

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

ROUTE 66

Still gets
its kicks
across the
Panhandle



BLUEBONNET NEWS
SEE PAGE 18



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Dora Merony and her tiny MG near downtown Amarillo

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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

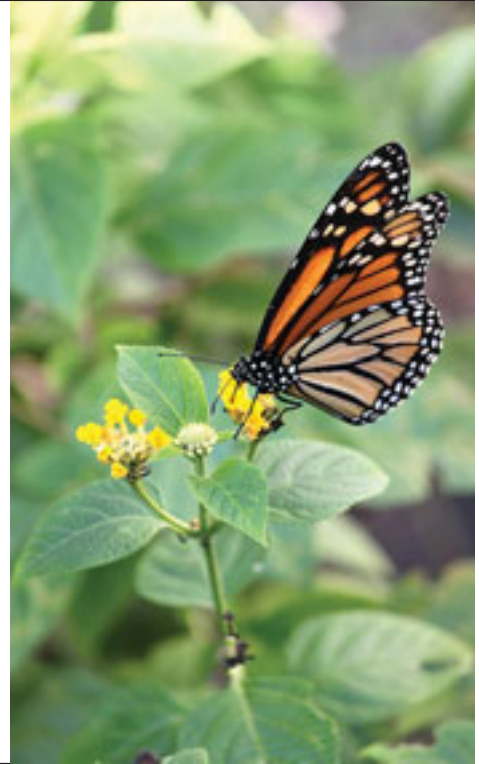
A Cookie Love Story

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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   **Texas Co-op Power**

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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.



QUILT HOP & CAKE: BART BROWNE; GAUGE: MISTERDH | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; GOLD BULLION: YURCHELOUB | DREAMTIME.COM; BEATON: COURTESY PAULA BEATON; LUGGAGE TAG: INBJ | DREAMTIME.COM; TOKENS: SAN PATRICO EC

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.



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.

Did you know?



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.

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.

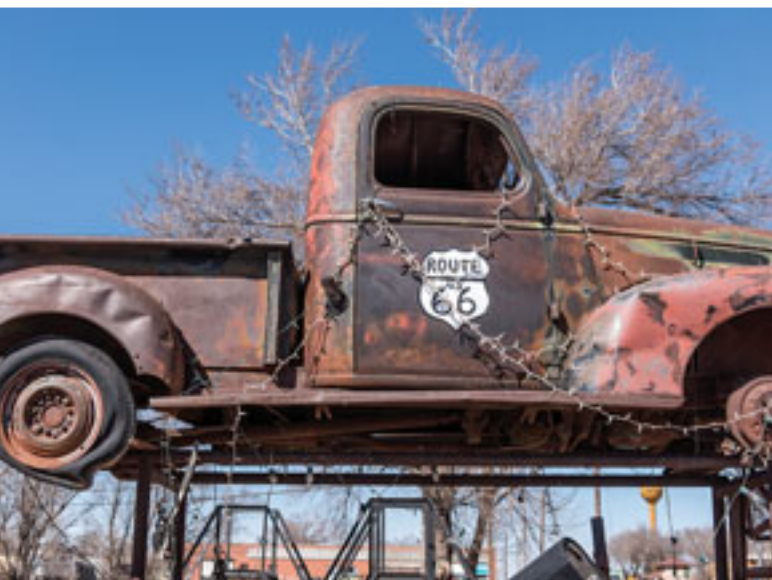
"The Route 66 phenomenon just gets bigger every year," says Shamrock Mayor Buc Weatherby. "We refer to ourselves as the crossroads of America because Shamrock is the only place in the United States where two border-to-border highways intersect. That's U.S. 83 and I-40."

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

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.

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.

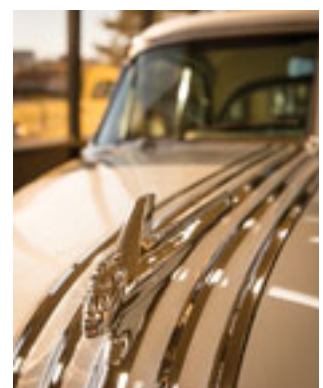
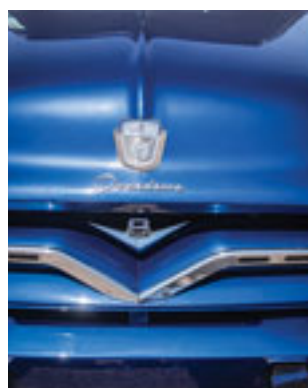
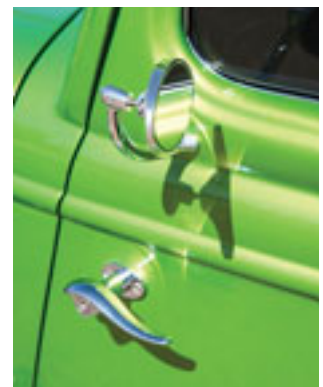
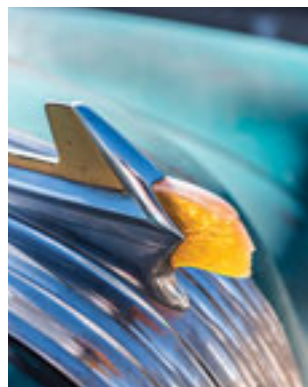
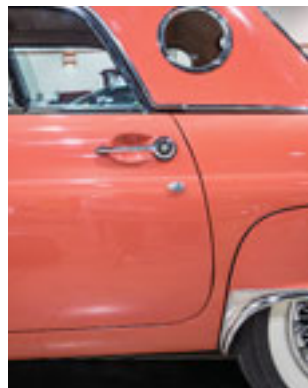
Mona and her dad were both pilots—Mona also is an airplane mechanic—and went out on "morning patrol" together on Saturdays, when they'd fly around in a Cessna 150 to look for old cars they could restore. Mona would mark the map so later they could drive out to find the owner.

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) 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.

WEB EXTRAS

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

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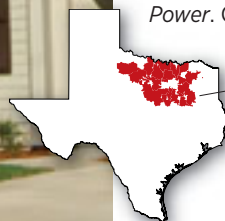
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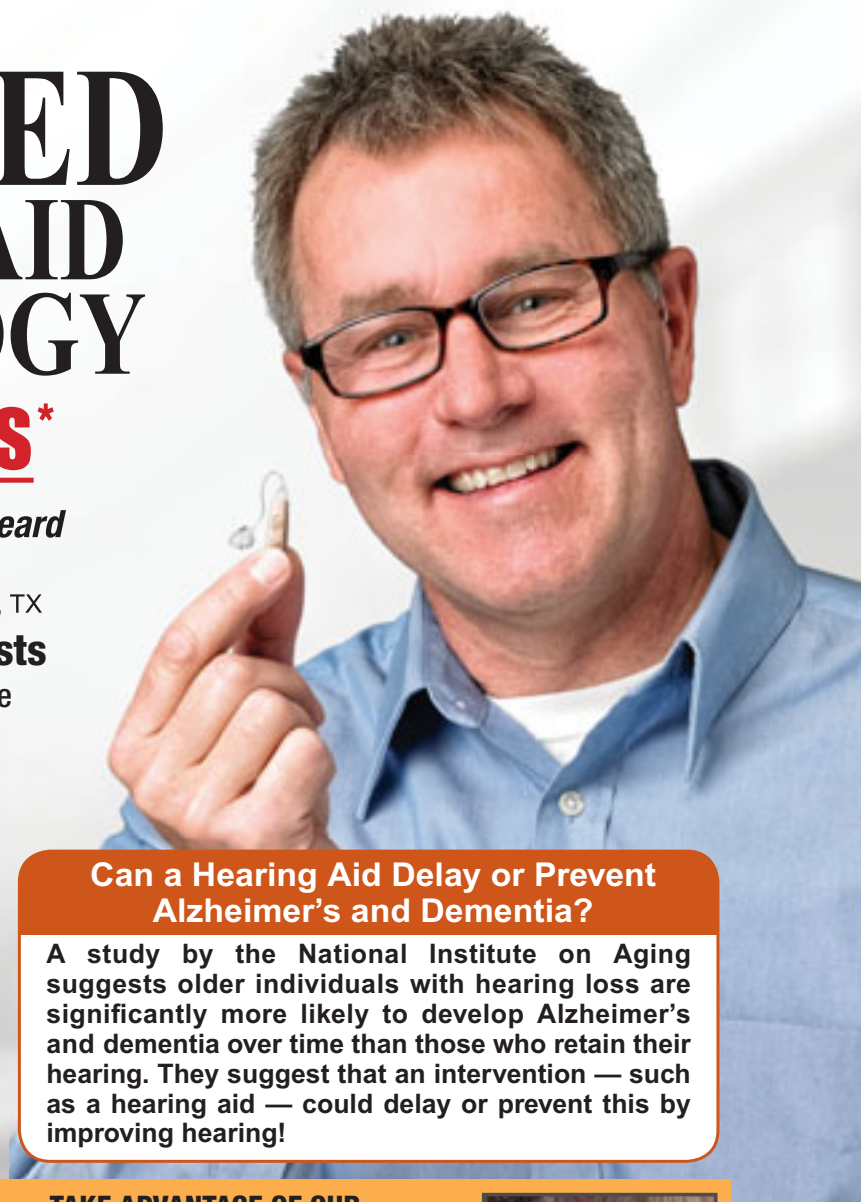
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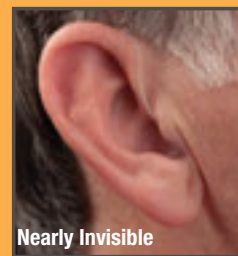
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Jay Godwin photos

Most of the artifacts in the Arnold Smith Collection at the Giddings Public Library and Cultural Center were found in Lee County while Smith was an employee of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. At right, library director Pamela Hutchinson talks about the collection.

By Denise Gamino

GIDDINGS — Beginning in 1924, at age 7, Arnold Smith walked the land in Lee County with an eagle-eye gaze that made him one of the best hunters in Texas. He wasn't looking for animals. He was searching for history.

Some of what he found is 10,000 years old: spear points made by the earliest humans who lived in what is now Texas — Paleo Indians — who hunted prehistoric bison, mammoths and giant ground sloths. Over decades, Smith unearthed thousands of other American Indian artifacts, including arrow points, dart points, knife blades, tools, smoking pipes made of stone and other objects chiseled by hand from native materials.

Much of the more than 2,400 artifacts came from numerous peanut fields that once blanketed much of Lee County. Peanut farmers would tell Smith, "We're getting ready to plow, so come out and pick up all these dang rocks."

Over the decades, Smith amassed one of the largest privately owned American Indian artifact collections in Texas. And before he died in 2014 at age 97, his personal obsession became a public collection.

Smith's artifacts are permanently displayed at the Giddings Public Library and Cultural Center, just a block off U.S. 290. It's a convenient stop for anyone curious about how ancient people hunted at the end of the Ice Age and how Tonkawa, Comanche and Apache Indians survived on the blackland prairie hundreds of years ago.

"Arnold Smith's quest for arrowheads and other American Indian artifacts started out as a money-making venture," the ex-



Arnold Smith

hibit text states. Smith and his father, Leslie Martin Smith of Giddings, used to lay out lines to fish and then hunt for arrowheads while waiting for the fish to bite. They sold the vibrant-colored arrowheads to dealers, according to the exhibit, and the "extra cash came in handy in the mid-1920s."

The collection's curator, professional Indian artifact collector Chad Roesch of Pflugerville, visited Smith many times to learn about the collection. Smith told Roesch, "I was a boy when the Dust Bowl was happening. It wasn't anything to go out and pick up 100 (arrowheads) a day. Wind was eroding the terrain down pretty quick."

It is difficult to match one arrow point or artifact in Smith's collection to one tribe, Roesch said, because American Indians were often nomadic and traded with each other.

"Many times you'll find an arrowhead in Central Texas that belongs in Oklahoma," he said. "There are some rare pieces in there."

As an adult, Smith worked for 36 years as

One man's lifetime of searching became a massive display of American Indian artifacts in Giddings

AMAZING ARROWHEADS



a utility pole digger for Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. Early on, he had to dig 5-foot or deeper holes by hand. He met many Lee County landowners who let him hunt for Indian artifacts on their property in his spare time, Roesch said.

Smith had good luck finding arrowheads and artifacts around the communities of Manheim, Fedor, Lincoln and Loebau. He also liked to hunt along Rabbs Creek, Paint Creek and West Yegua Creek.

The collection eventually outgrew Smith's house in Giddings. By the time he donated his collection to the City of Giddings, the arrowheads and artifacts were in frames, shadow boxes, buckets and plastic storage bins in a backyard shed.

"He said for awhile after he retired that he had a few places that he could go to search for artifacts, and he did," said Pamela Hutchinson, director of the Giddings library. "And then he said, 'I had so many, I didn't

have any place else to put any more, so I just sat at home.'"

"He was a real humble person," Hutchinson said. "He was so humble he didn't really recognize the value of what he had in his storage shed."

On opening day of the Arnold Smith Collection at the Giddings Library in 2003, Smith choked up. "He couldn't even talk he was so overwhelmed," Hutchinson said.

Fellow collector Roesch knows about the emotions that come with building a large arrowhead collection. Someone who finds an arrowhead realizes that "no one has touched this since an Indian left this here, and that's a pretty overwhelming feeling," he said.

Smith was enthusiastic about sharing his collection with others. He even brought little bags of broken arrowheads to the unveiling ceremony and gave them to children to nurture their curiosity, Roesch said.

The collection at the library "has been a wonderful asset," Hutchinson said. "It's famous throughout Texas, and so we've had school students come through and tour the collection. And people from all over the United States have come by to visit.

"This is a real big attraction." ■

The Giddings Public Library and Cultural Center is at 276 North Orange Street in Giddings. Find out more at giddingspubliclibrary.org.



2018

ANNUAL MEETING

Leaders laud members, tout co-op's financial fitness, honor retired director

By Will Holford

Nearly 600 Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative members and guests filled The Silos on 77 event center in Giddings for the co-op's Annual Meeting on May 8.

They enjoyed live music, informational tables and door prizes, learned about co-op services and conducted the important business of electing three directors.

Board Chairman Ben Flencher opened the business portion of the meeting by thanking Bluebonnet's members.

"We have had another great year at Bluebonnet," Flencher said. "One of the

keys to our success over the years has been the incredible support we get from our members. On behalf of the board of directors and employees, we recognize that our members are the foundation for everything that we do and thank you for your support."



James Kershaw

Flencher also recognized and thanked James Kershaw, who retired from Bluebonnet's board after serving 36 years as a director from Bastrop County. One of the highlights of the meeting was a moving video tribute honoring Kershaw. In the video, Directors Flencher, Richard Schmidt and Roderick L. Emanuel, as well as General Manager Matt Bentke, praised Kershaw

for his dedication, devotion and love for Bluebonnet's members and employees.

"Jimmy Kershaw's gentlemanly demeanor set an example for us to follow and will be part of the culture in our board room for years to come," Flencher said. "He was the face of our organization for so many years and was the strongest advocate for Bluebonnet's members and employees."

Three candidates in Bluebonnet's board election this year were unopposed and elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws. Incumbent Directors Schmidt, District 1, Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Hays counties, and Shana Whiteley, District 2, Travis County, retained their board seats. Bryan Bracewell was elected to serve as the director from District 3, Bastrop County.

Schmidt has served on Bluebonnet's board since 1994 and is a former board chairman.





Sarah Beal photos

1) Board Chairman Ben Flencher — flanked by the ever-popular door prizes — opens the meeting (See a list of top donors on the page 22).

2) General Manager Matt Bentke greets one of the hundreds of Bluebonnet members attending the meeting.

3) Following the invocation led by Roderick L. Emanuel, board secretary-treasurer, members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Bluebonnet lineman Jeremy Lynch tells Mona Griffith of Somerville about the gear used by our linemen, while Delphine and Edwin Schultz, also of Somerville, listen in.

5) Grant Gutierrez, chief information officer/comptroller, and David Tobola, manager of operations, help Jeanette Preuss of

Brenham place a star on her home location on a map of the Bluebonnet area, a fun activity for members before the main event.

6) Clayton Brazelton and his wife, Diane Hartgraves, of Ledbetter pose for a photo with Jeremy Lynch and the 'Big B' Bluebonnet logo prop.

7) Daniel Fowler, technology program manager, tells members Lionel and Stephanie Washington of Lincoln about some of the benefits of Bluebonnet membership.

8) The big prize-drawing winners were Van Boston and Angie Watson, who each took home a Cub Cadet riding lawn mower.

9) Phyllis Bickham of Brenham won a 2009 Ford F-150 retired from Bluebonnet's fleet. (Jennifer Schattle photo)

He owned and operated Kreuz Market in Lockhart from 1984 to 2010, when he sold the barbecue business to his son, Keith. Whiteley joined Bluebonnet's board in January 2018, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of former Director Suanna Tumlinson. Whiteley owns two restaurants that serve casual comfort food: the Good Luck Grill in Manor and the Lucky Duck Cafe in Taylor. Bracewell is the third generation of his family to own Southside Market & Barbeque, a business founded in 1882, now with locations in Elgin and Bastrop.

Bluebonnet is a member-owned electric cooperative governed by an 11-member board. Bluebonnet's members elect their directors, who serve staggered three-year terms. One-third of the 11-member board of directors is up for election every year.

General Manager Bentke closed out the business portion of the meeting with a report on the co-op's service to its members and communities, as well as its financial and operational strengths.

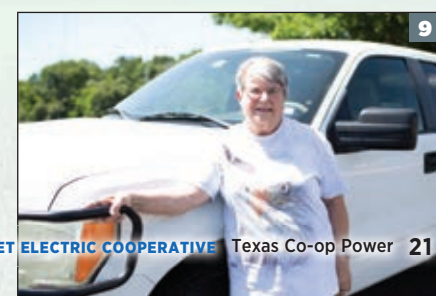
"We are in the people business," Bentke said. "Our number one goal at Bluebonnet is to serve our members and our communities, and to make your lives better. We are committed to doing that day in and day out by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced electricity, contributing to charitable organizations that help our members and by volunteering thousands of hours each year in our communities."

Other highlights of Bentke's report on 2017 performance included reducing operating expenses by \$3.37 million, saving members \$3 million in wholesale power costs and returning \$3.39 million in capital credits. Bentke said this financial performance and the record growth in Bluebonnet's service area have created capacity for the co-op to invest in infrastructure, maintenance and its communities, while borrowing less and increasing equity, which benefits all members.

In addition to the dozens of door prizes given during the meeting, members who registered at the meeting — as well as thousands of members not at the meeting who voted by proxy — were entered in a drawing to win a truck being retired from

Bluebonnet's fleet. Phyllis Bickham of Brenham won the 2009 Ford F-150 extended cab truck. On May 9, Bickham's name was drawn at random from more than 6,200 members who were entered in the drawing.

"When I first got the call I'd won, I thought it was a scam," said Bickham, laughing. "But then I heard it was Bluebonnet, and I knew it wasn't." She plans to use the truck on her farm. ■



BLUEBONNET

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- Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope no later than July 31, 2018, to:
Jennifer Schattle, c/o Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 729, Bastrop, TX 78602



The Electric Reliability Council of Texas manages the flow of electric power to 24 million Texas customers — representing about 90 percent of the state's electric load. In ERCOT's control room, above, the electric grid is monitored constantly. *Photo courtesy of ERCOT*

Bluebonnet keeps an eye on the state's power supply during a blistering summer

Searing heat arrived in early May and an above-average number of triple-digit days are forecast through the summer of 2018. Extreme temperatures make reliability of the state's electric grid critically important.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, more commonly known as ERCOT, expects to see record-breaking demand for power this summer and estimates there will be enough power to meet that demand. ERCOT is the independent system operator responsible for most of the state's electric grid.

But population growth and a strong, energy-intensive economy — as well as the retirement of several older, less-efficient coal-fired power plants in the last year — mean that the state's electricity supply will be tight.

The state's reserve margin of power is something that concerns everyone from the governor to each utility responsible for generating and delivering power to consumers.

The reserve margin is a safety net in the event that one or more power plants unexpectedly stops generating electricity. If that happens, the reserve margin is intended to ensure there is enough power to meet the state's needs. ERCOT's goal is to maintain a 13.75 percent reserve margin, which is about 10,000 megawatts. However, this summer the reserve margin is currently forecast to be 11 percent, about 8,000 megawatts.

One megawatt of electricity provides power to about 200 homes during peak demand, typically between 3 and 7 p.m. on a hot summer day.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative works closely with the Lower Colorado River Authority, our primary wholesale power provider, to ensure there is a sufficient supply of reliable energy for our members. We monitor grid conditions 24 hours a day, every day, and will inform members through our website and by traditional and social media if energy conservation efforts are needed.

Consumers can also monitor grid conditions by following ERCOT on Facebook and Twitter, and by downloading its app to mobile devices. ERCOT's mobile app shows real-time energy demand, capacity and operating reserves. You can also opt in to receive energy conservation alerts on your mobile device



MATT BENTKE

General Manager
and Chief Executive Officer

BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

during periods of peak demand.

Bluebonnet's members can conserve energy and reduce peak demand in their homes by setting their thermostats two to three degrees higher, setting programmable thermostats to higher temperatures when no one is at home, using fans to feel four to six degrees cooler, and avoid using large appliances such as ovens, washing machines and dishwashers between 3 and 7 p.m.

Businesses can conserve energy during peak demand hours by using natural rather than electric lighting and shutting down or reducing nonessential production processes.

If energy demand begins to outpace supply, ERCOT will issue emergency energy alerts, which local media outlets will broadcast and we will immediately share with our members. These alerts are intended to reduce demand and prevent interruptions to service.

However, if the state's operating reserves drop below a critical level, ERCOT will order utilities to begin temporary, rotating power outages. Those temporary outages will be randomly distributed and limited to 20 minutes at a time. The last time Bluebonnet members experienced such temporary outages was February 2011.

ERCOT has consistently done an excellent job of monitoring and managing the state's electric supply for many years. With its close oversight and every Texan's help in decreasing power use on summer's hottest days, we hope to continue to avoid any inconveniences to Bluebonnet members. ■

Co-op awards 60 scholarships to area students

By Lisa Ogle

After taking a few computer science courses, Sylvia Adams was hooked. The recent graduate of Manor New Tech High School is looking to break some barriers in the male-dominated field and plans to start by getting certified in C++, a programming language commonly used for games and other software.

Adams, who will attend Austin Community College in the fall, is one of the 60 graduating high school seniors who were awarded a Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Scholarship of Excellence this year. Each recipient receives \$2,500. This year, nearly 300 students applied for 30 trade and technical school scholarships and 30 academic scholarships to attend a college or university.

The students were honored in April during two receptions at Bluebonnet's Bastrop headquarters. About 150 people attended the events, during which scholarship recipients announced their post-secondary school choice and topic of study. Their interests range from radiation therapy, farm/ranch management, psychology, mechanical engineering and more.

Erasmio Galvan, who graduated from Bastrop High School, said he plans to study forensics and investigative sciences at Texas A&M University, then go to medical school. He wants to become a surgeon.

He is inspired by his mother's childhood wish to be a nurse or doctor. "She didn't get to achieve her dream, so I'm hoping to achieve my dream and hers as well," Galvan said.

Wyatt Bolcerek, who graduated from Brenham High School, is pursuing welding, one of the most popular fields of study among trade and technical scholarship recipients. He took two years of courses in high school, with projects including a barbecue pit, picnic table and fire pit. He's going to complete his basics at Blinn College in Brenham, transfer to Texas State Technical College and eventually open his own shop near home.

Rylee Shields, also a Brenham High graduate, plans to study nursing at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and wants to specialize in pediatric oncology. "I just want to be a friend to the kids," she said.

Since 2006, the co-op has awarded \$1.47 million in scholarships to high school graduates in the co-op's service area. If you know a student who wants to apply for a Scholarship of Excellence next year, applications will be available in November at bluebonnet.coop and from area high school counselors.



The academic scholarship recipients are, on the front row, from left, Klayton Morriss, Scott Heller, Koby Bailey, Logan Bowen, Dalton Tristan and Eric Davis; on the second row, from left, Alyxis Justus, Chelsea Schneider, Colleen Kovar, Erasmo Galvan, Sadie Kwiatkowski, Thayley Thompson, Marisa Perez, Steven Kahan, Lyndsey Lucas and Connor Hathaway; and on the back row, from left, Kasey Cleboski, Rylee Shields, Logan Schnautz, Madison Zardiackas, Julia Scobee, Larissa Sisneros, Andrew Telg, Hazel Faz, Hunter Prazak and Ashley Svetliik. Not pictured are Wyatt Bullock, Robyn Gaertner, Eric Wellmann and Emily Harmel.



The recipients of trade and technical scholarships are, front row, from left, John Keese, Sean Seiley, Marc Crosby, Wyatt Bolcerek, Jase Lackey and Zachary Smestuen; second row, from left, Zackery Watts, Kyle Schatte, Robert Zoch, Jakob Schlemmer, Tyler Otte, Brandon Mitschke, Sylvia Adams and Lynnse Caraway; back row, from left, Madison Iselt, Dalton Dean, Maribel Ramirez, Tanner Whitsel, Harlye Bonorden, Colby Hodde, Janet Palacios, Jeb Majewski, Christian Corona, Jack Fischer and Elijah Moss. Not pictured: Savannah Hosch, Sam Perry, Tanner Meuth, Colby Bexley and James Anderson. *Sarah Beal photos*



Let's rodeo!

Follow along with our linemen and apprentices July 21 via our Facebook and Twitter pages as they compete in the 22nd annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo at Nolte Island Park near Seguin. Learn more about the event at tlra.org. *Sarah Beal photo*

Our new hours!

Do you need to speak to a Bluebonnet representative by phone at 800-842-7708? Or talk to someone in person at the drive-through or in a lobby at one of our five member service centers? The new business hours, as of July 2, are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We have member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor. Find the addresses by clicking on "Contact Us" at the top of our website, bluebonnet.coop.

CONTACT US

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 729
Bastrop, TX 78602

Member services: **800-842-7708**, email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop or visit one of our five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

Report outages: **800-949-4414**, bluebonnet.coop or our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling member services at **800-842-7708**.

Magazine questions? Contact Lisa Ogle at **512-332-7968** or email lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop.

BOARD MEETING

Bluebonnet's Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. July 17 at Bluebonnet's headquarters, 155 Electric Ave. (formerly 650 Texas Hwy. 21 East), Bastrop.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Program supports local groups

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and the Lower Colorado River Authority recently provided grants to two area volunteer fire departments as part of the LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. LCRA and Bluebonnet work together to provide economic development and community assistance to groups in the area. Bluebonnet is one of LCRA's wholesale electric customers.



LCRA and Bluebonnet representatives present a \$25,000 grant to the Salem Volunteer Fire Department in Brenham to construct a stand-alone addition to house fire trucks and equipment. Pictured, from left to right, are: Darrell Stein, Salem VFD second assistant chief; Joy Fuchs, Washington County Precinct 4 commissioner; Don Koester, Washington County Precinct 1 commissioner; Louis Schwarze, VFD building committee member; Arthur Nordt, VFD treasurer; Lance Lehmann, fire chief; Luther Hueske, Washington County Precinct 2 commissioner; Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member; Russell Stein, VFD president; John Brieden, Washington County judge; and Kenneth Mutscher, Bluebonnet board vice chairman.



Representatives from LCRA and Bluebonnet present a \$24,562 grant to the Washington County Firefighters Association for handheld radios. Pictured, from left to right, are: Kate Holman, LCRA governmental affairs representative; Robert Mikeska, Bluebonnet board member; Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member; Don Koester, Washington County Precinct 1 commissioner; Michael Kmiec, Chappell Hill VFD fire chief; Doug Zwiener, Washington County Firefighter Association secretary and treasurer; Kirk Hanath, Washington County Precinct 3 commissioner; Kenneth Mutscher, Bluebonnet board vice chairman; and Hondo Powell, Bluebonnet representative. *Bluebonnet/LCRA photos*

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

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- 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; 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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Deadline: July 10

JANUARY ISSUE
Sunny Citrus
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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.



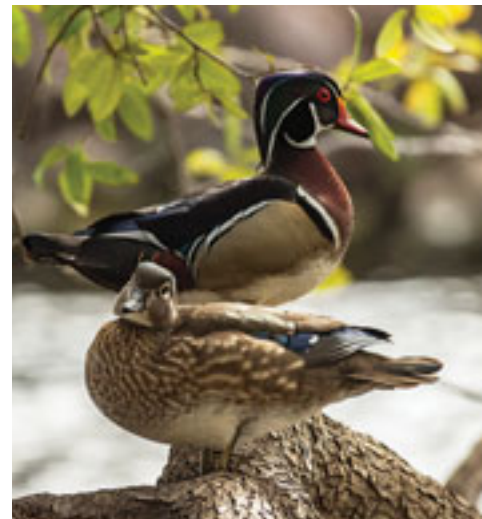
▲ **WYATT WATSON**, Grayson-Collin EC: "Though these two birds are enemies, they don't mind sharing opposite sides of the feeder."



▲ **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. **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

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

Galveston An Evening With Bill Engvall, 1-800-821-1894, thegrand.com

Grand Prairie Festival de Mariachi, (972) 647-2331, tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie

Llano Rock'n Riverfest, (325) 247-5354, llanorocknriverfest.com

Mooreville United Methodist Church's Annual BBQ, (254) 709-7921, moorevilleumc.org

Port O'Connor Fireworks Display, (361) 983-2898, portoconnorchamber.com

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

12

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

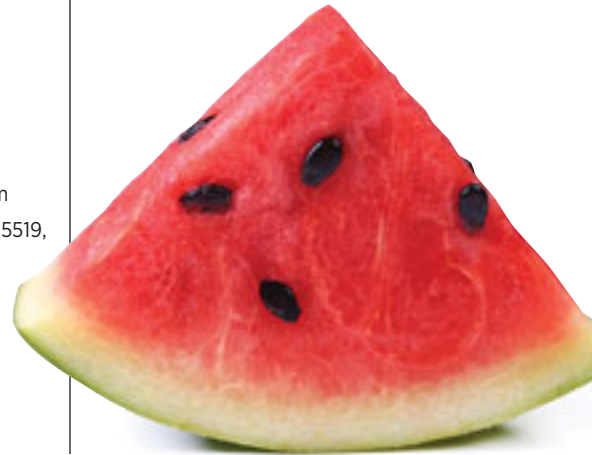
Canadian [12, 19, 26] Screen on the Green, (806) 323-6234, canadian.tx.com

13

Bulverde The Lego Batman Movie, (210) 212-9373, slabcinema.com

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

July 14
McDade Watermelon Festival



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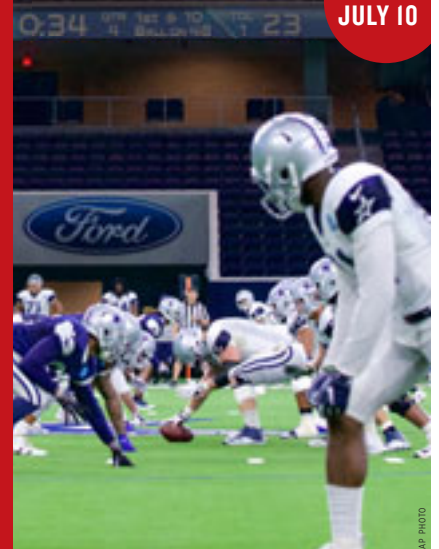
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San Angelo [July 13–Sept. 9] Made in Texas! 25 Contemporary Quilts, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

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 homemade 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.



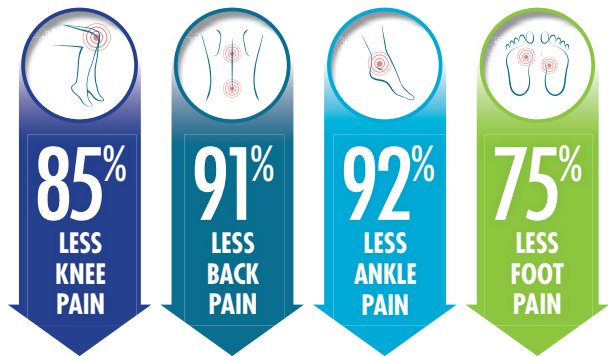
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