

UNEARTHING ARTIFACTS
IN WEST TEXAS

JUNETEENTH'S LONG PATH
ACROSS AMERICA

STAUNCH COMPETITOR
FINALLY WEARS OUT

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRINITY VALLEY EC MEMBERS

JUNE 2023

Comfort Food

New food editor
Vianney Rodriguez
opens her kitchen
to TCP readers

TRINITY
VALLEY EC
NEWS

SEE PAGE 16



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June 2023



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Scratching the Surface

West Texas ranchers team up with researchers to unearth pieces of history.

*By Eileen Mattei
Photos by Dave Shafer*

12 'On Juneteenth'

A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian describes the holiday's long path out of her home state.

*Excerpt by Annette Gordon-Reed
Illustration by John Jay Cabuay*

ON THE COVER

New food editor Vianney Rodriguez in her studio kitchen, Cocina Gris.
Photo by Jason David Page

ABOVE

Joey and Laurie Roland show teeth from an extinct three-toed horse at their ranch.
Photo by Dave Shafer

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Making Magic With Vianney

MEET VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, the Corpus Christi foodie who will be inviting readers into her kitchen every month as *TCP*'s new food editor. You first met Vianney in December 2020, when she wrote in delicious detail about *pan dulce*.

She fell in love with cooking as a child in Aransas Pass. "Growing up watching my *abuelita* and mami cook together in perfect sync ... They were creating magic. I wanted to be a part of this world and have been cooking ever since."

Vianney—"simply say the letters V-N-A"—started her blog, Sweet Life, in 2009, joining the online conversations that she saw as "mini love letters to food." Her passion kept growing. "I have authored two cookbooks—*Latin Twist*, a cocktail book featuring cocktails from Latin countries, and *The Tex-Mex Slow Cooker*."

Today she works out of her studio kitchen, Cocina Gris—gray kitchen—where she can't wait to dive into more reader recipes from Co-op Country.



“Don’t be told something is impossible. There’s always a way.”

—ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

FINISH THIS SENTENCE THANKS, DAD, FOR ...

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: **I drove all night to ...**

Find myself *still* in the great state of Texas!

ROXANNE NEWMAN
VIA FACEBOOK

Be by my mother’s bedside in her final hours.

ELLEN ROZNECK COULTER
VIA FACEBOOK

Be at the gate when he got a weekend leave.

MARTHA BEIMER
VIA FACEBOOK

Get back to Texas, and I kissed the ground when I did.

RICHELLE NASH
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
SHERMAN

Get to Concan after heavy spring rains so I could float the Frio.

LISA HOLLOWAY FITZSIMMONS
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.

QWERTY, USA

When typing while using proper form on a QWERTY keyboard, only two U.S. states' names can be typed using just one hand (overlooking the need for the shift key for capitalization). Texas is one of them. Ohio is the other.



TCP Contests and More

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Holiday Desserts

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Helping Out

RECOMMENDED READING

National Egg Day, June 3, reminds us of all the great reader recipes on our website that use eggs—especially those found in *Eggs: Plain and Fancy* from March 2016.



Welcome Signs

With the arrival of 470,708 people in 2022, Texas became just the second state to surpass 30 million residents—now with 30,029,572. The other one? Well, that would be California, with 39,029,342.

Super Cool or Old School?

THE FIRST LP came out 75 years ago this month, when Columbia released the New York Philharmonic's rendition of Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor as a long-playing record June 21, 1948.

Since then, we've hoarded records, then eight-track and cassette tapes, and compact discs. Those made way for digital files and streaming as our favorite music ended up both in a closet and in the cloud.

But take heart, record geeks: Vinyl albums outsold CDs in 2022 for the second year in a row.



Grounded in Mystery

“An East Texas minister built an airship that supposedly flew in 1902. It was destroyed before it could fly publicly at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis.”

VAL L. ERWIN
COSERV
LANTANA

442nd’s Heroism

My father took part in the rescue as a member of an antitank company [*Rescue of the Lost Battalion*, February 2023].

The 442nd suffered 800 casualties rescuing 211 Texans. After the battle, Gen. John E. Dahlquist ordered everyone in formation to congratulate them. He scolded the regimental commander that he wanted *everyone* there. The commander stood at attention and replied, “That’s all that’s left.”

Sidney Miyakawa
CoServ
Lewisville

Bless your heart
[*A Pet Project*, March 2023]. It’s the hardest thing fur parents have to do, but it’s our last, best gift to them. You’ll know when it’s time.

MARY HENDERSON
HARP
VIA FACEBOOK

Sacred Memory

As a boy growing up in north Louisiana, we would go exploring on a small creek near my house [*Caught Cuisine*, February 2023]. Along one stretch of the creek was a very low area that always contained numerous pitcher plants. The local name for the plants was preacher in a pulpit.

John Tubb
Medina EC
Houston

Wreaths Matter

Thanks to TCP’s December 2022 mention [*Wreaths for the Fallen*] of the November 2018 *Circle of Life* article about the impact of Wreaths Across America in Texas. That story helped grow 86 WAA Texas locations to 313 in 2022, with over 250,000 wreaths placed on veterans’ graves. Nationwide, over 2.7 million wreaths were placed at 3,702 locations.

Ellen Fuller
Bryan Texas Utilities
Bryan

My dad, Jack Andrews, was a proud member and captain in the 442nd in World War II. The 442nd ended up being the most highly decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The 442nd was also credited as being one of the first to find Dachau and release prisoners.

Bill Andrews
Big Country EC and Pedernales EC
Shackelford County and Buda



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

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TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 79, 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 77 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.

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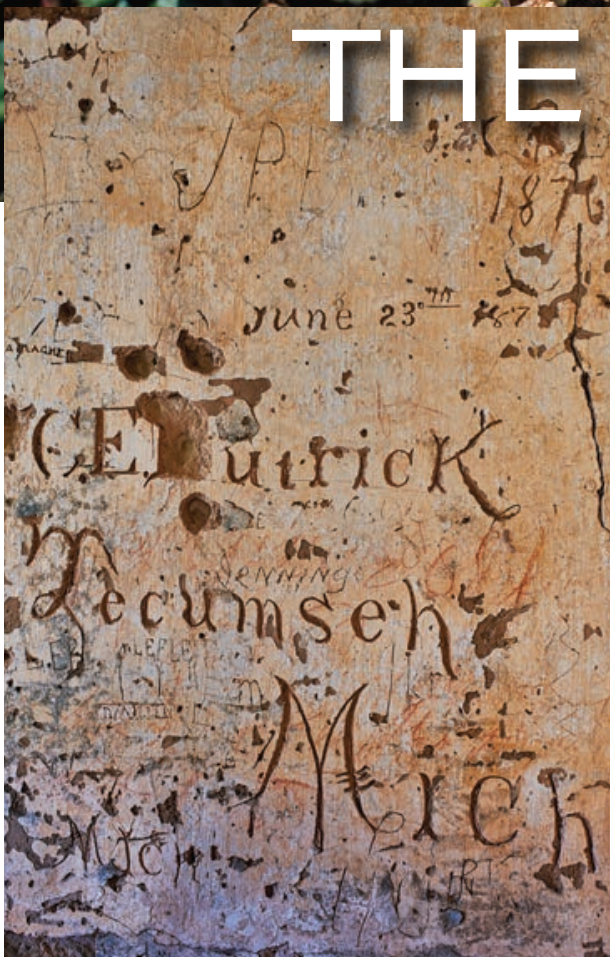


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SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

WEST TEXAS RANCHERS team up with researchers to unearth artifacts



LEFT Graffiti on the plastered walls of Fountain House at Fort Chadbourne dates to 1870.
TOP Artifacts, such as this nail, sometimes emerge after rains. ABOVE Rosettes that went on horses' bridles denoting cavalry Company F.



LEFT Garland and Lana Richards outside the restored east barracks at Fort Chadbourne. ABOVE Looking through the walls of the ruins of the west barracks, across the parade grounds and to Fountain House.

In its heyday, more than 150 years ago, Fort Chadbourne housed 450 soldiers. Today, it sits by its lonesome on a desolate rise in West Texas. Six restored limestone buildings and others, crumbling but stabilized, surround the parade grounds.

The inhabitants are long gone, but traces of them remain.

Garland Richards' family has lived on ranchland here, north of Bronte, in rural Coke County, for eight generations. The site includes a former stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. route and the remains of the frontier fort, used by the U.S. Army 1852–67.

Richards, a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative, knew history was being lost to time and the elements.

"When I was a kid, there was a waist-high adobe wall here," he says. "In my lifetime, it has melted to ground level."

The Richardses and another West Texas ranching family, knowing their properties hold remarkable history, are trying to stop the destructive march of time, welcoming excavations by archaeologists and paleontologists and

preserving important stories.

In 1999, soon after he inherited the property, Garland and his wife, Lana, set up the nonprofit Fort Chadbourne Foundation and gave the fort to the foundation to preserve and protect it. They marked a grid over an aerial photo and began keeping meticulous records.

"Everything we have found has been recorded on the grid," Richards says. "You do the best you can with the money you have and common sense."

Their first goal was to stabilize the weathered fort buildings, making them safe to work in and around. Lana took grant writing classes and got the needed funding.

"We joined the Concho Valley Archeological Society and let them come," Lana says. "It was one way of learning about what we had." CVAS members under the direction of Larry Riemenschneider, a Concho Valley Electric Cooperative member and volunteer steward with the Texas Historical Commission, began unearthing the fort's past.

The volunteers cost the Richardses a lot of bologna sandwiches, Lana says, but the workers are proud of their part in excavating a frontier fort. I know that's true, because 15 years ago, my husband and I participated in a Fort Chadbourne dig, working alongside a group of military retirees. The painstaking work of troweling and then sifting through the soil removed from meter-square sections was balanced with the joys of minor discoveries and the unsettling real-

ization that humans leave behind a lot of debris.

“We found almost half a million artifacts below the floor of the double officers’ quarters—the dogtrot house where rancher Tom Odom and his wife raised 13 children,” Garland says. In 1877, the Odoms purchased the land from well-known pioneer Mary Maverick and turned the fort into a ranch headquarters.

“The archaeological picture of Fort Chadbourne is probably more complete than any other Texas military site,” Garland says, based on the number of artifacts recovered.

The 12,500-square-foot Fort Chadbourne Visitor Center opened in 2012 to give people a firsthand look at some of the military, ranching and Native American history of West Texas. Half of the center’s exhibits sit inside a spacious walk-in vault with displays of cavalry items uncovered during digs: buckles, spurs, buttons, helmet badges and metal powder flasks along with flattened bullets used as poker chips. A Native American exhibit contains 48 large knife and spear points found near the fort in a foot-square cache that dates back 6,000 years. There’s also a 450-piece antique gun collection and a replica stagecoach.

A walk around the fort and into the buildings puts the center’s displays into perspective. Even in daylight, the quiet creates a haunting atmosphere. Inside the restored Fountain House, bullet holes in its thick, plastered walls shared space with graffiti from 1870 on. After circling the unrestored hospital and the restored barracks, I spotted a rusty, 4-inch sliver of metal on the ground. Garland explained it was a square-headed nail common until 1880 or so. “You’re in the Butterfield stage corral area,” he says. “It’s littered with artifacts.”

Each excavation answers some questions but raises others. Ground-penetrating radar has revealed a building that isn’t mapped.

If you discover archaeological treasures on your land, contact your local archaeological society, Lana recommends. “We did this correctly, thanks to Larry’s help,” she says.

Millions of Years Away

WHILE exploring family property near Snyder, about 80 miles northwest of Bronte, Tina Roland came across large bones eroding out of a gully. Determined to find somebody who could identify the bones, Roland contacted Eileen Johnson, professor of museum science and a paleobiologist at Texas Tech University.

When Johnson went to Snyder in 2005 to see the discovery, she found herself looking at bones dating from 1.8 to 2.6 million years ago, a time known as the Early Pleistocene. The gully marked an ancient stream bed.

“We knew this was important and exciting. We’re still working 17 years later,” Johnson says. “There are a handful



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Laurie and Joey Roland inside the 15-foot-deep paleontological dig site at Roland Springs Ranch. Graduate student assistant Madison Westfall tends to specimens from the ranch that are filed at the Museum of Texas Tech University. An ancient tortoiseshell recovered from the ranch.





of Early Pleistocene sites in the country of this age, but none has this diversity of species or is so well preserved.”

Numerous wading birds, camels, rabbits, giant tortoises and ancestors of coyotes, mountain lions and prairie dogs lived here once. Fossils have revealed the first appearance of some animals and the last appearance of others. Microbiological material excavated with the bones gives clues about the ancient plant community and climate.

The paleontological site is 15 feet deep and measures approximately 30 feet by 30 feet. For six weeks each summer, a small international crew trowels up dirt and washes the sediment through a fine mesh screen. Joey Roland, Tina’s son, and Joey’s wife, Laurie, host the field camp, providing small cabins next to their house and pool. “They are both very much involved,” Johnson says.

“I’m not a paleontologist, but they’ve taught us so much, mostly during talks around the pool after work,” says Joey,

a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. “A random bone is exciting, but it doesn’t tell a story. It’s out of context. For us, this is fascinating. I love it, and I’ve fought tooth and nail to protect it.”

With doggedness, he managed to get an oil pipeline diverted around the site. Unlike archaeological sites, no federal or state laws protect paleontological sites.

Laurie loves the picture that the finds suggest: huge Galapagos-like tortoises roaming the West Texas grasslands about 2 million years ago with tiny, three-toed horses grazing nearby. She is thrilled to sometimes find prehistoric bones on the surface after a rain. “Humans have never seen or touched them,” she says. “How could you not know that’s special?”

The Rolands share their findings with their community, allowing the Scurry County Museum in Snyder to offer seasonal public tours at the site. The museum has a temporary exhibit of casts made of the finds. The Museum of Texas Tech’s Roland Springs Ranch materials are part of ongoing lab research and not currently viewable by the public.

“Joey and Laurie are the first and only landowners I know with the willingness to let people on their land,” Johnson says.

“It’s selfish not to let them come to the site,” Laurie says. “Texas is about hospitality.”

Texas has millions of years of buried history—giant mammoths, dinosaurs, oyster reefs, frontier trails. Does that make you wonder what could be in your backyard? ■



‘On Juneteenth’

A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian describes the holiday’s long path out of Texas

TO MY SURPRISE some years back, I began to hear people outside of my home state, Texas, talk about, and *actually celebrate* the holiday “Juneteenth.” June 19, 1865, shortened to “Juneteenth,” was the day that enslaved African Americans in Texas were told that slavery had ended, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed, and just over two months after Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Despite the formal surrender, the Confederate army had continued to fight on in Texas until mid-May. It was only after they finally surrendered that Major General Gordon Granger, while at his headquarters in Galveston, prepared General Order Number 3, announcing the end of legalized slavery in the state.

The truth is, I confess here, that I was initially annoyed, at least mildly so, when I first heard that others outside of Texas claimed the holiday. But why? After all, it was a positive turn in history, evidence that our country was leaving behind, or attempting to, a barbarous institution that had blighted the lives of millions. Such a thing should be celebrated far and wide.

My twinge of possessiveness grew out of the habit of seeing my home state, and the people who reside there, as special. The things that happened there couldn’t have happened in other places. Non-Texans could never really understand what the events that took place in Texas actually meant. I am certain that I’m not alone in this attitude.

From my earliest days, it was drummed into me and, I believe, other young people growing up in Texas at that time, that we inhabited a unique place that we were always supposed to claim, and of which we were always supposed to be proud. I’ve noticed over the years, that it is hard to meet a person from Texas who does not, at some point in the conversation, let you know, either with a drawl or without, that he or she is from the state.

My proprietary attitude about Juneteenth quickly disappeared. Rather than keeping the holiday to ourselves, Texans have been in the forefront of trying to make Juneteenth a national holiday. As I think of it, it’s really a very Texas move to say that something that happened in our

state was of enough consequence to the entire nation that it should be celebrated nationwide.

It has been offered, as part of the justification, that the end of slavery in Texas was the end of the institution period. That’s not quite true. Granger’s order did not end slavery in the country. That did not happen officially until December 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified by the necessary number of states. But it is significant that Texas was the site of the tail end of the Confederate war effort. As the war had been fought to preserve slavery, celebrating Juneteenth throughout the land is a fitting way to mark the end of that effort.

It also is fitting to think of Texas in relation to the nation for another reason. The state has been described as a bellwether for what the United States will become; the term “Texification” has come into use to describe a process that is, supposedly, of recent origin.

The history of Juneteenth, which includes the many years before the events in Galveston and afterward, shows that Texas, more than any state in the Union, has always embodied nearly every major aspect of the story of the United States of America. That fact has been obscured by broad caricatures of the state and its people, caricatures that Texans themselves helped to create and helped make the state seem exotic, almost foreign to the rest of the Union.

My Texas roots go deep—on my mother’s side back to the 1820s, on my father’s side at least to the 1860s. Significantly, my wide-ranging approach to Juneteenth reveals that behind all the broad stereotypes about Texas is a story of Indians, settler colonialists, Hispanic culture in North America, slavery, race, and immigration. It is the American story, told from this most American place. ■

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JUNETEENTH

COMMEMORATED ANNUALLY ON JUNE 19TH, 1865, THE
OLDEST CELEBRATION OF THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE U.S.
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SEP. 22, 1862, THAT "ON
THE 1ST JANUARY, A.D. 1863, ALL PERSONS WHO
WITHIN THE REBELLION, SHALL BE
AND FOR THE REASON, HOWEVER, IT WOULD
AND PASS THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO
TO END THE INSTITUTION OF AFRICAN

APRIL 1865 MOST SLAVES IN TEXAS
FREEDOM. THIS BEGAN TO CHANGE
IN GALVESTON MAJ. GEN.
OFFICER, DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
POSTERMAN BUILDING (STRAND
NO. 3) ON JUNE 19, 1865.
TEXAS ARE INFORMED THAT, IN
FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF
FREE. THIS INVOLVES
RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF
AND SLAVES." WITH THIS
GAN!

"EMANCIPATION DAY," A
1866 IN GALVESTON,
TEXAS, CELEBRATED
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VATE COMMEM
NCE HUNDRE
INITIALLY

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DARK EVEN
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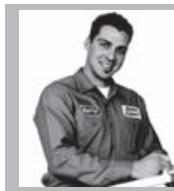


Based on an 1818 painting that depicts John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin presenting a draft of the Declaration of Independence

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

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

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



Dear
Darryl

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

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

Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX

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

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SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS19", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

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A.



B.



I guess I was a little bored. For the past hour, I'd been on the phone with Daniele, the head of my office in Italy, reviewing our latest purchases of Italian gold, Murano glass and Italian-made shoes and handbags.

"Daniele," I said, "What is the hottest jewelry in Italy right now?"

His reply? Woven gold bracelets studded with gems. He texted me some photos and I knew immediately that this was jewelry that Raffinato just had to have.

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What is DiamondAura®? Why, it's a sparkling marvel that rivals even the finest diamonds (D Flawless) with its transparent color and clarity: Both are so hard they can cut glass. Don't believe me? The book "Jewelry and Gems: The Buying Guide," praised the technique used in our diamond alternative: "The best diamond simulation to date, and even some jewelers have mistaken these stones for mined diamonds," it raved.

The best part about these bracelets? The price. Because of our longstanding connections in Arezzo, the mecca of Italian goldsmithing, we can offer both bracelets together for just \$99, a fraction of the price you'll pay anywhere else for similar jewelry.

Order today. These bracelets are one of our hottest sellers this year, and with disruptions in the supply chain, we can only guarantee that we have ~~1,273~~ 861 of these bracelets on hand for this ad.

Make the next gift you give your loved one a trip to Italy with the Italiano Fantasia Bracelets, stunning accessories that are sure to turn heads.

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- Made in Arezzo, Italy. 18k gold finish
- DiamondAura®, the Ultimate Diamond Alternative®
- Fit wrists up to 7 1/4"

Italiano Fantasia Bracelet Collection

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| A. X Bracelet (1/4 ctw) | -\$399 \$59* + S&P Save \$340 |
| B. Woven Bracelet (1/3 ctw) | -\$299 \$59* + S&P Save \$240 |
| Set of Both | -\$698 \$99* + S&P Save \$599 |

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

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MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

Co-ops Keep It Local

I LOVE THE FEELING of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shops, restaurants and stores knowing that their profits, products and staffs make positive impacts here in the community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these businesses, just as it is in Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community-centered as a business can be. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities, electric co-ops have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural Texas and beyond for decades.

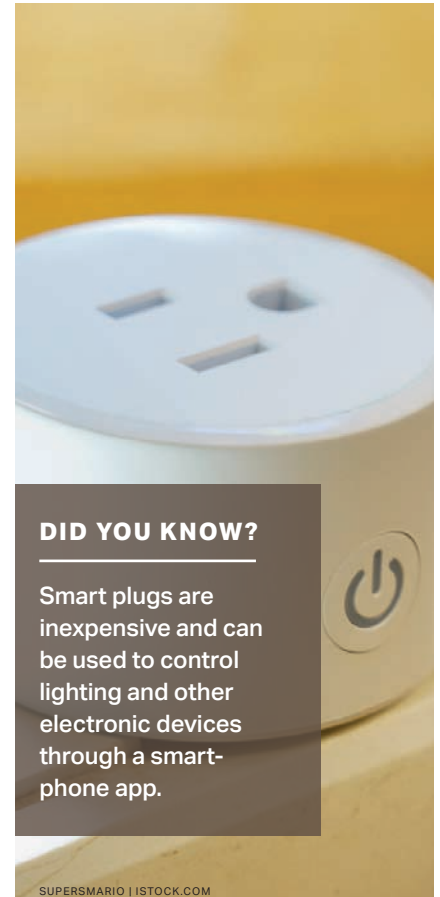
That feeling I get when I visit small businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day. It's a feeling of pride. I'm proud to be part of an organization that serves my community instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

TVEC is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means that after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because we're owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community prospers. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs.

I hope that you view TVEC not just as your electric utility provider but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our part of Texas. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart-phone app.

SUPERSMARIO | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

If you play with high-power water guns, keep them away from power lines. If water contacts a power line, electricity can travel down the stream of water and right back to you.

TODOR ISVETKOV | ISTOCK.COM



ADOBESTOCK_58942803

Upcoming Software Conversion To Improve Service and Enhance Member Experience

BY THE END OF 2023, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members will see a lot of changes as the company converts to a different business and communications software platform.

We expect to ask for your patience as we get up to speed on the new system from National Information Systems Cooperative, but we are excited about the new tools and communication enhancements to improve almost every area of how we serve you.

On the member interaction side, everything you see will be new and improved, including an informative bill redesign, SmartHub mobile app and online portal, and new digital communications options.

Within the company, our workflow and communication improvements between department should lead to better information sharing and efficiency between departments.

In addition to that, and, there is expected to be a significant overall cost savings to the co-op.

Here are a few things to be mindful of as we work through this conversion:

- Please keep up with TVEC member communications through email, print and social media for important updates about the transition.
- The conversion is expected to be complete by the end of October, with members converting to the new system by November 1.
- All members will be assigned a new member account number.
- TVEC member account systems will be unavailable for one week in August and one week in October. During those weeks we will not be able to process payments. We will work with members to address any concerns with due dates.

Employee training has already begun, and we are looking forward to providing even better service through this technology update. Please pay close attention to TVEC communications over the coming months and we will make this change as painless as possible. ■

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



Prepare Now for Severe Storms

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC

COOPERATIVE stays at the ready for severe storms that might impact our area, this summer and year-round.

During a weather emergency, TVEC's representatives are available 24/7, and members are encouraged to report any power outages by phone at 1-800-967-9324, online at or through our outage texting service. Please do not report power outages through social media.

If we experience power outages or damage to the system, crews will be ready to make repairs as soon as conditions are safe.

We encourage all members to have a storm emergency kit on hand and recommend including the following items:

- ▶ Water (1 gallon per person per day, for several days).
- ▶ Food (three-day supply of nonperishables).
- ▶ Flashlights.
- ▶ A first-aid kit and prescriptions.
- ▶ Extra batteries and power banks.
- ▶ A manual can opener.
- ▶ Moist towelettes.
- ▶ Extra pet food.

For updates on power outages and restoration efforts, visit the outage center at tvec.net website or follow us on Facebook. ■

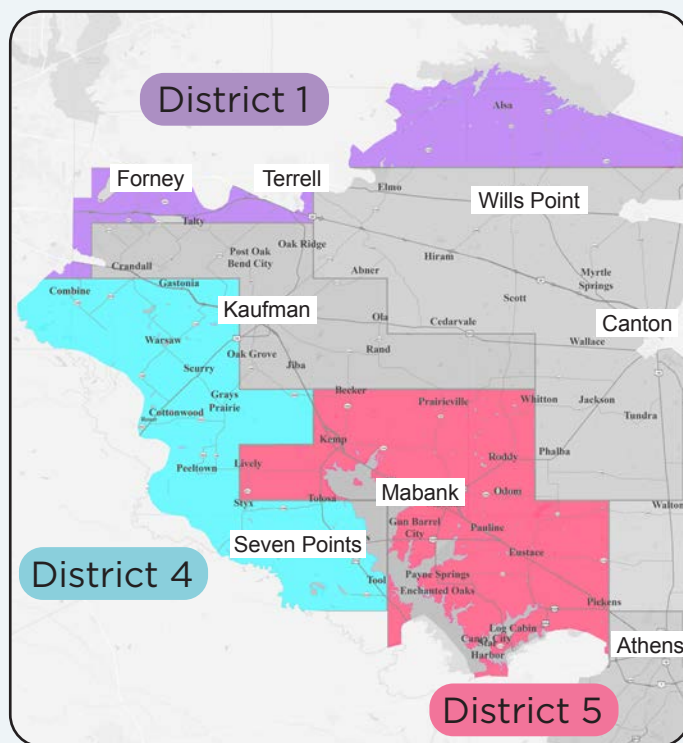


TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Notice of Board Election

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative will hold an election for the board members representing District 1 (incumbent: Carolyn Minor) District 4 (incumbent: Jo Ann Hanstrom) and District 5 (incumbent: Ed Reeve) 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. on July 3, 2023.



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.



PAUL HART | ISTOCK.COM

Energy Efficiency Can Be Raised in a Barn

PLANNING TO BUILD a new barn or outbuilding on your property? **You can make it more energy efficient by following these tips.**

Location matters. If possible, carefully assess the area where you plan to build. Consider drainage, wind direction and sun exposure. An advantageous site can mean dry floors and access to good natural light and cross ventilation by opening windows.

Start with a sustainable design plan. If you haven't shopped for building supplies in a while, you may be surprised at some newer products that are both environmentally friendly and cost effective.

If you hire a contractor to help build your structure, consider companies that specialize in green buildings and energy-efficient practices.

Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns, for example, offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

If you're upgrading instead of building from the ground up, follow these tips to make energy efficiency improvements to an existing structure:

- ▶ Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- ▶ Ensure that your existing structure has adequate insulation.
- ▶ Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- ▶ Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. Trees act as a windbreak in colder climates and create a natural cooling effect in warmer climates that can reduce temperatures 3–6 degrees in a metal building.
- ▶ Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Inside a metal building, there's typically a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it also will help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, and that can keep harmful bacteria and insects at bay. ■



Payment Options Savings Opportunities

As a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative, saving money together means we all win. By choosing the lowest cost payment option that makes sense for you, all members win by keeping the co-op's cost as low as possible.

Why Choose Bank Draft or E-Check?

- Provides the lowest transaction costs.
- Automated bank draft is the easiest way to pay - setup online or by contacting TVEC Member Services.
- Use the myTVEC app or online member portal for easy E-Check payments.

Want to help more? Sign up for electronic billing to reduce mailing costs.



JAMES ANDREWS | ISTOCK.COM



TVEC ENERGY
MANAGEMENT ADVISER
CHRIS WALKER, BAP

Less Expensive Home Cooling Options

IF YOU LIVE IN a home with no air conditioning and are dreading the high temperatures that summer is sure to bring, it may be time to invest in a little comfort.

There are a few low- and no-cost cooling strategies, like using fans to keep air moving, turning off unused electrical devices and appliances, and blocking direct sunlight with window coverings. 60238610001

When the summer heat sets in and that's not enough, you need budget options for air conditioning. Choosing your cooling strategy carefully can result in lower upfront costs and also maintain some energy efficiency to keep energy costs down. **Here are three common options for home cooling.**

Window and Portable Units

Window or portable air conditioning units are the lowest-cost approaches. Portable units can be moved from room to room and come equipped with a length of duct to exhaust hot air out a nearby window. Window units are mounted in a window opening and cool one room. The efficiency of portable and window units has improved over the years, but none of them are as efficient as most central AC units or a mini-split heat pump system.

You might also consider an evaporative cooler (sometimes referred to as a swamp cooler). Evaporative cooling units can be less expensive than traditional AC, but don't buy one until you do the research to determine how well evaporative cooling works in your area. Whatever you choose, make sure it's rated for the size of the space you're cooling.

Central Cooling

If central AC wasn't installed in your home when it was built, adding it can be expensive and challenging. Fortunately, there are solutions to installing central air in a house without ducts: ductless mini-split systems and high-velocity systems.

A high-velocity air conditioning system can be an ideal air conditioning solution to retrofit your home. These systems deliver cool air through 2-inch flexible ducts designed to fit your existing framework. The compact air handler can be easily installed in attics, crawl spaces or even closets.

Mini-Split Heat Pumps

A ductless mini-split heat pump has a compressor outside the home that's connected to air handler units in as many as four rooms inside. Each room's temperature can be controlled separately.

Ductless mini-splits are an especially good choice for homes without forced air ducting systems or with leaky or undersized ductwork, and they're much smaller, cheaper and easier to install than central AC systems. Heat pumps can also be a

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 30 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



Who coined the term electricity as we know it?

- A • William Gilbert, 1600**
- B • Ben Franklin, 1752**
- C • Michael Faraday, 1821**
- D • Alessandro Volta, 1800**

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: Texas Natural Gas

TEXAS IS RIGHTFULLY KNOWN for its oil wells, but our state is also home to the highest natural gas production in the country.

In 2021, Texas produced about 25% of the nation's marketed natural gas, followed by Pennsylvania's 22% and Louisiana's 10%.

Congratulations to the April Energy Quiz winner, Christy Lewis of Palestine.

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



AKCHAMCZUK | ISTOCK.COM

Don't Try To Hide Transformer Boxes

BEAUTIFYING OUR HOMES is important to many of us. If your home is served by an underground electric cable, you may be tempted to hide the accompanying transformer cabinet from sight by planting shrubs or flowers around it. Please refrain from doing so.

Obstacles around a transformer could pose safety risks and inhibit power restoration should an electric cooperative employee need to access it for maintenance and repairs.

Padmount transformers serve the purpose of stepping down electricity from the 8,000 volts carried by transmission lines to the 120 or 240 volts that your home needs. Contact with electricity from the transformer could cause shock or electrocution.

Shrubs and other structures must be at least 10 feet away from the door opening and 5 feet away from all sides of transformers.

Never paint a transformer. They are a uniform color so that electric cooperative employees can easily identify them.

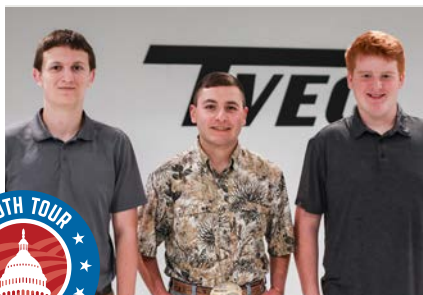
Digging close to the unit can be dangerous and life-threatening. Wires from a transformer could extend out in any direction. Always call 811 before digging in your yard.

Emphasize the dangers of these units to your children and other family members, and keep them away.

Transformers might look like a bench or a jungle-gym obstacle, but children should not sit on or play on or around transformers. Prevent kids from inserting objects into cracks in the transformer case, as tempting as it might be to deposit sticks or rocks inside.

For the safety of your family and ours, give transformer cabinets a wide berth and keep them free from debris and coverings.

If you notice any signs of disrepair to a transformer, such as a faulty lock, oil leaking or damaged welds, contact Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative immediately. Stay away from the transformer until repairs can be made by professionals. ■



Safe Travels, Youth Tour Delegation

THIS IS THE MONTH that 152 Texas teens have been waiting for. Excitement is rising for this year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., June 11–19, sponsored by electric cooperatives all over the state—and country.

What is Youth Tour? Ask one of the high school students who are representing 57 Texas electric cooperatives this year during a week of sightseeing and new experiences in our nation's capital. Or ask any of the 1,800 co-op participants from other states.

Every year in June, electric co-ops across the country send outstanding high school students from their service areas to D.C. Participants and chaperones visit the city's monuments and historical sites, meet with elected officials to witness their government in action, and learn about the cooperative business model.

Youth Tour was established to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since the 1960s, about 75,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperatives.

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, along with the Rayburn Electric Cooperative, is sending three students from the TVEC service area this year. The winners are Caleb Huddleston of Palestine High School, Ethan Gonzales of Cayuga High School and Dylan Stinson of Kaufman High School.

Join us in wishing our bright students a safe and fruitful trip! ■

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

Preparedness Checklist

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

Information collected for STEAR is confidential.

Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources

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

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Preparación para huracanes

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

Lista de verificación de preparación:

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

La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.

Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

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

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Your Generosity in Action

Operation Round Up Spotlight: Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room

WHEN KIDS IN HENDERSON COUNTY are faced with the trauma of family separation through the criminal justice system, one group works to make the experience a bit less daunting.

The Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room serves the physical needs of children as they find themselves moving to another living situation on short notice.

“When kids come into family and protective services, they may have nothing, or just a bag of clothes,” said Johnna Williams, who serves as the office manager. “The Rainbow Room is a chance for them to come in, pick out some things that they need. It is an opportunity for them to have a bit of what we would seem as normal when everything else in turmoil.”

Housed with other Texas Department of Family and Pro-



Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room representatives Johnna Williams, Jana Rigsby, Amy Killian and Jane Shaw receive a TVEC Operation Round Up grant from Kari Wilment, TVEC public relations representative.

ductive Services offices, the Rainbow Room is convenient for caseworkers to access at any time, with supplies and toiletry items for all ages.

“We have clothing of all sizes, including adult sizes because a lot of teenagers wear those, school supplies, books, hygiene items and bedding,” said Jane Shaw, Rainbow Room board vice president. “And they try to keep kids with family members, so we also have items like beds, car seats and cleaning supplies to help prepare living spaces on short notice.”

TVEC Members who want to help the Rainbow Room can donate new items or make direct monetary donations. There is also the annual Rainbow Room duck race, held at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, which is expected to resume in 2024. Visit rainbowroomhendersoncounty.org, call (903) 676-2416 or email hccprainbowrm@embarqmail.com for more information and ways to get involved. ■

April 2023 Operation Round Up Awards

Grants:

Henderson County 4-H Council -
\$3,000

Henderson County Rainbow Room -
\$2,000

Kaufman High School NOW Backpack
Program - \$2,000

Bill Assistance:

Henderson County Help Center -
\$3,000



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West Texas

432-257-3640

Dallas/Fort Worth

469-606-5229

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¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 6/30/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 7/10/23. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbguidelines.com. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



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



Special Delivery

How a crudely scrawled message 300 years ago saved its sender's life

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN WILSON

THE LUCKIEST LETTER in Texas took six months to reach its destination. But the fact that it arrived at all was a miracle within a miracle, and it saved the sender's life. This was more than 300 years ago, when Texas was under Spanish rule. It was a Hail Mary mailing.

François Simars de Bellisle was just 24 when he left France to come to America in 1719. He was headed for Louisiana on a small ship, but his captain overshot their destination, ending up near present-day Galveston, about 300 miles off course.

Bellisle and four other French passengers took meager supplies—biscuits, guns, swords—and went ashore to determine their location and seek help. They slept well that first night, but when they

awoke the next morning, their ship was gone. They had been abandoned.

They walked east to what was likely the mouth of the Sabine River, where they could go no farther because of deep mud. Soon they began to succumb to starvation, and within two months, Bellisle had buried all his friends. He was alone and desperate.

Bellisle believed he was living his last days. He had made his way back to Galveston Bay, out of bullets and reduced to eating boiled grass and worms. Then one clear morning, he saw the first Native Americans he had seen since being stranded. They were Akokisas and his only hope for survival.

He made his way across the bay in a

crude boat he had found. The Akokisas took his goods and stripped him. He wrote that he was forced into labor, ordered about mercilessly and beaten regularly—but fed.

After a forced 150-mile walk to the Brazos River to hunt buffalo, he couldn't help but marvel at the landscape, later writing, "This is the most beautiful country in the world. The earth is black. Grass grows there to a prodigal height, and in abundance, which is a certain sign that the earth is good."

Bellisle soon realized his situation was still dire. So he retrieved one of the few pieces of paper he had, carved a crude pen out of wood, and made ink out of charcoal and water. He wrote a letter begging for rescue from anyone who might receive it and gave it to visitors from the Bidai tribe.

Then the miracle: Members of the Hasinai tribe, which had close ties to the French, took it to the commander of the garrison at Natchitoches, Louisiana. The commander, Louis Juchereau de Saint-Denis, wrote a letter in return and ordered the Hasinai to bring the cast-away back, dead or alive.

When Bellisle's rescuers reached the Akokisa camp, they gave Bellisle the letter that informed him the Hasinai would escort him to Natchitoches. His captors relented.

It still took him months to get to Natchitoches, but at least Bellisle was free. He had sent what was the land version of a message in a bottle. It caught the best currents and washed up on the perfect shore. His literacy—and luck—saved him. ■

Texas Seafood

The catch of the day sparkles in these inventive dishes

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Growing up near the Gulf, my mami loved getting shrimp from local shrimpers. One evening she surprised us with shrimp *albóndigas*, succulent meatballs swimming in a rich tomato broth. Served with warm corn tortillas, this dish is comfort at its best. I am excited to share my mami's recipe—a bit of her love from my home to yours. Enjoy!

Albóndigas de Camarón (Shrimp Meatballs)

½ pound Roma tomatoes
½ pound tomatillos
6 cups shrimp or vegetable broth, divided use
1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 egg
2 teaspoons dried oregano
1–2 tablespoons masa harina (corn flour)
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ onion, diced
2 stalks celery, diced
2 medium carrots, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 teaspoons cumin
3 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons ground black pepper
½ cup rinsed and chopped cilantro
Rice, steamed (optional)
4 corn tortillas, for serving
Sliced radishes, for garnish
Cilantro, rinsed and chopped, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place tomatoes and tomatillos on a baking sheet. Roast until skins have charred, turning occasionally, 10–13 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
2. Blend the cooled tomatoes and tomatillos in a blender or food processor with 1 cup broth until smooth. Set aside.
3. Pulse shrimp in cleaned food processor until finely ground.
4. Move ground shrimp to a bowl. Add egg, oregano and masa harina. Mix by hand until well combined.
5. Lightly oil clean hands and form shrimp mixture into ¾-inch meatballs. Place meatballs on baking sheet and refrigerate to keep firm.
6. In a stock pot or Dutch oven, add olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and sauté until tender, about 4 minutes. Stir in garlic and cumin and cook 30 seconds. Stir in tomato mixture and cook an additional 2 minutes.
7. Add remaining broth and bring soup to a boil. Reduce heat to low and season with salt and pepper. Gently add meatballs to broth. Simmer without stirring 8–10 minutes. Stir in cilantro.
8. Serve over steamed rice or alone as a soup. Garnish with radishes and cilantro and serve with warm tortillas.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Skillet Pico de Gallo Shrimp.



Hatch'en Cocktails

ANN CYCHOSZ
TRI-COUNTY EC

Cychosz stashes away a few hatch peppers when they're in season to whip up these shrimp cocktails, a neighborhood favorite. Feel free to use canned roasted hatch peppers. Served in cocktail glasses, this appetizer will be a hit at any gathering.

SHRIMP

- 1 tablespoon salt**
- 2 pounds Gulf shrimp, peeled and deveined**

COCKTAIL SAUCE

- 3 cups ketchup**
- 2 tablespoons horseradish**
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 teaspoon hot chili sauce**
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper**
- Juice of 2 limes**
- 3 avocados, pitted and cut into ¼-inch cubes**
- ½ cup diced red onion**
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro**
- 1 cup chopped roasted hatch peppers**
- Tortilla chips, for serving**

- 1. SHRIMP** Bring a pot of water to a boil and add salt. Add shrimp and cook 2–3 minutes, or until shrimp are cooked through.
- 2.** Remove shrimp with a slotted spoon, place on a baking sheet and allow to cool.
- 3.** Cut shrimp into ¼-inch pieces.
- 4. COCKTAIL SAUCE** In a large bowl, stir together ketchup, horseradish, Worcestershire sauce, hot chili sauce, pepper and lime juice.

\$500 WINNER

Escabeche

KARA HILL
WOOD COUNTY EC



Hill's husband has fond memories of his Filipino mom cooking fresh fish that he, his brother and dad caught. This escabeche has the perfect level of acidity to pair wonderfully with black drum, a white fish with a mild, sweet flavor.

SERVES 6



FISH

- 6 black drum fillets (about 2 pounds total), skin removed**
- Salt and ground black pepper**
- ¼ cup flour**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**

ESCABECHE

- ½ cup white vinegar**
- 1 cup water**
- ⅓ cup brown sugar**
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce**
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch**
- ¼ cup cold water**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 4 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 tablespoons minced ginger, fresh or jarred**
- 1 medium onion, sliced**
- 1 small red bell pepper, sliced**
- 1 small green bell pepper, sliced**
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, sliced**
- 2 medium carrots, julienned**
- 3 cups cooked rice**

- 1. FISH** Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Gently pat down fish with paper towels. Season fish with salt and pepper. Place flour in shallow dish.
- 2.** Lightly dredge fish in flour, coating each side, and shake off excess. Place on baking sheet and repeat until all fillets are coated.
- 3.** In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Pan-fry fish until golden-brown on each side, 2–3 minutes. Place on baking sheet, then repeat until all fillets are fried.
- 4.** Place fish in oven.
- 5. ESCABECHE** In a bowl, stir together vinegar, water, brown sugar and soy sauce.
- 6.** Dissolve cornstarch in cold water.
- 7.** In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sauté garlic and ginger until fragrant, stirring often, about 3 minutes. Do not let the garlic and ginger brown.
- 8.** Add onion, bell peppers and carrots and sauté for 2 minutes. Pour vinegar mixture into skillet. Cover and bring to a boil.
- 9.** Remove cover, add cornstarch mixture, and return to a boil, stirring until sauce has thickened. Serve fish over rice, then top with escabeche.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HOLIDAY DESSERTS DUE JUNE 10
We'll help cap off your holiday feasts with reader recipes in the November issue. Submit yours online by June 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

5. Add shrimp, avocado, red onion, cilantro and hatch peppers. Stir gently to combine. Chill until ready to serve. Serve with tortilla chips.

SERVES 12

Jamaica Beach Snapper

GEORGE GRALL
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Dinner ready in under 15 minutes? Yes, please. Baked snapper served warm with a chili butter sauce is the ultimate week-night dinner. Roast or steam vegetables while the fish bakes and have dinner ready in a snap.

4 red snapper fillets (6 ounces each)
½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted
2 tablespoons garlic powder
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 large lemon, cut into wedges
Parsley (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.



2. Generously coat a 9-by-11-inch pan with cooking spray and place snapper fillets in the pan.

3. Bake 15 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

4. Combine melted butter, garlic powder and chili powder in a bowl and stir until well blended.

5. Drizzle butter mixture over fish and serve with lemon wedges and garnished with parsley, if desired.

SERVES 4

Shipsape Shrimp

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

Texas Gulf shrimp is a great ingredient for meals that can come together in under 30 minutes. Not sure how to buy and store fresh shrimp? Follow these tips, then check out two amazing shrimp recipes in this month's issue:

Look for firm, translucent shrimp.

Avoid shrimp with slimy shells and any that smell like ammonia.

Place fresh shrimp in a bowl on ice to maintain freshness in the fridge.

Uncooked shrimp stay fresh in the fridge for up to three days.

Freeze shrimp for up to two months.

Thaw frozen shrimp overnight in the fridge.

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Kilgore's Kickers

The Rangerette museum preserves the legacy of the iconic drill team

BY CHET GARNER

FOOTBALL IS AN EXPERIENCE in Texas. It's about much more than just what happens when the players snap the ball. I mean, what would the Dallas Cowboys be without their cheerleaders? They certainly couldn't be America's team without America's sweethearts, right? And if you've ever danced in a drill team or enjoyed the precise high kicks and jump splits of these athletes, then you have the women of Kilgore College to thank.

I traveled to East Texas to pay my respects and visit the official museum of the Kilgore Rangerettes—America's first precision dance drill team.

After filling my belly with pork ribs at Country Tavern Bar-B-Que, I cruised Kilgore, between Tyler and Longview, and passed the towering oil derricks of the "World's Richest Acre," which once held 24 wells on one city block. In the 1930s, Kilgore was the definition of a boomtown.

While football games at Kilgore College were popular, the college's president became irritated with fans leaving at half time and drinking under the stands. So in 1940 he tasked teacher Gussie Nell Davis with figuring out a way to keep fans in the stands. Her solution was to bring a group of talented dancers onto the field. It launched a multibillion-dollar industry.

I stepped into the Rangerette Showcase and Museum and was immediately impressed with mannequins showcasing the evolution of the uniforms. While the skirts may have been scandalous at the time—they dared to show knees—the uniform is now iconic. I appreciated the short film giving context to the stories and was blown away by the number of photos depicting Rangerettes with celebrities and presidents throughout the decades.

I'll never think of drill team dancing the same way again. Now to work on my high kick! ■

ABOVE Chet's style might not be *precisely* what the Kilgore Rangerettes look for in a dancer.

TCP The Rangerettes' perfected routines are exactly what drew Chet to Kilgore. See 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.

JUNE

08

Coleman [8–10] Rodeo,
colemanrodeo.com

09

Johnson City Dive-In Movies, (830) 868-7111,
johnsoncitytx.org

Blanco [9–11] Lavender Festival, (830) 833-5101,
blancolavenderfest.com

Ingram [9–10, 16–17, 23–24] Newsies, (830) 367-5121,
hcaf.com

Kerrville [9–10, 16–18, 23–25] Beer for Breakfast, (830) 896-9393,
caillouxperformingarts.com

10

Brenham Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook With Suzanne O Davis, (979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com

Fredericksburg Craft Beer Festival,
fbgcrafterbeerfestival.com

Nacogdoches Texas Blueberry Festival, (936) 560-5533,
tbf.nacogdoches.org

Terrell [10–11] Antique Tractor and Engine Show and Pull, (214) 497-1611,
north-texas-antique-tractor-and-engine-club.net

11

Lufkin Madagascar the Musical, (936) 633-5454,
angelinaarts.org

15

Stonewall [15–17] Peach Jamboree and Rodeo, (830) 644-2735,
stonewalltexas.com

Galveston [15-19]
Juneteenth Celebrations,
 (409) 457-3570,
visitgalveston.com

17

Linden Underground
Railroad Quilt Auction
and Performance,
 (903) 826-2495,
lindenpubliclibrary.org

22

Fredericksburg Women's
Ranch Seminar,
 (830) 456-8956,
hillcountrycattlewomen.org

23

McKinney [23-24] Flip
Orley: Comic and Hypno-
tist, (214) 769-0645,
thecomedyarena.com

30

Hemphill [30-July 2] Patri-
otic Weekend on Toledo
Bend, (409) 787-2732,
sabinecountychamber.com

Ingram [30-July 28] Summer
ArtMart, (830) 367-5121,
hcaf.com

JULY

01

Johnson City Fourth Fest
Parade and Fireworks,
 (830) 868-7111,
johnsoncitytx.org

The Colony Liberty by
the Lake, (972) 624-5253,
visitthecolonytx.com

03

Giddings [3-4] Freedom
Fest and Fury on the 4th,
 (979) 542-3455,
giddingsstx.com

04

Kerrville 4th on the
River, (830) 315-5483,
kerrvilletx.gov

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.



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

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

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— H., Arvada, CO



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Dad

Sharing their passions and leading their families, dads play an important role in the everyday life of Texans. These reader entries warm our hearts and make us smile. Gather around the family album as we celebrate dear old dad.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 HEATHER MEIFERT
COSERV

"This is daddy's little girl, Madison."

2 KARI ZIMMERMAN
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

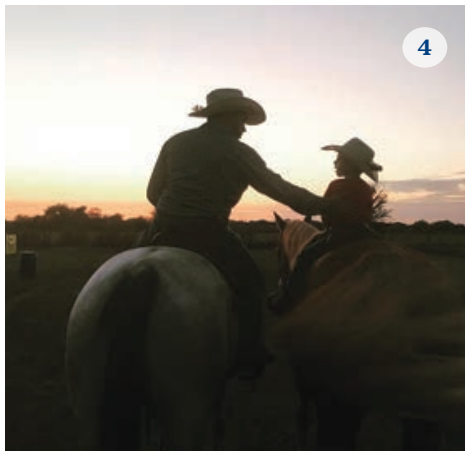
"My grandson shelling peas with his gramps. Such a sweet moment."

3 MONA PARISH
SAM HOUSTON EC

First piano lesson with Pops, the man behind the dad.

4 GALE STEVENS
BOWIE-CASS EC

"My son Jared Stevens of Campbell and his son Tyler ride almost every day and rodeo on weekends."



Upcoming Contests

DUE JUN 10 Helping Out
DUE JUL 10 Golden Hour
DUE AUG 10 Mailboxes



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Texas Water Safari participant Courtney Shaver collapses in her boat after a difficult portage.

Ending on a Sour Note

Here's a first: Accomplished competitor falls short of the finish line

BY PAM LEBLANC
PHOTO BY ERICH SCHLEGEL

I BAILED OUT OF THE BOAT in Cheap-side—which sounds like a line in a country-western song.

But this was no two-step. I staggered out of a racing canoe under a highway on the Guadalupe River, 154 miles into a 264-mile paddling race called the Texas Water Safari. It was the very first DNF of my life. I laid down my paddle, sobbed a bit and barfed.

My team went on without me.

Quitting's a weird thing. When I tell this story to friends, a lot of them nod and say, "You might have hurt yourself if you'd continued."

But that's not it, exactly. I quit because a tiny voice inside my head suggested I do it, and I listened. I didn't want to slog 100 more miles in 106-degree heat. And so, after 32 hours of nonstop paddling,

I bid my tough-as-nails teammates adieu.

Looking back, I foretold my meltdown. I was afraid of the heat and the low river flow.

In 2019, I finished the race, which starts at Spring Lake in San Marcos and ends at Seadrift on the Texas coast, in about 53 hours as part of a three-woman team. I vowed then never to do it again. But when veteran paddler Deb Richardson invited me to join her five-person crew, I forgot about the alligators, mud, log jams, spiders and hallucinations and signed up.

I began spending every weekend on the river. On race day last June, we lined up our 40-foot boat at the back of the pack. When the starting horn sounded, we sliced through the crowd like we were parting the Red Sea. Then, just a few hundred yards in, our rudder cable snapped, and we fell into last place.

Over the next six hours, we picked off boat after boat, clawing our way from 138th position to 100th, then 50th. We nailed every portage and cut through every rapid. That first night, the frogs were so loud you couldn't hear anything else. I was giddy.

But it was hot, and the water was so low, we had to drag through dozens of gravel bars. My muscles got weak, my butt sore. Racers don't stop to sleep or admire the scenery, and I got weepy.

After I quit and went home, I slept 12 hours. I woke up to news that my team had climbed into 18th place. I sped back to cheer them on.

In the end, half the 138 boats that started quit. My team finished in just under 77 hours, in one of the toughest years in the race's 59-year history.

I couldn't be prouder.

And this time I'm not kidding. I'm never doing it again. ■



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