

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## OPEN HEARTS

Co-op members  
draw attention  
to deadly defects





“When we saw  
all the advantages  
of a Mueller roof,  
the decision  
was easy.”

With a Mueller metal roof, you get beauty and long-lasting protection for your home – backed by a company that’s been around for over 85 years. With dozens of gorgeous colors and several panel styles to choose from, it’s easy to find the roof that fits your home perfectly. Discover why so many homeowners are choosing Mueller.

[www.muellerinc.com](http://www.muellerinc.com) 877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)





Courier Scott McMahon receives a replica of William Travis' urgent letter at the Alamo.

**FEATURES**

- 8 Open Hearts** Co-op knitting network draws attention to deadly birth defects  
Story by Chris Burrows | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden
- 12 Stirring Delivery** Re-creating the horseback dispatch of William Travis' Victory or Death letter  
Story and photos by Julia Robinson

**FAVORITES**

- 5 Letters**
- 6 Currents**
- 18 Local Co-op News**  
*Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.*
- 29 Texas History**  
*Trinity Thumbprint*  
By E.R. Bills
- 31 Recipes**  
*Ragin' Cajun*
- 35 Focus on Texas**  
*Photo Contest: Barns*
- 36 Around Texas**  
*List of Local Events*
- 38 Hit the Road**  
*Mario Lives*  
By Marilyn Jones

**ONLINE**

**TexasCoopPower.com**  
*Find these stories online if they don't appear in your edition of the magazine.*

**Observations**

*Armed Conflicts*  
By Lonnn Taylor

**Texas USA**

*Winning Water Colors*  
By Dyanne Fry Cortez

**NEXT MONTH**

**35 on 35** Stops with fascinating food, history and popular culture lure travelers from the interstate.



29



31



35



38

FREEDOM RIDER & GLASSES: JULIA ROBINSON

**ON THE COVER** *The loving hands of a co-op member knitted newborn Kason Hunnicutt's red cap.* Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Mark Tamplin, Chair, Kirbyville; Bryan Lightfoot, Vice Chair, Bartlett; Blaine Warzecha, Secretary-Treasurer, Victoria; William F. Hetherington, Bandera; Kendall Montgomery, Olney; Anne Vaden, Corinth; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Jerry Boze, Kaufman; Clint Gardner, Coleman; Rick Haile, McGregor; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; Kathy Wood, Marshall • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohmann, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtck, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Communications & Member Services Assistant; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Suzanne Featherston, Communications Specialist; Taylor Montgomery, Digital Field Editor; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Ellen Stader, Communications Specialist; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader

Now, from United of Omaha Life Insurance Company and Companion Life Insurance Company...

# \$25,000.00 Whole Life Insurance.

Are you between the ages of 45 and 85\*?

Then this **GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE** policy is for YOU!

- » Choose from 4 benefit levels - up to \$25,000!
- » Rates "lock-in" at the age you enroll - never go up again!
- » Call for your FREE all-by-mail enrollment packet!
- » Call TOLL-FREE **1-800-230-8332**

Or enroll online at [www.DirectLifeOmaha.com](http://www.DirectLifeOmaha.com)



**NO medical exam!**



**NO health questions!**

### Plus...

- ▶ Proceeds paid directly to your beneficiary
- ▶ Builds cash value and is renewable up to age 100!\*\*\*  
Then automatically pays YOU full benefit amount!
- ▶ Policy cannot be canceled – EVER – because of changes in health!

### Why this policy? Why now?

Our graded death benefit whole life insurance policy can be used to pay funeral costs, final medical expenses...or other monthly bills. You know how important it can be to help protect your family from unnecessary burdens after you pass away. Maybe your own parents or loved one did the same for you. OR, maybe they DIDN'T and you sure wish they would have!

The important thing is that, right now, you can make a decision that could help make a difficult time a little easier for your loved ones. It's a responsible, caring and affordable decision. And, right now, it's something you can do with one simple phone call.

You may have been putting off purchasing life insurance, but you don't have to wait another day. This offer is a great opportunity to help start protecting your family today.



**UNITED OF OMAHA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**  
**COMPANION LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**  
MUTUAL OF OMAHA AFFILIATES

Your affordable monthly rate will "lock-in" at your enrollment age\* ...

Age	\$3,000.00 Benefit		\$5,000.00 Benefit		\$10,000.00 Benefit		\$25,000.00 Benefit	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
45-49	\$10.45	\$8.80	\$16.75	\$14.00	\$32.50	\$27.00	\$79.75	\$66.00
50-54	\$11.50	\$9.70	\$18.50	\$15.50	\$36.00	\$30.00	\$88.50	\$73.50
55-59	\$14.20	\$11.95	\$23.00	\$19.25	\$45.00	\$37.50	\$111.00	\$92.25
60-64	\$17.20	\$13.30	\$28.00	\$21.50	\$55.00	\$42.00	\$136.00	\$103.50
65-69	\$20.50	\$16.00	\$33.50	\$26.00	\$66.00	\$51.00	\$163.50	\$126.00
70-74	\$27.40	\$21.40	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$89.00	\$69.00	\$221.00	\$171.00
75-79	\$37.00	\$30.10	\$61.00	\$49.50	\$121.00	\$98.00	\$301.00	\$243.50
80-85	\$50.50	\$42.55	\$83.50	\$70.25	\$166.00	\$139.50	\$413.50	\$347.25

The rates above include a \$12 annual policy fee.

This is a solicitation of insurance, an agent (In OR & WA: producer) may contact you. **These policies contain benefits, reductions, limitations, and exclusions to include a reduction in death benefits during the first two years of policy ownership.** Policy Form ICC11L057P or state equivalent (in FL: 7722L-0505; in NY: 827Y-0505). Not available in all states. In NY, during the first two years, 110% of premiums will be paid. Website unavailable for NY residents. EASY WAY Whole Life Insurance is underwritten by United of Omaha Life Insurance Company, Omaha, NE 68175, which is licensed nationwide except NY. Life insurance policies issued in NY are underwritten by Companion Life Insurance Company, Hauppauge, NY 11788. Each company is responsible for its own financial and contractual obligations. \*Age eligibility and benefits may vary by state. \*\*In FL policy is renewable until age 121.

## See for Yourself

The article on the Terlingua Creek watershed was really interesting [*Stepping Into the Same Stream Twice*, December 2016]. After reading it, I looked up Terlingua Creek on Google Earth and followed it from its confluence with the Rio Grande upstream to the point where the willow poles were planted. The diamond-shaped planting areas can be seen! How exciting!

SUSAN BROWN | MURPHY FARMERS EC

## Miller on the Big Screen

In your December 2016 issue, you have an interesting article about Doris Miller and his heroism at Pearl Harbor [*Currents, Texan's Heroics at Pearl Harbor*]. But you neglected to say that he was depicted by Cuba Gooding Jr. in the movie *Pearl Harbor*. Just thought it would have enhanced the piece.

STEVE NICHOLS | TERRELL



## Galveston Immigration

As a staff member at Historic Mesquite, I was overjoyed to see the photo [above] with *Galveston's Immigration Station* [December 2016]. Dr. John Hicks Florence, the health officer at the time, is one of the gentlemen on the porch of the quarantine station, and his family is

## Jolly Jelly

We tried Cranberry Jalapeño Jelly [*Make-Ahead Holiday Helpers*, November 2016] over cream cheese, and it was a big hit. Everyone loved it, but my husband thought



it needed more heat. So I made another batch and added a couple of habaneros, and it is just right. The cream cheese still takes away the tartness and heat. These [in photo] will be added to Christmas packages!

JEAN MARSH | HUNTSVILLE | MID-SOUTH SYNERGY

standing below. The Florences were very prominent in Mesquite, and Historic Mesquite has a copy of this photo. Dr. Florence also worked at the first Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

CHARLENE ORR | KAUFMAN TRINITY VALLEY EC

I appreciated the article and seeing the picture where my grandmother, Annie Harelik Novit, and her infant daughter, Fanny, were quarantined in 1909 because Fanny had the measles. After a few days, they

were able to join Annie's husband, Velvel, who had arrived in America earlier and settled in Fort Worth. They came from Russia via Bremen, Germany.

This photo adds to our memorabilia of family members arriving with the Galveston Movement, which brought 10,000 Jews from Eastern

Europe to America during 1907-1914.

JAN SIEGEL HART | TEMPLE BLUEBONNET EC

Do you know if there are records of the immigrants who came through Galveston in the late 1800s? My grandparents came from Italy, and I would like to research this if there is information available.

SAM ALTIMORE | FAIR OAKS RANCH PEDERNALES EC

## Writer Martha Deeringer

replies: The Galveston Historical Foundation maintains an immigration database. You can access it at galvestonhistory.org under the Attractions tab.

## One Classy Lady

Pete Laney was our representative, and our family knew him and Nelda [*The Capitol Ornament Lady*, November 2016]. We enjoyed your article about her and the Capitol ornaments. She was one classy lady.

JOY ALLEN SOUTH PLAINS EC

## First Responders

The talk is about linemen throughout the October 2016 issue [*Line of Duty, Texas Lineman's Rodeo*]. I never considered them as first responders, but as I read the articles, I realize they are—very important first responders, I should add.

I just want to say a big thank-you to the first responders at all the co-ops in Texas.

ANNA BLYTHE | WEIMAR FAYETTE EC

## GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

Sign up for our E-Newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**ONLINE:** TexasCoopPower.com/share  
**EMAIL:** letters@TexasCoopPower.com  
**MAIL:** Editor, Texas Co-op Power, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701

Please include your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

   Texas Co-op Power

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 73, NUMBER 8** (USPS 540-560). Texas Co-op Power is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power's website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.08 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of Texas Co-op Power showing old address and key numbers. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in Texas Co-op Power and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Martin Bevins at (512) 486-6249. Advertisements in Texas Co-op Power are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

© Copyright 2017 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2017 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives  
Your Toxstone Energy Partner



## HAPPENINGS

# Birds on the Border

**NEARLY 650 VARIETIES OF BIRDS** have been sighted in Texas, second most in the U.S. to California. They won't all be spotted during the **LAREDO BIRDING FESTIVAL**, February 8–11, but nearly 200 species have been identified around the border city.

The festival, hosted by the Rio Grande International Study Center, features workshops, talks and film screenings. The main attractions, though, are day-long field trips escorted by professional field guides and members of the Monte Mucho Audubon Society. These offer opportunities to spot white-collared seedeaters, scaled quails, gray hawks, Audubon's and Altamira orioles, green parakeets, Muscovy ducks, red-billed pigeons, clay-colored thrushes and flocks more.

Laredo is considered the only place in the U.S. to have boasted four species of kingfisher: ringed, belted, green and Amazon.

**INFO** ▶ (956) 718-1063, [laredobirdingfestival.org](http://laredobirdingfestival.org)

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 9 IS DAY NO. 40** of 2017. Impress your friends by telling them that “forty” is the only English word for a number with its letters in alphabetical order.

## CO-OP PEOPLE

# HILL COUNTRY MAGIC



**WHEN 12-YEAR-OLD** Peter Stone's family moves to the Hill Country, he makes a friend who's battling cancer near a magical valley. That's the basis for author **NIKKI LOFTIN's** young adult novel *Wish Girl* (Razorbill, 2015), which last fall represented Texas at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

**“Wish Girl is my love letter** to Texas, a celebration of everything I loved about the Hill Country when I was growing up in it,” says Loftin, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative and Government-in-Action Youth Tour alumna who lives near Dripping Springs.

**“When I started writing,** I knew the main characters would need a magical setting in which to struggle, grow closer and learn about the deeper magic of true friendship. The valley in *Wish Girl* is a real place, where I spent my childhood summers watching turkey vultures soar, listening to the wind, and feeling like a Texan Alice in my own uninhabited wonderland.”

HISTORY LESSON

# African-American History Monument Unveiled

**THE TEXAS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MEMORIAL** became the 21st monument on the Texas Capitol grounds when it was unveiled November 19, 2016.

The 27-foot-high, 32-foot-wide monument portrays Juneteenth—June 19, 1865—when slaves in Texas learned they were free. It honors African-Americans’ contributions to Texas society and culture, and their roles in the cattle, cotton and oil industries.

“To know where we are going in life, we have to understand where it is that we have come from: the triumphs, the tragedies, the lessons that we learn along the way,” Gov. Greg Abbott said during the unveiling ceremony. “They are a legacy for the generations that are to come forward in the future. But chapters have been missing from the story of Texas. That changes today.”

Denver sculptor Ed Dwight created the bronze and granite monument, which stands just inside the south entrance to the Capitol grounds.



*Check it out!*



**WATCH OUR VIDEO**  
to take a virtual walk  
around the monument at  
[TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).



TECH KNOWLEDGE

## GO FIGURE

**STUDENTS** and office workers have a team of Texas engineers to thank for 50 years of miniaturized math.

In 1967, innovators at Texas Instruments in Dallas unveiled the Cal-Tech—the first-ever handheld calculator—a vessel to show off the company’s pioneering, tiny, integrated circuits they hoped would replace giant, transistor-based machines, such as the 55-pound calculators of the day.

The 4-by-6-inch device weighing less than 3 pounds could add, subtract, multiply and divide six-digit numbers using 18 keys and a 12-digit thermal printer.

**Nowadays**, you’re more likely to find a calculator on your phone than on your desk.

WORTH REPEATING

*“Spectacular achievements come from unspectacular preparation.”*

— **ROGER STAUBACH**, Hall of Fame quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys who turns 75 on February 5

ALMANAC

## Future Governor Is Born

**FEBRUARY 27** marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of John B. Connally Jr., the 39th governor of Texas. He was born on a farm near Floresville.

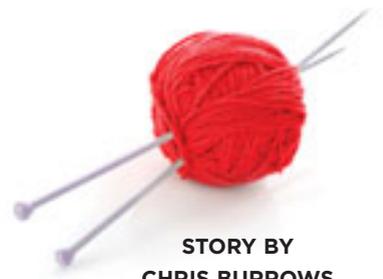
**Connally was riding** in the limo with President John F. Kennedy in Dallas when Kennedy was assassinated. Connally was seriously wounded by the gunfire.

**Before becoming** governor, Connally served as secretary of the Navy under Kennedy, and afterward was treasury secretary under President Richard Nixon.



# (Open Hearts)

Co-op knitting network draws attention to deadly defects



STORY BY  
CHRIS BURROWS

PHOTOS BY  
WYATT McSPADDEN

## **Aaron and Lindsey Hockenberry didn't know.**

**Their families, who drove to the hospital in Victoria from Houston, Katy and Shreveport, Louisiana, for Lindsey's cesarean section, didn't know.**

**Their doctor didn't know.**

**"Everybody was there expecting to bring home a baby and get to hold her," Lindsey said.**

**Instead, baby Londyn came out blue. She wasn't crying and was barely breathing. Within six hours, she was on a helicopter bound for Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi. The next day, the full-term newborn underwent open-heart surgery.**

Aaron broke down. The Iraq War veteran met his wife with tears when she had recovered enough from her own surgery to make the trip to Driscoll with her sister.

"At that point, we had been married for two years and together for a year before that," Lindsey said. "I had never seen him cry like that, and that's probably what scared me more."

No one knew until that day that Londyn had a rare heart defect that would require her to be hospitalized four times over the next eight months. Heart defects affect tens of thousands of babies born in the U.S. every year, but Londyn's was more serious than most.

"A lot of parents don't know that their babies have this, and they're just blindsided," Lindsey said. "They think they have a healthy baby, and all the sudden they don't have a healthy baby."

One Southwest Texas woman is doing all she can to bring attention to the issue.



**N**ancy Johnson has a command center of sorts spreading out across her Sonora family room. Towers of clear plastic totes brimming with skeins of red yarn, prayers printed on rolled paper and bound with bows, and countless tiny, red, auburn and red-and-white knit hats have taken over one wall, nearly burying an antique stove. Against another wall sits her desk, where an iPad and a cellphone connect her to a network of knitters, each denoted by a tiny red heart emoji next to their name in her phone address book. There are stacks of letters, neatly pressed and bound, newspaper clippings and thank-you cards ready for stamps.

Johnson knits red hats, and she leads an army of hatmakers from across Texas' Co-op Country that is raising awareness of

congenital heart defects.

It all started in 2015 when Johnson first contributed to the Little Hats, Big Hearts project. Started in Chicago, the American Heart Association initiative outfits babies born in February—American Heart Month—with colorful, keepsake headwear, along with a card that explains the seriousness of the problem, and asks parents to post a photo of their hat-clad newborn on social media using the hashtag #littlehatsbighearts to raise awareness.

Congenital heart defects are the most common type of birth defect and affect nearly 1 percent of births in the U.S. annually. At 40,000 a year, their prevalence is increasing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Not long after Johnson mailed off her three contributions to the project, she needed a stent for a heart problem of her own. She discussed the project with her cardiologist, Dr. Michael Blanc, at San Angelo Community Medical Center, and inspiration struck.

"I asked him, 'What do you think about doing something like this for the state of Texas?'" Johnson said. "He said, 'I think we can do this.'"

So Johnson, 76, a member of Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, with the help of husband Jerry, a former 43-year board member of the co-op, got to work, buying yarn, asking friends to join in, and spreading the word. They named their group "Knitting Hats for Little Hearts," and they were the first of their kind in Texas.

"I think the little red hat program is great because I honestly believe it starts with our babies," Johnson said. "It has to start at

**The pushpins on Nancy Johnson's map locate knitters who helped make the mound of caps for Little Hats, Big Hearts on her dining room table.**

the beginning for the mothers to understand, to be able to take care of themselves and be able to go to the doctors and get the proper treatment."



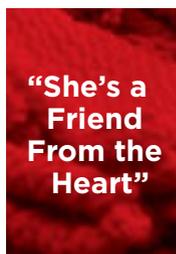
Word of the program spread across Sonora, at Johnson's church and among the volunteers of Community Hospital. By February 2016, the group had amassed about 1,500 hats—enough to keep warm the heads of most babies born in Southwest Texas for the month.

After a brief profile of the project appeared in the February 2016 issue of *Texas Co-op Power*, crafters from across the state responded with calls, letters and hats.

"It came kind of overwhelming at first because I didn't plan for this to happen," Johnson said. "I was just going to do a few hats and didn't realize that this was going to literally snowball. I just started getting calls from everybody. Even husbands were calling, wanting their wives to do it."

Now, the map of Texas in Johnson's command center is littered with dozens of multicolored pushpins.

"I was getting the hats from so many different areas," Johnson said. "And Jerry suggested, 'Let's get a map; let's put the little pins on there, and then you can look back at 'em and go, wow!'"



For Johnson, the stories poured in with the hats.

At 10, Ileana Baker, a granddaughter of one of Johnson's Sonora friends, is the youngest hatmaker. She learned to knit in order to help, and now she has a shoebox full of tiny hats. Baker was born with two holes in her heart that affected her when she was younger.

"My mom noticed I was getting very hot and sweaty, and I wouldn't eat, so she took me to my pediatrician," Baker said.

Valerie Draper, 80, one of Johnson's longtime friends, was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect some 18 years ago. Her father and brother both died of heart failure. She guesses she's made some 200 tiny hats so far.

Blanc said congenital heart defects are the most common, about as prevalent as autism and many times more common than

Although not all congenital heart defects are fatal, it's a big problem—and one that Johnson is fighting with big goals. She hopes to someday get a hat to every baby born in the state in February.



**Newborns across the U.S. don red hats during February, American Heart Month.**

riding in cars, while they're watching TV and while waiting in doctors' offices. Some of them knit, and some crochet. Some spend days on

every hat, and some can finish one in a couple hours.

They're all making a difference.

Opal Powell of Shelbyville, a member of Deep East Texas EC; Aurora Hernandez of Seguin, a member of Guadalupe Valley EC; and Gina Fobbs of Centerville, a member of Houston County EC; exchange calls, photos and letters with Johnson.

Hernandez sends her hats off in batches of 50, some of which she makes while getting her monthly treatments at a cancer center in Houston.

Fobbs is a counselor at Federal Prison Camp Bryan. She introduced Johnson's program to an inmate group called Beyond the Fence, which contributes to society from inside the women's prison. They made 800 hats with donated yarn last year.

Powell puts her granddaughters to work making hats and still has the February 2016 issue of *Texas Co-op Power* on her living room table, open to the red hat story. She hopes to donate hundreds of hats by February.

"She's a friend from the heart," Powell said of Johnson. "I just love talking to her. She's got a good outlook, and she's got one good worker bee here."

cystic fibrosis—"A lot of things that get a lot more press."

Although not all congenital heart defects are fatal, it's a big problem—and one that Johnson is fighting with big goals. She hopes to someday get a hat to every baby born in the state in February. Some 32,000 Texas babies are born every month, according to data from the Texas Department of State Health Services, but Johnson isn't deterred. She expected to have 2,000 by the end of 2016 and hundreds more by February.

"I hope ... we run out of hospitals, we run out of babies," she said.

Most of Johnson's hatmakers are retired women over 65, and most are electric co-op members. They all come to know and appreciate Johnson for her work, and she's built a network of friends across the state.

"I can't even begin to tell you how many," she said. "I just love them all."

They make the hats in groups around kitchen tables and alone with their thoughts in comfy chairs. They make them while they're

**"This Has Touched So Many Lives"**

Aaron and Lindsey Hockenberry didn't know.

In April 2016 Lindsey got word that Londyn might not survive the day. The memory stayed with her.

"I saw the hospital's number on my phone," she said. "I can still feel the way I felt. You just get like cold. I was like, 'Oh, no.'"

Now, Aaron and Lindsey Hockenberry know.

Londyn died that day. "It shouldn't take somebody experiencing it for them to know about it," Lindsey said.

With a lot of hard work and thousands of tiny, red hats, Nancy Johnson and her corps of knitters hope to help with that.

"This has touched so many lives," Johnson said. "You cannot imagine."

Chris Burrows is a TEC communications specialist.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** See a video and slideshow; read about women prisoners who joined the cause; find patterns; and learn how you can help with Little Hats, Big Hearts.



# STIRRING DELIV



## RECREATING THE HORSEBACK DISPATCH OF WILLIAM TRAVIS' VICTORY OR DEATH LETTER

**O**n a cold and windy morning in February 2016, Scott McMahon rode his white mare, Gypsy, onto the stone plaza in front of the Alamo. Dressed as a Texian from the 1830s, McMahon offered a glimpse of what the plaza might have looked like in 1836 when Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna besieged the mission.

This was the first stop in a grand adventure for McMahon: He would re-enact the 1836 courier ride delivering William Barret Travis' Victory or Death letter to the constitutional delegation at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Even though it is regarded as the most famous document in Texas history, little had been done to recognize the path the couriers followed from the Alamo.

After a somber ceremony and a dramatic reading of Travis'

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA ROBINSON

plea for help, McMahon accepted a copy of the letter. Cameras clicked and Gypsy pawed the ground as McMahon tucked the scroll into his saddlebag and galloped away toward the east. Gypsy's hooves clattered on the paving stones, but a short block later, horse and rider stopped so McMahon could guide Gypsy into a waiting trailer, next to 9-year-old gelding Buck. They drove away from the asphalt freeways of San Antonio so they could begin the next stage of their ride near Seguin.

No one had done much to commemorate this historic ride in the 180 years since it happened, according to the research done by McMahon, the director of Presidio La Bahia in Goliad, site of a massacre of Texians three weeks after the Alamo fell. The original couriers, Albert Martin and Launcelot Smither, made the ride in two or three days. McMahon would take a more leisurely 10-day route, stopping to talk with school groups and visit historic sites. He would sleep outdoors and rely on one support vehicle for help with the horses.

McMahon's ride would add a new facet to the celebration of Texas independence. Every March, historians, re-enactors and



ERY

curious Texans converge on the birthplace of the short-lived nation of Texas at Washington-on-the-Brazos. The quiet hamlet 80 miles northwest of Houston was where 59 delegates gathered to declare independence from Mexico and draft a constitution.

McMahon, an avid historic re-enactor and former lead interpreter at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, spent months crafting his period clothing and riding tack, as well as researching the probable route of the 1836 couriers. “I looked at old maps of Texas from the 1830s, compared them with modern maps and picked the route that followed the old roads and trails as closely as possible,” McMahon said.

**T**he 2016 ride resumed near Seguin, where McMahon rode along the shoulder of the highway, taking in the south Texas scenery at a slower pace than did Martin, the first carrier of the letter who covered this route. Martin, a native of Rhode Island, came to Texas in the early 1830s and settled in Gonzales.

After receiving his orders and the letter from Travis, Martin made his way through enemy lines and headed for Gonzales. He heard relentless cannon fire and added a postscript to Travis’ letter describing the urgency of the attack and lack of supplies.

In the 1830s, this area around what became Seguin was sparsely settled, and the road was more a series of Native American trails and migration paths that eventually became the Camino Real. The town of Gonzales, 70 miles from the Alamo, was the first place Travis’ letter was read in 1836.

In 2016, the soundtrack for McMahon’s first day included the roar of speeding traffic instead of cannon fire. In Gonzales at the Eggleston House, an original dogtrot cabin from the 1840s and the oldest structure in town, he let the horses graze in the fenced yard, cleaned his tack and sharpened his knife as the sun set. He spread his blankets on the wide wooden porch and went to sleep as he would’ve in 1836.

In the morning, McMahon walked across the street to the Immortal 32 monument, honoring the 32 men from Gonzales who answered Travis’ call to come to the Alamo’s aid. Texas history students from nearby Gonzales Junior High, some of them direct descendants, read the names and biographies under blue skies.

In 1836, when Martin arrived in Gonzales, he handed the

**Scott McMahon leaves the Alamo with the Victory or Death letter. On his journey, he and his horses rest at the Sam Houston Oak near Gonzales.**



**Ryan Badger hands McMahon a replica of William Travis' letter, top. McMahon puts on moccasins after a long first day in the saddle.**

Travis letter to the second courier, Smither. Despite warnings from his father not to return to the mission, Martin then returned to the Alamo with the Immortal 32 and died during the final battle on March 6.

Shortly after the fall of the Alamo, Gen. Sam Houston ordered the town of Gonzales burned as settlers and Texians fled east in what became known as the Runaway Scrape. Nothing of the original town remains.

McMahon told the students of Gonzales about the letter and the famous ride. His period clothes and tack brought history to life. The most popular demonstration of the day was firing rounds from a period rifle that left white smoke hanging in the air.

**B**y midmorning, McMahon was again riding east. Schoolchildren ran to the fence as he passed, cars honked, people waved. Then he was alone again. Passing farm fields and pump jacks, McMahon continued east on Highway 90.

"What struck me the most was how much the country changes as you ride and how you really seem to notice it at a horse's pace versus traveling the same route by car," McMahon said.

In 1836, Smither added his own postscript to Travis' letter, urging fighting men to gather at Gonzales. Smither, an Alabaman and future mayor pro tem of San Antonio, had come to Texas in 1828 and acted as an emissary between the Mexican army and the townspeople of Gonzales during the 1835 skirmish over the cannon. The skirmish is considered the first battle of the Texas Revolution and is marked by the Texians' cry of "Come and take it!" when Mexican

troops demanded the cannon be turned over to them.

Smither rode more than 90 miles in 40 hours to San Felipe de Austin, where the letter was printed on broadsheets and distributed. The *Brazoria Texas Republican* was the first newspaper to carry Travis' letter, in its March 2 issue.

Thirteen miles along that route toward Shiner, McMahon camped under the spreading boughs of the 500-year-old Sam Houston Oak near the historic Braches House, which dates to the 1840s. The two-story, white clapboard home has changed ownership over the years and now stands empty, awaiting restoration.

On this site in 1836, Houston camped with his army after setting Gonzales aflame. In the early morning hours of March 14, they could see the glow of the flames that consumed the town. The group continued east, and Houston's army defeated Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto just one month later.

**C**ontinuing his own ride, McMahon met with 500 students and visitors at the San Felipe State Historic Site on Texas Independence Day. McMahon rode Buck down a gravel path toward the site where Stephen F. Austin founded his colony in 1823. He spent the afternoon in the shade of a replica cabin, talking with students who marveled at his bison blanket.

Nearby, students were sworn into a makeshift militia and mustered into formation with wooden rifles. In another cabin, a replica press printed Travis' letter much as it had been printed in 1836.

Historic accounts are not clear about who carried Travis' letter from San Felipe to Washington-on-the-Brazos, where the delegates were crafting a declaration of independence and constitution. The original letter or one of the broadsheets had probably arrived as the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed.

McMahon rode the last few hours into Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 4. There was little fanfare, but Texas flags flapped in the breeze as McMahon and Buck trotted up the main drive.

Preparations were underway for the weekend's Independence Day festivities. Food trucks lined the drive and re-enactors made camp along the Brazos River. Park staff and early visitors applauded McMahon's arrival, but there was no one to hand the letter to, no official ceremony marking the end of his journey. He was hours ahead of schedule, and almost two centuries late to save the Alamo. Travis' letter was broadcast to Texas and the world, which were drawn by the power of Travis' prose.

A final letter from Travis arrived at the delegation on March 6, and in it Travis implored his countrymen to "go on and make a declaration of independence, and we will then understand, and the world will understand, what we are fighting for."

Travis died at the Alamo in the early morning hours, not knowing the declaration had already been signed. His words were received hours after his death, his countrymen not realizing the time for aid had passed.

**Julia Robinson** is an Austin photojournalist.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** See Travis' letter and the complete text, plus more photos from the re-enactment.

# This Necklace is NOT for Sale... It's yours for FREE\*

No kidding. Only Stauer can give you  
200 carats of genuine amethyst for **NOTHING**.

You may think you understood the concept of "priceless" jewelry. For years, "priceless" meant "astronomically expensive." Owning "priceless" treasures was a rare privilege reserved for celebrities, billionaires, and royalty. The best most of us could do was dream. Until now...

Stauer smashes the luxury status quo with the release of our **FREE\* 200-Carat Lusso Amethyst Necklace**. That's right, we said **FREE...** as in "priceless." No charge.\* **ZERO dollars.\*** Call now and we'll send you this impressive helping of genuine amethyst (independently appraised at \$295) for **FREE**. We cut the price 100% and you pay only \$24.95, our regular charge for shipping, processing and insurance...we'll even **pay you back with a \$25 Discount Certificate—that's Better Than Free shipping!** There are no tricks or gimmicks. You aren't obligated to spend another dime or dollar with us... although we make it **VERY** hard to resist.

**Why give away jewelry?** We want your attention. Once you get a closer look at our rare gemstone treasures and vintage-inspired watches, and once you discover the guilt-free fun of getting luxury for less, we're betting that you'll fall in love with Stauer. If not? Keep your **FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace** anyway. No hard feelings.

**A collection of purple perfection.** Your **Lusso Amethyst Necklace** is a 200-carat symphony of smooth purple genuine gemstones. Each gemstone's shape and translucence ignites the velvety, violet hues. The polished amethysts are hand-strung on double-knotted jeweler's thread, and the stunning 18" necklace (with 2" extender) secures with a gold-finished lobster clasp. Once you wear it, you'll see that it hangs with the same weight and elegance as similar strands that sell for hundreds more.

**Too good to pass up. Too good to last long.** Amethyst is one of the world's most coveted gemstones and our supply is extremely limited. We can only offer such an outrageous deal for a short time every few years. Over 30,000 thrilled customers were lucky enough to get this promotion last time. **We only have about 2500 left in stock.** Call to reserve your **FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace** today and treat yourself (or someone you love) to a brilliant new definition of priceless luxury!

**Lusso Amethyst Necklace** (200 ctw) ~~\$249\*\*~~

**Your Cost With Offer Code—FREE\***

\*pay only shipping & processing of \$24.95.

You must use the offer code below to receive this special free necklace.

## 1-800-333-2045

**Offer Code LAN316-02.** Mention this code for the free necklace.

ACCREDITED BUSINESS  
Rating of A+



**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. LAN316-02,  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

"This necklace is beautiful. I could not believe my eyes...GREAT!"

—Bonnie Longs, S. C.

**FREE Amethyst Necklace**  
Limited to the first 2500 responders  
to this ad only!

**Buy NOW,  
pay NEVER.**  
An Exclusive **FREE**  
Jewelry Offer  
from Stauer®

Necklace enlarged to show luxurious detail.

## 200 carats of pure luxury appraised at \$295†...yours FREE!\*

200 ctw of genuine amethyst • Gold-finished spacers • 18" + 2" length necklace

\* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV, OR, SC, VA and ID. These state residents will be charged one cent (\$.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address. \*\* Free is only for customers using the offer code versus the price on [Stauer.com](http://Stauer.com) without your offer code. † For more information concerning the appraisal, visit <http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp>.

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™

# Field Dress For Success

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



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

— B. of Maryland

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars  
-a \$99 value-  
with purchase of  
Whitetail™ Hunting  
Knife



Whitetail™ Hunting Knife ~~\$79~~\*

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P Save **\$30**

**PLUS Free Stauer Compact Binoculars**

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Insider Offer Code: **WHK170-01**

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



**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. WHK170-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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

Not shown  
actual size.



Rating of A+

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

*Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.*



Actual size is 40.6 mm

# Millions Demand America's Purest Silver Dollar. Shouldn't You?

## Secure Your New 2017 Eagle Silver Dollars Now!

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact it's been the country's most popular Silver Dollar for over thirty years. Try as they might, that makes it a very hard "secret" to keep quiet. And right now, many of those same people are lining up to secure the brand new 2017 U.S. Eagle Silver Dollars — placing their orders now to ensure that they get America's newest Silver Dollar. Today, you can graduate to the front of that line by reserving your very own 2017 American Eagle Silver Dollars, in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition, before millions of others beat you to it.

### America's Brand New Silver Dollar

This is a strictly limited release of one of the most beautiful silver coins in the world. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. The 100-year-old design features a walking Lady Liberty draped in a U.S. flag on one side and a majestic U.S. Eagle and shield on the other. But the clock is ticking...

### The Most Affordable Precious Metal—GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED

Silver is by far the most affordable of all precious metals — and each full Troy ounce American Eagle Silver Dollar is government-guaranteed for its 99.9% purity, authenticity, and legal tender status.

### A Coin Flip You Can't Afford to Lose

Why are we releasing the most popular Silver Dollar in America for a remarkably affordable price? We're doing it to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of smart collectors and satisfied customers have known since 1984 — GovMint.com is *the best source for coins worldwide*.

### Timing is Everything

Our advice? Keep this to yourself. The more people who know about this offer, the worse for you. By calling today, you can secure some of the very first 2017 American Eagle Silver Dollars issued in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

### 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

You must be 100% satisfied with your 2017 American Eagle Silver Dollars or return them within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (*less s/h*). Don't miss out on this exclusive new release. Call immediately to secure these American Eagle Silver Dollars NOW!

### 2017 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

- 1-4 Coins - \$20.25 each + s/h
- 5-9 Coins - \$19.95 each + s/h
- 10-19 Coins - \$19.65 each + **FREE SHIPPING**
- 20+ Coins - \$18.95 each + **FREE SHIPPING**

### FREE SHIPPING on 8 or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service

**1-800-514-6468**

Offer Code ESB418-12  
Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. ESB418-12 • Burnsville, MN 55337

Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Facts and figures deemed accurate as of January 2017. NOTE: GovMint.com® is a private distributor of worldwide government coin and currency issues and privately issued and licensed collectibles, and is not affiliated with the United States government. GovMint.com is not an investment company and does not offer financial advice or sell items as an investment. The collectible coin market is speculative, and coin values may rise or fall over time. All rights reserved. © 2017 GovMint.com.



**GOVMINT.COM®**

**THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™**

# Space Heater Safety

**SPACE HEATERS CAN BE A QUICK WAY** to heat up a room. However, they can be as dangerous as they are convenient if used improperly. Space heaters cause 25,000 home fires and 6,000 emergency room visits a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide happen during the home-heating months between December and February. Equipment intended to add a little extra warmth, such as space heaters, is the leading cause of winter fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Unvented kerosene heaters are especially dangerous and are illegal in some states.

Your electric cooperative urges everyone in the home to understand the importance of using space heaters safely.

**Heed the following precautions when using electric space heaters:**

1. Purchase only space heaters that have been tested for safety and approved by Underwriters Laboratories or other reputable testing labs.
2. Make sure the unit is equipped with an emergency tip-over shutoff feature and heating-element guards.
3. Read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for operation and care.
4. Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
5. Check to make sure the heater is clean and in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired before using.
6. Space heaters have one purpose: to provide supplemental heating. Never use them to thaw pipes, cook food or dry clothing or towels.
7. Remember to keep space heaters at least 3 feet from combustible liquids such as fuel, spray cans and paint, as well as flammable materials such as draperies, blankets and sofas.
8. Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could result in a shock or burn.
9. Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.



**Replace your old space heater with a newer model with safety ratings.**

10. If your space heater is plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter that trips, don't assume there is something wrong with the GFCI. Immediately stop using the heater until a professional can check it—otherwise, a shock could occur.
  11. Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.
  12. Replace older space heaters with newer, safer models. Many people also use electric blankets to keep warm.
- Follow these tips for using electric blankets:**
1. Before plugging in electric blankets, check for any damage and inspect cords for frays, cracks or cuts.
  2. An electric blanket should not be tucked under the mattress, and nothing should be placed on top of the blanket while it's in use, including comforters and bedspreads.
  3. Don't let pets sleep on top of electric blankets.

# Can I Seal My House Too Tightly?

*How much insulation is enough—or too much?*

**ALTHOUGH THE REFRAIN** among energy-efficiency experts is “Seal and insulate, seal and insulate,” occasionally you hear stories about newer houses being too tightly insulated, with restricted flow of fresh air leading to poor indoor air quality, mold growth and other problems. So how do you know how much is too much?

Although it is possible to seal a house too tightly, it is very unlikely in most older homes. A certain amount of fresh air is needed for good indoor air quality, and there are specifications that set the minimum amount of fresh air needed for a house. But most homes built before 2000 have many spots through which air enters or exits the house—usually too many.

A quick way to determine whether you have enough insulation is to look across your attic. If the insulation is level with or below the joists, you probably need to add more. If you can't see the joists because the insulation is above them, then you probably have enough, and adding more likely will not be cost-effective.

The recommended level for most attics is to insulate to R-38. R-value is a measure of the insulation's ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the better the thermal performance. For more information, including recommendations for how much insulation you should have, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) or [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for online insulation guides.

Even if you have plenty of insulation, your home might not be performing well due to cold air leaking through other areas. Make sure to look for signs of air leaks and seal them up as you find them. Some air leaks are easy to find because they are easy to feel, including those around windows and doors and through electrical outlets. Hidden air leaks in attics and basements and around chimneys are often more significant sources of energy loss. Consider addressing these big leaks first because they will have a greater effect on improving your comfort and reducing your utility bills.

If you are concerned about how tightly your home is sealed, hire an energy specialist to perform leakage tests using diagnostic tools and ensure that all combustion appliances are operating properly. If your home is too tight, the energy specialist might recommend that a fresh-air ventilation system be added to your HVAC system.



An energy specialist can determine if your home is too tightly sealed.

ANNA OLESSENKO | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



CHARLES MANN | ISTOCK.COM

Shop for LED lights after the holidays to upgrade and save money.

## Find Post-Holiday Deals on LED Christmas Lights

**THE BEST TIME TO PLAN** for an energy-efficient 2017 Christmas light display is before Valentine's Day.

Online and in stores, retailers are offering rock-bottom prices on holiday decorations as they make room on their shelves for upcoming spring gardening season products. So it's a great time to look for deeply discounted LED lights to decorate your house and tree later this year.

LED lights aren't cheap, so buying them during post-holiday sales makes them more affordable. If you wait until November or December to make the switch, you'll pay approximately twice as much for LED lights than for traditional lights.

However, LEDs pay for themselves over time because they use up to one-third less power than the incandescent lights that still brighten most Christmas trees. That means you'll save some money on your holiday energy bill, especially if your light display is grand.

You'll save even more in the long run because LED lights are more durable and last up to 10 times longer than traditional lights. Plus, LED bulbs, because they don't have filaments, don't heat up and burn out. That makes them safer on Christmas trees.

# Armed Conflicts

Confederate soldier survives Civil War's worst, only to die in dispute over steer

BY LONN TAYLOR

AMONG THE TREASURES OF THE MUSEUM of the Big Bend in Alpine is a homespun, butternut-colored Confederate soldier's uniform coat. The left sleeve is slit open from the cuff to above the elbow.

The one-armed coat belonged to a 13th Mississippi Infantry soldier named Henry Harrison Powe. The sleeve was slit when Powe's wounded left arm was amputated below the elbow after the Third Battle of Winchester, Virginia, on September 19, 1864. Afterward, Powe wore the coat with the sleeve folded and stitched together.

Powe saw the worst of the Civil War. He survived the first and second battles of Manassas and lived through the slaughters of Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor and Petersburg, only to be shot down in a pasture on the Leoncita Ranch in Brewster County in January 1891 during an argument over the ownership of a steer.

Fatal arguments over water holes, fence lines and unbranded cattle were fairly common in the Big Bend during the final years of the 19th century, but the one that was lethal for Powe is especially well-known.

Alpine lawyer Wigfall Van Sickle first told the story in the *Galveston News* in 1896. Carlyle Graham Rhat included it in *The Romance of the Davis Mountains and Big Bend Country*, the first history of the Big Bend, published in 1919. Since then, the story has been repeated with varying details and embellishments by Barry Scobee, Virginia Madison, J. Frank Dobie and many others. It gained even wider popularity in 1960 when the well-worn and highly polished narrative served as

the basis for an episode in the television series *Rawhide*, starring Eric Fleming and Clint Eastwood.

The core of the story is this: After the Civil War, Powe married and brought his family to Texas. In the 1880s, he came to the Big Bend and established a ranch in the Davis Mountains north of Fort Davis.

On January 28, 1891, he joined a group of ranchers at a roundup in northern Brewster County with the goal of branding calves that had been missed in the earlier fall roundup. In addition to the ranchers who had organized the roundup, a man named Fine Gilliland was there, representing the interests of the Dubose and Wentworth Diamond Tail Ranch southeast of Alpine. Gilliland was not taking part in the roundup work but was there to claim any Diamond Tail cattle that might have gotten mixed in with the 2,000-plus head gathered for the event.

Powe's son, Robert Marvin Powe, who was there helping with the work, reported that the roundup boss, Eugene Kelly, told Henry Powe that there was an unbranded brindle yearling bull in the herd that belonged to one of his cows, although the mother cow was not in the herd. Powe cut the bull out of the herd. Gilliland interfered, demanding to see the mother, and when Powe told him that the mother was not present but that Kelly had seen him with her, Gilliland turned the bull back into the herd. Powe cut him out again, and soon both men were off of their horses and on their feet shooting at each other. Powe had his reins wrapped around his one good arm, while his horse, frightened



by the gunfire, was pitching and rearing, throwing his aim off. Gilliland's fifth shot killed Powe.

With a dozen witnesses to his misdeed, Gilliland jumped on a horse and took off for the Glass Mountains. Two days later, he was tracked down and killed in a gunfight.

The shocked cowboys roped the bull, dragged him to the branding fire, and with a running iron burned the word "murder" and the date "1-28-91" on his flank and turned him loose. Powe left a widow and nine children behind.

One of those children, Lucy Powe Wilson, donated her father's Confederate uniform coat to the Museum of the Big Bend in 1936. Mary Bones, the museum's cura-

tor of exhibits and adult education, says he was wearing the jacket when he was killed. "Powe carried on the long-standing and still current tradition of using former military wear in civilian use," she said. "He wore his jacket to that fateful roundup."

Two years after making the donation, Powe Wilson once again experienced the effects of Big Bend violence. On December 3, 1938, in an eerie reprise of her father's murder, her husband, Thomas Meade Wilson, was shot and killed in an argument with two neighbors over a herd of cattle and a fence line.

**Lonn Taylor**, former historian at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, lives in Fort Davis.

# Winning Water Colors

Fish art competition lures Texas students

BY DYANNE FRY CORTEZ

STUDENTS IN JENNIFER BROOKS' ART classes focus on fish during the first months of every spring semester.

Brooks teaches at Felix G. Botello Elementary School in south central Dallas. She works with kids from preschool through fifth grade. Every year, her school sends hundreds of entries to the Texas division of the State-Fish Art Contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever.

"From January to the end of March, that's pretty much all that's going on in my classroom," Brooks says. Students use crayons and colored pencils to create pictures of fish in their watery habitats. "The little ones, I have them draw the Guadalupe bass. They need to know their state fish."

Fourth- and fifth-graders are free to choose a different species. The contest website provides a list of the official state fish from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Any of those fish are fair game for the contest.

Wildlife Forever is a national nonprofit that promotes conservation, education, and sustainable fish and wildlife management. The State-Fish Art Contest, launched in 1999, aims to inspire the next generation of conservationists by connecting art and science.

The contest is open to kindergarten through 12th-grade students in public, private and home schools. Entry deadline is March 31. Students may sketch, draw or paint a picture of a recognized state fish. Grades 4 and up are also required to send a one-page written composition about the fish. Winners are selected from four grade-

level groups: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

Texas entries are judged in Athens at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, a hatchery and aquatic education facility operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The top 10 artists in each age group are invited to spend a day exploring the center and fishing at the on-site pond. First-, second- and third-place finishers receive scholarships and fishing gear.

Zoe Ann Stinchcomb, state coordinator of the contest, received more than 700 entries last year, she says. They come from cities, suburbs and small towns all over Texas. Students render fish in crayon, colored pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, pastel, watercolor and oil paint.

First-place winners advance to a nationwide competition, where judges pick the top three from each age group, plus an overall best of show. There's a "Fish Make You Smarter" award for the best-written composition. In addition, Wildlife Forever chooses one piece of art each year for a commemorative stamp, which is sold to raise funds for conservation projects. In the past decade, three Texans have won that honor. The 2017 State-Fish Art Expo will be in Columbia, South Carolina.

Some kids have taken to the contest like fish to water. Nasa Xu, one of several repeat winners, graduated last spring from Cinco Ranch High School in Katy. She has won three first-place awards in Texas, starting with a sixth-grade entry in 2010. In 2016, her mixed-media portrait of a largemouth bass on the hunt won best of



show at the national expo.

For Xu, the art-to-science connection is obvious. “I enjoy studying the ecological part of it. When you draw something, sometimes you have to research what the fish eats and how it lives,” she says. Now a biology and pre-med major at the University of Texas at Austin, Xu hopes to add a studio art minor to her degree.

Kealey Yoakum attended the expo in 2014 after her freshman year at Warren High School. Her art teacher, Velen Whisneant, has mentored several State-Fish Art Contest winners, plus a handful of honorable mentions.

Yoakum is a senior this year and expects she’ll enter the contest again. “It was really wonderful to see all the artwork,” she recalls. Her pencil drawing of a longear sunfish was on the nationwide Wall of

Fame with winning entries from all the other states.

Fellow Texan Brady King, a home-schooled student from Livingston, won the Art of Conservation Stamp Award that year. His family is a member of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative. A poster-sized print of his stamp, featuring a pair of Atlantic cod, was displayed front and center.

“Even though it wasn’t mine,” Yoakum says, “it made me proud.”

**Dyanne Fry Cortez**, a member of Pedernales EC, writes about Texas nature, culture and characters.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)**

Learn more about the State-Fish Art Contest. For contest rules, entry forms, teaching resources and a look at last year’s Texas winners, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/fishart](http://tpwd.texas.gov/fishart).

**Nasa Xu won best of show nationwide in the 2016 State-Fish Art Contest for her rendering of a large-mouth bass.**



*"I'm a bit sad that my fiance and I didn't know about Stauer before we got engaged. This ring is so much more clear and sparkly than my real diamond!"*

— P.T. FROM BALTIMORE, MD

Limited to the first 2100 responders to this ad only!



## URGENT: Diamond Ring Recall

Experts warn that millions of rings may be "romantically defective" when compared to the spectacular 4-Carat DiamondAura® Avalon

She loves natural diamonds. She loves you even more. But when Seven the skimpiest solitaires sell for as much as \$1,200, it's time to reconsider your relationship...with diamonds. Have you recently over-paid only to be underwhelmed? Send it back. You can do bolder. You can do brighter. You can own the Stauer 4-carat DiamondAura® Avalon Ring for under \$80.

**When "cute" is a four-letter word.** If you want to make a romantic impression, go big. Cute doesn't cut it. Your love deserves to be wowed. If you're a billionaire with money to burn, turn the page. Everyone else? What you read next just might change your love life. There's only one way to find out...

**EXCLUSIVE FREE**  
DiamondAura® Stud Earrings - a \$99 value - with purchase of the Purity Ring



You get the look of natural stones, without the outrageous cost.

**We rewrote the rules of romance.** Only Stauer's exclusive lab-created DiamondAura gives you the luxury look of large-carat diamonds for a fraction of the price. The ingenious DiamondAura process involves the use of rare minerals heated to incredibly high temperatures of nearly 5000°F. After cutting and polishing, scientists create a faultless marvel that's optically brighter and clearer with even more color and fire than a "D" flawless diamond.

Our exclusive DiamondAura jewelry features all of the classic specifications, including color, clarity, cut and carat weight and is hard enough to cut glass.

**Experience the luxury of money in the bank.** We "built" our own mined diamond version of this ring online at a popular jewelry site and the grand total was \$77,767! Today you can wear this 3 ¾ carat lab-created DiamondAura solitaire, accented with 32 gleaming DiamondAura rounds in fine .925 sterling silver for **only \$79!**

**That's good, but you deserve better.** Order now and we'll include the matching 1-total carat DiamondAura Avalon Earrings...absolutely **FREE**. That's right, 5 total carats of DiamondAura in sterling silver for under \$80. Talk about money in the bank!

**Your satisfaction is guaranteed.** If for any reason you don't absolutely adore your DiamondAura Avalon Ring, return it within 60 days for a full refund of your item sale price. But we promise that once you get a look at the Avalon up close, you'll see love in a whole new light.

**DiamondAura® Avalon Ring** (4 ctw) ~~\$295†~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P **Save \$216!**

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

**1-800-333-2045**

Offer Code: **AVR424-06**

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

**Stauer®**

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. AVR424-06, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)



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

3 ¾ carat DiamondAura® center stone • 32 brilliant-cut accent DiamondAura® stones • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10

*Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary*

# King Solomon's Secret Treasure: FOUND

*Ancient beauty trapped in mines for centuries is finally released and available to the public!*

**K**ing Solomon was one of the wealthiest rulers of the ancient world. His vast empire included hoards of gold, priceless gemstones and rare works of art. For centuries, fortune hunters and historians dedicated their lives to the search for his fabled mines and lost treasure. But as it turns out, those mines hid a prize more beautiful and exotic than any precious metal: chrysocolla.

**Prized by the wisest king of the Bible.** Known as the "Wisdom Stone," chrysocolla was considered a powerful talisman of healing and calming energy. Ancient rulers of the Biblical era relied on it for guidance and now this legendary treasure can be yours with our stunning *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace*. Call today to bring home 325 carats for **ONLY \$49!**

**Nothing like it on Earth.** The mesmerizing swirls of color in chrysocolla come from a unique combination of elements found in the rich mineral deposits of copper mines. When miners find a vein of blue-green, all digging stops so that the delicate chrysocolla can be extracted by hand.

**Masterpieces of natural art.** Our *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace* features a strand of polished, enhanced chrysocolla ovals—and silver-colored beads—that meet at a gorgeous teardrop pendant. Every chrysocolla is unique, showcasing a canvas painted by Mother Nature herself.

**Your satisfaction is guaranteed.** Wear the *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace* for a few weeks. If you aren't convinced that it's one of nature's most elegant creations, simply send it back within 60 days for a full refund of your purchase price. But once you experience this gorgeous gemstone for yourself, we're betting that you'll want to share King Solomon's secret with the world!

*Own the Most  
Beautiful Stone  
You've Never  
Seen Before—  
325 carats  
for only \$49!*

**TAKE 84% OFF INSTANTLY!**  
When you use your **INSIDER OFFER CODE**

**Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace ~~\$299\*~~**

*Offer Code Price—***\$49** + s&p

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

**1-800-333-2045**

**Offer Code ESN366-01**

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

- 325 ctw of chrysocolla
- 18" necklace (with 2" extender) secures with a lobster clasp

*Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™*

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



Necklace enlarged to show luxurious detail.

**Stauer®**

14101 Southcross Drive W.,  
Dept. ESN366-01, Burnsville,  
Minnesota 55337

[www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)



**Rating of A+**

# BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS

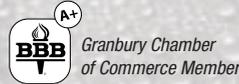


Family owned, Texas-built  
 Lifetime guarantee against leaks  
 Great for circulation, arthritis, stiff joints and relaxation

Now Offering ONYX Custom Showers

**CALL FOR PRICING**  
 (we give approximate pricing for the tubs and showers)  
 If you have any questions, please give us a call.

Visit Our Showroom  
 3411 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury



**888-825-2362** [www.bestbuywalkintubs.com](http://www.bestbuywalkintubs.com)

# RECIPE CONTEST WIN \$100

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

## Upcoming Contests

### JULY ISSUE

Texas Gulf Shrimp  
 Deadline: February 10

### AUGUST ISSUE

Some Like It Hot  
 Deadline: March 10

**ENTER TODAY AT**  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

# WD METAL BUILDINGS

Instant Pricing @ [wdmb.com](http://wdmb.com)



## HAY BARN TO COUNTRY HOMES



### AG BUILDINGS

Hay Barns  
 Equipment Buildings  
 Livestock Shelters

### METAL BUILDINGS

Steel Shops  
 Storage Buildings  
 RV Buildings

### BARNDOMINIUMS

Country Homes  
 Hunting Cabins  
 Ranch Houses

REINFORCED CONCRETE SLABS • EXPERIENCED ERECTION CREWS • ALL WELDED FRAME WORK

# FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST

Each month, Focus on Texas features Texas photos submitted by our readers. Send us your best photos for a chance to see your entry in the magazine!

## Upcoming Contests

### JUNE ISSUE

Road Trip  
 Deadline: February 10

### JULY ISSUE

Play Ball!  
 Deadline: March 10

**ENTER TODAY AT**  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

# MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

**Bank C.D.'s Due?**  
**CALL US NOW**

**1-800-359-4940** TEXAS  
TOLL-FREE  
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

**BLAKE MATTSO, CFP™**  
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710  
*Serving Customers All Over Texas*

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102 (817) 873-4256.



**ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS COMPANY**  
1-800-509-4949 | accessiblebuildings.com

- Sizes from 30' x 40' and Up
- Commercial-Industrial
- Shop-Farm-Mini Storage
- Engineer Sealed Drawings
- Easy Bolt Up Construction
- Custom Designed to Your Specifications

**AVAILABLE:**

- Insulation
- Windows
- Ridge Vents
- Walk and Roll Up Doors
- Foundation Design
- Labor to Erect

**CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE**

Texas BCS Sales & Service  
at Homestead Maintenance



**BCS**

**BCS Two Wheel Tractors** offer a fleet of attachments allowing you to till, plow, mow, chip limbs and more!  
**Call Today for a quote or to arrange for a hands-on demonstration.**

800 Dry Creek Rd, Waco, TX  
texasbcs.com • (254) 829-2474



**RHINO**  
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design  
Engineered Stamp Blueprints



Farm • Industrial • Commercial  
RHINOBLDG.COM 888-875-8233  
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

**DRYER VENT WIZARD**

**We clean, repair, replace and install clothes dryer vents from the dryer to the exterior**

- Reduce your energy costs!
- Reduce the time it takes to dry your clothes!
- Increase the life of your clothes dryer!
- Reduce the risk of a dryer fire!



*get the lint out*

**866-498-7233 • 512-861-4878**  
dryerventwizard.com • Austin, TX



**CARY DIETZMANN**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE  
979.203.3942

... come home to your heritage™



☉ FARM - RANCH - ACREAGE  
☉ Wildlife & Habitat  
☉ Country Living

www.har.com/carydietzmann

**E-NEWS IN YOUR INBOX**



**SIGN UP TODAY AT**  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

**TEXAS MEDICAL PLANS**  
Independent, Authorized Agent for



**BlueCross BlueShield of Texas**

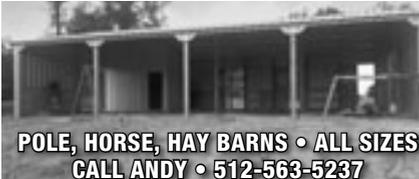
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT COVERAGE**  
**1-888-888-6698**

**Low Cost Pole Barns**

26' x 48' x 10'  
3 Sides Enclosed  
**\$6,995**

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites  
**Call: Ron 512-367-0428**



**POLE, HORSE, HAY BARNs • ALL SIZES**  
**CALL ANDY • 512-563-5237**

**MANUFACTURED HOME OR PIER & BEAM HOME INSULATED CEMENT SKIRTING**

3 designs & 11 colors to choose from!  
Replace your vinyl skirting with **STONECOTE**.  
**1-830-833-2547**  
www.stonecote.com



**FLOATING FISHING PIER**

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.  
All sizes—installation available.



**45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE** 

Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000  
www.ellisonmarine.com • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.



1.800.582.2276  
**NATIONAL BARN COMPANY**  
NATIONALBARN.COM

# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

**BADLAND** **SUPER COUPON**

**2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL**

ITEM 61258 shown  
61840/61297  
68146/63476

**SAVE \$70**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**899<sup>99</sup>** **4999**

comp at \$119.99

10451382

**LIMIT 5** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM

10491261

**LIMIT 1** coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Admiral, Bauer, CoverPro, Daytona, Earthquake, Hercules, Japater, Lynox, Poulan, Predator, Stormcall, Tegalator, Viking, Vulcan. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/7/17.

**SUPER COUPON**

**FREE**

WITH ANY PURCHASE

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

ITEM 69052 shown  
69111/62522/62573

**\$4.97** VALUE

10503559

**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 6/7/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

**COVERPRO** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**10 FT. x 20 FT. PORTABLE CAR CANOPY**

ITEM 63054/60728  
69034/62858 shown

**9999**

**SAVE \$106** **NEW \$149<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$205.99

10460131

**LIMIT 3** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**CENTRALPNEUMATIC** **SUPER COUPON**

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

ITEM 69091/61454  
61693/62803  
67847 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$296**

10495387

**LIMIT 5** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE**

ITEM 69445/61858  
69512 shown

**9999** **17999**

comp at \$269

10432368

**LIMIT 5** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE**

ITEM 69006 shown  
60715/60714

ITEM 47873 shown  
69005/61262

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**YOUR CHOICE \$399** **499** **SAVE 77%** comp at \$17.99

10512165

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS**

ITEM 69043/63282/42304 shown  
69129/69121/877 shown

METRIC  
ITEM 42305/69044/63171

**YOUR CHOICE \$599** **899** comp at \$14.97

10451782

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

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

**299** **499** **SAVE 64%** comp at \$8.48

10497926

**LIMIT 7** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PREDATOR** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS**

ITEM 68530/63086/69671/63085 shown  
ITEM 68525/69677/63087/63088 CALIFORNIA ONLY

**52999** **59999**

comp at \$999

10466944

**LIMIT 3** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**CHICAGO** **ELECTRIC** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

ITEM 69684 shown  
61969/61970

**13499** **19999**

comp at \$339

10513070

**LIMIT 3** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**Bunker Hill Security**

**60 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT**

ITEM 62534 shown  
69643 shown

**2999** **3999** **69.99**

10480721

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**STEP STOOL/WORKING PLATFORM**

ITEM 62515 shown  
66911 shown

**1999** **2999** **57.55**

10448506

**LIMIT 3** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**drillmaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER WITH KEYLESS CHUCK**

ITEM 69651 shown  
62868/62873  
68239 shown

**1699** **1999** **49**

10484490

**LIMIT 8** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**HARDY** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**MECHANIC'S GLOVES**

ITEM 62429 shown

**399** **599** **9.98**

10464398

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**Bunker Hill Security**

**60 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT**

ITEM 62534 shown  
69643 shown

**2999** **3999** **69.99**

10480721

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

ITEM 68053/62160  
62496/62516/60569 shown

**5999** **7999** **129.99**

10500129

**LIMIT 5** - 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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**MECHANIC'S GLOVES**

ITEM 62429 shown

**399** **599** **9.98**

10464398

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**MECHANIC'S GLOVES**

ITEM 62429 shown

**399** **599** **9.98**

10464398

**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 6/7/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

700+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com • 800-423-2567

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or below the "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

# Trinity Thumbprint

Little remains of Old Magnolia, a once-bustling steamboat port town near Palestine

BY E.R. BILLS

IF YOU'RE A STUDENT OF TEXAS HISTORY and a frequenter of the historical markers that dot Texas' highways, byways and back roads, you're well familiar with Forrest Gump's "box of chocolates." You never know what you're gonna get with Texas historical markers, which are announced by chocolate-colored signs along the roadside.

Such is the case along the scenic and hilly stretch of State Highway 294 as it breaks east off U.S. Highway 84, just northeast of Oakwood. The topography jumps and dips through a pine forest, and then appears a sign noting a marker.

Judging by its location in the middle of East Texas, you might wonder if it will detail a former oilfield, a cemetery or a spot where Davy Crockett once bivouacked. All are safe guesses—but not on target.

The marker announces that you're at the site of Old Magnolia, or Magnolia Landing, a long-defunct inland steamboat port once referred to as "Little St. Louis on the Trinity." This is a puzzle because the marker stands on high ground, and there's no major waterway for miles.

The Trinity River, which otherwise trends sleepily and southeasterly toward the Gulf of Mexico in this part of Texas, deviates from its southward tendency near this spot and perks up like a defiant thumb, turning due north. Near the pad of the imaginary geographic thumb, about a half-mile downhill and south of the marker, sat Magnolia.

Named after an old magnolia tree that grew nearby, the community was first settled in the 1840s by folks from the Palestine area, about a dozen miles northeast. At its peak in 1863, the citizenry numbered almost 800, and the town boasted 33 city blocks, featuring a school, church, general mercantile, drugstore, cotton gin, two cotton warehouses, law office, blacksmith, ferry, chair factory, cemetery, and the two-story, 12-room Haygood Hotel, which



housed a popular tavern on the second floor. The Haygood Hotel sat on pole stilts (in case of flooding) and offered lodging for a man and two horses at \$2 a night. The Haygood tavern attracted revelers for miles around, and when its dance floor was full, gala dances broke out down on the river, staged on the decks of the docked steamboats themselves.

In Magnolia's heyday, according to a 1955 article in the *Dallas Morning News*, it was not uncommon to see a half-dozen steamers (side-wheeler and stern-wheeler) tied up. The vessels would sound their horns 2 or 3 miles downstream to let folks know passengers and cargo were inbound, and the locals would travel into town to meet them. Besides passengers, the inbound freighters delivered sugar, molasses, flour, barrels of whiskey and, occasionally, ice from Boston, Massachusetts (available at the Haygood tavern for 10 cents a pound). The outbound vessels usually carried cotton and cattle hides. The town warehouses were often stocked with thousands of bales of local cotton awaiting transport.

From early January to late June, the Trinity River crested, and the twisting thoroughfare bustled with steamboat traffic. Early Bird, a 184-ton side-wheeler car-

rying 800 bales of cotton, made the voyage from Magnolia to Galveston in a record time of four days, according to a November 20, 1947, article in the *Palestine Herald-Press*. But typically the journey up or down the waterway could take weeks, depending on the river level and occasional obstructions. Steamboats and their crews often sat in Magnolia for indefinite periods waiting for the river to rise. Sometimes low water levels caught vessels out on the Trinity, and they sat where they got stuck.

When the International-Great Northern Railroad arrived in Palestine in the 1870s, trade on the Trinity came to an unceremonious halt. The area's riverboat romance was over, and one of the last steamboats to ply the waters delivered the steel that was used to construct a railroad bridge across the river.

Today, the historical marker and a handful of concrete slabs are the only indicators of Old Magnolia. The anchor of the 127-foot long, 144-ton, Trinity-trading A.S. Ruthven sits on display outside the Palestine Area Chamber of Commerce, but traces of the region's steamboat past are best explored at the Museum for East Texas Culture in Palestine.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.



**BROOKSIDE  
EQUIPMENT**



# BROOKSIDE AT YOUR SIDE with early spring savings.

Get a jump on the season with capable John Deere equipment from Brookside. Get unbeatable deals on John Deere Tractors, Mowers and Utility Vehicles, and hit the ground rolling this spring.

**Brookside Equipment Sales, Inc.**  
281-256-6900 or 888-869-6202  
8 Texas Gulf Coast Locations

Better get a quote online at [BrooksideUSA.com](http://BrooksideUSA.com)

<sup>1</sup>Offer ends February 28, 2017. Eligibility for the down payment offer is limited to highly qualified customers and scheduled monthly payments will be required. \$3,389 down plus <sup>2</sup>9% for 72 Months based on financed price of \$20,999 on a New 5065E Utility Tractor. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Valid only at participating US Dealers. Monthly price, cash price, and model details are subject to change and may not be available throughout entire promotional period. <sup>3</sup>Manufacturer's estimate of power (ISO) per 97/68/EC. <sup>4</sup>Beginning 9/1/2016 all 5E Series Utility Tractors purchased new from an authorized John Deere Dealer come standard with a 5 year/2000 hour (whichever comes first) Powertrain Warranty. See the Limited Warranty for New John Deere Turf & Utility Equipment at dealer for details.

ONLY

**\$259/MONTH<sup>1</sup>**  
—OR—  
**CASH DISCOUNT**

- 5065E Utility Tractor**
- 65 hp<sup>2</sup> for serious ranchers
  - 9F/3R SyncShuttle™ transmission
  - 5-YEAR Powertrain Warranty!<sup>3</sup>

**JOIN US FOR BUILDING VALUE DAYS,  
OUR BIGGEST SALES EVENT  
OF THE YEAR AND THE BEST CHANCE  
FOR YOU TO GET YOUR MORTON FOR LESS!**



2017 Sale Dates:  
January 1st–February 28th



**MORTON  
BUILDINGS®**

800-447-7436 • [mortonbuildings.com](http://mortonbuildings.com)

©2017 Morton Buildings, Inc. A listing of GC licenses available at [mortonbuildings.com/licenses](http://mortonbuildings.com/licenses). Certain restrictions apply. Ref. Code 537

RESIDENTIAL | FARM | EQUESTRIAN | COMMERCIAL | COMMUNITY | REPAIRS

## BURN SAFELY

with the  
*Stainless Steel*  
**BurnCage™**

**PERFECT FOR:**

- Sensitive financial documents
- All burnable household waste\*
- Old leaves and branches

**STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION**  
is lightweight, durable, and portable  
(it folds for easy storage).

**PERFORATED LID** and sidewalls maximize  
airflow and trap embers.

**1600°  
TEMPERATURES**  
mean more  
thorough burning  
with less ash.

\* Always check local  
ordinances before burning.



**Now In  
3 Sizes!**

No more UNSAFE and UNSIGHTLY rusty barrel!

Call for **FREE Information Kit  
and Factory Direct Coupon!**

TOLL-FREE  
**877-200-8321**  
[BurnCage.com](http://BurnCage.com)



94626X © 2017

# Ragin' Cajun

AMONG THE MANY THINGS TO LOVE about Louisiana's food is its lack of pretense. Despite the elegant restaurants in the French Quarter, some of my most memorable meals have been on the back roads of Cajun country at grocery stores, butcher shops and even gas stations. With Mardi Gras this month, it's time to simmer up a big pot of my smoky, spicy red beans for a Big Easy fix.

**PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR**

## Smoky Red Beans and Rice

- 1 pound dried red beans, rinsed and sorted
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or bacon grease
- 4 ounces fatty pork (such as shoulder or boneless ribs), cut into ½-inch cubes
- 2 medium yellow onions, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 4 bay leaves, preferably fresh
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme
- ½ pound andouille (or other smoked sausage), split in half lengthwise and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 10 cups chicken stock or water
- Cooked white rice
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced, for garnish
- Hot sauce, for garnish

1. Place the beans in a large pot, cover with 4 inches water and soak 8 hours or overnight. Drain and set aside.
2. Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the cubed pork and cook, stirring, until the fat begins to render, about 3 minutes. Add the onions, celery, green pepper and garlic, and stir to combine. Add the salt, pepper and cayenne, and cook, stirring, until the vegetables are soft, about 4 minutes. Add bay leaves, parsley, thyme and andouille, and cook, stirring, until the sausage has browned, about 4 minutes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

MARY PAT WALDRON

# Recipes

## Ragin' Cajun



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

RENEE SHEFFIELD | DEEP EAST TEXAS EC

"This creamy and slightly spicy étouffée is the ultimate comfort food on a chilly day," Sheffield says. "We love to make it when family come in town for a visit, and it's always better on the second day—if it lasts that long!" Serve this dish with hot steamed rice and hot sauce on the side.

### Chicken and Shrimp Étouffée

- 1 package (3 ounces) crab boil
- 4 chicken thighs (bone-in, skin-on)
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced, whites and greens divided
- 1 bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 cans (10 ounces each) diced tomatoes and green chiles
- 1 package (2.75 ounces) étouffée mix (such as Tony Chachere's)
- 2 cans (10 ounces each) cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cans (10 ounces each) cream of chicken soup
- ½ teaspoon Creole seasoning (such as Zatarain's)
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- 1 pound uncooked shrimp, peeled and deveined, or crawfish tail meat
- ¼ cup brown sugar

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil, then add the crab boil and chicken. Reduce heat and simmer until the chicken is cooked through, about 14–16 minutes. Remove the chicken from liquid, cool, then shred the meat, discarding bones and skin.
2. Melt the butter in a large, deep skillet, and sauté the onion, scallion whites, bell pepper, celery, garlic and bay leaves until the vegetables have softened. Add the tomatoes and chiles, and simmer for a few minutes.
3. Add the étouffée mix, soups, Creole seasoning and parsley. Stir and simmer 20 minutes. Add the shrimp or crawfish and reserved chicken, and cook an additional 20 minutes. Remove bay leaves.
4. Stir in brown sugar and the green tops of the scallions and serve over steamed rice. Serves 4–6.

**COOK'S TIP** For added flavor, allow the chicken thighs to cool in the crab boil liquid 10–15 minutes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

3. Add beans and stock or water, stir well, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the beans are tender and starting to thicken, about 2 hours. (If the beans become too dry, add more water as needed.)
4. Remove from heat. Using the back of a wooden spoon or a potato masher, mash about ¼ of the beans against the side of the pot, then stir in. Continue to cook until the beans are tender and creamy, an additional 15 minutes. Remove from heat and remove bay leaves, then taste and adjust seasonings as desired.
5. Serve the warm beans over cooked white rice and garnish with green onions and hot sauce, as desired. Serves 4–6.

### Cajun Shrimp and Cheddar Grit Cakes

KRYSTAL CARTER | SAM HOUSTON EC

This elevated spin on classic shrimp and grits can be served various ways: Unmold the cakes for guests, serve in paper liners or spoon the creamy grits straight from the pot. Carter suggests serving this dish with sautéed spinach or other greens.

- 4 cups water
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup quick grits
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, divided use
- 1½ pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ teaspoon thyme
- ¼ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a muffin pan with paper liners, then spray the liners with nonstick spray.
2. Bring water and salt to rolling boil in a medium pot. Add grits, reduce heat to medium and cook 5–7 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened and cooked through. Add the shredded cheese and 2 tablespoons butter, and stir to combine. Divide the grits evenly among the liners and bake 15–20 minutes until firm and set,

### \$100 Recipe Contest

July's recipe contest topic is **Texas Gulf Shrimp**. Boiled, baked, barbecued—the preparation possibilities are endless! Show us how you like your shrimp. The deadline is **February 10**.

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

then place the pan on a wire rack to cool.

**3.** Combine shrimp and seasonings in a large zip-top plastic bag, seal and shake until the shrimp are evenly coated with seasonings. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter in a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add shrimp and sauté 4–5 minutes, or until cooked through.

**4.** Serve the shrimp alongside the grits. Serves 4–6.

### Family Gumbo Recipe

TRACY ZYGMONTOWICZ | FARMERS EC

Like gumbo itself, which originated in Louisiana in the early 1800s, this Creole-style preparation has deep roots. “This is a family recipe from southeast Louisiana,” Zygmontowicz writes. Filé powder, made from ground, dried leaves of the sassafras tree, gives this recipe a rich texture and flavor. Filé was first used by the Choctaw to thicken and flavor stews.

- 3** tablespoons butter or shortening
- 4** medium onions, chopped
- 1** bell pepper, chopped
- 4** stalks celery, chopped

- 2** tablespoons flour, or more if needed
- ½** cup chopped parsley
- 1½** teaspoons thyme
- ¾** teaspoon cayenne pepper, or more to desired heat level
- 4** tablespoons gumbo filé
- 1** can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 2** cups water
- 1** can (15 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 2** cans (15 ounces each) whole tomatoes
- 4** bay leaves
- Salt and black pepper, to taste**
- 1** teaspoon liquid crab boil, or more to taste
- 1** tablespoon sugar, or more to taste
- 1½** pounds uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 8** ounces crabmeat (lump or claw) or 2–3 whole blue crabs
- 1** pound smoked sausage, sliced

**1.** Heat the butter (or shortening) in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the onions, bell pepper and celery, and sauté until softened and the onions and celery are translucent.

**2.** Add the flour and continue to cook, stirring, until the flour has browned (losing its “raw” smell). Add the parsley, thyme, cayenne and filé, and stir until the vegetables are coated in the seasonings. Add the tomato paste and water, and stir until combined. Add tomatoes and remaining seasonings, plus an additional 2–4 cups of water as desired for consistency, and bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium, cover and cook approximately 1½–2 hours.

**3.** After the mixture has begun to thicken, add cayenne pepper, black pepper and salt to taste. Add the shrimp, crab and smoked sausage, and simmer another 1–1½ hours.

**4.** Serve bowls of hot gumbo with rice and garlic bread. Serves 8–10.

**COOK’S TIP** If you want an all-seafood gumbo, feel free to omit the sausage. For a deeper flavor, use shrimp or chicken stock instead of water.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com**  
Get you some lagniappes online.

*Belief and hope in the wondrous power of God*

# *Believe in Miracles® Earrings*



EXCLUSIVELY FROM  
THE  
*Concorde*  
COLLECTION  
www.concordecollection.com

An original creation by  
award-winning designer  
Thomas Sota

*White Topaz... 14K Gold... Sterling Silver*  
*The perfect gift for yourself...  
or someone special. Just \$45*

As we observe with awe God’s creation of a perfect blossom unfolding its petals, glistening with dewdrops to the first golden rays of the sun, we behold the miracle of creation and open ourselves to the belief that with God’s power anything is possible. These artfully sculpted Sterling Silver earrings by master jeweler Thomas Sota are lavishly coated with 14K Gold and sparkling with White Topaz. A constant reminder of your faith in Heaven’s promise of love and hope.

A special treasure to cherish and wear forever, these earrings are offered exclusively through the Concorde Collection and are not sold in stores. *Satisfaction guaranteed for 60 days.* Mail your order today.

**ORDER FORM** *Please mail within 30 days.*

YES, I wish to order the BELIEVE IN MIRACLES® EARRINGS.  
I need send no payment now. I will be billed \$45\* when my earrings are ready to be shipped.

\* Plus \$5.95 shipping and handling. Plus 6% sales tax, PA residents only.

Name PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Include Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Concorde Collection  
P.O. Box 8017, Aston, PA 19014

  
THE  
CONCORDE  
COLLECTION  
BEMEC4  
©2017 TCC



2016 MF GC1705L



MASSEY FERGUSON  
THE LEGEND SINCE 1847



2016 MF 1526L

23 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,  
Quick Attach DL 95 Front End Loader

\$11,998 Cash or \$149.00 per month

25 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 100 Front End Loader

\$16,998 Cash or \$219.00 per month



2016 MF 1734EL

34 HP, 4WD, Gear Drive Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 105 Front End Loader

\$17,998 Cash or \$229.00 per month



2016 MF 2705EL

50 HP, 4WD, Shuttle-Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 135 Front End Loader

\$24,998 Cash or \$309.00 per month



WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!

### FOSTERS WORK & PLAY

3601 US Hwy. 190 W  
Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 967 - 0011

www.fostersworknplay.com  
sales@fostersworknplay.com

\*Disclaimer: All payments based on 3.49% Interest rate (for a term of 72 months) with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices do not include sales taxes, freight or set up charges where applicable. All HP ratings listed are approximate base engine HP.

Baby Chicks: Rocks, Reds, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, Australorps, Cinnamon Queens, Ameraucanas, Leghorns, Cornish Rocks, Red Broilers, Marans, Welsummers, Icelandics and Old English Gamefowls.

Muscovy Ducks, Heritage Turkeys, Guineas and Pilgrim Geese.

CALL FOR FREE COLOR POULTRY BOOK

405-257-1236

www.countryhatchery.net

Country Hatchery • Box 747 • Wewoka, OK 74884



## ATTENTION MOBILE HOME OWNERS

EXPERT INSTALLATION

LIFETIME WARRANTY

REDUCED ELECTRIC BILL  
INCREASED HOME VALUE  
STOP LEAKS

NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE

PERMA-ROOF®  
from Southern Builders



Since 1983  
roofover.com  
800.633.8969



# Barns

*As the first warm rays of sun kiss the top  
Of the weathered roof, and begins to glow.  
For as long as it stands the sun won't stop,  
As its light shines on the old barn below.*

*It's the same for each of us every day,  
Though weathered and old we will stand alone.  
And we'll feel every golden sunlit ray  
Shinning on our face 'till the day is done.*

—From *The Old Barn* by Betty Janko

GRACE ARSIAGA

WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

Hay! Find even more barnburners online.



▲ **JAMES EATON**, CoServ: Moon rising over an old barn in Collin County



▲ **JENNIFER TUGGLE**, Cooke County EC: "I enjoyed your October article on Patti Wolf and her new [quilt] trail in Texas [*A New Trail in Texas*, October 2016]. Patti made my boss a quilt square for one of his barns. This is the only quilt square from Patti Wolf in Cooke County."



▲ **JO BRADSHAW**, North Plains EC: "Our gelding, Rachel's Funny, waiting to be fed at sunset"



▲ **RICK ROBERSON**, United Cooperative Services: What remains of a barn near Lometa

► **PEPPER MCCARTY**, CoServ: After a night of rain, the sun broke through the clouds to create this sunrise in Flower Mound.



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

JUNE ROAD TRIP DUE FEBRUARY 10

JULY PLAY BALL! DUE MARCH 10

AUGUST SURF'S UP DUE APRIL 10

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

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



## Pick of the Month Hug In and Valentine's Ball

**Luckenbach** February 10-11

(830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

Celebrate the 42nd annual Valentine's event in Luckenbach, a member of Central Texas Electric Cooperative. Highlights include camping, campfires and music late into the night. Dale Watson performs Friday night, and Gary P. Nunn on Saturday night.

## February

### 11

**Crockett** Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, (936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

**Ennis** Czech Music Festival, (972) 878-4748, enniszechmusicfestival.com

**Port Arthur** Rotary Taste of Gumbo, Etc., (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

**Round Top** Valentine's Concert with Dick Smith and Friends, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org

### 12

**Bandera** Heritage Polish Dinner, (830) 460-3294, ststanislausbandera.com

### 14

**Boerne** Vocalosity, (830) 331-9079, visitboerne.org

### 16

**Nocona** [16-19] Mardi Gras Nocona Style, (940) 825-3526, nocona.org

### 17

**Waco** [17-18] Homespun Quilters' Guild: Threads in Red, (972) 768-6273, wacohomespunquiltguild.org

**Galveston** [17-28] Mardi Gras! Galveston, (409) 770-0999, mardigrasgalveston.com

### 18

**Abilene** 2 Hip Chicks Road Show, (612) 888-3002, 2hipchicksroadshow.com

**Palestine** A Taste of New Orleans/ Mardi Gras Celebration, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com



February 16-19  
Nocona  
Mardi Gras Nocona Style

DANCERS: ROBBYN DODD PHOTOGRAPHY | COURTESY LUCKENBACH TEXAS. MASK: SVETLANA LARINA | DREAMSTIME.COM. BUFFALO SOLDIER: LUCIAN CZARNECKI | COURTESY FORTCONCHO.COM

# LOW COST

## Mobile Home Insurance

Start Saving *Today!*

- Replacement Cost for Most Homes
- Knowledgeable Agents Specializing in Manufactured Homes - It's All We Do!
- Flexible Deductibles
- Escrow Billing and Payment Plans
- Call to Switch Today!

[www.stdins.com](http://www.stdins.com)

Call For A Custom Quote  
**800-522-0146**



Serving Texas Mobile Homeowners since 1961



**womacknursery.com**  
Your Texas source for fruit and pecan trees since 1937

**80 YEARS OF NURSERY BUSINESS**

150 varieties of fruits and pecans for the Southwest. Family-owned and grown.  
For our 2016-17 Season Catalog, call or visit us on the web.

**855-993-6497**  
[pecan@womacknursery.com](mailto:pecan@womacknursery.com) GO TEXAN.

## E-NEWS IN YOUR INBOX



SIGN UP TODAY AT

**TexasCoopPower.com**

21

**Tyler** Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, (903) 566-7424, cowancenter.org

22

**Brenham** [22-25] Annual Used Book Sale, (979) 836-3696, visitbrenhamtexas.com

23

**Kerrville** Invitation to the Dance: Dance Music of the Ages, (830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

24

**Alpine** [24-25] Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 1-800-561-3712, texascowboypoeetry.com

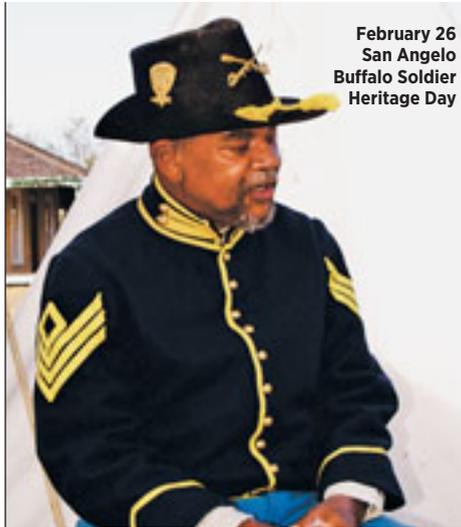
**College Station** [24-26] Brazos Valley Senior Games, (979) 764-3486, cstx.gov/seniors

**Decatur** [24-26] Wise County Antique Auto Swap Meet, (940) 389-0054, wcaac.com

25

**Corpus Christi** South Texas PolkaFest, (361) 215-9163, chssouthtexas.org

**Gainesville** North Texas Farm Toy Show, (214) 914-4032



February 26  
San Angelo  
Buffalo Soldier  
Heritage Day

26

**San Angelo** Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day, (325) 234-0316, fortconcho.com

## March

2

**Fulton** [2-5] Oysterfest, (361) 463-9955, fultonoysterfest.org

3

**Lubbock** We Banjo 3 in Concert, (806) 834-5261, ttu.edu

**San Augustine** [3-4] Gala Garden Fair, (936) 675-1072, sagardenclub.org

**Brackettville** [3-5] Fort Clark Days, (830) 563-5546, fortclarkdays.org

**Comfort** [3-5] Vintage Market Days: Boerne Spring Event, (903) 530-4469, visitboerne.org

4

**Bulverde** Tejas Rodeo, (830) 980-2226, visitboerne.org

**Hemphill** Great East Texas Outdoor Fest, (409) 787-3388, getof.net

**Washington** [4-5] Texas Independence Day Celebration, (936) 878-2214, wheretexasbecametexas.org

**Albany** [4-May 13] Intimate View: The Ramsey Collection, (325) 762-2269, theojac.org

## Submit Your Event!

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

Saturday April 8  
Fredericksburg  
**Bluebonnet ANNUAL TRACTOR RIDE**



Saturday June 10  
Fredericksburg  
**Hill Country Antique Tractor & Engine Show**



Kids and Adults Tractor and Lawn Mower Pulls | Antique Engines | Antique and Classic Tractors | Antique Tractor Parade and more

[www.rustyiron.org](http://www.rustyiron.org) | 830-889-0070

# WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

# WHERE TEXAS BECAME TEXAS

**MAR 4  
MAR 5**  
10AM - 5PM  
**FREE  
ADMISSION  
AND PARKING**

ExxonMobil



NAVASOTA!  
so much, so close.

Houstonfirst.

**AROUND TEXAS**  
EVENT CALENDAR

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT  
[TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)



TOE TAPPIN' MUSIC | MUSKET AND CANON FIRINGS | **FOOD**  
LIVING HISTORY PRESENTATIONS | TEXAS A&M SINGING CABETS AND MUCH MORE!

[www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org)  
(936) 878-2214 • jon.failor@tpwd.texas.gov

# Mario Lives

National Videogame Museum in Frisco showcases decades of gaming history

BY MARILYN JONES

“WHEN I WAS 18, I MET MY FUTURE WIFE, and the hunt was back on to get back all the games I’d sold,” Sean Kelly says. “That hunt opened a whole new world for me. Some people are bitten by the collecting bug. The collecting bug fears me!”

Kelly recounts this personal quest as he welcomes me to the **National Videogame Museum** in Frisco with a quick smile and a firm handshake. He, along with Joe Santulli and John Hardie, opened the museum in April 2016.

I am immediately impressed with the lobby centerpiece—a massive sculpture of brightly colored boxes, 40 monitors running video game-related films and 45 video game consoles. “It was created by Fort Worth artist Jeremy Zvitt,” Kelly says.

“Pretty much everything else in the museum is from our collections,” Kelly says as we stop in front of a statue of Mario near a giant *Pong* game projected on a 15-foot screen. “Joe was a gamer from the word ‘go.’ He never really got rid of anything.”

“John has always specialized in Atari. His never-ending quest to own anything and everything Atari has taken him to the ends of the Earth, not to mention the bottom of many dumpsters,” he says, laughing.

The trio met and became friends in the early 1990s when they began trading games through the mail and dealing over the phone. They later hosted Classic Gaming Expo—the first event of its kind—in Las Vegas and went on to create a featured exhibit at E3, the industry’s largest event.

“We were constantly asked where people could see our collection on a regular basis,” Kelly explains. “Then we met Randy Pitchford, who knew exactly where that permanent home needed to be: Frisco, Texas. He made some introductions to the city officials he’d been working with to relocate his company’s headquarters [Gearbox Software] to Frisco, and work on



Visitors see if they still can master the classics.

the National Videogame Museum began.”

Past Mario and the *Pong* game, Kelly shows me Head-to-Head Hall, an area where visitors go head-to-head with competitors in tournaments. “I am sure some visitors will find games they’ve never seen before, or they’ll find a tribute to their favorite game franchise played on 10 different systems,” he says. “We have a library of more than 12,000 games.”

One of the exhibits that they are most proud of features rare and one-of-a-kind prototypes, the kind that make diehard fans seek out the museum. This exhibit includes Sega Neptune, an unreleased console planned as a combination of the Genesis and 32X, and the unreleased Barbie edition for the Nintendo Game Boy Pocket system. You’ll also find one of only two Atari Mindlink controllers in the world as well as the ultra-rare RDI Halcyon laserdisc-based game console and the Nintendo World Championships cartridge from 1990.

The museum is a chronological journey of video game history. Consoles, controllers and brightly painted murals transport me back to the 1980s and ’90s when my three children were into video games. There’s

even a 1980s living room and bedroom with a console TV, a rotary phone and a 1982 *TV Guide* sitting on the coffee table.

The last stop is the arcade of classics such as *Asteroids*, *Donkey Kong* and *Space Invaders*. “Our collection is by far the largest in the world,” Kelly says. “And we invite visitors to play the vintage video games.”

The museum emphasizes that the video game industry is larger than the film and music industries, and there are thousands of rewarding jobs related to video games in the United States alone.

“In order to successfully navigate the waters of the video game industry as a professional, a fundamental understanding of not only the technology behind them but also the past successes and failures is extremely important,” he adds. “Our goal is to provide that understanding.”

“The museum is about the industry, the collection and the history,” Kelly says.

Marilyn Jones lives in Henderson and writes about travel.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com**

See a slideshow from the National Videogame Museum.

ALL-NEW  
Bigger  
Buttons

# “My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!” Here’s why.

No  
Contracts

FREE  
Car  
Charger

Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the **ALL-NEW Jitterbug Flip**.

**“Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine.”** Not the new Jitterbug® Flip. It features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display so you can actually see it.

**“I had to get my son to program it.”** Your Jitterbug Flip set-up process is simple. We’ll even program it with your favorite numbers.

**“I tried my sister’s cell phone... I couldn’t hear it.”** The Jitterbug Flip is designed with a powerful speaker and is hearing aid compatible. Plus, there’s an adjustable volume control.

**“I don’t need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone. I just want to talk with my family and friends.”** Life is complicated enough... The Jitterbug Flip is simple.

**“What if I don’t remember a number?”** Friendly, helpful Operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

**“My cell phone company wants to lock me in a two-year contract!”** Not with the Jitterbug Flip. There are no contracts to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.



Available in Red and Graphite.

Monthly Plan	\$14.99/mo	\$19.99/mo
Monthly Minutes	200	600
Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
Friendly Return Policy <sup>1</sup>	30 days	30 days

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

**“I’d like a cell phone to use in an emergency, but I don’t want a high monthly bill.”** The Jitterbug Flip has a plan to fit your needs... and your budget.

**“Many phones have features that are rarely needed and hard to use!”** The Jitterbug Flip contains easy-to-use features that are meaningful to you. A newly designed built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a new flashlight with a built-in magnifier helps you see in dimly lit areas, the Jitterbug Flip has all the features you need.

**Enough talk.** Isn’t it time you found out more about the cell phone that’s changing all the rules? Call now, Jitterbug product experts are standing by.

Order now and receive a **FREE Car Charger** for your Jitterbug Flip – a \$25 value. Call now!

## NEW Jitterbug Flip Cell Phone

Call toll-free to get your Jitterbug Flip.

Please mention promotional code 104970.

1-888-704-5369

www.jitterbugdirect.com

We proudly accept the following credit cards:



**IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION:** Jitterbug is owned by GreatCall, Inc. Your invoices will come from GreatCall. Plans and Services require purchase of a Jitterbug phone and a one-time setup fee of \$35. Monthly fees do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. Coverage is not available everywhere. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can only be made when cellular service is available. <sup>1</sup>We will refund the full price of the Jitterbug phone and the activation fee (or setup fee) if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will be deducted from your refund for each minute over 30 minutes. You will be charged a \$10 restocking fee. The shipping charges are not refundable. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall’s U.S.-based customer service. However, for calls to a GreatCall Operator in which a service is completed, you will be charged 99 cents per call, and minutes will be deducted from your monthly rate plan balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. ©2016 GreatCall, Inc. ©2016 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.



When Germania began as a farm mutual in 1896, our entire focus was on protecting small farms and ranches from catastrophes. Protecting your property is still something we're deeply committed to.

Contact your local Germania agent today and ask about how we can protect *your* piece of Texas — your ranchette.



*The Insurance Texans Trust*

[www.GermaniaInsurance.com](http://www.GermaniaInsurance.com)