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ROUTE 66

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its kicks
across the
Panhandle



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Dora Merony and her tiny MG near downtown Amarillo

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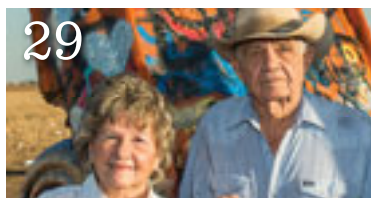
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ROUTE 66: WYATT MCSADDEN. SHAKESPEARE: ROBERT MONCRIEFF

ON THE COVER *Buc Weatherby, mayor of Shamrock on Route 66, with his 1968 Plymouth Barracuda.* Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

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Flying Roosevelt Over the Hump

My mother had a cousin, Hiram Broiles, who also was a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II [*Roosevelt's Flight*, Letters, March 2018]. He flew from China over the "hump," the Himalayas, south. On one of those flights, he had President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board.

JOHN WAGGOMAN | BANDERA

BANDERA EC

So Many Teammates

Thursday Night Lights [February 2018] reminded me of a funny, true story. When I played football for the Crosby Buffaloes, we played our home games on Friday nights, and the local black school, Charles R. Drew, played its home games on Thursday nights. It was understood that if you played for either team, you would get into the other team's games free.

When a group of friends and I, all football players, told the man at the gate that we played for Crosby, he said, "Lord, you boys got a big team this year; I bet I've let at least 100 of your teammates in already." We never had more than 25-30 on the team.

TOMMY LEISSNER | NEW BRAUNFELS

PEDERNALES EC

A Cookie Love Story

My mom, Kay Kinn, is a farm girl and a great cook. She has made wonderful chocolate chip cookies my entire 53-year-old life. So when *Texas Co-op Power* shared a recipe for Peanut Butter Chocolate Chunk Cookies [Recipes, February 2018] and I asked Mom to make them, well, she was skeptical,

Habitat Destruction

I am involved in a problem with my subdivision regarding the destruction of our native Texas plants [*Naturally Protective*, May 2018]. Our early spring roadside flowers have been mowed down when they've barely managed to emerge. I've made a list of 15 Texas flowers that have disappeared in the past 30 years I've lived here, mainly because of habitat destruction and untimely mowing.

DEE WHITNEY | FAIRMOUNT | JASPER-NEWTON EC



to say the least.

But she made them, made them again and then again for family, friends and neighbors. These cookies taste great, and anyone who likes peanut butter and chocolate will love them. But my mom, not to be outdone, has made the recipe a little better, in my opinion:



She adds a shake of salt on top of them after baking.

SCOTT WIESER | BUDA

PEDERNALES EC

Classroom Tool

I use *Texas Co-op Power* in my classroom every month. I love the Texas History stories and general Texas tidbits throughout, but I have even used articles like the linemen story [*Line of Duty*, October 2016] in my career class and as an example of feature writing to my writing class.

My students get so excited when something they've learned in the classroom comes alive in an article.

LAURA SIDES | WORTHAM JUNIOR HIGH

NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Clearing the Air

Oklahoma is my home state, but the six years I have lived

here has made me appreciate our southern neighbor even more. Being this much closer to the Gulf, I also have loved the clouds that the atmosphere brings to beautiful Texas.

JO ANN LOWRANCE | NORTHLAKE

COSERV

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Texas Co-op Power

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HAPPENINGS

Let's Go to the Hop

They do the hop every year in Bonham, but it's not the dance sensation that was sweepin' the nation 60 years ago. Rather, the **BONHAM QUILT HOP** involves more than 300 quilts displayed at nine sites around town plus one in nearby Honey Grove. Visitors are encouraged to hop around and check them out.

The Quilt Hop started as a springtime event—held around Easter—about a decade ago. With Easter bunnies in mind, the event got its name, which stuck even as the event moved to midsummer—**JULY 27-28** this year.

McKinney master quilter Alice Wilhoit is the guest speaker this year.

The Fannin County Barn Quilt Trail, which features dozens of painted squares in and around Bonham, is an added attraction for those hopping around the area.

INFO ► (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com



BY THE NUMBERS

That's the average consumer credit score in Texas, which ranks 46th in a tie with Oklahoma among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national average is 675. Minnesota ranks first at 709.

LIFESTYLE

GOLD IN THAT THAR HILL COUNTRY

Construction of the nation's first state-administered gold depository begins soon, with a 60,000-square-foot facility planned for an undisclosed location in Pedernales Electric Cooperative's service territory in Leander.

Developed partly in response to the 2008 recession, the Texas Bullion Depository is scheduled to open in 2019 and will provide secure storage of gold and other precious metals for companies and individuals while operating under state comptroller oversight.

The facility will include high-definition security cameras, a tactical training area, an on-site gun range and advanced perimeter defense, in case any would-be bandits harbor Bonnie and Clyde-inspired fantasies.



Carrying Through

WHEN HUNTER BEATON'S parents adopted three foster children, he was proud to gain three younger siblings but troubled by what they brought with them from the foster home.

"They had all their possessions in a black trash bag," Beaton said. "How awful is that?"

So when it came time to plan a community service project to become an Eagle Scout, the Boerne High School freshman knew what he wanted to do. He didn't know how big it would become.

"I decided to find a way to say, 'No, no kid deserves this,'" he said.

With the help of his church, community and parents, who are members of Bandera Electric Cooperative, Beaton raised \$10,000 and filled 100 duffel bags to give to Texas foster kids. He reached his goal, but requests for bags didn't stop.

Almost 20,000 bags and

two years later, Beaton's Day 1 Bag initiative has spread to all of Texas with the help of a state Senate proclamation—and beyond. He has teamed up with nonprofits One Simple Wish and Comfort Cases to keep the bags going even as he gears up for college, where he hopes to get more involved in public service.

"I just want to help people," he said.



Did you know?

► To donate to the Day 1 Bag initiative, visit onesimplewish.org/giveday1bags.



CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS with foster care experience are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of U.S. war veterans, according to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children.



Tokens of Appreciation

Believing thank-you notes weren't enough and knowing how linemen enjoy collecting and trading tokens emblazoned with co-op logos, San Patricio Electric Cooperative awarded tokens to all who helped with Hurricane Harvey recovery last year.

The Category 4 storm blasted the coast with 130 mph winds, leaving 98 percent of the co-op's more than 11,000 members in the dark. Co-ops and contract linemen from across the state answered San Patricio EC's pleas for help and rushed to Sinton to pitch in, restoring power to most members within days.

"We had an overwhelming response to our request," General Manager Ron Hughes says. To express his gratitude, he had 250 commemorative Hurricane Harvey tokens made and distributed them among all San Patricio EC employees and the six co-ops and outside contract crews that helped with restoration.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Two Football Legends



JIMMY JOHNSON, who replaced the venerated Tom Landry as Cowboys coach and won two Super Bowls for Dallas, turns 75. Johnson was born July 16, 1943, in Port Arthur.

ANDRE WARE, who became the first black quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy after setting 26 NCAA records for the University of Houston in 1989, turns 50. Ware was born July 31, 1968, in Dickinson.

The Mother Road still offers a journey through a slice of American life

RENDEZVOUS

ON



Story by Brenda Kissko | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

One hundred seventy-eight miles of Route 66, the iconic American highway, traverse Texas, from ghost town Glenrio on the western border of the Panhandle right through Amarillo to Oklahoma. It's still one of the biggest draws for international tourists to the Texas Panhandle.

"Americans travel the road for nostalgia," says David Rushing, city manager for Shamrock, a town along the road, and a member of Greenbelt Electric Cooperative. "The internationals travel for a dream. For the internationals, it represents freedom."

This summer, travelers will voyage across the globe—from places like Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Spain and Scotland—to Shamrock, 90 miles east of Amarillo, to celebrate the Mother Road.

With a population of 1,946, Shamrock will be the smallest town to host the Route 66 Festival, which celebrates the U.S. highway that journeys from Chicago to Los Angeles through eight states. This year's festival runs July 12–15. As legislation supporting the designation of the route as the Route 66 National Historic Trail (to become part of the National Trails System) makes its way through Congress, the affection and nostalgia for historic Route 66 continues to grow.

The festival offers a useful outline for exploring Route 66 any time. Start in McLean, 21 miles west of Shamrock, and you'll discover the Devil's Rope Museum and Route 66 Museum. On Friday, there will be "roadie" day trips—a chance to drive Route 66 for yourself—before a rodeo and concert with Cody Canada and the Departed and Dalton Domino. Saturday kicks off with cowboy coffee, followed by a chuck wagon lunch, a car show, more roadie

day trips, a silent auction, a banquet with music by the Road Crew (dubbed the official musical ambassadors of Route 66) and a second rodeo with music by Charlie Robison and Bri Bagwell.

A poster in the lobby of Shamrock's Texas Theater proclaims that, at one time, at least 49 theaters named "Texas" showed films for the public. Now, Shamrock's is one of the oldest continuously open Texas Theaters, and it still screens first-run movies on weekends. At the Pioneer West Museum, travelers learn of Wheeler County boy Alan Bean, the fourth person to walk on the moon, who died in May. Kiss a piece of the Blarney Stone and check out the tallest water tower in Texas.

The U-Drop Inn, an iconic part of Shamrock's identity and a top attraction among all of Route 66, is an art deco building of green glazed tile and brick, richly adorned with neon lights. When it opened in 1936, travelers ate in its diner and gassed up at the Tower Station (all part of the same building) as they made their way across the country. Elvis stopped here multiple times on his travels between Memphis and Las Vegas.

The landmark was restored in 2004 and now serves as a visitors center and gift shop offering Route 66 memorabilia and certified organic cotton T-shirts made from cotton grown nearby (its best-seller). Visitors are welcome to bring a lunch and eat in the booth where Elvis sat. There's even a Tesla Supercharger station here, a testament to a new chapter of traveling Route 66.

In 2017, over 22,500 visitors from 110 countries stopped at the U-Drop Inn, more than 10 times the population of Shamrock.

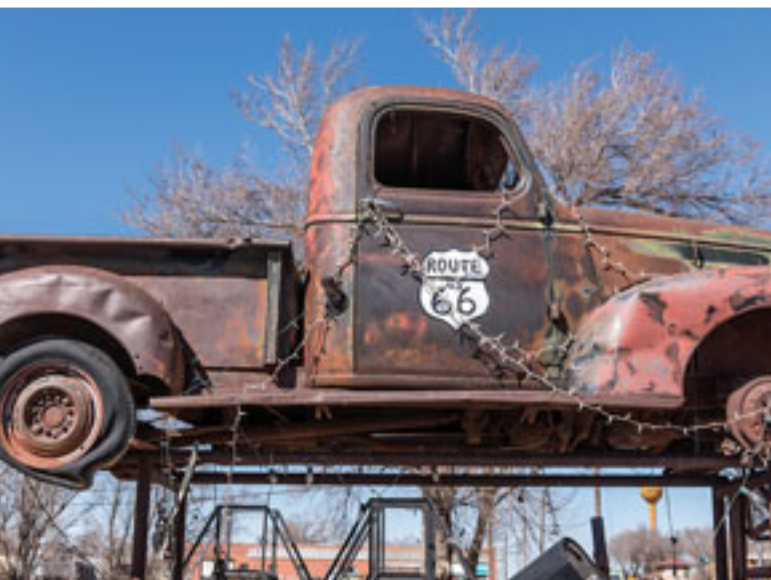
"The Route 66 phenomenon just gets bigger every year," says Shamrock Mayor Buc Weatherby. "We refer to ourselves as the crossroads of America because Shamrock is the only place in the United States where two border-to-border highways intersect. That's U.S. 83 and I-40."

Amarillo, 95 miles west of Shamrock, is the largest Texas city along Route 66. Eric Miller, director of communications for the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council, says Route 66 is one of the top five attractions in the city, according to visitor surveys, along with Cadillac Ranch, Big Texan Steak Ranch, Palo Duro Canyon State Park and the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum.

"In the last 25 years, people have started to get reinterested in Route 66," Miller says. "It's a very unique part of Texas. It's an incredible part of history. And it happened right here, not that long ago. If you get off onto Route 66, you feel the roll, experience the wide-open spaces, see the farmland, the ranchland, and you get an idea of why it was important."

The Route 66 Historic District in Amarillo, lined with buildings from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, runs a full

Clockwise from top: The U-Drop Inn opened in 1936 in Shamrock. East entrance to the Route 66 tourist attractions in Amarillo. Sign at a salvage yard in Vega.





mile on Sixth Avenue between Western Street and Georgia Street. It was developed in the early 1900s as the San Jacinto neighborhood, connected to downtown via streetcar. Today, it's a popular hangout for roadies and locals alike to spend an afternoon shopping, catching up over food and drinks, and gathering for live music.

This historic district embodies the intersection of the past and present. Grab a margarita and reliable Tex-Mex at Bracero's Mexican Bar & Grill in a building that once housed a gas station. Enjoy a root beer float or share a pitcher of beer while a band plays at the GoldenLight Cantina. The GoldenLight serves burgers much as it has since it opened in 1946, and it is one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants on Route 66. Nearly two dozen antique shops along this stretch offer everything from vintage blown glass perfume bottles to old road signs.

Dora Meroney is the president of the Old Route 66 Association of Texas, treasurer of the Historic 6th Street on Route 66 Association and director of sales and services for her family's Texas Ivy Antiques, located in the historic district.

"The love of Route 66 goes beyond the eight states that it passes through," Meroney says. "We have roadies from Ohio, Michigan—all over the United States. We're trying to save what we can save, revive what can be revived and blend it with the new stuff that comes along."

Route 66, the first major transcontinental highway across the United States, was created in 1926 as part of a new federal highway system. The route connected Chicago and Santa Monica, California, via a patchwork of existing roads that stretched 2,448 miles. It made transportation of goods from rural farms to the larger cities much easier. During the Dust Bowl, the route took on a new purpose. It became the Mother Road, as John Steinbeck named it in *The Grapes of Wrath*, leading all those in search of another promised land to the fabled green lands of California.

Back then, all they had was the road. The land shriveled beneath their feet as the clouds were all cried out. The Dirty '30s came after the Roaring '20s had been quickly ushered out by the stock market crash of 1929. The party was over, and a mass migration would begin. The crushing drought was followed by high winds that ripped away the rich topsoil, destroying a way of life for thousands of American farmers. Once those desperate folks were pushed

"We're trying to save what we can save, revive what can be revived and blend it with the new stuff that comes along."

out of their homes by a failed economy, they exerted the sheer will to find a better life and fell in line along one particular path.

World War II marked a new era for Route 66. Once the war was over and people finally had a little money to spend and some vacation time to burn, they took to the road again, this time for pleasure. By 1955, the number of automobiles registered in the United States had doubled since the end of the war. Motor courts, roadside diners and curio shops bloomed along the route that basically became Main Street in many of the small towns it passed through. Route

66 defined the ultimate road trip and was a part of pop culture.

Nat King Cole first recorded (*Get Your Kicks on*) *Route 66* in 1946, and the song has since been recorded by dozens of other artists like Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, the Rolling Stones and Asleep at the Wheel. The television series *Route 66*, starring Martin Milner and George Maharis, ran for four seasons in the early '60s on CBS. Guest stars were the likes of Robert Duvall, Robert Redford and James Caan, and episodes were filmed



Dora Meroney of Amarillo is the president of the Old Route 66 Association of Texas.

on location across the country.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower saw the benefits the German autobahn (a series of federal roads with high speeds and limited access) provided during the war, he decided America needed a similar system. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 was consequently signed into law, leading to the building of our interstates—and the demise of Route 66. The route was officially decommissioned in 1985, but today much of it is still drivable.

The 2006 animated movie *Cars* perhaps tells the story of Route 66 most simply and poetically as characters Lightning McQueen and Sally look down upon the fictional Radiator Springs, which represents all the small towns along Route 66 that once boomed with visitors, now bypassed by an interstate. As Sally points out, those were the days we traveled to *have* a great time, not to *make* great time. Ramone's House of Body Art in the movie bears a striking resemblance to the U-Drop Inn.

Perhaps we travel to remember we're alive. A trip down Historic Route 66 honors the days when we took time to slow down to appreciate the scenery and talk with the people serving us. Route 66 represents not only a way across the country but a way of life.

"Our main job as curators of Route 66 is taking what the people before us have left us and making sure that we preserve it for the people that will come after us," Meroney says.

Brenda Kissko is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her online at BrendaKissko.com.

Clockwise from top left: Devil's Rope Museum in McLean. Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo. Cadillac Ranch west of Amarillo. Karen and Greg Conn own the Milburn-Price Culture Museum in Vega. Sign at the site of the original Phillips 66 station in McLean.



Classic Car
Culture

>> ROUTE 66 LURES ALL, FROM STREET RODS TO MUSCLE CARS <<

'We are probably

the closest-knit family you could ever find because most of the time we can read each other's minds and know what is needed without ever having to say it," says Mona Roberts from Ralls, 30 miles east of Lubbock.

Roberts lives and works with her sister Melinda and mother, Laverne, and the mind reading refers to the family business of restoring vintage cars and trucks. Laverne Roberts, who turns 80 this month, has been restoring vehicles in Ralls for more than 40 years.

In that time, Roberts' family has restored more than 50 vehicles, including a 1947 Willys Jeep, 1970 Ford Mustang convertible, 1961 Airstream travel trailer and 1974 International Scout II.

Laverne's father was a John Deere mechanic in Crosbyton, where he also farmed. Laverne grew up on the farm and became a bookkeeper for a motor company in Crosbyton, where she met mechanic Lon Roberts. Three months later, they married. For date nights, they went to Lubbock to see movies and then to Hi-D-Ho, a popular drive-in burger joint where Buddy Holly and the Crickets played.

Lon and Laverne raised their three girls in Crosbyton before opening Lon's Auto Clinic in Ralls in 1987. Restoring cars became a family affair when Mona was the first daughter to turn 16, and they restored a 1967 Ford Mustang convertible for her to drive.

"When we restore them, it's a family project," Mona says. "We restored them as we got enough money together to restore them. Dad was the mechanic, and I was the painter. Melinda's the paint mixer, and Mama's usually the hose holder." They laugh as they fondly remember car restorations together.

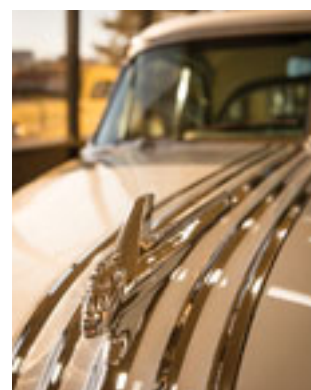
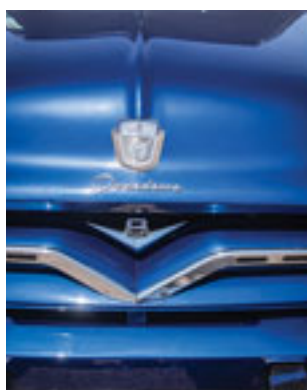
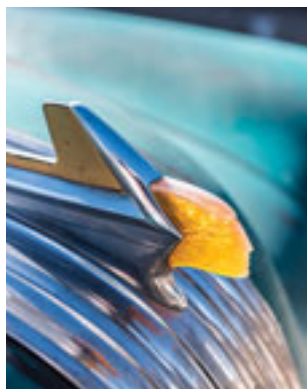
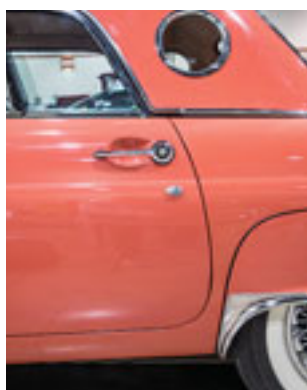
Mona and her dad were both pilots—Mona also is an airplane mechanic—and went out on "morning patrol" together on Saturdays, when they'd fly around in a Cessna 150 to look for old cars they could restore. Mona would mark the map so later they could drive out to find the owner.

Lon died in 2015, but he left his girls a few projects. A 1954 Ford F-100 pickup and a 1940 Chevrolet half-ton pickup are two of the vehicles they're working on now. And Laverne and Mona continue to do state vehicle inspections at Auto Clinic.

Though Laverne's middle daughter, Michele, doesn't work on cars, Michele's son Nick inherited that talent, having restored a 1960 Ford Thunderbird and a 1946 Cushman scooter (at age 11), making him a fourth-generation mechanic.

Car culture in America has influenced the development of our cities, our highways and the businesses along the way. When horsepower replaced horses, we paved

Opposite: From left, Laverne, Mona and Melinda Roberts restore vintage cars and trucks at their shop, Auto Clinic, in Ralls. Right: Details of cars at the Make-A-Wish Car Show in Amarillo.



The Make-A-Wish Car Show in March in Amarillo featured hundreds of cars.



>> “THESE CARS ARE ROLLING WORKS OF ART,” BOB TERHUNE SAYS. “AND THEY’RE FUN TO DRIVE.

THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT TAKING A RUSTY, WORN-OUT AUTOMOBILE AND MAKING IT LOOK NEW AGAIN.” <<

our streets. When we began driving longer distances and for pleasure, roadside diners, service stations and motels appeared.

And car culture shows no signs of slowing down. Since 2010, the number of antique, classic and custom vehicles registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, including street rods, has more than doubled.

In December 2017, there were 187,958 vehicles registered with the Texas DMV categorized as antique, vintage, custom or street rods. This is up 147 percent from the 76,171 registered in December of 2009. The state defines a “classic” as a motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old. An “antique” is at least 25 years old and a collector’s item. A car with antique plates has restricted use.

Bob Terhune, a South Plains Electric Cooperative member, is president of the Caprock Classic Car Club, based in Lubbock. The club’s 194 members meet regularly for cruises, fundraisers and fellowship. Terhune says he “got the bug” for restoring classic cars when he worked on a 1970 Buick GSX, number 160 of the 187 made that were white. Buick only made two cars with the same options as his. He knows the entire history of this car: It was in an episode of

Hawaii 5-O, was bought by a serviceman in the Navy who hauled it from Hawaii to Louisiana, sat in a barn in North Texas for 15 years, and passed through several more owners, including Terhune’s brother, before ending up with him.

“These cars are rolling works of art,” Terhune says. “And they’re fun to drive. There’s something about taking a rusty, worn-out automobile and making it look new again. That satisfaction of seeing your hard work pay off and the appreciation that like-minded people give you for the work you’ve done, it’s just something else.”

Car shows are a prime opportunity for enthusiasts and collectors to show off their work. In addition to the Route 66 Festival car show in Shamrock on July 14, there are countless car shows across the state. Motor Texas (motortexas.com) keeps a list along with a blog that digs deep into the automobile culture of Texas through the lens of travel.

Today, vehicle ownership rates in the U.S. are down 3.3 percent from 12 years ago. As we look to a new era of transportation, it’s impressive to see so many families restoring these classics.

“To restore cars together was a pleasure,” Laverne Roberts says. “It meant that my family all worked *together*.”

Brenda Kissko is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her at BrendaKissko.com.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see photos of Roberts family car restorations.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE



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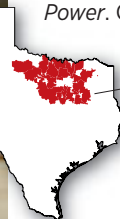
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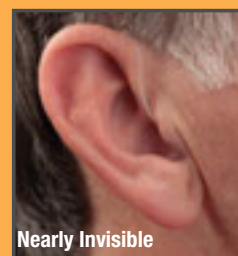
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Summer Safety Hodgepodge

WE ALL ENJOY TAKING PART IN FUN ACTIVITIES AND outings over the relaxed days of summer. Bear in mind these tips to do so safely.

Shelter From the Sun

Long sunny days spent outdoors leave us susceptible to heat exhaustion and heatstroke, especially when the mercury surges into triple digits. To prevent these serious conditions, limit sun exposure on hot days.

If it's unavoidable, observe the following practices:

- ▶ Drink more liquid than you think you need and avoid alcohol.
- ▶ Wear loose, lightweight and light-colored clothing. A hat helps shield you from the sun's rays, too.
- ▶ Replace electrolytes lost through perspiration by drinking fruit juices or sports drinks.
- ▶ Try to avoid spending time outside during the hottest part of the day, usually 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
- ▶ Wear sunscreen. A sunburn can negatively affect the body's ability to cool itself.
- ▶ If running or doing any other strenuous activity, pace yourself.

Fend Off Itchy—and Hazardous—Bites

Justifiably considered the bane of summer by many, mosquito bites are more than just a slightly painful nuisance. They also can transmit serious illnesses, including West Nile and Zika viruses. **Reduce your risk by taking the following preventive measures:**

- ▶ Use Environmental Protection Agency-registered insect repellent with DEET, being sure to apply as directed.
- ▶ Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants in bug-ridden areas.
- ▶ Do not leave unscreened doors or windows open.
- ▶ Make a weekly habit of scrubbing or emptying planters, birdbaths, vases, flowerpot saucers and any other outdoor items that collect water, which is required for mosquito eggs to hatch.

Appreciate Fireworks' Beauty and Risk

Just as electricity must be treated and handled with respect, it's important to approach fireworks with care. It can be easy to focus on their dazzling displays at the expense of remembering that fireworks present significant risks.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2016, at least four people died and 11,100 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. And on a typical Fourth of July, fireworks cause 40 percent of all reported fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Consider avoiding consumer fireworks and instead enjoy a spectacular public display



conducted by professionals. We want your Independence Day celebrations to be fun, memorable and safe.

If fireworks are legal in your area and you choose to use them, please be mindful of the following tips for safe handling:

- ▶ Never use fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ▶ Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- ▶ Older children should use fireworks only under close adult supervision.
- ▶ Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
- ▶ Never light fireworks indoors.
- ▶ Only use fireworks away from people, homes and flammable materials, and only light one at a time, maintaining a safe distance after lighting.
- ▶ Never ignite devices in a container.
- ▶ Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
- ▶ Soak unused fireworks in water before discarding.
- ▶ Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.

Your electric cooperative wishes you a summer filled with fun and the makings of many happy memories. Wherever this season's adventures take you, keep these practices in mind to stay safe.



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Help Kids Be Smart Energy Users

“DID YOU TURN OFF THE LIGHTS IN YOUR ROOM?” “WE’RE NOT PAYING TO COOL THE whole neighborhood!” With school out for the summer, parents will be uttering these phrases to their children countless times each day. Despite best efforts, it can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy—and to put that knowledge into action. Few people have more experience talking about energy efficiency than the member services team at your electric cooperative. So we asked them how they persuade the toughest audience they face every day: their kids. Here are a few of their tips.

Deputize an “Energy Enforcer”

Assign children to investigate wasteful energy practices. Each week, give the appointed child a badge and empower him or her to seek out energy waste and hold the offending parties—including adults—accountable. Consider offering your little energy deputies a bounty for finding leaks, drafts and other wasteful energy practices around the house. Their progress can be tracked with stickers on a calendar, and when the kids reach their goal, they can be rewarded.

Gentle Reminders

Colorful stickers or sticky notes on light switches help kids remember to turn off the lights when they leave a room. Sticky notes don’t just apply to light switches. Place notes labeled “Turn Me Off” and “Unplug Me” near game consoles, TVs and other electronics as a visual reminder.

Pay the Piper

For older children, perhaps a financial plan will work. Consider “fining” them 25 cents for each lightbulb left on in their rooms. A ceiling fan with four bulbs could lead to a costly mistake. Demonstrating the tangible cost of inefficient electricity use might be the way to get the lesson to stick. Show them the electric bill to help them understand why it’s important to use energy wisely. No matter what the approach, talking to kids about energy use is sure to pay dividends. They might not always follow through, but they’ll be learning important lessons about the value of energy and the importance of conservation that can last a lifetime.

Dead Outlet?

Check it out before calling an electrician

WHEN YOU PLUG A LAMP OR AN APPLI-ance into a socket, you expect to be able to turn it on. Sometimes, though, you’ll find that the outlet is “dead.”

Before you call an electrician, check a few things out:

1. Plug something else into the same outlet. It could be that the problem is with the device and not the outlet. If this one turns on, that’s the case.
2. If more than one device is plugged into the same outlet—or if a full power strip is plugged in there—check to see if everything else is working. If not, try this: Unplug one device at a time until something turns on. It could be that you’ve overloaded the outlet.
3. If nothing is turning on at that outlet, check your circuit breaker. Open the door and notice if a single switch is turned off; if so, turn it back on. If you can’t locate the circuit that belongs to that outlet, turn off all of the breakers then turn them back on one at a time.
4. If you plug the lamp or appliance back into the outlet and the circuit trips again, it’s time to call an electrician.
5. And if your dead outlet has a ground-fault circuit interrupter, you might be able to solve the problem simply by pressing the reset button on the face of the outlet.



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What's Yours Is Mine

Retracing marriage through a love of dove hunting

BY LINDSAY STAFFORD MADER

OUTSIDE THE CAR WINDOW, A LANDSCAPE of oak and cedar replaces the traffic and urban sprawl we left behind in Austin. It is late summer, almost evening, and my husband, Joe, and I have left our desk jobs early to drive 40 miles to the ranch near Florence where I was raised. What awaits us is, for him, a sacred experience: opening day of dove season.

Joe spent much of his time outdoors this summer as he has for several years, pointing his finger at gray blurs flapping jaggedly in the sky and shouting, “Look babe—dove!” as if he just spotted a shooting star. With the annual approach of September, he can be found returning from Academy, beaming with decoys, calls, ammunition and a bucket seat that is even more comfortable than the one he bought 12 months earlier.

It wasn’t always this way. Joe grew up in the suburbs of Dallas, the son of a New Yorker mother and Chicagoan father who never went hunting. We both moved to Austin for college. “So, who is your favorite journalist?” he asked me on our first date. A guy who cared about the profession I had chosen? To top it off, he played guitar in a band, introduced me to Kurt Vonnegut and showed me what true kindness looked like.

But when I took Joe to the ranch, he would withdraw and become timid. The pastureland with which I identified confused him, while the goings-on of my small hometown made him feel lost. Every time I suggested we escape the city for the weekend, he would say, “Um, maybe. Or we could just stay in Austin and go out.” I was deeply

disappointed and worried that the disconnect would someday be the end of us.

Then, one fateful day, Joe went on his first dove hunt. “That was actually a lot of fun,” he said upon his return to my parents’ house, where my mom and I had shared time on the front porch. Not long after, he was relaxing on Jeep rides through the brush and enjoying nights on the porch under a canopy of elms. And a few years later, he even wore boots when we wed on the ranch atop a treeless hill at sunset. It was when I realized the timeline of these events that I paused and asked myself, “Do I seriously have dove hunting to thank for my marriage?” This strange possibility inspired me to investigate.

Joe turns our vehicle off State Highway 195, drives down the unlined county road that cuts through Williamson and Bell counties, and parks by the northern tank. Together we trek through bluestem and the knee-high remains of Mexican hats toward the meager shade of a persimmon. He takes a seat on the padded lid of his new deluxe spinning bucket and tilts his head toward the cloudless blue, his expression informed by the hopeful determination that beginnings can bring. Eventually some doves appear overhead, and he pops up and pulls the trigger. No luck. We keep watching and waiting and he misses the few that fly by. “Man, this is the slowest opening day I’ve seen,” he says.

“Yes,” I say, “it does seem rather slow.”

Presented with the lack of action, I decide to study my husband, who passes his days in suits, staring at a glowing screen. Dressed in camo sitting in the mid-



dle of a field, he is in a world that barely moves, where concerns of city life have trouble competing with the soft breeze rustling the trees. Where a computer is miles away and noise is almost nonexistent. Removed from the incessant busyness of daily life, he is as light as dust, focused on his singular mission while being too much at peace to take it too seriously.

Soon I see that Joe is standing near the old goat shed. He follows a bird's uneven flutter with his shotgun and then releases a crisp shot that ripples through the air and is followed by a flurry of feathers. I walk over and congratulate him. He turns to reveal a big smile, the one that still gets me, and says, "As long as I get *one*."

Driving back to Austin, the city lights

encroaching, I ask him, "Did you have fun?" "It's better when more birds are flying," he says. "But it was still awesome. It's just nice to be out there."

I imagine Joe on his first dove hunt, loving that the sport was unintimidating. Sit, chat, shoot—easy enough. But I think what really sealed the deal was that he realized he was no longer an outsider, that he might have more in common with this place and its people than he had assumed. He doesn't ride horses or know how to help my dad fix a tractor, but he feels more alive just looking around at such open space. Sometimes it's what sounds simple that stirs something more inside.

Lindsay Stafford Mader is a freelance writer and copy editor who lives in Austin.

Witness to Struggle

Briscoe Center showcases powerful civil rights-era photographs

BY GENE FOWLER

DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA, EVEN basic human dignity had to be reaffirmed by the rule of law. In the mid-1960s, Congress confirmed that separate drinking fountains for blacks and whites didn't make any sense.

The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin reminds us how important it is to remember and honor the struggle and sacrifice of those who worked, fought and died for change. *Struggle for Justice: Four Decades of Civil Rights Photography* is an exhibition of news photography in the recently expanded galleries of the Briscoe Center that offers a powerful collective eyewitness account of that turbulent time.

Located adjacent to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum on the edge of the university campus, the Briscoe Center offers exhibit space and a reading room, where visitors can peruse an extensive array of research materials from its many collections.

"We document the American story," explains Don Carleton, the center's executive director, "with a particular focus on aspects of Texas, the South, news media, politics and government."

Author Stephen Harrigan can confirm that. Engaged in the colossal task of writing a new history of Texas, Harrigan says, "I can't imagine how I could have managed it without the Briscoe Center. I've gone there time and time again to read obscure biographies and memoirs that no other archive has, or to look at stunning artifacts like Stephen Austin's letters or Governor James 'Pa' Ferguson's speech announcing his

intention to run for office, written in pencil on his daughter's borrowed school tablet."

The expanded gallery space is where the center shares its rich trove of archival images, documents, artifacts and media. *Struggle for Justice* includes material selected from 35 individual Briscoe collections. Dramatic photographs capture scenes of landmark events in the struggle across the South. John Lewis and other civil rights marchers face Alabama state troopers on Bloody Sunday in 1965 Selma. Gov. George Wallace blocks the doorway at the University of Alabama in 1963 to prevent blacks from enrolling. Freedom Riders sit nervously on a bus just days before it was firebombed.

The struggle in Texas is represented extensively by the work of Dallas-Fort Worth-area photographers R.C. Hickman and Calvin Littlejohn. Hickman documented racial inequality in North Texas for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His photograph of a 1950 classroom offers a stark reminder that educational facilities under the "separate but equal" doctrine were anything but equal before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the 1954 case *Brown v. Board of Education* began the long process of desegregation in public schools. Like other photojournalists, Hickman risked his own safety to document racial inequalities and the violence that accompanied integration efforts.

A Littlejohn photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. and others at Dallas' Love Field in 1959 is one of many in the exhibition that underscore Carleton's obser-



WEB EXTRAS

► *The Struggle for Justice* exhibit runs through July 21. Read this story on our website to learn more about the Briscoe Center's extensive resources.

vation that "Historic images can be read like diaries or letters. They're chock full of information." The ladies wear hats and gloves, and one of the men sports an Open Road Stetson. King's expression is beatific.

A 1957 image by Dallas photojournalist Shel Hershorn shows the result of integration as black and white students work on a project together in a Pleasanton school.

The cover of a souvenir program for the 45th Annual NAACP Convention, held in Dallas in 1954, features a cowboy cutting a barbed wire fence. The program and several other items are from the center's Juanita

Craft Collection. A longtime civil rights organizer and activist, Craft's home is now a museum maintained by the city of Dallas.

Other examples of strife in Texas involve higher education. There's the case of Heman Sweatt, who fought to enroll in 1946

as the first black student in the University of Texas School of Law. And there's Barbara Smith Conrad, a future mezzo-soprano opera star who was to appear on a university stage in *Dido and Aeneas* with a white co-star in 1957; pressure from the Legislature and alumni led to her removal from the performance. A

A 1956 photo by Dallas-Fort Worth-area photographer R.C. Hickman

telegram of protest comments, "This Jim Crow action indicates a horse and buggy Texas." The

center produced the 2011 film on the controversy, *When I Rise*.

A notice posted at the entryway of *Struggle for Justice* advises that some of the exhibition's contents might be difficult for visitors to experience. The powerful images produce strong emotions. "During one tour of the exhibit, a man in his 30s burst into tears," says Ben Wright, Briscoe's associate director for communications. "He said, 'I wish my dad could be here to see this. He lived through it.'"

Writer **Gene Fowler** specializes in Texas history.



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Texas Co-op Power presents an illustrated *Seashells of Texas* poster by artist Aletha St. Romain, 20x16 inches, suitable for framing.

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Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon



Clinical studies show breakthrough acid reflux treatment also helps maintain vital health and helps protect users from the serious conditions that accompany aging such as fatigue and poor cardiovascular health

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

A clinical study on a leading acid reflux pill shows that its key ingredient relieves digestive symptoms while suppressing the inflammation that contributes to premature aging in men and women.

And, if consumer sales are any indication of a product's effectiveness, this 'acid reflux pill turned anti-aging phenomenon' is nothing short of a miracle.

Sold under the brand name AloeCure, it was already backed by clinical data documenting its ability to provide all day and night relief from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, irritable bowel, gas, bloating, and more.

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results...

"With AloeCure, my patients started reporting less joint pain, more energy, better sleep, stronger immune systems... even less stress and better skin, hair, and nails" explains Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist and company spokesperson.

AloeCure contains an active ingredient that helps improve digestion by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

Scientists now believe that this acid imbalance is what contributes to painful inflammation throughout the rest of the body.

The daily allowance of AloeCure has shown to calm this inflammation which is why AloeCure is so effective.

Relieving other stressful symptoms related to GI health like pain, bloating, fatigue, cramping, constipation, diarrhea, heartburn, and nausea.

Now, backed with new clinical studies, AloeCure is being recommended by doctors everywhere to help improve digestion, calm painful inflammation, soothe joint pain, and even reduce the appearance of wrinkles - helping patients to look and feel decades younger.

FIX YOUR GUT & FIGHT INFLAMMATION

Since hitting the market, sales for AloeCure have taken off and there are some very good reasons why.

To start, the clinical studies have been impressive. Participants taking the active ingredient in AloeCure saw a stunning 100% improvement in digestive symptoms, which includes fast and lasting relief from reflux.

Users also experienced higher energy levels and endurance, relief from chronic discomfort and

better sleep. Some even reported healthier looking skin, hair, and nails.

A healthy gut is the key to a reducing swelling and inflammation that can wreak havoc on the human body. Doctors say this is why AloeCure works on so many aspects of your health.

AloeCure's active ingredient is made from the healing compound found in Aloe vera. It is both safe and healthy. There are also no known side effects.

Scientists believe that it helps improve digestive and immune health by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

Research has shown that this acid imbalance contributes to painful inflammation throughout your entire body and is why AloeCure seems to be so effective.

EXCITING RESULTS FROM PATIENTS

To date over 5 million bottles of AloeCure have been sold, and the community seeking non-pharma therapy for their GI health continues to grow.

According to Dr. Leal, her patients are absolutely thrilled with their results and are often shocked by how fast it works.

"For the first time in years, they are free from concerns about their digestion and almost every other aspect of their health," says Dr. Leal, "and I recommend it to everyone who wants to improve GI health without resorting to drugs, surgery, or OTC medications."

"I was always in 'indigestion hell.' Doctors put me on all sorts of antacid remedies. Nothing worked. Dr. Leal recommended I try AloeCure. And something remarkable happened... Not only were all the issues I had with my stomach gone - completely gone - but I felt less joint pain and I was able to actually sleep through the night."

With so much positive feedback, it's easy to see why the community of believers is growing and sales for the new pill are soaring.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALOECURE

AloeCure is a pill that's taken just once daily. The pill is small. Easy to swallow. There are no harmful side effects and it does not require a prescription.

The active ingredient is a rare Aloe Vera component known as acemannan.

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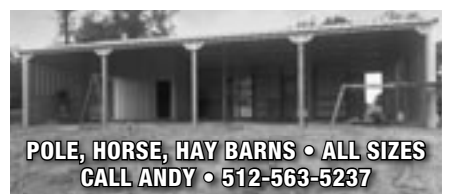
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Double Exposure

Unexplained coincidence prompts photographer's reunion with couple at Cadillac Ranch

BY CHARLES LOHRMANN



WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER WYATT MCSPADDEN left his studio in Austin for the long drive to photograph sites along Route 66 in the Texas Panhandle for the feature in this issue, he did something unexpected: He picked up a print from a table in his office and took it along. There was no reason, he just did it.

One of his stops along Route 66 was in the town of Vega, 35 miles west of Amarillo.

McSpadden noticed a ruggedly charming building bearing the name Milburn-Price Culture Museum. Inside, he met and struck up a conversation with Greg Conn, who had returned to his native Vega after

a long career in facilities management and opened the museum in 2014.

One topic of conversation was Cadillac Ranch. McSpadden mentioned that he had been among those present at the installation's dedication in 1974 and photographed the Cadillacs as they were planted nose-first all those years ago.

Conn then mentioned that his friends, Vega natives Marion and Jessie Kinsey, were at that same event and remembered having a photo taken. They had no idea how to get a print today.

"Wait just a minute," McSpadden said, as he walked outside to his vehicle. He

Marion and Jessie Kinsey in 1974 and again with the same Cadillac at Cadillac Ranch in 2018

returned with the print he had decided to bring along when he left home.

What are the odds?

Naturally, they decided to restage the photo, on March 3, 2018, the Kinseys' 67th wedding anniversary.

Of the thousands of people photographed with these famous Cadillacs, how many can make such a claim on the site's history?

Charles Lohrmann is the *Texas Co-op Power* editor.

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How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO feast on sweet, fresh shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico. This month, readers shared favorite preparations that range from a brilliant three-ingredient, spicy-sweet sauce (my kind of easy, breezy warm-weather cooking) to a delicious chilled shrimp salad that's perfect for lunch. Whether it's dinner on a beach (Port A or bust!) or on the back porch, I love the simplicity of shrimp with a buttery, lemony pasta. This recipe relies on a secret ingredient (ground dried shrimp) to elevate the seafood flavor of this simple, satisfying preparation.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Beach House Pasta

- 2 teaspoons dried shrimp (optional)
- 1 pound angel hair or linguine, preferably fresh
- Kosher salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- Pinch crumbled chile pequin or crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 pound rock shrimp or other small shrimp, peeled and deveined, cut into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped tarragon
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, plus more to finish
- 3 tablespoons cold butter, diced
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced

1. Finely grind dried shrimp in a spice mill or with mortar and pestle; set aside for serving.

2. Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until al dente, about 3 minutes if using fresh pasta, longer if dried. Drain pasta, reserving 1½ cups pasta liquid.

3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and chile and cook, stirring, until

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Recipes

How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

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THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER



DONNA JOHN | SAN BERNARD EC

"Shrimp is a quick meal anytime, but when the recipe has just three more ingredients, it makes for a super-quick meal," John says. "It's sweet, spicy and addictive!" We agree. Serve these succulent shrimp as an appetizer, a partner to grilled steak or a main course over steamed or fried rice.

Quick Sweet Chili Shrimp

- 1/4 cup sweet chili sauce
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 14 jumbo shrimp (or 1 1/2–2 pounds medium shrimp), peeled and deveined

Olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

1. Whisk together the chili sauce, mayonnaise and garlic and set aside.
2. Lightly brush the shrimp with a little olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Cook the shrimp in a preheated grill

pan, cast-iron skillet or frying pan until just cooked, about 2 minutes per side. When the shrimp are almost finished cooking, add the chili sauce mixture, stir to combine and warm through. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP It's easiest to coat the shrimp with the sauce in a regular skillet. If you grill them, consider tossing the hot shrimp with the sauce in a mixing bowl. Grilled green beans, broccoli, snap peas, fresh cilantro and lime juice all would be nice additions to these flavors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

fragrant, about 1–2 minutes. Add the shrimp, season with a pinch of salt and cook, tossing, 1–2 minutes. Add the tarragon, parsley, lemon zest, juice, pasta, 3/4 cup pasta cooking liquid and butter, and toss to coat. Cook, tossing and adding more pasta cooking liquid as needed, until sauce is glossy and coats pasta, and shrimp are cooked through, about 3 minutes. Season with salt if needed.

4. Divide pasta among warmed bowls and top with scallions and reserved dried shrimp. ▶ Serves 4–6.

COOK'S TIP Another way to "drain" pasta and retain the starches that help pull your sauce together? Use tongs to pull the cooked noodles from their pot and place them directly in your skillet. If you do this, you likely won't need to add pasta water. Cherry or grape tomatoes (red, yellow or orange), halved and added to the skillet with the shrimp, are a delicious addition to the mix.

Shrimp Louis Salad

IRENE PORTALES | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Whether it's made with shrimp or crab, a "Louie" or Louis salad is a classic that's traditionally made with Thousand Island-like dressing. Slightly sweet with a bit of heat, this simple, refreshing salad makes a fantastic lunch. You also can serve it on toasted white rolls.

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chili sauce or ketchup
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 4 drops hot sauce (or more as desired for heat)
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 pound boiled shrimp, peeled, deveined and cut into bite-size pieces
- 4 lettuce leaves
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, halved
- 2 avocados, sliced
- 1 large tomato, sliced

1. To make the dressing, whisk together the first 10 ingredients in a medium bowl.
2. Fold in the shrimp and chill for at least



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\$100 Recipe Contest

December's recipe contest theme is **Quick and Easy Holiday Appetizers**. 'Tis the season to have something festive and fun to serve while the big meal is prepared. Send us your go-to family favorite. The deadline is **July 10**.

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

1 hour. Before serving, taste and adjust seasonings as desired.

3. Serve the shrimp salad over lettuce leaves with 1 halved egg, half of a sliced avocado and a few tomato slices per serving. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP To avoid a watery salad, allow the boiled shrimp to dry on paper towels briefly before adding them to the sauce.

Spicy Creole Shrimp Spread

DORIS WIDACKI | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Rich and creamy with three varieties of cheese, this spicy dip screams “game day” or any other gathering that calls for a warm-from-the-oven snack to slather on crackers or toasted bread.

SEASONING BLEND

- 2 teaspoons creole seasoning
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or more to taste

SHRIMP SPREAD

- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided use
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 shallot, diced
- ½ bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided use
- ¾ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided use

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

2. SEASONING BLEND: Mix together the ingredients and set aside, reserving 1 teaspoon of blend for the vegetables.

3. SHRIMP SPREAD: Rinse shrimp and pat dry with paper towels. Slice each shrimp into 3 pieces, place in a mixing bowl, and toss with 2 tablespoons of

olive oil and the seasoning blend. Set aside.

4. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the celery, shallot, bell pepper and jalapeño, season with the remaining seasoning blend and cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more. Add the shrimp and cook for about 3 minutes.

5. Remove from heat and place the mixture in a large bowl. Add the cream cheese, mayonnaise and ½ cup of each shredded cheese to the shrimp mixture, using a rubber spatula to combine. Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish, top with remaining cheese and bake 20 minutes, until the cheese is bubbly.

6. Remove from oven, cool 5–10 minutes and serve with bread or crackers. ▶ Serves 6–8 as an appetizer or hearty snack.

WEB EXTRAS ▶ Read this story on our website to enjoy a recipe for Shrimp and Cheesy Grits from a Central Texas EC member.



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DECEMBER ISSUE
**Quick and Easy
Holiday Appetizers**
Deadline: July 10

JANUARY ISSUE
Sunny Citrus
Deadline: August 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Opposites

WE FIND BIRDS OF A FEATHER don't always flock together, but these opposites sure attract attention. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

WEB EXTRAS ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



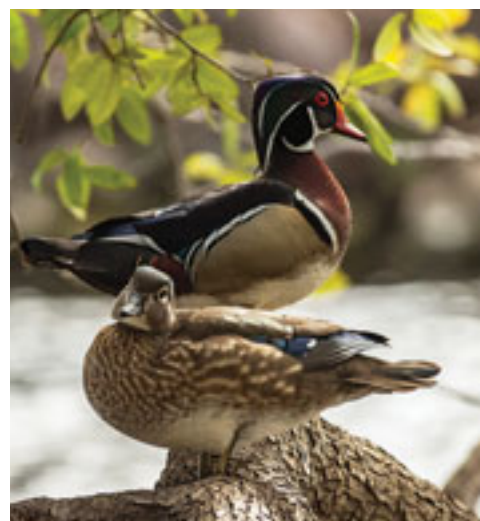
▲ **WYATT WATSON**, Grayson-Collin EC: "Though these two birds are enemies, they don't mind sharing opposite sides of the feeder."



▲ **CHRIS MILLER**, Bluebonnet EC: Saddling up has multiple meanings at the Fort Worth Stockyards.



▲ **CRAIG SANGREY**, Bluebonnet EC: Old becomes new.



▲ **ELAINE AND DAVID WILSON**, Pedernales EC: Male and female wood ducks at Landa Park in New Braunfels



▲ **YVETTE AND MICHAEL FOSTER**, Pedernales EC: "On a morning walk, I was taken by the delicate curves of the morning glory partnered with the strong, sturdy barbed wire."

UPCOMING CONTESTS

NOVEMBER	ABANDONED BUILDINGS	DUE JULY 10
DECEMBER	HIGH CONTRAST	DUE AUGUST 10
JANUARY	HARVEST	DUE SEPTEMBER 10

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

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



Pick of the Month Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival

Wimberley July 7
(512) 921-7043, wimberley.org

How can you pass up ice cream and a good cause on a hot July Saturday? The festival, hosted by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and featuring frozen treats, entertainment and old-fashioned summer fun, benefits Camp Good Sam Wimberley.

July 7

El Paso Magoffin Home State Historic Site
Cooking Class: Lemon Ice, (915) 533-5147,
thc.texas.gov/historic-sites

Galveston An Evening With Bill Engvall,
1-800-821-1894, thegrand.com

Grand Prairie Festival de Mariachi,
(972) 647-2331, tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie

Llano Rock'n Riverfest, (325) 247-5354,
llanorocknriverfest.com

Mooreville United Methodist Church's Annual BBQ, (254) 709-7921,
moorevilleumc.org

Port O'Connor Fireworks Display,
(361) 983-2898, portoconnorchamber.com

Rockport [7-8] Art Festival, (361) 729-5519,
rockportartcenter.com

12

Levelland [12-17] Cal Ripken 10 Year Olds Regional Baseball Tournament,
(806) 894-3157, levelland.com

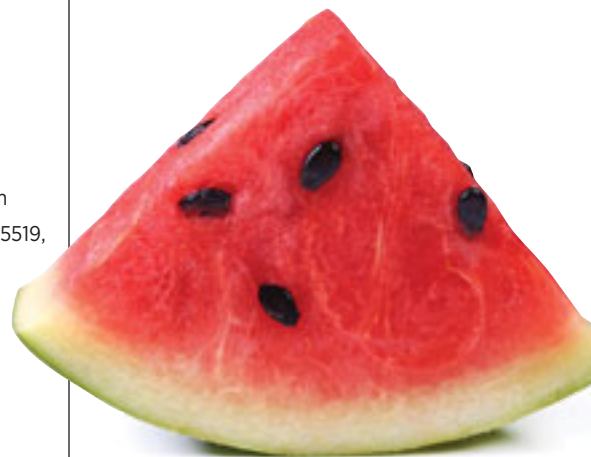
Canadian [12, 19, 26] Screen on the Green,
(806) 323-6234, canadiantx.com

13

Bulverde The Lego Batman Movie,
(210) 212-9373, slabcinema.com

Clute [13-15, 20-22] *The Music Man*,
(979) 265-7661, brazosportcenter.org

July 14
McDade
Watermelon Festival



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Check out VisitFrisco.com for more about Frisco.

San Angelo [July 13–Sept. 9] Made in Texas! 25 Contemporary Quilts, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

14

Austin Cards for Kids Casino Night, (512) 444-7199, bgcaustin.org

Center Point VFD Annual Dance & BBQ, (830) 928-8707

Levelland Early Settlers Day, (806) 894-3157, levelland.com

McDade Watermelon Festival, (512) 332-1270, mcdadetexas.com

Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival, (817) 596-3801, parkercountypeachfestival.org

Tyler [14–15] Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

18

Blanco Neal Ford and Friends, (830) 833-1227, nealfordmusic.com

19

Stephenville Texstar Ford Lincoln Summer Nights Concert Series: Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder With Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, (800) 481-9345, stephenvilletexas.org



July 21
Lytle
Paws of Summer

21

Caldwell Texas Czech Genealogical Society: Life Is a Journey, Not a Destination (214) 577-0029, txczgs.org

Fredericksburg Night in Old Fredericksburg, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

Lytle Paws of Summer, (210) 621-5891, lytleanimalallies.com

San Antonio Kickin' for a Kure, (830) 780-2360, facebook.com/kickinforakure

Tulia [21–22] Red Barn Trade Days, (806) 633-4365

26

Bonham [26–28] Kueckelhan Ranch Rodeo, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

27

Stratford [27–29] Jamboree & Block Party, (806) 753-6897, shermancountytx.org

28

Castell VFD 44th Annual BBQ, (325) 247-6130

August
3

New Braunfels [3–5] Lone Star Gourd Festival, (337) 376-9690, texasgourdsociety.org

Submit Your Event!

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

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Redemption in the Desert

A last-minute escape to Marathon offers inviting surprises

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

DRY. DUSTY. DESOLATE. WE'VE JUST pulled up alongside a century-old cottage on Avenue J in Marathon, and the desert scenery's definitely not inviting. The house looks iffy, too. I can already sense that my husband wishes he hadn't agreed to this last-minute trip.

Past the iron garden gate, Mexican feathergrass tickles our bare legs as we carry our stuff across the flagstone path and up the front steps of La Esmeralda.

"Look, James, a glider!" I'm hopeful that the screened porch's rusted vintage sofa with red cushions will charm my dubious husband (and redeem me). We unload our suitcases and supplies. Then we nose around the house, decorated cowboy-modern style. Ceiling fans, modern kitchen appliances and central air mesh well with the home's wood floors and claw-foot tub. Built-in bookcases contain an eclectic library that includes acclaimed Texas authors. I can't wait to browse.

In the yard, native wildflowers, prickly pear cacti, yuccas and cenizo replicate the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert. Several carpenter bees, black and shiny, patrol a dead agave stem, where they've tunneled nest holes. Binoculars in hand, I sit down on a rock bench and watch a black-throated sparrow as it lands at the rock-bordered fish pond for a sip.

Next, we set out to explore Marathon, Brewster County's second-largest town, with a population of 430. A downtown stroll takes us past the post office as well as art galleries, shops and a cafe. I tug James toward the historic **Gage Hotel**.

In 1927, San Antonio businessman Alfred S. Gage built the two-story, terra-cotta brick hotel as headquarters for his local ranching and banking interests. We slip



Post Park, 5 miles south of Marathon

inside the lobby for a sample of the hotel's luxurious, Spanish-flavored décor.

Around the corner, we spy the tin-roofed **French Co. Grocer**, named after a mercantile store that operated 72 years in Marathon. Some motorcyclists have just plunked down with their drinks at one of the picnic tables on the covered concrete porch. Inside, French's stocks everything from ketchup to camping gear. We look over prepackaged sandwiches and salads in the cooler then buy a loaf of home-made bread.

Across the railroad tracks, we're surprised to find a 27-acre oasis called **Gage Gardens**. A crushed granite path winds through columbines, santolina, red hot pokers, yuccas, oaks and retamas. We also check out a rose garden, fountains and a pond, not to mention a nine-hole putting green. Where'd the desert go?


But wait. A side trip 5 miles south of Marathon turns up yet another surprise: a secluded green spot known as Post Park. Shaded by huge cottonwoods and oaks, picnic tables and a concrete dance pavilion overlook a spring-fed pond. In the 1880s,

the watering hole supplied a U.S. Army post. Now, a quartet of ducks hurriedly paddle our way in hopes of a handout, and nearby, a pair of summer tanagers flit from branch to branch.

Back at the house, James cooks up supper. At a wooden table on the screened porch, we savor broiled salmon, corn on the cob and French's bread. Our eastward view of distant hills, silhouetted against the evening sky, gradually melts into starry darkness. After supper, we relax on the porch and listen to soft classical music.

Early the next day, we're back on the porch, armed with cameras and steaming cups of coffee. A mockingbird calls from high atop the cottonwood that stands near the back door. Soon, the morning's first burnt-orange sunrays halo over the hills. "So," James says from his seat on the glider, "how about we stay an extra night?" I smile. I'm pretty sure I've been redeemed.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, a member of Peder-nales EC, lives in Blanco.

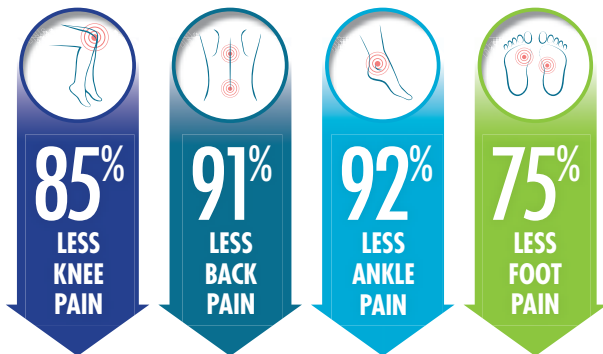
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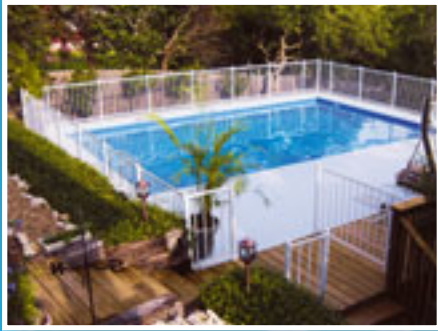
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