

STATE BISON HERD  
STILL ROAMS

RECIPES: PIES  
THAT TANTALIZE

FUNNY SIGNS  
SURE TO TICKLE

# Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2021

## Sky- High Pie

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makes any pie  
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**TRINITY  
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NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



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# November 2021



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## 08 The Alchemy of Egg Whites

Sky-high pies embody the delights of meringue.

*By Paula Disbrowe  
Photos by Wyatt McSpadden*

## Last of Their Kind

The Texas State Bison Herd, a legacy of Charles Goodnight, helps a species return from the brink of extinction.

*By Rhonda Reinhart*

### ON THE COVER

A slice of Rebecca Rather's lemon meringue pie from Emma + Ollie in Fredericksburg.

*Photo by Wyatt McSpadden*

### ABOVE

Bison at Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway.

*Photo by Earl Nottingham | TPWD*

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# Future Foodies

**TONI TIPTON-MARTIN** is a food and nutrition journalist and author whose latest book, *Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African American Cooking*, features a recipe for Baked (Barbecued) Beans that we spotlighted in May. She adds to her long list of accolades this month when she receives the Julia Child Award, which honors those who have made a significant difference in the way Americans cook, eat and drink.

Tipton-Martin plans to use her award, a \$50,000 grant, to mentor the next generation of food writers.



## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

A TEXAN WOULD NEVER ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Below are some of the responses to our September prompt: **The sweetest sound in the world is ...**

The distant whistle of a passing train at night as I drift off to sleep.

RICK SULIK  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC  
SHINER

Horses munching hay in the quiet evening.

ROBIN GRAY  
SAN BERNARD EC  
HOCKLEY

Silence. Nature is a close second.

ALLEN JONES  
VIA FACEBOOK

Ocean waves gently hitting the shore.

KATHY O'NEAL PRIKRYL  
VIA FACEBOOK

A baby's giggle.

MONA TUCKER  
RUSK COUNTY EC  
CARTHAGE

Rain falling on my tin roof porch.

SUE NASH  
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC  
ETOILE

To see more responses, read Currents online.

## FARMING GOES ELECTRIC

Monarch Tractor plans to begin shipping its first-of-its-kind fully electric, driver-optional tractor this fall.

The California-based company claims the machines will be able to run 10 hours on a full battery, recognize humans and livestock that may get in the way, and even be programmed to follow a human.

The Monarch will start at \$58,000.



---

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most of  
Texas.

---



## First Lady's Milestone

Laura Bush, former first lady of Texas and the U.S., turns 75 on November 4. Before marrying George W. Bush, she taught in public schools in Dallas, Houston and Austin and worked as a school librarian. Laura Bush was born in 1946 in Midland.



## November 3 National Sandwich Day

Don't let the day catch you empty-handed. You'll find dozens of sandwich recipes at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com).



# A Broadcasting Victory

**THE FIRST LIVE PLAY-BY-PLAY** broadcast of a college football game in Texas occurred 100 years ago in College Station, a scoreless tie between Texas A&M University and the University of Texas.

To pull it off November 24, 1921, radio station 5XB—later WTAW (Watch The Aggies Win)—ran lines from the Kyle Field press box to a transmitter at Bolton Hall and borrowed equipment from the Corps of Cadets Signal Corps.



## **TCP** Contests and More

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### **FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**

The Texas Experience

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

We're up to our eyes in pies this month. Visit our website to find dozens more pies to try.



## Second to None

"I was happy to read that Texas Tech opened a veterinary school. We need more country boys and girls who don't mind getting manure on their jeans."

MINNIE PESL  
BARTLETT EC  
ROCKDALE

## Aviation Fame

The Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Airport in Houston hosts the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, which includes Bessie Coleman as one of 70 or so who have made remarkable contributions to flight [*Queen Bess Soared*, June 2021].

Gary Watt  
Bluebonnet EC  
Washington, Texas



My granny had a small stock tank [Pools in the Pasture, August 2021]. She called it the goose tank. We had fun in it. Seined it for crawfish. Used them for fish bait.

MARY RUTH LARGENT  
VIA FACEBOOK

## A Toxic Topic?

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers' words did bug me [*Do Words Bug You?*, June 2021].

In addition to ingestion, poisons can affect life by contact or radiation—think poison ivy or certain cancer treatments. Poison is best defined as a substance with inherent properties that tends to destroy or impair life. Toxins are a subgroup of poisons produced by an organism. Venom specifically is a toxin introduced into victims by injection.

Robert Humphrey  
Heart of Texas EC  
Waco

## Fleeing Thought

I never realized that while the armies of Texians and Mexicans fought, many civilians found it necessary to abandon everything they owned and relocate in a hurry [*The Runaway Scrape*, April 2021]. This makes me wonder what I would do if that situation arose in my lifetime.

B. Jason Epps  
Trinity Valley EC  
Heartland



GORDON STUDER

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

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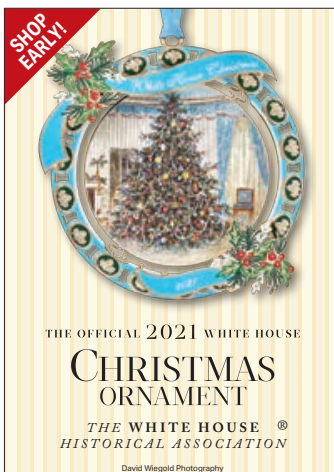
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# The Alchemy of Egg Whites

**I**T WAS MOSTLY ABOUT the reward of pie, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

For several years I joined my daughter, Flannery, and her Girl Scout troop on their annual trip to Camp Champions in Marble Falls. The outing, which usually landed in early May, was much anticipated by the girls, even though each year seemed to be cursed by dramatic Texas weather. There were frigid nights in drafty cabins and torrential thunderstorms, and one terrifying year, a tornado chased us out of town.

Mother Nature, plus a hysteria fueled by s'mores and the energy of several hundred girls, made our departure each Sunday morning feel like a small victory, akin to making it through an episode of *Survivor*.

The treat at the end of those epic weekends was breakfast at the Blue Bonnet Cafe, the beloved institution known for its pies and recognizable by its awesome neon signage. One year we gave Flannery's bestie, Clara, a ride to the restaurant. As we waited in line for a table, we all became mesmerized by the cooler displaying whopping wedges of fruit pies, cream pies and custard-based show stealers crowned with implausibly high clouds of meringue.

Clara, eyes wide and mother conveniently en route, asked if she might order pie for breakfast. Naturally, I acquiesced. When the massive wedge of lemon meringue pie was placed in front of her, her reaction—a mixture of disbelief, wonder and pure joy—made us all burst out laughing. Years later we all vividly remember Clara's meringue pie moment, which speaks to another attribute of pies: They can create cherished memories.



ABOVE Making meringue starts with separating egg whites from yolks.

RIGHT Adela Rangel has been the pie chef at Koffee Kup Family Restaurant in Hico for 24 years.





↑

*Sky-high pies  
embody  
the delights  
of meringue*



TOP Rebecca Rather, chef at Emma + Ollie in Fredericksburg, with a lemon meringue pie.  
ABOVE A slice of coconut meringue pie from Koffee Kup.



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Servers Ellie Fonseca at Blue Bonnet Cafe in Marble Falls and Emma Roach at Koffee Kup show off the towering meringues at their diners. Maura Dominguez has been mounding meringue at Blue Bonnet for 33 years.



**FOR MANY PEOPLE,** myself included, certain pies are steeped in memories or connected to memorable occasions. Coconut cream pie? The time I was lucky enough to interview Lyle Lovett over a couple slices in Old Town Spring. Late June means Stonewall peaches and galettes (rustic French tarts) several nights a week. Billowy meringue pies always make me think of my friend Rebecca Rather (more on her later).

“Pie, in general, makes people happy,” concurs Dave Plante, owner of Blue Bonnet Cafe. “If you come through our line between the hours of 10 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon, chances are you’re gonna see our huge mixers full of a fluffy white mixture bubbling up and out of the side,” Plante says. “It’s mesmerizing to watch.”

The fascination with sky-high meringue is evident in the surprise of customers at Hico’s Koffee Kup Family Restaurant, where the motto is “Pie fixes everything.”

“When they see the meringue in the pie case, their jaw drops open,” says manager and co-owner Irene Leach, whose first job at the Koffee Kup in 1987 was baking pies. Now, Adela Rangel starts baking five flavors, plus two sugar-free options, at 6:30 each morning, as she has for 24 years.

Blue Bonnet’s Plante tells me that customers often inquire how they pile the meringue so high—a trick he attributes to seasoned bakers who have been whipping egg whites and sugar for years.





**SO WHAT IS MERINGUE**, actually? In its simplest form, it's a mixture of stiffly beaten egg whites and granulated sugar. To achieve a perfectly smooth texture, the sugar is typically added slowly—a tablespoon at a time.

For further insight I called a noted meringue whisperer—Rebecca Rather, chef at Emma + Ollie in Fredericksburg and the creative mind behind her wildly popular “big-hair meringue tarts” (featuring spiky meringue tops reminiscent of retro hairstyles). “Once I went to a Weight Watchers meeting, and some of the women there yelled at me and said I was responsible for their extra pounds,” she recalls with a laugh. “You know I love meringue but only when it's done right; it needs to be stiff and strong and hold up. I don't like it when it's sloppy, watery and nasty.”

Rather perfected her meringue game years ago when she was the pastry chef at Tony's in Houston. “I used to decorate huge ice cream bombs with meringue, and I had to do it in the freezer,” she recalls. For all her desserts, including the banana pudding served at Emma + Ollie, she still relies on the meringue recipe in her first book, *The Pastry Queen*.

For Rather's method, the sugar is whisked with egg whites over a pan of simmering water until it dissolves and then whipped with an electric mixer until it's stiff and shiny. The key, she tells me, is to beat the whites slowly in the beginning, until they're light and foamy, and then beat them at high speed until stiff peaks form.

I knew Cathy Barrow, author of *Pie Squared* (a cookbook devoted to rectangular “slab pies”), would have opinions on the subject. “I think we all need more meringue in our life,” she tells me. “It tastes so much like campfire marshmallows and makes the kitchen smell great as it toasts under the broiler. If you have a blowtorch, bronzing meringue is a badass move as a party trick.”

Preparing meringue is also a smart way to make the most of leftover ingredients. “If you make ice cream or flan or many cakes or enriched doughs, you'll end up with egg whites, and they keep a long time,” Barrow says. She keeps hers in a covered jar in the fridge. “Sometimes I make Pavlovas and then turn those into fruit fools,” she adds. (Named after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, the dessert consists of a crisp meringue base topped with whipped cream and fresh fruit.) “But whenever I can,” Barrow continues, “I cover the surface or pipe or plop a pretty meringue edge on a pie. Don't limit this action to lemon or lime pies. A meringue topping on a bumbleberry pie is amazing.”

Pie recipes handed down from one generation to the next are particularly transporting. “My grandma's chocolate meringue pie is my favorite thing to eat in the entire world,” says Lisa Fain, author of *The Homesick Texan* cookbooks and food blog. “Whether it makes an appearance after a good day or a bad one, it never fails to lift my spirits. It's always a declaration of love.”

This particular pie, Fain adds, is more than the sum of its parts. “It's a simple recipe, and her meringues are more of an accent rather than a statement since they're never all that tall. The combination of fluffy topping, rich custard and salty crust may appear humble, but it's the finest dessert that I know.” ■



## Rebecca Rather's Meringue

Rather uses a kitchen torch to brown her meringue-topped pies and tarts, but the process can also be done quickly under a broiler.

**10 extra-large egg whites,  
at room temperature  
3 cups sugar**

1. Place a large, perfectly clean metal bowl over a pot of simmering water. Pour in the egg whites and sugar. (If there is a trace of fat in the bowl, the eggs won't reach their proper volume.)
2. Heat the egg whites and sugar while whisking constantly until the sugar melts and there are no visible grains in the meringue. Take a little meringue mixture and rub it between your fingers to make sure all the sugar grains have melted.
3. Remove the bowl from the pot and whip it with a mixer fitted with a whisk attachment on low speed for 5 minutes; increase the speed to high and beat 5 minutes longer, until the meringue is stiff and shiny.

**MAKES MERINGUE FOR 1 PIE**

Reprinted with permission from *The Pastry Queen* (Ten Speed Press, 2004).

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Learn more about meringue online, including Paula Disbrowe's tips for success.

BY RHONDA REINHART

# LAST OF THEIR KIND

**The Texas State Bison Herd, a legacy of Charles Goodnight, helps a species crawl back from the brink of extinction**

**A**fter long days listening to shots ring out across the Texas Panhandle plains, Mary Ann Goodnight would lie awake, tormented by the cries of orphaned bison calves. It was the late 1870s, and professional hide hunters were obliterating the country's bison population.

Known as the “great slaughter,” hunting from 1874 to 1878 left the iconic animals nearly extinct, with estimates from 1888 suggesting that fewer than 1,000 bison remained in North America—down from the 30 million–60 million that once roamed the continent.

But it was the wails of those abandoned calves bawling for their mothers night after night—heartbreaking sounds that Goodnight described in diary entries from the time—that spurred her to act in 1878. The wife of cattleman Charles Goodnight, the famed Texas Panhandle rancher, pleaded with her husband to rescue what he could of the surviving bison.

The couple had settled in Palo Duro Canyon in 1876, and within two years, hunters had nearly wiped out the animals. That's when Mary Ann Goodnight persuaded her husband to capture some of the orphaned calves and start a herd on their JA Ranch. The Goodnight bison herd prospered and grew to more than 200 animals by the 1920s. After the Goodnights' deaths (Mary Ann in 1926, Charles in 1929), the bison continued to roam the vast and rugged landscape of the JA Ranch. Though Charles Goodnight sold his interest



in the JA operation in the late 1880s and started a new ranch on nearby land, the bison ultimately migrated back to their original home.

Left on its own, the herd dwindled, and by 1994, only about 50 animals remained. When the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department learned about the declining herd in the mid-1990s from an unlikely source—Wolfgang Frey, a German wildlife conservationist with a particular interest in American bison—the agency conducted DNA testing on the bovines, revealing genetic markers not found in any other bison. Because Goodnight never brought in any bison from other areas and kept detailed records to prove it, all the animals in his herd were native Texas Panhandle bison. These animals, direct descendants of the herd started by Goodnight, were the last surviving examples of southern Plains bison.

Convinced that the historic herd was worth saving, the owners of the JA Ranch donated the bison to TPWD, and in 1997 they were relocated to Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway in Briscoe County, about 100 miles southeast of





Amarillo, on land that is part of the bison's native home range.

After two decades of TPWD management, what has become known as the Texas State Bison Herd has grown to almost 300 animals, thanks to selective breeding, annual health checks, vegetation studies and progressive habitat management practices. The donation of three bison bulls in 2003 by media tycoon and rancher Ted Turner helped broaden the herd's genetic diversity.

The bison's road to recovery was a long one. "When the park got them, there were 32," says Donald Beard, park superintendent at Caprock Canyons. "And then when I took over, there were probably around 60 or so, and that was in 2009. Then we released them into the park in 2011, and that's when they really started to flourish."

Before the 2011 release, the bison were enclosed in a 300-acre section of the park, far from view of Caprock Canyons' 100,000 yearly visitors. In September 2011 the bison were moved into more than 700 acres of restored native grass prairie but still were fenced off from the park's campsites and day-use areas.

Part of the Texas State Bison Herd at Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway.

Now the bison roam 80% of the park. "The park total is almost 15,000 acres, and they have almost 12,000 acres of it to roam," Beard says. "There is one section, which is on the opposite side of a county road, that they don't have access to, but other than that, they've got free run of this park. That means through the campsites, through the trails, on Lake Theo—everywhere. This is their historic range."

Today's visitors to Caprock Canyons State Park, which is served by Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, might be greeted at park headquarters by dozens of the massive, shaggy creatures. From a distance, they appear like black specks on the wide-open prairie, but when they approach the parking lot to graze and explore, an up-close view emphasizes their sheer magnificence: the broad hump between their shoulder blades; their thick, dark brown fur;

**Driving through  
the park, it's clear  
who's the boss.  
If the bison feel  
like lounging on  
the roadway, well,  
so be it.**



and their awe-inspiring size. The bison is the largest mammal native to North America, and the bulls at Caprock Canyons can reach up to 2,000 pounds, with cows averaging 750–900 pounds. And even though some refer to the animals as buffalo because of their similar appearance, the only true buffaloes reside in Africa and Asia.

Driving through the park, it's clear who's the boss. If the bison feel like lounging on the roadway, well, so be it—traffic stops and drivers watch and wait. Hikers might also encounter them on the trails that weave through the park's striking red rock canyons, and campers might wake up to a crew of bison ambling outside their tents. Visitors to the park enjoyed a special treat in spring 2021, when about 80 bison calves joined the herd. "It's pretty neat when you get a bunch of calves out, running around and playing," Beard says. "It's a really good time to be here, come April or May."

Now that the herd is growing at a rate the park can sustain (to keep from degrading the grounds' natural resources, the current herd of about 300 is close to the park's max), Beard and his team are working on phase two of Caprock Canyons' bison conservation program. "To me, that second phase is satellite herds," he says. "So we would have another herd of 200 here, another herd of 300 there, but a herd of just Goodnight animals. And they would all be managed as one big herd—a metapopulation basically."

Though there's a herd of bison at San Angelo State Park in West Texas, those animals aren't related to Goodnight's. In fact, Beard notes, anytime an animal leaves the grounds of Caprock Canyons, it's no longer considered part of the Texas State Bison Herd.

Beard—who sits on several boards for bison conservation, including the Bison Specialist Group, a species survival commission of the International Union for Conservation of

The state herd of about 300 descends from bison raised by Charles Goodnight in the 1800s.

Nature—is in talks with the InterTribal Buffalo Council to start herds on tribal lands with Goodnight animals. He's also looking at how partnerships could work with the Nature Conservancy, other nongovernmental organizations and even private ranchers. "There's a big-picture vision in place," he says. "The plan hasn't been completely put together yet, but the vision is there."

So what has the plight of the Goodnight herd taught wildlife conservation experts? The way Beard sees it, it's been a lesson in survival. Around the same time Goodnight was forming his bison herd, four other conservation-minded individuals across the American West and in parts of Canada were doing the same. The five foundation herds helped save bison from extinction by providing the foundation stock for today's herds. Though Goodnight's herd was small, it was one of the best known of the five foundation herds.

"[The Goodnight herd] has taught us that we can come back with a relatively small number of animals to a healthy, viable population," Beard says. "To be a success story in conservation, the IUCN and some of the other conservation organizations have said that you need a couple of thousand head of bison, which means that if we were to walk away and not touch this herd ever again, they would survive. We're not there yet, but we're well on our way." ■



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*"We delight in the  
beauty of the butter-  
fly, but rarely admit  
the changes it has gone  
through to achieve  
that beauty."*

— Positivity Sparkles.com



A.

Pendant enlarged  
to show  
luxurious color.



C.

# TRIGGER THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

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**T**hey say that something as tiny as the flap of a butterfly's wings can change the course of history. Even the faintest flutter can set off a chain reaction affecting the future. Is it possible that by choosing the perfect gift today, you can positively alter the course of tomorrow?

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Consider the *Abalone Butterfly Effect Pendant*. This graceful beauty blends two of Mother Nature's most magical creations—shimmering abalone and the fanciful butterfly. Nothing on earth creates an iridescent glow quite like abalone. Even the subtlest of movements elicits an ever-changing rainbow of colors. This organic gem suits the transformative splendor of the butterfly perfectly.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more, just have your free Window and Door Diagnosis on or before 11/26/21. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 24 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 24 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under 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. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2021 Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

JEFF LANE

## Feast of Blessings

**LATER THIS MONTH**, folks will sit down at dinner tables with family and friends for their annual Thanksgiving Day feast (followed by the traditional post-dinner nap and football games).

But Thanksgiving isn't just about full bellies and full kitchens. It's also a time we set aside for reflecting, counting our blessings and enjoying the company of our loved ones.

Speaking for myself, the blessings are many, including the fact that I am privileged to work for an electric cooperative.

As General Manager/CEO at Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, I am thankful for members like you who support the mission of this cooperative: not just the provision of reliable electricity at a reasonable rate—no small task in itself—but also to be a strong presence in sustaining the communities we serve. Your participation in co-op meetings, elections and activities enables TVEC to be a vital community partner, one that can be counted on to support volunteer fire departments, food banks, scholarships and other mainstays of a healthy community.

I am thankful for our directors, those civic-minded members who give of their time and talents to represent your interests as we set policies and plan for our future. With each passing year, as financial and regulatory challenges mount, your board members must stay abreast of the factors that influence the efficient and cost-effective delivery of electricity to your home.

I am thankful for TVEC's employees, who day in and day out demonstrate dedication and professionalism in performing their duties. Electric cooperatives seem to attract and retain people who commit to making their living in an environment where service comes first.

And last—but certainly not least—I am thankful for my understanding family, who sometimes has to share me with my job. They know that in a crisis, the phone may ring in the middle of the night, calling me away to work. And that sometimes my duties include time away on business. With their support and love, my job and my life are much easier.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, you also have plenty for which to give thanks. May you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday. ■



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Veterans Day**  
Thursday,  
November 11

**Thanksgiving**  
Thursday,  
November 25  
Our offices will be  
closed November  
25–26 in observance  
of the holiday.

**Hanukkah**  
Monday,  
November 29

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## Keep Utility Poles Free of Obstructions

A **UTILITY POLE** might look like a convenient and free bulletin board, fence post or light pole, but you should never tack on a yard sale sign, wrap it in barbed wire or surround it with stored items.

Safety issues caused by pole attachments and items surrounding poles place the lives of lineworkers and the public at risk.

It might seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can pierce a lineworker's glove, damaging critical gear that protects against high-voltage electricity. It could also cause a lineworker to get snagged while working at heights.

Your electric cooperative's line crews need safe access to climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night—in even the worst weather conditions—to maintain and restore power. This includes service poles on your property as well as the poles along roads and fencelines.

Your cooperative's lineworkers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards and satellite mounts and even poles that support legs for deer stands, lights and carports. These attachments put at risk not only line crews but also anyone who illegally places items on poles; they come dangerously close to power lines with thousands of volts of energy streaming overhead.

Additionally, large attachments could compromise the structural integrity of the pole, putting it at risk of weakening or failing. A fallen pole means downed power lines, which are extremely dangerous and can lead to outages.

It's always smart to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code. In Texas it's a crime to attach any unapproved item to a utility pole, and doing so can result in a daily fine.

Please help us keep our linemen—and our community—safe. Do not attach any unauthorized items to utility poles, and contact your electric cooperative to remove any unauthorized items you see. ■

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## Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

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**Web** tvec.net

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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

8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

### VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net



# Annual Membership Meeting Report

**MORE THAN 200** Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members gathered online October 7 for the TVEC Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting was held virtually again due to COVID-19 precautions for members and TVEC staff.

After the introductions of board members and the TVEC executive staff by co-op attorney John Mosley, attendees heard an update on co-op affairs from TVEC General Manager/CEO Jeff Lane.

Lane started his remarks focusing on two challenges facing the co-op—the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the fallout from the energy emergency brought about by Winter Storm Uri in February.



"We put a lot of effort into making sure our system will handle the most extreme conditions, and we expect the generation companies to do the same," Lane said. "We can't provide power if it is not being generated."

He went on to detail some of the findings from investigations into the event, which found the root causes to be failure of generation plants to winterize appropriately, and fuel supply issues driven by natural gas shortages.

"It was extremely frustrating that our system was there ready to provide power to our entire membership and there just wasn't enough power being produced to serve everyone at the same time," Lane said.

The cost of the event was also addressed, although Lane noted that there are still a lot of unknowns eight months after the storm.

"We are continuing to work with our power supplier to pursue all options to minimize the impact to you and I, the members of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative," he said. "The short answer is that we don't know exactly yet what the total cost will be. There are still regulatory hearings going on...that could impact our overall cost. Over the last several years our wholesale costs have been trending downward, and we have been passing those savings to you through a credit on the PCRF. Given the magnitude of this event, we do expect to see an increase in our power cost, which will diminish our ability to continue issuing those credits."

Lane also discussed the current situation with rural broadband projects in the TVEC service area, and the co-op's current status in that market. He noted that Charter Communications recently received federal funding for gigabit speed broadband installation over the next six years in rural parts of Anderson, Henderson and Van Zandt counties as well as portions of Kaufman and Hunt counties.

"We've taken a hard look at the economics of providing broadband services," he said. "The financial risk of investing in a quarter-billion dollar project seems too great right now. We know there are multiple vendors actively deploying or about to start new projects in our area and the risk gets higher. We will continue to monitor the deployment of broadband in our area and reconsider the project if appropriate."

A report on the co-op's annual financial audit was given by Charlie Gorman of the accounting firm Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert and Moss.

"Our audit resulted in the issues of an unmodified or clean opinion on the financial statement," Gorman said. "We found the financial statements to be in good order and did not have any findings to report."

The audit report is available for review by members at the Kaufman office.

Only the district three seat on the TVEC Board of Directors was up for election in 2021, and incumbent Paul Weatherford as the only candidate to file to appear on the ballot.

Kenneth von Tungeln of Calvetti Ferguson reported on the firm's ballot counting efforts, with Weatherford receiving 1,582 votes, 30 ballots cast for write-in candidates and 20 valid ballots that were not marked for any candidate.

The valid vote total of 1,636 ballots did not meet the quorum requirement of three percent of the co-op membership. The TVEC bylaws state that upon not reaching the required quorum, the incumbent board member retains their position on the board.

Members may watch a recording of the full meeting through the member portal at [tvec.net](http://tvec.net). 60225488001

The annual meeting booklet containing financial statements, co-op statistics and other information is available to download from the annual meeting page on [tvec.net](http://tvec.net). ■







## Add Energy Efficiency to Your Thanksgiving Menu

IT TAKES A LOT of energy to cook all day and to host a house full of company for Thanksgiving. So while you're making your grocery list this holiday season, start a list of ways you and your family can cut down on energy use.

### Some ideas:

**Lower the thermostat.** If you're cooking all day, your kitchen will get really hot. Some of that heat will spill into the rest of the house, so there's no need to keep the thermostat at its usual setting.

**Don't turn your oven** on until it's full. Cook several dishes at once. If their recommended cooking temps are within 25 degrees of each other in either direction, everything will cook as it should.

**Identify dishes** that you can cook in the microwave, which heats food faster than the oven and uses about a third of the electricity.

**Run your dishwasher** only when it's full. Using the dishwasher uses less energy and water than hand-washing.

**Cool leftovers** on the counter before putting them into the refrigerator. That will keep the fridge from having to work so hard to cool off hot food. But don't leave perishable food out for more than a few hours, after which it begins to spoil.

**Use a slow cooker,** toaster oven or warming plate to do the same job of cooking some dishes but with less electricity. The average toaster oven can use about half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time.

**Make sure your stovetop** is in good condition. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay clean.

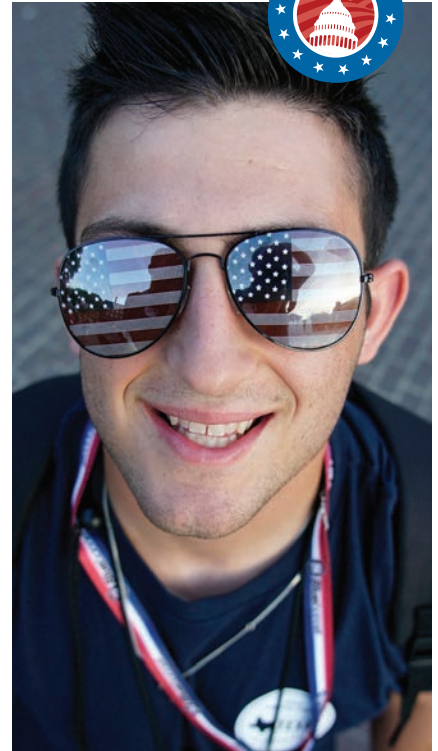
**Ensure your pots** and pans are in good shape. If your pans have warped over time and don't sit flat on the burner, it may be time for some new ones that ensure heat transfers efficiently from the burner to the pan. ■

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

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JUNE 12-21, 2022



Are you a Texas high school student? Would you like to travel to Washington, D.C., and visit historic landmarks—all without spending a dime of your own money?

Perhaps you'd like to meet elected officials, or maybe you're looking for an inspirational experience in the company of other Texas teens. If that sounds like you, then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour is your tour. Apply now!

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[TexasYouthTour.com](https://TexasYouthTour.com).

## TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

#### Preparedness Checklist

- ▶ **Make an evacuation plan.** Find activated evacuation routes at [drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org) or by dialing 1-800-452-9292. Call 211 to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- ▶ **Sign up for emergency alerts.** Make sure your mobile device is enabled to receive wireless emergency alerts.
- ▶ **Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Learn how to build an emergency kit at [ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://ready.gov/build-a-kit).
- ▶ **Review your home insurance policy.**
- ▶ **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry** at [stear.tdem.texas.gov](http://stear.tdem.texas.gov) or by dialing 211 if you live in an evacuation zone and:
  - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
  - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation.

*Information collected for STEAR is confidential.*

#### Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources

Texas Division of Emergency Management: [tdem.texas.gov](http://tdem.texas.gov)

Texas Department of State Health Services: [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov)

American Red Cross: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

Office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott: [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

## DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

### Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

#### Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ▶ **Haga un plan de evacuación.** Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas en [drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org) o marcando 1-800-452-9292. Llame 211 para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ▶ **Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia.** Asegúrese de que su dispositivo móvil esté habilitado para recibir alertas de emergencia inalámbricas.
- ▶ **Prepare un kit de emergencia.** Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en [ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://ready.gov/build-a-kit).
- ▶ **Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.**
- ▶ **Regístrese con el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas** en [stear.tdem.texas.gov](http://stear.tdem.texas.gov) o marcando el 211 si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
  - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un auto u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación.
  - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación.

*La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.*

#### Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: [tdem.texas.gov](http://tdem.texas.gov)

Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov)

Cruz Roja Americana: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

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## October TVEC Hot Spot: Kaufman Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

**KAUFMAN'S VETERANS MEMORIAL** is located on South Houston Street, adjacent to the Kaufman County Library. The most recent addition to the park is a slightly scaled down version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington D.C.



Congratulations to the September Hot Spot winner, Karen Pratt, of Terrell, who correctly identified our photo of the Texas State Railroad locomotive.

Look for the winner of this month's contest in the January 2022 edition of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Send your answer and contact information to [contest@tvec.coop](mailto:contest@tvec.coop) or contact TVEC Member Services by November 30. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in next month's *Texas Co-op Power*.



## Your Generosity in Action

**THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** in September awarded five grants totaling \$17,000. Recipients of the grants include:



### Henderson County 4-H Adult Leader Council - \$2,500

Provides support for 4-H programs, and opportunities for 4-H participants as they learn valuable skills.



### Alzheimer's Coalition of Henderson County - \$4,000

Provides support services for caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.



### Love in Action Henderson County Homeless Ministry - \$5,000

Meets the basic needs of individuals and services necessary for dignity, and improving each individual's opportunities for success.



### East Texas Crisis Center, Inc. - \$3,500

Provides safety, shelter and education to victims of violence, sexual assault, and other violent crime and to restore dignity and purpose in their lives.

### Isaiah 40-31 Foundation - \$2,000

Volunteer-based organization that serves others who are suffering through a tragedy.

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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 \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner!





# Safe Passage

A specially designed land bridge over a San Antonio highway lets wildlife roam

BY LAURA TOLLEY

A VIRGINIA OPOSSUM has strolled across. So have white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbits, and even a coyote or two. All are finding safe passage over a busy roadway thanks to a new land bridge that reclaims important wildlife habitat by connecting two wooded sections of a popular San Antonio park.

Less than a year after its official opening in December 2020, nighttime photos offer evidence that the Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge has already provided a safe crossing for wildlife that inhabit both sides of the 330-acre Phil Hardberger Park in north-central San Antonio.

Built over a section of the six-lane Wurzbach Parkway, the land bridge is the largest crossing in the United States built specifically for both wildlife and humans, according to the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.

“This bridge is important because the city is so fragmented, animals don’t have a lot of places to go anymore. And they definitely need some space,” says Casey Cowan, parks naturalist for the department. “This bridge literally gives them more land to use and to move their genes around. It helps increase the diversity of the ecosystem.”



Cowan notes that wild animals need food, water, shelter and space to survive, but increased urbanization is making it harder for animals to access those essentials. “Having these wildlife corridors like the land bridge, greenways and greenbelts makes it easier for animals to reach those necessities,” she says.

Incorporating wildlife habitat conservation into transportation projects is becoming more of a priority in Texas and other parts of the country, says Laura Zebehazy, head of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. Her staff reviews Texas Department of Transportation projects and provides recommendations on how to minimize or avoid impacts to natural habitats.

Land crossings can provide immediate benefits to wildlife, as seen in the photos of creatures traversing San Antonio’s bridge, Zebehazy says.

“[A land bridge] is a good thing to have in our toolbox, and it has proven to have a positive effect,” she says. Bridges also help improve safety for humans by helping to reduce collisions between vehicles and animals.

Hardberger Park has been an outdoor haven for visitors for more than a decade, but it was divided by Wurzbach Parkway. The land bridge is about a quarter-mile long, 150 feet wide at the top and 165 feet at the bases, allowing enough room for wildlife and people to cross safely.

When users walk up the gentle slope, the only evidence of the traffic below is noise that is intentionally muffled by the bridge’s design. The bridge was designed to Americans With Disabilities Act specifications, as are other trails in the park. Bicycles are allowed but must be walked across the bridge.

The area is landscaped with native plants and trees that offer natural beauty and protective shelter for animals. There is a rainwater collection system and two water bubblers, located on either side near wildlife blinds, that provide animals with water year-round.

The parks and recreation department is conducting a five-year study to determine how wildlife use the bridge. More animals are expected to make the hike as the vegetation grows, creating a more natural habitat.

“I’m amazed at the success of it at this very early state,” says Jim Gray, principal at Rialto Studio in San Antonio, the project’s lead landscape architect. “It’s been a huge success for parkgoers, and people seem to really be enjoying it. But the bigger success is the fact that wildlife is already taking advantage of it. And as it becomes more of a natural space,

I think it’s just going to get better and better.”

Erin Christie of San Antonio and Trenton Taylor of Schertz made their first trip across the bridge on a hot, sunny Sunday afternoon in June. They crossed with their dogs, Hazel and Millie.

“I really like the land bridge, and once everything grows, it’s going to be really nice,” says Taylor, whose dog, Hazel, cooled off by burrowing into some dirt under the trees. “This is a big improvement compared to how it used to be.”

Christie, who recently moved back to San Antonio, plans to return to the bridge. “I loved it, I really did. I can’t wait to come back and watch it grow,” she says. “Millie and I do a lot of exploring, and I think this one is going to be one of our favorites.”

Loss of habitat is a major threat to wildlife in Texas, says Ben Jones, executive director of the Texas Conservation Alliance, a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

“Anything we can do to preserve, reclaim, protect and re-wild their habitat is important,” Jones says. “This bridge is a real win.”

The land bridge cost \$23 million, with the funds coming from donations, grants and a 2017 city bond. But there are smaller, less expensive ways to help protect wildlife habitat and corridors, Jones says.

Culverts also can help wildlife safely cross roadways and avoid accidents with vehicles. Drivers can exercise caution, especially at night, in areas where there are concentrations of wildlife. Building owners in migratory bird paths can turn off their lights at night during spring and fall migrations. Everybody can use native plants and trees to provide shelter and food to wildlife.

“The loss of habitat is increasing,” Jones says. “Wildlife are in trouble, and any action people can take to help save them is critical.” ■

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See a slideshow of images from the land bridge designer, Rialto Studio.

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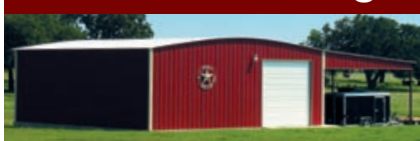
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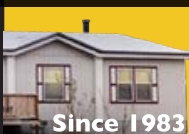
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## TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong  
read this story.

# Biography of a Word

The label derived from the life of Samuel Maverick has Texas origins

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

**THIS IS A BIOGRAPHY** of a word that was essentially born in Texas, where it grew up to achieve worldwide fame, ultimately transforming itself from modest noun into grand metaphor.

The word is maverick, and it got its start in San Antonio more than 150 years ago. Today, a maverick blazes a trail, goes against the crowd and is an independent thinker. But originally, any unbranded cow was a maverick, and the first herd of unbranded cattle was owned by Samuel Maverick. Ironically, Maverick's failure (some said refusal) to brand his cattle branded his name in perpetuity.

Maverick was more interested in acquiring land than ranching it, and he ranked with Richard King and Charles Goodnight as a Texas land baron.

Maverick, born in South Carolina, first

demonstrated his nonconformist nature shortly after he arrived in San Antonio in 1835. Even though most Texans were not buying land because they feared they would not be able to hold it during uncertain times, Maverick bought huge tracts around San Antonio and farther east, along the Brazos River.

He joined the Alamo militia and would have died at the Alamo had he not been selected to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. He was a maverick on March 2, 1836, when he risked his life, along with 59 others, by signing what Antonio López de Santa Anna declared a treasonous document. Maverick later served as mayor of San Antonio, gaining further notoriety as a leading citizen of a rebellious city.

Six years after Texas won its inde-

pendence, Santa Anna dispatched Gen. Adrián Woll to retake control of San Antonio and to imprison all those who took up arms against Mexico. Maverick organized 53 men on the roof of a building he owned, to resist the invasion. After they killed 14 and wounded 27, they were surrounded by 900 Mexican troops and forced to surrender.

Woll did not carry out orders to execute the prisoners—instead marching them 1,000 brutal miles to Perote Prison, near Puebla, Mexico. The men were chained together in dark cells and subjected to forced labor. As the group representative, Maverick asked for better conditions and was put into solitary confinement just for asking.

After a few months, Santa Anna offered Maverick his freedom in exchange for signing a document saying that Texas had been illegally seized and should be returned to Mexico. Instead of signing, Maverick wrote, "I cannot bring myself to think that it would be to the interest of Texas to reunite with Mexico. This being my settled opinion I cannot sacrifice the interest of my country even to obtain my liberty, for I regard it as a lie and a crime which I cannot commit. I must, therefore, make up my mind to wear my chains, galling as they are."

While Maverick was in the dungeon, San Antonians elected him to the Republic of Texas House of Representatives. When he was released, Maverick refused to leave without as many of his friends from San Antonio as possible. He waited a few days for most of them to be freed, and they all traveled to San Antonio together.

When Maverick left prison, he took the chains that had bound him as a reminder of the incalculable value of freedom. ■



# Pies

A perfect showcase for favorite fruits and other fillings

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Although pie is often associated with certain times of the year, I'll take pie over cake any day. With so many flavor possibilities, the only problem is choosing one! This pie is one of my favorites to make, no matter the season. You can substitute blueberries or blackberries or use thawed frozen fruit if fresh isn't available. Be sure to dry the berries as much as possible to preserve the texture of the custard and keep the fruit juices from seeping too much.

## Raspberries and Cream Pie

### PIE

**1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust**  
**2½ cups raspberries, washed  
and patted dry**  
**1 cup sugar**  
**½ cup flour**  
**2 eggs**  
**½ cup sour cream**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

### TOPPING

**½ cup plus 2 tablespoons flour**  
**2 tablespoons packed brown sugar**  
**2 tablespoons sugar**  
**½ teaspoon ground cinnamon**  
**⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg**  
**¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted**

- 1. PIE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Roll out pie crust and arrange in a 9-inch pie dish. Arrange raspberries evenly in crust.
- In a small bowl, mix together sugar and flour. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, sour cream and vanilla until blended, then stir in sugar-flour mixture and whisk until smooth. Pour over raspberries.
- 4. TOPPING** In a small bowl, mix together flour, sugars, cinnamon and nutmeg, then add butter and mix with a fork until the topping is blended and crumbly. Scatter topping evenly over custard.
- Bake about 50 minutes, until top is golden. Let cool before serving.

**SERVES 8**

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







## Chocolate Chip Cookie Pie

DIANE LYERLY  
PEDERNALES EC

This decadent pie tastes just like a warm, gooey cookie. It's been a Lyerly family favorite for nearly 40 years, and it's easy to understand why. If you use a premade frozen pie shell, this pie can be ready in under an hour.

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust**
- 6 tablespoons butter (¾ stick), softened**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- 2 eggs**
- ½ cup flour**
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips**
- ¾ cup chopped pecans**
- ½ cup shredded coconut**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll out pie crust and arrange in a 9-inch pie dish. Set aside or chill while you prepare the filling.
- 2.** In a medium bowl, cream butter, sugar and vanilla. Beat in eggs until smooth, then stir in flour and mix until no dry bits remain. Stir in chocolate chips, pecans and coconut and pour mixture into prepared pie crust.
- 3.** Bake 35–40 minutes, until top is lightly browned and set. Let cool before serving.

**SERVES 8**

**\$500 WINNER**

## Grandmama's Apple-Cranberry Pie

MARGARET UMSTATTD  
PEDERNALES EC



A perfect balance of tart and sweet, this pie has been a part of Umstattd's family holiday since she was a child. A food processor can make quick work of chopping the cranberries.

**SERVES 8**



**PIE**

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust**
- ¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar**
- ¼ cup sugar**
- ⅓ cup (¼ stick) butter, cubed**
- ½ cup flour**
- 1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon**
- 4 cups peeled and diced Granny Smith apples (3–4 apples)**
- 2 cups chopped fresh or frozen and thawed cranberries**

**TOPPING**

- ½ cup flour**
- ¼ cup loosely packed brown sugar**
- ¼ cup (½ stick) cold butter, cubed**

- 1. PIE** Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Roll out pie crust and arrange in a 9-inch pie dish. Set aside or chill while you prepare the filling.
- 2.** In a large saucepan over medium-low heat, combine the sugars and butter, stirring to melt. Add flour, cinnamon, apples and cranberries and stir to coat fruit. Cook, stirring often to prevent burning, until mixture is somewhat syrupy, about 10 minutes. Pour filling into prepared pie crust.
- 3. TOPPING** Combine flour and brown sugar in a small bowl. Cut in the butter with a pastry cutter or two knives until the mixture forms coarse crumbs. Sprinkle evenly over the pie filling.
- 4.** Place a rimmed baking sheet on the lower oven rack to catch juices. Bake pie on the middle rack for 15 minutes. Lower temperature to 350 degrees and bake another 50 minutes. Let cool before serving.

MORE RECIPES >

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**BRUNCH** DUE NOVEMBER 10

Do you go sweet or savory—or both? Enter your best brunch recipe at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests) by November 10 for a chance to win \$500.



## Savory Butternut Squash Pie

LISA LAMB  
PEDERNALES EC

Pie doesn't have to be just for dessert. Lamb's take on the classic pumpkin pie makes for a light main course. It's equally at home on the table for dinner or a holiday brunch.

### CRUST

**¾ cup whole-wheat flour**  
**½ cup oat, spelt or all-purpose flour**  
**½ teaspoon salt**

**3 tablespoons cold butter**  
**6 tablespoons cold water, plus more as needed**

### FILLING

**2 eggs**  
**2 cups butternut squash purée**  
**1 cup milk**  
**¼ cup grated Parmesan**  
**1 tablespoon finely chopped sage, savory or fennel**  
**½ teaspoon salt**  
**½ teaspoon onion powder**  
**¼ teaspoon pepper**

**1. CRUST** Preheat oven to 425 degrees.  
**2.** In a medium bowl, mix together flours and salt. Cut in butter until coarse crumbs are formed. Stir in water 1 tablespoon at a time, until a cohesive dough is formed. (The amount will vary depending on humidity levels and flours used.) Move dough onto a floured surface, form into a ball and fold a few times to fully incorporate ingredients. Roll out and place into a 9-inch pie dish. Set aside or chill while you prepare filling.

**3. FILLING** In a large bowl, whisk together all the filling ingredients until well blended. Pour into prepared pie crust.

**4.** Bake 15 minutes, then reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake an additional 45 minutes. Let cool before serving.

**SERVES 8**

**TCP WEB EXTRA** There's always enough pie to go around when you use TexasCoopPower.com. Visit the Food page, search "pie" and discover hundreds of recipes previously featured in Texas Co-op Power.

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## A West Texas Gem

Downtown San Angelo features glimpses of frontier living

BY CHET GARNER

IT'S ONE OF THE largest towns in America not on an interstate. It's the wool and mohair capital of the world. And it's one of the few places where the main street still offers a glimpse of genuine frontier days.

On a searing summer afternoon, I found myself strolling down Concho Avenue in the heart of San Angelo's historic district. Named after the Concho River that flows through town a block south, this street is lined with boutique businesses and restaurants in century-old buildings.

I needed a sweet treat to get my mind off the heat, so I popped into Eggemeyer's General Store for a block of homemade fudge. The term "general" truly describes this place, as it seemed packed with everything, including children's souvenirs and kitchen tools, in displays stretching across multiple cavernous rooms.

I wandered a little farther and found myself contemplating a new pair of custom boots from the iconic M.L. Leddy's, then enjoying scenes of local history captured in colorful murals downtown. Inside Legend Jewelers, I marveled at the iridescent beauty of Concho pearls harvested from the river.

Outside the jewelry shop, I noticed a narrow stairway leading up to Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum. I had seen Miss Hattie's Restaurant and Cathouse Lounge down the street and decided to investigate.

Mark Priest, owner of both the jewelry shop and the museum, led me upstairs, where I encountered a setting that transported me to the 19th century—when this infamous business was managed by Miss Hattie. The parlor was furnished in red and purple velvets, and the long hallway passed through rows of small bedrooms. It was a glimpse into a small part of a big town's storied frontier past. ■

ABOVE Chet visits Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Stroll with Chet down the streets of this West Texas town and watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

## Know Before You Go

Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## NOVEMBER

09

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10

**Grand Prairie A Conversation With Stacey Abrams**, (972) 854-5050, [texastrustcutheatre.com/events](http://texastrustcutheatre.com/events)

12

**Nacogdoches Swingin' Axes and Aces**, (936) 468-2801, [music.sfasu.edu](http://music.sfasu.edu)

**Fredericksburg [12–14] Die Künstler Fine Art Show and Sale**, (830) 995-5771, [dkfredericksburg.org](http://dkfredericksburg.org)

13

**Bastrop Red, White & Blue Veterans Appreciation Banquet**, (512) 629-6590, [rwbveterans.com](http://rwbveterans.com)

**Corpus Christi Holiday Cooking With Herbs Workshop**, (361) 852-2100, [stxbot.org](http://stxbot.org)

**Fort McKavett Cooking the Army Ration**, (325) 396-2358, [facebook.com/visitfortmckavett](http://facebook.com/visitfortmckavett)

**George West Dion Pride**, (361) 436-1098, [dobie-westtheatre.com](http://dobie-westtheatre.com)

**Henderson Syrup Festival**, 1-866-650-5529, [depotmuseum.com/syrupfestival.html](http://depotmuseum.com/syrupfestival.html)

**Kingsbury Wings & Wheels Fly-In**, (830) 639-4162, [pioneerflightmuseum.org](http://pioneerflightmuseum.org)

**Kyle Veterans Day Parade**, (512) 262-3939, [cityofkyle.com](http://cityofkyle.com)



**Bryan [13-14] Friends of the Library Book Sale,**  
(979) 209-5600,  
friendsbcs.org

**Mesquite [13, 18] Wreath-Making Class,**  
(972) 216-6468,  
visitmesquitetx.com/events

**Boerne [13, 27] Bluegrass Jam at the AgriCultural,**  
(210) 445-1080,  
theagricultural.org/  
bluegrass-jams

**Brazoria Henry Smith Day,** (979) 824-0455,  
brazoriahf.org

**Dallas Visionary Women,**  
(214) 827-0813,  
fowlercommunities.org

**Alpine [19-20] Artwalk,**  
(432) 294-1071,  
artwalkalpine.com

**Boerne [19-20] Master Artwork Show,**  
(830) 816-5606,  
masterartworkshow.com

**Katy [19-21] Home for the Holidays Gift Market,**  
(281) 788-4297,  
homefortheholidays  
giftmarket.com

**Ingram [19-20, 26-28, Dec. 3-5, 10-12] A Christmas Carol,** (830) 367-5121,  
hcaf.com

**Corsicana Independent Order of Odd Fellows Trade Days,**  
(903) 872-7438, iooftx.org

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20

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**Irving Mozart con  
Amore,** (972) 252-4800,  
lascolinassymphony.org

**Kerrville Holiday Lighted  
Parade,** (830) 257-7200,  
kerrvilletx.gov

**Fredericksburg Albert  
and Gage,** (830) 990-2886,  
fredericksburgmusicclub.com

**Lufkin Straight No Chaser,**  
(936) 633-5454,  
angelinaarts.org/  
performing-arts-series

**Grapevine Carol of  
Lights,** (817) 410-3185,  
grapevinetexasusa.com

**Bellville [26-27] Big  
Top Vintage Market,**  
(936) 900-1900,  
bigtopvintage.com

**Corpus Christi [26-27,  
Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18]  
Holly Days at the Gardens,**  
(361) 852-2100, stxbot.org

**Abilene [26-28, Dec. 3-5,  
10-12, 17-19, 20-23, 26]  
Winter Lightfest,**  
(325) 677-1841,  
unitedwayabilene.org/  
winterlightfest

**Frisco [26-Jan. 2] Christ-  
mas in the Square,**  
(469) 633-1721,  
visitfrisco.com

27

**Comfort Christmas in  
Comfort,** (830) 995-3131,  
comfort-texas.com

28

**Bandera Frontier Times  
Jamboree,** (830) 796-3864,  
frontiertimesmuseum.org

DECEMBER

02

**Cameron Christmas  
Parade,** (254) 697-4979,  
cameron-tx.com

**Columbus Ladies Night  
Out,** (979) 732-8385,  
facebook.com/  
ladiesnightoutcolumbus-texas

**Grapevine Parade of  
Lights,** 1-800-457-7572,  
grapevinetexasusa.com

**Jacksonville Chamber  
Christmas Parade,**  
(903) 586-2217,  
jacksonvilletexas.com

**Kerrville Holiday Hopes,**  
(830) 792-7469,  
symphonyofthehills.org

**Brenham Gary Morris  
Christmas,** (979) 337-7240,  
thebarnhillcenter.com

**Fredericksburg Light  
the Night Christmas  
Parade,** (830) 997-5000,  
fredericksburg-texas.com

**Grapevine Nash Farm  
Christmas Decorating,**  
1-800-457-6338,  
grapevinetexasusa.com/  
nash-farm

**Fredericksburg Kinder-  
fest,** (830) 990-8441,  
pioneer-museum.net

04



# Funny Signs

As the song goes, "Sign, sign, everywhere a sign." As we see here, Texans and humor are as close as two coats of paint. Before we pull up stakes and mosey on, let's take a moment to read the writing on the wall.

BY GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

BRAD MOLGAARD  
TRINITY VALLEY EC

Spotted on FM 314 entering the town of Edom.

LEORIA MOORE  
PEDERNALES EC

Pointing drivers to this town in northeast Texas.

CASEY FANNIN  
RUSK COUNTY EC

"A funny sign I saw at Caddo Lake while on a boat tour."

MARK KUNNEMANN  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Rosie begs for treats or affection at the gate entering the goat pen.



## Upcoming Contests

DUE NOV 10 The Texas Experience

DUE DEC 10 All Wet

DUE JAN 10 Feathered Friends

Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

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



## Dad's Service Station

Giving credit where credit is due

BY DALE ROBERSON  
ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MOORE

IN 1949, MY FATHER left the Odessa oil patch and moved our family to Breckenridge, between Fort Worth and Abilene, where he bought a service station. He started with two customers a day and became one of the busiest stations in town.

The previous owner apparently was known to spend more time drinking whiskey and picking guitars than selling gasoline. We decided the three bullet holes in the ceiling were an indication of his priorities and his station's environment.

We called the business Red's Service Station and Garage—not a filling station because in addition to selling gasoline, we offered under-the-hood service and to clean windshields, sweep floorboards with a whisk broom and check tire pressure. From the age of 12 until I went off to the University of Texas at Austin in

1959, I made spending money by greasing cars, changing oil and fixing flats the old way, with tire tools, a rubber hammer and hot patches.

Because my father followed politics closely and was a huge football fan who gambled on sports, we were frequently visited by a collection of dignitaries and colorful characters from the worlds of politics, sports and newspaper publishing as well as a few bookies.

Probably the most famous customer we had was a wildcatter named Jack Grimm.

Grimm came into the service station one morning, introduced himself and said to my father, "Red, I graduated from Oklahoma University with a degree in geology. I'm going to produce oil here, but I need some credit." He suggested that if Dad carried him on the books for gasoline, he would pay his bill when he made a well.

Grimm was good for his word. Many days he was our first customer, and he would fill his Ford with gas before heading out to the oil fields. He usually burned that tank in a day and was our first customer the next morning. He reportedly hit 25 dry holes before making a good one. He always paid his bill. Before long, he graduated from Fords to Lincolns and moved his business to Abilene.

After striking it rich, he financed searches for sasquatch, the Abominable Snowman, Loch Ness monster, Titanic and, most famously, Noah's Ark.

Grimm was not the only one my father gave credit to. As long as customers paid their bills now and then, Dad would carry them. The only thing that made him mad was when a customer skipped paying a bill and he saw them buying their gas with cash at another station.

In addition to a strong work ethic, I learned at Red's Service Station and Garage never to judge people. My father would give credit to anyone, rich or poor. ■



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