

RIGHT AT HOME  
IN TEXAS-MADE RVS

WAR VETERAN  
STRIKES BIG IN OIL

HEARTY SOUPS  
FOR CHILLY DAYS

# Texas Coop Power

FOR CECA MEMBERS

JANUARY 2025

## The Bears Are Back

Prepare for sightings  
and encounters





WATERFURNACE UNITS QUALIFY FOR A 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT<sup>2</sup>

State of Texas

MONTHLY AVERAGE<sup>1</sup>

\$53

for Geothermal Heating & Cooling



## Symphony Insight

**With WaterFurnace, the average Texan pays \$53/mo. to provide heating, cooling and hot water for their home.**

WaterFurnace homeowners across the country are reaping the benefits of geothermal heat pumps by utilizing the unlimited reservoir of stored solar energy underground. A WaterFurnace geothermal system taps into this free and renewable resource to provide savings of up to 70% on heating, cooling, and hot water—with a comfort you have to experience to believe. Right now you can save thousands on installation thanks to a 30% federal tax credit<sup>2</sup>. Contact our WaterFurnace Concierges Team to learn more today!



visit [waterfurnace.com/TexasPower](https://waterfurnace.com/TexasPower)

WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc. ©2024 WaterFurnace International Inc.  
1. 14.5¢ kWh – June 2024 Texa's Monthly Electricity Rate Average | Actual data powered by Symphony  
2. ENERGY STAR rated units qualify for 30% through 2032, 26% through 2033 and 22% through 2034

# January 2025



10

## 06 Our Nosy New Neighbors

Decades after black bears were forced out of Texas, they're traipsing back and causing a ruckus.

By Pam LeBlanc

## Wheel Estate

Wherever you wander, a Texas RV-maker has the rig for your next trip.

By Brandon Weaver

ON THE COVER  
A black bear heads toward Chisos Basin in Big Bend National Park.  
Photo by Jared Markgraf

ABOVE  
Betty McCord Studzinski and her bulldog, Tonka, with their home away from home at Lake Georgetown.  
Photo by Eric W. Pohl

04	<b>Currents</b> The latest buzz
05	<b>TCP Talk</b> Readers respond
16	<b>Co-op News</b> Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative
25	<b>Footnotes in Texas History</b> Striking It Big By Anne R. Keene
26	<b>TCP Kitchen</b> Hearty Soups By Vianney Rodriguez
30	<b>Hit the Road</b> Nuts About Pecans By Chet Garner
33	<b>Focus on Texas</b> Photo Contest: Parks
34	<b>Observations</b> Miles of Memories By Lauren Sena



# Looming Large



**THIS MONTH, CHET** takes us to the world's largest pecan, in Seguin (see Page 30). Other attractions in Texas lay claim to being the world's largest because, you know, everything's bigger ... These include the world's largest:

**Patio chair**, in Dallas  
**Roadrunner**, Fort Stockton  
**Rattlesnake**, Freer  
**Caterpillar**, Italy

**Watermelon**, Luling  
**Muleshoe**, Muleshoe  
**Jackrabbit**, Ralls



## TCP Contests and More

**ENTER CONTESTS AT**  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)

**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
 Summer Pastas

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
 Patterns

### RECOMMENDED READING

Download our issue from January 2005 and learn about Gainesville's quirky circus history. Find it at [TexasCoopPower.com/magazine-archives](http://TexasCoopPower.com/magazine-archives).



“Kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself keeps you feeling young.”

—BETTY WHITE

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

The best year of my life was ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our November prompt: **Snakes are ...**

Misunderstood.

JAMES KLEIN  
 FARMERS EC  
 EAST TAWAKONI

Frightfully fascinating.

TAMMY TEMPLIN  
 PEDERNALES EC  
 AUSTIN

Nope ropes.

SUSAN ALLEN LITTLEFIELD  
 VIA FACEBOOK

Better seen than felt.

LORI GUSTAVSSON  
 HAMILTON COUNTY EC  
 GOLDTHWAITE

Lovely to look at, tempting to hold, but if you are bitten, you might not grow old.

NOLAN GREEN  
 CHEROKEE COUNTY EC  
 JACKSONVILLE

Visit our website to see more responses.



## NOVEMBER 2024 A Good Snake

“Hopefully a few snakes will live on because of this, and folks will start to understand better that snakes are valuable members of our wildlife community.”

MELINA BAKER  
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC  
RUSK



RUSSELL A. GRAVES

## A Smart Pet

I had a corn snake pet I adopted [A Good Snake, November 2024]. He lived for about 16 years. Junior loved humans but did not trust my two cats. Smart dude.

Diane Cabiness  
MidSouth EC  
Montgomery

## Interpreting Maps

I know very little Spanish. I enjoyed the article [Found in Translation, November 2024]. I knew some of the names in English. It caused me to think of two towns with Spanish names. One is Cuero, which means leather. The other is Port Lavaca. *Vaca* means cow.

Ron Tietz  
Medina EC  
San Antonio

## A Memory Burns Brightly

Raised on a farm in Wilson County, Kansas, I remember well when the area received electricity in the early 1940s



NICK LU

[In the Beginning, August 2024]. That evening, the neighborhood was aglow as most had their yard lights on. The first appliance my parents purchased was a refrigerator, replacing the kerosene-powered one.

Thanks to the Rural Electrification Administration, those lights continue to burn brightly in my memory 80 years later.

Dick Stanley  
Farmers EC  
Greenville

## Kindness in Kerrville

Folks who move to Kerrville, over time, become Kerrverts [Vegan Panhandlers, July 2024]. Nothing perverted is meant by it; it's more about conversion.

In my case, it had to do with shedding a sort of crust acquired living my first few decades of life in a major metro area (Houston). A few years after moving to Kerrville, its pervasive aura of authentic kindness and old-fashioned neighborliness softened my somewhat city-hardened exterior.

Kristin Mudry  
Bandera EC  
Kerrville

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair** Avan Irani, Robstown

**Vice Chair** Bryan Wood, San Augustine

**Secretary-Treasurer** Cameron Smallwood, Burleson

**Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Kerry Kelton, Navasota • Mark McClain, Roby

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Kathi Calvert, Crockett  
Marty Haught, Burleson • Tachi Hinojosa, Fredericksburg • Gary Miller, Bryan  
Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • Bryan Story, Blossom • 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** Samantha Bryant

**Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Calhoun

**Senior Designer** Stacy Coale

**Assistant Production Manager** Alex Dal Santo

**Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz

**Food Editor** Vianney Rodriguez

**Communications Specialist** Erin Sinclair

**Communications Specialist** Claire Stevens

**Proofreader** Louie Bond

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 81, Number 7 (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 76 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power's website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscription price is \$5.11 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 espru@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 © 2025 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American MainStreet Publications



# OUR NOSY NEW NEIGHBORS

BY PAM LEBLANC

**Decades after bears were forced out of West Texas,  
they're traipsing back and causing a ruckus**

**I**n 1994, when Alida Lorio and her husband moved to the quirky Terlingua Ranch development north of Study Butte, where off-the-grid shacks sprout alongside hipster hideouts in the desert of far West Texas, they never expected they'd be living among black bears.

That changed in 2022, when several of the large, furry omnivores began ambling through their 110-acre, cactus-dotted backyard and diving for greasy pizza boxes in a dumpster.

"It's like Terlingua Ranch just got invaded by bears," Lorio says. "We have an arroyo right behind our house, and they were using that as a highway."

Lorio reported the animals to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials who connected her with researchers at the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University, up the road in Alpine. They set up traps and collared some of the animals as part of an ongoing, multiyear project to learn more about their movements.

Bears, they've discovered, are making a comeback in Texas. And as the animals expand their territory beyond just West Texas, it's time for Texans to prepare to live alongside them.

## HOMeward BOUND

Black bears once roamed across much of Texas, from the Big Bend to the Pineywoods, the Panhandle to the

Rio Grande, but habitat loss and overhunting—along with ranchers who killed them over fears for their livestock—decimated their population. By the 1950s, they had been extirpated from the state.

A remnant population survived in the remote mountains of northern Mexico, though, and began to rebound. In the late 1980s, a few bears wandered across the Rio Grande and into Big Bend National Park. Now they've been spotted outside the park's gates, along the Rio Grande and even as far as the Hill Country.

"A lot of that is due to the protected landscape, restrictions on hunting bears in Texas and most importantly, a change in people's attitudes in the last 50 years," says Matthew Hewitt, a wildlife research assistant who works on the Borderlands Research Institute's black bear project.

The influx of the animals indicates improving habitat, but it also means an increased likelihood that humans will cross paths with bears, who are drawn to garbage, outdoor grills, deer feeders and pet food.

And that sometimes leads to conflict.

"Human-bear interactions are going to start becoming more common as bears continue to recolonize," Hewitt says. "We're working to get Texans in general to realize bears are a real thing and they do exist here."

In 2020, someone shot and killed a bear that roamed into a Del Rio neighborhood. In 2022, a bear nicknamed Oscar





A black bear, seemingly unconcerned about a nearby photographer, feasts on prickly pear tunas just off the road in Big Bend National Park.







ABOVE A mama and her three cubs meander along Chisos Basin Road on the way into the Chisos Mountains.

BELOW Matthew Hewitt of the Borderlands Research Institute collects vitals and records the condition of a creature's mighty paws.



began hanging around a dumpster outside a barbecue restaurant in Terlingua. The animals have popped up in Laredo, the Davis Mountains and Guadalupe Mountains National Park, too, and last September, TPWD officials trapped and relocated a bear on the outskirts of Uvalde, 85 miles west of San Antonio.

Three years ago, Melanie Kaihani noticed a bear on the 243 acres of land she'd just purchased near Sanderson, southeast of Fort Stockton. She set up a wildlife camera and struck gold: a bevy of bears cavorting beneath a deer feeder and climbing a salt lick to take a dip in the water tank she constructed for wildlife. (You can watch their antics on Instagram at @bigbendcountry.)

"With their size and teeth and claws, you'd expect them to be really intimidating creatures, but they're really just big, goofy raccoons," says Kaihani. She notified researchers, who advised her to quit filling the deer feeder. "If they had opposable thumbs, they'd rule the world."

For now, no one really knows how many black bears live in Texas, where they're still considered threatened and hunting them is banned. "More than a dozen, less than a thousand," Hewitt says. "Possibly a couple hundred."

Researchers want to know more about the bears—which have ears shaped like castanets; oval paws with candy corn-sized claws; eyes the size of a quarter; and a distinctive, musky odor—so they're fitting them with collars to track their movements.

Their diet includes mostly plants: prickly pear tunas, acorns, wild persimmons, berries and seeds from piñon pine cones. They also eat insects and roadkill, and researchers in Texas have documented one incident of true predation (a javelina). Full-grown males typically weigh up to 300 pounds.

## BEARS WILL BE BEARS

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, Hewitt and others from the Borderlands Research Institute load baked goods and fruit into live traps they set on land where bears have been reported.

"We have learned that bears sure do like doughnuts," Hewitt says.

When the trapdoor shuts behind a bear, the researchers get a text alert on their phones. Someone is always within a 90-minute drive.

"If a trap goes off, it's boots on ground," Hewitt says.



## BEAR NECESSITIES

- Never feed or approach bears.
- Secure food, garbage and recycling.
- Remove bird feeders when bears are active.
- Never leave pet food outdoors.
- Clean and store grills and smokers.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity.



“We jump out of bed, drop what we’re doing and drive out to the trap site.”

The researchers use a dart gun or jab stick to anesthetize the bear. Once it’s unconscious, they check its vitals; gather biometric data; attach tracking tags; and take hair, blood and tissue samples. Finally, they attach a rubber collar equipped with a transmitter and battery pack so they can follow the animal’s movements.

So far, they’ve collared about 30 bears, including five on Kaihani’s land near Sanderson and a couple on Lorio’s property in Terlingua Ranch.

“We have been extremely surprised by the sheer size of the area these animals are using,” Hewitt says. “We’ve seen some 80-mile movements from Terlingua Ranch down into Mexico.”

Another surprise? The bears are apparently thriving in the harsh, prickly environment of West Texas.

That’s why Borderlands researchers and scientists with TPWD want to educate the public on how they can safely coexist with the animals.

“Bears get into problems when there’s food involved,” Hewitt says. “Outside that, they’re good at keeping to themselves.”

By removing food that attracts bears, storing grills where bears can’t access them and installing bear-safe dumpsters, people can lessen the odds of a problem, Hewitt says.

If you do encounter a black bear, remember that it’s likely

to scamper off if threatened or scared. Stay at least 100 yards away, and if you accidentally find yourself in close proximity to one, continue facing it and back away slowly. Bear spray is a good tool if a bear acts aggressively.

Also, consider yourself lucky.

“Take a second to marvel at a cool critter in a cool place,” Hewitt says.

### OH, BOTHER

Back at Terlingua Ranch, Lorio and her husband say they’re learning to coexist with their new neighbors.

“William and I are adaptive, and we figure the bears were here first,” she says. “So we just made some adjustments on how we dealt with garbage.”

They now store trash indoors. They rinse out pet food and other food containers to eliminate odor, and they put chicken bones in the freezer until trash pickup day. Bear-proof dumpsters have been installed in the rural neighborhood too.

Although not all her neighbors appreciate the bears as much as the Lorios do, Alida says she enjoys observing them.

“A lion is kind of regal, but bears look like you’d want to go have a beer with them,” she says. “The rare times that you do see them, it’s like a gift from Mother Nature.” ■



# WHEEL

**Wherever you wander, a Texas RV-maker  
has the rig for your next trip**





# ESTATE



ERIC W. POHL

BY BRANDON WEAVER

## IN THE SUMMER

of 2023, Betty

McCord Studzinski caravanned to Alaska from her home in Georgetown, north of Austin, with 12 other RVers. The majority made the trek in large 45-foot motor homes, but her recreational vehicle was the smallest of the bunch: a 17-foot Texas-made travel trailer perfect for her and Tonka, her bulldog.

"They were breaking down here and there," says Studzinski, 78. "We had no issues at all." She and Tonka covered 11,000 miles on that trip. Her favorite part was the wildlife. "They were everywhere," she says. "And the scenery was just breathtaking."

Studzinski has seen 49 states and many national parks with her Casita trailer in tow and has no plans to slow down. This year, she's planning a trip to Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Texas was the top destination for shipments of new RVs in 2023, according to the RV Industry Association, but our state also produces its very own travel rigs. Casita, Capri Camper and Sportsmobile are niche manufacturers compared to the corporate behemoths, and each of these companies has a wait-list for every RV that they build right here in Texas. The folks who buy these vehicles are loyal, and for them, it means buying into an ethos of community, since they don't have to go through a dealership.

Each of the companies' RVs take unique forms. Sportsmobile's converted vans are like turtle shells—you live and drive in your home. Casita makes small, fiberglass egg-shaped trailers that you tote behind you. And Capri makes the classic truck camper for pickups.

An RVIA study found that RV ownership has increased 62% over the past 20 years, with nearly a quarter of owners aged 18–34. These are a few of the intrepid travelers who love their Texas-built homes on wheels.

Betty McCord Studzinski loves her Casita Spirit Deluxe camper. "I hardly ever go back to a place I've been before," she says.





## TOP

**LARRY PANCAKE IS** a professional saddle bronc rider and music and rodeo promoter from Amarillo.

"I started rodeoing when I was 12," he says. "My seventh grade PE teacher taught me to rope." The Capri camper is a mainstay for professional cowboys like him. The campers are so iconic in Western culture, several have been featured in the TV series *Yellowstone*.

And they've been custom-made in Texas since 1969. In 2003, the company set up manufacturing in the tiny town of Bluff Dale, southwest of Fort Worth. They offer four models to top every size of pickup, with retro styling on the outside and modern amenities inside.

Pancake has owned four Capri campers, and his current one sits atop a 1997 Freightliner chassis. He spends about 150 days a year in it, hunting elk in New Mexico, riding broncs and promoting events across the U.S. The interior is decorated with a neon flamingo and a Welcome to Las Vegas sign.

"Anytime I leave the house, I'm in my Capri. I don't rent hotel rooms," Pancake says. "I like having my own space."

His favorite feature is his Capri's blackout shades that keep the interior completely dark in the daytime and under streetlamps. At big rodeos, there are sometimes hours between rotations. "I can watch a movie or take a nap," Pancake says. "The blackout shades are huge."

He also had Capri build a dream rig from his childhood rodeo days. The Bronc Stomper is a 1977 Chevrolet C20 Camper Special with a Capri camper on it. It's a show truck he uses to promote his National Finals Rodeo events in Las Vegas.

"When I was a kid growing up in the '70s, you had made it big time if you had a Chevy Camper Special with a Capri camper on it," Pancake says. "You either pulled horses with it or rode bulls. That's what the elite rodeo rig was."



COURTESY LARRY PANCAKE

Larry Pancake, a professional saddle bronc rider, calls his outfit, made by Capri Camper, the Bronc Stomper. He also outfitted a Freightliner with a Capri camper, and he uses the big rig to haul his smaller truck.

## TOTE

**STUDZINSKI, THE AVID RVer** from Georgetown, has owned just about every type of home on wheels—from a pop-up tent trailer to a massive motor home.

"I never could find the right size for me," Studzinski says. "I thought being a single female, traveling alone, with just a dog, I needed an engine-driven vehicle." That way if she felt unsafe camping, she could go from her bed to the driver's seat without exiting the rig.

Studzinski likes to boondock (camp off-grid, without hookups), but when all you have is one vehicle, you're likely to lose your spot if you leave briefly and drive to a trailhead or into town. So she started looking at trailers and settled on Casita.

The tough little fiberglass trailers have been built in



## TURTLE



LEFT: COURTESY KATIE PERKINS; RIGHT: COURTESY BRANDON WEAVER

**CHARLES BORSKEY** SET up shop in El Paso in 1961, converting Volkswagen and Ford vans. In the following decades, his company added innovations like “penthouse” tops (expandable roofs for sleeping) and four-wheel-drive conversions. In 1984, Borskey moved Sportsmobile to Austin.

I built my first van in 2005 with Sportsmobile, a four-wheel-drive Ford Econoline. The interior was sparse, with a compact cabinet, microwave, TV and a small “garage” area in the back for my mountain bike.

These days, the company offers standardized floor plans but also has an infinite selection of custom options to build your Goldilocks van. I chose the minimalist approach and christened my go-anywhere machine the Travel-All.

My first excursion was a shakedown trip to the Big Bend. The penthouse top, which raises above the van’s roof, withstood a blustery windstorm in Terlingua, and the four-wheel-drive chassis had no problem navigating the rough and rocky Black Gap Road in the backcountry of Big Bend National Park.

I deemed the Travel-All ready for a remote expedition in Colorado and drove it deep into the Rio Grande National Forest, inching down an impossibly steep Jeep trail to a

The author and his camper outfitted by Sportsmobile. It eats highway miles the way he eats breakfast tacos—with glee and fervor.

campsite along the rushing headwaters of the Rio Grande. I spent four glorious days in absolute solitude next to a Texas river born in Colorado.

I quickly outgrew the Travel-All’s sparse interior, so back to Sportsmobile I went.

In 2007, a few years after Mercedes-Benz introduced their sleek Sprinter van to the American market, I ordered one from Sportsmobile, one of the first certified outfitters in the U.S., and christened it Bruce. Unlike the Travel-All, it ate highway miles like I consume breakfast tacos—with glee and fervor.

I drove it all over the Western states, from Carmel-by-the-Sea, on the coast of central California, to the Grand Canyon, where my wife and I honeymooned in it with our trusty beagle, Pizza. In the 2000s, the Mercedes Sprinter van was uncommon, but now they’re ubiquitous. Ford and Dodge offer their own Euro-styled vans, and Sportsmobile does conversions on those as well out of their facility in North Austin.

Texas since 1983. Their current manufacturing plant is in Rice, south of Dallas, where they produce five models that are 17 feet long. The molded two-piece fiberglass design is built more like a boat than an RV. When a hailstorm damaged Studzinski’s home, her Casita, which sits uncovered outside, sustained no damage.

She purchased her Spirit Deluxe model in 2019 and had it outfitted with 325 watts of rooftop solar panels and four 100-amp-hour batteries. She bought a Subaru and promptly loaded up Tonka and went to Big Bend National Park, where she camped in the Chisos Basin campground.

The sites are small, but her little fiberglass “egg” fit perfectly, and with all her solar power, she could run her fridge with ease. Finding her perfect RV has fueled more wanderlust for Studzinski.

“I hardly ever go back to a place I’ve been before,” she says. “There are so many other places on my list that I want to see.” ■



ERIC W. POHL

Studzinski’s compact camper includes rooftop solar panels and four 100-amp-hour batteries.



# A Time of Porpoise

A memorable beach moment: You're basking in the warm sun, toes in the sand, letting the gentle turn of the foam-capped waves lull you into a state of complete relaxation. As your eyes scan the endless horizon of blue on blue, you're rewarded with a school of dolphins making their way across the sea.

Why not re-create that special moment with our *Balinese Dolphin Pendant*? We've captured two dolphins mid-jump in sterling silver crafted in the Balinese style. Tucked between these beloved sea mammals is a full carat of shimmering blue topaz. Made by some of Indonesia's finest artisans, this pendant is an absolute steal at **JUST \$29!** That's what we call our **Stauer IMPOSSIBLE PRICE!**

**Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.** Enjoy the Balinese Dolphin Pendant for 30 days. If it doesn't pass the test swimmingly, send it back for a full refund of the item price.

**Limited reserves.** Call today! This offer is limited to the first 1,900 responders to this ad!

## Jewelry Specifications:

- Made in Indonesia
- Blue topaz and .925 sterling silver

**Balinese Dolphin Pendant (1 carat)**

~~\$299~~ **\$29\*** *Save \$270*

*\*Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

# 1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **DNP281-01**



Stauer, 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. DNP281-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 | [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**

## ★ STILL THE TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER ★



Pkg. includes 4' Box Blade and Cutter

### New MF 1723E & 1725M Sub Compact Tractor Packages

23HP and 25HP Diesel, 4x4, ROPS, Hydro Auto Transmission, Cruise, R4 Tires, Quick Attach Loaders & Buckets

**Option: Backhoe Package**

**AS LOW AS \$239 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 84 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 5' Box Blade and Cutter

### New MF 1835E Tractor Package

35HP Diesel, 4x4, Shuttle Transmission, ROPS, Quick Attach Front End Loader & Bucket

**Options: 25 HP and 40 HP Models, Hydro Transmission**

**AS LOW AS \$339 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 84 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

### New MF 2850E & 2860E Tractor Packages

50HP & 60HP Diesel, 4x4, Shuttle Transmissions, R4 Tires, ROPS, Quick Attach Front End Loaders & Buckets, Rear Hydraulic Remotes

**Option: Hydro Transmission**

**AS LOW AS \$539 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 72 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

### New MF 2860M Deluxe Cab Tractor Package

60HP Diesel, 4x4, Hydraulic Power Shuttle Transmission, 1 Set of Hydraulic Remotes, R4 Tires, Quick Attach Front End Loader & Bucket, Front Fenders, AC, Heat & Stereo Ready Cab

**AS LOW AS \$815 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 72 months WAC

**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**



## FOSTER'S WORK & PLAY

936-967-0011 • Text 713-899-7976 After Hours • [fostersworknplay.com](http://fostersworknplay.com)

3601 US Hwy 190 W • Livingston, Texas 77351 • [sales@fostersworknplay.com](mailto:sales@fostersworknplay.com)

All horsepower ratings are approximate engine horsepower ratings from manufacturer. Prices and payments approximate with approved credit by AGCO Finance. 0% Interest Rates may be blended slightly because of implements other than MF Brand. All prices and payments may not include freight, set up, insurance or delivery if applicable



**MASSEY FERGUSON**





## CRUISE THE SOUTHEAST

*Smooth Waters, Southern Charm*

### SOUTHEAST SEA ISLANDS

On this enchanting 9-day cruise from Charleston to Amelia Island, experience the charm and hospitality of the South. In the comfort of our modern fleet, travel to some of the most beautiful historic cities in America. The fascinating sites you visit, the warm people you meet, and the delectable cuisine you taste, come together for an unforgettable journey.

*Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly®*



Call

**888-344-3063**

to request a

★ FREE ★

Cruise Guide





MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER

ALAN  
LESLEY

## We Can Make 2025 Better Together

A BRAND-NEW YEAR is upon us, and just as many of you might, we at CECA have a few resolutions. In our ongoing quest to provide reliable electric service and responsive and timely member service, we'd like to redouble our efforts to solicit feedback from our membership.

Your comments, questions and concerns are always welcome and often serve as a springboard for new and better services. If we don't get a sense from those we serve of what we're doing right and which areas need improvement, we're neglecting an important tool for positive change.

Another goal we continuously work toward is securing sustainable power agreements at competi-

departments—get to the core of who we are and articulate our enduring Concern for Community. We resolve to keep doing our part to uplift our community across a broad spectrum of charitable endeavors.

As a complement to our resolutions, here are a few we'd like to propose to you to get the most out of your co-op membership.

Make a point of attending CECA's annual meeting. There simply is no better, more direct or immediate method for making your voice heard: You can vote in important elections to determine your cooperative's leadership, pose questions to your general manager, air concerns and maybe even win a prize!

In addition, time spent gathering with fellow co-op members adds up to a worthwhile investment of a few hours each year.

Another resolution to consider is evaluating your personal stewardship of electricity. We all can find small or large ways to conserve more energy, increase efficiency and simply waste less.

In the market for a new appliance this year? Buy one that is Energy Star-rated. Or make this the year when you commit to weatherizing your house to seal leaks and gaps where air gets through. A fresh start always provides a meaningful opportunity to take stock of our surroundings and goals and make changes accordingly.

One last resolution to set, in concert with your cooperative, is renewing your commitment to serve our community. Whether by

tive rates for the long-term value of CECA's membership. By keeping an eye on the power market's horizon and emerging sources like renewables, we can negotiate the best rates and ensure that our members always have access to safe and reliable power. We resolve this year to uphold this commitment as staunchly as ever.

Finally, we expect to maintain our involvement in community outreach. These contributions—whether through Operation Round Up, scholarships, food drives or donations to local fire

opting in to Operation Round Up, volunteering individually or donating to whatever organization strikes a chord with you, this is perhaps the most rewarding and beneficial resolution of all.

With thoughtful attention to these resolutions, together we can make this year one of our best yet. ■



SDI PRODUCTIONS | ISTOCK.COM





## Official Notice of Capital Credits Return

**EACH YEAR**, the CECA Board of Directors determines whether the co-op's financial position permits the return, or retirement, of capital credits. At the October 2024 monthly board meeting, the CECA board authorized the return of \$750,000 from the cooperative's margins to member-owners. Members will see their capital credits applied to January's electric bill.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which provide electric service for profit, CECA is a member-owned cooperative that returns profits, or margins, back to its members. Capital credits allocated to each member are based on the amount of electricity used that year.

For capital credits amounts under \$50, CECA will apply the credits directly to your active account. Amounts over \$50 will be mailed as a check to the address on file.

If you have recently moved or plan to do so, please call us at 1-800-915-2533 or email us at [esupport@ceca.coop](mailto:esupport@ceca.coop) to ensure your check is sent to the correct address.

If you have any questions about capital credits, feel free to contact us.

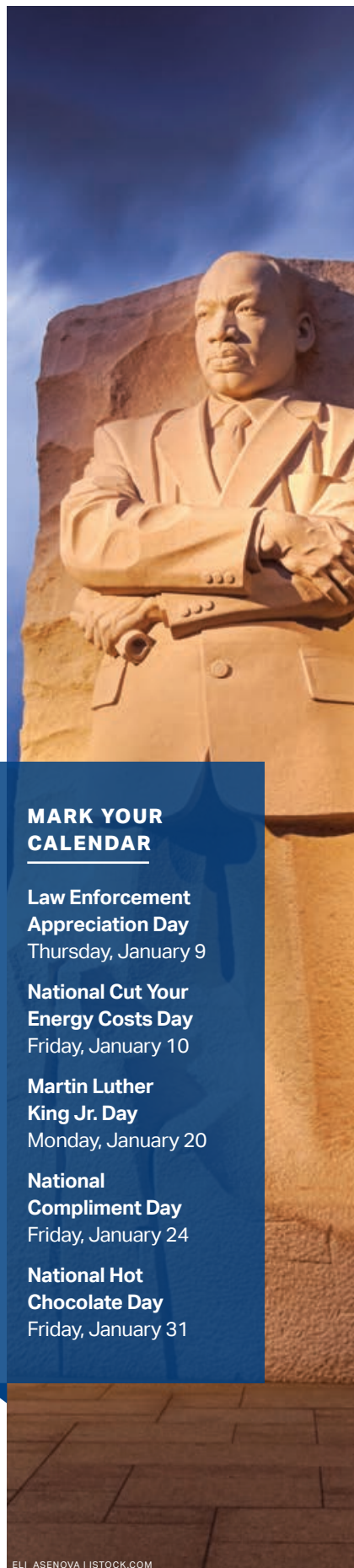
This article is intended to serve as the official notice of return of capital credits for 2023. ■



### DID YOU KNOW

The coldest temperature recorded in Texas—23 degrees below zero—was felt February 12, 1899, in Tulia and February 8, 1933, in Seminole.

YEVGENIY SAMBULOV | ISTOCK.COM



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Law Enforcement Appreciation Day**  
Thursday, January 9

**National Cut Your Energy Costs Day**  
Friday, January 10

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 20

**National Compliment Day**  
Friday, January 24

**National Hot Chocolate Day**  
Friday, January 31

ELI\_ASENOVA | ISTOCK.COM





# SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES

*for our CECA Member Cookbook*

**CECA**

## Categories for Recipes:

Appetizers & Beverages  
Soups & Salads  
Bread, Spreads & Sauces  
Vegetable & Side Dishes  
Meats & Main Dishes  
Desserts



**Deadline: March 7**

Submit your recipes by scanning QR code, emailing or mailing in to

**Email:**

**tmcgehee@ceca.coop**

**Mail to: CECA**

**C/O: Triston McGehee**

**P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442**

**Submit a recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit.**





EYECRAVE PRODUCTIONS | ISTOCK.COM

## Celebrate, Cook and Save

**DID YOU KNOW** January is National Slow Cooking Month? You can celebrate by preparing a meal in a slow cooker and save money in the process.

Ever since slow cookers were introduced in the 1950s and then popularized in the 1970s as Crock-Pots, they have been celebrated as savers of time and electricity. Plus, their meals are nutritious because they're cooked at low temperatures for long periods, allowing fresh meats and vegetables to retain their natural juices.

Here are five reasons to dust off your slow cooker this month and use it to make soups, stews and family meals.

Although it takes all day for a slow cooker to cook a meal, you don't have to do anything except toss in the ingredients and turn it

on at the appropriate level of heat. Once you prep the pot, you can walk away until the food is done.

An electric slow cooker uses less energy than a conventional oven. Use one in the winter to create hot, hearty meals. Later in the year, when it's warm outside, use it instead of the stove or oven to keep your kitchen cooler while you cook.

A slow cooker meal requires little cleanup—especially if you use a disposable liner.

When you're invited to a potluck supper, prepare your contribution in the slow cooker. Once the food is ready, leave it in the pot, let the outside cool enough to handle, and bring the whole thing to the party.

You'll eat fewer processed foods if you get used to cooking with a slow cooker. That means you'll eat less salt, fat and calories. ■

## Comanche Electric Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

349 Industrial Blvd.  
Comanche, TX 76442  
**Toll-Free** 1-800-915-2533  
**Web** [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop)

### General Manager

Alan Lesley

### Board of Directors

**Randy Denning**, District 1  
**Pete McDougal**, District 2  
**Ruby Solomon**, District 3  
**Monty Carlisle**, District 4  
**Troy Stewart**, District 5  
**Loren Stroebel**, District 6  
**Phil Taylor**, District 7

## 24/7 Outage Hotline Number

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power quality issue.

**TOLL-FREE**  
1-800-915-2533

### ABOUT CECA

CECA operates in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Esta institución es un proveedor de servicios con igualdad de oportunidades.

### OFFICE LOCATIONS

#### Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd., Comanche, TX 76442  
Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

#### Early

1801 CR 338, Early, TX 76801  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed from 1–2 p.m.

#### Eastland

1311 W. Main St., Eastland, TX 76448  
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

### VISIT US ONLINE

[ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/comanche](http://TexasCoopPower.com/comanche)



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!



Why does membership matter? An AirMedCare Network membership doesn't determine if you are flown, but, for the low cost of \$5/month on your CECA electric bill, it protects you from any financial burden if you are transported by an AMCN provider. You are **GUARANTEED TO HAVE NO OUT-OF-POCKET COST** only if transported by us.

AirMedCare Network is an alliance of affiliated air ambulance providers—including Air Evac Lifeteam, Guardian Flight, Med-Trans Corporation and REACH Air Medical Services—providing you financial protection from over 320 locations across 38 states!

**MANY COMMERCIAL INSURANCE POLICIES HAVE HIGH DEDUCTIBLES AND CO-INSURANCE, WHICH APPLY WHETHER OR NOT YOUR AIR MEDICAL PROVIDER IS IN-NETWORK.**

- A decade ago, only 55% of health benefit plans had a deductible. Today, 81% of them have deductibles and more than 24% are high-deductible plans, requiring patients to pay even more out of pocket. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, families with high-deductible plans pay an average of \$4,332 out of pocket.
- If you lose your insurance coverage or don't have insurance, membership still guarantees no out-of-pocket expense.
- AMCN has partnered with Teladoc - the most trusted telehealth provider in the world. Serving over 20 million members, Teladoc is available to AMCN members at a discounted rate. Requesting a visit with a doctor is easy anytime, day or night, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by web, phone, or with the Teladoc app.
- AMCN membership helps keep our lifesaving air medical service in your area. Since we are all part of the Global Medical Response family of companies, your membership helps to fund the aircraft providing the lifesaving mission.
- Our Patient Accounts Department is staffed with a highly skilled insurance negotiation team. For members and non-members, this team works on your behalf—at no cost to you—as an advocate with your insurance provider. This takes the confusion and burden off of you.

**Disclaimer:** This offer is for personal households of CECA members only.

**Contact your local Membership Sales Manager for questions:**

Leigh-Anne Aiken | 325-488-1372 | amcnrep.com

leighanne.aiken@gmr.net |

**Sign Up Today:** <https://www.ceca.coop/air-evac-lifeteam>

### **IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE PART A ONLY**

air ambulance isn't covered  
(must have Part B)

### **IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE PART B**

20% co-pay (approx. \$1,391),  
if the transport is deemed  
medically necessary

<http://time.com/money/4044394/average-health-deductible-premium/>

Membership terms and conditions apply. Dispatch decisions are made by emergency medical personnel; membership does not guarantee transport by an AMCN provider.





# Scholarships Available

---

**Don't Miss These Opportunities!**

- Scholarship for Excellence
- ORU Technical Scholarship

**CECA**

**Apply  
Today!**

SCAN ME



**[www.ceca.coop/scholarships](http://www.ceca.coop/scholarships)**





**Government-in-Action Youth Tour**

Explore the Nation's Capital

{ Visit the White House   Meet Your U.S. Representative   Make New Friends }

**Represent Your Community  
Represent Texas**

**Deadline: February 7**

Scan Here to Learn more or to Apply!



**CECA**

## Government-in-Action Youth Tour Deadline Approaching

**EACH YEAR**, CECA sponsors up to two students on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. This trip of a lifetime will be held June 15–22 this year and gathers 150 teens from across Texas for a fun-filled and educational week in our nation's capital.

Youth Tour includes visits to museums and memorials, meetings with elected officials and the opportunity to make lifelong friendships. The deadline to apply for this year's trip is February 7.

Participants visit iconic sites like the National Cathedral, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian Museums as well as go on a boat cruise on the Potomac River and see a performance at the Kennedy Center.

Best of all, this is an all-expenses-paid trip for the winning students, covering airfare, transportation, lodging, meals, insurance and admission charges associated with the tour.

This incredible opportunity is part of a longstanding tradition that traces its roots back to 1957, when then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago. Johnson shared his vision that every young person should witness what the American flag stands for and represents.

Over the years, this vision has transformed into a remarkable educational opportunity, impacting the lives of more than 50,000 students nationwide.

The contest is open to any sophomore or junior high school student who attends school or is homeschooled in CECA's service territory. Qualifying schools include Albany, Blanket, Breckenridge, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

To learn more or to apply for the trip, go to [ceca.coop/government-action-youth-tour](https://ceca.coop/government-action-youth-tour) to fill out and submit the application. Applicants must write a short essay of up to 200 words answering the question: What are your thoughts on the emergence of electric vehicles into the market?

For questions, contact CECA at 1-800-915-2533 or email us at [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop). ■



**CECA**

**Youth Tour Schedule**

**Scheduled: June 15–22, 2025**

**Arrival/Registration (Austin):**  
**Sunday, June 15**  
**Fly out to DC: Monday, June 16**  
**DC Scheduled Time: June 16–21**  
**Fly Back to Austin & Last Activities:**  
**Sunday, June 22**  
**Go Home Day: Monday, June 23 by 10:00 a.m.**

**The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C.**

# Community Calendar

## Comanche

**Elvis Presley Day**, January 4, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Celebrate Elvis' 90th birthday with music and videos. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com).

**Celebrating Black History Month**, February, Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Buffalo Soldiers video to be shown. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com).

## De Leon

**De Leon Market Day**: January 11, February 8; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; Community Auditorium; 125 S. Texas St. Indoor venue with over 30 vendors. The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, email [deleontxmarket@gmail.com](mailto:deleontxmarket@gmail.com) or call Jerry Leonard at (817) 371-7869 or Mark Beaty at (432) 209-3275.

## Early

**Chamber of Commerce Fostering Futures Luncheon**, January 24, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Early Business Complex. For more information, email [ecoc@earlytx.com](mailto:ecoc@earlytx.com) or call (325) 649-9317.



### Community Calendar

Please send events for the monthly issue your event is in, as well as events for the following month, at least **TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT.**

EMAIL TRISTON MCGEHEE AT **TMCGEHEE@CECA.COOP**



# Introducing CECA Community Calendar

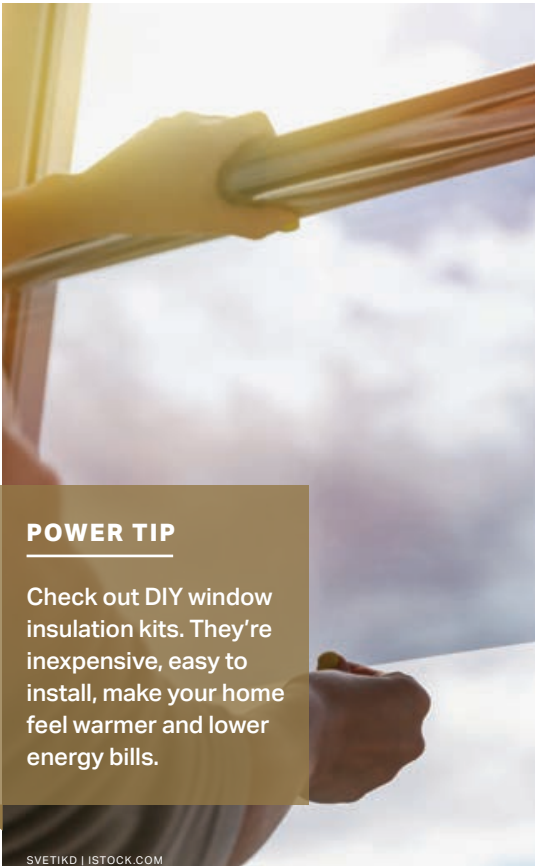
**WE ARE EXCITED** to announce the launch of the CECA Community Calendar, designed to highlight community events in our service area. CECA welcomes your local event submissions!

If you have any events you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Triston McGehee. Event information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar is published monthly and includes events scheduled for the month of publication and the following month. CECA reserves the right to edit or exclude events based on space availability and other considerations.

We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in the Community Calendar. To confirm event details, please contact the event source directly.

Email [tmcgehee@ceca.coop](mailto:tmcgehee@ceca.coop); write to CECA at P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76531; or call 1-800-915-2533.

Submit your events by January 10 to see them in the March issue. Include your April events as well. ■



### POWER TIP

Check out DIY window insulation kits. They're inexpensive, easy to install, make your home feel warmer and lower energy bills.

SVETIKO | ISTOCK.COM



**Smith Amish®**   
The brand you can trust

**ALL NATURAL ARTHRITIS CREAM**  
**⚡ RAPID RESCUE FOR**

- ☒ Arthritic pain
- ☒ Back pain
- ☒ Muscle pain
- ☒ Joint pain



Natural Botanicals of:  
**Tea Tree, Peppermint,  
Rosemary, Eucalyptus  
and Arnica + Menthol!**  
FOR QUICK RESPONSE



**\$19.99**  
+ \$3.95 S&H

**SPECIAL  
PRICE**



**MADE IN USA**

ORDER BY PHONE

**866-419-3567**  
WWW.MYZEROPAIN.COM

Monday through Friday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm ET

ORDER BY MAIL

SMITH AMISH PO Box 996,  
Fairfield, FL 32634

ALSO  
AVAILABLE AT



**WE BUY MINERALS**



We pay cash for producing  
or non-producing mineral interests.

**CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337**



**NEW YEAR  
SPECIAL**

YOUR CHOICE OF A  
**WALK-IN SHOWER  
OR WALK-IN TUB**

Lifetime Warranty  
Custom Sizes Available  
100% Financing Available  
A+ BBB Rating  
Good Contractors List

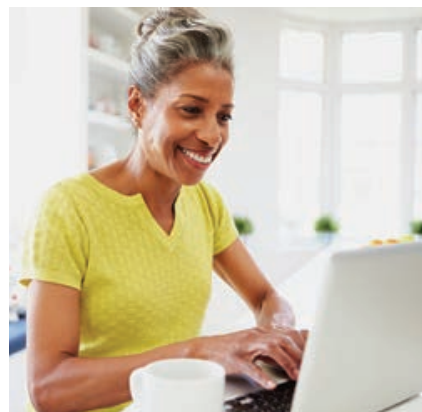
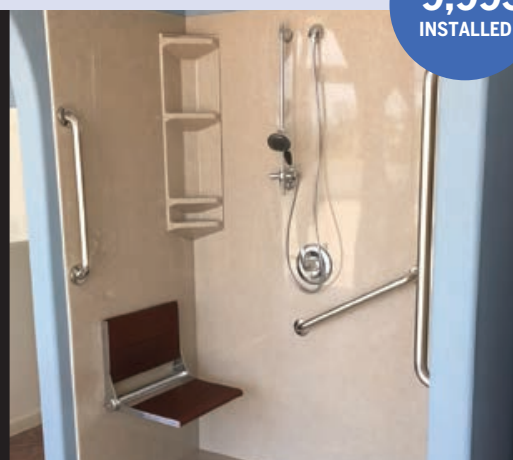
**\$9,995**  
INSTALLED



**BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS**  
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

 Trusted by Texans for 20 Years  
Tubs and Showers  
Made in America  
 Visit Our Texas Showroom

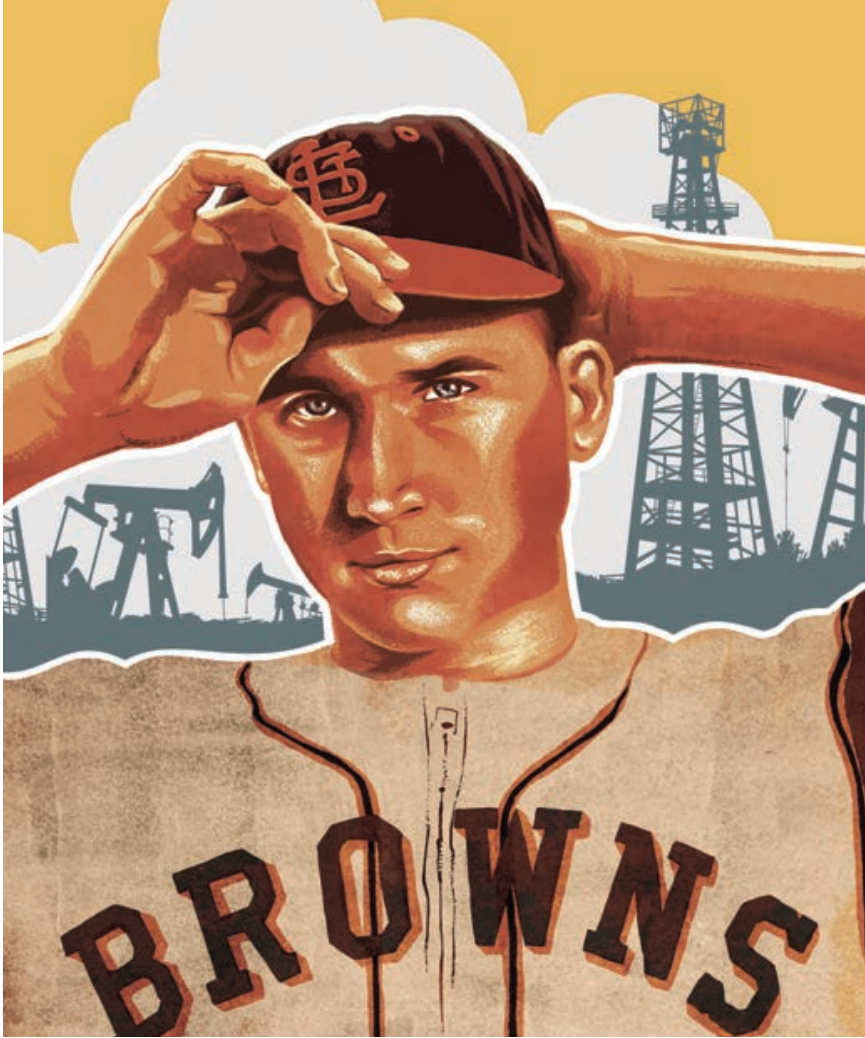
**Call for More Info**  
682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362  
**bestbuywalkintubs.com**



**TCP E-news**

**Fast and Direct**

**TCP Sign up now**  
[TexasCoopPower.com/join](http://TexasCoopPower.com/join)



# Striking It Big

War vet Frank Saucier left behind a big-league career to chase oil

BY ANNE R. KEENE • ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC KITTELBERGER

**IMAGINE GIVING UP** a promising baseball career to become a landman and wildcat in the oil business. That's what Francis "Frank" Saucier did when he saw more potential in oil than baseball.

At 98, the Amarilloan and former outfielder for the St. Louis Browns (now the Baltimore Orioles) has seen almost a century of booms and busts and war and peace.

Saucier was born in 1926 on a Missouri farm, educated in a one-room schoolhouse and carried water to wheat field workers for 25 cents a day at age 6. By 10, the youngest of six children founded a fur-trapping enterprise with a Remington rifle, earning money for used books.

As a teen, Saucier heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor as he and his cousin

walked home from a movie. "A Model T pulled up with folks who shared the news. I had no idea where Pearl Harbor was," he says with a soft-spoken West Texas drawl in a recent interview at his home, where he displays baseballs signed by Hall of Famers Satchel Paige and Rogers Hornsby. "My family did not own a radio, so I raced home to tell them about the bombing."

The day after his 17th birthday, Saucier enlisted in the Navy, where he enrolled in the V-12 officer training program at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. As an apprentice seaman, Saucier says, "My rank was so low I could crawl under a rattlesnake's belly under a wagon wheel with a stovepipe hat on."

Saucier served on an amphibious

warfare commando team—a forerunner to the Navy SEALs. "President Truman dropped the first atomic bomb when we were about 1,000 miles from Japan," he says. "Though there was no alcohol on board the ship, we had a big party and thought, 'By golly, we made it.'"

Strong farm-boy wrists from swinging an axe and milking cows had helped make Saucier a star hitter in college. After the war, he signed a minor-league contract, won three batting titles and was named player of the year in 1950 by *The Sporting News*.

Still, fame never stopped Saucier from taking offseason roustabout jobs in the oil fields, where he invested his baseball earnings to drill for crude, which was then selling for about \$3 a barrel.

He signed with the Browns in 1951, realizing a childhood dream conjured on the wooden grandstand at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis. He played with or against Ted Williams, Yogi Berra, Minnie Miñoso and Paige along with Texans Dr. Bobby Brown and Eddie Robinson.

But Saucier is most remembered for a wacky public relations stunt engineered by Browns owner Bill Veeck, who brought in 3-foot-7-inch Eddie Gaedel to pinch-hit for Saucier during a game.

In 1952, Saucier was at spring training when he was called back to active duty during the Korean War. He'd already been dealing with chronic problems with his throwing arm, and after his discharge in 1954, he took a job as a district landman for Humble Oil Co. in Tyler.

Saucier never attended another major-league game. He worked in the oil and finance business until he was 85.

Regrets? No way.

"Baseball opened a lot of doors for me," he says. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time." ■



# Hearty Soups

Enticing ingredients and easy options have you set for the coldest of days

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Pozole verde is one of my favorite soups to make when feeding a crowd. Pozole is a traditional Mexican soup that can be made with chicken or pork. (*Verde* means green.) It's the absolute perfect bowl to enjoy all winter! It comes together quickly and is even tastier the next day for lunch.

## Pozole Verde

### SOUP

- 1 pound tomatillos, husks removed, rinsed**
- 1 large onion, halved**
- 1 jalapeño pepper, halved, seeds removed for less spice**
- 2 cloves garlic**
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano**
- 10 cups water, divided use**
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, or more to taste**
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper, or more to taste**
- 1 bunch fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped**
- 4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts**
- 2 cans white hominy (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed**
- Lime wedges, for serving**
- Salsa, for serving**

### FRIED TORTILLA STRIPS

- 6 corn tortillas**
- ¼ cup vegetable oil**
- 1 teaspoon salt**

- 1. SOUP** Add tomatillos, onion, jalapeño, garlic, oregano, 4 cups water, salt and pepper to a large pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer 15 minutes.
- Using a large slotted spoon, remove tomatillos, onion, jalapeño and garlic from the broth and add to a blender with 1 cup of the cooking water and cilantro. Start blender on low, then work up to high until ingredients are smooth. Taste and add salt as needed.
- Add blended sauce, chicken and the remaining 6 cups water to a large pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer 30–45 minutes or until chicken is fork-tender. Remove from pot and shred.
- Add shredded chicken and hominy to the pot. Simmer 15 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning.
- 5. FRIED TORTILLA STRIPS** Slice tortillas into ½-inch strips. Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add tortilla strips in batches, stirring often, and fry until crispy and lightly browned. Remove from oil, place on a paper towel-lined plate and sprinkle with salt.
- Serve soup hot with tortilla strips, lime wedges and salsa.

**SERVES 6**



Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Creamy Cauliflower Hominy Soup.





# Nonna's Quick Pasta Soup

MARIA MEARS  
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC

This is an easy dinner option that can be ready in under 30 minutes. It features orzo, a tiny, rice-shaped pasta that absorbs the flavors of the broth beautifully. It's a versatile dish that can be customized by adding your favorite vegetables, herbs and protein, like chicken or beans.

- 5 tablespoons (½ stick) butter
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1¼ cups orzo
- ½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, divided use
- 2 teaspoons salt, or more to taste
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, or more to taste
- Fresh parsley, minced (optional)

1. Melt butter in a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté 1 minute, stirring often to avoid browning.
2. Pour in chicken broth and orzo and stir to combine. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium and simmer. Cook orzo according to package directions, stirring occasionally, until al dente.
3. Remove from heat and stir in half the Parmesan cheese. Add salt and pepper.
4. Ladle into bowls and top with remaining Parmesan cheese and parsley.

SERVES 4



\$500 WINNER

# Shrimp Chowder

AMY BARILE  
MIDSOUTH EC

Barile's chowder is a comforting and flavorful dish that combines the sweetness of corn with the rich, savory taste of shrimp. It's an easy-to-make, satisfying meal that feels indulgent yet light, making it an ideal choice for weeknight dinners or cozy gatherings.

- 6 slices fully cooked bacon, diced, reserving 1 tablespoon fat
- 1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter
- 3 stalks celery, diced
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt, or more to taste
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, or more to taste
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2½ cups milk

- 1 can whole kernel corn (15 ounces)
- 1 can cream-style corn (14.75 ounces)
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ⅓ cup half-and-half
- Green onions, minced, for serving

1. Add bacon fat, butter, celery and onion to a Dutch oven or large, deep saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until tender, about 4 minutes. Add garlic, salt and pepper and cook an additional 30 seconds.
2. Sprinkle flour over the vegetable mixture. Stir to coat and allow to cook about a minute more. Slowly add milk to the mixture, stirring to eliminate any lumps.
3. Add both cans of corn and cayenne. Let cook until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes.
4. Add shrimp and cook about 3 minutes. Stir in half-and-half.
5. Remove from heat, taste and add salt and pepper if desired.
6. Serve warm, topped with bacon and green onions.

SERVES 6

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

SUMMER PASTAS DUE JANUARY 10

It's time to put your garden's fresh vegetables and herbs to good use. Send us your best summer pasta recipe, and our favorite will win \$500. Enter by January 10.

UPCOMING: MAKE IT SPICY DUE FEBRUARY 10



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >



Chicken and White Bean Soup

JENNY HARTSFIELD  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

Hartsfield’s soup is another great recipe for a busy week, delivering the rich, slow-cooked flavors of an all-day soup in a fraction of the time. White beans pair with green chiles to complement perfectly poached chicken. Serve with a crusty bread or tortilla chips—so scrumptious.

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 7 cups water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 dried bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter
- 2 medium onions, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1½ teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper



- 4 cans white beans (15 ounces each), undrained
- 2 cans mild chopped green chiles (4 ounces each)
- 8 cups grated Monterey Jack cheese
- Sour cream, for serving
- Tortilla chips, for serving

1. Add chicken, water, salt and bay leaf to a Dutch oven or large saucepan and cook over medium heat. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cover. Simmer until chicken is fork-tender, 15–20 minutes.
2. Remove chicken and shred, reserving broth.
3. In another Dutch oven or large saucepan, add olive oil, butter and onions and cook over medium heat 15 minutes, stirring often.
4. Stir in garlic, cumin, oregano and cayenne and cook an additional 2 minutes. Add white beans, green chiles, shredded chicken and reserved broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes.
5. When ready to serve, stir in cheese. Serve hot with sour cream and tortilla chips.

SERVES 10

BUY \$100,000 LIFE INSURANCE

No. 003378869

MONTHLY RATES AS LOW AS

\$3.49 FOR ADULTS

\$2.17 FOR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

SCAN TO VISIT US ONLINE

OFFER VALID IMMEDIATELY. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Globe Life

Make Tomorrow Better

7223

AMOUNT

\*\* \$100,000.00 \*\*

For Immediate Service Call

1-855-766-4181

Or Visit ForGlobeLife.com

Jean Harvey

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Jane Hewitt

AUTHORIZED BY

1 ; 010576 ; 549843213

6540 138 50

DO NOT DESTROY

EASY TO BUY

FREE INFORMATION

NO MEDICAL EXAM - SIMPLE APPLICATION  
NO WAITING PERIOD

BUY DIRECT  
SCAN QR CODE FOR A FREE QUOTE

\$100,000 Adult Life Insurance

- Rate schedule is based on your current age and is guaranteed for the life of the policy.
- Monthly rates as low as \$3.49.
- Coverage is also available for your spouse and other family members.
- Benefits will NEVER be canceled or reduced for the life of the policy if premiums are paid on time.

Policy Form #SRTCVR13 or R17, or #SRTCVR90MA in MA  
CA Residents, for your consumer rights, please visit forglobelife.com/privacy

CHOOSE \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 OR UP TO \$100,000 COVERAGE  
(Offer may vary, \$100,000 coverage not available in all states.)

\$30,000 Children’s Life Insurance

- Rates are based on your children’s or grandchildren’s present age and never increase for any reason.
- Monthly rates as low as \$2.17.
- Benefits will NEVER be reduced or canceled if premiums are paid on time.
- Give your children a financial head start right now. Your policy builds CASH VALUE for your family’s needs.

Policy Form #GWL2001 or GWLA001

PERSONAL OFFER CODE:

XCCX10KL

28 TEXAS CO-OP POWER JANUARY 2025

TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



BATH  
REMODEL

YOUR DREAM BATHROOM  
**IN 1 DAY\***



7am TODAY



4pm TONIGHT



**Waiving All  
Installation Costs\***  
**PLUS**  
**No Interest  
No Payments  
for up to 1 Year†**

If paid in full by end of 12 months.

Fall in love with your bathroom  
without breaking your budget.



Fits existing space



Certified installers



Amazing style selection



Safety features available

\*With purchase and installation of any complete bath/shower system from participating third-party Jacuzzi Bath Remodel dealer in your area ("Dealer"). Offer and options will vary by Dealer/location. Not combinable with other offers. Add'l terms apply. Subject to change. Some installs may take longer than one day. Expires 3/30/25.

†Financing offer available through third-party lenders under terms of applicable loan program. No interest for 12 months if paid in full within 12 months. Interest will be charged to you from purchase date if purchase balance is not paid in full within 12 months. Subject to credit approval—not all buyers will qualify. Add'l terms apply. See or call Dealer for details.

**CALL NOW!**

**888.408.7837**

Or visit us online at

**ShowerToday.com**







COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Nuts About Pecans

After Missourians built the world's biggest, Seguin rallied to reclaim the crown

BY CHET GARNER

**HERE IN TEXAS**, we like to have the biggest of everything, whether it's boots, burgers or bulls. So I wasn't surprised to learn that we even claim the original world's biggest pecan, proudly displayed on the lawn of the Guadalupe County Courthouse in Seguin, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. I decided it was a story (and a nut) I needed to crack for myself.

Seguin has a population of about 35,000 and boasts a lively downtown shaded by towering pecan trees. It's appropriate considering pecans are one of the town's most valuable resources and grow plentifully along the Guadalupe River.

So after filling my belly at Burnt Bean Co. with a platter of Tex-Mex barbecue, it was time to fill my head with nutty facts.

I crossed the street and found the original giant pecan in all its glory in front of the courthouse. While not technically a real pecan, this concrete rendition was placed here in 1962 and measures more than 5 feet long and 2½ feet wide. It was impressive for sure but not as dramatic as the battle it spawned.

Twenty years later, in 1982, farmers in Brunswick, Missouri, claimed the title with a 12-foot pecan that weighed over 12,000 pounds. In 2002, Seguin native John Pape set out to make a bigger one but didn't know about the one in Missouri's pecan capital, and so his 11-foot pecan on wheels never wore the crown. But in 2010, the city of Seguin banded together and crafted a 16-foot pecan that brought the title securely back where it belongs.

The current king of pecans is polished up and ready for photos just outside the Pecan Museum of Texas in Seguin. Everything is bigger in Texas, even if it takes a few years. ■

ABOVE A rather large nut. Oh, and that's Chet perched upon it.

**TCP** Watch the video 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, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

## JANUARY

10

**La Grange** Dale Watson, (979) 968-9944, [thebugleboy.org](http://thebugleboy.org)

**Elgin [10–11]** Bastrop County Junior Livestock Show, [bastrop.agrilife.org/bcjlis](http://bastrop.agrilife.org/bcjlis)

11

**Corsicana** Mimosas at the Market, (903) 654-4852, [facebook.com/corsicanamainstreet](http://facebook.com/corsicanamainstreet)

**Monahans** Resolution Run, (432) 943-2187, [monahans.org](http://monahans.org)

17

**Amarillo [17–18]** Beautiful Blue Danube, (806) 376-8782, [amarillosymphony.org](http://amarillosymphony.org)

**Galveston [17–18]** Yaga's Chili Quest & Beer Fest, (409) 770-0999, [yagaschiliquest.com](http://yagaschiliquest.com)

18

**Copperas Cove** Polar Bear Plunge 5K, (254) 542-2719, [copperascovetx.gov](http://copperascovetx.gov)

**Fredericksburg** Book Festival, (830) 997-6513, [fredericksburgbookfestival.org](http://fredericksburgbookfestival.org)

**Garland** MLK Parade & March, (972) 381-5044, [garlandtxnaacp.org](http://garlandtxnaacp.org)

**Granbury** Goosebump Jump, (817) 573-5548, [visitgranbury.com](http://visitgranbury.com)

**Johnson City** Snow Day 2025: Frosty Fun Fest, (844) 263-6405, [sciencemill.org](http://sciencemill.org)

**Fredericksburg [18–19]** Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show, (325) 248-1067, [visitfredericksburgtx.com](http://visitfredericksburgtx.com)

**Kerrville [18–19, 25–26, Feb. 1–2]** Renaissance Festival, (214) 632-5766, [kerrvillerenfest.com](http://kerrvillerenfest.com)

20

**Fort Worth** The Music of  
**Sam Cooke**, (817) 212-4280,  
basshall.com

**Port Arthur** MLK Brunch,  
(409) 543-3727,  
visitportarthurtx.com

21

**Tyler** *Ain't Too Proud:  
The Life and Times of the  
Temptations*, (903) 566-7424,  
cowancenter.org

23

**Abilene** [23-25] Texas Shuffle  
Showdown, (325) 695-4713,  
skatinplaceabilene.com

24

**Crockett** Shenandoah,  
(936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

**Tyler** [24-26] Gem and  
Mineral Show, etgms.org

25

**Brenham** Simon Theatre  
100th Birthday Celebration,  
(979) 337-7240,  
thebarnhillcenter.com

**Burnet** Chuck Wagon  
Chow Down, hlsl.org

31

**Bastrop** [31-Feb. 1] Mardi  
Gras, (512) 332-8984,  
bastroptxmardigras.com

## FEBRUARY

1

**Horseshoe Bay** Boots  
and BBQ, (325) 388-3440,  
highlandlakescasa.com

6

**Kerrville** ARTrageous,  
(830) 896-9393,  
caillouxperformingarts.com

## TCP Submit Your Event

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

## WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BEGINS WITH YOU

Have your "Go Kit" packed  
and ready.

Create defensible space  
around your home.

Identify two evacuation  
routes incase one becomes  
compromised.

Communicate with local  
officials and learn how they  
will send emergency  
notifications.



tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire

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

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

**BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™**  
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710  
*Serving Customers All Over Texas*

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C.  
All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered  
thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC  
700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

## Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

**PERMA-ROOF**  
from Southern Builders



800.633.8969 • roofover.com



Latin America Tours	Days	Price
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$1195</b>
Panama	8	1395
Colombia	10	1595
Guatemala	8	1195
Belize with Tikal	10	1795
Dominican Republic	7	1195
Mexico Riviera Maya	8	1295
Mexico Colonial Cities	8	1195
Mexico Ancient Civilizations	9	1495
Mexico Copper Canyon Train	8	1695

USA & Canada Tours	Days	Price
Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion	8	TBA
Mt Rushmore & Yellowstone	9	TBA
New England Summer & Fall	8	TBA
Nova Scotia & Maritimes	9	TBA
Canadian Rockies & Glacier	9	TBA



**Scan Now for Costa Rica  
8-Day Tour \$1195**

THE #1 IN VALUE  
FULLY GUIDED TOURS SINCE 1952

**Caravan®**  
AVAILABLE ONLY AT CARAVAN.COM



# Blade Stunner

*Beautifully made, magnificent to look at, this knife is a work of art at only \$99*

It's not often you happen upon a bladesmith who has gem cutting skills. But finding needles in haystacks is what we do best, so when we saw this master craftsman's handiwork, we made certain to procure some of these Southwestern masterpieces to complete our collection.

The stainless steel blade, bolster and pommel are exquisitely etched and would have looked great with a less ambitious handle. But the results of overachieving are stunning here. The turquoise-blue colored handle is ablaze with assorted stones like jasper, marble, sunstone, and coral that have been hand cut and inlaid in a Southwestern motif.

**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 Sedona Knife.

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars

-a \$99 value-  
with purchase of  
the Sedona Knife



"I AM A KNIFE COLLECTOR AND THE  
SEDONA LOOKS GREAT IN MY COLLECTION."  
— WILLIAM B.

Whether you collect blades, interesting stones, or are a lover of the great American Southwest, come be a part of the **largest community of knife enthusiasts** in the nation with Stauer.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of the Sedona Knife. 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.** You could pay nearly \$1,900 for a steel, fixed blade knife with a gemstone handle, but why would you when you can enjoy the superb craftsmanship of the *Sedona Knife* for only \$99. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

**Sedona Knife \$179\***

Offer Code Price Only **\$99** + S&P **Save \$80**

**1-800-333-2045**



Rating of A+

**Your Insider Offer Code: SEK255-03**

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

14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. SEK255-03  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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

## Knife Specifications

- 5" etched stainless steel blade; 9-1/2" overall length
- Turquoise-colored handle with accent stones including coral, marble, sandstone, tiger's eye, jasper and sunstone

**BONUS!** Call today and you'll also receive this heavy duty sheath!



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

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**



# Parks

Set down your walking stick and rest a moment. Take in the natural majesty of the park around you. Bird watching, hiking, camping and more—there's something out here for every Texan with an itch to explore.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

**1 THERESA MCKEE  
FANNIN EC**

A golden sunset with a kayaker paddling across Lake Ray Roberts.

**2 PEGGY BRYANT  
PEDERNALES EC**

Davis Mountains State Park.

**3 CHARLES BAXTER  
COSERV**

A great blue heron in Caddo Lake State Park.

**4 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO  
BARTLETT EC**

"Where is the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang?"



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

**DUE JAN 10** Patterns  
**DUE FEB 10** Family Vacation  
**DUE MAR 10** Catch of the Day



Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Parks photos from readers.





## Miles of Memories

A North Carolina transplant was shaped by the state she longs for

BY LAUREN SENA  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
CHANELLE NIBBELINK

**THERE'S A LINE** in the song *Miles and Miles of Texas* popularized by Asleep at the Wheel that goes something like this: I looked into her deep blue (or brown) eyes, and this is what I saw: I saw miles and miles of Texas.

As someone who grew up listening to this song, I have always claimed that this is the greatest compliment I could get, but lately I've started to think more about that.

If that's what you see when you look into my eyes, then you're seeing all of me.

You're seeing my favorite places: the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, hiking trails in Bastrop State Park, Naegelin's Bakery in New Braunfels and the house of my adoptive grandparents, where I learned to make fried chicken and where my brother went hunting for the first time.

You're seeing where I am the happiest: my dance studio in San Marcos; our local pool, where I spent half my summers; the Cabela's by the water tower in Buda that I used to beg my parents to take me to when I was about 5.

You're seeing my home: the kitchen where we made cookies with our mom and where she danced with me before bed. You're seeing the old mulberry tree down the street where we would stuff our faces with berries every summer and the backyard where my brother and I played every day.

You're seeing what makes me me.

But I have been criticized for saying I'm from Texas because I have lived more of my life outside of Texas at this point.

That always stings a bit. Because they weren't there when my dad got off the phone with his boss and told us that we were being transferred. They don't know how it felt when I was being torn away from everything I knew and loved—my miles and miles of Texas.

And now I come back every chance I get.

The memories I made in Texas I will cherish forever. The feeling of being home is something I will miss whenever I'm not in Texas.

The second I cross back over that border, I get the silliest grin on my face and my eyes shine just a little bit more just knowing I'm home again. I will forever refuse to call anywhere else home.

So if someone were to look into my eyes and see miles and miles of Texas, they would be seeing me in a way very few people do. They would be seeing me for exactly who I am. For what makes me *me* is Texas. ■

# The future of hearing aids has arrived

**NEW! HORIZON IX HEARING AIDS**

**Alarming fact: More than 48 million Americans hear so poorly that their quality of life significantly suffers as a result.**

The problem: Most wait too long to act, hoping their hearing will improve on its own. Sadly, it never does. But now, a game-changing device is making waves across the industry, and experts say it's the biggest breakthrough they've seen in over a decade.

## It's the new Horizon IX hearing aid.

Horizon IX is currently the best-selling device at renowned U.S. company, hear.com, developed by top audio engineers from Signia. Their goal was to combine the best possible speech clarity with a comfortable, invisible design using cutting-edge German technology.

"It's a hearing aid people actually want to wear," says hear.com co-founder Dr. Marco Vietor. "It offers amazing speech clarity and smartphone connectivity in a virtually invisible design — and all that for a reasonable price!"



## What makes them so special?

It's one of the world's first hearing aids with dual processing. This is special because it's the first time engineers have been able to pack not one, but two state-of-the-art computer chips into a device this small. And with double the power comes double the clarity.

## What do Horizon IX hearing aids have to offer?

- **Amazing Speech Clarity™**  
Effortlessly understand every word, thanks to dual-processing
- **Bluetooth connectivity**  
Stream music and phone calls directly to your hearing aids
- **Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries**  
28+ hours of battery life and a portable case for on-the-go charging
- **Easy, comfortable fit**  
All-day wearing comfort, easy to combine with glasses
- **Free smartphone app**  
Adjust settings for every listening situation easily via smartphone

This means that Horizon IX hearing aids offer all of the usual benefits of modern hearing aids with the added bonus of something completely new: they can process speech and background noise independently, then combine them for unparalleled, crystal clear sound.

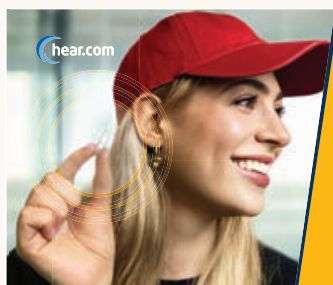
## Where can I get Horizon IX?

As of December 2024, hear.com has partnered with over 1,200 specialists nationwide, ensuring Horizon IX devices are available across the U.S.

Now, you can join 425,000 Americans who are already enjoying effortless hearing with Horizon IX. Simply text "HEAR" to (786) 618-2573 or visit [hear.com/tx](https://hear.com/tx) to **check if you qualify for a 45-day no-risk trial:**

## START HERE!

TEXT  
"HEAR"  
TO  
**(786) 618-2573**



Visit [hear.com/tx](https://hear.com/tx) or  
send a text to check  
if you qualify for a  
45-day no-risk trial.





**RENEWAL**  
by **ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Get a **FREE** consultation!  
Call **877-628-0833**

## NEW YEAR SAVINGS EVENT

Save Big on Replacement Windows and Doors!

Buy One, Get One

**40% OFF**

AND

For a Limited Time, Get

**\$45 OFF**

All Windows and Doors<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

Each Window and Door<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

**AND NO** Money Down | **NO** Monthly Payments | **NO** Interest for 12 months<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4 - INTEREST ACCRUES FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS



**TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.<sup>2</sup>**

Offer Ends 2/28/2025

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

**877-628-0833**

**FINDYOURWINDOW.COM**



More 5 Star  
Reviews



Than Other Leading Full-Service  
Window Replacement  
Companies<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 2/28/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 1/1/2025 and 2/28/2025. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$45 off each window or entry/patio door, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 2/28/2025. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings companion based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>2</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. <sup>3</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201