

THE CARDINAL:
OUR STATEWIDE BIRD

HOW 'BOUT A HAND
FOR FINGER FOODS

I'LL BE GONE
FOR CHRISTMAS

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRI-COUNTY EC MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2022

Silent Night

The Christmas story
comes to life in San Elizario
with Las Posadas



TRI-COUNTY
EC NEWS

SEE PAGE 18



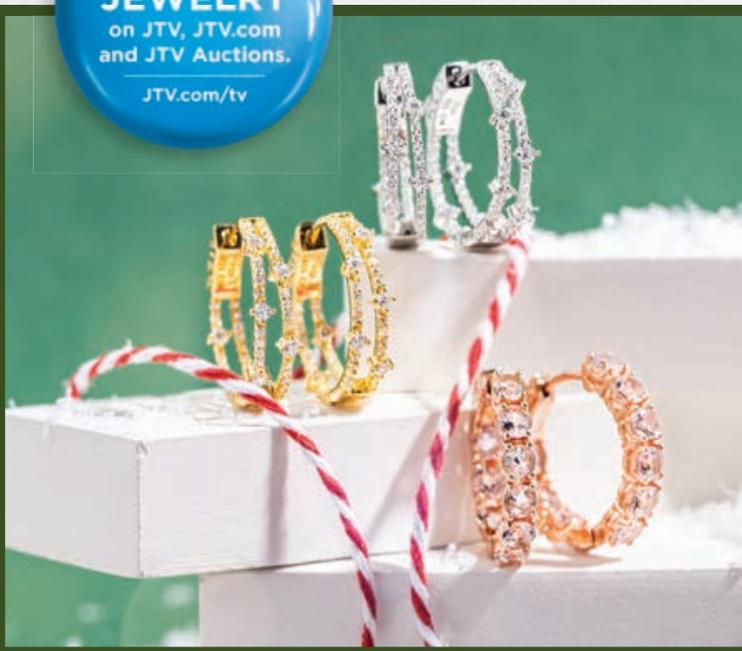
Sleigh Gift Giving with Our Holiday Gift Guide

Enjoy \$10 off

your order of \$50 or more*
Use Code FESTIVE10
888-515-0202

jtv.com/giftguide

SEE MORE
**AMAZING
JEWELRY**
on JTV, JTV.com
and JTV Auctions.
JTV.com/tv



*One coupon code per customer; one coupon code per order.
Valid one time only through January 12, 2023 at 11:59p ET.
Visit jtv.com, sign in and enter the code at checkout. Exclusions may apply.

Scan for
details.



December 2022



08

Roll Out the Red Carpet

All Texans know the striking blush and cheery chirps of our other state bird: the northern cardinal.

*By Mike Leggett
Illustration by Sarah Ferone*

10 Continuing a Christmas Ritual

Las Posadas sustains a centuries-old Mexican reenactment of the biblical story.

*By Melissa Gaskill
Photos by Erich Schlegel*

ON THE COVER

The Presidio Chapel of San Elizario.
Photo by Erich Schlegel

ABOVE

The northern cardinal is ubiquitous in Texas.

Illustration by Sarah Ferone

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

A Brief but Determined Texan
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Finger Foods
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

A Raw Deal
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Winter Wildlife

38

Observations

I'll Be Gone for Christmas
By Babs Rodriguez

Hallmark of the Holidays



December 6

National Microwave Oven Day

Your electric cooperative, your trusted energy adviser that strives to help you save money on electric bills, reminds you: Microwaves use about 60% as much energy as full-size ovens.

BECAUSE OF HENRY COLE, we have Christmas Card Day, which falls on December 9.

Cole, an Englishman, sent the first Christmas card—in 1843.

He fretted over the new custom of sending personalized letters to all his friends. He simply didn't have the time.

So he printed up 1,000 postcards, below, with the greeting "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I CAN'T BELIEVE I USED TO WEAR ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our October prompt: **The best Christmas gift I ever gave was ...**

A stove with a window in the oven door, to my mother-in-law, who proclaimed with joy, "Now I can watch my cookies as they are baking."

LINDA STEINHEBEL
VIA FACEBOOK

To my mother, in 1967, my return from the war.

ALLEN LINDERMAN
NUECES EC
CORPUS CHRISTI

In 2021, when I surprised our daughter Elizabeth with a book it took me 41 years to write about her

much-loved baby sister Rebecca, who died in 1980 at the age of 9 months.

PHYLLIS CRAM
PEDERNALES EC
AUSTIN

Visit our website to see more responses.

For the Rest of Us

Festivus, the TV holiday that isn't really a holiday, came into the vernacular 25 years ago.

The December 18, 1997, *Seinfeld* episode included a storyline about Festivus, a supposed alternative to the pressures and commercialization of the Christmas season.

“Nothing smooths out the past like a present.”

— GLADYS PARKER



TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](https://www.texascooppower.com)



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Berries

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Riding the River

WIN 2 NIGHTS IN FREDERICKSBURG
The prize package of a midweek getaway in this charming Hill Country town includes lodging, food and attractions. Enter now to win.



Wreaths for the Fallen

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS across the country will honor veterans December 17 by laying wreaths at graves on National Wreaths Across America Day. In Texas, 210,000 wreaths are expected to be placed at 300 locations. We featured Texans' involvement in this endeavor in *Circle of Life* in November 2018.

Wreaths Across America grew out of an effort that began in 1992, when Worcester Wreath Co. in Harrington, Maine, had extra wreaths near the end of its busy holiday season. The business arranged for the surplus wreaths to be delivered to Arlington National Cemetery and placed on headstones.



JULIA ROBINSON

Bison at the Brink

“It was also Charles Goodnight who created the cattalo breed on his Texas Panhandle ranch.”

BILL LAMZA
SAN BERNARD EC
HEMPSTEAD

Goodnight Slight

I was “buffaloed” by *Bison at the Brink* [October 2022]. I’m proud to know a Texan was responsible for saving buffalo from extinction in the U.S., but I was stunned the credit was repeatedly given to Charles Goodnight, even though the writer casually acknowledges that his “herd had been gathered and nurtured by his wife, Mary Ann Goodnight, who personally saw to it that the orphans found wandering the ranch were saved and protected.”

That’s the only time her name appeared. It’s a shame we can’t give credit where credit is due.

Susan Rosenberger
Pedernales EC
Spicewood and Johnson City

A similar story is told about how George Mitchell’s epiphany for the Woodlands came about [Good on Paper, September 2022].

MELINDA WOOD
SASARAK
VIA FACEBOOK

The Bottom Line

Eric Schlegel’s excellent photo captured a live look at the thrill and excitement of an uncharted cave explorer [Uncharted Territory, October 2022]. And Pam LeBlanc added intriguing coverage of the adventure.

Martha E. Jones
Victoria EC
Victoria



ERICH SCHLEGEL

Colossal Cluster

In December 2005 we visited the monarchs’ nesting grounds at Sierra Chincua [Funnel Vision, October 2022]. Monarchs numbered in the millions—billions? Located at about 11,000 feet in elevation in a remote area of the Sierra Madre, they literally weighed down large pine tree boughs.

Wayne P. Blackley
Trinity Valley EC
Terrell

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chair Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Vice Chair** Neil Hesse, Muenster
Secretary-Treasurer Avan Irani, Robstown • **Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock
 Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor
PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
 Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burseson
 Gary Miller, Bryan • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • John Ed Shipbaugh, Bonham
 Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado
MAGAZINE STAFF
Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull
Communications Specialist Alex Dal Santo • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz
Communications Specialist Travis Hill • **Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe • **Proofreader** Shannon Oelrich

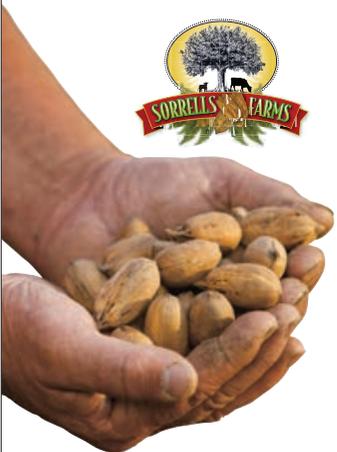
TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 79, Number 6 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power*’s website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.
SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 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.
Co-op members: Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.
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 Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. 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.
COPYRIGHT All content © 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

In the magazine and on TexasCoopPower.com, we make it easy to shop for friends and family.




Fresh "New Crop" Pecans

Pecans Are Our Passion!
New crop pecans, chocolate-covered nuts, specialty gift baskets, fudge, pecan pies. Our very own specialty roasted and salted pecans and gifts galore!

325-356-3616
sorrellsfarms.com



Texas Red Grapefruit and Avocados

Always a Gift in Good Taste!
Orchard-fresh grapefruit and other Texas products are all hand-selected, carefully packed and shipped to be delivered just in time for the holidays.

1-800-580-1900
crockettfarms.com




Fudge and Divinity for the Holidays

**The Best Fudge in Texas.
The Best Divinity in the World.**
Bring back those childhood memories of Christmas with the sweet gift of fudge and divinity from Holiday Farms.

holidayfarmscandy.com
etsy.com/shop/DivinitybyDave



2023 Texas Cardinal Calendar

Enjoy a Beautiful New Bird Every Month!
2006 Official Texas State Artist George Boutwell's 2023 calendar features 12 watercolors of cardinals. \$12.50 each plus tax and \$3.50 shipping.

1-800-243-4316
gboutwell.com



Ideal Arm Protection for Any Activity

Helps Prevent Bruising and Protects Those With Thin Skin!
Soft leather protective sleeves help protect you from 100's of injury-prone chores you do at work, home, farm, or ranch. Even has adjustable airflow!

COMES IN 4 COLORS AND 7 SIZES

(651) 492-4830
armchaps.com



Homegrown Texas Pecans and Pecan Treats

Berdoll's Has Been Family-Owned for 43 Years.
We make delicious pecan pies, chocolate pecans, honey-glazed pecans and more! Visit our squirrel, Ms. Pearl, at our retail store or order online.

(512) 321-6157
berdoll.com



Roll Out the Red Carpet

All Texans know the striking blush and cheery chirps of our other state bird: the northern cardinal

BY MIKE LEGGETT
ILLUSTRATION BY
SARAH FERONE

JUST ABOUT everyone knows that the northern mockingbird is Texas' state bird. But there's another bird we all know that is common throughout our state, nesting and feeding in brush and trees close to our homes and out in the pastures.

Some know it as the redbird, but it's correctly called the northern cardinal. This strikingly colored bird is known for its happy chirping calls that can go on all

day and for the beautiful crest and orange bill of the adults.

Cardinals are the first birds we hear and see hopping around in the brush outside our houses in the mornings. They are the last birds to go to bed every night, which makes them common prey for screech owls and other raptors. But if we ever get around to reconsidering Texas' allegiance to the mockingbird, I suggest we consider the northern cardinal. After all, at least seven other states have chosen the cardinal as their own state bird.

The redbird is ubiquitous, especially in the winter since it doesn't migrate, showing up everywhere from the border country of South Texas to the prairies of the Panhandle. All Texans know the cardinal.

Growing up in the tiny East Texas community of DeBerry in the 1950s, I spent a goodly portion of my young life walking the pastures and open fields around our house. I knocked off



more than my share of sparrows, starlings and brown-headed cowbirds as an eager beaver hunter with a BB gun.

I once made a long, long shot with my pellet rifle to kill what we called a French mockingbird. I know that bird now as the shrike, or butcher bird, named for its habit of hanging things it chases down on mesquite thorns and sharpened spikes on barbed wire fences.

I was not allowed, however, to shoot any of the small group of colorful songbirds that lived and nested near our home. The mockingbird was the state bird then, and I feared that could have gotten me locked up.

My dad, who established the shooting list at our house, probably would have pounded me for killing that shrike if he'd known about it. I kept that quiet. But Dad had a long list of birds with bright colors that I would have been in real trouble if I'd killed. Cardinals were his favorites and first on his protected list, followed by blue jays, bluebirds, scissor-tailed flycatchers and the always cooperative killdeer. Dad loved the way adult killdeers would feign injury and try to lead predators away from their babies and nests.

The beloved cardinal eats mostly seeds and nests around the edges of openings in low brush, especially in the cedar trees of Central Texas. We once had a nest that was built about thigh high in a cenizo just off the front porch of our house. I watched those pinkish eggs for a couple of weeks, until they hatched into three of the ugliest pink babies you

could imagine.

The babies got stronger and bigger and were just about to fledge when the nest was robbed by a Texas rat snake that had taken up residence in our flower bed. That was a sad morning when I found the nest emptied and the adults off squawking in the live oaks in the roundabout a few yards away.

There is a similar bird, actually another member of the cardinal family, known as a pyrrhuloxia. The male has a striking crest that's larger than the cardinal's but is colored mostly gray and crimson. They are common on ranches in South Texas during the winter. Their beaks are much more parrotlike than the cardinal's obvious seed-cracking orange beak.

One ranch where I hunt has repurposed fiberglass water tanks buried in the ground for use as bow blinds. The rancher has piled dirt and brush on top of them and put one-way glass windows at eye level as you stand. It's exciting to watch the male red cardinals flit through the trees as they scout for safe feeding spots on the ground.

Often they land just outside the windows where I can study them closely from just a couple feet away. It's fascinating to watch them pick up a kernel of corn and quickly demolish it to get at the sweet meat inside. There's comfort in that tiny, mighty act—in knowing that Texans yet to come will delight in the redbird. ■

CONTINUING A

Christmas Ritual



Las Posadas sustains a centuries-old Mexican reenactment of the biblical story

Jesus. This telling of the Christmas story originated in 16th-century Mexico and continues there and in cities and towns north of the Rio Grande with musicians and costumed children going from house to house on Christmas Eve.

San Elizario, southeast of El Paso, has strong historic ties to Mexico, and the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society has staged a mostly annual Las Posadas as part of its Luminarias Festival for some 20 years. Lillian Trujillo, president of the organization, says many of the participants are teens from San Elizario Catholic Church.

“Sometimes we have to talk them into it; they’re shy,” Trujillo says. “We tell them that they don’t have to speak, that it’s just dressing up and walking around.” Older kids and adults sometimes fill in any gaps. For years, the costumes were an assortment of donated and leftover items, but in 2021, the society received enough donations to buy new ones.

As the dress rehearsal wraps up, people spill from the church where Mass has just ended, joining a crowd beneath the trees. Dozens of small children play in the leaves. Customers line up at a food truck at the back of the plaza. Las Posadas begins.

Students playing Mary and Joseph—the former perched on a real, live mule—make their way past the steps of the church, the mule’s hooves clapping on the pavement. In the gazebo, Trujillo reads the Christmas story aloud, her voice projected over speakers, as an “innkeeper” at the top of the steps turns the couple away. They continue on to the gazebo,

where they settle on bales of hay, and the girl playing Mary pulls a baby doll from under her robe.

Youngsters dressed as wise men step forward to present their gifts: boxes representing gold, frankincense and myrrh. Under a nearby tree, the angels tell those dressed as shepherds the news of the baby’s arrival, and they all make their way into the gazebo to see him. The story is familiar to everyone here.

Las Posadas complete, the players scatter, some pausing to pet the placid mule. In front of the museum, boys and girls from a local folklórico class in traditional dress entertain the crowd with lively dances. Then the youngest kids take turns having a go at a giant piñata. Finally, Santa Claus shows up in a firetruck, sirens blaring and lights flashing, to hand out toys. The night ends with a drawing for bicycles, and every child entered takes home a shiny new bike and helmet, thanks to generous donations.



AS THE LIGHT FADES on a chilly December evening, a row of luminarias glows against the white facade of the Presidio Chapel of San Elizario. The luminarias, paper bags containing lit candles, outline an adobe museum next to the 140-year-old church and extend around the plaza and on down the streets, giving the night a festive feel.

In the tree-lined plaza, a group of young people in costume gathers next to a gazebo. This is a dress rehearsal for Las Posadas, which translates as “the inns” and refers to a procession or play that reenacts the biblical story of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem and the birth of

OPPOSITE Students reenact the biblical story of Mary and Joseph, who, led by angels, seek shelter in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus.

ABOVE A dazzling dancer at the San Elizario Luminaria Festival.



The church sits at the center of the community, literally and figuratively. In San Elizario, as in other small towns all along the Rio Grande, church bells once served as a timekeeper, ringing at noon to signal lunch break; when it was time for Mass; and to announce weddings, baptisms and deaths.

THE COMMUNITY spends weeks preparing for the festival, which is held on the second or third Saturday of December—December 17 this year.

Local families founded the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society in 1997 after a conversation at a family reunion about the importance of passing this area's rich history on to younger generations. Board member Elizabeth Baker-Teran's parents, Teresa and Miguel Teran, were among the founders. "They wanted to preserve the genealogical history of the families of San Elizario and the historical buildings that are still there and to educate the public about the hundreds of years of history," Baker-Teran says.

That history includes construction of the presidio chapel by the Spanish for members of the military and their families in 1788. That first chapel flooded in 1829, and another was built to take its place. In 1877, the existing, larger church was built. Its walls were repainted and the current electric lights installed in the 1950s. The Stations of the Cross on the walls inside date back to about 1918.



The church sits at the center of the community, literally and figuratively. In San Elizario, as in other small towns all along the Rio Grande, church bells once served as a timekeeper, ringing at noon to signal lunch break; when it was time for Mass; and to announce weddings, baptisms and deaths.

San Elizario anchors the El Paso Mission Trail, which includes two other historic missions. The Ysleta Mission, originally built in 1680, is considered the first and oldest mission established in Texas and is the second-oldest continually active Catholic parish in the U.S. The original Socorro Mission was completed in 1691, making it the second-oldest Texas mission; the current building dates to 1843.

Socorro Road, which runs from Ysleta to Socorro to San Elizario, is the designated Mission Trail. The 9-mile route follows a segment of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Royal Road of the Interior), a trade and supply route that ran from Mexico City to present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico, linking communities, missions and presidios. The oldest road in North America and once the longest, El Camino Real, or what remains of it, was designated as a National Historic Trail in 2000.

Originally, San Elizario, Socorro and Ysleta all sat on the south bank of the Rio Grande, in what became the country

of Mexico. In the 1829 flood, the river cut a new channel, leaving all three churches on the northern bank. When the U.S. declared the deepest channel of the Rio Grande as the international boundary with Mexico in 1848, these communities became part of the U.S.

The Los Portales Museum occupies a circa-1850 building in San Elizario and tells the area's history. The exhibit room is small but contains a wealth of maps, photos and descriptions of significant events and everyday life in the area. At one point, the town supported a trade in salt from the Guadalupe Mountains. Local farmers employed a complex irrigation system to grow grapes, pears, onions and wheat, which was ground in a private gristmill.

Trujillo says that for many of the families that attend the Christmas festival, the evening fittingly has been about holiday fun. For Trujillo, whose family has been here since the 1700s, an annual Las Posadas is part of keeping that history alive. ■

OPPOSITE A service inside the Presidio Chapel of San Elizario, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. ABOVE Folklorico students perform dances that trace their origins to Indigenous peoples of Mexico.



**LEARN
MORE**

TXGULFSEAFOOD.COM



Texas Department of Agriculture | Commissioner Sid Miller | TexasAgriculture.gov

PRIDE — FROM THE — TEXAS TIDE

Turns out, the plumpest, sweetest, juiciest oysters in the country are closer than you probably think. Texas proudly harvests wild oysters year-round from our waters of the Lone Star State. Deep-fried, broiled or grilled, these Gulf gems offer a distinctive taste you won't find anywhere else.



FRESH OUTTA TEXAS

FIRST, ONLY AND LAST

First Year Kennedy Half Dollars in 90% Silver Can Be Yours!



GOOD +
Shows wear with an identifiable date and design



BRILLIANT UNC
Never circulated and retains original mint luster



PROOF
Specially struck, uncirculated coin with sharp elements and mirror-like backgrounds

Actual size is 30.6 mm

On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. To pay tribute to the beloved American President, Congress authorized the abrupt ending of the Franklin Half Dollar series, replacing it with the Kennedy Half Dollar. Following its release in January 1964, just two months after the tragic assassination, this Kennedy Half Dollar became the year's most sought-after American coin!

The president's wife, Jackie Kennedy, was given the choice of denomination and chose the Half Dollar because she did not want to see George Washington removed from the quarter. Interest in this first-year issue coins was very high, and people lined the streets outside the Treasury Building to obtain the coin.

The Only Kennedy Half Dollar Struck in 90% Silver

This 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar is a first and only—first year of issue and the only

Kennedy Half Dollar struck for circulation in 90% silver. The U.S. Mint reduced the silver content to 40% the next year in 1965—where it stayed until 1971 when the Mint again changed the content to copper-nickel.

Very Limited. Act Fast!

It's surprising that any of these coins still exist because when the price of silver skyrocketed in the 1980's, and again in 2011, people melted countless numbers of these coins for the precious metal, leaving only a fraction of the original mintages, and making them more difficult to find.

You're guaranteed to receive a first-year, 90% silver, 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar. Depending on your budget, you have your choice of three—Good, Brilliant Uncirculated, and

THE FIRST KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR, AND THE ONLY ONE STRUCK IN 90% SILVER!

Proof Quality Collector Condition (see above for condition explanation). But hurry—if you want one of these history-soaked coins, you should immediately call the toll-free number below because the limited supply will not last.

- #236245 Good or better Condition
1-4 coins- \$19.95 ea.
Save 10% on 5 or more... Only \$17.95 ea. + s/h
- #182518 Brilliant Uncirculated
1-3 coins- \$29.95 ea.
Save 10% on 4 or more... Only \$26.95 ea. + s/h
- #182467 Proof Quality Collector Condition
1-2 coins- \$39.95 ea.
Save 10% on 3 or more... Only \$35.95 ea. + s/h

Limited Time FREE SHIPPING
Special offer on any order over \$75!

Limited time only. Product total over \$75 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service
1-800-517-6468

Offer Code KHD121-01
Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. KHD121-01, Eagan, MN 55121

 **SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

GovMint.com* is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



Bad to the Bone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntsman Blade ~~\$249*~~

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **HUK877-01**

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK877-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

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

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

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



Rating of **A+**

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



**What Stauer Clients
Are Saying About
Our Knives**

"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®



**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/
CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

A Light at the End of the Tunnel

AS WE NEAR THE END of 2022, we know that many of you faced significant challenges. Tri-County Electric Cooperative experienced one of the hardest years in our 83-year history due to Brazos Electric Power Cooperative’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy. For those of you following my columns the past 21 months, this is not new. If you are just tuning in, or you need a refresher, below is a shortened timeline of the significant milestones. 800800103

Thankfully, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. By the time you read this, the confirmation trial will be done and Judge Jones will have ruled on Brazos’s plan to exit bankruptcy. Due to print timeline constraints, we do not have an update for this issue, but we expect the plan will be approved. We scheduled a virtual town hall for November 21 to update the membership on the hearing. If you were unable to join us, a recording is available online at tcctexas.com/brazos.

Throughout the entire Brazos bankruptcy we have fought for you, the member-owners of this co-op. I have left no stone unturned, and your board and leadership team have worked relentlessly to ensure your best interests were at the forefront. Due to these efforts, we believe you are in the best position possible post-bankruptcy. Tri-County Electric Co-op is meeting our portion of the Brazos bankruptcy debt through traditional financing methods with CoBank, a member of the Farm Credit System, rather than securitization. Securitization locks our members into paying for the debt over a period of 15-30 years. Financing with CoBank provides more flexibility to pay down debt, including using the Capital Credits we earn through CoBank to reduce our debt, rather than lining the pockets of Wall Street investors. 800755183

Traditional funding through CoBank is the best option for you, our members. Starting January 3, 2023, members will see a new line item on billing statements for the Brazos Financing Utility Plan Rider. This

2021

February 25

The state legislature starts hearings on Winter Storm Uri. Legislative officials question leaders at ERCOT and the PUC. Investigations state the ERCOT grid was within 4 and a half minutes of complete failure.

April

We continue to ask the difficult questions related to the storm, including costs. Brazos has yet to provide answers to our satisfaction. We learn Brazos’s generation fleet did not perform as expected during the winter storm, leaving us exposed to the high prices on the ERCOT market.

May

Tri-County Electric Co-op Board of Directors unanimously call for the resignation of Brazos senior management, including the Executive Vice President/CEO. Leaders of ERCOT and the PUCT were all held accountable and asked to resign based on decisions made during the storm, and it was time for change at Brazos as well.

August

Brazos considers Senate Bill 1580 and House Bill 4492 to securitize the costs of Uri. Securitization would pass on the debt to members for 15-30 year terms. We believe it’s critical to explore alternative financing options and for Brazos to explore asset sales.

February 13-19
Winter Storm Uri

March 1
Brazos files for bankruptcy in part due to the power bill received from ERCOT. The bill for one week was more than 3 times the entire power bill in 2020. As a member-cooperative, Tri-County Electric Co-op received little warning that Brazos was filing for bankruptcy.

May
We learn that if the Brazos generation fleet had performed at minimum industry standards, much of the financial devastation would have been avoided. The Brazos load comprises less than 1% of the total ERCOT load, yet Brazos holds the majority of unpaid ERCOT claims related to the winter storm.

May 31
The legislative session ends with more than 300 bills related to the state’s electric grid, mainly pertaining to regulation around weatherization of generation units, ERCOT market design, load shed obligations, creating a disaster alert system, ERCOT and PUCT governance.

November
Power costs rise due to the increased cost of natural gas.

tariff will recover costs related to Brazos Winter Storm Uri costs and costs associated with leaving Brazos as our wholesale power provider under our All-Requirements Contract. Based on the calculations according to the tariff, the amount will be \$0.0112/kWh beginning in January 2023 and will be re-evaluated every 6 months.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022, for a virtual rate hearing to learn more about Brazos Financing Utility Plan Rider. 8004672701

We will continue to uphold our promise to take care of you, our members. While the Brazos bankruptcy is coming to a close, we still have work to do. Assuming the bankruptcy plan is confirmed, Tri-County Electric Co-op will be able to procure our own power from the ERCOT market without Brazos starting March 1, 2023. We are working with consultants and see a promising power supply future.

I want to personally and publicly thank many of our employees who have worked so hard this year during such tough economic times while doing an amazing job of serving our members' needs. The member service personnel and linemen have endured a lot of harsh comments from our frustrated members while knowing that we were all working hard for our members. The employees of this cooperative have experienced the same struggles as our members with everything going up in cost that impacts our personal lives and families. I appreciate their hard work because all that work has made the cooperative successful. Many of their efforts to do their job while taking up the mantle of assisting our cooperative with this Brazos bankruptcy has not gone unnoticed by myself and even the Tri-County Electric Co-op Board of Directors. I give God praise each day for our employees at this cooperative because I am proud to work for each of them. We are in this together. ■

NOTICE OF NEW TARIFF

Notice is hereby given that Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") intends to add a new tariff to its rates for electric service. Pursuant to Texas Utilities Code section 41.061 the Cooperative has adopted a resolution approving a new tariff effective January 3, 2023.

The proposed Brazos Financing Utility Plan Rider will be for bills mailed on or after January 3, 2023, with the corresponding usage period. It is anticipated that the proposed tariff will be \$0.0112/kWh consumed according to the calculation. The Brazos Financing Utility Plan Rider affects members in all rate classes.

You may obtain further information concerning the proposed tariff and/or a copy of the proposed tariff by calling the Cooperative at 817-444-3201.

A meeting to discuss the proposed tariff will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022. Members may participate by streaming online at tcectexas.com/brazos or by calling 855-710-6229





For Marion and Ron Dearman, raising Christmas trees is a labor of love.

Making Memories in the Trees

4D Farm has all the ingredients to kick off Christmas fun

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

FOR CHILDREN, the wait for Christmas feels like forever.

As we get older, that reverses, and it feels like the holiday is here and gone in a moment.

Ron and Marion Dearman understand both ends of that spectrum.

For one, they're grandparents who've been married 58 years. They've raised two kids and now have three grandchildren who live close by and love everything about Christmas.

But they're also farmers whose crop has to grow five years before it's ready for market. They're retired, but they still work hard, year-round, for something that's basically over in two weekends.

The Dearmans grow Christmas trees. 800879156

Ron, a retired chemical consultant, and Marion, a retired educator, own and operate 4D Farm – a Christmas tree marketing mecca located in rural Parker County north of Weatherford. It has been a labor of love for them since 1998.

Much of their year is spent planting trees, setting up and monitoring the drip watering system, fighting pests, mowing among the trees and pruning – shaping them as they grow into that perfect, classic Christmas-tree profile.

It all comes to a head the Saturday after Thanksgiving, when as many as 1,000 people wind their way through the countryside to 3900 Upper Denton Road, just off North Lake Drive. They'll wander through the trees that are ready – about 5 to 7 feet tall – pick one out and either cut it themselves or have the Dearmans' crew cut and net it for them, and load it in their vehicle.

But there's more to this forest than the trees.

Those who visit can enjoy crafts and cookies, barbecue and music, hayrides and hot chocolate. There's a small shop with a big porch, and another large, covered area where folks can sit and escape the elements – heat, rain or snow – while the kids roam among the trees.

They'll sell about 600 trees in two weekends, and then it will be over 'til next year.

"It's really only about three days," Ron said. "We go two weekends, and we're only open Saturday and half a day Sunday."

Seasoned shoppers know the home-grown Leyland cypress and "Blue Ice" Carolina Sapphire cypress trees will be gone quickly, so they come early to make their choice. Visitors can also choose from among 285 Fraser firs and pines that are ordered and shipped in to supplement the home-grown crop.

Prior to the post-Thanksgiving shopping frenzy, photographers bring families out for Christmas-card photos. Some will spend



the whole day enjoying the Christmas ambience.

In recent years, parking has become a challenge. The Dearmans want everyone to be able to park on the place and stay off the road, since the farm is located on a dangerous curve. Last year, they took out a couple of rows of trees just to provide more parking spaces. 8005019101

They're always looking out for their guests.

"We had apple cider for years with cookies, and the bees stung a couple of people," Ron said. "So we cut out the apple cider, and now we do hot chocolate."

"They don't bother the hot chocolate," Marion said.

4D Farm is a family operation. Ron and Marion's son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Glenda, live nearby. They and their three children, Brady, 13, Hannah, 10, and Preston, 8, are all involved, along with Glenda's parents, Lewis and Nancy Herring.

Neighbors come over, too, and help with the crafts and barbecue on sale weekends. 800703032

Marion starts baking cookies in October, freezing them, and Glenda goes into high gear, baking and bagging cookies just prior to the first sale weekend.

They lost about 400 trees in the big freeze of February 2021, along with some of their wells – even though their power was "off and on" as Tri-County Electric Co-op rotated outages to help reduce load during the crisis.

"I have a woodstove, but I was kind of happy that at least we had heat," Ron said. "My mother is in her 90s, and we were concerned about keeping the heat on for her."

Weather-permitting, she'll be on hand for this year's sale. Brady has been promoted from picking up trees to netting them alongside his grandpa Lewis. Hannah gets to drive the golf cart this year, picking up trees that have been cut. Preston is on cookie duty.

"They're all desperate to be part of it," Marion laughs. "It's a family affair."

And you can be sure, the kids' eyes aren't the only ones with a twinkle in them. ■



PHOTOS, TOP TO BOTTOM: Colorful lights and snowflakes add to the atmosphere inside the shop at 4D Christmas Tree Farm. This year's crop of Leyland cypress and "Blue Ice" Carolina Sapphire cypress trees will go quickly. 4D Farm looks like Christmas even when it's sunny, but most visitors come the weekend after Thanksgiving.

And...We're Live!

BY KENNEDY L. MOORE, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

ON OCTOBER 4, 2022 the Annual Meeting went live for the first time ever. The meeting has been virtual since 2020 because of COVID-19 concerns and a fast-growing membership and included prerecorded and live sessions. Holding the meeting completely live this year allowed members to receive the most up-to-date information on their co-op.

"Things went very smoothly," Director of Communications Annie Watson said. "Going live allowed us to actively connect with our members. Opting for a virtual meeting has significantly increased member participation since members do not have to drive to Weatherford."

The meeting began with President/CEO Darryl Schriver announcing the results of the Board of Directors election. A total of 19,612 ballots, or 19.2% of the membership, participated in this year's election – vastly exceeding the quorum requirement of a minimum 3% of membership participation. Districts 5, 7, and 9 had seats on the ballot. For District 5, incumbent Steve Harris was reelected, with 10,071, or 52.4% of the vote. For District 7, nomination candidate Sommer Portwood was elected with 11,279, or 58.6% of votes, and for District 9, incumbent Max Waddell was reelected, receiving 100% of the votes, as he ran unopposed. 3110500001

Following the business portion of the meeting, Chief Financial Officer and VP of Finance Melissa Watts presented financial updates. Watts pointed out that billing statements will now be itemized and "include the Customer Charge, Energy Charge, PCRF, Outdoor Light Charge, and applicable fees and taxes." Additionally, Watts announced a new, stabilized rate of 14.425 cents per kWh. This 5.78% overall increase was approved in April but deferred until October due to rising costs of natural

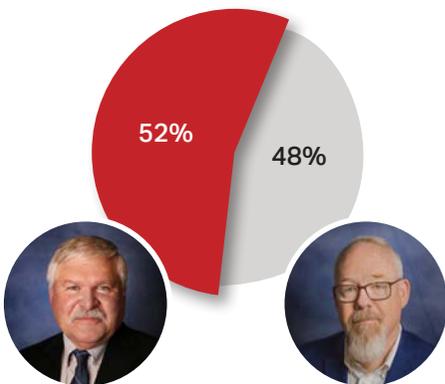
gas and power costs for members.

Next, Chief Operations Officer and VP of Operations Wesley Scheets gave an update on operations. "Over the past year, we have focused on upgrading infrastructure to reduce the length of outages and meet the needs of our growing communities." In addition, Scheets also shared members had power 98% of the time, with outages lasting an average of two or less hours. Chief Strategy Officer and VP of Engineering Janet Rehberg provided an update on solar. She emphasized the importance of affordability for all members, highlighted the purpose of the engineering team, which is to help members make informed decisions regarding solar, and explained Tri-County Electric Co-op's buy-back method. "Our solar program revolves around the net-zero method, meaning we will buy back on a one-for-one basis up to what you consume," she said. "Tri-County has a very generous solar program as we purchase your solar at our retail electric rate."

Schriver returned to the podium and emphasized the importance of cybersecurity and member data. He cited that Tri-County Electric Cooperative has not had a shutdown or operation data loss like most other utility companies. "In 2022, Tri-County Electric Co-op received 2,770 malicious messages," he said. "Our cyber software and firewalls protected against 99.5% of the emails."

Finally, Schriver provided an extensive update regarding the Brazos bankruptcy. He mentioned that Tri-County Electric Co-op has been the only cooperative to push for answers and advocate on behalf of its membership. The bankruptcy was officially filed under chapter 11 on March 1, 2021. In May 2021, Tri-County Board of Directors passed a resolution calling

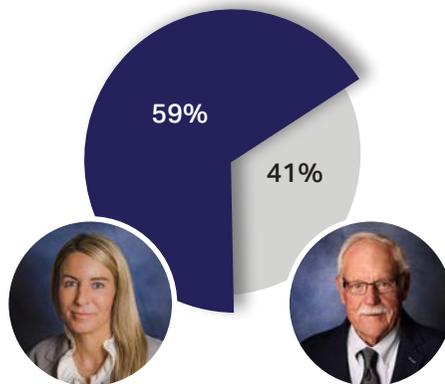
District 5



Steve Harris

Mike Hall

District 7



Sommer Portwood

Larry Miller

District 9



Max Waddell



for the resignation of Brazos senior management . In August 2021, Schriver pointed out that “Brazos considers taking advantage of Senate Bill 1580 and House Bill 4492 to use securitization to cover the costs of [Winter Storm] Uri. Securitization would pass on the debt to members for 15 – 30-year terms.” In November of 2021, power costs began to rise due to the increased cost of natural gas. In February 2022, Brazos agreed to engage in mediation, and Tri-County Electric Co-op had a seat at the table. If the proposed exit plan is approved, Tri-County Electric Co-op would be relieved of its obligations under the All-Requirements Contract to purchase wholesale power from Brazos effective March 1, 2023. The plan is set to be reviewed in a confirmation trial on November 14, 2022. Tri-County Electric Co-op will held a virtual Town Hall on November 21, 2022 to provide an update based on the outcome of the trial. If you missed the town hall, a recording is available at tcectexas.com/brazos. 8000667101

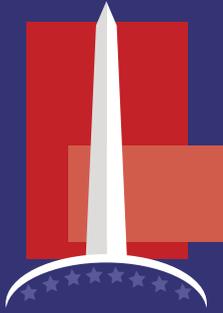
Leaving no stone unturned, the board decided to finance the debt through CoBank, a member of the Farm Credit System. “Borrowing through CoBank will allow us to earn capital credits that can be paid against our debt, rather than lining the pockets of Wall Street investors,” Schriver said.

Members were reassured that the cooperative is understanding and mindful of the economic hardships and inflation costs. The CEO affirms that “exiting Brazos and procuring our own power will help us keep your rate as low as possible.”

It is an honor to work for our members, and we are in this together! ■

your best summer yet starts here

YOUTH TOUR 2023



TRAVEL
TOUR
LEARN
LEAD



JUNE 11-19

Deadline: Friday, January 13

FREE TRIP & FREE SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

AVAILABLE FOR COLLEGE AND TRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

\$4,000

\$2,000



LEARN MORE



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road

Aledo, TX 76008

Phone 817-444-3201

Email customer_service@tcectexas.com

Web tcectexas.com

President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Max Waddell, District 9 - Chairman

John Killough, District 6 - Vice Chairman

Margaret Koprek, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Ingle, District 1

Jorden Wood, District 3

Jerry A. Walden, District 4

Steve V. Harris, District 5

Sommer Portwood, District 7

Michael Sivertsen, District 8

24/7

Outage Reporting

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

Online: oms.tcectexas.com

App: TCEC Connect

Phone: 817-444-3201

Text: OUTAGE to 25069

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,700 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 103,500 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Find your account number in pages 18-25 of Texas Co-op Power, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

VISIT US ONLINE

tcectexas.com

[Facebook.com/TCECTexas](https://www.facebook.com/TCECTexas)

Cranberry Bread

BY BRENDA ANNE HARRELL
SPRINGTOWN

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar or Splenda
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar or brown Splenda
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 cups of roasted cranberries
- 1 14-oz. can of whole berry cranberry sauce
- 2 tsp. almond extract
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1 – 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans, optional

1. Set out three 3 bowls. In a large bowl, combine the dry ingredients of flour, sugars, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Stir with a whisk until well combined.
2. In the second bowl, mix the eggs with the oil and butter. Put the cranberries in an oven-safe dish and bake at 350oF for about 10 minutes, JUST until no longer hard – tap with back of a spoon.
3. In the third bowl, mix the cranberry sauce with the almond extract. Add in the roasted cranberries JUST to mix.
4. Fold the drained pineapple, nuts and cranberry mixture into the flour mixture. Gently, don't overwork! Add the oil mixture and combine JUST until everything is moist and dry ingredients are combined.
5. Spray pan of choice with a cooking spray to prevent sticking and add the dough.
6. Bake uncovered at 350°F for 1 hour and 5 minutes.
7. Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP: The secret to this recipe is in the word "JUST"!



PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES | PIXABAY

Tri-County Electric Co-op Member Recipe Submission Form

MEMBER

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

SUBMITTING YOUR RECIPE:

EMAIL: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to communications@tcectexas.com

ONLINE: tcectexas.com/recipe-submission

MAIL: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
200 Bailey Ranch Road
Alledo, Texas 76008



NEW!

RECHARGEABLE In-Your-Ear Hearing Aid

**BUY 1 GET 1
FREE**

~~REG \$299.98~~
ONLY \$149⁹⁹
Each When You Buy a Pair

PLUS FREE SHIPPING
Limited Time Only!



How can a rechargeable hearing aid that fits inside your ear cost only \$149⁹⁹ be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

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

The MDHearing™ NEO uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price. Over 800,000 satisfied MDHearing customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered rechargeable hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. **NEO** is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

PLUS... It fits inside your ear.

Everything you need in a hearing aid... EXCEPT THE HIGH PRICE!

CHARGE AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY



45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

If you are not completely satisfied with your hearing aids, return them within 45 days for a **FULL REFUND!**

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-746-3117

www.TryMDNeo.com



Use Code **DU57**
and get **FREE Shipping**

 **MDHearing™**

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

A+BBB
rating for
10+ years

Proudly designed in
America and supported
by US audiologists



YEAR-END SAVINGS



Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service
Second to None

DDM Brenham Office
979-251-9503
301 Salem Road • Brenham

DDM Bastrop Office
512-321-0336
1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local building codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



40'x15'x12'



Made in Texas



30'x40'x12'



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



Call today for our best pricing!

\$11,450-30x40x12
2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

\$17,950-40x50x12
2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

www.ddmbuildings.com

BRUSH SHARK

SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

- 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
- Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

Low Cost Pole Barns

26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed

Call now for our best pricing!

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

Call Ron: 512-367-0428

WD Metal Buildings

Offering 5" reinforced concrete slabs, erected metal buildings, overhead doors and more, all in one Turn Key Metal Building contract!

Visit www.WDMB2.com

ARK-LA-TEX

SHOP BUILDERS

"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARNs • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM

830-730-0515

8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric slab *Dirt may be extra

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX

All transactions private, confidential & secure.

830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

HILLSBORO HERITAGE LEAGUE

2022 CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

+

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

TIX: EVENTBRITE HILLSBORO TX

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

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

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



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

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

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



C.

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

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

Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

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

**Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

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

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code STC736-09

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

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



26 carats
of genuine
Arizona turquoise
ONLY \$99

B.

A.

Necklace enlarged to show luxurious color

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. STC736-09, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.®



A Brief but Determined Texan

Samuel Walker's violent adventures became the stuff of legend

BY W.F. STRONG

SAMUEL WALKER arrived in Texas six years after the republic won its independence. In five more years, he would be dead. But in those five years, he would defend San Antonio from Mexican forces, invade Mexico four times, escape from a Mexican prison and help design one of the most famous guns in history.

One hundred and seventy-five years later, he's also remembered as one of the most fascinating Texas Rangers of all time.

Before he was a Ranger, Walker was part of the ill-fated Mier expedition, during which 176 Texian militiamen were captured by Mexico in 1843. Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna ordered them all

shot, but cooler heads in the Mexican government prevailed, demanding one in every 10 killed instead. The Texans drew beans from a pot. Those who got one of the 17 black beans would be executed; those who drew white beans would live. Walker got a white bean.

The survivors were marched 800 miles across Mexico's brutal deserts. Once in Mexico City, Walker and some other captives were imprisoned; others were marched another 100 miles and incarcerated in the infamous Perote Prison.

There is a much-shared myth that while he was incarcerated, Walker was ordered to dig a hole for a flagpole and

TCP Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



raise the Mexican flag. According to one version of the legend, he put a dime at the bottom of the hole and vowed to return one day, reclaim the coin and raise the Texas flag. Several years later, the story goes, he retrieved his dime when he returned with American forces.

It's a good story but probably not true. Walker never mentioned it in his journals, and the flagpole in the various versions of the myth is always in Perote Prison. Walker was never held there.

Walker eventually escaped—a story that would make a good novel in itself—and made it back to Texas. He joined up with Jack Hays and the Texas Rangers in 1844.

When Gen. Zachary Taylor sent out a call in 1845 for volunteers to scout for his federal troops, Walker immediately signed up. He ran messages through the Mexican lines to keep Fort Texas (soon to be Fort Brown) aware of Taylor's plans, and Walker led the charge in the battle for Monterrey.

It was after Taylor's forces had secured Monterrey, in 1846, that Walker took a brief furlough and traveled east. There he gave Samuel Colt some ideas for improving an earlier model of Colt's revolver. Colt, in gratitude, named a special, very heavy model—more than 4½ pounds—of his new six-shooter after the Ranger.

Walker next joined up with Gen. Winfield Scott's campaign to attack Mexico City, sacking Perote Prison on the way. But Walker would not live to make it back to Texas. He died fighting in the town of Huamantla in 1847.

Walker's body was eventually returned to San Antonio, interred in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, next to the unidentified remains of defenders of the Alamo. ■

Finger Foods

Make room on your plates for these yummy treats this holiday season

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

December is the perfect time of year for gathering with friends and family, and for me that always means having plenty of nibbles on hand. I love serving (and eating) appetizers. Everyone gets to taste a variety of dishes, and you don't need to worry about overfilling your plate.

Jalapeño Popper Bites

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
½ cup finely shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup chopped jalapeño peppers
⅓ cup cooked and crumbled bacon
½ teaspoon salt
Pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional)
30 phyllo shells
Pickled jalapeño slices, for garnish

COOK'S TIP For a vegetarian option, the bacon can be left out.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar, chopped jalapeños, bacon, salt and cayenne until smooth and uniformly mixed.
3. Use two spoons or a small cookie scoop to divide mixture among phyllo shells. Place filled shells on a rimmed baking sheet and bake 10 minutes, until shells are crisp and filling is just starting to brown.
4. Let cool slightly and top each shell with a slice of pickled jalapeño. Serve warm.

MAKES 30 POPPERS

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Everything Bagel Pretzel Bites.





Cheesy Pepperoni Pizza Puffs

BEV KELLY
BANDERA EC

Young guests will love these pizza puffs, but adults will enjoy them too. If you can't find mini pepperoni rounds, use diced pepperoni or cut standard pepperoni slices into small pieces.

5 ounces (1 package) mini pepperoni rounds, divided use

2 cups flour

1 cup fresh shredded Parmesan cheese

2 tablespoons Italian seasoning

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon sugar

½ teaspoon crushed red chile flakes

1½ cups whole milk

2 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

2 cups shredded four-cheese pizza blend

Marinara sauce, for serving

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Lightly coat two 24-cup mini muffin pans with nonstick spray. Reserve about ¼ cup pepperoni rounds and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, stir together flour, Parmesan, Italian seasoning, baking powder, sugar and red chile flakes. Stir in milk, eggs and oil until well blended, then stir in pizza cheese blend and remaining pepperoni.

\$500 WINNER

Texas Brisket Empanadas

ANN MCCOOL
TRI-COUNTY EC



These empanadas will be among the first to disappear from the table thanks to their flavorful filling and dipping sauce. If you like, roll the puff pastry out thinner to create more empanadas with the same amount of filling.

MAKES 12-20 EMPANADAS



EMPANADAS

1 sheet puff pastry

1 tablespoon olive oil

½ cup finely chopped red onion

1 jalapeño pepper, finely chopped

1¼ cups finely chopped cooked brisket

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

2 tablespoons barbecue sauce

1 teaspoon hot sauce

½ cup finely grated sharp cheddar cheese

1 egg

1 tablespoon water

DIPPING SAUCE

¾ cup sour cream

½ cup barbecue sauce

2 tablespoons hot sauce

Lime juice, to taste

1. EMPANADAS Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Thaw puff pastry according to package directions and line two baking sheets with parchment.

2. Pour olive oil into a skillet and heat to medium, then add onion and jalapeño. Cook about 5 minutes, until starting to soften. Add brisket, garlic, barbecue sauce and hot sauce and cook another 3 minutes, stirring to combine well.

3. Transfer mixture to a bowl and stir in cheddar cheese until evenly mixed.

4. Roll out puff pastry to a large rectangle, approximately 9 by 12 inches, and cut into 3-inch squares.

5. Whisk together egg and water in a bowl and brush a small amount on edges of pastry squares. Place about 1 tablespoon of brisket filling in the center of each square, then fold over one side, bringing edges together. Crimp edges together with a fork.

6. Arrange empanadas on baking sheets and bake 20 minutes, until light golden brown.

7. DIPPING SAUCE In a bowl stir together sour cream, barbecue sauce, hot sauce and lime juice.

8. Serve empanadas warm with sauce on the side.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

BERRIES DUE DECEMBER 10

We're looking for your favorite ways to enjoy strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and more of the small juicy delights. Submit your recipes on our website by December 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

RECIPES CONTINUED

3. Scoop a heaping tablespoon into each muffin cup and top with reserved pepperoni slices.

4. Bake 20 minutes, until puffed and golden brown. Let cool 5 minutes, then remove from pan and serve.

MAKES ABOUT 4 DOZEN PIZZA PUFFS

Crispy Coconut Shrimp

VAN FULTON
PEDERNALES EC

Homemade coconut shrimp is a wonderful appetizer for any occasion. Make sure to leave the tails on when peeling the shrimp, as it will make it easier to dip the shrimp into the coatings.

- 1¼ cups shredded coconut
- ⅓ cup panko breadcrumbs
- ⅓ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sugar



- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 pound raw jumbo shrimp, defrosted, peeled and deveined
- Oil for frying
- Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish
- Thai sweet chili sauce, for serving

1. In a shallow bowl, combine coconut and panko. In another shallow bowl, combine flour, salt, sugar and pepper. Beat eggs in a third bowl.
2. Pat shrimp dry with paper towels. Holding by the tail, dip shrimp first into the

flour mixture, coating all sides. Then dip into the egg, let excess drip off and dip into the coconut mixture, pressing gently to adhere. Place coated shrimp on a baking sheet and repeat until all shrimp are coated.

3. In a heavy-bottomed pot such as a Dutch oven, add about 2 inches of oil and heat over high to 365 degrees. Use a thermometer to monitor temperature.

4. Fry shrimp in batches until golden brown, 1–2 minutes. Drain on a rack and let cool slightly before serving.

5. Garnish with cilantro, if desired. Serve with Thai sweet chili sauce for dipping.

MAKES ABOUT 20 SHRIMPS

TCP Remember, we have nearly 1,000 recipes on our website to make your holidays perfect. Search by dish or ingredient and dig in.

URGENT: Diamond Ring Recall

Experts warn that millions of rings may be “romantically defective” when compared to the spectacular 4 total carat Avalon Ring.



“This ring is so much more clear and sparkly than my real diamond!”

— P.T. from Baltimore, MD

Now available in PLATINUM! Four total carats in rare platinum over sterling silver

Jewelry Specifications:

- 3 ¾ carat Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, DiamondAura® center stone; 32 brilliant-cut accent stones
- Platinum-finished .925 sterling silver setting; whole sizes 5–10

Avalon Ring (4 ctw) ~~\$295~~ \$49* + S&P

*Special price only for customers using the offer code.



Platinum Edition limited to the first 1,499 responders to this ad only!



1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: AVR553-09

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. AVR553-09, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



**TEXAS
FARM
BUREAU®
HEALTH
PLANS**

NEW
AFFORDABLE
HEALTH CARE
COVERAGE



- **Enrollment is Available Year-Round**
(Not Restricted to an Open-Enrollment Period)
- **Membership Not Required to Apply or Get a Quote**
(Membership is required before coverage can be issued)
- **UnitedHealth Care Choice Plus Network**
- **Individual and Family Plans**
- **Dental and Vision Options**

tfbhp.com
877.500.0140



Fredericksburg

Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win a two-night getaway in Fredericksburg, including midweek lodging for two, dining and things to do.

TCP Enter Today
TexasCoopPower.com/contests





COURTESY CHET GARNER

A Raw Deal

Dziuk's Meat Market has perfected so-called Texas tartare

BY CHET GARNER

WHEN I THINK of all the things I've eaten on the road that were most unfamiliar, a few dishes come to mind. There was the smoked cow eyeball in Brownsville, chicken feet in Houston and deep-fried rattlesnake in Sweetwater. I had to overcome some hesitations but still finished each one. That's what I expected when I set out to try raw beef parisa at Dziuk's Meat Market. But not only did I finish my plate, I left with an entire pound for later.

Dziuk's (pronounced "jukes") has been around since the 1960s, when it was started in Poth by two brothers. Later another location opened in Castroville, west of San Antonio. It's an old-school meat market where you can buy a great steak cut to order and even bring in deer for processing. But despite selling every cut of meat your heart might desire, the most popular item remains their house-made parisa.

Parisa is a traditional dish made of raw round steak that's ground up and mixed with salt, pepper, onions, jalapeños and soft easy-melt cheese. The locals buy hundreds of pounds a week to eat with crackers and bring to family gatherings. It's a regional delicacy that, as far as I can tell, is only made at a handful of markets across Medina County. Third-generation owner Kenton Sims told me to think of it as "Texas tartare."

I plunged my saltine deep into a pile of parisa then took a deep breath and a big bite. The flavor was instantly familiar: Tex-Mex spices blended deliciously with the mouthfeel and taste of a juicy hamburger. I loved it and finished off the whole platter. Then I ordered some parisa for the road—and made sure not to leave it behind in a hot car. ■

ABOVE A platter of parisa didn't last long once Chet got ahold of it.

TCP Chet cooks up another video featuring one of his culinary adventures. Watch it on our website and see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details.

DECEMBER

08

New Braunfels Old Town Christmas Market, (830) 629-2943, newbraunfelsconservation.org

Dallas [8-11] Lone Star State Classic Dog Show, dallasdogshow.com

Granbury [8-11, 15-18, 20-23] Miracle on 34th Street, (817) 579-0952, granburysociety.com

09

Fredericksburg [9-10] Christmas Journey, (830) 997-2069, bethanyfredericksburg.com

Lake Brownwood [9-10] Holiday at the Lake, (325) 784-5223, tpwd.texas.gov

Montalba [9-11] A Walk Through Bethlehem, (903) 764-8048, visitpalestine.com

Palestine [9-11] The Man Who Wanted To Be Santa Claus, (903) 922-1146, thetexasstage.com

Waxahachie [9-11] A Charlie Brown Christmas, (972) 646-1050, waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com

Fredericksburg [9-11, 16-18] Miracle on 34th Street, (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

10

Canton East Texas Book Bash, easttexasbookbash@gmail.com, easttexasbookbash.weebly.com

Chappell Hill Christmas Home Tour, (713) 562-6191, chappellhillgardenclub.com

Corpus Christi Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra:
Home for the Holidays,
(361) 883-6683,
ccsymphony.org

Huntsville Houston Family Christmas, (936) 294-1111,
samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com

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

Round Top The Nutcracker,
(979) 249-3129,
festivalhill.org

Weslaco Lighted Christmas Parade, (956) 968-2102,
weslaco.com

Fredericksburg [10-11] Red-bud Artisan Market Holiday Show, (512) 660-3328,
redbudartisanmarket.com

Spring [10-11] Islamic Arts Festival, info@islamicartssociety.org,
islamicartssociety.org

Seguin Mid-Texas Symphony: A Storybook Holiday,
(830) 463-5353,
mtsymphony.org

Texarkana Christmas at the Perot, (870) 773-3401,
texarkanasympphony.org

Lubbock Glimpses of Lubbock History: Christmas in Lubbock, (806) 767-3733,
ci.lubbock.tx.us

Corsicana Christmas Variety Show, (903) 874-7792,
corsicanapalace.com

Katy Christmas Gift Market,
(936) 900-1900, bigtop.show

MORE EVENTS >

TCP *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your March event by January 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
DON'T WAIT—CALL NOW!**



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 18 YEARS ★

**WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED
SOLID-SURFACE SHOWERS FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED**

- Free, No-Obligation In-Home Consultation
- BBB A+ Rating
- Good Contractor's List
- Lifetime Warranty on Parts and Labor



Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.

888-825-2362

bestbuywalkintubs.com

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

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

BLAKE MATTON, 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.

PERMA-ROOF
from **Southern Builders**

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

Since 1983

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

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

Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill
State Historic Sites

Present

Trail of Lights

La Grange, TX
FESTIVAL NIGHTS
DEC. 9-10, 16-18
ENCORE NIGHTS
DEC. 19-23

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
FRIENDSOFKBMH.ORG/TRAILOFLIGHTS**

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

LA GRANGE
Community Development & Tourism

Fayette
MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

The Friends of Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill
State Historic Sites



If you love jewelry,
you'll love us!



Save 34%
PLUS FREE
STANDARD SHIPPING*

\$65

JTV Price: \$99.99

Celebrate the Season
while staying on budget in
this party-perfect 8.35ctw
white CZ statement ring
in sterling silver.

SPECIAL OFFER CODE:
CELEBRATE2
ORDER TODAY
888-515-0202 | jtv.com/sleek



JTV Item:
BJH482

Scan for details.



One coupon code per customer;
one coupon code per order. Offer valid
through January 12, 2023 at 11:59p ET.
While supplies last.
*Restrictions apply.
See jtv.com for details.



COURTESY JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

Pick of the Month

Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández: Merry-Achi Christmas

Midland, December 14
1-800-514-3849, wagnernoel.com

José Hernández's Mariachi Sol de México blends cultural traditions with modern genres and styles to create an award-winning sound that has appealed to listeners the world over. This is a Christmas concert you won't soon forget.

DECEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

15

Anson [15-17] Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball, (325) 696-9040, texasccb.com

16

Tyler K-Love Christmas, (903) 525-1100, gabc.org

Boerne [16-18] Kinder Fest, (830) 816-2176, ci.boerne.tx.us

Leander [16-18] GoGames360, 1-866-582-5422, gogames360.com

17

Amarillo Amarillo Symphony: Happy Holiday Pops, (806) 376-8782, amarillosymphony.org

Bandera Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides With Santa, (830) 688-3063, banderacowboycapital.com

Boerne Winter Solstice: Rudi and the Rudiments, (830) 537-4212, cavewithoutaname.com

18

Brenham The Grand Ol' Christmas Show, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Coldspring It's a Charlie Diggs Christmas, charliediggs.com

Waco Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait, (254) 296-9000, wacohippodrometheatre.com

Austin [17-23] Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, (512) 447-1605, armadillobazaar.com

Grand Prairie Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas, (972) 854-5076, texastrustcutheatre.com

Richards James Zimmerman, (936) 436-9050, wscwinery.com

Stonewall Annual Tree Lighting, (830) 644-2252, tpwd.texas.gov

22

New Braunfels Deck the Dancehalls, (830) 606-1281, gruenehall.com

Palestine Christmas Carol Sing Along, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

31

Elgin Glowing Into 2023, (512) 281-5724, elgintexas.gov

Fredericksburg Countdown to 2023, (830) 997-7521, fbgtx.org

JANUARY

01

Round Top Linda Patterson and Friends: Organ Duets, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org

Surfside Beach Polar Plunge, (979) 233-1531, visitbrazosport.com

Winter Wildlife

Step into the crisp air, slide a gloved hand over snow packed all around, and see evidence of animals large and small as you step into a sparkling winter wonderland. When a twig snaps behind you, you'll have to act fast to capture an image as stunning as these.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

1 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO
BARTLETT EC

A thirsty fox.

2 FRANKI SALDIVAR
J-A-C EC

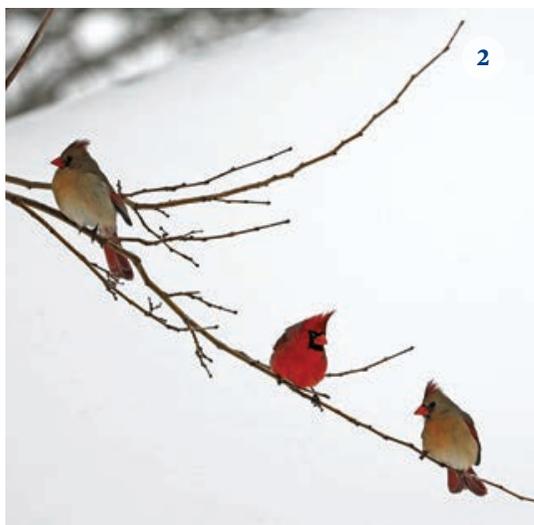
"I put a bird feeder out for the cardinals when it snowed, and they sure seemed to appreciate it."

3 RICK BLACKMORE
PEDERNALES EC

"A buck lounging in the snow during the winter storm of 2021."

4 GABRIELLE ETHINGTON
PENTEX ENERGY

A doe curiously walks up to a dove looking for food.



2



3



4

Upcoming Contests

DUE DEC 10 Riding the River

DUE JAN 10 Taking Flight

DUE FEB 10 Dad



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for more Winter Wildlife photos from readers.



I'll Be Gone for Christmas

The gift of escaping and passing along a mother's curious nature

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ
ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN FALES

TRAVEL DURING the Christmas season is my way of clearing my head of the clutter that can weigh down the celebration. I just need a few deep breaths beneath trees that don't have lights on them. And a spare winter landscape regenerates my spirit like nothing else.

I first discovered how meaningful such a journey could be when my son was barely school age. It was 20 years ago, just after our mom died, and my youngest brother, Jimmy, and I were struggling to reinvent the holiday season without her.

I invited Jimmy, whose eccentric education in anthropology and fishing made him an ideal camp companion, to join my son and me in a nearby state park.

As we settled into a campsite, I realized that I had been so fixated on keeping the planning minimal that I had packed no

chairs, no plates, no knife. I did bring salt and pepper, a big cake of lavender soap and one plastic fork. It was a few days after I'd hosted a Christmas event for 50 people; I was so tired I was stupid.

My brother was undaunted. Before I had discovered I'd also forgotten firewood, he had chicken seasoned and cooking nicely on his portable grill—gamely making do with the single plastic utensil. I headed to a nearby store for split logs.

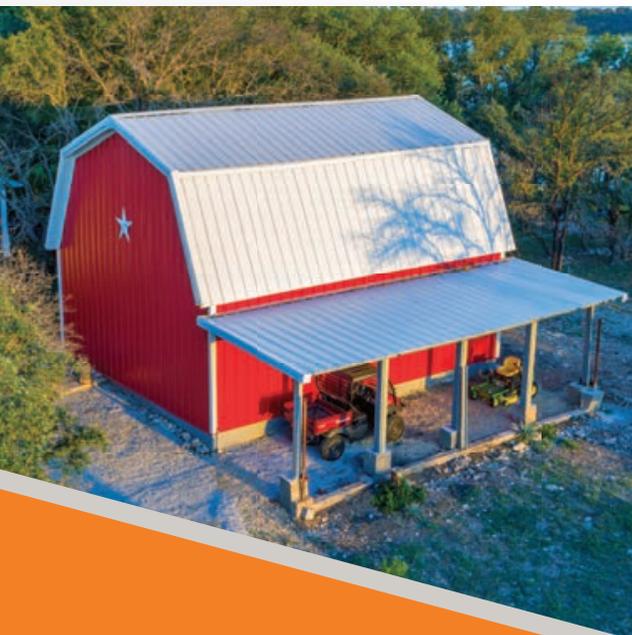
When I returned, my son was barefoot. In the time I'd been gone, he'd cast his rod into the lake, then waded in after it—soaking socks and shoes. He appeared delighted to be wearing leather work gloves on his feet, like some giant splay-footed bird cozied up to the grill. Uncle Jimmy was already steaming the socks dry.

After eating, we hiked to a spectacular scenic overlook. That was when I consciously noted Jimmy's pink stocking cap. The hat was familiar. And comforting. It had been knitted by our mother. In her passion for handcrafts, Mom would get stuck in loops of creativity. Jimmy was the beneficiary of the Year of the Knitted Caps. By wearing one, he brought her along.

Jimmy also inherited Mother's adaptability and resourcefulness. We both have a heaping share of her curiosity. She taught us to pause often on any walk, to study stones and insects and scat. She was monumentally successful in opening our eyes to the natural world.

After we took in the view from the overlook, we began exploring cautiously. I focused my attention on my son, introducing him to nopales and miniscule fungi. But watching Jimmy bobbing through the woods in that pink hat, I realized it was I who most needed the lessons of this day away from the holiday: a reminder to be the mother to my son that she had been to me. ■

MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING



READY TO BUILD YOUR DREAM?

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at muellerinc.com, then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



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



Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!

\$300 Get TV.
Get \$100.
Add Internet.
Get \$300.

1234 5678 9012 3456

4000 EXPIRES 01/25

Gift Card END

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only.
Mention code Card300 when you order both TV and internet services.
Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation, certain conditions apply.
Free \$300 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualifying service (premium customer qualification only).



3-Year TV Price Guarantee

Only DISH Offers a 3-Year TV Price Guarantee with just a 2-Year Commitment!



IT'S FINALLY HERE! Reliable 5G HOME INTERNET

- 📶 No Data Limits
- 📶 No Contract
- 📶 No Credit Check
- 📶 No Upfront Cost
- 📶 No Equipment Fees
- 📶 No Installation
- 📶 Lifetime Price Lock

\$50 Includes All Taxes and Fees!
month for Internet

TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

It's All Included for \$79.99!

- ✓ 190 Channels With Locals
- ✓ Live, Recorded And Streaming TV All On Your DVR
- ✓ Free Premium Channels **SHOWTIME** **STARZ** **MOVIE PACK**
- ✓ Free Professional Installation
- ✓ 99% Reliable Signal, Now Backed By Our Reliability Guarantee

Live TV + Streaming in One Place!

FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant



Seamless Integration with DISH



iSe Habla Español!

godish.com/priceguarantee 🔍

1-866-290-7151

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

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Requires credit qualification and 2-year commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 4/12/23. Offer requires 2-year commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo, remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 3-year price guarantee at \$79.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 3-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$94.99 for AT120+, \$99.99 for AT200, \$109.99 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 3-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Other: All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$10.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 3 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Reliability Guarantee: limited time offer, subject to change. Available only to new or returning former customers. Guarantee covers signal loss outages due to normal weather and/or technical issues. Does not cover signal loss outages due to user error. Does not cover changes in programming content. To receive outage credits, you must contact DISH customer service by phone or chat within 72 hours of the outage. Upon verifying the outage, DISH will issue bill credits in daily increments from the time of the outage until the outage is restored. Not available to DISH Outdoors customers. 99% signal reliability based on data from set-top boxes. Not a guarantee of signal in all weather conditions. Watching live and recorded TV on DISH Anywhere requires internet-connected Hopper and compatible mobile device. Miscellaneous: Taxes or surcharges may apply. All packages and offer subject to change without notice. Additional restrictions may apply. Netflix, Prime Video, HBO Max and Discovery Plus streaming memberships required. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. -19-08615. ©2022 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$50 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability is subject to change without notice. The application of "No Data Limits" varies by provider; but commonly means that your access to the Internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.