

SPACE STATION
TURNS 20

TEXAS' SLIVER
OF NEW MEXICO

SWAP COOKIES,
MAKE FRIENDS

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2020

Winging It

One man's mission
to restore habitat and
protect wildlife leads
to creation of a bat cave

**TRINITY
VALLEY EC
NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

Plantar Fasciitis • Arthritis • Joint Pain • Heel Spurs • Back & Knee Pain



PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM



Corrective Fit Orthotic

\$50 Value Free

podiatrist-grade support with every shoe purchase
Excludes sandals.



85%

LESS
KNEE
PAIN



91%

LESS
BACK
PAIN



92%

LESS
ANKLE
PAIN



75%

LESS
FOOT
PAIN

Enjoy the benefits of exercise
with proven pain relief.

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improved Posture

*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive
View UCLA Medical Center.

G-DEFY MIGHTY WALK \$155

X-WIDE
WIDTH
AVAILABLE

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- Gray TB9024MGS
- Blue/Black TB9024MLU
- Black TB9024MBL

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- Gray TB9024FGS
- Salmon/Gray TB9024FGP
- Purple/Black TB9024FLP



Free Corrective Fit Orthotics
plus socks with every shoe order

Promo Code MQ8LMP7

www.gdefy.com

Expires February 28, 2021

Free Exchanges • Free Returns

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. Cannot be combined with other offers. Free socks only available directly from Gravity Defyer. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.

November 2020



08

Bat Lodging

A conservationist creates a unique oasis for roving insect hunters in Central Texas.

*By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Eric W. Pohl*

ON THE COVER AND ABOVE
Dusk sends bats rushing out of a cave at Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve to feast on insects.
Photos by Eric W. Pohl

14 Out of This World

The International Space Station, controlled entirely in Houston and home to groundbreaking research, turns 20.

By Melissa Gaskill

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

Toeing the New Mexico Line
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Cookie Swap
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Road Trip Relics in Shamrock
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Extremes

38

Observations

Fresh Perspective
By Dan Oko

Tuning Up a BMW

BY LAW, ELECTRIC CARS must emit artificial sounds to alert pedestrians, bicyclists and people with visual impairment. When BMW debuts its i4 sedan for 2021, its sonic signature will be the creation of film composer Hans Zimmer, who won an Oscar in 1995 for his score of *The Lion King* and has been nominated for 10 others.



“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.”

—WILLIE NELSON



Not Giving an Inch

The U.S. remains one of three countries that does not use the metric system.

The others are Myanmar, in Southeast Asia, and Liberia, on the West African coast.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I'M MOST THANKFUL FOR ...

TOP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and city. Here are some of the responses to our September prompt: **I can't believe I bought ...**

A 2020 planner.

JANICE SCHWAB
VIA FACEBOOK

My daughter's story about the dent in the car.

JANET MOSLEY
VIA FACEBOOK

Toilet paper for Christmas presents.

DONALIE BELTRAN
CECA
MAY

A Super Bowl XII Cowboys-Broncos ticket for \$32.

CRAIG MASSOUH
PEDERNALES EC
SATTLER

To see more responses, read Currents online.

Texas has 247 freshwater fish species.

SOUND FISHY? OR ALLURING?



PRIZED SCRIBES

November 1 is National Authors Day. *Texas Co-op Power* writers and editors tell of the authors who have been captivating them lately:

Chris Burrows: **Carlos Ruiz Zafón** crafted enchanting tales about enchanting tales.

Travis Hill: **Claudia Rankine** writes cross-genre poetry that lyrically weaves public engagement and private emotion around today's most relevant themes.

Charles Lohrmann: **John le Carré's** international intrigue has been replaced by **Attica Locke's** fast-moving crime fiction.

Jessica Ridge: **Toni Tipton-Martin** cracks open the culinary canon.

Tom Widlowski: **Elmer Kelton** takes me by horseback to pioneer Texas.



Howard Daniel Jr. and wife Clara with an award presented by Burke.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Read about other co-op members who are making a difference in their communities in TCP's Power of Our People program.

Real Passion, Real People

HOWARD DANIEL JR. of Livingston says everyone is important and that belief would be universal if people knew each other as individuals.

Daniel, a retired Army colonel and longtime member of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, serves on the board for Burke, an organization that assists more than 10,000 people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities in 12 East Texas counties.

Daniel learned about Burke after his daughter, Marie, was born with a developmental disability. He joined the board in 1999 and has been its chair since 2011.

Under Daniel's leadership Burke has doubled its mental health services capacity, expanded developmental disability services, engaged law enforcement in mental health emergency management, and expanded Burke's reach to provide specialty services for children and veterans.

"I want the best for the people we serve," says Daniel, pastor of Chesswood Baptist Church, "because the people we serve, like my daughter and others, are real people, with real feelings—and they are special."

Daniel believes everybody should help people born with intellectual and developmental challenges. "We need to make them feel good," he says. "The best way to make them feel good is to put the best facilities out there that we can."

Learn more about Burke and Daniel at myburke.org.

To nominate a person who is making a difference in your community, email details to people@texascooppower.com.



TCP Contests and More

[ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://ONTEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Herbs

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Diners

WIN A BOOK

Enter to win *My Stories, All True* by Pam LeBlanc.



Meadow Oasis

“Thank you, Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, for your Observations, which calmed my pandemic soul. It felt like I was there at the meadow with you.”

CATHERINE NELSON
PEDERNALES EC
SAN MARCOS

Freaks of Nature

I and many other native plant “freaks” have enjoyed our own little refuges of native habitat, experiencing the flora and fauna that used to be so common here—a true reflection of Texas—before the manicured lawn with its plants from Asia, Africa and Europe came to be the standard [*Meadow Oasis*, September 2020].

Regina Levoy
MidSouth EC
Shiro



Thank you for highlighting the story of Jessie Daniel Ames, a compassionate, strong, confident woman who fought for our right to vote in addition to protesting against lynchings of people of color [*Empowering Every Vote*, August 2020].

MARTA LOPEZ
VIA FACEBOOK



Giant Fan

The first time I saw *Giant*, I was very young [*Reel Moments*, September 2020]. It made such an impression on me. I am 63 and have seen it more times than I can count. Thank you for the wonderfully written story.

Daniella Spann
Medina EC
Medina

Movie Critics

It is amazing that so many good movies have been made in Texas. One that was left out, *Secondhand Lions*, was filmed around Austin in 2002 and was, hands down, one of the best movies ever made.

Norris and Pat Croom
Hamilton County EC
Copperas Cove

How can you do a story on films in Texas and not mention *Hud*?

Dan Golden
Houston County EC
Lovelady

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Twitter Instagram YouTube Pinterest Texas Co-op Power

How could you not include *The Last Picture Show*, filmed in Archer City, written by Larry McMurtry and nominated for eight Academy Awards?

Mark Spurlock
Taylor EC
Abilene

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Marty Haught, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • **Senior Communications Specialist** Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge
Digital Content Producer Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 5 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2020 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2020 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American MainStreet
Publications



holiday GIFT GUIDE

In the magazine and on [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com), we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



It's Time To Bake Pecan Treats for the Holidays!

Berdoll's has been family-owned for 40 years. We provide delicious chocolate pecans, honey glazed pecans, pecan pies and more! Visit our squirrel, Ms. Pearl, at our retail store or order online.

512-321-6157
berdoll.com



Texas Red Grapefruit and Avocados

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

1-800-580-1900
crockettffarms.com



Missing Your Loved Ones?

Send a gift of coffee and decadent gluten-free fudge cookies this Thanksgiving to let them know you're thinking of them. Limited quantities. Use coupon code TEXASCOOP for 15% off (expires 11/8/2020).

512-646-1146
treasuredearthfoods.com



Fresh "New Crop" Pecans

New crop pecans, chocolate-covered nuts, specialty gift baskets, fudge, pecan pies. Our very own specialty roasted and salted pecans and gifts galore!

325-356-3616
sorrellsfarms.com



2021 Best of Texas Calendar

Celebrating 35 years of publication. Large 15" x 20" calendar with 12 watercolors by Texas State Artist George Boutwell. \$12.50 plus sales tax and \$3.50 shipping. Quantity price on website.

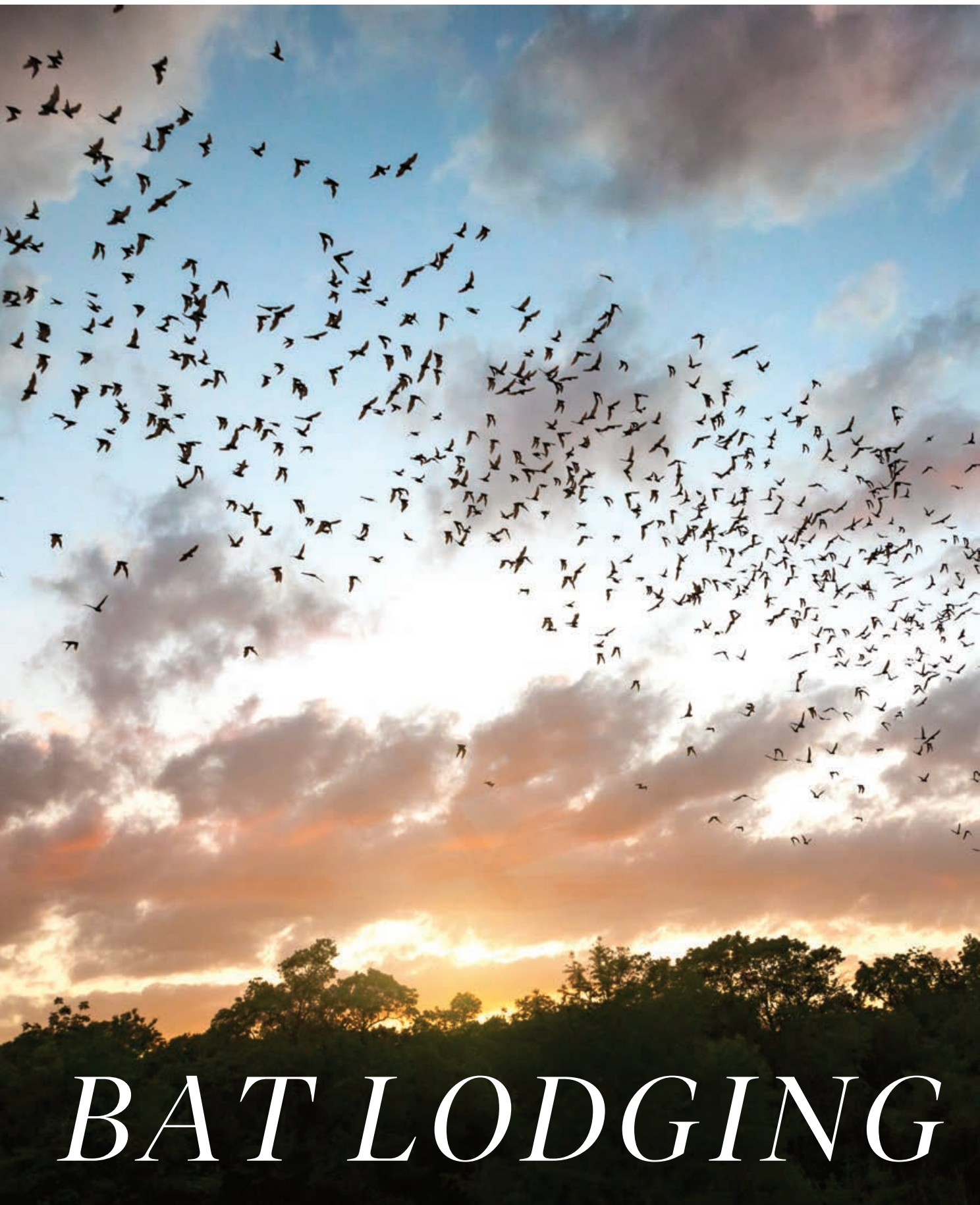
800-243-4316
gboutwell.com



Coffee Makes a Wonderful Gift!

Check our website to find something you'll be proud to give and serve. Home of Texas Pecan and other favorites. Flavored and non-flavored coffees, whole bean or ground, with several organic options. Be a gift-giving hero!

713-222-9800
lolacc.com



BAT LODGING



A CONSERVATIONIST creates
a unique oasis for roving insect
hunters in Central Texas

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERIC W. POHL

AS DUSK FALLS ON A WARM SUMMER EVENING, I've joined J. David Bamberger and a few close friends at a table about 50 yards from a gaping hole on a hillside at his ranch near Johnson City.

As we nibble chips and salsa, a single bat emerges from the opening. In a flash a hawk swoops down, snatching the fluttering scout in midflight. A few minutes later, with sunlight quickly fading, a few more bats appear. Soon a narrow stream of flapping shapes forms, like a horizontal plume of campfire smoke.

Bamberger, a former door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman who co-founded the Church's Chicken chain, used his fortune to buy this once-overgrazed property in 1969, paying just \$124 an acre. He named it Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve and began nurturing it, removing nonnative species and planting indigenous grasses. The dry, eroded Central Texas landscape sputtered back to life. Today the 5,500-acre oasis features flowing creeks, fields of waving grass and towering trees and serves as a laboratory for land conservation.

It's also got a bat cave, or "chiroptorium," as Bamberger, 92 and still hiking or exploring his property nearly every day, calls it. (The word hasn't made it into dictionaries, but it's a standard at Selah, which itself is a biblical word whose definition is debated but to Bamberger means "to stop, pause, look around and reflect.")

While volunteering as a trustee with Bat Conservation International's Bracken Cave in the 1990s, Bamberger met BCI founder and bat expert Merlin Tuttle, who taught him the environmental benefits the furry, sometimes pecan-sized mammals provide. Bats gobble up tons of insects across the country each night, Bamberger learned, saving farmers more than \$3.7 billion a year in crop damage and pesticide use. Bamberger, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, got the wild idea to lure a bat population to his own ranch by building a bat cave. Constructing a bat habitat, he figured, meshed with his mission to restore rangeland and protect wildlife.

Mexican free-tailed bats emerge
from the chiroptorium—the bat cave
constructed at Selah, Bamberger
Ranch Preserve.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE J. David Bamberger shows an indigenous grass that thrives at the preserve. Bamberger walks with author Pam LeBlanc. Sunset at the preserve.

TOP WEB EXTRA

Enter online to win Pam LeBlanc's recent book, *My Stories, All True: J. David Bamberger on Life as an Entrepreneur and Conservationist*.

"People laughed at the idea," Bamberger tells me. We met and became friends more than a decade ago, when I first wrote about his work. "When people laugh at you, sometimes you back away," he says. "Most successful people continue on."

After consulting with bat experts, architect Jim Smith designed a 30-by-100-foot, three-domed habitat with a special observation room where scientists and visitors could watch the bats through a plate glass window. They picked an easily accessible spot near water with a clear flight path. Then they went to work building the structure of concrete and gunite, backfilled it with dirt and covered it with native vegetation.

Newspaper reporters flocked to the ranch in 1998 to report the story. Now all he needed was a resident population.

Bamberger hauled in a load of bat guano to make the cave more appealing, but the bats turned up their noses. He brought in a small occupied bat box to lure a population, but the bats didn't stick around. Still, Bamberger persisted.

"If it doesn't work, it'll hold a hell of a lot of wine," he rationalized.

Every once in a while, a few bats would show up. "I'd be about to rapture," Bamberger says. But the stream of bats he dreamed about didn't move in until four years later, after biologists realized that the few bats that discovered the cave were smashing into the observation window. After they boarded up the window, the bats moved in.

"Unbelievable," Bamberger says, telling the story of driving up to the site and discovering the new residents. "Tears are running down my face. I can't believe what I'm seeing. The bats are pouring out."





"PEOPLE LAUGHED AT THE IDEA,"

Bamberger tells me. We met and became friends more than a decade ago, when I first wrote about his work. "When people laugh at you, sometimes you back away," he says. "Most successful people continue on."

He felt vindicated, especially since the *San Antonio Express-News* was printing a story that very week, dubbing the cave "Bamberger's Folly" and noting that he'd spent more to build a house for bats than most people spend building a home for their family.

When he phoned biologist Tom Kunz, though, the bat expert warned that the emergence was likely a fluke and that a migrating group had probably just stopped over temporarily.

But the bats came back. And since they arrived in big numbers in 2002, they have never left. Today the ranch is

home to year-round populations of Mexican free-tailed bats and cave myotis, another type of bat. Thermal imaging scans show that as many as 400,000 individuals pack shoulder to shoulder along the chiropterium walls during the summer and fly out nightly to forage for insects. In the winter the population dwindles to 3,000–15,000.

"Our bats are very strange," says Jared Holmes, staff biologist at Selam, equating the population to the bat version of a wild college fraternity house. While a large maternal population inhabits the space during summer months, it



changes when temperatures drop. “We don’t know if the winter colony is just a bunch of lazy males [from northern populations] that don’t want to fly all the way south or something else,” Holmes says.

The maternal population generally shows up in April or May and remains until the heat eases in September or October. Bamberger built the chiroptorium to hold a million individuals, but biologists today believe the cave’s current population represents full capacity. “If you go in there, it’s wall-to-wall bats, and as [evolutionary biologist] Gary McCracken put it, they are a possum’s crawl off the floor,” Holmes says.

Bamberger likes to say you could run around naked all day and never get bitten by a mosquito at his ranch. And while that’s not quite true, the bats do keep down the insect population at Selah.

“It’s David’s bat cave of dreams,” Holmes says. “We’re lucky David tried it.”

But testing also has shown the cave carries a high load of the fungus that causes white nose syndrome, the disease that has killed millions of bats across the country, mostly in the Northeast. When conditions are right, the fungus blooms, creating an itchy, white, mushroomlike growth on the bats’ faces that wakes them from hibernation. That’s less of a problem in warmer places like Central Texas, where they can still find water and insects year-round, but devastating in colder climates. So far the Selah bats have not shown signs of the disease, but as a precaution, Holmes hopes to pressure-wash the chiroptorium this winter, at

Bamberger overlooks a pond from one of his favorite spots on the preserve.

night while the population is out foraging.

“If we lose bats, we lose ecosystem services—all that free pest control and food for other animals,” Holmes says.

“Bats are in trouble, and we have a very unique opportunity to study how these man-made bat caves can function with fungus and virus and how we can disinfect their habitats. It’s an opportunity to see how we can help bats, and it’s great to have a proven design that we may be able to scale down for smaller colonies.”

Besides, bats don’t deserve their negative reputation, Holmes and Bamberger say. The mammals have long been maligned, equated with evil in old films and described as blood-sucking vermin.

“But everything in the natural world, even things we despise, plays a role in the conservation of planet Earth,” Bamberger says. “From the very beginning of my time here, I knew I wanted to make the ranch something special with Mother Nature. I realized the potential of bats—they would be another thing I could brag about, teach from and demonstrate.

“This is small potatoes, but I think my small potatoes are terribly important.” ■

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and snatched it up for our **Sedona Turquoise Collection**. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique,

one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for **just \$99**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

The supply of Arizona turquoise is limited, don't miss your chance to own the Southwest's brilliant blue treasure. Call today!

Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (26 cts)	\$299	\$99*	Save \$200
B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain		\$149	
C. 1 1/2" Earrings (10 ctw)	\$299	\$99*	Save \$200
Complete Set**	\$747	\$249	Save \$498

** Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

Call now and mention the offer code to receive your collection.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code **STC298-01**

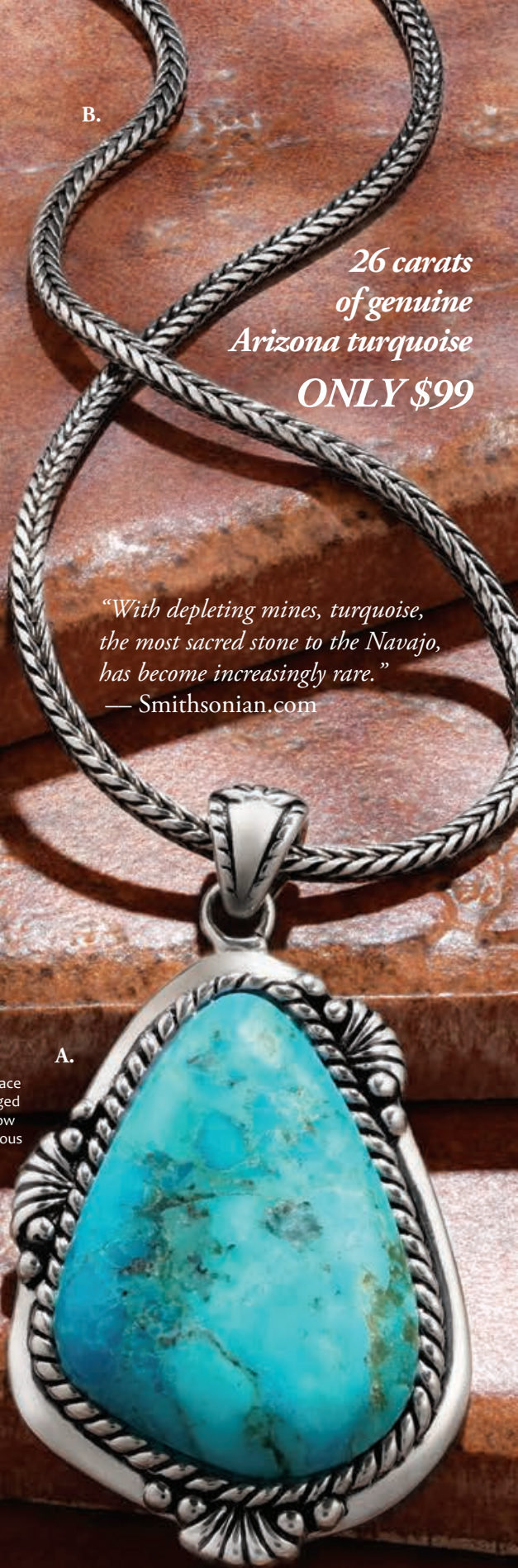
You must use the offer code to get our special price.

* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. STC298-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



Rating of A+



B.

26 carats
of genuine
Arizona turquoise
ONLY \$99

*"With depleting mines, turquoise,
the most sacred stone to the Navajo,
has become increasingly rare."*

— Smithsonian.com

A.

Necklace
enlarged
to show
luxurious
color

Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.®



BY MELISSA GASKILL

OUT OF THIS WORLD

The International Space Station, controlled entirely in Houston and responsible for ground-breaking research, turns 20

IF YOU OR SOMEONE you know recently underwent laser eye surgery, the surgeon likely used technology developed on the International Space Station to track eye movements of astronauts. Surgeons needed a way to follow eye position that doesn't interfere with the procedure, and the space technology proved ideal. The equipment is now used in corrective eye surgeries worldwide.

The space station, the only microgravity laboratory in our known universe, enables research that cannot be conducted anywhere else. As of November 2, scientists have used the orbiting lab continuously for 20 years, conducting more than 2,700 experiments.

All of this science—and in fact every aspect of the space station—is managed at Johnson Space Center, established in 1961 in southeast Houston. Flight control teams of engineers, medical officers and technicians remain on duty there 24/7/365 for the space station.

"I'm not sure people understand what goes on in Mission Control," says John-David Bartoe, who flew on the space shuttle for the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in 1985 before spending 20 years, starting in 1993, as the space station's research manager. "No astronaut on the station is sitting at a console with a stick flying the space station. That all happens in Mission Control. They are



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE Astronaut Nick Hague shows materials that were part of an experiment for middle and high school students. James H. Newman works outside the space station. Christina H. Koch conducts a capillary structures experiment.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Learn more about the space station—and watch it pass over your town.



actually controlling the mission.

“People in the space station program office make decisions every day on how to make this thing work,” Bartoe says. “No one had ever done this before, and the brains behind making this thing happen are right there at JSC.”

Bartoe says that when he arrived at Johnson Space Center, his goal was to interest the scientific community in using the space station, which was difficult because it did not yet exist. “We took the philosophy of ‘build it and they will come,’” he says, “and turned out it worked.”

Every single astronaut who has flown to the space station—more than 240 people so far—trained at the Houston facility.

Research on the space station has contributed to a variety of medical advances in addition to the eye-tracking technology. People soon may be able to receive treatments for some types of cancers via a simple injection rather than intravenous infusion, and studies in space contribute to development of medicines targeting specific cancers, muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer’s and other diseases. Advances that help with osteoporosis, stiffening of the arteries and other symptoms of aging spring from research to help protect astronauts from bone loss and cardiovascular problems they can experience in space.

Scientists study colloids, which are mixtures of various particles in a liquid, to create more effective and longer-lasting products. Shampoo, laundry detergent and salad dressing are examples of colloids. On Earth, colloids are hard to study because gravity causes heavy particles to sink and lighter ones to float, but in microgravity, that problem goes away, leading to advances we see on store shelves.

Anheuser-Busch has tested germination and malting of barley on the space station to learn how the grain can be altered to improve its use in brewing, distilling and food production. Goodyear Tire has conducted studies to help produce more fuel-efficient tires, and Adidas uses the space station to research improvements in the process of making insoles.

Agriculture and land management benefit from space station research, too. Farmers can monitor water use with thermal infrared measurements taken of Earth’s surface from the space station, and another instrument indicates how much carbon is stored in forest canopies.

Equipment on the space station also supports disaster monitoring and responses on Earth. Crew members on the space station can adjust sensors in real time in response to natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, flooding and tsunamis—something satellites cannot do—and relay valuable information to scientists on Earth. Night images taken from the space station help responders check the restoration of electric power after a disaster. Images also help monitor the spread of wildfires and the path of storms so earthbound experts can guide evacuations and rescue operations or the deployment of firefighters.

Researchers in Texas take advantage of the space station for their own work. Larry Kramer, an academic radiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, is working on a study with the Cardiovascular and Vision Laboratory at Johnson Space Center that looks into how space travel affects vision and the brain.

“Vision problems are a major problem for NASA to solve, something they have to worry about as flight duration becomes longer and they contemplate travel to Mars,” Kramer says. “I had experience and was in the right place at the right time.”

The team at Johnson Space Center continually plans experiments, and NASA is flooded with proposals from people wanting to conduct research on the space station, Bartoe says. “A long time ago, the executive director of a national science organization said that research in microgravity is of micro-importance. I think we have clearly proven him wrong.” ■

Stauer Collector's Series

FREE \$99 Binoculars With Knife Purchase

(see details)



Not shown
actual size.

BONUS! Call today and you'll also
receive this heavy duty sheath!

BLADE STUNNER

Beautifully made, magnificent to look at, this knife is a work of art at only \$99

It's not often you happen upon a blade smith who has gem cutting skills. In fact, you stand a better chance finding a needle in a haystack. But finding needles in haystacks is what we do best, so when we saw this master craftsman's handiwork, we made certain to procure some of these Southwestern masterpieces to complete our collection.

The stainless steel blade, bolster and pommel are exquisitely etched and would have looked great with a less ambitious handle. But the results of overachieving are stunning here. The turquoise-blue colored handle is ablaze with assorted stones like jasper, marble, sunstone, and coral that have been hand cut and inlaid in a Southwestern motif that conjures images of intricately beaded belts and moccasins.

Whether you collect blades, interesting stones, or are a lover of the great American Southwest, the **Sedona Knife** is more than cut out to do the job.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Sedona Knife**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in

"...Native American knives have since taken on a more artistic meaning in the modern era...these decorative style knives have become a must-have for any Southwestern home." — PRWeb, 2017

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars

-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
the Sedona Knife



What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



*"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath.
Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."*

— R., Lacey, Washington

your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of the **Sedona Knife**. 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.

Limited Reserves. You could pay nearly \$1,900 for a steel, fixed blade knife with a gemstone handle, but why would you when you can enjoy the superb craftsmanship of the **Sedona Knife** for only \$99. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Sedona Knife \$179*

Offer Code Price Only **\$99** + S&P **Save \$80**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: SEK137-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. SEK137-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use
the offer code versus the listed original
Stauer.com price.



Rating of A+

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding
Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- 5" etched stainless steel blade; 9 1/2" overall length
- Turquoise-colored handle with accent stones including coral, marble, sandstone, tiger's eye, jasper and sunstone
- Leather pouch included

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

Countdown to BLACK FRIDAY

Window and Door Sale!



Our
Biggest
Dollar
Discount
of the
Year

ENDS
NOV 27



When it comes to protection from the elements, your **windows** are **as essential** as your roof and walls. Safeguard your home against drafts and replace your windows and doors **before winter**.

Now offering
virtual
appointments,
too!

November 1st–November 27th only!

\$349^{OFF}
every window¹



\$949^{OFF}
every door¹

★ **Extra 3%** ★
★ **Discount** ★
when you pay for your whole
project with cash or check¹

or

\$0 0 0%
Down Payments Interest
FOR 2 YEARS¹

**There are limited
appointments available**

**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT



an Andersen Company

Call for your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis

Austin:
512-298-1858
Dallas/Fort Worth:
469-606-5229

San Antonio:
210-961-9990
West Texas:
469-458-1925

TopWindowSolution.com

¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to purchase of 3 or more windows and/or doors. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented between 11/1/20 and 11/27/20, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 24 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 24 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio, and by Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. All are independently owned and operated affiliates operating in TX.



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

Giving Thanks for Electric Co-ops

THIS THANKSGIVING, as I reflect on the many reasons for gratitude in my life, I want to share why I am thankful for electric cooperatives.

First, I am thankful for Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative because it provides safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our community. Electricity is a vital part of our modern lives, providing heating and cooling, lighting, convenience in cooking, instantaneous communications, and more.

I'm grateful to be part of an organization that endeavors to make a difference in people's lives because it is the right thing to do. We empower our consumer-members to improve the quality of their lives. We have served residents of our rural area

employ members of the community, providing careers with good wages and meaning.

I'm grateful for a job where I have co-workers who are focused on providing excellent service to members. That service includes providing energy conservation tips so your electricity stays affordable and safety tips so you and your family can stay safe around electricity. After all, we are serving our friends and neighbors.

I'm pleased, too, that we support the community in other economic and charitable ways. TVEC's Operation Round Up, funded entirely by participating members who round up their bills to the next dollar, has contributed more than \$2.3 mil-

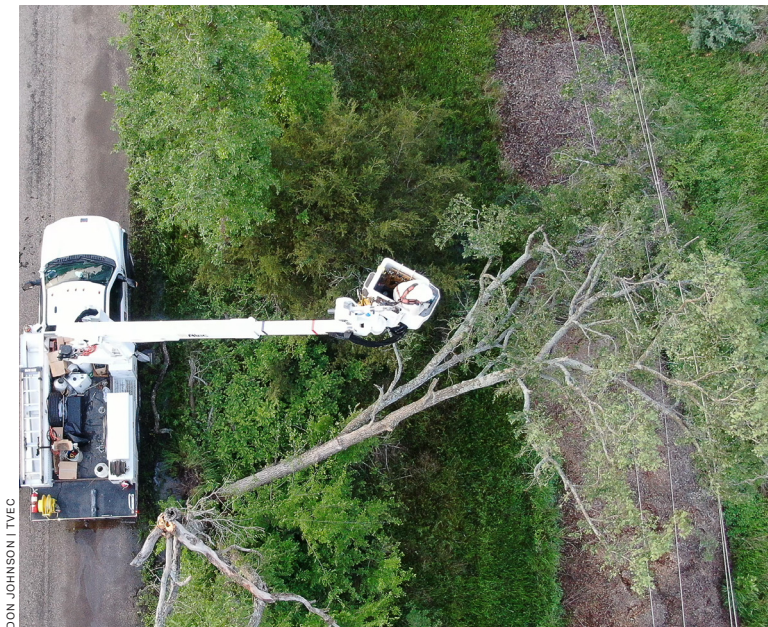
lion to area charitable organizations since 2013. This year, that giving has also allowed for more than \$40,000 in bill-payment assistance grants for fellow TVEC members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It gives me a sense of purpose to know that electric cooperatives are broadening their use of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and hydropower, and that we are contributing to cleaner air. Collectively, across the U.S., co-ops have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by more than 18%.

I'm grateful we are not alone in this business. Across the nation electric cooperatives power 56% of the land-mass and own 42%—or 2.6 million miles—of electrical distribution lines. Together we serve more than 20 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states. We join forces through the

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Texas Electric Cooperatives for political strength, buying power, mutual aid and other shared resources.

Most of all, I'm thankful for each and every co-op member who makes possible the continuation of TVEC—this important business and community supporter. I wish you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving. ■



since before investor-owned utilities would even consider stringing immense quantities of line over many miles to provide electricity to a few, spread-out connections.

I'm proud that TVEC, as a nonprofit organization, makes it routine to return capital credits to our members. Capital credits are any margins returned to you, the consumer-members, after all operating expenses are paid and investments are made and the board votes to issue retirements.

I'm glad that TVEC is part of a network of electric cooperatives across the United States that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. Here at home we



Decorate Safely This Holiday Season

THE HOLIDAY SEASON offers great moments for building memories, but when it comes to decorating, it's also the perfect time to think about safety.

Fire departments look to the holiday season as a time for increased vigilance because the mix of lighting, candles and electrical wiring can be a recipe for tragedy.

Holiday decorations are designed for temporary use, so don't let them become permanent fixtures in your yard. The safety certification company UL classifies holiday lighting as seasonal products designed for no more than 90 days of use. While the actual holiday season runs about six weeks, weather and busy schedules mean outdoor displays are sometimes put up early and taken down late, exposed to the elements the entire time.

It's always important to inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Check for pinches or torn areas on the insulation. Open, exposed wiring or any signs of fraying or pinching are indications of weakened wiring, which can cause a fire.

The U.S. Fire Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and nongovernmental safety organizations also remind consumers that extension cords, whether labeled for indoors or outdoors, are also designed for temporary use only. Household wiring is a solid metal wire, but extension cords are strands of thin wires that are twisted together. That pliability can allow them to break down over time, increasing the chance that they could fail.

Candle use also increases the risk of accidental fires, and experts suggest consumers consider battery-operated LED candles as safer alternatives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, candles start 2 out of every 5 home fires each year, and about 100 Christmas tree fires occur each holiday season, causing about \$12 million in damage annually.

You can reduce your risk by placing your live Christmas tree away from heat sources like vents and space heaters and topping off its water reservoir daily.

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative joins our local firefighters, the NFPA and the CPSC in urging you to consider safety as you decorate and enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. ■

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT US

1800 E. Highway 243
Kaufman, Texas
Local (972) 932-2214
Toll-Free 1-800-766-9576
Web tvec.net

Board of Directors

Howard Tillison, Chairman, District 6
Carolyn Minor, Vice Chairwoman, District 1
Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary, District 4
Jerry Priest, District 2
Paul Weatherford, District 3
Edward Reeve, District 5
David Lang, District 7

General Manager/CEO

Jeff Lane

24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and
to report outages,
please call us.

TOLL-FREE
1-800-967-9324

**AUTOMATED
ASSISTANCE**
1-800-720-3584

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 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net



2020 TVEC Annual Membership Meeting Goes Virtual

IN A YEAR OF EVENTS CANCELED OR CHANGED by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative annual membership meeting became yet another victim of the virus. And while a technological solution helped us carry on with the business at hand, it was clearly not an ideal replacement for the face-to-face meeting we have come to enjoy as a co-op.

Nearly 200 members took part in this year's virtual meeting on October 8, compared to almost 800 members and guests at the annual meeting in 2019.

TVEC General Manager/CEO Jeff Lane noted this year's challenges during his remarks to the membership.

"Despite the difficulties of the year, I can't tell you enough about how well your employees here at the co-op have risen to the challenge of 2020.

Our No. 1 goal has been to safeguard the health and well-being of TVEC members and staff while maintaining a high level of service and reliability," he said. "We have made massive changes to the way our people work, train and interact, with the end result of minimal impact to our operations."

Lane also noted that, even with the economic impact of the pandemic, the population growth in TVEC's service area has continued at a rapid pace.

"Our service territory is primarily rural, but the tremendous growth in our state, and the DFW Metroplex in particular, has meant significant residential development in our area. In 2019 we added 1,953 meters, which is a 2.3% increase," he said. "We also added 97 miles of line, with a 4.1% increase in plant, putting us at just over \$397 million in total utility plant at the end of the year. And for comparison—despite the pandemic—for 2020 we have already topped the growth in meters with 2,103 added through the end of August, represent-



TVEC Board Secretary Jo Ann Hanstrom reads the announcement of the TVEC Annual Membership Meeting and determination of quorum during the virtual annual meeting October 8. A total of 2,124 valid ballots were received by the deadline, meeting the quorum requirement of 3% of the membership, or 1,690 ballots.

ing a 3% increase. We've also added 56 miles of line and \$12.6 million in total utility plant."

The growth may be ongoing, but Lane also noted that the pandemic's negative economic impact was certainly felt by some TVEC members, and he was proud of the co-op's response to help members in need.

"Along with our focus on maintaining the key mission of delivering reliable electric service, we've also been able to assist members facing financial hardships in this time of crisis," Lane said. "In mid-March, we stopped disconnecting power and charging late fees for nonpayment. The TVEC Charitable Foundation has also provided more than \$40,000 in funding for bill-payment assistance to TVEC members. This funding was made possible by your generous donations to Operation Round Up, so we thank you for your participation in that program. Now, as we resume our normal billing and payment procedures, we are making every effort to assist our members in need."

Members viewing the virtual meeting also heard a report on the co-op's finances from Kacey Gast, a partner with the auditing firm Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss.

"Your annual audit is required by the co-ops lenders and the co-op's bylaws," Gast said. "Your net margin ended up being very comparable to last year. The co-op retired about \$5 million in capital credits and produced positive cash flow from operations.

Overall the cooperative appears to be in good financial condition, and we did not have any findings to report."

Kenneth Von Tungeln of Calvetti Ferguson was on hand to report the results of the 2020 TVEC Board of Directors election. In District 1, incumbent board member Carolyn Minor retained her seat, with 1,666 votes. Ronda Jones received 380 votes, and there were four write-in votes.

In districts 4 and 5, incumbents Jo Ann Hanstrom and Ed Reeve were unopposed on the ballot and were reelected their seats. The full election results, including write-in candidates and vote totals is available on tvec.net.

The meeting may have been virtual, but Lane noted that the co-op's history and resilience give it a great footing to carry on when 2020's dramatic events are just a memory. 60152643001

"Co-ops started as a community project, and we still have that spirit today," he said. "Friends and neighbors working to provide a service that is even more necessary and essential today than it was 82 years ago, when this thing got started. Thank you, and I hope to see you all next year in person."



TVEC board members watch General Manager/CEO Jeff Lane's presentation while maintaining social distancing during the co-op's annual online annual meeting October 8.



TVEC Director of Corporate Relations Bobbi Byford, Director of Technology Jerry Woolston and Public Relations Representative Laura Melton interact with meeting attendees via online chat during the annual meeting presentation.

ing to provide a service that is even more necessary and essential today than it was 82 years ago, when this thing got started. Thank you, and I hope to see you all next year in person." ■

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 November 30 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner!

Change Air Filters All Winter Long

YOU DUTIFULLY CHANGED your air conditioning system's filter every month or two over the summer—right? And now that the weather is cooling off, you might think that job is finished until next summer.

It's not.

Your central heating system also relies on a filter to catch dust, dirt, pet hair and other airborne particles that can clog the system, slow it down and even make it blow that stuff back into your rooms.

A clogged filter restricts airflow, and that can force the system's blower to work harder. This can shorten the life of the equipment, causing it to overheat, break down or unnecessarily increase your heating bill.

That's why it's important to change the filter regularly during cooling and heating seasons. In fact, most heating, ventilating and air conditioning system manufacturers recommend monthly changes all year long.

Especially if you have pets, if you live in a dusty climate, or if someone in your home smokes or suffers from allergies, regular filter changes are critical to keeping your HVAC system in good shape and your family comfortable. ■



WALTRAUD INGERL | ISTOCK.COM

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 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 regístrase 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.

CT787FAN | ISTOCK.COM



Operation Round Up Puts Your Change to Good Use

Thanks to your generosity through Operation Round Up, the TVEC Charitable Foundation continues to be a major force for good in the TVEC service area.

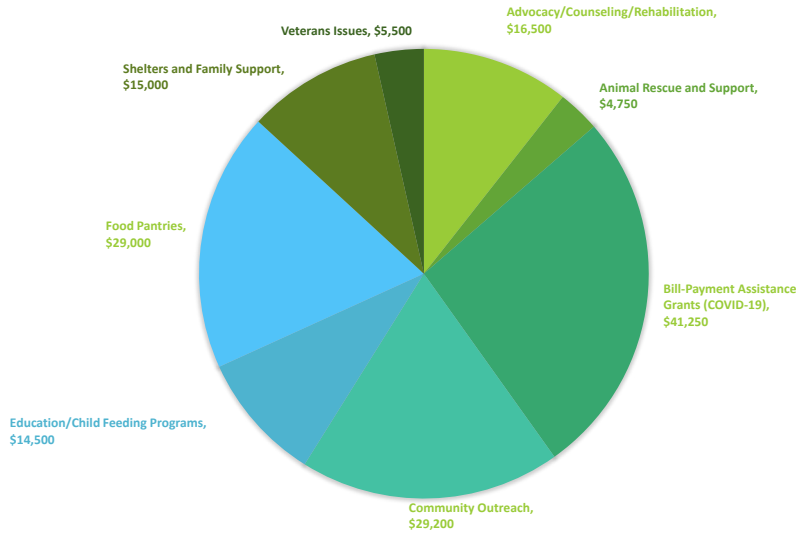
Your gifts now add up to almost \$2.4 million in grants since the program's inception in 2013. That includes support for local fire departments, health and family wellness, veterans issues, food pantries, and bill-payment assistance.

For a full list of grant recipients and Operation Round Up information, visit tvec.net.

Your Generosity in Action

THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION recently awarded one grant totaling \$5,000, bringing total bill-payment assistance grants for 2020 to over \$40,000.

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020



Happy Thanksgiving

May the good things of life be yours
in abundance not only at Thanksgiving
but throughout the coming year.



Sweet on Crab Apples

Tart fruit from the uncommon native trees makes for enduring memories

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

JEFFERY SWIERC thinks of his late mother whenever he's tending her 1940s pressure cooker filled with cherry-sized Texas crab apples. Growing up, he'd watch her turn the mouth-puckering fruit into tasty jelly every fall. Years later he still follows the same recipe passed down to his mother, Lorrane Swierc, by his grandmother and great-grandmother.

"We used to help Mother pick crab apples from two big trees on our ranch, but they rotted and died more than 15 years ago," recalls Jeffery Swierc, who lives with his brother, Zachary, on property they inherited in northeastern Kendall County, which is served by Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

When their great-grandfather Emil Kuebel bought the original 1,280-acre ranch in 1883, Texas crab apples—also called Blanco crab apples—thrived in Kendall, Kerr, Blanco and Gillespie counties. Their abundance inspired such local names in southwestern Blanco County as Crabapple Road, Crabapple Creek and Crabapple School. In Gillespie County, German settlers established the community of Crabapple along a different Crabapple Creek and built their own Crabapple School, which still stands on Lower Crabapple Road north of Fredericksburg.

Native only to the Edwards Plateau, the thorny and thickly branched Texas crab apple forms dense thickets from underground roots and can reach a height of 15 feet. In April they bear fragrant pink or white flowers that produce hard, yellow-green fruit.

For 20 years David Winningham, a Bandera Electric Cooperative member, has germinated and sold Texas crab apples at his Natives of Texas nursery midway between Medina and Kerrville. "Crab apples make a great accent tree because of their thick foliage," he says. "In the spring they're covered with flowers and in the fall with fruit."

Wilson Blackburn, a Pedernales EC member who lives on the Kendall County family farm where he grew up, remembers when Texas crab apples were common. "Then screwworms were eradicated in the 1960s," he says, referring to the parasite that decimated cattle and reduced deer populations from the 1930s into the 1950s. "So as white-tailed deer increased, crab apples began to die out."

Deer still get blamed for the shrinking number of crab apples in the Hill Country. "Seedlings don't have a chance because deer come along and browse

them," says Robert Edmonson, a biologist with the Texas A&M Forest Service in Johnson City.

Both wild and cultivated crab apples stand little chance of surviving without protection. "I recommend placing cages at least 4 feet tall around trees to keep them from being browsed and deer rubbing the trunks," says Edmonson, a Pedernales EC member. "These cages can serve a dual purpose in that any seed that falls inside the area will be protected from browsing."

Years ago on the Swierc ranch, an uncle fenced off the family's last crab apple motte. The enclosure, constructed of steel wire mesh and T-bar stakes, guards more than 20 shrubby trees. A few put on fruit but not enough to make jelly. So Jeffery Swierc replenishes his crab apple supply from trees on a neighbor's ranch.

"When the apples are ripe, we put tarps under the branches and shake the trees," he explains. "That's the easiest way to collect the crab apples. You can't climb the trees because they're too thorny."

Swierc boils the apples for half an hour on the stove. Using a wooden pestle, he presses the juice from the soft fruit through a vintage metal ricer, a cone-shaped sieve designed for mashing potatoes. "A gallon of fruit, which makes four dozen half-pint jars, calls for 7 cups of juice and 9 cups of sugar. I also add a little red food coloring, like Mother always did."

Starting in the late '70s, Lorrane Swierc faithfully made and donated crab apple jelly to her church's fall bazaar in Blanco. The jars, labeled with her name and "Wild Crabapple Jelly," never failed to sell out. "I helped Mother make it for the last time in October 2005," Jeffery Swierc says. "She was 86 years old. The following January, she passed."

In her honor he continued the tradition of donating crab apple jelly to the church's annual fundraisers. Sadly, the bazaars were canceled for good in 2019. Though he misses the event, Swierc plans to continue jarring his jelly, labeled under his name, to give to family and friends.

"Whenever I drive by our Blanco crab apples, I always think how lucky I am to have a part of my family's legacy," he says. "We're going to continue to preserve and take care of the trees for the next generation." ■



Relieve Back & Pelvis Pain And **STOP SUFFERING TODAY!**



Was ~~\$29.99~~ **SAVE \$10.00** off original price **Now Only \$19.99**

FREE SHIPPING!

Helps Eliminate:

- Lumbar Instability
- Hip/Back/Pelvis Pain
- Arthritis & Hip Bursitis Pain
- Sacroiliac Joint Inflammation



WITHOUT



WITH

**Perfect
For
Men
&
Women**

**Undetectable
Under
Clothing**

**Helps Pain While Flattening
Muffin Top & Lifting Hips**



WITHOUT



WITH

Pain Reducer Also Helps Flatten "Muffin Top"!

If you suffer from lumbar pain, a misaligned pelvis or pelvis tilt, you need to try our Spine Align Back Brace! Lightweight material of nylon, poly/spandex, import with an adjustable one touch closure, provides the perfect fit to bring stability and relief to your back and pelvis area. When you are properly aligned, it also helps to reduce pain and inflammation in your hips and legs. Criss-cross dual tension straps provide stable support and even compression to your spine, keeping you in proper alignment, while the comfortably snug band helps to flatten that muffin area we all fight.

Source Code. 79295 © Dream Products. (Prices valid for 1yr.)

Item #370213 - Spine Align Back Brace

Size Fits Waist	Small (212) 32"-38"	Medium (213) 39"-45"	Large (214) 46"-52"
Indicate Qty			

____ Spine Align Back Brace @ \$19.99 ea. \$

*Add applicable State & Local SALES TAX on the Subtotal \$

FREE SHIPPING \$ FREE

Add \$2.00 Handling (each) \$

Please Print Clearly

Total \$

Send order to Dream Products, 412 Dream Lane,
P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690

☐ VISA ☐ American Express
☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover®/NOVUS™ Cards

Exp. Date

Card#

Name

Address

City ST Zip

Daytime Phone #

Email

**Source
Code 79295**

To receive this offer on the web, you
MUST input the source code when ordering

Order Now Toll-Free
1-800-530-2689

M-F 6am-1am CST
S-S 6am-9pm CST

Connect With
DreamProducts.com
website offers may vary

*We may be required to collect sales tax.
Please visit DreamProducts.com
FAQ page if you need more information.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or
Return For Your Money Back

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

YOU NEED →

**MOBILE HOME
ROOFOVER
SYSTEMS**



Since 1983

PERMA-ROOF®
from **Southern Builders**

Contact us at **800.633.8969** or **roofover.com**

**Bank C.D.'s Due?
CALL US NOW**

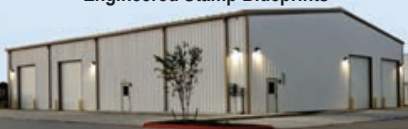
1-800-359-4940 TEXAS
TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710
Serving Customers All Over Texas

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C.
All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered
thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC
700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

RHINO®
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
Engineered Stamp Blueprints



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINO.BUILDERS/TX **940-304-8068**
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

WE BUY MINERALS



We pay cash for **producing**
or **non-producing** mineral interests.

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

**BRUSH
SHARK**

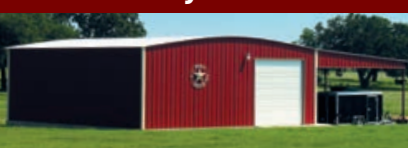


SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

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

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

WD METAL BUILDINGS
Turn-Key Solutions



- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Welded Metal Buildings
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

Instant Prices at WDMB.com

FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.



ELLISON MARINE • FRANKLIN, TX.
45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE



Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • ellisonmarine@yahoo.com

TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now

TexasCoopPower.com/shop

TCP

GIFT GUIDE
Bonus

Prevent Bruises



Guaranteed To Work!



**Stop Arm Bruises
and Protect Thin Skin**

Soft leather protective sleeves contour to hands and arms. Comfortable and effective with adjustable airflow, making them cooler than long sleeves. See website to learn the 30+ benefits and 100's of uses.

651-492-4830 | www.armchaps.com

TCP

GIFT GUIDE
Bonus



Step Up Your Storage

The Yukon 46" mobile work station and 9 drawer storage cabinet both feature solid wood top work surfaces, plenty of storage space, smooth and strong door slides and durable casters.

800-423-2567 | harborfreight.com

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

3-Ply Disposable Face Masks ★★★★★ (2371)

Pack of 10

\$2.99

~~\$4.99~~

Save 40%

Non-medical.

Use Online & In-Store

33171962 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

ITEM 57593

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH #1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA ★★★★★ (1796)

Rapid Pump® 1.5 Ton Lightweight Aluminum Floor Jack

\$59.99

~~\$79.99~~

Save \$103

Compare to K Tool KT163094 \$168.09

ITEM 64552 64832/64980 64545 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33178046 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 12/17/20*

WOW! SUPER COUPON

SAVE 75%

★★★★★ (8122)

PITTSBURGH

4-in-1 Screwdriver

\$1.99

~~WOW! 74¢~~

Compare to HOX 120SD12D \$2.97

ITEM 39431 69470 61988 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33182605 Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

Use Online & In-Store

33170194

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot, Sale Item, compressor, floor jack, power stations, sales, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, welders, Adrenaline, Atlas, Atlas Power, Clavier, Central Machinery, Color CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Drummond, Earthquake, Facel, Hercules, Icon, Jupiter, Lynx, Poulson, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupons must be presented. Valid through 12/17/20.

SUPER COUPON

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC ★★★★★ (4093)

3 Gallon, 100 psi Oil-Free Air Compressors

YOUR CHOICE

\$39.99

~~\$54.99~~

Save 59%

Compare to Porter-Cable PCFP02003 \$98.62

ITEM 60632/61615 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33184317 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

7 ft. 4" x 9 ft. 6" ★★★★★ (2385)

All Purpose/Weather Resistant Tarp

\$2.99

~~\$4.99~~

Save 72%

Compare to Blue Hawk 86X10-Y \$10.98

ITEM 69115/69121/69129 69131/69249/6977 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33189633 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

200 Lumen LED Super Bright Flip Light ★★★★★ (6057)

\$1.99

~~\$3.99~~

Save 60%

Compare to Premier SW-SWITCH-12/24 \$4.99

ITEM 64723/64189 63922 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33196513 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

U.S. GENERAL ★★★★★ (1712)

30", 5 Drawer Mechanic's Cart

YOUR CHOICE OF 7 COLORS

\$199.99

~~\$239.99~~

Save \$630

Compare to Snap-on Blue-Point KBBC10TBPS \$830

ITEM 64030, 64722, 64031, 64721, 64061, 64720, 56429

Use Online & In-Store

33197851 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

CENT-TECH ★★★★★ (2324)

3-in-1 Portable Power Pack with Jump Starter

\$59.99

~~\$69.99~~

Save 33%

Compare to DieHard SLIC0120 \$89.99

ITEM 64083 56349/62306 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33199609 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster ★★★★★ (5060)

18" Working Platform Step Stool

\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~

Save 50%

Compare to Neocraft 60635 \$39.99

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33204464 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR ★★★★★ (1551)

2000w Super Quiet Inverter Generator

\$449.99

~~\$499.99~~

Save \$599

Compare to Honda EU2200ITA \$1,049

ITEM 62523

Use Online & In-Store

33207735 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

Heavy Duty Foldable Aluminum Sports Chairs ★★★★★ (5300)

YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR

\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~

Save 64%

Compare to Coleman 635394 \$56.49

ITEM 63066/62314 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33208929 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

0.30 cal. Ammo Box ★★★★★ (7479)

Bunker Hill

\$34.99

~~\$59.99~~

Save 65%

Compare to RangeMaxx 1312-92 \$9.99

ITEM 63135/61451 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33213614 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

BADLAND ★★★★★ (2353)

2500 lb. Electric Winch with Wireless Remote Control

\$54.99

~~\$69.99~~

Save 35%

Compare to Ironon 54123 \$84.99

ITEM 61258/61297/63476 61840 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33216390 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

HARDY ★★★★★ (337)

Mechanics Gloves

\$4.99

~~\$5.49~~

Save 53%

Compare to Valeo 26521 \$10.64

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62423, 62432, 62425, 64179, 62428, 64178 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33216986 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH ★★★★★ (3957)

LIFETIME WARRANTY

130 Piece Tool Kit with Case

\$29.99

~~\$39.99~~

Save 60%

Compare to Anvil A137HOS \$75.88

ITEM 68998/64263 63246/64080 63091 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33219974 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

THUNDERBOLT solar ★★★★★ (890)

100w Solar Panel Kit

\$189.99

~~\$199.99~~

Save \$10

RENEWABLE ANYWHERE

CHARGES ON A CLOUDY DAY

Use Online & In-Store

33240666 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 12/17/20*

ITEM 63585

SUPER COUPON

WARRIOR ★★★★★ (4389)

3 Piece Hex Shank Socket Driver Set

\$2.99

~~\$4.99~~

Save 80%

Compare to Dewalt DWA2240IR \$14.98

ITEM 63909/63928 65513 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33245762 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

ARMSTRONG ★★★★★ (3586)

17" to 42" Swivel/Tilt TV Wall Mount

\$9.99

~~\$16.99~~

Save 65%

Compare to Peerless ET2P2X2 \$28.99

ITEM 64238

Use Online & In-Store

33248286 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

SUPER COUPON

Quantum ★★★★★ (5391)

588 Lumen Tactical Flashlight

\$9.99

~~\$13.99~~

Save 83%

Compare to Streamlight ProTac 1L \$59.99

ITEM 64799/63934 shown

Use Online & In-Store

33265803 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 12/17/20*

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 12/17/20.

Pricing, promotions, and availability may vary by location and at www.harborfreight.com and are subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantities. "Compare to" advertised price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "compare to" should be implied. Although we make every effort to ensure that our prices and products are advertised as accurately as possible, we are only human and in the event an error is made, we reserve the right to correct it.



Toeing the Line

How a Washington connection helped Texas keep a 900-square-mile slice of New Mexico

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

YOU CAN NEVER underestimate the value of a good friendship forged early in life. If not for one such friendship, Texas would be more than 900 square miles smaller.

Before I get to the friendship, come with me up to the northwest corner of the Panhandle, where Texas meets Oklahoma and New Mexico. If you look closely at a map, you see that the border between Oklahoma and New Mexico doesn't meet up exactly with the border between Texas and New Mexico. The northern Texas border continues 2.3 miles west before heading straight south, essentially notching into New

Mexico. That jog is the result of a mistake some have called the worst survey error in U.S. history.

In truth, that land should have gone to New Mexico. The border between Texas and the New Mexico Territory was to be exactly along the 103rd meridian, same as the border between Oklahoma and New Mexico.

John H. Clark was hired to do the Texas survey in 1859. He started from the south and surveyed northward until he ran out of access to water. He figured: No problem, I'll just go up to the north end of Texas and work my way down and connect to this spot.

Clark started again northwest of present-day Dalhart, at a spot that was a couple of miles to the west of where he should have been. He headed south, marking his way, until Native Americans ran him off. He was just 70 miles from connecting the line to where he left off in the south, so he connected the dots on the map and turned in his work. Sadly, he never would have connected with his earlier starting point. He would have missed it by more than a mile to the west. His northern starting point was 2.3 miles west of where it should have been, and his southern corner was nearly 3.8 miles west of the correct point. The error amounted to an extra 603,348 acres, or 942 square miles, for Texas.

By the time New Mexico was set to achieve statehood, state leaders knew about the error and slipped a clause into the statehood legislation that said that the eastern boundary would be the true 103rd meridian. Thus, New Mexico would get its land back. Nobody seemed to be paying attention to the state's intentions except John Farwell, an original investor in the XIT Ranch in Texas. He realized that the XIT would lose hundreds of thousands of acres—and mineral rights—if the New Mexico plan went through.

Farwell had been good friends with President William Howard Taft during college at Yale University. He went to see his old buddy and explained the predicament. Taft summoned powerful men to his office and told them the Clark border would be the legal border when New Mexico became a state, or it would remain a territory.

And that is how a survey error, along with an old friendship, made Texas almost a thousand square miles bigger than it was supposed to be. Once again, it's about who you know. ■

Cookie Swap

Get to know people and recipes with a sweet exchange

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Cookie swaps are a wonderful way to get your sugary holiday fix while learning a bit about the other swappers. I feel like you can tell a lot about people from what kinds of cookies end up on the table, whether there are classic thumbprints or delicate macarons. Because bourbon balls don't require baking, they are a perfect treat to make while your other holiday cookies have their stint in the oven. While I use graham crackers here, vanilla wafers or gingersnaps are also options. Go with your favorite—or whatever you already have on hand.

Bourbon Balls

2 cups crushed graham crackers
1¼ cups powdered sugar, divided use
1 cup finely chopped pecans
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ cup bourbon
2 tablespoons pure maple syrup

COOK'S TIP To make these nonalcoholic, use apple juice in place of the bourbon.

1. In a large bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, 1 cup powdered sugar, pecans, cocoa and cinnamon.
2. Whisk together bourbon and maple syrup, then add to dry ingredients. Stir together until everything is evenly moistened. If the mixture looks too dry, add more bourbon and syrup, a small amount at a time. The mixture should clump easily when squeezed.
3. Form mixture into small balls by hand. On a flat surface, roll balls in remaining ¼ cup of powdered sugar and then place them on a waxed paper-lined plate or tray. Chill to let the flavors meld before serving.

MAKES 2 DOZEN COOKIES

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Raspberry Jam Cookies.





Chocolate Chip Ginger Wheels

NANCY FILER
COSERV

These big cookies are a great option for mailing to friends and family thanks to molasses, which keeps the treats soft and tender. For the ones you keep for yourself, Filer recommends wrapping each baked cookie individually in plastic wrap to freeze and enjoy as desired.

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened**
- 3 teaspoons baking soda**
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger**
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard**
- 1 teaspoon instant coffee**
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- 1¼ cups sugar, divided use**
- 1 cup molasses**
- 1 egg**
- 4¾ cups flour**
- ¾ cup milk**
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips**
- 1 cup chopped nuts**

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and line two cookie sheets with parchment.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, mustard, coffee, cloves and salt. Blend in 1 cup sugar, then molasses and egg.
3. Mix in the flour, alternating with the milk. Stir in chocolate chips and chopped nuts. The dough will be somewhat sticky.
4. Measure a scant ¼ cup of dough and place on parchment-lined baking sheet, spacing cookies 2 inches apart.

CONTINUED >

\$500 WINNER

Mocha Wedge Cookies

MELISSA SEXSON
PANOLA-HARRISON EC



This recipe was inspired by Sexson's grandmother, who baked butter cookies with a light raspberry glaze. "I love the combination of chocolate and coffee flavors, so I came up with these cookies, which my family and friends all love," Sexson says. If you can't find espresso powder, use ground espresso.

MAKES 16 COOKIES



COOKIES

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened**
- ¼ cup sugar**
- ½ cup packed dark brown sugar**
- ⅛ teaspoon salt**
- 2½ cups flour**
- ⅓ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips**

TOPPING

- ½ teaspoon espresso powder**
- ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon**
- 1½ tablespoons hot water**
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup**
- Sparkling or sanding sugar**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Coat two 8-inch round cake pans with nonstick spray and set aside
2. **COOKIES** In a large mixing bowl, cream butter, sugar, brown sugar and salt. Incorporate flour in thirds, using a sturdy spoon to mix. The dough will be crumbly.
3. Once the flour is mixed in, use your hands to continue mixing dough together and forming clumps with your hands. Mix in chocolate chips by hand.
4. Remove dough to a clean surface and knead for a few minutes until dough is evenly moistened and holds together well. If needed, sprinkle on 1 teaspoon of water to moisten.
5. Divide dough into halves and press each into a prepared cake pan, making sure to create an even layer all the way to the edges. Use a fork to prick holes over the surface of the dough.
6. Bake 25–30 minutes, until golden brown on top, rotating pans halfway through. Remove pans and immediately invert onto a clean cutting board. As soon as rounds are turned out, cut each into 8 wedges.
7. **TOPPING** In a small bowl, combine espresso powder and cinnamon. Whisk in hot water, then corn syrup. Using a pastry brush, brush each cookie wedge lightly with syrup mixture. Sprinkle each with sparkling or sanding sugar, then cool completely.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HERBS DUE NOV 10

Fresh herbs can elevate almost any dish. From basil to rosemary and dill to mint, we're looking for your best recipes using herbs. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by November 10.

RECIPES CONTINUED

5. Pour remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar into a shallow bowl or onto a rimmed plate. Wet the bottom of a glass with water, then dip glass into sugar. Press the glass onto each cookie to flatten slightly, leaving sugar on the cookies. Bake 12–15 minutes.

MAKES 2 DOZEN LARGE COOKIES

Lemon Bonbons

LONNA RANADA
COSERV

These tender cookies, first made by Ranada's mother, have a burst of lemon flavor thanks to the easy frosting. Be sure to sift the powdered sugar before measuring to remove any large lumps, which can make the cookies and frosting thicker than desired.

COOKIES

$1\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup cornstarch



$\frac{1}{2}$ cup powdered sugar
1 cup (2 sticks) butter
1 teaspoon almond extract

FROSTING

1 tablespoon butter, softened
2 cups powdered sugar, divided use
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1–2 teaspoons heavy cream

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. **COOKIES** In a large bowl, mix together flour, cornstarch and powdered sugar. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two butter knives, much like mixing a pie crust. Once mixture resembles coarse

sand, sprinkle in almond extract, then continue mixing until dough forms large clumps.

3. Scoop dough into small balls and place on cookie sheets. Bake 10–12 minutes, until edges just begin to brown. Let cookies cool on cookie sheets for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

4. **FROSTING** Mix softened butter with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup powdered sugar, then blend in lemon juice. Add remaining sugar a little bit at a time, then blend in cream. For a thinner glaze, add more cream until frosting reaches desired consistency. Frost cooled cookies, then let frosting set before serving.

MAKES 2 DOZEN COOKIES

TCP WEB EXTRA Don't stop swapping. We have nearly 900 recipes in our archive, including dozens for cookies. Help yourselves.

FREE Gift!
when you order within 30 days
Now get an Uncirculated National Park quarter!



45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

Special Offer for New Customers Only
☒ **YES!** Please send me the complete 6-Coin Set of Uncirculated 2018-2020 Native American Dollars for the special price of \$6.00 – regularly \$19.95, plus Free Shipping (limit 1 set). Also, send my FREE National Park Quarter (one per customer, please).

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	6-Coin Collector's Set (limit 1 set)	\$6.00
	*Sales Tax	
	FREE Shipping!	TOTAL \$

*We are required by law to collect and remit sales tax for all states except FL and MO. Please add the appropriate state and local tax for your order. For your convenience, all orders paid by credit card will have the appropriate sales tax applied at that time. Tax requirements are subject to change at any time. Please visit LittletonCoin.com/TaxInfo for the most up-to-date list of taxable categories by state.

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.

Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

Card #: Exp. Date /

Name Please print clearly

Address Apt#

City State Zip

E-Mail

Please send coupon to:

Littleton Coin Company Dept. 5VD414
1309 Mt. Eustis Road
Serving Collectors Since 1945 Littleton NH 03561-3737



Complete 6-Coin Set of 2018-2020 Uncirculated Native American Dollars



Each dollar's date and mint mark is on the coin's edge.

- ✓ All 6 P&D coins of 2018-2020
- ✓ All Uncirculated
- ✓ Each design struck only for one year
- ✓ Free Gift – an Uncirculated National Park quarter!
- ✓ SAVE OVER 65%, plus get FREE shipping

At face value!

Now own a complete 6-coin "P" & "D" set of Native American dollars for just \$6.00! You'll get the last three years of this series, with reverse designs honoring sports legend Jim Thorpe, and the Native American contributions of Mary Golda Ross and Elizabeth Peratrovich. Each was struck one year only, and never again. Plus, each Philadelphia "P" & Denver "D" issue is in mint Uncirculated condition.

SAVE, plus get FREE Shipping!

Order today and get the latest six coins of this prized series in a complete Uncirculated set – at face value! Plus, you get **FREE** shipping and **SAVE OVER 65%** off the regular price of \$19.95!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. Hurry, special low price – order right away!

Mail today or order online at www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials

COLLIN STREET BAKERY

— Baked in Corsicana, Texas since 1896 —



*Bringing Friends & Family
Together Across Generations*

You haven't tasted REAL fruitcake until you've tasted Collin Street DeLuxe® Fruitcake! It truly puts ordinary fruitcake to shame. This is why people around the world have come back to us year after year, ordering our fruitcake as gifts for their families, friends - and themselves! We honor that trust with every single order, using the same time-honored recipe we started with in 1896. Every shipment guaranteed fresh, moist and delicious.

Our Customers Say -

"...It outstrips all cakes I have ever tasted (including my mother's)."

"Throughout the office it was unanimous that none of us had ever met a fruitcake we liked. We had one of your FABULOUS DeLuxe® Fruitcakes at work this past week and changed our tune."

"It is made just the way I like Christmas cakes to be, rich and moist, and totally packed with fruit and nuts - I am almost ashamed to say that I consumed one whole one myself - in the space of a week I hasten to add."



FREE!

Shipping on orders
over \$55.00

No. 101 Regular Size DeLuxe® (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20)	\$29.95
No. 102 Medium Size DeLuxe® (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30)	\$42.95
No. 113 Apricot Pecan Cake (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20)	\$29.95
No. 175 Apricot Pecan Cake (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30)	\$42.95
No. 115 Pineapple Pecan Cake (1 lb. 14 oz., serves 16-20)	\$29.95
No. 149 Pineapple Pecan Cake (2 lbs. 14 oz., serves 24-30)	\$42.95

FREE STANDARD U.S. SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$55.

For orders under \$55, please add \$6.95 per U.S. shipment, for products above.

Not valid on orders previously placed. Not valid with other offers.

Offer expires December 10, 2020.

Order at www.collinstreet.com or phone 1-800-292-7400

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Diners Club ☐ Discover

Please send order/gift list to:

Collin Street Bakery

P.O. Box 79, Corsicana, TX 75151

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card

OFFER CODE

010331

Required



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Road Trip Relics

The U-Drop Inn still entices travelers to pull off Route 66 in Shamrock

BY CHET GARNER

TEXANS LOVE a good road trip.

With the advent of the automobile in the early 20th century, road-tripping became a pastime as important as baseball and barbecue. With the completion of Route 66, the Mother Road of America, road trippers needed rest stops to refuel gas tanks and stomachs. The U-Drop Inn Café in Shamrock stood ready to serve.

The first time I saw the U-Drop Inn, I was traveling the Texas stretch of Route 66 that slices across the Panhandle. Fifteen miles west of Oklahoma, I found the High Plains town of Shamrock, known for the tallest water tower in Texas. But another tower, a cream-colored column with glowing green neon atop an art deco gas station, caught my attention. It was the U-Drop Inn and Tower Station, one of the iconic stops along historic Route 66. The distinctive architecture even inspired a building in *Cars*, the Pixar animated feature about a forgotten highway town.

Built in 1936, the Tower Station was open 24 hours a day and connected with U-Drop Inn Café, which also kept long hours to serve weary travelers. The U-Drop became famous as the best stop between Oklahoma City and Amarillo. Even Elvis Presley dropped in on occasion. The diner no longer offers food but now serves visitors a glimpse into the past. I roamed through, wishing I could park at a booth and order a blue-plate special.

The rest of the building is now a visitors center catering to folks from all over the world who travel the Mother Road. The world map was cluttered with pushpins noting visitors from more than 100 countries. To them, Route 66 and classic stops like the U-Drop Inn signify freedom—the sort of freedom that can only be found on the open road. ■

ABOVE The Tower Station and U-Drop Inn as it looks today.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the U-Drop Inn Café in Shamrock 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.

NOVEMBER

07

Corpus Christi Harbor Half Marathon, (361) 884-6561, harborhalf.com

Kerrville Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet, (830) 459-6198, kerrmarketcdays.org

New Braunfels Fall Walk, (830) 660-4935, my.ava.org/find-an-event.php

Tyler [7-8] Texas Rose Fall Horse Trials, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

Georgetown [7-15] Field of Honor, (951) 834-3301, georgetowntxfieldofhonor.org

10

Bryan Messina Hof U.S. Marine Corps Ball, (979) 778-9463, messinahof.com/events

11

Grapevine Paint Your Pet, (817) 442-8463, messinahof.com/events

Ozona Veterans Day Appreciation Banquet, (325) 392-2827, ozona.com/eventscalendar

12

New Braunfels [12-14] Shop, Crop & Craft, (830) 221-4011, heirloompro.com

13

Palestine [13-Dec. 27] The Polar Express, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

14

Denison Holiday at the Market, (469) 712-9122, downtowndenisonfarmersmarket.com

20

Kingsbury Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels Fly-In, (830) 639-4162, pioneerflightmuseum.org

Santa Fe Heritage Festival, (409) 925-8558, santafetexaschamber.com

Tyler [14-15] North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Year-End Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

Corsicana Christmas Tree Lighting and Fireworks Display, (903) 654-4850, visitcorsicana.com

Alpine [20-21] Artwalk, (432) 294-1071, artwalkalpine.com

Giddings [20-21] Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival, (979) 542-2716, texaswordwrangler.com

Fredericksburg [20-22] Fredericksburg Trade Days, (210) 846-4094, fbgtradedays.com

Ingram [20-21, 27-28, Dec. 4-5, 11-12] Inspecting Carol, (830) 367-5121, hcacf.com

21

Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair, (903) 268-1598, jacksonvilletexas.com

Seguin Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament, (830) 379-0933, texagedu.org/texasholdemtournament

Tyler [21-22] Dallas Hunter Jumper Scholarship Circuit Year-End Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

26

Lake Jackson [26-27] Turkey Trot 5K, (979) 285-2501, lakejacksonturkeytrot.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$7,995 INSTALLED!



ONYX SHOWERS FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 15 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.



888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com



TRISH RAWLS

Fredericksburg Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win a two-night getaway in picturesque Fredericksburg, including a half-day wine tour, museum passes and gift certificates for great local restaurants.

TCP Enter Today

TexasCoopPower.com/Contests

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

2. Publication Number
0540-560

3. Filing Date
October 1, 2020

4. Issue Frequency
Monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually
Twelve

6. Annual Subscription Price
\$7.50

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4)
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
Publisher
Texas Electric Cooperatives, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Texas 78701-2167

Editor
Charles Lohmann, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701

Managing Editor
Karen Nejtek, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701

10. Owner
Full Name
Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., is a nonprofit association of rural ECs organized as a cooperative membership corporation under Article 1528b, Texas Civil Statutes. Its members are: Bailey County ECA, Muleshoe; Bandera EC, Bandera; Bartlett EC, Bartlett; Big Country EC, Roby; Bluebonnet EC, Giddings; Bowie-Cass EC, Douglassville; Brazos EC, Waco; Bryan Texas Utilities, Bryan; Central Texas EC, Fredericksburg; Cherokee County ECA, Rusk; Coleman County EC, Coleman; Comanche County ECA, Comanche; Concho Valley EC, San Angelo; CoServ EC, Corinth; Deaf Smith EC, Hereford; Deep East Texas EC, San Augustine; East Texas EC, Nacogdoches; Fannin County EC, Bonham; Farmers EC, Greenville; Fayette EC, LaGrange; Fort Belknap EC, Olney; Golden Spread EC, Amarillo; Grayson-Collin EC, Van Alstyne; Greenbelt EC, Wellington; Guadalupe Valley EC, Gonzales; Hamilton County ECA, Hamilton; Harmon EA, Hollis, Oklahoma; Heart of Texas EC, McGregor; HILCO EC, Itasca; Houston County EC, Crockett; J-A-C EC, Bluegrove; Jackson EC, Edna; Jasper-Newton EC, Kirbyville; Karnes EC, Karnes City; Lamar County ECA, Paris; Lamb County EC, Littlefield; Lea County EC, Lovington, New Mexico; Lighthouse EC, Floydada; Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin; Lyntegar EC, Tahoka; Magic Valley EC, Mercedes; Medina EC, Hondo; MidSouth EC, Navasota; Navarro County EC, Corsicana; Navasota Valley EC, Franklin; North Plains EC, Perryton; Northeast Texas EC, Longview; Nueces EC, Robstown; Panola-Harrison EC, Marshall; Pedernales EC, Johnson City; PenTex Energy, Muenster; Rayburn Country EC, Rockwall; Rio Grande EC, Brackettville; Rita Blanca EC, Dalhart; Rusk County EC, Henderson; Sam Houston EC, Livingston; San Bernard EC, Belville; San Miguel EC, Jourdanton; San Patricio EC, Sinton; South Plains EC, Lubbock; South Texas EC, Victoria; Southwest Rural EA, Tipton, Oklahoma; Southwest Texas EC, Eldorado; Swisher EC, Tulia; Taylor EC, Merkel; Tex-La EC of Texas, Nacogdoches; Tri-County EC, Azle; Trinity Valley EC, Kaufman; United Cooperative Services, Cleburne; Upshur-Rural EC, Gilmer; Victoria EC, Victoria; Wharton County EC, El Campo; Wise EC, Decatur; Wood County EC, Quitman.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders ☒ None

12. Tax Status ☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

13. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
October 1, 2020

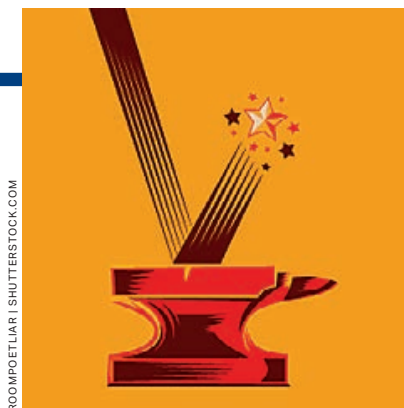
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	1,706,161	1,733,218
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1,694,365	1,721,961
c. Total Paid and/or Requested	1,694,365	1,721,961
d. Free Distribution	5,095	5,030
e. Total Free Distribution	10,798	10,652
f. Total Distribution	1,705,163	1,732,613
g. Copies not Distributed	998	605
h. Total	1,706,161	1,733,218
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested	99.37%	99.39%

16. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	none	none
b. Total Paid Print Copies	1,694,365	1,721,961
c. Total Print Distribution	1,705,163	1,732,613
d. Percent Paid	99.37%	99.39%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2020 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Karen Nejtek Managing Editor October 1, 2020



Pick of the Month

American Legion Anvil Shoot

Hamilton, November 11
(254) 386-3992
facebook.com/cunningham222

American Legion Cunningham Post 222 has held this event every November 11 since 1918, when World War I ended. It involves exploding gunpowder that has been placed between two stacked heavy anvils, which sends the anvil on top flying. Anvil shoots were once a common way for pioneers to commemorate holidays, elections and other special occasions.

NOVEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

27

Granbury Night of Lights Christmas Parade,

(817) 573-5548,
visitgranbury.com

Abilene [27-28] Thanksgiving Throwdown,

(325) 673-4233,
abilenevisitors.com/calendar

Fredericksburg [27-29]

Peddler Show,
(512) 358-1000,
peddlershow.com

Fredericksburg [27-29]

Trade Days Thanksgiving Show, (210) 846-4094,
fbgtradedays.com

Jefferson [27-28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26] Christmas Express,

1-866-398-2038,
jeffersonrailway.com

Llano [27-Dec. 31] Starry Starry Nights Lighted Christmas Park,

(325) 247-5354,
llanostarrystarrynights.com

28

Comfort Christmas in

Comfort, (830) 995-3131,
comfortchamber.com

DECEMBER

01

Amarillo [1-3] Farm and Ranch Show,

1-800-827-8007,
ideagroup.com/amarillo

02

Alpine Christmas in

Alpine, (432) 837-2326,
visitalpinetx.com/christmas

03

Cameron Christmas Drive-Thru Parade,

(254) 697-4979,
cameron-tx.com

Columbus Ladies Night Out,

(979) 732-8385,
columbus-texas.org

Jacksonville Christmas Parade,

(903) 586-2217,
jacksonvilletexas.com

La Grange Schmecken-fest,

(979) 968-3017,
visitlagrangetx.com

New Braunfels Wassail-fest,

(830) 221-4000,
since1845.com

04

Fredericksburg First Friday Art Walk Fredericksburg,

(830) 997-6523,
visitfredericksburgtx.com

La Grange [4-6, 10-13, 17-23] Trail of Lights,

(979) 968-5658, friends-of-kreischewbrewery.org

05

Fredericksburg Holiday Home Tour,

(830) 990-8441,
pioneer-museum.net

Fredericksburg Kinderfest,

(830) 990-8441,
pioneer-museum.net

Grand Saline Salt City

Christmas, (903) 962-5631,
grandsalinemainstreet.com

Kerrville Kerr County

Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet,

(830) 459-6198,
kerrmarket.days.org

Extremes

Extreme environments, animal behaviors and weather are to be expected, and Texans rise to meet any challenge.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

TOMMIE CALFEE
PEDERNALES EC

A winter scene on Onion Creek.

AMBER LADYMON
FARMERS EC

"Our neighbor was burning his field. This is one of my favorites that I got."

JENNIFER CARMACK
HEART OF TEXAS EC

Carmack's son Cyress took this photo of a large thunderhead on the horizon.

JESSICA RAMOS
SOUTH PLAINS EC

"A sunny, warm day takes an extreme turn filled with hail and rain."



Upcoming Contests

DUE NOV 10 **Diners**

DUE DEC 10 **Storms**

DUE JAN 10 **Historic Texas**

Enter online and review submission rules at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://www.texascooppower.com/contests).

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



Fresh Perspective

An ardent conservationist resurfaces as a 'meat angler'

BY DAN OKO
ILLUSTRATION BY NIC JONES

ALONG THE BRACKISH shallow lakes off Matagorda Island in the Gulf of Mexico, I'm scanning for redfish fins. Restless mullet keep distracting me, their schools pulsing in the shallows, when all I want is a keeper red.

I'm armed with light spinning tackle, and my friends are spread across the flats. It is an undeniably beautiful day. I spotted herons, egrets, flamingo-pink spoonbills and surfacing dolphins as we crossed the salt. Adding a stout redfish for dinner would make the day even better.

I have not always been what's sometimes referred to as a "meat fisherman," but 20 years in Texas have taught me that redfish on the half shell, prepared over coals and sprinkled with Cajun spice mix and drizzled with oil and lemon, is a treat every angler should enjoy. Before I moved south,

I could be found stalking trout in the riffle lines of Rocky Mountain streams, fly rod in hand, either standing astern in a drift boat or moving like a slow-motion hunter along the bank.

As an ardent conservationist, I don't know what to say about my trajectory from catch and release to deadly hunter except that I believe in abiding the law of the land, and ultimately, fishing purely for sport lacks a certain zest. Rather than debating whether fish feel pain, let's just say my thinking has evolved.

I know plenty of saltwater anglers who prefer fishing with flies, and I have watched redfish hit crab patterns, clouser minnows and popping foam shrimp. But in the name of efficiency and simple camaraderie, I fish conventional tackle when I'm on the Gulf Coast. Whether I am pursuing assorted stream fish or ocean species, the joy I experience remains rooted in the same nitty-gritty details: the attention paid to subtle signs and structure where fish might lurk, the anticipation when a well-placed cast brings the bite, the pulse-pounding joy of the hookup and the epic relief of bringing a fish to hand.

Which returns us to this patch of Matagorda Bay, where I attempt to wade with the stealth of a prowling cat. Through polarized lenses, I glimpse the prize—a bronze bruiser suspended in a few inches of water. I've got a speckled soft-plastic bait, which lands a few feet from my target. I reel slowly, then rest a beat. The movement puts the red on high alert.

He chases down the lure, and I raise my rod to set the hook. A fight ensues that lasts minutes but feels like hours. With a 20-inch red in my net, I look around and spot my friends on the boat. The sun is setting. Dinner will be fresh fish after all. ■



LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

At Mueller, we soar above the rest with our manufacturing capabilities, outstanding quality and long-lasting performance. From workshops and agricultural buildings to complex projects such as airplane hangars, we provide solid building solutions backed by an even stronger warranty. Contact us today to take-off on your dream building.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$59⁹⁹
month
for TV

+ 2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.



FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX | **- Fully Integrated -**
Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ month for Internet

\$40
per month
for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet/hughesnet

godish.com/pricelock

1-866-290-7151
Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

¡Se Habla Español!

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 1/13/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2020 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.