

THE RESURRECTION
OF A CHURCH

RECIPES FOR
HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

KEEP CHRISTMAS
TRADITIONS WEIRD

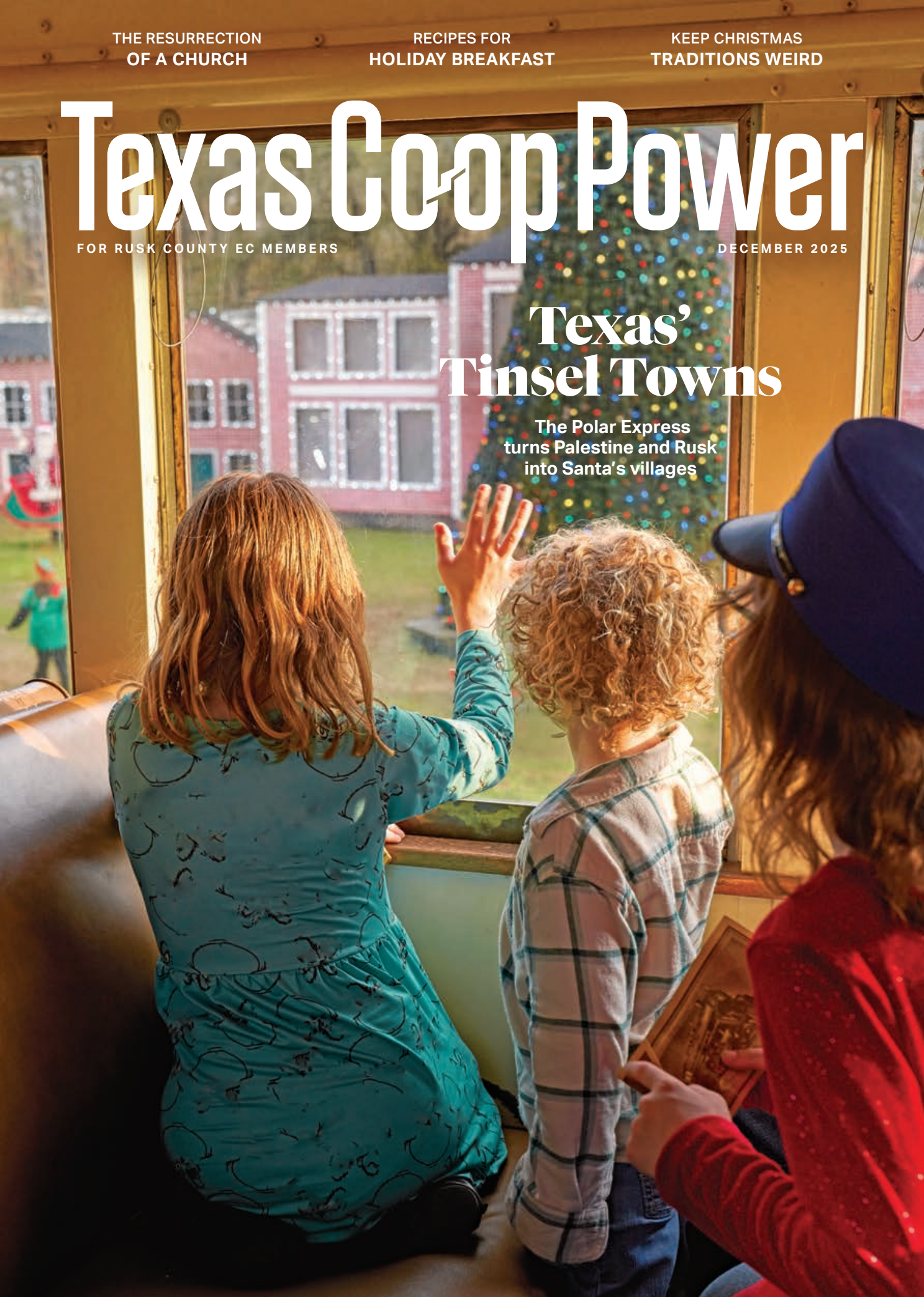
Texas Coop Power

FOR RUSK COUNTY EC MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2025

Texas' Tinsel Towns

The Polar Express
turns Palestine and Rusk
into Santa's villages





- MAKES A -
GREAT GIFT

PERFECTLY AGED, TENDER STEAKS

ACHIEVE GIFTING GREATNESS

Eliminate guesswork by sending a mouthwatering assortment of gourmet Omaha Steaks to everyone on your gift list. The best part: every bite is guaranteed perfect!



You'll love it or
your money back!



The Ideal Gift **SAVE 61%**

- 4 Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers** (4 oz.)

79611WHC separately \$232.95 **\$89.99**
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Limited Time
**8 FREE
BURGERS**
A \$22 value!



**ORDER
NOW!**

OmahaSteaks.com/IdealGift3528 | 1.888.652.9385
Ask for your FREE burgers with offer 79611WHC

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 79611. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI. Expires 02/28/26. | SRC0715

Scan Now



OmahaSteaks.com/IdealGift3528

December 2025



10

06 The More, the Merrier

Polar Express trains take riders on a magical journey from East Texas to the North Pole.

*By Jan Adamson
Photos by Dave Shafer*

The Dirt Church Down a Dirt Road

While a community rebuilds a historic West Texas church, it learns an ancient tradition.

*By Eileen Mattei
Photos by Erich Schlegel*

ON THE COVER

From left, Remy and Rendon Unger and Kynlee Kampen hope to catch Santa's attention—for all the right reasons.

Photo by Dave Shafer

ABOVE

Friends of the Ruidosa Church carry out their rebuilding mission along the Rio Grande.

Photo by Erich Schlegel

04

Currents

The latest buzz

05

TCP Talk

Readers respond

16

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

Footnotes in Texas History

Turn of Fortune
By W.F. Strong

26

TCP Kitchen

Holiday Breakfast
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road

Slabs of Strudel
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Country Life

34

Observations

Our Kind of Weird
By Shane Torno

Live, From Austin ...



Lorne Michaels, from left, watches a sketch rehearsal featuring Madeline Kahn, Will Ferrell and Cheri Oteri.

THE LEGACY OF LORNE MICHAELS, best known as the creator and producer of the long-running TV show *Saturday Night Live*, is the focus of an exhibit at the University of Texas' Harry Ransom Center in Austin.

On display are scripts, production notes, props and costumes from the iconic show that has changed pop culture since it went on the air in October 1975.

Live from New York: The Lorne Michaels Collection runs through March 20, 2026. Admission is free.



For Heaven's Sake

The Hail Mary pass unofficially turns 50 this month, though the Notre Dame football team referred to desperation plays as Hail Marys as early as 1922.

But Roger Staubach's 45-yard heave that fell into the hands of receiver Drew Pearson for the Dallas Cowboys' game-winning touchdown over the Minnesota Vikings in the 1975 NFL playoffs made the name of a Catholic prayer into a signature play.

As Staubach, left, explained, "They asked me, 'What were you thinking about when you threw the ball?' I said, 'When I closed my eyes, I said a Hail Mary.'"

TCP Contests and More

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Mom's Favorites

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Gates

RECOMMENDED READING

We think of Santa as bearing gifts. But do you know about the time he was naughty? Read *Naughty Santa* from December 2014 at TexasCoopPower.com.



ENTER ONLINE

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Dear Santa,
I would like ...

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

Here are some responses to our October prompt: **The best food I've ever had at a fair is ...**

Frito pie served in a chip bag, as God intended.

ROBIN THOMPSON PERRY
VIA FACEBOOK

Fletcher's corny dog, State Fair of Texas—1953, 14 years old and new to Texas.

CAROL MERCER
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
FAIRVIEW

A burger between a split Krispy Kreme doughnut for the bun at the State Fair of Texas. Weirdly good.

KATHY WHITBY
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC
FLINT

Smoked turkey leg, Shakespearean festival, July 2021, Kalispell, Montana.

TED HENDRIX
VIA FACEBOOK

Funnel cakes drizzled with chocolate sauce, topped with fresh strawberries and lots of whipped cream.

JANICE EHLERS
GVEC
SEGUIN

Gumbo at a seafood festival in south Louisiana.

WALT HUDSON
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.



ERICH SCHLEBEL

Catching Up With a Friend

“We just returned after five months outside of Texas, and I’m catching up on your magazine. Interesting stories: the missile silos, goats, flour, Frisbees and grapes.”

J. BAILEY
BANDERA EC
UTOPIA

Two Bits and a Bag of Chips

From 1956 to 1960, I worked at the G.F. Wacker variety store in Levelland [It’s in the Bag, September 2025]. The Fritos chili pie was sold daily—with a Coke and candy bar, all for about 25 cents.

Genie Ballew
Lamb County EC
Levelland

A State for Horses

I moved to Texas thinking it was a state for horses but was astonished to learn there are few places to ride but the roads and private property [Mounts in the Hills, September 2025]. In Washington I helped pack families and hunters into the Cascade wilderness, where we could ride for weeks.

While I admire the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association for all its work, I think our state forest service should support trail riders as other states have done, for example the rails-to-trails



DAVE SHAEFER

projects in which the state pays to convert old railroad tracks into riding trails.

Loretta Bedford
Deep East Texas EC
San Augustine

I hope the article results in increased membership in TETRA since they do such awesome and necessary work. I’m not a horse rider, but I can appreciate the importance of maintaining equestrian trails to help keep people in contact with nature.

Elena Rivera
Pedernales EC
Austin

Nature Erases

I did not know the story of the ghost town Eagle Springs [Ebb and Flow, September 2025]. The simple beauty of Martha Deering’s final paragraph—“evening breeze shivers” and “whispering of voices”—took my breath away. Nature erases, and it reclaims.

Mark Troth
Bluebonnet EC
Chappell Hill

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube LinkedIn Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Bryan Wood, San Augustine
Vice Chair Cameron Smallwood, Burleson
Secretary-Treasurer Jim Coleman, Edna
Board Members Matt Bentke, Bastrop
Kerry Kelton, Navasota • Mark McClain, Roby • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Kathi Calvert, Crockett
Tachi Hinojosa, Fredericksburg
Gary Miller, Bryan • Bryan Story, Blossom
Grace Subealdeia, Dalhart
Buff Whitten, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevin
Editor Chris Burrows
Associate Editor Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejteck
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
Communications Specialist Kelly Tran
Proofreader Louie Bond

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 82, Number 6 (USPS 540-560). Texas Co-op Power is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 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 esroull@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 Wire-hand © 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



BY JAN ADAMSON • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

The More, the Merrier

Polar Express trains take riders on a magical journey from East Texas to the North Pole





Shhh. Listen.

It's a train whistle—low and long and lonely and romantic. It's a sound that for 150 years has permeated the Pineywoods town of Palestine.

But the whistle heard December 31, 1969, was thought to be the last. That day, Texas South-Eastern Railroad engine No. 22, a 70-ton diesel-electric locomotive, pulled into the station for the last time—the end of a century of regular freight and passenger service in Palestine.

But listen closely today along the 25-mile track between Palestine and Rusk, to the east, and you'll hear plenty of whistles and maybe even singing, laughter and bells. If you catch a glimpse into a passing train car, you'll see families in matching pajamas, dancing chefs and trays full of hot chocolate.

LEFT Santa doesn't always travel by sleigh—especially when he's in Texas.

ABOVE Remy and Rendon Unger take in the countryside on the way to the North Pole.

Ever since the Palestine-Rusk line reopened as a tourist railway called the Texas State Railroad on June 25, 1976, it has been building a corps of believers. Tens of thousands of them turn out each holiday season for the service's wildly popular Polar Express trips based on the film released in 2004 and the 1985 book by Chris Van Allsburg.

"With the popularity of the film, the Polar Express Train Ride has just grown and grown," says Amy Parady, president of the Texas State Railroad, which launched round-trip Christmas-themed excursions 20 years ago. "Many have made a tradition out of the event, so they come every year."

Like the Corley family from Magnolia.

"We meet new people and sit with different families," Kevin Corley says. "It's very interactive. We've never had a bad experience."

Long before it whisked families to the "North Pole," Palestine began its golden age after the Civil War when the International Railroad and the Houston and Great Northern Railroad opened a route between Hearne and Palestine. The transport of goods and passengers resulted in great wealth, allowing merchants and railroad executives to build massive mansions, especially in Palestine.

In 1881, when a prison was built in Rusk, the line was extended to the east. Shortly thereafter, the Palestine car shop was built to modify and repair freight cars. In 1971, not long after shipments of logging and mining equipment and passengers ceased, local banker Jack R. Stone, a member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and Rusk Mayor Emmett H. Whitehead led a campaign to reopen the railroad as a tourist attraction, and the Texas State Railroad was born.

A \$3 million appropriation went into refurbishing the rails, and Rusk and Palestine built support facilities such as campsites before the two depots were built. The line has been operated by private companies since 2007.

About half of the passenger cars are commuter coaches built in 1923 for other railroads; they're pulled by an assortment of vintage diesel- and steam-powered locomotives.

The railroad hosts a variety of excursions throughout the year. There's Rockin' the Rails, in which passengers attend a concert; the Rusk Turntable Run, which makes use of the 130-year-old, compressed air-powered railcar turntable in Maydelle; and Mother's Day and Father's Day trips. There are autumn- and Halloween-themed trains, dinner excursions, and trips that celebrate local beer and wine.



OPPOSITE, FROM TOP Kynlee Kampen with her silver sleigh bell. The Polar Express departs from the Palestine depot.

RIGHT Engine 30, at 100 years old, comes to life in the early morning before a day's excursions.

But far and away the most popular themed ride is the Polar Express.

"We always have multiple [marriage] proposals and engagements during every season, which is always special," Parady says. "We have had grown individuals who have never seen Santa before, and just to watch the grandparents and parents see the joy in the eyes of the children creates magic every year."

The cars are festooned inside with greenery and twinkling lights, and outside, along the route to the North Pole—did you know it's in Rusk?—Christmas decorations whiz past the windows.

Passengers are encouraged to bring a copy of the book or buy one at the depot, and once aboard, they're served hot chocolate and cookies by dancing chefs who act out various scenes. On arrival at the North Pole, passengers are greeted by Santa and his elves, who bestow the first gift of Christmas: a silver sleigh bell that can only be heard by believers. The chefs lead passengers in Christmas carols on the return trip.

But the experience changes each year. Employees gather to discuss and workshop new ideas and improvements.

An adults-only railcar has club chairs. There's an open-air car with bench seats, an observation dome car, and another with tables and sofas. There's even a car that can be booked for private parties. The cars have the feel of a long-ago time because of the original fixtures retained throughout.

It all makes for a special experience.

"We have a family that started coming the first year we did the Polar Express train ride, and their son was 4 years old," Parady says. "They have never missed a year, and now their son is 22 years old."

Logistically, Polar Express season requires careful orchestration. Within a six-week time frame in November and December, there are typically 105–110 round trips with as many as five trains running a day for 60,000–70,000 passengers. Reservations open in July at texasstaterailroad.net.

"We hire typically 150 additional team members just for our Polar season," Parady says. "It is quite a feat pulling this event off with the ridership we have in such a short time frame."

Performers on the Polar Express have a reputation for the joy and professionalism they bring to the job, making it no wonder that passengers return year after year—and get into the spirit.

"About 95% of our visitors always arrive in matching pajamas," Parady says. "We have had people plan their family



On the Rails

The Texas State Railroad is a movie star, having been featured in more than 35 films, TV series, documentaries and commercials. Most recently, the train and the Palestine depot were part of the first episode of *1883*, the prequel to the *Yellowstone* series. The railroad also starred in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*; *American Outlaws*; *The Great Debaters*; and *The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw*.

reunions around our event. We have multigenerational attendees, meaning great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and children all attending together. Families have become extremely creative with their attire, and many customize their pajamas or even make their own."

The Corley family has made the Polar Express a tradition. Kelly and Kevin Corley and their children, Piper and Carter, have been attending since 2015. "We read the book and watch the film," Kelly says. "It's such a joy to watch the kids' faces light up when they see the story play out in real life."

The Corleys prefer to take a late afternoon excursion so they can experience the sounds and smoke from the train during the daylight, and then, in the evening, they get to see the glowing Christmas lights and decorations on the return trip.

The family has dedicated a whole shelf in their home to train memorabilia. It's filled with cocoa mugs, golden train tickets and more than 20 silver bells.

"We pick out new pajamas every year," Carter says. "Me and Dad match, and Piper and Mom match."

That's an East Texas treasure worth believing in. Shhh. Just listen. ■



The Dirt Church Down a Dirt Road

BY EILEEN MATTEI • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL

While a community rebuilds a historic West Texas church, it learns an ancient tradition

IT'S A BREEZY, overcast 80-degree day in Marfa as a dozen or so volunteers rotate jobs in a brick-making assembly line.

Billy Joe Moore, 12, has the hardest job. He hoists small buckets of clay, sand, straw and water into a gas-powered mixer, like those used for concrete. His mother, Erin Moore, says the homeschooling, beekeeping family from Fort Davis is here to learn about adobe-making by doing it, getting into it.

It's also for a great cause: These bricks will be used in the restoration of a historic church in a remote outpost, turning a former Catholic house of worship into a community center.

"It's so neat to hear about the history of the church and the culture of the region," Erin says. "Who wouldn't want to get involved in this?"

In the ghost town of Ruidosa, 90 minutes southwest of Marfa in far West Texas, the adobe El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesús (Sacred Heart of Jesus Church) is awaiting resurrection.

Completed in 1916, the church fell victim to blowing sand and rain that wore away the adobe before and after the droughts of the 1950s dried up the Rio Grande and the small agricultural community. By 1960, the church and town had been abandoned.

Native salts eroded the foundation. Huicache branches battered the northeast tower. Attempts to restore the church, which claims the largest traditional adobe arches in Texas, faltered until the nonprofit Friends of the Ruidosa Church acquired the title to the Texas Historic Landmark from Presidio County after it was given the deed from the Diocese of El Paso in 2019.

With ownership, the Friends began work to preserve as much of the original adobe as

possible, to restore structural strength and to repair the damage done over 110 years. That meant making sun-dried adobe blocks—thousands of them, one at a time, starting in 2021.

For more than 10,000 years, adobe has been used as a building material, favored because its high thermal mass absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night.

"In recent generations, adobe-making skills have been lost, since the knowledge is rarely written down," says Joey Benton. His Marfa design and restoration company, Silla, has completed restorations of adobe buildings at Fort Davis National Historic Site and Big Bend National Park.

During the Friends' May Adobe Day, kneeling men and women scoop Billy Joe's fresh adobe mix from tilted wheelbarrows with their bare hands and tamp it into wood forms.

OPPOSITE El Corazón Sagrado de la Iglesia de Jesús in the ghost town of Ruidosa on a September night.

BELOW From left, Terry Bishop, Martin Rivas and Claudio Nuñez load new adobe bricks onto pallets during a Friends of the Ruidosa Church workday.





“You see big smiles on their faces. That’s their inner child connecting with making mud pies, getting on their hands and knees, and shaping adobe by hand.”



Others lift the forms off the freshly minted 10-by-18-by-3.5-inch blocks. They rinse off the forms in a large water trough and place them on black tarps, ready for the next batch.

The adobe blocks dry for a month in the sun, turned periodically like sunbathers so all

surfaces get exposed. Then the bricks are stacked and set aside. They’ll eventually be used to rebuild the bell tower over the church’s entrance.

“It’s all about community, participating in a traditional activity,” says Mike Green, a retired architect and chair of the Friends of the Ruidosa Church. “You see big smiles on their faces. That’s their inner child connecting with making mud pies, getting on their hands and knees, and shaping adobe by hand.

“People long for authenticity in their lives and something visible to show at the end of a day of hard work. Adobe-making gives us a deep feeling of achievement.”

Hilary Raney, a Marfa resident, mud enthusiast and gardener, spent her third Adobe Day, a mostly monthly event, providing a helping hand and moral support.

“I see new faces every time,” she says. “Last month a man in his 80s, whose parents got married in the church, came to Adobe Day. He was so happy to see what we were doing.”

Adobe-makers come from El Paso, Houston, New Mexico and, like Steve McKeon, from Oregon. After McKeon opened a restaurant and bar in Marfa, he decided to help make bricks. “Working bubbles out of a block by hand gives you a sense of accomplishment,” he says.

The Friends pays the bills for the church, power for which is provided by Rio Grande Electric Cooperative. Co-op power keeps the mortar mixer turning and the diamond saw spinning as it cuts adobe into segments.

Funds from the nonprofit’s Community Day fundraiser every November in Ruidosa help pay to transport blocks to the remote site and to bring in masonry specialists to install them. Grants from the Texas Historical Commission and the Summerlee Foundation cover the costs of a historic structure report that guides its preservation.

Conversations with earthen-structure professionals, architects and archaeologists set the stage for the site work.



OPPOSITE, FROM TOP A Friends of the Ruidosa Church work crew. Bishop carries a fresh brick.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT “The earthen-structure community has no secrets or hidden techniques,” says retired architect Mike Green, who is leading the restoration. A view from the top of a hill looking south toward Mexico over the old church.

In 2023, Benton and his skilled crew began critical structural repairs to the church. They stabilized the foundation and installed scaffolding and support frames. They straightened a wall and saved the northeast tower from collapse by repairing adobe blocks and inserting new volunteer-made bricks as needed. In some areas the exterior was so worn that light was visible through the mortar joints.

Green praises Benton and archaeologist David Keller for their contributions to the preservation and restoration efforts.

“The earthen-structure community has no secrets or hidden techniques,” Green says. “We’re on the same journey: trying to restore and save adobes of the Southwest.”

Free for the asking, the adobe recipe mixes clay, sand, silt, chopped straw and water in proportions determined by the soil used. Clay comprises 15%–30% of the mix, acting as the binder, similar to cement’s role in concrete. The majority of the mix is sand and aggregate. Straw allows the adobe to dry more evenly by letting water get out of the block. The mortar



has the same mix as the block but with finer aggregate.

This classic frontier Catholic church, with its substantial bell towers, is a time capsule for the community, says Keller, who is a Friends co-founder and preservation specialist. The church is unique in that the exterior was never plastered—rare for adobe structures, even in arid climates.

Nevertheless, while the church is being restored with historical accuracy, “the integrity of the structure and preservation guidance trumps absolute historical fidelity,” Keller says. So the exterior will be plastered to keep it from deteriorating like it did over the last 100 years. The interior, originally plastered and whitewashed, will be restored to that state.

Green hopes the bell will be restored to the entrance tower next year. In three years, he foresees the restored church telling the rich history of the area as a community center for residents of Brewster and Presidio counties as well as Ojinaga, across the Rio Grande.

Hands molding clay into architecture have built their own adobe-loving community. At the same time, they have helped restore the heart of a last-century community down a dirt road along the river.

As Green drove around the area over the years, the building often caught his eye. Eventually, his passion for architecture and history prompted him to try to save the old church. Now, the restoration work goes beyond saving the physical structure.

“The church at Ruidosa is the most peaceful place I know,” Green says. “It is so remote, so quiet, so serene. It feels like good spirits are in the air.” ■



FROM
\$9,995
INSTALLED

AFFORDABLE BATHROOM REMODEL

FROM **\$129** PER MONTH

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



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

Trusted by Texans for Over 20 Years
Tubs and Showers Made in America

Visit Our Texas Showroom

CALL FOR MORE INFO
682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362
bestbuywalkintubs.com

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

800.633.8969 • roofover.com

TCP Gift Shop

Shop now
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

FREE! \$2 Bill in Uncirculated Condition

Special Offer for New Customers Only Ages 18+
REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 7 DAYS

YES! Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	\$2 Note (limit 1)	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	TOTAL	FREE!

Name _____ Please print clearly

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to: Littleton Coin Company
Offer Code: 46G404
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
Littleton NH 03561-3737
Serving Collectors Since 1945

- ★ Seldom-Seen, \$2 Bills Make up Less Than 1% of All Paper Currency
- ★ Face Depicts Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of Independence
- ★ Back Features a Rendition of John Trumbull's Masterpiece Painting *Declaration of Independence*
- ★ **FREE Shipping!**

You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance within 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

Mail Coupon Today!
For Faster Service Visit: LittletonCoin.com/Respond Offer Code: 46G404

Littleton Coin Company
Serving Collectors Since 1945

© 2025 LCC, Inc.



Praise for DiamondAura®



“So much sparkle and the play of light on DiamondAura® beats any diamond!”
— D.D. from Columbus, OH

How to Win at Love

A classic tennis bracelet serves up over 10 carats of sparkle for a guaranteed win

It was the jewelry piece that made the world stop and take notice. In the middle of a long volley during the big American tennis tournament, the chic blonde athlete had to stop play because her delicate diamond bracelet had broken and she had to find it. The tennis star recovered her beloved bracelet, but the world would never be the same.

From that moment on, the tennis bracelet has been on the lips and on the wrists of women in the know. Once called eternity bracelets, these bands of diamonds were known from then on as tennis bracelets, and remain *the* hot ticket item with jewelers.

D Flawless diamonds from another company that costs \$57,000!

Want to look like a million bucks without stressing over losing or damaging something that cost you a fortune? The Love Wins Tennis Bracelet is a simple strand of glittering gems in precious sterling that epitomizes elegance.



FREE

earrings with your purchase of the Love Wins Bracelet.

The first time we offered this bracelet, we sold out literally in minutes. It was our fastest selling product of 2021. It took six months to get it back in stock — Get yours before we run out! And there’s more... we will also include our Ultimate Diamond Alternative™ DiamondAura® stud earrings for FREE!

Jewelry Specifications:

- 10 ¾ ctw of the Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, DiamondAura®
- Rhodium-finished .925 sterling silver settings
- Bracelet: Fits wrists to 7 ½". Earrings: 1 ctw with post backs

Love Wins Tennis Bracelet (10 ¾ ctw) ~~\$399~~ \$39* + S&P FREE stud earrings (1 ctw) with your purchase of the Love Wins Bracelet — a \$99 value!

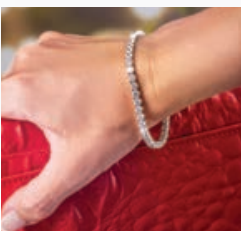
**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: LWB367-02

JOIN MORE THAN 1 MILLION
THRILLED DIAMONDAURA® CUSTOMERS

We’ve captured this timeless classic with over 10 total carats of DiamondAura®, our signature diamond alternative stone. This sparkling marvel rivals even the finest diamonds (D Flawless) with its transparent color and clarity, and both are so hard they can cut glass. Don’t believe me? The book *“Jewelry and Gems – The Buying Guide,”* praised the technique used in our diamond alternative DiamondAura®: “The best diamond simulation to date, and even some jewelers have mistaken these stones for mined diamonds,” it raved. For comparison, we found a similarly designed 10 carat tennis bracelet with



Stauer, 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. LWB367-02, Burnsville, MN 55337 | www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



MESSAGE FROM CEO/GENERAL MANAGER RHETT REID

Ownership Matters for Community

WHEN WE OWN something, we tend to treat it with greater care. Whether it's your home, car or other valuable belongings, knowing that you worked hard for something makes it all the more valuable. It's not just the physical good; it's a sense of pride.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric co-op. But every member of Rusk County Electric Cooperative can take pride in being an owner of the utility.

While it may seem easy to take the supply of electricity for granted, we work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, our member-owners, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

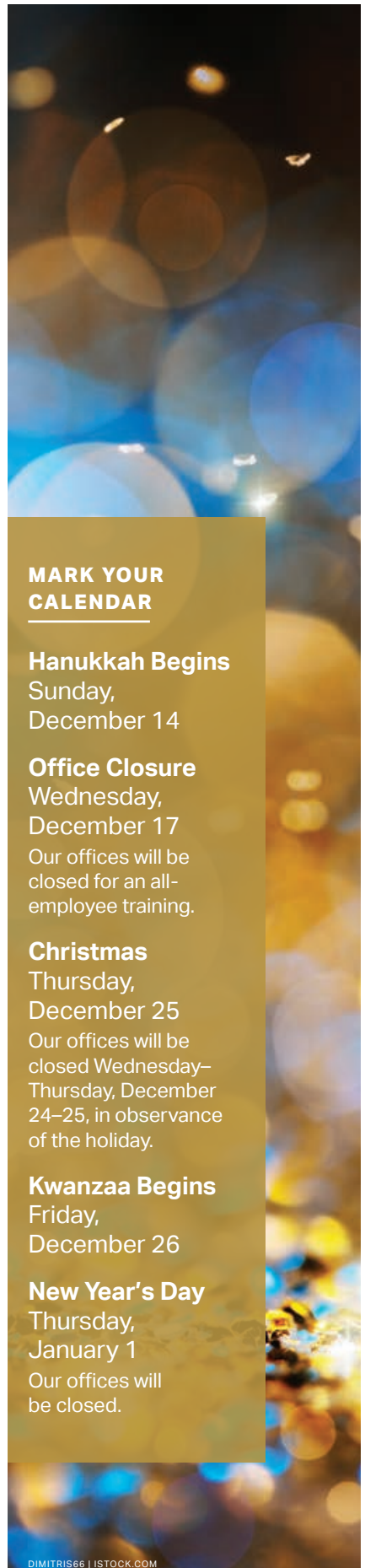


Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation play an integral role in creating community. Rusk County EC understands that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors or to people who have left the area because there aren't enough local opportunities.

Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than just poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

That sense of ownership brings care and attention into our community, creating local solutions that help keep money—and people—right here.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we're committed to doing our part for you. You own the co-op, and we welcome your active participation. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hanukkah Begins
Sunday,
December 14

Office Closure
Wednesday,
December 17
Our offices will be closed for an all-employee training.

Christmas
Thursday,
December 25
Our offices will be closed Wednesday–Thursday, December 24–25, in observance of the holiday.

Kwanzaa Begins
Friday,
December 26

New Year's Day
Thursday,
January 1
Our offices will be closed.



IDEABUG | ISTOCK.COM

Restock Your Winter Emergency Kit

WINTER STORMS CAN cut power quickly despite the best efforts of your crews at Rusk County Electric Cooperative. An emergency kit can reduce stress and keep your household safe until power is restored. It's a good idea to have one at the ready, and if you already keep one on hand, check it to replenish or update supplies.

Include these essentials in a weather-resistant bin:

- ▶ Flashlights or headlamps for each person, plus extra batteries
- ▶ Portable phone chargers, a car charger and at least one fully charged power bank
- ▶ Extra blankets, warm clothing, hats and gloves stored together for quick access
- ▶ Three days of nonperishable food and bottled water, a manual can opener, and some ready-to-eat meals
- ▶ A first aid kit, essential prescription medicines and copies of critical medical information
- ▶ A battery-powered radio, whistle and small fire extinguisher

Also, if the power goes out in your home, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to protect your food. Turn off or unplug electronics to avoid damage from surges when power returns. If you run a generator, keep it outdoors and well away from windows, vents and the garage.

Next, think about heat and pipes. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate around exposed plumbing. If a pipe freezes, use a hair dryer or warm towels—never an open flame—to thaw it.

Finally, plan for your family's medical needs. If someone relies on a powered medical device, call your co-op in advance to learn about backup power options and restoration priority. Share your plan with a neighbor or family member who can check in during a storm.

Review and refresh your kit twice a year. Replace expired food and medicine, recharge power banks and check batteries. Label containers and store them where everyone can reach them in the dark. ■

Rusk County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 1169
Henderson, TX 75653-1169
Phone (903) 657-4571
Email info@rcelectric.org
Web rcelectric.org

CEO/General Manager

Rhett L. Reid

Board of Directors

Jay Innerarity, President
Emily Whitworth, Vice President
Richard "Trey" Hacker, Secretary-Treasurer
Tony Cavaliere, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Sam Allison
Kenneth Keeling
Michael Pinnell

24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL
(903) 657-4571

TOLL-FREE
1-855-945-3520

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Henderson

(903) 657-4571

3162 State Highway 43 E.

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Carthage

(903) 693-2198

325A W. Sabine, Suite 1

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

Lakeport

(903) 643-9181

8989 FM 349

Hours: Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online with SmartHub or Pay Now
- By automatic bank draft
- By mail to P.O. Box 1169, Henderson, TX 75653
- In person at any of our offices
- Night deposit box at all office locations
- By phone at 1-855-945-3520. Please have your RCEC account number available.

VISIT US ONLINE

rcelectric.org



Check us out at
[TexasCoopPower.com/rcec](https://www.texascooppower.com/rcec)



CHALFY | ISTOCK.COM

5 Tips for Winter Safety

IT'S NO SURPRISE that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. During the coldest months, people use more devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

Data from the National Fire Protection Association shows that at average of more than 46,000 home fires occurred each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction between 2015 and 2019. These fires resulted in an average of 390 deaths, 1,330 injuries and \$1.5 billion in property damage annually.

This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips.

Don't overload outlets. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. They should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using one, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are at least 3 feet away from flammable items and plugged directly into a wall outlet; never use them with an extension cord or power strip. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills.

If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads. Look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the cord isn't damaged. Don't place anything on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

Use portable generators safely. Unfortunately winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators. Never connect a standby generator directly to your home's electrical system. Start the generator first, then plug appliances into the outlets on the generator.

Run the generator in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it releases is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

Take care during the holiday season to avoid common hazards. You can avoid a Christmas tree fire by watering natural trees daily to keep them hydrated. Inspect all decorations and throw away those with damage. Keep decorations away from open flames, like lit candles. Always turn off or unplug holiday lights (both indoor and outdoor) when you leave your home and when you go to bed. Ensure that you use the appropriate extension cord for outdoor lights. ■

Protect Yourself From Electric Shock

WE DEPEND ON ELECTRICITY for almost every aspect of our modern life, making it easy to forget how dangerous it can truly be. You might be surprised to learn that each year, there are an estimated 400 electrocutions in the U.S.

Most people think injuries happen by chance—a word that implies an event that can't be foreseen or avoided. Electrical injuries typically can be both foreseen and avoided.

Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, water—or your body. The human body is 55%–65% water, so if you touch an energized bare wire or a faulty appliance while you are grounded, electricity will instantly pass through you to the ground, causing a shock that can be harmful, if not fatal.

Take time to learn how to avoid electricity's hazards at home.

When you use a plug with three prongs, the third prong connects with a ground wire inside the outlet, and the ground wire usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in case of a short circuit, electricity should flow through the grounding system instead of through you. Never remove the third prong from a plug.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters are found in some outlets and service panels. They monitor the flow of current to and from appliances. If there's an imbalance in the flow, current may travel through you, and the GFCI will immediately cut power to prevent serious injury. Use GFCIs in bathrooms and garages, near kitchen sinks and outdoors.

Remember the most important rule for appliances: Electricity and water don't mix.

Keep all appliances away from bathtubs, sinks, puddles and wet hands. Wet skin increases the risk of shock, so unplug an appliance before cleaning it—even if it's off, it can shock. If an appliance overheats, unplug it and have it checked. Don't overload outlets. Use only appliances that are approved by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL Solutions. ■



PEOPLEIMAGES | ISTOCK.COM



RIKE | ISTOCK.COM

12 Days of Holiday Safety

FOLLOW THIS HANDY schedule to prepare your home for the season.

Day 1: What's that noise? Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Day 2: Shocker! Before use, inspect all decorations and cords for damage.

Day 3: Two's company, three's a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4: Is it working? Test ground-fault and arc-fault circuit interrupters.

Day 5: Ouch! Prevent falls by arranging cords safely along walls.

Day 6: Kids eat the darnedest things. Avoid placing lights, hooks and ornaments within reach of young children.

Day 7: Thirsty? Keep the Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8: Make a wish! Blow out candles before leaving the house or going to bed.

Day 9: Nice and warm. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything flammable.

Day 10: Can't touch this! Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into outlets.

Day 11: Escape route. Share your family's fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12: Hot stuff! Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles inward. ■



MIKETTO | ISTOCK.COM

Home Lighting 101

LIGHTING IS SOMETHING most of us don't think much about—until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb is convenient without considering how it will perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy-efficient.

Watts vs. Lumens

When you're shopping for light bulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output.

For example, an 800-lumen bulb gives off about the same amount of light as an old-fashioned 60-watt incandescent bulb. (You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, energy-efficient LEDs, but if not—it's time to make the switch!)

A helpful rule of thumb: higher lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.

Color Temperature and Consistency

Light bulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones.

This detail often gets overlooked, so if mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way

you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

Dimmers and Switches

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches gives you more control over brightness and helps save energy. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double-check labels.

While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them—and in the right places. A light you can only turn off from one end of a hallway quickly becomes annoying. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to install additional switches.

Form Meets Function

Bulbs are only part of the equation—fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, such as sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, such as pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses

light where you need it most.

When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: Does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table but leave the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room with more light than you need, wasting energy and money.

Smart Lighting

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors—all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa. Want the lights to dim automatically for movie night or turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy.

Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood—anything from a softer glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the "on" position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch.

Good lighting doesn't just make your home look better—it makes it feel better too. Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come. ■

Prep Your Home for Winter Travel

WHILE IT'S GREAT to celebrate the holiday season at home, winter can also be a time to take an extended trip to visit family or escape to a destination with warmer weather. If you plan to be away from home for most of the season, use these recommendations to keep your home safe and save on your electric bill.

Set the thermostat to 50 degrees. This is a happy midpoint that avoids wasting energy to warm an empty house while still preventing damage to pipes and plants. If freezing temperatures are forecast for while you are away, drip faucets and consider turning off your water at the shut-off valve.

Turn off your electric water heater at the breaker or set it to the lowest temperature possible.

To avoid a fire hazard, unplug the washer and dryer when you leave. Disconnect the hoses leading to the washer to prevent them from freezing.

Unplug all small appliances. You'll reduce the risk of a house fire and save a bit on your electric bill.

Don't broadcast your travel plans on social media. Instead, share photos from your trip after you return.

If you set a timer for lights and sprinklers, make sure to switch up the times over the days you'll be gone so it's not obvious to any onlookers that the house is empty. It can look suspicious if the lights go on at 6 p.m. every day like clockwork. If possible, stagger several timers that control different lights to approximate the natural movement of someone through a house.

Close blinds and curtains. Don't advertise your belongings to any would-be burglars.

Be strategic about putting out post-holiday recycling and trash. If there are a lot of boxes from new gadgets or other expensive electronics, wait until you get back to put them out so they're not sitting outside in full view for days. Or have a trusted neighbor set them by the curb on the appropriate day.

Place a hold on mail and newspaper deliveries, and ask a neighbor or friend to pick up any packages from your porch. ■



CHARBYLUCKO | ISTOCK.COM




KAORINNE | ISTOCK.COM

Spiced Banana Muffins

- 2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour**
- 2 teaspoons baking soda**
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg**
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom**
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened**
- ½ cup brown sugar**
- 1 ½ cups sugar**
- 4 eggs**
- 5–6 ripe bananas, mashed**
- ½ cup vegetable oil**
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract**

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Apply cooking spray to 2 muffin tins or line with paper baking cups.
2. Whisk together flours, baking soda, spices and salt in a medium bowl.
3. In another bowl, cream butter and sugars. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add bananas, oil and vanilla; mix well. Add dry ingredients and mix until moistened, being careful not to overmix.
4. Spoon batter into muffin tins. Bake 15–17 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
5. Remove from oven and cool muffins in tins 5 minutes. Invert and finish cooling right side up on a wire rack.

MAKES 2 DOZEN MUFFINS

 Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).

Eyes on the Ball

Devotees ensure Anson's historic Cowboys' Christmas Ball stays true to the original

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANNA MAZUREK

EVERY DECEMBER, John Milsap Compere dresses in a cowboy hat, blue jeans, a white shirt, black vest and Western string tie—traditional 1880s attire—and makes his way to Pioneer Hall, a historic dance hall in Anson, north of Abilene, for the town's annual three-day reenactment of the 1885 Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball.

"Anson was a new community on the frontier. That was the end of civilization," says Compere, an 84-year-old retired Army brigadier general and judge and the historian for the Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball Association.

One hundred and forty years ago, the owner of the town's lone hotel, the Star, hosted a ball, supposedly to honor a newlywed couple, and invited all the locals. Compere's great-grandfather and namesake, John Milsap, attended and invited his friend, author and rancher William Lawrence Chittenden.

Chittenden was so impressed by the ball that he wrote a poem titled *The Cowboys' Christmas Ball* in 1890, which would later make the event famous thanks to its inclusion in folklorist John A. Lomax's 1910 book *Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads*.

The ball became an annual tradition, and when the hotel burned down, it was held at local ranches before World War I halted it.

Two schoolteachers, Leonora Barrett and Hybernia Grace, revived the ball in 1934, organizing a historical reenactment in a high school gym. An Anson city ordinance prohibiting dancing had become law the year before, but an exemption was granted for the three nights of the event.

The reenactment was such a success that Pioneer Hall was constructed to host it in 1940. The 8,591-square-foot building with a stone facade is a designated state historic site but had to be padlocked 362 days a year due to the dancing ban. The ball, itself an official state historic event, has been held annually on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday before Christmas—December 18–20 this year—except for a one-year pandemic hiatus.

The association that organizes and runs the event was established in 1937 and ensures the tradition is carefully preserved, namely its cowboy dances. The Paul Jones, schottische, Virginia reel, heel-and-toe polka and waltz are among the dances performed each year.

"They wanted the old-time, old-fashioned dances and music," Compere says. "We still go by those rules and our bylaws that were written back in the '30s."

Per those 140-year-old rules, there's no alcohol, smoking, horse riding, shooting, spitting, cussing or fighting. On the dance floor, women must wear dresses (skirts can be borrowed at the cloakroom), and men are required to check hats, spurs and guns. The dress code only applies to women on the dance floor, not those watching from the built-in wooden bleachers that line the sides of the hall.

There have been a few rule testers and breakers over the years. Two cowboys had a few too many drinks elsewhere and rode their horses into the hall in 2005. At the 2015 ball, the high schoolers staffing the coatroom were surprised when a historical gun reenactment group checked all their unloaded rifles, handguns and derringers at the door.

Musical traditions are another centerpiece. Each night a grand march honors a newlywed couple, a tribute to the ball's origins. Chittenden's poem is performed by a soloist, a tradition started in 1946 when Colorado folklorist Gordon Graham set it to music. The song was recorded in 1985 by Grammy Award nominee Michael Martin Murphey, who will make his 32nd ball appearance this year.

In the 1970s, an updated but now defunct citywide dancing ban included a unique exception for the ball.

While the dance draws roughly 300 people a night, Compere considers it a family tradition with children "dancing with their parents and grandparents" as he did. When his first grandchild was 2 months old, she became the sixth generation to attend. He took her onto the dance floor and kissed her under the mistletoe draped from the wagon wheel chandeliers.

Engaging younger generations is a priority. High school students traditionally work the cloakroom and concession stand. The association sponsors a writing contest for students, who write about the history of the ball, and a holiday pageant. Pageant winners are honored on the final night of the ball, a family affair with an appearance by a cowboy Santa Claus.

"As long as people will support it," Compere says, there will always be Christmas dancing in Anson. ■

John Milsap Compere's ancestors attended the first Cowboys' Christmas Ball in 1885.



Spirituality Meets Artistry



"I never expected it to be so beautiful that it takes your breath away."

— Kaya C., on Stauer Opals

In a quaint village, nestled between rolling hills, lived a young woman with a deep appreciation for gemstones. Her grandmother gifted her a delicate cross pendant adorned with opals. The opals shimmered with a mesmerizing play of colors, reflecting hues of blues, greens, and fiery oranges. Her grandmother shared the legend of the opals, believed to bring hope, purity, and luck to those who wore them.

Using this story as inspiration, Stauer brings you the **Opal Spirit Cross Pendant**. With over 2 total carats of Kyocera lab-created opals set in .925 sterling silver encased in yellow gold, this pendant is a radiant celebration of beauty and craftsmanship. Each opal captivates with a kaleidoscopic dance of fiery oranges blending into oceanic blues, streaked with flashes of vibrant green that seem to come alive with every movement. The shimmering opals are skillfully arranged to create an enchanting, otherworldly glow, embodying the spirit of hope and harmony.

This breathtaking combination of color and craftsmanship is available as a limited availability of only 930 pieces, making it a rare and treasured addition

to your jewelry collection. Plus, when you order today, you'll receive the **Opal Spirit Cross Pendant** at an impossible price of just \$59 normally ~~\$149!~~

Don't miss your chance to own this exclusive tribute to timeless elegance and meaningful symbolism.

Jewelry Specifications:

- Pendant: 2 1/2 ctw. Kyocera lab opals and DiamondAura® accents. Yellow gold-finished .925 sterling silver setting
- Chain: 18" gold-clad .925 sterling silver chain

Opal Spirit Cross Collection

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| A. Pendant (2 1/2 ctw) | \$149 \$59* | + S&P | Save \$90 |
| B. 18" Gold Clad Chain | \$59* | + S&P | |
| Pendant and Chain | \$208 \$79* | + S&P | Best Offer! |

*Special price only for customers using the offer code.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: OCR291-02

Stauer® 14091 Southcross Drive W.
Dept. OCR291-02, Burnsville, MN 55337
www.stauer.com





Turn of Fortune

A family's legacy far exceeds its pilfered buried treasure

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT NEUBECKER

A LONG TIME AGO, a woman tried to sell me her home, hinting at the prospect of gold treasure long hidden and lost within.

She told me her husband had died suddenly, and his last words to her were: "There's gold coins behind the wall in the bedroom closet." She was willing to split anything found.

I didn't bite on that strange sales pitch, but it reminded me of another similar case, even more interesting, up the country a ways.

In the little Texas town of San Diego, about an hour west of Corpus Christi, there once lived a Dr. Jose García. In 1933, he was the primary doctor in town and preferred to store his wealth in the form of gold coins. He hid it in a tight crawl

space beneath a trapdoor in his kitchen.

No one knew of this treasure except García and his daughter, Gloria. He told her the coins were hers to use, for taking care of her disabled brother later in life.

When the good doctor eventually died, Gloria asked her husband, Hector López, to find the coins. After Hector's repeated determined explorations into the tight crawl space—even with a metal detector—he couldn't find the coins.

Since García had suffered from dementia late in life, Gloria and Hector began thinking the gold coins had been the invention of an imaginative mind or a mind that forgot he had moved the coins.

Years later, Gloria and Hector sold the house. Then, more than 20 years after

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



that, a plumbing leak sprang up underneath it.

A plumber went through that old trapdoor the doctor had created almost 100 years before. While laying in a new line through the muddy soil, the plumber saw a flicker of something shiny.

He brushed away the mud and discovered a very old gold coin. He dug deeper and found a gold mine: some 500 coins in various sizes and denominations.

He was elated, of course, but he didn't alert the homeowner. He calmly asked his assistant to get him an empty coffee can and absconded with the coins—worth about \$500,000 at the time.

But the plumber didn't handle it well. He went around paying for things with gold coins within the little community. The gossip erupted immediately, and Hector and Gloria soon got word.

They sued the plumber, saying the coins belonged to Gloria.

The new homeowner, too, sued for ownership, but after a long legal battle, a jury in Duval County decided that the coins belonged to Gloria.

Next, something even more unexpected and beautiful happened: Gloria and Hector gave the coins to the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg.

As it turned out, the coins were a small part of Gloria and Hector López's wealth. They both graduated from the University of Texas in the 1940s, and then Hector earned a law degree and amassed a \$275 million portfolio while working in the oil and gas industry.

Since they had no children, the Lópezes left their fortune to the children of Texas in the form of the Hector and Gloria López Foundation, which provides college tuition—especially for Hispanic and first-generation students, known proudly as López Scholars. ■

Holiday Breakfast

Be warned: Santa might stick around for these dishes

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR


Making chilaquiles is a treasured tradition for my family. Chilaquiles are fried corn tortillas simmered in a creamy salsa verde and topped with eggs. Our girls love them; I love prepping everything in advance; and my husband loves a heaping plate of hearty goodness after the piles of wrapping paper.

Chilaquiles Verdes

¼ cup vegetable oil, or more as needed
12 corn tortillas, cut into 4 wedges each
2 teaspoons salt, or more to taste
4 cups salsa verde, plus more for serving
1 cup heavy cream
4 eggs
Diced red onion
Cilantro
Queso fresco, crumbled

1. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil until shimmering. Add about a quarter of the tortilla wedges and cook, flipping once, until lightly brown and crisp.
2. Drain the freshly fried tortilla chips on a paper towel-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle lightly with salt. Repeat this process until all tortillas are fried, adding more oil as needed.
3. Drain oil and wipe skillet. Heat 4 cups salsa verde and heavy cream in the skillet over medium-high heat until warmed through. Add chips and gently stir to coat chips in sauce. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 2 minutes.
4. In another skillet, scramble or fry eggs to your preference.
5. Divide the chilaquiles between four plates and top with eggs. Sprinkle with red onion, cilantro and queso fresco. Serve with additional salsa verde.

SERVES 4

 Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in *Cocina Gris* at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Christmas Eve Rice Salad.



Artichoke-Cheese Frittata

WILLIAM P. LOYD
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

I feel strongly that Christmas mornings should be laid-back, meaning coffee, family time, gifts and a delicious breakfast that was prepped in advance.

- 1 tablespoon (1/8 stick) butter, melted**
- 6 green onions, diced**
- 1/2 cup diced green bell pepper**
- 5 eggs**
- 1 1/2 cups milk**
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder**
- 3-4 slices bread, cubed, divided use**
- 3/4 cup shredded cheese (cheddar, Monterey Jack, pepper jack or a combination works well), divided use**
- 1 jar marinated artichoke hearts (12 ounces), drained and chopped into bite-size pieces, divided use**
- 1 jar diced pimientos (4 ounces), drained, divided use**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 1 1/2-quart baking dish.
2. In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook butter, green onions and bell pepper, stirring occasionally until tender, about 2-3 minutes.
3. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, mustard, salt and onion powder.
4. In the prepared baking dish, layer half the bread, half the onion-pepper mixture, half the cheese, half the artichokes and half the pimientos. Pour half the egg mixture over first layer.
5. Repeat layering with the remaining bread, onion-pepper mixture, cheese,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >



\$500 WINNER

Cranberry Orange White Chocolate Baked Oatmeal

MELISSA TURLEY
BANDERA EC



Looking for a cozy Christmas breakfast to feed a crowd? This is it. Imagine a holiday buffet table filled with baked oatmeal, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs and fruit. And invite me because I would drive for hours for this baked oatmeal. The oatmeal can be prepped the day before, refrigerated overnight and baked the next morning.

- 6 cups old-fashioned oats**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 1 cup dried cranberries**
- 1 cup white chocolate chips**
- 2 cups orange juice**
- 1 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract**
- 4 eggs**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.
2. In a large bowl or stand mixer, combine oats, sugar, baking powder, salt, dried cranberries and white chocolate chips.
3. In another bowl, whisk together orange juice, oil, vanilla and eggs.
4. While mixing on low, slowly add wet ingredients to dry ingredients until thoroughly mixed.
5. Pour into prepared pan and bake 35-40 minutes or until golden brown.

SERVES 10-12

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

MOM'S FAVORITES DUE DEC 10

Everything is better when it's made with love by Mom. What recipe do you remember your mother by? Send us your favorite for a shot at \$500 and a spot in our May issue.

UPCOMING: THE ART OF THE SANDWICH DUE JAN 10



ENTER
ONLINE

RECIPES CONTINUED

artichokes, pimientos and egg mixture.

6. If making in advance, cover and refrigerate. Allow to come to room temperature before baking.

7. Bake 30–40 minutes, until eggs are set and frittata is firm.

SERVES 6

French Toast Bake With Caramel Banana Cream Topping

MARIAN EVONIUK
PEDERNALES EC

Brioche coated in a creamy eggy mixture, baked until golden and topped with whipped cream, bananas and caramel is the only gift I want this holiday season.

FRENCH TOAST BAKE

- 6 eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup



- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 loaf brioche, sliced and cubed

TOPPING

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 large bananas, sliced
- Caramel sauce

1. **FRENCH TOAST BAKE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, 1 cup heavy cream, maple syrup, 1 teaspoon vanilla, lemon juice, cinnamon and salt. Add brioche and stir to coat. Pour into prepared baking dish.

3. Place baking dish on center rack of oven and bake 30–40 minutes, until mixture is set, puffy and light golden brown on top. Tent loosely with foil if top is browning too quickly. Remove from oven and allow to cool slightly.

4. **TOPPING** In a large bowl, combine 2 cups heavy cream, powdered sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat at medium-high until soft peaks form. Set aside.

5. To serve, cut the bake into squares and top with a large dollop of whipped cream, banana slices and a drizzle of caramel sauce.

SERVES 4–6

FINALLY ... LIFE INSURANCE YOU CAN AFFORD

TOTAL OFFER

DETAILS

BUY \$100,000 LIFE INSURANCE

FREE INFORMATION

GLOBE LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY



Non-Negotiable

7460

PAY THE
AMOUNT OF

One Hundred Thousand Dollars

\$100,000.00

MONTHLY RATES AS LOW AS:

- ADULTS: \$3.49
- CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN: \$2.17

EASY TO BUY

- NO MEDICAL EXAM - SIMPLE APPLICATION
- NO WAITING PERIOD
- BUY DIRECT
- SCAN QR CODE FOR A FREE QUOTE



SCAN TO
VISIT US
ONLINE

For Immediate Service Call 1-855-766-4181 Or Visit ForGlobeLife.com

\$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 #SRTC/SRTC/R13 or R17, or #SRTC/V90MA in MA

\$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

(Offer may vary, \$100,000 coverage not available in all states.)

CHOOSE \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 OR UP TO \$100,000 COVERAGE

PERSONAL OFFER CODE:

XCCX15XY



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

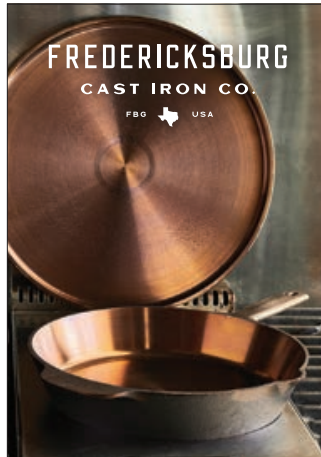
In the magazine and on TexasCoopPower.com, we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



Texas Bluebonnet Calendar

Large 20-by-15-inch calendar with 12 watercolor scenes. Enjoy nature's beauty year-round with this 2026 calendar by Texas State Artist George Boutwell. \$20 plus tax and \$4.50 shipping. See website for quantity pricing.

1-800-243-4316
gboutwell.com



Made in Texas, Y'all

Cast-iron cookware with a smooth cooking surface. Our durable, heirloom-quality cast-iron cookware made in Fredericksburg, Texas, is a great gift that can be shared with family and friends for generations.

fbgcastiron.com
[instagram.com/fbg_castiron](https://www.instagram.com/fbg_castiron)



Ideal Arm Protection for Any Activity

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

(651) 492-4830
armchaps.com



The Perfect Taste of Texas

Looking for a gift that's always remembered? Berdoll's has been handcrafting pecan pies, honey glazed pecans, and chocolate favorites for 45 years. Stop by our store or let us ship Texas pecan goodness right to your door.

800-518-3870
berdoll.com



Fudge and Divinity for the Holidays

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

holidayfarmscandy.com
[divinitybydave.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/divinitybydave)



Texas Red Grapefruit and Avocados

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

1-800-580-1900
crockettfarms.com



Slabs of Strudel

The oldest bakery in Texas came from humble beginnings

BY CHET GARNER

I DIDN'T KNOW what to expect from the oldest bakery in Texas, but it certainly wasn't a giant slab of cherry strudel bigger than a roof shingle. And yet that's exactly what I found at Naegelin's Bakery in New Braunfels—along with a line out the door, a heavenly yeasty smell that could lead a blindfolded squirrel to town and a friendly cashier who was happy to explain the unfamiliar pastries laid out before me.

Founded in 1868, the bakery was started by a man named Edouard Naegelin who emigrated from eastern France, arriving in town with a sack of flour and less than a dollar in his pocket.

For more than 155 years, it has kept the town outside San Antonio well-supplied with loaves of fresh bread, cakes and an assortment of European cookies I could barely pronounce. Pfeffernüse, anyone? But the undeniable star of the show was their homemade strudel, coming in apple, cherry and peach with buttery layers so soft you could use it as a pillow.

Inside, the décor is a delightful cross between a German Alpine lodge and grandma's kitchen circa 1952. In the name of "research," I ordered almost everything: kolache (both fruit and sausage), cinnamon rolls, danishes, lebkuchen, springerle, and each flavor of strudel.

I sat at one of the small tables outside and proceeded to make every one of my fingers sticky with icing and every thread of my shirt dusted with powdered sugar. It was a badge of honor earned in a pastry-filled battle of the bulge. In the end, the strudel won, but it was worth it.

Whether you're a hungry local, a curious traveler or an overambitious pastry juggler, Naegelin's is here to welcome you with open arms just like it has for generations. ■

ABOVE Chet's eyes are bigger than his stomach at Naegelin's Bakery in New Braunfels.

TCP Watch the video on our website and see all of Chet's 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.

DECEMBER

7

San Antonio Cowboy Christmas, (210) 299-4499, briscoemuseum.org

Waxahachie [7, 12-14] Bethlehem Revisited, (469) 309-4040, waxahachiecvb.com

Port Lavaca [7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28] Nativity Exhibit, (361) 935-8032, bit.ly/nativityexhibit

9

Lufkin The Texas Tenors: Deep in the Heart of Christmas, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

11

El Paso Los Murales de Segundo Barrio, (915) 533-0048, tomlea.com

Marshall [11, 19] Fireside Feast: Cooking Up History at Maplecroft, (903) 935-3044, visitstarrfamilyhome.com

12

Kyle [12-14] A Night in Bethlehem, (512) 268-7044, f-pc.org

Smithville [12-14, 19-22] Dinah 4 Christmas, (512) 304-0666, dinah4.com

13

Bastrop Historic Homes Tour, (512) 303-0904, bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Burnet Christmas on the Square, (512) 756-4297, burnetchamber.org

Chappell Hill Teddy Bear Parade, (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

Kerrville Christmas Concert, (830) 321-0303, hillcountrychorale.org

Waxahachie [13-14] Historic Waxahachie Christmas Tour of Homes, historicwaxahachie.com

18

Corsicana CelloVoci, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

19

Richardson Rocky Mountain High Experience: A John Denver Christmas, (972) 744-4650, eisemanncenter.com

Levelland [19-21] Christmas Cash Classic, (806) 786-8683, facebook.com/christmascashclassic

20

Brenham Top of the World, A Carpenters Christmas, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Fairfield Jingle All the Way, (903) 389-5792, fairfieldtexaschamber.com

Grapevine The Nuttier Cracker, (817) 410-3100, grapevinetexasusa.com

31

Eastland New Year's Eve Casino Night, (254) 631-0437, eastlandcountymuseum.com

JANUARY

1

Palestine Dash & Splash 5K, (903) 729-3139, palestineymca.org

TCP Submit Your Event

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



RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

WINDOW AND DOOR SAVINGS EVENT

Save big on replacement windows and doors!

Buy One, Get One **40% OFF**
Windows and Doors¹

Minimum purchase of 4

PLUS \$200 OFF

Your Entire Purchase¹

Minimum purchase of 4

PLUS SPECIAL FINANCING

Call for your **FREE** consultation. Offer Ends **1/31/2026**

877-591-9026 FINDYOURWINDOW.COM

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 1/31/2026. 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 when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 11/24/2025 and 1/31/2026. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$200 off your entire purchase, minimum purchase of 4 required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 1/31/2026. Call for financing details. 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. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201



TCP E-news Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

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.



BRUSH SHARK

SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

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

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com



Hit the Road

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events

★★★★★
"It's a beautiful
ring with incredible
brilliance!"

J. A., Ft Lauderdale, FL

Stauer
Impossible Price
Was \$499, Now
\$59

Hundreds of
★★★★★
Reviews

We're Bringing You Some Star Power

Nobel Prize Winner Brings Us Perfection From Deep Space

The story begins in 1893 when Nobel Prize-winning French scientist Henri Moissan discovered an extraordinary gem while studying rock samples from a meteor in Canyon Diablo, Arizona. Extremely rare in nature, moissanite is the **cosmic treasure that has been perfected by scientists** right here on Earth, offering an unrivaled brilliance that outshines even diamonds.

According to the Gemological Institute of America, moissanite **surpasses all other gems in brilliance, fire, and luster.** Its unique "double refraction" means that light enters the stone and exits not once but twice—something **no diamond can achieve.**

Now, for an **extremely limited time**, you can own this celestial beauty at an unheard-of price! The Star Power Moissanite Ring features a stunning 1-½ carat moissanite set in yellow gold-finished .925 sterling silver—normally \$499 but all yours for

just \$59! Why such a spectacular price? Because we want you as a long term client. This carat weight of moissanite is sold for \$1,700 at a major national retailer, but that is ridiculous. **Only 1,000 563 available** for this offer. So don't wait—once this deal is gone, it's gone!

Jewelry Specifications:

- Moissanite in gold-finished .925 sterling silver settings
- Ring: Available in whole sizes 5-10

Star Power Moissanite Ring

1-½ carat moissanite solitaire ~~\$499~~ \$59* + S&P **Save \$440**

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: SPM158-01

Stauer, 14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. SPM158-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 | www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

Country Life

With wide open spaces and the freedom to live life as one pleases, there's a lot to love about the country. But it's not all porch swings and lemonade. Those who chose this life are made of stronger stuff. They carve a living from the land and hand that legacy down to the next generation.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 SCOTT BOWMAN
PEDERNALES EC

"Young mini-Nubian goats enjoy breakfast in the barn."

2 AMY BOGS
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

"One of our calves got a little too excited about the new hay and wedged himself between two bales."

3 KYLE BIGGERSTAFF
LIGHTHOUSE EC

"Hayden Biggerstaff and Jude the cow dog finish pushing cattle to a new pasture at sunset in Crosby County."

4 CAROLYN GULLY
PEDERNALES EC

"My great-granddaughter, Leighton Gully, and her friend, Annabelle, take a break on the farm."



Upcoming Contests

GATES DUE DEC 10

CAUGHT NAPPING DUE JAN 10

MAKING A SPLASH DUE FEB 10



ENTER ONLINE

TCOP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Country Life photos from readers.



Our Kind of Weird

The best Christmas mornings include a one-of-a-kind family dish

BY SHANE TORNO

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KACHIK

I SUPPOSE EVERY FAMILY has a favorite dish—a meal with special significance. In my family’s case, we had a special meal that my mom, the one who did the cooking in our house, didn’t care for. I wonder if this is common.

The meal was a breakfast dish known to us as biscuits and pudding. In my youth, I believed that this was unique to my family since everyone I ever asked about it had never heard of such a thing.

However, just recently I learned that the meal is actually known in the rural south as biscuits and chocolate gravy.

To be sure, the chocolate pudding we used was stove-cooked and served hot, so calling it chocolate gravy makes sense. My online research tells me that the dish has its origins in the Great Depression, when powdered cocoa

became readily available as a baking product. There are origin stories associated with Appalachia, the Tennessee Valley, western Oklahoma and Arkansas.

I have no idea how it could have come into contact with a German family settling in Dime Box in Central Texas and then relocating to deep South Texas.

Ignorant of any of this history, I enjoyed this breakfast whenever my father could convince my mom to get up early and prepare it.

A few tips if you decide to try this yourself on a cold morning. The biscuits need to be buttermilk with a consistent texture all the way through, not the canned biscuits that produce lots of flaky individual layers. Those flaky layers make eating the pudding-covered biscuits a messy and unappealing operation. Also, the meal is best when both the biscuits and the pudding are served hot.

Grab a couple (or three) biscuits and cut them in half so you have the biscuits lying open-faced. Add a pat of butter to each biscuit half and then douse with the pudding. As the butter melts under the hot pudding, it liquefies and seeps through the pudding to create some beautiful yellow puddles.

If you have a sweet tooth, this will beat the best biscuits and gravy meal you have ever had.

As I said, my mom didn’t care for the meal, possibly because it was passed down from my father’s family. Or maybe because she didn’t like getting up early to bake on Christmas morning. To her credit, she made them well (as did her mom, my dad’s mom and my Aunt Joy).

On those special mornings when they were available, we all made big plates of it while Mom stood back and ate her biscuit with jelly like a normal human. If you listened carefully above the racket of forks on plates, you might even hear her mutter something about a bunch of weirdos. ■

GRAB YOUR PIECE OF AMERICA'S SILVER LEGACY

99.9%
Fine Silver
Bars

Actual size is
30.6 x 50.4 mm

FILL YOUR VAULT WITH MORGAN SILVER BARS



Not only are these hefty bars one full Troy ounce of real, .999 precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring the crisp image of a Morgan Silver Dollar struck onto the surface. That collectible image adds interest and makes these Silver Bars even more desirable. Minted in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver, these one-ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to one-ounce silver coins or rounds. Plus, they offer great savings compared to other bullion options like one-ounce sovereign silver coins. Take advantage of our special offer for new customers only and save \$10.00 off our regular prices.

Morgan Silver Dollars Are Among the Most Iconic Coins in U.S. History

What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage

caused by weary eyes? No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

A Special Way For You to Stock Up On Precious Silver

While no one can predict the future value of silver in an uncertain economy, many Americans are rushing to get their hands on as much silver as possible, putting it away for themselves and their loved ones. You'll enjoy owning these Silver Bars. They're tangible. They feel good when you hold them, You'll relish the design and thinking about all it represents. These Morgan Design One-Ounce Bars make appreciated gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations, creating a legacy sure to be cherished for a lifetime.

Order More and SAVE

You can save \$10.00 off our regular price when you buy now. There is a limit of 25 Bars per customer, which means with this special offer, you can save up to \$250.

Hurry—Secure Yours Now

Call right now to secure your .999 fine silver Morgan Design One-Ounce Silver Bars. You'll be glad you did.

One-Ounce Silver Morgan Design Bar
\$69.95 ea.

Special offer - \$59.95 ea. +s/h **BUY MORE SAVE MORE!**
SAVE \$10 - \$250

Limit of 25 bars per customer

Free 1-oz Silver Bullet -
.45 Caliber Pistol Round Replica
with every order over \$299
(A \$79.95 value!)



FREE SHIPPING over \$99!

Limited time only. Product total over \$99 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER
1-888-201-7144

Offer Code MSB357-32
Please mention this code when you call.

GOVMINT

GOVMINT • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. MSB357-32, Eagan, MN 55121

GOVMINT® is a brand of Asset Marketing Services, LLC (AMS). AMS is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our 30 day Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). ©2025 Asset Marketing Services, LLC.



**Helping All Families
Facing Dementia**

Alzheimer's | Vascular | Lewy Body | FTD | CTE & More



1-800-DEMENTIA®
DementiaSociety.org
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Charity
Awareness | Research | Enrichment™