

CO-OPS COUNT:  
BY THE NUMBERS

1918 PANDEMIC  
HIT OIL FIELDS

FINDING PORTRAITS  
IN EVERYDAY LIFE

# Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2020

## If the Shoe Fits

Farriers help build  
horse health from  
the ground up

TRINITY  
VALLEY EC  
NEWS

SEE PAGE 18





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# October 2020



10

## 08 By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas.

Story by Tom Widlowski  
Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

## Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart.

Story by Brenda Kissko  
Photos by Kristin Tyler

04

**Currents**

06

**TCP Talk**

18

**Co-op News**

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

29

**Footnotes in Texas History**

Boomtown  
Pandemic  
By Gene Fowler

30

**TCP Kitchen**

Buckles, Betties,  
Cobblers and  
Crisps  
By Megan Myers

34

**Hit the Road**

Matagorda Island  
Lighthouse  
By Chet Garner

37

**Focus on Texas**

Photo Contest:  
Selfies

38

**Observations**

Memorable  
Moment  
By Julia Robinson

### ON THE COVER

Farrier Jim Crawford  
at McManus Ranch  
in Irion County.

### ABOVE

Crawford shapes  
a horseshoe.

Photos by Kristin Tyler





# Howdy, Pandowdy

**OUR RECIPES THEME** this month (Page 30) is Cobblers, Crisps, Buckles and Betties. Seems like a lot of names for a dish that is essentially fruit baked with batter, biscuits, dough or crumble.

Turns out those dishes, which have been around since colonists arrived in this country with their recipes from England, go by many other names, including crumbles, grunts, slumps, bird's nest pudding, sonkers and pandowdies.



## Lights Out

General Electric, co-founded by Thomas Edison, inventor of the modern lightbulb, recently sold its 129-year-old lighting business.

*The New York Times* compared this move to Kellogg abandoning cornflakes or Ford getting out of the auto industry.

## Worms in Space?

Absolutely.

NASA's red, sleek and wavy typographical logo from the 1980s returned to the heavens May 30, adorning the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched two American astronauts aboard the Crew Dragon.

When the logo debuted in 1975, it became known as the worm, and the original NASA logo, which debuted in 1959 with the agency, was coined the meatball. The worm was NASA's official logo 1975–1992, then the agency went back to the meatball.

The minimalist worm was popular in the marketing industry but scorned by NASA insiders, who favored the round blue meatball with its white type, planets, stars and orbital path enhanced with a red chevron.





# \$30

That's the average weekly allowance, which about two-thirds of parents fork over to kids.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT I EVER GOT WAS ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our August prompt:  
**When I think of Texas, I think of ...**

Mermaids in San Marcos, Big Tex in Dallas and Prada in Marfa.

WHITNEY OLDFATHER  
PEDERNALES EC  
SAN MARCOS

Blue skies, bluebonnets and Willie.

PJAE STANLEY  
COSERV  
LITTLE ELM

Home.

PAM SHORT ALFRED  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC  
KENNARD

Big sky and endless horizon.

AUTUMN VOGEL  
TRINITY VALLEY EC  
ELMO

Beaches, forests, mountains, two time zones, and taking two days to go north to south or east to west.

DEBBIE MOBLEY  
HEART OF TEXAS EC  
VALLEY MILLS

Windmills, sunsets, dirt roads, and cornbread and beans.

DONNA GENTRY WEEDEN  
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



## Now This Is a Selfie

**WE KNOW YOU LOVE** your selfies, our Focus on Texas theme this month (Page 37).

The selfie above might be the coolest of all—because it was the first.

Robert Cornelius, an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast in Philadelphia, made a daguerreotype of himself in 1839. He removed the camera's lens cap; ran into the frame, where he sat for several minutes; then covered the lens again.



### **TCP** Contests and More

**ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST**  
Saddles

**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Tacos

#### **FROM OUR ARCHIVE**

*More Than Electricity*, October 2018, tells how co-ops are "the fabric of the community."



## My TX

“My family told about bad luck superstitions. One was putting a hat on a bed, as was wearing more than one hat at a time.”

JANICE MARTIN  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC  
KINGSLAND

## My TX Moment

My personal My TX [August 2020] moment was 30 years ago and half a world away. I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Saudi Arabia. Near our camp was a group of Mujahideen fighters, and they always left a grizzled old man to guard their camp.

One day he flagged us down. He started talking and pointing up and to the rear of my vehicle. I asked my interpreter what he wanted, and he said, “Texas.” The man recognized the small Texas flag on my radio aerial.

Alfred W. Evans  
Hamilton County EC  
Gatesville



The canyon is so beautiful [Palo Duro Love Letters, July 2020]. Very cool to have this famous artist's work and letters reflecting that beauty.

CINDI RAK MULCAHEY  
VIA FACEBOOK

## Their TX

Congratulations, Pam LeBlanc, for declaring yourself a Texan [No Longer a Yankee, July 2020].

Without saying it, you seemed to echo Jay B Saucedo's comment that Texas mystique is not built on small stuff or mediocrity or even above-average stuff but on the overwhelming.

J.K. Goode  
Fayette EC  
Weimar

## Fixin' To Learn

I didn't realize the word fixin' was Texan—as I've used it all my life having been born in Shreveport and raised in south Louisiana [Finish This Sentence, August 2020]. My husband has always asked me where I got it. Now I know how to answer him.

Paula Bonin  
Trinity Valley EC  
Gun Barrel City



COURTESY JACK CHASE

I am fortunate enough to own an SRV flat-top hat from Texas Hatters. I was a regional VP for Epic Records and helped launch Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. I bought several of these hats from the Texas Hatters shop when the album *Texas Flood* was released in 1983.

Jack Chase  
CoServ  
Carrollton

## 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.

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# Bad to the Bone

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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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**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

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— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

*"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."*

— H., Arvada, CO



**Rating of A+**

BY TOM WIDLANSKI  
ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

# By the Numbers

The countless ways  
electric co-ops  
make a difference  
across Texas

**IN SOME WAYS**, the less you think about your electric cooperative, the better. That means your power has stayed on almost without fail, outages are quickly remedied, and your monthly bills are fair and reasonable.

But a lot of thought goes into electric co-ops because they are so much more than power providers. They are united by a business model that values community over profits. They are locally owned and democratically controlled by their customers, called members. They work together to achieve goals and solve problems. Your cooperative is one of more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

The co-op business model is used by a wide variety of organizations—not just electric utilities. Ace Hardware; REI, which specializes in outdoor clothing and gear; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; and Land O'Lakes operate as co-ops. In fact, there are more than 40,000 co-op businesses in the U.S., with 350 million members, according to a University of Wisconsin study.

October is National Cooperative Month, a good opportunity to show the reach, scope and numbers behind Texas' electric co-ops that, when added up, reveal the significant impact they have on rural and suburban communities. ■



**30–35**  
pounds of gear

weighs down lineworkers  
when climbing a pole—  
hooks, a belt, tools and more.

**9,300**  
people  
work at the  
**69**  
electric co-ops  
in the state.



**3.7**  
million  
readers

of Texas Co-op  
Power, which has  
been landing in  
mailboxes since  
1944. That's like  
everybody in  
Houston and Dallas  
having the same  
favorite magazine  
as you.

**85**  
years

of co-ops in Texas.  
Bartlett EC, formed in 1935  
as the first co-op in the  
country to receive a Rural  
Electrification Administration  
loan, turned on its first  
light March 7, 1936,  
at a farmhouse  
outside Bartlett.



# 3

## million Texans

enjoy co-op electric  
service, mostly in rural  
and suburban areas.



# 241

## of Texas' 254 counties are served by electric co-ops.



# 325,000

## miles of co-op power lines in Texas, enough to encircle Earth more than 13 times.



# \$1.6

## million

in scholarships  
awarded annually  
to college students  
by co-ops. A stack  
of 1.6 million  
\$1 bills would reach  
573 feet high—or nearly  
twice the height of  
the Texas Capitol.

# 1,338,828

## hours worked

without a lost-time incident  
at Bandera EC, which was  
honored in March for that long  
stretch of safety—remarkable  
considering the high voltage  
within arm's length of its  
lineworkers every day.

# 47

## million lightning bolts

struck Texas  
in 2019—the most  
of any state by far.  
Not all of them  
knocked out power,  
but you can bet  
many of them  
put workers on edge.

# 5.5

## million poles hold up power lines in Co-op Country in Texas.







# Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart

It's another sunny December day in West Texas, and Jim Crawford crosses the fifth and final cattle guard on his two-hour drive to the McManus Ranch from his home near Ballinger. Crawford is there to shoe horses, as he has been doing on this ranch since the early 1970s. He pulls his trailer to a convenient spot near the barn.

He wears denim, lace-up boots, suspenders and his signature red-and-white polka-dot welding cap. Last he ties on the leather farrier apron he stitched himself. Crawford is wearing the same outfit I remember him always wearing when he visited as I grew up on this ranch. My dad, Beaver McManus, a member of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, says it's the same uniform young Crawford wore the day he met him as a junior high boy when he came out to the ranch with his great-uncle Houston Crawford.

When you live this far out, you look forward to visitors. The days that Crawford comes to the ranch to shoe horses are days filled with storytelling. More often than not, farriers become lifelong friends with horse owners. "I couldn't have gotten along without him the last 30 years," Dad says. "He's more than someone who just came out to shoe our horses. He's part of our extended family."

Farrier, derived from the Latin word *ferrarius*, meaning blacksmith, is the professional name given to horseshoers. Many prefer to be called farriers, but others, like Crawford, prefer the simpler term "horseshoer." No matter what they're called, they're necessary to the state's equine industry.

Crawford recalls first getting the horseshoeing gig at the ranch. Houston asked him to meet at the mailbox before dawn, and the young shoer beat him there. "I think that impressed him, that he didn't have to wait on me," says Crawford, a member of Coleman County Electric Coopera-

tive. Houston welcomed him to the house and made his signature extra-strong coffee. "It was boiling in the cup," Crawford laughs. "I thought, jeez, how does his system handle that? Must be cast iron." Nearly 50 years later, he still remembers the gray horse he shod that day.

Crawford loves his work, but he originally dreamed of becoming a calf roper.

"I had a lot of try, but I didn't have the talent," he jokes. "I could win fifth if they were paying four." The first horse Crawford shod was his own calf roping horse, Wimp, named after the horse's grandfather, Wimpy P-1, born on the King Ranch and the first horse registered with the American



OPPOSITE Farrier Jim Crawford has been fitting shoes onto horses for decades. ABOVE Crawford rasps one of Peanut's hooves for a final fit at McManus Ranch in Irion County.



## Originally, nearly 100% of his clients were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Quarter Horse Association. Crawford hoped a regular horseshoeing clientele would enable him to stay at the roping gig longer.

In the spring of 1972, Crawford used his GI Bill benefits to go to horseshoeing school. An outbreak of screwworms in the summer of '72 forced ranchers to ride their land daily to monitor their livestock. This created high demand for farriers. Crawford was getting calls to book his services before he'd completed the 10-week course. When he finished, he had a satisfying work schedule and a long list of clients. He became so busy shoeing horses he never returned to roping.

Crawford's customers come to him through word-of-mouth recommendations. A stack of spiral notebooks tell the stories and names of most horses he's shod through the decades.

"Showing up and having the shoe stay on made my career," Crawford says. "When I first started, guys used their horses hard." Originally, nearly 100% of his clients

were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for its inventory of horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Though there's been a transition in the horse's function from work to pleasure, horses are still big business in Texas and create a constant demand for farriers.

**W**hy do horses need shoes? There's an old saying, "no foot, no horse," which speaks to the importance of a horse's feet to its overall health. Each horse's foot includes a mechanism that pumps blood back up to the heart, so each foot is like an auxiliary heart for the





CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Crawford shapes a horseshoe at his anvil. The tools and nails he uses. Crawford explains how he gives horses a proper fit. A homemade tool used to nail shoes to hooves. Crawford shows up for jobs with racks of horseshoes in the bed of his pickup.

edgeable in the treatment of many hoof diseases, such as laminitis, navicular disease and thrush.

It's believed that the horse was domesticated around 3000 B.C., and Egyptians and Persians are credited with creating the first horseshoes from woven reeds and grass. The horseshoe has evolved through the ages, though the steel shoe has not changed much since the mid-1800s, when Henry Burden patented a machine that could mass-produce horseshoes. Although many synthetic shoes have come on the market in recent years, the majority of farriers still put on a steel shoe that's either hand-forged or ready-made and shaped either cold or hot and fitted to the animal.

animal. A horse's hoof is a living, growing part of that anatomy. Most components of a horse's hoof are elastic, so they also act as shock absorbers.

When the growth of the hoof is balanced by equal wear and no disease or abnormalities are present, horseshoes are not necessary. Horseshoes are used for protection, traction and correction. Whether it is racing, ranching or rodeoing, a horse's work is rough on its feet. That's when shoes are necessary. Shoes also correct some problems with gait and lameness.

Horseshoeing is both art and science, and skilled farriers pride themselves on helping to keep horses sound. Farriers study the anatomy of a horse's entire leg and are knowl-

Before a shoe is placed, the farrier will clean and trim the hoof to ensure a level and balanced foot. Even hooves that go without shoes likely need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The farrier will then customize the shoe to mimic the shape of that horse's hoof wall. The shoe is nailed outside of the wall from the bottom, so the nails penetrate the portion of the hoof that has no feeling.

The Texas Professional Farriers Association comprises about 200 members that meet regularly for continuing education. Texas does not require farriers to have a license to practice, but the TPFA helps members achieve certification through the American Farrier's Association. Certification exams include a written and a practical



Crawford, who once dreamed of becoming a calf roper, found his calling in 1972.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Learn more about alternative shoes and how to find or become a farrier, and read a proverb that puts a fine point on the value of horseshoes.

component. The TPFA also hosts clinics and competitions throughout the year.

“A shoe should be a complement to the horse, not an interruption,” says Danny Anderson, TPFA president. Anderson owns Indian Creek Forge in Whitesboro and is a member of PenTex Energy. He says the organization is growing, and there is an up-and-coming generation of farriers.

Veterans in the industry are passing along their knowledge of the trade to new members, and they don’t all look like Crawford. Women have gotten involved.

According to the 2019 Farrier Business Practices Report produced by *American Farriers Journal*, 18% of farriers are women, up from 8% reported three years prior. In 2018 Cornell University admitted its first all-female class to its farrier program.

Nichole Smith co-owns SS Horseshoeing in Wichita Falls with her husband, Stephen, and is leading the way in the growing sector of female farriers. She was the first woman in the world to achieve multiple farrier certifications and has mentored other women.

“I’m really excited that so many young ladies are getting involved and doing so well,” Smith says. “Some ladies are small-statured, and they need to be prepared to use their brain to overcome some of the challenges. I’ve always been welcomed in this industry, like family, and I appreci-

ate that.” Smith forges all the steel and aluminum shoes she sets.

Although technology like 3D printing is quickly advancing this industry, there’s no replacement for the friendly smile and personal care for horses a farrier brings.

Crawford smiles as he looks back at his career: “Having people know that I did a good job and knowing that I was appreciated—that’s the reward.” ■





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# Moissanite

For your one and only.  
The Moissanite Solitaire Collection



**2 Carat  
Solitaire Ring  
at  
67% OFF**

#### IN THE NEWS:

*Moissanite is a game changer...  
A hot trend in big bling—  
an alternative to diamond...”  
— Today Show on NBC*

## To Call It a Diamond Would Be an Insult

*Possessing fire, brilliance, and luster that far surpasses that of a diamond,  
this Nobel Prize winner's discovery sparkles unlike any gemstone on earth.*

When French chemist, Henri Moissan discovered an incredibly rare mineral in a 50,000 year-old meteorite, little did he know the amazing chain of events that would follow. Along with winning a Nobel prize, he gave the world a stone that surpasses even the finest diamond in virtually every aspect that makes a woman go weak in the knees. And, we have this swoon-worthy stone right here for a down to earth price.

The Stauer *Moissanite Solitaire Ring* and Earrings feature 4 total carats of sparkling perfection elegantly prong-set in sterling silver. Four total-carats of diamonds with this color and clarity would cost more than \$40,000. Much rarer than a diamond, Moissanite is the superior choice, both in beauty and in price.

**The most brilliant fine stone on earth.** According to the GIA (Gemological Institute of America), Moissanite outperforms all jewels in terms of its brilliance, fire, and luster. Brilliance comes from the flashes of white light reflecting from the top and sides of a gemstone. This light show is known as refraction. Moissanite has “double refraction”— which means light goes down into the stone and comes out not once, but twice. No diamond can do this. The way the light dances inside Moissanite is something to behold.

**The genius of affordability.** Two years ago Moissanite was over \$1,000 a carat. Now, for the first time in history, Stauer gemologists have perfected the science of romance, enabling us to price two carats of moissanite at \$199. It's pure genius. Our Nobel Prize-winning chemist would be proud.

**100% Money Back Guarantee.** If for any reason she doesn't fall in love with the *Moissanite Solitaire Ring* or Earrings, simply return them within 30 days for a full refund of the item price. But we have a feeling she'll be over the moon.

#### UNIQUE PROPERTIES COMPARISON

	Refractive Index (Brilliance)	Dispersion (Fire)	Luster
<b>Moissanite</b>	<b>2.65-2.69</b>	<b>0.104</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
Mined Diamond	2.42	0.044	17.2%

#### Moissanite Solitaire Collection

Solitaire Ring (1 carat) ~~\$399~~ **\$99**  
Solitaire Ring (2 carat) ~~\$599~~ **\$199**  
Solitaire Earrings (2 ctw) ~~\$499~~ **\$199**

**2 ct Solitaire Ring & Earrings** ~~\$1,098~~ **\$299**

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Rating of A+

• Exquisite 2 carat Moissanite • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

JEFF LANE

## The Pandemic Has Cut Demand for Electricity

We've adapted to keep power flowing reliably

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has affected the electric utility industry, including electric cooperatives in Texas, as many folks continue to work from home and reduce their outside activities—as they have for several months. The result is a reduction in electricity consumption, decline in greenhouse gas emissions and shifts in power generation markets.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration in July forecast a 4.2% decrease in electricity consumption this year compared to 2019 because of the pandemic and its economic effects. The most dramatic toll can be seen in the commercial sector, where the EIA predicted a 7% decline in electricity sales as businesses closed or scaled back operations because of the virus. The agency forecast a 5.6% decline in the industrial sector for the year.

But there's a glimmer of good news: The EIA predicted a 12.2% decrease in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions for the year, depending on the course of our nation's economic recovery.

The pandemic is also disrupting power generation resources in ways few could have predicted. The EIA reported that it expects natural gas consumption to decline by 3% in 2020, mainly driven by lower consumption in the industrial sector because of efforts to slow the spread of the virus and a reduction in economic activity. Natural gas use is expected to further decrease in 2021, by 5%, because of a rise in natural gas prices.

Consequently the use of natural gas in power generation will likely decline, and coal is expected to become more competitive again for electricity generation, according to the EIA's forecast. The use of coal in the generation sector had been falling, accounting for 24% of production in 2019 and 18% in 2020, but it's expected to rise slightly, to 21%, in 2021, because of the pandemic.

The use of renewables in electric power generation continues to climb, and that pattern seems likely to continue, with renewables expected to make up 22% of the national electric power generation portfolio in 2021.

Natural gas produces about 50% of Texas' electricity generation currently, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; coal 32%; renewables 7%; and nuclear 9%. Other sources are petroleum and hydropower, making up a very small percentage each.

Whatever the future holds, remember that TVEC is always looking out for its members. From weighing the best power sources that help guarantee economical prices on electricity to sharing ways to conserve electricity, your cooperative is on your side. ■



Residential electricity sales, however, are expected to remain steady, as lower electricity use in the first quarter of the year for heating has been offset by more consumption during the remainder of 2020 as people spend more time at home due to the pandemic.

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative continues to closely monitor the situation and stand up for you, our member-owners, whether you are working at home or cutting back expenses at the workplace: The lights will stay on.



# Important Update: TVEC To Resume Normal Billing Activity in October

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PLANS TO RESUME normal billing activity in October. While not required to do so, TVEC has been voluntarily following Public Utility Commission of Texas guidelines on disconnection for nonpayment of electric service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This change was originally scheduled to begin in September.

Members who may be at risk of disconnection are encouraged to contact TVEC member services as soon as possible to determine what options may be best for each individual situation.

TVEC members who are behind on their electricity bills are urged to contact TVEC as soon as possible for information regarding assistance organizations or bill payment options in order to maintain uninterrupted service by calling 800-766-9576 or emailing [memberrelations@tvec.coop](mailto:memberrelations@tvec.coop) for TVEC member services.

Through Operation Round Up, the TVEC Charitable Foundation has donated \$36,250 to area bill payment assistance organizations. Contact TVEC member services or visit [tvec.net](http://tvec.net) for contact information for those agencies.

**Stay tuned to [tvec.net](http://tvec.net) and TVEC on Facebook for any updates regarding the co-op's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

1800 E. Highway 243  
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**Local** (972) 932-2214  
**Toll-Free** 1-800-766-9576  
**Web** [tvec.net](http://tvec.net)

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## SAVE THE DATE

# 2020 **TVEC** TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**The TVEC Annual Meeting is Moving Online!**  
**Register to attend at [tvec.net](http://tvec.net)**

# OCTOBER 8TH

### ABOUT TRINITY VALLEY EC

TVEC operates in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties.

### OFFICE LOCATIONS

#### Kaufman District Headquarters

1800 E. Highway 243, Kaufman

#### Athens District Office

909 W. Larkin St., Athens

#### Cedar Creek District Office

1012 W. Main St., Ste. 102  
Gun Barrel City

#### Wills Point District Office

582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

### Lobby Hours

Lobbies temporarily closed.  
Drive-thru in Kaufman  
open 8:15-4:45

### VISIT US ONLINE

[tvec.net](http://tvec.net)





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## Stay Safe at Home

**ELECTRICAL MALFUNCTIONS ACCOUNT** for thousands of home fires each year, resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, which means many homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices. Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International.

### Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- ▶ Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses.
- ▶ Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on.
- ▶ Buzzing sounds from switches or outlets.
- ▶ Discolored outlets.
- ▶ Appliances that seem underpowered.

### How to avoid overloading circuits:

- ▶ Label your circuit breakers to distinguish the different circuits in your home and what they power.
- ▶ Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if the home is older than 40 years or if you've had a major appliance installed.
- ▶ Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for devices that draw lots of energy.
- ▶ Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

### Working from home? Follow these safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.

- ▶ Avoid overloading outlets.
- ▶ Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- ▶ Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- ▶ Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
- ▶ Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- ▶ Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- ▶ Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- ▶ Keep paper and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- ▶ Use lightbulbs with the proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- ▶ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace units every 10 years. ■

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**October is  
National Co-op Month.**



**#PowerOn**

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



# TVEC

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## in focus



TVEC lineworkers from the Athens district who worked to restore power in East Texas after Hurricane Laura included Payden Green, Troy Tullos, Brady Hardy, Rusty Abney and Cody Goforth.



TVEC lineworkers from the Kaufman district who worked to restore power in East Texas after Hurricane Laura included Scott Stewart, Hector Zarate, Victor Garcia, Zach Pollett and Casey Bagwell.



Hurricane Laura caused major damage in Louisiana and East Texas. TVEC crews responded to provide mutual aid at Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, which had more than 25,000 members without power and many places where lines had to be rebuilt.

## TVEC Crews Provide Assistance After Hurricane Laura

**HURRICANE LAURA HIT** with a bang on August 27, leaving a large swath of damage through Louisiana and a section of East Texas.

Of course Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative linemen were packed and ready to help in no time.

Ten TVEC linemen formed two crews and headed out early Saturday, August 29, to help at Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative. 60195519001

"Our superintendent was extremely impressed with TVEC's work approach and ethic and asked if they were willing to stay and help in some of our more inhospitable areas," said DETEC General Manager Bryan Wood. "We were pleased when they agreed and moved into the heart of our hardest hit areas. For five days they worked to restore power in subdivisions adjoining Toledo Bend Reservoir. Our members are forever indebted to the men that came to their rescue."

Cooperation among Cooperatives is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, giving co-ops a much greater ability to respond to disasters as well as benefits in common training and work practices. ■

### WIN \$25 JUST FOR READING!

Somewhere, hidden on pages 18-23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the member services department by October 30 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner!



# Save Electricity While Working Remotely

**AS AMERICAN FAMILIES** and businesses transition to remote work to slow the spread of COVID-19, many have seen a surge in home energy use—and in electric bills. Simple money-saving steps can help lower your bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

## Recommended energy saving tips include:

- ▶ Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings. Setting your thermostat 1 degree lower when heating or 1 degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.
- ▶ Do only full loads of laundry and wash with cold water. Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water saves even more.
- ▶ Air-dry dishes. This can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.
- ▶ Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs. Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LEDs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- ▶ Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, TVs and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of a home's energy use. ■



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## 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 [steardps.texas.gov](https://steardps.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 huracanes, 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, [steardps.texas.gov](https://steardps.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.

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## Your Generosity in Action

**THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** recently awarded six grants totaling \$19,000. Recipients of the grants include:



### Hidden Acres Camp

Kaufman, \$2,000

Complete ongoing projects, including updating the conference center.



### Texas Health Resources Foundation

Kaufman County, \$4,000

Funding for women's services utilizing a mobile health unit.



### Love in Action

Athens, \$4,000

Electrical repairs for additional capacity in serving underserved population in Athens.



### Texas Ramp Project

TVEC Service Area, \$5,000

Home access ramps for low-income and elderly people in the TVEC service area.



### Myrtle Springs Community Center Project

Myrtle Springs, \$2,000

Community center roofing repairs.



### Wills Point Ladies Club

Wills Point, \$2,000

Various projects, including food and hygiene projects for the backpack program, scholarships and angel tree.

## GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020

Advocacy/Counseling/Rehabilitation,  
\$16,500

Veterans Issues, \$5,500

Shelters and Family Support,  
\$15,000

Animal Rescue and Support,  
\$4,750

Food Pantries,  
\$29,200

Bill-Payment Assistance  
Grants (COVID-19),  
\$36,250

Education/Child Feeding Programs,  
\$14,500

Community Outreach,  
\$29,200

# Oil Field Mysticism

The quest to find buried treasure produced scammers and their gadgets

BY CLAY COPPEDGE • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PLUNKERT

A TRAVIS COUNTY farmer named Charles Rolff devised an apparatus in the 1930s he called a doodlebug machine, which he believed would locate large underground deposits of oil. “It was described as a secret tube, sealed at both ends,” United Press International wrote. “At one end, there was an opening to insert a 15-inch fork with two handles. In operation, a man takes the fork in both hands with the tube up and holds it over the land or leases, and by some way he can tell whether the land has oil-bearing possibilities or whether it’s dry.”

The doodlebug worked on generally the same principles as a divining rod that dowsers used to find water. Only certain people were believed to have the gift of sensing water or other deposits through the devices.

Rolff and a group of investors sued the Pearl Oil Company for proceeds and royalties in 1935, claiming the company used his doodlebug to find oil in Rusk County. A Williamson County jury decided that the presence of a doodlebug was irrelevant. The jury didn’t say the doodlebug didn’t work, just that it didn’t matter.

An appeals court ruled against Rolff. In his written opinion, James McClendon, chief justice of the Court of Civil Appeals, said, “We take judicial knowledge of the scientific fact that there is no virtue whatever in the ‘doodle bug’ in locating oil or other substances underneath the earth.”

In the early days of oil exploration, a doodlebug or divining rod made as much sense to some people as geology or seismology. In establishing the rule of capture as the water law of the land, the Texas Supreme Court in 1904 had deemed that underground water is too “secret, occult and concealed” to regulate. If the capricious behavior of underground water smacked of mysticism, so did underground oil.

Around the same time Rolff was promoting his doodlebug, two men, Ralph Malone and Vivian Buie, were hawking a gadget that operated on the same mysterious principles. In 1935 Malone and Buie found themselves in court, charged with swindling Houston investors out of \$20,000. Buie was sentenced to five years for mail fraud. Malone got three years.

Lawyers Arthur Heemann and C. Ray Smith not only lost the case for Malone and Buie but also

ended up as defendants on mail fraud charges. They hired their own lawyers who argued the two men were not swindlers, even though Heemann had been charged five years earlier for promoting a bogus outfit called the Oil Investors Company. Heemann and Smith were acquitted.

By the late 1940s, the Securities and Exchange Commission was investigating Malone for hawking a device he called a magnetic logger. The SEC concluded: “The claims made for its efficacy in discovering oil were the usual ones and were false.” A 1951 injunction put an end, once and for all, to Malone’s shenanigans.

But oil field fraudsters changed with the times. When America became fascinated with UFOs, Silas Newton and Leo GeBauer claimed to have a machine that “operated on the same magnetic principles as the flying saucers.”

They said they came across a device after an alleged spaceship crashed in Aztec, New Mexico, in 1948. Newton and GeBauer convinced author Frank Scully they were telling the truth, so he published a book called *Behind the Flying Saucers* in 1950 that sold 60,000 copies. *True* magazine checked out the book’s claims in 1952 and deduced that Newton and GeBauer were “oil con artists who had hoaxed a gullible Scully.”

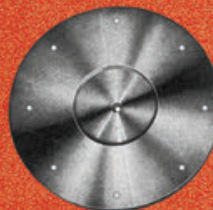
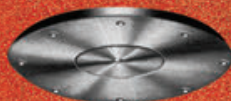
A jury agreed. A headline in the *The Denver Post* announced the verdict: “‘Saucer Scientist’ in \$50,000 Fraud.” Their UFO-inspired oil-finding machine turned out to be a box of radio parts with a bunch of cool-looking dials and switches.

In 1936 the Society of Exploration Geophysicists warned young geophysicists about employing “black magic” or “doodle-bug” methods based on unproven properties of oil, minerals or geological formations.

However, in the 1982 book *Geophysics in the Affairs of Man*, the authors noted that the term doodlebugger had taken on a new meaning by the 1950s.

“Twenty years later, it was a badge of honor to be known as a doodlebugger, i.e., the field personnel of geophysical crews,” they wrote. “Still later, the term was applied to everyone who worked in exploration geophysics.” ■





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16" Skid-Steer  
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# EMERGENCY PRODUCTION!



## Rush Production of U.S. Silver Dollars Creates 2nd Lowest Mintage in History

One of the most popular ways to buy silver is the Silver Eagle—legal-tender U.S. Silver Dollars struck in one ounce of 99.9% pure silver. When the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping the world, demand skyrocketed. But there was a problem...

### U.S. Mint Halts Production

West Point, the U.S. Mint branch that normally strikes Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) Silver Eagles, went into lockdown. Prices quickly shot up, and freshly struck Silver Eagles became much harder to find at an affordable price. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. Mint knew it had to act—and act fast.

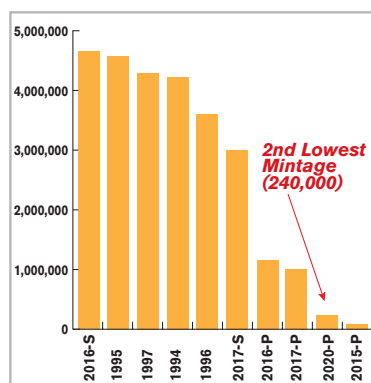
### Philadelphia Steps Up

For just 13 days, the U.S. Mint struck an “Emergency Production” run of U.S. Silver Dollars at the Philadelphia Mint. This was great for silver buyers, and *really* great for collectors. Here’s why:

### The Mystery of Silver Bullion

A coin’s value is often tied to its rarity. One way to determine a coin’s rarity is by its mint mark—a small letter indicating where a coin was struck. Since Silver Eagles are almost always produced solely in West Point, the coins don’t feature one of these mint marks. But this year’s Silver

Eagles were also produced in Philly—so few (a scant 240,000) that they are now the second smallest mintage of Silver Eagles ever struck! So how do we tell a 2020(W) Silver Eagle from a 2020(P)?



### Certified “Struck at” Coins

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) is one of the world’s leading third-party coin grading services. Thanks to some skilled detective work, they have certified these coins as being struck at the Philadelphia Mint during this special Emergency Production run. What’s more, a number of these coins have been graded as near-flawless Mint State-69 (MS69) condition—just one point away from absolute perfection!

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Mintage:	240,000
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Certified:	Emergency Production

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Main Street in Desdemona at the height of the oil boom in 1918, which was also when the flu pandemic struck.

# Boomtown Pandemic

The deadly flu outbreak of 1918 hit oil fields hard

BY GENE FOWLER

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has drawn comparisons to the influenza outbreak of 1918, what became known as the Spanish flu, which was the 20th century's deadliest pandemic. The Spanish flu infected about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Tens of millions died worldwide, including approximately 675,000 Americans.

Of the 5,000 Texans killed in World War I, a third are believed to have died from influenza. While the battlefield, with soldiers crowded in makeshift ramparts, provided a natural incubator for the virus, social conditions during

Texas' early 20th-century oil boom also allowed the disease to spread unchecked. The lack of suitable housing and access to fresh water, and poor sanitation in towns besieged by thousands of boomers—as Ranger, Burkburnett and Desdemona were in 1918—created an environment in which infection flourished.

Researcher Ben Wright found evidence of the boomtown epidemic in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Industry, an archive of recordings held by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. “Part of my job is to work out ways the center’s collections inform current issues,” said Wright. “The past is never lacking in its

warnings, lessons and reassurances.”

The interviews and other materials in the archive were gathered in the 1950s and include direct testimony about the 1918 flu pandemic.

Interviewee Walter Cline, who later became mayor of Burkburnett, served as field director for the Red Cross at Call Field near Wichita Falls when the flu hit. Cline headed into the Burkburnett oil field with doctors and nurses as well as food, clothing, medicine and other donated resources. His team found people “suffering from flu and exposed in covered wagons and under these tarpaulins,” he said. “In one place, you’d find a mother dead, with a little 6- or 8-months-old baby crawling around over her breast, trying to open her dress. ... I think on our first trip west of Burkburnett, we gathered up some six or eight dead men, women and children, and they continued to die until we found temporary shelter for them.”

Fred Jennings, a rig manager at Goose Creek Oil Field near Baytown, recalled, “The people died, and they just died so fast here till they didn’t have no undertakers. You’d just have to put them in pickup trucks and haul them to Houston. Just put them in a pine box and bury them any way you could. ... I saw one man working and walk home and was dead in 30 minutes.”

Don Carleton, Briscoe Center executive director, says we don’t know the full impact of the 1918 pandemic, but the disease reached Texas’ highest office. Researching his forthcoming biography of Gov. William P. Hobby, Carleton learned that Hobby fought the deadly contagion just as desperately as the roughnecks of the oil fields.

“I was quite surprised to learn that even our state’s governor was afflicted with the disease,” Carleton said. ■



# Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps

Lots of names for turning fruit and a crunchy topping into irresistible treats

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Buckles and betties and cobblers and crisps—whatever you call them—are the essence of comforting, down-home cooking. Everyone has their favorite recipe in their back pocket, no matter the season. Our family is partial to crisps. That buttery, crunchy topping is tempting enough to eat on its own, and pairing it with juicy fruits (and a scoop of ice cream) makes it difficult to resist. Another bonus: These dishes are easy to make, so dessert can happen any night of the week.



## Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

**5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for greasing the dish**  
**4 cups frozen mixed berries**  
**1 tablespoon lemon juice**  
**¼ cup sugar**  
**4 tablespoons flour, divided use**  
**1 cup rolled oats**  
**¼ cup chopped pistachios**  
**⅓ cup brown sugar**  
**¼ teaspoon salt**  
**¼ teaspoon cinnamon**

**COOK'S TIP** To make this recipe gluten free, use oat flour, almond flour or your favorite gluten-free blend.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.
2. In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.
3. In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.
4. Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

**SERVES 6**

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Blackberry Basil Crumble.





# Cherry Blueberry Buckle

BECKEY BROWN  
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

- BUCKLE**
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter, softened, plus more for greasing the dish
  - 1/2 cup sour cream
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1 egg
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - Zest and juice of 1 orange
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
  - 2 cups pancake and waffle mix
  - 1 1/4 cups frozen pitted cherries
  - 3/4 cup frozen blueberries
  - 2 tablespoons brown sugar

- TOPPING**
- 1 1/4 cups heavy whipping cream
  - 1/4 cup powdered sugar
  - Zest and juice of 1 orange
  - Mint leaves, for garnish

- 1. BUCKLE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.
- Using a stand mixer, cream butter, sour cream and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, orange zest and juice, salt, and whipping cream, mixing on low to combine.
- Slowly add pancake and waffle mix, scraping down sides as needed while mixing.
- Spread batter into prepared pan and top with cherries and blueberries. Sprinkle top with brown sugar.
- Bake 30–35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and buckle is puffed and brown. Let cool slightly before serving.
- 6. TOPPING** While the buckle bakes, whip the cream, powdered sugar, zest and juice

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

# PB&J Peach Cobbler

CHUCK BURGESS  
HEART OF TEXAS EC



- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, plus more for greasing the dish
- 3/4 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches in juice, drained
- 3/4 cup peach preserves
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

The unexpected addition of peanut butter makes this cobbler a dish reminiscent of your favorite childhood lunch. To make the mixing easier, warm the peanut butter and preserves in the microwave for 10–15 seconds.

SERVES 12

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish with butter.
- Melt remaining butter in a medium bowl. Whisk in peanut butter then milk until blended.
- In another bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Add the butter mixture and stir until blended. Pour into baking dish and spread evenly.
- In a medium bowl, mix peaches, preserves and brown sugar. Then spoon evenly over batter. Bake 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbly.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**TACOS** DUE OCT 10  
Whether you love them soft, crunchy or puffy, tell us what makes your tacos the best. Enter at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests) by October 10.

## RECIPES CONTINUED

together until soft peaks are formed. Chill until ready to serve. Serve buckle with a dollop of whipped cream and a mint leaf.

**SERVES 12**



### Spiced Apple Cobbler

C. PAIGE YOUNG-CANNON  
PEDERNALES EC

You don't need to peel the apples, making the prep easy enough for kids like Sylvia Cannon, who submitted this recipe with the help of her mom.

#### FILLING

**1 tablespoon butter, melted, plus more to grease baking dish**  
**5 small sweet apples, cut into chunks**  
**¼ cup sugar**  
**2 teaspoons cornstarch**  
**1 teaspoon cinnamon**  
**½ teaspoon nutmeg**  
**⅛ teaspoon ground ginger**  
**½ teaspoon vanilla extract**  
**Pinch of salt**

#### TOPPING

**½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened**  
**¾ cup plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided use**  
**1½ cups self-rising flour**  
**5 teaspoons cinnamon**  
**½ teaspoon nutmeg**  
**⅛ teaspoon ground ginger**  
**¾ cup milk**

**COOK'S TIP** If you don't have self-rising flour, you can make your own. For each cup of all-purpose flour, add in 1½ teaspoons baking powder and ½ teaspoon salt.

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch ceramic baking dish with butter and set aside.

**2. FILLING** In a large bowl, pour melted butter over cut apples. Add sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, vanilla and salt. Stir and set aside.

**3. TOPPING** In a separate bowl, cream butter and ¾ cup sugar until pale and fluffy. Add flour and toss to coat the butter, then cut coated butter into the flour using a pastry blender or two forks. The mixture should resemble sandy crumbs.

**4.** Add remaining sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and milk. Mix until smooth; it will be very thick.

**5.** Pour filling into prepared dish, making sure to include any accumulated juices. Dollop the topping evenly over the apples.

**6.** Bake until topping is golden and puffed, and filling is bubbling, about 45 minutes.

**SERVES 8**

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# holiday GIFT GUIDE

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Matagorda Island Lighthouse

Ancient tower once guided ships to Indianola

BY CHET GARNER

IF THE HEAT DIDN'T TAKE ME, the mosquitoes would, so I pedaled as fast as I could through the grass and sand, hoping I was rolling in the right direction. I was committed to seeing the Matagorda Island lighthouse, and the price of admission is a 2.5-mile trek across this desolate island.

The barrier island is 38 miles long and uninhabited, save for a small outpost used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD ran a daily ferry to the island until 2003, when a fire destroyed the state's boat, and the ferry service was lost in the flames. If you want to visit Matagorda Island now, you either float your own boat across Espiritu Santo Bay or enlist a fishing guide in Port O'Connor. I reached the island with the help of guide Mike Bohac, who delivered me to Matagorda, pointed toward the lighthouse and said, "Head that way."

After an hour of pedaling, I could see the lighthouse. It was built in 1852 to guide ships through Pass Cavallo on their way to Indianola. Numerous renovations and a relocation raised the structure to where it now sits, 91 feet above sea level. The Confederate States army tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from falling into Union hands, but the cast-iron structure survived.

I peered into a small glass window at the bottom of the lighthouse and wondered what the view was like from the top. Volunteers open it up on special occasions, but my trip was not one of those. Near the lighthouse, I inspected the foundation for the lightkeeper's home and a small cemetery where deceased keepers lie in rest, still guarding the tower.

It was easy to imagine the isolation they must have felt here on the edge of Texas. ■

ABOVE Chet takes a selfie with the 1852 Matagorda Island lighthouse.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from the Matagorda lighthouse and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

## Know Before You Go

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

## OCTOBER

03

**Alvarado** [3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31] **Sunset Hill Tree Farm Pumpkin Patch**, (817) 713-6114, [sunsethilltreefarm.com](http://sunsethilltreefarm.com)

08

**Tyler** [8-11] **Fall Fun—Hunter/Jumper Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)

09

**Ingram** [9-10, 16-17, 23-24] **Count Dracula**, (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

10

**Jacksonville** **Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair**, (903) 268-1598

**Kerrville** **Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet**, (830) 459-6198, [kerrmarketdays.org](http://kerrmarketdays.org)

**Brenham** [10, 16-17, 24] **Hot Nights, Cool Tunes**, (979) 337-7580, [downtownbrenham.com](http://downtownbrenham.com)

11

**Dallas** **Prism Health North Texas Virtual LifeWalk 2020**, (214) 521-5191, [lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk](http://lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk)

16

**Austin** [16-19] **American Institute of Architects Austin Homes Tour**, (512) 452-4332, [aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020](http://aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020)

**Terlingua** [16-17] **Ride 4 Trails**, (432) 371-3382, [ride4trails.com](http://ride4trails.com)

17

**Tyler** [17-18] **North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Fall Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)



20

**Edinburg [20-24] Virtual Los Muertos Bailan**, (956) 383-6246, [edinburgarts.com/losmuertosbailan](http://edinburgarts.com/losmuertosbailan)

22

**Canton [22-24] Classic Country & Honky Tonk Halloween Party**, (903) 245-6300, [visitcantontx.com](http://visitcantontx.com)

24

**Grand Saline Goody Trail & Trunk or Treat on Main**, (903) 962-5631, [grandsalinemainstreet.com](http://grandsalinemainstreet.com)

**New Braunfels Simpson Texas Car and Bike Show**, (830) 625-1774, [playinnewbraunfels.com](http://playinnewbraunfels.com)

**Kerrville [24-25] Haunted Ghoul Pool**, (830) 257-7300, [kerrvilletx.gov](http://kerrvilletx.gov)

**Rusk [24-25] Pumpkin Patch Train Ride**, (855) 632-7729, [texasstaterailroad.net](http://texasstaterailroad.net)

**Buffalo Gap [24-Nov. 7] Scarecrow Festival**, (325) 572-3365, [taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/scarecrow-festival](http://taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/scarecrow-festival)

26

**Jacksonville Trunk or Treat**, (903) 586-2217, [jacksonvilletexas.com](http://jacksonvilletexas.com)

28

**Rosanky Christmas in October Toy Drive**, (512) 360-3968, [rosankybaptistchurch.com](http://rosankybaptistchurch.com)

30

**Tyler [30-Nov. 1] Texas Rose Autumn Breed Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)

MORE EVENTS >

## TCP Submit Your Event

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

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## Fredericksburg

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COURTESY CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Pick of the Month**

**Two Women Look West**

Cuero, Oct. 8–Nov. 1

(361) 277-2866,

[chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://chisholmtrailmuseum.org)

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum features photographs of the King Ranch by Helen C. Kleberg and Toni Frissell. Kleberg was a self-taught photographer and wife of the longtime CEO of the King Ranch. Frissell was a New York fashion photographer. They photographed the King Ranch from the 1930s to the 1950s.

**OCTOBER EVENTS CONTINUED**

31

**Kerrville Family Fright**

Night, (830) 257-7300, [kerrvilletx.gov](http://kerrvilletx.gov)

**Kerrville Pumpkin**

Run/Walk and Harvest Festival, (830) 315-5762, [kerrvillekroc.org](http://kerrvillekroc.org)

**Austin [Oct. 31–Nov. 15]**

Virtual Texas Book Festival, (512) 477-4055, [texasbookfestival.org](http://texasbookfestival.org)

**NOVEMBER**

01

**Houston Rockin' Resiliency**

Virtual Luncheon, (713) 623-6543, [thewomensfund.org/events](http://thewomensfund.org/events)

**Lubbock West Texas**

Latino Artist Día De Los Muertos Celebración, (806) 792-1212, [loshermanosfamilia.org](http://loshermanosfamilia.org)

07

**George West A Day of**

Stories, (361) 436-1098, [dobie-westtheatre.com](http://dobie-westtheatre.com)



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# Selfies

The modern self-portrait, a selfie captures Texas life in a personal way. Now, thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to put ourselves in someone else's boots.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**GAIL WISE**  
**TRI-COUNTY EC**

This little fella "came over any time we worked the cows."

**VIRGINIA GARCIA**  
**KARNES EC**

Cinnamon, a new chick on the farm, loves taking selfies.

**DOUGLAS RATCHFORD**  
**BLUEBONNET EC**

"An early morning flight in a good friend's 1930 Waco biplane."

**DOLLY HOLLINGSWORTH**  
**SAN PATRICIO EC**

"I said smile for the camera, and she sure did."



## Upcoming Contests

**DUE OCT 10** Saddles

**DUE NOV 10** Diners

**DUE DEC 10** Storms

Enter online and review submission rules at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests).

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



Francisco "Panchito" Flores of San Antonio is a third-generation *charro*—Spanish for cowboy—learning the Mexican rodeo tradition of *charreada*.

## Memorable Moment

Look for striking portraits in your everyday life

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY JULIA ROBINSON

WHEN I BECAME a photojournalist, portraits were a dreaded assignment. I wanted to document real people living real lives, not direct them like a studio photographer.

Initially I hid behind my documentarian role to avoid the hard work of corralling light. But as I learned more about portraiture, I wanted to get better—so I consumed the lavish sets of Annie Leibovitz; the sculpted light of Martin Schoeller; the whimsical, dark vision of Dan Winters; the dynamism of Robert Seale.

Making an emotional connection with a subject to tell a story with an image is a skill I find more valuable than slick lighting, perfect hair and teeth, or a celebrity face. The portraits made by Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Walker Evans and Sally Mann

have helped me tell the story of a person, a place or a moment in history.

I've gotten better at lighting and directing people who begin a photo session with, "I hate photos of myself." The most meaningful portraits I have made are not those for a newspaper or a business client. They've been grandparents at someone's wedding, my nieces as they grow, my family at ease. The portraits I value the most are the environmental and the informal.

Looking back through my family photos, it's the candid portraits that stand out. A moment of connection between family members, the peak action of a laugh, the details of a bedroom or a set of toys that add to the nostalgia. Portraits don't always need to be taken in a studio or in our best clothes. They can be "found" in our everyday lives.

The class photo on the mantel has an official purpose—to pause the march of time from grade to grade. The same is true for the annual family Christmas card and the child in bluebonnets. The images that stop me in my tracks, however, are the laughter, the quiet connection, the unaware expressions of self.

The only secret is practice. Try bringing your camera everywhere for a day. If you make picture-taking a seamless part of everyday life, the people you photograph won't think twice when you point the lens in their direction.

Hunt the good light in your house, your backyard or on the walk to the park. If you want to make a noncandid portrait, the window light from a north- or south-facing window will be the most flattering, along with the golden hours just before dusk and just after dawn.

Observe the moments that spark your connection and joy. Think about what makes a person light up, and see if you can capture it. One fleeting and hard-won image like this is worth a thousand studio sessions. ■



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