THE JOYS OF
PASS-ALONG PLANTS

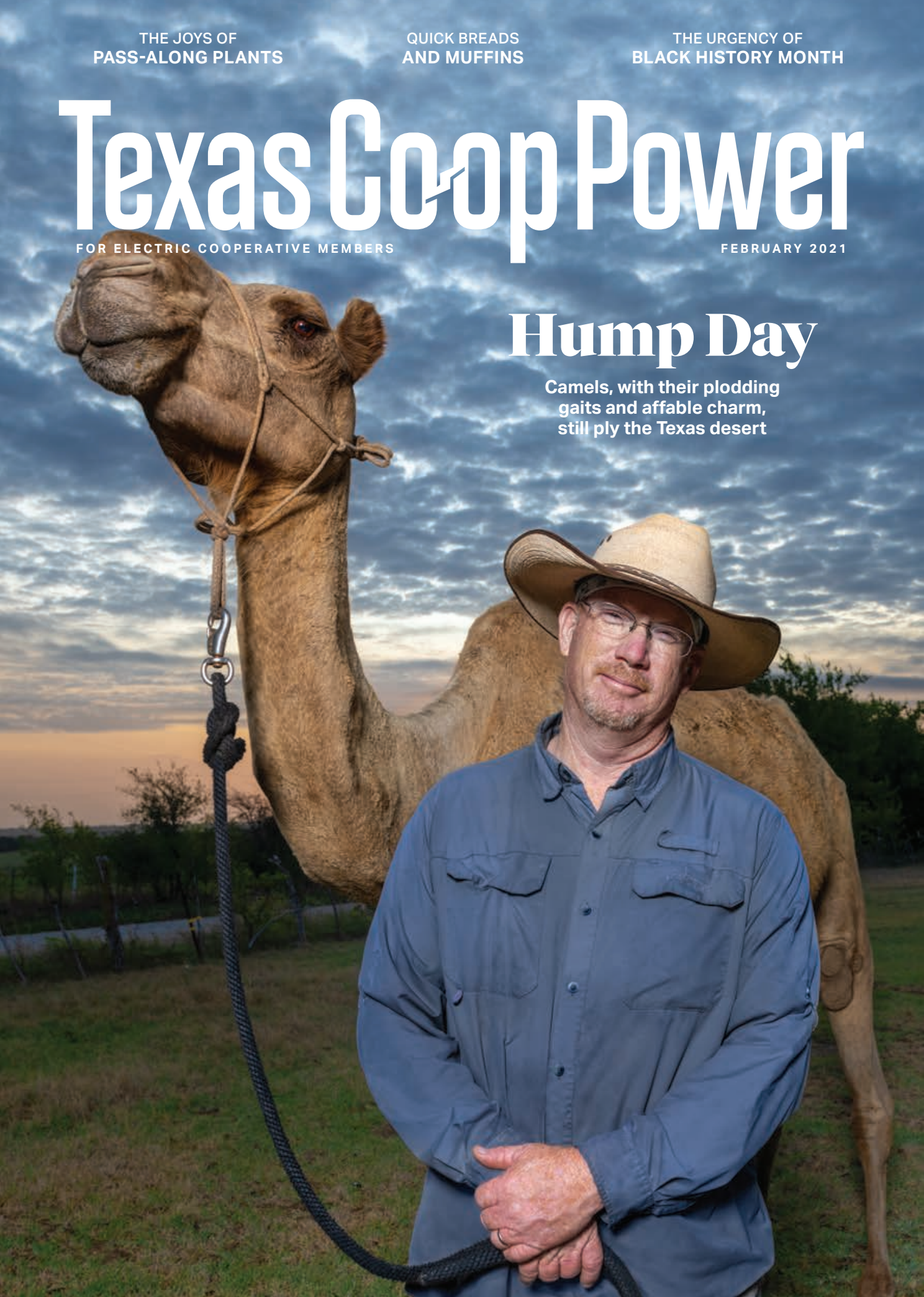
QUICK BREADS
AND MUFFINS

THE URGENCY OF
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Texas Co-op Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2021



Hump Day

Camels, with their plodding gaits and affable charm, still ply the Texas desert

MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS

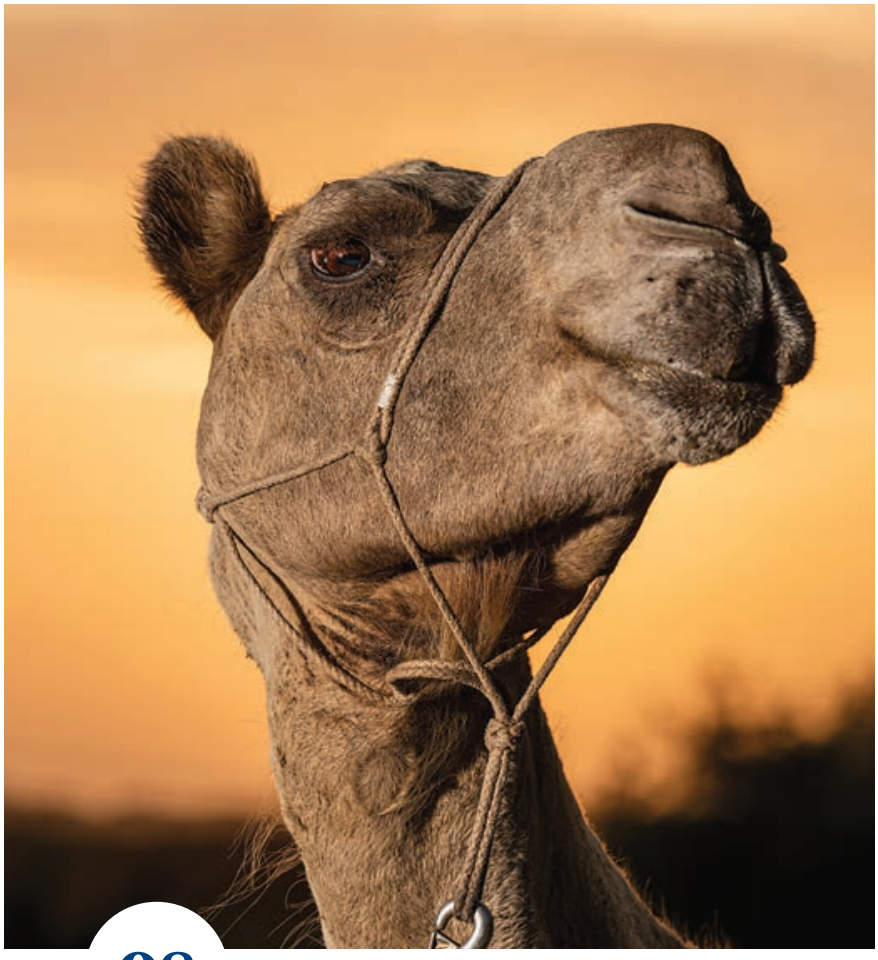
WELCOME TO THE BACK PORCH

Sometimes it's nice to sit on the back porch for a spell - talking, laughing and just making memories. At Mueller, we want to make your dream living space come true and give you peace-of-mind that it will protect what matters most to you. After all, we've been around for over 90 years, creating one-of-a-kind structures to meet your every need.

MUELLER, INC.
METAL BUILDINGS, ROOFING & COMPONENTS

Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

February 2021



08

Every Day Is Hump Day

Camels add unique silhouettes and affable charm to West Texas expeditions.

By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Scott Van Osdol

12

Putting Down Roots

Pass-along plants spread joy, friendship and legacies among gardeners.

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers
Illustrations by Chiara Vercesi

ON THE COVER
Doug Baum and Richard, one of his camels.
ABOVE
A face that only a … no, that anybody could love.
Photos by Scott Van Osdol

04 **Currents**
The latest buzz

06 **TCP Talk**
Readers respond

18 **Co-op News**
Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29 **Footnotes in Texas History**
A Name That Sticks
By W.F. Strong

30 **TCP Kitchen**
Quick Breads and Muffins
By Megan Myers

34 **Hit the Road**
Caddo Monuments
By Chet Garner

37 **Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: Saddles

38 **Observations**
Time To Talk About *That*
By Michael Hurd

No Crapes of Wrath

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER to resist all temptation to commit crape murder this month. Prune crape myrtles gently—or not at all.

Our February 2020 story *Crape Murder* explains it all. Many gardeners drastically saw off the trees' limbs, thinking it the proper treatment for beautiful blooms later in the summer. Not so.

"The prettiest ones I've seen have never been touched," says horticulturist Greg Grant. "And I mean *never*."

> "In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."
>
> —THURGOOD MARSHALL

End of the Republic

This month marks 175 years since the formal transfer of authority in Texas from the republic to the state.

The U.S. Congress accepted the Texas Constitution on December 29, 1845, which marked Texas' legal entry into the union. On February 19, 1846, the last president of Texas, Anson Jones, turned over the reins of government to Gov. James Pinckney Henderson.

"The final act in this great drama is now performed," Jones declared. "The Republic of Texas is no more."

LIVING LARGE Last July, Austin became the 11th American city and fourth in Texas — joining Houston, San Antonio and Dallas—with a population exceeding 1 million. The last U.S. city to hit 1 million people was San Jose, California, in 2015.

CRAPE MYRTLE: UKIMARRON | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. WINE: SASHAGALA | DREAMSTIME.COM. MILLER: BETTMAN | GETTY IMAGES. ICE CREAM: UNPICT | DREAMSTIME.COM

February 18

NATIONAL DRINK WINE DAY

Texas has more than 500 wineries, according to the National Association of American Wineries. Only four states have more.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our December prompt:

I wish I could ...

Find a cure for COVID-19.
SHERRYION LANE
MIDSOUTH EC
HUNTSVILLE

Have just one more day with my dad, Dixie Wheeler. I have so many questions I'd like to ask him.
RODNEY WHEELER
BLUEBONNET EC
LYTTON SPRINGS

Fit into the pants I wore before quarantine.
CARYL ZIMMERMAN
CENTRAL TEXAS EC
KINGSLAND

Figure out what my cats are thinking when they stare at me.
LAURIE L. REAGAN
BANDERA EC
LEAKEY

Give everyone a hug.
MARGARET FONTENOT
BLUEBONNET EC
SOMERVILLE

To see more responses, read Currents online.

Valor Carries On

THE NAME OF DORIS MILLER, a U.S. Navy mess attendant from Willow Grove, near Waco, who became a hero during the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, lives on in schools, roads and community centers around the country.

In 11 years the USS Doris Miller will take to the seas as the first supercarrier named for an African American and the first named for an enlisted sailor.

Miller fired an anti-aircraft gun at attacking Japanese aircraft and then pulled shipmates out of the burning water. He perished in 1943 aboard an escort carrier torpedoed in the Pacific Ocean.

TCP *Contests and More*

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Ice Creams and Sorbets

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Manmade vs. Nature

WEB EXTRA
See writer Sheryl Smith-Rodgers divide lilies and prepare plants to pass along.

COLLAGE SOURCE PHOTOS: COURTESY MCDONALD OBSERVATORY

He Gave Us the Stars

"The generosity and vision of William McDonald and Violet Locke McIvor is a great story. Wouldn't we all welcome an opportunity to go 'mountain shopping'?"

GERALD BENNETT
COSERV
FRISCO

Alabama's Role

While primary control of the International Space Station is in Houston, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, also plays a vital role in its operation [*Out of This World*, November 2020].

Flight controllers in Huntsville schedule the astronauts' daily activities and provide technical assistance as the astronauts do experiments and perform maintenance or handle emergencies related to the equipment inside the space station.

Linda Brower
Tri-County EC
Keller

Yep! And brought over some delicious food [*Burgs in a New Land*, December 2020].

KAYLA WALKER
VIA FACEBOOK

NASA.GOV

The Pinnacle

My husband and I took a week to explore the beaches and fishing villages of South Texas one year. We had heard about the Matagorda Island ferry and rented bicycles for the day [*Matagorda Island Lighthouse*, October 2020].

There were several others on the ferry, but we had all day exploring the island—hardly seeing a soul until returning to the dock. The view of the lighthouse was the pinnacle of that day.

Thank you for bringing that long-lost memory to life.

Joy Connery
Wood County EC
Lindale

Classic Cover

Huge kudos to photographer Kristin Tyler for the photo of the farrier on the October 2020 cover. It is a classic, reminiscent of the Dorothea Lange Depression photographs.

Merry Langlinais
Bandera EC
Medina

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

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

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston
PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
Marty Haught, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor
MAGAZINE STAFF
Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • **Senior Communications Specialist** Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge
Digital Content Producer Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is $4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. 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 Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. 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 2021 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wiredhand © Copyright 2021 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
American Association of Agricultural Media
American MainStreet Publications

TEXAS MINT

We are excited to announce the release of the 2021 Texas Silver Round – Revolution Series. This is the second release of a four-year series commemorating the battles of the Texas Revolution. Each Texas Silver Round is one troy ounce .9999 fine silver.

The obverse of the high-quality mint strike features Texas' iconic lone star in the foreground. The smooth engraving of the star is framed by a textured topographical outline of the state of Texas. "TEXAS" arches proudly over the top of the round's obverse in large capital letters, with "Precious Metals" presented inversely along the opposite side. The round's mintage year is engraved in the bottom left of the round, just southwest of what would be the Rio Grande bordering Texas and Mexico.

The reverse of the 2021 release displays a scene from the famous Battle of the Alamo. It depicts two Texian soldiers including the American icon, Davy Crockett, attempting to fend off Mexican soldiers attempting to breach the walls of the Alamo.

Use Coupon Code

TXPOWER2021

to get a free Collector's Booklet with any order!

BATTLE OF GONZALES

first in the series

The stunning 2020 Texas Silver Round depicts a scene from the Battle of Gonzales, with three Texian revolutionaries defending the famous Gonzales cannon, while brandishing the Come And Take It Flag.

BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

second in the series

The events of this famous battle took place on the days of February 23rd - March 6th, 1836. At the end of a 13-day siege, President General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission, killing the Texian and immigrant occupiers.

The Texas Silver Round can be purchased in a monster box produced exclusively for the Texas Mint. Packaged in 20 protective tubes of 25 rounds each, the monster box holds 500 1-ounce Texas Silver Rounds. Built from durable cold-rolled steel and finished with a matte black powder coat, the monster box lid features an orange cutout of the state of Texas. Each sealed monster box is secured with a unique serial number and a holographic seal to ensure maximum product protection.

The Texas Silver Round is also available to purchase in a similarly designed and secured mini-monster box, which contains 10 protective tubes of 25 rounds each for a total of 250 silver rounds.

FREE SHIPPING | GOLD / SILVER / PLATINUM | NO ORDER MINIMUMS

#1 RANKED AGGIE 100 2014 HONOREE | Inc. 500

TEXMETALS.COM

We accept: VISA MasterCard

For precious metal storage solutions visit TexasDepository.com

959 STATE HWY 95N • SHINER, TX 77984 • 361.594.3624

BY PAM LEBLANC
PHOTOS BY SCOTT VAN OSDOL

every day is hump day

Doug Baum strides through the prickly Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas, a straw cowboy hat shading his face from the sun and a string of five camels sauntering behind him.

I'm perched high atop one of those camels, listening intently as Baum, owner of Texas Camel Corps, points out a canyon wren's nest, stops to inspect a rust-colored millipede marching across our path and then explains the role camels played in the Lone Star State's history.

"Texas is perfect for camels," says Baum, born in the West Texas town of Big Spring. "That point was not lost on the Army when they decided to use camels out here in the 1850s."

That's when the U.S. military imported 75 camels from Egypt, Turkey and Tunisia for use as pack animals. For nearly a decade, the heat-resistant creatures carried water and hauled supplies for the U.S. cavalry at Camp Verde, south of Kerrville.

When the program ended in 1866, the army sold the animals. Some wound up in California; others hauled freight between Texas and Mexico; a few ended up in traveling shows; and some made their way to Austin, where they were kept along Congress Avenue near the river and then sold off a few at a time.

Today Baum, who lives with his menagerie on a farm near Valley Mills, where he is a member of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, keeps the camels' history alive by introducing his cartoonish but affectionate creatures at events around the state. I've joined him at Cibolo Creek Ranch, south of Marfa, for an overnight camel-riding trek to learn more about the role they once played in the Big Bend.

I feel like I'm riding a rocking chair strapped to a stepladder that's being dragged down a gravel road. It's both rough and rolling, with the bonus that my camel, Cinco, swings his neck around to give me a big goofy smile now and then.

ABOVE Texas Camel Corps owner Doug Baum throws a saddle on Richard at his farm near Valley Mills.
RIGHT Richard greets the sunrise.

He leads treks each spring and fall at Cibolo Creek and delivers members of his eight-camel herd to museums, parks, schools and libraries. He also leads treks in Egypt, where he has a second home, and if you need a camel for a church Nativity, he's the guy to call.

Baum first fell in love with camels while working as a professional musician in Nashville in the 1990s, when he played drums for country music star Trace Adkins. He took a day job working at the Nashville Zoo.

"I had zero experience with camels," he says. "Within a week I was absolutely smitten. They're sweet, affectionate, playful and so, so gentle."

They've also got leathery, pie-sized feet; spindly, stiltlike legs; nostrils that squeeze shut to keep out blowing sand; and peach-sized eyes fringed in lush, 3-inch lashes.

Baum stuck with music for a while, but eventually "the camel thing just won," he says. "It was an obvious choice to me."

He moved back to Texas and in 1998 bought four camels, with the idea of using them for educational programs. Two of those camels—Richard and Cinco—are with us on this cool September afternoon, slowing periodically to munch on creosote bushes.

"They teach me what I should be—patient, observant, methodical," Baum says of his camels. "These are things I recognize I lack in myself."

He leads treks each spring and fall at Cibolo Creek and delivers members of his eight-camel herd to museums, parks, schools and libraries. He also leads treks in Egypt, where he has a second home, and if you need a camel for a church Nativity, he's the guy to call.

Part of Baum's mission is to dispel myths about camels. They're not, he says, ornery, smelly beasts that spit at people. Their humps aren't filled with water, either, though a camel can go 10 days or more without a drink. Camel humps—one for dromedaries, two for Bactrians—are filled with fat. (If you're riding a single-humper, you'll sit on a padded seat behind the hump. For a two-humper, you ride between the bumps.) Camels can be downright cuddly, and they don't spit—although llamas, which are closely related, do.

I learn, when Cinco exhales on me, that the stinky part of the stereotype rings true. Camels' awful breath is both

ABOVE Doug Baum, walking behind the first camel, leads a trek through the desert at Cibolo Creek Ranch, south of Marfa. OPPPOSITE Author Pam LeBlanc perched atop Richard.

sweet and pungent, like grass clippings mixed with syrup—in part because they chew their cud. They are ruminants and employ three stomachs to process their food. Stand next to one for a few minutes, and you'll hear that digestive system in action, gurgling and glugging like a clogged drain. Also, they fart—loudly and potently.

Two other guests on the trek, Sue and Randy Howerter, Guadalupe Valley EC members, are equally taken by the animals. Randy, who makes musical instruments, met Baum at a festival in New Braunfels. Sue, a blacksmith, was intrigued, too, and the Seguin couple visited Baum's farm, where he lives with his family, the camels, five miniature donkeys, a pair of dogs, a flock of chickens, assorted sheep and goats, one horse, and "too many" kittens.

After that the Howerters needed no convincing. They headed to Cibolo Creek Ranch, where we all loaded sleeping bags and pajamas into large canvas saddlebags; climbed aboard our kneeling, straw-colored steeds; and hung on as the animals rose to full height.

"Sometimes you get an attachment to animals," Sue Howerter says. "It's the same with camels. They have so much personality and character."

Before our two-day trip ends, we've lumbered a dozen miles across a stark landscape that looks like the backdrop of a John Wayne movie, soaked in a spring-fed creek, eaten a traditional Moroccan meal, sung around the campfire, watched shooting stars streak across the sky and listened to coyotes yip as we snuggled in our tents.

But it's the camels that get top billing. And that's just how Baum likes it. ■

TREK: PAM LEBLANC

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHIARA VERCESI

Putting Down Roots

PASS-ALONG PLANTS SPREAD JOY, FRIENDSHIP AND LEGACIES AMONG GARDENERS

Paige Eaton faced a bare yard when she and her family moved into their rural home in Wood County in 2006. After hand-prepping her first garden bed, she planted several varieties of daylilies dug up from her sister-in-law's yard down the road. Today those daylilies and many other pass-along plants are the foundation of Eaton's diversified gardens that support pollinators and other wildlife. Now she passes along plants from her yard, too.

"I love to give daylilies to friends and co-workers," says Eaton, an employee and member of Wood County Electric Cooperative. "I've even mailed them to Mississippi and Georgia. I feel good about sharing daylilies because they're hardy and can make anyone a successful gardener."

Sharing plants also saves lives—of the green kind, that is. In a yard or garden, plants multiply, often where they're not wanted. Instead of tossing extras, most gardeners prefer to give away what they've thinned out. Are those pass-along plants? Maybe. Maybe not. Definitions vary, depending on the gardener you ask. Traditionally, the term refers to plants that are easy to grow, propagate and pass on as seeds, transplants, divisions, bulbs or cuttings. They're often fragrant and rarely sold in commercial nurseries. They may also bring back fond memories of the giver or places tied to the past.

"Without pass-along plants, most of us would have lost touch with our childhoods," says Neil Sperry, a Texas gardening expert and Grayson-Collin EC member. "There's something special about being given a cutting, division or seed from your grandmother's favorite plant and then sharing it with a young person who's important to you. Some of my favorite pass-alongs are tulips, oxblood lilies, autumn daffodils, resurrection lilies and hardy amaryllis."

According to many sources, the phrase "pass-along plants" was coined by the late Allen Lacy, a gardening columnist and author. However, Lacy, who grew up around Dallas, declined the credit when he wrote in a foreword to *Passalong Plants* that the expression "is not by any means my creation. I have heard it most of my life, possibly at my grandmother's knee."

Another custom among some Southern gardeners also goes back for generations. "When you receive a pass-along, you're not supposed to say thank you or it won't grow," says Marcia Coffman, president of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club in Bracketville and a Rio Grande EC member. "I've actually found the custom to be true. Instead, you should tell the giver, 'Oh, this makes me so happy.' "

If one pass-along can bring happiness, imagine being surrounded by them. Tables covered with pass-alongs can be found at plant sales and swaps, such as seasonal fundraisers jointly hosted by the Denton County Master Gardener Association and the Native Plant Society of Texas in Denton.

"We pot up extra plants from our gardens, like white avens, mealy blue sage and fall asters, and label them," says Liz Moyer, a member of both organizations. "When I go to plant sales, I always look for pass-alongs because I know they'll do well in our climate and soils."

In the Rio Grande Valley, members of the Driftwood Garden Club in Port Isabel give away small potted plants in exchange for donations at a monthly market. Their pass-alongs usually include palms, plumerias and succulents.

"We have a lot of winter Texans who like to take home something unique from Texas that they can show their friends," says Mary Gorbell, club president and an NEC Co-op Energy member. "One Iowa couple had a Washingtonia palm they got from us. Every summer after they arrived here, they'd set it under their motor home's awning. Then they'd take it back home and keep it in their garage over winter."

Roses also rank among beloved pass-along plants. Becky Smith of Hungerford and fellow members of the Texas Rose Rustlers preserve and share old garden roses that were planted by Anglo settlers at their homesteads and cemeteries. "We host a cutting exchange three times a year," says Smith, the group's chairperson. "Our mission is to encourage others to grow these old roses, which have been time-tested to survive and require no spraying or fertilizers."

Unlike old garden roses, not all plants make suitable pass-alongs. "Years ago someone gave me a Chinese tallow," recalls Greg Grant, a Smith County extension agent with

"Later I divided the cacti into 15 pots and passed them along to my children and my sister's children. It was all we had left of the land that our family had owned since 1889."

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Tyler. "It had lovely fall color, but then I learned how invasive it is. Fortunately, the tree later froze and died. So be careful when people pass along something to you. Check it out before you plant it. Mexican petunias can choke out other plants, but they don't take over an ecosystem and spread ad nauseam like Chinese privets do."

Grant, a Deep East Texas EC member, also cautions against scooping up plants from public parks and private property. "If you don't own the land, then you shouldn't dig up a plant unless you have the owner's permission," he says. "In my hunts for plants, I've been known to knock on doors and offer cash."

When is the best time to plant pass-alongs? "Most are forgiving about being dug up or divided," Grant says. "So even if you do it at the wrong time of year, they don't mind because pass-alongs are tough."

Occasional losses in her gardens motivate Lin Grado, a Wood County master gardener and Wood County EC member, to share some of her plants. "For instance, if something destroys my fall obedient plant, I know I can go to a friend that I gave some to and get more," she explains. "I know that's a little selfish, but it's nice to know I've got backups."

Mention pass-alongs, and potted plants may come up. "I treasure my peperomia, a tropical houseplant that was given to me by the late Ralph Pinkus," Sperry says. "He's one of my heroes and was the founder of North Haven Gardens in Dallas. I've had that plant for 35 years."

Though small, a potted cactus matters greatly to Moyer, a member of CoServ, an electric cooperative in Corinth. "Before my grandfather's farm sold near East Sweden, I dug up some barrel cacti," she recalls. "Later I divided the cacti into 15 pots and passed them along to my children and my sister's children. It was all we had left of the land that our family had owned since 1889.

"Sometimes," she adds, "a pass-along plant is the only thing you have left of someone or something that you held dear." ■

TCP **WEB EXTRA** Our video shows writer Sheryl Smith-Rodgers dividing lilies and preparing plants to pass along.

SHARING CACTUSES, SUCCULENTS AND NATIVES

YEARS AGO, a friend gave my husband, James, and me a variegated agave with green and gold leaves. I planted it in our adjoining vacant lot that we call the Meadow, and it produced dozens of pups. Along the way many other pass-alongs, including Texas natives, have found homes in our gardens.

Because they're easy to grow and share, succulents, cactuses and most native plants make ideal pass-alongs. Sedums, succulents also called stonecrops, flourish and spread in gardens. Just break off a stem and stick it in a pot or in the ground. Voilà! You've got a new plant. Aloe veras also make good pass-alongs.

Through the years we've received a Texas buckeye, Lindheimer's crownbeard, heartleaf hibiscus, pink mint and bracted passionflower, to name only a few pass-along natives. In turn we've gifted Gregg's mistflower, fragrant mistflower, flame acanthus, Turk's cap and pearl milkweed vine. I've also shared seeds with friends.

As for that agave and its *many* pups, those aggressive spreaders are gone. Lesson learned: Always read up on your pass-along's growing habits. **—SSR**

PRESIDENTS' DAY Window Special!

Presidents' Day Special ENDS Thursday, February 25th

Buy 1 window or door, get 1 window or door

40% OFF[1]

PLUS

★ Take an additional ★

☆ **$200 OFF** ☆

★ your project* ★

PLUS

NO NO NO

Money Down Payments Interest

FOR 1 YEAR[1]

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, and know that we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the **safest** way possible
- Our window helps make homes more comfortable because our Fibrex® material is **two times stronger than vinyl**
- To lock in this Presidents' Day Special, call on or before **Thursday, February 25th** and schedule your free Window and Door Diagnosis

Call to schedule your appointment. Limited appointments are available.

Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT
an Andersen Company

Austin 512-298-1858

San Antonio 210-961-9990

Dallas/Fort Worth 469-606-5229

TopWindowSolution.com

[1]Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and **applies to purchase of 4 or more windows and/or patio doors.** Buy two windows and/or doors, get the second two windows and/or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off. Discount applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 2/25/21, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Special Presidents' Day $200 discount valid during first appointment only. **All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio, and by Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. All are independently owned and operated affiliates operating in TX.**

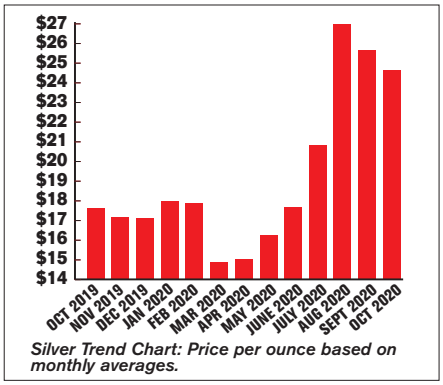
This Is the End

The U.S. Silver Dollar Is About to Change...Forever!

Each year, millions of collectors and silver stackers around the word secure freshly struck American Eagle Silver Dollars. Minted in one Troy ounce of 99.9% pure U.S. silver, these legal-tender coins are perhaps the most widely collected silver bullion coins in the world... and they're about to change forever.

Final Release of Original Silver Eagle Design

Since 1986, the design of the "Silver Eagle" has remained unchanged: Adolph A. Weinman's classic 1916 Walking Liberty design paired with former U.S. Mint Chief Engraver John Mercanti's stunning eagle reverse. But in mid-2021, the U.S. Mint plans to replace the original reverse. This initial release is the FINAL appearance of the U.S. Silver Eagle's original design!



Silver Trend Chart: Price per ounce based on monthly averages.

Collectors are Already Going Wild for This "Final" Release!

For any popular coin series, two dates tend to rise to the top of demand: the first and the last. This coin represents not just the final issue of perhaps the world's most popular silver coin, but also its 35th anniversary — an additional draw for collectors, who are already chomping at the bit, ready to secure as many coins as possible. And it's not just about the special anniversary and "last" that has them excited...

Higher Values + Slowed Production = DEMAND!

In the last 12 months, average monthly values of silver bullion have increased nearly 38%! At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the U.S. Mint slowing production of freshly struck Silver Eagles. Add in the final issue of the original design, and you have a trifecta of demand that has buyers around the world ready to pounce.

Timing is Everything

This is a strictly limited release offer for one of the world's most popular silver coins. As the last mintage to feature the original, 35-year-old design, it represents the end of an era at a time when silver values have seen a massive increase. Once word gets out that these 2021 U.S. Silver Dollars can be secured at such a great price, you'll be facing far more competition. Call today and secure yours now ahead of the crowd!

Just Released — Call NOW!

Collectors around the world are already beginning to secure these coins. Don't wait. Call 1-888-201-7639 and use the special offer code below now, and your 2021 U.S. Silver Dollars will ship directly to your door. Plus, the more you buy, the more you save!

2021 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

1-4 Coins-	$32.74 ea. + *s/h*
5-19 Coins-	$32.65 ea. + *FREE SHIPPING*
20-99 Coins-	$32.38 ea. + *FREE SHIPPING*
100-499 Coins-	$32.20 ea. + *FREE SHIPPING*
500+ Coins-	$31.25 ea. + *FREE SHIPPING*

FREE SHIPPING on 5 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

1-888-201-7639

Offer Code LRE215-01

Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com®
THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

GovMint.com ▪ 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. LRE215-01 ▪ Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2021 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.

Upper Class Just Got Lower Priced

Finally, luxury built for value—not for false status

Until Stauer came along, you needed an inheritance to buy a timepiece with class and refinement. Not any more. The Stauer ***Magnificat II*** embodies the impeccable quality and engineering once found only in the watch collections of the idle rich. Today, it can be on your wrist.

The ***Magnificat II*** has the kind of thoughtful design that harkens back to those rare, 150-year-old moon phases that once could only be found under glass in a collector's trophy room.

Powered by 27 jewels, the ***Magnificat II*** is wound by the movement of your body. An exhibition back reveals the genius of the engineering and lets you witness the automatic rotor that enables you to wind the watch with a simple flick of your wrist.

It took three years of development and $26 million in advanced Swiss-built watch-making machinery to create the ***Magnificat II***. When we took the watch to renowned watchmaker and watch historian George Thomas, he disassembled it and studied the escapement, balance wheel and the rotor. He remarked on the detailed guilloche face, gilt winding crown, and the crocodile-embossed leather band. He was intrigued by the three interior dials for day, date, and 24-hour moon phases. He estimated that this fine timepiece would cost over $2,500. We all smiled and told him that the Stauer price was less than $100. A truly magnificent watch at a truly magnificent price!

Try the ***Magnificat II*** for 30 days and if you are not receiving compliments, please return the watch for a full refund of the purchase price. The precision-built movement carries a 2 year warranty against defect. If you trust your own good taste, the ***Magnificat II*** is built for you.

Stauer Magnificat II Timepiece ~~$399~~*

Offer Code Price **$99** + S&P **SAVE $300!**

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

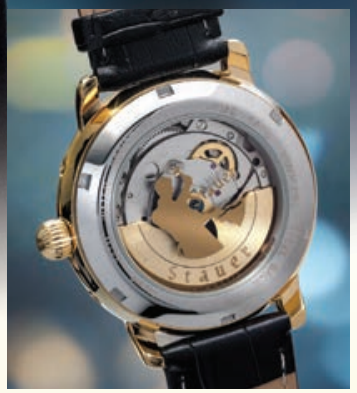
1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: MAG537-08

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
Rating of A+

Stauer®
14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Ste 155, Dept. MAG537-08
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 **www.stauer.com**

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



The Stauer Magnificat II is powered by your own movement

- **Luxurious gold-finished case with exposition back**
- **27-jeweled automatic movement**
- **Croc-embossed band fits wrists 6¾"–8½"**
- **Water-resistant to 3 ATM**

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

It's time to power a Small Business Comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by **WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**.

Download the free app to find discounts from your local merchants. Now you can save money while you support your community's business owners. Find all the ways to save locally with Co-op Connections!

WWW.SMALLBUSINESSCOMEBACK.COOP

WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
GARY RAYBON

Six Reasons To Love WCEC

© SEK_GT | ADOBE STOCK

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, members of Wharton County Electric Cooperative!

As we celebrate love this month, I want to tell you about some of the reasons to love your electric cooperative.

1. We're member owned. That means you, the consumer, are an owner of this business. And as a member-owner, you have a say in how the organization operates, can run for the board of directors (see page 21) and are eligible to receive capital credits when the co-op retires them.

2. We're local. You don't have to call a faraway customer service representative to receive help. When you call us, you call our office right here in El Campo. You might even speak with someone you know because we employ people who live right here.

3. We have a strong foundation. We have been providing affordable, reliable electric service since our founding in 1938. We formed with a mission of serving our rural area with a commodity that would ensure we could keep up with our urban neighbors. How we deliver service might look a little different today, but we still aim to improve the quality of our members' lives.

4. We provide energy-saving tips. We routinely help you save money by offering tips and information on how to reduce your electricity consumption. You can find articles about energy conservation in *Texas Co-op Power* and on the magazine's website, our website and social media.

5. We support our community. Our employees volunteer for meaningful causes around town.

6. We're innovative. We consistently implement new technologies and tools to ensure that we provide electric service in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

Thanks for being part of the electric cooperative family. We hope that as a member you feel the love from WCEC.

Meet WCEC's Diane Barger

AT WCEC, WE PRIDE ourselves on outstanding member service and make every effort to play a key role in our community.

As our employees interact with you, our members, we want you to get to know them beyond their job title. Each month, we feature a TEAM member here.

This month's HOME TEAM SPOTLIGHT features Diane Barger.

Diane is WCEC's Human Resources Administrator. Her feature in this month's Home Team Spotlight is very fitting as, after 41 years at WCEC, Diane will be retiring next month!

Diane was born in Louisiana, but grew up in the Houston area with her parents and two brothers. She attended Westbury High School where she played the bugle for the drill team, the Rebelettes. She went on to graduate from Texas A&M University in 1978.

She began her career at WCEC shortly after moving to El Campo when she married her husband, Jimmy.

"A friend told me about an opening at WCEC. I had always wondered what the cooperative was since I passed the office on my way into Houston to visit my parents. It was certainly a good move on my part to apply...I have had a very successful career here," Diane says.

Diane served as Consumer Services Supervisor for 30 years and moved into Human Resources in 2010.

"I have enjoyed learning the benefit side of the cooperative," she says. "WCEC offers fantastic benefits and it's rewarding to me to help our employees in any way I can.

"We are a family here. I have been with this family twice as long as I lived at home with my parents. My office key is 41 years old. I have changed residences, cars, had a child and welcomed grandchildren, but the key to my office home has stayed the same."

Diane and Jimmy live in El Campo. They have one son, Blake. Blake is married to Kristi, and the couple has two young daughters.

"I really love the small town feeling of El Campo," she says. "I serve as treasurer on the BEE (Beautify El Campo Extension) Board, and Jimmy and I are members of First Presbyterian Church. I enjoy walking to church for services or events. Everything is easy to get to."

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family especially her granddaughters. The family can often be found at the bay. She is looking forward to lots of family time after she retires.

"I also love to read as well as decorating my home and dabbling in flower container pots," she says.

When asked who she would have lunch with out of anyone, alive or dead, she says, "My Dad. He died in 2010 and I would love to get his input on different things going on. I would love for him to meet my granddaughters as well as his other great-grandchildren. He was such a role model for our family and is dearly missed."

One of Diane's favorite sayings is, "We all have our own different set of gifts and graces. I'm not sure where I heard this, but it's so true. We all have something that we excel at."

She leaves the following advice for her fellow employees especially the younger ones. "You are now a part of a family of co-workers and management that are caring and giving. It will be a wonderful career. Jump in and learn all you can!"

Diane describes herself as loyal, conscientious and caring. We couldn't agree more. These traits, and so many more, have made her a trusted and valued member of the WCEC HOME TEAM. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

BE A LEADER

WCEC Board Candidates Sought In Districts 3, 6, and 9

ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 of the Wharton County Electric Cooperative bylaws states, "The business affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine (9) directors, which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative or by these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members."

The board's job is to develop policies and goals and to see that these goals are carried out by management.

To be eligible to serve on the board, you must be a member in good standing; reside in the district you represent; not be in a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing fixtures/supplies to the members of the cooperative; and not be related to a WCEC employee or director.

When a membership is held jointly, either the husband or wife is eligible to be a director as long as both meet the qualification requirements.

In addition to meeting the qualifications set out in the bylaws, a prospective board member needs to understand that there is a time commitment involved in serving on the WCEC board.

During the year, board members devote an average of four hours a week to WCEC. This includes not only the monthly board meeting but also reviewing and preparing for meetings, attending training and talking to members. The board meetings are held at night, on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Prospective board members need not have a background in co-ops or even in business—but an open mind, common sense and a willingness to listen to alternate viewpoints is essential.

The most important qualification a board member can have is to care and want what is best for all concerned.

In April, a nominating committee will meet to select a slate of candidates for three seats on the WCEC board.

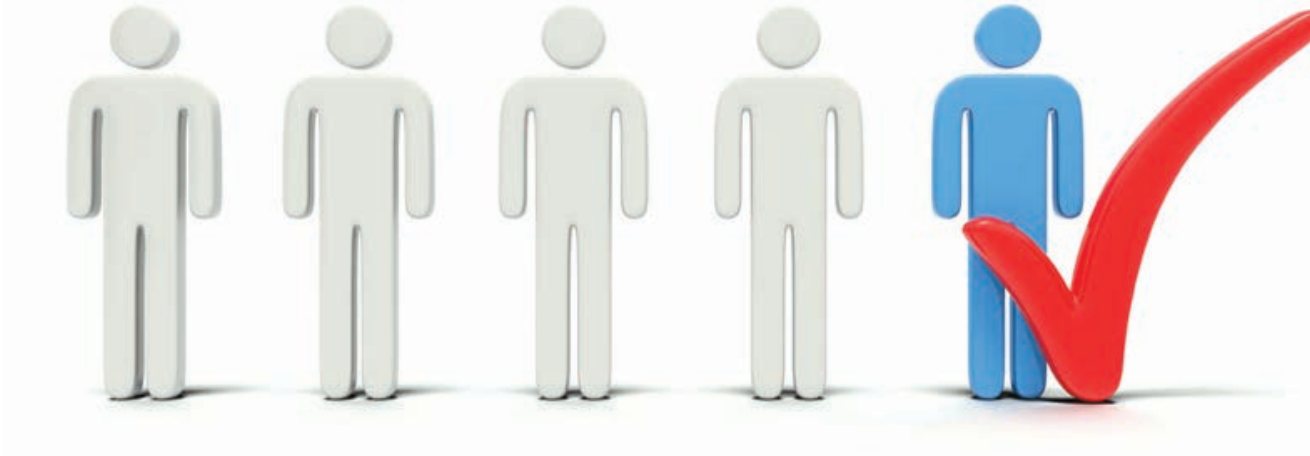
DISTRICT #3: Currently held by Frankie Peter who has reached the end of his term limits and is not eligible to be re-elected.

DISTRICT #6: Currently held by Gus Wessels Jr. who is eligible to run for another term.

DISTRICT #9: Currently held by Peggy Glaze who has reached the end of her term limits and is not eligible to be re-elected.

If you live in one of these districts and meet the qualifications, please consider running for the board. Contact Brenda Rodriguez, WCEC executive secretary, by March 18. She will put you in contact with the nominating committee.

If you do not live in one of these districts, please consider running in 2022 or 2023. ■



ZEPHYR18 | ISTOCK.COM

Repair or Replace?

Consider appliance age, repair cost

WHEN AN OLDER APPLIANCE is on the fritz, it usually makes sense to replace it rather than sink money into repair after repair. But when an appliance breaks down before its expected life span has passed, a repair could be the better option.

Before you call a repair tech or head to the nearest big-box store to buy something new, consider:

The appliance's age. Use the 50% rule: If your appliance is more than halfway through its useful life, and if the repair will cost more than 50% of the price of a new one, head for the store. The National Association of Realtors estimates that a dishwasher should last a good nine years; clothes dryer, 13 years; garbage disposal, 12; electric range, 13; exhaust fan, 10; freezer, 11; microwave and refrigerator, 13; and clothes washer, 10.

The warranty. Newer appliances usually come with a warranty of at least a year, and sometimes two, on labor and parts. If the broken device is still covered, call for service.

Your budget. If the repair bill is through the roof and you can afford to buy a new appliance, you could save a little money in the long run. Consider the hidden costs of buying new, however. For example, will you have to pay to have the replacement appliance delivered and installed? Will you need to modify your kitchen for the new appliance to fit?

Newer models of refrigerators, water heaters and dishwashers are so much more energy- and water-efficient than older versions that you could see a difference on your utility bills if you replace rather than repair. The replacement could save you money in the long run by saving a little on each month's utility bill. ■

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

Never break a meter seal.

Never open a meter base.

Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

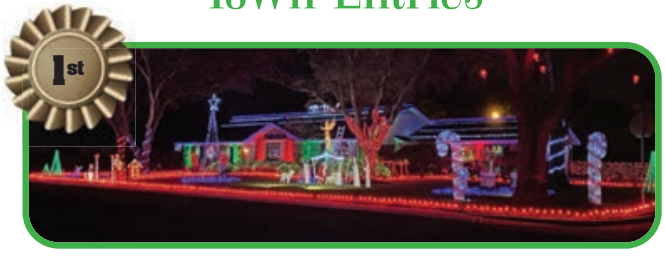
WHARTON COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Congratulations to our 2020 Town & Country Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

2020 BEST OF SHOW

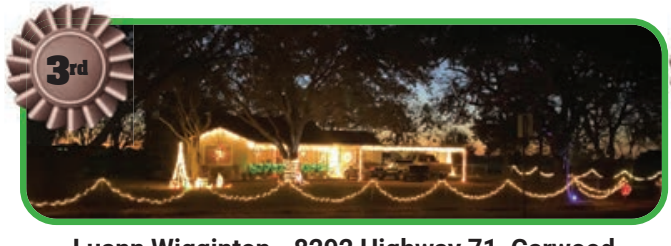
Shebra Adler

Town Entries



Joseph & Melissa Juarez - 807 Avenue I, El Campo

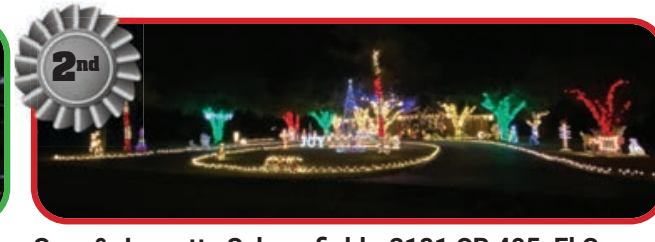
David Sabrsula - 1005 Empire, El Campo



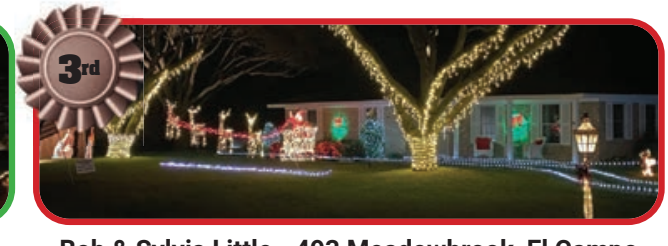
Luann Wigginton - 8292 Highway 71, Garwood

Country Entries

Shebra Adler - 400 Meadowbrook, El Campo



Gary & Jeanette Schoenfield - 3181 CR 405, El Campo



Bob & Sylvia Little - 493 Meadowbrook, El Campo

DISTRICT WINNERS

District 1:	Doug & Shanna Rohan Marilyn Popp	District 4:	Shebra Adler Bob & Sylvia Little	District 7:	Gary & Jeanette Schoenfield Ryan Reck & Tess Crider
District 2:	Scott & Amanda Honea	District 5:	No Entries	District 8:	Kevin & Kacie McKelvy
District 3:	William & Britni Key	District 6:	Alphonse Janda John & Kathy Tumlinson	District 9:	Tom & Pam Hunt

DIY Energy Efficiency: Wool Balls Can Save Drying Time

© RAMONA HEIM | ADOBE STOCK

USE WOOL OR RUBBER DRYER BALLS in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: www.energy.gov

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.

Life can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your WCEC bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks...or taps, if you are using the app.

You will be able to see your current bill, your billing history, and view your actual energy use. This can help you see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Find out more at MyWCEC.coop/SmartHub.

DEBBISMIRNOFF | ISTOCK.COM

Fresh Peach Loaf

CAKE

2 cups flour
1½ cups sugar
2 eggs
1½ teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups peaches, mashed
⅓ cup peach juice, reserved from mashed peaches

TOPPING

¼ cup light brown sugar
¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a tube pan or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

2. CAKE Combine all cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat thoroughly to combine. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

3. TOPPING In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar and chopped pecans. Sprinkle the topping onto the cake.

4. Bake about 40 minutes, until the cake is springy to the touch and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

Youth Tour Canceled Due to COVID-19

IN 1965, ELECTRIC cooperatives across Texas joined forces to send a busload of youths to Washington, D.C. There the teens met with President Lyndon B. Johnson, explored the capital, and forged memories and friendships to last a lifetime. For more than five decades, Texas' electric co-ops carried on the legacy of that first Government-in-Action Youth Tour each summer.

Until the coronavirus pandemic hit. We are saddened to announce that, for the second year in a row, Youth Tour has been canceled.

Along with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Texas Electric Cooperatives Board of Directors decided to cancel the state's participation in the 2021 Youth Tour.

This decision was made out of an abundance of safety and caution for all those involved. After carefully considering the resources required to ensure the health and well-being of our Texas delegates and chaperones, the TEC board determined that the risk was not worth the reward.

The cancellation comes as a big blow to all of us here at Wharton County Electric Cooperative. Youth Tour represents one of our most important investments in the future of the communities we serve. Youth Tour delegates travel to Austin and Washington to learn about the important role of electric cooperatives, meet their congressional representatives, and gain a deeper perspective on our history and democracy. Attendees often return with a renewed commitment to their hometowns.

Of course, the biggest loss of the cancellation is felt by the young people who won't get the chance to take the trip. Many have anticipated Youth Tour for years, hearing friends and family who have participated call it the trip of a lifetime.

Rest assured, as soon as conditions are deemed safe, WCEC will jump on the chance to send students once again on this unforgettable trip. In the meantime, thank you for understanding this difficult decision.

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

Valentine's Day
Sunday, February 14

Presidents Day
Monday, February 15

© JD-PHOTODESIGN | ADOBE STOCK

Wharton County Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
Gary Raybon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT 1: Paul Phillips Jr., Vice-President
DISTRICT 2: Patrick Kubala
DISTRICT 3: Frankie Peter, President
DISTRICT 4: Rick Graff, Secretary-Treasurer
DISTRICT 5: Samuel Craig Hardin
DISTRICT 6: Gus Wessels Jr.
DISTRICT 7: John Roach
DISTRICT 8: Jim W. Harton, Asst. Sec.-Treas.
DISTRICT 9: Peggy Glaze

24/7 Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL
(979) 543-6271

TOLL-FREE
1-800-460-6271

1815 E. Jackson St. • P.O. Box 31
El Campo, TX 77437
Hours: Monday - Friday | 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CALL US
(979) 543-6271 local or
1-800-460-6271 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB
MyWCEC.coop

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES
- Online Billing
- Energy Audits
- Electric Grills
- Water Heaters
- Wireless Internet

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS
- Online @ mywcec.coop
- By Phone @ 1-877-833-3326
- Automatic Bank Draft
- SmartHub App
- By Mail / In Person
- Payment Drop Box

Therapeutic Knee Stabilizer Helps Provide

PAIN RELIEVING MASSAGE WITH EVERY STEP!

Advanced Therapy MASSAGING INSERTS On Each Side

One Touch Closure For Custom Comfort Fit

SAVE $12.00
off original price
Only $7.99

FREE SHIPPING

Source Code 79920 © Dream Products (Prices valid for 1yr.)

Step Into Your Ultimate Comfort Zone Therapeutic Knee Stabilizer, with unique inserts, actually gently massages muscles & tendons to help alleviate pain and soreness with every step you take. Dynamic double strap design stabilizes knee joint, as it provides gentle compression to boost circulation and diminish swelling. Adjustable one-touch closure for a custom fit on right or left knee. Imported of neoprene/nylon/EVA. Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

- **Gently Massages Muscles & Tendons To Help Alleviate Pain & Soreness**
- **Double Strap Design Protects & Stabilizes Knee Joint**
- **Gentle Compression Reduces Pain & Swelling**

Item #370101 Therapeutic Knee Stabilizer	
_____ Therapeutic Knee Stabilizer(s) @ $7.99 ea.	$
*Add Applicable State/Local Sales Tax	$
FREE Shipping	FREE
Handling Add $3.95 Each	$
❑ ✔ **PRIORITY PROCESSING** *(optional)* Add An Additional $2.95 (Receive within 3-6 days of receipt of order)	$2.95
Please Print Clearly — Total	$

79920

Send order to Dream Products, 412 Dream Lane, P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-36900

❑ VISA ❑ MasterCard ❑ American Express ❑ Discover®/NOVUS℠Cards

Exp. Date ___/___

Card#

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Email _____

Source Code 79920 To receive this offer on the web, you MUST input the source code when ordering

Order Now Toll-Free
1-800-530-2689
M-F 6am-1am CST
S-S 6am-9pm CST

Connect With
DreamProducts.com
website offers may vary

***We may be required to collect sales tax. Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if you need more information.**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

Bank C.D.'s Due?
CALL US NOW
1-800-359-4940 TEXAS TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com
BLAKE MATTSON, 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. (817 877-4256.

TIRED OF SPRAYING?
The **Original Root Grubber**
QUALITY CONSTRUCTION 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!
- Kills tree by cutting roots 6" to 8" underground
- Effective on mesquite, juniper, cedar, huisach and other brush problems
- 3-point reversible blade for clearing fence rows

Blade Width	Cat	HP	WT	Delivered Price
18"	I	20-40	230 lb.	$1,065
27"	II	40-80	285 lb.	$1,285
30"	II or III	80-110	380 lb.	$1,685
36"	II or III	110-180	390 lb.	$1,750

Blade Width 16" Skid-Steer
Cat Universal
HP 50–140
WT 380 lb.
Delivered Price $1,880

JONES MACHINE
(800) 919-4949 • Fax: (940) 552-6362
jonesmachineshop1944@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 1577, Vernon, Texas 76385

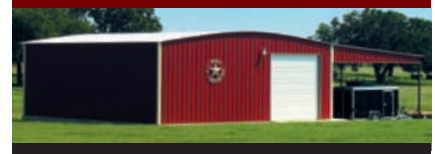
BURN SAFELY
with the Portable
DR® BurnCage™
- Stainless steel design
- Light, durable, portable, folds flat for storage
- Perforated construction maximizes airflow
- Traps embers and burns more thoroughly

DRburncage.com
SALE! Plus FREE SHIPPING Limitations apply.
FREE Catalog! Call Toll-Free 877-200-8321

PERMA-ROOF® from Southern Builders
Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill? Roof rumble? Leaks?
Since 1983
MOBILE HOME ROOFOVER SYSTEMS
Contact us at **800.633.8969** or **roofover.com**

WD METAL BUILDINGS
Turn-Key Solutions



- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Welded Metal Buildings
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

Instant Prices at WDMB.com

Medicare Supplemental Insurance
We find the best options for you.
HCDT BONDS INSURANCE
Jeremy Diller
210-647-0134
Jeremy@hcdtinsurance.com

ARK-LA-TEX SHOP BUILDERS
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"
SHOPS · BARNS · CABINS · WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM
830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
Shops · Garages · Barns · Equipment Sheds · Barndominiums
WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!
Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric stub *(Dirt may be extra)

TCP Gift Shop
TCP *Shop now*
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

FLOATING FISHING PIER
On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.
ELLISON MARINE • FRANKLIN, TX.
45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • ellisonmarine@yahoo.com

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES
Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles
TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX
All transactions private, confidential & secure.
830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in *Texas Co-op Power* Marketplace
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

ADVANCED DIGITAL HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

Now Rechargeable!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Reg: ~~$599.98~~

Only $299.99

Each When You Buy a Pair – *LIMITED TIME ONLY!*

SHOP AT HOME!
Skip the Clinic with Remote Care

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only $299.99 be every bit as good as one that sells for $2,400 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The MDHearingAid® VOLT+ uses the same kind of Advanced Digital **RECHARGEABLE** Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 500,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality,digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard in years came back to me!"
— Don W., Sherman, TX

CHARGE AT NIGHT AND GO ALL DAY

NOW WATER RESISTANT

30-Hour Battery Life

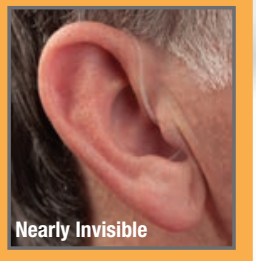
Water Resistant to 3 Feet

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!
If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-765-8076

www.MDVolt.com



MDHearingAid®

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Use Code KL87 and get FREE Shipping

Proudly assembled in America!

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

HORSE: XPIXEL | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. COWBOY: A. VORONTSOV | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. BUTTER: ARINA P HABICH | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

A Name That Sticks

Falfurrias—the butter and the town—emerged from South Texas' King Ranch

BY W.F. STRONG

TEXAS IS HOME TO MANY famous brands. Unlike Southwest Airlines, Lone Star Beer and Whataburger, the King Ranch is the only one that evolved from an actual brand. And that ranch helped launch another famous brand, Falfurrias Butter.

In 1895, Richard King's ranching partner, Mifflin Kenedy, sold 7,000 cows to South Texas neighbor Ed Lasater. Dairy cows, Lasater knew, would deliver five times the return on investment as beef cattle. He started with Durham shorthorns because that breed could support either a beef or dairy operation. It would be more than a dozen years before he raised the herd of Jersey cattle with which he created the dairy that launched Falfurrias Butter.

Falfurrias butter was first made in Falfurrias, southwest of Corpus Christi, in 1909, five years after Lasater founded the town. People have wondered whether the butter is named for the town or the town for the butter, but they were both named after Lasater's ranch, which was named for a grove of trees called *La Mota de Falfurrias*. Lasater claimed Falfurrias came from the Lipan Apache language and, loosely translated, meant "land of heart's delight." The truth of the word's origin could not be confirmed, or absolutely refuted, by a Lipan Apache linguist.

TCP WEB EXTRA
Listen to W.F. Strong read this story.

The butter was the town's best-known export in those early days, and likely remains so today. Even the town's high school mascot, the Jerseys, was named after the butter's real creators. Indeed, at one point, Falfurrias was home to the largest Jersey cattle herd in the world.

That gave special meaning to the once-popular bumper sticker there: "Watch Your Step, You're in Jersey Country." I'm not sure the author intended the double meaning, but it certainly provided a good deal of local levity until it was discontinued.

Falfurrias remains a popular niche brand of butter. In Texas it is sold at all major grocery stores and some smaller ones, too. It has been quite popular in northern Mexico for generations.

A friend tells me that as a child in Saltillo, he remembers his mother bringing back the *mantequilla dulce de Falfurrias*—sweet butter from Falfurrias—as a special treat for the kids anytime she traveled to Texas.

A Texas Marine in World War II recalled that as he was wading ashore in the battle for Okinawa, a Falfurrias Butter crate bumped up against his leg in the surf, a comforting reminder of home.

Falfurrias Butter outgrew Falfurrias. It became so popular that it was eventually bought by the Dairy Farmers of America, but it is still made in Texas, and sales over the past year have grown 20%. It is made by Keller's Creamery in Winnsboro and has grown at a Texas-sized pace of 40% in recent years.

When you drive through Falfurrias today, on state Highway 285, you can still see the vintage Falfurrias Butter sign on the side of the old creamery. The town newspaper, *Falfurrias Facts*, occupies the building today.

In the interest of full disclosure and ethical transparency, I have to reveal that I am also an export of Falfurrias, and even though I know on which side my bread is buttered, I assure you that it does not affect the veracity of this commentary. ■

Quick Breads and Muffins

Fruit and chocolate together reward a baking itch

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Some of the first recipes I learned how to make as a child were quick breads and muffins, sourced from a splattered red Betty Crocker cookbook. Their simple preparation makes them easy enough for a baking novice, but they're also dependable, making them a food I turn to again and again whenever I get a baking itch. These muffins are of the big, bakery-size variety, but you can make them in a standard muffin tin if you like.

Strawberry Cheesecake Muffins

2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup sugar
2 eggs
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted and cooled, plus more for the pan
¾ cup milk
1 cup diced strawberries
3 ounces cream cheese, cut into chunks
1 cup milk chocolate chunks

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat a jumbo (Texas-size) muffin tin with butter and set aside.

2. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

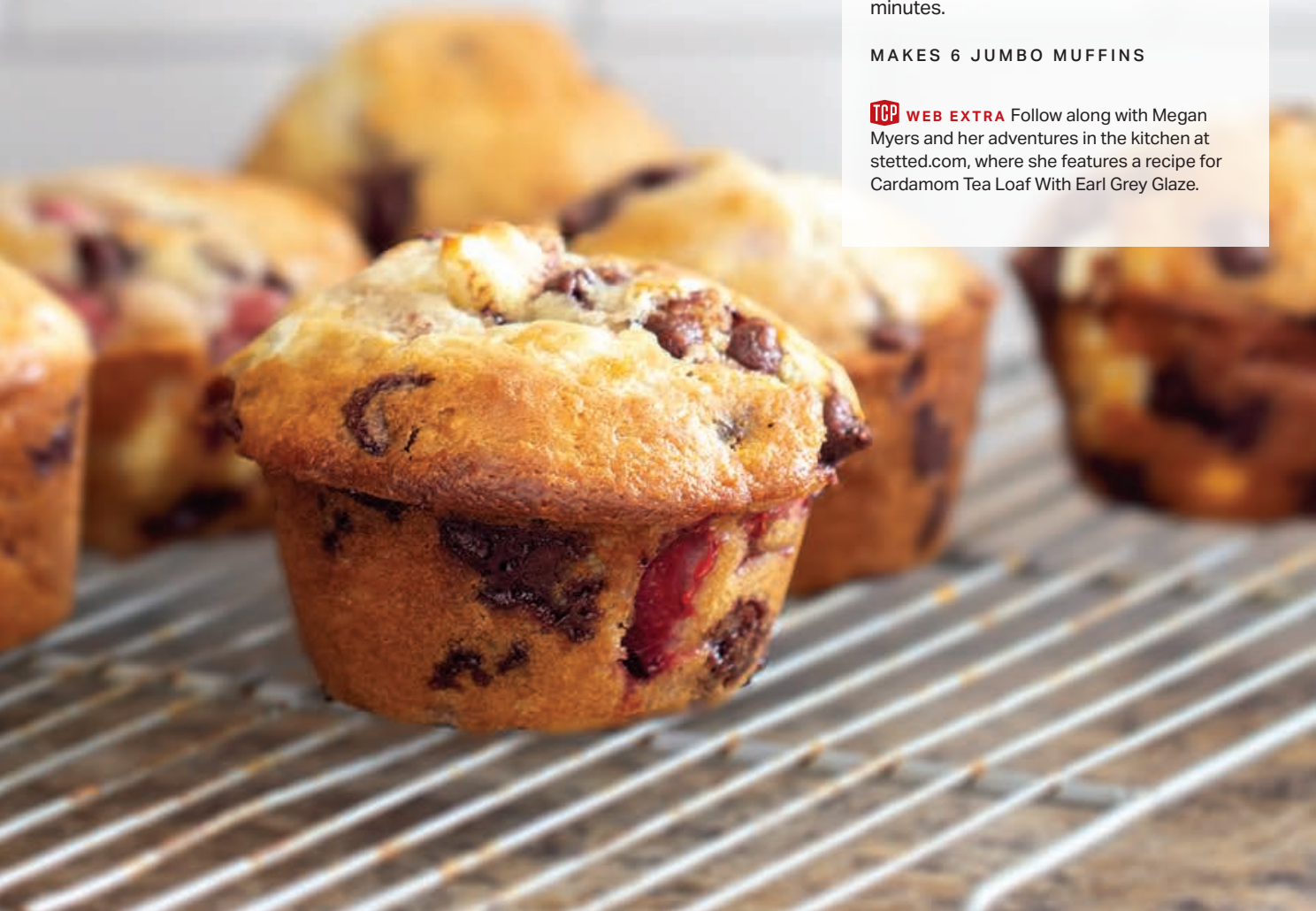
3. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar and eggs until blended. Whisk in melted butter, then add milk.

4. Stir in flour mixture until just mixed. Gently fold in strawberries, cream cheese and chocolate chunks.

5. Fill muffin cups ¾ full and bake 20–24 minutes.

MAKES 6 JUMBO MUFFINS

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Cardamom Tea Loaf With Earl Grey Glaze.



Blackberry Muffins

JANET STEPHENS
BOWIE-CASS EC

Sour cream makes these blackberry muffins wonderfully tender. Fresh or frozen fruit works equally well, but Stephens recommends letting frozen berries thaw and drain overnight to remove excess moisture.

2½ cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
2 eggs
1 cup sour cream
½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted and cooled
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon milk
1½ cups (5–6 ounces) blackberries, fresh or frozen

COOK'S TIP If using fresh berries, cut them in half vertically. If using frozen berries, thaw, drain excess liquid and pat dry, then toss in 1 tablespoon flour before adding to batter.

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line 18 muffin cups with paper liners or coat with nonstick spray and set aside.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. In a large bowl, combine eggs, sour cream, butter, vanilla and milk and stir until smooth. Mix in flour mixture until just combined. Fold in blackberries, taking care not to crush the fruit.

3. Divide batter among muffin cups and bake 17–20 minutes. Let cool in pan 5 minutes, then remove to a wire rack to cool completely or enjoy warm.

MAKES 18 MUFFINS

MORE RECIPES >

$500 WINNER

Chocolate Banana Bread

BECKY YOUNG
COSERV

This banana bread variation has a delightful swirl of chocolate running through it. Don't skip the pecans and sugar on top, which caramelize and pair well with the banana flavor. If the nuts brown too quickly during baking, tent the bread with foil during the last 20 minutes to prevent burning.

MAKES 1 LOAF

2 cups flour
¾ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
¼ cup (½ stick) butter, softened, plus more for the pan
1½ cups mashed banana (about 4 bananas)
2 eggs
⅓ cup plain yogurt
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup semisweet chocolate chips
½ cup chopped pecans
1 tablespoon raw sugar or brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8.5-by-4.5-inch loaf pan with butter and set aside.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and salt. In a large bowl, beat sugar and butter together until smooth. Mix in mashed banana, eggs, yogurt and vanilla. Add flour mixture to wet ingredients, stirring until just combined.

3. Place chocolate chips in a small bowl and melt in the microwave for 1 minute, then whisk the chocolate smooth. Cool slightly and stir in 1 cup of batter, mixing until no streaks remain.

4. Spoon batters alternately into prepared pan, then swirl with a knife to marble. Top with chopped pecans and sugar.

5. Bake 60–70 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes, then remove from pan to a wire rack to cool completely.

TCP $500 Recipe Contest

ICE CREAMS AND SORBETS DUE FEB 10
Cool down in July with a frozen treat. Send us your best recipes for ice creams, sorbets, popsicles and other frosty indulgences. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by February 10.

RECIPE PHOTOS: MEGAN MYERS. WINNER: COURTESY BECKY YOUNG

Never lose electricity again!

Own the #1 brand in home standby power.

8 out of 10 buyers choose Generac Home Standby Generators to automatically provide electricity to their homes during power outages. Here's why—

WIDEST SELECTION of sizes—whether you choose to power only critical circuits (water pump, heat, freezer) during electrical outages—or your entire home.

EXTRA-QUIET MODELS, TOO—that will never disturb you or your neighbors!

NO REFUELING—Generac systems are powered continuously by natural gas or your propane supply, so you never have to get up in the middle of the night to refuel.

24/7/365 SERVICE from our Wisconsin headquarters. Storms and blackouts don't follow a 9-to-5 schedule and neither do we.

PRICES START AT JUST $1,999*

CALL for FREE Generator Buyer's Guide and get...

Limited Time BONUS OFFER!

GENERAC®

USA ENGINEERED & BUILT*

*Price does not include installation.

*Built in the USA using domestic and foreign parts

TOLL FREE **800-894-8804**

FreeGeneratorGuide.com

Almond Poppy Seed Bread

LEAH MERCER
CECA

Fragrant, moist and perfect for teatime, this bread is a cinch to make. It keeps well, so you can enjoy slices throughout the week and freeze the second loaf for later—or wrap it up for a pretty housewarming gift.

COOK'S TIP If you want a topping, whisk together ¼ cup orange juice, ¾ cup powdered sugar, ½ teaspoon vanilla extract, ½ teaspoon butter extract and ½ teaspoon almond extract until smooth. Pour glaze over cooled bread.

Shortening, butter or nonstick spray, for the pans
3 eggs
2½ cups sugar
1½ teaspoons salt
3 cups flour, plus more for the pans
1½ teaspoons baking powder
1½ cups milk
1⅛ cups vegetable oil
1½ tablespoons poppy seeds
1½ tablespoons vanilla extract
1½ tablespoons almond extract
1½ tablespoons butter extract

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two loaf pans and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, beat eggs lightly, then whisk in sugar and salt. In a small bowl, combine flour and baking powder. Add alternately with milk and oil to egg mixture.

3. Stir in poppy seeds and vanilla, almond and butter extracts. Pour into prepared pans and bake 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

MAKES 2 LOAVES

Great Balls of Fire Cornbread

GINGER CLARDY
BANDERA EC

Cornbread qualifies as a quick bread, and this version adds cheese and jalapeño pepper for the perfect dinner accompaniment.

Butter, for the pan
1 cup cornmeal
¾ cup flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 cup whole kernel corn
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
¼ cup seeded, chopped jalapeño pepper
3 tablespoons olive oil

1. Butter an 8- or 10-inch cast-iron skillet and place it in the oven as it preheats to 400 degrees.

2. In a large bowl, stir together the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, lightly beat eggs, then stir in corn, buttermilk, cheese, jalapeño and oil. Add to dry mixture and stir until just barely combined.

3. Remove hot skillet from oven, pour in batter, then bake cornbread 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

SERVES 8

TCP WEB EXTRA So many options for baking bread—and breaking bread—online. Visit our website for more than 100 bread and muffin recipes.

Sacred Stone of the Southwest is on the Brink of Extinction

Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest—but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and snatched it up for our ***Sedona Turquoise Collection***. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over $1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for **just $99**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

The supply of Arizona turquoise is limited, don't miss your chance to own the Southwest's brilliant blue treasure. Call today!

Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (26 cts)	~~$299~~	$99*	*Save $200*
B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain		$149	
C. 1 ½" Earrings (10 ctw)	~~$299~~	$99*	*Save $200*
Complete Set**	~~$747~~	**$249**	*Save $498*

** *Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.*

Call now and mention the offer code to receive your collecion.

1-800-333-2045

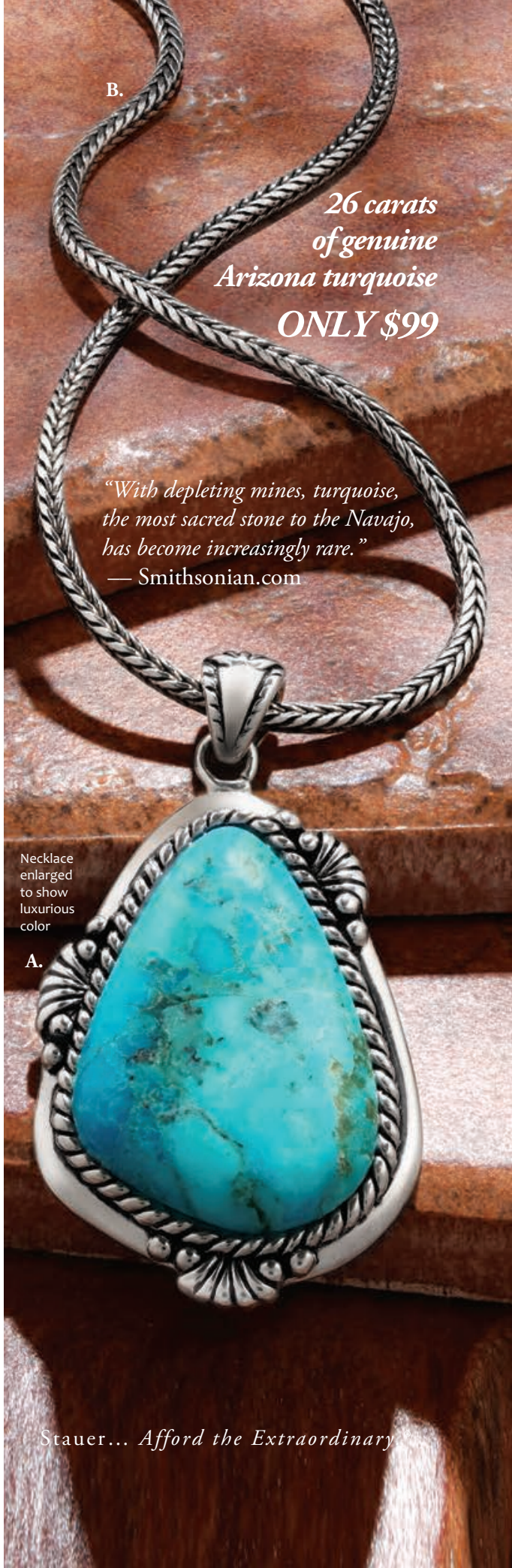
Offer Code STC400-01

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

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

ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB **Rating of A+**

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. STC400-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 **www.stauer.com**



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Caddo Monuments

Centuries-old sacred mounds remain from a Native American culture that thrived near Nacogdoches

BY CHET GARNER

EVEN THOUGH DETAILS of some events in Texas history are always debated, the origin of the state's name not so much. Native Americans called the Caddos have a word, *Taysha*, that means friend, which the Spanish translated into *tejas* as the name for the region and the people.

The Caddo Nation once stretched from Northeast Texas to Missouri. Roughly 25 miles west of Nacogdoches, the Pineywoods open onto a grassy field marked by three earthen mounds. Twelve hundred years earlier, I might have encountered a Caddo community of up to 150 grass houses and 900 people. Now a visit to Caddo Mounds State Historic Site there allows a glimpse into this ancient and sophisticated community. A tornado destroyed the site's permanent visitor center in 2019, but a temporary headquarters offers tours.

A tour guide brought the entire site to life. The first mound is the burial mound, where Caddo leaders were interred with supplies for the six-day journey into the afterlife, where they became stars—in the celestial sense. The second mound is a ceremonial, low platform that served originally as a stage. Across Texas Highway 21 is the temple mound, which was the largest and site of religious ceremonies and worship. I felt like I was looking at the Texas version of the pyramids of Giza. These mounds were the ceremonial center of the region.

Archaeologists have excavated parts of the site and learned details about the farming and trading the Caddos practiced centuries ago. The Caddos followed sophisticated social, religious and political systems that helped them thrive for 500 years. The site inspires present-day Caddo people to bring ancient practices back to life and preserve the culture that gave Texas its name. ■

ABOVE Chet at the temple mound, the largest at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site.

TCP **WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from Caddo Mounds State Historic Site and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

FEBRUARY

04

Frisco [4–7] World Olympic Gymnastics Academy Classic and Liukin Invitational, (972) 497-4800, woga.net

San Angelo [4–21] Stock Show, (325) 653-7785, sanangelorodeo.com

05

Kerrville [5–6, 12–14, 19–21] *Villainous Company*, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

06

Kerrville [6–March 19] America the Beautiful: Women Artists of the West National Exhibition, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

07

San Marcos Half Marathon, 10K and 5K, (210) 722-4548, toursanmarcos.com

11

Nocona [11–13] Mardi Gras Nocona Style, (940) 825-3526, nocona.org

Beaumont [11–14] Mardi Gras of Southeast Texas, (409) 721-8717, mardigrastx.com

12

Lufkin *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus Live!*, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org/performing-arts-series

Luckenbach [12–13] Hug-In and Valentine Ball, (830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

Port Lavaca [12–13] February Frenzy, (361) 726-5126, stsrda.org

McKinney [12–14] Third Monday Trade Days, (972) 562-5466, thirdmondaytradedays.com

Fredericksburg [12–14, 19–21, 26–28] *9 to 5*, (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

13

Mesquite Be Mine at the Ranch, (972) 216-6468, visitmesquitetx.com

14

El Paso Marathon, (915) 534-0600, elpasomarathon.org

McKinney Krewe of Barkus Virtual Dog Parade, (972) 547-2660, artinstituteofmckinney.com

19

Fredericksburg [19–21] Trade Days, (210) 846-4094, fbgtradedays.com

20

Houston Creole Heritage Festival, (281) 888-4153, houstoncreolefest.com

Gruene [20–21] Old Gruene Market Days, (830) 832-1721, gruenemarketdays.com

26

Junction [26–27] Freezer Disc Golf Tourney, (512) 557-2482, junctiontexas.com/disc-golf

27

Mesquite [27–28] Texas Fly Fishing and Brew Festival, 1-800-541-2355, txflyfishingfestival.org

MARCH

05

Grapevine First Friday at the Farm, (817) 410-3185, nashfarm.org

Submit Your Event

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

Stay Healthy At Home

OVER 500,000 USERS

Cubii

Smooth elliptical gliding motion works more than 50% of your body's muscle groups for a low-impact, convenient workout! All while sitting on the couch or favorite chair.

Keep Fit While You Sit – burn calories, improve circulation, strengthen muscles and boost energy.

Stay Moving at Any Age – for better mobility, flexibility and balance.

Safe Exercise Alternative – perfect for post-op therapy, rehab and in-home workouts on cold or rainy days.

"Exercising with Cubii is helping me with flexibility and building strength in my legs."

- Iris. R.

WHISPER Quiet Design

Easy movement on ankles, knees and hips. Burns almost 85% more energy than just sitting. Keep active while you work, read or watch TV.

TRY Cubii FOR 30 DAYS – RISK FREE!

+ FREE **Shipping and Non-Slip Workout Mat (a $29 value).**

Call Now 1-800-950-6073

or Order Online at ShopCubii.com

Hit the Road

Event Calendar

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

Plan now

TexasCoopPower.com/events

Bad to the Bone

*Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY** $79!*

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **$79 *Huntsman Blade*** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers— a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of $2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of $99, 8x21 power compact, binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the ***Huntsman Blade***.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 ***Huntsman Blades*** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

EXCLUSIVE FREE
Stauer® 8x21 Compact Binoculars
-a $99 value-
with purchase of Huntsman Blade

BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

Huntsman Blade ~~$249~~*

Offer Code Price Only **$79** + S&P Save $170

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: HUK431-01

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

Rating of A+

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK431-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- **12" overall length; 6 ½" stainless steel full tang blade**
- **Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters**
- **Includes genuine leather sheath**

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."
— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

Saddles

Saddle up, and let's hit the trail. This month our readers show off their well-worn and well-loved riding gear. Made of traditional leather or lighter-weight synthetics, saddles are passed down through families and remind us of hard work and the spirit of the Old West.

GRACE FULTZ

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

JODY BRODHECKER
PEDERNALES EC
Saddles too dear to part with.

TERRY SUELTMAN
PEDERNALES EC
"This was the 'little partner' of a cowgirl who rode up to us with her dog in the pouch."

BEATRICE LUSK
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC
"Debra riding Freckles."

ANNE BARCAK
SAN PATRICIO EC
The Glasscock brothers water their horses while working cattle, circa 1960.

Upcoming Contests

DUE FEB 10 **Manmade vs. Nature**
DUE MAR 10 **Night Life**
DUE APR 10 **Portraits**

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

TCP **WEB EXTRA** See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.

Time To Talk About *That*

Black History Month takes on a sense of urgency this year

BY MICHAEL HURD
ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH is a singular, isolated observance drawn out through February to recognize African American contributions to America's formation and image. For generations the great majority of those feats were ignored by the writers of history texts, but now the recognition comes through literature and several weeks of ceremonies, seminars, marches, parades and assorted TV programs.

Even so, the prevailing feel can be obligatory and condescending—as though the subject dare not be broached during the other 11 months of the year. "Oh, we can talk about *THAT* in February!"

So, here we are again, time to talk about *THAT*, but Black History Month 2021 has a different feel from its 95 predecessors, even a sense of urgency given the social upheaval of 2020. There is an increased interest in Black history as a way of understanding how and why we have arrived at this point of social reckoning, as a country, through an examination of the evolution of the African American community.

Historian Carter G. Woodson created Black History Week in 1926 as a natural extension of the cultural and intellectual Harlem Renaissance, with its cast of exceptional creative talents—Alain Locke, Langston Hughes and others—pushing for racial equality by extolling the realities of post-slavery African American life in the U.S. Woodson emphasized a need to recognize the achievements of African Americans.

Woodson chose February because of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14), two men who were revered and celebrated in Black communities. By the 1970s the annual celebration had gained widespread popularity and was nudged to cover the entire month. Black History Month has been both hailed as an uplifting force and maligned as racially polarizing, a phenomenon that is currently more pronounced than the desegregation efforts of the 1960s.

Woodson never thought the study of Black history should be confined to one week. He established Black history education programs that would cover a full year of study, a "Black History Year." Further, he welcomed the future when a designation of any kind regarding the study of Black history was no longer necessary.

So it was heartening last year when the Texas Education Agency OK'd high schools providing African American Studies as an elective course, a major positive step.

Welcome to the contemporary "New Negro" movement with more diverse voices and a new iteration of Black History Month for wider, rapt audiences acknowledging that Black history is American history.

Let's talk about *THAT* ... every day.

HARBOR FREIGHT
QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON
3-Ply Disposable Face Masks Pack of 10
(3755) NEW
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
$2.99 $3.99
Save 66%
Less Than 30¢ per Mask
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
Black ITEM 58065 | Blue ITEM 57593
In-Store Only
Non-medical.
Compare to Fecedy B01711ZXI4 $8.99
24641480 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
8 Gallon, 150 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressor
McGRAW (760)
Save $113
$119.99 $139.99
Compare to Campbell Hausfeld HL540100AV $233
ITEM 56269/64294 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24642798 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

WOW SUPER COUPON
SAVE 81%
4-in-1 Screwdriver
PITTSBURGH (8450)
LIMIT 3
WOW! 74¢
$1.99
Compare to HDX 120SD12D $3.97
ITEM 69470/61988 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24645422 Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Professional Duty Floor Jack
DAYTONA (242)
AVAILABLE IN 4 COLORS
$104.99 $137.99
Save $395
ASME PASE COMPLIANT
Compare to Hein-Werner Automotive HW93652 $499.99
ITEM 56642, 64200, 64779, 64783
Use Online & In-Store
24646495 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
40" x 72" Moving Blanket
HaulMaster (5636)
$3.99 $4.99
Save 60%
Compare to Pratt Retail Specialties HDMOVBLAN $9.98
ITEM 69504/62336/47262 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24653277 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
5000 Lumen 4 ft. LED Hanging Shop Light
BRAUN (10,538)
$24.99
Save 20%
$19.99
ITEM 64410
Use Online & In-Store
24653291 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
29 Piece Titanium Drill Bit Set
WARRIOR (5605)
$10.99 $18.99
Save 81%
Compare to Dewalt DW1369 $60.09
ITEM 5889/62281/61637 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24657225 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
44" x 22" Double Bank Extra Deep Cabinet
U.S. GENERAL (873)
YOUR CHOICE OF 6 COLORS
$449.99 $499.99
Save $2,285
Compare to Snap-on KRA4813FPBO $2,735
ITEM 64446, 64955, 64443, 64954, 64281, 64956
Use Online & In-Store
24658914 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
18" Working Platform Step Stool
HaulMaster (5547)
Save 61%
$19.99 $27.99
Compare to Neocraft 60635 $51.45
ITEM 62515/66911 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24669277 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
301 Piece Master Mechanic's Tool Kit
PITTSBURGH (1420)
LIFETIME WARRANTY
$169.99 $199.99
Save $170
Compare to Klutch 43994 $339.99
ITEM 63457/63464 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24678736 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
18" x 12", 1000 lb. Capacity Hardwood Mover's Dolly
HaulMaster (7448)
$7.99 $10.99
Save 62%
Compare to Buffalo Tools HDFDOLLY $21.29
ITEM 61899/63095 63096/63097/63098 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24680104 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
3500w Super Quiet Inverter Generator
PREDATOR (4357)
11 HOUR RUN TIME
$769.99 $799.99
Save $1,329
Compare to Honda EU3000IS1A $2,099
ITEM 56720/63584 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24687695 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
6.5 HP (212 cc) OHV Horizontal Shaft Gas Engine
PREDATOR (4094)
$99.99 $124.99
Save $230
ITEM 60363/69730 shown
ITEM 68121/69727 CALIFORNIA ONLY
Compare to Honda GX200UT2QX2 $329.99
Use Online & In-Store
24691106 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
4" Ratcheting Bar Clamp/Spreader
PITTSBURGH (2126)
LIFETIME WARRANTY
99¢ $1.99
Save 84%
Compare to Irwin 1964747 $6.49
ITEM 46805/62242 68974 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24722819 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
2/10/50 AMP, 12v Battery Charger and Engine Starter
CEN-TECH (4130)
$34.99 $54.99
Save 38%
Compare to Schumacher Electric SE-1250 $56.93
ITEM 60581/60653 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24729585 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
4-1/2" Angle Grinder
drill master (7151)
Save 56%
$9.99 $13.99
Compare to Ironton 61451 $22.99
ITEM 69645/60625 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24733091 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
Alkaline Batteries AA, AAA - 24 PACK
THUNDERBOLT (4166)
YOUR CHOICE
$4.99 $6.99
Save 61%
Item 92404 shown
• Also available in C - 6 pack, D - 6 pack, and 9v - 4 pack sizes.
Compare to Energizer 551413526 $12.99
Use Online & In-Store
24737735 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
3/8" x 50 ft. Retractable Air Hose Reel
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC (1856)
$59.99 $79.99
Save $46
Compare to Kobalt SGY-AIR184 $106
ITEM 64685/93897 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24760373 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
Solar Rope Light
(4572)
$7.99 $12.49
Save 75%
Compare to Hampton Bay 84130 $32.97
ITEM 63941/64625/68353 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24774585 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 3/1/21*

SUPER COUPON
10 ft. x 17 ft. Portable Garage
COVERPRO (2259)
Save $115
$174.99 $199.99
Compare to ShelterLogic 76377 $290.75
ITEM 62859/63055/62860 shown
Use Online & In-Store
24781299 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 3/1/21*

1,100+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 3/1/21.

Pricing, promotions, and availability may vary by location and at www.harborfreight.com and are subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantities. "Compare to" advertised price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. Although we make every effort to assure that our prices and products are advertised as accurately as possible, we are only human and in the event an error is made, we reserve the right to correct it.

dish™

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!

$64.99 month for TV

2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

It's All Included!

- ✔ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✔ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✔ Includes HD Programming
- ✔ Includes One TV, Add More for $5/ea.
- ✔ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.

abc FOX CBS NBC food ESPN Plus More!
Discovery FOX NEWS nick Disney AMC HGTV

FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed $30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX – Fully Integrated – Just Change The Channel And Watch! Netflix subscription required.

+ Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

~~$59.99~~ month for Internet

$40 per month for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to $20/month!*

*$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet/hughesnet

godish.com/pricelock

¡Se Habla Español!

1-866-290-7151
Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: **Qualification**: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. **Offer ends 7/14/21. 2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of $20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at $64.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Included in 2-year price guarantee** for additional cost: Programming package upgrades ($79.99 for AT120+, $89.99 for AT200, $99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers ($5-$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be $10-$15). **Regional Sports**: RSN Surcharge up to $3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change)**: Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. **Premium Channels:** 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed $30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. **Other**: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed $9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. – 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. $40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.