

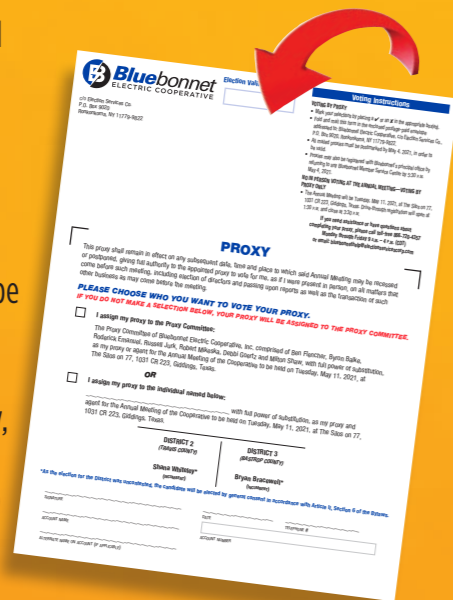
VOTE BY PROXY!

NOW, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

Make sure your voice is heard!

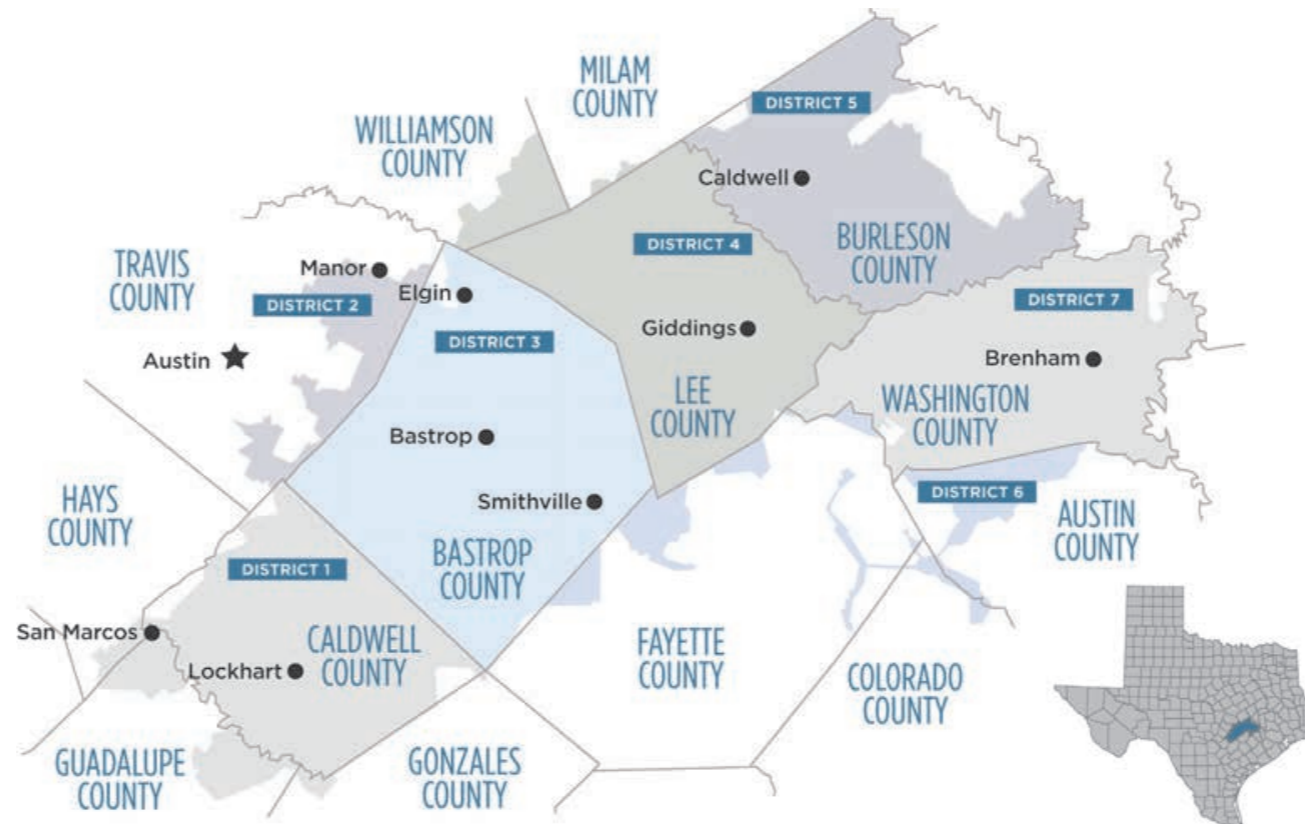
Mail your proxy voting form or hand it to a representative at any of our five member service center drive-through lanes. Everyone who returns a completed proxy will be entered in a drawing for door prizes and a truck being retired from Bluebonnet's fleet.

Proxy forms were mailed to all members in March. If you have not returned your proxy, fill out the form and mail it back using the self-addressed postage-prepaid envelope provided. If you cannot find our form, call 800-842-7708, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop to have one mailed to you.



Completed proxy forms must be postmarked by May 4, 2021, or given to a representative at a drive-through lane before 5:30 p.m. May 4.

Get more information at bluebonnet.coop/annualmeeting or call 800-842-7708.



INCUMBENT DIRECTORS TO BE RE-ELECTED TO BOARD

Bryan Bracewell District 3



Bracewell has served on the Bluebonnet Board of Directors since 2018 and is a member of Bluebonnet's Audit & Finance Committee and the Member & Employee Services Committee. He is the third generation of Bracewells to own Southside Market & Barbeque. The original business was founded in Elgin in 1882. Today there are Southside restaurant locations in Elgin, Bastrop, Austin and Hutto, as well as sausage distribution to all major grocers in the Austin area, H-E-Bs in Central and North Texas, and Walmart stores in Texas. Bracewell grew up in Elgin, and started working at Southside at age 12 alongside his grandfather and father. He graduated from Elgin High School in 1994. After graduating from Texas A&M University in 1998 with a degree in food science and technology, Bracewell returned to work at the family business. He and his wife, Rachel, purchased the business from his family in 2010 and have worked to grow the business together since then. Bracewell is active in Central Texas community organizations. He is on the board of the Elgin Economic Development Corporation, the First National Bank of Bastrop's Elgin Community Advisory Board, a Vistage peer advisory and business development board, and is a member of the Austin Area Research Organization. He and Rachel, who is part of the marketing team at Southside, have twin sons, Chase and Nathan. The twins started helping out at the family business at age 11. Bracewell and his family attend River Valley Christian Fellowship in Bastrop, are involved in their sons' sports activities, and enjoy camping, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Shana Whiteley District 2



Whiteley has served on the Bluebonnet Board of Directors since 2017. She earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director certification in 2020. She is a member of Bluebonnet's Member & Employee Services Committee and the cooperative's Energy Services Committee. Whiteley is the founder and owner of two restaurants, the Good Luck Grill in Manor, which she opened in 2007, and the Lucky Duck Café in Taylor, which she opened in 2015. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in restaurant, hotel and institutional management from Texas Tech University and earning a master's degree in business administration from Texas State University, she traveled to Ukraine as a business development volunteer for the U.S. Peace Corps. Whiteley returned to the United States in 1998 and worked as a sales executive for the Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau. After that, she was general manager of the Boat House Grill near Lake Travis. Whiteley is involved in numerous community organizations. She contributes to the Travis County Youth Show, Rodeo Austin and other area nonprofit groups. She is a member of the Taylor and Manor chambers of commerce and served as president of the Manor chamber in 2012. She grew up on a 100-acre farm between Pflugerville and Manor in Travis County and lives there today with her son, Wesley Bocanegra, and her father, James Whiteley. As a child, Whiteley was active in 4-H, and her son carries on the tradition as an active member. She continues to support the program and is the club manager of Wilbarger Creek 4-H. She also enjoys being a fan in the stands, cheering on her son at his high school basketball games.

COME TO THE
drive-through
ANNUAL MEETING

It's not a typical year, and this is no typical meeting!

To keep our members and employees safe, and still provide an Annual Meeting experience, we've got a 2021 twist.

You don't need to leave your car!

Participants will drive through to register and have the opportunity to receive co-op information, get refreshments and ask questions. Along with members who submit a completed proxy form, members who register at the drive-through Annual Meeting will also be entered for a chance to win door prizes and a truck being retired from our fleet

Join us!

The Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at The Silos on 77, 1031 County Road 223 in Giddings.

Drive-through registration will open at 1:30 p.m. and close at 3:30 p.m.

No in-person voting will take place at the Annual Meeting, so members can only vote by proxy in advance. Every member who votes by proxy or who registers at the drive-through Annual Meeting will be entered in drawings to win one of dozens of door prizes and the truck below.

WIN THIS TRUCK!



Any Bluebonnet member who submits a completed proxy form (by mail postmarked by May 4 or in person at a member service center by 5:30 p.m. May 4, 2021) or who registers at the drive-through Annual Meeting will be entered in a drawing for door prizes and this 2008 Chevrolet 1500 extended cab with 2-wheel drive. The truck, which has about 140,000 miles, is being retired from Bluebonnet's fleet. Members who have submitted completed proxy forms do not have to be present at the drive-through Annual Meeting to be entered in drawings.* All drawings will take place May 12, 2021.

*Bluebonnet employees, members of the Board of Directors and spouses are ineligible to win.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTION Q&A

What is the Annual Meeting, and why is it important to attend?

Bluebonnet's Annual Meeting is one of the many benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative. The meeting, held each year in May, offers members the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, the general manager and the co-op's executive staff. Members at a traditional Annual Meeting also elect directors and attend to any business that may come before the membership. However, this year, due to COVID-19, the 2021 meeting will be different. It will be a drive-through event, and members will have the opportunity to receive co-op information, get refreshments and ask questions. There will be no voting during the drive-through event. See information about proxy voting, below.

How many Board of Director seats are up for election?

Two of the nine seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors were up for election this year. The seats are from District 2, Travis County, and District 3, Bastrop County. Because the two incumbent directors were unopposed, they will be elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws.

Bluebonnet's service area is divided into seven districts. If the election were contested, could I vote for candidates in all districts or just the district in which I live?

During contested Board elections, co-op members can vote for directors in all districts. The districts in the co-op's service area were drawn along Bluebonnet's service area boundary and county lines. The seven districts are represented by one to three directors based on, among other things, the number of meters in each district. There are no contested elections in 2021.

What are my voting options?

There are currently no ballot items to be voted on this year. However, items can be added to the Annual Meeting agenda that would require a vote by members. Those items would have to be added no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting. Your proxy could be used in that vote, so it is important that you complete and submit your proxy form before the deadline.

What is proxy voting, and how does it work?

Proxy voting allows a member to designate another person to vote in his or her place. On the

proxy, members can assign their vote to either Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee or to an individual. Proxies are counted to ensure at least 1 percent of Bluebonnet's members are present by proxy or in person in order to constitute a quorum. There will be no in-person voting at this year's drive-through event. Only votes cast by proxy will be counted.

Who serves on Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee?

The Proxy Committee is composed of all Bluebonnet Board members whose terms are not currently up for election. This year's Proxy Committee members are Ben Flencher, Byron Balke, Roderick Emanuel, Russell Jurk, Robert Mikeska, Debbi Goertz and Milton Shaw.

How do I vote by proxy?

Complete the proxy form sent to you in the mail in March, and return it by mail using the self-addressed postage-prepaid envelope provided, or drop it off at any of Bluebonnet's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor. If you misplace the proxy form, pick one up at a member service center drive-through or call 800-842-7708 and ask a representative to mail one to you. Proxies must either be hand-delivered to a member service center by 5:30 p.m. May 4, 2021, or mailed to:

**Bluebonnet Elections Processing
c/o Election Services Co.
P.O. Box 9020
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-9822**

Mailed proxies must be postmarked by May 4, 2021.

Can this proxy be used again at future Annual Meetings?

No, the proxy is valid only for the meeting specified on the proxy form.

Who administers the election?

Election Services Co., which is a third-party, independent vendor that specializes in administering corporate elections nationwide. It has the skills, experience and equipment to efficiently and accurately tally proxies and votes while adhering to the Federal Trade Commission's Red Flag requirements that protect members' confidential account information.

What if I have more questions?

Please call 800-842-7708 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop.

LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS!

2021

Bluebonnet
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

drive-through

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 11, 2021
The Silos on 77
1031 County Road 223
Giddings, Texas
1:30-3:30 P.M.

Turn this page, then flip over the back for more details.

THE EXODUS OF
THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE

THE LADY WHO SAVED
TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

THE AGELESS WONDER
OF LIGHTNING BUGS

Texas Coop Power

FOR BLUEBONNET EC MEMBERS

APRIL 2021



Rare Vintage

Football star-turned-
vintner finds that life
gets better with age

**BLUEBONNET
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



NEWEST FLEET ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



- NEW ENGLAND
- SOUTHEAST
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER**
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST
- ALASKA

With the introduction of our Modern Riverboat Series, American Cruise Lines is elevating the standard for U.S. riverboat cruising. Aboard these brand new ships that feature modern design, spacious staterooms with private balconies, and a grand multi-story atrium, experience the future of U.S. riverboat cruising.

River Cruising Done Perfectly.™



Largest Staterooms



Award-Winning Excursions



Spacious Lounges



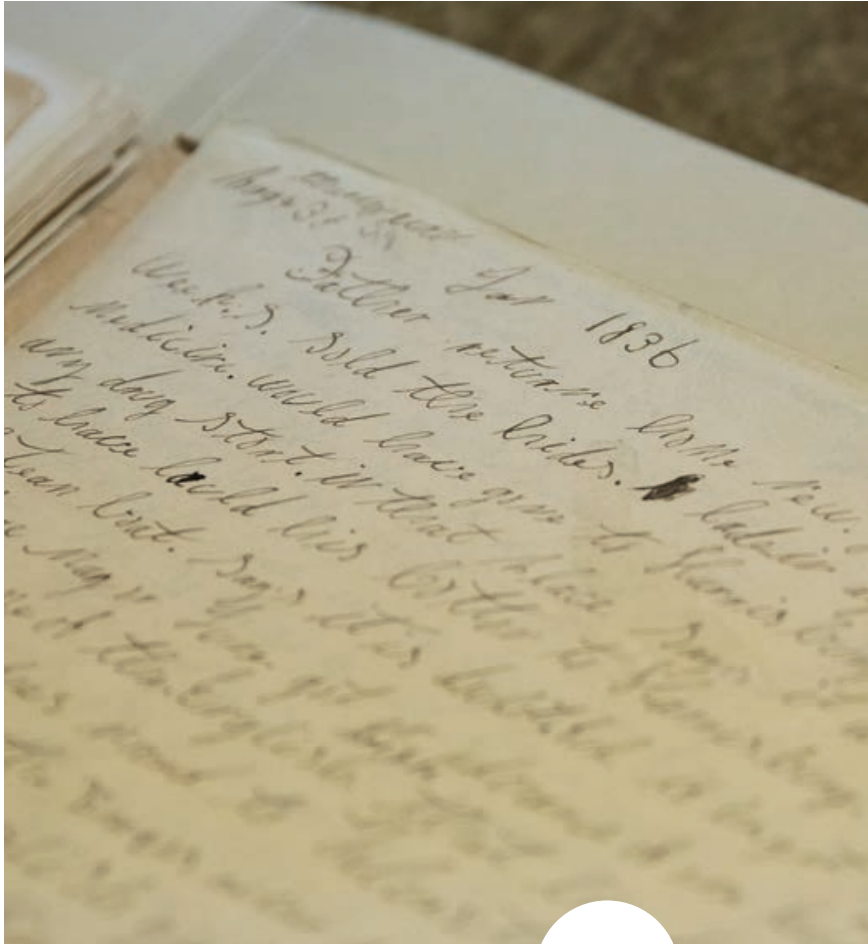
Call today for your FREE Cruise Guide

1-800-459-2596

AmericanCruiseLines.com



April 2021



12

08 The Seed Flourishes

Former NFL player Alphonse Dotson turns idea sowed in Houston into notable grapes and wines in Central Texas.

*By Michael Hurd
Photos by Dave Shafer*

The Runaway Scrape

The exodus of Texians is the least understood episode of the Texas war for independence.

Story and photos by Julia Robinson

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

The Bluebonnet Lady of Texas
By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

30

TCP Kitchen

Fresh Herbs
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Heart of the Matter
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Storms

38

Observations

Flashes of the Past
By Bill Sanderson

ON THE COVER

Alphonse Dotson and LucyLu in his vineyard in Voca.
Photo by Dave Shafer

ABOVE

A memoir from a girl in the Runaway Scrape.
Photo by Julia Robinson

A Big Step

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS? Boys take the spotlight.

Saturday afternoon national spotlight? That could require a gifted female athlete.

Someone like Sarah Fuller. The college soccer player from Sachse, outside Dallas, calmly stepped onto a football field November 28 in Columbia, Missouri, and kicked off for Vanderbilt University—becoming the first woman to play in a major college football game. Two weeks later she became the first to score in a game when she kicked two extra points against Tennessee.

“I just want to tell all the girls out there that you can do anything you set your mind to. You really can,” said Fuller, who was the goalkeeper November 22 when Vanderbilt won the Southeastern Conference women’s soccer championship.

All of the Commodores’ kickers were sidelined by COVID-19, so the football team recruited Fuller, who wore No. 32, her soccer number, and a sticker on her helmet that said “Play Like a Girl!” when she made history.



75 YEARS OF ROPIN'

The Texas High School Rodeo Association, the largest such high school group in the U.S., began in Hallettsville in 1946.



Wheel Thrills

E.H. Green of Terrell bought what is believed to be the first gasoline-powered automobile in Texas, in 1899—a phaeton runabout.

Green was also in the first car wreck in Texas. George Dorris, co-owner of St. Louis Motor Carriage Company, which made the car, was driving Green to Dallas to show it off, and they got crowded off the road by a farm wagon and drove into a ditch.

TCP *Contests and More*

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Sweet Potatoes

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Portraits

RECOMMENDED READING

Photographer Julia Robinson has tips for making better portraits in *Memorable Moment*, October 2020.



Michael Corker with chef Susan Kuehler at a hospital fundraiser.

TCP POWER OF OUR PEOPLE To nominate a co-op member who is making a difference in your community, email details to people@texascooppower.com.

Power of Our People Building Community Health

DURING MORE THAN 15 years as a board member of the St. Mark’s Medical Center Foundation, Michael Corker has helped south Central Texas address the challenges facing rural health care. At a time when rural hospitals were closing, St. Mark’s opened in La Grange in 2005 and serves Fayette and Lee counties. The 100,000-square-foot, 65-bed facility, complete with specialty clinics, also is a member of Fayette EC.

“We can provide the same great level of health care found in major cities,” says Corker, a Fayette Electric Cooperative member.

Regional health care is Corker’s most demanding cause, but he has made his mark on the community in other ways, too. Gale Lincke, a Fayette EC board member and past chair of the Lower Colorado River Authority board, says, “Michael is kind, gentle and unassuming, and he does everything for the good of the community.”

La Grange businesswoman Linda Morrison has worked with Corker on the town’s historic Main Street program, as well as on other causes. “He is just as committed to picking up trash on the median for a Rotary Club project as he is to raising money to build a hospital,” she said. “He works hard for what he believes is right.”

FINISH THIS SENTENCE
I THOUGHT I WAS SMART UNTIL ...

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 February prompt: **You’re never too old to ...**

WRITE ON

April 10 is National Encourage a Young Writer Day. Here’s advice for young writers from *Texas Co-op Power* writers and editors:

Chris Burrows: Most editors are failed writers, but as T.S. Eliot famously said, “so are most writers.”

Travis Hill: Write first, agonize later. You can’t hone your prose if the page is blank.

Charles Lohrmann: Learn how to accept (and learn from) criticism without taking it personally.

Jessica Ridge: Revisions are fertile terrain for inspired writing. But know when to stop.

Tom Widlowski: Read whenever you can. It bonds you to fine writing.

“Writing is easy. All you have to do is cross out the wrong words.”

—MARK TWAIN

Kiss in the car wash.
TOM AND EUNICE LEMON
PEDERNALES EC
CEDAR PARK

Say, “I’m sorry.”
MARY PANDO
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
GRANBURY

Get married. My fiancé, 88, and I, 74, will marry Saturday, May 8.
ANN SHAFER
CENTRAL TEXAS EC
FREDERICKSBURG

Do the right thing.
PENNY HAULMAN
TRI-COUNTY EC
GRANBURY

To see more responses, read *Currents* online.



TRACI DABERNO

Timely Message

“Michael Hurd’s *Time To Talk About That* [February 2021] was a beautifully written, informative and timely essay. I appreciate your publishing it.”

STEVE HOUSEWRIGHT
TRINITY VALLEY EC
CANTON

Inspired Devotion

Thank you for Michael Hurd’s thoughtful column on Black History Month [*Time To Talk About That*, February 2021], along with your tribute to war hero Doris Miller. Something that always inspires me about the United States is the degree of loyalty and devotion it inspires even in people it has treated poorly.

Students sometimes ask me why we have Black History Month but not white history month. I tell them it’s because we have white history year.

Walter D. Kamphoefner
Bryan Texas Utilities
Bryan



My yard is full of plants that family have given me [*Putting Down Roots*, February 2021]. Some have passed on, but I feel that I have a part of them in the plant.

JANET BARKER
VIA FACEBOOK

Pageantry in Laredo

I so enjoyed the beautiful illustration by Paul Cox that accompanied Elaine A. Peña’s interesting article [*A Spectacle*, by George; February 2021]. He captured so well the feeling of these joyous occasions with the movement and colors of the waving flags, swirling gowns, flying feathers juxtaposed with the dignified and historic Washington reenactors (below). And all played out against the background of Laredo’s lovely old buildings.

Dee Tusch
Pedernales EC
San Marcos

Living Heirlooms

I was given a clipping from a huge ficus tree my dad had after my dad and the tree died [*Putting Down Roots*, February 2021]. That clipping is now 6 feet tall. I have taken clippings from my tree, rooted them and sent them to my children along with my nieces and nephews. We all have a part of Dad’s tree.

Sherry Crecraft Krupinski
Via Facebook



PAUL COX

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 Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
 Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston
PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
 Marty Haught, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
 Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
 Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor
MAGAZINE STAFF
Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtsek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • **Senior Communications Specialist** Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge
Digital Content Producer Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich • **Digital Media Intern** Sabrina Macias

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 10 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power*’s website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.
SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.
POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.
ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2021 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2021 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

Back Pain • Knee Pain • Ankle Pain • Foot Pain • Diabetic-Friendly

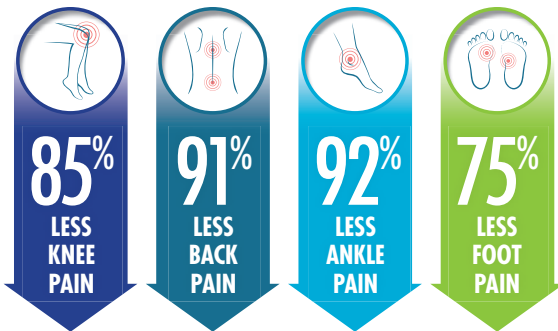


PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM



Corrective Fit Orthotic*
\$50 Value Free
podiatrist-grade support with every shoe purchase
Excludes sandals.

**helps with Plantar Fasciitis*



Enjoy the benefits of exercise with proven pain relief.

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

*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

G-DEFY MIGHTY WALK \$135

X-WIDE WIDTH AVAILABLE

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- Gray TB9024MGS
- Blue/Black TB9024MLU
- Black TB9024MBL

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- Gray TB9024FGS
- Salmon/Gray TB9024FGP
- Purple/Black TB9024FLP



\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8DNQ2

www.gdefy.com

Expires July 31, 2021

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S. Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$20 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.



Alphonse Dotson with a glass of Gotas de Oro at his winery in Voca.

THE SEED FLOURISHES

Former NFL player turns idea sowed in Houston into notable grapes and wines in Central Texas

An impressionable 10-year-old Alphonse Dotson happily trailed his grandfather, Alphonse Certenberg, as they toured the old man's Kashmere Gardens backyard in 1953 North Houston. They walked past two grazing mules, chicken pens, rabbit pens, a vegetable garden and two fishing boats underneath a carport draped with an arbor of ... grapes?!

Grandson asked grandfather, "You can grow grapes in Houston?"

In response, Certenberg just smiled, and off they went for deep-sea fishing in the Gulf.

"It was the first time I had been to his house," Dotson remembers, "and it was the best vacation week I ever had! The seed was planted."

That "seed" was Dotson's fascination with growing grapes, and the allure would lie dormant for decades—throughout a successful football career—and finally come to life in the sandy loam of the Hill Country, 115 miles northwest of Austin. There, Dotson and his wife, Martha Cervantes, became vintners. Their boutique winery in Voca grows several varieties of grapes and produces the award-winning Wines of Dotson-Cervantes from their 32-acre Certenberg Vineyards, a fitting homage to Dotson's late grandfather and a boyhood experience that was a harbinger for his future.

"Maybe once a week, from 1953, did I not think about growing grapes," says Dotson, 77, who was an NFL defensive end from 1965 to 1970, primarily playing for the Oakland Raiders and maverick owner Al Davis ("Just win, baby!"). Dotson played for Jack Yates High School in Houston's Third Ward, then at Grambling State University, where in 1964 he became the first small-college player named to a major All-America team.

There were days when he'd sit in his favorite restaurant at the Berkeley Marina, listening to a jazz pianist and pondering what he was going to do "after being, humbly, a gladiator."

And in those moments of deep thought, he kept returning to those grapes. Yet when the Sunday stadium din of Raider Nation ceased, Dotson began a journey to define his post-NFL life. He was destined to grow grapes for a living, but, for a change, that was somehow the furthest thing from his mind as he dabbled in event promotion, oil field trucking, being a sports agent and traveling—most fortuitously to Mexico and Spain.

Dotson settled for 15 years in Acapulco, which is where the Raiders caught up with him in 1994. NFL teams often include former players on junkets, and the Raiders invited him to travel to Barcelona, where the team was playing a preseason game against the Denver Broncos.

Also on the trip was Kam McLeod, son-in-law to one of the Raiders' part owners. McLeod owned a vineyard in Rutherford, California, and invited Dotson and Cervantes to visit.

"My research into growing grapes started with my Oakland Raiders family," Dotson says. "I visited with [McLeod] and was introduced to different kinds of soils, grapes and came back to Acapulco and started charting all that I learned. Martha said, 'You don't grow no plants here!' But you have to be listening to who's talking to you that you can't see, and then you have to pay attention."

By 1995, Dotson was fully locked in to learning about grape growing and the wine industry, and Cervantes came

Dotson-Cervantes winery's trophy collection.

aboard, reluctantly. The couple met in Acapulco, where she helped him find a residence. She was a highly valued employee for a timeshare company that managed resorts worldwide, working her way up from concierge to director of member services. Dotson says he kidnapped her from a job she couldn't be fired from.

"I fell to the ground when he said, 'We may have to move to Texas,'" she says with a laugh, but move they did—away from the lush mountains, Pacific Coast beaches, nightlife and other attractions of Acapulco, to Central Texas, where "the only neighbors you have are cows and horses. The kids said, 'Mom, you gotta get us outta here!' But we never gave up. God kept us together."

Dotson's last act as a sports agent was to negotiate a deal with the Green Bay Packers for his free-agent son, Santana, who also played at Yates and was a 1991 All-America defensive end at Baylor University. Dotson used his commission to purchase the land for his vineyard, and the couple moved to Texas in 1997.

"We didn't know doodly-squat about growing grapes," Cervantes says.

For all he and Cervantes lacked in grape-growing and winemaking knowledge, they made up for in hard work and study, talking with soil and winemaking experts, scientists, grape growers, and other experts who took the time to



mentor and advise them. And they hit it big in 2008 with their first wine, Gotas de Oro—drops of gold. Made from orange muscat grapes, the wine is described as "a medley of fruits—pears, star fruit and ripe peaches." Among its many awards, Gotas won gold at the 2019 Houston Live-stock Show and Rodeo.

Before producing their own wines, they focused solely on growing grapes (cabernet sauvignon, merlot and chardonnay) for Ed and Susan Auler, owners of Fall Creek Vineyards in Tow. Ed Auler has called Dotson's grapes "the best in Texas."

Jeff Cope, founder of the Texas Wine Lover website, declares, "I can honestly say that he has perfected white wines, dry all the way up to sweet."

Despite the couple's initial success, several years of late freezes caused grape production to drop, from yields of 110 tons to only 2 tons. Now there are plans for growth, including an expansion of the tasting room that will add a dining area and paving the dusty, rocky access road that is not unlike Dotson's path to success.

Ever amiable, Dotson flashes a wide, toothy smile and welcomes visitors to the tasting room, adorned with oversized photos of his playing days and magazine covers featuring him and his wife. Between sampling sips, he explains the design of their label, which features his signature floppy cowboy hat and a rose, symbolic of the yellow roses he gave Cervantes when they courted in Acapulco.

The label is distinctively silver and black with a background of the Raiders' shield.

"I wanted a label that represents both of us," he says, "but I also wanted to give a nod to Al and the guys I played with ... and to agitate the damn Dallas Cowboys!

"When I asked Al's permission, he said, 'Just have fun, baby!'" ■



TCP WEB EXTRA Author Michael Hurd, right, got to know Alphonse Dotson when conducting interviews for his book *Thursday Night Lights*, the story of Black high school football in Texas.



TEXAS MINT

We are excited to announce the release of the 2021 Texas Silver Round – Revolution Series. This is the second release of a four-year series commemorating the battles of the Texas Revolution. Each Texas Silver Round is one troy ounce .9999 fine silver.

The obverse of the high-quality mint strike features Texas' iconic lone star in the foreground. The smooth engraving of the star is framed by a textured topographical outline of the state of Texas. "TEXAS" arches proudly over the top of the round's obverse in large capital letters, with "Precious Metals" presented inversely along the opposite side. The round's mintage year is engraved in the bottom left of the round, just southwest of what would be the Rio Grande bordering Texas and Mexico.

The reverse of the 2021 release displays a scene from the famous Battle of the Alamo. It depicts two Texian soldiers including the American icon, Davy Crockett, attempting to fend off Mexican soldiers attempting to breach the walls of the Alamo.



Use Coupon Code

TXPOWER2021

to get a free Collector's Booklet with any order!



BATTLE OF GONZALES

first in the series ● ● ● ●

The stunning 2020 Texas Silver Round depicts a scene from the Battle of Gonzales, with three Texian revolutionaries defending the famous Gonzales cannon, while brandishing the Come And Take It Flag.



BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

second in the series ● ● ● ●

The events of this famous battle took place on the days of February 23rd - March 6th, 1836. At the end of a 13-day siege, President General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission, killing the Texian and immigrant occupiers.

The Texas Silver Round can be purchased in a monster box produced exclusively for the Texas Mint. Packaged in 20 protective tubes of 25 rounds each, the monster box holds 500 1-ounce Texas Silver Rounds. Built from durable cold-rolled steel and finished with a matte black powder coat, the monster box lid features an orange cutout of the state of Texas. Each sealed monster box is secured with a unique serial number and a holographic seal to ensure maximum product protection.

The Texas Silver Round is also available to purchase in a similarly designed and secured mini-monster box, which contains 10 protective tubes of 25 rounds each for a total of 250 silver rounds.



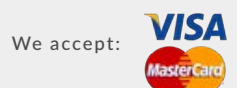
FREE SHIPPING

GOLD / SILVER / PLATINUM

NO ORDER MINIMUMS



WWW.TEXMETALS.COM



For precious metal storage solutions visit TexasDepository.com

LOCATED IN SHINER, TX



THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE

**Exodus of Texians
is an unsung
episode of
the Texas war
for independence**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA ROBINSON



The Texas Revolution is defined by its battles—the siege of the Alamo, the massacre at Goliad, the 18-minute Battle of San Jacinto that sealed the Texian victory. But there was a slower struggle that wet spring of 1836 that defined the revolution’s civilian strife. As Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna amassed troops across the Rio Grande, Texian rebels and noncombatants fled the looming conflict.

This eastward frantic flight from Mexican troops, toward the Sabine River—which separates Texas from Louisiana—and the safety of the United States, came to be known as the Runaway Scrape.

“The Runaway Scrape touched virtually every citizen in Texas,” says Stephen L. Hardin, professor of history at Abilene’s McMurry University, describing the exodus as the great untold story of the Texas Revolution. “I think the Runaway Scrape, far more than the battles, played a major role in the forging of the Texian character.

“It is tremendously important because if you look at the Texas mythos—Texans are tough, Texans are resilient, this notion that we can endure damn near anything because we’re Texans. I think that’s where it starts.”

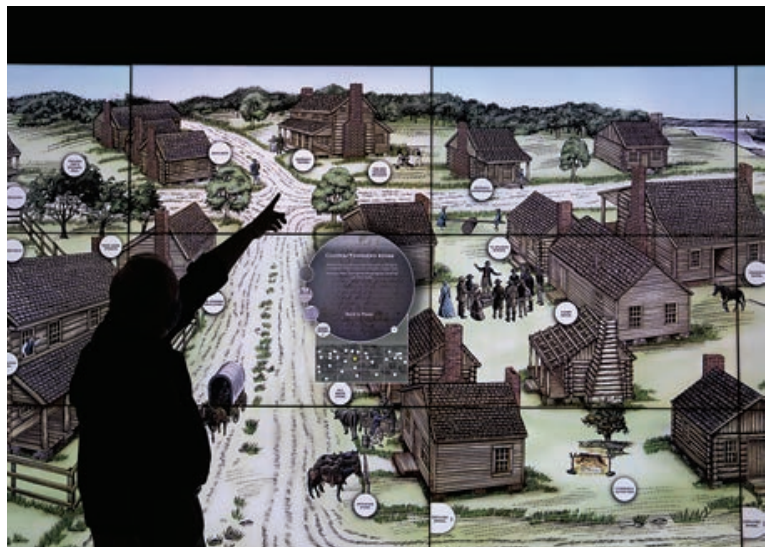
OPPOSITE The southern terminal of the Lynchburg Ferry sits across from the San Jacinto Monument. ABOVE A sculpture by J. Payne Lara at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site depicts a family fleeing in the Runaway Scrape. RIGHT The historic site’s museum features an interactive map of the 19th-century town.

Colonists began their flight from conflict well ahead of the fall of the Alamo in March 1836, and for some of them, the escape culminated within a mile of the San Jacinto battlefield site in a dramatic crossing of the San Jacinto River. There, 5,000 settlers waited their turn at Lynch’s Ferry, desperate to outrun Santa Anna and his approaching troops.

About the time of the fall of the Alamo, Hardin says, the Runaway Scrape “goes into hyperdrive.” Sam Houston and his small, inexperienced army began a retreat from Gonzales, where the army had been gathering. The order to evacuate came at midnight March 13, and the Texians burned the town before they left.

As Houston continued his retreat, many of the 30,000 residents of Texas—including Anglos, enslaved people and Mexican nationals—fled Santa Anna’s army in the rain and cold, carrying what possessions they could on muddy roads and across flood-swollen rivers. In an April 1836 letter to a friend, colonist John A. Quitman remarked, “We must have met at least 1,000 women and children, and everywhere along the road were wagons, furniture and provisions abandoned.”

Dilue Rose Harris was 11 when she fled her home in Stafford’s Point, just southwest of what is today Houston, with her family. In 1898 she wrote of her memories of the Runaway Scrape: “We left home at sun-set. Hauld bedding clothing and provision on the sleigh with one yোক of oxin. Mother and I walking she with an infant in her arms.”



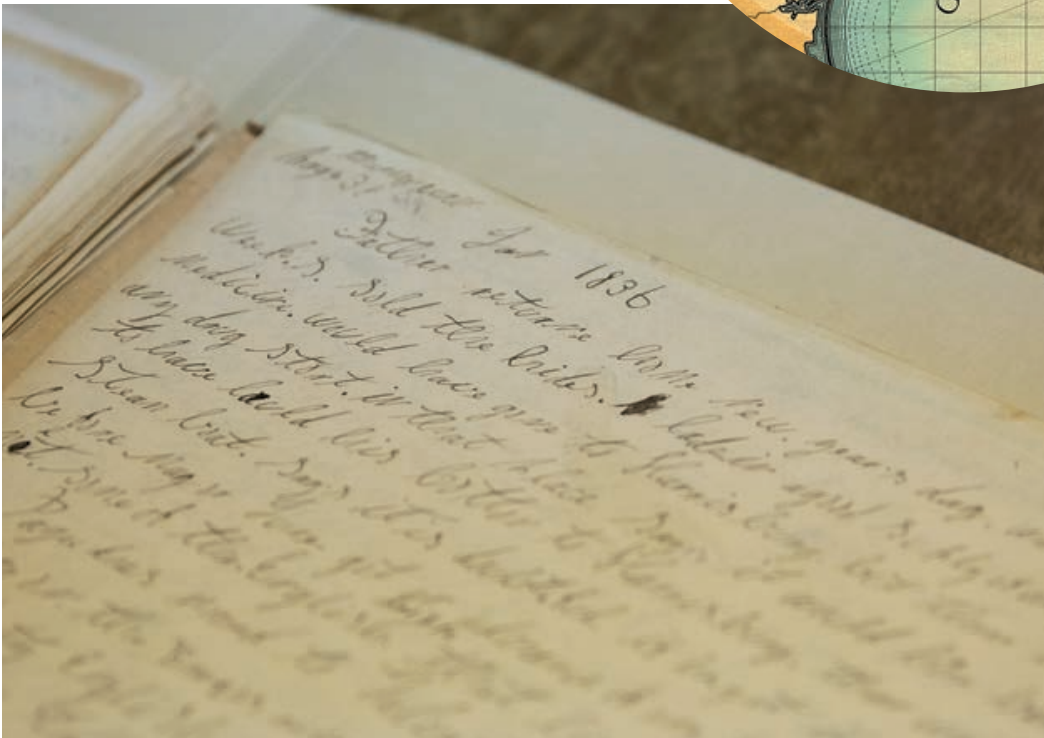
Guy Bryan, a nephew of Stephen F. Austin, was 16 when he fled his home near San Felipe de Austin with his family. He told his story in an 1895 letter to Kate Terrell, a survivor of the Runaway Scrape and writer who chronicled the event. “Some families left their home with their table spread for the daily meal; all hastily prepared for flight as if the enemy were at their door,” he wrote.

The second-largest city in Texas on the eve of the revolution, San Felipe had close to 600 residents and was a bustling center of government and commerce. As in the town of Gonzales, the Texians and their army burned the town behind them, a strategy to deny Santa Anna’s troops food and supplies.

Angelina Peyton Eberly, a tavern owner, recalled in a letter to a friend the evening she evacuated San Felipe across the Brazos River: “Much was left on the river banks. There were no wagons hardly ... few horses, many had to go on foot the mud up to their knees—women and children pell mell.” Safely across the river, Eberly could hear “the popping of spirits, powder &c [etc.] in our burning homes.”

Creed Taylor, a Texian soldier who escorted his family to safety before fighting in the Battle of San Jacinto, wrote in 1900, “I have never witnessed such scenes of distress and human suffering. ... Delicate women trudged alongside their park horses, carts, or sleds from day to day until their shoes were literally worn out, then continued the journey with bare feet, lacerated and bleeding at almost every step. Their clothes were scant, and with no means of shelter from frequent rains and bitter winds, they traveled on through the long days in wet and bedraggled apparel, finding even at night

“Some families left their home with their table spread for the daily meal; all hastily prepared for flight as if the enemy were at their door.”



Dilue Rose Harris' memoirs are at the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Library in the San Jacinto Museum of History in La Porte.

MAP: JOHN A. WILSON



TOP Many families in the Runaway Scrape passed through what is now the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. ABOVE A frieze on the San Jacinto Monument.

little relief from their suffering since the wet earth and angry sky offered no relief. ... Thus these half-clad, mud-besmeared fugitives, looking like veritable savages, trudged along.”

Harris, Bryan and Eberly converged with other refugees at Lynch’s Ferry, on the south bank of the San Jacinto River, within a mile of the future battlefield at San Jacinto. “Arrived at the San Jacinto River in the night,” wrote Harris. “There were fully 5,000 people at the ferry. ... We waited three days before we crossed. ... It was all-most a riot to see who should cross first.”

The crossing was daunting. The ferry was a wooden, flat-bottomed raft, hand-drawn along cables. A few dozen people and possessions could travel per trip.

After crossing the ferry at Lynchburg, Bryan and his party moved 6 miles southeast. “When we joined the long line of ‘Runaways’ at Cedar Bayou the sight was most piteous. I shall never forget the sight of men, women and children walking, riding on horseback, in carts, sleds, wagons and every kind of transportation known to Texas.”

Many became ill or died along the route. There are no official records of deaths, but historians estimate hundreds died. “Measles, sore eyes, whopping cough, and every other disease that man, woman or child is heir to, broke out among us,” wrote Harris. Her younger sister died of a flux—diarrhea—and was buried at Liberty. With scant updates, families kept moving east, toward the Sabine River and the safety of the United States.

Harris recalled one evening: “All of asddnt we heard a report like distant thunder. ... Father said it was cannon that the Texas army and Mexicans were fighting.” They thought the Texians had lost because the cannon fire ended so quickly. They hurried eastward until a messenger found them and yelled, as Harris wrote, “Turn back, turn back. The Texas army has whipped the Mexicans. No danger, no danger.”

Relieved but exhausted, many halted their exodus. Refugee camps sprang up for families to rest and regroup. “They suffered just as much and sometimes more on the return trip,” Hardin says. Many returned to find their homes burned and their livestock missing.

Harris’ memoirs recall quicksand and a fatal alligator attack when they turned back toward home after five weeks on the run. Eberly had traveled more than 100 miles before hearing of the victory at San Jacinto. Once back in San Felipe, Eberly found her tavern and home in ashes, “the place bare of everything but the ruins of all my things burnt up,” she wrote. Many residents, including Eberly, abandoned San Felipe de Austin, which never regained its former stature. Many left Texas for good after the spring of 1836. For those who stayed, the scrape left a scar.

Hardin explains that many Texians were hesitant to rebuild after the war. “I’ve found many people saying they don’t want to invest in a fancy house because the Mexicans might invade again, and we’re going to have to burn it down again,” he says. “So that plays a huge role in the Texian psyche for years because they just didn’t have the confidence.

“Remember the Alamo”? What they’re remembering is the Runaway Scrape and the hardship.” ■

TCP WEB EXTRA Check out some of the relics that remain from the Runaway Scrape.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE WITH EVERY STEP

Source Code: 79922 © Dream Products (Prices valid for 60 Days)



**Slip
Resistant
Soles**

Men's

**Cool
Comfort
Clogs**

was ~~\$16⁹⁹~~

SAVE \$4.00

Now Only
\$12⁹⁹



**Easy Slip
On/Off Style**

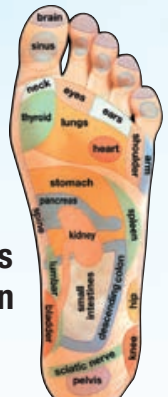
Ladies



**Ventilation Keeps Feet
Cool, Dry & Comfy!**

**Massaging
Nodules Help:**

- Stimulate Vital Acupressure Points
- Improve Circulation
- Relieve Stress



FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING when buying 2 or more

Connect With **DreamProducts.com** website offers may vary
*We may be required to collect sales tax. Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if you need more information.

Order Now Toll-Free **1-800-530-2689**
M-F 6am-1am CST, S-S 6am-9pm CST

Item #370024 - Cool Comfort Clogs							<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	Exp. Date
Indicate Qty Under Size							<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS SM Cards	/
Ladies' #1076	5 (1190)	6 (503)	7 (505)	8 (507)	9 (509)	10 (255)	Card#		
Men's #1075	8 (507)	9 (509)	10 (255)	11 (513)	12 (515)	13 (1715)	Name		
Pr(s) Cool Comfort Clogs @ \$9.99 pr. \$							Address		
Shipping & Handling Add \$5.95 1st Pair							City _____ ST _____ Zip _____		
FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more \$							Daytime Phone # _____		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIORITY PROCESSING (optional)							Email		
Add An ADDITIONAL \$2.95							Source Code 79922		
(Receive within 3-6 days of receipt of order) \$ 2.95							To receive this offer on the web, you MUST input the source code when ordering		
*Add applicable State & Local SALES TAX \$									
Please Print Clearly						Total			
Send order to Dream Products, 412 Dream Lane, P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690									

Helps Improve Overall Health

Feather-light acupressure massaging clogs have strategically placed nodules that massage and stimulate pressure points with every step. Acupressure is believed to help overall health by increasing circulation. Easy slip on/slip off clog style with ventilated design allows air to circulate, keeping moisture to a minimum and your feet dry and comfortable. Fashion import made of man-made materials, available for both men and women.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

79922

Bad to the Bone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntsman Blade \$249*

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **HUK472-01**

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK472-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

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

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

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars

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



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

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN



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

— H., Arvada, CO



Rating of **A+**

24 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BLUE



220
VEHICLES

in Bluebonnet's fleet, plus 8 utility task vehicles, 92 trailers, 3 forklifts



48
SUBSTATIONS

2

PORTABLE SUBSTATIONS

The newest is a 33-megawatt unit that's 95 feet long and weighs 143,000 pounds

110,245 METERS

as of early March 2021. Bluebonnet is one of the fastest growing electric cooperatives in Texas.

4.6%
annual meter growth rate, last 5 years



701 MW SYSTEM PEAK, reached Feb. 15, 2021, at 1 a.m. Previous record peak of 591 MW was in January, 2018. (1 MW powers about 200 homes during high-demand hours)

82,497
MEMBERS

as of March, 2021



2,347,638,519

kilowatt-hours sold to members in 2020

97%

of all calls answered by a member service representative out of an average 16,480 calls per month in 2020



44,422
MEMBERS

on average pay their bills electronically monthly



23,981
FOLLOWERS
on social media

86,111
smartphones opted into our Outage Alerts text service (members with a cell phone number on file are automatically enrolled or can text BBOUTAGE to 85700)

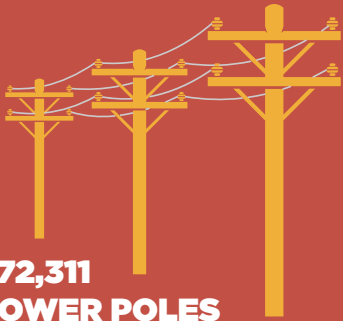


BLUEBONNET



11,902 MILES OF LINE

About **300 MILES** more than the distance from the Arctic to Antarctica



272,311 POWER POLES

3,800

SQUARE MILES

Size of service area where we provide power to part or all of these counties:

AUSTIN, BASTROP, BURLESON, CALDWELL, COLORADO, FAYETTE, GONZALES, GUADALUPE, HAYS, LEE, MILAM, TRAVIS, WASHINGTON, WILLIAMSON



90 MILES of transmission line



329 employees

4,508 total years of experience

9

EMPLOYEES WITH 40+ YEARS OF SERVICE

(95 employees have 20 or more years)

27 APPRENTICES 79 JOURNEYMEN

are in or have graduated from our line worker apprentice program

16 MONTHS without an employee lost-time incident

\$29 MILLION

returned to members in capital credits in the last five years. Capital credits represent members' share of ownership in the co-op.



\$823,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

given to high school seniors from 2015-2020

\$700,328

from 31 Community Development Partnership Program grants given by LCRA and Bluebonnet



in last 5 years
(See story, Page 20)

Partnership grants support groups that keep Bluebonnet-area communities strong, safe

the **POWER** of givi

Story by Clayton Stromberger

Photos by Sarah Beal

TRAVEL TO communities and picturesque parts of the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative service area, and you will likely pass dozens of locations — a volunteer fire station, a community center, a small nonprofit — with equipment, a new or renovated building, a park or a program made possible with help from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet.

In Shelby, which is in Austin County, American Legion Post 602 was refurbished in 2020 with fresh paint and new doors and windows. Over in Dime Box in Lee County, picnic tables now grace the first phase of a new public park that will be centered around historic Black Bridge. Swing by the library in Round Top in Fayette County to enjoy the new air conditioning and heating system. The McMahan Community Women's Club in Caldwell County upgraded its wiring and lighting in 2020, and the New Ulm Volunteer Fire Department in Austin County now has a helipad for emergency helicopter landings.

Those are just a few examples of shared generosity. In the past five years, 31 grants totaling \$700,328 have been awarded to area groups by LCRA and Bluebonnet. The list of Community Development Partnership Program, or CDPP, grants will grow again this year.

"The CDPP grants are one of the many ways we connect with, support and give back to the communities we serve," said Matt Benkte, Bluebonnet's general manager. "The funds make it possible for recipients to improve lives by helping people through difficult times, or save lives by providing much-needed vehicles and critical equipment to volunteer fire departments and other public safety organizations. We are proud to partner with people who are making tremendous differences in our communities."

Groups and projects in Bluebonnet's service area have been receiving CDPP grants since 1996. Funding has gone to numerous nonprofit organizations, including volunteer fire departments, emergency

AFTER THE GRANTS: FIVE PROFILES, pages 21-25

responders, libraries, civic groups, community centers and museums. The grants help pay for capital improvement projects that might otherwise not be affordable. Bluebonnet's five community representatives work in their regions to publicize the CDPP grants and encourage eligible organizations to apply. "This program really enhances our communities, especially in smaller rural areas," said Deborah Rogers, who is Bluebonnet's Bastrop-area community representative and also a member of the CDPP Review Committee for LCRA.

There are two CDPP grant application cycles each year, in January and July. Groups that request more than \$5,000 must supply matching funds of at least 20 percent of their project's cost. Grants larger than \$25,000 are awarded less frequently and are intended for projects with long-term impact on a broad community. These large grants are competitive, comprising no more than 30 percent of grants awarded.

Get details about the CDPP program from LCRA at <https://www.lcra.org/community-services/community-grant-program/#about>.

Before the pandemic, an oversize cardboard check replica was handed out for jubilant group photos. Those ceremonies are on hold until it's safe to resume them. But the CDPP grant program continues full-steam.

Read on for five stories of how recent CDPP grants to Bluebonnet-area organizations have made a lasting positive impact.



ng back



Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department

\$19,893 for a new oxygen tank-refill system

Community fundraising meals keep a rural fire department going, plate by plate, bowl by bowl. So it's lucky for the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department in Lee County that chief Spencer Schneider is fearless in front of a huge, bubbling pot of chili. "I've cooked up to 600 pounds at a time for fire department functions," Schneider said matter-of-factly, along with "many a gallon" of stew.

The fire chief's cooking prowess helped the VFD raise \$4,973 by spring 2020 to go toward purchase of a piece of essential equipment — a refill system for the oxygen tanks that firefighters use in hazardous air situations. Without their own oxygen refiller, Lincoln volunteer firefighters had to drive 8 miles to the Giddings fire department's station to refill their three, 4-foot metal oxygen canisters. Sometimes they would ask for help from another fire department. Each of those trips cost precious minutes of response time.

In May 2020, a \$19,893 CDDP grant provided the additional money needed to buy the refiller — and it's already increased efficiency. "I can send guys back to the station, and it averages less than five minutes" to fill canister, Schneider said.

Lincoln sits in the middle of Lee County, on Texas 21 between Giddings and Lexington, which each have oxygen refill stations. Smaller volunteer fire departments in the area are now critical minutes closer to an oxygen refill. That means Schneider can share not only his chili recipe with fellow volunteers in nearby towns, but also a potentially life-saving refill of oxygen.

Andrew Murphy, a member of the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department, displays the self-contained breathing system used amid heavy smoke. The department received a \$19,893 grant in 2020 for a device to refill firefighters' oxygen tanks. Chief Spencer Schneider, right, with the machine that can refill two oxygen tanks at a time. The device saves precious minutes in response time.





Washington Volunteer Fire Department chief Clyde Miller, above, with the 48 kilowatt emergency generator purchased with a grant from LCRA and Bluebonnet. The generator's 500-gallon propane tank could keep it running for up to a week before a refill. Miller, below, gets a call about a fire while we're taking photos.

The generator is already providing the assurance of reliable power to the county EMS's 24-hour helicopter rescue team.



Washington Volunteer Fire Department

\$19,740 for an emergency generator

Fire is a wily foe. Clyde Miller, longtime chief of the Washington Volunteer Fire Department in northeast Washington County, knows this well. He learned it firsthand as a rangy teenager battling blazes in the mountains of his native West Virginia, and he has honed that understanding over fire decades as a volunteer firefighter in Washington County. His father-in-law helped start the volunteer department in 1972. Miller is one of a handful of the founding members who are still at it.

When dealing with fire — or floods, hurricanes, massive storms, and any other natural upheavals that might require county volunteers to leap into action — it pays to stay a step ahead of danger. So as he began his third stint as chief 12 years ago, Miller wondered: What was needed to take the VFD's abilities up to a higher level of preparedness?

One key piece of equipment came to mind: An emergency generator, for those moments when a power outage from a hurricane or massive storm might threaten the volunteers' ability to respond effectively to a fire or natural disaster. In 2011, the department began saving money from fundraisers, and in the fall of 2018, the VFD received a \$19,740 CDPP grant for the generator.

"This is a really valuable piece of equipment," Miller said proudly. Without it, a downed power line could prevent firefighters from reaching or recharging life-saving equipment, or retrieving water from the VFD's well. The VFD is on FM 1155, about 3 miles south of Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.

The generator is already providing the assurance of reliable power to Washington County EMS's 24-hour helicopter rescue team, which works out of the VFD's recently constructed 12,600-square-foot station on Texas 105. During a disaster, the generator guarantees the fire station can be a safe place to distribute water and food and host a relief organization like the Red Cross.

Chief Miller and the department are now much more prepared to protect their community in the event of a disaster. "These grants are really something nice," Miller said. "It's a way of giving back to the community."



COVID-19 halted the throngs of schoolchildren who usually visit Crowe's Nest Farm near Manor. Dave Williams, the farm's executive director, said in February that they expect to be fully open this spring. The wetlands habitat pond was built with the help of a grant in 2020.

Crowe's Nest Farm

\$24,500 to build a 1-acre pond and wetland habitat

It's been a tough 13 months for Crowe's Nest Farm, which has been inviting the public — especially schoolchildren — to visit its grounds and learn about our region's natural and agricultural resources since it was founded in 1983 by educator Dr. Diane Crowe.

This 100-acre working farm, which moved from Austin to its present location about 8 miles southeast of Manor in Travis County in 1998, is funded primarily by visitor admission fees. For decades, groups of children have rolled in on yellow school buses to see farm animals, visit the Big Red Barn, tour the gardens, go on a hayride and learn from educational exhibits. But the pandemic that was declared in March 2020 led to a catastrophic loss of income for the organization. "There were 40,000 kids planning to come on field trips who all had to cancel," said Dave Williams, who has been with Crowe's Nest since its founding and is now executive director.

Workers at the farm, at 10300 Taylor Lane, expect to finish repairs, replant after February's damaging statewide winter storm and re-open in early March. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

An ongoing GoFundMe online fundraiser has helped the organization hang on. Meantime, the crew at Crowe's Nest Farm have one shimmering new bright spot to lift their spirits — a beautiful, one-acre water capture pond and wetlands habitat, created with the assistance of a \$24,500 CDPP grant awarded in May 2020. The project transformed an unsightly low runoff area into a sparkling



highlight for future tours.

"We have such a tremendous number of birds that fly through here," Williams said, "so it's going to be a great stop-off location for great blue herons, white egrets and other native species, along with geese, ducks, cranes and other birds."

Native plants will form a berm on the north side of the pond to block the winter winds and create a wildlife habitat. A windmill-driven fountain and a solar-powered pump fountain will aerate the water to prevent stagnation. Eventually, the pond will be stocked with largemouth bass, perch and catfish

"We've been wanting to put in a pond there since we arrived in 1998," Williams said, "and so this was a huge blessing last year."

Delhi Volunteer Fire Department

\$50,000 to complete a new fire station

Not every firefighter keeps a department truck parked in front of their house. But when Danney Rodgers began his term as chief of the Delhi Volunteer Fire Department in east Caldwell County in 2010, he didn't really have a choice – the department didn't yet have funds to build a station, so its equipment was stored in three different locations, including in his front yard.

“We had space at our homestead, so the truck wasn't in the way,” Rodgers recalls. “But logistically it's a problem when equipment is scattered around like that. If I wasn't home, someone would have to drive out here to get the truck before responding to a call.”

The Delhi VFD hoped to build a first-class station house on Texas 304 in this unincorporated community about 19 miles southeast of Lockhart. They had built the outer shell of their station. A \$50,000 CDPP grant awarded in spring 2017 helped complete phase two of the project — everything from electrical wiring and plumbing to interior walls and bathrooms.

The station was carefully designed by Rodgers with input from department members and other VFDs in the region. Countless fundraisers at the little community center across the street from the site helped provide matching funds. The goal was to build a



Chief Danney Rodgers helped design the Delhi Volunteer Fire Department's fire station in Caldwell County. The station was completed in 2017 with the help of a grant from LCRA and Bluebonnet.

state-of-the-art station to last for “30, 40, 50 years,” Rodgers said.

Now everything can be stored in one 9,400-square-foot location, which is reducing response times, Rodgers said. There is space for department training, and a shiny industrial kitchen to handle large fundraising events. As a bonus, the Delhi community — which has steadfastly supported the department through the years — now has its first large, climate-controlled gathering spot that area residents can use.

“It's a great addition to our county and our community,” Rodgers said. “Everybody is super proud of it. And I think it's going to be there for a long, long time.”

Rosanky Community Center

\$14,835 for renovations to its historic building

The historic schoolhouse that now serves as the Rosanky Community Center in south Bastrop County has hosted lots of family reunions, meetings and church lunches over the decades from its quiet perch at the end of Main Street. Photos on the center's Facebook page show scenes from such an event in the 1960s, with folks gathered at the brick-and-concrete picnic tables in front of the now 125-year-old structure.



James Rose

“It's kind of the center of the town down here,” community center president James Rose said. “It brings people together. And it's one of the last of the old buildings still standing.” The center is about 15 miles southwest of Smithville, on 135 Main St. in the unincorporated Rosanky area.

All those winters and summers can take a toll on a wooden building, and a few years ago, the old schoolhouse was in serious need of “a lot of TLC,” Rose said. Bulky air conditioning units protruded from its windows. Insulation-free walls meant the building was not energy-efficient or easy to cool on a broiling summer afternoon. The aging septic system was always in danger of overflowing.

Today the Rosanky Community Center has been transformed. Thanks to a \$14,835 CDPP grant announced in May 2020 — which was matched with \$7,988 in funds raised by the center — the unsightly AC units are gone, replaced by an energy-efficient system nestled artfully along the back of the building. Foam insulation now fills the old gap between the exterior and interior boards, and



The 125-year-old Rosanky Community Center received essential renovations thanks to a CDPP grant in 2020.

the narrow, old-fashioned windows have double panes. There's a new septic system there, too.

The benefits brought by the renovations are not only visible, but also audible, Rose said. “When we had meetings in there before,” he said, “and we had the AC or heat on, you couldn't even hear yourself. Now you can't even hear that they're on.” The building itself has been closed to community gatherings due to the pandemic, but it continues to serve as a polling location, and recently was the site for water distribution after February's winter storm.

On a sunny day the historic building — simple and square as a Monopoly house — glows in its white paint, looking trim and hardy alongside a gleaming playground also made possible by a CDPP grant, awarded in spring 2017. Center volunteers teamed up with Bluebonnet to install the heavy-duty play equipment themselves. The playground is a source of pride for the community, Rose said.

“Before we put this in, people here had to drive all the way to Smithville or Bastrop with their kids to find a playground,” he said. “The community just loves it. Families come over all the time and enjoy it. And we would not have been able to build it without that grant.”

Members have bill payment assistance options

BLUEBONNET Electric Cooperative offers several options for members who need help paying their electric bill.

Bluebonnet's website offers information about payment extensions, local energy assistance providers and other helpful information such as a weatherization program that covers home improvements to reduce your power bill. On the bluebonnet.coop homepage, click on "Bill payment assistance options" at the top left. To register for a MyBluebonnet account, on the login screen click "Sign up to access our Self Service site" or click Register at the top of bluebonnet.coop.

Members can request a payment extension online, on the MyBluebonnet mobile app (click on the Bill & Pay icon) or by calling 800-842-7708 (once prompted, press 2 to use the automated system, then press 2 to inquire about your account and follow the prompts to request a payment extension).

Members may also talk with a member service representative at 800-842-7708 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CO-OP INFORMATION

Member service center lobbies remain closed, but drive-through lanes are open during regular business hours, between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Report outages by texting OUT to 85700 (to register, text BBOUTAGE to that number) or via 800-949-4414, bluebonnet.coop or our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling 800-842-7708.



Members of a Bluebonnet crew out of Giddings, from left, are Garrett Urban, Philip Tharp, Clinton Tiner, Dylan Dussetschleger and Jeremy Lynch. Give them and all of our lineworkers a thank you on April 12, Lineman Appreciation Day.

A SPECIAL DAY TO THANK A LINE WORKER

NATIONAL Lineman Appreciation Day is April 12. It's a chance to thank the men and women who build, restore and maintain the nation's power supply system 24/7, 365 days a year, sometimes under dangerous conditions.

In 2014, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's board declared

the second Monday of April to be National Lineman Appreciation Day. (It is also celebrated on April 18 based on a U.S. Senate resolution in 2013.)

Check Bluebonnet's Facebook and Twitter pages on April 12 for a tribute to Bluebonnet's line workers, and feel free to share your thanks.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

BLUEBONNET is helping area organizations raise awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month. CASA of Bastrop, Fayette & Lee Counties, Children's Advocacy Center Serving Bastrop, Lee & Fayette Counties, CASA for Kids of South Central Texas, CASA of Central Texas Inc. and SAFE are among the organizations that support families affected by abuse and neglect.

The cooperative's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor will be illuminated with blue light at night, and key community events and resources will be shared on our social media channels throughout April.

The concern is more important than ever this year. With orders for families to shelter in place and increased pressure and isolation



In April, Bluebonnet's five member service centers will have a pop of blue light at night to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

in homes, violence and neglect are more common. Early signs of abuse and neglect are often seen in schools. Now, the responsibility shifts to family, friends and neighbors. Learn more at www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/.

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.

For fastest service call today toll-free
1-877-566-6468

Offer Code VBB514-07
Please mention this code when you call.



GOVMINT.COM[®]

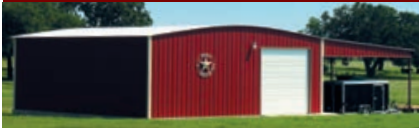
GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. VBB514-07, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

GovMint.com[®] 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. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. 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 GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2021 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.

THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™

WD METAL BUILDINGS

Turn-Key Solutions



- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Welded Metal Buildings
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

Instant Prices at WDMB.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.

WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$7,995 INSTALLED!



ONYX SHOWERS FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
 FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ★

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 15 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury. 

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

PERMA-ROOF
 from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing



High energy bill?
 Roof rumble?
 Leaks?

MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS

Since 1983

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

ARK-LA-TEX
 SHOP BUILDERS

"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARNs • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM

830-730-0515

8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric slab. *(Dirt may be extra)

TIRED OF SPRAYING?

The Original Root Grubber

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION
 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

- Kills tree by cutting roots 6" to 8" underground
- Effective on mesquite, juniper, cedar, huisach and other brush problems
- 3-point reversible blade for clearing fence rows



Blade Width	Cat	HP	WT	Delivered Price
18"	I	20-40	230 lb.	\$1,065
27"	II	40-80	285 lb.	\$1,285
30"	II or III	80-110	380 lb.	\$1,685
36"	II or III	110-180	390 lb.	\$1,750



Blade Width
 16" Skid-Steer
 Cat Universal
 HP 50-140
 WT 380 lb.
 Delivered Price
\$1,880

JONES MACHINE

(800) 919-4949 • Fax: (940) 552-6362
jonesmachineshop1944@yahoo.com
 P.O. Box 1577, Vernon, Texas 76385

TCP Marketplace
 Across Town | Across Texas

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

April is FREE WINDOWS MONTH at Renewal by Andersen.¹



Why is April one of the best times to replace your windows?

Because if you call us now, you can get your more energy-efficient windows installed and enjoy a **more comfortable home right away**. And know that we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the safest way possible.

Our exclusive High-Performance™ Low-E4® SmartSun™ glass is **up to 70% more energy efficient.**[†] **It's engineered to make your home more comfortable in the colder and warmer months.**

Call before April 30th!



Now offering
virtual
appointments,
too!

Why have our customers chosen us over another window company?

1. Fibrex® Material

Our Fibrex material was **researched by Andersen** for 30 years before it was installed in even one home. **Our Fibrex material is twice as strong as vinyl.**

2. Unique Look

Our window has the **elegant look and strength of a wood window**, but our Fibrex material doesn't demand the same maintenance of wood.^{**}

3. Accountability

There's no frustrating "middle man" to deal with. **We manage the entire process—from building to installation to the warranty—on windows and doors.**

It's like getting
FREE WINDOWS
for 1 year¹

NO MONEY
DOWN

NO PAYMENTS

NO INTEREST

FOR 1 YEAR¹

and

**BUY 1 WINDOW
OR DOOR,
GET 1 WINDOW
OR DOOR**

40% OFF¹

Call for your **FREE Window and Door Diagnosis**

Austin

512-298-1858

San Antonio

• 210-961-9990

Dallas/Fort Worth:

469-606-5229 • TopWindowSolution.com



¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and **applies to purchase of 4 or more windows and/or patio doors**. Buy two windows and/or doors, get the second two windows and/or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off. Discount applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 4/30/21, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. 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. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts. **See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>. †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. **All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio, and by Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. All are independently owned and operated affiliates operating in TX.**



The Bluebonnet Lady of Texas

A San Antonio civic leader galvanized women's groups to save the state flower

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VOGIN

BLUEBONNETS WERE SO overpicked in the early 1920s that Sallie Ward Beretta worried they'd go extinct. The San Antonio civic leader launched a conservation campaign, which she unveiled at a luncheon for the City Federation of Women's Clubs.

Beretta placed paper bluebonnets on each table to help make her point: Unless the women got behind her campaign, she exhorted, the state flower would exist only as paper blooms. Everyone there joined her cause.

So did the San Antonio Area Council of Girl Scouts, where Beretta served as president. To further her cause, Beretta recruited volunteers to gather and package

bluebonnet seeds from fields around the city. She then mailed seed packets to Scout troops and women's clubs across the state. Some seeds even crossed state and national borders, and recipients in Alaska, New York and even South America reported growing successes to Beretta.

To bolster her campaign, Beretta collected stories, poems and music about bluebonnets, such as the *Texas Bluebonnet Song* by Julia D. Owen of Navasota. She also hosted gardening experts and promoted the slogan: "Save the wildflowers of Texas."

In an October 26, 1923, letter, she implored members of a Laredo social club not to change their organization's name

from the Blue Bonnet Club to the Border Lassies, lobbying for her conservation movement, which was "getting people to promise not to tear them up by the roots."

She wrote that noted landscape artist Julian Onderdonk of San Antonio "devoted his life to immortalizing the bluebonnet," describing him as "our greatest Texas painter." Two weeks before the artist died, Beretta confided, "He told me that he considered the move that I was starting for the conservation of the bluebonnet was one of the finest ever started, and that he would do all he could to help it."

Her pleas hit home. The group changed its name back to the Blue Bonnet Club. The following January, members said in the *Laredo Times* that they planned a bluebonnet campaign for spring.

Beretta's bluebonnet work continued into the 1930s. In March 1931 she and her Scouts sought to ban the sale of bluebonnets in market stands and stores. "The Girl Scouts each year gather bluebonnet seeds and plant many of them along the highways," *The San Antonio Express* reported. "Doubtless many of the flowers being sold were from plants that grew from seeds sown by the scouts." Two years later Beretta directed a film made by the Girl Scouts that featured bluebonnet scenes. She and the Scouts also lobbied, unsuccessfully, to change the name of the Sunken Garden Theater in Brackenridge Park to the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Beretta became widely known as the "Bluebonnet Lady of Texas." But her civic-mindedness reached far beyond wildflowers. Her leadership roles included 19 years on the board of regents for Texas State University, then called the Southwest Texas State Teachers College. On the San Marcos campus, Beretta Hall, a Spanish-style dorm named in her honor, still houses students, and an annual award to an outstanding female student is given in her name. ■

Fresh Herbs

Give dishes, including scones, lentils and smoked pork, a distinctive zing

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

One of the greatest pleasures of having a garden is the ability to go outside and snip a few fresh herbs for a meal. It's a bonus that herbs are easy to grow because a simple sprinkling of them can take a dish to the next level. These savory scones are a wonderful addition to a breakfast spread, paired with smoked salmon. Or serve them alongside soups and stews at dinner. The mini size is perfect for nibbling, but you can make eight larger scones instead, if you prefer.

Dill Scones

2 cups flour
¼ cup chopped fresh dill
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
4 tablespoons very cold butter
¾ cup milk, plus 1 tablespoon, divided use

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour, dill, baking powder, salt and pepper. Grate the butter into the bowl, then stir to combine so that butter is coated with flour mixture. Alternatively, cut in butter with a pastry blender or two knives.
3. Stir in ¾ cup milk and mix until a shaggy dough forms. Scoop dough out onto a floured surface and knead a few times to form a cohesive ball. Divide dough into two balls and flatten each to a circle about ½ inch high. Cut each circle into wedges then place onto baking sheet. Brush the tops with remaining tablespoon of milk.
4. Bake 18–20 minutes, until golden.

MAKES 16 MINI OR 8 LARGE SCONES

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Herb Pizza Dough.





Texas Hummus

JOY WATSON
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

If you're a fan of dips, this take on hummus is an excellent addition to your recipe box. Watson created this recipe for a family hummus cook-off, adding the familiar Texas flavors of cilantro and tomatoes with chiles to the Mediterranean classic.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- ½ cup chopped sweet onion**
- ½ cup fresh cilantro**
- ¼ cup fresh parsley**
- ¼ teaspoon cumin**
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano**
- ¼ teaspoon grated fresh garlic (about 1 clove)**
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes with mild green chiles**
- 1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- Tortilla chips, to serve**

1. Heat olive oil in a sauté pan over medium heat. Sauté onion, cilantro, parsley, cumin, oregano and garlic until the onions are translucent, about 8 minutes.
2. Drain the tomatoes and add to the vegetables to warm. Drain the garbanzo beans and pour into a blender or food processor. Add the warm vegetables to the beans. Pulse the mixture until it is the consistency of a dip but not completely smooth. Taste and add salt and pepper as desired. Serve with tortilla chips.

MAKES 2½ CUPS

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

Herbaceous Lentils Crockpot-Style

PAMELA RYMAN-MOIR
WOOD COUNTY EC



Cozy up to a bowl of flavorful lentils simmered with pork and herbs. Brown lentils are ideal for this dish, as they retain their shape and texture well during long cooking times. Serve with rice if you like or enjoy on its own.

SERVES 8

- 1 tablespoon olive oil**
- 1 pound ham steak, diced**
- 4–6 strips bacon, chopped**
- 1 onion, diced**
- 1 clove garlic, minced**
- 4 cups water**
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary, leaves finely chopped**
- 1 sprig fresh thyme, leaves chopped**
- 1 sprig fresh sage, leaves chopped**
- 1 bag (16 ounces) lentils, rinsed**
- ⅓ cup shredded carrot**
- 1 small bunch kale, finely chopped**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- Brown or white rice (optional)**
- Fresh chopped cilantro (optional)**

1. In a large sauté pan, heat olive oil over medium heat and cook ham and bacon until bacon is crispy. Stir in onion and garlic and cook 15 minutes. (If you have a slow cooker with a sauté setting, you can use that instead.)
2. Add pan contents, water, herbs and lentils to a slow cooker. Cook on low 2–4 hours, until beans are soft and done but not mushy.
3. During the last hour of cooking, add carrot. Add kale during the last 15 minutes of cooking. Taste and season with salt and pepper as desired. Serve over rice with fresh cilantro sprinkled on top, if desired.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

SWEET POTATOES DUE APR 10

We want your tried-and-true soups, salads, baked goods and side dishes made from this tasty tuber. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/contests by April 10.



Herb-Crusted Pork Loin

DONALD MCMAHON
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Adding herbs to your smoker recipes adds even more flavor. McMahon's recipe calls for resting the pork overnight before cooking, so plan ahead. If you don't have a smoker, you can roast the tenderloin in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

- ¾ cup fresh cilantro
- ½ cup fresh oregano
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon cumin

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- Juice of 1 large lime
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 16–20 ounces pork tenderloin

1. Combine all ingredients except for pork in a blender or food processor and pulse to form a paste. Taste and adjust salt and pepper as needed. Make 1-inch slits on both sides of the pork loin and coat completely with paste. Refrigerate overnight.

2. When ready to cook, preheat smoker to 225 degrees. Smoke pork 2–3 hours, until it registers 145–160 degrees on a meat thermometer. Let rest 5 minutes before slicing and serving.

SERVES 4–6

TCP WEB EXTRA We have nearly 900 searchable recipes at TexasCoopPower.com, and herbs enhance many of them. Consider them part of your recipe collection.

Fresh Herb Tips

BY MEGAN MYERS

1. Store fresh herbs in a glass or uncovered jar with a few inches of water. Trim the stems so the leaves sit above the edge of the container, and store on the counter or loosely covered in the refrigerator.
2. Maximize herb flavor by chopping finely, which releases more flavorful oils. Make sure to dry them as much as possible beforehand to prevent sticking to the blade.
3. Chop fresh herbs and freeze in ice cube trays with a small amount of olive oil to use as needed.
4. Fresh herbs unavailable? Dried herbs can be substituted, but keep in mind that they are more potent in flavor. You'll need about ⅓ the quantity of dried herbs than fresh, so use a teaspoon of dried for every tablespoon of fresh chopped herbs.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2021 SEASON

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

Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM



STAYcation at Home in 2021!

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

ADVANCED DIGITAL HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

Now Rechargeable!



BUY 1 GET 1 FREE Reg: \$599.98
Only \$299⁹⁹
 Each When You Buy a Pair – **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$299⁹⁹

be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

The MDHearingAid® **VOLT+** uses the same kind of Advanced Digital **RECHARGEABLE** Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 600,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

"This is truly a miracle... I don't even know how to begin thanking you for giving me my life back!"
 – Sherri H., Granville, NY

CHARGE AT NIGHT AND GO ALL DAY

NOW WATER RESISTANT



Charging Case

30-Hour Battery Life



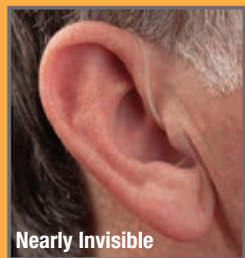
Water Resistant to 3 Feet

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

For the Lowest Price Call 1-800-674-2142

www.MDVolt.com



Nearly Invisible

MDHearingAid®

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Use Code **KP17** and get **FREE Shipping**

SHOP AT HOME!
 Skip the Clinic with Remote Care

Proudly assembled in America!





COURTESY CHET GARNER

Heart of the Matter

Set yourself on a course for smack-dab in the middle of the state

BY CHET GARNER

EVERY TEXAN MUST make a pilgrimage to the Alamo and also stop by the state fair to yell “Howdy” at Big Tex. I’ll add another trip to the mandatory list: one to the heart of the Lone Star State.

Texas has a funny shape. Recognizable? Sure. But odd. The idea that someone was able to find the true geographic center of such an irregularity is amazing. But that’s what the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors accomplished by dividing the state into quadrants and confirming the point where the lines intersect. Near that surveyor-approved dot, about 20 miles northeast of Brady, is our destination.

I reached Brady with time to circle its castlelike courthouse and medieval historic jail-turned-county museum. I noticed an abundance of hearts about town and a profusion of businesses using “Heart of Texas” like a country song slogan before I headed north on Texas 377.

I enjoyed the passing landscape dotted with farmhouses. Suddenly, a silver-and-black historical marker appeared. I hit the brakes and veered into a parking area. I got out of my truck and took a deep breath, realizing I was indeed standing in the center of the state I love so much.

I didn’t hear a George Strait song or receive a mysterious message from Sam Houston. In fact, there is not much other than the marker and a fence line of rough cedars. Yet I felt Texan to the core. Now I understand this is the true heart of Texas. It doesn’t hit you in the eye or the stomach but right in the heart. ■

ABOVE Chet at the historical marker denoting the geographic center of Texas.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet’s video from the heart of Texas and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event’s website for scheduling details.

APRIL 09

Canton [9–10] Tractor Show and Swap Meet, (214) 837-8861, lewisfirstmonday.com/tractors.html

Waco [9–10] MidTex Farm, Ranch and Garden Show, (254) 757-5600, wacochamber.com/midtex

Fredericksburg [9–11] Texas Vintage Motorcycle Fandango, (214) 912-9245, thetexasfandango.com

Portland [9–11] Windfest, (361) 777-4650, portlandtx.org/windfest-2020

Poteet [9–11] Strawberry Festival, 1-888-742-8144, strawberryfestival.com

San Antonio [9–11] Online Book Festival, (210) 750-8951, sabookfestival.org

Tyler [9–11] Texas Dressage Classic Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

San Angelo [9–24] Rodeo, (325) 653-7785, sanangelorodeo.com

Sherman [9–11, 15–18, 22–25] A Midsummer Night’s Dream, (903) 892-8818, scptheater.com

10

Brenham Michael Martin Murphey, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com/events

Castell Castell Grind, (512) 970-8703, castellgrind.com

Lufkin Montopolis: The Legend of Big Bend, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org/arts-alive-series

McFaddin Polo at McFaddin, (361) 575-8228, navemuseum.com

Chappell Hill [10-11] Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas, (979) 203-1242, facebook.com/bluebonnetfestival

Mesquite [10-11, 17-18, 24-25] The Belle of Amherst, (972) 216-8132, mesquiteartscenter.org

Waxahachie [10-May 31] Scarborough Renaissance Festival, (972) 938-3247, srfestival.com

Jefferson [16-17] Outlaw Nationals Car Show, (903) 665-7121, outlawnationals.com

Llano [16-17] Crawfish Open, (325) 247-5354, llanocrawfishopen.com

Ennis [16-18] Bluebonnet Trails Festival, (972) 878-4748, bluebonnettrail.org

Grandview [16-18] Antique Alley Texas, (817) 666-5024, facebook.com/antiquealleytexas

Abilene Philharmonic: Four Seasons, (325) 677-6710, abilenephilharmonic.org

Boerne Spring Tractor Pull and Handcrafted Market, (210) 445-1080, ci.boerne.tx.us/calendar

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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



Before starting, I contacted 811. Did you?

Projects big and small require a call to 811. Submit your request online at Texas811.org or call 811 at least 48 hours before starting your next outdoor digging project. It's free, and it's the law.



Visit Texas811.org to learn more.

Damage Prevention Council of Texas
dpcotexas.org | info@dpcotexas.org



HUNTER BEATON DAY I BAGS

provides foster children with duffel bags filled with supplies for their move to a new home.

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | APRIL 2019

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

TexasCoopPower

\$100
WINNER

Nominate someone today!

TCP Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.



BURN SAFELY

with the Portable DR® BurnCage™

- Stainless steel design
- Light, durable, portable, folds flat for storage
- Perforated construction maximizes airflow
- Traps embers and burns more thoroughly

DRburncage.com

SALE! Plus
FREE SHIPPING
Limitations apply.

FREE Catalog!
Call Toll-Free
877-201-5551



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

VALENTINA RAZUMOVA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Pick of the Month

Cotton Gin Festival

Burton, April 17
(979) 289-3378
texascottonginmuseum.org

Burton boasts what it says is the oldest operating cotton gin in America. In addition to holding a 21st-century festival that includes a parade, tractor pull, music, contests, games, arts and crafts, and food and drinks, the Texas Cotton Gin Museum turns back the clock. The 1914 gin will crank up and produce a bale of cotton.

APRIL EVENTS CONTINUED

17

Boerne Texas Corvette Association Car Show,
Derby Gala, (830) 226-5386,
ci.boerne.tx.us/calendar

Frankston An English Tea Party, (903) 705-2994

Irving Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra:
Kiarra Saito-Beckman,
(972) 252-4800,
lascolinassympphony.org

New Braunfels [17-18] Old Gruene Market Days,
(830) 629-5077,
gruenemarketdays.com

18

Fort Worth [18-Aug. 8] An-My Lê: On Contested Terrain, (817) 738-1933,
cartermuseum.org

21

Austin Taste of Mexico,
(512) 480-9373,
mexic-artemuseum.org

Van Horn [21-23] Building Bridges Art Show, (432) 283-2682,
vanhornatexas.org

23

Corpus Christi [21-25] The Birdiest Festival in America, (361) 563-5968,
birdiestfestival.org

25

Neches [23-25] The 1836, (903) 721-9111,
1836chuckwagonrace.com

Austin Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K,
(512) 953-5585,
youraustinmarathon.com

30

Jacksonville Chamber Classic Golf Tournament,
(903) 586-2217,
jacksonvilletexas.com

New Braunfels [30-May 2] Swap Meet, (830) 708-1372,
newbraunfelsareacarclub.com

MAY

01

Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala, (713) 503-0470

06

Mesquite Courtyard Concert Series,
(972) 216-8132,
mesquiteartscenter.org

New Braunfels Sawyer Brown, (830) 627-0808,
brauntex.org/theater-upcoming-events

Abilene [6-9] Western Heritage Classic,
(325) 677-4376,
westernheritageclassic.com

Fredericksburg [6-9] 175th Anniversary Opening Weekend Ceremonies,
(830) 998-4738, 175th.org

Salado [6-9] Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering, (254) 702-0979,
saladocowboypoetry.com

Brenham [6-9, 13-16, 20-23] Barefoot in the Park, (979) 830-8358,
unitybrenham.org

Storms

From snow and ice to tornadoes, droughts and hurricanes, Texans know extreme weather. These readers were quick as lightnin' when bad weather blew through, and we're thunderstruck by what has flooded in.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

REAGAN FERGUSON
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

A May night under the full moon as a storm approaches, just north of Harper.

TOM HERRIN
PEDERNALES EC

A Big Bend thunderstorm photographed from Terlingua.

STEVE BENSON
LYNTEGAR EC

Lightning in Ropesville.

LAURA BREWER
COSERV

"Watching the storm roll in over the Gulf of Mexico."

Upcoming Contests

- DUE APR 10 **Portraits**
- DUE MAY 10 **Rust and Decay**
- DUE JUN 10 **Fillin' Stations**

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Flashes of the Past

Lightning bugs, whether in a jar or flitting freely, still cause wonder

BY BILL SANDERSON

IT WAS THE mid-1950s when my cousins and I discovered the lightning bugs that brought enchantment when we needed it most, after our granddad, H.L. “Livvy” Meador, had recently been boosted to heaven off a Buick’s big bumper as he walked home across Buckner Boulevard one night after church. His death left our grandmother, Ella (“Nonnie”), a lonely widow and cast her daughters in a support orbit along with all of us cousins. We visited her every night.

In late spring and summer, with no air conditioning, we stayed outside, leaping with the lightning bugs that glimmered through Nonnie’s spacious Dallas yard, their blinking radar butts of amber and green a wondrous delight. We captured them by the dozens in Ball canning jars, ice pick holes poked in the top for air.

When the night got cool, Nonnie would go to bed, and we’d head home, but a ritual had begun that still holds wonder.

Powered by silent wings, the wafting lantern bodies of flying beetles are mesmerizing. Lightning bugs don’t bite, sting, smell or sound. All they do in April, May and June is flash a mating ritual come-hither code. They even have the innate good manners to fly low and slow, so any kid can catch one.

Nonnie’s daughters, Nell and Eula Mae (my mother), eventually converted the houses on Grandfather Meador’s acre into a kindergarten and private first grade called Little Folks School. In a backyard cottage we learned to read aloud in unison, with Nell as our teacher. Often she admonished me, with uneven success, “Bill, pay attention.”

Youngster days now distant in my life’s rearview mirror, I’m returned several decades later to Nonnie’s yard, now my own residence. Paying attention is what I have set out to do recently, and this is my 21st evening to commune with the lightning bugs. They fly around the old merry-go-round and flit among fruitful pear trees that Livvy Meador planted in 1947.

A wonky navigator, the lightning bug bumps into things sideways, and it seldom lands on what it hits. Bottom-heavy with bioluminescence (using a chemical called luciferase), it resembles a small honeybee. When its light switches on, its flight trajectory seems to shift upward. When it senses you approaching, it moves away, slowly—sort of a lumbering light melody in the dark. Imagine a lightning bug version of Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Flight of the Bumblebee*, minus its frenetic sense—more of a Nyquil feel, draping a curtain of dusk in which to make an escape.

Their time is short-lived over the summer’s arc, but if you pay attention in the season, you’ll spot these monarchs of the night.

Keep a Ball jar handy. ■

MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS

WELCOME TO THE BACK PORCH



Sometimes it's nice to sit on the back porch for a spell - talking, laughing and just making memories. At Mueller, we want to make your dream living space come true and give you peace-of-mind that it will protect what matters most to you. After all, we've been around for over 90 years, creating one-of-a-kind structures to meet your every need.



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

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!

\$200 Visa® Prepaid Card

Get TV. Get \$100. Add Internet. Get \$200.

1234 5678 9012 3456

4000

Gift Card

EXPIRES END 01/25

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card200 when you order both TV and internet services. Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation, certain conditions apply. Free \$200 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualifying service (premium customer qualification only).

\$64⁹⁹ month for TV

2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.







 Plus More!








FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX | **- Fully Integrated -**
Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ month for Internet

\$40 per month for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

1-866-290-7151 Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

iSe Habla Español!

dish Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/14/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$64.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.