

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## ROUTE 66

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its kicks  
across the  
Panhandle





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Dora Merony and her tiny MG near downtown Amarillo

## FEATURES

### 8 Rendezvous on Route 66 The Mother Road still offers a journey through a slice of American life.

Story by Brenda Kissko | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

### 12 Classic Car Culture Route 66 lures all, from street rods to muscle cars.

Story by Brenda Kissko | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

## 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**

*Double Exposure*

By Charles Lohrmann

31 **Recipes**

*How Do You Like Your Shrimp?*

35 **Focus on Texas**

*Photo Contest: Opposites*

36 **Around Texas**

*List of Local Events*

38 **Hit the Road**

*Redemption in the Desert*

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

## ONLINE

**TexasCoopPower.com**

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

## Observations

*What's Yours Is Mine*

By Lindsay Stafford Mader

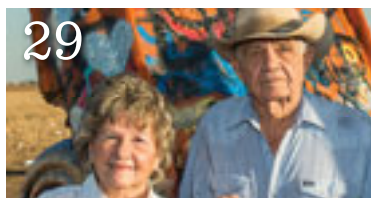
## Texas USA

*Witness to Struggle*

By Gene Fowler

## NEXT MONTH

**Howdy, Bardners** The history, myths and wild spirit of Texas provide fertile ground for Shakespeare performances.



29

31



35



38

ROUTE 66: WYATT MCSADDEN. SHAKESPEARE: ROBERT MONCRIEFF

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

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## Flying Roosevelt Over the Hump

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

JOHN WAGGOMAN | BANDERA

BANDERA EC

## So Many Teammates

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

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

TOMMY LEISSNER | NEW BRAUNFELS

PEDERNALES EC

## A Cookie Love Story

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

## Habitat Destruction

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

DEE WHITNEY | FAIRMOUNT | JASPER-NEWTON EC



to say the least.

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



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

SCOTT WIESER | BUDA

PEDERNALES EC

## Classroom Tool

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

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

LAURA SIDES | WORTHAM JUNIOR HIGH

NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

## Clearing the Air

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

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

JO ANN LOWRANCE | NORTHLAKE

COSERV

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## HAPPENINGS

# Let's Go to the Hop

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

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

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

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

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



## BY THE NUMBERS

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

## LIFESTYLE

# GOLD IN THAT THAR HILL COUNTRY

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

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

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





# Carrying Through

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

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

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

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

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

Almost 20,000 bags and

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

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



## Did you know?

► To donate to the Day 1 Bag initiative, visit [onesimplewish.org/giveday1bags](http://onesimplewish.org/giveday1bags).



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



## Tokens of Appreciation

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

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Two Football Legends



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

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



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

# RENDEZVOUS

ON



Story by Brenda Kissko | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

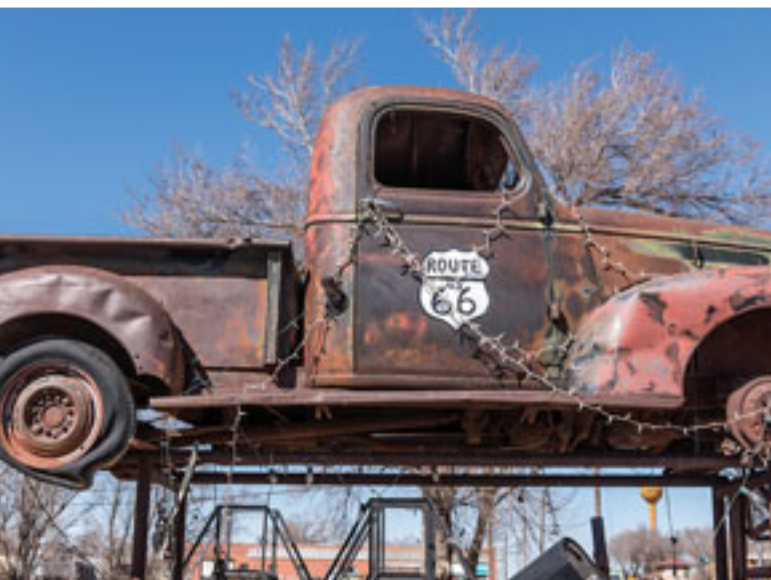
Amarillo, 95 miles west of Shamrock, is the largest Texas city along Route 66. Eric Miller, director of communications for the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council, says Route 66 is one of the top five attractions in the city, according to visitor surveys, along with Cadillac Ranch, Big Texan Steak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

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

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

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











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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

on location across the country.

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

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

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

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

Brenda Kissko is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her online at [BrendaKissko.com](http://BrendaKissko.com).

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





Classic Car  
Culture

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



## *'We are probably*

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

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

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

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

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

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

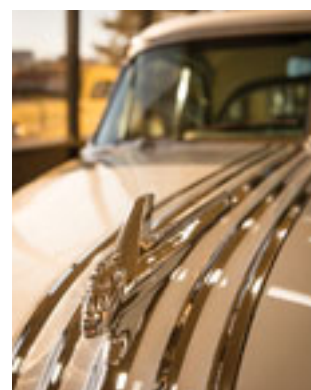
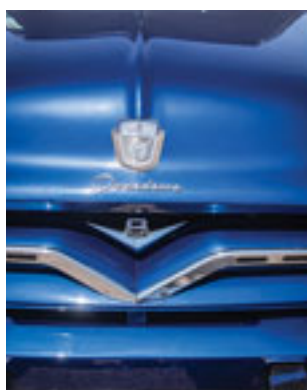
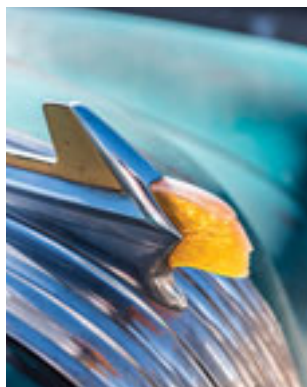
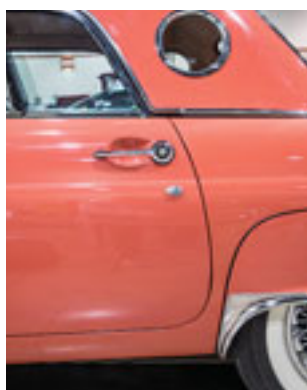
Mona and her dad were both pilots—Mona also is an airplane mechanic—and went out on "morning patrol" together on Saturdays, when they'd fly around in a Cessna 150 to look for old cars they could restore. Mona would mark the map so later they could drive out to find the owner.

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Brenda Kissko** is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her at [BrendaKissko.com](http://BrendaKissko.com).

#### WEB EXTRAS

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



# AHEAD OF THE CURVE



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Edition

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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.

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**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



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What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



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

— R., Lacey, Washington

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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!

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



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- Overall length, open : 7 1/2" • Includes genuine leather sheath

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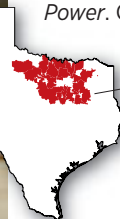
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# ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

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*"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard  
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— Don W., Sherman, TX

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purchase at no cost. No other  
company provides such extensive  
support. Now that you know...why pay more?

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\*82.2% less when comparing MDHearingAid AIR to the average price of a mid-level  
hearing aid of \$2,250, according to a survey recently published by the *Hearing Review*.

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and dementia over time than those who retain their  
hearing. They suggest that an intervention — such  
as a hearing aid — could delay or prevent this by  
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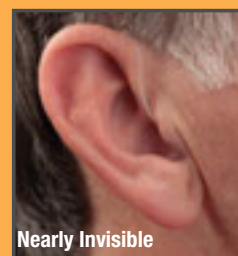
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# Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

*Increased demand could test the state's supply*



MESSAGE FROM  
**GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE**

**DO YOU REMEMBER THE ELECTRICITY BILL YOU RECEIVED** after this winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, during the hot days of summer, a reverse weather pattern holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use more electricity this summer than last and pay more for it. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have been shut down.

Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings for higher electric bills.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees 90 percent of the state's power grid, is predicting record-breaking peak power usage. To keep the system reliable, ERCOT prefers to maintain a small percentage of generation capacity beyond what is needed to meet peak demand. This extra energy capacity is called the "reserve margin," and it measures the system's ability to meet demand for power during the hottest days. The current projections for hotter summer weather and increased demand could test the reserve margin.

With that in mind, we all need to get ready for summer by managing our electricity use.

A few home improvements and simple changes to day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your home and the hot air outside where it belongs. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air conditioning system's thermostat to 78 degrees and maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Would you like to make an even greater impact on your bill? Check your home's insulation. According to energystar.gov, the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed.

It is also important to use insulation with a recommended R-value of 30–60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand.

At energystar.gov, you'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

Most importantly, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for investors. An important part of that mission entails providing you with tools to manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.



## Happy Independence Day

Our offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of the holiday.

TVEC Crews will be on call for any outages or emergencies.



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## Power Tip

Except for fans that are designed for continuous operation, turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes of cooking or bathing.





TVEC/DON JOHNSON

## Making a Difference Through Education

*TVEC offers safety, conservation programming for all ages*

**Electricity is a huge part of modern life**, arguably to the point of being overlooked or taken for granted. However, as Spiderman fans know, with great power comes great responsibility.

That message is the core of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative's outreach efforts to educate and inform our community about the benefits of conservation and the dangers of being careless with electricity.

"We reach out, just like when co-ops brought electricity to the countryside," said Bobbi Byford, TVEC's manager of public relations. "Our mission is educating our members of all ages. We have to drive home the importance of safety and conservation to pass on the same benefits to our children."

Safety makes up a large part of TVEC's educational efforts. Over the course of the past year, TVEC programs reached more than 2,850 school-age participants. Additional safety training was provided to first responders and civic organizations for a total reach of more than 4,000 individuals.

"Our service area is so broad that our approach has been to take this out to schools, clubs and organizations, really anywhere we can go," Byford said. "I have been here 20 years and any time you see news of a death or injury somewhere due to electrical contact, it is

just devastating. That drives home the importance of reaching out and touching as many lives as we can."

Saving the environment and saving money are popular topics as well, and TVEC has programs on energy conservation, alternative energy sources and energy savings tips that are both informative and entertaining.

"When you see these kids at other places—at church or the grocery store—and they say, 'Hey you came and taught me about being safe around electricity.' It is pretty gratifying," said TVEC Public Relations Representative Laura Melton. "They do retain some of what we are saying to them and I hope that really stays with them."

For more information about TVEC's educational programs, contact Byford at [byfordb@tvec.coop](mailto:byfordb@tvec.coop) or 800-766-9576. Additional information is available at [tvec.net/safety-programs](http://tvec.net/safety-programs).



TVEC PR representatives Laura Melton and Joy Long present a Power Town safety demonstration for students in Terrell ISD's GT Academy.

TVEC/ERICA RAVELA

## SAVE THE DATE!

### TVEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2018 • REGISTRATION AT 6 P.M.

CANTON CIVIC CENTER • CANTON, TEXAS

**Watch for the official notice and ballot for director elections in the September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.**

# Safe on the Farm

**FARMING IS AMONG THE MOST DANGEROUS OCCUPATIONS FOR SEVERAL REASONS**, including potential encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

**Start each morning by planning your day's work.** Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep assigned workers safe.

**Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions at all times.** Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.

**Use care when raising augers or grain truck beds.** It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.

**Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers and elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them.** Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight and other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.

**Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.** If power lines near your property height have sagged over time, call TVEC to repair them.

**Be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders or poles, into power lines.** Remember, nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.

**If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment.** If you step off the equipment, you could receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.



## A Divine Appointment

*Technician's courtesy call puts him at the right place to help*

Marilyn Cooke fell in her back yard on May 2, and she found herself unable to get back to her feet. There was no way of knowing how long she might be stuck on the ground and she spent a long night wondering how things might go.

When Jesse Carrillo, a TVEC AMI Technician, set off to make his rounds that day, he had planned a route that put his final stop near Kaufman.

"It was going to rain, and I planned to start in Canton and work my way back around toward the office," Carrillo said. "As I drove out, I just decided to start with the closest one instead."

Thankfully, that first stop was a courtesy visit to the Cooke residence, and a voice from the backyard calling "Help!" was enough to get Carrillo's attention.

"This is out in a wooded area, and I just heard a woman's voice, someone said 'help,'" Carrillo said. "So I walked around to the back and she was there on the ground. The cellphone reception wasn't very good, so I was trying to get a good signal to call 911 and she just said, 'You aren't going to leave me are you,' and I said, no, Mrs. Cooke, I'm not going to leave you."

"I was outside all night long," Cooke said. "I had fallen, and when he came around the corner I grabbed ahold of him and wouldn't let go."

After a few days in the hospital, Cooke is back home and recovering and still independent as ever.

"I've been taking care of myself and I'm walking better every day," she said. "I don't consider anything a risk, because I like being independent."

Carrillo noted that, even with 19 years of working in the field with TVEC members, this was a first.

"I have met so many people in this job ... some really good people," he said. "It's not just electricity—it is really people's lives. I felt so good that day. It poured down rain that day and she would have been out there. I'm glad I was there to help."



## TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1–November 30

**EVACUATION PLANNING:** When a hurricane threatens, listen for instructions from local officials. When they call for an evacuation in your area, get going without delay.

- ▶ **Discuss evacuation plans** with your family **before** hurricane season, June 1–November 30. Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave town and review it.
- ▶ **Monitor NOAA Weather Radio**, local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.
- ▶ **Prepare an emergency supply kit** including a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, nonperishable food, dry clothes, bedding, insurance information, important documents, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, seniors, medically fragile family members and pets.
- ▶ **Learn evacuation routes** before storm season. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf, keep your gas tank as full as possible. Expect traffic delays in an evacuation.
- ▶ **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry online at [stear.dps.texas.gov](http://stear.dps.texas.gov) or dial 211 to register if you have a disability or medical needs, or if you simply do not have transportation.** Gulf Coast residents in evacuation zones who have a disability or medical needs who do not have friends or family to help or do not have transportation should register with STEAR in advance.

## DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

### Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

**EVACUACIÓN EN CASO DE HURACÁN:** Cuando exista una amenaza de huracán, escucha las instrucciones de funcionarios locales. Cuando llamen para una evacuación en su área, sálgase del área lo más pronto posible.

- ▶ **Discute los planes de evacuación** con su familia **antes** de la temporada de huracán, que comienza el 1 de junio hasta 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revísela.
- ▶ **Escuche la radio** y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.
- ▶ **Prepare un equipo de emergencia** incluyendo radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguro, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores, miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles y animales domesticos.
- ▶ **Aprenda sus rutas** de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando hay un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Este consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.
- ▶ **Puede regístrase con el State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry vía su sitio web: [stear.dps.texas.gov](http://stear.dps.texas.gov) o llamando al 211 para registrarse si usted tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas o si simplemente no tiene transporte.** Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo en zonas de evacuación con una discapacidad o necesidades médicas quiénes no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudarlo o no tienen transporte debe registrarse con STEAR por adelantado.

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## 10 Tips for Energy Savings

**CLEAR THE AIR. OPEN WINDOWS TO** allow fresh (free!) air to circulate.

**Cook outside.** Enjoy a few hours of sunshine by using your grill or smoker to add festive flavors to meals.

**Search and seal.** Cracks and spaces let conditioned air outside. Caulk and weather-strip to seal leaks.

**Use natural light.** Open blinds and curtains, and turn off lights to save energy.

**Be fan-friendly.** Use ceiling fans to circulate airflow.

**Adjust settings.** Remember to adjust your thermostat settings during milder months.

**Tune up.** Schedule an appointment with your HVAC technician to identify any potential problems with your system.

**Reap savings.** Think about supply and demand. Tackle household chores that require electricity during off-peak hours (when energy demand is low).

**Take charge.** Consider disconnecting electrical devices you don't use regularly until you need them. Plugged-in devices use energy even when not in use.

**Move outdoors.** Time spent outdoors offers opportunities to turn off lights, TVs, computers and home appliances. You'll be more active, have more fun and save some money.

## Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18–25, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by July 31 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner!



# Into the Wild

*East Texas has plenty of opportunities to be close to nature and close to home*

TVEC | DON JOHNSON

**Living in rural Texas means being close to nature all the time**, but the Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative service territory has some attractions to offer beyond deer in the backyard or fishing the neighbor's pond.

## **State Parks**

Lake Tawakoni State Park north of Wills Point and Purtil Creek State Park, near Eustace, have all the amenities you might expect. Camping, hiking and fishing opportunities are great, and the expertise of the park rangers can make even a short day trip an educational opportunity.

Fishing from shore in state parks does not require a fishing license, and you can find loaner equipment in the park offices.

## **John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center**

Completed in 2009, the John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center is part of the largest man-made wetlands in the country. Its true purpose is to act as a natural filter, cleaning the water through organic processes before it is pumped to Lake Lavon for use by the North Texas Municipal Water District.

The center, located in the middle of the wetlands, offers access to a great variety of wildlife and plants.

"We have become a mecca for teachers in the region," said JBS Wetlands Center Director John DeFillipo. "The programs we use are certified and allow educators to get continuing education credits. It is also great for parents and home-school educators who want to con-

nect their kids to nature."

The center also offers Family Fun Days during the summer, with the opportunity for kids to learn basic survival skills, study weather, and various animal and plant topics.

"We teach a lot in two hours, and this includes a lesson, a craft and snacks for only \$6," DeFillipo said. "And of course the wetlands board walk, our nature trails and the trail to the bald eagles' nest is popular. This is one of the top bird-watching destinations in North Texas with more than 270 species."

Guided bird-watching tours and nature walks are also on the schedule, or you can take a picnic basket and just enjoy the



The John Bunker Sands Wetlands offers educational activities for all ages, including "Family Fun Days" during the summer months.

COURTESY PHOTO



# Short Trips for Big Outdoor Adventures

## John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

F.M. 1389  
Combine, TX  
Wetlands Trails  
Boardwalk  
Hike/ Bike Trails  
Birdwatching  
Educational Programs  
Adults \$5,  
Children 5-12 \$3.

Kaufman

## Lake Tawakoni State Park

10822 F.M. 2475  
Wills Point, TX  
Camping, Fishing  
Hiking Trails  
Ranger-led programs  
Day-Use \$5 per  
person over 13,  
under 12, free.

Canton

## Purtis Creek State Park

14225 F.M. 316  
Eustace, TX  
Camping, Fishing  
Hiking Trails  
Ranger-led  
programs  
Day-Use \$5 per  
person over 13,  
under 12, free.

Athens

## Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

5550 F.M. 2495  
Athens, TX  
Aquarium Exhibits  
Hatchery Tram Tour  
Wetlands Trail  
Fishing  
Educational Programs  
Adults \$5.50,  
Children 4-12 \$3.50.

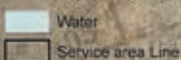
## Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area

16149 US Hwy. 287  
Tennessee Colony, TX  
Self-Guided Tours  
Hiking, Nature Trail  
Beaver Pond  
Limited Public Use  
Permit required for  
Adults 17+

Palestine



A beaver pond viewing area is part of a self-guided driving tour of the Gus Engeling WMA.







Aquarium exhibits at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center include native fish species and a few non-fish residents.

TVEC | DON JOHNSON

scenery.

The Center's facility and boardwalk is handicap accessible, opening the outdoors to everyone.

### **Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center**

Part aquarium, part nature center and part fishing hole, the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center near Athens covers a lot of water.

"The nice thing is, for families on a budget, a typical family of four can spend the day for about \$20, and that includes the tram tour, the dive show, fishing and all of the exhibits,"

said Wayne Heaton, TFFC curator. "In having all that fun, there is an educational component that gets squeezed in to tell you about what the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is, how we stock lakes and how your tax money is at work."

Summer activities include a July 4 fireworks display with free admission after 5 p.m. 60116724001

Fishing tackle is provided with admission. Inside the center you can see mounts of record-setting bass and catfish as well as a collection of antique fishing gear.

### **Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area**

If you want to experience more of nature in its wildest state, the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area may be the spot for you.

While it may lack the creature comforts of a state park, the WMA offers an untarnished and untamed look at the wildlife of East Texas.

Named for a pioneering biologist and game warden who was killed by poachers in 1951, the area is maintained by the TPWD for university research and public use.

A self-guided driving tour provides an overview of the WMA and its various habitats, and hiking trails allow an even closer look.

Adults need to obtain a limited public use permit or annual public hunting permit before using the area.



COURTESY PHOTO

An elevated boardwalk gives visitors an up-close view of nature at the JBS Wetlands Center.



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## Senior Connect: More Than A Meal

**Texas ranks seventh for hunger risk among seniors, showing the drastic need for services like Senior Connect.**

“Our service is simple: We feed people, said Melinda Polk, Senior Connect executive director. “But it is more than a meal; it’s a daily well-check, it’s contact with a person, it’s keeping people independent and in their homes.”

Serving Kaufman and Navarro counties, Senior Connect provides meals for the elderly at senior centers or delivered to homes through Meals on Wheels.

They serve about 2,000 individuals within both counties. Last year, Senior Connect served a total of about 199,000 meals delivering about 130,000 of those. Meals are served five days a week, breakfast and lunch in person at senior centers, and lunch for Meals on Wheels.

Still, the need outweighs the supply. There are about 60 elderly on the waiting list for meals.

“I would love to serve everybody on the waiting list, but we just don’t have the means to do so,” Polk said.

Senior Connect prioritizes this waiting list by need. Those who are on hospice or terminally ill will be served no matter what, while some others have to continue to wait.

Since its start in 1978, Senior Connect has been funded through the Older Americans Act (1965). Funding is determined by the productivity for the past two years, but as the population continues to grow, Senior Connect has a hard time keeping up with the need.

Only about 70 percent of the community in need can be served from the federal funding. That leaves a lot to be funded through grants and community generosity.

“We need to do better for our seniors. And we can, because partners like Trinity Valley Electric Co-op Charitable Foundation are making that possible for Senior Connect,” Polk said.



**Senior Connect Executive Director Melinda Polk receives a TVEC Operation Round Up grant check from TVEC PR Representative Laura Melton.**

**Senior Connect**  
**\$5,000**

**THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** recently awarded six grants totaling \$15,000. Recipients of the grants include the above and:

### **Jake E's Riding Round Up** **\$2,000**

Jake E's Riding Round Up in northern Kaufman County provides animal-assisted therapy and programs.

### **The Refuge at Cedar Creek Lake** **\$2,000**

The Refuge serves as a food pantry and clothes closet, providing services on the northwest side of Cedar Creek Lake.

### **The Share Center (Terrell)** **\$3,500**

The Share Center in Terrell provides food for people in need, as well as clothing, ESL, and GED classes and self-esteem programs.

### **Living Alternatives of Palestine** **\$1,500**

Living Alternatives provides crisis pregnancy services as well as in-school character development programs to promote self-worth, purpose and integrity and to combat bullying.

### **United Way of East/Central Texas** **\$1,000**

United Way supports a number of charitable causes in the TVEC service area, including the Dogwood Children's Literacy and Art Festival.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. **The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up.** For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit [tvec.net](http://tvec.net).

# Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon

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

by David Waxman  
Seattle Washington:

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

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

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

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results...

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

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

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

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

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

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

## FIX YOUR GUT & FIGHT INFLAMMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## EXCITING RESULTS FROM PATIENTS

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

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

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

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

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

## THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALOECURE

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

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

Made from 100% organic Aloe Vera, AloeCure uses a proprietary process that results in the highest quality, most bio-available levels of acemannan known to exist.

According to Dr. Leal and several of her colleagues, improving the pH balance of your stomach



and restoring gut health is the key to revitalizing your entire body.

When your digestive system isn't healthy, it causes unwanted stress on your immune system, which results in inflammation in the rest of the body.

The recommended daily allowance of acemannan in AloeCure has been proven to support digestive health, and calm painful inflammation without side effects or drugs.

This would explain why so many users are experiencing impressive results so quickly.

## REVITALIZE YOUR ENTIRE BODY

With daily use, AloeCure helps users look and feel decades younger and defend against some of the painful inflammation that accompanies aging and can make life hard.

By buffering stomach acid and restoring gut health, AloeCure calms painful inflammation and will help improve digestion... soothe aching joints... reduce the appearance of wrinkles and help restore hair and nails... manage cholesterol and oxidative stress... and improve sleep and brain function... without side effects or expense.

You can now reclaim their energy, vitality, and youth regardless of age or current level of health.

## One AloeCure Capsule Daily

- Helps End Digestion Nightmares
- Helps Calm Painful Inflammation
- Soothes Stiff & Aching Joints
- Reduces appearance of Wrinkles & Increases Elasticity
- Manages Cholesterol & Oxidative Stress
- Supports Healthy Immune System
- Improves Sleep & Brain Function

## HOW TO GET ALOECURE

This is the official nationwide release of the new AloeCure pill in the United States. And so, the company is offering you up to 3 FREE bottles with your order.

All you have to do is call **TOLL-FREE 1-800-808-9640** and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: AC100. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.



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# Double Exposure

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

BY CHARLES LOHRMANN



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What are the odds?

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

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

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

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## How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

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

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

### Beach House Pasta

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



# Recipes

## How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

Enter online  
to win 5 pounds  
of Texas Gulf  
shrimp.

### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER



DONNA JOHN | SAN BERNARD EC

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

### Quick Sweet Chili Shrimp

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

Olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

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

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

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

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

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

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

### Shrimp Louis Salad

IRENE PORTALES | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

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

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

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



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### \$100 Recipe Contest

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

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



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

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

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

## Spicy Creole Shrimp Spread

DORIS WIDACKI | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

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

### SEASONING BLEND

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

### SHRIMP SPREAD

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

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

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

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

olive oil and the seasoning blend. Set aside.

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

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

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

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



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## Upcoming Contests

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

**JANUARY ISSUE**  
**Sunny Citrus**  
Deadline: August 10

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**TexasCoopPower.com**



# Opposites

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

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



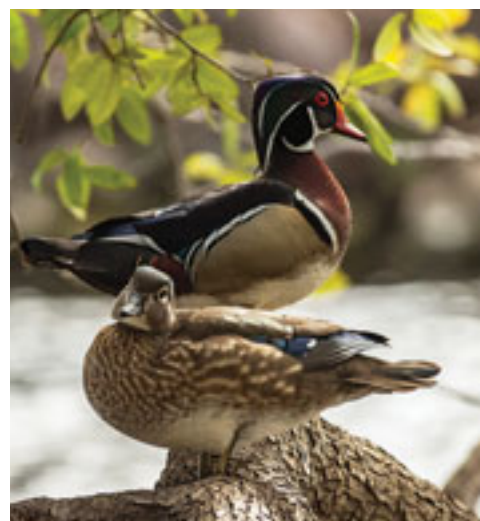
▲ **WYATT WATSON**, Grayson-Collin EC: "Though these two birds are enemies, they don't mind sharing opposite sides of the feeder."



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



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



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



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

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

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

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

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



## Pick of the Month Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival

**Wimberley** July 7  
(512) 921-7043, [wimberley.org](http://wimberley.org)

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

## July 7

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

**Galveston An Evening With Bill Engvall**,  
1-800-821-1894, [thegrand.com](http://thegrand.com)

**Grand Prairie Festival de Mariachi**,  
(972) 647-2331, [tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie](http://tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie)

**Llano Rock'n Riverfest**, (325) 247-5354,  
[llanorocknriverfest.com](http://llanorocknriverfest.com)

**Mooreville United Methodist Church's Annual BBQ**, (254) 709-7921,  
[moorevilleumc.org](http://moorevilleumc.org)

**Port O'Connor Fireworks Display**,  
(361) 983-2898, [portoconnorchamber.com](http://portoconnorchamber.com)

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

## 12

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

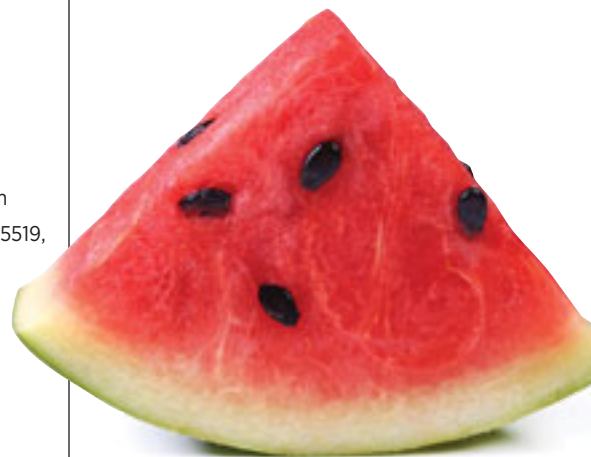
**Canadian** [12, 19, 26] Screen on the Green,  
(806) 323-6234, [canadiantx.com](http://canadiantx.com)

## 13

**Bulverde The Lego Batman Movie**,  
(210) 212-9373, [slabcinema.com](http://slabcinema.com)

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

**July 14**  
**McDade**  
**Watermelon Festival**



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

14

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

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

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

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

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

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

18

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

19

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



July 21  
Lytle  
Paws of Summer

21

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

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

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

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

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

26

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

27

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

28

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

August  
3

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

### Submit Your Event!

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

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# Redemption in the Desert

A last-minute escape to Marathon offers inviting surprises

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Post Park, 5 miles south of Marathon**

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to read about more West Texas destinations.

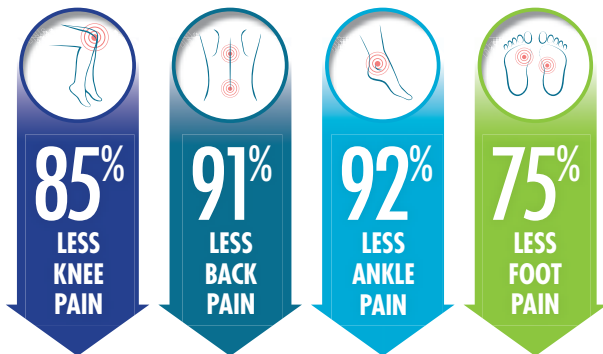


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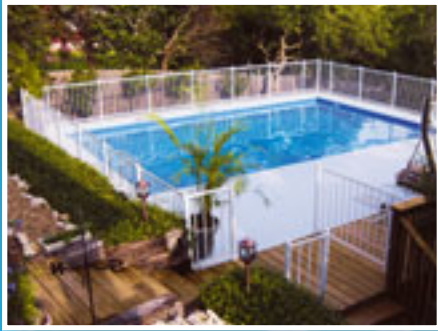
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