

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

TEXAN by NATURE

Laura Bush and
Texan by Nature
inspire conservation

Look for Your Director Election Ballot 19

Make Your Yard Work for You 24

Empowering You To Stay Safe 25

Woodworkers
SEE PAGE 20

LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

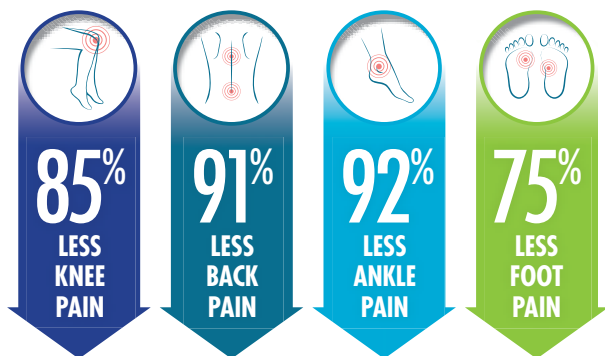
Plantar Fasciitis • Arthritis • Joint Pain • Heel Spurs • Back & Knee Pain



PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE
SHOCK ABSORTION SYSTEM

“I’ve had lower back pain for years. Walking in these shoes was life changing for me. I feel like I’m walking on air.”

– Bill F.



*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

Enjoy the benefits of exercise
with proven pain relief.

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improve Posture

G-DEFY ION

\$120 ~~\$150~~

**X-WIDE
WIDTH
AVAILABLE**

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- Black TB9025MBB
- Red/Gray TB9022MRG

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- Black/Blue TB9022FTL
- Gray/Teal TB9022FGU



\$30 OFF

With Promo Code MQ8EKJ4

Expires October 31, 2018

Free Exchanges • Free Returns
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

GravityDefyer.com/MQ8EKJ4

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. This product has not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$30 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for this limited time offer. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.



On the Round Rock campus of Dell, a Texan By Nature Corporate Monarch Wrangler

FEATURES

8 Naturally Protective Laura Bush and conservation-minded Texan by Nature aim to “keep Texas, Texas.”
By Melissa Gaskill

12 East Texas Mojo Writer Joe R. Lansdale’s gritty Piney-woods fiction captivates Hollywood and international fans.
Story by E.R. Bills | Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

NEXT MONTH

The Winters of Their Lives They come from colder climes, and while they’re here, winter Texans volunteer and spread warmth.

FAVORITES

5 Letters

6 Currents

18 **Local Co-op News**

Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

29 **Texas History**

Thomas Jefferson Rusk
By Robert Springer

31 **Recipes**

Cake Walk

35 **Focus on Texas**

Photo Contest: Prom Night

36 **Around Texas**

List of Local Events

38 **Hit the Road**

Denison: Presidential Aspirations
By Dawn Cobb

ONLINE

TexasCoopPower.com

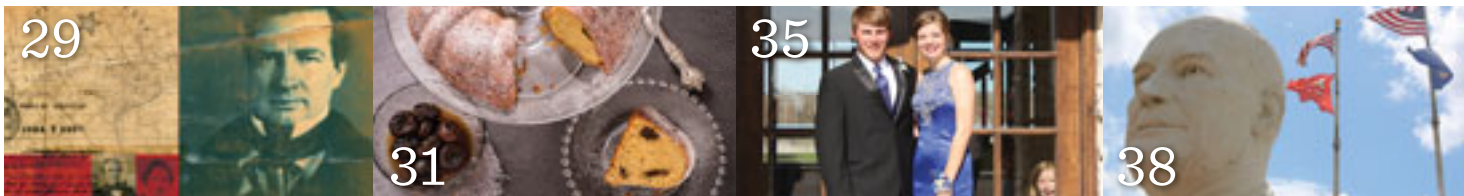
Find these stories online if they don’t appear in your edition of the magazine.

Observations

Return to Sender
By Michael Pate

Texas USA

Back on Texas Soil
By LaDawn Fletcher



DELL CAMPUS: COURTESY TEXAN BY NATURE. CAMPER: VADIM GEORGIEV | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ON THE COVER Allen Williams and Laura Bush speak to schoolchildren about native plants in Pharr. Photo by Grant Miller | Courtesy Texan By Nature

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bryan Lightfoot, Chair, Bartlett; Blaine Warzecha, Vice Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Secretary-Treasurer, Comanche; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; William F. Hetherington, Bandera; Mark Stubbs, Greenville; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Jerry Boze, Kaufman; Clint Gardner, Coleman; Rick Haile, McGregor; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; Kathy Wood, Marshall • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevens, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejetek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Administrative Assistant; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Qasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Taylor Montgomery, Digital Field Editor; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader



Living in Mueller Style

OUR MUELLER CUSTOM BUILDING
IS THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Mueller custom buildings make beautiful living spaces. Our strong, engineered exteriors provide flexibility for you to design a completely customized interior, while supporting large spans and open floor plans. Create your own unique space to call home. Give us a call or drop by today, and find out more about custom metal buildings from Mueller.*

www.muellerinc.com

877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



*Some exterior structures, such as carport & porches, were added post-engineering and not designed by Mueller. Please check local building codes before ordering.

Nasty Trees: A Lesson

The devil's walking stick and Hercules club are not the same tree [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. Both are nasty if one grabs hold of them. The Hercules club can be found along many fences, as the birds excrete the seeds while sitting on the fence. The devil's walking stick can be found in wet areas and has super nasty spines if grabbed.

RALPH RIGGS | DENSON SPRINGS
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Thursday Night Legend

In the fall of 1971, I began my 40-year teaching career at John H. Reagan High School in Austin. W.E. Pigford, who was associate principal, became my mentor. He was truly a great, gentle man who had previously been coach and principal at the old black L.C. Anderson High School. He told me about coaching Dick "Night Train" Lane [*Thursday Night Lights*, February 2018] back in the mid-'40s and was honored to introduce Lane in 1974 when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mr. Pigford shared with me some of the challenges and struggles that black players faced during the years of segregation. However, he always seemed to dwell on the positives—emphasizing the rich and rewarding experiences he and his players had.

JOHN T. WENDE | DALE
PEDERNALES EC

This took me back to my teenage years in Abilene, where my dad and I would go to Fair Park on Thursday nights and

Devil History

I enjoyed this story a lot [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. There seems to be some devil history missing, however. Before Amistad Reservoir, there was a Devils Lake on the Devils River. There was also Lake Walk. Both were covered by Amistad.

There was also a large area on maps in the 1940s and 1950s that was labeled Hell's Half Acre. The area was southeast of Marathon and was rumored to be where the devil lived.

KENNETH HOLMES | DRIPPING SPRINGS | PEDERNALES EC



watch Woodson High play football. We would walk up and sit with the local supporters and revel in some of the comments. So long ago, and so many fond memories. Thanks for the trip back to my younger days.

EUGENE BEYER | JOHNSON CITY
PEDERNALES EC

Winning Recipe

I made Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce, below, [*Holiday Recipe Contest*, December 2017] today and it was delicious—moist and complemented by



the sauce and whipped cream. I left off apple compote but think it would be a great addition.

MARY DUNN VIA FACEBOOK | BOERNE
BANDERA EC

Wow-Worthy Borscht

This recipe [*Celery Borscht With Rye Croutons, Radish and Sour Cream*; Recipes; January 2018] is insanely delicious! I'd never even tasted borscht before. My husband found the recipe in the co-op magazine, and I decided to make it. Wows

all around the table—second and even third helpings.

MICHELLE FRANCO | AUSTIN
PEDERNALES EC

Vintage Look

I really like the vintage look to many of the illustrations

and pictures used in your magazine. My husband and I look forward to every monthly issue. Even better, I can review these again on your website.

D. MCBRIDE | GORDONVILLE
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share

EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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



Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 74, NUMBER 11 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.20 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 2018 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





WEB EXTRAS

► Find more happenings online.

HAPPENINGS

Leighton's Gift for Newborns

Chris and Amy Skaggs are determined to ease the stress and helplessness parents experience when they can't constantly be present with their newborns who must spend time in neonatal intensive care units.

In 2011, Amy gave birth to premature twins, Leighton and Jaxon, who remained hospitalized in the NICU for specialized medical care. But three weeks after she was born, Leighton died from a serious infection.

To memorialize Leighton, the Skaggses, members of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, started **LEIGHTON'S RIDE**, an annual motorcycle ride to raise money to purchase web cameras for NICU beds so parents can see and speak to their babies any time. Leighton's Ride is **MAY 19** in **CELINA**, north of Dallas. The 75-mile ride includes an after-party with a car show, music, raffle and food.

Since 2013, Leighton's Ride has purchased 45 webcams for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, where the twins were born. Leighton's brother, Jaxon, is 6 and doing fine as he finishes kindergarten.

INFO ► (972) 977-8156, leightonsgift.com

SPORTS SECTION

SUPER SCHOOL

Nick Foles, a 2007 graduate of Westlake High School in Austin, became the second Chaparral quarterback to be named Super Bowl MVP, joining 1997 Westlake grad Drew Brees. Foles (below), who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, threw for three touchdowns and caught one from his own tight end in a 41-33 upset of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LII in February. Brees won a championship with the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

The only other high school to produce two Super Bowl quarterback MVPs is Isadore Newman School in New Orleans, a private school that produced brothers Peyton and Eli Manning.



Did you know?



25 YEARS AGO: The Alamodome in San Antonio, built for an NFL team that never came, opened May 15, 1993. The arena was home to the San Antonio Spurs from 1993–2002.

Historic Election



Wilhelmina Delco was elected to the Austin school board 50 years ago, in 1968, making her the first African-American elected to public office in Austin. In 1974, she won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives, making her the first black official elected at-large in Travis County. In 1991, she was appointed speaker pro tem, becoming the first woman and the second African-American to hold the second-highest position in the Texas House.

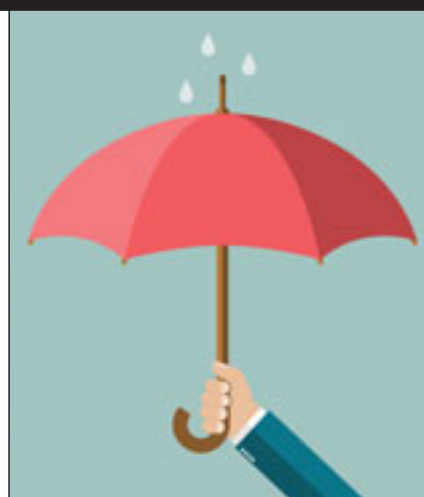
NATURE

Darkness in Big Bend

AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF AMERICANS have never seen the Milky Way. If that includes you, Big Bend Ranch State Park can help you change that.

THE PARK HAS BEEN DESIGNATED an International Dark Sky Park, joining Copper Breaks, South Llano River and Enchanted Rock state parks with this designation. Night skies are fading, and natural darkness is disappearing because of the growing glow of artificial lights.

THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION works to preserve the darkness as the authoritative voice on light pollution, educating lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees and the public about controlling light pollution.



WEATHER WATCH

Farewell to a Pioneer

Weatherman John Coleman might not have been a household name when he died in January, but he dramatically changed how TV viewers get their weather news.

The Alpine native was working at a Chicago station in 1972 when he developed the first green-screen weather map ever used. The innovation not only enlivened forecasts, it allowed him to become the first weatherman to display weather satellite information on-screen for viewers to see.

In 1975, he became the original meteorologist on *Good Morning America*.

Then, in 1981, in the early days of cable TV, he co-founded the Weather Channel, where today millions of Americans turn for news about hurricanes, blizzards and wildfires.





Naturally Protective

by Melissa Gaskill

When Sue Stutzman added native plants on part of her 2 acres in Magnolia in 2016, she immediately began seeing more butterflies. Early on, she counted 35 species, then a few months later, 53.

Stutzman is an official member of the Monarch Wrangler program, launched to encourage people to create habitat for the iconic butterfly, whose numbers have dropped as much as 90 percent in the past 20 years mainly due to loss of habitat. Much of Texas lies on the route that millions of the butterflies follow on their spring and fall migrations.

The program comes from Texan by Nature, an organization founded in 2011 by former Texas and U.S. first lady Laura Bush, Katharine Armstrong and Regan Gammon. The three friends share a mutual interest in the natural resources of Texas and some serious conservation chops: Bush served as honorary chair

of the National Park Foundation; Armstrong previously chaired the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission; and Gammon had been on advisory boards for the National Park Foundation and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Right away, the women decided not to reinvent the wheel but to find successful conservation work and encourage more of the same. The organization's official mission became "to spur Texan-led conservation that produces tangible benefits for people, prosperity and natural resources." Or, as Bush says, "to keep Texas, Texas, for the benefit of Texans and wildlife."

In one of its first projects, Texan by Nature partnered with Goldthwaite, a Central Texas city, to create the Texas Botanical Gardens, a native landscape and education program.

The organization hosted a symposium on nature and human health at the Houston Methodist Research Institute and one on monarch butterflies at Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. That event drew more than 80 organizations.

"Part of the purpose of the monarch symposium was bringing

BUSH: GRANT MILLER; MONARCH: SUE STUTZMAN; WILLOW: STEVEN HARRIS



Texan by Nature—Laura Bush’s conservation-minded organization—aims to “keep Texas, Texas”

all those groups together,” says Joni Carswell, Texan by Nature executive director. At the event, 15 partners agreed to conduct research, create habitat and offer educational workshops. Texan by Nature decided to focus on education, including encouraging landowners to plant native milkweed. Monarchs lay their eggs solely on this plant, so it is critical to their survival—as is the survival of other native plants that provide food for adult butterflies.



To further encourage monarch habitat across the state, Texan by Nature then partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National

Clockwise from top left: Laura Bush stands among the native grasses on her ranch in Crawford. A monarch butterfly on lantana. Native milkweed is an important food resource for monarch caterpillars.

Wildlife Federation to create the Monarch Wrangler program. Landowners like Stutzman as well as civic organizations and corporations can apply for the designation.

Monarchs particularly appeal to Bush, Armstrong says, because the butterflies need prairie habitat. “Laura did extensive work developing a native prairie on the Central Texas ranch she and George [former President Bush] own. She’s not just talking about this stuff, she’s actually done it. She is an example of the kind of things she wants other people to do, what Texan by Nature is charged to do.”

While the program focuses on a single species, improving habitat for monarchs benefits many other species as well. Quail, for example, prefer the same habitat.

To date, Monarch Wranglers representing 65 residences, 14 landowners and 16 civic organizations have established



To date, Monarch Wranglers have established more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

Fields with milkweed abound on the BAE Systems campus in Austin, above. Laura Bush visits with representatives from George W. Bush Elementary at Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, right.

more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

“The idea of acres and acres can discourage some people, but a dedicated plot with nectar flowers doesn’t have to be huge to attract an amazing number of butterflies,” Stutzman says. “Overall, trees, shrubs and grasses provide shelter and can be larval host plants.” Natives, she adds, don’t require a lot of maintenance.

Corporate Monarch Wranglers include Dell and BAE Systems, representing a combined 124 acres. Stephen Ford, program director at BAE’s Austin Business Center, notes that changes inspired by the program on that campus led to long-term savings on mowing, fertilizing and watering.

Dell removed invasive species, planted milkweed and native plant plots, and reduced mowing on its 38-acre Round Rock campus. The company’s efforts also include an employee engagement program and interpretive signage that informs employees and visitors about conservation of native habitat. Physical changes to a landscape that benefit butterflies also improve the quality of work



life for employees. “When companies involve employees in their outdoor workplace environment and educate them about conservation, they can apply these ethics to their life, for example by practicing conservation at home,” Carswell says. “Research shows that it all ties back to the benefits nature has on both physical and mental health.”

Another Texan by Nature initiative, Conservation Wrangler, goes beyond monarchs, recognizing conservation projects of all types, so long as they

provide tangible returns, reach new and diverse audiences, and are science-based with measurable conservation outcomes.

According to Carswell, the organization recently decided to focus mainly on this program. “Monarchs are beautiful and we all identify them with freedom and nature itself,” she says. “But Conservation Wrangler is more general and has a broader reach. It highlights all the best conservation initiatives in Texas that are true to our mission and make an impact on our natural resources and economy.”

Taylor Keys, conservation associate for Texan by Nature, points out that the Conservation Wrangler program also reaches people in areas of Texas not on the monarch’s migration pathway.

Current Conservation Wranglers include the Texas Botanical



Gardens in Goldthwaite and Bracken Cave near San Antonio, home to the largest bat colony in the world. Texan by Nature helped generate support for the private purchase of 1,500 acres adjoining the cave that were slated for a major residential development.

For another Conservation Wrangler project, students at York Junior High School in Spring use GPS technology to help track the state bison herd in Caprock Canyons State Park, some 500 miles away. That partnership teaches students skills such as fundraising, research and use of technology; saves the park much-needed funds while increasing public awareness of the herd; and improves management of park habitat for the bison.

Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs, which recently became a Conservation Wrangler, works to restore and protect natural habitat in and around the 85,000-acre lake. A multigenerational group of volunteers, including high school students and inmate horticulturists from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ellis Unit in Huntsville, has planted more than 10,000 American water-willows at 18 sites.

Another Conservation Wrangler, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Learning Landscapes Collaborative, plans to incorporate native gardens throughout school districts in the area. Five school districts in the Valley already have committed to planting native butterfly gardens on their campuses, creating the potential for more than 150 gardens and 7,550 native plants. The wildlife these attract will benefit local ecosystems, and the gardens also will be used to promote outdoor education.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to find more information from Texan by Nature about monarch habitats.

Electric cooperatives can participate easily, Carswell says, by using native plant species and water conservation practices in landscaping at offices and other facilities.

The organization provides step-by-step instructions for corporate entities to become recognized as Texan by Nature businesses.

"Many of these projects need additional partnership, funding and volunteers," Carswell says, "and Texan by Nature works to pair interested businesses with vetted, science-based projects."

Texan by Nature supports its Wranglers with 12–18 months of tailored support, connecting participants with industry expertise and sharing their efforts through blogging, social media, and newspaper and magazine articles.

"Electric utilities, including co-ops, have done a lot," says Armstrong. "We want to encourage them to keep doing it and to do more. You can always do more."

"If you're a Conservation Wrangler, you are among the best stewards in Texas," she adds. "The business community in Texas wants to do the right thing but for various reasons is sometimes tentative. One focus of the organization has been to help them see what they can do. Laura is a positive force for good and viewed as an honest broker. She brings out the best in people."

For Texan by Nature, it all goes back to a love for the special nature of Texas. "Our lives are enriched by the land beyond our back doors," Bush said in a presentation about the monarch conservation plan, "and each of us has a stake in its future."

As she documents butterfly species fluttering across her yard, Stutzman couldn't agree more.

See more of **Melissa Gaskill's** work at melissagaskill.blogspot.com.

Local high school students plant American water-willows at Lake Livingston during a Conservation Wrangler event.



EAST
TEXAS
MOJO

WRITER JOE R. LANSDALE'S GRITTY PINEYWOODS FICTION

CAPTIVATES HOLLYWOOD AND INTERNATIONAL FANS

FLORENCE, ITALY, is possibly the last place you'd expect to find a bookshop named after a novel by a small-town Texas author. Florence is known for Basilica di Santa Croce, the resting place of Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli, and home of a statue and funerary monument to Dante. The city's Accademia Gallery is home to Michelangelo's *David*, and its Uffizi Gallery houses Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*.

But not far from the heart of Florence, across the Arno River at Ponte San Nicolò and a few blocks east on Via Giampaolo Orsini, sits a slice of Lone Star literary culture known as Libreria Mucho Mojo, a bookstore dedicated to the work of East Texas writer Joe R. Lansdale.

Mucho Mojo is the second book in Lansdale's Hap and Leonard series of crime novels. It's also the title of the second season of *Hap and Leonard*, a series on SundanceTV. Lansdale's writing has become significant in Italy perhaps because he garners Italian fascination with jolting horror and bare-knuckled crime fiction conveyed in a down-home East Texas drawl.

Lansdale's characters ply the muddy waters of the Sabine River and the backcountry roads that crisscross the Pineywoods.

They talk like Texans and navigate the world like Texans. If they haven't been in a tornado, they've seen one, and they're as comfortable in the 107-degree summer heat as they are facing a norther bearing down after it crosses the Red River. They don't all wear 10-gallon hats or swill Lone Star beer, but, at one point or another, every one of them has stepped over William Barrett Travis' line in the sand and is willing to fight for what they think is right, regardless of the odds.

So it's no wonder Hollywood came calling.

Lansdale's *Cold in July*, the story of an unassuming Texas everyman turned accidental hero, received film treatment in 2014, and Sundance recently aired a third season of *Hap and Leonard*. Meanwhile, several of Lansdale's other works, including *The Bottoms*, *A Fine Dark Line*, *The Thicket* and *Freezer Burn* have been optioned for the big screen. In an upcoming independent film project, *The Projectionist*, Lansdale will assume the director's chair and try his hand at translating his writing to film. And all this comes after the 2002 cult classic B-movie, *Bubba Ho-Tep*. Based on Lansdale's book of the same name, it features an elderly, spotlight-dodging Elvis and an African-American JFK (played

STORY BY E.R. BILLS | PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADDEN

"I WAS
BORN
RURAL
AND
STILL
LIVE
RURAL."

by Ossie Davis) battling a misplaced ancient Egyptian mummy in an East Texas nursing home.

"He's so incredibly prolific," says Steven L. Davis, curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State University in San Marcos. "It's like you're in this river that's at flood stage and all these logs are floating by and each one is a Lansdale book. And you grab one and it's

the ride of your life and your favorite for a while—but then there's another and another. He's a wholly original literary voice that's created masterpieces that really explore and play with what it means to be Texan."

Even though Lansdale can boast more than 44 books, 400 short stories, and numerous articles and essays, most of his neighbors in the Lone Star State might not be familiar with his writing. He enjoys the respect of noted authors such as Stephen King and James Patterson, and counts *Game of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin a close friend, and yet he can remain unnoticed on many main streets in Texas.

Lansdale, 66, grew up in a family of modest means in Glade-water. "I've plowed with mules, raised my own food and worked as a truck cropper," says Lansdale, currently a resident of the Nacogdoches area and a member of Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative. "I was born rural and still live rural."

Lansdale's father was hardworking but illiterate; his mother had creative leanings and encouraged him to read. At a very early age, he knew he wanted to write. "I got interested in writing through comic books first," Lansdale says. "I enjoyed the stories. As I got older, I became more interested in characters and began to read more widely. I realized that a writer could create his or her own mythology. That excited me when I was young and it still excites me today. I still like telling stories and exploring new ideas."

Lansdale dabbled at college in Tyler, Austin and Nacogdoches and worked several blue-collar jobs. He never stayed away from East Texas very long. His first novel, *Act of Love*, went to press in 1981. In *The Bottoms*, which came out in 2000, Lansdale chronicles

a series of murders in Jim Crow Texas as seen through the eyes of a constable's children. In *A Fine Dark Line* (2002), Lansdale examines life in a small Texas town from the perspective of a teenager who discovers a box of forgotten love letters. And the narrative of *Lost Echoes* (2006) details the experiences of a grimly gifted young Texan bent on getting his life back on track. The list of Lansdale's offerings goes on and on, and it's distinguished by originality, suspense and a keen eye for the darkly humorous.

Lansdale is not the first East Texas writer to attract attention at the national or international level. Trinity native William Goyen (1915–1983) published several critically acclaimed novels—the most successful of which was *The House of Breath*—and short story collections in the 1950s and, like Lansdale, was highly regarded in Europe. Dubbed "The Voice of the Pines" by *Texas Monthly* in 2015, Goyen garnered the MacMurray Award for the best first novel by a Texan for *The House of Breath* and received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1951 and 1952.

Clarksville native William Humphreys' (1924–1997) first book, *Home From the Hill*, was well-received by critics in 1958 and made into a film starring Robert Mitchum and Eleanor Parker in 1960. His second novel, *The Ordways*, also enjoyed critical success and inspired comparisons to William Faulkner.

Goyen and Humphreys left East Texas to pursue their writing careers. Lansdale stayed put, and the region informs every page of his work. "I instantly recognize the characters," says Dale Lafleur, whose Port Neches bookshop, Fleur Fine Books, houses the largest collection of Lansdale titles for sale in the state. "I grew up with those guys and have been around them all my life. They remind me of family members, neighbors and friends."

And Lafleur can attest to the popularity of Lansdale's Pineywoods noir. "Joe's stuff is always in demand," Lafleur says. "He has a huge, loyal following, and the *Hap and Leonard* series has really boosted his visibility."

"The hardest thing for a writer to do is translate the feel of a good story onto the page," Davis says. "And then it's a matter of keeping the audience on the edge of its seat. Lansdale does both. He's earthy and eloquent at the same time. He's written some of the most important fiction ever to come out of the state, stuff that puts him in the top rank of Texas writers."

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to see a clip from Joe Lansdale's SundanceTV series, *Hap and Leonard*.

Mark Sanders, chairman of the English department at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, where Lansdale is a writer-in-residence, suggests that Lansdale is to East Texas what William Faulkner was to northern Mississippi. "He understands the culture of the characters," Sanders says. "The language, the folklore and the superstitions. He recreates the local color masterfully, and that's why he's probably the greatest active writer in Texas letters."

Literally and figuratively, East Texas may be a long way from Florence, Italy, but Joe Lansdale is a giant of letters in both, delivering unique universal characters in an East Texas drawl.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.



\$29.95

Give Dad the Best of Texas.

Texas Co-op Power presents a collection of best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks ever, the *Typically Texas Cookbook* and *The Second Typically Texas Cookbook*.

This **cookbook** is filled with more than 700 recipes, including more than 300 dessert recipes.

Order online at TexasCoopPower.com and put *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook* in your kitchen for only \$29.95 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

To order by mail, send a check or money order payable to TEC for \$29.95 to *Best of Typically Texas Cookbook*, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery.

From the publishers of

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

7 NIGHTS of AMAZING MUSIC ★ ★ ★ TEXSTAR FORD LINCOLN

★ ★ ★ *Summer Nights Concert Series*

STEPHENVILLE CITY PARK BIRDSONG AMPHITHEATER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **2018** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- May 31 Roger Creager & Scott Kirby
- June 7 Casey Donahew & Shea Abshier
- June 21 Michael Martin Murphey w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- July 4 Larry Joe Taylor & The Tejas Brothers
- July 19 Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- Aug. 9 Moe Bandy w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- Oct. 13 Sundown on the Square
Asleep at the Wheel

Sponsored By: Textstar Ford Lincoln • Stephenville Parks & Recreation

AROUND TEXAS EVENT LISTINGS

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Gas Up and Go!

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! It's all listed under the Events tab on our website.

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

Quickly Absorbs for FAST Pain Relief

**BUY 2 GET 1
FREE**

Limited Time Only!

AS LOW AS

\$13.33 EACH

LARGE
4 OZ
JAR

90
DAY
MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE

- ✓ Arnica plus Eucalyptus and Emu Oil for muscle and joint pain
- ✓ Non-greasy formula can be used safely up to four times a day
- ✓ Mild scent disappears after application

Arthritis, Muscle, Joint Pain?

Do you suffer from arthritis, muscle or joint pain, stiffness or swelling? Is an aching neck or back keeping you from your daily activities? Now, you can...

Ease stiffness, inflammation and soreness naturally with the MagniLife Arnica Pain Relief Gel.

1-800-516-3481 / ArnicaPainGel.com

Order Now! MAGNILIFE®

PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071

Call Toll Free or Order Online

1-800-516-3481
ArnicaPainGel.com


Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____


PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check/Money Order enclosed payable to: MagniLife

☐ Charge my credit card 

Acct. #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

ARNICA Pain Relief Gel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy 2 Get 1 FREE - Only \$13.33 per unit	\$59.97 \$39.98
<input type="checkbox"/> Single unit - \$19.99 per unit	\$19.99
 MADE IN USA	SHIPPING \$5.95
TOTAL	

Financing the Growth of your Poultry Operation

- ★ Long-term fixed rates reducing interest rate risk
- ★ Opportunity to earn back money through our Patronage Program
- ★ Loan officers with understanding and experience in the industry



Legacy
Ag Credit, ACA

NMLS # 470323 | www.legacyaca.com | 866-885-3522

Sulphur Springs 303 Connally Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482 903-885-9506	Canton 305 West Dallas Canton, Texas 75103 903-567-2251	Gilmer 1261 HWY 271 South Gilmer, Texas 75645 903-734-5550	Kaufman 201 West Mulberry Kaufman, Texas 75142 972-932-3610	Longview 2002 Judson Road, Suite 204 Longview, Texas 75605 903-307-9173
--	---	--	---	---

RECIPE CONTEST WIN \$100

Submit your best recipes for a chance to win \$100 and a Texas Co-op Power apron!



Upcoming Contests

OCTOBER ISSUE
The Great Pumpkin
Deadline: May 10

NOVEMBER ISSUE
Quick and Easy
Holiday Appetizers
Deadline: June 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST

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

Upcoming Contests

SEPTEMBER ISSUE
Wedding Funnies
Deadline: May 10

OCTOBER ISSUE
Clocks
Deadline: June 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS



Family owned, Texas-built

Lifetime guarantee against leaks

Great for circulation, arthritis, stiff joints and relaxation

Now Offering ONYX Custom Showers

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

Visit Our Showroom
3405 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury



Granbury Chamber of Commerce Member

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*.

We know that now, more than ever, it makes sense to target your audience with a trustworthy name—a name like *Texas Co-op Power*, which creates more advertising options for regional and local businesses like yours.

Our North Texas advertising section targets homeowners living around Texas' largest metropolitan area. With a regional circulation of 527,000 and a readership of 1,212,100, *Texas Co-op Power* delivers a huge audience that's loyal and responsive.

Be part of a statewide magazine—without the statewide cost. Reach North Texas customers with *Texas Co-op Power*. Call or email today.

NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE
Circulation 527,000 • Readership 1,212,100

TEXASCOOPPOWER

Call: Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251
Email: advertising@TexasCoopPower.com



Prepare for Twister Season



THANKS TO *THE WIZARD OF OZ*, KANSAS HAS BEEN IMMORTALIZED as the land of tornadoes.

In reality, Texas is first in the U.S. when it comes to twister touchdowns, averaging 155 each year. For most of the state, peak tornado time is April–June, but in South Texas, activity typically peaks in November. Regardless of the location, most tornadoes occur between 3 and 9 p.m.

Last year's tornado count of 1,406 surpassed the national average of 1,253 and was well above the 2016 count of 971. Texans saw 176 tornadoes in 2017, 21 more than average.

No one knows yet what the 2018 season holds, but being prepared is smart.

Before a Tornado

Determine the safest place in your home and at work so you can go there quickly if there is a tornado warning. A small, interior, windowless room, closet or hallway on the lowest level is best. Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Do not open windows. Get under a sturdy table and cover your body as best you can with blankets or pillows. Mobile homes, even if tied down, do not offer protection from tornadoes.

As in any emergency, be sure to have an emergency kit that contains survival basics. Visit ready.gov for details.

Be alert to changing weather conditions. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.

Look for These Danger Signs:

- ▶ Dark, often greenish sky.
- ▶ Large hail.
- ▶ A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating).
- ▶ A loud roar, similar to a freight train.

If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

Know the Terms

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible. When there is a watch, move near enough to a shelter to be able to get there quickly if you see signs of a tornado approaching. Remain alert for approaching storms.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Tornado Facts

Wind from tornadoes can reach more than 300 mph with damage paths more than 1 mile wide and 50 miles long.

They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.

They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.



**SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CARES ABOUT**

COMMUNITY

From little leagues to the county fair,
WE SUPPORT WHAT MAKES
YOUR COMMUNITY SPECIAL



SAM HOUSTON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SamHouston.net | 800-458-0381



We Hope To See You June 12

JOIN US FOR SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Tuesday, June 12. Doors will open at noon for registration, and the meeting will start at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Polk County Commerce Center in Livingston. The facility is located at 1017 U.S. Highway 59 Loop N., with its entrance at Pedigo Park. Shuttles will be available to take attendees from the parking area to the facility.

Members in attendance will be able to visit with other member-owners, the board of directors and cooperative management. There also will be entertainment and door prize drawings. The cooperative leaders will report on co-op business, including the announcement of board of directors election winners.

Watch for Your Board of Directors Election Ballot

YOUR SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT

will arrive in your mailbox or inbox this month.

Voting in the election will be easier this year. In addition to online voting, all members still will receive a paper ballot, so you can mail in your vote if you prefer. Or you can visit our independent election management firm's secure website with login credentials that will be included on the ballot mailed to each member. You also will receive this information by email if you have linked your email address to your Sam Houston EC account.

You can even vote from your mySamHouston online account this year. Simply log in as you would to pay your bill or review your usage, then you will see an option that will take you to your ballot.

The election will open May 14, and detailed voting instructions will come with the ballot mailed to you. Both online and mail-in votes will be eligible for prize drawings at the membership meeting June 12.

Each member who submits their ballot will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your vote by June 5 to be eligible for additional prize drawings at the Annual Meeting! Members do not need to be present to win prizes from the ballot drawings.



**HELP US KEEP
RIGHTS-OF-WAY
CLEAR**

**CLEAN POWER LINE
EASEMENTS
ARE SAFER**

**SAFETY
STARTS WITH
YOU!**

**WE CAN ALSO
ACCESS LINES AND
RESTORE POWER
MORE QUICKLY.**

SAMHOUSTON.NET • 800-458-0381


SAM HOUSTON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Woodworkers

BY JANET RUTH MYERS



1. Mike Beumel's specialty is reweaving the bottoms of antique chairs.

2. Beumel repairs a chair.



TREES HAVE BEEN A VALUABLE RESOURCE SINCE THE BEGINNING of mankind. During our earliest days, trees provided shelter, and cast-off limbs were fashioned into crude tools for protection. As our skills, knowledge and craftsmanship progressed, so did our uses for wood. A tree limb became a club, a spear, and then a bow and arrow. Sticks, rubbed together, created fire for warmth and cooking.

At some point, man noticed that wood itself was a thing of beauty, marked with lines and patterns that capture the imagination. Taking a sharp piece of bone or stone, he began to carefully whittle the wood, creating the shapes and features of animals, objects and people around him. Thus, the art of woodcarving came to life.

Today, the love of working with wood often begins as a youthful passion. Other times, the fascination with shaping wood into art and useful objects lights a fire in one's soul later in life.

"I began carving in the 1960s when a good friend of mine showed me a woodcarving he had done," says John Fletcher of Jasper. "I decided to give it a try myself, and soon it became a

part of my life. Here I am today, at age 78, still finding pleasure in working with wood."

Fletcher does a little bit of everything in his woodworking, including relief carving, the art of crafting figures into a flat piece of wood.

"I just create whatever crosses my mind as I look at a piece of wood," he says. "I mainly carve horses, eagles, free-form birds and butterflies."

Sometimes Fletcher sees the subject in the piece of wood before he even begins to carve. But other times, he will see a carving crafted for a gallery or look at a photograph and decide that he'd like to emulate that design. Depending on the subject or design, he may do several carvings in a row of the same subject.

Fletcher most enjoys working with four specific types of wood. His favorite is mesquite, found predominantly in Central and South Texas. He also likes basswood, butternut and walnut.

"I prefer softer woods because they are easier to carve," he says. "However, harder woods like walnut have a beautiful grain and are easier to finish."



3. One of John Fletcher's wood-working techniques is relief carving, the art of crafting figures into a flat piece of wood.

4. Fletcher often collects driftwood from the coast. This carving is made from a piece of mahogany.

Fletcher's work is on display at RS Hanna Gallery in Fredericksburg and at the East Texas Art League in Jasper.

"The message I try to send through my carving is that I enjoy doing it," he says. "I hope that anybody who looks at a piece and likes it well enough to spend their own money on it will enjoy it also."

East Texas is home to another wood artisan, Mike Beumel, who lives in the small town of Moscow, just north of Livingston, and also happens to be a utility designer for Sam Houston Electric Cooperative.

"Through the years, I've built 70 or 80 rocking chairs from scratch, including several for women expecting to be new mommas," Beumel says. "But I also refinish antique wooden furniture that folks bring to me, including replacing worn or damaged seats with woven cane."

Beumel also finds old pieces in resale and antique shops and brings them back to life. One rocking chair he found was so dirty and ugly that he didn't know what he had until he tightened it and cleaned it up. It had unique carvings and quickly became one of his favorite pieces.

"It's one of those things that hardly anyone does anymore," he says. "It's more a labor of love than something you would do to make a lot of money."

He's also refinished a lot of rustic pieces belonging to people who want to have something reminiscent of the time in which the piece was made.

"I enjoy the satisfaction of taking something that didn't look like much and making it match the period it came from, while not taking away the character of the wood," he says. "I don't want it to look new, because anybody can have something new. I like to remain faithful to what it is."

Beumel has worked with a wide variety of woods, especially for his furniture restoration projects.

"One rocker I refurbished had been sitting for many years on a front porch," he says. "It was made of red gum, a type of wood you just don't see anymore. It had a beautiful reddish-brown-green color. I wove the chair seat but only put a light sanding on the wood, and it turned out absolutely beautiful."

He even works with raw wood on a lathe, another type of woodwork called wood turning.



5. Fletcher began woodcarving in the 1960s. Some of his tools seen here are used to carve reliefs of butterflies.

“When you turn ash, the wood grain looks different one way than it does when you move it another way,” he says. “Refinishing the wood so that the colors look even is a challenge that takes time to learn.”

Beumel believes all types of wood have their place in art and utility pieces.

“A lot of the softer woods take stains more evenly, but you don’t have as much color shift in the grain,” he says. “Even the climate where the tree was grown affects the wood grain and the color. Over time, you start to notice the idiosyncrasies and distinctiveness of each species of wood.”

Beumel likes folks to use the woodwork he’s made or restored for them.

“I hope that people will see what they’ve gotten from me as a picture of the past—a piece of craftsmanship they’re going to cherish,” he says.

His home is filled with wood items he has crafted or refinished, but there are several pieces in his personal collection he

will not sell. He remembers a piece with intricate weaving he made years ago that he now regrets selling. Beumel knows he can’t keep them all, and he takes comfort in knowing his pieces will be appreciated.

“When I make rockers for new mothers, I want their kids to have memories of that rocker and say to themselves, years from now, ‘Mom used to rock me in this chair,’ ” he says.

Another East Texas woodworker is Ray Epps of Livingston. Epps was raised in Texas but lived in Australia for 18 years and has traveled much of the world.

“I began working with wood when I was 5 years old,” Epps says. “I made bookcases, tables and bookends. But a real turning point came when I went to a show in Australia and saw someone using a wood lathe. I went right out and bought a lathe and have been using one ever since.”

Epps makes wooden ballpoint pens, salt and pepper mills, cutting boards and all types of bowls. Some of his bowls are made from a solid piece of wood, while others are constructed



6. Ray Epps shows off a walnut jewelry box. He often shows his work at Livingston Trade Days and Onalaska Market Days.

of different species of wood cut into wedges, glued into a ring and then made smooth with a lathe.

“By using different species of wood, you can end up with unique and unusual designs,” Epps says. “I also make jewelry boxes, which are usually made from several layers of wood laminated together. Sometimes I use different species of wood in one box to create contrasting colors and make the box stand out even more.”

Epps uses all types of wood, both domestic and foreign. Walnut is one of his favorites, as are oak and mahogany. African bubinga, melaleuca and jarrah from Australia are favorites as well.

“I like to take a piece of wood and show the beauty of it through the grain and the natural patterns within it,” he says. “If there are defects in the wood, it doesn’t bother me. I try to make the defect a feature of the object itself. I’m not trying to make it look like it was factory produced. I want every piece to be unique.”

Epps is always open to new ideas for his work. If his customers have a piece of wood they want to get rid of, he usually makes something out of it for them, as a thank-you for donating the wood.

“We sell to people all over the world,” he says. “I have a passion for working with wood and hope that people who like my work will know that I do it because I enjoy it.”

Mark Your Calendar for Savings

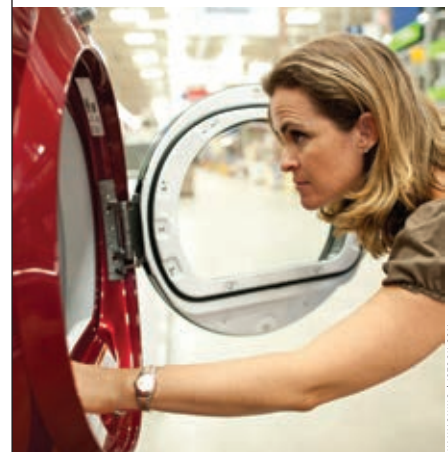
NEED A NEW, MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT dishwasher or refrigerator? If you time it right, you can enjoy a tax-free purchase on qualifying appliances soon. The statewide Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday takes place Memorial Day weekend. This year, it begins Saturday, May 26, at 12:01 a.m. and concludes Monday, May 28, at 11:59 p.m.

Eligible tax-free appliances include:

- ▶ Air conditioners (models priced at \$6,000 or less)
- ▶ Refrigerators (models priced at \$2,000 or less)
- ▶ Ceiling fans
- ▶ Incandescent and fluorescent lightbulbs
- ▶ Clothes washers
- ▶ Dishwashers
- ▶ Dehumidifiers
- ▶ Programmable thermostats

Keep in mind that appliances purchased for just a few dollars over the allowable amounts will be fully taxed. For example, a refrigerator that costs \$2,050 will be taxed on the entire purchase price, not just the \$50 in excess of the limit. Similarly, if an item’s sale price is within the price cap but an additional delivery fee pushes it over the limit, the entire purchase is taxable.

Start researching now so you can take advantage of savings on items that will likely lower your energy bills.



Make Your Yard Work for You

“LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION” IS A MANTRA OF REAL ESTATE, BUT IT ALSO APPLIES to shading your home. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees strategically can yield shade and unearth energy savings.

The U.S. Department of Energy determined that proper placement of just three trees on a property can save an average household \$100–\$250 in yearly energy costs.

- Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner to increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. But keep the plants at least three feet from the air conditioner.

- Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep wind chill away from a home. Evergreens, especially when combined with a fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home, are particularly effective. Leave two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and your home.

- When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its canopy in relation to your home’s height. These factors are important because they influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Shade trees can drop the surrounding air temperature by as much as 9 degrees.

- Shading takes time—a 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year, but it may take 5–10 years to shade the roof.

- Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.

- Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window. If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west- and east-facing windows.

- To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees, or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work—but remember to always avoid planting near underground and overhead utility lines.



Save More

With your Co-op Connections card

YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD IS packed full of savings—some you may not even know about.

Did you know that electric cooperative members across the state of Texas save a combined average of \$50,000 each month at the pharmacy? That’s right. By using your Co-op Connections card, you can receive a 10–85 percent discount on prescription drugs at more than 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores, including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and many more.

Members are collectively saving a bundle on everyday items. Sam Houston Electric Cooperative members are some of the top savers across the state, using this free savings program at local businesses and nationwide retailers.

Search for Co-op Connections deals and print your card online at connections.coop/samhoustonec. The savings are yours—all for no charge.



Empowering You To Stay Safe

AT SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, WE TAKE SERIOUSLY our duty to provide reliable electricity to our members in the safest, most affordable manner possible. Though we work hard to fulfill that promise year-round, perhaps there is no better time to reiterate our commitment than during National Electrical Safety Month.

Over these next few weeks, as our lineworkers and behind-the-scenes staff go about their vital work as steadfastly as ever, we ask you, our members, to consider your role as our partners in ensuring your comfort and safety. Amid the drumbeat of daily routines, balancing work and family, we all can sometimes grow complacent about seemingly innocuous habits or practices that could bear tragic consequences.

One critically important example of this during swimming and boating season involves the risk of electric shock drowning. Docks and marinas carry electricity sources, which faulty wiring or damaged cords can release into water invisibly. As few as 10 milliamps can cause paralysis and drowning. That is one-fiftieth the amount used by a 60-watt lightbulb. You should not swim near a dock or marina unless you know its wiring is in good repair.

You should also never swim near a boat while it's running.

If you see an electric shock drowning taking place, never enter the water. You could become a victim, too. Turn the power off if possible, call 911 and throw a life preserver to the victim or reach out with a fiberglass hook to help the victim get out of the water.

We recommend hiring a licensed electrician to inspect home pools, spas and hot tubs and make any repairs or upgrades necessary to keep the wiring up to date and safe.

Here are a few additional tips for enjoying a day at the pool without risking your well-being or anyone else's:

- ▶ Outdoor electrical outlets (including pools and spas) should be covered and kept dry when not in use.
- ▶ Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter for electrical devices used outdoors. Portable GFCIs are available for \$12–

\$30 and don't require tools for installation.

- ▶ Make sure all electrical equipment used for swimming pools, including cleaning equipment, is grounded and working properly. If you notice pool lights flickering, stay out of the water until a licensed electrician has resolved the issue.



PAUL HART / ISTOCK.COM

- ▶ Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from pools and spas. Whenever possible, use battery-powered devices outdoors instead.

- ▶ Never handle electrical devices while you are wet, either from swimming or perspiration.

- ▶ Make sure there are no power lines over a swimming pool, and never swim during a thunderstorm. Thunder means lightning is close enough to put you at risk of electrocution.

Our intent in relaying this information is not to frighten but to illustrate how we all must keep a watchful eye toward safety whenever and wherever electricity is present, and remain especially vigilant in settings where its presence may not be obvious.

Return to Sender

After seeking inspiration elsewhere, expatriate Texas writer experiences separation anxiety

BY MICHAEL PATE

AFTER I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, I had dreams of writing the great American novel. I had read the classic American canon of Flannery O'Connor, Mark Twain and John Steinbeck and pored over the classics of road trip writers like Hunter S. Thompson and Jack Kerouac. I found myself itching to get out on the road myself and find a new, unfamiliar place to call home. In keeping with the spirit of so many disillusioned youths who become not so content with their old stomping grounds, I knew I would not be able to find the words to my American novel in my quiet hometown of Queen City, Texas.

Queen City is a small town, hidden away in the pines of East Texas, on Texas Highway 59 between Linden and Texarkana. It's pretty much a blink-and-you'll-miss-it kind of place, identified by the quaintness you'd see in other corners of rural America. Growing up, you could steal away to the woods and never see the same sights twice. The smell of the paper mill in Domino would waft over the town in the morning, and Friday nights always brought you to the high school stadium, where you'd go hoarse singing the fight song.

As I was putting the finishing touches on my college coursework, I started looking at other small towns in which to settle. I considered Nashville, Tennessee, the home of country music, and Hot Springs, Arkansas, the bootlegger's paradise. But, thinking back to my coursework in American literature, I decided to anchor myself in William Faulkner's "postage stamp of native soil," Oxford, Mississippi. Somehow, living in someone else's famous

hometown seemed more appealing than living in my own.

Fast forward five years. Yeah, it's a nice town. It's got live music, shrimp and grits, and enough football culture to choke a horse. It's got two movie theaters, a music store and a bakery that sells the best coffee and blueberry muffin I'd wager you'll ever find. It's got local color, it's got history, and it's got tradition.

But as I consider it, I'm painfully aware that these traditions are not my traditions. This history is not my history. My traditions, as well as my history, are in Texas, eating beef barbecue and my mom's Tex-Mex, listening to music at Shooter's Bar and Grill, and running those back roads ragged in my Silverado. My history is written on the trunks of a thousand pine trees and on the winding blacktop country roads. The blueberry muffins aren't great, but I never liked them that much anyway. I soon realized that the adage about writing what you know is anchored in cold, hard truth.

I eventually reconnected with the woman who would later become my wife, a Texas native from Ore City. We knew each other in high school and started talking again. Call it fate, call it happenstance or call it the universe's way of saying "I told you not to leave." I began to realize that while I might have left Texas, the Lone Star State was definitely not done with me. We have a little girl now, and we're trying to make our way back to Texas so our daughter can one day know the feeling of being blissfully lost in the Pineywoods.

Every place has its merits, but Oxford



is too big for my taste. I come from a place where everybody knows everybody, and if you go to a barber shop, you might find yourself jawing so much you forget to get your hair cut. Take a trip to town in East Texas and you might find yourself talking to friends from a decade past. Take a trip to town in Oxford, and you find yourself surrounded by other people's friends. There are so many things you can't know about leaving your hometown. The most sobering reminder for me was that I had not only left a town behind, but I had also left all the folks in that town.

I put my plans to write my great story on hold after I grew up and saw what a

terribly romanticized pipe dream it was. Everyone has a story to tell, and I realized that I had all but deferred my storytelling dreams until I could get back to Texas for good.

Every so often, when I get off work for the weekend, I'll load the Jeep up, throw on some Willie Nelson, and we'll make the seven-hour drive back to where my roots are, and where they'll always be: the woods of East Texas, where the Tex-Mex is spicy and people still say y'all.

Word to the wise: If you're lucky enough to grow up in Texas, stay put.

Writer **Michael Pate** grew up near Texarkana but lives in Oxford, Mississippi—for now.

Back on Texas Soil

After a far-reaching academic career, Ruth Simmons becomes Prairie View A&M's leader

BY LADAWN FLETCHER

"But that's the thing about East Texas. Red dirt never quite washes out, and pine pollen is tenacious as original sin. You can leave East Texas, for Houston, for the Metroplex, for the Commonwealth, for New York, or Bonn or Tokyo or Kowloon; but you can never quite leave it behind."

—Markham Shaw Pyle,
Texas author and historian

THE RED DIRT ROADS OF THE PINEY-woods started Ruth Simmons on a journey that would lead to leadership roles in academia. After decades away, including time among the cobblestone streets of scholarly New England, she's back in East Texas and cultivating minds once again.

Simmons gained worldwide attention first as president of Smith College in Massachusetts, then as president of Brown University, where she was that 250-year-old institution's first woman leader and the first black president of an Ivy League institution.

Simmons was born Ruth Stubblefield in the Houston County community of Grapeland. Her family left rural East Texas for Houston when she was 7, but her ties to Grapeland have threaded through her life. In 2012, she honored her mother by establishing the Fannie Campbell Stubblefield Room for Genealogy in the Grapeland Public Library.

Her large family had worked as tenant farmers when tenant farming was the last vestige of the plantation system. Black families paid one-third of their corn and cotton crop as rent on the land west of Grapeland on the Trinity River. Many families survived under this arrangement, but once machines took over the cotton picking and planting, sharecropping faded.

At that point, Simmons' older brothers moved to Houston for factory jobs. Once they were established, they called for the rest of the family to join them in Houston's Fifth Ward.

As a child, Simmons' primary interest was books. "I was a bit of a loner anyway,"

she says. "What I liked to do, most children my age did not like. I was a compulsive reader."

She succeeded early. "Teachers singled me out and started to help me. It didn't matter that I was poor and didn't have clothes. I was smart and people were impressed with that."

Neither of her parents had graduated from high school, but they taught their children how to make their way in the world. "In the old days, when we would gather crops from the field, my mother would sit on the porch and shell peas," Simmons says. "And she talked about life."

After the move to Houston, other older brothers became standout basketball players for Houston's Wheatley High School. Her brother Clarence was also her introduction to college as he received a basketball scholarship and became the first in the family to go to university.

His college of choice: Prairie View A&M University.

Simmons took another direction: She received a scholarship to Dillard University, a historically black college in Louisiana, before earning advanced degrees from Harvard University.

She held leadership positions at the University of Southern California and Spelman College in Atlanta before becoming president at Smith College then Brown. When she retired from Brown in 2012, she settled back in Houston, thinking she would serve on boards and do some consulting.

But her brother encouraged her to do something at Prairie View A&M, a historically black college of more than 9,000



students in San Bernard Electric Cooperative's service territory. When he saw her serving on boards for Rice University and working with the University of Houston, he asked, "When are you going to do something with Prairie View?"

The opportunity came when George Wright, who served as president of Prairie View A&M for 14 years, announced in 2017 that he was stepping down as soon as an interim president could be named. University leadership asked Simmons to fill in, and in July 2017, she started the job.

Simmons immediately focused on enhancing areas that would pave the way for the next president. Then, in October, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp announced Simmons as the sole finalist for permanent president of Prairie View A&M, ending her brief retirement.

Historically black colleges shaped her life trajectory, and in her final professional role, she finds herself helping students at an institution like the one that launched her university career.

"I am very much aware of how impor-

Ruth Simmons learned from her parents how to make her way in the world.

tant Prairie View has been over the years as an institution and the many outstanding people who graduated from the university," Simmons says. "Recognizing the importance of the university, I thought, 'If I can do anything, I should.'"

Her mother's front porch lessons were resonating again.

Houston-based **LaDawn Fletcher** writes about Texas culture and travel.

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Corpus Christi, TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS4", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

Give Dad the gift of Texas nature.

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

Order online at TexasCoopPower.com for only \$20 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

Bonus offer: Get 2 posters shipped to the same address for just \$30.



Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

From the publishers of **TEXAS CO-OP POWER**

THE STONE THAT MAKES EVEN THE EMERALD GREEN WITH ENVY

Over 23 total carats of gorgeous green Helenite for only \$95

"Nothing greens greener," is how Roman historian Pliny the Elder described emerald gemstones in his "Natural History" text. But that was 2,000 years before, when the raw volcanic materials that would form Helenite were still brewing in the belly of Mount St Helens in the Pacific Northwest. The volcano finally erupted in 1980, filling the sky with fire. Soon after, we discovered that its explosive contents could form a powerfully green new stone, known as Helenite.

Had Pliny the Elder laid eyes on Helenite he would surely be tempted to rewrite his history, even more so if he knew we were selling it for just \$95.

The *Green Goddess Ring* showcases Helenite in all its glory. This generous American-grown 23 carat stone is prong set with just a sprinkling of scientifically-grown *DiamondAura*®, and its diamond cut invites plenty of light to play off the verdant shade inside the stone.

Over 23 carats of green perfection that keeps the green in your wallet. Helenite's vivid color and immaculate clarity rivals mined emeralds that can sell for as much as \$15,000 a carat. In fact, clear green color in a stone this size is rarely found in emeralds, and if so it would be prohibitively expensive. Instead, you can own this stop-and-stare beauty called "American's Emerald" for less than you'd spend on a fancy dinner.

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Enjoy the *Green Goddess Ring* for 30 days. If it doesn't pass with flying colors, send it back for a full refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. This is a lot green for the money. We cannot guarantee availability for long. Call today!

Green Goddess Ring (23.3 ctw) ~~\$495~~ **\$95** + S&P

Also available

Green Goddess Ring with 14K Gold Setting

(23.3 ctw) ~~\$895~~ **\$495** + S&P

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

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code: GGR139-01

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

23 carat Helenite & DiamondAura® accents • Yellow gold-finished .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10

Stauer®

Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.™

stauer.com



What customers are saying about Stauer Helenite Rings...



"The clarity & color are amazing. I wear it proudly and enjoy the compliments." — Diane, St. Louis, MO

AHEAD OF THE CURVE



Not shown
actual size.

Limited
Collector's
Edition

Damascus steel forged to throw them for a curve at only \$79

For centuries, a Damascus steel blade was instantly recognizable and commanded immediate respect. Recognizable because the unique and mysterious smelting process left a one-of-a-kind, rippled texture on the steel, and respected because Damascus steel's sharp edge and resistance to shattering were the stuff of legend. If you carried Damascus steel, you were ahead of the curve.

Today, you can own the legend.

The **Damascus Curva Knife** celebrates those legendary blades.

It uses modern Damascus steel, with the same rippled texture pattern on the blade, to create a curved folding knife that's 7 1/2" in total length. With a liner lock mechanism, which allows the knife to be opened and closed using just one hand, and a ergonomic handle made of buffalo horn and colored bone, this \$79 knife is a trophy for any hunter or collector.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of Damascus steel. 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. But we believe that once you hold the

"The most common aspects of Damascus steel knives that enthusiasts consider ideal are the aesthetics and high performance." — Knife Informer



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

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath. Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."

— R., Lacey, Washington

Damascus Curva Knife, you'll be ready to throw a curve of your own.

Limited Reserves. Damascus steel blades are a lost art form that only a handful of artisan bladesmiths have

mastered. These legendary blades take time to forge and only a few are crafted each month. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Damascus Curva Folding Knife ~~\$179~~

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P Save **\$100**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: CFK146-01

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. CFK146-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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



Rating of A+



- Damascus steel blade & bolster • Buffalo horn & colored bone handle • Liner lock
- Overall length, open : 7 1/2" • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

Contact us at **800.633.8969**
or **roofover.com**



PERMA-ROOF
from **Southern Builders**

Mobile Home Roofover Systems Since 1983

WD METAL BUILDINGS

Steel Shops • Ag Buildings
Barndominium Homes



We put it all together for you!
Concrete • Erection • Doors
Instant Prices at **WDMB.com**

FLOATING FISHING PIER

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



45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE



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

TEXAS MEDICAL PLANS

Independent, Authorized Agent for

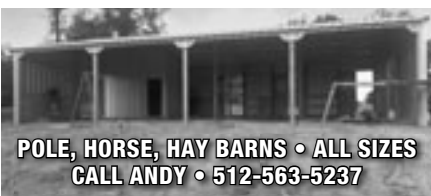


**BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas**

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT COVERAGE

1-888-888-6698



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

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.

RHINO[®] STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

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



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

GET THE TEXAS CO-OP POWER E-NEWSLETTER

SIGN UP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com



NEW and IMPROVED DR® Field and Brush Mowers

*Faster...Easier...
Lower-Priced!*

Mow fields, brush,
even saplings
with never-
before ease!



- ✓ NEW WIDE CUT MODELS for faster mowing!
- ✓ NEW POWER STEERING for easier handling!
- ✓ NEW LOW PRICES reduced up to \$500!

ATTENTION: TRACTOR AND ATV OWNERS!
NEW MODELS starting at \$1399⁹⁹



18C88X © 2018

FREE SHIPPING 6 MONTH TRIAL

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

Call for FREE DVD and Catalog!

TOLL-FREE

877-201-5850
DRfieldbrush.com



Get the Muck OUT!

**Marble size AquaClear™ Pellets clear
your lake or pond bottom.**

Beneficial microorganisms. Restore balance in natural
and man made surface waters. Increase water clarity.
Improve water quality. Eliminate black organic muck.

A 10 lb. bag treats 0.50 to 1.00 acres
\$91.00

A 50 lb. bag treats 2.50 to 5.00 acres
\$327.00

Apply weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly to maintain.
No water use restrictions! **FREE SHIPPING!**

800-328-9350

KillLakeWeeds.com

Order online today, or request free information.

AQUACIDE CO.

PO Box 10748, DEPT 55HX
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748

Our
63rd
year



HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

850 Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **SUPER COUPON**

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

A. HOT DOG
ITEM 69269/97080 shown

B. PANCAKE
ITEM 60637/61615
95275 shown

YOUR CHOICE
NOW \$399
~~\$579~~

• Air delivery:
0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI
1 CFM @ 40 PSI

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62
SAVE 59%
Customer Rating ★★★★★

81713239
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS **SUPER COUPON**

12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW

• Laser guide

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$1299
~~\$1849~~

Blade sold separately.

COMPARE TO KOBALT \$299
SAVE \$169
ITEM 61969/61970
69684 shown

81715891
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

FREE WITH ANY PURCHASE **PITTSBURGH**

6 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET

• Magnetic Tips
• Ergonomic Handles

COMPARE TO HUSKY \$7.97
MODEL: 20210003

ITEM 62728/62583
47770/62570 shown

81762090
LIFETIME WARRANTY

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/7/18, while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE gift per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

81759325

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Excludes 20% off 2 items purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club Membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box items, 2 day Parking Lot Drive Item, compressors, floor jacks, saws, lawn mowers, storage cabinets, clients or carts, trailers, generators, welders, Adaptors, Airless Sprayers, Cans, Generators, Engines, Gasoline, Gasoline, Hercules, Icon, Japiter, Lynx, Predator, Trailmaster, Viking, Volcano, Zurich. Not valid on other brands. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/7/18.

U.S. GENERAL **SUPER COUPON**

30", 5 DRAWER MECHANIC'S CARTS

Item 64031 shown

Item 64060 shown

• 15,000 cu. in. of storage
• 700 lb. capacity
• Weighs 139 lbs.

FANTASTIC! NEW COLOR

Customer Rating ★★★★★

YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
NOW \$1699
~~\$1899~~

Item 64033 shown

COMPARE TO SNAP-ON \$1,175
SAVE \$1,005
ITEM 64031/64061
64059/64060/64032
64030/64033

81717318
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

KRAUSE & BECKER **SUPER COUPON**

AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT

• No. 517 nozzle for 12" to 16" fan width

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$1699
~~\$2149~~

COMPARE TO GRACO \$299
SAVE \$129
ITEM 62915/60600 shown

81718789
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

PREDATOR **SUPER COUPON**

2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

• 4.7 hours run-time
• Recoil start

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$4499
~~\$4999~~

COMPARE TO HONDA \$999
SAVE \$549
MODEL: EU2000i
ITEM 62523

81721409
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON**

#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY SERVICE JACK

• Lifts from 5" to 18-1/4"
• Weighs 74 lbs.

NOW \$7499
~~\$8799~~

COMPARE TO POWERBUILT \$13527
SAVE \$60
ITEM 69227/62116
62584/68048 shown

81724257
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

CENTECH **SUPER COUPON**

AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$499
~~\$999~~

ITEM 69955/64284
69594/42292 shown

81725908
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

drillmaster **SUPER COUPON**

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$999
~~\$1499~~

COMPARE TO PERFORMAX \$2500
MODEL: 2415-1
SAVE 61%
ITEM 69645/60625 shown

81728919
LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

CENTRAL MACHINERY **SUPER COUPON**

10 TON HYDRAULIC LOG SPLITTER

• Accepts logs up to 18" long and 6-1/2" diameter

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$8999
~~\$11999~~

COMPARE TO SUN JOE \$13255
MODEL: L310M
SAVE \$42
ITEM 62291
67090 shown

81729588
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

SOLAR ROPE LIGHT

• Great outdoor accent lighting
• Super bright light

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$999
~~\$1399~~

COMPARE TO HAMPTON BAY \$2997
MODEL: 62036-0538
SAVE 86%
ITEM 62533/63941/68353 shown

81731662
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

GREENWOOD **SUPER COUPON**

1-1/4 GALLON HOME AND GARDEN SPRAYER

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$899
~~\$1299~~

COMPARE TO ROUNDUP \$1871
MODEL: 190315
SAVE 51%
ITEM 63124/63145/95692 shown

81733922
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET

• Each pad measures 25" x 25"

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$699
~~\$899~~

COMPARE TO NORSK \$1999
MODEL: 101115846
SAVE 65%
ITEM 61607/62389
94635 shown

81735387
LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

drillmaster **SUPER COUPON**

18 VOLT, 3/8" CORDLESS DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT

Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$1999
~~\$2499~~

COMPARE TO RYOBI \$99
MODEL: P1811
SAVE \$79
ITEM 69652/62872/62869/68287 shown

81739770
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

PORTLAND **SUPER COUPON**

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

• 1.3 GPM
• Adjustable spray nozzle

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$7999
~~\$8999~~

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON \$17933
MODEL: 20800
SAVE \$99
ITEM 63255/63254 shown

81740995
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

HARDY **SUPER COUPON**

SPLIT LEATHER WORK GLOVES WITH COTTON BACK 5 PAIR

NOW \$599
~~\$799~~

SAVE 34%
Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO FIRM GRIP \$912
MODEL: 60229-24
ITEM 62716/60450/62371/62714/66287 shown

81741432
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

COBRA **SUPER COUPON**

4 CHANNEL WIRELESS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WITH 2 CAMERAS

• Night vision

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$2299
~~\$2499~~

COMPARE TO ALC \$32999
MODEL: ALC-AWS3206
SAVE \$100
ITEM 63842

81747011
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON**

40 PIECE, 3/8" DRIVE SAE AND METRIC SOCKET SET

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$399
~~\$499~~

COMPARE TO KOBALT \$1997
MODEL: 9980
SAVE 80%
ITEM 63015/61328/47902/62843 shown

81750070
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON**

12 VOLT, 150 PSI PORTABLE INFLATOR

SAVE 58%

NOW \$699
~~\$999~~

COMPARE TO CUSTOM ACCESSORIES \$1689
MODEL: #9008
ITEM 63109/4077/63152 shown

81761735
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18*

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 9/7/18.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" 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. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

'He Was About the Work'

Thomas Jefferson Rusk wore many hats in Texas' early days

BY ROBERT SPRINGER

THE EARLY TEXAS REPUBLIC WAS RIFE with partisanship, and to make it function effectively, the mercurial Sam Houston needed a get-the-job-done counterweight. Fortunately, Thomas Jefferson Rusk came forward.

"Houston was flamboyant. He was larger than life," says Scott Sosebee, associate professor of history at Stephen F. Austin State University. "Rusk was your typical genteel Southerner."

Rusk adapted his skills to a range of challenges. He served as secretary of war for the Texas Republic, inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District, chief justice of the Supreme Court for the Texas Republic and U.S. senator from the state of Texas. Rusk was mentioned as a presidential candidate in 1856, putting him on the national stage.

Though a gifted politician, he was also a "moody man and prone to bouts of despair," says Sosebee.

In 1834, Rusk came from Georgia to the Mexican territory of Texas to recover money embezzled by his business partners. He caught one of the men, who informed Rusk that all of the money had been lost in a card game, according to Charles Swanlund, professor of history at Blinn College in Bryan. Ruined back home, Rusk learned he could get a couple thousand acres for staying in Texas, so he remained in Nacogdoches.

Rusk sensed opportunity in Texas. "There was a chance for him to advance, particularly if the Texas revolution was successful," says Swanlund. "There was plenty of work for a man like Rusk to do in Texas at that time."

After organizing recruits to help Stephen F. Austin, Rusk was quickly promoted to inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District then to sec-



retary of war for the Texas Republic.

Rusk then joined Houston to help defeat Santa Ana at the Battle of San Jacinto. Swanlund says Rusk wasn't as volatile as Houston, and this served him well in dealing with his more famous colleague. "They're both drinking men, and that certainly gave them common ground," he says. "Rusk was just kind of a middle-of-the-road, down-to-earth guy, and he tried to not really get involved in the personal politics. He was about the work."

Given the opportunity to become the first president of the Republic of Texas, Rusk declined. He had arrived in Texas to rebuild his personal fortune and had been too busy fighting the war to achieve his goal, so he opened a law practice to support his family. "He always seems to be more comfortable in the background," says Swanlund.

Rusk played so many roles in Texas history that it's difficult to choose a defining one. Sosebee believes that Rusk himself would choose secretary of war, an important role that he enjoyed despite his lack of military training. "He liked that military bearing, and being the secretary of war allowed that," Sosebee says.

Swanlund and Sosebee agree that Rusk's

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to learn more about Thomas Jefferson Rusk.

legacy-defining contribution was as one of the two first senators from the new state of Texas (Houston was the other). True to

his get-the-work-done nature, Rusk was instrumental in the Compromise of 1850, according to Swanlund. As part of the accord, Texas was persuaded to give up territory north of the Missouri Compromise parallel and any claims on New Mexican lands. In return, the federal government would assume Texas' war debt of \$10 million. Rusk was such an effective senator that his term was renewed before it expired, according to Swanlund.

In 1856, while Rusk was in Washington, D.C., he received word his wife had died. Later, still deeply saddened by the loss, Rusk committed suicide at his ranch in Nacogdoches.

Rusk managed to thrive in hyper-partisan times with the volatile and contradictory Houston as a contemporary. Among the Republic of Texas' unsung founders, Rusk has a notable standing.

Robert Springer is a freelance writer who loves Tex-Mex and armadillos.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2018 SEASON

Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$AVE \$\$!

*Call **TODAY** to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!*



VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM

**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

STAYcation at Home in 2018!

1-800-SWIMTEX (1-800-794-6839)

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.



NEW MF GC1705L

23 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,
Quick Attach DL 95 Front End Loader
\$11,998 Cash or \$159.00 per month



MASSEY FERGUSON
THE LEGEND SINCE 1847



NEW MF 1526L

25 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,
Quick Attach L 100 Front End Loader
\$16,998 Cash or \$229.00 per month



NEW MF 1734EL

34 HP, 4WD, Gear Drive Transmission,
Quick Attach L 105 Front End Loader
\$17,998 Cash or \$239.00 per month



NEW MF 2705EL

50 HP, 4WD, Shuttle-Transmission,
Quick Attach L 135 Front End Loader
\$24,998 Cash or \$319.00 per month



WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!

FOSTERS WORK & PLAY

3601 US Hwy. 190 W
Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 967 - 0011

www.fostersworknplay.com

sales@fostersworknplay.com

*Disclaimer: All payments listed are based on 4.49% interest rate for 64 months with 10% of purchase price down with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices do not include sales taxes, freight or set up charges where applicable. All HP ratings listed are approximate base engine HP.

Cake Walk

SPRING USHERS IN CELEBRATIONS—graduations, baby and bridal showers, and special confections made just for mom. What better way to celebrate your loved ones than with a luscious, beautiful homemade cake? This month's winning recipes range from a three-tiered masterpiece perfumed with lemon and rosemary to a pretty pink cake flavored (and colored) with cherry juice. Moist and fragrant from brandy-plumped prunes and citrus zest, the following pound cake is one of my favorites. With a dusting of powdered sugar, it's pretty enough to serve at brunch or a backyard barbecue. I like it best for breakfast (is that wrong?) with a cup of strong coffee. Note that the brandy-plumped prunes should be prepared a day in advance, and feel free to substitute dried cherries or cranberries.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Drunken Prune Pound Cake

BRANDY-PLUMPED PRUNES

16 ounces prunes
Brandy to cover

POUND CAKE

3 cups flour
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
2 cups sugar
1 cup dark brown sugar
4 eggs
1 cup buttermilk, well-shaken
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon almond extract
Grated zest of 1 medium orange
Grated zest of 1 lemon
½ cup chopped brandy-plumped prunes

1. PRUNES: Place prunes in a clean, sealable glass jar and pour brandy over the top until it covers them by about an inch.

2. CAKE: Preheat oven to 325 degrees and position the rack in the lower third

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Recipes

Cake Walk



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

ALI WHITEHEAD | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Eleven-year-old Ali Whitehead enjoys the unique combination of flavors in this three-tiered show-stealer, including rosemary from her grandmother's herb garden. "I like to bake this cake around the holidays and any time my parents or grandparents will let me make a mess in the kitchen," she says.

Lemon Rosemary Cake With Cream Cheese Frosting

BATTER

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (2¼ sticks) butter, softened
- 2½ cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ cups sour cream
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

FROSTING

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 8 cups powdered sugar
- 2¼ teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest

1. BATTER: Preheat oven to 350 degrees; grease and flour three 9-inch round baking pans.

2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the

eggs and yolk, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

3. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Alternating with the sour cream, add dry ingredients to butter mixture, beating well after each addition. Mix in lemon juice, zest and rosemary.

4. Divide the batter evenly between the three pans and bake 25–30 minutes, or until edges begin to brown. (For even baking, rotate the pans after 15 minutes.) Cool the cakes for 10 minutes in pans before inverting onto a wire rack to cool completely.

5. FROSTING: Beat together cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar, 2–3 cups at a time, along with lemon juice and zest and mix until smooth. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake, and garnish with lemon and rosemary. ▶ Serves 16.



IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,
YOU'LL WIN A TCP APRON!

\$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest theme is **The Great Pumpkin**. Pumpkin appears in just about everything, from quick breads to creamy soups—even lattes! Send us your favorite recipe that makes the most of this versatile ingredient. The deadline is **May 10**.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

of oven. Apply cooking spray to a tube or Bundt pan, or coat generously with butter and flour (tapping out excess).

3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt and baking soda. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream butter and sugars at medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add the flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Mix in extracts and zests and fold in the chopped prunes.

4. Pour in tube or Bundt pan and bake for 1 hour, until the cake pulls away from the pan and a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. ▶ Serves 8–10.

COOK'S TIP Plumping dried fruit in brandy or another spirit is an old-fashioned way of preserving them. I keep a container of these in my pantry—for this cake and as a fast topping on vanilla or coffee ice cream. Kept in a cool, dark place, the prunes will keep for months. Wrapped in plastic, this cake keeps well (actually improving in flavor) for about five days.

Cherry Almond Cake With White Chocolate Custard Filling

LARKANN STEFFENS | VICTORIA EC

Maraschino cherry juice imparts a pale pink hue to this elegant cake. Chopped cherries and almonds lend an appealing texture, while the whipped topping adds a festive element. For best results, prepare the white chocolate custard a day in advance so it has plenty of time to chill before assembly.

CUSTARD

- 1¼ cups sugar
- 1½ tablespoons cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups whole milk
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ⅔ cup white chocolate morsels
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, cut into slices

BATTER

- ½ cup coarsely chopped sliced almonds
- 16 maraschino cherries, cut into eighths
- 16 whole maraschino cherries, drained
- ¾ cup whole milk



- 1/4 cup maraschino cherry juice
- 3 cups cake flour, sifted
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup (about 2/3 stick) butter, softened
- 1/3 cup vegetable shortening
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 5 egg whites

TOPPING

- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract

1. CUSTARD: Whisk sugar, cornstarch and salt together in a small saucepan. Turn heat to medium-high and whisk in milk and egg yolks. Stir constantly, until mixture is thickened and bubbly, about 10–15 minutes.

2. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and white chocolate morsels, and whisk in butter slices one at a time. Place the custard in a bowl, covering with plastic

wrap to prevent a skin, and refrigerate until cold.

3. BATTER: Combine almonds and cut cherries in a small bowl; set aside. Place whole cherries on paper towels to drain. Combine milk and cherry juice in a measuring cup and set aside.

4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans, or line with parchment.

5. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter, shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the flour mixture alternately with the cherry milk mixture, beginning and ending with dry ingredients, blending well after each addition. Add almond extract.

6. Using a clean bowl and beaters, whip egg whites until stiff.

7. Fold almonds and cherries into batter, then fold in egg whites. Divide batter between the two pans and bake 30–35 minutes or until springy to touch.

8. Cool cakes in pans for 5 minutes, then invert onto wire racks to cool completely

(carefully peel away parchment, if using).

9. TOPPING: Using beaters or a standing mixer, whip the heavy cream, powdered sugar and extracts to a thick whipped cream for piping, or slightly smoother consistency for spreading. Refrigerate the whipped cream until you're ready to use it.

10. To assemble cake, gently spread 1 cup of cold custard over the first layer of cooled cake, allowing some to drip down sides. Place the second layer on the cake and gently spread another cup of custard over the top. Pipe or spread whipped cream onto the cake, and garnish with the whole cherries. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. ▶ Serves 10–12.

COOK'S TIP Store any leftovers in the refrigerator for up to three days.

WEB EXTRAS ▶ Read this story online to see a recipe for Chile Chocolate Cake With Cherry Chipotle sauce. Plus you'll find dozens more cakes in our archive of more than 700 recipes.



2017 GRAND PRIZEWINNER
Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce
Rebekah Stewart | San Bernard EC
Get the recipe at TexasCoopPower.com.

14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

\$2,500 IN PRIZES

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZEWINNER

One \$500 Best Savory Winner
 One \$500 Best Sweet Winner
 Two \$250 Honorable Mention Winners

Share your best original recipes!

Show us how you add your personal touch to every part of a meal—from savory beginnings to sweet endings—for fun and festive holiday gatherings.

Send us your best ORIGINAL holiday recipes—ones you've developed, not copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine. Winners will be featured in our November 2018 issue. Enter by June 8 at TexasCoopPower.com.

Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries all can be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com. **Entry deadline: June 8, 2018.**



Two Story Gable Garages



20' x 24' Starting at \$31,700

Shown: 30x40, 4:12 roof pitch, two 10x10 Garage Doors

One Story Gable Garages



20' x 20' Starting at \$22,000

Shown: 20' x 24', 8:12 roof pitch, 16' x 7' garage door, concrete lap siding

Metal Garages / Shops



30' x 40' Starting at \$30,000

Shown: 20'x30', 2 - 10'x7' Garage Doors, 2 - 36" Delux Cupolas

Ulrich Garages & Metal Buildings

Cleburne, TX

877-213-7703

- Financing Available
- Free Design Consultation
- Industry Leading Warranty
- On Site Construction
- Family Owned for 3 Generations

www.UlrichGarages.com

FATHER'S DAY • GRADUATION



Custom Crafted Personalized Gifts

Personalized livestock brands, logos and names on custom-made metal bootjacks (steel, iron, bronze, aluminum), leather coaster sets, luggage tags and marble trivets. Lasting gifts for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions. Call for free brochure.

CRAWFORD & COMPANY | SINCE 1983

888-301-1967 | www.crawjacks.com

Low Cost Pole Barns
26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed
\$7,995
 Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites
Call Ron: 512-367-0428

AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

Gas Up and Go!

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! It's all listed under the Events tab on our website.

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

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com



Purchase or Refinance Hobby Farm, Ranch or Ranchette

- ✓ 15 or 30 year fixed rate mortgage
- ✓ 5 to 160+ acres
- ✓ Loan amounts from \$150,000-\$2,000,000
- ✓ Outbuildings, Livestock, Schedule F allowed
- ✓ Cash out refinance

First Source Capital Mortgage, Inc.

77 FM 3356, PO Box 968, Van Alstyne, TX 75495

Dan Cunyus NMLS#218025

dan@fscap.com

Phone: 903-482-1123 or 972-569-7726

Corp NMLS# 217672



Apply today at www.fscap.com



Prom Night

HAIR AND MAKEUP? CHECK. HEELS AND FORMALS? CHECK. Dressing up or down, arriving by limo or tractor, Texans love a high school prom. It's a rite of passage and a celebration of youth; it's time to get a little crazy and cut loose. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

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

◀ **CAROLYN SCHLINKE**, Karnes EC: "My granddaughter, Caryn Smart, 17, took her favorite show bull, Zeus, to the Runge High School prom so she could take pictures with him."

▼ **KARA KLEIMANN**, San Bernard EC: "A little rain did not keep this group from having fun at their high school prom in Columbus."

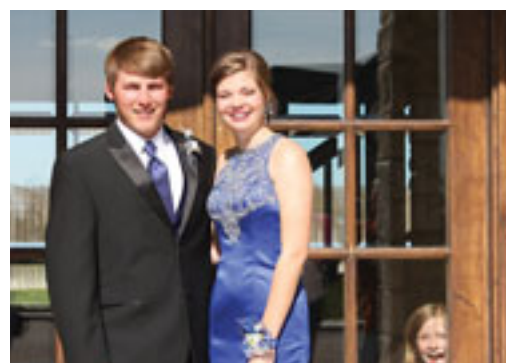


▲ **BONNI WILSON**, Wise EC: Prada pre-prom in Valentine

► **SUSAN O'BRIEN**, Lyntegar EC: "My granddaughter, Jayli, and her date, Corbin, posing before the 2017 Spearman prom are surprisingly joined by Jayli's little sister, Brooklyn."



▲ **LOIS JACKSON**, Cherokee County EC: "When brothers Tate and Cade Duncan headed to the prom, they decided to go in true redneck style!"



UPCOMING CONTESTS

SEPTEMBER	WEDDING FUNNIES	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER	CLOCKS	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER	ABANDONED BUILDINGS	DUE JULY 10

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

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



Pick of the Month Music in the Park

Comfort May 8-Oct. 9

(830) 285-9345, gaddischurch.org/events

Music in the Park starts its third season with the Almost Patsy Cline Band. The concerts, at the gazebo in Comfort Park, are held every second Tuesday and feature a different artist each month. They are sponsored by Gaddis United Methodist Church. Bring lawn or camp chairs and enjoy the music.

May 9

Kerrville Circle of Service Dinner,

(830) 315-5762, kerrvillekroc.org

Marble Falls [9-12] MayFest,

(830) 693-2815, marblefalls.org/mayfest

10

Grapevine Education Express,

(817) 431-3340, educationexpresstx.com

Crockett [10-12] Lions Club PRCA

Rodeo, (936) 544-5641,
facebook.com/crockettnoonlions

11

Decatur [11-13] Texas Scottish Festival

& Highland Games, (469) 424-1930,
texasscots.com

12

Edinburg Music Festival, (956) 383-6246

Greenville Audie Murphy Day,

(903) 450-4502, amacmuseum.com

Kyle Squeeze Me on the Square,

(512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com/recreation

Ladonia Spring 20 Mile Garage Sale,

(214) 226-2046, cocladonia.org

Round Top A Night With the Tribute

to George Strait, (979) 249-3390,
stonecellarwines.com

Wimberley Garden Club Garden Tour,

(512) 842-3142, wimberleygardenclub.org

Beaumont [12-26] *Young Frankenstein*,

(409) 833-4664, beaumontcvb.com

May 18
Columbus
Magnolia Days
Festival



COMFORT: KAREN COOPER; MAGNOLIA: KHUOLLY | DREAMTIME.COM; FARMERS MARKET: JAMIE HOOPER | DREAMTIME.COM



Mention this ad and
SAVE \$200!

Made in USA

Do You Have a Lake or Pond? Keep it healthy with aeration.

Why you need aeration:

- Increases oxygen levels
- Equalizes temperature
- Lowers nitrogen levels
- Decreases bottom muck

- Reduces fish kills
- Fewer insects
- Eliminates odors
- Less algae growth


Solar and AC options available for any size pond

U.S. Solar Mounts
(608) 272-3999 • info@ussolarmounts.us
www.ussolarmounts.us

Dealer inquiries welcome

\$200 off applies to in-stock packages.


Restoring and Preserving Our History



In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

Visit our website for a tour map and information on our historic schools and community centers.

All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Member of Country School Association of America.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG 

13

Palestine Throw Mama on the Train, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

16

Vernon [16-19] Santa Rosa Roundup 74th Rodeo and Parade, (940) 552-6868, santarosaroundup.com

18

Seguin Hotshot's Reunion and Fish Fry, (830) 379-6382, seguinchamber.com

Clifton [18-19] Syttende Mai Parade and Celebration, (254) 652-3499, bosquecountynst.org

Columbus [18-19] Magnolia Days Festival, (979) 732-8385, columbus-texas.org

Star [18-20] Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, (325) 437-1852, cowpokesforkids.com

19

Navasota First Responders Day, (936) 870-4700, firstrespondersdaytx.com

San Marcos [19-20] Dirt Dauber Clay Festival, (512) 558-1723, eyeofthedog.com

20

Bleiberville VFD Fish Fry, (979) 249-6382, bleiberville.com



25

West Tawakoni [25-26] VFD Hand Fishing Tournament, (972) 670-1715, facebook.com/laketawakonihandfishing

26

Cuero Main Street Farmers Market, (361) 275-2112, cuero.org

Lewisville Fiesta Charra, (972) 219-3401, cityoflewisville.com

Hubbard [26-28] Memorial Day Weekend Trade Days, (254) 576-2521, hubbardcity.com

31

Tyler [31-June 3] Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, (972) 822-3533, squaredancetx.com

June
1

Amarillo [1-2] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, coorsranchrodeo.com

Bonham [1-2] Highway 82 Yard Sale, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

2

Little Elm Craft Brew & Que, (214) 618-1401, lakefrontlittleelm.com

McKinney Date Night at the Heard, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

Submit Your Event!

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

38th Annual

Scarborough Renaissance Festival®

Step Back in Time for the Time of Your Life

27 Stages, 200 Shoppes,
Artisan Demonstrations and so much more...

More than a dozen new shows for 2018!

Discount Tickets Available Now at SRFestival.com

Just 30 Minutes south of Downtown Dallas in Waxahachie

Presidential Aspirations

Denison invites visitors to tour Eisenhower's birthplace

BY DAWN COBB

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER CASTS A LONG presidential shadow over the North Texas town of Denison, but he's not the only famous former resident. For a contrast of historic characters with local ties, consider that gunfighter and gambler John Henry "Doc" Holliday once practiced dentistry here.

Denison's Eisenhower monument, at 16 feet tall, offers the first and most visible clue from Interstate 75 that Denison relishes its role as birthplace to the 34th president.

Denison also is known as Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's childhood home. The airline pilot achieved international fame in January 2009 when he successfully landed the disabled Flight 1549 in the Hudson River, saving all 155 people on board.

Even though Eisenhower's connection to Denison is tenuous because his family moved back to Abilene, Kansas, when the future president was only a year old, the family's history is on display in a white two-story house where he was born in 1890. The house joins several historic buildings, including a general store at 609 S. Lamar Ave., in the **Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site**. Guided tours of the home, which features period furniture, relate the story of the Eisenhower family's stay in Denison.

The historic park's perennial plant gardens attract monarch butterflies in the area as they follow their seasonal migration. A bronze of Eisenhower is surrounded by benches, convenient for a moment of reflection.

For a more vigorous experience, explore **Eisenhower State Park's** 420 acres, where wooded areas invite hiking or camping and the nearby lake allows access for boaters.

A 15-minute drive south and east from the state park delivers you to **Grayson County Frontier Village**, where more than a



The President Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Monument in Denison

dozen buildings dating to the 19th century were relocated to the property by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to create a historic town on a 17-acre park.

The village includes a log cabin, a jail and a school. Just outside the school's door is a bell affixed to a pole with a rope attached to ring the children in for lessons. Nearby Loy Lake is open for fishing, kayaking and picnicking.

Back in Denison, you'll find a green and yellow Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad train parked on tracks behind the brick **Katy Depot** on Main Street, once the center of a regional transportation hub. **The Red River Railroad Museum**, on the back side of the Katy Depot, preserves pieces of history from when the building reigned as a Union Passenger Depot (i.e., a train station used by more than one railroad company or line).

The MKT Railroad established the rail-

head in Denison in 1872, and the town grew up around the station. In 1901, Denison established an interurban railway that ran from Denison to Sherman. The town itself is named for MKT Vice President George Denison.

The depot continued as a bustling business until the late 1980s, when a merger shuttered the station for good. The building, with landscaped grounds punctuated by historical markers, now serves as an events center.

"Doc" Holliday opened a dentist's office in downtown Denison after leaving Dallas under a cloud, but the exact location is neither known nor marked—befitting, in some ways, his status as an Old West legend.

Dawn Cobb is the PR communications specialist at CoServ, the electric co-op in Corinth.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Visit our website to see our March 2018 story about how a Denison viticulturist saved the French wine industry.

ONE ASSET SOARS ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

SPECIAL RELEASE U.S. GOVERNMENT-ISSUED AT-COST GOLD COINS FROM THE U.S. MINT

One of America's largest gold distributors today announces special, rock-bottom pricing on official U.S. government-issued gold coins from the United States Mint. For one month or while supplies last, U.S. Money Reserve is offering you the opportunity to purchase Gold American Eagle Coins at the incredible at-cost price of only \$136.00 each—one of the best government-issued gold coin deals available anywhere today.

Designated as official U.S. legal tender, these gold coins are fully backed by the U.S. government for their gold weight, content and purity. Congressionally authorized gold coins provide American citizens with a way to convert their money from a declining paper currency into a tangible precious metal. Even gold's recent 10-year performance has surpassed major stock indexes.

If you have been waiting to enter the gold market, this is your opportunity to join the thousands of Americans who are protecting their wealth with physical gold.

CALL NOW:

1-855-426-7168

Vault No: TX27



1/10-ounce Gold
American Eagle

Official Gold Coin of the United States of America: \$5 American Eagle

GET IN ON ONE OF THE BEST GOLD OFFERS AVAILABLE.

At cost, completely free of dealer markup:

\$136⁰⁰

PER GOLD COIN

SPECIAL GOLD ALLOTMENT EXCLUSIVELY FOR RECIPIENTS
OF THIS OFFER! BEGINNING TODAY, TELEPHONE ORDERS
WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS
ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER.

1 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coin	\$ 136.00
5 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coins	\$ 680.00
10 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coins	\$ 1,360.00

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX • DISCOVER • CHECK • BANK WIRE



©2018 U.S. Money Reserve. The markets for coins are unregulated. Prices can rise or fall and carry some risks. The company is not affiliated with the U.S. Government and the U.S. Mint. Past performance of the coin or the market cannot predict future performance. Prices may be more or less based on current market conditions. Special offer is strictly limited to only one lifetime purchase of 10 below- or at-cost coins (regardless of price paid) per household, plus shipping and insurance (\$15-\$35). Price not valid for precious metals dealers. All calls recorded for quality assurance. 1/10-oz. coins enlarged to show detail. Offer void where prohibited. Offer valid for up to 30 days or while supplies last. Coin dates our choice.

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!

dish

**Get DISH.
Get \$100.**

Must mention offer
code **Card100**.



\$59⁹⁹
month for TV +

It's All Included!

2-YEAR PRICELOCK

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



Plus
More!

40+ FREE Premium Channels



After 3 mos. you will be billed \$55/mo unless you call to cancel.

for 3 months

NETFLIX – Fully Integrated –
Just Change The Channel
And Watch!

Netflix subscription required.

ADD INTERNET
**Blazing-Fast
Internet**

Only \$49.99 for 25 Mbps!

Unlimited Data
No Hard Data Limits!

Very Fast
Speeds from 25 Mbps-1 Gbps!

Available Everywhere
25 Mbps available at every US address!

Finally, Internet That Bridges The Digital Divide!
This new service competes with internet in the
most densely populated areas.

Subject to availability. Restrictions apply.

1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

godish.com/pricelock



¡Se Habla Español!

*Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification. Fees apply for additional TVs: Hopper \$15/mo., Joey \$5/mo., Super Joey \$10/mo. All offers require credit qualification, 2-Year commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/11/18. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$69.99 for AT120+, \$79.99 for AT200, \$89.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15), 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 \$55/mo. for HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. Gift and Pre-paid Cards: Courtesy of GoDISH.com for credit-qualified customers. Customers who do not qualify may be eligible for a secondary gift offer. Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa® debit cards are accepted. Cards expire 6 months from date issued. Mail-in redemption form is required within 60 days of qualified activation to receive gift. Customer account must be current and in good standing at the time of redemption. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of gift. 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 \$8.99/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. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. © 2018 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$49.99 price refers to 25Mbps plan. Restrictions apply. 25 Mbps internet service available nationwide, but may become temporarily unavailable to certain addresses based on local beam capacity. Availability is subject to change without notice. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately. Call for details.