

OUTLANDISH CHARACTERS  
OF BYGONE RODEOS

WHEN THE QUEEN  
CAME TO TEXAS

CHET LOOKS AT  
BUDDY HOLLY'S LEGACY

# Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2022

## Esports Enters the Arena

Students play their way  
to scholarships and careers  
in video gaming

TRINITY  
VALLEY EC  
NEWS

SEE PAGE 18





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# February 2022



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The booming business of esports finds eager participants in rural schools.

By Chris Burrows

## Stretching the Blanket

Outlandish characters and hard-to-believe yarns defined the early days of Texas rodeo.

By Gene Fowler  
Illustration by Douglas Jones

### ON THE COVER

At 100,000 square feet, Esports Stadium Arlington is the largest dedicated gaming facility in North America.

Photo courtesy Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau

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# 'Dillo Day

THE FOLKS IN BEE CAVE, just west of Austin, don't pay much attention to Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day. Instead, they rely on an armadillo named Bee Cave Bob on February 2 to prognosticate the arrival of spring. Bob has served the role since 2012.



## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

### THE BABY OF THE FAMILY ALWAYS ...

**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 December prompt: **The hardest job in the world has to be ...**

A single mom.

TISH CORTINAS  
COSERV  
MCKINNEY

That's easy. Utility lineman.

GINA SCHULTE HALLE  
VIA FACEBOOK

Still being a rancher in Central Texas when you are 88 years old.

SCOTT SINGLETON  
PEDERNALES EC  
MARBLE FALLS

Taking care of your aging, ailing parents.

MARY DIAZ  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
SHERMAN

The caretaker of a spouse with dementia.

SHARON MARTIN  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
GRANBURY

To see more responses, read Currents online.

## TWOSDAY

February flaunts a special Tuesday this year with a rare numerical alignment: 2/22/22. And twice that day, at 2:22, deuces are really wild.

(If you insist on using the 24-hour clock, the second instance of twos aligning that day will be 22:22.)



# Best Dressed

The nation's  
electric co-ops  
have deployed  
enough wind  
and solar power  
capacity to  
serve nearly

**2.7**  
**million**  
homes.

A TEXAS A&M University professor has developed water-based nanocoatings that, when added to military uniforms, protect against fire and UV light and change color in the presence of certain chemicals.

The softness of cotton and the strength of nylon are typically compromised when a protective property is added, but Jaime Grunlan has come up with a nontoxic solution that can add protection without changing the structure of the fabric. He hopes this technology can also benefit nonmilitary protective clothing.



## 50 Years of Easy Joe

Mr. Coffee, the first automatic drip machine for home use, started making it a little easier to get going in the morning in 1972.



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**RECOMMENDED READING**  
Chet Garner visited another West Texas spot with keepsakes from a musical legend, Roy Orbison, in *Wink's Spectacle* from September 2019.



## A Wonderful Flick

"It is nice that this old black-and-white movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is still a treasure. I bet it will be for another 75 years."

STEPHANIE RIGGIN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
LOCKHART

## Looking Out for Bison

I was born in the Ozarks at Evening Shade, Arkansas, but I got here as quickly as I could. I married a native Texas girl 20 years ago.

I am a true Texas history buff and love your monthly stories. I had never heard of the Texas State Bison Herd [*Last of Their Kind*, November 2021]. Please keep the stories coming.

J.D. Perkins III  
Bluebonnet EC  
Red Rock

What one animal said to another [*Safe Passage*, November 2021]: "Oh, let's don't cross here. Let's go down to the land bridge, which is 5 miles south of here. It's much safer."

JOHN PERRIN  
VIA FACEBOOK

## Snowbird Love

My husband and I are winter Texans. Your magazine teaches us about our winter home state and provides us with travel ideas while we are there.

Merlene S. DeZur  
NEC Co-op Energy  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## True to Her Word

I live in the Maverick community [*Biography of a Word*, November 2021]. My house is near the old Maverick School, which I love to photograph. A roadside marker dedicated to Maverick is nearby. And, yes, I am a maverick.

Sherry York  
Via Facebook

## Reaching Readers

*Carpe Diem, Mom* [December 2021] so aptly expressed Babs Rodriguez's feelings in a clear and fun way. It also demonstrated her love of her parents and family, which is always nice to hear.

Greg Sethness  
Central Texas EC  
Sunrise Beach



ANNA GODEASSI

**WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

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Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

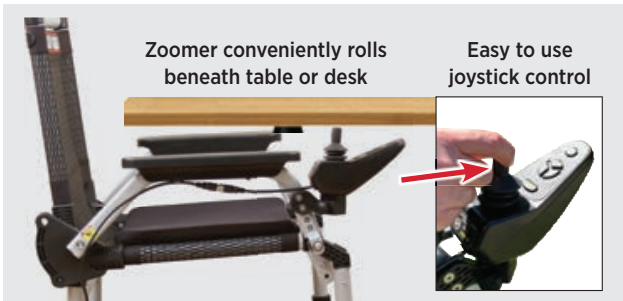
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A person is seen from the back, wearing large black over-ear headphones. They are looking at a screen that is out of focus, showing vibrant, colorful shapes and lights, likely from a video game. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the screen.

# A Whole New Ballgame

**The booming business  
of esports finds eager  
participants in rural schools**



BY CHRIS BURROWS

## Ryan Conger thought his athletics career was over.

Rounding third base in a baseball game in 2017, the LeTourneau University sophomore hit an uneven spot in the field. He heard a pop in his knee and knew right away it was his ACL. He was gutted.

"I was like, man, if I don't have baseball, I really don't know what I'm going to do," he said. "I make good grades, but it was only because I wanted to play baseball."

Sidelined with what can be a career-ending injury, Conger channeled his competitive energy into a video game called NBA 2K. The native of Palmer, south of Dallas, worked his way up the basketball game's rankings, playing against others from around the world, and was drafted in 2018 by a professional competitive gaming affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks NBA team.

In September, Conger and his team won their second straight championship on a virtual basketball court, marking Conger as one of the best NBA 2K players in the world and earning him a cut of a half-million-dollar prize. His competitive career wasn't over; it just looks a whole lot different now.

Conger and his teammates occupy one of the many big and bright stages of competitive video gaming—known as esports—and their work and winnings are made possible by the booming new industry that attracts 26.6 million monthly viewers who watch gamers compete in a vast array of virtual venues. Beyond sports games, the online universe extends to strategy and battle arena games and even traditional board games, like chess.

Esports brought in more than \$1 billion in revenue for the first time in 2021 and has given rise to a whole host of career paths for professionals in marketing, information



technology, game design, broadcasting and many other fields—in addition to the game-playing pros on arena stages and online. Now educators at schools are preparing students to take advantage.

"Esports is not the five professionals sitting on the stage," said Matt Tarpley, a member of the Texas Scholastic Esports Federation board. "There's 10 times more people behind the scenes doing all sorts of other work."

In 2018, Tarpley approached the principal at the high school in Merkel, west of Abilene, where he worked in IT. He pitched a gaming team that would be managed by an esports-centered marketing class.

"I said, 'Man, I don't necessarily understand this, but I do understand that our kids are going to be into it, so let's try it,'" Principal James Stevens said. Tarpley taught the class and coached the team, and more than two-thirds of the school's students expressed interest in the class.

"We used to get in trouble for playing video games, but now it's really cool because we see that video games help us develop our problem-solving skills, our critical-thinking skills," said Jansen Wilhite, who took over for Tarpley in 2021. "These are all great skills to have for when we enter the job force."

Wilhite grew up with video games, playing Donkey Kong as a child and World of Warcraft with her husband as an adult. Her degree is in microbiology, but she teaches physics and now Merkel's gaming course, where her students learn all about the types of video games, how they're developed and how to foster positive gameplay environments.

"I never anticipated a career in video games, but here we are," Wilhite said. "It's really cool for me to get to use both halves of myself at work."

ABOVE Ryan Conger competes in the 2021 NBA 2K league playoffs four years after an ACL tear ended his college baseball career. Conger said he planned to use his winnings to help his father open a food truck.



Wilhite also runs Merkel's after-school esports team, which competes in online chess and other video games against teams across Texas. Like the team at Sabine High School, in Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative's territory in Northeast Texas, where technology director Randy Cox was surprised by the buy-in he received from the superintendent.

"When you tell someone you want to start a program where we do competitive video games, I expected to get a little bit of a laugh, but he was very supportive," Cox said. "It's one more thing that students can get involved in with our school."

Merkel, Sabine and more than 400 other high schools across Texas now field esports teams, and even some middle schools are beginning to form clubs—part of a pipeline forming to feed some 250 colleges across the country that offer nearly \$15 million in scholarships to esports competitors and to feed the array of fields that support all of it.

Dallas public schools boast 60 esports clubs, but rural districts like Merkel and Sabine are making sure their students don't get left behind. They're working cooperatively to learn what's working and what isn't, how to get buy-in from administrators, where to get resources for

computers and equipment, and how to form leagues while the University Interscholastic League ponders official esports inclusion. Not every school has gamers on staff, fast internet or money for high-powered computers.

"Our rural schools in our area have always said, 'Hey, we understand that we can't do this by ourselves, but if we come together, we can get things done,'" said Shawn Schlueter, a

**Esports brought in more than \$1 billion in revenue for the first time in 2021.**

**Now educators at schools are preparing students to take advantage.**

technology consultant who works with educators in 13 counties. "We're starting to see that where administrators and even interested teachers are calling us and saying, 'You know, I see that [esports] could be valuable. How do I get going with it?'"

That value extends beyond the classroom. Esports can have profound benefits for students who aren't interested in traditional sports, extending to them the positive effects of team building, communication and community support that have long been available to athletes.

"I always say that esports programs are primed for the kids who slip through the cracks of schools," Schlueter said. "Even in a rural school where everybody has to do something, there are groups of



OPPOSITE PAGE The Mavs Gaming Hub in Dallas, site of last year's NBA 2K playoffs. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP The Merkel High School esports marketing class hosts a tournament. University of North Texas students celebrate at a national tournament. Texas Wesleyan University students compete.



kids that do nothing, and this helps engage those kids.”

Principal Stevens has seen it firsthand at Merkel.

“It’s attracted a lot of the kids who showed up at 8 and left at 4,” he said. “I’ve seen better participation, better grades, better attendance out of all those students, and it gave them something to be proud of involved with the school.”

Some of those students followed Tarpley to McMurry University in Abilene, where he now coaches the esports program.

“They’re on track to get a degree all because of esports,” Stevens said.



**In Texas,** dozens of smaller and lower-profile colleges like McMurry are cashing in by enticing competitors with scholarship money. The University of North Texas and the University of Texas at Dallas field some of the most competitive esports programs in the nation, part of a burgeoning esports hotbed in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, where the \$10 million Esports Stadium Arlington—the largest such venue in North America—has space for 2,500 spectators.

But there are opportunities everywhere for esports professionals like Kyle Murto.

He was preparing for a college soccer career when a string of injuries put him in the hospital, where he cracked open his laptop and climbed the ranks. Pro teams didn’t come calling, but Blinn College did. Now Murto helps coach the Brenham-based school’s esports team, which competes against Division I giants—and wins.

“Smaller schools don’t have that name recognition, so we have to go out and make a name for ourselves before the universities really get into the game,” Murto said.

At McMurry, Tarpley is focused on education and personal growth, not wins and losses. He holds workshops for content creation, personal branding and livestreaming and finds graphic design, statistics, broadcasting and other work for students to master.

“Everybody wants to be in this space,” he said. “It’s going to be everywhere eventually. It’s just a matter of time.”

Tarpley’s team meets regularly with a mental health coach—esports’ version of an athletic trainer—and he strives to make sure women are included in an activity that’s been dominated by men. He’s not forming the next Ryan Conger but the next Jansen Wilhite—multiskilled gamers and leaders who can cultivate programs like Merkel’s.

“I had several local schools call me, several local principals that know me. They’re like, ‘Hey, we hear y’all are doing esports. Can you tell me about it?’” Stevens said. “Of course, my first thing is, to be really successful you have to have a Matt Tarpley.” ■

**TCP** Go online to watch the University of North Texas take down LSU in a national playoff game.





★ "HACKBERRY SLIM" ★  
★ "FOGHORN" ★



★ "BUCK" ★ "MR RODEO" ★





# STRETCHING THE BLANKET

Outlandish characters  
and hard-to-believe  
yarns defined the early  
days of Texas rodeo

**RODEO COWBOY** Hackberry Slim Johnson came clean in 1956 when he described the 1906 train-jumping accident near Dalhart that cost him half a leg. “I’ve told so many damned lies about losing that leg,” he told an interviewer. But soon after this brief walk on the straight and narrow path of truth, Johnson reverted to his usual yarn about losing the appendage in a “wreck with a wild horse.”

Even though lies might be too harsh a term for the tall tales whipped up by early rodeo cowboys, Johnson was simply following the Texas tradition of stretching the blanket. Even when characters like him, Buck Steiner, Milt Hinkle and Foghorn Clancy told the truth, the stories still sounded like whoppers.

In its beginnings in the late 19th century, mirroring the recently shuttered American frontier, rodeo presented a vast stage for self-invention. “For decades, rodeo was busy defining itself,” says W.K. Stratton, author of *Chasing the Rodeo* and other books. “The sport was based on the Mexican charreada tradition, which subsequently inspired ‘cowboy contests’ on ranches and in small cattle towns in the West. The advent of Wild West shows and their showbiz elements influenced rodeo as well.

“There was no national sanctioning organization, no set rule-book, so rodeos varied from town to town. People expected to be entertained, and cantankerous old-timers were always a big draw. While elements of showbiz remain, today rodeo is made up of sanctioned athletic contests with standardized events and judging.”

But in its wild and woolly days of old, characters ran the show.

## MR. RODEO

**MILT HINKLE**, aka Mr. Rodeo, first glimpsed daylight in 1881 on the patch of Texas Panhandle that became the town of Bovina, which grew from a camp that was part of the XIT Ranch. In 1904, he claimed, Hinkle became the second man to accomplish the act of bulldogging, first performed by the Black cowboy Bill Pickett and known today as steer wrestling. In another boast, Hinkle bragged that he was the first to apply the term “rodeo” to a roundup event.

In 1919 a *Saturday Evening Post* correspondent wrote about having seen Hinkle suffer a hip injury at a rodeo in Bovina. Three months later, having escaped from the hospital, Hinkle was spotted in Cheyenne, Wyoming, by the same reporter, who described him as “a howling, squawking maniac,” hobbling on crutches as he got ready to bulldog.

*The Laredo Times* credited Hinkle with the world record for bulldogging from an automobile traveling at 68 mph in 1931. That same year, he agreed to stand in for an “aerial bulldogger” in Nuevo Laredo during the annual Washington’s Birthday Celebration. As Mr. Rodeo prepared to leap onto the running bull, however, *el toro* turned and charged the aircraft, wrecking it. The border paper reported that Hinkle was not seriously injured.

Decades later, however, Hinkle repeatedly told scribes that he landed successfully on the bull, breaking its neck, and that he himself suffered a crippling hip displacement. Mr. Rodeo had become a promoter, and before his death at 91, he relived the wild old days, lugging his scrapbooks around to reporters and writing for *True West* and *Frontier Times Magazine*.

## FOGHORN

**ONE YEAR YOUNGER** than Hinkle, famed rodeo announcer Frederick Melton “Foghorn” Clancy tried his hand at bronc riding in an 1898 cowboy tournament in San Angelo. The contest was won by the great Samuel Thomas “Booger Red” Privett, the Erath County native whose legend says he was never thrown, no matter how “outlaw” a horse he drew. And while Foghorn didn’t fare so well in the saddle, the experience opened another career door.

Clancy was working as a hand on the Hittson Ranch in Palo Pinto County when the Spanish-American War broke out. He quit to join the Army but was turned down for being underweight, so he began selling newspapers in the health resort town of Mineral Wells, bellowing headlines to drive sales. Local press observed that he “sounded like a foghorn at sea,” which provided a nickname and a second job as town crier. “I would ride horseback through the little resort,” he wrote in his 1952 autobiography, *My 50 Years in Rodeo*, “singing out about the attractions at the summer opera house or pavilion.”

Clancy’s stentorian reputation had preceded him in San Angelo, and after his unceremonious buck-off, the folks hosting the ropin’ and ridin’ contest offered him a job as announcer. This was a time before public address systems, but Foghorn lived up to his name, announcing rodeos from one-horse Western towns to Madison Square Garden.

Shortly after he died in 1957, the *Hereford Brand* reported on a quest by Fort Worth’s Pioneer Days celebration, held at the historic stockyards, to find the loudest Texan. Clancy would have been a shoo-in, and organizers recalled how, in “the old days of the rodeo, the mighty voice of the late Foghorn Clancy rattled the windows.”

**“I would ride horseback through the little resort singing out about the attractions at the summer opera house or pavilion.”**

**“When I die, I want to go in style. With my boots on. Dancing, maybe, or maybe while riding a buffalo.”**

Dancing, maybe, or maybe while riding a buffalo.”

In 1979, shortly after appearing in the Willie Nelson film *Honeysuckle Rose*, the 91-year-old white-whiskered cowboy danced to Nelson’s band playing *Milk Cow Blues*, then sat back down and slipped into the sunset. ■

## BUCK

**BORN IN BASTROP** in 1899, T.C. “Buck” Steiner lived to see two centuries turn. But long before he died in 2001, the crusty cowpoke had packed several lifetimes into one.

He started early, leaving grade school to pursue the cowboy life. After driving cattle through the streets of Austin, he left home at age 12 to perform in rodeos and Wild West shows, sharing bills with the likes of Annie Oakley and Tom Mix. Steiner demonstrated proficiency at roping, wrestling and riding spirited stock, but he developed a specialty of riding bulls facing backward. As he recalled in endless press features, riding backward was far more lucrative than riding frontward.

Around age 16 he worked for a time at the San Antonio Stockyards. Then at some point, according to the biography of Buck in the Handbook of Texas, a law enforcement career was cut short when he shot at a carload of politicians while working traffic management during a parade. While trailing cattle from Mexico to San Antonio, Steiner reportedly downed a few drinks with Pancho Villa. Later, it’s said, he bent elbows with Al Capone.

Back home in Austin, where a German immigrant ancestor had owned the town’s first harness and saddlery shop, Steiner bought and sold land, operated his own touring rodeos, rented his stock to other rodeos, and opened Capitol Saddlery in 1930. News reports say that he had as many as 96 saddle makers working for him and supplied Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck and Company. In a 1950s rodeo tour of Cuba with Gene Autry, Autry and Steiner got caught up amid Fidel Castro’s revolution. An emergency call to Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson saved their bacon.

The Steiners have been called the royal family of rodeo. Son Tommy Steiner ran the rodeo business until closing it in 1984, and grandson Bobby Steiner won the bull riding world championship in 1973. Buck’s great-grandson, Sid Steiner, won the steer wrestling world championship in 2002.

## HACKBERRY SLIM

**TOWARD THE END** of his long life, Hugh “Hackberry Slim” Johnson II carried his scrapbooks around to newspaper offices in towns where he’d rodeoed in days gone by. Time and again the “only one-legged bronc buster, bulldogger, steer rider and calf roper” in rodeo told the story

of his first prosthetic leg, made from a hackberry tree. He talked about working on the XIT and rodeoing with Hoot Gibson and Will Rogers, about the time he drove a bull through a Georgetown furniture store and about winning all-around cowboy in Harlingen in 1933.

He often talked about bison. Hackberry bought his first bison, named Chihuahua, in 1923 and was still producing his “buffalo rodeos” in his 80s. “When I die, I want to go in style,” he often said. “With my boots on.







# THE FIFTH C?

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# PRESIDENTS' DAY Window Special!



Presidents' Day Special **ENDS**  
Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Buy 1 window or door,  
get 1 window or door  
**40% OFF<sup>1</sup>**

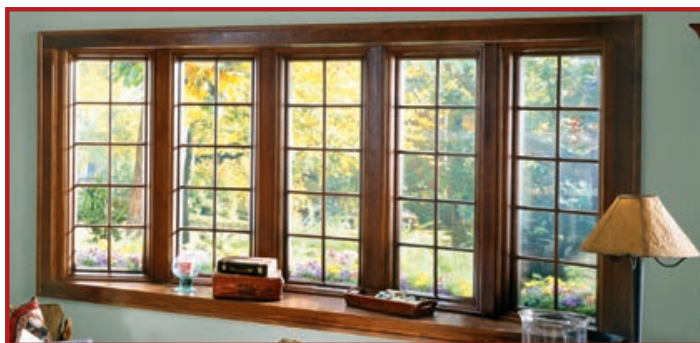
**PLUS**

★ Take an additional ★  
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**PLUS**

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- **Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen**, and every window that we custom-build has to live up to their strict quality standards
- Our window helps make homes more comfortable because our Fibrex<sup>®</sup> material is **two times stronger than vinyl**
- To lock in this Presidents' Day Special, call on or before **Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** and schedule your free Window and Door Diagnosis



**Call to schedule your appointment. Limited appointments are available.**



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<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. Special Presidents' Day \$200 discount valid during first appointment only. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 2/28/22, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 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 12 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). ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

JEFF LANE

## We Love Our Community

**"TO MOVE FORWARD, you have to give back."**

Those words from Oprah Winfrey could be used to describe the special bond and obligation that ties Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

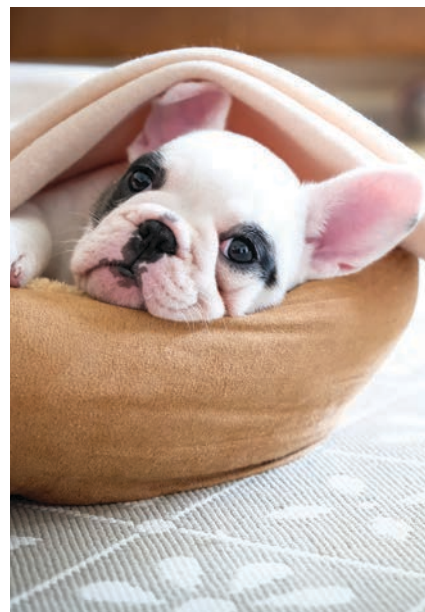
We know that when our founders—members of the community, like you—helped bring electricity to rural Texas decades ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, we have been at the forefront of helping our area thrive. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure its continued success—because we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of our members. This focus on the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. TVEC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Throughout the co-op's existence, our charitable programs and other outreach projects have fed hungry families, enabled those in need to keep their lights on, educated students and so much more—and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower TVEC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is constantly changing, fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. But one thing remains the same: By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community. ■



GOLLYKIM | ISTOCK.COM

## Keep Pets Warm Too

**YES, YOUR CAT** or dog was born with a thick, furry coat to help it stay warm all winter, but if you're cold, your pet probably is too. A few easy habits will keep your fluffy friend more comfortable—and safe—during the coldest days.

- Keep Fido inside your comfortably heated home as much as possible during the winter.
- Some cats love to cozy up to a space heater, but the appliance can burn their skin. They also can knock it over, and if it doesn't shut itself off and you're in another room, that's a fire hazard.
- If you use space heaters, consider investing in one with panels and vents that are too small for pets to poke their paws through. Look for a model with mesh or a grille on the front so pet hair can't get into the heater and damage the device or start a fire.
- Avoid leaving a pet alone in a room with a space heater. Even the best built-in safety features are no substitute for human supervision. ■





## Jack Endres Appointed to TVEC Board of Directors

Former healthcare administrator  
will serve unexpired term for  
District 7

**WITH THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID LANG** from the Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, board members were tasked with appointing a replacement director to fill the District 7 seat until that place is up for election later this year.

Jack Endres has accepted that appointment, bringing his experience of nearly three decades of corporate leadership to the co-op.

Endres' initial career trajectory was in tax law, following degrees from the University of Texas, Southern Methodist University and New York University. An opportunity to lead the hospital in his hometown of Muenster shifted his focus to health care administration, which also led him to leadership roles at East Texas Medical Center (now UT Health) in Jacksonville and Athens.

"I am mainly hoping I can use my experience in law and in health care management to bring some insights that may be helpful to our board," Endres said. "Our role as a board is to guide management, set policies and measure performance, so I do have experience in those areas."

While health care and electric service may be very different industries, Endres noted that both services are vital to every member in a community, every household and business.

"Another thing I see in common between the electric industry and healthcare is the amount of regulation in all aspects of the business," Endres said. "I have a lot of experience dealing with that, including helping legislators understand the day-to-day impacts of the laws and regulations they impose."

Endres has previous board experience with North Central Texas College, Trinity Valley Community College, the Texas Hospital Association and the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, which honored him with its Gordon Russell Award for outstanding achievement in hospital administration.

Endres and his wife, Mary, live in the Larue area. They have four children and two grandchildren. ■

## 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](http://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

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to report outages,  
please call us.

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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](http://tvec.net)



# District 7 Board Representative David Lang Retires

A career of business leadership made Lang an asset for the co-op during time of unprecedented growth

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE board member David Lang, who represented board District 7, has retired from the position.

“Mr. Lang’s contributions to the Cooperative, and his presence in the board room will truly be missed,” said General Manager/CEO Jeff Lane. “His sage and direct advice have been valuable to me, and his experience and character have been indispensable during a very critical period of the co-op’s growth and development.”

Lang was first elected to the seat in 2010, representing co-op members in rural Anderson County, which was also his boyhood home.



David Lang accepts a proclamation honoring his service to the TVEC Board of Directors from TVEC General Manager/CEO Jeff Lane.

“I remember, as a kid when I was 9 years old, that the Rural Electrification Administration was coming through to get electricity to our farm,” Lang said. “There was a five-dollar initiation fee, and you had to have a certain number of families joining to get the line built. My daddy paid for families who couldn’t afford the \$5 to make sure that line got to us. Before that I remember my mother taking us to our beds with a kerosene lamp because that was all there was.”

The Anderson County upbringing—with many hours spent working on the family farm planting,

harvesting, cutting timber and saw milling—set Lang up with a work ethic that would carry him through life, first in the United States Air Force, then as a businessman operating several successful ventures making equipment for West Texas oil fields.

“My daddy had 1,300 acres, and my brother and I had about 15 minutes after school to change clothes and grab a snack, then get in the truck to get out and work,” he said. “And now I still work every day, but I am 82 years old, so it isn’t the same. You get my age and if you get up in the morning you better have something to do every day or retirement can kill you.”

While his work ethic remains strong, Lang felt the time had come to end his time serving on the board.

“The board is doing a great job, but it is time for me to hand over the reins on some things,” he said. “I retired from my company when I was 62. I’m 82 now and the last 20 years feels like it was just two years. No matter how much you want it or don’t, things change, and you just have to adjust as you go.”

With more than a decade of co-op leadership on the board, Lang noted that the exponential growth in TVEC’s service territory will come with challenges and opportunities.

“We have had almost fifty 50% growth in number of meters just since I got on the board,” he said. “It will be a positive, because the more members and revenue you have, the better you can provide the infrastructure and service that

we need to have. Down here in Anderson County, it may not be growing as fast, but we have to rise to the challenge because we will keep growing and growing.”

At the December board meeting, Lang was presented with a proclamation in appreciation of his board service. His retirement was effective December 31, 2021. ■

## Win \$100 Just for Reading

Hidden somewhere on Pages 18–25 is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the member services department by February 28 to receive a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don’t miss out—you could be a winner.







## Improper Generator Use Can Be Deadly

**DURING LONG-TERM** power outages, many people rely on portable generators for emergency power. Their growing popularity has resulted in millions of generators being used as a backup power source for homes and small businesses. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly.

Follow this guidance for permanent and portable generators from Safe Electricity to help keep yourself and those around you safe.

### Permanent Standby Generators

All standby generators require a permanent transfer switch, which must be installed by a professional electrician.

The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and utility repair crews from backfeeding, which occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity back through power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

### Portable Generators

Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground generators. 60238044001

Never operate generators in a home, garage or other enclosed building. Place them in a dry, outdoor location well away from doors and windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Never plug portable electric generators into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring. This can energize power lines and injure you or others working nearby.

Turn off generators and allow them to cool before refueling.

Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating generators. Once a generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances.

Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by it. ■

## Stay Warm on the Coldest Days

**FEBRUARY CAN BE** one of the coldest months of the year. That doesn't mean you have to be cold all month, especially inside your own home.

Dressing in layers, wearing socks with your slippers and staying active are no-cost, no-tech ways to stay cozy indoors even if all you can see for miles is snow and ice. Also:

**Block drafts.** If your windows are old or made from a single pane of glass, it's time to upgrade. Energy-efficient glass—and windows with double panes—will go a long way toward keeping cold air from blowing into your house. They also could reduce the amount you spend on winter energy bills.

**Seal leaks.** Also great draft-blockers, weatherstripping and caulk can plug holes around windows and doors and wherever the inside of an outdoor wall is penetrated by a cable or phone line.

**Make the bed.** An electric blanket—one with an automatic shut-off and the mark of a recognized testing laboratory like UL—can keep you cozy at bedtime even when you turn the whole-house thermostat down to save energy overnight. ■





NIKKYTOK | ISTOCK.COM

## DIY: Hot Water Pipe Insulation

**INSULATING YOUR HOT** water pipes is a do-it-yourself project that might take only a few hours but can help you consume up to 4% less electricity annually.

Protected pipes reduce heat loss and can raise water temperature up to 4 degrees, allowing you to lower your water temperature setting, according to the Department of Energy.

Before you begin, determine what insulation material you want to use, how much you need and the size of the pipe. For electric water heaters, pipe sleeves made with polyethylene or neoprene foam are popular. On gas water heaters, insulation should be at least 6 inches away from the flue; otherwise, it is safest to use fiberglass pipe wrap without a facing and secured with aluminum foil tape.

Next, head to the hardware store and your garage to gather supplies:

- ▶ Tape measure.
- ▶ Pipe sleeves or strips of fiberglass insulation.
- ▶ Acrylic or duct tape, or cable ties, to secure the sleeves—or aluminum foil tape or wire to secure the fiberglass pipe wrap.
- ▶ Scissors, box cutter or utility knife.
- ▶ Headlamp or light.

Now you're ready to begin.

**1. Measure the pipes.** Starting at the water heater, measure lengths of insulation needed to cover all accessible hot water pipes, especially the first 3 feet of pipe from the water heater. It's also a good idea to insulate the cold-water inlet pipes for the first 3 feet.

**2. Cut the pipe sleeve** or insulation to the lengths needed.

**3. Place the insulation.** Position pipe sleeves so the seam will face down on the pipe.

**4. Secure the insulation** using tape, wire or clamps (with a cable tie) every 1–2 feet. ■

## January Energy Quiz: Texas Household Energy Use

**HOME COMFORTS**, including heating and cooling, combine to make the largest overall category of energy use in Texas homes. But when you break all uses down a bit further, home appliances can use a considerable amount of power. A 2009 eia.gov report shows overall household usage to be: 1. Home Appliances, Electronics and Lighting, 2. Heating, 3 Water Heating and 4. Air Conditioning.

Congratulations to Patty Campbell of Athens who correctly identified our TVEC Hot Spot photo of the Episcopal Church in Kaufman in December and won a \$100 bill credit.

**TVEC**  
TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Energy Quiz**



### What are phantom loads?

- A. Energy stored inside electronics.
- B. Energy lost from bad connections.
- C. Electronics that consume power even when they are turned off.

Win **\$100!**

Send your answer and contact information to **contest@tvec.coop** or contact TVEC Member Services by February 28. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in a future **Texas Co-op Power**.



# WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.



## Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

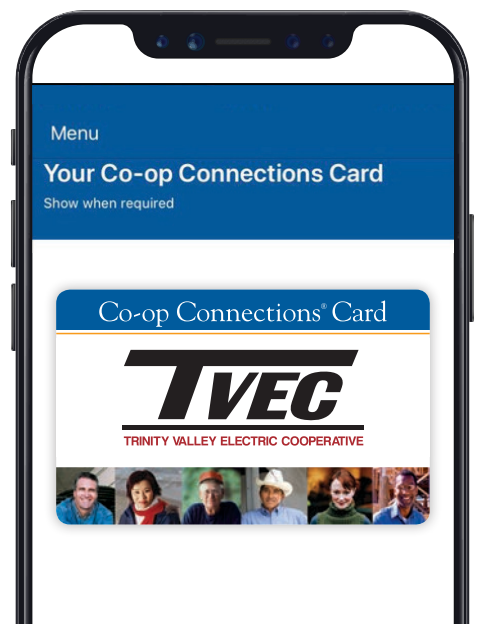
It's time to power a small-business comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by [Trinity Valley EC](#). Download the free app to find discounts from local merchants. Now you can save money while you support your community's business owners.

Find all the ways to save locally with Co-op Connections!

Visit [SmallBusinessComeback.coop](#) for more information.

**#POWERON**





TVEC ENERGY  
MANAGEMENT ADVISOR

CHRIS WALKER, BAP

The Energy Advisor:

## Residential Solar: Adjust Usage Patterns for Maximum Benefit

**WITH THE RAPID GROWTH** in the installation of residential solar, it is worth asking what the impact of short days and cold weather can be on solar electricity production and electricity bills.

If you have installed solar or are thinking about it, the winter months are when you may see your highest electricity bills. The reasons may seem obvious, with fewer hours of direct sun hitting solar panels.

However, one of the biggest factors is that electricity usage peaks at night while your home's heater is dealing with the lowest temperature. This is especially true if you use electricity for home heating.

Your solar installation provides the most value when you use the electricity you produce. That means in order to have the most impact on your electricity bill, your usage should be shifted to the hours your panels are active.

It is important to understand that for most residential systems, the short days and other poten-

tial winter weather impacts will likely result in lower solar output. When combined with high heating loads at night when solar systems are dormant, the result can be higher-than-expected power bills.

Just like anyone trying to lower electricity usage, lowering the thermostat and keeping the warm air inside is key.

Here are a few more tips for those of you with solar setups:

- Move as much energy usage as possible to the daylight hours in order to take advantage of the electricity you are producing. Laundry, cooking and other activities can add significantly to your usage from the grid in the evening hours.

- Make sure solar panels are clean and ready to produce as much energy as possible.

- With the sun's path shifted to the south in winter months, watch for trees or other seasonal shade that may be reducing your panels' output.

Every home is different, and that goes for solar panel installations as well. Your results will depend on many factors, including size and installation of your system, and the energy efficiency measures you take elsewhere in your home.

You can log in to the member portal at [tvec.net](http://tvec.net) to check your usage patterns in 15-minute increments.

If you are considering solar, please remember to contact us prior to installation to make sure your installer follows all of the necessary installation and safety guidelines.

And please note that TVEC works with members to make sure that your system can be safely attached to our grid. We do not have any preferred vendors or solar installers. Any properly installed system may be used, but it must pass a safety inspection first.

For more information on TVEC and solar visit [tvec.net](http://tvec.net). ■

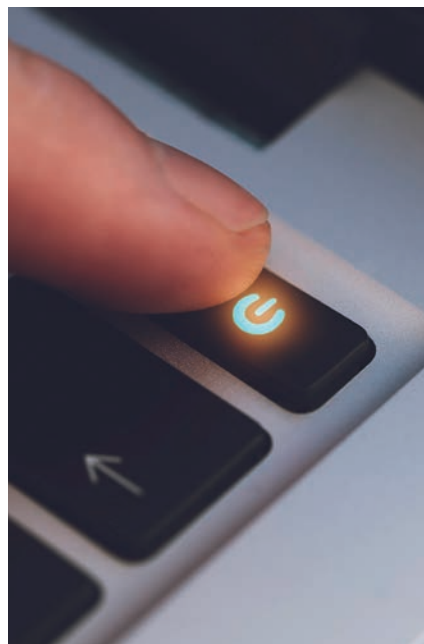
## To Sleep or Not To Sleep?

**EVER WONDER** when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings?

Let your device "go to sleep" after a period of inactivity. This is the most effective means of saving energy with a computer. Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy but also helps equipment run cooler and last longer. One misconception, carried over from the days of older computers, is that equipment lasts longer if it is never turned off. For energy savings and convenience, consider the following guidelines: Enable the sleep mode on your monitor if you aren't going to use it for more than 20 minutes. Switch off both the computer and monitor if they will be idle for more than two hours. ■



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# TVEC

Charitable Foundation

Your Generosity in Action

## Operation Round Up Spotlight: Bee-Happy Day Hab

TEXANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL disabilities can spend up to 15 years on waitlists before getting access to assistive programs. With some 140,000 individuals on those lists, Bee-Happy Day Hab founder Shelly Brookins saw a need to fill.

Her vision was to create a nonprofit, affordable, faith-based day habilitation to serve the growing population of Kaufman County and surrounding areas.

The organizations's clients include individuals with cognitive developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injury and autism.

Day-hab services include structured, weekday skill building activities that support daily living skills.

Programs include exercise and wellness, social and emotional skills, arts and crafts, gardening, personal goal setting and field trips.

Visit [beehappydayhab.org](http://beehappydayhab.org) for more information about programs, volunteer opportunities and enrollment.



Bee-Happy Day Hab founder, Shelley Brookins, and Mary Brooks, fund-raising director, accept a TVEC Charitable Foundation grant of \$2,000 from Laura Melton, TVEC public relations representative.

## December 2021 Grants

Bee-Happy Day Hab - \$2,000  
Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation - \$5,000  
Feeding Kids Right, Inc. - \$2,000  
Kaufman Christian Help Center - \$5,000  
REACH Child Placing Agency - \$2,000  
Van Zandt Co. Precinct Watch Program - \$1,500



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Each year, millions of collectors and silver stackers around the world secure freshly struck American Eagle Silver Dollars. Minted in one Troy ounce of 99.9% pure U.S. silver, these legal-tender coins are hugely popular now, but may soon become even more popular! Keep reading to find out why.

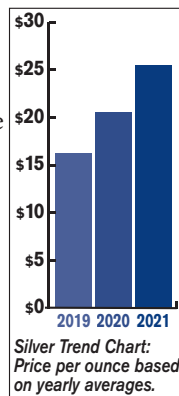
### Higher Values + Slowed Production = DEMAND!

Over the last three years, average monthly values of silver bullion have increased nearly 57%! At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the U.S. Mint slowing production of freshly struck Silver Eagles and using branch mints to help increase supply, but only in limited quantities.

### What This Means for You

Silver values are up, and silver is in high demand in the marketplace. In addition, many experts believe that the price of silver could continue to increase in the next 12 to 24 months. And while no one can accurately predict the future, there are two questions you should be asking yourself right now:

- 1) Do I own enough physical silver?
- 2) Which silver coins are right for me?



### Guaranteed By the U.S. Government

These 2022 Silver Eagles have just been released by the U.S. Mint. They are guaranteed for weight and fineness by the U.S. government. They're the world's most liquid and secure one-ounce silver coins. They're also recognized around the world, making them easier to sell when the time is right if you make that decision in the future. Silver Eagles are the safest way to buy silver—period!

### Don't Wait —

### NOW Is the Time to Buy!

Last year, when the new design first became available, demand was high, and many paid a premium for Silver Eagles. Call now to lock in our low prices, and your 2022 U.S. Silver Dollars will ship directly to your door. Don't pay more for the 99.9% fine silver you want for you and your family. The more you buy, the more you save, plus receive a FREE U.S. Mint Tube when you buy 20 or more.



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Queen Elizabeth II walks with Gov. Ann Richards.

**TCP** Listen to W.F. Strong read this story on our website.



Houston. She even took a ride on the San Antonio River on a beautifully decorated barge.

When Elizabeth arrived at Dallas' Love Field, she was greeted with strains of *The Yellow Rose of Texas*. The words to *God Save the Queen*, the British national anthem, were recited before the playing of the song so that the mostly Texan audience wouldn't sing *My Country 'Tis of Thee* to the familiar tune.

While in Dallas, she knighted Cecil Howard Green, an honorary title for the British-born founder of Texas Instruments and co-founder of the University of Texas campus there.

Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh, accompanied Elizabeth on the visit, part of their 13-day trip to the United States. Sitting next to him at the dinner commemorating the 150th anniversary of Dallas' founding was Louise Caldwell, president of the Dallas Historical Society. She remarked, "It was very hard to find anything that he didn't know more about than me, including Texas history."

The queen recounted the story in which a man tells his son: "Never ask a man where he's from. If he's from Texas, he'll tell you. Otherwise no use embarrassing him by asking."

At the Capitol, Gov. Ann Richards hosted the queen, and 8,000 people gathered to catch a glimpse. The queen declared, "No state commands such fierce pride and loyalty. Lesser mortals are pitied for their misfortune in not being born Texans." And she, the most traveled monarch in the world, knows what she's talking about. ■

# Her Majesty's Visit

Queen Elizabeth II's 1991 trip to Texas was a momentous occasion

BY W.F. STRONG AND LUPITA STRONG

**DURING HER 70-YEAR** reign, Queen Elizabeth II has witnessed many of the world's pivotal events, and one honorable mention where she became the event is her 1991 two-day visit to the Lone Star State.

Elizabeth was the first British monarch to visit Texas, and Texans gave her an impressive tip of the Stetson. She loved it. She asked her U.S. chief of protocol, "Why didn't I come here sooner?"

Texas has long had a special relationship with Great Britain, one of the first nations to recognize the Republic of Texas. Texans even flirted with the notion of becoming part of the British Empire in the 1840s, but the U.S. had other plans.

Five years before the queen was here, her majesty's son, Charles, the Prince of Wales, came to Texas to help celebrate

the Texas sesquicentennial. He cut into the 45-ton world's largest birthday cake with a 3-foot sword. I mean, it was Texas; what else was he supposed to use?

At the Capitol, the prince was given a giant gavel. He laughed and said that it was the biggest he had ever had and "extremely appropriate coming from Texas." While touring San Jacinto later that week—it was February but warm—he remarked, "If it's this hot in the winter, I'd like to see what it's like in the summer."

Texas has had 14 kings, but it was a queen who was most celebrated by Texans. In May 1991, Elizabeth visited Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston with an itinerary that included visits to the River Walk, the Alamo, NASA and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in

# Pasta

This most flexible staple anchors a variety of dishes and flavors

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Pasta has been a staple in our home for as long as I can remember. And why not? It's economical, filling and can be made into so many different dishes. Whether you have hungry kids in the house or just need something hearty on a cold night, there are plenty of options. This Pesto-Baked Penne is perfect for transforming leftover chicken and pesto into something new. You can easily make this recipe vegetarian by swapping in mushrooms or roasted winter squash for the chicken.

## Pesto-Baked Penne

**16 ounces penne pasta**

**1 tablespoon olive oil**

**1 cup ricotta cheese**

**⅓ cup pesto**

**2 tablespoons heavy cream or half-and-half**

**¼ cup chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes**

**2 cups diced chicken**

**½ cup shredded mozzarella**

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees and coat a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish with cooking spray. Cook penne just to al dente, according to package directions. Reserve ¼ cup pasta water, drain and transfer to a large bowl. Toss pasta with olive oil and set aside.

**2.** In another bowl, stir together ricotta, pesto and cream until blended. Add reserved pasta water to thin, if desired. Pour sauce over pasta and stir well to coat. Stir in the tomatoes and chicken, then transfer to prepared dish. Sprinkle mozzarella on evenly.

**3.** Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 5–10 minutes, until cheese on top is melted, if preferred.

**SERVES 8**

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Roasted Butternut Squash Lasagna.







## Gleason Family Goulash

SAMANTHA GLEASON  
BANDERA EC

This recipe is a great option for a make-ahead meal, as the flavors are even better the next day. In a clever trick, Gleason adds baking soda to help reduce the acidity from the tomatoes.

- 2 cups uncooked pasta (rotini, elbow or bow tie)**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic**
- 1 pound ground beef or turkey**
- 1 pound yellow squash or zucchini, diced**
- ½ sweet onion, chopped**
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano**
- 1 teaspoon dried sweet basil**
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning**
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ½ teaspoon pepper**
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) fire-roasted diced tomatoes, undrained**
- ¾ cup ketchup**
- 1 tablespoon sun-dried tomato paste**
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce**
- ½ cup water or beef broth**
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**
- ½ teaspoon baking soda**
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar**

1. Cook pasta in lightly salted water according to package directions. Drain and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan or deep-sided skillet over medium heat, add olive oil and garlic and cook 2 minutes, stirring to prevent burning. Add ground beef and cook 5 minutes, then add squash and onion. Continue to cook until beef is browned, stirring as needed.

\$500 WINNER

## Seafood Manicotti Alfredo

ANECIA HERO  
COSERV



This seafood manicotti feels fancy but is easy enough to put together on a weeknight. It's important to not overcook the pasta and handle it gently so it doesn't tear, so consider cooking a few extra shells just in case.

SERVES 4



PASTA

- 8 manicotti shells**
- 8 ounces cooked shrimp, tails removed, diced**
- 4 ounces cooked crabmeat, flaked**
- 1 egg, lightly beaten**
- 1 cup ricotta cheese**
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese**
- ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning**
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder**

SAUCE

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter**
- 1 cup heavy cream**
- 1¼ cups shredded Parmesan cheese**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. **PASTA** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray and set aside. Cook pasta in lightly salted boiling water for 7 minutes. Drain and transfer to a lightly greased baking sheet to cool.
2. In a large bowl, combine shrimp, crab, egg, ricotta, Parmesan, mozzarella, lemon juice, Creole seasoning and garlic powder. Stir until uniformly combined, then transfer to a piping bag or large zip-close bag. Cut off the bag tip and carefully pipe filling into cooked shells; fill one end of the shell, then the other. Transfer shells to prepared baking dish.
3. **SAUCE** In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, melt butter. Add heavy cream and Parmesan and cook, whisking often, until cheese is melted and sauce is thickened and smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Pour half of the sauce over the pasta, reserving the remaining sauce for serving. Cover dish with foil and bake 20 minutes. Serve with additional warmed sauce on top.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

STONE FRUITS DUE FEBRUARY 10

How do you turn peaches, plums, cherries and apricots into the stars of your kitchen? Submit your recipes online by February 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

## RECIPES CONTINUED

**3.** Stir in oregano, basil, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, salt and pepper, then stir in diced tomatoes with their juices, ketchup and tomato paste.

**4.** In a small bowl, whisk together tomato sauce, water, Worcestershire sauce and baking soda. Slowly add the mixture to the pan, stirring until foaming stops. Cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

**5.** Add cooked pasta and balsamic vinegar and stir well. Cover again and simmer another 10–15 minutes.

**SERVES 8**

### Meaty Mexican Mac and Cheese

CHUCK BURGESS  
HEART OF TEXAS EC

Perfect for those who love their mac and cheese fully loaded, Burgess' "3MC" gets its kick from a medley of favorite taco flavors. Make it as mild or as spicy as you like, with hot sauce and tortilla chips served on the side.



**2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil**  
**1½ pounds lean ground beef**  
**1 pound ground pork sausage**  
**1 large onion, chopped**  
**2 teaspoons salt**  
**1 tablespoon chili powder**  
**1 can (10 ounces) Ro-Tel tomatoes, mild (or to taste)**  
**½ cup salsa, mild (or to taste)**  
**1 can (4 ounces) diced green chiles, mild (or to taste)**  
**1 pound uncooked macaroni pasta**  
**1 pound Queso Blanco Velveeta**  
**10 ounces queso fresco, crumbled**

**1 cup Mexican crema or heavy cream**  
**Pepper jack cheese, shredded**

**1.** In a large pot with a lid over medium-high heat, heat oil, then add meats and onion. Cover and cook until meat is browned, stirring occasionally. Add salt, chili powder, tomatoes, salsa and chiles. Stir well and cook 10–15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

**2.** Meanwhile, cook pasta to al dente according to package directions. Drain and return to original cooking pot; set aside.

**3.** In a microwave-safe bowl, add Velveeta, queso fresco and cream and microwave 3 minutes. Stir well and continue to cook in the microwave in 30-second increments, stirring after each time, until melted and smooth. (Or combine ingredients in a saucepan and melt over medium heat.)

**4.** Stir cheese sauce into macaroni to coat, then pour pasta into the meat mixture. Heat on low 5 minutes or until heated through, stirring to blend well. Serve with pepper jack cheese on top.

**SERVES 8–10**



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## A Glimpse of Buddy Holly

Lubbock museum honors native son's enduring musical legacy

BY CHET GARNER

**I REMEMBER THE** first time I heard Buddy Holly. My older brother bought the soundtrack from the film *Stand by Me*, and for weeks the song *Everyday* was stuck in my head. Soon I discovered *Peggy Sue*, *Rave On* and other classic hits. My feet have been tapping ever since.

It wasn't until decades later that I learned Holly was born and raised in Lubbock and that the world's best Buddy Holly museum sits in the heart of the Hub City.

The first thing I noticed as I turned off Crickets Avenue was a larger-than-life set of Holly's signature black-rimmed glasses. Holly once considered wearing contact lenses to help his rock star image, but contacts hurt his eyes and he needed glasses to see the crowd. That's a good thing, as the glasses became as much a part of his timeless look as the electric guitar in his hands. This is just one of many facts I learned inside Lubbock's Buddy Holly Center.

The museum is full of artifacts and a complete timeline of how a kid from Lubbock forged a new rock 'n' roll sound that changed the world. One display shows mementos from Holly's high school days, including his baseball mitt and Converse high-tops. Another display holds items from Buddy's rise to fame, including a tweed sports coat he wore on tour and a pair of super-hip suede shoes.

It's hard to believe that Holly's career lasted only a few years, cut short by a plane crash in Iowa. His black-rimmed glasses recovered from the wreckage now sit silently in a case at the end of the museum's timeline.

The center gives every generation a connection to the man and his music. As the title of one of his hit songs says, his legacy will *Not Fade Away*. ■

ABOVE Chet visits the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock.

**TCP** Check out the Buddy Holly Center through Chet's eyes on our website. 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.

## FEBRUARY

10

**Lufkin My Funny Valentine**, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

**Port Aransas Chocolate Crawl**, (361) 749-5919, portaransas.org

**Round Rock [10-13] Texas Basket Weavers Association Annual Conference**, (512) 925-3596, texasbasketweavers.com

11

**Fredericksburg [11-12] Luckenbach Hug-In & Valentine Ball**, (830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

**Port Lavaca [11-12] South Texas Square and Round Dance Association February Frenzy**, (361) 575-2665, stsrda.org

**Fredericksburg [11-13, 18-20, 25-27] Clue: The Musical**, (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

12

**Jefferson Queen Mab Ball**, (903) 742-1405, mardigrasupriver.com

**New Braunfels Love the Run You're With 5K**, (830) 626-8786, athleteguild.com

**Dallas [12, 19, 26] The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Dinner Show**, 1-866-496-0535, thedinnerdetective.com

15

**Gladewater [15-March 15] Helen Lee Estate Daffodil Gardens**, (903) 845-5180



17

**West Tawakoni [17-19]**  
**Catmasters Classic on Lake**  
**Tawakoni**, (325) 998-2191,  
 thecatmasters.com

18

**Brenham The Funniest**  
**Night of Your Life With**  
**Todd Oliver**, (979) 337-7240,  
 thebarnhillcenter.com

**Brenham [18-19] Hearth**  
**and Home Quilt Show**,  
 (979) 661-4761,  
 friendshipquiltguild.weebly.com

**Kerrville [18-19] Hill Country**  
**Quilt Guild Winter Quilt**  
**Show**, (281) 974-6220,  
 hillcountryquiltguild.com

**Ozona [18-19] Ozona**  
**Land Stewardship Blowout**,  
 (325) 392-3737

**Fredericksburg [18-20]**  
**Trade Days**, (210) 846-4094,  
 fbgradedays.com

**Galveston [18-20, 25-27,**  
**March 1] Mardi Gras!**  
**Galveston**, (409) 763-8676,  
 galveston.com

**Victoria [18-20, 24-27]**  
**Ring of Fire**, (361) 570-8587,  
 theatrevictoria.org

19

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**,  
 (979) 480-0999, gcbo.org

**Mesquite Daddy-Daughter**  
**Dance**, (972) 204-4925,  
 visitmesquitetx.com

**Palacios African American**  
**Heritage Day**, (310) 650-9352,  
 citybytheseamuseum.org

**West Columbia Market**  
**Day**, (979) 345-4656,  
 visitvarnerhoggplantation.com

**Nocona [19-26] Mardi**  
**Gras Nocona Style**,  
 (940) 825-3526, nocona.org

MORE EVENTS >

## TCP Submit Your Event

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

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## Pick of the Month

### Texas Independence Day Celebration

Huntsville, March 2  
(936) 291-9726  
huntsvilletexas.com

March 2 is Texas Independence Day and Sam Houston's birthday. Huntsville, where the Texas statesman is buried, and Sam Houston State University hold annual celebrations for the occasions, including a graveside ceremony.

25

**La Grange [25-26] Best Little Quilt Show in Texas**, (979) 242-3514, coloradovalleyqg.com

**Lubbock [25-26] Friends of the Lubbock Library Last Friday BookStore**, (806) 775-2852, lubbockfol.org

26

**Granbury JazzFest**, (650) 265-1193, granburyjazzfest.com

**Henderson Mardi Gras Gumbo Cook-Off**, (903) 392-0691, visithendersontx.com

**Irving Irving Symphony Orchestra: Musical Treasures From the World**, (972) 831-8818, irvingsymphony.org

27

**Lufkin Croce Plays Croce**, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

## MARCH

### FEBRUARY EVENTS CONTINUED

20

**Fredericksburg Lone Star Brass**, (830) 997-6523, fredericksburgmusicclub.com

23

**Lufkin [23-24] Rob Schneider**, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

24

**Corsicana The Magic of Bill Blagg**, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

**Kerrville Symphony of the Hills: Heart of the Strings**, (830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

**Port Aransas [24-27] Whooping Crane Festival**, (361) 749-5919, portaransas.org/whooping-crane-festival

04

**Fredericksburg Texas A&M Singing Cadets**, (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

**Lubbock [4-5] Lubbock Area Square and Round Dance Federation Conclave Dance**, (806) 786-8589, squaredancelubbocktx.com

05

**Kerrville Looking Back with John Moore**, (830) 896-8976, lookingbackjkm22@gmail.com

06

**Lufkin Bella Gaia**, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

**Orange Fiddler on the Roof**, (409) 886-5535, lutch.org



# Public Art

"A true work of art takes at least an hour."  
—Charles Schulz, creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



**1** STEPHANIE EHLERT  
GREENBELT EC

"I found this beauty driving through Brady."

**2** GLENN TIMMONS  
SOUTH PLAINS EC

Parking meter art east of Lubbock.

**3** DEBRA CZERNY  
BLUEBONNET EC

Tom Besson painted this mural in downtown Elgin.

**4** CARMEN GALLO  
PEDERNALES EC

A recycled bicycle at Yellow Bike Project in Austin.



## Upcoming Contests

**DUE FEB 10** Industrial  
**DUE MAR 10** Morning Glory  
**DUE APR 10** Motorsports



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

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Public Art photos from readers.



## The Muse in Museum

Artistic inspiration abounds in the comfort of the Kimbell Café

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ  
ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA LIEDO

**WHEN I TRAVEL**, I seek out museums. As a writer always in search of a quiet place where my laptop is welcome, museum cafés help me meet deadlines and recharge in ways coffeehouse clatter never could.

The atmosphere of a good museum café pulls me out of time and settles me in a world—my chair, stool or booth—literally surrounded by artistic inspiration. Masterpieces a glance away, these settling-in spots are elevated musing favorites for any number of reasons: They are sure to be more subdued than the average coffee shop; the people-watching is stellar; and there's a hum in the atmosphere that inspires some of my best thinking.

Why it took me decades of courting the creativity muse in distant cafés only to discover I could have coffee with her

in my hometown of Fort Worth, I do not know. I do remember the moment it occurred to me that I had too long overlooked such a prime location for contemplation. Just before Christmas one year, I stopped at the Kimbell Art Museum for a gift shop run. I plodded up the broad limestone steps to the gallery level, overwhelmed by obligations, my head full of deadlines.

Drawn into the light that fills Louis I. Kahn's vaulted masterpiece, I headed straight for the Kimbell Café. From my seat I could see Aristide Maillol's *L'Air*, a bronze female figure, floating in a courtyard. European masterworks beckoned from across the corridor. Immediately I was transported. That's the other bonus that comes from stopping into a hometown museum: There is a sense of excitement that I associate with travel. Without planes or trains, I can step out of the workaday world and feel I am on a journey—even when I'm less than a mile from home.

Seated beneath fragments of a sixth-century mosaic, cupping my warm coffee mug, I realized I was steps away from Michelangelo's first known painting. And just like that, I lay my burdens down.

Now I return regularly to the Kimbell's café for creative therapy. I can energize myself in 10 minutes or 20, view one painting or a dozen, before or after my coffee. Or I can simply sit quietly. No entrance fee and no passport required.

And while the soup-and-sandwich lunch options are dependably tasty, a post-pandemic offering of an afternoon tea service takes me to happy memories served up abroad. It also offers up my favorite sort of nibbling—scones with housemade jam, finger sandwiches, cookies—and because it's served as “tea for two,” I'm sometimes inspired to share with a friend.

That is, of course, when I'm not meeting my muse. ■





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