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Texas Coop Power

August 2020



MYTX

What does being a Texan mean? A variety of folks with special connections to the state share their thoughts.

Introduction by Joe Holley

ON THE COVER
David Torres
of Texas Hatters.
Photo by Wyatt
McSpadden
ABOVE
One reason
we love Texas?
Bluebonnets!
Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

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Coming Home Story and photo by karla k. morton and Alan Birkelbach

IONEYCOMB: BIG BLUE STUDIO | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. BEE: DANIEL PRUDEK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Bee Aware

FLOW HIVE, an Australian company that markets a structure to harvest honey without disturbing the bees, reminds us as we recognize World Honey Bee Day on August 15 how essential bees are to life on Earth. The more than 19,000 species of bees are responsible for pollinating 30% of the world's food crops and 90% of wild plants.

For the past 15 years, bee populations have been declining at an alarming rate largely due to climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

Worker bees, which are female, produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their five- to six-week life span. These are the only bees most people ever see.



"Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has ever blessed my vision."

-SAM HOUSTON

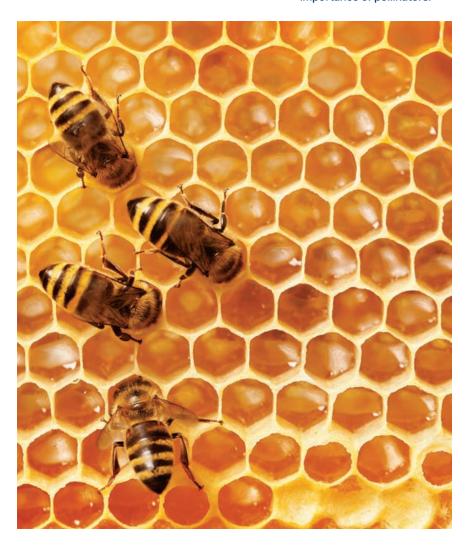
What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE WHEN I THINK OF TEXAS, I THINK OF ...

Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@Texas CoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and city. Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: To me, being a Texan means ...

It's already 90 degrees by 9 a.m. and saying, "Oh, what a beautiful day."

MIKE WHITLEY GRAYSON-COLLIN EC MCKINNEY

Being the salt of the earth and having a salty story or two to prove it.

MARK BROWNING SAM HOUSTON EC GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

DALENE MASDEN

DALENE MASDEN MEDINA EC MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'. CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW

HOUSTON COUNTY EC GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.



TCP'S NEW LOOK

From cover to cover, *Texas Co-op Power* is a new magazine.
Read, enjoy and share your ideas about every section. We want to hear from all 3.7 million of you, by email or on Facebook.

127.36 feet

Ashrita Furman caught an intact water balloon thrown 127.36 feet by Bipin Larkin—a world record—on August 8, 2012, in New York. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day.





Acclaimed Clipper

HENRY MILLER MORGAN opened the first college for African American barbers in 1933 in downtown Tyler. The school had only five chairs, but it thrived, and within 20 years Morgan had opened schools in Houston, Dallas, New York, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Morgan was born 125 years ago—August 25, 1895, in Tyler.



III Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST On Wheels

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Vegetarian

WIN A BOOK

Enter to win copies of three books mentioned in this issue.

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

Want more about cowboy hats?
Check out *Cowboy Hatters* from April 2016.

TCP TALK



An Alternate Reality

"I read *Black Like Me* in 1967 in high school. Eye-opening and inspiring, which led me to choose I Have a Dream for a class presentation."

JOYCE BATTARBEE NAVASOTA VALLEY EC JEWETT

Rare Treat

The last time I saw a horny toad was 15-plus years ago, and that was the first time I had seen one in probably 25 years [The Lizard Brigade, June 2020]. I caught the little guy to show my boys; they had never seen one before. We looked him over. I didn't want to let him go, but I knew we had to.

Tammie Frenzel Heart of Texas EC Westphalia



I grew up playing with these prehistoric lizards just a mile from where I currently live [The Lizard Brigade, June 2020]. These fellas are still breeding strong out here.

ALICEA LOGAN-VIA FACEBOOK

Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?

I am aghast you did not include Mi Tierra in the heart of El Mercado [We Brake for Queso, June 2020]. Opened in 1941, sitting 500 patrons at a time and slinging enchiladas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Noble Dunson Central Texas FC Kingsland

We don't want to forget Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. I've been eating there for 24 years and have not had one bad meal.

Patricia Martin Cherokee County EC Starrville

Dear Dairy

I love the photo on telling us Texas Tech University will have a vet school [More Critter Care, Currents, June 2020]. Texas A&M is a fabulous institution, but they discontinued their dairy science program several years ago. (Your photo showed a Holstein dairy calf.) Texas Tech will, I hope, bring dairy science back to our veterinary programs.

Gabrielle Gordon Tri-County EC **Tarrant County**



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.

(f) (a) (D) (D) Texas Co-op Power



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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

DURING MY TIME as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* some years ago, I also taught a journalism course every semester at George Washington University. One morning in class, I happened to mention that I had crafted something of an unofficial beat I called "eccentric Texans."

A young woman remarked, "Gee, Mr. Holley, you sure must be busy!"

I suppose I was.

There was something about my native state that seemed to lend itself to individuality, if not necessarily eccentricity, whether I was writing about big-time politicians, athletes, show people, even a renowned lady wrestler from Amarillo. If they were Texans, chances are there was a particularity about them that defied predictability.

Living in D.C. and working at *The Post*, I was still a Texan. The place where I was born and where I had lived most of my life was in my bones, in my blood. I couldn't shake my Texas identity any more easily than I could smooth out my Central Texas twang. It gradually dawned on me that when I wrote about Texas, I wrote with more authority, more concreteness, more feeling for the place and its people. I decided to come home—home to Texas.

My return meant coming home to family, literally and figuratively. Once again covering the immense expanse of Texas as a journalist, I rediscovered not only the rich diversity of this place but also the shared sense of identity that transcends difference. Whether I'm talking to a Panhandle rancher near Lipscomb or an East Texas teacher in Kirbyville, a Gulf Coast shrimper out of Port Isabel or a West Texas nurse in McCamey, I know—and they know—that we both are Texans. This place has shaped us.

Black, brown or white; man or woman; old or young—we're family. Like your kinfolks and mine, we don't always get along, but as Texans we share an identity and an abiding respect for what we have in common. We know each other well. JOE HOLLEY





"THE MOMENT I KNEW what it meant to be Texan was the evening my wife and I were invited to watch George Strait play a private show at Gruene Hall a few years back. There were all kinds of people in the room—professional wrestlers, songwriters, regular folks, you name it. The random group of people came from all walks of life to see and hear King George. It was the epitome of 'Texanness.'"

JAY B SAUCEDA is an entrepreneur and photographer whose book *A Mile Above Texas* features 150 photos of Texas taken from a Cessna 182T. Sauceda was raised in La Porte.



HE HAS MADE MUSIC for decades, though you've probably never heard Mark Erlewine play. He's a luthier—a repairer and creator of guitars at his shop in Austin. A badly mangled instrument affirmed his karma as a Texan, though it's not the threadbare acoustic guitar for which he is legendary.

"I was in my shop about 20 years ago, when a man and woman, decked out in full Texas attire—jeans, cowboy boots and hats—came in with a large black garbage bag holding the pieces of a Martin guitar," Erlewine says. "The man explained that she had put the guitar over his head during one of their arguments, but since then they had started counseling to mend their relationship. They told me part of the process of putting their relationship back together was to have the guitar put back together.

"I was able to mend the guitar and can only hope their relationship has fared as well."

There's no question about the love story of the other guitar—Willie Nelson's Trigger. Willie's pick and fingernails have carved a gaping hole in the spruce wood of his Martin N-20 classical guitar.

The strains of that relationship fall to Erlewine to mend, and as he has since 1976, he lovingly and tenderly nurses Trigger. Reunited with Willie, they continue a love story that has enraptured a state and changed its musical history.

MARK ERLEWINE first fell in love with Texas when he visited with friends from high school in 1967. He moved his guitar shop to Austin from Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1974.





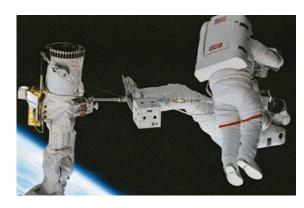
"STOPPING THE CAR immediately to place down kids and puppies in a field of bluebonnets for pictures. Could there be a snake in there? Sure. But the pictures are worth it."

TIFFANY CHEN, who, with husband Leon, started Tiff's Treats in 1999 in an Austin apartment while they were students at the University of Texas. Today the cookie and brownie delivery company has 46 locations in Texas and operates in Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte.









"I HAVE LOGGED more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. No matter where I traveled and lived, I have always returned to Texas."

 ${\tt BERNARD}\,$ A. ${\tt HARRIS}\,$ JR., a physician, former astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. The Temple native is CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in Dallas.





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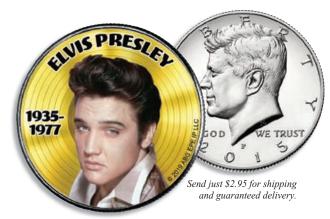




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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/ CEO

JEFF LANE

'Texas Co-op Power' Gets a New Look

But all your favorite content is here to stay

YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED something was different when you pulled this magazine out of your mailbox this month. Perhaps you thought the cover looked a little different. Well, you're right, but the changes go deeper than that.

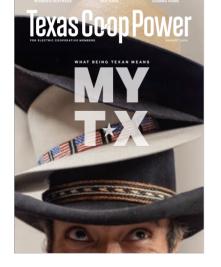
Texas Co-op Power has undergone a complete redesign. But even though it has a new look and feel, it's the same magazine you know and love.

Every month, *Texas Co-op Power* is delivered to you to entertain, enlighten and educate you and your family. The magazine is a warm and friendly source for all things Texan, and like a well-informed neighbor, it can offer the secrets to making fabulous, family-pleasing meals; reveal hidden gems of the Texas landscape; and recount the humorous, quirky, solemn and often untold stories of our state's history. Also like a good neighbor, it even reminds you how to save on your electric bill.

Most importantly, *Texas Co-op Power* is one of the primary vehicles through which Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative communicates directly with you, our members, and is a critical component in our efforts to fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 5—Edu-

cation, Training and Information.

Through these pages, we report on matters important to the co-op, such as director elections and annual meeting information; share tips to help you maximize the energy efficiency of your home; and offer safety information that could save your life. We also use this magazine to help you understand how new technologies-which



continue to advance at a sometimes overwhelming pace—fit into your daily life.

As with everything in life, tastes change—and magazine design is no exception. While TVEC is not one to jump on the bandwagon for the latest craze, we do realize when one of our products or services is in need of an overhaul. That's why we're excited to

share this redesign with you.

For more than a year, the team behind *Texas Co-op Power* has worked diligently to update the look and feel of the magazine without sacrificing any of the content or character that inspires our members, month after month, to crack open these pages for some uniquely Texan stories—and a healthy dose of the cooperative spirit.

One of the major changes you may have noticed is the refreshed cover design and new *Texas Co-op Power* logo. The last time the logo was updated was in the mid-1990s, and though it suited that era well, sensibilities have changed. The new logo incorporates a modern feel that's in line with the magazine's evolution but sticks to its roots.

As you flip through this month's issue, you'll also see some smaller yet still significant changes, such as new colors and typefaces, new section headers, and more visually striking page layouts. Despite these changes, all of your favorite content is still here.

Texas Co-op Power remains dedicated to telling the stories of Texas' unique people, history, mythology, culture and geography—the Texan way of life—as seen through the equally unique co-op lens. Readers will still enjoy all the best the magazine has to offer, from recipes, contests and event listings to travel narratives and other features, as well as local news concerning TVEC and the communities we serve. Readers can also still enjoy expanded content, contests and other special treats at Texas-CoopPower.com and on our Facebook page and by subscribing to our e-newsletters.

The magazine has evolved with an eye toward the future, but it retains all the hallmarks that generations of rural electric cooperative members have cherished since the first issue in 1944. Just like TVEC, it's here to stay and better than ever. ■

SAVE THE DATE

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 8TH



n a year that has seen stay-at-home orders and restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is no surprise that planning for the ■ 2020 TVEC Annual Membership Meeting has been tinged with uncertainty through the last several months.

It is an event we look forward to and plan for all year long, and with the growth in attendance over the last several years, we hope you enjoy it as well.

By the time you receive this magazine, we anticipate that decisions will have been made regarding our ability to hold an in-person meeting on October 8. Please watch for announcements on tvec.net and TVEC social media channels for updates.

One thing we know for sure is that, whether in person, as a virtual meeting online or some other way, we will do our best to accommodate as many members as possible and make sure we get important co-op information to all interested members.

WATCH FOR THE OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF TEXAS CO-OP POWER. DETAILS OF THE MEETING MAY CHANGE. REFER TO TVEC.NET AND THE MAGAZINE FOR UPDATES.

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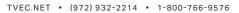
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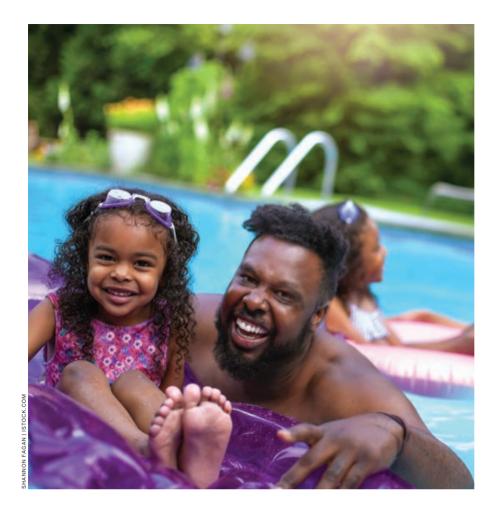
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tvec.net









Swim Safely This Summer

IMAGINE A HOT SUMMER DAY with sunshine sparkling on the surface of a cool swimming pool. The little ones are putting on their swimsuits, Mom is getting out sunblock and life preservers, and Dad is blowing up floating pool toys.

But be alert! This inviting scene can turn into a dangerous situation if electrical safety precautions are not observed.

Electric shock from misuse of electricity around swimming pools or spas can cause electrocution.

Now imagine that the family is outside, ready to make a splash. Bob grabs an extension cord, plugs it into an unprotected electrical outlet on the patio and lays it over the pool deck to plug in his Bluetooth speaker.

He plugs his phone in, too, so he can play tunes while he enjoys the water. He likes to have it within arm's reach of the pool—so he can shuffle songs without getting out of the water.

Jane sees that dark thunderheads are building in the distance but decides she can squeeze in at least a few minutes of sunbathing while floating on her pool lounger before the afternoon thunderstorm brings rain and lightning.

Can you identify some of the hazards in this scenario? Although the family followed a couple of safety precautions, including using sunblock and life preservers, they were not vigilant about proper use of electronics by the pool.

Consider how these guidelines for pool and spa safety from

Electrical Safety Foundation International could help our imaginary family avoid danger.

Keep outdoor outlets covered and dry, especially around pools and spas, and make sure they have ground-fault circuit interrupters to prevent electrocution or shock.

In the above scenario, Bob plugs an extension cord into an uncovered non-GFCI outlet, putting himself and his family at risk. And extension cords should only be used temporarily outdoors, where they could be exposed to the elements or cause a tripping hazard.

Keep electrical devices and cords away from water, and use battery-operated devices when possible.

That means that in the imagined scenario, Bob's plugged-in cellphone and Bluetooth speaker were too close to the water's edge.

Never handle electrical devices when wet. Even being too sweaty while touching electrical devices can pose a risk of electrocution. Wet skin or wet surfaces, such as a pool deck, can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

Do not swim during a thunderstorm. 30055585001

The weather on this made-up summer day by the pool is sunny initially, but storm clouds are looming, and Jane—and anyone else in the pool—takes a risk by deciding to swim when there is lightning nearby.

Other safety tips include:

- ▶ Make sure that swimming pool cleaning equipment is grounded.
- ▶ Ensure that there are no power lines near or over the swimming pool.
- ▶ Have an electrician inspect and repair or upgrade your pool or spa to comply with local and National Electrical Code requirements.
- ▶ If you or anyone else in the water feels a tingling sensation, has muscle cramps or cannot move, you may be experiencing an electric shock. Move away from the source of the shock, if possible, and exit the water without the use of a metal ladder.
- ▶ If someone is trapped in the water because they are experiencing electric shock, immediately turn off all power and call 911. Not turning off the power can cause rescuers to become the next victims. ■



Put Your Computer to Sleep

JUST LIKE APPS and graphics eat up the battery power on your cellphone, extra features on computers can unnecessarily use energy.



If your home has multiple computers, don't let them waste energy. Here's how to start:

- Unplug seldom-used computers. Even if they are shut down, they continue to draw small amounts of electricity as long as they are plugged into the wall.
- ▶ Move computers and printers near the TV and phone charger, and plug them all into a power strip. That will make it easy to switch them all off when you leave the house for the day or turn in at night. The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that devices that are always on use up to 23% of a home's electricity—even though the appliances are rarely in use.
- Set your computers to enter sleep mode when they're not in use—so they use less electricity.
- Program the "hibernate" function on your computers to turn them off when they're not in use for more than 30 minutes.
- ➤ Switch to a laptop or tablet. Portable devices use up to a third less energy than a big desktop computer and monitor.



Conserve electricity in hot weather and help reduce high energy bills.

Setting your thermostat to 78 (and a few degrees higher when you're away) will make a difference. Each degree you increase can save 3%-5%.

Save even more!

Close shades and blinds during the day to reduce heat loss.

Change air conditioning filters.

A full freezer costs less to run than an empty one.

Trinity Valley EC encourages you to always use energy efficiently.



TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30

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

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

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Guía para Huracanes

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

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

- Discuta los planes de evacuación con su familia antes de la temporada de huracánes, que empieza el 1 de junio y termina el 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revísela.
- **Escuche la radio** y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.
- Prepare un equipo de emergencia que incluya un radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguros, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores, miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles y mascotas.
- Aprenda sus rutas de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando haya un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Esté consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.
- Puede regístrese con el State of Texas Emergency Assistance
 Registry en la página web, stear.dps.texas.gov, o llamando al 211
 para registrarse si usted tiene una discapacidad o necesidades
 médicas o si simplemente no tiene transporte. Los residentes que
 viven en la Costa del Golfo en zonas de evacuación con una discapacidad o necesidades médicas quienes no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudarles o no tienen transporte deben registrarse con
 STEAR por adelantado.



Your Generosity In Action

THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION recently awarded five grants totaling \$13,000. Recipients of the grants include:



Children's Advocacy Center of Van Zandt County

Canton, \$4,000

Supplies and resources for parenting classes, child care and therapy.



Star Harbor Operation Give Back

Malakoff, \$2,500

Supporting a veterans' one stop support center in Henderson County.



Serenity Corner

Terrell, \$3,000

Provide weekly support service including food, housing help for homeless individuals in Terrell.



Texas Youth Advocates

Palestine, \$1,000

Support spring and fall youth college tour programs.

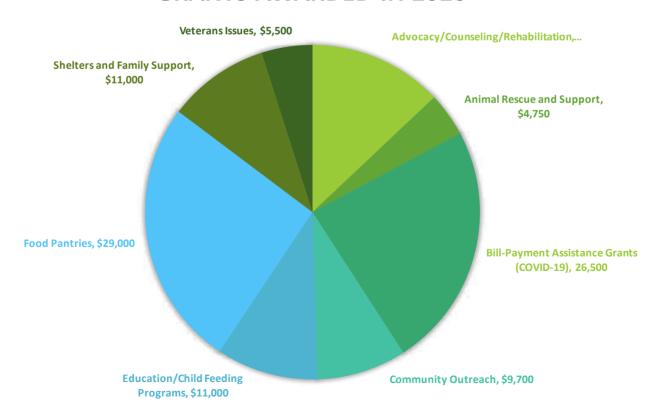


Sharing the Love Foundation

Forney, \$2,500

Purchase instructional materials and sponsor camp activity kits for summer campers.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020



Ode to Parker Motel

A grandfather's investment yields vivid memories

BY MELISSA GASKILL • ILLUSTRATION BY BRAVE UNION

ROADSIDE MOTELS ONCE FORMED an integral part of the Texas landscape, along with historical markers, feed-and-seed stores and family picnics at rest stops. The motels' neon signs bore the names of the small towns they occupied, nearby bodies of water or the families that owned them—Waxahachie Motel, Lake Whitney Motel, Carter Motel. Some showed a bit more ambition—Shady Shores, Fisherman's Paradise.

Generations of Texans slept in their rooms: salesmen and truck drivers, hunters, and families on low-budget vacations. They offered a haven for those who got lost or ran behind schedule and found themselves on the road as night fell.

In the late 1950s, my grandfather bought the Parker Motel on state Highway 29, near the Lake Buchanan dam. None of us are named Parker, but he couldn't see changing a perfectly good sign, so the Parker Motel it remained.

Since then, though, family motels have gone the way of cafés where the lady behind the counter made the pies and service stations where attendants washed your windshield and pumped your gas. I feel their absence.

My aunt and uncle ran the motel, signing in every guest and handing over a key. The office occupied half of the living room of their house, which sat between two wings of 10 rooms each. They didn't have much privacy but never seemed to mind.

A drink machine on the porch had a narrow door that unlocked once you dropped in a coin so you could pull out an ice-cold bottle of RC, Delaware Punch or Dr Pepper. Metal chairs on the porch served as the motel lobby, and sometimes folks sat there, visiting and watching the highway.

This place represented country life to me, a kid growing up in Houston. It had a vegetable garden and a flock of chickens. We never ate the latter, although snakes and other critters sometimes did. Fruit trees ran the motel's length behind the rooms, and dogs ran loose. Water came from a well and gas for hot water from a butane tank, refilled by "Hank, the butane man." They also had a linen man who brought towels and sheets for the rooms. My aunt and uncle knew these people and took time to visit with them. My grandparents lived at the end of a row of rooms, in a trailer house with a fig tree and picnic

table in the yard. They parked their Buick in the Number 20 carport except when someone rented it.

I think the motel did decent business in the '60s and '70s. But then people came to expect phones and cable TV, coffee in the mornings, more space. These rooms had only the bare essentials of a clean place to sleep and get ready for another day of whatever.

Mornings, my aunt watched the desk while my uncle cleaned the rooms. A wooden rack had cubbyholes for each, a white registration card in those with occupants, a key in the others. A hodgepodge of alarm clocks occupied a shelf behind the desk, the roadside motel equivalent of a wake-up call. Free Parker Motel postcards and matchbooks sat on the desk.

The lake had convinced my grandfather that the motel made a good investment. My cousin and I sometimes walked across the highway to a little beach to swim. Grandpa owned an assortment of boats through the years, always secondhand and usually with some problem or another. If his current boat started, we'd run trotlines that mostly caught catfish. If not, we'd cast lines from a pier.

I once thought my aunt and uncle were trapped at the Parker Motel, unable to leave because they couldn't just close up for the day. I don't think they saw it that way. A lot of the world came through their front door; they didn't need to go anywhere. Even if they wanted to, they would never have complained—grateful to have work, even the hard kind. A roof over their head and food on the table represented success, as did sacrificing to send their kids to college so they could do better.

Everyone is gone now. The place sold but is still there with a new name and kitchenettes where carports used to be. The graves of my grandparents and aunt and uncle occupy a slope at the back of a Llano cemetery, overlooking the Hill Country. The last time I visited, great big sunflowers bloomed along the fence. It's not a bad spot. Neither was the Parker Motel.



Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now ONLY \$79!

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the \$79 Huntsman Blade is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers— a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it

around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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Empowering Every Vote

Activist Jessie Daniel Ames took on women's suffrage and lynching

BY TANYA ESTES

DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN fought for the right to vote, a widowed mother of three mobilized thousands of women to vote in just 17 days. In a race against the clock, Jessie Daniel Ames employed an unexpected resource to register voters before a critical election that changed the course of Texas history by diminishing the political influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ames family moved from Palestine to Georgetown when Jessie was a child. She led a quiet and dutiful life, graduating from Southwestern University in 1902, a rare accomplishment for a woman at the time.

Ames married a few years after college, but her husband died in Guatemala of malaria in 1914, leaving her a pregnant widow with two children. To support her young family, Ames went to work for her family's telephone company in Georgetown. Managing a communications business taught her how to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and this success further paved the way for her equal rights activism.

Ames founded the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League in 1916 and wrote Weekly Suffrage Notes, a column in *The* Williamson County Sun. By 1918 she became treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

In 1918 the Legislature passed a bill that gave Texas women the right to vote in a primary but gave them only 17 days to register before the election. Using the telephone company to contact voters, Ames and her fellow suffragists registered more than 3,500 women to vote in Williamson County. In just two weeks, they provided voting instructions and staged mock elections to prepare these women for their historic first vote.

This voter registration campaign helped secure the election of anti-klan candidate Dan Moody as Williamson County attorney, and Moody actively prosecuted many klan members. This election victory gave Moody the momentum to get elected Texas attorney general and go on to become governor. Ames continued to register voters by founding the Texas League of Women Voters.

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote and was ratified August 18, 1920.

Though proud of her suffrage efforts, Ames felt such organizations did not do enough for African American civil rights. She led campaigns against lynching as an atrocious act of racism and set about ending it through work with the Texas Interracial Commission and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. She also founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which excluded Black women under the belief that only white women could influence other white women.

After more than 30 years working for social justice, Ames retired quietly. She is buried in Georgetown, a few blocks from the courthouse where she mobilized thousands of women in a movement that confirmed the power of every vote.

Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

At the height of summer, the last thing my husband and I want to do is turn on the stove. We do plenty of grilling, of course, but when the temperatures soar, we seek out chilled recipes that help our family cool down at the end of the day. This recipe uses juicy summer tomatoes to create a quick and easy chilled soup that goes with just about any meal. If you have fresh herbs in your garden, feel free to add those. Basil is the perfect accompaniment, but thyme or oregano also works well.

Easy Gazpacho

- 4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds
- 1 cucumber
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- **1.** Core and quarter tomatoes and remove seeds, then add tomatoes to a blender or food processor.
- **2.** Peel and quarter cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Add cucumber, onion, garlic, vinegar and olive oil to blender.
- **3.** Blend mixture until completely smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and chill soup until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh herbs, as desired.







Baja Black Bean Salad

DEBI MARION GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Black bean salad is a versatile dish that can serve as a meatless main, side or scrumptious topper for tacos. Making it ahead of time ensures that the flavors intermingle and keeps you out of the kitchen during the heat of the day.

- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 lime, zested and juiced
- **1.** In a medium bowl, combine beans, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, cheese, cilantro and jalapeño.
- **2.** In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and lime zest and juice. Pour over bean mixture and stir to coat.
- **3.** Cover and refrigerate 2–4 hours to let flavors meld.

SERVES 4

A nev

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

Mama's Chilled Sauerkraut Corn Relish

LORY VON STADEN HEART OF TEXAS EC



Summer's hot dogs and sausages get a boost from this lively sauerkraut topping. It's an excellent side dish for other grilled fare, too. Von Staden recommends using it to add a peppy zing to steaks.

SERVES 12

1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup vegetable oil

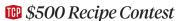
1/4 cup vinegar

1/2 teaspoon celery seeds

1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained ½ cup chopped red or green bell pepper

1 jar (4 ounces) pimientos, drained Salt and pepper, to taste

- 1. Pour sauerkraut into a colander set over the sink. Press with the back of a spoon or use your hands to drain excess liquid from the sauerkraut.
- 2. In a medium bowl, whisk together sugar, oil, vinegar and celery seeds. Stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is well blended.
- **3.** Add the drained sauerkraut, corn, bell pepper and pimientos to the dressing and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- **4.** Cover and chill at least 8 hours before serving, to let the flavors meld.



VEGETARIAN DUE AUG 10

A new year is the perfect time to add more vegetables and legumes to your diet. We're looking for your go-to Vegetarian recipe. Enter our January 2021 contest online by August 10.

Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Serve this vibrant salad as soon as it's prepared to keep the watermelon crisp and the greens from wilting.

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper, to taste
½ medium watermelon, diced
1½ cups baby greens
1 cup diced cucumber
½ cup chopped mint leaves
¼ cup crumbled feta cheese
¼ red onion, sliced very thin

- **1.** In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper. Set aside.
- **2.** In a large bowl, combine watermelon, greens, cucumber, mint, feta and onion. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and toss gently to coat evenly.

SERVES 6



Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This chilled salad is wonderful on a hot day. Make it ahead of time to let the dressing flavors meld, but be sure not to add the peanuts until just before serving so they retain their crunch.

DRESSING

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup prepared French onion dip

- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seed oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon celery salt 1 teaspoon sugar

SALAD

5 cups finely chopped green cabbage
3/4 cup finely chopped carrot
3/4 cup chopped celery
3/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
3 cups shredded cooked chicken
1 cup coarsely chopped dry roasted
peanuts

- **1.** DRESSING Combine all of the dressing ingredients in a small bowl and set aside or refrigerate until ready to make the salad.
- **2.** SALAD In a large bowl combine cabbage, carrot, celery, bell pepper, onion, parsley and chicken.
- **3.** Add the dressing to the salad and stir to combine thoroughly.
- **4.** Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in the peanuts.

SERVES 6

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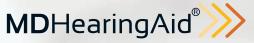
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- Don W., Sherman, TX

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Mysterious Message

Prehistoric rock art at White Shaman Preserve seems to tell a story

BY CHET GARNER

WHO IS THE WHITE SHAMAN? It's a mystery that has intrigued archaeologists ever since the discovery of this rock art mural decades ago. I made the trip to Comstock for my opportunity to ponder the mystery for myself.

You'll find the White Shaman Preserve, owned by San Antonio's Witte Museum, on U.S. Highway 90, less than 2 miles from Seminole Canyon State Park, about halfway between Comstock and Langtry. The surrounding landscape, the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, holds hundreds of drawings and murals dating back 2,000–4,000 years.

After a short hike led by Bryan Bayles, curator of anthropology and health at the Witte Museum, we climbed a treacherous path to a rock shelter approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet deep and perched along a cliff near the Pecos River. A mural, a complicated composition covering the shelter's entire wall, includes figures, animals, squiggly lines and dots. In the middle stands the White Shaman, an ominous figure with tiny arms and legs. Without an interpreter I could not have understood this cryptic scene.

As Bayles began to explain, the complexity of the mural came to life. Figures I didn't see at first suddenly became clear. Colors that I had missed became vibrant. And I realized that there was much more to this mural than my untrained eye could have noticed. According to tradition, a shaman is a Native American healer and a conduit to the spirit world. And so it's believed that this mural tells a spiritual story—perhaps even the story of creation.

The most amazing aspect is that it was all painted at one time to tell one story. Deciphering that story's mystery is something every Texan should try.

 ${\tt ABOVE}$ Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from White Shaman Preserve and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS. Enter online to win the book *The White Shaman Mural* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

AUGUST

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New Braunfels [7–8] Whiskey Myers, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

Kerrville [7–Sept. 19] Texas: The Land & the Legacy, the Art of Robert Pummill, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

Kerrville [7–8, 14–16, 21–22] Little Shop of Horrors, (830) 896-2553, caillouxtheater.com

13

Edinburg [13–15] Edinburg UFO Festival, (956) 383-6246, edinburgufo.com

14

Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] No Body Like Jimmy, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

Ingram [14–Sept. 18] Point of View—Hill Country Arts Foundation Annual Juried Show, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

Kerrville Kids' Triathlon, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Lake Jackson Bird Banding, (979) 480-0999, visitbrazosport.com

1 /

Dallas Inks & Skylines, (214) 712-7040, reunion tower.com/hours-events/

21

Tyler [21–23] Texas Rose Breed Show, (817) 683-8284, texasrosehorsepark.com

22

Lakeway Cool Arts Sales & Studio Tour, (512) 261-1010, lakeway-tx.gov 23

Castroville St. Louis Day Celebration, (830) 931-2826, saintlouisday.com

Tyler Western Dressage Lite, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

28

Kerrville Blackwood Singers, (830) 896-9393, caillouxtheater.com

29

College Station Dancing for the Health of It! Back to the '80s, (979) 774-4176

Kerrville River Roadster Show, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

SEPTEMBER

02

Tyler [2–6] Texas Rose Sporthorse Cup, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

03

La Grange [3–6] Fayette County Fair, (979) 702-2426, fayettecountyfair.org

05

Doss VFD Benefit Fish Fry, (830) 669-2352, dossvfd.org

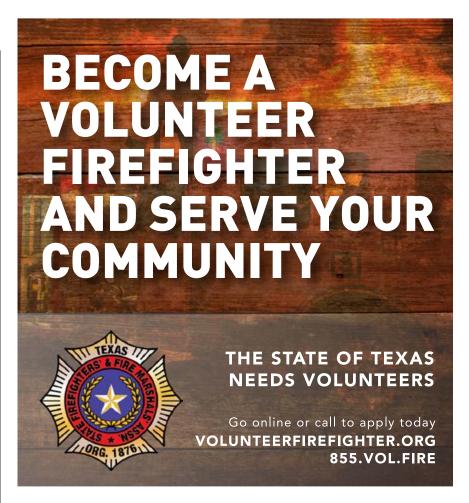
Fort McKavett New Exhibit Debut and Movie Screening, (325) 396-2358

Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala, (713) 503-0470

McKinney [5-Feb. 15] Dinosaurs Live!, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

R Submit Your Event

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



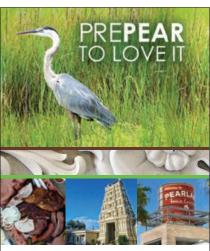


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On the Water

This month, our readers blew us out of the water with terrific catches that flowed in from around the state. Texas photographers of all ages take amazing nature shots like a duck takes to water. You'll be in hot water if you miss out, so let's get quackin'!

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

STEVEN CHERNOSKY BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

KAREN FULGHUM BANDERA EC

"My husband, Mike Fulghum, skiing on beautiful Medina Lake years ago."

MARIA FRIESSEN LAMAR ELECTRIC

A stream rushes by after a March rain in Brookston.

JAMIE B. WAGNER PEDERNALES EC

Tricolored heron wading in the salt marsh on South Padre Island.











Upcoming Contests

DUE AUG 10 On Wheels
DUE SEP 10 Forests
DUE OCT 10 Saddles

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

YEISHA CULP GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

"My 10-year-old daughter, Jacque, took this while playing in the backyard."

ANNE LEHNICK BLUEBONNET EC

"Skyler at 2½ feeding the seagulls in Rockport with her dad."

TINA WEBB BLUEBONNET EC

"My son, Colin, is an avid fisherman. One of his favorite spots, as seen here, is Lake Somerville."

JASMINE CHANDLER GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Chandler's son, Beau, and husband, Kai, play in Lake Bridgeport.





karla k. morton's suitcase at White Sands National Park.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Enter online to win morton and Birkelbach's book, *The National Parks:* A Century of Grace.

social consciousness. In this digital age, there is no replacement for nature at its most profound. Wonder cannot be exported or imported but can be captured with words—and those words can travel unlimited miles.

The parks are a gift, a legacy, something uniquely American. What better way to instill inspiration in our fellow humans than by bringing these beauties, in the form of books, into their homes. We believe poetry is every person's art, just as the national parks are every person's inheritance.

Texas was built on big dreams and big quests. Had we lived in a lesser state—another state—we would not have had that in our blood. It prepared us culturally to think beyond borders, to think past the horizon.

Travel doesn't make San Antonio or Fort Worth less iconic. Texas prepares you for wide-accepting visions and makes you appreciate home even more.

A lot of the early parks were created under monumentalism. Consider the Alamo, the Chisholm Trail and Willie Nelson—is there anything more monumental than Texas?

This is what we came home to, and still come home to—every time.

Texas has a rich and deep literary history. We were spoon-fed this from our youth. Like Homer recounting the journey of Odysseus, we longed to be the eyes and ears for the homebound, to bring our tales back to the hearth.

We're certainly not the first artists who believe inspiration could come through great natural beauty, who have fallen in love with the grandeur of our national parks, but we wanted to take it one step further and try to do something incredible: to infuse that beauty into the written word—the eternal language of poetry.

Coming Home

The wonders of Texas prepared distinguished poets to appreciate America's national parks

STORY AND PHOTO BY KARLA K. MORTON AND ALAN BIRKELBACH THE NATIONAL PARKS are America's priceless treasures. These lands still need those who are willing to give their time and hearts to make sure the parks continue to be protected.

As poets laureate, this was our calling: to visit all 62 national parks and write poems and take photos for each, with a percentage of our book sales going back to the national parks.

We, however, are *Texas* poets laureate. There are new meanings of grand. Even by national park standards, Texas stands up: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, ocean, plains, Big Thicket. Because our eyes were already widened by Texas, we had the capacity to appreciate all the wonders the national parks had to offer.

Certain things should never fall out of

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