

A MERKEL CARTOONIST'S  
UNCOMMON CALENDAR

TOM LANDRY'S  
FINEST SEASON

THE STARS BELOW  
IN WEST TEXAS

# Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2022



## Rodeo's Razzle- Dazzle

Texas Spirit Riders thrill  
with precision and speed

TRINITY  
VALLEY EC  
NEWS

SEE PAGE 18





# MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS



## COUNT ON US FOR CUSTOM BUILDINGS

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings. We manufacture each building to meet your needs and deliver real value. Additionally, you can select from a variety of colors with limited paint warranties up to 40 years. Start designing your building today at [www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool](http://www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool).



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

# August 2022



08

## Drilled To Thrill

The Texas Spirit Riders' razzle-dazzle aims to rise above other rodeo performance squads.

*By Gene Fowler  
Photos by Dave Shafer*

## 12 Bringing Texans Up to Date

Cartoonist Roger Moore marks his uncommon calendar with amusing tidbits.

*Story and photos by Pam LeBlanc*

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 Most Glorious Autumn  
*By W.F. Strong*

30

### TCP Kitchen

Best Burgers  
*By Megan Myers*

34

### Hit the Road

Heaven Beyond Hell's Gate  
*By Chet Garner*

37

### Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Motor Sports

38

### Observations

The Stars Below  
*By Suzanne Featherston*

#### ON THE COVER

Captain Erica Bednarz leads the Texas Spirit Riders around the arena.

#### ABOVE

The Spirit Riders, who range in age from 8 to 60, with coach Rachael Kiowski.

*Photos by Dave Shafer*





# Tickle Kids Pink

**FAMILIES AND TEACHERS** are encouraged to ask managers of kid-friendly restaurants to save their discarded crayons during August, which is National Crayon Collection Month.

More than 150 million restaurant crayons end up in landfills each year, enough to span the contiguous United States three times if placed end to end.

Resource-strapped schools can use those crayons in classrooms.



## TCP Contests and More

**ENTER CONTESTS AT**  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**



### \$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Gluten-Free Recipes

### FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Winter Wildlife

### TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY

Two readers will each win 5 pounds of wild-caught Texas shrimp. Enter now to win.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE SONG THAT TAKES ME BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL IS ...

**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 June prompt: **My singing is so bad ...**

No one would ever believe that my name is Melodie.

MELODIE GREIDER  
PEDERNALES EC  
DRIPPING SPRINGS

My fifth grade teacher asked me to just move my lips when my class sang to the PTA.

GARY GALLOWAY  
TRI-COUNTY EC  
WEATHERFORD

In church my granddaughter said, "No sing, Granny."

ANN MOSELEY  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC  
SHINER

My own mother, a music teacher, said, "Some people just shouldn't sing and, son, you are one of them."

PERRY JEFFERIES  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC  
GATESVILLE

I can't carry a tune in a bucket.

TERRY HOLDERNESS MCADAMS  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
GRANBURY

To see more responses, read Currents online.



# 120°

The hottest temperature ever recorded in Texas—120 degrees—first occurred in Seymour on August 12, 1936. It was matched in Monahans on June 28, 1994.

## Keep Your Cool

Summer's hot days are wearing on many of us and keeping air conditioners humming. Before you set the AC even cooler, your electric cooperative reminds you to use fans—but only while you're in the room—to help you stay cool and save on energy costs.

“Thankfully, perseverance is a great substitute for talent.”

—STEVE MARTIN

# Shortcut Shortfalls

**THE SHORTEST WAY** might not always be the best way.

So say Texas A&M University researchers who studied online navigation tools using Texas destinations. Mapping apps can help you drive the shortest and quickest routes, but research shows they might bypass some safety considerations.

Shortcuts over local roads can come with a higher risk of crashes because of poor design, drainage problems, inadequate lighting and a higher risk of collisions with wildlife.



## Back to School

KidsHealth offers these tips for a fantastic school year:

Get enough sleep.

Eat a healthy breakfast.

Try your best.

Use good work habits, like writing down your assignments and turning in your homework on time.

Take your time with schoolwork. If you don't understand something, ask the teacher.

Keep a sense of humor.





## Speaking to Children

“Kudos to illustrator John Jay Cabuay for the lovely, colorful and expressive portrait of María Alma González Pérez. It took my breath away.”

MARTI M. BURNS  
BLUEBONNET EC  
BASTROP

## Find Dining

I am one of the foraging experts [pictured below] interviewed for *The Grazing Craze* [June 2022], and I want to correct a couple points in it for your readers.

I was quoted as referencing “wood clover,” but it should have said “wood sorrel.”

Also, the article states it is illegal to forage on public land, which is not entirely accurate. Foraging in national parks and many state parks is generally not allowed, but those constitute a very small percentage of public land. There are vast areas of public land that are accessible to foraging legally.

Check out my Wild Foraging North Texas page on Facebook.

Courtney Taylor  
Grayson-Collin EC  
Weston



COURTESY COURTNEY TAYLOR

My mother, Evelyn Roffe, helped initiate the bilingual program in McAllen in 1937–38 [Speaking to Children, June 2022]. She had a one-room schoolhouse. She taught all ages of Mexican farmworkers' children.

PENNY HAULMAN  
VIA FACEBOOK

## Eating Wild

I am a regular “customer” of local dewberry patches and neighborhood mulberry trees, so I can relate. I also wanted to point readers to the Useful Wild Plants of Texas Project, which has a wealth of information. Check it out at [usefulwildplants.org](http://usefulwildplants.org).

David Todd  
Fayette and San Bernard ECs  
Austin

## Stirring Review

I saw your recipe for Beef and Green Bean Stir-Fry [June 2022], and that's what was for dinner. As soon as I added the sauce mix—holy cow—I thought I was in a Chinese restaurant. It was simple and delicious, paired perfectly with white rice.

Paul Garcia  
Medina EC  
Castroville

Our 1.2-acre lot has chile pequins growing wild and quite a few black persimmons (nothing like regular persimmons).

I have devised a recipe for black persimmon jelly. It tastes like blackberry jelly.

Lamar Hankins  
Pedernales EC  
San Marcos

**WRITE TO US**  
[letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto: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 &amp; MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

## MAGAZINE STAFF

**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevins  
**Editor** Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski  
**Production Manager** Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty  
**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull  
**Communications Specialist** Alex Dal Santo • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz  
**Communications Specialist** Travis Hill • **Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge  
**Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 79, Number 2 (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](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Call (512) 454-0311 or email [editor@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:editor@TexasCoopPower.com).

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscription price is \$4.44 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 for the previous 12 months 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 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American Handprint Publications





# FREEDOM. TO BE YOU.

If you think oxygen therapy means slowing down,  
it's time for a welcome breath of fresh air.

Introducing the Inogen One family of portable oxygen systems. With no need for bulky tanks, each concentrator is designed to keep you active via Inogen's Intelligent Delivery Technology.® Hours of quiet and consistent oxygen flow on a long-lasting battery charge enabling freedom of movement, whether at home or on the road. Every Inogen One meets FAA requirements for travel ensuring the freedom to be you.



- No heavy oxygen tanks
- Ultra quiet operation
- Lightweight and easy to use
- Safe for car and air travel
- Full range of options and accessories
- Clinically validated for 24/7 use



Call **1-855-667-1777** or visit  
**[inogen.com](http://inogen.com)** for a free  
consultation and info guide.



MKT-P0240





# ★ DRILLED TO THRILL

TEXAS SPIRIT RIDERS' razzle-dazzle aims to rise above other rodeo performance squads





BY GENE FOWLER • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

## LOOK GOOD. RIDE FAST. DAZZLE THE CROWD.

The moment the Texas Spirit Riders enter the arena, their motto becomes a force of nature.

“We! Are! TSR!” the riders chant as their horses trot into formation before breaking off and zooming past bleachers. The riders whoop and holler with joyful abandon.

The rodeo drill team based in Winnsboro, about an hour north of Tyler in East Texas, performs choreographed maneuvers on horseback for audiences all over Texas. The all-woman team appears most often at cowboy and cowgirl sporting events, and they’re part of a decadeslong tradition of rodeo drill teams in Texas that has included Terrell’s Cowgirl Congress, Magnolia’s Lone Star Cowgirls, Refugio County’s Independence Belles, Jack Sellers’ Bexar County Palomino Patrol and many more. But none, one might wager, embody their appellation more than the Texas Spirit Riders.

Every time these ladies swing into the saddle, they draw on the memory of a fallen teammate.

“We started out with huge dreams and lots of ambition,” explains Erica Bednarz of Bullard, who was named captain of the Spirit Riders in August 2020—about 24 years after the team was founded, in 1996. She picked her friend Lynsey Berger of Wills Point as co-captain. “We wanted to make a difference in the rodeo industry and really grow the sport of equestrian drill teams.”

After the team’s first organizational meeting with its new

leaders, however, Berger, 29, was killed in a head-on collision. Bednarz was on the phone with her friend October 2, 2020, when another car drifted into her lane. “There was a loud noise,” she recalls, “and then everything went silent.”

The Spirit Riders’ first performance under Bednarz’s captaincy was for Berger’s funeral. “The team was shaken,” she says. “Our world was forever changed, and I wasn’t sure if I could find the strength to keep the riders going.

“In the midst of tragedy, we found strength in each other. We vowed to honor Lynsey by following her dream of making it all the way to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.”

The “rodeo road,” as the drill team calls it, is a long, hard one. Heck, it’s a long, hard road to just make the rodeo in Mesquite or Wichita Falls. The Spirit Riders rely on their reputation to land bookings. The NFR would be the ultimate gig.

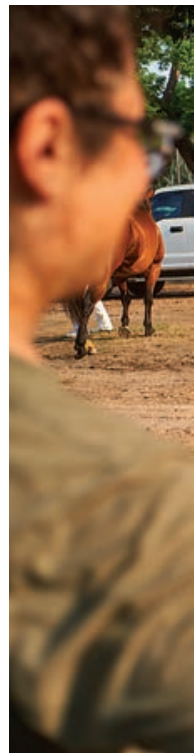
“What we do is not easy,” Bednarz explains. “We travel hundreds of miles—some riders haul their horses that far just for a practice—and spend countless hours away from our families. The drills require exquisite horsemanship and trust in 11 other horses and 11 other riders, who at any moment could make a wrong move and seriously injure you or your horse.”

As the Spirit Riders burst into the arena for an official rodeo performance, lights flashing off their shiny, Texas-themed outfits, the horse-savvy crowds recognize equine athletes who, in many cases, have been livin’ large in the saddle since they were toddlers. Former captain Rachael Kiowski of Lone Oak, who passed the TSR torch to Bednarz and now serves as a coach for the team, first perched on horseback at the tender age of 2. Senior rider Ellen Larue, 60, of Cooper waited till the advanced age of 7 to mount up, acquiring her first horse, a Welsh pony named Lightning, at 10.

Larue currently rides a 16-year-old sorrel mare named Reba. “She’s a little spoiled and doesn’t like to get her feet dirty,” Larue says. Reba will retire from drills after this year but will serve as a flag horse in military rides. Most drill horses, Larue says, are 3–10 years old, though the younger the better. The drills are such a workout that older horses can develop arthritis. “And it’s generally quarter horses, thoroughbreds and mustangs. Gaited and saddle horses, not so much.”

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Riders feed off energy from the crowd at Winnsboro Rodeo Arena in May. Jennifer Keahey makes sure Maddy Farem’s knot is just right. Katrina Czarnecki sprinkles glitter on a horse. Shelby Woolly sports a personalized belt buckle. Erica Bednarz parades the Stars and Stripes.





**As the Spirit Riders burst into the arena for an official rodeo performance, lights flashing off their shiny, Texas-themed outfits, the horse-savvy crowds recognize equine athletes who, in many cases, have been livin' large in the saddle since they were toddlers.**

In a practice session in March, Larue participates in a flag drill that pays tribute to every branch of the armed forces. “We Support The Troops,” reads the flag of the next-to-last rider who solos through the arena to join the other riders carrying flags of each branch. The last rider, 19-year-old Savannah Nichols of Leesburg, stands on her horse’s saddle and holds the Stars and Stripes aloft as her mount gallops across the arena. It’s a stirring display.

Nichols says it’s an adrenaline rush to ride into the arena for a roaring crowd. Even the horses get pumped up, Larue says. “They start dancing in the alleyway, and their ears perk up,” she says. “And the louder the crowd whoops and hollers, the faster they run.”

The Texas Spirit Riders’ performance style, Larue says, is

more intense, with faster riding and two to three times as many maneuvers in a drill as other teams. “Even our music is different,” Bednarz says. “In addition to pop and country, we ride to heavy metal.”

The team incorporates cross, charro and pinwheel maneuvers into its routines. In the standard cross, riders crisscross the arena diagonally, each passing through just as another has moved on. A more complex variation is a box cross. “That’s when you have four horses to a ‘box,’ ” Kiowski explains, “and they cross other boxes in the center of the arena. It’s scary to watch, and the riders really have to be on their toes.”

The charro is a drill in which the horses all line up behind a lead rider, each horse’s head tucked at the knee of the





## CATCH THE SPIRIT RIDERS NEAR YOU

In August they will perform at rodeos in Paris, San Saba, Wolfe City and Wichita Falls. In September they will dazzle at the Palomino Fest & Pro Rodeo in Uvalde and end the season with their Disney in the Dirt extravaganza at the Winnsboro Rodeo Arena.



rider in front of it. “Teams generally include several standard drills, mixed with elements of their own choreography,” Kiowski says. “We still have Lynsey’s handwritten drills, and we’ll be honoring her with those.”

The team’s leaders have also worked toward Berger’s desire to grow the Spirit Riders. A team of just six riders appearing at five rodeos a year has expanded to four teams with a total of 32 riders, with performances for at least 14 rodeos booked this year.

“Doors opened left and right,” says Bednarz, “and riders just began falling from the sky.” The 2022 Texas Spirit Riders team includes a novice team, ages 4–8; a junior team, 8–13, which trots through maneuvers; a semipro team; and a pro team that usually performs with 12 riders. Most of the pros are in their 30s. All four teams have performed in (or are scheduled to perform in) at least three appearances this rodeo season, which began in May.

“Erica’s a dreamer with big goals,” Kiowski says. “And she doesn’t stop until she reaches them. She’ll make it to the NFR.” ■

CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE Bednarz, atop Blue, has led the Spirit Riders since August 2020. A young fan gets a celebrity pic with some of the riders. Casey Partanen, left, and Keahey perfect their makeup early in the morning before a parade through Winnsboro.





# Bringing Texans UP TO Date

Cartoonist **ROGER MOORE** marks his uncommon calendar with amusing tidbits

**T**he Bona Fide Original Real Texas Calendar doesn't start with January like most calendars, but why should it?

Texas didn't start in January, either.

At least that's how cartoonist Roger Moore, a third-generation Texan who has been making the calendar since 1997, sees it. In classic maverick style, Moore's calendar begins on March 2, the date in 1836 when Texas settlers famously declared their independence from Mexico. A lot has happened in Texas since then, of course, and Moore addresses much of it with humorous and history-packed notations.

Besides the calendar, Moore has written *The Handy Pocket Tex-Book: A Pocket-Sized Guide to Essential Information That Every Good Texan Must Know About Texas*, which informs readers about such necessary facts as the official state dog breed (blue lacy), the official state vehicle (not the pickup truck but the chuck wagon) and the official state snack (tortilla chips and salsa). Kids can read his *Critters of the Lone Star State*, filled with trivia about javelinas, armadillos and rattlesnakes, and *Slim's Hat*, which teaches the proper uses of a cowboy hat beyond decorating the top of a person's head. And Moore has produced a collection of his favorite cartoons, *Texas, My Texas*.

But the calendar remains his biggest seller.

Each month features a full-page cartoon celebrating an important Texan or poking irreverent fun at something that happened on Texas soil. Interesting factoids about the Lone Star State and the people who have lived here pepper every page.

Flip through a few copies and you'll learn that Emma Banister of Coleman County became the first female sheriff in the U.S. on

August 1, 1918; Popeye the Sailor was born in a comic strip by Elzie Crisler Segar in the *Victoria Advocate* on January 17, 1929; and Texan Van Cliburn won his first international piano competition in Moscow on April 14, 1958.

Moore, 77, lives on a small farm near Merkel, west of Abilene, with his wife, Martha. On a cool spring morning, he wore a cowboy hat, red bandana, blue jeans and boots as he sat at a lighted drawing table in his home office and used an archival fine-tip black pen to sketch out a quick cowboy. A pair of tiny boots doubled as a lamp base behind him; a wooden roll-top desk stood in one corner; and a framed Texas flag hung on the wall.

"I can't remember when I wasn't drawing," he says with a wisecrack. "I tell people I drew before I walked when I was 13."

Moore was born in Beaumont and later moved to Merkel. His mother, who liked to make delicate pencil sketches, encouraged him to draw.



OPPOSITE Roger Moore sketches a cowboy at his home near Merkel. RIGHT Moore hopes his cartoons "make you giggle a little bit."



“Everything happens in my pickup. It’s a think tank.”

Moore



“She told me it was all right to be an artist, even when I took some heat for it at school,” Moore says. “I got some paddlings for drawing in class.”

Moore was a standout athlete in high school. After college, he briefly coached at a high school in Hamlin, about 30 miles north of Merkel. He went on to work as a foreman for Texas Instruments, then began selling textbooks. He launched his own advertising agency, called Moore & More, after moving to Austin in 1971. About that time, he began selling editorial cartoons to newspapers.

“I went to a couple of newspapers and said, ‘Y’all need a cartoonist,’ ” Moore says. At first, he drew political cartoons but eventually switched to less controversial topics. “I gave up on politics. I really wasn’t all that into it, but they liked my style and my price, which was damn near nothing.”

**H**is cartoons—now focused on topics near to Texans’ hearts, like Stetson hats, barbed wire, pink grapefruit and cowboys (football and otherwise)—still appear in about 25 small newspapers around the state. A binder filled with hundreds of sketches rests on his desk.

“I’m not very good, but I’m real fast,” says Moore, a Taylor Electric Cooperative member. In his heyday, he could whip up a cartoon in a couple of hours. “The hard part is the idea, and it needs to be mildly amusing. It’s stupid to have a cartoon that doesn’t make you giggle a little bit.”

But cartoons, he says, are much more than drawings.

“Cartooning is not artwork; it’s enhancing the words,” Moore says. “First, you’ve got to come up with the idea. I think of an event and try to come up with a play on words. That usually leads to an idea. Some come easy, some don’t.”

Moore says he gets his best inspiration while driving Texas back roads and highways.

“Everything happens in my pickup. It’s a think tank,” he says, adding that he was driving between Austin and Abilene when the idea for a calendar first popped into his head. He and an assistant researched the state’s history and picked out people and events to highlight.

Lou David Allen, a retired NASA engineer and former mayor of Merkel, met Moore when they were high school students, but they became friends after the cartoonist moved back to Merkel in 2008.

“I say every person is a poem waiting to be written. Roger thinks every circumstance is a cartoon waiting to be expressed in his iconic way,” Allen says. “He understands people. He reads them pretty quickly—and sometimes will announce their faults.”

Moore was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease two years ago, so cartooning takes longer now. Lines start out squiggly, getting smoother as his muscles warm up. He’s trying to shift to a slightly different style of drawing, without as many curves, dots, and dashes—anything that requires fine precision.

“It takes about 10 times as long,” he says. “It’s frustrating, to say the least.”

But Moore plugs on, digging deep into the can-do spirit that makes Texans Texan.

“It’s the only thing I can do that provides a release,” Moore says. “I’ve got creative ideas about a lot of things, but I can only cartoon. And I know I can do that, even with Parkinson’s.” ■

**We're putting windows  
& doors back in your**

**BUDGET**



## How you save money with us:

- **Most contractors and small window companies can't offer the larger discounts that we do** because they don't have the 119-year history or resources that our parent company Andersen provides.
- **Our low monthly payment options are so great** that many customers who thought they'd pay with cash chose to finance all or part of their project instead.
- We offer **flexible financing options** for all kinds of budgets. Finance four windows, just a door or your whole house! Many customers even pay off their projects early.



Now until August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Save \$347**  
on windows<sup>1</sup>

**Save \$939**  
on patio doors<sup>1</sup>

Save an  
extra

**5%**

on your  
entire  
order<sup>1</sup>

**with \$0 0 0% for 1 Whole YEAR<sup>2</sup>**  
Down Payments Interest

**Call or scan the code to book your FREE Window & Door Diagnosis**



**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



Austin

**512-298-1858 • 469-606-5229**

Dallas/Fort Worth

San Antonio

**210-961-9990 • TopWindowSolution.com**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 8/31/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 9/10/22. <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.



# EXTREME

ACTION.  
ENERGY.  
HEART.



FORT WORTH, TX

SEPT.  
8-10  
2022

GET YOUR TICKETS



**EXTREME**  
MUSTANG MAKEOVER  
A MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRODUCTION



**FREE \$2 Bill!**



Based on an 1818 painting that depicts John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin presenting a draft of the Declaration of Independence

Special Offer for New Customers Only Ages 18+

Dept. 5YD434

REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED  
WITHIN 30 DAYS

**YES!** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	\$2 Note (limit 1)	<b>FREE!</b>
	Shipping	<b>FREE!</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FREE!</b>

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print clearly

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail to:  
**Littleton Coin Company**  
Serving Collectors Since 1945  
Dept. 5YD434  
1309 Mt. Eustis Road  
Littleton NH 03561-3737

## Get a Rarely Seen Uncirculated \$2 Federal Reserve Note **FREE!**

Get a seldom-seen \$2 bill in Uncirculated condition **FREE!** Depicting Thomas Jefferson on the face and the famous painting *Declaration of Independence* on the back, \$2 notes make up less than 1% of all paper money issued by the Federal Reserve. And if you find one in circulation, it won't be in this new condition!



### These exciting \$2 bills...

- Depict Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and 3rd U.S. president, on both face and back
- Make up less than 1% of all U.S. currency notes printed
- Are rarely found in circulation

### Request Within 30 Days to Receive Your \$2 Note **FREE** – Plus **FREE** Shipping!

Why are we offering such a great deal? Because we're so sure you'll like this **FREE** \$2 Note that you'll enjoy receiving other popular coins to preview in your home. You'll 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. To receive your **FREE** \$2 Federal Reserve Note, mail attached coupon now.

**Mail Coupon Today! For Faster Service**  
**Visit: [LittletonCoin.com/Specials](http://LittletonCoin.com/Specials)**

©2022 LCC, Inc.



# Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature. If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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

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

**Limited Reserves.** A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

**Huntsman Blade \$249\***

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P **Save \$170**

## 1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **HUK810-01**

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



**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK810-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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

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

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade • Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars

-a \$99 value-  
with purchase of  
Huntsman Blade



**BONUS!** Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

### What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



*"This knife is beautiful!"*

— J., La Crescent, MN



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

— H., Arvada, CO







MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

JEFF LANE

## Co-ops Support Quiet Revolution

**IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY**, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers, thanks to technological advancements, increased battery capacity and decreased costs that have made electric devices more accessible to more people. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative is constantly evaluating these advancements and maintaining our electric distribution equipment to ensure we can serve your electricity needs.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stovetop, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooktops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of about 32% and 75% respectively, according to Energy Star.

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Handheld tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered

tools. And consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug in, such as power inverters, air inflators and battery chargers.

The number of electric products available today is taking off, and TVEC is ready to power all your gadgets with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel fuel has an electric alternative, and more national brands are offering a wider selection of electric-powered items such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snowblowers. The quality of zero- and low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping it charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter, so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can.

Another benefit of using electric appliances and equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increased renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. 60232737001

Through this quiet transformation, TVEC is at the ready to serve you. ■



DEBOVE SOPHIE / ISTOCK.COM





## Jeff Priest Appointed to TVEC Board of Directors

Retired coach, Van Zandt County  
cattleman to fill unexpired term in  
District 2

**THE TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** Board of Directors has appointed Canton native Jeff Priest to fill the District 2 seat left open by the untimely death of longtime board member Jerry Priest.

Jeff Priest has spent most of his life in Van Zandt County, including most of his high school coaching career with long stays in Van and Canton. He retired in 2017 to take over his family's cattle operation and has also been involved in running Jerry's Pizza in Canton.

While co-op involvement runs in the family, Jeff Priest noted that the co-op faces different challenges now than when his father began serving on the board in the 1980s.

"We are going through a stage of extremely fast-paced growth, so that is something that has to be managed very carefully," he said. "Our electrical system is important infrastructure, and you cannot fall behind the growth. We can't build it like roads after everyone moves in—it won't work that way. The key is doing that in a way that still keeps rates down for everyone."

Taking lessons from his coaching experience, Priest said his goals while serving on the board will be focused on looking out for the membership and planning for the future.

"The co-op is a big team with an important role, so you have to be organized, lay out a plan and communicate well," Priest said. "We are all members of a great organization, but I will be accessible and talking to members to make sure we are making decisions with what is best for them in mind."

Priest and his wife, Arija, live near Canton. They have two children and two grandchildren.

The District 2 board seat is scheduled to be on the ballot for the 2022 TVEC board election in September. Results of that election will be announced at the TVEC Annual Membership Meeting October 6 at the Canton Civic Center. ■

## 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  
Jeff Priest, District 2  
Paul Weatherford, District 3  
Edward Reeve, District 5  
Jack Endres, 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

Monday–Friday, 8:15 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

### VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net







# Rising Energy Costs Prompt PCRFB Adjustments for Upcoming Bills

**THE PRIMARY DRIVER FOR WHOLESALE** electricity prices in Texas is the natural gas market. There are many factors affecting gas prices, from global conflicts and politics to demand and export capacity. As of May, natural gas prices were up 180% and the statewide average for electricity was up 43% year over year.

Amid this historic inflation and economic turmoil, we have done our best to keep costs down and minimize the impact of rising energy markets on Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members' monthly electricity bills.

Unfortunately, wholesale electricity costs have reached a point at which we are not able to absorb the increases, and we must pass on the additional costs to members. Members will see this as an increase in the power cost recovery factor on upcoming bills.

We currently anticipate an additional \$0.01 (one cent) per kWh increase to the PCRFB for the months of July, August and September, and a \$0.025 (two-and-a-half cents) per kWh increase for the months of October, November and December.

For a typical summer high-usage billing cycle of 1,000 kWh bill and the \$20 monthly member fee, this will result in a total effective rate of \$0.1348 per kWh for July–September. This compares favorably with statewide electric rate averages, which have risen to more than \$0.1501 per kWh in the first quarter of 2022.

With this plan, the highest projected PCRFB bill additions will be added in lower-usage months to reduce the potential impact on overall bill amounts.

The energy market is very volatile right now, and we will be monitoring and adjusting as market conditions change.

For more information about the PCRFB adjustment on your bill, please refer to the description of the charge on the back of your bill.

**During this time, any efforts to reduce energy consumption will be even more beneficial, both on your bill and to the co-op.**

Saving money on your electricity bill is always a good idea, but with wholesale power driving the cost up, every energy-saving trick in the book will mean a little bit more.

You can find tips in every edition of *Texas Co-op Power*, at [tvec.net](http://tvec.net) and on all of TVEC's social media channels.

#### **Additional resources include:**

The U.S. Department of Energy has great tips for seasonal savings at [eia.gov/energysaver](http://eia.gov/energysaver).

The Touchstone Energy Home Energy Adventure follows a game-like format to find ways to save in any home:

<https://adventure.touchstoneenergy.com/onboarding>

*Texas Co-op Power's* energy efficiency archive offers many articles with practical tips and thoughtful advice: [texascooppower.com/energy/efficiency](http://texascooppower.com/energy/efficiency). ■

## Natural Gas

May 2021–May 2022

# up 180%

## TVEC Effective Rate

1,000 kWh with \$0.01/kWh PCRFB

# \$0.1348

## Average TX Rate

Texas, 12-Month Contracts—March 2022

# \$0.1501



TVEC ENERGY  
MANAGEMENT  
SUPERVISOR

CHRIS WALKER, BAP

The Energy Advisor:

## Attic Heat Contributes to Cooling Costs

WITH THE SUMMER SUN BEATING DOWN RELENTLESSLY and sometimes not a breeze to be found, your attic temperatures can soar during the day. It is easy to forget that space above the ceiling, but if the temperatures get too hot, there can be many negative consequences.

Energy efficiency is our main concern here, of course, but overheating can also affect the lifespan of your roofing materials, damage items that are stored in your attic and cause dangerous work environments for anyone who needs to enter the attic, like HVAC technicians, plumbers or electricians.

If an attic is properly vented, the temperature should only be 10–20 degrees above the outside temperature during the summer. A quick thermometer check during a hot afternoon will let you know if your attic is performing well in the heat.

If it is hitting over 130 degrees, it may be time to contact a professional to see if your vents are working properly or if new vents need to be added.

Most attics use passive venting, drawing air from the soffits as heat carries air out of vents near the peak. If that is blocked, heat builds up rapidly.

With many air conditioning units placed in attic spaces, overheated attics also contribute to inefficiency in cooling the air as it travels through the ducts. And any ducts that are leaky will make the problem even worse by potentially drawing the very hot air into the house when your AC is not running.

I often talk about adding insulation, but if you can keep the air above the insulation cooler, it will go along way toward your home's overall comfort and energy efficiency. ■

## 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 August 31 to receive a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be our winner.



## Pets Get Overheated Too

AS MUCH AS you enjoy being outdoors in the summer, you probably find cool, indoor spaces—like your home, a shopping mall or a movie theater—a more comfortable place to spend lazy afternoons when it's extra hot outside.

If it's too hot for you to be outdoors, then it's too hot for your pets. In fact, pets can get even hotter than you do because they're covered with fur.

### Some pet-safe tips for summer:

- ▶ Leave your dogs and cats inside your air-conditioned home when you leave for an extended period or when the heat drives you indoors yourself.
- ▶ Take walks or runs with your dogs early in the morning or at dusk when the weather is cooler.
- ▶ Remember that your pets don't wear shoes, so hot asphalt on streets and sidewalks can burn their paws.
- ▶ If you let your pets into your yard, choose plants that are pet-safe. Some popular flowering plants, like azaleas and hydrangeas, can poison pets.
- ▶ Store fertilizer out of pets' reach.
- ▶ Bring pets indoors before using lawn tools. ■



BARTKSEWICZ | ISTOCK.COM





**SAFETY  
FIRST**  
**ALL  
DAY  
EVERY  
DAY**



TVEC | DON JOHNSON

## TVEC Hits Safety Milestones

Safety inspection results show progress in training and safety culture at the co-op

**IN AN INDUSTRY THAT REGULARLY RANKS** in the most dangerous jobs category, safety is a major consideration for Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative employees. A recent site inspection in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program showed that TVEC's safety culture is working.

"As part of RESAP, safety experts come in and interview employees and conduct inspections of 15 different aspects of work," said TVEC director of corporate services Donna Hindman. "In those 15 areas, we earned 11 strong performance ratings and four satisfactory performance ratings, which are the two highest ratings. The observers were highly complimentary of our programs and facilities, but most importantly they were impressed with our employees."

Categories of inspection included safety programs and safety improvement plan, environmental and hazardous materials handling, vehicle maintenance, personal protective equipment, substations, administration, and specialty protective equipment.

As if to prove the inspectors' grading correct, TVEC employees marked two major milestones in safety as well, with three years and more than 1 million hours worked with no lost-time accidents.

"These are accomplishments we haven't reached before and show how, from leadership out to every employee, there is buy-in on a proactive safety culture here," said Chad Marshall, CLCP, manager of safety and loss control. "For a co-op of this size, 184 employees, the

number of miles driven and doing this much work day to day, it is really impressive."

That's not to say that there have been no incidents or accidents. Marshall noted that the safety culture within the co-op has been shifted to make sure that any incident is treated as a learning opportunity to be shared in order to protect others and find solutions.

"What is remarkable is the number of incident reports that we get turned in—we want more of those, not less," he said. "The philosophy is not about being held accountable for a misstep or mistake but being mindful that every incident can make a difference for the other men and women out working with you every day. In this kind of environment, everyone benefits by having open and honest communication."

While lineworkers face the most obvious safety challenges as they go about their daily tasks and storm work, the overall culture of safe work practices is present throughout the co-op. Every employee performs tasks that are necessary for keeping the lights on. But at the end of the day, working safely is about keeping each person at their best both at work and at home.

"It can be called heroic work, but what I tell everybody here is that heroes are needed at home," Marshall said. "Our motto is safety first, all day every day. I'm a firm believer that if we concentrate on one task at a time, one mile at a time and one day at a time, that is what makes a difference. And that is what gets you back to the most important thing, which is getting home to the people you love." ■

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

# YOUTH TOUR



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. 2023 details coming soon!

[tvec.net/youth-tour](https://tvec.net/youth-tour)

Start your adventure at  
[TexasYouthTour.com](https://TexasYouthTour.com).



JAMESBREY | ISTOCK.COM

## Keep Your Patio Cool on Hot Summer Days

**NOTHING BRINGS FAMILY**, neighbors and friends together better in the summer than a cookout on a fully equipped patio. But on the hottest days, it's tempting to move the party indoors.

Instead, consider cooling your patio down a bit. **Here are some suggestions:**

**Add a roof.** The best way to keep the heat from ruining an afternoon party is to keep the sun off of the patio. Consider building a metal roof over your patio or installing a retractable awning or a pergola. A pergola adds shade and makes an outdoor area extra stylish. If large shade structures are too expensive or big, try patio umbrellas.

**Another idea for shade:** Use retractable screens that can be drawn down to block the sun from the sides.

**Install some fans.** If your patio is covered, a ceiling fan can create a soft breeze that will cool off everyone who is sitting or standing nearby. Portable, high-velocity fans placed on the patio floor also will help guests feel cooler. Plus, they'll keep bugs at bay.

**Try a mister.** This is an outdoor cooling system that sprays a fine mist that evaporates before hitting the ground or getting the patio—or the people using it—wet. The heat in the air makes the mist evaporate, leaving less heat in the immediate area. A tip: Get a good system, as the ones you connect to your garden hose could feel more like playing in the sprinklers.

**Paint the floor.** When sunshine lands on the concrete floor of an uncovered patio, it can overheat both the area and your guests' feet. Consider painting the floor a light color to keep it from absorbing so much heat. Or simply throw a sturdy outdoor rug on the floor.

**Add potted plants.** Plants can absorb heat, release moisture into the air and add shade. ■



## TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

# Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

### Preparedness Checklist

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

*Information collected for STEAR is confidential.*

### Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources

Texas Division of Emergency Management: [tdem.texas.gov](http://tdem.texas.gov)  
Texas Department of State Health Services: [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov)  
American Red Cross: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)  
Office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott: [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

## DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

# Preparación para huracanes

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

### Lista de verificación de preparación:

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

*La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.*

### Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: [tdem.texas.gov](http://tdem.texas.gov)  
Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov)  
Cruz Roja Americana: [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)  
Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)  
Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

DEEPBLUE4YOU | ISTOCK.COM

# TVEC

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Energy Quiz



**What is the recommended maximum temperature setting for water heaters for efficiency and safety?**

**A. 130 degrees**

**B. 155 degrees**

**C. 120 degrees**

Win **\$100!**

Send your answer and contact information to [contest@tvec.coop](mailto:contest@tvec.coop) or contact TVEC Member Services by August 31. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in a future **Texas Co-op Power** magazine.

## July Energy Quiz: Average Energy Consumption

**HOT AND COLD MONTHS** can really bump up energy usage, but the average usage for Texas households is 1,132 kilowatt-hours per month. Home sizes have increased over the years, but better materials and insulation standards have helped keep energy usage down.

If your home is running above average, it may be time to look at your home's air conditioning and other systems to determine what is using the power.

Congratulations to George Tupy of Wills Point, who correctly answered our June quiz about insulation terminology.





# **TVEC**

**Charitable Foundation**  
**Your Generosity in Action**

## **June 2022 Grants**

Nine grants totaling \$25,000 were awarded during the June meeting of the TVEC Charitable Foundation board. An additional \$4,000 was donated to food and bill payment assistance organizations. Recipients were:

Alzheimers Coalition of Henderson County  
\$4,000

Athens Animal Rescue Shelter, \$2,000

Faith at Work Ministries, \$5,000

Forney Community Ministries, \$2,000

Henderson County Black History  
Committee, \$2,000

RanchoKitty Small Animal Shelter, \$1,000

Sharing the Love Foundation, \$2,000

Texas Health Resources Foundation, \$5,000

Wills Point ISD Middle School Backpack  
Program, \$2,000



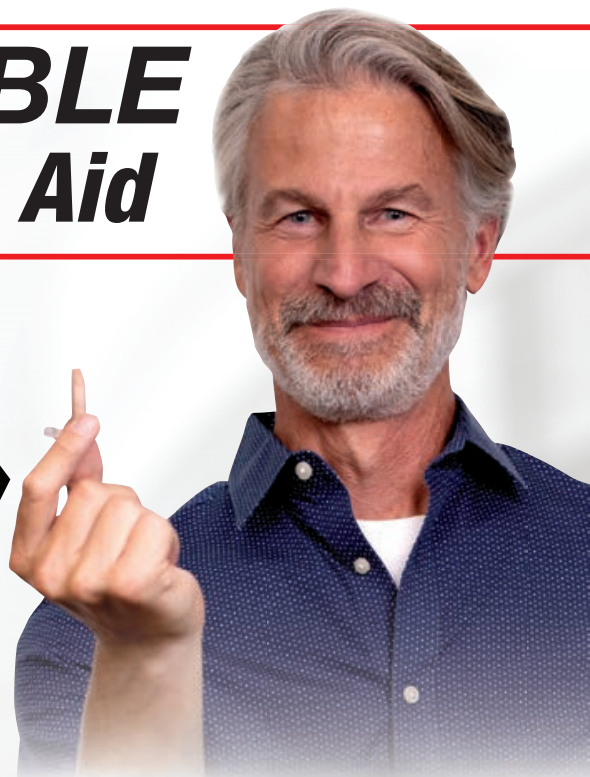
## **You're Invited!**

The 2022 TVEC Annual Membership Meeting is set to be a family picnic to remember. Mark your calendar and plan to come out to connect with fellow members, hear from co-op leaders and meet your co-op staff.

**October 6**  
**Canton Civic Center**  
**6 p.m. - Picnic Dinner**  
**7 p.m. - Annual Meeting**



# RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid



BUY 1  
GET 1 **FREE**

**NEW LOW  
PRICE**

~~REG \$299.98~~  
**ONLY  
\$149<sup>99</sup>**

Each When You Buy a Pair

**PLUS FREE SHIPPING**  
*Limited Time Only!*

**How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$149<sup>99</sup> 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 800,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. 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. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

**Everything you need in a hearing aid...  
EXCEPT THE HIGH PRICE!**

**CHARGE** AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY

**NEVER  
CHANGE  
A BATTERY  
AGAIN!**



Carrying case is also the charger

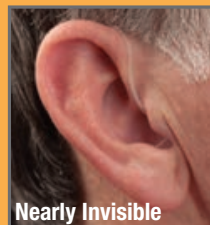
## 45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

**For the Lowest Price Call**

**1-800-535-4118**

[www.MDVolt.com](http://www.MDVolt.com)



Nearly Invisible

Use Code **LU15**  
and get **FREE Shipping**

**MDHearingAid®** >>>

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Proudly assembled  
in America!



# SUMMER SAVINGS



## Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service  
Second to None

**DDM Brenham Office**  
979-251-9503  
301 Salem Road • Brenham

**DDM Bastrop Office**  
512-321-0336  
1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

\*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



## All Metal Structures



## Made in Texas



## Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



## 40'x15'x12'



## 30'x40'x12'



**Call today for  
our best pricing!**

[www.ddmbuildings.com](http://www.ddmbuildings.com)

**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](http://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**

**WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES**

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap  
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps  
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

**TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX**  
*All transactions private, confidential & secure.*

**830-997-6339 • [rzcoins@twc.com](mailto:rzcoins@twc.com)**

**WD Metal Buildings**

- Turnkey Metal Buildings
- Continuous Roof Design
- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

**Instant Prices @ WDMB.com**

**TCP Gift Shop**

**TCP Shop now**  
**[TexasCoopPower.com/shop](http://TexasCoopPower.com/shop)**

**ARK-LA-TEX**  
**SHOP BUILDERS**  
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

**SHOPS • BARN • CABINS • [WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM](http://WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM)**

**830-730-0515**  
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

**BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES**

**Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums**

**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 slab \*TDOT may be extra)

**TCP Marketplace**  
**Across Town | Across Texas**

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



# “To you, it’s the perfect lift chair. To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



Pictured is Luxurious & Lasting Brisa™.  
Ask about our 5 Comfort Zone chair.

**3 CHAIRS  
IN ONE:**  
SLEEP/RECLINE/LIFT

You can’t always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries. Those are the nights you’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

Our **Perfect Sleep Chair®** does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation. Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style

back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Luxurious and Lasting Brisa, Genuine Italian Leather, stain and liquid repellent Duralux with the classic leather look, or plush MicroLux microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. **Call now!**

journey  
**perfect  
sleep chair**

**1-888-796-0741**

Please mention code **117357** when ordering.



REMOTE-CONTROLLED  
EASILY SHIFTS FROM FLAT TO  
A STAND-ASSIST POSITION

Now available in a variety  
of colors, fabrics and sizes.

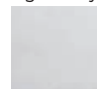
**Genuine Italian Leather**  
classic beauty & style

Chestnut



**! New Brisa™**  
luxurious & lasting

Light Gray



Saddle



Chocolate



**Long Lasting DuraLux™**  
stain & liquid repellent

**MicroLux™ Microfiber**  
breathable & amazingly soft

Burgundy



Tan



Chocolate



Blue



mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™

**journey**  
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle.





**TCP** Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



# The Most Glorious Autumn

Tom Landry's finest season came in Mission, years before his reign in Dallas

BY W.F. STRONG

**TOM LANDRY** and Charles Schulz died on the same day: February 12, 2000. Mike Thompson of the *Detroit Free Press* honored the legendary football coach and cartoonist with a drawing showing them entering the Pearly Gates together. Schulz was depicted as Charlie Brown, and Landry had his arm around him, saying, "Now a few pointers on kicking a football ..."

For coach Landry, at least, I can't imagine a finer eulogy.

Known as the man in the hat, Landry was the stoic leader on the Dallas Cowboys sidelines, always impeccably dressed, sporting his fedora. "If there were a Mount Rushmore for the NFL," former commis-

sioner Paul Tagliabue said, "the profile of Tom Landry would have to be there, wearing his trademark hat."

In his 29 years as Dallas' head coach, Landry led the Cowboys to more playoff seasons than they've had since. His team won 13 division titles and played in five Super Bowls, winning two. They enjoyed 20 consecutive winning seasons.

As glorious as those years were, none equaled Landry's finest season in football.

Sure, he played for the New York Giants and was All-Pro one year, but that wasn't his finest season either. Landry also played for the University of Texas, but after only one semester, his career there was put on hold by World War II. He

volunteered to join the Army Air Corps and flew 30 missions over Europe, crash-landing once in Belgium.

To get to his best season ever, we must go all the way back to his high school years in Mission, in the Rio Grande Valley.

It was Landry's senior year, 1941. He played quarterback and defensive back and led the Mission Eagles to a perfect 12-0 season. In those 12 games, they gave up only one score: Donna High School managed to eke out one touchdown.

The Eagles went all the way to the regional championship, which was as far as they could go (there was no state championship then). In the regional game, they demoralized Hondo 33-0.

"That autumn of glory, shared with my boyhood friends ... remains perhaps my most meaningful season in my fifty years of football," Landry wrote in his 1980 autobiography. "The game was never more fun, the victories never sweeter, the achievement never more satisfying."

Landry's nearly flawless season and his professional career were honored in 1975 when the Mission school district named its football stadium for the coach.

After Landry's coaching days were over, he developed a sterling reputation as an inspirational speaker. He was fond of saying, "As of today, you have 100% of your life left."

He took his own words to heart. After he was fired by the Cowboys in 1989, while fans were livid about the way he was sacked, Landry was already moving on.

With characteristic optimism, he saw a silver lining. "As a boy growing up in Mission, Texas, I always dreamed of being a cowboy," he said. "For 29 wonderful years, I was one." ■



# Best Burgers

Beyond the beef lie flavorful options that are sure to sizzle

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

I love exploring new burger recipes, and that includes patties made from chicken, fish or vegetarian substitutes. Bean burgers are a great meatless option that can take on various spices and flavor additions. My family loves falafel, so we often opt for making them burger-style. Note that they are a bit more finicky than meat patties. Be sure to let the mixture rest before cooking to let the breadcrumbs absorb excess liquid, and take care handling the patties because they can crumble easily.



## Falafel Burgers

**1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, rinsed and well drained**  
**½ onion, quartered**  
**½ cup packed parsley leaves**  
**2 cloves garlic**  
**¼ cup breadcrumbs**  
**2 teaspoons cumin**  
**1 teaspoon ground coriander**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**½ teaspoon paprika**  
**½ teaspoon pepper**  
**Pinch ground cayenne pepper**  
**¼ cup vegetable or olive oil**

**1.** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a food processor, add chickpeas and pulse until well chopped and somewhat smooth. Transfer to a bowl. Add onion, parsley and garlic to food processor and pulse until finely chopped, then transfer to the bowl with the chickpeas. Add the breadcrumbs and spices and mix until uniformly incorporated. Let mixture rest 20 minutes.

**2.** Pour cooking oil into a skillet and heat to medium. Divide chickpea mixture into 4 patties and gently place in hot pan. Cook 4 minutes, then carefully flip and cook another 4 minutes.

**3.** Transfer to a rimmed baking sheet and bake 15 minutes, until cooked through. Let burgers rest 10 minutes to firm up before serving. Serve with hummus, cucumber, tomato, lettuce, pickled onions or other favorite toppings.

**SERVES 4**

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Hatch Chile Turkey Burgers.



## Homemade Popper-Topped Burgers

MARIA PENNER  
LAMAR ELECTRIC

If you love jalapeño poppers, this burger is for you. Jalapeños can vary a lot in heat level, so feel free to reduce or increase the amount of peppers used.

### TOPPING

**8 ounces bacon, chopped**  
**3 jalapeño peppers**  
**8 ounces cream cheese, softened**  
**¼ cup heavy cream**

### BURGERS

**1 egg**  
**1 jalapeño pepper**  
**⅓ onion**  
**1 pound ground beef**  
**⅓ cup finely ground saltine crackers**  
**1 teaspoon garlic salt**  
**½ teaspoon pepper**  
**2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil**  
**Mustard**

**1. TOPPING** In a skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy. Drain on paper towels. Broil or grill the jalapeños until skins are slightly charred on all sides. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Dice jalapeños, removing seeds first for less heat if preferred.

**2.** In a bowl, combine bacon, jalapeños, cream cheese and heavy cream until well blended. Scoop into a small baking dish and bake until heated through, about 15 minutes.

**3. BURGERS** Meanwhile, in a food processor, pulse together egg, jalapeño (removing seeds if preferred) and onion until smooth. Pour into a large bowl and

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

## Spicy Bacon Burgers

DANIEL BATES  
COSERV



Full of flavor thanks to chorizo and added spices, these burgers are sure to be a hit fresh from the grill. If you don't have smoked paprika on hand, substitute your favorite variety.

**SERVES 8**

**COOK'S TIP** Bates suggests pressing a shallow divot into meat patties with a spoon or thumb so they come out flat after cooking.

**1 pound 80% lean ground beef**  
**1 pound Mexican-style chorizo**  
**8 ounces thick-cut bacon, chopped into small pieces**  
**1 egg**  
**1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**  
**1 tablespoon light brown sugar**  
**1 tablespoon smoked paprika**  
**1 tablespoon onion powder**  
**1 tablespoon dried minced garlic**  
**1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic**  
**1½ teaspoons salt**  
**1½ teaspoons pepper**  
**½ teaspoon crushed red chile flakes**  
**1 tablespoon liquid smoke (optional)**

**1.** In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except liquid smoke. Mix by hand until evenly blended and smooth.

**2.** Divide mixture into 8 even portions, about ⅓ pound each. Form each portion into a patty and set onto a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Press a spoon into the center of each patty to create a divot. If using liquid smoke, add 3 drops into each divot.

**3.** Preheat grill or a stovetop skillet to medium heat. Cook the burgers 3–5 minutes per side, depending on thickness. Serve with your favorite toppings.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**GLUTEN-FREE RECIPES** DUE AUGUST 10

Gluten-free cooking isn't a trend; it's here to stay. What's a fixture in your kitchen? Submit your recipes on our website by August 10 for a chance to win \$500.





## RECIPES CONTINUED

add ground beef, ground saltines, garlic salt and pepper. Mix by hand until evenly blended. Form into 4 large patties or 6 thinner patties.

4. Heat a cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat and add oil. Cook patties 3 minutes, then drizzle mustard onto uncooked side, flip and cook another 3 minutes. Serve with warm popper topping.

**SERVES 4-6**

## Spicy Lamb Burgers

CINDY JOHNSON  
COSERV

Fresh herbs are a great addition to burgers, especially combined with the unique flavor of lamb. Serve on brioche buns or tuck into a pita along with greens, tzatziki sauce, tomato slices and cucumbers.

**1 pound ground lamb**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint leaves**



**2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano**  
**2 cloves garlic, chopped**  
**1 teaspoon sherry**  
**1 teaspoon white wine vinegar**  
**1 teaspoon molasses**  
**1 teaspoon cumin**  
**¼ teaspoon allspice**  
**½ teaspoon crushed red chile flakes**  
**½ teaspoon salt**  
**¼ teaspoon pepper**  
**Feta cheese**  
**Baby spinach**  
**Tzatziki sauce**  
**4 brioche buns or pitas, for serving**

1. Preheat grill to medium heat. Place ground lamb into a large bowl. In a smaller bowl, combine mint, cilantro, oregano and garlic. Mix into lamb. Add sherry, vinegar and molasses and mix again. Add cumin, allspice, chile flakes, salt and pepper and mix until evenly blended.

2. Divide meat into 4 portions and shape into patties. Lightly brush grill grates with oil. Grill burgers 5 minutes per side, then place on buns or into pitas and immediately sprinkle with feta. Serve with baby spinach and tzatziki sauce.

**SERVES 4**

**TCP** You'll find more burger recipes on our website that are sure to help turn your cook-outs into grand successes. Most of them are from the kitchens of *Texas Co-op Power* readers just like you.

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2022** ✨ **6PM - 9PM** ✨ **DOWNTOWN STEPHENVILLE**

**CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF  
MOO-LA**

**1972  
-  
2022**

# AFFORDABLE LIFE INSURANCE

The Best Idea For ... Personal Insurance - Business Insurance - Mortgage Protection

10 - Year  
Guaranteed  
Level Rates

## NON-TOBACCO MONTHLY RATES (Rounded up to the nearest dollar. Therefore, actual monthly rates may be slightly less)

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000		\$1,000,000		Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000		\$1,000,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
30	9	8	11	9	14	12	20	17	61	39	29	69	48	124	88	234	163
35	10	9	11	10	15	12	21	19	62	42	32	77	54	138	99	260	181
40	10	10	14	12	19	16	28	25	63	46	36	86	60	156	112	292	204
44	12	11	17	15	26	22	42	35	64	50	41	96	67	174	126	327	227
45	13	11	18	16	29	24	47	38	65	55	46	107	75	195	142	365	253
46	14	11	19	17	31	26	50	41	66	61	50	118	86	214	152	403	274
47	14	12	20	18	33	28	54	44	67	68	55	131	99	234	163	447	297
48	15	13	21	19	35	30	59	48	68	76	61	147	115	260	176	500	325
49	16	13	23	20	38	32	65	53	69	84	67	164	131	287	190	556	355
50	16	14	25	21	41	34	70	58	70	94	74	183	150	318	205	619	389
51	17	15	27	22	45	37	78	63	71	104	84	208	162	367	239	712	450
52	18	16	29	24	50	40	87	69	72	116	96	236	175	423	276	818	519
53	19	17	32	26	55	43	99	76	73	129	110	271	191	493	323	949	604
54	20	18	35	28	61	47	110	83	74	144	125	307	207	565	371	1086	693
55	22	19	39	30	68	51	124	91	75	161	142	349	226	647	427	1242	794
56	24	20	42	32	74	55	137	100	76	205	179	426	279	799	535	1516	1001
57	26	21	46	34	82	59	151	109	77	254	221	514	338	972	657	1826	1236
58	29	23	51	37	91	65	170	121	78	316	273	623	411	1184	807	2210	1527
59	33	24	56	40	100	71	189	134	79	380	327	736	488	1407	966	2612	1831
60	36	26	62	44	111	78	210	148	80	454	389	865	576	1661	1145	3068	2177

**Call Wiley Maddox Today  
to Request an Application:**

**(203) 637-1544 or (800) 645-1544**

**Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm EST**

Premiums illustrated represent 10 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 10 years. \$100,000 - \$1,000,000 rates are Select-A-Term [policy form no. 07007] Preferred Plus Non-tobacco. This coverage features a level death benefit with fully guaranteed level premiums for the first 10 years with coverage to expire at age 95. The policy may be continued on Annual Renewable Term at the end of the level premium period without evidence of insurability until the anniversary nearest the insured's 95th birthday. The underwriting risks, financial and contractual obligations and support functions associated with products issued by **American General Life Insurance Company (AGL)** Houston, TX are its responsibility. AGL does not solicit business in the state of New York. All terms, conditions and limitations of any policy issued shall govern. American General Life Companies is the marketing name for a group of domestic life insurers including American General Life Insurance Company and The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York. Policies and riders not available in all states. Premium rates current as of June 2022; rates may vary by state. Premiums available for other rate classes, ages and payment plans. Premium charges depend on evidence of insurability. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Death benefit remains level. The policy may be contested for two years from the date of issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit is limited to return of premium paid in the event of suicide within first two years. Rates subject to change. Standard Marketing Services represents AGL and other fine insurance companies.

# WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

## Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$SAVE \$\$!

*Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!*



VISIT US ON THE WEB!  
**WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM**

**PRE-APPROVED  
FINANCING  
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER  
ANYTHING  
ON TRADE!**

**STAYcation at Home in 2022!**

**1-800-SWIMTEX** (1-800-794-6839)

*A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.*







COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Heaven Beyond Hell's Gate

Possum Kingdom Lake offers a scenic slice of paradise

BY CHET GARNER

**ON THE SHORT LIST** of places I never wanted to find myself, Hell's Gate sounded like it should be near the top. And yet there I was, about to pass through its ominous opening to see what might lurk on the other side.

Ironically, I found a slice of Texas paradise—refreshing water, warm sunshine and great tunes. Did I cheat death? Am I writing this article from the great beyond? Oh no! Hell's Gate, on the banks of Possum Kingdom Lake, is simply heavenly.

While the Hill Country west of Austin gets all the attention, there's a hidden hill country in North Texas that encompasses the sprawling Palo Pinto Mountains. And in the middle of it all lies a meandering lake named Possum Kingdom, about an hour west of the Metroplex. Its name dates to the early 1900s, when a prominent fur trader would refer to locals as the "boys of Possum Kingdom" due to an abundance of the furry varmints.

Today the lake is best known for the towering limestone cliffs that mark its banks and the countless boaters who flock there on weekends. Many of them congregate behind the stone walls of Hell's Gate and around Devil's Island. It's a narrow opening of water flanked by 90-foot cliffs.

The cliffs are so sheer they have hosted the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series, which attracts hundreds of spectators who watch professional divers dance with the devil. And while brave novices may be tempted to jump, it's extremely dangerous and illegal.

I could feel a swell of Texas courage welling up in my chest, but I wasn't about to break the law. Luckily, my buddy knew of other cliffs within the legal limit for jumping (20 feet or less), and so we sped off and spent the afternoon jumping from much less hellish heights. ■

ABOVE Chet and the 90-foot cliffs at Possum Kingdom Lake.

**TCP** What the heck is Chet doing at Hell's Gate? See his latest video on our website to find out. Watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

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

## AUGUST

07

**D'Hanis Holy Cross Catholic Church Homecoming Picnic**, (830) 363-7269, [holycross-dhanis.org](http://holycross-dhanis.org)

11

**Uvalde [11–14] Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**, (830) 278-4184, [uvaldeoperahouse.org](http://uvaldeoperahouse.org)

12

**Boerne Movie in the Park: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, (830) 249-9511, [ci.boerne.tx.us](http://ci.boerne.tx.us)

**Cedar Park [12–13] Rodeo**, (512) 600-5000, [hebcenter.com](http://hebcenter.com)

**Junction [12–13] Hill Country Fair Association Rodeo**, (325) 446-3190, [junctiontexas.com](http://junctiontexas.com)

**Plano [12–13] Quilt Plano**, 1-800-817-5266, [qgplano.org](http://qgplano.org)

**Sonora [12–13] Outlaw Rodeo and Sutton County Days**, (325) 387-2880, [sonorataxas.org](http://sonorataxas.org)

**Levelland [12–14] World Series Team Roping Qualifier**, (806) 894-4161, [wstroping.com](http://wstroping.com)

13

**Cedar Park Treasure of the Hills Senior Center Senior Expo**, (512) 331-6000, [toth-seniors.com](http://toth-seniors.com)

**Grand Prairie Hatch Chile Fest**, (972) 237-8084, [grandfungp.com/farmersmarket](http://grandfungp.com/farmersmarket)

**Junction Car Show**, (325) 446-5658, [junctiontexas.com/car-show](http://junctiontexas.com/car-show)

**Kerrville Kids Triathlon,**  
(830) 257-7300,  
kerrvilletx.gov

**Fredericksburg [13-14,  
27-28] Live Pari-Mutuel  
Horse Racing,**  
(830) 997-2359,  
gillespiefair.com

**Johnson City [17-20] Blanco  
County Fair and Rodeo,**  
bcfra.info@gmail.com,  
bcfra.org

**Palacios [19-20] Fish Fest  
Family Fishing Tournament,**  
(361) 972-2615,  
palacioschamber.com

**Fredericksburg [19-21]  
Trade Days,** (210) 846-4094,  
fbgtradedays.com

**Denton [19-27] North  
Texas Fair and Rodeo,**  
(940) 387-2632, ntfair.com

**Ingram [19-21, 26-28,  
Sept. 2-3] The Nerd,**  
(830) 367-5121, hcfa.com

**Grand Prairie Lost '80s  
Live,** (972) 854-5076,  
texastrustcutheatre.com

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

**Temple Touch-a-Truck,**  
(254) 298-5690,  
templeparks.com

**Washington Giants of  
Texas History at Washing-  
ton-on-the-Brazos,**  
(936) 878-2214,  
thc.texas.gov

**Junction [20-21]  
Up & Back Boat Race,**  
(325) 446-3190,  
junctiontexas.com/  
up-back-boat-race

MORE EVENTS >

## **TCP** Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your November event by September 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

# World's Finest Eye Cream

a "selections" product in Oprah magazine



## AIRBRUSH

Eye Refining Treatment

Airbrush Eye Cream reduces puffiness right away, *especially when cold*. Promotes new collagen which reduces fine lines and wrinkles. Reduces dark circles, is soothing, hydrating and promotes a youthful healthy glow! Hypo-allergenic and natural containing emu oil serum, green tea extract, aloe vera, collagen and elastin. Use am & pm for best results and the jar will last about 3 months!

### Compare to:

La Mer Eye Balm @ \$200  
Shiseido Solution LX @ \$130  
La Prairie Swiss @ \$240

Reg \$68  
Now only  
\$39.99

Use 40% discount code: **TEX39** at

**www.dremu.com or call 800-542-0026**

Free Shipping — Open 24/7

**WALK-IN TUBS**  
FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED

**ONYX SHOWERS**  
FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED

**BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS**  
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY  
★ CELEBRATING 17 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 17 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**



**Never lose electricity again!**



**Own the #1 brand in home standby power.**

**8 out of 10 buyers choose Generac Home Standby Generators** to automatically provide electricity to their homes during power outages. GENERAC Home Standby Generators start at just \$1,999\*.

**CALL for FREE Generator Buyer's Guide and get...**

**Limited Time BONUS OFFER!**

**GENERAC®**



\*Price does not include installation.

\*Built in the USA using domestic and foreign parts

**TOLL FREE 800-894-8804**  
**FreeGeneratorGuide.com**

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

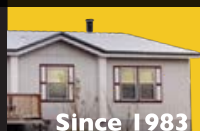
**1-800-359-4940 TEXAS TOLL-FREE**  
**www.mattsonfinancialservices.com**

**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 ROOFER SYSTEMS**

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



RACHEL RICCI | DREAMTIME.COM

## Pick of the Month

### AIA Sandcastle Competition and Viewing

Galveston, August 20-21  
(409) 797-5000, visitgalveston.com

Dozens of teams swarm East Beach to create sculptures that get judged on concept, artistic execution, technical difficulty, carving technique and utilization of the site. The competition is a fundraiser for the Houston chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Architecture Center Houston Foundation.

28

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

## SEPTEMBER

01

**Belton [1-4] Central Texas State Fair**, (254) 933-5353, centraltexasstatefair.com

**La Grange [1-4] Fayette County Fair**, (979) 968-3911, fayettecountyfair.org

02

**Fredericksburg [2-3] Vereins Quilt Guild Show: Quilted Fields of Dreams**, (325) 347-5515, vereinsquiltguild.org

**Boerne [2-4] Kendall County Fair**, (830) 249-2839, kcfa.org

**Odessa [2-11] Permian Basin Fair and Expo**, (432) 550-3232, pbfair.com

03

**Brenham The Everly Brothers Experience by the Zmed Brothers**, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

**Fredericksburg Pride in the Pacific**, (830) 997-8600, pacificwarmuseum.org

**Kerrville Kerr County Market Days & Hill Country Swap Meet**, (830) 459-6198, kerrmarkadays.org

**Sunrise Beach Sip & Stroll**, (713) 299-1728, sunrisebeachvfd.org/sipandstroll

04

**Fayetteville St. John Annual Feast**, (979) 378-2277, stjohnfayetteville.com

## AUGUST EVENTS CONTINUED

25

**Fredericksburg [25-28] Gillespie County Fair**, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

26

**Killeen [26-27] Crossroads to Texas Quilt Guild Quilt Show**, (254) 702-2425, cttquiltguild.org

**Corsicana [26-28] Hydroplane Classic**, (903) 654-4850, visitcorsicana.com

27

**Albany CareFest**, (325) 762-2447, facebook.com/resourcecare

**Kerrville River Roadster Show**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

**Lakeway Cool Arts Show and Studio Tour**, (512) 314-7509, lakewayartsdistrict.com/coolarts

**Stonewall Commemoration of Lyndon Johnson's Birthday**, (830) 868-7128, nps.gov/lyjo

# Motor Sports

And they're off! Our readers love to rev and race. These were first across the finish line.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 DANNY PICKENS  
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC

"The rider appears to reach for the lights as he hangs in the air several feet off the ground at a motocross track in Swan."

2 RONALD HAVARD  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A jet engine dragster heads to the starting line for a quarter-mile race against a P-51 Mustang at an air show.

3 PAIGE LUECKEMEYER  
TRI-COUNTY EC

"There's no shortage of teamwork and support on the Crown Off-Road Racing Team."

4 LISA BENNETT  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

"Getting to ride my Ducati 1098S at the famous Circuit of the Americas was truly a bucket list item."



1



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

DUE AUG 10 Winter Wildlife

DUE SEP 10 Nature's Colors

DUE OCT 10 First Responders



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

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Motor Sports photos from readers.





## The Stars Below

An abundant West Texas cactus garden sparkles in its own way

BY SUZANNE FEATHERSTON  
ILLUSTRATION BY CARL WIENS

CLOUDS ROLLED IN the evening before a star party at McDonald Observatory in far West Texas, changing my plans for a summer night in Big Bend.

This was years ago, when a weeklong writers' retreat had taken me to Alpine, where I stayed in the dorms of Sul Ross State University. In our free time, the other writers and I explored the nearby Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, marveled at the Marfa Lights, hiked to a hilltop at sunrise and drank wine at sunset in the Holland Hotel courtyard.

That night, my colleagues stuck with their itinerary for stargazing, but I stayed behind to tour the grounds at Sul Ross. A cactus garden in front of Lawrence Hall beckoned me to look down instead of up.

The demonstration garden showed off some of the flora produced by the

university's native plant propagation program that has been in operation since 1979. Cactuses were used for decoration and scientific investigations.

The garden showcased about 100 species of promising and already established native ornamentals. From the towering ocotillo scratching at the sky to the diminutive golf ball cactuses, the desert environment nurtures a variety of spiny succulents. The range of prickly pears alone amazed me—some with spines, others “blind”; some with round pads and others pointy; some towering and others cowering.

The cactuses' shapes and names captured my imagination. The resurrection plant resembled a crown of thorns. The living rock cactus looked like a tortoise shell buried in dirt. The eagle-claw cactus carried curved, talonlike needles.

Several cactuses were familiar. I'd seen the horse crippler, a sneaky low-lying succulent with merciless spikes, at what would become Garey Park in Georgetown. The claret cup reminded me of the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry that features a walking trail arrayed with native plants. Seeing ephedra took me back to the Davis Mountains, where I first recognized the medicinal plant.

Instead of studying the star-studded sky, I gazed at the spine-studded ground and gained an appreciation for the “stars” of this Earth.

The experience inspired the landscape around my home in Central Texas. I planted knobby, white mammillaria in the crevices of a large limestone landscaping rock. I used blue agave harvested from a construction site and white-striped agave to grace my meandering crushed granite pathways.

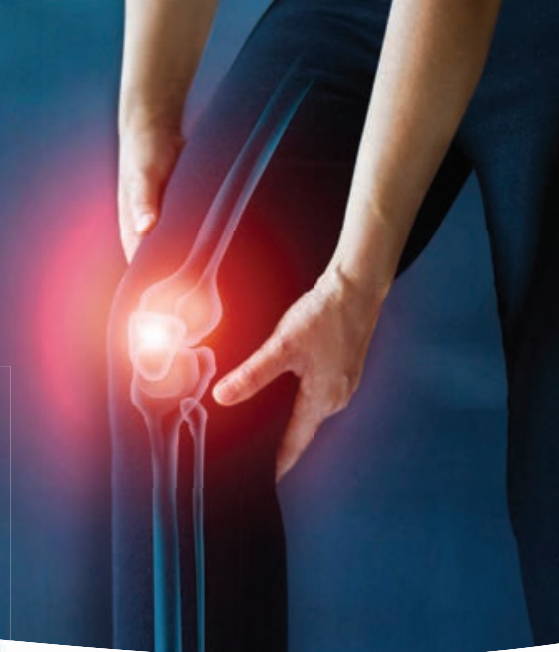
They reminded me that gazing at the ground can be just as awe-inspiring as gazing at the stars. ■



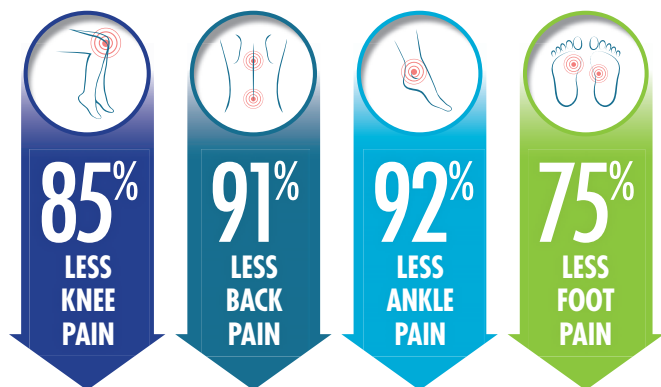
# LIVE LIFE PAIN-FREE



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE  
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



**FREE (\$50 Value)  
Corrective Fit Orthotics**  
with every shoe purchase  
Excludes sandals.



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

## Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

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

### **gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145**

**X-WIDE  
WIDTH  
AVAILABLE**

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

**Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

**Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black



## \$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

**Promo Code MQ8HPS4**

[www.gdefy.com](http://www.gdefy.com)

**Expires November 30, 2022**

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns**

**60-Day Try Defy**

**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.





## Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!



Same Bill. Same Price. **\$69<sup>99</sup>** month for TV  
Every Month. For 2 Years.



## It's ALL Included with DISH!

- ✓ Includes 2 Year Price Lock
- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR  
Requires internet connected Hopper.
- ✓ Includes Home Service + Streaming
- ✓ Includes Free Installation
- ✓ Includes FREE Premium Channels  
After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.
- ✓ Includes HD Programming



**ADD BLAZING-FAST  
INTERNET!**  
No Matter Where You Live!

~~\$59<sup>99</sup>~~ **\$40**  
Now Just... month for Internet

- ✓ Now with Unlimited Data!
- ✓ Speeds from 25Mbps - 1 Gbps
- ✓ Available Nationwide!



**Save up to  
\$20/mo.\***

\*\$5 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.

## These Exclusive Extras Are Included!

**FREE Streaming on 5 Devices  
with DISH Anywhere App**



Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 and compatible mobile device. On Hopper Duo, there is no live TV streaming for DISH Anywhere.

**Smart Remote w/ Voice  
and Google Assistant**



Requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google is a trademark of Google LLC.



**Your Favorite Apps in One Place!**



Netflix and Amazon Prime Video streaming memberships required. YouTube is a trademark of Google LLC. Amazon Prime only available on Hopper 3.

**¡Se Habla Español!**

[godish.com/pricelock](http://godish.com/pricelock) 🔍

**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 11/9/22.** **2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Included in 2-year price guarantee** for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$84.99 for AT120+, \$94.99 for AT200, \$104.99 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.