

A SOUTH TEXAS
RANCH EVOLVES

RECIPES
FOR GIFTING

PECAN COUNTRY'S
NUTCRACKER COLLECTION

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2021



Road Worthy

'Texas Country Reporter'
celebrates 50 years
of hitting the trail

TRINITY
VALLEY EC
NEWS

SEE PAGE 18



LIVE LIFE PAIN FREE



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



Corrective Fit Orthotic
\$50 Value Free
podiatrist-grade support
with every shoe purchase
Excludes sandals.

Clinically Shown to Relieve Knee Pain

In a 2017 double-blind study by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

↓ **85%** LESS
KNEE PAIN

Enjoy the benefits of exercise
with GDEFY

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

gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$135

This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease.

**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



\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8MNR1

www.gdefy.com

Expires March 31, 2022

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Medical Technology Corp.
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. \$20 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 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.

December 2021



08

An Evolving Ranch Reality

Fennessey Ranch turns to conservation and education to diversify its mission.

*By Clayton Maxwell
Photos by Erich Schlegel*

12 The Domino Effect

How Bob Phillips has spent 50 years bringing regular folks into Texas homes.

By Joe Nick Patoski

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

The Grand Giver
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Recipes for Gifting
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

A Jaw-Dropping Collection
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Bridges

38

Observations

Carpe Diem, Mom
By Babs Rodriguez

ON THE COVER

Kelli and Bob Phillips of the *Texas Country Reporter*.

Photo by Dan Stricklin | Phillips Productions

ABOVE

A barred owl on the Fennessey Ranch.

Photo by Erich Schlegel

A Wonderful Flick

THE HOLIDAY CHESTNUT *It's a Wonderful Life* debuted 75 years ago, and it was kind of a flop.

Reviews were frosty after the film's premiere, December 20, 1946, at New York's Globe Theatre, and it bombed at the box office.

But in the 1970s, it landed on cable TV and has been pretty much unavoidable during the holiday season ever since.



“Look, Daddy. Teacher says every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.”

—ZUZU BAILEY

TRUE TREKKER

As a little girl, Vanessa Wyche watched Nichelle Nichols portray Lt. Nyota Uhura in *Star Trek*. “I got inspiration by seeing someone on a TV screen that looked like me, that made me think that I could do that,” Wyche said in a July interview with *Texas Standard*.

Wyche, below, director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston since June, is the first Black woman to lead a NASA center. The multi-decade veteran of the space agency prioritizes safety and inclusivity in her leadership.

“Part of [leading a team] may be understanding that diversity of thought and personnel is very important for us to bring everything to bear,” she said.



TCP Contests and More

ON [TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](https://www.texascooppower.com)

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Pickles and Jams

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

All Wet

RECOMMENDED READING

Underwater Theater, from December 2011, took readers along with divers off the Texas coast to see a cast of extraordinary coral reef creatures.



Be Enlightened

If every American replaced one incandescent lightbulb with an LED, we would save about \$600 million in annual energy costs and stop 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That's enough to power 3 million homes and roughly the amount of gas produced by 800,000 cars in a year.

A Red-Letter Day +

CLARA BARTON, founder of the American Red Cross, was born 200 years ago this month.

The Red Cross, started in 1881, was largely devoted to disaster relief for its first 20 years. Barton participated in her last relief mission in September 1900, when, at the age of 78, she distributed financial assistance and supplies to survivors of the deadly hurricane and tidal wave that struck Galveston.

Barton was born December 25, 1821, in Massachusetts.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE THE HARDEST JOB IN THE WORLD HAS TO BE ...

TCP 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 town. Here are some of the responses to our October prompt: **I wish I was there when ...**

Stevie Ray Vaughan played at Antone's.

KIM GROSSMAN
PEDERNALES EC
JONESTOWN

Neil Armstrong famously landed on the moon.

LEANN HOLT
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
ALLEN

The winning lottery ticket was being passed across the counter.

JULIA BRYANT
SOUTH PLAINS EC
SPUR

To see more responses, read *Currents* online.



KYLIE O'NEAL | WOOD COUNTY EC

Making It Happen

The evening of the big freeze, I drove from my home in Crawford to Marble Falls to visit my disabled brother [Co-ops Shine, October 2021]. My wife was left alone to face the rigors of the freeze, and because of the work of Heart of Texas EC, she had power almost the entire time. I am deeply appreciative of all the work the co-op employees put in to make that happen.

Stan and Jane Jarosz
Heart of Texas EC
Crawford



Our San Patricio EC is excellent [Co-ops Shine, October 2021]. Always great service in the field and at the office. They keep customers informed and repair in a timely manner. We never lost power during the freeze.

SUE SPARKMAN
VIA FACEBOOK



CHANELLE NIBBELINK

Earliest Inconvenience

“So much respect for all our co-op guys. They go wherever they’re needed, whenever they’re needed, and stay as long as they’re needed.”

PEGGY LAGING
VIA FACEBOOK

A Stable Career

We sure need more horse vets [Second to None, September 2021].

Kate Jacobs
Via Facebook

Finding Contentment

I am content with my old house, too [Not About To Fixate, October 2021]. I’ve been through the remodels, and all get old and out of style sooner than later. It’s wonderful to be content with what one has. I’m glad to know that there is someone else out there who feels like I do.

M.C. Watts
Sam Houston EC
Chester

Walking Through History

As a kid my brothers and I scoured this same Hill Country looking for arrowheads and other stuff, even chasing a few goats along the way [Raising the Stakes, September 2021].

John Taliaferro has a way of telling a story that makes you feel like you’re walking along with him and getting a history lesson at the same time. He talks Texan.

Dale Yardley
Cherokee County EC
Jacksonville

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.

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Gary Raybon, El Campo • **Vice Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo
Secretary-Treasurer Neil Hesse, Muenster • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burleson • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Gary Miller, Bryan • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • John Ed Shipnough, Bonham
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Chris Burrows • **Editor-at-Large** Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull
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 • **Digital Media Intern** Sabrina Macias

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 78, Number 6 (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 2021 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2021 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American Heart Association
Publications

3,000-Year-Old Beauty Secret Revealed

Turquoise — the original fashion icon — comes full circle for an amazing price.

She's been around for thousands of years, but she's never gone out of fashion. We're talking turquoise, one of the world's most ancient gems. Egyptian queens adorned themselves with turquoise jewelry more than 3,000 years ago. And the blue beauty is even more coveted now than she was a millennia ago.

Do you know someone who's even more beautiful now than when you first met? Then the Timeless Turquoise Pendant is for them — a stylish circle formed from seven total carats of natural turquoise and exquisite sterling silver metalwork. And the price? Let's just say we made sure timeless was attainable for less than you'd think.

Time is running out for timeless turquoise. Just because turquoise is timeless, doesn't mean supplies of it will last forever. Turquoise is only found a few places on Earth. Typically unearthed in arid climates like the American Southwest and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, turquoise requires a delicate balance of minerals and water to achieve its gorgeous range of blues. But even when conditions are optimal for turquoise to form, finding stones of gem-worthy quality is a challenge. There are very few turquoise mines left, and then, less than 5% of turquoise mined worldwide is of jewelry condition, making it rarer to come by than even diamonds.

There are turquoise and sterling silver pendants out there for over \$1,200. And while genuine turquoise can garner a pretty penny, there's no reason to be paying a designer price when we can bring you designer pieces for a remarkable price.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed. Try the Timeless Turquoise Pendant for 30 days. If it fails to delight, just send it back for a refund of the item price.

Limited Availability. These are handcrafted artisan pieces, and we only have so many. Call today.

Jewelry Specifications:

- Natural turquoise in .925 sterling silver settings

Timeless Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (7 ctw) ~~\$299†~~ \$79 Save \$220

B. 18" 3-Strand Sterling Silver Cable Chain \$79

Pendant & Chain ~~\$378†~~ \$99 Save \$279

C. Earrings (14 ctw) ~~\$399†~~ \$129 Save \$270

Pendant, Chain & Earrings \$777 only \$199 Best Value!

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

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

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code TTC176-01

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

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. TTC176-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

7 carats of
genuine turquoise
ONLY \$79

B.



A.

Pendant
enlarged
to show
luxurious
color

"...turquoise is becoming rarer and more valuable because less of it is being discovered... the very best turquoise is more valuable than diamonds."

— The Jewellery Editor, 2021



C.



Rating of A+



Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.®

BY CLAYTON MAXWELL • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL

AN EVOLVING RANCH REALITY



FENNESSEY RANCH TURNS TO CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION TO DIVERSIFY ITS MISSION

WALKING A WOODLAND TRAIL on the Fennessey Ranch, Sally Crofutt, former manager of this 3,250-acre spread on the Texas coast, stops at a tangle of woody branches. “Here’s a grapevine,” she says, holding a twisted branch in her hands. “We pick our grapes July Fourth ’cause that’s about when they ripen. I make jelly. I got in the Refugio County Fair with it, and I won.”

Crofutt managed this South Texas ranch of wetlands and coastal prairies for 26 years and has proved her ability to make this rough land bear fruit. She has transformed the Fennessey into a poster child among coastal ranches in the art of revenue stream diversification—a step many ranches must pursue now that increasingly complex production cost management means cattle operations alone will not do the trick.

“Over the past 30-plus years, input costs associated with cattle production have risen at a faster rate than cattle prices,” says Clay Mathis, director of the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. “It’s more than just rising commodity prices and is particularly driven by the rise in fixed costs of land ownership. Today many ranches that are profitable have

achieved success by diversifying revenue streams to spread the fixed costs over more income-producing enterprises.”

Crofutt carved out trails with award-winning wildlife photographer Dean Johnstone to build a photography shelter by the Mission River, 7 miles of which run through the ranch. It’s a prime spot that entices photographers to pay for the opportunity to catch a shot of a painted bunting or a hawk soaring over the treetops.

She also leases an observation blind to birders. Located on the Central Flyway, the Fennessey is a birders’ jackpot, with more than 420 species of resident and migratory birds recorded on the ranch. And she brought on beekeepers to coax 160 pounds of honey each year from the endless acres of scrubby huisache trees that greet you as soon as you drive through the ranch gates.

Jim Blackburn, an environmental attorney and professor at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, says the Fennessey is an excellent case of a ranch generating alternative sources of income. “The Fennessey’s wildlife tours and catering to birdwatchers and photographers makes them a premier example of how to find cash sources well before others,” he says. “My hat is off to them as trail-blazers.”



ABOVE Sally Crofutt, retired manager of the Fennessey Ranch, oversaw the wetlands and coastal prairies there for 26 years. BELOW A Texas rat snake.



OPPOSITE A bald eagle returns to its nest with a squirrel on the Fennessey Ranch. ABOVE A pair of barred owls.





TOP The McGill Lake wetlands and Mission River on the Fennessey Ranch.
ABOVE A painted bunting sings during spring migration.

The Fennessey is at the forefront of what may be the most meaningful way that ranches are diversifying: conservation and education. In his book *A Texan Plan for the Texas Coast*, Blackburn contends that one of the best things coastal ranches like the Fennessey can do to sustain the land, and therefore the Gulf, is simply remain intact. Although there are many critics of Texas' vast private land ownership—about 95% of the state's land is privately owned—some environmentalists believe large private landowners often are the best custodians of their land, as long as they can avoid parceling it off.

"One of the biggest threats to the long-term future of the Texas coast (and perhaps Texas generally) is the potential breakup of large landholding," Blackburn writes. "The continued presence of these large tracts devoted to cattle ranching and wildlife is a centerpiece of the charm and ecological abundance and variety of the Texas coast. They provide fabulous wildlife habitat, holding ducks and geese on the ponds and short grass and deer in the woodland."

Mark Steinbach, executive director of Texas Land Conservancy, says unmitigated development changes the landscape in big ways, disturbing ecosystems and negatively impacting the water supply, air quality and light pollution levels.

In 2006 the Fennessey Ranch's owner, Brien O'Connor Dunn, a descendent of one of the oldest ranching families

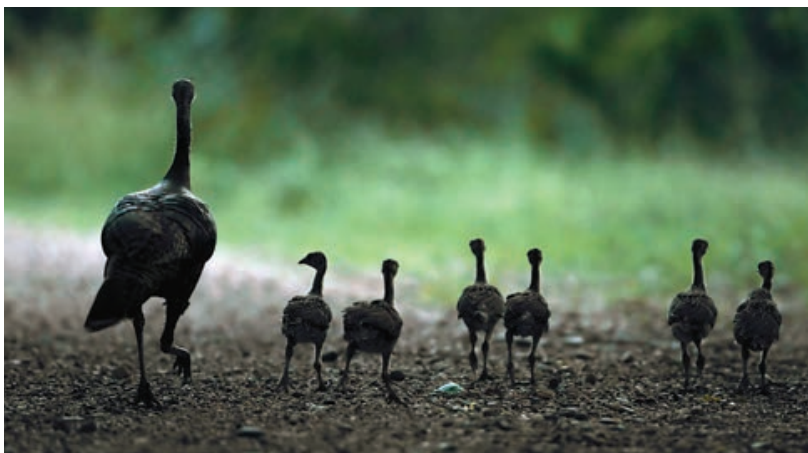
in South Texas, signed an agreement for a conservation easement with the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. Headquartered in Port Aransas, the institute holds the easement in perpetuity and has made the ranch part of the Mission-Aransas National

Estuarine Research Reserve. As Dunn hoped, the ranch's lakes, meadows, prairie, freshwater wetlands and the Mission River are now an expansive classroom for university research and schoolchildren.

Education on the Fennessey hits full throttle during its March Madness program, when more than 100 fifth graders overtake a field edging the ranch's bulrush-filled marshes to tag monarch butterflies migrating to Mexico. Kids jump through hula hoops to mimic the nimble calculations monarchs must perform to avoid smashing into buildings, a reminder of why undeveloped flyways are key to the survival of winged creatures.



LEFT A greater roadrunner.
BELOW Wild turkeys.



RANCHERS AS conservationists is not a new concept: As far back as 1934, U.S. Rep. Richard Kleberg, “the Cowboy Congressman” from the King Ranch, championed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, requiring that a stamp be purchased by hunters of migratory waterfowl to raise funds for wetland conservation. The Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, an offshoot of the King Ranch, has for more than three decades studied the loss of native species in Texas and is now working with the Texas Department of Transportation to reseed 240,000 acres of Texas roadsides to restore native plants and habitat.

Apart from conservation programs, the ranchers and workers who live on the land and can read its rhythms—those who see what a heavy rain can do or where spoonbills land—are often its best stewards. Crofutt understands the Fennessey with an intimacy earned from decades of interaction. She can throw out an impressive sandhill crane call and then point to the bobbing tail of an eastern phoebe, a sight recognizable only to the practiced eye. She knows what the ranch’s many critters, from its lazy cattle to the one roaming mountain lion, are up to: “Bucks are in rut right now.”

Reflecting on her years on the Fennessey, Crofutt says that finding new ways to make money and keep those acres from being fragmented is her proudest accomplishment. Standing amid the tangle of foliage and trees that frame the Mission River, which feeds into Copano Bay and then out

into the Gulf of Mexico, her words show her pride and hard-won knowledge of the land.

Although Crofutt officially retired as manager of the ranch in 2020, she is still intimately involved with the Fennessey, coordinating efforts with the Marine Science Institute. She trains master naturalists and is resuscitating the ranch’s journals, a key way to keep track of changes on the land.

“I always kept a journal of rainfall, bird and wildlife sightings, what is happening day to day on the ranch,” Crofutt says. “After [Hurricane] Harvey, all of that wound up in the bay. So now it’s all there in Sally Crofutt’s brain, which isn’t all that steady. We are journaling again about what’s happening day to day so that we have a baseline. There are always changes, especially after the big freeze.”

It’s good to know that the Fennessey is in good hands, that its river won’t be surrounded by concrete and condos, and that it will continue to be a source of education and awe.

“I’ve been out here where I’ve seen a thousand hawks just lift off,” says Crofutt. “You see, the hawks have to have large trees to roost in. You want tall trees along the river so your migrating hawks will come in. We have a hawk watch every September that’s just amazing. We put guests on a hawk hayride. I can make a hayride out of anything.” ■

TCP WEB EXTRA See a slideshow featuring more wildlife found on the Fennessey Ranch.



Back in 1972, Bob Phillips took on an extra assignment as a news reporter for KDFW-TV in Dallas. He became the host of a new program called *4 Country Reporter*, going out into the Texas countryside to find interesting characters who told him their stories.

In 2002, Phillips even interviewed me and photographer Laurence Parent for our book, *Big Bend National Park*. Naturally, he conducted the interview halfway up the park's Lost Mine Trail.

Nearly 50 years and more than 3 million miles after he first hit the road, Phillips is still traveling around the state as host of *Texas Country Reporter*, talking to folks and sharing their stories. He's a juggernaut now, with a production company and a show that airs on 23 affiliates across Texas as well as the nationwide RFD-TV cable channel; a YouTube channel; *A Texas Tribute*, a touring presentation backed by a live symphony; and the TCR Festival in Waxahachie every October. For the past seven years, partner Kelli Phillips has been riding shotgun. Yes, they are married.

I caught up with Bob and Kelli at their Dallas home during a break in the show's 50th season.

The Domino Effect

Joe Nick Patoski: Real important question: How old were you when you started to drive?

Bob Phillips: I spent a lot of weekends and a lot of summers up on my Aunt Lena's farm in Grayson County. There was an old pickup out there that I could drive on the farm probably starting when I was about 9 years old. I couldn't go out on the road until I got my driver's license when I was 15.

JNP: What was the trigger to get into television?

BP: A guy named Eddie Barker who was both news director and the main anchor on the CBS affiliate in Dallas came to talk to my class—to my journalism class, when I was a first-semester freshman in college. This guy came and started telling stories. He was the first person to announce that John Kennedy had been killed in Dallas. He was five minutes ahead of Walter Cronkite. This was the guy that corralled Marina Oswald and did the first interview with her. He was a legend. I was mesmerized. As he was walking out of my class, I stopped him and asked him for his business card. He gave it to me and said, "What are you going to do with this?"

I said, "I'm going to ask you for a job." He gave me the greatest encouragement because he said, "You do just that." I gave him 30 minutes to get back to the office, and then I called him. He had me come in for an interview the next morning, and he hired me.

How Bob Phillips has spent nearly 50 years bringing regular folks into Texas homes

JNP: When did you get into the idea of driving around looking for characters who tell good stories?

BP: I rode around with my dad a lot when I was a really little kid, and he always had a fishing pole and a set of dominoes. He said, "I never know when I'm going to see a place where I want to drop a line, and I never know when I'm going to meet three other guys who want to sit down and play some 42."

After I had started working, I'm watching the *CBS Evening News With Walter Cronkite*, and there's a guy on there who's making a living doing what my dad did. It was Charles Kuralt, and I thought, "Oh, my gosh, my dad just did this for fun. That guy gets paid to do it." It looked like all Charles Kuralt did was drive around and talk to people who were playing dominoes and fishing and stuff.

I knew I had to put my own spin on it, so I went back to Eddie Barker and said, "OK, look. You know that Charles Kuralt guy that travels all over America? We can do the very same thing except we'll just travel all over Texas." He let me give it a try as a one-time-only deal. I did a few features on the news, and they kind of liked them. I clearly did not know what I was doing, but I cobbled them together. The audience response was good enough that they kept saying, "All right, do another one." Here we are at 50 years, still doing another one.

Kelli and Bob Phillips at Big Top Candy Shop in Austin.



The Texas Country Reporter Festival in Waxahachie celebrated 25 years of bringing arts and music fans together in 2021.

JNP: OK, honestly, the TV reporter going out on the road looking for stories like this was not a new concept. Others had programs like this. You had traction. Why do you think you resonated and the others didn't?

BP: I was talking to people who were just like my dad. In the very beginning, somebody was coaching me along and said, "When you're on camera, picture somebody that you love talking to." Well, that was my dad. To this day, when I look into the barrel of the lens, I'm looking at my dad's face. Every time, I thought about doing something else because you don't make any money in television news. I worked forever for two bucks an hour, but you're having a good time. Every now and then I thought, "Well, as I get older, I got to go find a real job." Then I would think, "But I love this so much." It also helps when people walk up to you almost every day of your life and say, "You must have the greatest job in the world." You start believing it when enough people say it to you.

Kelli Phillips: I also think it has something to do with the fact that when we go on stories, we don't have a preconceived idea of what this story is going to be. We honestly go in there with no questions in advance. We just sit down and talk with these people, and we develop a relationship. You see that transpire on the air.

BP: Yeah, she's right. I've never gone in with a list of questions for people. Frankly, I don't even think much about it ahead of time. We just sit down and have one of those, "Hey, how's it going?" chats and try to take people on a little journey to get them to tell us their life story and to forget there's cameras.

KP: And most of the time, they do.

BP: Yeah, for some reason, that's something we were pretty successful at. If you've got one of those huge crews like some shows do now, they've got a crew of 40 or 50 people on the set shooting these things. I always think, "How do they get anything done?" We go out with two or three or maybe four people, max, and the camera kind of disappears.

JNP: Bob, on that hike up Lost Mine Trail, I remember I'd gotten in hot water with Mike Levy, the publisher at *Texas Monthly*, and that eventually led to my departure from the magazine. But you actually had the most comforting words at the time when you said getting fired from Channel 4 was the best thing that ever happened to you.

BP: Well, yeah, it was because that's what propelled us. That made me. I'd done that show for 14 years. They didn't actually fire me; they just canceled my show. But it was like being fired because I wasn't going to stay there if they weren't going to let me do my show. That made me pull my britches up and say, "OK, you've got to do something about this," and that's when we syndicated the show all over the state and when I started producing it myself instead of through a television station. The show had been popular in Dallas-Fort Worth, but then it ...

KP: Exploded.

BP: Exploded all over the state. That was a good thing. ■

MUELLER METAL ROOFING

LASTING PROTECTION FOR YOUR HOME



Mueller metal roofs provide long-lasting beauty, weather resistance and energy efficiency. You can select from a wide range of designer colors to complement your home, backed by limited paint warranties up to 40 years. It all adds up to lasting peace of mind. Get a metal roof you can depend on from a company you can trust – a Mueller metal roof.



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

TEARS FROM A VOLCANO

Uniquely American stone ignites romance

On May 18, 1980, the once-slumbering Mount St. Helens erupted in the Pacific Northwest. It was the most impressive display of nature's power in North America's recorded history. But even more impressive is what emerged from the chaos... a spectacular new creation born of ancient minerals named Helenite. Its lush, vivid color and amazing story instantly captured the attention of jewelry connoisseurs worldwide. You can now have four carats of the world's newest stone for an absolutely unbelievable price.

Known as America's emerald, Helenite makes it possible to give her a stone that's brighter and has more fire than any emerald without paying the exorbitant price. In fact, this many carats of an emerald that looks this perfect and glows this green would cost you upwards of \$80,000. Your more beautiful and much more affordable option features a perfect teardrop of Helenite set in gold-covered sterling silver suspended from a chain accented with even more verdant Helenite.

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Helenite Earrings
-a \$129 value-
with purchase of
Helenite Necklace



Limited Reserves. As one of the largest gemstone dealers in the world, we buy more carats of Helenite than anyone, which lets us give you a great price. However, this much gorgeous green for this price won't last long. Don't miss out. Helenite is only found in one section of Washington State, so call today!

Romance guaranteed or your money back. Experience the scintillating beauty of the *Helenite Teardrop Necklace* for 30 days and if she isn't completely in love with it send it back for a full refund of the item price. You can even keep the stud earrings as our thank you for giving us a try.

Helenite Teardrop Necklace (4 1/4 ctw) ~~\$299~~* Only \$129 +S&P

Helenite Stud Earrings (1 ctw) \$129 +S&P

Helenite Set (5 1/4 ctw) ~~\$428~~* **Call-in price only \$129** +S&P
(Set includes necklace and stud earrings)

Call now and mention the offer code to receive FREE earrings.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code HEN414-01

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HEN414-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



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

• 4 1/4 ctw of American Helenite and the Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, DiamondAura® • Gold-finished .925 sterling silver settings • 16" chain with 2" extender and lobster clasp

Limited to the first
1600 orders
from this
ad only

*4 carats of
shimmering
Helenite*

★★★★★

*"I love these pieces...
it just glowed...
so beautiful!"*

— S.S., Salem, OR

Necklace
enlarged
to show
luxurious
color

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*



ADVANCED DIGITAL HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

Now Rechargeable!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Reg: \$599.98
Only \$299⁹⁹
Each When You Buy a Pair – **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**



"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard in years came back to me!"

— Don W., Sherman, TX

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$299⁹⁹

be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The MDHearingAid® VOLT+ uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 600,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, FDA-registered rechargeable hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. Now that you know... why pay more?

Never Change a Battery Again!



30-Hour Battery Life



Water Resistant to 3 Feet

A+BBB
rating for
10+ years

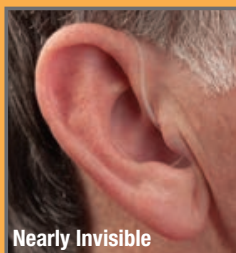
45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-674-1595

www.MDVolt.com



Nearly Invisible

**Order Now & Get
3 FREE Accessories
– \$150 Value –**



*Extra charging case does not include additional hearing aids.

MDHearingAid®

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Use Code **MB71** and get
FREE Shipping and Accessories



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

A Gift From Those Who Got Us Here

THE ORIGINAL MEMBER-OWNERS of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative gave us a gift that lives on every time you elect members to the board of directors, earn capital credits or light up your Christmas tree.

The rural Texans who worked together to build your electric cooperative are the reason you can turn on the lights, watch your favorite holiday movies and cook a Christmas feast.

During the holiday season, remember the determined folks who helped bring electricity to the rural communities and farms that the big electricity companies refused to serve. Our urban neighbors were enjoying the quality of life that electricity delivers decades earlier because the density of big cities made it economically viable to build distribution lines between close-together residents.

Some 80 years ago, our area, with its spread-out farms and ranches, got left behind until our co-op's founders secured the funds to build electric lines over miles and miles of Texas countryside.

Perhaps your grandparents or your neighbors' relatives collected membership fees as they got things started and shared those stories. Or maybe you heard tales of families' first Christmases with electricity. Imagine opening presents under a shining light bulb for the first time rather than a candle or lamp, or having a refrigerator to keep Christmas dinner fixings fresh.

Those folks sacrificed so their families could enjoy lighting, heat and the convenience of appliances—just like those who lived in the cities. They laid the foundation for the at-your-fingertips electricity and all the conveniences we enjoy today.

The holiday season, with its warmth and bounty, is a great time to appreciate our co-op's founding stories and the gift of modern conveniences that electricity brings to our lives.

When you take your Christmas dinner out of the oven this season or when you switch on your electric heat to make the house cozy over the holiday, remember those who lived without the convenience of electricity—and that they wanted it so badly they took matters into their own hands.

They passed that gift on to the next generations of co-op owners so we can enjoy it this Christmas and all year long. ■

Merry Christmas

From Trinity Valley
Electric Cooperative

Our offices will be
closed Thursday–Friday,
December 23–24, in
observance of the holiday.



MANAEMEDIA | ISTOCK.COM



ADOBESTOCK_213650532

Global Energy Markets Have Local Repercussions

Efficiency improvements and energy savings will have greater impact this year

BY DON JOHNSON, MEDIA & CONTENT SUPERVISOR

THE UPWARD TRAJECTORY of prices across the spectrum of goods and services has been a troubling trend for economists and consumers alike in 2021. While rising worldwide demand can be seen as a positive in the economic recovery from COVID-19, the widespread supply chain issues and energy price spikes can have a negative effect on family budgets here in Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative territory.

While the co-op is faced with the same overall price spikes for supplies, fuel and other business necessities as everyone else, the biggest impact on expenses comes directly from the costs related to buying the electricity we provide to members.

“Over the last few years, we were able to provide lower costs for members through a credit on the Power Cost Recovery Factor on monthly bills,” said Jeff Lane, TVEC general manager and CEO. “Thankfully we are in a position that our base rate can remain unchanged, as it has been since 2008, but current projections indicate those PCRF credits will be going away for the foreseeable future.”

What has caused this increase in energy prices? The largest market driver is the cost of fuel for energy generation. The price swing has been dramatic. Natural gas prices had fallen to around \$2.20 per million BTU in December 2020, and by the time this article goes to press in early November, prices have more than doubled to around \$5.50 per million BTU. Coal has seen a similar spike. These fuel sources together make up well over half of electricity generation in Texas.

One thing is certain: Reduction of energy consumption will be a critical component to keeping utility bills down this winter.

“Going into the coldest part of the year, it is in everyone’s best interest to use as little energy as possible to stay safe and comfortable,” Lane said. “We will continue to do everything we can to keep our costs as low as possible, but reducing energy use is the primary way TVEC members can impact their bills.”

Find energy-saving information and efficiency tips by following TVEC on social media and at tvec.net. ■

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

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

VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net



TVEC To Return \$3.7 Million in Capital Credits

How Capital Credits Work



At the end of each year, if TVEC has received more revenue than was necessary to cover expenses, the difference is allocated back to members as capital credits based on each member's share of electricity purchased.



When the co-op's financial condition permits, the board of directors may decide to retire, or pay back, some of the capital credits. This year, all outstanding capital credits from 1993 will be retired as well as 3.5% of outstanding capital credits from 2016-2020.



Capital credits are returned to current and former members. For current members, this year's disbursement will be applied as a credit on bills mailed in December. Former members will receive a check.

Capital Credits: How You Own the Co-op

WHEN YOU JOINED Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, you began investing in the company's electrical infrastructure, equipment, facilities and growth. Member ownership is one of the key differences between co-ops and retail providers, and with each electric bill you pay, your equity in the co-op grows.

TVEC is a nonprofit, member-owned co-op, so any operating margin is allocated to each member based on the amount of electricity purchased each year. It is a fair way to show each member's investment, and the co-op has that capital available to assist in funding growth and important projects to improve service and reliability.

As the co-op's financial condition allows, your elected board members refund these capital credits to members. For 2021, the TVEC Board of Directors has approved the return of almost \$3.7 million in capital credits.

This amount will include all remaining credits from 1993 and 3.5% of all other credits for members from 2016-2020. Members who joined in 2021 have not yet been allocated any credits and therefore will not see a refund.

Current members will receive their credits on the electric bills mailed from the co-op in December. Former members will receive a check at the address we have on file.

While credit amounts will vary greatly depending on how long you have been a member and how much electricity you have purchased, the return of capital credits is an important part of the financial stewardship of the co-op.

If you have any questions regarding capital credits, please contact TVEC at 800-766-9576 or memberrelations@tvec.coop.

ACCOUNT NUMBER		ACCOUNT NAME		RATE	CLASS	SERVICE ADDRESS		METER NUMBER
123456789001		TVEC MEMBER		1	1	12050 COUNTY ROAD 123		999999901
FROM	TO	NO. DAYS	RDG CODE	READING PREVIOUS	READING PRESENT	MULTIPLIER	KWH USAGE	CHARGES
11/11/18	12/11/18	30	2	56436	58824	1	2388	250.36
0.000000 PCRF ADJUSTMENT (REVERSE SIDE)								0.00
OPERATION ROUNDOFF								0.55
CUSTOMER CHARGE (REVERSE SIDE)								20.00
CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND								-40.91
TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES DUE 01/07/19								239.00
PREVIOUS AMOUNT DUE								219.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT 11/29/18								-219.00
PLEASE MAIL YOUR PAYMENT 5 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO DUE DATE TO ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY AND POSTING OF PAYMENT.								

Capital credits refunds will be applied to bills mailed in December for eligible current members who joined TVEC in or prior to 2020. Former members who no longer have service through TVEC will receive checks at the address on file.



AMIN TANG | ISTOCK.COM

The Electrical Naughty List

THIS CHRISTMAS, don't let Santa (or your or fire department) hear about you committing any of the no-nos on the electrical naughty list.

If you're in a hurry to set up for the season, it might be tempting to skip safety precautions. Some of the things that might get your name scrawled onto the irresponsible homeowner list include:

Overloaded outlets and electrical cords. Instead of plugging all your holiday lights and inflatable lawn reindeer into outlets in the same area of the house, space them out so you don't overload a circuit. Another solution is to invest in high-quality power strips, where you can plug in extra lights, appliances and decorations.

Hidden electrical cords. You might need more length to get a string of Christmas lights from the outlet to the tree, but take care where you run cords. Never run them under rugs or through high-traffic areas. People can trip over them, and the rug can cause wear on a cord, which can make it vulnerable to overheating and starting a fire.

Cracked or frayed cords. When you're unpacking your electrical decorations, inspect all cords for damage. Discard cords with cracks or frays.

Extension cords. After the holidays, pack and store extension cords. They are not designed for permanent use.

Smoke alarms. Keep the batteries fresh in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Change them before company arrives.

Net lighting. Birds and other wild animals can get trapped in netted holiday lights draped over bushes or wrapped around trees. String lights don't pose as much of a hazard. If using net lighting, take it down as soon as the holiday is over to limit the risk to wildlife. ■

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH TOUR

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!

Visit tvec.net/youth-tour for contest entry details

Start your adventure at
TexasYouthTour.com.



MARYVIOLET | ISTOCK.COM

Your Home's Five Biggest Energy Hogs

A HOME'S HUNGRIEST energy consumers are the appliances left running all day or for days at a time. Here's a look at the top five electricity eaters and some tips on how to stave off their appetites:

The No. 1 home energy hog is the **heating system**. Ways to control your heater's energy consumption include using a programmable thermostat, upgrading to a more efficient unit, sealing ducts and replacing filters.

Next up is the **cooling system**. You can improve the efficiency of your air conditioner by having a technician service it every year, using a programmable thermostat and ensuring adequate attic insulation.

Third is the **water heater**, which can account for up to 12% of a home's energy bill. Actual energy demand for water heating depends on the model of water heater you have. Yet no matter the type of unit, these habits can help you conserve: taking quick showers, washing clothes in cold water, setting the water temperature to 120 degrees, insulating the storage tank and regularly draining sediment. 60224785001

Next on the list are **dehumidifiers**, which typically run constantly to discourage mold growth and preserve stored items. To make sure your dehumidifier isn't wasting energy, close off the room where the machine is operating, set it at a reasonable level and consider upgrading to an Energy Star-certified model.

Fifth on the list—but still major power users—are **refrigerators** and **freezers**. Fridges generally are the top-consuming kitchen appliance, especially those that are a few decades old. Regardless of model, you can save energy by setting the temperature to 36–38 degrees for the refrigerator and zero to 5 degrees for the freezer, discarding freezer ice thicker than a quarter inch, checking seals, and cooling hot food before putting it inside. ■

November TVEC Hot Spot: Forney Statue of Liberty

GREETING COMMUTERS

on their way to and from work in the DFW Metroplex, Forney's own Statue of Liberty watches over U.S. Highway 80 at West Broad Street.



Congratulations to the October Hot Spot winner, Toni Smith who correctly identified our photo of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Kaufman.

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

Where is this

TVEC
TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HOT SPOT ?

Win \$100!

Send your answer and contact information to contest@tvec.coop or contact TVEC Member Services by December 31. 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 November awarded six grants totaling \$15,000. Recipients of the grants include:



Humane Society of Cedar Creek Lake - \$3,000

Shelter providing food, medical treatment, love and care to every animal that is brought to the facility. Their mission is to promote the humane treatment of animals through care, education and advocacy.



Lake Area Shared Ministries - \$4,000

Food pantry serving southern Hunt County.



British Flying Training School Museum - \$500

To educate all ages of all nationalities as to the history and importance of the cooperation between the British Commonwealth and American government in both war and peace.

Hidden Acres - \$2,000

A Christian camp and retreat center whose mission is to be a place set apart to experience Christ, expand community and equip leaders.

One Man's Treasure - \$3,000

One Man's Treasure seeks to empower men recently released from prison who come to the Dallas and Fort Worth area by providing them with clothing and opportunities for networking.

Love & Grace Family Resource Ministries - \$2,500

Food pantry serving Van Zandt county.



Brushing Away Haze

Artist Lee Jamison brings to life the cloistered realm of East Texas

BY GENE FOWLER

HUNTSVILLE'S LEE JAMISON has experienced art's transformative power. In the 1980s he was teaching art in his hometown of Shreveport, a part of Louisiana he describes as "occupied East Texas." A woman brought her teenage daughter, Kathie, to his class, hoping the artist might somehow rescue the young woman from a deep, dark depression brought on by an accident that left her with quadriplegia. "No request ever weighed more heavily on my soul," says Jamison.

After three weeks with no progress, the artist decided to try an experiment, painting with a semblance of the physical limitations experienced by Kathie. "I set up to paint with a brush in my teeth, my hands tied behind my back and my torso tied to the chair back by members of the class," Jamison says. After three hours, Jamison had created two paintings: a simple seascape and a childlike sunflower under a sunny sky.

"That seemed to make a huge impact on Kathie," Jamison recalls. "She became engaged in the class and signed up for more sessions." In time she achieved a Bachelor of Arts and master's degree and began work as a counselor at a local hospital.

"Her mother thought I had hung the moon," Jamison says. "Two little paintings helped her to separate the light from the darkness. How can I ever live up to the privilege of having been there to see that moment?"

Jamison answers that vexing question with each brushstroke in his Huntsville studio, creating paintings that help East Texans appreciate their region. His works depicting life and scenes behind the Pine Curtain gently lift a foggy haze that he believes has long obscured the cloistered realm. In Jamison's view, to live in East Texas is, in many respects, "to disappear from the rest of the world."

Jamison got an eyeful of vanishing small towns, woods and prairies while attending Lon Morris College in Jacksonville in the mid-1970s. Singing with the college's quartet, he traveled more than 10,000 miles for 111 performances. He continued to develop a deep and enduring sense of place when he moved to the Walker County hamlet of Dodge in 1984 and became a member of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative.

Though very few people appear in his paintings,

local folks affected him just as much as did the landscape. "I need a human story," he says, "to anchor a place—to make it real to me. Dodge is where I first thought of a field as having a personality and moods. There the earth itself seemed at times to become a part of me."

Intensifying his regional experience, Jamison has painted scenes from the streets of Jefferson, one of Texas' oldest towns, and the wilds of Sabine National Forest, Caddo Lake and the Big Thicket. Many of his paintings limn a distant past that still pulses through the region. A painting titled *Journey to the Ancients* depicts a dome-shaped grass house of the Caddo people built on a sapling frame. In a forested scene at Mission Tejas State Park included in the artist's new book, *Ode to East Texas*, the artist works to encompass "the deeply rutted old path of El Camino Real," one of many trails that followed "footpaths that had existed into darkest antiquity."

Jamison has made more discoveries about East Texas since publishing his book in March. "Our region is really remarkably cosmopolitan," he says. "It is full of well-educated, well-traveled people."

More recent history is represented in paintings of the oil derricks in downtown Kilgore decorated for Christmas, the memorial for the New London school explosion of 1937 and a massive diesel generator that once powered the long-gone Love's Lookout resort in Jacksonville.

Jamison's canvases are comfortably yet dramatically readable. "People say I'm an impressionist or a realist," he says. "I like to say I'm an abstract painter who makes his abstractions look like recognizable things."

That perspective bolsters the mystical qualities inherent in the way Jamison depicts mist draping a stand of pines or shafts of sunlight assuming sculptural qualities. His paintings ask us to slow down and take another look.

"We normally fail to see past the veil of commonness," he muses. But if we take our time, our best selves can discover the extraordinary in the ordinary. ■

TCP WEB EXTRA Register to win a copy of *Ode to East Texas: The Art of Lee Jamison*.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY
Dept. 6RP430 ☒ **YES** Please send me the following:


QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	56-Coin Quarter Set (limit 3)	\$29.95	
	Custom Display Folder	\$3.95	
1	Uncirculated Lincoln "Shield" Cent	FREE!	
	Shipping	FREE!	
	Sales Tax	FREE!	
	TOTAL \$		

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.
Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date /

Name _____
 Address _____ Apt# _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail _____

Mail To:  **Dept. 6RP430**
 Littleton Coin Co.
 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
 Littleton NH 03561-3737



Final Issue



Common Obverse
Actual Size

©2021 LCC, Inc.

Now! Complete National Park Quarter Set Only \$29.95!

Don't miss out! The final coin has been released and quantities are limited for these **Uncirculated Complete 56-Coin sets!** The first coin in this set was issued in 2010.

- **FREE** Shipping!
- **FREE** Gift:
Uncirculated Lincoln "Shield" Cent

You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation 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.

Mail Coupon Today!
For Faster Service Visit
LittletonCoin.com/Specials



Littleton
 Coin Company®

Serving Collectors Since 1945



WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED!



ONYX SHOWERS
FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now

TexasCoopPower.com/shop



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
 FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ★

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**

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.

PERMA-ROOF
 from Southern Builders
Steel Mobile Home Roofing

 High energy bill? Roof rumble? Leaks?
MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS
 Since 1983
 Contact us at **800.633.8969** or **roofer.com**

ARK-LA-TEX
 SHOP BUILDERS
 "WE GOTCHA COVERED"
 SHOPS • BARN • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM
830-730-0515
 8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
 Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barn/miniatures
WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!
Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric stub *(Dirt may be extra)

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

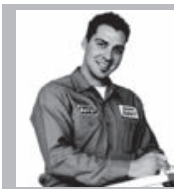
Low Cost Pole Barns

 26' x 48' x 10'
 3 Sides Enclosed
Call now for our best pricing!
 Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites
Call Ron: 512-367-0428

ADVERTISEMENT

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



Dear Darryl

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Houston, TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS14", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

TCP Marketplace
 Across Town | Across Texas

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



BUSINESS THE TEXAS WAY

We operate an online precious metals business as well as a long term storage solution in our Texas Precious Metals Depository for individual investors and IRA customers. Texas Precious Metals maintains class 2 and class 3 equivalent vaults in our high-security underground Texas facility which is fully insured by Lloyd's of London.

Since 2011, Texas Precious Metals has processed \$1 billion dollars in client transactions and earned an A+ Rating from the Better Business Bureau.

In 2014, Texas Precious Metals was recognized as the No. 1 "fastest growing Aggie-owned or Aggie-led business in the world" by Texas A&M University, and in 2015, Inc. Magazine named it the No. 200 Fastest Growing Private Company in America.

You can visit us online at texmetals.com to see how we are "Doing Business the Texas Way!"

\$25 OFF
orders over \$500

USE COUPON CODE: **TXPOWER25**

Limit 1 per customer. Expires 12-31-2021



We accept Visa and MasterCard.

texmetals.com



Free Shipping & Insurance

Free shipping on all orders.
Orders exceeding \$1,000 ship via
UPS Next Day Air.



Fast Processing

All orders ship within 3 business days
of payment. Unlike other companies,
if we don't have a product in stock, we
don't sell it.



No Order Minimum

Whether buying a small gift or
making a large investment, we place
no restrictions on order size.



IRA & 401K Rollovers

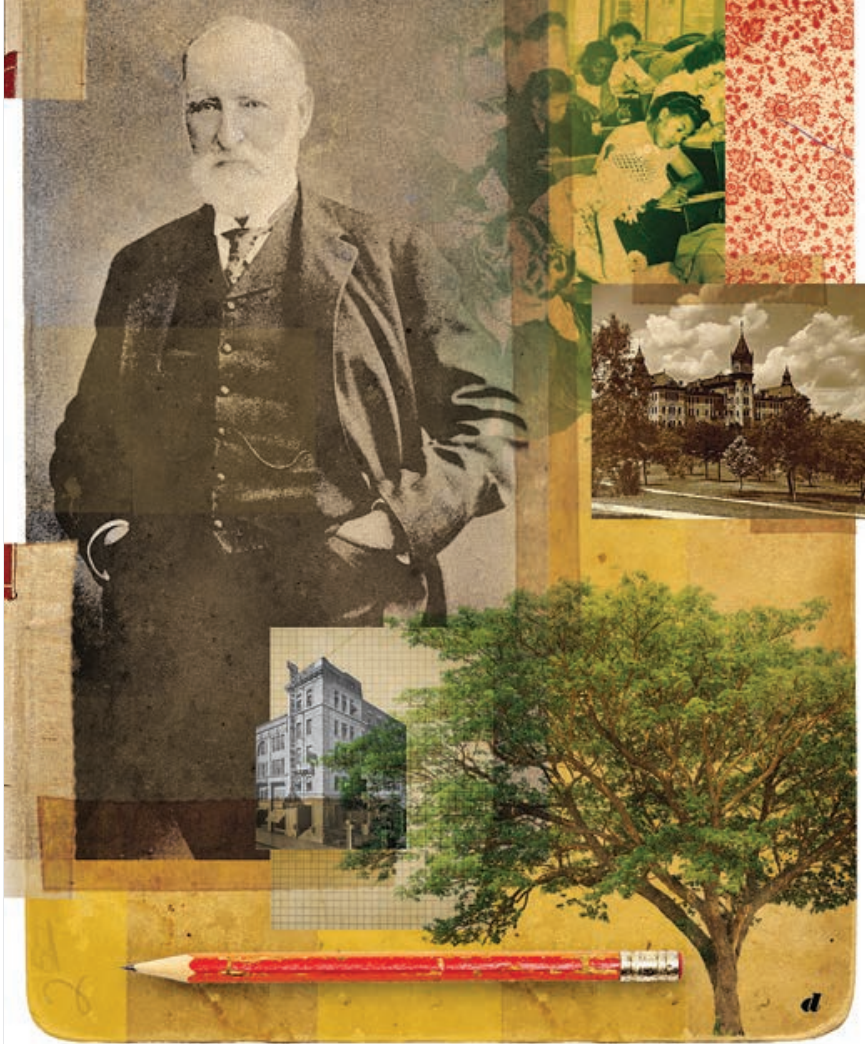
Investing in precious metals with a
self-directed IRA is easier than you
might think. We have the resources
necessary to make the process
hassle-free.



Full Transparency

We proudly publish our buy and sell
prices online. We have no
salespeople, no commissions, no
gimmicks, and we will never, ever
solicit our clients.





TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong read this story.

The Grand Giver

Brackenridge's goodwill and generosity continue to enhance life for San Antonio parkgoers and students across Texas

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VOGIN

GEORGE WASHINGTON BRACKENRIDGE may have given more to Texas than anyone else. He donated 199 acres for his namesake park in San Antonio, which now includes a zoo, museums, a golf course, a Japanese tea garden and other features in an enchanting setting that today encompasses 343 acres.

But Brackenridge Park was not the philanthropist's most impactful gift. That was the oil money that supports the University of Texas and Texas A&M University systems. As the longest-serving University of Texas regent—25 years—Brackenridge insisted that West Texas lands set aside for the university by the Legislature be transferred from the state to university control.

Not long after Brackenridge died in

1920, Santa Rita No. 1 brought in the first oil money and the start of the Permanent University Fund, which provides for construction of university buildings. Brackenridge's influence made sure the money stayed with UT and A&M and was not siphoned off by the Legislature.

Brackenridge was so protective of UT that when Gov. James "Pa" Ferguson threatened to eliminate university funding because he disagreed with the institution's hiring practices, Brackenridge pledged to cover the university's operating costs for the biennium if Ferguson made good on his threat. It didn't come to that.

In addition to his visionary services as a regent, Brackenridge donated 503 acres along the Colorado River in Austin to UT

in 1910. That land today includes a municipal golf course, the Brackenridge Field Lab and student housing.

Brackenridge made the bulk of his fortune as president of San Antonio National Bank and San Antonio Loan and Trust.

He was troubled by the fact that his father had enslaved people, so the younger Brackenridge attempted to create his own reparations plan. He calculated how much money should have been paid to the enslaved people and gave hundreds of thousands of dollars for African American education.

Brackenridge also championed the admittance of women into UT. He insisted on hiring female faculty and demanded complete equality for women. When women couldn't attend the university's medical school in Galveston for a lack of housing, he donated funds to build a dormitory. He supported women's suffrage because he believed women would help build a better society through political influence.

He never married and had no children, and upon his death, at age 88, Brackenridge put the bulk of his wealth into the George W. Brackenridge Foundation—the first of its kind in Texas. The foundation now emphasizes support for charter schools. Brackenridge preferred to invest in people rather than buildings, and he especially loved investing in young people. During his life he loaned untold sums to students for college, and all they had to do was sign a contract that said, "I agree to repay when circumstances permit."

By his own standards, Brackenridge lived a successful life. He said that he wished the world would be a little better place for his having lived in it. ■

Recipes for Gifting

Co-op Country kitchens offer perfect selections for one-stop shopping

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

I've been giving homemade food gifts at the holidays ever since I was a kid, when I'd box up packages of fudge and hot chocolate spoons for my entire family. From hot sauce to homemade bread, edible gifts are economical, personal and, of course, delicious. Granola is one of my go-to gifting recipes because it is endlessly customizable and keeps well in the pantry. Use your favorite dried fruits, nuts and spices to make your own signature blend.

Lemon Blueberry Granola

½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter

½ cup honey

4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats

1 cup sliced almonds or chopped walnuts

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup dried blueberries

Zest of 1 lemon

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees and line two rimmed baking sheets with parchment.
2. In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, melt together butter and honey.
3. In a large bowl, combine oats, nuts and salt. Pour butter mixture over the top and stir well to coat.
4. Spread evenly onto baking sheets and bake 30 minutes, stirring halfway through.
5. Immediately after removing from oven, scatter on dried blueberries and lemon zest and pat down gently with a spatula. This will help the ingredients adhere and cluster as the granola cools.
6. Let cool completely, then break into pieces and store in airtight containers or glass jars for gifting.

MAKES 5 CUPS

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Smoked Salt Caramel Corn.





Lacy Farm Apple Pie Jelly

JESSICA LACY
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Homemade jelly is always a good gift, and this spiced apple version can be used for breakfast or as a glaze on pork chops. Be sure to let jars cool completely before moving them, which will help ensure a proper seal and set.

- 4 cups apple juice
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 box (1.75 ounces) Sure-Jell powdered fruit pectin
- 5 cups sugar

COOK'S TIP If using low-sugar Sure-Jell, reduce sugar to 2.5 cups.

1. Fill a large canning pot with water and heat to boiling. Carefully lower jars into water and heat for 10 minutes to sterilize. Measure sugar into a bowl and set aside.
2. In a heavy saucepan or Dutch oven, combine apple juice, maple syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg and Sure-Jell and bring to a rolling boil that can't be stirred down.
3. Add sugar all at once, stir to dissolve and bring back to a rolling boil. Boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat.
4. Remove jars from canner and ladle jelly into jars, leaving ¼-inch headspace. Wipe rims with a wet cloth and apply lids and bands, then lower carefully into boiling water bath. (If you have a partially filled jar, let it cool on the counter.) Place cover on canning pot and process 10 minutes. Turn off heat, remove cover and carefully remove jars.

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

Mom's Knock-Out Cake

NAOMI RAWLE
WISE EC



Rawle, 94, remembers getting electricity for the first time more than 70 years ago, with one outlet for the whole house. Her fruit and nut cake is terrifically moist and bakes in mini loaf pans, making it ideal for gifting.

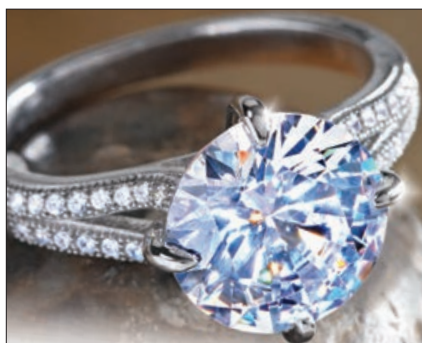
MAKES 5 LOAVES

- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 apple, cored and chopped
- 1 banana, mashed
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 3 cups flour, divided use
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Coat 5 mini loaf pans (5¾-by-3¼-inch) with cooking spray and lightly flour. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, eggs, oil and vanilla until blended. Stir in apple, banana and raisins. Let soak while preparing remaining ingredients.
3. In another bowl, sift together 2 cups flour, salt and baking soda. Stir into wet ingredients until no dry bits remain. In the same dry bowl, mix together remaining 1 cup flour, walnuts and cinnamon. Stir into batter until blended.
4. Divide batter among prepared loaf pans and place onto a baking sheet. Bake 35–40 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center of each pan comes out clean.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

PICKLES AND JAMS DUE DECEMBER 10
One of the great rewards of home gardening is home preserving. What is the pride of your pantry? Enter your best pickles and jams recipe at TexasCoopPower.com/contests by December 10 for a chance to win \$500.



URGENT: Diamond Ring Recall

Experts warn that millions of rings may be "romantically defective" when compared to the spectacular 4 total carat Avalon Ring.

Have you recently overpaid only to be underwhelmed?

You can do bolder.

You can do brighter. You can own the Stauer 4 total carat *Avalon Ring* for **under \$50**. Only

Stauer's exclusive diamond alternative gives you the luxury look of large-carat diamonds for a fraction of the price. After cutting and polishing, scientists create a faultless marvel that's optically clearer with even more color and fire than a "D" flawless diamond.

The ring features a classic round-cut center stone, prong-set in rare platinum over fine .925 sterling silver.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. If for any reason you don't absolutely adore your Avalon Ring, return it within 30 days for a full refund of your item price.

Jewelry Specifications:

- 3 ¾ carat Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, Diamond *Aura*® center stone; 32 brilliant-cut accent stones
- Platinum-finished .925 sterling silver setting; whole sizes 5–10

Avalon Ring (4 ctw) ~~\$295~~
\$49* + S&P

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: AVR545-09

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Ste 155, Dept. AVR545-09, Burnsville,
MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer®

AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

RECIPES CONTINUED

5. Let jars cool overnight. Once cooled, check to make sure lids have popped. Any jars that have not properly sealed should be stored in the refrigerator. Store sealed jars in a cool, dark area until ready to serve or gift. Refrigerate after opening.

MAKES ABOUT FIVE 8-OUNCE JARS



Potato Soup Mix

SANDY WELLBROCK
BLUEBONNET EC

Soup is an excellent gift in the wintertime, and this mix turns instant mashed potatoes into a creamy, warming meal. Add cheese powder for a cheesy soup.

- 2 cups instant mashed potatoes**
- 2 cups instant nonfat dry milk**
- 2 tablespoons chicken bouillon granules**
- 2 teaspoons dried chopped onion**
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley**
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt**
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme**
- ⅛ teaspoon ground white pepper**
- ⅛ teaspoon ground turmeric**
- ½ cup cheese powder (optional)**

1. In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients and package into jars. Or divide ingredients evenly and layer into jars for an attractive presentation.

2. For gifting, prepare a label or tag with preparation instructions: "To prepare 1 serving of soup, add ½ cup soup mix to 1 cup boiling water. Let stand 2 minutes for water to be absorbed, then stir well and add toppings as desired, such as bacon bits, sliced green onion and shredded cheese."

MAKES 8 SERVINGS



Susie's Victorian Toffee

CANDICE HUNT
COSERV

A crowd favorite, homemade toffee is easier to make than you might think. Use your favorite chocolates or nuts or other toppings, such as crushed pretzels.

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 tablespoon water**
- 4 ounces chocolate, broken into pieces**
- 1 cup pecan halves, chopped**

1. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil and set aside.
2. In a nonstick skillet over medium heat, melt butter, sugar and water together. Stir constantly in figure eights with a rubber spatula until mixture is bubbly and golden, about 10 minutes.
3. Carefully pour mixture onto prepared baking sheet and let cool 3–5 minutes, then scatter chocolate across the top. Using a rubber spatula, gently spread chocolate across the top as it melts, reaching all the edges. Scatter nuts over the chocolate.
4. Let cool overnight. If your kitchen is warm, the process can be sped up in the refrigerator or freezer. Once toffee is solid, break into pieces and store in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

MAKES 1 POUND TOFFEE

TCP WEB EXTRA Find other recipes suitable for gift giving at TexasCoopPower.com/food, where you can search through nearly 1,000 recipes.



holiday GIFT GUIDE

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



2022 Texas Bluebonnet 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](https://www.gboutwell.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](https://www.sorrellsfarms.com)



Homegrown Texas Pecans and Pecan Treats

Berdoll's has been family-owned for 43 years. We make delicious pecan pies, chocolate pecans, honey-glazed pecans and more! Visit our squirrel, Ms. Pearl, at our retail store or order online.

512-321-6157
[berdoll.com](https://www.berdoll.com)



Prevents Nearly Any Cut, Scratch, Bruise or Burn!

Durable, yet soft leather takes abuse your skin can't. Adjustable airflow makes them cooler than long sleeves. See website for 30+ benefits and 100s of uses.

651-492-4830
[armchaps.com](https://www.armchaps.com)



Like Walking on a Cloud

Re-energize your life with Mighty Walk by GDEFY. Clinically shown to relieve pain in the knees by up to 85%. Use code MQ8MNR1 and save \$20.

[gdefy.com](https://www.gdefy.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
[crockettfarms.com](https://www.crockettfarms.com)



COURTESY CHET GARNER

A Jaw-Dropping Collection

A Seguin museum's nutcracker compendium honors the pecan

BY CHET GARNER

I REMEMBER THE CHILDHOOD pain caused by suffering through performances of *The Nutcracker* and always associated it with the scolding I got for trying to use my family's decorative nutcracker to actually crack a nut. The heirloom's broken jaw never recovered despite hot glue treatments.

After that experience, I never liked nutcrackers. But a trip to see one of the world's largest nutcracker collections, in a Seguin museum, helped me realize I had more to learn about one of the world's oldest tools.

Seguin's known pecan history includes Native Americans who lived in the Guadalupe River valley and 16th-century Spanish explorer Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, who survived by eating the river's native nuts. Seguin now lays claim to three of the world's largest pecans, including the 10-foot fiberglass pecan sitting outside the Pape Pecan House. But the real treasure of Pape Pecan sits inside its retail store: a museum of more than 8,000 nutcrackers of every shape and size.

I had seen different nutcrackers before, most depicting a bearded soldier wearing a fancy uniform. At Pape Pecan House, you'll find nutcrackers in an astounding array of shapes, sizes and designs, including dozens of Santas as well as President Lyndon B. Johnson and Darth Vader. Some of these nutcrackers were carved and painted by hand more than 100 years ago.

Each character is distinctive, but each can be identified by its hinged jaw.

Kenneth Pape began collecting nutcrackers in the 1950s as an extension of his successful pecan business. His first nutcracker was a 6-foot-tall cowboy that now stands guard by the gift shop's cash register. A bonus to visiting the museum is leaving with some of Pape Pecan's locally grown nuts.

I prefer to let them crack the shells for me. After all, they are the experts. ■

ABOVE Chet cozies up to a life-size nutcracker at Pape Pecan House.

TCP WEB EXTRA If Chet's take on Texas cracks you up, you'll want to see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

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

DECEMBER

07

Nederland Lighted Christmas Parade, (409) 722-0279, nederlandtx.com

09

Sugar Land *The Elf on the Shelf: The Christmas Musical*, (281) 207-6278, smartfinancialcentre.net

Victoria [9-12] **Victoria Ballet Theatre: The Nutcracker**, (361) 575-2313, victoriaballet.org

10

Grand Prairie Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas, (972) 854-5050, texastrustcutheatre.com

Lake Jackson Tracy Byrd, (979) 230-3658, brazosport.edu/clarion

Cuero [10-11] Christmas in Downtown, (361) 485-8008, cueromainstreet.com

Fredericksburg [10-11] *A Christmas Journey*, (830) 997-2069, bethanyfredericksburg.com

Grapevine [10-11] *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, (817) 410-3100, grapevinetexasusa.com

Ingram [10-12] *A Christmas Carol*, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

Montalba [10-12] *A Walk Through Bethlehem*, (903) 764-8048, visitpalestine.com

Tomball [10-12] German Fest Christmas Market, (281) 350-5484, tomballgermanfest.org

11

Chappell Hill Chappell Hill Garden Club Christmas Homes Tour, (713) 562-6191, chappellhillgardencub.com

Corsicana *The Nutcracker*, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

Frankston Frankston Garden Club Christmas Tour of Homes, (817) 913-1982, frankstontexas.com/events

Grapevine Farmstead Christmas Celebration at Nash Farm, (817) 410-3185, grapevinetexasusa.com/nash-farm

Howe Christmas Parade, (903) 532-6080, howechamber.com

Huntsville Houston Family Christmas, (936) 294-1832, samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com

Mesquite Christmas on the Corridor, (972) 204-4927, visitmestquitetx.com

Palestine Dogwood Jamboree: *Just in Time for Christmas*, (903) 729-7080, dogwoodjamboree.com

Port Arthur Holiday Downtown Celebration, (409) 983-8105, portarthurtx.gov

Surfside Beach Nighttime Kites, (979) 233-1531, surfsidetx.org

Seguin Mid-Texas Symphony: Home for the Holidays, (830) 463-5353, mtsymphony.org

MORE EVENTS >

12

TCP Submit Your Event

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

LONE STAR JAZZ PARTY

AT THE 1895

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

140 W CAMERON AVE @ BURLESON ST · ROCKDALE TX



9AM – 6PM

HOLIDAY MARKET
FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS

12PM – 6PM

TOURS OF THE 1895 CITY HALL
LIVE MUSIC

SHOWCASING THE SOUNDS OF

SPARKY THOMASON QUINTET

TOMMY HOWARD TRIO

DAVE WILD TRIO FEATURING TYRHA LINDSEY

EVENT INFO & TICKETS AT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/1895JAZZ](https://tinyurl.com/1895jazz)

A FUNDRAISER FOR VISION HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
TAX ID 85-2855176



JERRY REICHERT makes wooden toys as charity donations for children.
POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | DECEMBER 2019

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

TexasCoopPower

\$100
WINNER

Nominate someone today!



Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.

Trail of Lights

KREISCHE BREWERY & MONUMENT HILL
STATE HISTORIC SITES
LA GRANGE, TX



5:30-8:00PM
TRADITIONAL NIGHTS
DEC. 4TH, 10TH-11TH, AND 17TH-18TH
FAMILY FUN • HOLIDAY HISTORY

ENCORE NIGHTS
DEC. 19TH-23RD
LIGHTS ONLY

Information and Advance Tickets at
friendsofkreischebrewery.org/trailoflights
or call 979-968-5658







Hit the Road

Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events



PHOTOFUNNIA14 | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

Pick of the Month

Winter Wonderland

Muenster, December 11
(940) 759-5299
heritageparkmuenstertx.com

Heritage Park in this North Texas town features a synthetic ice skating rink, ornament making, cookie decorating, bounce houses, dance and music performances, and an obstacle course. Oh, and Santa will be there, too.

DECEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

16

Palestine Christmas Carol Sing Along, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

Grapevine [16-17] Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin Christmas Tribute, (817) 410-3100, grapevinetexasusa.com

Anson [16-18] Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball, (325) 696-9040, texasccb.com

17

Wharton Snow on the Square, (979) 532-1862, whartonchamber.com

Abilene [17-23] Abilene Zoo Christmas Celebration, (325) 676-6085, abilenezoo.org

18

Big Spring Big Spring Symphony: Holiday Spectacular, (432) 816-5196, bigspringssymphony.org

Brenham Celtic Angels Christmas, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

19

Stonewall LBJ Tree Lighting, (830) 644-2252, tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

31

Fredericksburg New Year's Eve Countdown to 2022, (830) 997-6523, visitfredericksburgtx.com

Spring The Four Freshmen, (281) 440-4850, cypresscreekface.org

JANUARY

07

Galveston Mavis Staples, (409) 765-1894, thegrand.com

Bridges

On deck this month are bridges from readers spanning the Lone Star State. These tower over the others we received.

BY GRACE FULTZ

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

JIM BLAKE
COLEMAN COUNTY EC
The Waldrip Bridge at night.

RICHARD REEVES
JASPER-NEWTON EC
Part of a Neches River bridge between Evadale and Silsbee. "I remember riding over it as a child."

PAIGE KILLIAN
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge over the Trinity River in Dallas.

BUDDY PARK
PEDERNALES EC
Bluebonnets along a rail line in Llano County.



Upcoming Contests

- DUE DEC 10** All Wet
- DUE JAN 10** Feathered Friends
- DUE FEB 10** Industrial

Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://www.texascooppower.com/contests).

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



Carpe Diem, Mom

Impromptu, simple celebrations set an entertaining standard

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ
ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA GODEASSI

MY MOTHER, WHOM I firmly believe invented staycations to save herself the extended stress and unique exhaustion of traveling with five children (and a rooster, a chipmunk and two dogs), had the ability to make the everyday feel magical. Part and parcel of that superpower was her skill for impromptu entertaining.

I think Mom's way with last-minute meals and celebratory mood changers was honed while constantly responding to the needs of her squad of kids and a husband whom the U.S. Air Force had on call. Any day that work and school and flight schedules allowed all seven of us to be at the table, she'd whip up a loaves-and-fishes miracle from whatever she had on hand. Candles were always lighted just because. And even backyard picnics were graced with flowers in Mason jars, decades before that sort of practical elegance was trendy.

Her can-do spirit focused on honoring our family's together time whenever possible with whatever was on hand.

Holiday events were executed with equal ease. Christmas Eve dinner might be waffles and eggnog. On New Year's Eve we'd dance in the backyard under the stars. A maraschino cherry in anything from ginger ale to iced tea heralded a toast.

Mom's recipe for pig pie, a foraged blackberry cobbler topped with shortbread in the shapes of piglets, welcomed summer into our house. And her compulsive seasonal collections of seashells, pine cones and dried flowers worked their way into the decor that celebrated holidays and birthday bashes.

There was a do-it-yourself eccentricity to my mother's carpe diem spirit, and I see pale imitations of it now in trends from factory chic to urban farmhouse.

I am thinking the world is filled with similarly celebratory traditions conceived by mothers. Moms, grandmothers and aunties who casually influence a family's style of entertaining only to witness their rituals and recipes take root in the next generation. Which isn't to say fathers, granddads and uncles never set a mood—or a table—but, in my circle, the male influences were more pragmatic than emotional.

When I write stories about people's homes, how they live in them, what they collect, I sometimes find that they own furniture made by a family patriarch. But the mismatched heirloom platters of food that parade across that table or buffet most often showcase the collections and tastes of a mom or a sister.

So, I'd just like to give my mother a shoutout for teaching me to celebrate any and every event. More importantly, she taught me that rather than merely holding onto things I find meaningful, I should pass them along and make the sharing the special occasion. ■



YOUR DREAM BATHROOM
IN 1 DAY



7am TODAY



4pm TONIGHT



**50% off
Installation***

PLUS

**No Interest
No Payments
for 12 Months****

Fall in love with your bathroom
without breaking your budget



Fits existing space



Certified Installers



Amazing style selection



Safety features available

*with purchase of any complete bath or shower system.
Sales and installation performed by the licensed or
registered (if applicable) BathWraps dealer in your area.
**Financing is provided by third-party lenders under
terms arranged by customers and lender, subject to
credit requirement. Not all buyers may qualify.
Not all products available in all locations.



**CALL
NOW!**

888.571.3392

Or visit us
online at

BathInOneDay.com

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$69⁹⁹

month
for TV

+

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

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.

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ ^{\$40}

month
for Internet

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

godish.com/pricelock



iSe Habla
Español!

1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

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 4/13/22. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 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. ©2021 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.