, fellow aviators on the ground jumped and waved. Cole eased the entire control column back and flattened our dive. He and Kelley



called out altitudes and airspeeds, and before long we were hurtling above the runway like a highly polished freight train.

When Cole pitched Panchito back toward the clouds, it struck me that on April 18, 1942, he had performed the same maneuver over the coast of Japan. The Doolittle Raiders flew in low and popped up at the last second before releasing the bombs.

Cole went on to serve out a career in the military, raise a family and establish a successful home-building business in Texas. Most of the children of the Doolittle Raiders will tell you they had little idea what their fathers did in the war until much later in life. The story I usually hear from their children is that they want people to know what amazing fathers, husbands and mentors their dads were.

The Doolittle Raiders have come to represent so much more than their famous mission. They represent the greatest qualities that most Americans strive to attain, such as duty to country and service before self.

In interviews and meetings with the surviving Doolittle Raiders over the years, they always said the same thing: “We were just doing our job.”

Matt Jolley is the founder of the Edward R. Murrow Award-winning station warbirdradio.com.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders continue to serve through the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Scholarship Fund, which provides funding for students studying aviation and related fields and is managed by the Communities Foundation of Texas. Info: doolittleraider.com/scholarship_fund.htm

Col. R.E. Cole, 101, is the last living Doolittle Raider.

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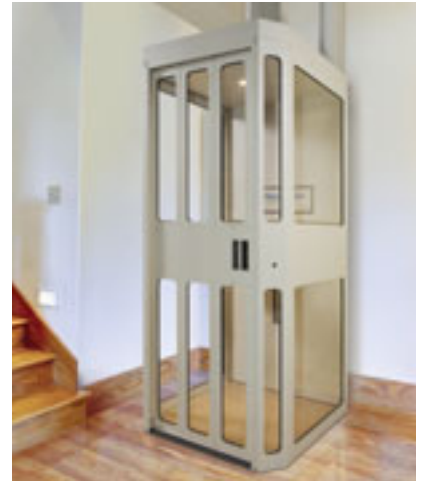
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A D V E R T I S E M E N T

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 Domesticus, 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 "TXN24". It's worth a try to see if it still works.

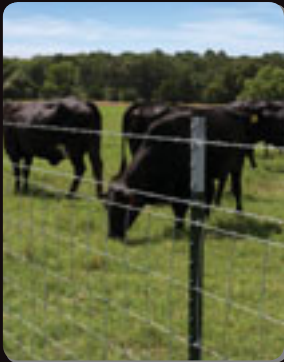


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The Capitol Ornament Lady

Nelda Laney created the fundraising program for Capitol historic preservation

BY TOM WIDLOWSKI

NELDA LANEY'S INFLUENCE REACHES many corners of the Texas Capitol, and it reaches many branches, as hundreds of thousands of Texans hang her iconic Christmas ornaments every year. "I've always said, 'That's what I want on my tombstone—the Capitol ornament lady,'" Laney told the *Texas Bar Journal* in 2013.

Laney created a program in 1996 selling Capitol Christmas ornaments that have become collectors' items and the source of immensely successful fundraising that has supported preservation and beautification projects at the Capitol. She designed the first seven editions of the ornaments herself.

For years, she was an ebullient and persuasive presence around the Capitol corridors. Her husband, Pete Laney, was a longtime representative in the Texas House, including five terms as speaker. This put her in the company of power brokers in Austin, and when the state needed funds for Capitol preservation, Nelda Laney had the inspiration to sell ornaments.

Over 21 years, 1.1 million ornaments have been sold and \$8 million raised for preservation of the majestic 1888 statehouse. The money has paid for repainting of the Capitol dome, conserving historical paintings and developing free curriculum guides for fourth- and seventh-grade students.

As sales of the 2016 edition of the Capitol Christmas ornaments continue, Laney's legacy becomes especially poignant. She died August 24 at the age of 73.

Nelda and Pete Laney come from Hale Center in the Panhandle. They are cotton farmers, fiercely loyal to rural Texas and keenly aware of how electric cooperatives revolutionized life some 75 years ago. Their daughters, KaLyn and Jamey, attended the Government-in-Action Youth Tour coordinated by Texas Electric Cooperatives and later served as chap-



erones. They also have a son, J. Pete.

Nelda Laney turned to *Texas Co-op Power* to help get word out about her ornament idea in 1996. It was tough going at first. "I literally sold them out of the trunk of my car," she said. But after the magazine ran a small item in the November 1996 issue announcing that the first edition of the ornaments was on sale, she couldn't thank readers enough for the boost in sales.

The 3 million people in Texas who receive their electricity from co-ops might not realize it, but they have lost a good friend in Nelda Laney, says Mike Williams, TEC president and CEO. "She was very passionate about rural interests," he says, remembering how much she loved Texas and the Capitol. "She was sweet, genuine, homespun, authentic. People are drawn to people like that."

People also are drawn to her distinctive ornaments, each edition accentuating an exquisite feature of the pink granite Capitol, such as door hinges, the rotunda and the finials that adorn the wrought-iron fence around the 22-acre grounds. Each ornament is finished in 24-karat gold. The 2016 ornaments, which sell for \$20, are

replicas of the decorated Texas pines that grace the Senate and House chambers every Christmas.

Laney left the Capitol project after 2002, but she continued as an ornament ambassador. She created ornaments to raise funds for Texas Tech University, and a collectible series has helped the Keep Texas Beautiful campaign raise close to \$1 million.

Christmas trees soon will sparkle with ornaments of her creation. In two months, the Capitol will be abuzz as the 2017 Legislature holds its biennial session, and the building's grandeur will reflect her zeal.

"Nelda was a woman of incredible wit and spirit who was completely committed to the Texas Capitol and all who work there," Speaker Joe Straus posted on the Texas House website in August. "It is largely because of her dedication that today the Capitol is more beautiful and welcoming than ever."

Tom Widlowski is the *Texas Co-op Power* associate editor.

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Make-Ahead Holiday Helpers

STRATEGIC PLANNING MAKES HOSTING a holiday feast more enjoyable, so we asked readers for recipes that provide a jump-start on entertaining. I asked my friend Stephanie McClenny, owner of Confituras Little Kitchen (a community kitchen plus locally sourced jam and biscuit shop slated to open in Austin in late 2016), for her favorite secret weapon. Her response? Cranberry Jalapeño Jelly. Her recipe yields enough for your own party, plus a few holiday gifts for guests.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Cranberry Jalapeño Jelly

"This bright, jewel-toned pepper preserve offers the sweet Texas heat that pairs so well with creamy cheese," says McClenny.

- 2 cups whole fresh cranberries
- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh jalapeño pepper (seeds and ribs removed according to your heat tolerance)
- 4 cups white distilled vinegar
- 6 teaspoons calcium water (packaged with Pomona's Universal Pectin, see cook's tip)
- 5 teaspoons pectin
- 6 cups white or organic cane sugar, divided use

1. Pulse cranberries and jalapeño pieces in a food processor until finely chopped, taking care to scrape down any larger pieces from time to time so pieces are fairly uniform in size.
2. Place cranberry mixture into a large pot. Add white vinegar and calcium water. Cover and bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer on low 5–10 minutes until mixture softens.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk pectin into ½ cup sugar until well incorporated. Return cranberry mixture to a boil and slowly whisk pectin mixture into pot, stirring continuously for 1 minute. Bring back to a boil and whisk in remaining sugar, again bringing back to a boil.
4. Check the set of the jelly by placing a teaspoonful onto a plate and placing in

Recipes

Make-Ahead Holiday Helpers



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

LINDA SAUTER | BANDERA EC

The secret ingredient in this cheery relish is an iconic Texas soft drink created in 1937. Big Red soda joins with raspberry gelatin to balance a candy-like sweetness with tart cranberries. "I got the recipe from my aunt," Sauter says, "and my two boys like it so well that I make it every Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Cranberry Delight

- 1 bag (12 ounces) raw cranberries
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1¼ cups Big Red soda
- 1 package (3 ounces) raspberry gelatin
- 1 small can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 cup chopped nuts (pecans, walnuts or almonds)
- ½ cup flaked coconut

1. Grind the cranberries with a food processor, then combine with sugar and refrigerate overnight.
2. The next day, heat the Big Red soda (on the stovetop or in the microwave) until hot, and then dissolve gelatin into soda.
3. Stir in the cranberries, and fold in the pineapple, marshmallows and nuts.
4. Pour the mixture into a serving dish or mold, sprinkle with coconut and chill until set. Makes 10–12 servings.

\$100 Recipe Contest

April's recipe contest topic is **Berry Delicious**. When strawberries ripen, folks get excited—for shortcakes, sweets and even soups containing these short-lived gems! Send us your special strawberry recipes. The deadline is **November 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.

freezer for a few minutes; when nudged, jelly should wrinkle but not be too firm. Taste for sweetness and add more sugar if necessary. It should taste hot, but the heat will be toned down by pairing with other foods. Makes 8–10 8-ounce jars. Keeps for many months when chilled or canned according to U.S. Department of Agriculture instructions.

COOK'S TIP Pomona's Universal Pectin (pomonapectin.com) is a natural product derived from citrus. The package includes a packet of monocalcium phosphate powder and instructions for using it to make calcium water.

Little Italy Cheesy Eggplant Bake

BETSY KUEBLER | FARMERS EC

Savory Italian sausage, seasoned eggplant and bubbly cheese create a pull-out-of-the-freezer-and-bake feast when friends and family arrive for the holidays. Kuebler sautés the eggplant slices in the sausage drippings—a resourceful step that relies on the seasoned oil for extra flavor.

- 1 jar (24 ounces) pasta sauce
- 1 pound bulk pork sausage, spicy or mild
- 2½ pounds small Japanese eggplants, washed and stemmed
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¾ pound mozzarella cheese slices

1. If you plan to serve the casserole right away, heat oven to 350 degrees. Spread small amount of pasta sauce across the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish, then pour the remaining pasta sauce into a large mixing bowl.
2. Brown the sausage in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add browned sausage to pasta sauce, reserving drippings, and stir to combine.
3. Slice the eggplant into ½-inch rounds. Generously season the slices with salt and pepper. Sauté the eggplant slices in the sausage drippings over medium-high heat until the eggplant is golden and tender on both sides. Arrange eggplant slices in single layer in prepared baking dish.

4. In a medium bowl, whisk together ricotta, eggs and Parmesan. Spread ricotta mixture evenly over eggplant. Pour reserved pasta sauce over ricotta layer. Arrange mozzarella slices over the top.

5. Bake about 45 minutes, until heated through and the cheese is bubbly and golden brown.

6. If you intend to save this for baking at another time, cover tightly with plastic wrap and freeze up to 6 months. To serve, uncover and bake about 90 minutes in a preheated 350-degree oven. Makes 8–10 servings.

COOK'S TIP With its porous, spongy flesh, eggplant absorbs oil quickly. If your skillet dries out when you're browning the slices, add olive oil as needed. You can also freeze the casserole after baking. To do this, allow it to cool completely, cover and freeze. To serve, reheat in a 350-degree oven about 1 hour, or until heated through and bubbly.

Holiday Potatoes

DEBBIE DRIGGERS | FARMERS EC

A decadent blend of chive-and-onion cream cheese, butter and heavy cream gives these potatoes a luscious texture and savory perfume that reminded many recipe testers of holiday gatherings or childhood.

- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, divided use, plus more to grease baking dish
 - 5 pounds red potatoes, washed and peeled
 - 8 ounces cream cheese with chives and onions
 - 1 teaspoon garlic salt
 - ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 2 cups heavy whipping cream, unwhipped
- Smoked paprika, for garnish

1. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
2. Cut the potatoes in quarters, place in medium saucepan, cover with water and simmer 8 minutes, until soft. Drain well.
3. Combine the potatoes, cream cheese, garlic salt, pepper and 4 tablespoons of butter. Use a potato masher to mash the potatoes and combine ingredients. Gradually add the heavy cream and mix until smooth.
4. Spoon the potato mixture into the



prepared baking dish, then cover and refrigerate overnight.

5. When you're ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Dot the potato mixture with the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter and sprinkle with smoked paprika. Bake until the top is golden, about 30–45 minutes. Makes 8–10 servings.

COOK'S TIP Feel free to use plain cream cheese and add your own freshly sliced or minced scallions and chives. For the creamiest results, consider using a food mill to "rice" the potatoes. Don't purée the potatoes in a food processor—this will create a gummy texture.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Mousse

JUDITH GIANGIULIO | HAMILTON COUNTY EC

- 12 ounces silken tofu
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract

- ⅓ cup peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons vanilla almond milk
- Chopped roasted peanuts for garnish

- 1.** Place tofu, syrup, cocoa powder, vanilla and peanut butter in a food processor.
- 2.** With the machine running, slowly drizzle in the almond milk, blending until smooth.
- 3.** Spoon into serving dishes and refrigerate 1–2 hours until firm. Top with chopped peanuts before serving.

Roasted Sweet Potatoes

SANDRA RANDOLPH | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

When Randolph was growing up, sweet potatoes were a holiday staple, though not a favorite of hers. "I hated them," she says. "One day, I got the idea of using olive oil and roasting them. After I figured out the seasonings, I now love sweet potatoes!"

- 3–4 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes

- 1 small sweet onion, cut into 1-inch sections
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼–½ cup extra-virgin olive oil


- 1.** Mix all ingredients together in a gallon zip-seal bag. Shake to mix well. Place in refrigerator 8 hours or overnight.
- 2.** Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spread sweet potato mixture evenly onto a shallow cookie sheet or roasting pan lined with foil. Add more oil if needed, and place in preheated oven.
- 3.** Bake 30 minutes or until tips of potatoes and onions are browned.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

The online recipes archive offers plenty of dishes that will make holiday meals delightful.

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Fiesta!

YOU SAY PARTY, WE SAY FIESTA! Wingding, soiree, shindig, hootenanny, gala or jubilee also work, and you're all invited. ¡Vámonos, amigos!

GRACE ARSIAGA

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com The celebration continues online, where readers' photographs are available in more than 100 slideshows from previous Focus on Texas contests.

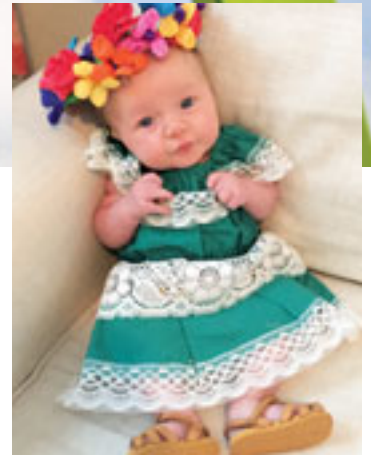


▲ **KATHY LANEY**, Trinity Valley EC: Cinco De Mayo festival in Garland

▼ **SUMMER DINSCORE**, Karnes EC: Dinscore met this woman during Fiesta in San Antonio. She makes traditional flower crowns and sells them in front of San Fernando Cathedral.



▲ **CHERYL MCCLURE**, Farmers EC: Cousins from Holland meet their Dallas family for the first time and have fun riding a roller coaster together at Fair Park.



▲ **BILL WILLIAMSON**, Bandera EC: A granddaughter celebrates Fiesta.



▲ **MARSHA ENGLAND**, Comanche EC: Riding a float at the De Leon Peach and Melon Festival

UPCOMING CONTESTS

MARCH IN MOTION	DUE NOVEMBER 10
APRIL BIRDS	DUE DECEMBER 10
MAY TEXAS ROCKS	DUE JANUARY 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

Miracle on 34th Street

Crockett November 26

(936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

Kick off the Christmas season the Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Crockett Civic Center with this live theatrical performance. Can Kris Kringle prove to the world that Santa Claus really exists?

GIRL: YUGANOV KONSTANTIN | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. TRAIN: TATCHAPHOL | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. CHILI: AIMEE M LEE | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

November

7

Georgetown Wurstbraten, (512) 863-3065, zionwalburg.org

11

Bastrop [11-12] Veterans Weekend Car Show, (512) 303-0558, bastropareacruisers.com

Buda [11-12] Buda Bee Quilt Show, (512) 295-3413, ocsclubuda.org

12

Bulverde What Is Model Railroading? (830) 438-4864, santrak.org

Canyon Lake St. Thomas the Apostle Holiday Haus, (830) 305-3799, stthomasatcanyonlake.org

Martindale Dam Chili Cook-Off, (512) 396-5437

Palestine Dinner with Phil Robertson of *Duck Dynasty*, (903) 731-3038, cocpalestine.com

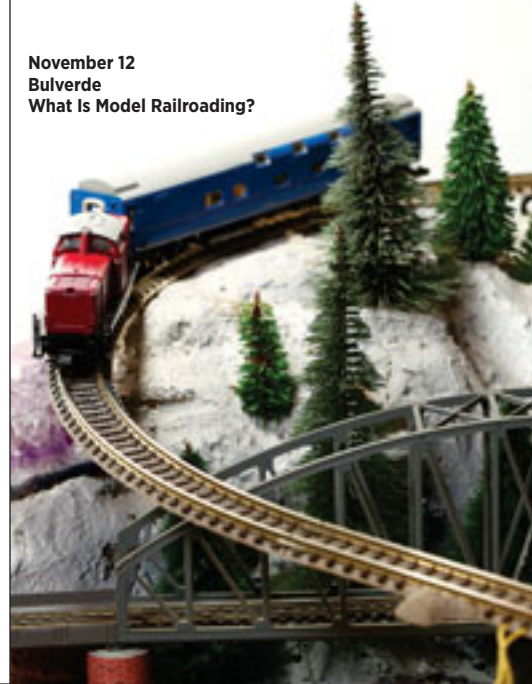
Schertz Senior Citizens Christmas Bazaar, (985) 956-0212

Smithville Airing of the Quilts, (512) 237-2313, smithvilletx.org

Waxahachie WWII Weekend and Re-enactment, (469) 309-4045

Winnboro Christmas in the Park Bazaar, (903) 975-3279

November 12
Bulverde
What Is Model Railroading?



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HUNTSVILLE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Unwrap the joy of the Holidays the first weekend in December

Friday, Dec. 2nd
Ginger Bread Contest
Wynn Home Art Center

Journey through Bethlehem
Walker Country Fair Grounds

Saturday, Dec. 3rd
Holiday Fair and Snow
Historic Downtown Square

Houston Family Christmas
Sam Houston Memorial Parade

Lions Club Annual Christmas Parade

Cider on the Wynn Home Porch
Journey Through Bethlehem

Sunday, Dec. 4th
Historic Home Tour
Wynn Home Art Center

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

Gas Up and Go!

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Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Flower Mound [12-13] Cross Timbers Artists' Guild Studio Tour, (972) 539-5499, crosstimbersarts.com

Manchaca [12-13] United Methodist Church Craft Show, (512) 282-7274, manchacaumc.org

17

Longview [17-20] *The Music Man*, (903) 236-7535, artsviewchildrenstheatre.com

18

Milam [18-19] Settlers Day Weekend, (409) 625-4876, milamsettlersday.org

19

Bandera Run/Walk for Diabetes 5K, (830) 796-3448, diabetes.org/communitywalk

Lake Jackson Festival of Lights, (979) 415-2600, lakejackson-tx.gov

Boerne [19-20] Fall Antiques Show, (830) 329-2870, visitboerne.org

20

Giddings Merry Marketplace Arts & Crafts Fair, (979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

25

Waco [25-26] Homestead Fair, (254) 754-9600, homesteadheritage.com



November 12
Martindale
Dam Chili Cook-Off

Clute [Nov. 25-27, Dec. 2-4, 8-10] Elizabethan Madrigal Feast, (979) 265-7661, bcfas.org

26

Luling Christmas Arts and Crafts Show, (830) 875-3214, discoverluling.com

December

1

Jasper Annual Christmas Parade, (409) 384-2762

3

Austin Holiday Sing-Along and Downtown Stroll, (512) 381-6273, downtownaustin.com

Elgin Holiday by the Tracks, (512) 285-4515, elgintxchamber.com

Lago Vista Tree Lighting, (512) 267-7952, lagovistatexas.org

Lewisville Old Town Holiday Stroll and Christmas Parade, (972) 219-3401, cityoflewisville.com

Livingston MannaFest's Christmas Tour of Homes, (713) 256-6533, mannafestlivingstontexas.org

Submit Your Event!

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

How to Be Cut Off From Civilization

When it's you against nature, there's only one tool you need: the stainless steel

River Canyon Bowie Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

The *River Canyon Bowie Knife* hand-forged, unique knife comes shaving sharp with a perfectly fitted hand-tooled sheath. The broad stainless steel blade shines in harmony with the stunning striped horn, wood and bone handle. When you feel the heft of the knife in your hand, you know that you're ready for whatever nature throws at you.

This knife boasts a full tang 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."

With our limited edition *River Canyon Bowie Knife* you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. This quintessential American knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long.

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

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...

★★★★★

"First off, the shipping was fast and the quality is beyond what I paid for the knife. Overall I am a satisfied customer!"

— D., Houston, Texas

River Canyon Bowie Knife ~~\$79*~~

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Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

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Not shown
actual size.

A Story About Elephants

This shop in Comfort is devoted to conservation efforts in Southeast Asia

BY MARY LANCE

SIGNS ON THE ROADS INTO THE BUCOLIC Hill Country town of Comfort tout the village's antique stores, but there also should be a sign that reads: "Home of the only elephant polo store in the world."

That store is Elephant Story, and its mission is to serve as "a home for elephant conservation." The proceeds from the store and the polo games it sponsors benefit endangered Asian elephants and their mahouts—trainers and keepers. The store's proceeds are specifically destined for Moo Baan Chang, a village in northeast Thailand, where 200 rescued elephants, the mahouts and their families live. Mahouts are separated from their elephants only by death.

Elephants are a symbol of sacred power in Thailand, and wild elephants are threatened by human encroachment. Now, thanks to Ed Story and his store, about \$200,000 has been raised, and 200 elephants have been relocated to Moo Baan Chang. Story estimates Thailand is home to 5,000 domesticated elephants.

The nonprofit Elephant Story opened in 2014 and inhabits a limestone building on High Street in the heart of Comfort's historic district. The improbable brain-storm of Story, a retired oilman who lives on a ranch outside Comfort, the shop offers all things elephant-related: Southeast Asian crafts, fabrics, clothing and jewelry, along with rare Black Ivory Coffee at \$50 an ounce.

But why does this elephant aficionado sit astride a 10-foot mammal that weighs 5 tons to play polo in a steaming Southeast Asian jungle clearing?

It's his idea of fun.

How long does it take to train an elephant to play polo?

"About three days," Story says.

Story began his career in the oil and gas business in Bangkok. There he learned



Ed Story's shop in Comfort is all about elephants.

to speak Thai and ride elephants for fun. It was the beginning of his affection for the world's largest land mammal.

"They are really smart," Story says, "and they are the only animals besides humans and apes that feel empathy."

The Asian elephant in Thailand became "unemployed" after teak logging was banned. Before that, the obedient elephants would haul teak logs down steep mountainsides. After the ban, the elephants and mahouts moved to the cities for work. The mahouts often sold sugar cane to tourists to feed the elephants.

Elephant polo was played in India in the early 20th century and then made its way to Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in the early 1990s. Each elephant carries two riders. Because the mahouts know the individual elephants so well, they also are part of the elephant polo matches. The mahout sits behind the elephant's head and guides the animal according to commands from the rider who sits astride, holding the polo mallet. There are two seven-minute chukkars, or periods, each

followed by a 15-minute break. The entire game lasts about an hour.


The Elephant Story hosted the second annual Elephant Story Invitational Tournament last June in Moo Baan Chang. Story invited six teams for the tourney, and each team contributed \$10,000 to the cause.

Story says of his customers, "Do I care if they come? Do I care if they buy?" he asks before answering himself. "Not as much as I care about them getting the concept about promoting sustainability of the animal, elephant."

Elephants are a symbol of sacred power in Thailand, and wild elephants are threatened by human encroachment. So from a store in tiny Comfort, another kind of power—the power of proactive conservation—reaches all the way to Thailand.

Mary Lance is a San Antonio writer who has written for newspapers and numerous magazines.

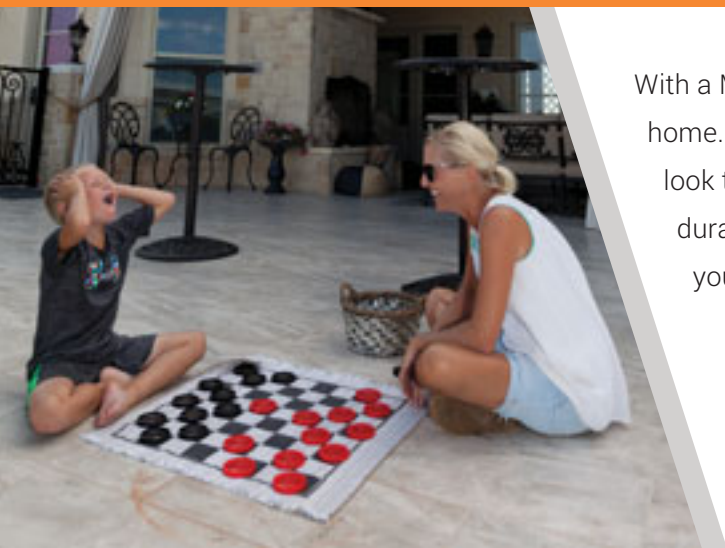
WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

 Learn more about the Elephant Story and elephant conservation.



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