

TOTAL ECLIPSE
OF THE STATE

THE PAUL REVERE
OF TEXAS

WHEN ALL IS LOST,
LOVED ONES ARRIVE

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

MARCH 2024

Good Dog!

Trainers give canines
and their owners an edge
in competition

TRINITY
VALLEY EC
NEWS

SEE PAGE 16



SMOOTH SAILING

along the Mighty Mississippi

ABOARD THE BRAND NEW *AMERICAN SERENADE*

From the French Quarter to the hometown of Mark Twain, experience the best of this legendary river. On an 8 to 23-day journey, explore Civil War history and travel to the epicenter of American music as you cruise in perfect comfort aboard our brand new American Riverboat™.

Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly®



Call

800-459-2596

to request a

★ **FREE** ★

Cruise Guide

AmericanCruiseLines.com

March 2024



06

A Midday Matinee for Millions

Where will you be when a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse darkens Texas next month?

By Pam LeBlanc

10 Top Dogs

Coaches help canine competitors reach new heights—and grow closer to their humans.

Story by Margaret Buranen
Photos by Tom Hussey

04

Currents
The latest buzz

05

TCP Talk
Readers respond

16

Co-op News
Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

Footnotes in Texas History
A Revere of Our Own
By Martha Deeringer

26

TCP Kitchen
Best Brunch
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road
Doing Time
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas
Photo Contest: Architecture

34

Observations
It Takes a Family
By Dale Roberson

ON THE COVER
Haru, an Australian shepherd, works on his leaping skills.
Photo by Tom Hussey

ABOVE
The ring of fire during the annular solar eclipse October 14, 2023, as seen near Bandera.
Photo by Erich Schlegel

Channeling Safety

WHEN DANNY WILLIAMS, below left, started his career as a lineworker at McCulloch Electric Cooperative—which no longer exists—in 1965, color TVs were the latest technology coming into homes.

Williams and his co-workers in Brady made sure the power always stayed on for those TVs. “I loved linework,” he says. “I loved climbing.”

Williams later became an instructor, teaching work skills and safety to utility employees. And in 2007 he became manager of Texas Electric Cooperatives’ Loss Control program, where he changed (and likely saved) lives at co-ops across the state.

Williams, 80, will retire this month after more than 38 years of teaching generations of lineworkers, in a career that spanned seven decades.

“Oh, my God, how many people has he touched?” says TEC’s Curtis Whitt, a co-worker for 21 of those years. “Countless. To do it as well as he’s done it for as long as he’s done it is a pretty incredible feat.”

TCP Visit our website to read more about Danny Williams.



A Power Trip?

Four electric school buses in South Burlington, Vermont, deliver more than students. When sitting idle during school hours, their batteries store excess renewable energy that can be pumped back onto the grid.

TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Party Drinks

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Shells and Scales

RECOMMENDED READING

Learn how Hoover Alexander, a fifth-generation Texan, came to run Hoover’s Cooking, a beloved Austin diner. See *A Full Plate* from March 2009 on our website.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Music makes me ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our January prompt: **If I could turn back the clock ...**

It would mean that I finally figured out how to work the buttons.

GEORGE GRAHAM
PEDERNALES EC
WIMBERLEY

I would look at the clock less.

ROSIE PEÑA
NUECES EC
CORPUS CHRISTI

I would talk to my mom and dad for days on end—just to hear their voices again.

LISA STANLEY
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
JOSHUA

Visit our website to see more responses.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Required Reading

We love *Texas Co-op Power*. We home-school and use a lot of the recipes and articles in our lessons.

Karly Woods
Via Facebook

Shamrock Memories

My wife and I stayed at the old Shamrock Hilton on the last weekend it was open [*The Green Carpet*, January 2024].

The place was still amazing, but it clearly had a lot of deferred maintenance, making it look a little threadbare—a remnant of a time gone by.

In the lounge, if you ordered one drink, they would keep bringing you more of the same—I guess figuring that everything they gave away was one less thing they’d have to pack up or throw away.

Mike Blanche
United Cooperative Services
Morgan



COURTESY HOUSTON HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER | HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

What Desert?

When I flew from my Southern California hometown into San Antonio in May 1968 for U.S. Army basic training at Fort Sam Houston, I was surprised by a lush, green landscape (plus millions of crickets) instead of a barren desert [*How Texas Became a Desert*, December 2023].

Even more shocking was finding that the Alamo had been moved to downtown from the countryside where John Wayne defended it from Santa Anna’s forces.

Steve Mallery
Heart of Texas EC
Robinson

On Second Thought

I enjoyed Frederick Law Olmsted’s assessment of Austin and New Braunfels [*Appraising the Texas Landscape*, November 2023]. I believe he would be appalled at the destruction of the natural beauty and wildlife he witnessed in the 1850s.

Harvey H. Wetz
GVEC
New Braunfels

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

JANUARY 2024 Moment’s Notice

“There’s an expression around Laredo: ‘Six flags over Texas; seven flags over Laredo!’ ”

SHERI ULAN-SWEET
BLUEBONNET EC AND CENTRAL TEXAS EC
LEXINGTON AND FREDERICKSBURG

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Neil Hesse, Muenster
Vice Chair Avan Irani, Robstown
Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Wood, San Augustine
Board Members Dale Ancell, Lubbock
Mark McClain, Roby • Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop
Marty Haught, Burleson • 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 Samantha Bryant
Digital Media Specialist Caytlyn Calhoun
Assistant Production Manager Alex Dal Santo
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz
Food Editor Vianney Rodriguez
Senior Designer Jane Sharpe
Communications Specialist Claire Stevens
Proofreader Louie Bond

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 80, Number 9 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power’s* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.96 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.
Co-op members: Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.

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 Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or espru@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. 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.

COPYRIGHT All content © 2024 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



A Midday Matinee for Millions

Where will you be when a once-in-a-lifetime
total solar eclipse darkens Texas next month?



BY PAM LEBLANC

Back in October

when the moon passed between the Earth and the sun in a celestial display known as an annular eclipse, I headed to Lost Maples State Natural Area in the Hill Country, donned a pair of goofy cardboard glasses and gazed skyward.

The field around me bristled with telescopes and tripods, all directed at the slow-moving phenomenon, which looked to my untrained eye like a frying pan slowly moving in front of a bed of glowing coals. Just as the moon lined up with the face of the sun, creating a halo of yellow, a cheer arose, and someone cranked up Johnny Cash's *Ring of Fire*.

As fun as that was, it was just the warmup for what's coming April 8, when Texans will get front-row seats at an even more impressive spectacle—a total solar eclipse.

The last total solar eclipse viewable from the U.S. occurred August 21, 2017—but Texas wasn't in the path of totality. Those who peered at it (through special safety glasses, of course) from here saw the moon's shadow creep across the sun but never fully blot it out. Other parts of the country experienced totality.

"A really good total solar eclipse is an emotional experience," says astronomer Phil Kelton, former assistant director and superintendent of the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis. "They're awe-inspiring events, like nothing else in nature. The annular eclipse was a poor second."

In April, the eclipse's path of totality will cross Mexico, enter Texas near Eagle Pass, and slowly crawl northeast across the state. Kerrville, Bandera and Waco are all near the centerline, so watchers there will get a good show. Much of the Metroplex will experience totality, as will parts of Austin and San Antonio.

After crossing into Oklahoma and Arkansas, the eclipse will pass through 10 more states before moving out of Maine and into Canada.

The whole event—from the time the moon first bites into the sun—will last roughly 3 hours in Texas. But the duration of totality will vary by location. In Vanderpool and Ingram,

OPPOSITE Maxine Margolis Smith experiences the thrill of the October 14, 2023, annular solar eclipse from near Bandera. ABOVE The eclipse is projected onto a "screen" that Jeri Evans rigged from a bucket attached to a telescope in Vanderpool.



for example, it will last 4 minutes and 26 seconds; in Austin, farther from the centerline, it will last less than two minutes. The start of totality will also vary, occurring between 1:27 p.m. and 1:40 p.m. depending on where you're viewing.

During those few minutes, skies will grow significantly darker. It'll feel cooler, and some animals may exhibit twilight behaviors. If skies are clear—and chances of a clear sky are historically higher in Texas than they are farther north and east across the U.S. at that time of the year—bright stars will become visible.

"It's one of the great events of nature," Kelton says. "There's an element of majesty and awe that occurs during a total solar eclipse. Only in the last few hundred years has man understood enough about the cosmos to appreciate what was causing it."

Total solar eclipses occur every few years at different locations around the globe. After this year's event, an eclipse in 2033 will impact a small part of Alaska, and one in 2044 will affect Montana and the Dakotas. The next total eclipse to carve a broad swath across the country, though, won't take place until August 12, 2045.

Now's the time to plan. People are traveling to Texas from all over the world for the April eclipse, and many lodges and campgrounds in the path of totality are already booked.

Don't panic.

"The path is huge. You don't have to be in a special place," says Shaun Tarpley, an architect from League City who chases eclipses to photograph them. He and his wife, Ashley, an aeronautical engineer who works at NASA, traveled to Lost Maples with their son for the annular eclipse and plan to return to the Hill Country in April.

“There’s an element of majesty and awe that occurs during a total solar eclipse.”



LEFT Irene Ramos participates in a spiritual drum circle near Bandera.

“As long as you’re in the path, you can get out on the side of a road,” he says. “If you’re in the area, you’ll be able to experience it.”

When I drove to Bandera County for the annular eclipse, I spotted fields with hand-painted “camp here” signs planted among the ash junipers and oaks.

Eclipse watchers had gathered for a celebration at Stonehenge II, a scaled-down version of the British original on the lawn outside the Hill Country Arts Foundation in Ingram. (Festivities are planned next month, too.) And at Lost Maples, campgrounds and day-use areas were packed.

Among those I met was Frederic Allegrini, an astrophysicist and amateur astrophotographer from San Antonio who drove 2,500 miles in four days to see the 2017 eclipse in Tennessee. He and his wife wanted to be in the path of totality because, as he told her, doing anything else is like being 95% in love. “It has to be 100% or nothing,” he says.

And then there was Laura Hermann of Spring, who stood

at a table loaded with snacks and used a Moon Pie and a bag of Sun Chips to demonstrate how the eclipse would unfold.

For those with deep pockets, touring companies like Smithsonian Journeys offer luxurious guided tours through the Hill Country, with eclipse watching at Becker Vineyards near Stonewall and stops at other Central Texas sites.

For a less expensive experience, reserve a day pass at one of the Texas state parks in the path of totality. Enchanted Rock and Lost Maples will be popular destinations, but spots will fill up quickly. Reservations at Enchanted Rock open 8 a.m. March 11, and reservations for all other state parks open 8 a.m. March 8. Lower Colorado River Authority parks are another option, with special activities at some locations, including Black Rock Park on Lake Buchanan.

If your favorite park is booked, check out Campspot’s regularly updated guide of sites in the path that still have availability. At RVshare, you can book an RV directly from the owner.

BELOW Frederic Allegrini sets up his camera gear at Lost Maples State Natural Area. RIGHT Liam Tarpley uses eclipse-safe sunglasses to watch the annular eclipse.



Stare Safely

Never look directly at the sun through a camera, binoculars or a telescope without proper solar filters.

Only use glasses made specifically for eclipse viewing; they're about 100,000 times darker than ordinary sunglasses.

View the eclipse indirectly with a pin-hole projector or see what it does to shadows by holding up a colander from your kitchen.

Plan ahead: Folks from all over the U.S. are already booking rooms in the Hill Country, and traffic could be tricky.

If you want a side of music with your eclipse, consider the family-friendly Eclipse Utopia at Four Sisters Ranch in Utopia. Camping is available, and the event includes workshops, disc golf, hiking, biking, yoga and two days of live music. Closer to Bandera, the Ground Zero MusicFest includes everything from live music and a classic car show to a cornhole tournament and space alien costume contest.

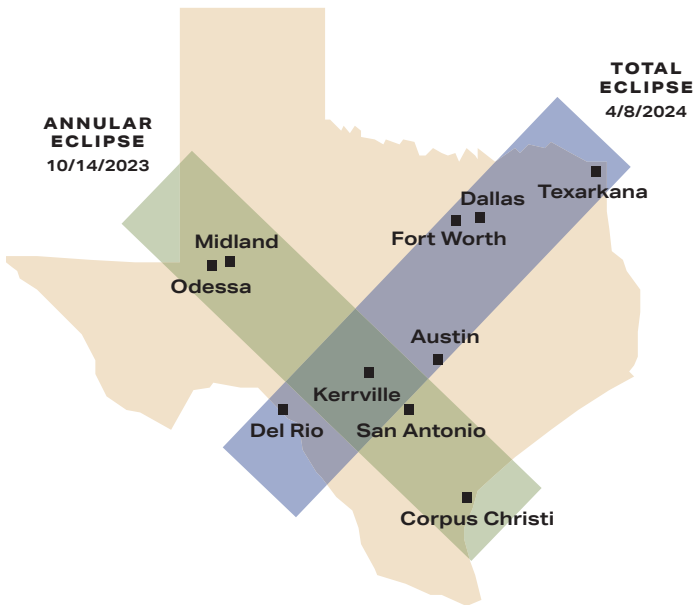
Wherever you go, arrive early, protect your eyes and embrace the experience.

That's what Emma Ransome and Pavol Klacansky, both from Austin, did during the October eclipse. I found them stretched out in the grass at the campground at Lost Maples, listening to a special playlist they had compiled, grinning behind their eclipse glasses.

"We've been able to slowly watch it evolve," Ransome says. "It's very relaxing."

And the opening act only got them more excited about the April main event. ■

TCP For more guidance about viewing safety and making your eclipse experience memorable, visit our website. And for a deeper dive into the wonders of the eclipse, check out nationaleclipse.com.







BY MARGARET BURANEN • PHOTOS BY TOM HUSSEY

Coaches help canine competitors reach new heights—and grow closer to their humans

Growing up in South Korea while her dad served in the U.S. military, Abby McMillin had two dreams. First, like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, she wanted to return home to Kansas.

When her family did finally move back to Kansas, McMillin started working on her other dream: becoming a veterinarian. In high school she started working at a veterinary clinic. There she met a dog that would change her life and her career path.

Taz was a large German shepherd. He was scared and aggressive. Nobody could get near the snarling animal. McMillin decided to try to reach him anyway.

She tossed kibble into his kennel, not even making eye contact with him. She also sometimes sat with her back to the outside of the kennel door. “I just wanted Taz to know that I was there,” McMillin says.

Gradually Taz calmed down and began to trust McMillin. He allowed her to pet him and put a leash on him. Later he accepted affection from other people. Eventually he was adopted by a woman who gave him the loving home he deserved.

The clinic’s veterinarians were amazed at McMillin’s success with Taz. They sent her to work with a professional trainer to learn more about dog behavior.

“He became my mentor,” McMillin says. She realized that communicating with dogs and other animals, trying to figure out what they needed and why they behaved in certain ways, interested her much more than animal health.

Today McMillin is the owner of Triple H Dog Training, where she teaches classes of humans and canines how to work together at her facility in Mineola, northwest of Tyler.

In short, she coaches dog athletes.

Every year, the American Kennel Club and other organizations host thousands of dog sporting events across the U.S. that draw more than 1 million competitors.

But 35 years ago, in 1988, when the United States Dog Agility Association organized the first major sporting competition for dogs—the Grand Prix of Dog Agility World Championships—just 79 competitors from across the U.S. came to Houston for the three-day event. Today, more than 100 events nationwide qualify dogs and their humans—representing more than 20 countries—for regional championships and, ultimately, the world finals.

Abby McMillin guides Apollo, her golden retriever, over an agility training ramp.

The sports encompass a range of competitions for dogs, including agility and herding, racing and jumping, obedience, and tracking and hunting trials. The growth of dog sports has become big business as trainers like McMillin build careers out of teaching people how to compete alongside their pets.

McMillin, a Wood County Electric Cooperative member, lives in Mineola with her husband, Nick; their 2-year-old son, Levi; and seven dogs. One dog, a Great Pyrenees mix, prefers couch lounging to dog sports. The other six, including three golden retrievers, compete.

Border collies, Australian shepherds and Shetland sheepdogs are among the most popular breeds to produce athletes, but there's something out there for just about every dog.

If one canine sport isn't suitable for a dog and its owner, McMillin urges the owner to try something else. Many dogs enjoy agility training, but their owners may realize they aren't fit enough for this fast-paced sport. Rally, which involves only walking, may be a better choice.

Besides, it's "more about relationship building, so the dog owner and dog develop a lifetime friendship," McMillin says. "I want people to enjoy their dogs."



OPPOSITE McMillin with six of her dogs, which learn balance and control on a seesaw at her training facility. RIGHT Apollo goes airborne to catch a flying disc.

For training at home, McMillin advises dog owners to “keep it short. Keep it fun. Keep it simple. Don’t do 30 minutes once a week. Do five minutes every day. For the first week or so, the owner has to get in the habit of training, too. Remember dogs don’t work for nothing. They’re motivated by treats or toys.”

McMillin uses a hand-held clicker to reinforce behaviors. With this method, she has also trained horses and cats, even an otter. Training allows the dog and owner to become a team and have a closer relationship. “It’s not about the ribbons,” she says. “It’s about going home with the best dog ever.”

Another trainer, Debi Krakar, started the Dog Alliance in Cedar Park, outside Austin, in 2006. There she trains therapy dogs and offers classes in various dog sport disciplines.

Krakar, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, says that the raft of dog sports offers an excellent outlet for pups. “When they’ve been mentally stimulated and exercised, they won’t eat your shoes,” she says. “Dog sports build a bond between human and dog. They understand each other better.”

Krakar got into dog training after taking her own dog to schools for children to read to. “Teachers kept calling me,” she says. “The demand for these therapy dogs is constant.”

For owners who aren’t sure which dog sport might be best for them and their pups, she offers a dog sports foundation class that covers the basics. Because when it comes to man’s best friend, it’s really about building relationships.

“Have fun and be positive with your dog,” Krakar says. “In the long run you’ll have a much stronger bond with your dog.” ■



Games That Aren’t Far-Fetched

AGILITY Dogs run through an obstacle course that includes tunnels, blocks to jump on and vertical poles to weave through.

BARN HUNT Popular in rural areas, dogs run into barns and signal where rats are hiding.

DISC DOG This is a variation of the basic game of fetch. The dog’s owner throws a flying disc that the dog catches (usually by jumping up in the air) and retrieves quickly.

DOCK DIVING Dogs race down a ramp and leap out into a pool of water to retrieve a toy thrown by the owner.

FAST CAT No felines are involved! Short for coursing ability test, dogs of any breed are timed as they race around a 100-yard track, chasing an artificial lure.

LURE COURSING Sight hounds race around an oval or rectangular course that measures 650–800 yards, chasing an artificial lure.

RALLY Dogs walk to various stations and follow various commands from their owners at each one.

SHED HUNT Pups retrieve shed deer antlers from a field within a set time period.

TRACKING Dogs follow the scent of a lure that was earlier dragged through a course.

TRICKS Beyond the basic commands of sit, stay, come and lie down, dogs learn to perform more advanced commands or follow hand signals.

1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. Never ones to miss an opportunity, we climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch.

What does retrograde mean? Instead of displaying the hands rotating on an axis like most watches, the hands sweep in a semicircle, then return to their starting point and begin all over again.

Retrograde watches by the big brands can set you back thousands; but because we've designed the 1920s Retrograde Watch in-house, we can offer it to you for just \$99!

This watch is so wildly popular with our customers that we're actually concerned about running out; we only have 937 729 left for this ad!

Watch Specifications:

- Precision movement • Stainless steel case, caseback and crown
- Retrograde hour and minute indicators • Water-resistant to 5 ATM
- Brown genuine leather band • Fits wrists up to 8"

1920s Retrograde Watch ~~\$399~~ \$99* + S&P Save \$300

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: RGW232-01

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155,
Dept. RGW232-01, Burnsville, MN 55337
www.stauer.com



Stauer | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

Yours FREE!

Order within 30 days
and get this special
Morgan Silver Dollars
booklet **FREE!**



Special Offer for New Customers Only

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

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	Last-Year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar (Limit 1)	\$29.95
1	Morgan Silver Dollar Booklet	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	Sales Tax	FREE!
	TOTAL	\$29.95

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

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

Card #: Exp. Date /

Name Please print clearly

Address Apt#

City State Zip

E-Mail

Mail to: **Littleton Coin Company**
1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
Littleton NH 03561-3737
Serving Collectors Since 1945

Littleton Coin Company

Offer Code: 32K414

OWN a Genuine 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar

Over 100
Years old...

Regularly \$87.00...
Now Only \$29.95



Now you can own a 1921 Morgan silver dollar from the last year of the classic series! Big, heavy and handsome - with over 3/4 of an ounce of 90% silver - genuine Morgan dollars like these were struck in silver from old western mines. Once used by rough and ready frontiersmen, today Morgan dollars are a vanishing legacy of America's past - genuine history you can hold in your hand!

Never to be minted again!

Although millions of these silver coins were melted in the 1900s, the 1921 Morgan - from the final year of the classic series - survived. Never to be minted again, this historic Morgan dollar can be yours for just \$29.95 (regularly \$87.00) - **SAVE 65%** off regular prices! Order today and get **FREE** shipping to your home!

You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance within 15 days - with option to cancel at any time.

**Order now -
before they vanish forever!**

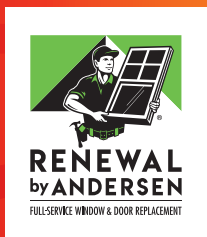
www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials

**Have U.S. Coins or Paper Money to Sell?
Get Top Dollar!**

We Make it Quick and Easy.
Littletoncoin.com/CoinsToSell
**Currently purchasing U.S. currency within the U.S. only.*

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

Offer Code: 32K414



31 DAY SALE

WINDOWS & DOORS



When we say this sale ends on **March 31, we mean it!** You only have 31 days to get these **special window and door discounts!**¹

There are limited appointments available. Please call today to book your visit.

Sale ends March 31!

SAVE \$397
on every window¹

SAVE \$996
on every door¹

+

Take an extra **3% OFF** the entire project¹

NO NO NO for 1 year² if paid in full
Money Down Payments Interest

Interest is billed during promo period but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before promo period expires.

**Call or scan before
March 31 to book
your FREE Window
& Door Diagnosis**

Austin **512-298-1858**
San Antonio **210-961-9990**

West Texas **432-257-3640**
Dallas/Fort Worth **469-606-5229**



TopWindowSolution.com

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 3/31/24 with the purchase then occurring on or before 4/10/24. 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. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

²Plan 4521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 14.26% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 15.99% - 24.99%). Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 12 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date and no payments are made during Promo Period, for every \$1,000 financed at a fixed interest rate of 24.99%, 12 monthly payments of \$0 followed by 84 monthly payments of \$28.29. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. Financing for the GreenSky® consumer loan program is provided by Equal Opportunity Lenders. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC, a subsidiary of Goldman Sachs Bank USA. NMLS #1416362. Loans originated by Goldman Sachs are issued by Goldman Sachs Bank USA, Salt Lake City Branch. NMLS #208156. www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org.



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

Co-ops Prioritize Safety

FROM THE CREWS at Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes every year. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it every day.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As TVEC's CEO and general manager, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. But we all want to help keep you and our entire community safe as well.

I don't need to tell you that electricity is an integral part of modern life. In fact, it's so common that we can sometimes forget the dangers that electricity presents, so I'd like to pass along a few practical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them before they cause a shock.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overloads happen when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years

old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you daisy chain them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and starting a fire. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need more outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply year-round. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact TVEC or visit tvec.net for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event. ■



LANASTOCK | ISTOCK.COM

That's why you'll see TVEC hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, demonstrating the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car wreck involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of padmounted transformers and overloaded circuits.

SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY
SOON

- TVEC area high schools, see your counselor for more information.
- Private & home school students, apply online at tvec.net/scholarship/.

TVEC March Updates: Scholarships, Looking for Members' Best Recipes

THE TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Annual Membership Meeting is still months away, but we need your help as we compile a special Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative cookbook for the occasion.

We want to share the recipes and stories that have helped bond your family together. The book will be presented as a special gift to attendees at the annual meeting. Visit tvec.net/annual-meeting or see the ad on Page 19 for a link to submit your recipe online.

• **High School Scholarships**—Now is the time to send your high school student to his or her school counselor to apply for a TVEC scholarship. Scholarship funds are distributed to each of the 23 high schools in the TVEC service area. Additional scholarships are available for home school, private and virtual private school students.

Scholarship recipients must live in a home with electrical service provided by TVEC, and they must enroll as full-time students at an accredited college or university. For more information visit tvec.net/scholarship.

Funding for TVEC scholarships comes from escheat funds returned by the state, consisting of unclaimed capital credits.

• **Targeting Transaction Fees**—Credit card fees cost the co-ops thousands of dollars per year, which adds up to higher operating costs. As a nonprofit utility, any reduction in our expenses means more money back to members in the form of capital credits. Please consider bank draft or e-check payments to reduce operating costs and put more money back in your pockets.

• **TVEC Member Email Communications**—Be sure to update your TVEC member information with any changes of address, email address or phone number. Along with *Texas Co-op Power*, our email alerts provide a lot of information that is useful for members. From upcoming line maintenance and planned outage alerts to helpful efficiency information, TVEC member emails keep you informed about your electric service. If you haven't added your email to your account please do so. ■

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

8:15 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

tvec.net





FEVER PITCHED | ISTOCK.COM



TVEC ENERGY
MANAGEMENT ADVISER
CHRIS WALKER, BAP

Buying or Selling a Home? Consider Energy Factors

MARCH IS CONSIDERED THE best month to list a home for sale, and today's homebuyers often consider energy efficiency as part of their purchasing decision.

Considering efficiency is important as energy costs (such as electricity, gas and propane) are significant expenses for any home. The average home costs approximately \$2,500 in energy expenses per year. Think about how much money that is over the life of the home.

The size of a home is one of the most important factors that will determine energy costs. As square footage increases, lighting requirements increase, and more importantly, the burden on heating and cooling equipment increases.

In general, newer homes have better energy performance due to advancements in building codes, but buying a new home doesn't guarantee efficiency. Building codes aren't always strictly enforced, and a minimum-code home is not nearly efficient as homes built to a higher standard. When energy efficiency or green features are a high priority, look for homes that have Energy Star, Built Green or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certifications.

Newer manufactured homes are typically much more efficient than older manufactured homes, but they don't have

to meet the same energy code requirements of site-built homes. Residents of manufactured homes spend about 70% more on energy per square foot of living space than residents of site-built homes. When considering a manufactured home, those built after 1994 or that have an Energy Star label have superior energy performance.

Sometimes buyers will be interested in the energy performance of a specific home compared to similar homes and may request electricity, natural gas or propane bills from the sellers so they can estimate how much it will cost to heat and cool the home annually. While this is not a precise measure of home energy performance, it can be a good indicator.

For a deeper dive, check the Home Energy Rating System Index. It's like a "miles per gallon" rating for a home that allows consumers to comparison shop based on energy performance, similar to the way they can comparison shop for cars.

A certified Residential Energy Services Network home energy rater will need to inspect the home

and develop a HERS rating. This rating can be done during the inspection process or may be requested from the seller.

Although many homebuyers focus on energy features that have the strongest impact on the aesthetics of the home, such as windows and lighting fixtures, it's hidden systems like appliances that have the most impact on energy performance. Heating and cooling systems consume about half of a home's energy use and are costly to replace. Here are a couple questions homebuyers should consider about heating and cooling:

How old is the air conditioning and heating system? If the home's heater or AC is more than 12 years old, it may be necessary to replace it in the near-term.

What is the AC system's seasonal energy efficiency ratio? If the air conditioner has a SEER rating of less than 8, you will likely want to replace it.

A home's building envelope insulates the home's interior from the outdoor environment and includes features like doors, walls and the roof. If the quality of the building envelope is compromised, it can contribute to higher heating and cooling costs.

Whether you're buying or selling, having a good picture of a home's overall energy efficiency can be useful. ■



BEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Stay Back and Stay Safe

WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, safety is the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above anything else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences.

If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between an intruder and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You'll recognize TVEC employees by their uniforms with our logo clearly displayed and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our community.

Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they're near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. ■

Watt's
Cooking?

Spark your Tastebuds

2024
MEMBER
RECIPE BOOK

SCAN CODE
TO LEARN
MORE

TVEC
TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



WE'VE GOT YOU

A lot goes into powering this community. Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative wants you to know we've got you. It's a pledge to make sure you're always taken care of. A pledge we honor every day. From our member service representatives to our lineworkers and those making sure the power you use every day is there when you need it. We've got you. Always.

Your source for power. And information.

tvec.net



Give Electricity a Spring Break

SPRING BREAK COULD MEAN time off of work or school and some time away from home. Take advantage of the time away to give your electric bill a bit of a break too. 3172001

While you're gone, unplug some of your household appliances.

Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even if they're off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy but also can prevent fires during your absence. Some of the more common items are TVs, DVD players, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens, toasters and other small kitchen appliances.

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. The fridge can be set as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can be set at 5 degrees. On these settings, you can conserve up to 40% of the refrigerator's electric usage.

If you're going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off entirely. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew. And empty the ice bin so the cubes don't melt and leave a puddle.

Set the thermostat higher—or lower—than the typical comfort level, depending on expected temperatures. In warmer weather, you can shut off the air conditioner during your absence. If you have a programmable thermostat, you can program the system to bring your home back to a comfortable temperature before you return.

Close blinds in sunny windows to prevent rooms from overheating.

Turn down the water heater. A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature.

Consider using timers to turn lights on and off every night. Using timers rather than just leaving lights on all the time can save energy and also give the appearance that someone is home. For the lights that will be on the longest—inside and outside—use LED bulbs. These use at least 75% less power than traditional bulbs and last longer.

On a related note, it's helpful to turn off the valves of your washing machine to ensure that the laundry room doesn't leak or flood. ■

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call
gets your utility lines
marked **AND** helps
protect you from
injury and expense.

**Know what's below.
Always call 811
before you dig.**

Visit call811.com
for more information.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



TRAVELERS

Common Ground Alliance



B4 Barbecue and Boba, Mabank

Great smoked grub in the heart of TVEC territory

POWER LINES COME WITH THE JOB here at the co-op. But when Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative crews head to B4 Barbeque & Boba in Mabank, they know they might be dealing with another kind of line. Arrive too late and you may be in a long line to get your food.

"You have to get there early since they open at 11 a.m.—if you wait until 12:30 you might not get what you want," said John Weaver, TVEC crew foreman. "But it doesn't matter too much because everything I've had has been excellent."

Located in the Mabank Feed Store on state Highway 198 north of town, the barbecue joint also shares space with the Southern Glitz Boutique, giving patrons plenty of things to look at while you wait.

While the excellent meat choices are the big draw, B4 has also come up with unique takes on side dishes.

"The Texas Twinkies, which is a stuffed jalapeño wrapped in bacon, is awesome, and they have a real different spin on everything so you know it is going to be unique but good."

As with most good barbecue, it won't be the cheapest lunch option, but lunch specials help keep it reasonable.

"The thing is you get a lot of food, even on a sandwich they really stack it on there," Weaver said. "For the great service, great people and great food, it is worth it."

Find B4 on Facebook at facebook.com/B4BBQB. ■



Win \$100 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on pages 16-23 is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the member services department by March 29 to receive a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be our winner.



TVEC
TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Energy Quiz



How powerful is a typical lightning bolt?

weather.gov/safety

- A • 5 Million Volts**
- B • 20,000 Volts**
- C • 300 Million Volts**
- D • Not Measurable**

Win **\$100!**

Send your answer and contact information to **contest@tvec.coop** or contact TVEC Member Services by March 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**.

February Energy Quiz: Conductor

THERE ARE SEVERAL TYPES of conductive wire that carry electricity from the grid to your home. At one time copper was widely used in power distribution systems.

Now the most common conductor is made from aluminum strands wrapped around a steel core. The core gives the wire strength, while the aluminum has better electrical carrying capability.

As the population grows, TVEC crews and engineers work ahead to upgrade lines with bigger wire, higher voltages and more redundancy to increase system reliability.

Congratulations to January Energy Quiz winner, Wanda Buffins of Dallas.

Look for the winner of this month's contest in the May issue of **Texas Co-op Power**. ■



Your Generosity in Action

Operation Round Up Spotlight: Pilot Club of Wills Point

THE PILOT CLUB OF WILLS POINT was started in 1997, and as the club nears 30 years of making a difference in the community, it seems they are just getting started.

The club is part of Pilot International, a voluntary service organization started by 40 businesswomen in 1921. Local clubs around the world work under the motto of “Friendship and Service” to improve their communities and impact lives.

After participating in Pilot Club in Terrell, founder Lettie Clark decided to launch a club in Wills Point to serve the area with Lifeline devices and mental health education.

“The people in this town have been fantastic from the beginning,” Clark said. “At the time, Lifeline units were about \$1,000, and both individuals and merchants were so supportive in helping us get started.”

Lifeline medical alert systems provide a one-button emergency call service for seniors and other vulnerable populations. The Pilot Club volunteers take the service a step further with monthly calls or visits to participants to make sure that everything is up--to-date and working.

“You can get alert devices at stores and other places, but having that contact every month and the personal attention to set things up and change batteries is so much better,” Clark said. “There is a good portion of this group



Joy Long, TVEC public relations representative, presented an Operation Round Up grant to Jennifer Ross, Lettie Clark and Melinda Thomason, representing the Pilot Club of Wills Point.

that doesn’t want to deal with a smartwatch or may not be confident with technology, but this is very simple and it is a lower monthly cost than the others you can buy.”

Another major effort for Pilot Club members is educating the community about brain health and brain injury prevention.

“That is one of our primary focuses in Pilot Club, which began even before the Lifeline service,” Clark said. “We have education programs for schools or groups and for nursing homes to help educate people about how to protect your brain and support people who have an injury.”

The club also participates in volunteering at nearby camps dedicated to attendees who have suffered a brain injury.

If you are interested in supporting or joining the Pilot Club, email pilotclubofwillspointtexas@gmail.com or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/pilotclubofwillspoint-texas.

“We are always looking for new members,” Clark said. “The people who join have loving hearts. They care, and it really shows.”

The club meets in Wills Point on the fourth Thursday of each month. ■

January 2024 Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

Cedar Creek Veterans Foundation - \$7,500
Hearts and Howls of Heartland- \$3,000
Pilot Club of Wills Point - \$5,000

Find a complete
grants list and how
to apply at [tvec.
net/charitable-
foundation](https://tvec.net/charitable-foundation)



Buoyed by Vice

When neighborly crime bosses ran Galveston, the city thrived

BY ARIEL SLICK

ROSARIO AND SAM MACEO left one island for another when the immigrants arrived in Galveston in 1901 from their home, Sicily, Italy.

In Texas, the brothers became barbers, and when Prohibition went into effect in 1920, they rewarded loyal customers with bottles of wine hidden in bread loaves.

Around this time, Dutch Voight, a member of an organized crime syndicate called the Beach Gang, approached the Maceos with an opportunity to make money by hiding 1,500 cases of liquor from the authorities. With the profit from one case worth as much as 150 haircuts, the brothers accepted.

They were now part of what became known as “the free state of Galveston,” and the Maceos went on to climb the ranks of the underground, running an infamous syndicate of illegal businesses. Galveston earned this moniker during the 1920s because of its lax attitudes toward illegal activities such as gambling, alcohol and prostitution, which fueled its economy well into the 1950s.

It’s easy to imagine the free state as a Hollywood movie: gangsters running the barrier island, vice flourishing, gentlemen patronizing glitzy supper clubs, and politicians and law enforcement colluding with the Maceo brothers and other crime bosses of the era. But that’s not quite how it worked—not in Texas. The free state of Galveston illustrated Texans’ unique worldview.

“I hate to use the term ‘gangsters,’ ” says Jami Durham, a historian with the Galveston Historical Foundation. “It’s not like they were in zoot suits running the streets with guns. They were accepted as respected businessmen who happened to run businesses that were very entertaining.”

Unlike other infamous crime bosses of their era, the Maceos shied away from violence because it was bad for business.

According to Durham, the Maceos also had little tolerance for men who gambled away their rent money. “If a lady came to them and said, ‘I can’t pay my rent because my husband gambled it all away at your casino,’ they would pay her the month’s rent, then pay her husband a call,” Durham says.

The Maceos helped not only their customers but also the greater community. They donated to charity groups and invested in local projects.

“It’s an odd juxtaposition: They were running illegal gambling parlors, but they were contributing to the community,” Durham says. “People loved them and still love them.”

According to Kathleen Maca, a Galveston historian and author, the Maceos and the vice economy of the free state kept Galveston afloat during the 1930s.

“While the rest of the U.S. was suffering from the Great Depression, the city was doing OK,” Maca says. “The free state really saved the island in that aspect. No banks failed.”

But it also didn’t hurt that much of Texas’ commerce still flowed through the city.

“I would counter that it was the port that allowed Galveston to maintain a sense of normalcy,” Durham says. With goods regularly arriving by ship and then being loaded onto rail cars and moved inland, work remained steady, and that helped keep the economy afloat.

During its heyday, an elaborate warning system kept the authorities from raiding the most popular local casino, the Balinese Room, which sat atop a pier that jutted into the bay. The Maceo brothers had opened the casino in 1942.

After numerous failed raids, the Texas Rangers paid off several employees to let them enter the casino unannounced on June 6, 1957. The era of open vice had ended.

Galvestonians still admire the Maceos’ steadfast ambitions.

“It takes a different type of constitution to live here knowing that a storm could take everything you have in a second,” Durham says.

“But the pleasure of living here, smelling the salt air, hearing the waves crash against the seawall and eating fresh seafood—all of that outweighs the threat of the storm,” she says. “Every socioeconomic group, every race, we’re all bound together by a love of this crazy, quirky little sandbar.” ■

Scenes from the Balinese Room in 1948, including Sam Maceo, seated far right.



MAKE EVERY DAY AN OMAHA STEAKS DAY.

- ✓ World-famous steaks hand-cut by master butchers.
- ✓ Flash-frozen at their peak for perfect quality anytime.
- ✓ Extra-aged for maximum tenderness and flavor.



The Gourmet Steakhouse Selection

- 4 Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignons (6 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (6 oz.)
- 4 Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 1 Fully Cooked Beef Meatballs (18 oz. pkg.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 4 FREE Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)**
- 4 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

74727ZYN separately \$353.9+ **\$129⁹⁹**
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Get 4 Chicken
Breasts & 4 Burgers

FREE



**ORDER
NOW!**

OmahaSteaks.com/Gourmet4507 | 1.800.811.7832

Ask for your FREE chicken breasts and burgers with offer 74727ZYN

THE BEST STEAKS OF YOUR LIFE OR YOUR MONEY BACK

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2. 4 free 4 oz. chicken breasts and 4 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74727. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI. Expires 05/31/24. | SRC0715

Scan Now



OmahaSteaks.com/Gourmet4507



A Revere of Our Own

Young Katy Jennings raced bareback to alert her fellow Texians about the advancing Mexican army

BY MARTHA DEERING • ILLUSTRATION BY KATE GLEYZER

PAUL REVERE wasn't the only patriot who made a courageous ride to warn of approaching danger. In 1836, Katy Jennings rode west from her home in Bastrop to the tiny town of Waterloo (known today as Austin) to alert Texians that the Mexican army was coming and they should run for their lives.

Katy was 10 years old.

Her father, Gordon C. Jennings, was a farmer who moved his family from Missouri to Bastrop in 1833. Gordon enlisted in the Texas militia, encouraged by the promise of a land grant as compensation. He served at the Alamo as a cannoneer, probably manning artillery positions on the north wall. When the

Alamo fell to Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna's army on March 6, 1836, Gordon, 53, was the oldest Alamo defender to die.

Author Mary Jean Kelso, a direct descendent of Katy's brother Samuel—Kelso's great-grandfather—wrote a book about her family, *A Visual History Record of Alamo Defender Gordon Cartwright Jennings' Family*. (Kelso spells her name Katy, but a newspaper obituary called her Katie.)

When word of the Alamo reached Bastrop, most families fled east in a panicked exodus known as the Runaway Scrape. But Gordon's wife, Catherine, and a few of her neighbors stood their ground until

a division of the Mexican army reached the Colorado River at Bastrop.

With no choice but to flee, Catherine, her three children and two stepsons threw their most valuable possessions into a wagon. Then Catherine boosted daughter Katy onto a horse bareback and sent her west to warn others that Mexican soldiers were nipping at their heels. She told Katy not to return to Bastrop because the family would be gone.

Katy was instructed to join another family when she arrived in Waterloo, and the Jennings clan would meet again in a refugee camp along the Trinity River in East Texas.

Clinging to her horse's mane, Kelso writes, Katy rode west at "great speed" for 40 miles, warning settlers along the way. Somehow she found her way back to her family after the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, and was with them when they returned to Bastrop.

"According to family stories," Kelso says, "after the Texas Revolution, Katy married Casper Whistler, but the marriage was short lived. Whistler was scalped by Indians while Katy, who had gone to fetch water, hid in a creek bed."

Katy later married a second time, to Sylvester Lockwood, a Texas pioneer. The couple lived near Manor in Travis County for 65 years. According to her 1911 obituary, Katy had eight children, 42 grandchildren, 100 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren when she died at the age of 85.

She's still remembered for her famous bareback ride.

"Some people may have called 10-year-old Katy Jennings brave or foolhardy," Kelso says. "Texas calls her a hero." ■

Best Brunch

Savory or sweet, don't oversleep this weekend meal

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Nothing makes this gal happier than brunch. Good friends, amazing food and music in the background is my forever Sunday mood. Breakfast tostadas are so easy to prepare, and a mini version of anything is always greeted with a "wow!"

Mini Breakfast Tostadas

12 mini or street taco corn tortillas
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided use
6 eggs
4 teaspoons milk
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups refried beans, warmed
Pico de gallo or salsa

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place tortillas on a baking sheet and lightly brush tortillas with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Bake until crisp, about 10 minutes.
- 2.** In a bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, salt and pepper.
- 3.** Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil (or you can use 1 tablespoon butter) to a skillet over medium-high heat. Pour in eggs and cook until scrambled. Remove from heat.
- 4.** Spread beans over tostadas, spoon eggs over beans and top with pico de gallo or salsa.

MAKES 12 TOSTADAS

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Honey Flan.





Sausage in Puff Pastry

PENNY SENGLER
GVEC

Ready in under 30 minutes, this recipe is hands-down the ultimate addition to your brunch spread, and it might be even better the next morning for a go-to breakfast.

- 1 package frozen puff pastry (17.3 ounces), thawed**
- ¼ cup spicy brown, Dijon or whole grain mustard**
- 1 pound ground breakfast sausage**
- 1 egg, lightly beaten**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2.** On a cutting board, unfold the two pastry sheets. Slice pastry into thirds along the folds. Slice each third in half to make 12 rectangles. Spread a thin layer of mustard onto each pastry section.
- 3.** Divide breakfast sausage into 12 small balls, then roll each ball into a finger-size log. Place sausage log onto end of pastry rectangle and roll it up into pastry.
- 4.** Place sausage rolls onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Slice two small slits across the top of each roll. Brush with egg.
- 5.** Bake 20–25 minutes or until golden brown. Allow sausage rolls to rest 7–10 minutes before serving.

MAKES 12

MORE RECIPES >

\$500 WINNER

Blueberry French Toast With Blueberry Syrup

RUTH FILZ
NUECES EC



Planning on a crowd for brunch? This heavenly French toast has you covered. No need to individually cook slice after slice—this deliciousness bakes in the oven. It can be assembled the night before and refrigerated overnight so the bread can absorb the flavorful eggy mixture. The lightly sweet, perfectly creamy goodness is worth every calorie.

SERVES 10



- 12 slices day-old bread**
- 1 package cream cheese (8 ounces)**
- 2 cups blueberries, divided use**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 cups milk**
- ½ cup maple syrup or honey**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch**
- 1 cup water**
- 1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter**

- 1.** Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes and place half of them into pan.
- 2.** Cut cream cheese into ½-inch cubes and place on top of cubed bread. Top with 1 cup blueberries and then remaining half of bread cubes.
- 3.** In a large bowl, beat together eggs, milk, and maple syrup or honey. Pour over bread mixture. Cover and chill in fridge 8 hours or overnight. Remove from fridge 30 minutes before baking.
- 4.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake covered for 30 minutes, then uncover and bake an additional 30 minutes, or until center of French toast is set.
- 5.** In a saucepan combine sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil, then stir constantly for 3 minutes. Stir in remaining 1 cup blueberries.
- 6.** Reduce heat. Simmer 8–10 minutes, or until berries burst. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Serve warm over blueberry French toast.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

PARTY DRINKS DUE MARCH 10

Summer soirees call for a festive frosty drink. Send us your best punch, mocktail and cocktail recipes for a shot at \$500. Go online and submit your favorite by March 10.





Breakfast Strata

DIANE HUNLEY
PEDERNALES EC

A strata is my idea of the perfect brunch. This is prepped the night before so it's ready for the oven the next day.

1 pound spicy breakfast sausage
½ pound diced bacon
4 eggs
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
½ teaspoon dry mustard

½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 cups milk
6 slices wheat or white bread, cubed
8 ounces grated cheddar cheese

1. Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook sausage, breaking it up with a spoon until fully done. Remove sausage from skillet, add diced bacon and cook until crispy. Remove from skillet.
3. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, salt, pepper, mustard, Worcestershire sauce and milk.
4. Layer bread, sausage, bacon and cheese in the pan. Pour the egg mixture over the entire casserole. Using a spoon, press down to ensure that all ingredients are submerged. Cover and place in fridge overnight.
5. Remove dish from fridge. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake, covered, 1 hour or until firm in center. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before serving.

SERVES 8

Make Brunch a Breeze

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

A small, intimate group is the way to go. Plan accordingly for your space.

Make the morning about mingling. Assemble dishes the night before. Casseroles, quiches, stratas and fruit salads are perfect for this.

While you're at it, set the table, arrange glasses, and lay out serving platters and utensils.

Pick up pastries: less fuss while supporting local bakeries.

Offer a DIY bar with self-serve drinks—coffee, mimosas, mocktails. While guests help themselves, you can finish up preparations or greet guests.

Heirloom Seed Kits

100% NON-GMO • VEGETABLES, FRUITS, & HERBS

Start A Home Garden Or Store Seed Vaults For Years To Come!

Provide for your family with **100% Non-GMO / Non-Hybrid** heirloom seeds that have been passed down from generation to generation.



(125) VARIETY SEED VAULT

(With Ammo Storage Box) Includes 22,000+ seeds & 125 varieties of vegetables, garden-fruits, & herbs, packed in an ammo box, for long-term storage. \$119

(50) VARIETY SEED KIT

50 varieties of vegetables, garden-fruits, & herbs, packed in a moisture proof, mylar bag.

Now Shipping Fresh Seeds
for the 2024 Growing Season!



HEARTSGOOD
— F A R M S —

HeartsgoodFarms.com

(866) 861-7111

Family-owned & operated.
Cave Springs, Arkansas



Plant Faster, Easier With **SUPER PLUGS!**

Pre-cut
plugs
are 10x
bigger!



OR...Plant Your Way With **FREESTYLE PLUGS!**

Cut any size
plugs from
sheets!



THE ONE-TIME,
LIFETIME LAWN
SOLUTION

SAVE
OVER
50%

Stays
lush and
green in
summer

Mow your Zoysia lawn once a month – or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

7 Ways Our Amazoy™ Zoysia Lawn Saves You Time, Work and Money!

1 CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING BY AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could look perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a Zoysia lawn as "top lawn—nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer!

2 NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in an old lawn or bare ground. Set plugs into holes in the soil checkerboard style. Plugs spread to create a lush, thick lawn, driving out weeds. Easy instructions included with every order.

3 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

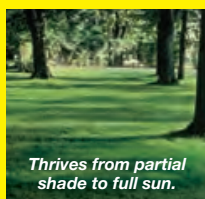
No weeding means no costly chemicals. Amazoy Zoysia lawns naturally resist insects, so you'll save money, while helping to protect the environment. Never expose your family and pets to weed killers and pesticide poison.

4 FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS AND PARTIAL SHADE

Can't beat Amazoy as the low-cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, partial shade and erosion on slopes.

5 IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Amazoy Zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It goes off its green color after hard frosts, and begins regaining its green color as temperatures in the spring are consistently warm.



Thrives from partial
shade to full sun.



Plant it from
plugs.

6 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Zoysia lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and most summer weeds from germinating!

7 NOW 3 WAYS TO START YOUR AMAZOY ZOYSIA LAWN!

1) **Freestyle Plugs** come in uncut sheets containing a maximum of 150-1" plugs that can be planted up to 1 ft. apart. Freestyle plugs allow you to make each plug bigger and plant further apart — less cutting and planting — you decide.

2) **Precut Super Plugs** come precut into individual 3"x3" plugs ready-to-plant (minimum 1 per 4 sq. ft.). They arrive in easy to handle trays of 15 Super Plugs. Save time and get your new lawn faster!

3) **Amazoy Approved Seed** – As The Zoysia Specialists for 70 years, we now have a Zoysia seed that meets our standards and homeowners expectations.

Your Assurance of Lawn SUCCESS Amazoy Zoysia Grass is GUARANTEED

Guaranteed to grow new green shoots within 45-60 days or we'll replace it **FREE** – for up to 1 year – just call us. Valid on one order at a time, typically the most recent. We **ONLY** ship you mature, hardy field grown genuine Amazoy Zoysia grass harvested direct from our farms. Easy planting and watering instructions are included with each order.

© 2024 Zoysia Farm Nurseries, 3617 Old Taneytown Rd, Taneytown, MD 21787

ORDER TODAY – GET UP TO
**1,500 FREESTYLE
PLUGS – FREE!**

Freestyle Plugs You decide how big to cut the plugs. Each grass sheet can produce up to 150-1 in. plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per sq. ft.

Max Plugs	Free Plugs	Grass Sheets	Your PRICE	+Shipping	SAVINGS
450	—	3	\$ 47.50	\$26.50	—
750	+150	6	\$ 72.50	\$32.50	29%
1100	+400	10	\$110.00	\$47.50	36%
2000	+1000	20	\$185.00	\$75.00	47%
3000	+1500	30	\$245.00	\$90.00	55%

Super Plugs Precut plugs 3 inches by 3 inches READY TO PLANT
Packed in trays of 15 Super Plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per 4 sq. ft.

Super Plugs	Free Plugs	Tray	Your PRICE	+Shipping	SAVINGS
15	—	1	\$ 27.50	\$18.00	—
25	+5	2	\$ 42.50	\$25.00	26%
60	+15	5	\$ 97.50	\$37.50	41%
120	+30	10	\$150.00	\$60.00	54%
240	+60	20	\$270.00	\$97.50	60%

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO START AND MAINTAIN A CAREFREE BEAUTIFUL ZOYSIA LAWN

Scan QR code
to learn more



PLANTING TOOLS • PLANT FOOD • WEED AND PEST CONTROLS
ORGANIC PRODUCTS • SOIL TESTS • GARDEN GLOVES • EDGING and more!

www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag OR 410-756-2311

Harvested Daily from Our Farms and Shipped to You the Same Day the Plugs are Packed
Amazoy is the Trademark Registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia grass.

Savings shown over aggregate base price and shipping

Zoysia Farm
NURSERIES

Improving America's Lawns Since 1953

Use Promo Code **5267**



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Doing Time

Brown County's history museum lets visitors lock into law and order

BY CHET GARNER

ONCE WAS in Europe and wondered, "Why don't we build more castles in Texas?"

But I was oblivious to the fact that there are already castles all around us in the form of historic courthouses and jails. That's especially true in Brown County, where the old jail looks more like a medieval fortress than a place to dive into history.

I started my time-traveling adventure across the street from the jail at the Brown County Museum of History. From woolly mammoth bones to frontier homes, this collection covers every era of this corner of Texas between Abilene and Austin. I sat around the (fake) campfire inside a full-sized Comanche dwelling. I learned that Gilligan (aka Bob Denver) was raised in Brownwood. I also got hands-on lessons because this museum actually encourages visitors to touch the artifacts.

Most amazing was the story of Camp Bowie, which was one of the largest army training camps in the U.S. during World War II, bringing more than a quarter-million troops to Brownwood.

Things got especially interesting, and spooky, when I crossed the street and stepped inside the old jail. This lockup opened in 1903 and served Brown County until the 1980s. The smell of stone and rusted metal permeates every room. The ground floor, which was once the sheriff's private residence, is now an incredible museum about Texas rule of law and includes stories of famous outlaws and jailbreaks.

Upstairs is where things got even creepier as I explored three floors of metal cells with heavy iron doors. I unknowingly stepped across the drop floor for the old gallows, which luckily didn't spring open. If I was plotting a crime 100 years ago in Brown County, this simple tour would have quickly cured me of any ill intent. ■

ABOVE The old county jail in Brownwood doesn't escape Chet's attention.

TCP Join Chet's captivating visit to Brownwood in the video on our website. And see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

MARCH

07

Austin Lakeway Garden Club Spring Mixer, (512) 263-2885, lakewaygardenclub.com

Denton [7-10] Texas Storytelling Festival, (940) 380-9320, tejasstorytelling.com

Irving [7-10] Texas Steel Guitar Jamboree, (817) 558-3481, texassteelguitar.org

08

Corsicana An Evening with Amy Grant, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

09

Luling Rajun' Cajun Throwdown and Gumbo Cookoff, (830) 875-3214, lulingmainstreet.com

McKinney [9-10] Heard Museum Family Campout, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

14

Dublin [14-16] St. Patrick's Day, (254) 300-6263, dublintxchamber.com

15

Round Top [15-16] Pioneer Unit of Herb Society of America Plant and Gift Sale, (713) 503-9981, herbsocietypioneer.org

Tolar [15-16] Ceramic Expo and Handcrafted Items, (254) 716-5227, westceramicshow.com

22

Georgetown [22-23] Star Struck: Georgetown Quilt Show, (512) 869-1812, handcraftsunlimited.com

Burton [22-30] La Bahia Antique Show, (979) 289-2684, labahiaantiques.com

23

Brenham Mark Lowry with the Sound and Endless Highway, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Huntsville Herb Festival at the Wynne Home, (936) 891-5024, texasthymeunit.org

25

Johnson City [25–April 19] Wine and Wildflower Journey, (872) 216-9463, texashillcountrywineries.org

30

Burnet Hill Country Lawn & Garden Show, (512) 756-3059, burnetcountyhighland lakesmastergardener.org

Sabinal [30–31] Wild Hog Festival and Craft Fair, (830) 486-8549, sabinalwildhogfestival.com

APRIL

02

Corsicana [2–4] Janet's Planet, (903) 872-5411, navarrocouncilofhearts.com

05

Dimmitt [5–6] Ogallala Quilters' Society Quilt Festival, ogallalaquilters.org

Luling [5–6] Roughneck Chili and BBQ Cook-Off, (830) 875-1922, lulingoilmuseum.org

Kerrville [5–7] Texas Lions Camp Eclipse Celebration, (830) 896-8500, kerrvilletexascvb.com

06

Quitman [6–8] Northeast Texas Eclipsefest, netxeclipsefest.com

TCP Submit Your Event

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

Spring break starts
here.

PLAN YOUR BREAK

GRAPEVINE VINTAGE TEXAS

GrapevineTexasUSA.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) 977-4256.



Hit the Road

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events

Have you Found the Best Value in Travel?

Latin America Tours	Days	Price
Costa Rica Natural Paradise	8	\$995
Costa Rica & Manuel Antonio	8	1095
Panama Tropical Adventure	8	995
Guatemala, Atitlán & Antigua	8	995
Guatemala, Tikal & Rio Dulce	8	995
Mexico's Colonial Heritage	8	995
Mexico's Ancient Civilizations	9	995
Mexico's Copper Canyon	8	1295
Dominican Republic	8	TBA
Belize & Ambergris Caye	8	1295

USA & Canada Tours	Days	Price
Grand Canyon, Bryce & Zion	8	1795
Mt Rushmore & Yellowstone	8	2095
New England & Fall Colors	8	1895
Nova Scotia & Maritimes	9	TBA
Canadian Rockies & Glacier	9	1995

Tax & fees extra

Scan to See for Yourself
Costa Rica 8-Day \$995 Tour

THE #1 IN VALUE
FULLY GUIDED TOURS SINCE 1952

Caravan®
AVAILABLE ONLY AT CARAVAN.COM

★ STILL THE TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER ★



Pkg. includes
4' Box Blade
and Cutter



New MF 1723E & 1725M Sub Compact Tractor Packages

23HP and 25HP Diesel, 4x4,
ROPS, Hydro Auto Transmission,
Cruise, R4 Tires, Quick Attach
Loaders & Buckets

Option: Backhoe Package

AS LOW AS
\$249 Per Month

0 Down, 0% Interest for 72 Months WAC



New MF 1835E Tractor Package

35HP Diesel, 4x4, Shuttle
Transmission, ROPS, Quick
Attach Front End Loader & Bucket

Options: 25 HP and 40 HP
Models, Hydro Transmission

AS LOW AS
\$479 Per Month

0 Down, 0% Interest for 60 Months WAC

Pkg. includes 5' Box Blade and Cutter



Pkg. includes
6' Box Blade
and Cutter

New MF 2850E & 2860E Tractor Packages

50HP & 60HP Diesel, 4x4,
Shuttle Transmissions, R4 Tires,
ROPS, Quick Attach Front
End Loaders & Buckets,
Rear Hydraulic Remotes
Option: Hydro Transmission

AS LOW AS
\$659 Per Month

0 Down, 0% Interest for 60 Months WAC



New MF 2860M Deluxe Cab Tractor Package

60HP Diesel, 4x4, Hydraulic
Power Shuttle Transmission,
1 Set of Hydraulic Remotes,
R4 Tires, Quick Attach Front End
Loader & Bucket, Front Fenders,
AC, Heat & Stereo Ready Cab

AS LOW AS
\$995 Per Month

0 Down, 0% Interest for 60 months WAC

Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

DELIVERY AVAILABLE



FOSTER'S WORK & PLAY

936-967-0011 • fostersworknplay.com

3601 US Hwy 190 W • Livingston, Texas 77351 • sales@fostersworknplay.com

All horsepower ratings are approximate engine horsepower ratings from manufacturer. Prices and payments approximate with approved credit by AGCO Finance.

0% Interest Rates may be blended slightly because of implements other than MF Brand. All prices and payments may not include freight, set up, insurance or delivery if applicable.



MASSEY FERGUSON



TUB OR
SHOWER FROM
\$9,995.00
INSTALLED

SPECIAL SAVINGS!

YOUR CHOICE OF A
**WALK-IN SHOWER
OR WALK-IN TUB**

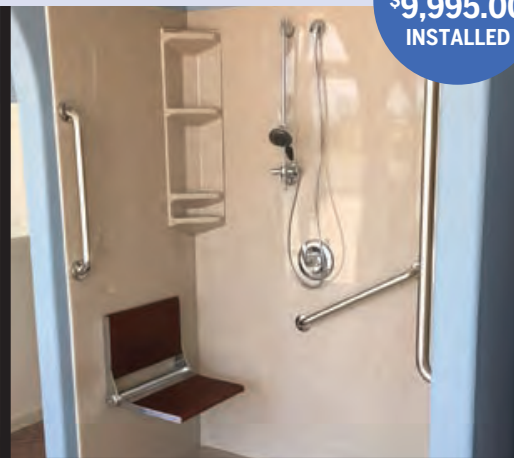
Lifetime Warranty
Custom Sizes Available
100% Financing Available
A+ BBB Rating
Good Contractors List



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

Trusted by Texans for 19 Years
Tubs and Showers
Made in America
Visit Our Texas Showroom

Call for More Info
682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362
bestbuywalkintubs.com



PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

**Steel Mobile
Home Roofing**

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

**MOBILE HOME
ROOFOVER
SYSTEMS**

Since 1983

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



TCP E-news

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

Architecture

From modest to magnificent, architecture old and new is used for housing, education, entertainment and more. These structures surround, engage and inspire Texans to even greater heights. This month we appreciate designs found right here in the Lone Star state.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 SUMMER EVERILL
PEDERNALES EC

A new installation at the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin.

2 CAROLYN WILLIAMS
COSERV

"While exploring senior photo locations, I had heard that this University of North Texas pedestrian bridge was a wonder. As I got up to the edge, the sun and clouds created these amazing shadows."

3 MARK MCCLENDON
BANDERA EC

The Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio.

4 TOM BRENTS
FAYETTE EC

The Ashbel Smith Building, also known as Old Red, is a Romanesque Revival-style structure in Galveston. Built in 1890 with red brick and sandstone, it survived the great 1900 hurricane and 2008's Hurricane Ike.



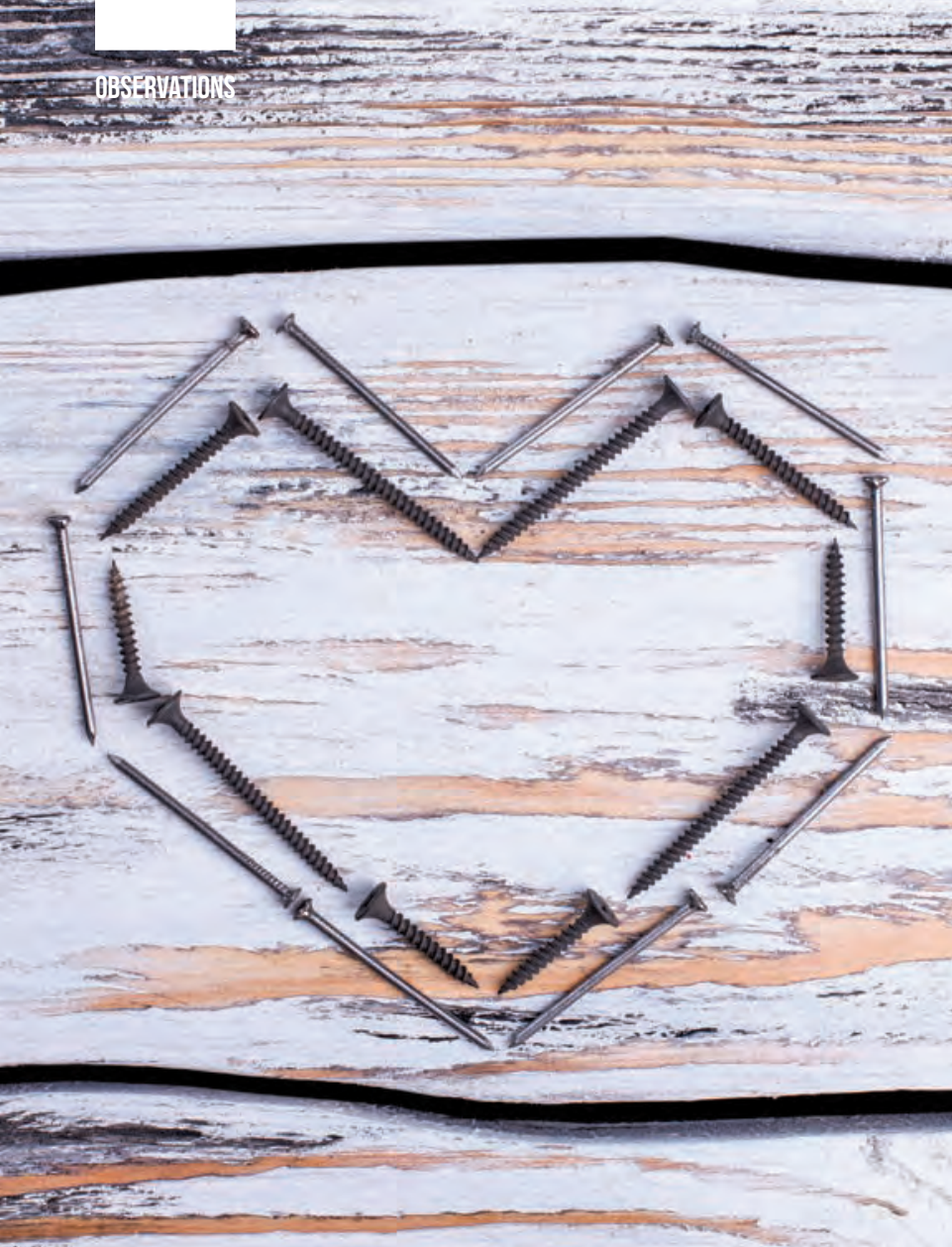
Upcoming Contests

- DUE MAR 10** Shells and Scales
- DUE APR 10** Textures
- DUE MAY 10** Parenthood



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Architecture photos from readers.



It Takes a Family

When all seems lost,
loved ones rebuild a life

BY DALE ROBERSON

SOMETIMES IT TAKES a tragedy to bring a family and friends together. I know. It happened to me.

My children were scattered to the four winds. Kathy in New Braunfels, Pat and Vicki in Denton; Shannon had settled in Richmond, Virginia. Kalli and Tony were in Little Elm. We weren't estranged, just widely spread.

Since retirement, I hadn't kept up with several friends.

The tragedy occurred in the middle of the night November 18, 2018, when my house outside Driftwood caught fire. I escaped with one night in the hospital. My wife, Joyce, died in the blaze.

Not only did I lose my wife of 41 years, I was left with only the pajamas I had on. I didn't even have shoes.

That was when family and friends re-

grouped to help put my life back together.

Kathy took me to her house to stay until I devised a plan.

Tim McKenzie, whose late father had been a friend, called to offer an unoccupied apartment he owned.

Everyone came together to solve my problems.

As a newspaper editor, I had written about businessman Tracey Dean, then president of the Wimberley school board. When Tracey heard about my misfortune, he appeared with a sizeable check from members of his church. Then he arranged a line of credit for building materials at McCoy's and hired a carpenter to help me rebuild.

My granddaughter, Bethany Kraft, set up a GoFundMe to raise money. Friends I hadn't seen in some time mailed personal checks with condolences.

Granddaughters Melissa Niland and Rachel Nielsen helped set up the apartment as friends contributed furniture and clothing. Tim and grandson-in-law Brian Nielsen cleared cedar and built a pad for a foundation.

We purchased an unfinished 16-by-40-foot building as my future home. With much help and my building skills, we finished the inside to my design. Grandchildren as young as 5-year-old McKinley, 12-year-old Ned and teen Chase contributed. Grandson Cliff Roberson, a professional electrician, provided lights and power. Pat hung a storm door and installed cabinet shelves while Vicki, my daughter-in-law, joined the girls.

My former wife Vicki and her friend Joe nailed down the oak flooring furnished by Tracey from a remodeling job he'd done.

Now—thanks to all their love and efforts—I'm settled and happy in my new home. It's been said that it takes a village. A tragedy can prove what it really takes is family and friends. ■



EXPERIENCE PEACE OF MIND

With an Inogen® Portable Oxygen Concentrator

In 20 years, we have sold/rented more than 1 million units to people worldwide.



It is easy to move around with a portable oxygen concentrator.²



The Inogen® Rove 6™ weighs under 5 pounds!³



Featuring pulse-dose based Intelligent Delivery Technology®

Call us toll-free at
833-219-9027
or visit [Inogen.com](https://www.inogen.com).



Inogen® Rove 6™

Coming Soon
Inogen® Rove 4™

¹14-day risk-free trial- Return within 14 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price

²With access to fully charged batteries

³4.8lbs with standard battery

PM230522_EN_EX_USA | Rx Only. © 2024 Inogen, Inc. | 859 Ward Drive, Suite 200, Goleta, CA 93111.

Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

USES: The Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrator provides a high concentration of supplemental oxygen to patients requiring respiratory therapy on a prescriptive basis. It may be used in home, institution, vehicle, and various mobile environments. DO NOT USE IF: This device is not intended to be used in any way other than described in the indications for use. Do not use in parallel or series with other oxygen concentrators or oxygen therapy devices. This device is to be used as an oxygen supplement and is not intended to be life sustaining or life supporting. ONLY use this product if the patient is capable of spontaneous breath, able to inhale and exhale without the use of a machine. The conserving, or pulse dose, oxygen delivery technique used by this device is contraindicated in persons whose breathing during normal resting would be unable to trigger the device. Proper device triggering, setup and operation must be confirmed by an experienced clinician or other respiratory professional. Not for pediatric use. Not for use by tracheotomized patients. WARNINGS: The device produces enriched oxygen gas, which accelerates combustion. Do not allow smoking or open flames within 2m (6.56ft) of this device while in use. If you feel ill or uncomfortable, or if the concentrator does not signal an oxygen pulse and you are unable to hear and/or feel the oxygen pulse, consult your equipment provider and/or your physician immediately. If you are unable to communicate discomfort, you may require additional monitoring and or a distributed alarm system to convey the information about the discomfort and or the medical urgency to your responsible caregiver to avoid harm. Use only spare parts recommended by the manufacturer to ensure proper function and to avoid the risk of fire and burns. To avoid danger of choking or strangulation hazard, keep cords away from children and pets. TALK TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: The oxygen flow setting must be determined and recorded for each patient individually by the prescriber, including the configuration of the device, its parts, and the accessories. It is the responsibility of the patient to periodically reassess the setting(s) of the therapy for effectiveness. The proper placement and positioning of the prongs of the nasal cannula in the nose is critical for oxygen to be delivered.



MUELLER METAL ROOFING

Protection and Style all with One Roof.

Beauty, strength, and durability are what you get with a Mueller metal roof. Select from our designer colors and various panel styles to complement your home. Protection and curb appeal from a company you can trust.



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