

FRONTLINE

TEXAS FARMER

December 2013 | VOLUME 99 | ISSUE 04



THESE
girls
HUNT
PG 8

*Texas
Vineyards*
PG 10

Hill Country



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10

featured stories

8 HUNTING GALS

From shooting game, to skinning hide, to preparing the meat, these gals know how to do it all.
by Andrew Phillips

10 TEXAS VINEYARDS

Plan your next family vacation this spring with a week long getaway on a Texas Hill Country wine trail.
by Andrew Phillips

Assoc. Editor's Letter

Tradition. It's a word that emphasizes our unity and togetherness. As I reflect on this past Christmas I'm reminded about why we celebrate and the unity this brings to our families, both in our physical presence and the condition of our hearts. Over 80 years ago people here at RVOS created a small newsletter called the Rolník. And while a lot has changed since then, this tradition has stayed the same. I noticed an article that embodies our rich tradition while reading old copies of the Rolník. It was 1934, and the article was titled "za dalsím pokrokom," which loosely means "forward progress." I can imagine that during the height of the depression this was an ambitious hope. Generations of editors have held this same vision for the Rolník—forward progress. With this issue we mark the end of

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Home Office News

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Andrew Phillips, Associate Editor
aphillips@rvos.com

GREETINGS AND JAK SE DĚLÁ KAŽDÝ,

As we wind down 2013, I hope that each of you had a merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

Your membership as a policyholder is appreciated by all of us here at RVOS and we hope that the service we provided to you in protecting your valuable property met your expectations.

I always look forward to the holiday traditions such as the parades, putting up the Christmas tree, decorating the house with lights, the smell of the different foods and just the overall atmosphere.

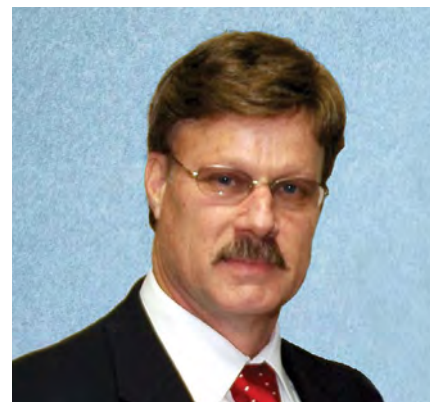
At our house my favorite tradition is 24 hours of A Christmas Story on the television and of course National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. I can relate to all of the trials and tribulations being experienced by Clark W. Griswold from putting up the lights, going out and cutting the Christmas tree to entertaining the family members. Our cat Ginger also gets into the Christmas spirit, only not so much by her own choosing.



This time of the year always seems to bring out a different attitude and personality from people than say, the stresses of mid-April. While some might feel just as much pressure during the Christmas holidays as they experience when doing their taxes, there is just something more rewarding in a visit from old Saint Nicholas than there is from the tax man. I was in a shopping mall one day this month and saw kids from 2 to 92 equally enthusiastic in keeping the spirit of Christmas alive. Technically, I think children become skeptical of Santa around the time they turn ten, but no matter what your age, the Christmas season is a special time no matter what your religious affiliation happens to be.

The challenges we faced this year as an Association were immense. From the West explosion catastrophe to multiple severe weather events statewide in addition to numerous fire losses and areas of uncontrolled litigation abuse, the RVOS Group of Companies was monumental in fulfilling its obligations to our policyholder members. All together, close to \$70 million was paid out to our policyholders as reflected on page 7 of this publication.

The RVOS Board of Directors implemented numerous changes this year in an effort to mitigate the negative effects of these losses including general



President's Letter

expenditure decreases, rate increases in certain areas and a small policy fee to help reduce the expense ratio. The actions taken by the Board were made in an effort to keep the cost of your insurance as low as possible.

As we move into 2014, the employees, Officers and Directors of RVOS hope that each of you have a safe, happy and prosperous new year.

YOURS OHLEDUPLNĚ,

Wiley Shockley, President
info@rvos.com

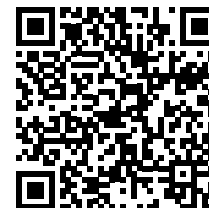
MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS
FOR THE 2014 CONVENTION IN WACO
HILTON WACO | rvos.com/convention/hilton
COURTYARD | rvos.com/convention/courtyard
22-23
JUNE | 2014

+ Fraud Reward

If you know someone who commits insurance fraud, speak up! Not just because it's the right thing to do—which it is—but also because stopping fraudulent activity helps keep premiums down. If you know someone who commits arson or theft of property insured by RVOS, let us know. If that person is convicted, you could receive a reward up to \$500.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone by downloading a scanner from the app store or going to <http://www.rvos.com/rolnik> and clicking on the subscribe button. Your subscription automatically enrolls you in the digital version of the Rolník, which is sent to your email. Once you've signed up you can stop your online subscription at any time and return to receiving it through the U.S. Postal Service with the click of a mouse.

Get the Rolník
by email!





LODGE 46 »

Krizan-West Lodge 46 held their annual meeting on Oct. 6. Pictured (L-R): Agent Herbert Brem, incoming Secretary Georgie Nors, Vice President Milton Peterson, agent Burl Shelton, President Dorothy Uptmor and District 1 Director Joe Liles.



LODGE 11 ⚡

Granger Lodge 11 held their annual meeting Oct. 13. Pictured (L-R): RVOS President Wiley Shockley, Mary Shockley, Lodge President Louis Repa, agent Angie Lane, Secretary Lillie Huf and Vice President Ellen Wolf.



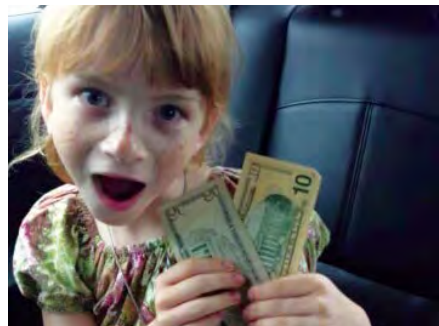
LODGE 25 ⚡

On Sept. 8, 2013, San Angelo Lodge 25 celebrated their 75th anniversary at their annual meeting. Members in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal and door prizes. Pictured (L-R): Agent Josh Shockley, agent Mark Kirkham, Vice President Janelle Shockley, President and agent Leonard Jansa, agent Ryan Thoma, Secretary Charlene Dusek, RVOS President Wiley Shockley, agent Mary Shockley and agent Patti Pool.



LODGE 45 ⚡

On Oct. 20 Rydel-West Lodge 45 held their annual meeting. Pictured (L-R): Secretary Harriet Dujka, President Edwin J. Husek, RVOS President Wiley Shockley and agent Larry Matula



LODGE 70 «

Needville Lodge 70 celebrated their 110th annual lodge meeting on Oct. 13. One of the excited door prize winners was 6-year-old Jesse K. Roussel, daughter of members Jay and Stacey Roussel. The officers of Lodge 70 are President Willie Mae Kuykendall, Vice President Dorothy Kuban, Secretary Debra Lundquist and agent Bradley Stavinoha.

LODGE 78 »

At the annual meeting of Lodge 78 on Nov. 10 Donald and Paula Cernosek were presented a plaque and clock after Donald announced his retirement effective Jan. 1. Pictured (L-R): District 1 Director Joe Liles, Paula and Donald Cernosek and RVOS President Wiley Shockley.



LODGE 79 «

Rollo Insurance held a grand opening of Jason Rollo's new agency in Bryan, Texas, on Nov. 8. Pictured (L-R): Justin Gaidusek, agent Jason Rollo, RVOS President Wiley Shockley and Mary Shockley.

LODGE 87 ⚡

RVOS Lodge 87 held its annual meeting and social on Oct. 19 at the Taylor SPJST Hall. Member's children

handed out door prizes and donations were given to local volunteer fire departments.



Officers for 2014. Pictured (L-R): President Leroy Marx, Vice President Woody Richards, Secretary Velma Marx, Financial Secretary Carolyn Holub, agents Elaine and Albin Machu and District 2 Director Nelson Hall.



Donations given to the Taylor and Elgin VFD. Pictured (L-R): Taylor Fire Chief Paul Ortega, Vice President Woody Richards, Elgin Fire Chief Randy Reyna, President Leroy Marx and District 2 Director Nelson Hall.

LODGE 106 »

Praha-West Lodge 106 held their annual meeting on Oct. 20. Pictured (L-R): President Larry Podsednik, RVOS President Wiley Shockley, Vice President Dwayne Sinkule, agent Lyn Middleton, District 1 Director Joe Liles, Secretary David Filer and agent John Zucha.



LODGE 107 «

Lodge 107 held their annual meeting on Oct. 27 in Ratibor, Texas. Pictured (L-R): Agent Sylvia Winkler, Vice President Larry Posvar, Secretary Nancy Posvar and RVOS President Wiley Shockley. Not pictured: Lodge President Roy Buckholt.

LODGE 127 ≡

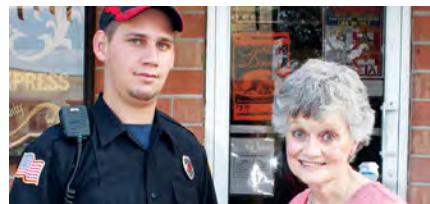


Jourdanton Lodge 127 donated to fifteen organizations. Pictured (L-R, front to back): ACCEPT Coordinator Jeanne Ulrich, Atascosa County Christian Assistance (CAM) Director Rev. Junior Jones, Atascosa County Crime Stoppers

Somerset VFD Firefighter Kenneth Sheldon received a donation from Lodge 127 Secretary Bettie House. Recipients not present were Jarret VFD, Jourdanon VFD, Lytle VFD, Pleasanton VFD and Potect VFD.

President John Staha, Campbellton VFD Fire Chief Martin Llamas, Charlotte VFD Member James Roberts, Christine VFD Treasurer Jackie Jerkins, Leming VFD President Juan R. Rodriquez, Primrose

VFD Asst. Chief and Treasurer Alice Lasater, Rossville VFD President David Reyes, Lodge President Bobby Tymrak, Vice President John R. Muckleroy, Secretary Bettie House and agent Cheryl Henry. Not pictured: Agent Janice Favor.



LODGE 142 «

Pictured at the annual meeting of Dallas Lodge 142. Pictured (L-R, front-back): Vice President Charles Chandler, Treasurer Daniel Roznovsky, President Laddie Gajdica, Secretary Sadie Liska, agent Nick Pattillo, District 6 Director Rhonda Steelman and agent Bobby Liska.

*Save
the
date*

**HOUSTON LODGE 108
ANNUAL MEETING**

DATE Sunday, March 2, 2014
TIME 2 p.m.
PLACE SPJST Lodge 88
1435 Beall
Houston, TX

**DALLAS LODGE 142
MEETING**

DATE Thursday, January 9, 2014
TIME 5:30 p.m.
PLACE Czech Club, 4930 Military Parkway, Dallas, TX
NOTES (972) 423-4071

**DALLAS LODGE 142
ANNUAL MEETING**

DATE Saturday, March 15, 2014
TIME TBA
PLACE Czech Club, 4930 Military Parkway, Dallas, TX
NOTES (972) 423-4071, dinner will be served

**GALVESTON LODGE 146
ANNUAL MEETING**

DATE Sunday, March 16, 2014
TIME 12 p.m. Meal
1 p.m. Meeting
PLACE Knights of Columbus Hall, 501 Delaney Road, La Marque, TX

In Remembrance

Charles Munday
District 7 Director and
Agent Lodge 92

Jerry Prochazka
Past Vice President and
Past Agent Lodge 113

Harvey Petter
President Lodge 188

LODGE NEWS



LODGE 146

Galveston County Lodge 146 presented a check for \$500 to the Sentinels of Freedom. Pictured (L-R): Secretary Rosalie Leonard, President and agent W. K. Leonard, Jr., Cristina and Jim Treadway, agent Lisa Alexander and Vice President Mike Reznicek.



W. K. Leonard, Jr., President and agent of Lodge 146, was awarded the Kiwanian of the Year award in recognition of exceptional leadership and devoted service for the Kiwanis Club of La Marque, Texas.



LODGE 729

Agent Josh Waley sponsored a hot dog and sausage wrap event at his office on Oct. 11. Pictured (L-R): Agent Josh Waley, Vice President at Large Richard Hykel and District 2 Director Nelson Hall.

The Lord's Prayer in Czech

Full story on pg 14

GIVEN TO RVOS AS A GIFT BY THE CZECH HERITAGE MUSEUM.



ST. JUDE GIVE THANKS. WALK.

The St. Jude "Give thanks. Walk" fundraising event was held on Nov. 23 at Austin's Park n' Pizza in Pflugerville, Texas. The proceeds from the sale of the RVOS cookbook were presented at the opening ceremony in the amount of \$5,770. In addition, the RVOS team that participated in the walk raised \$3,130, for a combined total of \$8,900. Team members were Daniel Bales, Heather Bales, Ava Blankenship, Jackie Blankenship, Michelle Brown, Martin Esparza, Yolanda Esparza, Cassidy



Jackson, Christi Jackson, Cord Jackson, Tammy Jackson, Wes Jackson, Dawn Klinger, Misti Nixon, Ryan Nixon, Andrew Phillips, Mariava Phillips, Becky Reinders, Kaitlyn Ruth, Sharlet Sladeczek, James Smith, Betty Smith, Irene Sulak, Shelby Sulak and Jennifer Tovar.

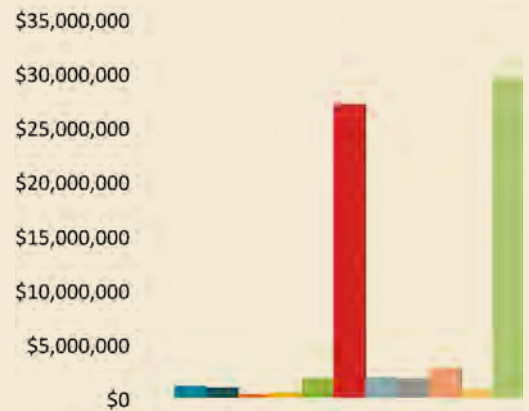
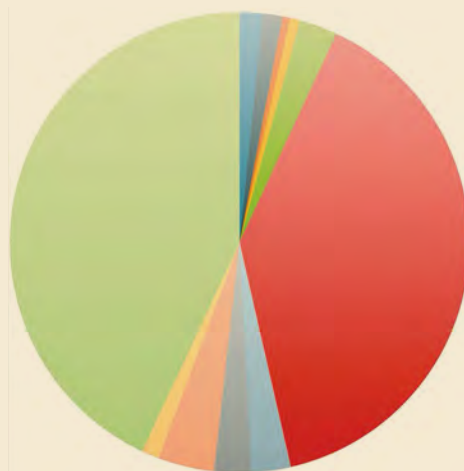
CLAIMS ANALYSIS 2013

Date of Loss	Location (City or Region)	Peril	Incurred
2/25	San Angelo, Floresville, San Antonio	Hail/Wind	\$1,106,034
3/20	Taylor, Brenham, Georgetown, East Bernard, Richmond	Hail/Wind	\$958,487
3/23	Southeast Dallas	Hail/Wind	\$363,288
3/31	Northeast Texas	Hail/Wind	\$491,294
4/2	Dale, Kingsland, Marble Falls, Needville	Hail/Wind	\$1,838,647
4/17	West	Explosion	\$27,112,938
5/9	Temple, Troy, Fredricksburg	Hail/Wind	\$1,898,437
5/15	Granbury, Ennis, Cleburne, Mineral Wells	Hail/Wind	\$1,774,626
5/28	Amarillo	Hail/Wind	\$2,722,445
6/5	Lubbock	Hail/Wind	\$840,409
2013	All other losses	All Perils	\$29,553,103
Grand Total			\$68,659,708

**CHARTS
..... AND GRAPHS**

- San Angelo
- Taylor
- Dallas
- Mt. Pleasant
- Dale
- West
- Temple
- Granbury
- Amarillo
- Lubbock
- All other losses

Incurred by Event



Incurred

THESE GALS HUNT

BY ANDREW PHILLIPS

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

It's been almost eight years since RVOS Underwriting Manager D'Nea Alexander picked up her first hunting rifle. Since then, she hasn't looked back.

Alexander started hunting to spend time with her husband James, who already enjoyed hunting as a hobby when the two met.

"When we first met he would go hunting and I would stay home. I always teased him that I was a widow for hunting season because he was always gone on the weekends," Alexander said.

Alexander said she didn't stay in the house for long. "I knew I was hooked when I found myself watching hunting television shows when James wasn't home," she said.

When she started hunting it gave her a way to enjoy nature and the outdoors, but soon turned into a more passionate hobby.

Now she has won three hunting drawings and numerous awards, including first place in the women's low fence category for white-tailed deer from Trophy Game Records. Outdoor television icon Keith Warren presented the award to Alexander.

"We have a wall at home with all of my awards ... its like a little shrine," she said.

Since Alexander started hunting she's killed a 13-point buck, a 10-point buck, an 8-point buck, two axis deer, ducks, hogs and turkeys.

But she cares more about the hunting experience than the awards she wins. "Hunting is not just about the trophies, it's more about the memory," she said.

Alexander believes her awards prove hunting is a sport

where anyone can be competitive. "I would tell other women who want to hunt not to be intimidated. Get out there and join the boys," Alexander said.

Statistics from the National Sporting Goods Association revealed that between 2008 and 2009 female hunters increased by 5.4 percent, while the number of male hunters decreased.

"When I'm out there hunting with the guys I'm not going to be one of those sissy-girls," Alexander said. "I want to shoot well, I want a good hit."

LEARNING THE SPORT

Alexander never fired a rifle before she met her husband James. "Hunting is one of those sports you either love or hate," she said.

She remembers her father going on hunting excursions with friends when she was a child, but she doesn't remember having any experience with hunting growing up.

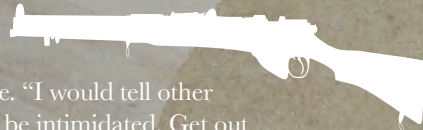
"My dad was a farmer, he wasn't a hunter," Alexander said. "He went on a few hunting trips when I was little, but that was just to go hang out with friends."

The 243 Savage was Alexander's first rifle—and she still uses it today. "I wouldn't let James help me load it so I could get used to it," she said.

Since she started with a rifle Alexander has transitioned to bow hunting, which brings its own set of challenges.

The worst part about hunting is when she misses the animal with her bow, she said.

Alexander said she only hunts certain game when it is in season.



Hunting season dates are based on location and the type of weapon a hunter uses, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

White-tailed and mule deer are hunted in the winter months, duck and dove are hunted in the fall and turkey is hunted in the spring.

On a typical hunting day, Alexander wakes up at 4 a.m. on her deer lease in Kingsland, Texas. She goes to her stand in the pitch black, trekking in from 200 yards away so she doesn't disturb the wildlife.

Then, she waits. "We usually hunt for three or four hours," Alexander said. "It can get pretty quiet in the deer stand."

But she always finds ways to keep herself entertained. "If it's boring and there are no animals to watch we sit up in the stand and talk. We laugh a lot," she said.

After Alexander returns from a hunt, she said she writes a journal to help her remember the experience.

"Journaling is my way of sharing my hunting adventure with family. I write the story so as if they were there when it happened," she said.

The stories aren't just for family; they help Alexander remember the experiences she has had with her spouse.

PREPARING THE MEAT

In RVOS Assistant Vice President Sharlet Sladeczek's home there are freezers filled with meat from animals her husband Mike has hunted.

"I like cooking with venison because you can do so many things with it. You can fry it, grill it or stew it," Sladeczek said.

Alexander's story is similar to Sladeczek's, who started hunting 35 years ago with her husband.

But Alexander has a hard time gutting and skinning the animals. "That was just yuck. I would watch James do it and stand 20 feet away," Alexander said.

Sladeczek said she wants to gut and clean an animal, but she's never had the opportunity.

"I would love to be there when Mike guts the deer to see how he does it," Sladeczek said. "I've helped him clean rabbits and turkeys. I also clean doves."

Sladeczek said she enjoys trying different recipes with the animals she hunts.

"I'm always looking for new and different recipes for our game. If it sounds good and is something I want to try, I'll try it," she said.

The tantalizing smell of deer wafted across the room as Sladeczek browned some ground venison for her deer chili recipe. "It's always so much fun to try different seasonings and see how they are going to turn out," she said.

She then folds the meat into a slow cooker, where it will simmer with other ingredients for eight or more hours.

"This batch looks especially good," she said.

And Sladeczek said she uses every part of the deer they save. She makes stew meat, steaks, sausage, jerky and grinds up the rest.

"We process our meat at a local meat shop. We've tried different places, but this one guarantees that we are going to get all of our meat," Sladeczek said.

If she had more time, Sladeczek said she would even like to process the meat herself instead of taking it somewhere.

What Alexander does on the deer lease Sladeczek finishes in the kitchen.

"I think it goes back to the frontier days, when the provider for the family hunted the meat to feed the family," Sladeczek said. "What women are doing by preparing the food is taking us back to those days."

Sladeczek also said hunting embodies good stewardship of resources. "It was the way we were raised. We live off the land and use what nature provides us," she said. "Hunting makes us more self-efficient."

HUNTING IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE TROPHIES, IT'S MORE ABOUT THE MEMORY



SHARLET'S GAME MEAT CHILI

3-4 LB	GAME MEAT	3 CL	GARLIC
2 CANS	FIRE ROASTED TOMATO SAUCE	2	JALAPEÑOS, WHOLE
1 CAN	FIRE ROASTED DICED TOMATOES	3 TBSP	CHILI POWDER
1 CUP	WATER	1 TSP	PAPRIKA
1	BELL PEPPER, DICED	1 TSP	CUMIN
1	ONION, DICED	1/4 TSP	CAYENNE
			TOTASTE SALT
			TOTASTE BLACK PEPPER

Brown meat, onion and bell pepper. Combine meat and other ingredients in slow cooker and cook on low heat for 6-9 hours.



*Texas
Vineyard*

*Award
Winning*

WINERIES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

by ANDREW PHILLIPS

Places To Stay

BELLA VISTA BED AND BREAKFAST

1455 Cimarron Ranch Rd
Marble Falls, TX 78654
(830) 798-0818

PRICE RANGE: \$140-200

Bella Vista is located just off of the Colorado River between Flat Creek Estate and Marble Falls, Texas. This quaint B&B prides itself on providing exceptional hospitality to its guests. Reviewers on Trip Advisor unanimously gave it a 5/5 rating.

LIVING WATERS ON LAKE TRAVIS

24315 Pedernales Drive
Spicewood, TX 78669
(512) 843-5253

PRICE RANGE: \$125-300

Living Waters on Lake Travis is the perfect destination for families or couples looking for a relaxing getaway. Living Waters has several types of accommodations including cabins that sleep 8-10 people.

HORSHOE BAY RESORT

200 Hi Circle North
Horseshoe Bay, Texas 78657
(800) 228-9290

PRICE RANGE: \$152-200

The Horseshoe Bay Resort by Marriott is the perfect getaway for a more traditional resort feel. Guests have a variety of seasonal activities to choose from.

LAQUINTA INN

501 Highway 2147 West
Marble Falls, TX 78654
(830) 798-2020

PRICE RANGE: \$79-150

La Quinta was Trip Advisor's most highly rated hotel in Marble Falls among national brands.

The late spring air wisps through the grape leaves as the sun shines down on the vineyard's lines of vines. It's wine season in Texas.

In 2012 Texas wineries produced over 3 million gallons of wine, according to the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association.

Ron Yates, a native to the Hill Country, wanted a piece of the wine industry in Texas, so in 2007 he and his family bought Spicewood Vineyards.

Yates said he discovered his passion for winemaking on a summer trip to Spain. "Wine was a really big part of everything in Spain. We ended up spending the whole summer there and falling in love."

Wine lovers will find that while Texas vineyard owners may have different methods, they all share a passion for wine.

The variety of activities and great wines make the Texas Hill Country a perfect spot to visit, said Flat Creek Estate owner Madelyn Naber.

"Here we're a destination," Naber said. "You can come and spend an entire afternoon tasting wine, eating and walking through the vineyard."

Naber and her husband Rick started developing Flat Creek Estate in 1998. When they first saw the land where Flat Creek now sits they didn't know it would turn into a vineyard.

"We wanted to be sure that we didn't destroy the natural beauty of the property," she said. "We bought the land thinking we would plant peaches or pecans, but realized that we couldn't do it ... so we settled on grapes."

Pilot Knob Vineyard owner Craig Pinkley said that vacationers to Texas Hill Country wineries end up becoming good friends. "We just want there to be a sense of place when you come to Pilot Knob. That's the way we created everything," he said.

Pinkley got his start in the wine business on a trip to Napa, Calif. for a conference. "It was eye opening," Pinkley said. "It really struck me how vertically integrated the wineries were. I had a passion to bring that back to Texas."

Spicewood, Pilot Knob and Flat Creek

each have unique features that make for an unforgettable experience.

Spicewood's wedding and reception hall is fitted with high-end features and a large fireplace, perfect for a formal dining experience.

Pilot Knob has a wrap-around patio overlooking the vast expanse of prairie land.

Flat Creek's full-sized restaurant is perfect for lunch for two or the whole family. They also have two tasting rooms and family friendly events throughout the year.

"All the vineyards recognize that the success of the industry is hinged on all of our successes," Pinkley said.

Naber said when wineries in Texas market together they get more traction with vacationers. "Marketing together as a group of wineries is one of the smartest things you can do," Naber said. "We use the Texas Hill Country Wineries trail."

"Wine is meant to be enjoyed, it's an experience. It's not about what a wonderful palette you have," Pinkley said.

The shared experience of a glass of wine with friends and family, the vineyard owners seem to suggest, makes the whole trip worth it.

Other Activities

CYPRUS VALLEY CANOPY TOURS

1223 S Paleface Ranch Road
Spicewood, TX 78669
(512) 264-8880

PRICE: \$75 per person

RESERVATIONS: Required

SWEET BERRY FARM

1801 FM 1980
Marble Falls, Texas 78654
(830) 798-1462

PRICE: Some activities have a fee

RESERVATIONS: Not required

HIDDEN FALLS ADVENTURE 4X4 AND ATV PARK

7030 E FM 1431
Marble Falls, TX 78654
(830) 798-9820

PRICE: \$15-40

RESERVATIONS: Required

Our TOP PICKS



Spicewood Vineyards

Flat Creek Estate

Pilot Knob Vineyard

1419 BURNET COUNTY ROAD 409
SPICEWOOD, TX 78669

HOURS: TASTING ROOM
WED-SAT 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.
SUN 12 - 5 P.M.
MON-TUES BY APPT.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: PRIVATE EVENT VENUE,
HARVESTING, TOURS, WEDDINGS

OUR WINE PICKS: 2011 TEMPRANILLO

The first stop on our Texas Hill country wine tour takes us to Spicewood Vineyards. The Manigold family founded the vineyard in 1992. In 2007, the Yates family acquired the vineyard and has been expanding the operation ever since. If travelers are looking for a more intimate setting they can sit back and relax in the vineyard's tasting room, or for a more social outing the vineyard has a large reception hall. Owner Ron Yates said most travelers will order a glass of wine and relax on the patio, but the adventurous can help out with the harvest in the summer. The old-world style wine cellar below the tasting room and the friendly staff makes it one of our top picks!

Map it!



24912 SINGLETON BEND EAST ROAD
MARBLE FALLS, TX 78654

HOURS: BISTRO (RSVN. REQ.)
TUES-SUN 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.
TASTING ROOM
TUES-SUN 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: SHOPPING IN THE VINEYARD,
PRODUCTION TOURS, PRIVATE EVENTS

OUR WINE PICKS: 2011 SUPER TEXAN

Flat Creek looks and feels like entering a French wine estate, with its vineyard-lined roads and 80 acres of rolling hills. Owners Rick and Madelyn Naber started the estate in 1998, and it has since grown into one of the largest vineyards in central Texas. Since it was created Flat Creek has won numerous accolades for its wines, including a gold medal from the Pacific Rim International Wine Competition in 2011 for the 2010 Super Texan and a gold medal from the US National Wine Competition this year for the 2011 Super Texan. It is truly a destination for the whole family, from the vineyard tours to the full-service bistro. Give them a call today to schedule your tour or group tasting.

Map it!



3125 CR 212
BERTRAM, TX 78605

HOURS: TASTING ROOM
THURS-SUN 12 - 6 P.M.
MON-WED BY APPT.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: SIP AND SHOP, TOURS,
PRIVATE EVENTS, WEDDINGS, SPECIAL GUEST VISITS

OUR WINE PICKS: 2012 PK CUVÉE

Pilot Knob Vineyard owner Craig Pinkley found his passion for the winemaking business after a trip to Napa, Calif. a few years back. And while Pilot Knob is the youngest vineyard on our wine trail, its wines will leave you thinking it's one of the best wineries in Texas. From the rosé, to the pk cuvée, to the sweeter picnic wine, Pilot Knob has something for everyone. The staff is friendly and approachable. As Pinkley told us, they take every effort to make wine tasting about the fun of tasting the wine, not about knowing the names of the grapes or wine terminology. Pilot Knob makes it on the top of our winery list because they make visitors feel like long-time friends.

Map it!



SOUTHERN SASS

The feature story on Becky Reinders in the Oct. issue of the Rolnik inspired a group of RVOS employees to share their creative arts and crafts ideas with readers by forming an editorial column.

Becky Reinders will lead the team of seven RVOS staff that includes Amber Culver, Erin Hyden, Misti Nixon, Rene Grope, Sharlet Sladeczek and Carol Dickerson.

"I hope when people walk away after reading our new column that they feel like anything they think of is possible," Reinders said.

RVOS receptionist Carol Dickerson said she hopes the new feature will be an inspiration to others. "I love the fact that I am a part of this Southern Sass group," she said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Rene Grope, a Priority One commercial underwriter, said she enjoys repurposing old furniture and wants to teach readers how to look for hidden gems at flea markets.

"All of us have a little bit of kid still left in us," Grope said. "Repurposing things isn't just for adults to enjoy."

Grope draws inspiration from her mother, who died in Nov. of 2012 from a terminal illness. "Going junking and repurposing furniture ... kept us busy and helped me deal with the grief of losing someone," she said.

RVOS underwriter Erin Hyden said that crafting and cooking also helps relieve her stress. "It gets your creative juices flowing. It's so awesome to make something for someone else," Hyden said. "It makes their day."

Grope also said that art and crafts are relaxing and stress reducing. "It gets my mind off of reality ... then the satisfaction after the project makes me want to start another one."

The editorial column starts in the March 2014 issue of the Rolnik and will feature a different craft/art each issue.

• meet the editorial team •



QUESTION & ANSWER

What do you hope to teach others with this new feature section in the Rolnik?

Amber - Some fun new crafts and good recipes, and maybe even a new hobby.

Carol - Just because I am 67 years in age doesn't mean I am "old." Therefore, I still can do and will do things that may be challenging, but keep my mind and body in working motions. You are never too old to learn something new. It sure beats sitting around and doing nothing.

Becky - That not everything is going to turn out perfect. As long as you have heart in the project it will always look good. Never give up.

Misti - I hope to show people the different kinds of crafts that can be done.

Rene - Just because something is old and worn out doesn't mean it should be thrown away. Just give it a new look and style.

Erin - Cool stuff that anyone can make.



Becky Reinders



Amber Culver



Erin Hyden



Misti Nixon



Rene Grope



Sharlet Sladeczek



Carol Dickerson



SERVICE PINS



10

Greg Burnett was recognized on Dec. 1 for 10 years of Service with RVOS. Greg began his career at RVOS in the IT department as a Programmer. In 2008 he was promoted to the Development Manager position, and then to IT Manager in 2010. Greg grew up in Jefferson City, Mo., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri. Greg and his wife Sonya live in Temple and have two daughters, Deion and Ashton. Greg attends Bethel Church and is involved in the high school ministry. In his free time he enjoys spending time with family, fishing, hiking, or hanging out with a bunch of teenagers at church.



15

Cherime Greenman was recognized Sept. 24 for 15 years of service with Priority One Insurance Company. She began her career in 1998 as Policy Processor. In 2000 she obtained her agent license and started working in the RVOS General Agency. She has served as the Administrative Assistant, Executive Administrative Assistant and just recently was promoted to Operations Manager. Cherime has two children, Parker, 17, and Morgan, 11. Cherime married Jim Greenman in May of 2013. She and her family live in Belton. Cherime enjoys spending time gardening, creating tasty new dishes, reading and relaxing with friends and family.

KIDS FISH »

On Oct. 12 RVOS co-sponsored a family campout and fishing weekend at Boerne City Lake Park. Families that attended participated in camping, kayaking, paddle boarding and a fishing tournament. An award ceremony was held for the tournament. Pictured (L-R): Lundann Waggoner and Zoe Puente.



CHM OPEN HOUSE »

On Oct. 8 the Czech Heritage Museum hosted an open house in Temple for RVOS employees and family members and gave tours of the museum. Those who attended found it very interesting and informative. Becky Vajdak, the museum administrator, presented RVOS with a lithograph of the Lord's Prayer in the Czech language in appreciation of the support RVOS has given to the museum and the preservation of the Czech culture.



Pictured (L-R): SPJST Director Jesse Pospisil, SPJST President Brian Vanicek, RVOS President Wiley Shockley, Czech Heritage Museum Administrator Rebecca Vajdak, RVOS VP Wes Jackson, RVOS Secretary James Smith and SPJST Financial Secretary Roy Vajdak.



NEW DISTRICT DIRECTOR »

Due to the passing of District 7 Director Charles Munday, the alternate director for District 7, Wayne Wilson, attended his first board meeting in October. Upon taking his oath he was presented with his director pin. Though he regrets the circumstances for which he has had to fill this position, Wayne is very enthusiastic about his new role with RVOS.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH A COOL STORY?

We want to know if you or someone you know does something really cool! Send us an email at aphillips@rvos.com or at ssladeczek@rvos.com and we may feature you and your really cool activity in the Rolnik!

LODGE DONATIONS

Winners of the District 3 Charity Contest Lodges have announced the organizations they will be donating their \$250 prize money to.

Lodge 26 will donate to the El Campo Fire Department and Manna Meals.

Lodge 85 will donate to HOME (Help Our Military Endure).

Lodge 97 will donate to the Needville Senior Citizens.

Lodge 27 will be donating to the West Agriculture Department.

The purpose of this contest was to encourage local lodges to increase advertising by donating as much of their lodge refunds as possible to charity. Lodges were encouraged to make local donations as opposed to paying taxes on the funds. District 3 Director Tom Stavinocha will continue the contest next year.



ADJUSTERS RETREAT

John Hamilton and Allen Vanek were recognized on Oct. 24 at the adjuster's retreat in Kingsland, Texas. Both Hamilton and Vanek retired from RVOS on Nov. 30. Pictured (L-R): John Hamilton, Vice President Wes Jackson, Allen Vanek, President Wiley Shockley, Vice President of Operations Irene Sulak, Claims Manager Chuck Clemons and Secretary James Smith.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT 7 ALTERNATES

Due to the recent passing of RVOS District 7 Director Charles Munday, the Alternate Director elected at the June 2010 Convention has assumed the vacated position. Wayne Wilson now serves as District 7 Director. An election will be held to fill the vacancy in the Alternate Director position.

Wayne Wilson also served as the Alternate By-law Committee member. Now that he has assumed the director position the Alternate By-law Committee has a vacancy as well. For this reason an election will be held to fill the Alternate By-law Committee position for this district.

If you are interested in obtaining an application please contact Sharlet Sladeczek, Assistant Vice President, email: ssladeczek@rvos.com or 254-773-2181 ext 203 for an application. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2014.

After the applications have been screened by the Succession Planning Committee, ballots with the names of the approved candidates will be mailed to the District 7 delegates that served in the June 2010 Convention. At the April Board meeting the directors will open and tally the votes and the winners will be announced.



MILITARY APPRECIATION

RVOS was a proud sponsor of the 2013 Military Appreciation Banquet held at the Mayborn Center in Temple, Texas, on Sept. 17. The event was organized by the Temple Chamber of Commerce as a start to their annual military toy drive. Over 150 armed service men and women in uniform from Fort Hood were honored and recognized for their service..

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	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS [®]	0	0
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