

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



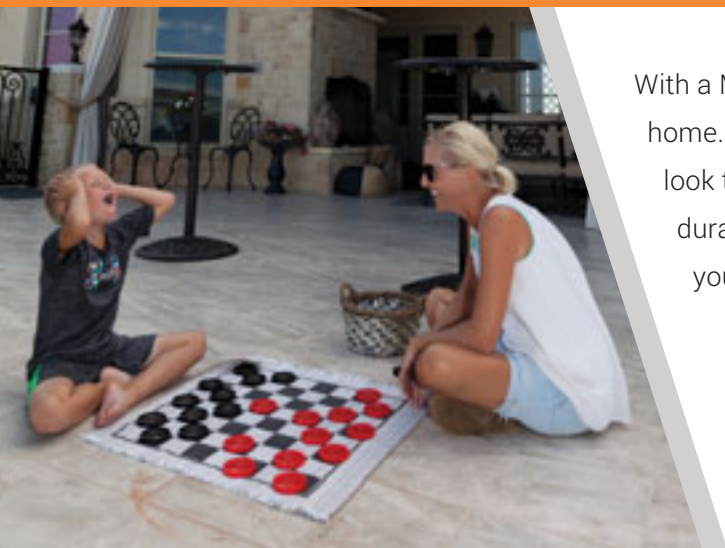
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Reader recipes
celebrate the
festive season



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Sherry Whitaker demonstrates the lap loom at Frontier Christmas in Palo Pinto.

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FRONTIER CHRISTMAS: SCOTT WOMACK. DOMINOES: PZAXE | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ON THE COVER *Stuffed Chicken With Mushroom Pan Jus* by Karen Bergman of Trinity Valley EC wins the grand prize. Photo by Melissa Skorpil

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Unsung Heroes

I have, for years, been a member of one co-op or another, and I have nothing but the highest admiration for the linemen.

We have suffered through many storms living in Port Lavaca, and it seems that the linemen who get the power back on are always on duty. I have seen them out climbing poles to work on transformers when the lightning was still flashing and the rain still pouring.

Thank you, thank you, thank you—for these brave people and the wonderful work they do.

JOYCE D. SCHAEFER | PORT LAVACA
PEDERNALES, VICTORIA AND KARNES ECS

The October issue was a truly great read. As an avid birder, I loved the short story of our lineman taking care of the owl that was stuck in the wire [*Currents, A Favor for a Feathered Friend*, October 2016]. Also noted was the fact that linemen always attempt such rescues.

Second, the article describing the work of the linemen was outstanding. These men are our unsung heroes! They are brave and unselfish. Keep up the good work.

JUDY MORGAN | FREDERICKSBURG
CENTRAL TEXAS EC



Lineman Pride

I am so proud of my husband and how dedicated he is to the cooperative way of life and work [*Line of Duty* and *Texas Lineman's Rodeo*, October 2016]. He has

been a lineman for over 25 years. Such is the life of

a lineman's wife—allowing another woman to call in the middle of the night saying, "I need you." It's never bothered me. When the dispatcher calls, he goes—no matter what time of day or night, the horrible weather, ice storms, hurricanes and tornadoes. It's part of the dedication for these first responders, lifesavers, eyes in the sky.

The articles were very informative to many who just take it all for granted.

DEBBIE REECE | HOWE | GRAYSON-COLLIN EC



Spreading Barn Quilts

Inspired by the barn quilts in my home state of Wisconsin and those we saw in Bonham and in Honey Grove, my friend, Anne Marie Bonzo, and I painted four for our community center [*A New Trail in Texas*, October 2016]. We're working on a fifth for Weston's old post office. We hope they spread.

PATTI HARRINGTON | MAYOR OF WESTON
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

My husband and I especially enjoyed *A New Trail in Texas*.

A friend had told us about barn quilts, and, because I am learning to quilt, we decided to try one. We live in Central Texas and haven't seen many here yet, but we hope it catches on.

DIANA REEVES | BLANCO
PEDERNALES EC

XERF Blasting to Ohio

Border Radio [March 2016] was first-rate, which is common for your magazine. As a teenager in rural, early-1960s Ohio, I would tune in to 250,000-watt XERF hailing from Del Rio late at night, loud and clear.

DARRYL V. HOLCOMB | DE KALB
BOWIE-CASS EC

Powered by Bandera

I was born and raised on our ranch in the hills of Bandera. Until I was 17, we had no electricity, only oil lamps, and no running water, only spring water. We moved into a new house in 1948, and that's when

we first got electricity, with lights, electric stove, running water and radio.

All these years later, I still love my Bandera home with the same Bandera Electric Cooperative electricity.

BETTYE JEANE MOORE | SAN ANTONIO
BANDERA EC

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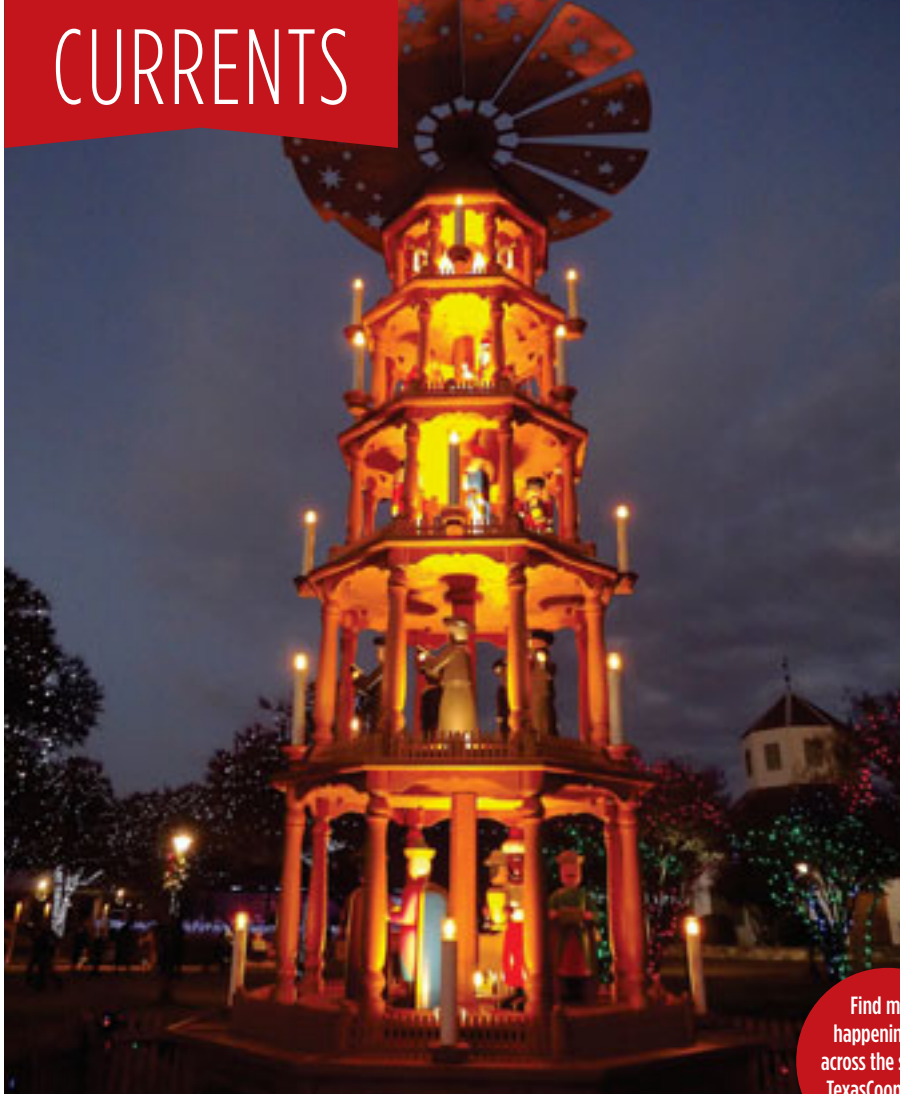
Texas Co-op Power

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HAPPENINGS

Fredericksburg's German Christmas Pyramid

The centerpiece of the holidays in **FREDERICKSBURG** is the wooden **GERMAN CHRISTMAS PYRAMID** that lights up Marktplatz starting the Friday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the first week of January.

Called a *Weihnachtspyramide* in German, the carousel-like tower is 26 feet tall. Pyramids are traditional decorations from centuries ago in the country's eastern mountains. They were created, in part, to teach children Bible stories. Some believe the custom of Christmas trees evolved from this art form.

INFO ▶ (830) 997-6523, visitfredericksburgtx.com

Did you know?



DURING THE REFORMATION and up until the middle of the **1800s**, Christmas often was not celebrated because merry-making was seen as unchristian. After about 1840, celebrating Christmas became more widespread. **December 25** was declared a federal holiday in the United States in 1870.

CO-OP PEOPLE

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR BREAK

STUDENTS look forward to winter break and so do teachers, though one says the respite is a great time to recharge and expand your love for knowledge. Brady High School's **MARTHA SAUCEDO**—a Government-in-Action Youth Tour alumna sponsored by Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative in 1994—was named secondary teacher of the year by the Texas Association of School Administrators. Saucedo suggests these activities:



LEARN SOMETHING “Take a break from education, but not learning, by participating in a cooking class—even if it’s with Mom or Grandma.”

HAVE FUN “Make a bucket list and let the adventures begin.”

GIVE BACK “Maya Angelou said it best: ‘People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’ Deliver food or gifts to the less fortunate. There’s no better time than now to make people feel loved.”



WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com
See more of Saucedo’s suggestions for getting the most out of your winter break.

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A Churning Divide

THE BUTTER STICKS that Texans cook with differ from those west of the Rockies. Butter was packaged in long, skinny sticks in the eastern part of the U.S. long before dairies in the West began packaging operations. When they did, they produced short, squat sticks of butter called “Western Stubbies.”



TEXAS and the eastern U.S. use butter sticks called “Elgins”—pronounced *EL-jins*—named for the Elgin Butter Company of Elgin, Illinois. The Central Texas town of Elgin, known as the Sausage Capital of Texas, is pronounced *EL-gin*.

ALMANAC

Texan’s Heroics at Pearl Harbor



Admiral Chester W. Nimitz pins the Navy Cross on Doris Miller at a ceremony at Pearl Harbor, May 27, 1942.



THIS YEAR MARKS the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which forced the U.S. into World War II.

On December 7, 1941, **DORIS MILLER** of Willow Grove was a mess attendant on the USS West Virginia. Dorie, as his shipmates called him, was gathering dirty laundry just before 8 a.m. when the first bombs blasted his ship.

As an African-American sailor limited to servant duties in the segregated Navy, he had not received gunnery training, but he went to the main deck during the attack, manned a 50-caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun and fired until he ran out of ammunition.

“It wasn’t hard,” Miller said. “I just pulled the trigger, and she worked fine. I guess I fired her for about 15 minutes. I think I got one of those ... planes. They were diving pretty close to us.”

He became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross, awarded for courage under fire. On November 24, 1943, he was serving on the USS Liscome Bay in the South Pacific when it was torpedoed. Miller was one of the 646 sailors who perished.

WORTH REPEATING

“Watson ... if I can get a mechanism which will make a current of electricity vary in its intensity, as the air varies in density when a sound is passing through it, I can telegraph any sound, even the sound of speech.”

— ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL



SAFETY ALERT

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Most of us recognize the UL mark, an emblem that stands for Underwriters Laboratories and appears on packaging of electrical products that have passed tests in a safety certification lab.

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Yuletide OUT



YONDER



Texans rewind to pioneer days with Christmas festivities



By Gene Fowler

H

oliday traditions are deeply embedded in Texas culture. Even though the gifts we place under our brightly decorated trees are likely to be high-tech gadgets of futuristic wizardry, we still treasure the customs of those who came before. Every holiday season, historically minded Texans honor the pioneers who lit candles of holiday celebration along the still-wild frontier.

Old-time Christmas festivities take place all across the state. Last December, I joined folks in Palo Pinto for the ninth annual Frontier Christmas at the Old Jail Museum Complex. The grounds are anchored by the 1880 two-story jail, which held Palo Pinto County outlaws until 1941 and became the area's history museum in 1968. These days, log cabins with period furnishings populate the site, along with the three-story Black Springs Fort building. During the holidays, the complex is decked with boughs of holly and mistletoe as *fa-la-las* and children's laughter fill the air. Last year, the Jailhouse Band, an electrified country-western group, added to the yuletide spirit with lively renditions of *Jingle Bells* and other seasonal standards. Frontier Christmas is December 8 this year.

Posted inside cabins and on porches, re-enactors in period attire demonstrated quilting, spinning, dollmaking, storytelling, and other pioneer pastimes and crafts. Other frontier fashionistas, such as county sheriff candidate Brett McGuire, strolled about the grounds. McGuire sported a cavalry captain's uniform, while wife Gail's blue gown would have made her the belle of any Old West ball. "When you put the clothes on and visit these buildings," McGuire observed, "you really feel like you're back in the days before we had electricity."

Making a rug with her lap loom, Sherry Whitaker of Weatherford invented a persona for her re-enacting. "I'm Abigail

From left: The hurdy-gurdy is one of the featured instruments during Frontier Christmas in Palo Pinto. The First Christian Church is a centerpiece of the festival, which showcases folks, including Gail and Brett McGuire, dressed in period attire.

BACKGROUND: HAYGUSTIN | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; INSET PHOTOS: SCOTT WOMACK; ROCKING HORSE: ROBERT CERNOHLAVEK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Guthrie,” she said as youngsters gathered around her on a log cabin porch. “My husband was a minister who was killed in the Civil War. Folks call me Miss Abbie.” She explained that Civil War-era Texans couldn’t import any fabric from St. Louis because of the federal blockade, so they gathered wool from sheep and dyed it with pecan shells. “You’d boil the pecan shells in water to make a butternut color.”

Quilter Tricia Hopkins of Lake Palo Pinto made me think of the quilts my grandmother used to give us kids for Christmas. “That’s what everybody says; their grandmother used to make quilts,” Hopkins commented. “Quilting skipped a generation, but it’s a time-honored tradition that hasn’t died. Surprisingly, the boys here are just as interested in it as the girls.”

Living-history interpreters Frank and Berta Molinets demonstrated how to make a doll using strips of clothing and acorns from a burr oak tree. He worked the fabric to create doll torsos, and she prepared the acorns to serve as heads. In another cabin, re-enactor Carla Hay-Perdue pedaled her spinning wheel to make bright green yarn. Asked where she learned the pioneer craft, Hay-Perdue paused a beat for comedic timing, then replied, “On the internet.”

Cowboys, quilters and other re-enactors strive to present Palo Pinto visitors with a genuine frontier experience. The pioneer-era buildings at the Old Jail Museum Complex in this North Central Texas town add to the ambience.

Wandering farther into the museum grounds, I heard the high lonesome song of a Native American flute. “I’m of Shawnee heritage,” said flute player Danica Alsobrook, known as Danica Lee. “And I make and play my own Native American flutes, mostly from walnut and cedar woods.” Also a painter and sculptor, she creates and displays paintings and flutes in the White Indian Studio in downtown Palo Pinto.

Frontier Christmas celebrants take hay wagon rides the half-mile or so to the 1880s First Christian Church. Last year, one of the hayride mules was under the weather, so the ride was powered by tractor. The church, restored after sitting vacant for a quarter century, was filled with poinsettias and the spicy fragrances of scented candles. “The bentwood pews and other furnishings are original,” said Joe Maddux, Frontier Christmas volunteer coordinator.

In 2015, the Fort Worth group Buttermilk Junction provided music in the church. A Palo Pinto perennial, the “unplugged” ensemble supplemented its seasonal offerings with such historic chestnuts as *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor?* and the 1860s version of *Yellow Rose of Texas*. Buttermilk Junction members played the banjo, wooden flute, guitar, shaker drum, concertina, washboard and harmonica. They also performed with an antique stringed instrument called a “hurdy-gurdy,” which is played by turning a crank with the right hand to drive a wheel that plays notes on the strings, while simultaneously playing a keyboard with the left hand.



During the holidays, Palo Pinto's Old Jail Museum Complex is decked with boughs of holly and mistletoe as *fa-la-las* and children's laughter fill the air.

Buttermilk Junction's Christmas concert in the historic church was dedicated to Elizabeth Ann Woodward Cox. The great-grandmother of band member Michael Lee Garrett, Cox was a pioneer schoolteacher in Palo Pinto County. Seeing her photograph at the altar got me thinking about my own gone-but-not-forgotten folks and how they must have marked the festive occasion on the Texas frontier.

Even without direct familial ties, your Christmas spirit will be merrier and more meaningful with a visit to a pioneer-themed holiday celebration. One of these Christmases, I might mosey out to Anson for the Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball, which takes place this year December 15-17 at historic Pioneer Hall. The hall was built in 1940 especially for the ball, originally held in Anson's Star Hotel back in 1885.

Cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphey is scheduled to perform at the ball, and you can bet the ranch he'll do his version of Larry Chittenden's classic poem, *The Cowboy's Christmas Ball*.

I'd also like to head out to San Angelo for Christmas at Old Fort Concho, taking place December 2-4. The celebration sprawls over all 40 acres and through 24 buildings at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. Merchants and artisans from across Texas and

the Southwest will be set up at the fort, most likely with the perfect gift for that eccentric individual on your Christmas list.

The Winter Rendezvous during Christmas at Old Fort Concho promises campsites with a large cast of re-enactors and period traders who bring the 1800s back to life with music, drills and historic displays. Crafts, rides and other activities will keep the kiddos occupied, along with a variety of musical entertainment onstage and on the grounds.

The more Christmas the merrier, so I might also set my compass for the Christmas Open House at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, which will be festooned December 2-3 à la Christmas 1890s. The celebration will include caroling, storytelling and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

One story told at the 2010 open house grew up to be a book, *The Christmas Potato* (Tate Publishing, 2011) by West Texas A&M University professor Paula Schlegel. "My oldest son was in fifth grade at the time and commented that the stories were too young for him," Schlegel said. "He wondered why there were no suspenseful Christmas stories. Within moments, the story came into my brain and out of my mouth."

And that's the best kind of Christmas gift.

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.

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One Man's Bad Deeds

BEN LEATON'S 19TH-CENTURY FRAUD TOPS THE LIST OF LAND SCAMS THAT BEDEVIL TEXAS

News stories about fraudulent internet-based land auctions in West Texas remind us that land fraud has been part of Texas life since the beginning of settlement here. In response to the modern-day scams, Jeff Davis County lawyer Bart Medley told a *USA Today* reporter that “much of the property was advertised with photos showing things like running water, green trees and green grass—things that simply don’t exist in that particular location.”

Medley’s words echoed similar ones spoken by Texas pioneer Noah Smithwick when he described a gang selling counterfeit Mexican land certificates to settlers coming to East Texas in 1831.

Both groups were peddling something that did not exist.

The biggest of all Texas land scams took place in the Big Bend, where everything is bigger, and it involved some bigger-than-life characters. At the heart of the story is Ben Leaton, a former scalp hunter who traveled north from Chihuahua City in 1848 with a woman named Juana Pedraza. Leaton moved his outfit into the ruins of an old Spanish fort on the north side of the Rio Grande about 4 miles downstream from Presidio del Norte (now Ojinaga, Chihuahua).

He transformed the ruins into a 40-room, walled adobe trading post, which he called Fort Leaton. There, he exchanged guns and ammunition with the Apaches for stolen livestock. John Caperton, who spent several days at Fort Leaton in 1849, described Leaton as “a remarkable man who had been all of his life in the mountains, knew nothing of government or law, was a law to himself.”

Gov. Angel Trias of Chihuahua, in a letter of complaint to U.S. Army Maj. Jefferson Van Horn about Leaton’s trade with Native Americans, called him a man “who does as he pleases, without respecting either the authorities of the Presidio or the laws of the country.”

STORY BY
LONN TAYLOR

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JACK MOLLOY

Leaton’s fort occupied the only acreage in the river valley suitable for agriculture, and there were several Mexican farmers growing crops on it. Leaton dispossessed the farmers by paying Cesario Herrera, the *alcalde*, or mayor, of Presidio del Norte, to forge a title to the land for him.

Then he convinced Herrera to forge a grant of 225 leagues (about 1 million acres) of land in what is now Brewster, Presidio and Jeff Davis counties. The grant was backdated to 1832 and purportedly made by Herrera to a Mexican army captain, Jose Ygnacio Ronquillo, who had been living at Presidio del Norte and had been killed in a battle with Apaches in 1834 or 1835. Herrera also forged field notes for a survey of the grant and a chain of title that involved transfers of the grant from Ronquillo to Hipolito Acosta and from Acosta to Pedraza, Leaton’s common-law wife. Herrera and Leaton were careful to ensure that all the people named in the forged documents, except Pedraza, were dead.

Leaton intended to have his million-acre grant confirmed by the Texas Legislature, but he died before he could complete the process, and his heirs failed to follow through on it. Everyone forgot about the Ronquillo Grant until 1884, when silver was discovered at Shafter, and the Presidio Mining Company opened a mine there.

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Leaton's grandson, Victor Ochoa, revived his family's claim. A picturesque figure who inherited some of his grandfather's characteristics, Ochoa launched a revolution against Porfirio Diaz from El Paso in 1893 and as a result ended up in the federal penitentiary in Brooklyn for violating the Neutrality Act. He invented and patented a streetcar brake, a fountain pen, an adjustable wrench and a flying machine he called an ornithopter, described by one writer as looking like "two bicycles being attacked by a pterodactyl." Ochoa was also deeply involved in the Mexican Revolution of 1910–1920.

David Romo, in his history of El Paso during that revolution, summed up Ochoa's career by calling him a "revolutionist, federal prisoner, inventor, corporate president, writer, arms smuggler, *narcotraficante*, currency counterfeiter, secret service informant and mine owner."

Ochoa hired Trevanion Teel, a flamboyant San Antonio lawyer who once won a murder case by swallowing the indictment and then challenging the state's attorney to produce it, to sue the mining company for \$1 million plus \$6,000 a month rent.

While Teel was preparing his case, another claimant appeared, a Juarez attorney named Estanislado Ronquillo, who said that he was the grandson of Capt. Jose Ygnacio Ronquillo and thus the legitimate heir to the grant. Teel had attorney Ronquillo arrested for asserting a false land claim and was able to prove it in court. He demonstrated that even though Ronquillo's grandfather was indeed named Jose Ygnacio Ronquillo, he had never been a captain in the Mexican army and had never lived at Presidio. Therefore, he was not the man to whom the grant had allegedly been made.

Before that arrest took place, however, the faux descendant had already sold his claim to James T. Fitzgerald of Las Vegas, New Mexico, for \$100,000. Fitzgerald, in turn, sold two-thirds of his interest to Seth Crews of Chicago for \$150,000, and then

Crews and Fitzgerald jointly sold the whole grant to Ernest Dale Owen, a Chicago investor representing something called the Chicago and Texas Land and Cattle Company, for the incredible sum of \$4.5 million.

Owen bought Ochoa's claim, which got Teel out of the way, and in 1892 filed suit against the Presidio Mining Company. The case ended up in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, and the testimony given there provides insight into conditions around Fort Leaton in 1850.

Depositions were taken from everyone who knew Leaton, Pedraza and Herrera. As historian Jefferson Morgenthaler puts it in his book *The River Has Never Divided Us* (University of Texas Press, 2004), "Owen got pounded at the trial. ... Witnesses testified that Ben Leaton was a scoundrel, that Cesario Herrera had been taken to Chihuahua in shackles for forging land grants, that enormous land grants were illegal, that the conditions to the purported grant had never been met or waived."

Jose Policarpo Rodriguez, a highly respected Methodist minister whose signature as chain carrier was on the field notes of the survey filed by Leaton in San Antonio in 1850, testified that he knew the surveyor whose name was on the field notes, R.A. Howard.

"WITNESSES TESTIFIED THAT BEN LEATON WAS A SCOUNDREL, that Cesario Herrera had been taken to Chihuahua in shackles for forging land grants, that enormous land grants were illegal, that the conditions to the purported grant had never been met or waived."



Rodriguez said he carried the chain for Howard on many surveys, but that he could not remember walking around a 2,345.5-square-mile tract of land with him in the summer of 1850.

John W. Spencer, a neighbor and one-time business partner of Leaton's, testified that even though the grant was supposedly made in 1832, no one around Presidio had heard about it until 1849. Victoriano Hernandez testified that he was 76 years old and had lived at or near Presidio all of his life, that he had first met Jose Ygnacio Ronquillo in 1824 and knew him well, and that he had not heard of the Ronquillo grant until long after Ronquillo's death. The court concluded, in Morgenthaler's words, that "the Ronquillo land grant had been a scam from start to finish," and Owen was left holding the bag for \$4.5 million.

The theme of this tale is that it is possible to make money out of land anywhere in Texas if you can find the right sucker to pass it on to before the bottom drops out of the deal.

Historian **Lonn Taylor** writes from his home in Fort Davis.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Leaton's fort is now the Fort Leaton State Historic Site.

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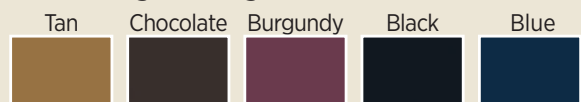
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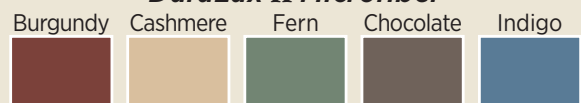
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Preventing Electrical Fires



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When decorating the tree this year, be sure not to overload outlets or damage electric cords.

AN ESTIMATED 37,900 HOME FIRES that involved electrical distribution and lighting equipment were reported in 2014, according to the National Fire Protection Association. These fires resulted in approximately 530 deaths, 1,290 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage.

Take steps to help prevent accidents by identifying possible safety problems before they occur. Your electric cooperative offers the following checklist to help find possible issues with your electrical system or appliances before they become a fire hazard in your home:

Electrical outlets: Check for loose-fitting plugs and loose wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates. If you have young children, install tamper-resistant outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

Electrical wiring: If an outlet is not working, it might indicate unsafe wiring. Have an electrician check it out. Also check for

loose wires and loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters: Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry room, workshop, basement, garage and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset buttons at least monthly to ensure that they are working properly.

Arc-fault circuit interrupters: Consider having AFCIs installed in your home. An AFCI installed in a circuit breaker monitors the flow of electricity throughout your home. If the AFCI detects any abnormality, it will shut the system off, preventing a fire.

Plugs: Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a plug fit into a two-prong outlet.

Cords: Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, tightly wrapped around any object, or located in high-traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

Extension cords: These are not intended as permanent household wiring, so use them on a temporary basis only. If you find

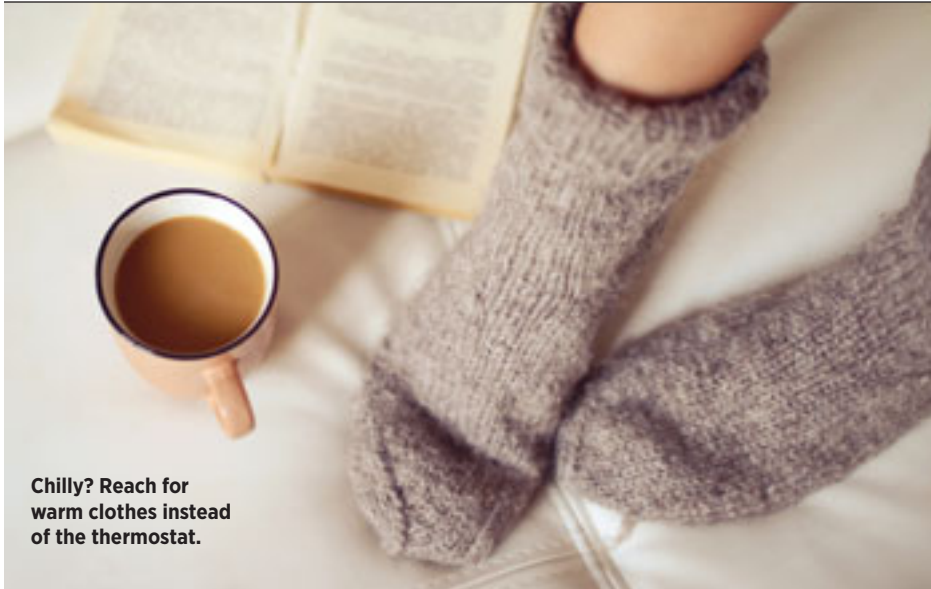
you need more electrical outlets, talk to an electrician about installing more so you will not need to use extension cords.

Lightbulbs: Verify that your lightbulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture they are in, and make sure they are screwed in securely so they do not overheat.

Appliances and electronics: If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Make sure your appliances and electronics are placed in dry locations. If an appliance has been water-damaged, replace it.

Circuit breakers or fuses: Check that circuit breakers are working properly. Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting.

Service capacity: If fuses blow or trip frequently, you might need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Contact a qualified electrician.



Chilly? Reach for warm clothes instead of the thermostat.

Stay Safe and Warm This Winter

HEATING A HOME TYPICALLY ACCOUNTS FOR 45 PERCENT of energy bills, making it the largest utility expense for most consumers, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Being aware of potential hazards and using the device that's most efficient for your needs can make a big difference in safety and comfort. Your electric cooperative offers tips for heating your home in safe and smart ways.

Furnace: Check your furnace at least annually. Removing built-up debris can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently. Also remember to replace your furnace filter regularly during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the airflow and make your home more energy efficient.

Thermostat: Turning the thermostat down a few degrees when you are away from home or sleeping also helps reduce your monthly utility bill. To help you do this automatically, consider investing in a programmable thermostat, which can lead to a 10–15 percent reduction in energy costs.

Space heaters: Space heaters are not cost-efficient when used to heat more than one or two small areas. However, they are a smart option when only one room needs to be heated. Make sure that you consider safety first and purchase only certified models that have been tested by an independent laboratory. Always place your space heater on a steady surface away from foot traffic to prevent it from being knocked over, and be on the lookout for units with a tip-over switch.

Electric blankets and heating pads: Make yourself aware of manufacturer's instructions, and use the product only as it is intended. Never use an electric blanket that is wet, or folded so that the wires are crimped. Perform regular checks to look for scorch marks or visible damage.

Fireplaces: Always make sure that your chimney is clear, and open the damper if there are warm ashes in the hearth that could lead to a dangerous build-up of poisonous gases.

Small-scale strategies: Remember not to overlook minor changes to help you stay warm this winter. When possible, dress in layers, with clothes that are tight and close to the skin so that they can trap heat near the body. Switch the rotation of your ceiling fan that so it circles in a clockwise direction, blowing rising warm air downward. Additionally, use curtains to help block out the cold air when closed at night and to let in the sun's heat when parted during the day.

Safely Operate Your Portable Generator

WHEN YOU'VE LOST POWER, a portable generator can provide electricity to keep your home warm and power appliances. However, used improperly, a generator can present serious hazards.

Before using a generator, read the instructions and specifications. It should have more capacity than the combined wattage of the electronics you will plug into it. Make sure nothing is plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Never connect a portable generator directly to home wiring. This can result in potentially deadly backfeed, when electricity gets fed back through the electrical system and meter into power lines, creating a hazard to lineworkers and others near downed lines.

Never use a portable generator indoors. Carbon monoxide emissions can be deadly. Operate the generator outside in an open but protected space from which fumes can dissipate harmlessly.

Install a carbon monoxide detector, and be on the lookout for the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, headaches and lethargy. If you or someone else is showing these symptoms, move into fresh air and seek medical attention.

Run your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure that it is running properly and will be ready if you need it.

Keep your family safe this season by using generators according to the instructions.



Ode to Right Field

The grim reality of baseball's loneliest position

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

MY YEARS AS A SOFTBALL BUM CAME TO an inglorious end several years ago when the callous coach of an Austin slow-pitch team sent me to right field.

"So," I thought as I trotted out to the game's loneliest position. "It's come to this."

The relegation to right field also completed a circle that began with my first season of Little League, when I was 8. Even then I knew right field was the place they send you when they don't have confidence in your ability to track and catch a ball. The typical Little League right fielder's idea of catching a ball is to wait until it stops rolling then pick it up.

Without getting too technical for the baseball-challenged: Little Leaguers generally don't hit the ball to right field because most are right-handed and tend to send the ball toward the left side of the field. They might pop one into right field by swinging a tad late on a pitch, but the typical Little League pitcher doesn't throw hard enough to make that likely.

Right fielders on slow-pitch softball teams see even less action than Little Leaguers because, well, it's slow pitch. You can practically go get a drink of water when the pitcher lets the ball go and still be back at the plate in time to whack one over the left-field fence. When a left-handed batter comes up, the more calculating teams switch their right and left fielders, demonstrating to one and all that the right fielder might be a good person but a sorry ballplayer.

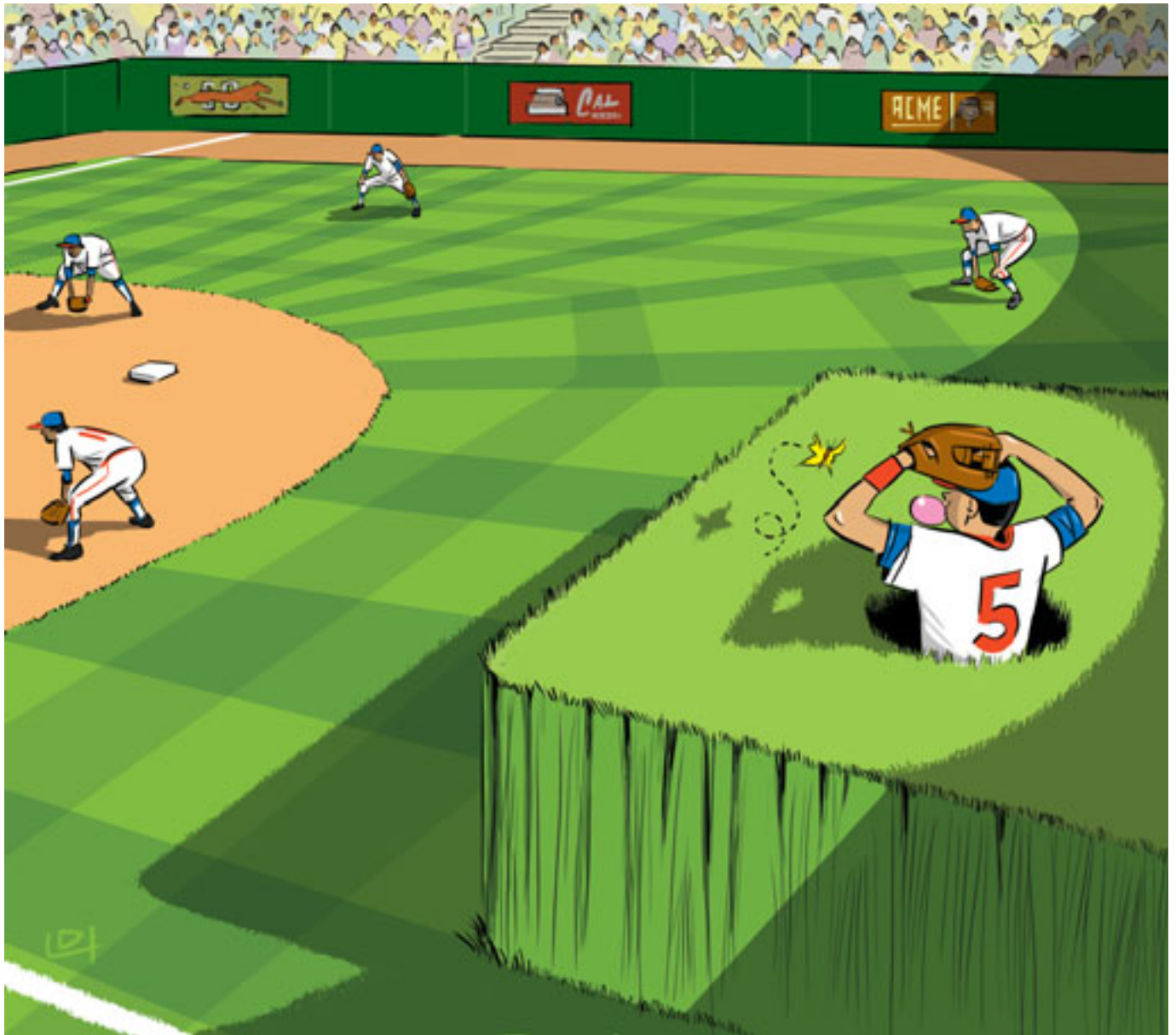
As a kid, I worked my way out of right field and played every other position except first base (too short) and catcher

(too skinny) as part of organized ball. I went from batting last to batting leadoff. I played a little high school ball and joined summer-league teams until my late teens then moved to Austin and became a softball bum, usually playing shortstop or left field. My chosen lifestyle endeared me to my buddies a lot more than to my creditors, who cared not at all that I was batting .600 for a city league B team and hadn't made an error in four straight games.

One summer, as the coach of a Little League team, I had to explain to a despondent right fielder-to-be that some of the greatest players in the game—legends like Roberto Clemente, Roger Maris and Hank Aaron—patrolled right field on their way to the Hall of Fame. This kid had never heard of any of those guys. Off to right field he went. Later I realized I should have mentioned Babe Ruth, who also played right field at times. Surely the kid had heard of him.

I thought of that reluctant player while I was in right field during my last "official" softball game. Not much happened. No surprise, since I was, after all, in right field. I do remember one fly ball near the foul line that I caught without too much trouble. I tossed the ball to the center fielder, who threw it back to the infield for me because I've got this bad rotator cuff that I tore playing all those positions other than right field. Hurts like hell when I try to throw hard.

A few years after hanging up my glove for good, I happened to be in the stands watching a Little League game in Georgetown when I spied a secluded and forgotten



right fielder sitting cross-legged on the grass, staring intently at what I guessed was a caterpillar crawling across the fingers of what would have been his glove hand—if his glove hadn't been several feet away.

Then the unthinkable happened: Someone smashed a hard line drive to right field! There wasn't even time to holler a warning as the ball whizzed directly toward the boy and his insect with unsettling velocity. The caterpillar-absorbed right fielder avoided a ground-rule concussion when the ball hit a few feet in front of him, bounced high over his head and rolled all the way to the fence.

By then, base runners were circling the bases while everybody in the park—even the players on the other team—were yelling at the right fielder to go get the ball.

The ball! Go get the ball! He looked up, puzzled. *A ball? You need a ball? OK.* He stood up, reached into his back pocket and pulled out a ball he just happened to have with him, lobbed it in the general direction of the hollering and then started looking around in the grass for his caterpillar, which must have fallen by the wayside during all the excitement.

Although not all Little League right fielders graduate to positions of power like pitcher or shortstop, I'll bet at least some of them grow up to be entomologists or scholars because right field can be a great study hall for any number of activities—even baseball which, like life, always finds you, no matter what position you play.

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

Stepping Into the Same Stream Twice

Scientists work to restore habitat along Terlingua Creek in the Big Bend

BY CRAIG SPRINGER

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER HERACLITUS reasoned 2,500 years ago that everything flows and nothing remains, so no man ever steps into the same river twice.

But we can try.

Among those trying is Jeff Bennett, a physical scientist at Big Bend National Park who specializes in hydrology, the science of how water moves on and under land. He's working with Mike Montagne, a fish biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in San Marcos. Big Bend is in Montagne's bailiwick. These two, along with other scientists, strive to restore some semblance of what Terlingua Creek was like more than a century ago. They pursue this goal to improve fish and wildlife habitats, some of it essential for the conservation of threatened or endangered bird and fish species.

Terlingua Creek flows south out of the desert canyons in Big Bend National Park, draining a watershed of 1,100 square miles, an area slightly smaller than Rhode Island. It is a wild and remote piece of the national park system. Yet the remoteness didn't save the streamside woodlands more than a century ago. Now almost treeless, Terlingua Creek once teemed with wildlife, its water purling through lush cottonwood and willow galleries that lined its course. The water remained hidden from the blistering sun, cooled by the shade and slowed by beaver dams as it poured toward the Rio Grande.

Then everything changed. The trees were harvested for firewood to fuel nearby mining operations. That altered the creek's

course and disturbed its hydrology to the point that the trees did not reproduce. The stream became unsteady and prone to flash flooding, with the water unshaded and no longer suitable for fish. Now, permanently flowing water appears in only about 40 percent of the 84-mile-long creek.

To make Terlingua Creek more hospitable for fish and wildlife, Bennett and Montagne copied nature by planting scads of willow poles two years ago. "In our first phase, we stuck 1,800 willows in 5 acres of gravel beds—deep, so that they would stay wet and root first then leaf out," Bennett said.

The willow poles were harvested from existing stands within the Terlingua Creek watershed and nearby Rio Grande and planted in diamond-shaped patterns with a "spear" pointed upstream. "The shape mimics how groups of plants naturally arrange themselves against flowing water," Bennett noted. "It seems to be working—the willows are 5 feet tall, green and happy, and catching sediment. That stabilizes the stream bank. The trees slow water movement; they're like a sponge, sending more water to storage underground."

Underground is where you will find tree roots. These 5 acres, along with the stands still to be planted, are future habitats for endangered birds, such as the yellow-billed cuckoo. It's a bird that nests in stands of established streamside willows and cottonwoods. Gray hawks and common black hawks also will take to galleries of willows and cottonwoods. Cottonwood trees are expected to recolonize naturally in the protection of the new willow stands.



Another element of this conservation endeavor is expanding habitat for the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow. The small fish once swam along the expansive reach of its namesake river and nearby tributaries. In Texas, the Rio Grande silvery minnow populates the river in Big Bend. The silvery fish are there because of releases from the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery, and building more habitats is an essential conservation measure.

The Rio Grande basin is a concentrated area of emphasis for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which helps fund the Terlingua Creek restoration work. Montagne and staff have been in the water monitor-

ing fish populations, measuring physical changes in the creek's structure and surveying differences in aquatic bugs as bellwether signs of water quality. Aquatic insect populations are important as food for fish and birds.

To take the Rio Grande silvery minnow off the endangered species list, some work needs doing, Montagne said. "Three separate, distinct, self-supporting populations of silvery minnows need to be established to downlist the fish. This site around Terlingua Creek and the Rio Grande in Big Bend is No. 2," said Montagne. "We planted silvery minnow in Big Bend from 2008 to 2012, and more fish came last fall."

If anything is certain in the natural world, it is impermanence. Even though Terlingua Creek will not soon offer the pristine waters and wildlife habitat of the time when cottonwoods towered over its banks more than a century ago, the partnership between the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service moves that goal closer.

With perseverance and improved habitats, the streamside trees will return, the Rio Grande silvery minnow will swim its waters, and the imperiled birds will return each spring to nest and fledge once again.

Craig Springer works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Southwest Region office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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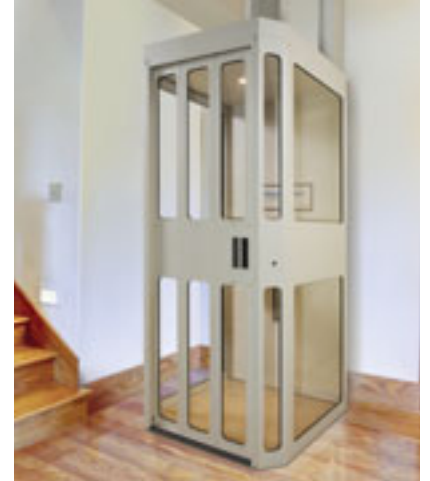
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Revolutionary elevator can give you— and your home's value— a lift

Elevators have been around since the mid 19th century, and you can find them in almost every multi-story structure around... except homes. That's because installing an elevator in a home has always been a complicated and expensive home renovation project... until now.

Innovative designers have created a home elevator that can be easily installed almost anywhere in your home by our professional team. Its small

“footprint” and self-contained lift mechanism adds convenience and value to your home and quality to your life. It's called the Easy Climber® Elevator. Call us now and we can tell you just how simple it is to own.

For many people, particularly seniors, climbing stairs can be a struggle and a health threat. Some have installed motorized stair lifts, but they block access to the stairs and are hardly an enhancement to your home's

décor. By contrast, the Easy Climber® Elevator can be installed almost anywhere in your home. That way you can move easily and safely from floor to floor without struggling or worse yet... falling.

Why spend another day without this remarkable convenience. Knowledgeable product experts are standing by to answer any questions you may have. Call Now!

“We are tickled about our new elevator. This is the first time I've seen the second floor of my home! It's like an early Christmas present.”

*Stan W. US war veteran
and retired professor*



Call now to find out how you can get your own Easy Climber Elevator.

Please mention promotional code 104753.

For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours a day. **1-888-568-1442**

Not available in all areas. Call to see if you qualify.

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Own the "Gem of the Century"



Incredibly rare find is now available to the public for **ONLY \$59!**

For centuries, the "Big Four"—diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires—ruled the gem world. When tanzanite debuted in 1967, it was a sensation. Unlike those other stones, which are mined all over the world, tanzanite can be found in only one place on Earth: in the remote Merelani Hills in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

HUGE SAVINGS
TAKE 85% OFF THE
KARATU TANZANITE RING
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Gem of the century meets deal of the century. With its remarkable rarity and unique gemstone qualities, it's no wonder that experts have dubbed it, "the gemstone of the 20th century." In recent years, top-quality tanzanite gems have fetched higher prices at auction than rubies, emeralds or diamonds! But because we buy direct and use our own designers, we are able to offer you this rare beauty for **ONLY \$59!**

What makes tanzanite so irresistible to jewelers and gem experts? Part of its appeal is the beautiful violet blue color. Tanzanite is also trichroic—which means that three different colors are visible when the stone is viewed from different angles.

"This ring is unbelievable. I've owned some spectacular high-dollar gemstones in my life and this ring will compete with any of them!" —Katharine, Shreveport, LA

Henry Platt, past president and chairman of Tiffany & Company, called Tanzanite "The most important gemstone discovery in over 2,000 years."

A gemstone found only one place on earth, means supply is extremely limited. Get your hands on the *Karatu Tanzanite Ring* before they're gone!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the rare beauty of the *Karatu Tanzanite Ring* for two months. If you're not completely awestruck, simply send it back within 60 days for a complete refund of the sale price. We want you to feel like you got the deal of the century!

With over 4,000 sold, we currently have less than 2,000 in stock!

Karatu Tanzanite Ring ~~\$399*~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$59** + S&P Save **\$340!**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

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Please use this code when you order to receive your discount.

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* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

1 1/5 carats of genuine tanzanite • Lab-created white DiamondAura accents • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10

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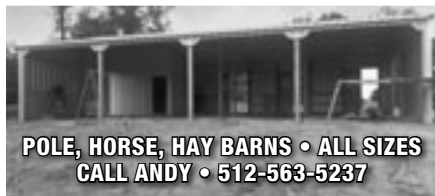


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huisach and other brush problems

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SUPER COUPON

16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE

PITTSBURGH CLAW RIP

ITEM 69006 60715/60714

ITEM 47873 shown 69005/61262

Customer Rating ★★★★★

YOUR CHOICE

SAVE 77%

\$399 ~~\$499~~

comp at \$17.99

54000422

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SUPER COUPON

1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE

Includes Ram, Hook and Chain

PITTSBURGH

ITEM 69445

61858/69512 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$169

\$9999 ~~\$17999~~

comp at \$269

53974368

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SUPER COUPON

3-POINT QUICK HITCH

HaulMaster

ITEM 92714

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$8999 ~~\$9999~~

comp at \$199.99

SAVE \$110

• 2000 lb. capacity
• 27-3/16" Clearance

53992003

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SUPER COUPON

8750 PEAK/7000 RUNNING WATTS 13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS

PREDATOR GENERATORS

ITEM 68530/63086 69671/63085 shown

ITEM 68525/69677 63087/63088

CALIFORNIA ONLY

Wheel kit and battery sold separately.

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$469

\$52999 ~~\$59999~~

comp at \$999

53978346

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WOW SUPER COUPON

26" 4 DRAWER TOOL CART

Customer Rating ★★★★★

US+GENERAL

ITEM 61634 61952

95659 shown

• 580 lb. capacity

SAVE \$219

\$9999 ~~\$15999~~

comp at \$319.01

53988799

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53984801

WOW SUPER COUPON

2.5 HP, 21 GALLON 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR

CENTRALPNEUMATIC

ITEM 69091/61454 61693/62803

67847 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$259

\$14999 ~~\$17999~~

comp at \$497

54005040

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SUPER COUPON

HEAVY DUTY HAND TRUCK

HaulMaster

ITEM 95061 shown 62775/62776/62973

• 600 lb. capacity

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 41%

\$3499 ~~\$4199~~

comp at \$59.99

53993839

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SUPER COUPON

3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER

CENTECH

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 20%

ITEM 38391 62376 62306 shown

\$4799 ~~\$59.99~~

comp at \$59.99

53990725

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SUPER COUPON

2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

BADLAND

ITEM 61258 shown 61840/61297/68146

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$105

\$5499 ~~\$8999~~

comp at \$159.99

54000895

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SUPER COUPON

12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW WITH LASER GUIDE

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

ITEM 69684 shown 61969/61970

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$259

\$13999 ~~\$19999~~

comp at \$399

53977642

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SUPER COUPON

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE WEATHER RESISTANT TARP

ITEM 69249/69115/69137 69129/69121/877 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 64%

\$299 ~~\$499~~

comp at \$8.48

54005768

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SUPER COUPON

1500 LB. CAPACITY MOTORCYCLE LIFT

PITTSBURGH

ITEM 69995 shown 60536/61632

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$65

\$6999 ~~\$8999~~

comp at \$135

53995858

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SUPER COUPON

EMERGENCY 39 LED TRIANGLE WORKLIGHT

NEW

ITEM 62158 shown 62417/62574

Batteries included.

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 76%

\$299 ~~\$399~~

comp at \$12.80

53993443

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SUPER COUPON

LOW-PROFILE CREEPER

300 lb. capacity

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 75%

ITEM 69262 69094/61916 2745 shown

\$1999 ~~\$2799~~

comp at \$79.99

Tools sold separately.

53987678

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WOW SUPER COUPON

TILTING FLAT PANEL TV MOUNT

Customer Rating ★★★★★

176 lb. capacity

SAVE 65%

ITEM 62289 61807 shown

\$1999 ~~\$2999~~

comp at \$57.37

Fits flat screen TVs from 37" to 70".

53989668

LIMIT 9 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 4/1/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

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WOW SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating ★★★★★

44", 13 DRAWER INDUSTRIAL QUALITY ROLLER CABINET

US*GENERAL PRO

ITEM 68784 shown
69387/62744/63271

- Weights 245 lbs.
- 16 in. deep drawers have folded edges for extra strength and detents to secure the drawers when closing
- Narrow drawer width (x6): 12-5/16"
- Wide drawer width (x6): 22-3/8"
- Extra-Wide drawer width (x1): 36-7/8"
- Heavy duty 1-3/8" ball-bearing drawer slides are riveted to the cabinet for smooth and durable drawer use

\$359.99
~~\$379.99~~
comp at \$1029.99

SAVE \$670

54073595

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FREE SUPER COUPON

WITH ANY PURCHASE

CENTECH 7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER

ITEM 90899 shown
98025/69096

\$16.45 VALUE

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 4/1/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

54064721

SUPER COUPON

RAPID PUMP 1.5 TON ALUMINUM RACING JACK

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

- 3-1/2 Pumps Lifts
- Most Vehicles
- Weights 34 lbs.

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 69252/62160/62496
62516/68053/60569 shown

\$59.99 **SAVE \$60**
~~\$89.99~~ comp at \$119.99

54086653

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SUPER COUPON

17 FT. TYPE I A MULTI-TASK LADDER

300 lb. capacity
23 configurations

HaulMaster

ITEM 62556/62514
67646 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$119.99
~~\$139.99~~
comp at \$357.99

SAVE \$238

54026152

LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 4/1/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE

NEW

ITEM 62859 shown
62860/63055

COVERPRO

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$179.99
~~\$189.99~~
comp at \$326.55

SAVE \$146

54064538

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SUPER COUPON

18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER WITH KEYS CHUCK

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 69651/62868/62873
68239 shown

\$16.99
~~\$109.99~~
comp at \$49.21

SAVE 65%

Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

54028433

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SUPER COUPON

TWO TIER COLLAPSIBLE EASY-STORE STEP LADDER

ITEM 67514

Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE 40%

225 lb. capacity

\$19.99 **\$20.99**
comp at \$33.66

54043878

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SUPER COUPON

3/8" x 50 FT. HEAVY DUTY PREMIUM RUBBER AIR HOSE

NEW

ITEM 62890 shown
61939/62884/69580

Diablo

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$19.99
~~\$24.99~~
comp at \$29.98

SAVE 33%

54053877

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SUPER COUPON

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 69385
62388
62409
62698
30900 shown

\$3.99
~~\$5.99~~
comp at \$14.99

SAVE 73%

Not for highway use.

54025778

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SUPER COUPON

3 PIECE DECORATIVE SOLAR LED LIGHTS

one stop gardens

ITEM 60561
69462 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$8.99
~~\$11.99~~
comp at \$29.99

SAVE 70%

54034710

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SUPER COUPON

MECHANIC'S GLOVES

NEW

SAVE 73%

| SIZE | ITEM |
|------|-------------|
| MED | 62434/62426 |
| LG | 62433/62428 |
| X-LG | 62432/62429 |

HARDY

Customer Rating ★★★★★

YOUR CHOICE

Item 62429 shown

\$3.99 **\$5.99**
comp at \$14.97

54051856

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SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH 42" OFF-ROAD/FARM JACK

ITEM 60668/6530 shown

- 3-1/2 ton capacity

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$45.99 **\$57.99**
comp at \$59.99

SAVE 23%

54083305

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SUPER COUPON

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED HIGH SPEED STEEL DRILL BIT SET

NEW

ITEM 62281
61637 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$12.99 **\$19.99**
comp at \$59.97

SAVE 78%

54074923

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SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET

ITEM 61607
62389
94635 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$6.99 **\$9.99**
comp at \$17.97

SAVE 61%

Each pad measures 25" x 25"

54089049

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SUPER COUPON

WIRELESS SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM

Customer Rating ★★★★★

Bunker Hill Security

ITEM 93068 shown
69590/61910/62447

\$11.99 **\$16.99**
comp at \$29.99

SAVE 60%

54075052

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SUPER COUPON

UNION 1.51 CUBIC FT. SOLID STEEL DIGITAL FLOOR SAFE

NEW

ITEM 91006/62678
62977 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

\$99.99 **\$129.99**
comp at \$289.99

SAVE \$190

54024154

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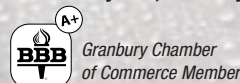
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Galveston's Immigration Station

Hundreds of thousands of newcomers passed through the “Ellis Island of Texas”

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

THE WINDSWEPT SHORES OF GALVESTON Island greeted an estimated 750,000 immigrants from all over the world between 1839 and 1920. “Here in Galveston,” wrote novelist Edna Ferber in *A Kind of Magic* (Doubleday, 1963), “the humidity was like a clammy hand held over your face. Yet the city had a ghostly charm.”

Many new arrivals must have agreed. During the second half of the 19th century, Galveston transformed itself into the commercial and shipping center of Texas, yet many newcomers were not allowed to see the city until after a period of quarantine.

In 1839, Galveston instituted the first maritime quarantine system in the Republic of Texas. Officials believed that the influx of immigrants contributed to the spread of contagious diseases, particularly yellow fever, which caused more than 1,100 deaths in 1867 alone. How mosquitoes transmit yellow fever was not yet understood, and businesses complained that quarantines disrupted travel and commerce.

Galveston built its first quarantine station on the eastern tip of Galveston Island in 1853. Ships suspected of contamination were not allowed to enter the port until the quarantine officer inspected the vessel. If the officer discovered any infection among passengers, or if the ship had traveled from an infected port, a 20-day quarantine was imposed.

A larger quarantine station, built by the city in 1870, was severely damaged by hurricane winds and replaced by new facilities in 1879 and again in 1885 when the state took over quarantine operations. These stations were at Fort Point on the south side of the entrance to Galveston Bay.

Locations for the centers changed slightly over the years. One was built on Pelican Spit, and, in 1902, another was built at the site of the original 1853 station. In



Quarantine station on Pelican Island, circa 1910

1919, the city's station merged with federal operations at a facility on Pelican Island, which continued to operate until 1950.

The first large groups of Europeans to arrive in Galveston were Germans drawn to Texas by the promise of cheap land and religious freedom. The 1850 census showed that more than 40 percent of the city's population had German surnames.

“My mother, Anna Klasek, and her family arrived in Galveston in July 1914, on the ship Neckar,” says Robert Johnson of Brenham, a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. “She was 4 years old and the second youngest of seven sisters. They were from Austria, and I understand that they were aboard the last ship of immigrants to leave the German port of Bremen before war was declared.”

When a ship arrived and was safely anchored offshore, the master of the vessel signaled the quarantine station so a surgeon could sail out aboard the station's launch, Seaway. The surgeon and his nurses checked for contagious diseases and examined the ship's papers to ensure that a clean bill of health had been issued at the last port. Anyone who showed signs of disease was removed to the quarantine station. If the surgeon found no sign of

disease, the ship could proceed to port.

“My great aunt, Jessie Flowers Naylor, worked as a nurse at the Galveston Quarantine Station while she was taking her training at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston in 1917,” says Julia Newbury of Belton. “She boarded ships with the rest of the medical team to examine people who wanted to go ashore. It must have taken courage for her to go aboard foreign ships and deal with illnesses and all kinds of personalities and languages.”

Immigration through Galveston slowed after World War I when U.S. laws set strict quotas for each immigrant group. By the middle of the 20th century, the need for maritime quarantine lessened. The last Galveston quarantine station was demolished in 1972, and the site is now the home of Pelican Island's Seawolf Park.

In his book *The Galveston Immigration and Quarantine Stations* (University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 1994), author Harrold K. Henck Jr. notes the impact of the port. “The legacy of Galveston's immigrants not only influenced the growth of the city but drove a wedge of European culture through the heart of Texas.”

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



\$500 SAVORY WINNER
Zucchini and Spinach Lasagna



\$500 SWEET WINNER
Pecan Caramel Apple Cheesecake Pie With Snickerdoodle Crust



\$500 SWEET WINNER
New Year's White Chocolate Strawberry Cheesecake



2016 Holiday Recipe Contest

TO INSPIRE YOUR TABLE, we asked readers for their best holiday recipes. In response, hundreds of cherished dishes and poignant anecdotes flooded our inboxes. Weeks of testing and tasting, and multiple rounds of voting, ensued until—at long last—we agreed on the best of the best, yielding a handful of winners.

The *Texas Co-op Power* 2016 Holiday Recipe Contest grand prizewinner (and this month's cover star) is Stuffed Chicken With Mushroom Pan Jus from Karen Bergman of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative.

Bergman wins \$3,000 for her delicious entrée. Four additional winners—for two sweet and two savory dishes—each get \$500.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR



KAREN BERGMAN



\$3,000 GRAND PRIZEWINNER

Stuffed Chicken With Mushroom Pan Jus

GRAND PRIZEWINNER Stuffed Chicken With Mushroom Pan Jus

KAREN BERGMAN | TRINITY VALLEY EC

This rich and delicious entrée is definitely worthy of a holiday dinner and is a family favorite at the Bergman house. The creamy filling is flavored with luscious red peppers and garlic that roast for an hour and a half to create an incredible flavor. Bonus: The process makes your kitchen smell delicious.

STUFFING

- 3 red or orange bell peppers
- 8 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1 tablespoon herbes de Provence with lavender
- ⅛ teaspoon coarse salt
- ⅛ teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped
- ¼ cup fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley
- ¼ cup sliced shallots

- 8 ounces fresh spinach, chopped
- 8 ounces grated pepper jack cheese

CHICKEN

- 4 large, boneless, skinless chicken breasts, butterflied
- 8 slices thick-cut bacon (or more, depending on size of breasts)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

MUSHROOM PAN JUS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
- 16 ounces baby bella mushrooms, sliced
- 2 large cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tablespoons rosemary
- 2 tablespoons thyme
- Cracked black pepper and coarse salt to taste
- 2 cups dry white wine (such as sauvignon blanc)
- 2 cups mushroom or chicken stock
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons flour



FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY: MELISSA SKORPIL

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish with olive oil or unflavored nonstick spray.

2. STUFFING: Core peppers, removing seeds and membranes, then slice each half into quarter strips. Peel and thinly slice the garlic cloves. Place peppers in baking dish (insides facing up), sprinkle with garlic, drizzle with olive oil, cover with foil and bake 1½ hours. Remove from heat, uncover and cool.

3. In a food processor, combine cream cheese, herbes de Provence, salt, pepper, basil, Italian parsley and shallots, and pulse until creamy. Add spinach and pulse until incorporated. The mixture can be slightly chunky. Add the cooled peppers and pulse until combined but still chunky. Transfer the stuffing to a bowl, stir in pepper jack cheese, and refrigerate while preparing the chicken.

4. CHICKEN: Coat a 10-by-16-inch roasting pan and rack with nonstick spray.

5. Spread equal amounts of stuffing on top of each butterflied breast, then roll into a snug cylinder. Starting on one end of the roll, wrap a slice of bacon around the breast, from one end to the other, and then repeat with a second slice (starting where the first slice ended).

6. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Carefully place chicken in skillet and cook 3–4 minutes on each side, just until the bacon begins to brown. Transfer the chicken, seam side down, to the prepared roasting pan. Leave browned bits and juice from the chicken in the skillet to be used for the pan jus. Bake uncovered 35 minutes. While the chicken cooks, make the pan jus.

7. MUSHROOM PAN JUS: In the skillet used for the chicken, heat olive oil and butter on medium heat. Add sliced mushrooms, garlic, rosemary, thyme, pepper and salt, and sauté until slightly browned. Add white wine and cook, stirring to scrape the browned bits off the bottom of the pan, until reduced by half. Add the stock and again cook, stirring, until reduced by half. Add the softened butter and stir until creamy. If the sauce seems thin, you can thicken it by stirring in flour.

8. Serve the chicken breasts covered with a generous portion of the mushroom pan jus. Top with any remaining chopped parsley, if desired. Serves 4.



\$500 SAVORY WINNER
Smoky Mac and Cheese

SAVORY PRIZEWINNER Smoky Mac and Cheese

REBECCA BRAUCHLE | BANDERA EC

What's not to love about copious amounts of cheese plus bacon? Brauchle's Smoky Mac and Cheese is particularly swoon-worthy. The dish comes together quickly, so it's a manageable weeknight dinner—but also decadent enough for a holiday meal.

- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 package (16 ounces) cavatappi pasta
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 package (16 ounces) processed cheese product, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon garlic salt
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon pepper
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cups shredded smoked Gouda cheese
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ pound bacon
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat an 11-by-15-inch or 5-quart baking dish with butter. In a saucepan, prepare the pasta according to package directions. Drain and transfer noodles to prepared baking dish.

2. Heat the cream and milk in a heavy, medium-sized saucepan over medium-high heat until it begins to simmer. Reduce heat to low. Add cheese product, garlic salt, salt and pepper, and cook, stirring, until smooth. Stir in remaining cheeses and cook until melted and fully combined.

3. Remove cheese mixture from heat and pour over the pasta. Place bacon

strips on top and bake 35 minutes.

4. Remove dish from oven. Using kitchen shears, carefully cut the bacon into small pieces, then stir pieces into the hot pasta. Sprinkle panko bread-crumbs over the pasta and bake an additional 15 minutes. Allow the pasta to stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serves 4–6.



\$500 SAVORY WINNER
Zucchini and Spinach Lasagna

SAVORY PRIZEWINNER Zucchini and Spinach Lasagna

NICOLE CHISUM | WISE EC

Using vegetables and creamy Alfredo sauce creates a memorable spin on traditional lasagna. This dish is perfect for feeding a crowd (just add a green salad and red wine), and the unbaked lasagna freezes well (bake frozen 15–20 additional minutes, or until bubbly), so it's a great way to get a jump-start on entertaining.

- 12 lasagna noodles
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- ¾ cup chopped onion
- 1 bag (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 1 jar (12 ounces) Alfredo sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten

- 1 container (15 ounces) ricotta cheese
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 3-4 cups shredded cheddar jack cheese

TOPPING

- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the lasagna noodles and cook until al dente, then drain.
2. Brown the beef and onion in a skillet, then drain excess fat. Squeeze excess water from spinach and add to the skillet, then add zucchini and stir until mixture is warm. Add the Alfredo sauce, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until warm, then remove from heat.
3. Combine the eggs, ricotta, cottage cheese, Parmesan and parsley in a medium bowl.
4. Spread about ½ cup of meat mixture in the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Top with 3 lasagna noodles lengthwise, and 1 widthwise. Evenly spread half the cheese mixture over noodles, followed by half the meat mixture, then half the shredded cheddar jack. Repeat with another layer of noodles, followed by remaining cheese mixture, meat mixture and cheddar jack. Top with remaining noodles.
5. **TOPPING:** Sprinkle top with the mozzarella, Parmesan and parsley. Cover with aluminum foil and bake 35 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 5-10 minutes until edges are bubbly and top is slightly browned. Remove from oven and allow to set approximately 10 minutes before serving. Serves 6-8.



SWEET PRIZEWINNER
Pecan Caramel Apple Cheesecake Pie With Snickerdoodle Crust

MARIAN EVONIUK | PEDERNALES EC

Don't be daunted by this recipe—the steps come together quickly, and the results are well worth the effort to create a truly special holiday dessert. It's important to make the Quick Caramel Sauce a day in advance so it has time to thicken in the refrigerator overnight (the thicker sauce makes the cheesecake easier to assemble). Note that after baking, the cheesecake needs to chill for at least 8 hours or overnight, so plan to bake the day before your family feast.

QUICK CARAMEL SAUCE

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ⅓ cup packed light brown sugar
- ¼ cup packed dark brown sugar
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

SNICKERDOODLE CRUST

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

PECAN LAYER

- 1½ cups Texas pecans
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup whipping cream
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

APPLE LAYER

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and chopped
- ¼ cup loosely packed light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- ¼ cup Quick Caramel Sauce

CARAMEL CHEESECAKE LAYER AND TOPPING

- 1½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 5 tablespoons powdered sugar, divided use
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 4 tablespoons Quick Caramel Sauce, divided use

1. **QUICK CARAMEL SAUCE:** The day before you plan to bake, combine cream, light and dark brown sugars, and salt in a small saucepan, stir to combine, and bring to a rolling boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to medium-low and continue boiling another 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally and being careful that the mixture doesn't boil over. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Transfer to a heat-proof glass container, cool uncovered, then refrigerate overnight to thicken.
2. **SNICKERDOODLE CRUST:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, mix flour, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add vanilla and cut in butter by hand until mixture comes together to form a soft dough. (Alternately, mix dry ingredients together in a food processor and pulse in butter and vanilla.) Pat dough into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan and bake 20-25 minutes, until edges are a light golden brown. Cool on wire rack.
3. **PECAN LAYER:** Place pecans on a rimmed baking sheet and toast 4-6 minutes at 350 degrees until lightly browned, stirring once. Cool slightly. In a food processor, process pecans 20-30 seconds, until finely ground. Reserve 1 tablespoon for topping.
4. In a medium saucepan, combine remaining pecans, honey, cream and salt. Stirring constantly over medium-low heat, cook until mixture is hot but not

Recipes

boiling (about 1–2 minutes). Remove from heat, stir in vanilla and spread over crust.

5. APPLE LAYER: Place apples in a 10-inch nonstick skillet with brown sugar, lemon juice, salt, cinnamon and water. Cover and cook over medium-low heat until apples are tender, about 20 minutes. Add 1–2 additional tablespoons water if necessary to prevent scorching.

6. In a small bowl or cup, whisk cornstarch with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Quick Caramel Sauce until smooth. Remove apples from heat, add caramel-cornstarch mixture and mix well. Return to heat and cook another 2–3 minutes, stirring constantly, until mixture begins to bubble and thicken. Remove from heat and spread over pecan layer; cool completely.

7. CARAMEL CHEESECAKE LAYER AND TOPPING: With a hand mixer, whip cream, 3 tablespoons powdered sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form; set aside. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese, remaining powdered sugar and 2 tablespoons Quick Caramel Sauce until light and fluffy, about 1–2 minutes. Spread over cooled apple layer.

8. Drizzle 2 tablespoons Quick Caramel Sauce over cheesecake layer. With the tip of a paring knife, pull lines out from the center to create a marbled effect. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with reserved chopped pecans.

9. Refrigerate at least 8 hours, preferably overnight. Before serving, drizzle pie with 1 tablespoon Quick Caramel Sauce and serve with additional drizzles on serving plates. Serves 12.



SWEET PRIZEWINNER New Year's White Chocolate Strawberry Cheesecake

SUZANNE CARAWAY | BANDERA EC

Strawberry preserves meld beautifully with white chocolate and provide a burst of berry flavor in the middle of winter. This striking cheesecake is the perfect punctuation to a special holiday meal.

- $\frac{3}{8}$ cup (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sticks) butter
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided use
- 2 cups white chocolate chips
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup half-and-half
- 1 cup strawberry preserves
- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Brown butter in a skillet, being careful not to burn.
- 2.** In a medium bowl, mix browned butter, graham cracker crumbs and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar. Press mixture into the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Wrap the outside of the pan with two layers of aluminum foil, covering the underside and extending all the way to the top. Bake 10 minutes, then cool.
- 3.** In a double boiler over simmering water, melt white chocolate chips with half-and-half, stirring often until smooth. Remove from heat and cool. In small saucepan on medium heat, heat strawberry preserves until melted.

4. Combine cream cheese and remaining sugar in a food processor and process until smooth. Continue blending and add eggs one at a time, then add vanilla and white chocolate sauce.

5. Pour half the batter mixture over crust. Spoon half the strawberry preserves over the batter in small dots. Pour remaining batter into pan, and pour the remaining preserves in a spiral pattern over the batter. Use the tip of a paring knife to pull lines out from the center to create a marbled effect.

6. Place cheesecake pan in a large roasting pan containing 2 inches of hot water. Bake 55–60 minutes, or until the outer 2 inches are firm but the center jiggles slightly.

7. Carefully remove cheesecake from water bath and refrigerate 8 hours before removing from pan. Before unbuckling the pan, run a knife around edges to loosen. After unbuckling, run a long, thin spatula between crust and bottom of pan, then transfer to a serving plate. Smooth sides of the cheesecake with a wet, hot knife. Garnish with additional melted strawberry preserves and grated white chocolate. Serves 10–12.

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com

See previous winners and recipes from the Holiday Recipe Contest.

\$100 Recipe Contest

May's recipe contest topic is **Picnic Fare**. Food just tastes better in the great outdoors—especially when it's shared with friends and family! Send us your favorite recipe for potlucks, picnics or feeding a crowd. The deadline is **December 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.



Native

WE LOVE OUR TRANSPLANTS, but native Texans are a breed all our own—and proud of it! Whether Texas is your native soil, or you got here as quickly as you could, stick around to see the wildlife, objects and people with deep Lone Star roots. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com Go native with us as we round up more Texas originals online.

◀ **EMILY HOWARD**, Jackson EC: A pine tree glows beneath a Texas sunset at Martin Dies Jr. State Park near Jasper.

▼ **WILLIAM GARY**, Bandera EC: Gary says he climbed an adjacent hill to get at eye level and used a 400-mm lens to photograph this red-shouldered hawk nestling, which was high in an oak tree on his property.



▲ **GARY MCALEA**, Pedernales EC: A male indigo bunting at South Llano River State Park



▲ **RON HASTY**, CoServ: The pyrrhuloxia is a relative of the northern cardinal.

► **MARK HOLLY**, Bandera EC: "South of Llano are many typical Hill Country homes and ranchettes where you find scenes like this quite often in the spring," Holly says.



UPCOMING CONTESTS

APRIL BIRDS DUE DECEMBER 10

MAY TEXAS ROCKS DUE JANUARY 10

JUNE ROAD TRIP DUE FEBRUARY 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 Candlelight

Dallas December 10-11

(214) 421-5141, dallasheritagevillage.org

Dallas Heritage Village caps off its 50th anniversary with 13 acres of decorated buildings, flickering candles lining paths, strolling carolers, carriage rides and crafts. The village features 24,000 objects and archival materials and more than 25 historic structures depicting life in Dallas 1840-1910.



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December

2

San Angelo [2-31] Concho Christmas Celebration, (325) 944-4444, conchochristmascelebration.com

3

Liberty Hill [3-Jan. 3] Christmas Fest and Parade, (512) 426-1178, lhchristmasfest.org

8

Palo Pinto Frontier Christmas, (940) 659-3573, palopintohistory.com

9

Luling Cocoa & Carols, (830) 875-3214, discoverluling.com

Mount Pleasant [9-10] Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, (903) 305-9239

10

Bulverde Living Christmas Drive-Thru, (210) 259-1946, redroofchurch.org



December 10
Llano
Snow Day

Coldspring Christmas on the Square, (936) 653-2184, coldspringtexas.org

Fredericksburg Kinderfest at the Pioneer Museum, (830) 990-8441, pioneermuseum.net

Ledbetter Christmas Craft Bazaar, (979) 412-4167

Llano Snow Day, (325) 247-5354, llanochamber.org

Montgomery Christmas in Historic Montgomery, (936) 597-7300, experiencemontgomery.com

Round Top Christmas at Winedale, (979) 278-3530, cah.utexas.edu

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Snyder Big Country Christmas Ball,
(325) 660-8338, westtexasrehab.org

Somerville Santaville, (979) 203-3710

Vernon Christmas on the Western Trail,
(940) 553-3766

Washington Christmas on the Brazos,
(936) 878-2214, wheretexasbecametexas.org

Ingleside [10-11] Renaissance Faire,
(361) 776-2906, inglesidetxchamber.com

11

Garrison Christmas on the Square,
(936) 347-2316

14

Fulton [14-15] Christmas in Fulton,
(361) 729-2388, rockport-fulton.org

15

Big Spring [15-31] Festival of Lights,
(432) 263-8235, visitbigspring.com

16

Blanco Christmas at the Buggy Barn,
(830) 868-7684, lbjcountry.com

Breckenridge [16-18] Breck Trade Days,
(254) 559-2012, breckenridgetx.gov

17

**Crockett Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky
Thunder,** (936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

21

**Uvalde Briscoe-Garner Museum Holiday
Open House,** (830) 278-5018, visituvalde.com

December 14-15
Fulton
Christmas
in Fulton



27

**Amarillo Broadway Spotlight Series:
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas,**
(806) 378-3096, panhandletickets.com

31

**Luckenbach New Year's Eve Ball
With Dale Watson,** (830) 997-3224,
luckenbachtexas.com

January

1

Gruene Hair of the Dog Day, (830) 629-5077,
holidaysingruene.com

7

Kerrville Pops: The Very Best of Broadway,
(830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

Monahans Resolution Run, (432) 943-2187,
monahans.org

Submit Your Event!

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

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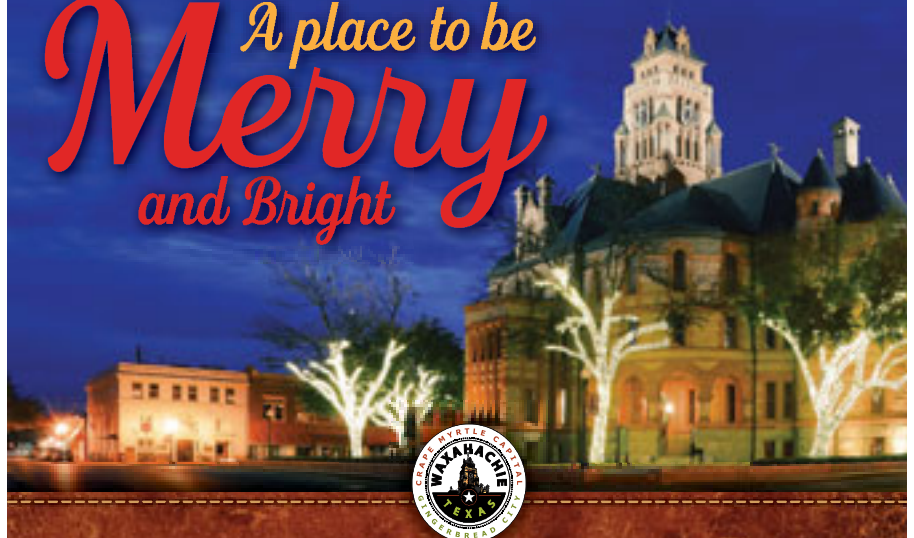
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Short Stay in Longview

Discover the leisurely heart of downtown

BY MARILYN JONES

LOOP 281 ARCHES NORTH ACROSS LONGview like a rainbow framing an East Texas shopper's paradise. That is the only stretch of Longview I knew for years: national brands, restaurants and movie theaters.

That is, until my friend Ellen asks me to join her for lunch at Deb's Downtown Café. I walk along West Tyler Avenue, thinking how nice it is to enjoy slow traffic and join people making their way on foot.

Over lunch, we catch up on life, our families and work. Then she asks me if I want to play tourist for the afternoon. "I want to show you the heart of the city," she says.

Ellen is a longtime resident of the area and proud of her hometown. West Tyler Avenue turns into East Tyler Avenue as we cross North Center Street. We stop in front of a Longview Heritage Marker explaining that in 1870, O.H. Methvin deeded 100 acres to Southern Pacific Railroad in exchange for one gold coin. That original 100 acres is now the city's downtown. "When Texas became a state in 1845, farmers started homesteading," says Ellen, a Texas history buff. "Before that, Caddo Native Americans lived in this area."

Standing under an awning to shade ourselves, Ellen points to the **Longview World of Wonders**. "That's our new children's museum," she says.

We walk the half block to North Fredonia Street and the **Gregg County Historical Museum**, a stately, ginger-colored brick building with columns flanking its entrance. The museum is in the Citizens National Bank, a 1910 building that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its ornate interior showcases the area's history.

Inside the bank's vault, we see an exhibit chronicling the 1894 Dalton Gang robbery of nearby First National Bank. The robbery ended with the outlaws in jail, and the original hold-up note is on display.



I roam from a Victorian-era setting to an area dedicated to the oil boom. Placards state that the discovery of the largest oil field in the lower 48 states saved Gregg County from the Great Depression in 1930. Almost half of the field's 200 square miles lay in the western third of the county. Kilgore and Gladewater were transformed into boomtowns. By the time drilling slacked off in 1935, 15,000 wells and 95 refineries populated the field.

In the basement, we find the **Buddy Calvin Jones Caddo Collection**. Display cases feature pottery, arrowheads and primitive tools, all donated by the Longview native.

Jones, an archaeologist, made his first discovery at age 7 and continued excavations throughout his lifetime. In 2003, the museum acquired the Jones collection of 4,000 items. The collection includes items excavated in northeast Texas in the 1950s and 1960s, and date to 1700.

Outside, we head south on North Fredonia Street. At East Tyler Avenue, we take a left to the **Longview Museum of Fine Arts**.

We walk through the front doors and

into the whisper-quiet main gallery. Colorful pieces of contemporary and traditional art appear on two levels. The museum houses more than 400 paintings, etchings, woodcuts, photographs, lithographs, sculptures, pottery and collages.


"Most of the art is created by Texas artists," I recall my friend whispering.

As we walk back to our cars, past photography studios, law offices and restaurants, discussing all we experienced, Ellen tells me about some of the city's other attributes: **ArtsView Children's Theatre**, **Longview Ballet Theatre**, **Longview Symphony**, **Theatre Longview** and the **East Texas Symphonic Band**. "And, of course, the **Great Texas Balloon Race** held every year in June," she mentions as we approach my car.

I know now that, although I travel here often, I didn't really know this city at all.

Marilyn Jones lives in Henderson and writes about travel.

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