

FATHERS' LIVES
ON THE LINES

PUTTING TOADSUCK
ON THE MAP

REMINISCING IN
BLUEBONNETS

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

JUNE 2024

A Feat on Foot

One man's quest
to visit all of our
state parks
in one year

TRINITY
VALLEY EC
NEWS

SEE PAGE 16

YOUR DOLLARS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE.

Make the move to physical gold.

Did you know that since the creation of the U.S. Federal Reserve in 1913, the dollar has lost nearly 97% of its buying power?¹ During that same time span, the price of gold has increased by more than 12,000% from around \$19/oz. to over \$2,300/oz. today!²

Learn how you can protect and grow your money
by converting some of your paper-backed assets
like cash and stocks into physical gold.

Get everything you need to know about gold!

- ✓ Answers to the most commonly asked questions
- ✓ Information on how gold can protect your money
- ✓ Special exclusive introductory offers
- ✓ Two additional exclusive reports: "Global Gold Forecast" and "Protection in the Risk Zone"

**U.S. Money Reserve makes diversifying with
gold fast, easy, and secure.**



The only precious metals firm guided by
two former Directors of the U.S. Mint



VAULT CODE: TX44

Call now to get your FREE
Gold Info Kit mailed to you today!

1-855-426-7168

1 Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Federal Reserve.
2 Sources: National Mining Association and Kitco.

©2024 U.S. Money Reserve. The markets for coins are unregulated. Prices can rise or fall and carry some risks. The company is not affiliated with the U.S. Government and the U.S. Mint. Past performance of the coin or the market cannot predict future performance. Prices may be more or less based on current market conditions. All calls recorded for quality assurance. Coins enlarged to show detail. Offer void where prohibited.

June 2024



06

Trailblazer

How a college professor became the first Texan to visit every state park in a year.

By Anna Mazurek

12 Following in Dad's Bootsteps

Three generations of West Texas lineworkers keep the lights on.

Story by Tom Widlowski
Photo by Caytlyn Calhoun

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 Town Called Toadsuck
By W.F. Strong

26

TCP Kitchen
Simply Salads
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road
We Brake for Steak
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas
Photo Contest: Food and Cooking

34

Observations
Renewal in Blue
By Claudia Sullivan

ON THE COVER
One of the breathtaking sights in Palo Duro Canyon State Park.
Photo by Chase A. Fountain | TPWD
ABOVE
Dale Blasingame and his trekking sidekick, Lucy.
Photo by Anna Mazurek



Growing Influence

JUNETEENTH, commemorating June 19, 1865, when African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation from slavery, continues to spread across the U.S. as a public holiday.

At least 28 states and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. Texas was the first to do so, in 1980. President Joe Biden signed the legislation that made Juneteenth a federal holiday in June 2021.

Read an excerpt from *On Juneteenth* by Annette Gordon Reed on our website.

June 14

World Blood Donor Day

Blood donation centers continue their call for the lifesaving resource—noting that just 3% of the eligible U.S. population donates blood each year. Learn more at redcrossblood.org.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

The Next Book You Should Read Is ...

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 April prompt: **Wow! The eclipse was ...**

One of those events that reminds us how magnificent our little corner of the universe really is.

SUSAN SINGLETARY
TRINITY VALLEY EC
ATHENS

Cool, literally.

LESLIE KRAICH
TRI-COUNTY EC
GOODWELL, OKLAHOMA

Way cooler than I expected. I was really looking forward to it, but when it actually happened, I almost cried.

CAROL DUNAGAN
VIA FACEBOOK

Totally amazing. I love how the sun united people together for this lifetime event.

MOCEDADES ESQUIVEL
FARMERS EC
LAVON

Visit our website to see more responses.

TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Holiday Bites

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Climbing High

RECOMMENDED READING

On National Olive Day, June 1, we hope you'll remember Texas' place in the harvesting of this ancient fruit. Read *Texas Olive Oil: Pressed for Success* from August 2008.

APRIL 2024 Thorny Task

"I have many night-blooming cereus plants in pots. I bring them indoors before it freezes every year. I get new plants from cuttings."

KATHERINE ALLEN
PEDERNALES EC
BURNET



DAVE SHAFER

Don't Forget Obedience

I appreciated your article on dog agility [*Top Dogs*, March 2024]. My only issue with the list of dog sports was that no mention of basic obedience or competitive obedience was made.

Obedience is the foundation of all the sports mentioned. If a dog does not have the most basic of obedience commands in its repertoire, all the other things become much harder to teach.

Cindy Hyde
San Bernard EC
Columbus

Around and Around

I skied at Sea-Arama Marineworld in Galveston in the 1970s [*The Green Carpet*, January 2024]. Occasionally we put on a show at the Shamrock Hilton—in the swimming pool. It required a pretty constant left turn.

Kelley Farmer
Pedernales EC
Dripping Springs

Planting Ideas

Native flora and fauna should be of great interest to all of us, so it is heartening to hear of people rescuing and protecting them [*Thorny Task*, April 2024]. And Sheryl Smith-Rodgers' *Seedy Behavior* [April 2024] was both entertaining and inspiring. I once rescued a pint of rain lily seeds just days before the city mowed them down.

Paula Stone
Central Texas EC
Fredericksburg

A Budding Friendship

The April issue was a "blooming success." I loved reading about the employees who went to Guatemala [Currents, *Wiring the American Dream*], the urgent need to care for our declining native plants [*Thorny Task*], caring for the less fortunate in Banderita [*Holding Promise*] and seeing the pictures of pollinators [Focus on Texas].

Your magazine puts the focus squarely on what there is to love about Texas: the place; people; and the vital, tenuous and beautiful connections between them.

Michael Davis
CoServ
Wylie

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

 Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair 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 Shimpugh, 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 12 (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 \$4.44 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.

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 Wired-hand © 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

 **Texas Electric Cooperatives**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

 **American MainStreet Publications**

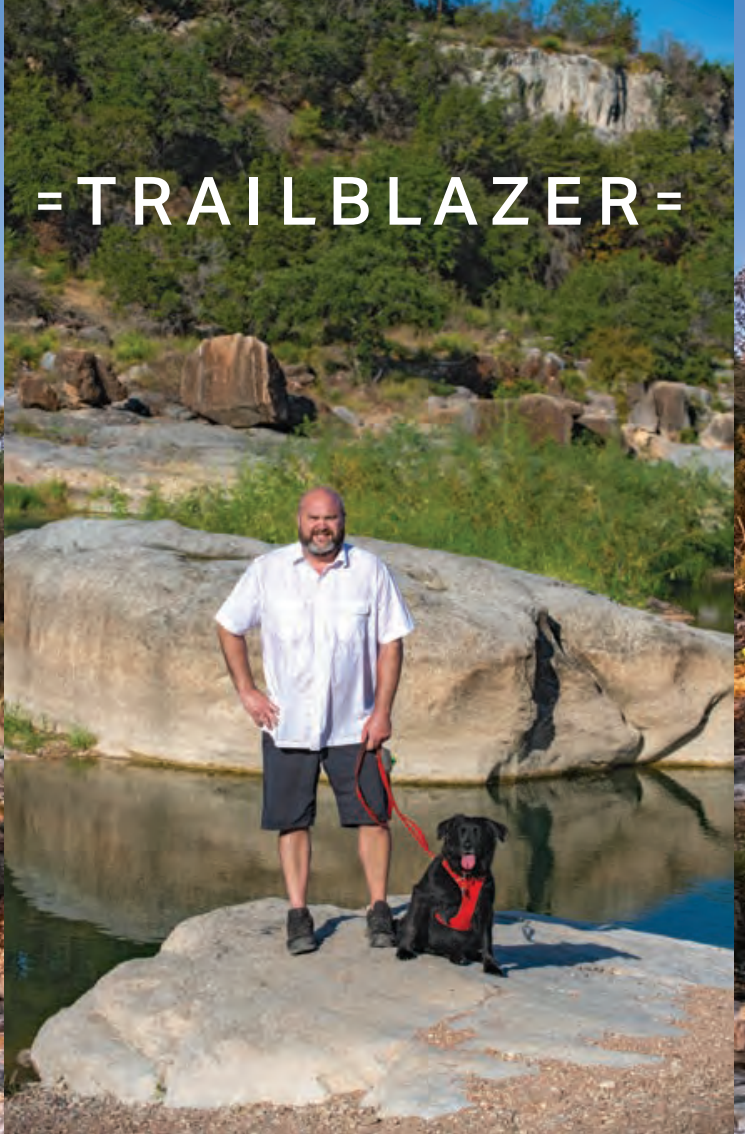


TOM HUSSEY





=TRAILBLAZER=



BY ANNA MAZUREK

He was the first to visit every state park in a year, and he can tell you where to start your own adventure

WHILE Dale Blasingame was waiting in the car line to enter Hamilton Pool Preserve in July 2014, a ranger walked over with bad news—the popular Hill Country swimming hole was full. Sensing his disappointment, the ranger suggested an alternative, nearby Pedernales Falls State Park.

“Would you like a day pass or an annual pass?” A simple question at the entrance to Pedernales Falls prompted Blasingame to inquire about the number of state parks. The ranger’s reply—95 at the time—inspired Blasingame to respond immediately with “I’m going to buy the annual pass, and I’m going to do them all in one year.”

LEFT Pedernales Falls State Park, where the idea to visit every state park in one year first struck Dale Blasingame. ABOVE Blasingame and Lucy, his hiking companion.



This spontaneous decision would transform his life and spill over into his career.

With his annual pass in hand, Blasingame, an associate professor of digital media and journalism at Texas State University in San Marcos, started ticking state park properties off his list, beginning with those in Central Texas and followed by ones near Dallas and Houston.

While he had never considered himself outdoorsy, a bad breakup in 2013 led him to spend more time in nature, starting with a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his brother. That inspired a solo road trip to Montana through Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountains.

Halfway through his state park quest, he met a man hiking with his dog at Buescher State Park in Bastrop County.

"I asked him if he liked hiking with the dog, and he was like, 'Oh man, you'll never regret it,'" Blasingame says. "The whole way home, I was just thinking about [how] it would

be really great to have a dog to hike with."

Coincidentally, the PetSmart near Blasingame's home was having an adoption event that same day. He brought home a medium-sized black rescue pup he renamed Lucy, who resembles a mix between a black golden retriever and a border collie. Since then, the pair have been inseparable.

Blasingame decided Lucy needed to be the first dog to visit every Texas state park. Since hiking and photography were the main draws for him at the parks, the pair focused on long day hikes, mostly ranging from 11 to 14 miles.

In July 2015, as his annual pass expired, Blasingame visited his 95th state park—becoming the first known

FROM LEFT A family enjoys horseback riding at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Swampy Caddo Lake State Park captivated Blasingame.

PALO DURO: CHASE A. FOUNTAIN | TPWD. CADDO LAKE: MAEGAN LANHAM | TPWD



person to hit all of them in one year.

"I do have to be totally honest," he says. "It actually took me 367 days. I was two days late." The final park, Cedar Hill State Park, near Dallas, had been closed due to flooding, so he had to wait for it to reopen.

Lucy completed her goal in December 2018 after finishing a West Texas route that included a private visit to Balmorhea State Park, where dogs are normally not allowed. When they reached the last park, Blasingame let Lucy off her leash, and she went nuts. "It was like she knew that was a celebration of something," he says.

His newfound love of the outdoors led Blasingame to create a park-focused storytelling class at Texas State University in 2017 that has evolved to include visits to state and national parks across the U.S. "It's one thing to get to know students over the course of the semester and a regular class," Blasingame says, "but when you're traveling on the

road with students, you really do make lifelong friends."

Now Blasingame has a new goal: "I decided to do every national park property, which is different from saying 'I'm going to do every national park,'" he explains, pointing out that this includes park designations like national historic sites and battlefields.

So far, he's set foot on 251 of the 429 national park properties.

While Blasingame's Texas adventures have been filled with awe-inspiring moments, like observing the Milky Way from West Texas, and downright scary ones, like being chased by wild boars at Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway, it's impossible for him to have only one favorite state park.

Here are some of his top picks by region.

=THE PANHANDLE=

PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK is special to Blasingame because of its landscape and a family connection. Located



near Amarillo, it's home to steep, multicolored mesas and the second-largest canyon in the country, known as the Grand Canyon of Texas. Since his parents lived nearby, he often took them to the park.

"My dad loved to go there and just sit in the car and wait for me and Lucy to finish hiking and being able to share those moments," he says. When Blasingame's parents died in late 2020 and early 2021, friends had a memorial bench built for them overlooking the Lighthouse, the park's iconic rock formation.

Despite roughly 30 visits to nearby Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway, Blasingame hasn't witnessed large crowds and never tires of the scenic views and hikes through the red rocks.

"It's got the state bison herd, which are always just incredible to watch," he says. The animals have free range over 10,000 of the park's 15,313-acre prairie.

=EAST TEXAS=

"CADDO LAKE is one of my favorite parks out in East Texas," Blasingame says, reminiscing about the swampy environment where he captured some of his favorite nature photographs of Spanish moss-covered trees on a sunrise boat ride. "The great thing about the environment in Texas is we have every element. We've got beaches. We've got mountains. We've got canyons. We've got lakes."

Dense fog on his first trip to Martin Dies, Jr. State Park, located at the confluence of the Neches and Angelina rivers, was also memorable. "It literally [felt] like I was just sitting on a cloud and looking out over all these trees coming up out of the fog."

ABOVE Gorman Falls at Colorado Bend State Park has made Blasingame a repeat visitor. OPPOSITE He loves the sparkling water of the world's largest spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park.



=CENTRAL TEXAS=

CLOSER TO HOME, Blasingame's favorite park is Colorado Bend State Park, along the Colorado River. A 70-foot spring-fed waterfall is a highlight of every visit.

"Gorman Falls is one of the most unique spots in all of Texas—a slice of the rainforest about an hour outside of Austin," he says.

=WEST TEXAS=

BLASINGAME'S first glimpse of the Milky Way from West Texas in 2013 was one of the moments that molded him into an outdoorsman.

The region's parks have remained a favorite, including Balmorhea, home to the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool, and the lesser-known Big Bend Ranch State Park, the largest state park in Texas. Big Bend Ranch is adjacent to Big Bend National Park and has only one paved road, River

Road (FM 170), along the southern boundary. Even if people can't get into the "very rugged" park interior, Blasingame encourages them to just drive River Road.

"You're driving along the Rio Grande the entire time with huge cliffs behind it," he says. "It feels like a roller coaster, too, based on all the dips and turns the road takes. My single favorite part is the big overlook, which seemingly goes on forever."

THE NUMBER OF STATE PARKS has fluctuated since Blasingame hit his record of 95 and currently stands at 88 (including state parks, historic sites and natural areas). Several more are scheduled to open in the next 12–15 years.

He hopes to get a sneak peek of the newest park, Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, between Abilene and Fort Worth, when it opens this year or next. "I'm sure we'll be some of the first visitors there," Blasingame says. "New parks don't happen every day in Texas, so this is big." ■



Following in Dad's Bootsteps

Three generations of West Texas lineworkers keep the lights on

SOMETIMES CHILDHOOD dreams come true. Other times they veer down an unexpected path.

Three generations of Nixon men in the South Plains ended up on the same path, leaving earlier ambitions in the dust.

Danny Nixon, 66, grew up wanting to be an anesthesiologist. But he fell in love and ran out of money, and he left Texas Tech University after one semester. Soon thereafter he began a career at Lighthouse Electric Cooperative that has lasted nearly 47 years, the first 20-plus spent as a lineworker.

Son Scott, 40, who grew up in Floydada with a dad often away on call, wanted to be a firefighter, but by the time he went off to college, he planned to pursue a career in agriculture. He left Tarleton State University after two years and has been a lineworker at neighboring South Plains Electric Cooperative for 20 years.

Camden, 21, a tall, strapping grandson and son in this family, was sure he'd be a pro baseball player. Did he come close? "Not very," he admits.

Camden remembers how his dad, Scott, missed too many of his childhood games as co-op duties called. "He's not ever at any of my baseball games. What the heck?" Camden says he wondered. "But then my mom talked to me about it, and she was like, he's at work. I was like, well, he's always at work."

Fast-forward to 2024, and Camden is often—if not always—at work, 2½ years into his career as an apprentice lineworker at another neighboring co-op, Lyntegar Electric Cooperative.

Their shared mission of serving co-op members from atop a pole, especially when storms knock out power, is a great source of satisfaction for the patriarch.

"Am I proud? Yes. I'm extremely proud," says Danny, who in 1999 became superintendent at Lighthouse EC and has since been promoted to operations manager.

Camden, the youngster, is proud, too, but he's quick to point out it's not always easy bearing the Nixon name in the West Texas co-op world. He looks first at his dad and then at the man he calls Pops. "A lot of people know him, but *everybody* knows *him*," Camden says. "I say my last name and they're like, oh, OK.

"You don't want to mess up," Camden says. "You don't want to do something wrong. I mean, everybody's going to do something wrong, but you don't want it to be bad enough to where they tell my granddad or tell my dad and we're going to have to talk about this at Christmas."

Of course, they might not be together at Christmas. The crews who keep the power on don't get to schedule when storm recovery and other mishaps call them out on jobs. Thus, the Nixons sometimes find it all but impossible to get together for birthdays and holidays—like Father's Day. It's been that way since Danny started his career, and Scott grew up knowing that.

But he also saw the rewards of the job.

"Dad made a good living and provided us with nice things," Scott says. "I got to do a lot of stuff and go on nice vacations and such that most kids didn't get. It makes it worth the hardships to get to provide my wife and kids with the same things.

"It's also kind of a pride thing. I'm proud to be a lineman. There are not very many people in the world who can do my job."

Danny Nixon—with grandson Camden, left, and son Scott—remembers once telling a member who was stunned to see a crew out in a nasty storm, "Ma'am, when it's the worst, that's when we're at our best."

"I'm proud to be a lineman. There are not very many people in the world who can do my job."

As parents tend to do, Danny remembers hoping Scott would find his own way in the world.

"Did I put my wishes and dreams on him? No, I did not," Danny says. "I wished for both of these young men anything but becoming a lineman. And I don't mean that in a bad way, but I'd rather him been a doctor or a lawyer or an animal husbandry guy or a vet.

"Both of these guys. You always want better for your kids and certainly your grandkids."

Scott certainly wanted better for the final home football game in Camden's high school career. Senior night is always a big deal—even more so because the Shallowater Mustangs were closing out an undefeated regular season. But an early winter storm socked West Texas that week in October 2020, coating most everything in ice and whipping power lines with wind gusts up to 50 mph.

South Plains EC crews, including Scott, were working on short rest to restore power, and it seemed impossible that he could get away to walk onto Todd Field with his wife and Camden for the traditional senior tribute.

"We worked 16-hour shifts in this ice storm, and I begged my supervisor to [let me] walk out on the field with him—and then I'd get in that truck and go to work," Scott says. With permission granted, Scott, dressed in his fire-retardant work clothes, briefly joined his family in the stadium.

"My bucket truck was sitting in the parking lot—running, ready to roll," he says. "I didn't get to see him play."

By that age, Camden understood—as co-op families do—that Dad had a responsibility to the community. "I was just glad he was able to be there for a little bit," Camden says. "It meant a lot."

The Nixons agree: Working for a co-op is a calling.

"It does set us apart from Acme brand," Danny says.

"We don't go home till the lights are on," Scott says.

"For the members," Camden says.

Yes, Camden walks the path of Scott and Pops. And as has been the case since September 1977, a Nixon is quite likely to rush down that path when a storm strikes the South Plains. ■

RIVER VALLEY PIONEER MUSEUM

EST. 1986

LONESOME DOVE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
June 1st - July 6th

BRIDGE OF HONOR
June 30th - July 7th

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED RIVER WAR

806-323-6548
118 N. 2nd Street in Canadian, TX
www.rivervalleymuseum.com

The Lonesome Dove Photography Exhibit is made possible by The Wittliff Collections and is supported by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this ad do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Photos by the Wittliff Collections, Sarah Marks, and the Texas Historical Commission.

PHIL COOMER

The Apocalyptic

TEXAS MUSIC AVAILABLE NOW

Award-Winning Texas Songwriter
Phil Coomer's new release
"The Apocalyptic"
available on all streaming platforms and at pcoomer.com.

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'x50'x12'

30'x40'x12'

Call today for our best pricing!

~~\$14,485~~ **\$12,385-30x40x12**
2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

~~\$22,710~~ **\$19,310-40x50x12**
2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

www.ddmbuildings.com

Forever a Texas Girl

Heart of Texas

WOMEN'S STACKING RING SET



The unique design
is two rings in one!

**GENUINE DIAMOND
SPARKLES IN AT THE
HEART OF TEXAS**

**CHEVRON BAND FEATURES
2 DOZEN DAZZLING
GENUINE WHITE TOPAZ**

**SOLID STERLING SILVER
LAVISHLY PLATED IN
18K GOLD**

Kick up your boots in true Texas style with this stunning 2-piece stacking ring that's expertly hand-crafted of solid sterling silver and lavishly plated in gleaming 18K gold. The silhouette of Texas serves as the centerpiece for this dazzling design, and tooled leather-inspired details add an authentic cowgirl look you can be proud to show off. A genuine diamond in a heart-shaped setting is cleverly placed over the spot where Austin, the capital of the state, is located on the map, showing your heart is never far from your roots. The matching chevron-style band with 12 genuine white topaz nestles underneath the ring for a perfect fit, adding a row of sparkle to complete the look. Delicately engraved on the inside of the bands is the message, "You can take the girl out of Texas" and "But not the Texas out of the Girl" when worn together. The versatile 2-in-1 design is equally stylish when the rings are worn together or separately.

A Remarkable Value... Not Available in Stores

Expertly hand-crafted, this ring is a remarkable value at just \$149.99*, payable in 5 easy installments of \$30 each, and it's backed by our 120-day full-money-back guarantee. Available in women's whole and half sizes from 5-12, this ring arrives in a custom presentation case that's perfect for gift-giving or safekeeping, along with a Certificate of Authenticity. To order, send no money now; just mail the Priority Reservation.



Order now at bradfordexchange.com/33219

Connect with Us! [f](#) [p](#) [i](#) [g](#) [x](#) [v](#)

©2024 The Bradford Exchange 01-33219-001-BIQR



Uniquely Designed. Exclusively Yours.

The Bradford Exchange

P.O. Box 806, Morton Grove, IL 60053-0806

Yes! Please reserve the "Heart of Texas" Women's Stacking Ring for me as described in this announcement.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
To assure a proper fit, a ring sizer will be sent
to you after your reservation has been accepted.

Ring Size _____

Reservations will be accepted on a **first-come, first-served basis**.
So please respond as soon as possible to reserve your ring.

*Plus \$16 shipping and service, plus sales tax; see bradfordexchange.com. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery
of your jewelry after we receive your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

PRIORITY RESERVATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____



**SCAN HERE
TO SHOP**

01-33219-001-E54801



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. The simplicity of a few seeds, some fertilizer and water turning into a bounty is amazing.

Similarly, when I think about energy efficiency, I think about how a few simple actions can help you use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year due to heavy air conditioning use. Here are a few ways to help you save—not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

Check your AC system. Your air conditioner requires regular maintenance to function efficiently, and neglecting it can lead to poor performance and



ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ / ISTOCK.COM

higher energy use. Have the system serviced annually by a certified technician. Clear leaves and any other debris away from outside components. Vacuum air vents regularly to remove any dust buildup and ensure nothing is hampering air flow through the vents. Most importantly, replace the air filter regularly—monthly during seasons of heavy AC use.

Use your thermostat wisely. Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer, ideally 78 degrees or higher—and higher still when the house is empty. Every degree will decrease energy usage 6%–8%. A smart thermostat can automate thermostat settings to accommodate your family's schedule.

Use fans. Running a fan is much cheaper than running your AC. In fact, running a fan 24/7 for an entire month would only cost about \$5 in electricity. Fans don't actually produce cold air—they just move the air around. But that air flow creates a wind chill effect that helps people feel more comfortable. If you use a ceiling fan with your air conditioning, you can set your thermostat up to 4 degrees higher with no reduction in comfort.

Close your blinds. Closing blinds or drapes in the daytime keeps out sunlight and its heat. Southern- and western-facing walls take the brunt of the sun's heat, so invest in good drapes or shades for the windows on these walls and keep them closed.

Avoid the oven. Cooking with a conventional oven adds heat to your house, forcing your AC to work harder. Use a microwave or slow cooker to keep the kitchen cool. Better yet, use the summer heat as an excuse to fire up the old backyard barbecue.

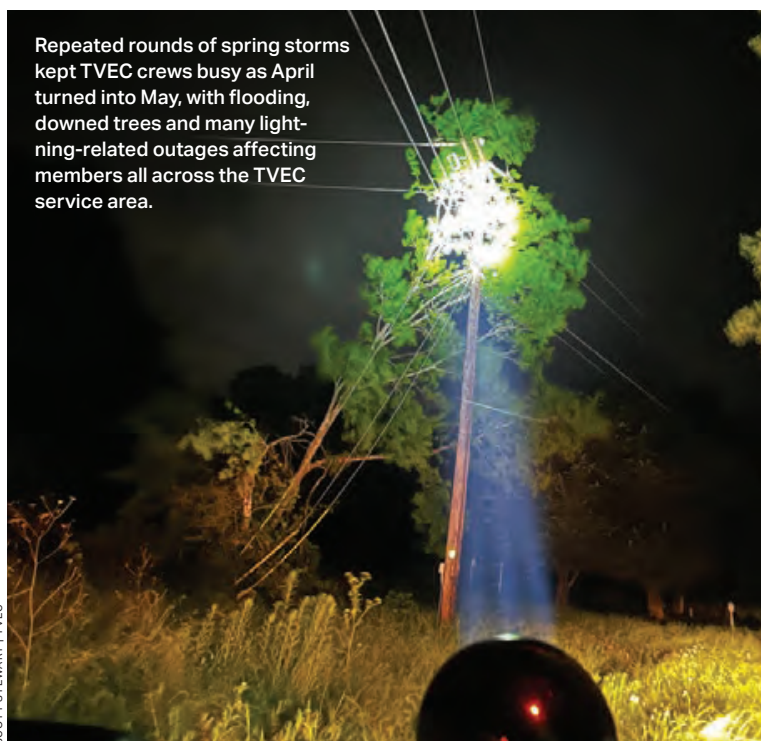
Wash strategically. Washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers all generate a ton of heat. Cut back on this added heat by only using cold water to do your washing. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes to avoid running the appliances too much. Avoid using your clothes dryer entirely by hanging up wet clothes to air dry.

If you aren't using it, unplug it. From your computer to your coffee maker, all electronics generate heat. Even if it's switched off, just being plugged in generates a small amount of heat—and uses electricity. Unplug any electronics you're not using. It's not much per device, but add up all the gizmos in your home, and it can make a few degrees—and kilowatt-hours—of difference.

One of the great things about being part of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we're always looking for ways to help you keep your money in your wallet. ■

Repeated rounds of spring storms kept TVEC crews busy as April turned into May, with flooding, downed trees and many lighting-related outages affecting members all across the TVEC service area.

SCOTT STEWART | TVEC



TVEC June Updates: Board Election, Looking for Members' Best Recipes

SUMMER IS UPON US AND THE 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 to submit your recipe online.

• **TVEC Board Election**—One of the major components of a cooperative business is the elected board of directors. As usual, the TVEC board election will be held in conjunction with the 2024 annual membership meeting in October. You can find the election notice on Page 19.

You can find out more about your elected board at tvec.net/tvec-board-of-directors. Look for additional election information in upcoming issues of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine.

• **Pole Attachment Activity**—Broadband internet construction has been going on in many areas of the TVEC service territory. This includes activity to attach new cable to existing TVEC poles, as well as many pole replacements by TVEC contractors to accommodate the new lines.

While broadband contractors do not work for TVEC, they do have access to our poles. However, they have been instructed to contact property owners before accessing property.

• **Are you on the SmartHub app?**—It may not be as fun as the latest social media trends, but there is no better way to manage your TVEC account than having it all at your fingertips. See daily usage information, pay bills, report outages and more with ease. Search for SmartHub in your phone's app store to get started. Visit tvec.net/smarthub for more information and links. ■

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

A Touchstone Energy 



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/tvec



JEREMY POLAND | ISTOCK.COM

Summer Sun Brings Out Solar Scammers



TVEC ENERGY
MANAGEMENT ADVISER
CHRIS WALKER, BAP

CONSUMERS HAVE GOOD intentions when they install solar panels, but we see too many Trinity Valley Electric cooperative members find out that some solar companies and their sales representatives do not.

In some situations, the sales pitch may even include the promise that your power bill will drop to zero, or that the monthly cost of the solar panels will be completely

offset by a drop in your TVEC usage. It takes careful evaluation of the proposed system and of the location to know if that will be true.

Unfortunately once the contracts are signed and the panels are in place, it is sometimes too late to force the solar company or installer to make good on their promises.

Visit tvec.net/der to find out more about TVEC's interconnection policies, energy buyback program and installation requirements.

Contact Us First

It is very important to contact us before installing solar. In order to connect your solar setup to the power grid, we require that certain safety and design parameters meet our specifications. Improperly designed systems pose a hazard to linemen and the general public when repairs are in progress or if there is damage on the lines.

In response to disreputable companies giving false guarantees, purposely installing undersized systems and knowingly

soliciting unbuildable systems, the Solar Energy Industries Association offers these guidelines to protect solar customers.

Here Comes the Sun

Ask friends, family and neighbors for references when shopping for a solar installation company and check on a company's history through state and local consumer protection agencies, such as the Better Business Bureau, before signing any agreements. You should also compare bids from several companies, paying special attention to:

- ▶ The expected performance of the equipment and size of the panels.
- ▶ The full cost of installation, including any permit fees.
- ▶ Whether it is guaranteed to produce a certain amount of energy.
- ▶ What warranties apply to the equipment and the installation's workmanship. 226974001
- ▶ Also check with homeowners association, if you belong to one, for any restrictions or regulations on solar panel installation and maintenance.

Good Day, Sunshine

Industry experts predict that more than 5 million homes will have some sort of solar installation by 2025. That creates a lot of opportunity for scammers. Make sure to do your research before installing solar panels, and if you think a solar company has taken advantage of you, contact an experienced attorney for help.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. ■



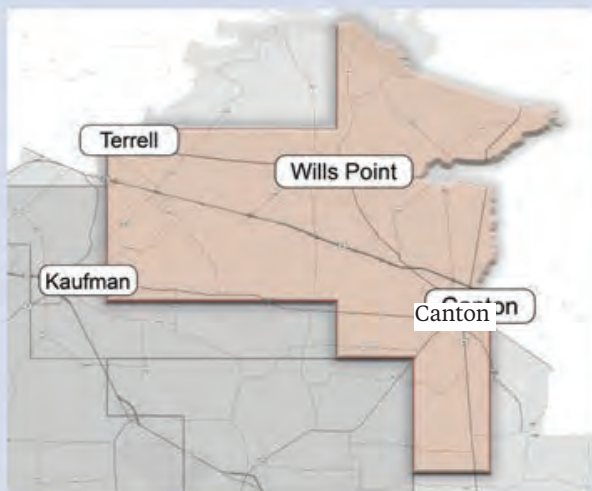
Notice of Board Election

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative will hold an election for the board member representing District 3 (incumbent: Paul Weatherford) in conjunction with the annual meeting to be held in October.

As a member, if you are interested in having your name placed before the nominating committee to represent your district, you must complete a nomination form. Qualifications are included on the form.

Contact Leah Bass at (469) 376-2297 to obtain a nomination form. Forms must be received at the TVEC headquarters office in Kaufman by 4:45 p.m. July 1.

TVEC Board District 3



**Find more detailed district maps on tvec.net.
Check your billing statement or call TVEC
member services at 1-800-766-9576 to verify
your board district.**

Observe Home Safety Awareness Month

JUNE IS HOME SAFETY AWARENESS

Month and a good time to check for all kinds of accidents waiting to happen in your home, especially when electricity is involved.

Start with a self-audit of your home—something you should turn into an annual ritual. Check that all of your appliances are still in working order by turning them on and off, listening to the sound of the motor (is it "normal?"), and inspecting their cords and plugs for damage.

Some more quick tips:

If you have young children at home, plug wall outlets with child-safety caps.

Replace appliances that have frayed cords. Electrical tape doesn't fix them.

Resolve to buy new appliances that have the thumbs-up from an independent testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratory.

Choose lightbulbs with the correct wattage for each lamp and overhead light fixture. You'll find the maximum safe wattage imprinted on the fixture.

Install waterproof covers on your outdoor outlets. ■



CASEZY | ISTOCK.COM



CAMERON CARLSON | ISTOCK.COM



DID YOU KNOW?

Making energy conservation a game helps kids establish good habits. Set a timer and see how fast they can turn off all the lights in the house.

ANTONIO DIAZ | ISTOCK.COM

Check Home Maintenance Off the Summer Chore List

SUMMERTIME CAN MEAN more time for home maintenance that will help your house run more efficiently and safely. Check these tasks off your to-do list, then enjoy some time in the sun.

Oil hinges. You likely have more hinges throughout your home than you think. Summer is the perfect time to make sure they're all greased and ready to go. Don't forget about those outdoor hinges, such as your front and back doors and any outbuilding doors, such as sheds or detached garages. Don't forget to oil your garage door opener and chain.

Remove lint. Take advantage of the nice weather to clean out your dryer vent. There are services you can hire to do this for you, or if you're handy, grab a ladder and locate the dryer vent on the outside of your home. Clean lint from inside and outside washer hoses. This is a very important maintenance task that can save you a lot of headaches down the road.

Check for leaks. Check around your kitchen and bathroom cabinets and around toilets for leaks. In the bathrooms, tighten showerheads and faucet handles. If you have a hose and sprinklers, monitor those to ensure you're watering directly where you want to and that water isn't being wasted by leaks.

Seal tile grout. Seal your tile grout by wiping it down with a clean cloth, then use a cleaning solution of two parts baking soda and one part water. Use a grout brush to clean deep into the grooves. Rinse with clean water, and let dry for 24 hours. Then use a tile sealer to preserve your hard work.

Clean fridge and freezer coils. Beat the heat with a cool freeze from your refrigerator while you clean it out. Take some time to clean out your fridge and freezer and wipe down all surfaces. Clean your freezer coils before replacing all the frozen items. This will prolong the life of your freezer, preserve your frozen goods for longer and help your unit to work more efficiently. ■



POWER TIP

Smart plugs can help you power off or schedule devices through a smartphone app or voice control, saving time, energy and money.

SUPERSMARIO | ISTOCK.COM



DON JOHNSON | TVEC

Stay Back and Stay Safe

WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY can be a dangerous job. 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 our No. 1 priority. This is no empty slogan: Over time, we've created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but even more important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones at the end of each shift. 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 a burglar 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 and the co-op's logo on our service trucks. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our community.

Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes across the U.S., on average, and 70 of those each day result in injuries. There is one fatality each week from these accidents.

The lineworkers' focus is on the work at hand, not on the road, so we need you to watch out for them.

Also, never text, scroll or type while you drive—around work crews or at any other time. That message can wait, and the momentary distraction can change lives forever.

Keep Poles Clear and Safe

Nails, staples and other attachments to utility poles not only get in lineworkers' way when they are trying to climb poles, but these foreign objects can also damage the workers' safety gear, exposing them to possible shock or electrocution. Never post signs or attach anything to utility poles.

Guy wires may occasionally be inconveniently located, but please leave them alone. The wires provide support for poles, and removing or modifying them can weaken the system, causing poles, power lines and possibly lineworkers to come crashing to the ground.

TVEC's employees are looking out for you. Help them stay safe by returning the favor. ■



DON JOHNSON | TVEC

El Presidente, Brownsboro

Great smoked grub in the heart of TVEC territory

FOR MANY GOOD RESTAURANTS, you can't necessarily judge the food from the street. That is particularly true for a lot of tried-and-true small town establishments that have served great meals for many years—such as El Presidente in Brownsboro

"Its true, you can't tell much from outside, it is pretty much the definition of a hole-in-the-wall," said Michael McCallie, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative apprentice lineman "But I grew up around here and that was the place we'd go after school and such. And on the inside it is much nicer and the service is always great."

Serving up a variety of Tex-Mex, standard American fare and well-regarded fried catfish, there is something for everyone on the El Presidente menu.

"I've never had anything bad, but the quesadillas are really good for lunch, and they are big with lots of cheese," McCallie said. "And their pancakes, put those with some fried eggs and bacon and you are all set."

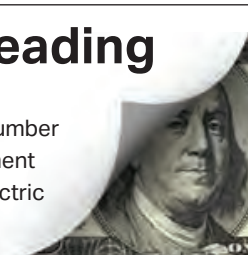
Serving sizes are generous, and daily specials can help with the meal budget.

Find El Presidente at 14400 Highway 31 in Brownsboro, and on social media at facebook.com/elpresidente1400. ■



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 June 28 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



For 2022, what was the total megawatt-hours retail sales of electricity in Texas?

eia.gov/electricity/state/texas/

A • 87,283,926

B • About 150 million

C • 475,401,192

D • 148,900

Win \$100!

Send your answer and contact information to **contest@tvec.coop** or contact TVEC Member Services by June 30. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in a future **Texas Co-op Power**.

May Energy Quiz: Energy Workers

GETTING ELECTRICITY TO HOMES and businesses is a big job, and it takes a lot of workers to keep the grid running and reliable.

According to Texas comptroller data, out of a total 936,477 energy workers in the state, 203,777 are employed in transmission, distribution and storage of electrical energy.

Another 64,570 work in electricity generation, putting the total number at more than 260,000 people keeping the lights on.

Congratulations to our April Energy Quiz winner, Sheron Hornage of Terrell.

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



Your Generosity in Action
Operation Round Up
Spotlight: Henderson
County Black History
Committee



IN THE MID 1980S, some Henderson County residents noted a lack of college scholarships and opportunities for Black students coming out of high school. Taking on that challenge—and the larger issue of filling out empty spots in the history curriculum with some more inclusive views—led to the beginning of the Henderson County Black History Committee.

“The organization was started with county extension agent Bernice McKay and several other notable people in the area,” said HCBHC secretary Delanda Johnson. “As time has progressed, that has really grown into all of the things we are doing now.”

Scholarships, which are offered to students regardless of ethnicity, still remain part of the organization. But the educational part of the committee’s mission starts before college as the students jump into African American history to prepare for their essays.

“The students are so impressive in how they are coming

into their own, and you can see that in what they write,” Johnson said. “They really put their personal lives into the essays and you can see how this is such a turning point in how they think as they prepare for the next part of life.”

In January, the committee hosts a Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight vigil, and throughout February, which is designated Black History Month, the HCBHC hosts activities to promote knowledge and understanding of many overlooked Black historical figures and contributions.

“February is a whole calendar of things, including a youth appreciation event, a gospel music showcase and our scholarship banquet,” Johnson said.

And coming up this month, the committee will host a fundraiser car show June 8 at Malakoff High School. All cars are welcome, and attendees will be able to judge the entries.

For more information or to get involved, contact Johnson at 903-489-2329. ■

April 2024 Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

Friends of the Riter Hulsey
Public Library - \$2,000
Henderson County Black
History Committee- \$2,000
Henderson County
Rainbow Room - \$3,000
Henderson County Memorial Library
Friends - \$2,000

Keep Athens Beautiful - \$3,000
Murchison ISD Backpack
Program - \$2,500
Kaufman Junior High NOW
Backpack Program - \$1,000
Van Zandt County Veterans
Memorial - \$2,000

Enraptured

Birds of prey travel Texas for thrilling demonstrations that educate audiences

BY EILEEN MATTEI • PHOTO BY ERICH SCHLEGEL

VICTOR LAWRENCE asks the kookaburra perched on his fist why the vulture crossed the road.

“Because the chicken didn’t make it!” he says. The corny joke makes the Australian bird erupt in its unmistakable raucous laugh, which triggers roars of laughter from the audience at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Harlingen.

The kookaburra is one of 33 birds of prey that live and work with the nonprofit Wildlife Revealed, traveling across Texas and the U.S. as ambassadors of the bird kingdom. Lawrence, who is a falconer, and his colleagues at Wildlife Revealed act as interpreters, letting audiences observe the birds’ talents, intelligence and quirks. The presentations educate audiences on the importance of wild birds and why they need protection for their important roles in global ecosystems.

Each bird is different. Some birds demonstrate their flight abilities. Cyrene, the Eurasian eagle-owl, is quiet as a shadow. Some, like Pierre, the crested caracara, simply look handsome. While Obee, a white-necked raven, snatches proffered dollar bills and hides them away, Grimley, a black vulture, waddle-hops around the Harlingen audience, looking for food in all the wrong places.

A catlike “mrrrow” comes from Cyrene. Massive and regal, with a wingspan around 5 feet, the captive-bred owl looks like it could swallow a small cat. Onlookers guess that she weighs 25–75 pounds, but she’s just 5 pounds.

Raptors—such as owls, falcons, hawks—capture and kill their food thanks to incredible eyesight, hooked beaks, and strong feet and talons. Lawrence considers birds of prey a broader category that includes all carnivorous birds from kingfishers like the kookaburra to pelicans, vultures, ravens and crows.

The roots of Wildlife Revealed, based near Bastrop, east of Austin, reach back 35 years. On a Cub Scout trip to the Houston Zoo in the 1980s, young Kevin Gaines stood just feet away from a red-tailed hawk on a zookeeper’s arm. “I thought it was the coolest thing in the world,” he recalls.

While earning an engineering degree at Texas A&M University, Gaines volunteered in bird rehabilitation. He learned about injuries and rehab, diet, training, flight, and presentation while working with educational bird programs.

He became a permitted falconer, and when the opportunity arose to give a school presentation, he showed up with three of his own birds. By 2007, Gaines had established Wildlife Revealed, which is funded by donations and performance fees.

“By making it memorable with live birds, they will remember why vultures are important to the environment,” he says. “And when people see a falcon dive across an audience, they are blown away.”

The falcons, along with other birds of prey, perform at Renaissance festivals and at hundreds of schools, birding and wildlife festivals, museums, and special events.

“This is something you do for the love of the job, not the money,” says Gaines, a member of Blue-bonnet Electric Cooperative. “It’s a challenge but super fun.” He directs three teams of falconers, assistants and volunteers.

Working a few hours a day, the avian ambassadors earn their keep. Their keep isn’t cheap. A shipment of frozen mice that lasts 2–3 months costs \$1,600. Birds of prey need to eat the whole mouse or rat to get a nutritionally complete diet.

About half of Gaines’ birds come from animal rescue and rehab centers and can’t be released into the wild. Pierre the caracara, for example, can’t fly after a collision with a car. The rest of the birds, exotics like kookaburras and eagle-owls, come from licensed captive breeding programs.

Training and forming a bond with a bird can take from six weeks to a year and is an ongoing process. “It depends on the bird’s personality, too,” Gaines says. “Owls are hard to train. They are very distractible. Harris’ hawks are quick learners. Caracaras are smart but resistant to complying.”

Lawrence admits the ravens and similar birds such as crows and magpies have his full attention and admiration for their intelligence.

“If Obee gets loose, the next thing on his agenda is world domination,” he says. It’s not hard to imagine kettles of hawks, parliaments of owls and riots of kookaburras flying in to aid the raven.

The planet would be better off if they didn’t. ■

Kevin Gaines, founder and director of Wildlife Revealed, with Vegas, an aplomado falcon.



LOW AS
\$49
plus shipping & handling

Historic 1920-1938
"Buffalos" by the Pound



FREE
Stone Arrowhead
with every bag



Released to the Public: Bags of Vintage Buffalo Nickels

One of the most beloved coins in history is a true American Classic: The Buffalo Nickel. Although they have not been issued for over 75 years, GovMint.com is releasing to the public bags of original U.S. government Buffalo Nickels. Now they can be acquired for a limited time only—not as individual collector coins, but by weight—**just \$49 for a full Quarter-Pound Bag.**

100% Valuable Collector Coins—GUARANTEED!

Every bag will be filled with collectible vintage Buffalos from over 75 years ago, **GUARANTEED ONE COIN FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SERIES** (dates our choice):

- 1920-1929—"Roaring '20s" Buffalo
- 1930-1938—"The Buffalo's Last Decade"
- Mint Marks (P,D, and S)
- ALL Collector Grade Very Good Condition
- **FREE Stone Arrowhead with each bag**

Every vintage Buffalo Nickel you receive will be a coveted collector coin—**GUARANTEED!**

Plus, order a gigantic full Pound bag and you'll also receive a vintage Liberty Head Nickel (1883-1912), a valuable collector classic!

Long-Vanished Buffalos Highly Coveted by Collectors

Millions of these vintage Buffalo Nickels have worn out in circulation or been recalled and destroyed by the government. Today, significant quantities can often only be found in private hoards and estate collections. As a result, these coins are becoming more sought-after each day.

Supplies Limited— Order Now!

Supplies of vintage Buffalo Nickels are limited as the availability of these classic American coins continues to shrink each and every year. They make a precious gift for your children, family and friends—a gift that will be appreciated for a lifetime.

NOTICE: Due to recent changes in the demand for vintage U.S. coins, this advertised price may change without notice. Call today to avoid disappointment.

30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

You must be 100% satisfied with your bag of Buffalo Nickels or return it within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (less s/h).

Order More and SAVE
QUARTER POUND Buffalo Nickels
(23 coins) **Plus FREE Stone Arrowhead**
\$49 + s/h

HALF POUND Bag
(46 coins) **Plus FREE**
Stone Arrowhead
\$79 + s/h SAVE \$19

ONE FULL POUND Bag
(91 coins) **Plus FREE**
Stone Arrowhead and
Liberty Head Nickel
\$149 + FREE SHIPPING
SAVE \$47



FREE Liberty Head Nickel with One Full Pound

FREE SHIPPING over \$149!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

2 EASY WAYS TO ORDER: CALL TOLL FREE OR GO ONLINE

1-877-566-6468

Offer Code VBB657-08

Please mention this code when you call.

Representatives are able to take your calls from 8am-8pm M-F,
9am-7pm Sat and Sun Central Time

To order online, place phone camera over QR code to scan or use link below:
www.govmint.com/vbb



GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. VBB657-08, Eagan, MN 55121

Asset Marketing Services, LLC d/b/a GovMint is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of AMS's Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). Keeping your purchase means you agree to the Terms and Conditions. © 2024 GovMint. All rights reserved.



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



A Town Called Toadsuck

Long removed from maps, it was home for a governor as colorful as its name

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

TEXAS HAS PERHAPS more than its share of cities and towns with unusual names. There's Cut and Shoot, Dime Box, Bug Tussle.

But perhaps the strangest was Toadsuck. You won't find it on a map today because it eventually became Collinsville, near the Oklahoma border in western Grayson County. For a relatively brief and shining period, though, Toadsuck was a real Texas town.

How did it get that strange name? I learned the story mostly from the Texas State Historical Association's Handbook of Texas, which is a priceless resource.

Toadsuck got its start as the name of a saloon near the eventual eponymous town. Settlers arrived in the area in the late 1850s, and in 1869, a townsite was surveyed near the saloon, about a half-mile southeast of Collinsville today.

"The town of Toadsuck took the name of the saloon," the handbook says. "It may have been named by John Jones, an early settler and mill owner, after the city of Toad Suck, Arkansas" (which, by the way, does still exist).

"According to legend, the name was originally a reference to men consuming liquor until they swelled up like toads.

However, the word 'suck' was also commonly used in the region as a term for a whirlpool in a river. Hence, the town name may have simply meant 'toad whirlpool.'"

Bill Cannon, who wrote *Tales from Toadsuck Texas*, tells the story of William "Alfalfa Bill" Henry Davis Murray, who was born in Toadsuck in 1869. Murray would go on to become a colorful governor of Oklahoma in 1930. When he was running for president two years later, he returned to the place of his birth for William Murray Day.

The town of Toadsuck had a statue of Murray ready for dedication, but Alfalfa Bill was so drunk he could barely speak, Cannon wrote. You might say he was "swole up like a toad." The townsfolk were so exasperated and embarrassed that they had a team of horses pull the statue down and break it into pieces. Then they buried it.

Toadsuck faded into history when the Texas and Pacific Railway built its line west of the town in 1880, according to the TSHA. By 1887, most of its businesses and residents had moved to the tracks. The new town was named Collinsville when it was incorporated in the 1890s.

Thus, sadly, Toadsuck was no more. But the beautiful memory of that august name remains. ■

Simply Salads

Keep cool in the kitchen with these tasty garden mixes

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

I always find myself craving a Cobb salad when temperatures begin to rise. It's a hearty dinner with abundant toppings that deliver a variety of flavors in every bite. My Texas Cobb Salad is a fun twist on the classic that is so simple to make.



Texas Cobb Salad

SALAD

- 1 head romaine lettuce, coarsely chopped**
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and halved**
- 8 slices bacon, fully cooked and cut into bite-size pieces**
- 2 avocados, sliced**
- 1 can pinto beans (15 ounces), drained and rinsed**
- 2 ears corn, roasted and sliced off the cob**
- 16 ounces cooked beef fajitas, sliced**

DRESSING

- ¼ cup olive oil**
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar**
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard**
- 1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, minced, sauce reserved**
- 2 teaspoons reserved adobo sauce**
- 1 small shallot, thinly sliced**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper**

1. SALAD Spread lettuce evenly across a large platter.

2. Arrange eggs in one row across the lettuce. Continue arranging each topping in its own row: bacon, avocado, beans and roasted corn. End by adding fajitas to edge of platter.

3. DRESSING In a small bowl, combine all dressing ingredients and stir to combine. Serve dressing with the salad.

SERVES 6

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Tomato Cucumber Panela Salad.



Strawberry Salad

KATHRYN SULLIVAN
BANDERA EC

Beautiful, simple and elegant, this salad will leave an impression. Whip up Sullivan's salad for your mother-in-law, a first date or for a gathering. Summer sweet berries stun when paired with creamy goat cheese and a balsamic dressing.

SALAD

- 1 package 50/50 blend baby spinach and spring salad mix (10 ounces)**
- 1 carton strawberries (16 ounces), hulled and sliced**
- 1 pint blueberries**
- 4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled**
- 6 slices bacon, fully cooked and broken into pieces**
- ½ cup chopped pecans**

DRESSING

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil**
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar**
- ¼ teaspoon Dijon mustard**

- 1. SALAD** In a large bowl, combine all salad ingredients.
- 2. DRESSING** In another bowl, whisk together all dressing ingredients.
- 3.** Pour dressing over salad. With a serving spoon, gently toss to coat.

SERVES 4-6

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

\$500 WINNER

Thai Peanut Summer Salad

REESE JOHNSON
TRINITY VALLEY EC



This salad from Reese, 14, has me grinning from ear to ear. The recipe, developed by Reese and her mother, packs in flavor, texture and tang. "I love to cook and bake," Reese says. "It all started when I was about 7. I had started making breakfast for myself as well as my family."

SERVES 10



SALAD

- 4 cups chopped napa cabbage**
- 2 cups thinly chopped red cabbage**
- ½ red bell pepper, thinly sliced**
- ½ yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced**
- 1 medium carrot, julienned**
- ½ medium cucumber, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced**
- ¼ red onion, thinly sliced**
- ½ cup honey-roasted peanuts**
- ½ cup chopped cilantro**
- 6 radishes, thinly sliced, reserving a few slices for garnish**

DRESSING

- ½ cup peanut butter**
- Juice of 1 lime**
- 2½ teaspoons sesame oil**
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce**
- 3 tablespoons honey**
- 2 cloves garlic**
- 1 tablespoon fresh peeled and minced ginger**
- ½ cup chopped cilantro**
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil**
- ¼ teaspoon salt**
- 2 teaspoons Sriracha sauce, or more to taste**
- 1 tablespoon seasoned rice vinegar**

- 1. SALAD** In a large bowl, combine all salad ingredients.
- 2. DRESSING** Add all dressing ingredients to a blender. Blend until smooth.
- 3.** Pour half the dressing over the salad. With a serving spoon, mix to coat. Add more dressing as desired and garnish with reserved radish slices.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HOLIDAY BITES DUE JUNE 10

We want the best from Co-op Country kitchens for our November issue. Send us your holiday favorites by June 10 for a chance to win \$500.





Texas Tabbouleh

CINDY BROWN
PEDERNALES EC

Chilled salads are the ultimate summer meal. Prep, tuck away in the fridge and you're set for lunch or dinner. Brown's tabbouleh can be served alone or topped with fish or baked chicken. It's yummy the first day and even better the next.

SALAD

- ½ cup bulgur wheat
- 1½ cups water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 ears corn, sliced off the cob
- ¾ cup diced carrots
- 1 bunch green onions, diced
- 1 large red bell pepper, stem and seeds removed, diced
- 4 stalks celery, diced
- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped
- 1 can pinto beans (15 ounces), drained and rinsed

DRESSING

- Juice of 2 lemons or limes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

1. SALAD Place bulgur wheat in a heatproof bowl. Bring water to a boil over

medium-high heat. Carefully pour boiling water over bulgur wheat. Let stand for 45 minutes, then drain well.

2. Heat olive oil in a medium skillet over high heat. Sauté corn and carrots until tender, about 4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.

3. In a large bowl, combine bulgur wheat, corn, carrots, green onions, bell pepper, celery, cucumber, parsley and beans. Stir to combine.

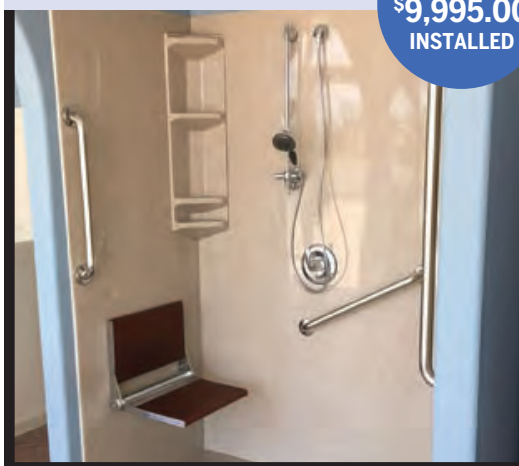
4. DRESSING In a separate bowl, whisk together all dressing ingredients.

5. Pour dressing over salad, stir to combine.

6. Refrigerate 24 hours. Serve chilled.

SERVES 6

TCP Want more options? You'll find dozens more on our website with just a simple search for "salad."



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



TCP E-news Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

JUNE 2024 TEXAS CO-OP POWER 29



COURTESY CHET GARNER

We Brake for Steak

There's no need for menus at the Leona General Store

BY CHET GARNER

IN MY LINE OF WORK, it's normal to pass through a small town with ailing buildings and few visible signs of life. It isn't normal for one of those old wooden storefronts to have a line 150 Texans long, stretching clear into the next parking lot. I pulled over to find out what was happening at the Leona General Store, and after someone told me it was steak night, I had no choice but to get in line.

This special event on Friday and Saturday nights draws hordes from hundreds of miles to this vintage storefront on Texas 75 in Leona, less than a mile off Interstate 45, midway between Dallas and Houston. When the doors opened, the small store swallowed the entire line as folks spread across the creaking wooden floor. The walls are covered with knickknacks and farming equipment, just as you'd expect inside a 100-year-old general store.

Part of the magic of "the best little steakhouse in Texas" is its simplicity. There's no written menu since they're known for one entrée: rib-eye steaks. Each one is hand cut and cooked over hot coals. Everyone gets the same sides and salad bar.

The only choice customers make is how big they want their steak. The smallest is 10 ounces, and the largest ever eaten was more than 90 ounces. I decided to let that record stand and ordered a 12-ounce steak, which was at least 16 ounces. They admittedly don't weigh anything in the back, which works to the customer's benefit.

Owners Jerry and Cynthia House made laps through the building, making sure everyone was happy and well-fed. The steak was certainly one of the best I've ever eaten, but it's the small-town hospitality that will keep me and hundreds of my closest friends coming back. ■

ABOVE Chet is about to savor the Leona General Store's trademark steak.

TCP Join Chet as he visits "the best little steakhouse in Texas." 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.

JUNE 08

Corsicana Endless Summer, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

East Bernard Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 533-1902, kkfest.com

Terrell [8-9] North Texas Antique Tractor and Engine Club's Show and Pull, (214) 497-1611, north-texas-antique-tractor-and-engine-club.net

13

Lockhart [13-15] Chisholm Trail Roundup, (512) 398-2818, lockhartchamber.com

Brenham [13-16, 20-23, 27-30] The Star-Spangled Girl, (979) 830-8358, unitybrenham.org

14

Mount Pleasant Juneteenth Family Celebration, (903) 575-4000, mpcity.net

Aransas Pass [14-16] Shrimporee, (361) 758-2750, aransaspass.org

Kerrville [14-15, 21-23, 28-30] The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

19

Odessa [19-23] Juneteenth Celebration, (432) 888-9276, odessabcc.org

21

Stonewall [21-22] Peach JAMBoree, (830) 644-2735, stonewalltexas.com

Albany [21-22, 28-29] Fort Griffin Fandangle, (325) 762-3838, fortgriffinfandangle.com

22

McKinney Night Out at the Heard, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

25

Corsicana [25, 27-30] Of Mice and Men, (903) 872-5421, thewlac.com

27

Luling [27-30] Watermelon Thump, (830) 875-3878, watermelonthump.com

28

New Braunfels [28-29] Red, White and Tuna, (830) 627-0808, brauntex.org

Pottsboro [28-29] Fink Fest, (903) 786-6000, facebook.com/finktexas

29

Brenham The Grand Ol' Americana Show, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

JULY

03

Waxahachie [3-4] Grape Myrtle Festival and Parade, (469) 309-4040, waxahachiecvb.com

04

Chappell Hill Independence Day Parade, (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

New Braunfels July 4 Patriotic Parade and Program, (830) 629-1572, sophienburg.com

Amarillo [4-6] Will Rogers Range Riders Rodeo, (806) 584-0733, wrrangeriders.com

Rockdale [4-15] Sesquicentennial Event, (512) 446-2511, rockdale150.com

TCP Submit Your Event

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

Come celebrate with us!



Rockdale's 150th Birthday
July 4th - July 15th 2024

Festivities begin with a spectacular
July 4th DRONE LIGHT SHOW

July 5th: Opening of the 1974 Time Capsule
July 6th: Community parade
... and SO much more throughout the week!

Visit www.rockdale150.com for complete event schedule
and follow us on Facebook @rockdaletx150

Music Exhibits Activities for the Kids

Presented by the City of Rockdale, TX
in partnership with our generous sponsors and community



PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?



Since 1983

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

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

POLE BARNs



D.T. Construction

Free Estimates • Colored Metal Available
Variety of Sizes and Options
Fully Insured with Workers Comp

30'x50'x10' FULLY ENCLOSED	\$15,500
30'x50'x10' WITH 15' SHED	\$18,000
40'x60'x14' FULLY ENCLOSED	\$27,000
30'x40'x10' FULLY ENCLOSED	\$14,000
20'x60'x9' COW SHED	\$12,500

ZACH TINCHER—IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

(918) 527-0117
DTConstruction.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



BATH
REMODEL

YOUR DREAM BATHROOM IN 1 DAY*



7am TODAY



4pm TONIGHT



**Waiving All
Installation Costs***
PLUS
**No Interest
No Payments
for up to 1 Year†**

If paid in full by end of 12 months.

Fall in love with your bathroom
without breaking your budget.



Fits existing space



Certified installers



Amazing style selection



Safety features available

*One day completion of remodel will not be possible in some instances. Offers valid on purchase and installation of qualifying complete bath/shower system from participating third-party licensed Jacuzzi Bath Remodel dealer in your area ("Dealer"). Timing of work, available options, and products will vary by dealer and project. Offers not available everywhere or combinable with other offers. Offers subject to change. †Financing offer available through third-party lenders under terms of applicable loan program. No interest or payment for 12 months if paid in full within 12 months. Interest will be charged to you from purchase date if purchase balance is not paid in full within 12 months. Subject to credit approval - not all buyers will qualify. Terms and conditions apply. See Dealer or call the provided toll-free number for details. Not actual before and after depictions. Expires 8/31/24.



CALL NOW!

888.696.6859

Or visit us online at

MakeoverShower.com



Food and Cooking

"We gonna need a big ol' sausage,
A big ol' plate of ranch-style beans.
I could eat the heart of Texas.
We gonna need some brand-new jeans."
—From *Texas Cookin'* by Guy Clark

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

1 DAVID MILLER
BANDERA EC

A breakfast that shouts, "I love Texas!"

2 ALLISON HEBERT
SAN BERNARD EC

"This little guy is doing what he loves—cooking.
Doesn't get any better than biscuits from scratch."

3 MICHELE BENNETT
GVEC

Fall cookies.

4 KRISTEN BROWN
PEDERNALES EC

Homemade wheat bread with blueberry jelly.



2



3



4

Upcoming Contests

DUE JUN 10 Climbing High

DUE JUL 10 Mascots

DUE AUG 10 Young Photographers



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Food and Cooking photos from readers.



Renewal in Blue

Bucolic summers in the Piney Woods leave an indelible mark

BY CLAUDIA SULLIVAN
ILLUSTRATION BY
JAMES O'BRIEN

EVERY SUMMER of my youth, I eagerly packed my bags, left the big city behind and traveled to the Piney Woods to live the life of a farm girl with my grandparents.

Those East Texas summer days were idyllic. Mornings began with the smell of bacon or ham cooking on the stove and skillet-fried toast with homemade apple or plum jelly. Lunch was always accompanied with rice, yellow and thick, made rich with butter and milk. The meal wasn't complete without blackberry cobbler made from berries we picked ourselves, battling thorns and yellow jackets while gathering the tart, wild fruit.

Promptly at 12:30 p.m., Mema settled in to shell peas and watch her "stories" on TV while Pa took his afternoon nap. I spent those sultry afternoons outside

whispering secrets to Boy, the old bird dog, and to Lady Bird, the orphaned calf we raised on a bottle, or rocking in the tractor tire swing hung under the huge pecan tree.

Mema, Pa and I spent nights in the screened-in sleeping porch, cool and bathed in moonlight. Lying in my bed, I heard the whine of diesel trucks on the distant highway and the whirring of the summer breeze through the woven, mesh screen. The night air smelled of rose blossoms and honeysuckle.

It was the scent of summer.

The memories of those summer days have not faded. Mema and Pa are gone now and so is the old farmhouse. Some years ago, on a cold night not long after midnight, the house went up in flames. Some said it was itinerants carelessly discarding a cigarette. Others said it was lightning, though no one recalls a storm that night.

I believe the old house caught ablaze all by itself. The warmth of all those memories heated to spontaneous combustion. The house saved up all those memories until one night there was nothing but glowing embers—except for what lived on in the minds and hearts of those who were sheltered and loved there.

Nothing stands now except two large pecan trees and the old tractor tire swing.

But each spring something wondrous and beautiful happens. In the place where my grandparents' house once stood, a dense blanket of bluebonnets blooms.

Like the color of the sky or the gingham dresses little girls used to wear, the wave of flowers defines the layout of the house. No one recalls ever seeing bluebonnets in that part of town.

Maybe the heat of the fire raised dormant seeds to life. Or perhaps that little patch of earth needed something cheery and pretty to grace its sudden emptiness.

Whatever the reason, I know Mema and Pa would be pleased. ■

BUY 1,
GET 1

40%
OFF

AND

Take an Extra
\$100
OFF YOUR ENTIRE
PURCHASE¹

ALL WINDOWS AND PATIO DOORS!¹

AND

NO Money Down | NO Monthly Payments | NO Interest for 12 months¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4 - INTEREST ACCRUES FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS

★★★★★ 4.7 OUT OF 5 BASED ON 95,000+ REVIEWS

"My overall experience was great. I love the window, and from sales to scheduling, the experience was very good. The installers are highly skilled professionals and I would recommend Renewal by Andersen to all my contacts."

LYNN F. | RENEWAL BY ANDERSEN CUSTOMER

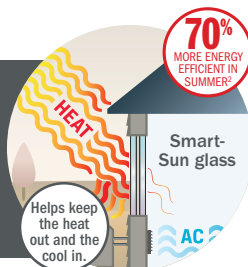
More 5 Star
Reviews



Than Other Leading Full-Service
Window Replacement
Companies²

KEEP THE COOL AIR IN AND THE HEAT OUT!

Solving your window problems and having a comfortable home is easy and enjoyable when you choose Renewal by Andersen. Take advantage of this great offer to save money on your window project - and help save on high energy bills for years to come!



Offer Ends July 31

Call for your **FREE** consultation.



844-871-5517

Visit findyourwindow.com



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



DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 6/1/2024 and 7/31/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$100 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 7/31/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. CA License CLSB #1050316. Central CA License #1096271. License #RCE-50303. FL License #CGC1527613. OR License #198571. WA License #RENEWAW856K6. WA License #RENEWAP877BM. All other license numbers available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. *Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual-pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. ²Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA13747

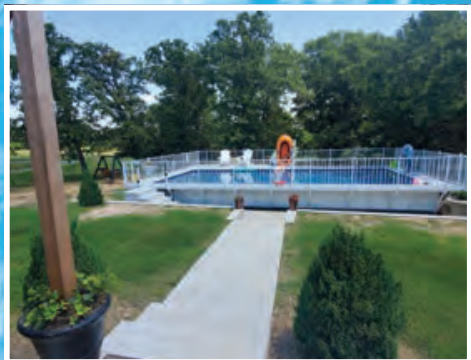
³Using U.S. and imported parts.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2024 SEASON



Display one of our beautiful Kayak maintenance-free pools and save \$\$\$!
CALL NOW to qualify for this limited opportunity!

1-800-794-6839
1-800-SWIMTEX



SWIMTEXSUN.COM

**A FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
TEXAS COMPANY SINCE 1986**



SWIM TEXSUN

STAYcation In Your Own Backyard!

Save Money: \$1000-\$4000 Instant Rebate

Financing Available/Pre-Approvals

We Consider Anything of Value on Trade • All Pools Made in America

AMERICA'S BEST BUILT POOL—WE GUARANTEE IT!

If within 30 days after your purchase of an Award Winning Kayak Pool you find another brand name pool with all of Kayak's features and benefits, we'll refund 100% of your purchase price, plus we'll give you the Kayak Pool **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

