

A MERKEL CARTOONIST'S
UNCOMMON CALENDAR

TOM LANDRY'S
FINEST SEASON

THE STARS BELOW
IN WEST TEXAS

Texas Coop Power

FOR BLUEBONNET EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2022



Rodeo's Razzle- Dazzle

Texas Spirit Riders thrill
with precision and speed

**BLUEBONNET
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18



MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS



COUNT ON US FOR CUSTOM BUILDINGS

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



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

August 2022



08

Drilled To Thrill

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

*By Gene Fowler
Photos by Dave Shafer*

12 Bringing Texans Up to Date

Cartoonist Roger Moore marks his uncommon calendar with amusing tidbits.

Story and photos by Pam LeBlanc

ON THE COVER

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

ABOVE

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

Photos by Dave Shafer

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

The Most Glorious Autumn
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Best Burgers
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Heaven Beyond Hell's Gate
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Motor Sports

38

Observations

The Stars Below
By Suzanne Featherston



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

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

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

Below are some of the responses to our June prompt: **My singing is so bad ...**

No one would ever believe that my name is Melodie.

MELODIE GREIDER
PEDERNALES EC
DRIPPING SPRINGS

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

GARY GALLOWAY
TRI-COUNTY EC
WEATHERFORD

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

ANN MOSELEY
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC
SHINER

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

PERRY JEFFERIES
HAMILTON COUNTY EC
GATESVILLE

I can't carry a tune in a bucket.

TERRY HOLDERNESS MCADAMS
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
GRANBURY

To see more responses, read Currents online.

Tickle Kids Pink

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

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

Resource-strapped schools can use those crayons in classrooms.

TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Gluten-Free Recipes

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Winter Wildlife

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



120°

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

Keep Your Cool

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

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

— STEVE MARTIN

Shortcut Shortfalls

THE SHORTEST WAY might not always be the best way.

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

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



Back to School

KidsHealth offers these tips for a fantastic school year:

Get enough sleep.

Eat a healthy breakfast.

Try your best.

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

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

Keep a sense of humor.



JOHN JAY CABUAY

Speaking to Children

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

MARTI M. BURNS
BLUEBONNET EC
BASTROP

Find Dining

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

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

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

Check out my Wild Foraging North Texas page on Facebook.

Courtney Taylor
Grayson-Collin EC
Weston

COURTESY COURTNEY TAYLOR



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

PENNY HAULMAN
VIA FACEBOOK

Eating Wild

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

David Todd
Fayette and San Bernard ECs
Austin

Stirring Review

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

Paul Garcia
Medina EC
Castroville

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

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

Lamar Hankins
Pedernales EC
San Marcos

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 Gary Raybon, El Campo • Vice Chair Kelly Lankford, San Angelo
Secretary-Treasurer Neil Hesse, Muenster • Board Members Greg Henley, Tahoka
Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burleson • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Gary Miller, Bryan • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • John Ed Shipnough, Bonham
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

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

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 79, Number 2 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues for the previous 12 months are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehdand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





FREEDOM. TO BE YOU.

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

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



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



Call **1-855-667-1777** or visit
inogen.com for a free
consultation and info guide.



MKT-P0240



★ DRILLED TO THRILL

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



BY GENE FOWLER • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

LOOK GOOD. RIDE FAST. DAZZLE THE CROWD.

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

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

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

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

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

After the team’s first organizational meeting with its new

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CATCH THE SPIRIT RIDERS NEAR YOU

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



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

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

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

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

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



Bringing Texans UP TO Date

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

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

Texas didn't start in January, either.

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

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

But the calendar remains his biggest seller.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Moore



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're putting windows
& doors back in your

BUDGET



How you save money with us:

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



Now until August 31st

Save \$347

on windows¹

Save \$939

on patio doors¹

Save an extra

5%

on your entire order¹

with **\$0 0 0%** for 1 Whole YEAR²
Down Payments Interest

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



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



Austin

512-298-1858 • **469-606-5229**

Dallas/Fort Worth

San Antonio

210-961-9990 • TopWindowSolution.com

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 8/31/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 9/10/22. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

EXTREME

ACTION.
ENERGY.
HEART.



FORT WORTH, TX

SEPT.
8-10
2022

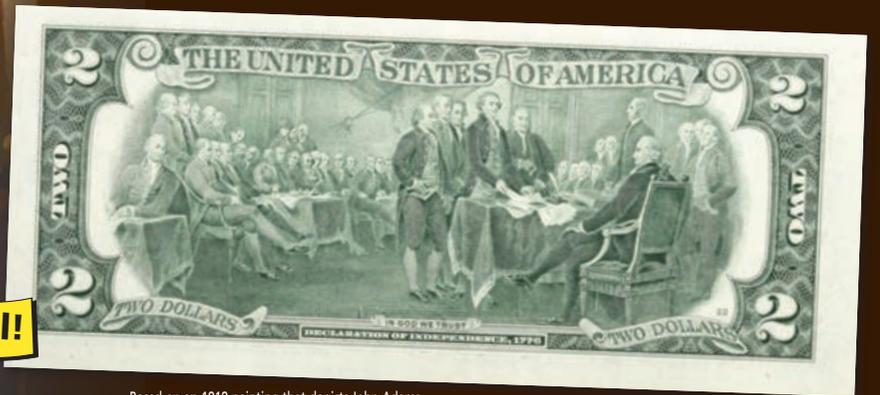
GET YOUR TICKETS



EXTREME
MUSTANG MAKEOVER
A MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRODUCTION



FREE \$2 Bill!



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

Special Offer for New Customers Only Ages 18+

Dept. 5YD434

REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED
WITHIN 30 DAYS

YES! Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	\$2 Note (limit 1)	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	TOTAL	FREE!

Name _____
Please print clearly

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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



These exciting \$2 bills...

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

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

Why are we offering such a great deal? Because we're so sure you'll like this **FREE** \$2 Note that you'll enjoy receiving other popular coins to preview in your home. You'll receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. To receive your **FREE** \$2 Federal Reserve Note, mail attached coupon now.

Mail Coupon Today! For Faster Service
Visit: LittletonCoin.com/Specials

©2022 LCC, Inc.

Bad to the Bone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntsman Blade \$249*

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

1-800-333-2045

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

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK810-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*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+**

A saddle, a Great Depression-era bench and a quirky medical device are among the items area museum leaders say are their favorites.

‘a few
of our
favorite
things’

IT WAS LIKE ASKING a parent: Which is your favorite child?

Museums and historical archives across the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative area are filled with thousands of fascinating items that have taken decades to select and acquire. It takes dedication and a love of history to tell the story of a community through a collection of artifacts.

But surely the folks in charge have a thing or two that holds a special place in their hearts. It could be something simple. Maybe it makes them remember a loved one or it symbolizes a key piece of their community's past and people. Perhaps it just makes visitors chuckle.

We asked five Bluebonnet-area museum officials to pick out the one thing they could call their favorite. Each of their stories tells you something about them, their work and the vast array of preserved treasures tucked away in our communities.

Photos by Sarah Beal





1944 dress white Navy uniform

KELITA THOMAS
Lee County Museum

By Dana Frank

LEE COUNTY LOVES its military veterans.

You can see it at Veterans Honor Park, just north of U.S. 290 and east of downtown Giddings, where flags, paver stones and an honor wall pay tribute to those from the county who are serving, or served, in the U.S. military.

The county also cherishes its history.

All of that brings us to the Military Room at the Lee County Museum, where uniforms from all military branches, most worn during World War II, are on display. All were donated by Lee County residents.

Kelita Thomas likes to linger here. She has an affinity for the 1944 Navy dress white uniform

bearing a lieutenant's insignia and several medals that were worn by M.F. Kieke of Lee County. Thomas, the museum's curator and president of Lee County's historical commission, says she grew up "an Army brat" who is "very proud to be from a military family."

She always looked up to her older brother, Michael, who served in the Navy in a ship's engine room. "He has always been my hero," Thomas said. "This uniform makes me think of my brother and all the other brave sailors who do so much to serve our country and keep us safe."

The man who wore the uniform on display was born in 1911. Kieke was aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945, when representatives of Japan signed surrender documents to the Allied Powers to end World War II.

Kelita Thomas, Lee County Museum curator and president of the county's historical commission, selected the white Navy uniform worn by M.F. Kieke during World War II as her "favorite thing" in the museum. Thomas, surrounded by other uniforms in the exhibit, wears a vintage U.S. Cadet Nursing Corps uniform. Inset at left, M.F. Kieke of Lee County in his Navy uniform. *Photo courtesy of Lee County Historical Commission*

Continued on page 23

Early 1900s custom-made saddle

MIKE VANCE

Brenham Heritage Museum

By Dana Frank

A CUSTOM-MADE SADDLE

allowed a young Dr. W.F. Hasskarl to make house calls after his 1910 arrival in Brenham.

He quickly discovered he was not the only doctor in town, and most rural doctors of that era used carriages or horseback to get to the homes of patients. Cars were a rarity on the region's dirt roads, though Hasskarl did get a Model T soon after his arrival in town.

To smooth horseback house calls, Hasskarl went to venerable Schramm Saddlery on Main Street in downtown Brenham. The business operated from the late 1800s through World War II. The craftsmen there created a sturdy dark-leather riding saddle that could accommodate medical supplies and equipment.

The well-used saddle, still in beautiful shape after a century, is part of the collection at the Brenham Heritage Museum in Washington County.

"It's clear that the family took care of it," said Mike Vance, executive director of the museum. "And we've made sure to protect it since it was donated by the doctor's family a few decades ago."

The saddle is a favorite of Vance's because, he said, "It comes with a story that touches on a longtime business and an important family in town." Vance is also a historian, an author and a documentary filmmaker.

The doctor's son, Dr. W.F. (Boy) Hasskarl Jr., recounts in his memoir, "Remembering Brenham," the story of his father and the saddle.

The saddle has a deep and comfortable cantle, which is the back of the saddle seat, to support the doctor's hips and lower back. Behind the cantle, a wide, sturdy skirt secured saddlebags filled with medical supplies and necessities. The saddle's stirrups are large, heavy and covered in thick leather. They offered stability and protection on Hasskarl's rides through brush and branches, as well as some insulation on chilly middle-of-the-night rides.

The elder Hasskarl, a graduate of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, was one of Brenham's and Washington County's most beloved doctors for decades. He was eventually joined by his son, who was born in Brenham and also graduated from the Galveston medical



Mike Vance, executive director of the Brenham Heritage Museum, is fond of the early-1900s riding saddle used by Brenham physician W.F. Hasskarl. The custom saddle held the doctor's supplies when he made house calls. Even though Dr. and Mrs. Hasskarl had a 1911 Ford Model T, at left, the dirt roads made cars a rarity. *Photo courtesy of Brenham Heritage Museum*

Brenham Heritage Museum

- Exhibits temporarily on display at Bus Depot Gallery, 313 E. Alamo St., Brenham
- Permanent facility, Post Office/Federal Building, 105 S. Market St., closed for renovations (completion expected in September 2022)
- 979-830-8445
- brenhamheritagemuseum.org
- Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; Monday-Friday by appointment only
- Admission free for members, \$5 for nonmembers; donations welcome

school. W.F. Hasskarl Jr., affectionately known as "Dr. Boy," joined his father and a family friend, Dr. Thomas Giddings, at a medical practice that became the Brenham Clinic. The elder Hasskarl died in 1955 at age 70.

Dr. Boy, who served as an Air Force surgeon in the Korean War, worked as a physician in Brenham for 50 years, served two terms as the city's mayor and was the Washington County health officer for 20 years. He died in 2008 at age 91.

The saddle will sit in the Brenham Heritage Museum space when renovations there are complete. The museum's home is a 1916 former federal building and post office downtown that is expected to reopen to the public in September.

"Our goal is to create the best regional history museum in Texas," Vance said. During renovation of the space, the museum has featured rotating exhibits at its 1947-built Bus Depot Gallery around the corner.

Today, the saddle rests "among the stacks" in the administrative building, awaiting reintroduction alongside the Brenham museum's trove of other historic objects and artifacts in the new space, Vance said. Exhibits will fill two floors of the building at 105 S. Market St. ■



The Nerv-O-Meter, a bogus medical device from the early 1900s, is the favorite item of Rox Ann Johnson, left, at the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives in La Grange. Johnson and Maria Rocha, right, are both archivists and curators at the museum. The device was discovered in the La Grange office of a long-ago chiropractor.

Early 20th century bogus medical device, the Nerv-O-Meter

ROX ANN JOHNSON Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives

By Dana Frank

FEELING NERVOUS and jittery? Worried about ... all of it? Considering a curative route but first need a diagnosis? Have we got the gadget for you.

Come see the Nerv-O-Meter at the Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives in La Grange. It is a favorite item of Rox Ann Johnson, an archivist and curator at the museum. The device is a splendid example of the many quack medical devices that became popular in the early 1900s.

The Nerv-O-Meter purports to gauge your “nervosity” (no, that’s not a word) in milliamperes with the help of its accompanying diagnostic instrument, the “micro-quantumeter” (also not a word). The device has an additional tool that, though important-looking in its briefcase-like container, has unstated powers.

During the early 1900s, the medical industry was essentially unregulated and devices like the Nerv-O-Meter were all the rage. Many purported to cure almost any malady, from arthritis to baldness to “neurasthenia,” a not-quite-real condition with symptoms of exhaustion, headache,

Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives

- 855 S. Jefferson St. (above the library), La Grange
- 979-968-3765 (ask for museum and archives)
- cityoflga.com/library (click on Museum & Archives)
- Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
- Free admission; donations accepted

irritability and general neuroses.

The bogus medical devices, often used by quack medical practitioners, varied in appearance and function and went by colorful names, including The Rejuvenator, violet ray wand, magneto and the Elec-Treat Mechanical Heart, according to reports and advertisements from the time. The devices often delivered low-level electric currents from custom batteries, because, in the early 1900s, electricity, magnetism and even radioactivity were touted as having curative properties.

The Nerv-O-Meter was used by a chiropractor whose office was above the Mohrhusen-Schmidt company, a furniture store at the corner of Main and Colorado streets in

La Grange in Fayette County. “The store owner who found these instruments above his business many years ago cut the wires so that his children didn’t hurt themselves,” Johnson said. “Evidently, they liked to play doctor with them.”

The Nerv-O-Meter and its briefcase tool are labeled with the name Fred Besuzzi of Los Angeles. According to a 1955 false advertising lawsuit, Besuzzi was a businessman who loaned money or credit to licensed chiropractors “to enable them to open or buy offices and equipment under the association name of Basic Diagnostic Office.”

The device’s components were added to the museum’s collection more as an oddity than anything historical, Johnson said. “I could only speculate as to how old they are. My take is that they are pure quackery, but what do I know?”

Johnson and her colleague, Maria Rocha, design and create the museum’s exhibits and events. Not all holdings are on display, so if you visit when the Nerv-O-Meter is on hiatus, just ask to see it.

Don’t let the Nerv-O-Meter mislead you, though. The Fayette Heritage Museum and Archives is a research space, with worktables and more than 16,000 historical images in its research collection. It also holds over 17,000 files, documents, scrapbooks, maps and other written materials. ■

1800s Czech hymnal, smuggled in a loaf of bread

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL
Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum

By Denise Gamino

THE THICK BROWN book had no ticket to ride.

Instead, the vintage Czech holy book that is a Burleson County treasure is believed to have been smuggled out of Europe from what is now the Czech Republic in the 1800s. It was a time its people lived in servitude and their culture was suppressed under the strict Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

The stowaway full of songs and psalms apparently traveled inside an unconventional hiding place: a loaf of bread, according to its provenance document at the Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum and the family who donated it.

If the Protestant holy book had been found by the Empire, it would have been burned. An escape route of more than 5,000 miles brought the hymnbook to its display spot in Caldwell.

Museum president Christine Campbell says the Czech hymnal once considered contraband proves how important religion and culture were to the Czechs who left Europe for Texas.

“My favorite thing at the museum is our Czech hymnal,” she said. “The safety that our Czech ancestors risked to bring these important pieces with them sends a clear message of how important their faith was. We all have a lineage of something. To have a lineage of faith is a beautiful thing.”

Czechs began moving to Texas in the mid-19th century, mostly from Bohemia and Moravia. A 1906 Czech guidebook to a London exhibit about Bohemia states, “Three books are of striking importance and significance in the spiritual and moral development of the Bohemians: The Bible, The Postilla (Bible commentaries), and the Hymnbook.”

The chunky hymnal — 4 inches thick, 7 inches tall and 4.5 inches wide — is titled “Psalms and Hymns, Meditations.”

The publishing date is not known, but it’s signed by three men, including Jan Kanak. He wrote a note in the book: “Whoever finds this book should virtuously return it.”

John Orsag, an engineer retired from NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, is a descendant of Kanak. He grew up in the Czech community of Hrozanka in Burleson County, east of Caldwell, where his parents spoke Czech. His mother, Ella (Zalmanek)



Christine Campbell, president of the Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum, is most fond of a pair of Czech hymnals from the 1800s, particularly the thicker book in the foreground. It is believed to have been hidden inside a loaf of bread and smuggled out of Europe.

Burleson County Czech Heritage Museum

- 200 E. Fawn St., Caldwell
- 979-567-0000 (Chamber of Commerce)
- Call for open hours or to schedule a visit
- Free admission; donations accepted

Orsag, had a cousin who was a great-great-grandson of Kanak. He gave Ella Orsag the smuggled Czech holy book because he had no children. About 10 years ago, John Orsag and his two sisters (Emily Orsag Hejl and Joyce Orsag Floeck) donated the book to the Czech Heritage Museum.

“We just decided that would be the best thing to do with it,” John Orsag said. “It was always passed down with the story about how the Bibles were oftentimes baked in bread just to hide them in a place where the authorities were not expected to find them so they could bring them over (to America) and keep them from being destroyed.”

Thadious Polasek, a Czech language instructor at Blinn College in Schulenburg and director of Schulenburg’s Public Library, translated portions of the Czech holy book.

“If, under Austrian-Hungarian rule, the books were found, the owner would (have been) punished,” Polasek said. “Any book in Czech would have had to be hidden



in the Czech lands. The people had to be creative — be it in a loaf of bread, be it in a secret compartment in the floor or the well or some secret area of the house — so they would not be discovered when Austrians were coming into the town or walking through houses inspecting for books.

“The goal of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire was to wipe out the Czech culture, to Germanize the people,” he said.

“If you were going to be leaving your home (to emigrate), what are you going to take with you? You’re going to take your Bible, your medical books,” Polasek said. “If they had to get it through customs as they were traveling through the Austrian territory or checkpoint, they had to come up with ingenious ways of hiding it.”

The Czechs’ success in smuggling out their sacred religious books shows “a very deep love of their faith, their culture, their heritage,” Polasek said. “They knew the way to preserve it was to keep the books with them.” ■



A simple but sturdy bench made in the 1930s by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Bastrop State Park is a favorite of Nicole DeGuzman, the director of the Bastrop Museum and Visitor Center.

1930s bench made in Bastrop State Park

NICOLE DEGUZMAN

Bastrop Museum and Visitor Center

By Dana Frank

NATURAL SPACES — how they feel, look, sound and smell — are a big draw for Nicole DeGuzman. That’s why she relocated a year ago from West Texas to Bastrop, to become director of the Bastrop Museum and Visitor Center.

“Bastrop and Buescher state parks are some of the reasons I moved here,” she said.

Her favorite museum item represents that natural realm because it was hewn and crafted from walnut at Bastrop State Park in the 1930s by members of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC. “The rustic style of this bench was meant to match and blend with the landscape of the park,” DeGuzman said, “just like the buildings and cabins, many of which are still standing.”

The simple wood bench was made before U.S. national park furniture design became standardized. “It is rare that the piece has survived intact,” DeGuzman said. The bench was loaned to the Bastrop County Historical Society in 1996 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The hardworking bench isn’t glossy or flashy, and it is sturdy to this day. Museum visitors sometimes sit on it to gaze at exhibits, unaware they are sitting on a piece of Bastrop County history created by a Great Depression jobs program.

DeGuzman’s beloved bench has cedar cousins in the museum: a dining table and three chairs, all in the rustic style that har-

Bastrop Museum and Visitor Center

- 904 Main St., Bastrop
- 512-303-0057
- bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com
- Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Admission \$5; free for 12 and younger and veterans

monizes with the Lost Pines environment. The furniture at the museum was used in the park’s Refectory, or dining hall.

“A good portion of the original 1930s CCC-made furniture is still at the park,” according to Sally Baulch, the chief curator of the State Parks Cultural Resources Program at Texas Parks and Wildlife.

In the 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal offered jobs to young unmarried men between ages 18 and 25 as part of the CCC to build out Bastrop State Park — as well as more than 800 other state and national parks.

Between 1934 and 1937, the Bastrop State Park furniture shop and mill turned out an estimated \$75,000 worth of furniture for cabins and other buildings for parks nationwide. In today’s dollars, that is about \$1.5 million.

That historic woodshop is still in use today. The brown signs familiar to visitors at any of Texas’ 89 state parks, historic sites and natural areas are made there. Bastrop State Park’s legendary handiwork now leaves a mark all around Texas. ■

Lee County Museum

- 183 E. Hempstead St., Giddings
- 979-542-3455
- Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
- Free admission; donations accepted

Continued from page 19

Kieke interrupted his career as an attorney in Lee County to serve his country from 1944 to 1946. His uniform bears an Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, a World War II Victory Medal and an honorable discharge emblem.

Thomas, who is also tourism director for the Giddings Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in creating the Military Room in July 2021 to correspond with the Giddings Sesquicentennial and the opening of Veterans Honor Park and memorial.

Other uniforms in the museum’s Military Room include a U.S. Cadet Nursing Corps uniform and an Army uniform from World War I. The oldest item in the room is a sword from the Civil War, and the “prize of the collection,” Thomas said, is a World War I German water-cooled machine gun.

The Lee County Museum is housed, along with the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Center, in the two-story Greek Revival-style Schubert-Fletcher home, which August Schubert built in 1879 for his wife and 10 children. The Baylis Fletcher family bought the house in 1900, and donated it to the Lee County Heritage Society in the mid-1980s. The society donated the home to the county in 2017. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the Military Room, the front room of the museum displays the home’s original formal furnishings and décor, including the Schubert-Biar family piano and a framed painted Fletcher family tree that dates the family’s roots more than 900 years to 1066. A bedroom and kitchen are also part of this exhibit. Completing the museum, which Johnson estimates contains 5,000 pieces, are a rotating exhibit and the Lee County History Room.

Kieke was raised in Lee County and went from practicing law to become Lee County Attorney in 1950 and county judge in 1953. He died in 1980 at age 69.

It is fitting that Giddings’ former city slogan, “Home of Opportunity,” was coined by his daughter, then-schoolgirl Twila Kieke. (Today’s city slogan is “Experience Hometown Hospitality.”)

Twila came up with the slogan in a 1950 competition and pocketed \$10 for her idea. Perhaps her father’s life of military honor, hard work and success served as inspiration for her winning idea. ■

Grants benefit volunteer fire departments, help to upgrade playground equipment

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and the Lower Colorado River Authority recently awarded community nonprofit groups and projects with grants that will allow them to continue to serve the communities in Dale, New Ulm, Lee County and the Gay Mound areas. The grants are part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program intended to assist the communities it serves. Bluebonnet is one of LCRA's wholesale electric customers and is proud to partner with LCRA to support its members and communities. More information about this program and the application can be found at lcra.org/cdpp.

A \$16,476 grant will allow the Dale Volunteer Fire Department to purchase cordless equipment that includes a tool to pry apart a wrecked vehicle, a ram to free a trapped victim and a cutting tool. The tools will replace the department's current tools that are heavy and malfunction at times. These new tools will allow first responders to move freely and quickly without cords or hoses. Pictured at right (from left) are Jo Anna Gilland, Bluebonnet Lockhart area community representative; James Lewey, VFD vice president and firefighter; Milton Shaw, Bluebonnet director; Ronnie Calaway, VFD board member and firefighter; Brian Barrington, fire chief; Shelly Palmer, VFD treasurer; Margaret D. "Meg" Voelter, LCRA board member; Elizabeth Lewey, firefighter; and Rick Arnic, LCRA regional affairs representative.



A \$24,720 grant will allow the Gay-Mound-Cedar Hill Volunteer Fire Department to improve its response to structure fires and increase firefighter safety. The department matched the funds with \$6,300 to help the VFD purchase several self-contained breathing apparatus systems to replace 15-year-old equipment. Pictured at right (from left) are Kyle Merten, Bluebonnet Brenham area community representative; Robert Buchman, assistant fire chief and training coordinator; Kate Ramzinski, LCRA regional affairs representative; Ricky Adler, firefighter; Robert Mikeska, Bluebonnet Board Secretary/Treasurer; Gregory Pecht, firefighter; Curtis Rodenbeck, fire chief; Corey Prestwood, firefighter; Laura D. Figueroa, LCRA Board member; Troy Schroeder, assistant fire chief; Margaret D. "Meg" Voelter, LCRA board member; and firefighters Jordan Labeth, Michael Parker and Donald Hancock.



A \$25,000 grant will help St. John Lutheran Church in New Ulm to upgrade playground equipment and make other improvements to its community park. This is in addition to \$64,540 in matching funds from the church. The improvements will include a covered pavilion, new playground equipment, and wheelchair-accessible sidewalks and table areas. Pictured at right (from left) are: Bonnie Schulz, church member; Kate Ramzinski, LCRA regional affairs representative; Steve Thompson, New Ulm Chamber of Commerce president; Debra Kollman and Eli Kollman, church members; Robin Marek, church building committee member; Byron Balke, Bluebonnet Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; Dale Kollman, church member; Bryan Haevischer, church council member; Douglas Polasek, church council president; Stanley Krebs, church building committee member; Margaret D. "Meg" Voelter, LCRA board member; Becky Haevischer, church council member; Gerri Hanten, New Ulm Chamber of Commerce; Brenda Tonn, church member; Floyd Tonn, church building committee member; Emilie Canik, church council member; and Kyle Merten, Bluebonnet Brenham area community representative.



Photos courtesy of LCRA

Director Goertz earns NRECA Gold credential

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Board member Debbi Goertz earned a Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which represents more than 900 of the nation's electric cooperatives.

Goertz has served as a Bluebonnet director from District 3, Bastrop County, since 2017. To earn this certificate, Goertz completed two other certifications and three courses, and she will complete three continuing education courses every two years. Of the more than 500 electric cooperative directors in Texas, only 95 have received this credential.



Debbi Goertz, center, is congratulated by Bluebonnet Board Chairman Ben Flencher, left, and Bluebonnet General Manager Matt Bentke.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

Bluebonnet offices will be closed Sept. 5 for Labor Day. If you have a power outage, you can report it by texting OUT to 85700 (to register, text BBOUTAGE to that number), online at bluebonnet.coop, via our mobile app or by calling 800-949-4414. You can pay bills anytime online, on our mobile app or by calling 800-842-7708 (press option 2 when prompted).

Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar!

All for saving energy, stand up and holler!

Temperatures are a tough opponent in the scorching summer months, but you can still up your energy-saving game and beat the heat — and high electric bills. Energy Coach Alyssa is sharing tips and videos on Bluebonnet's Facebook page and Twitter feed, with the help of her four-legged cheerleader, Millie, to help you cut your costs and conserve energy.

Build your defense

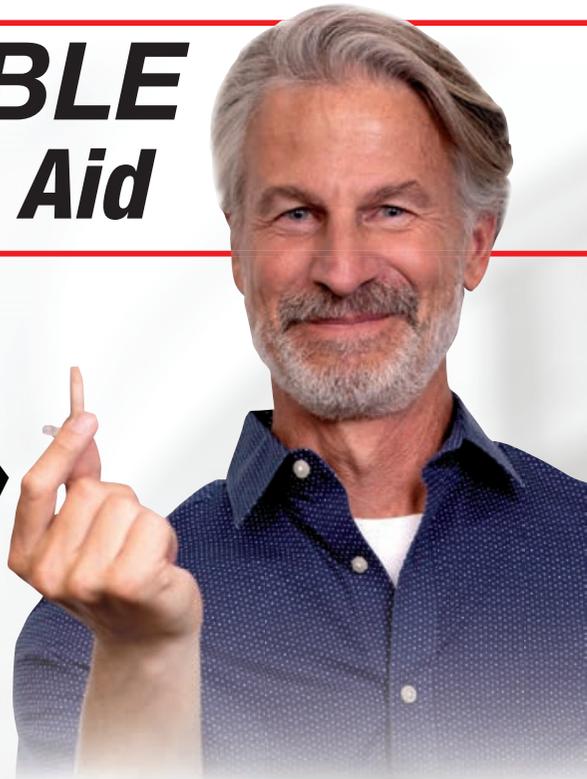
Our online tools tell the tale: Hot temperatures mean higher electric bills. Analyze your electricity use with three handy tools online at bluebonnet.coop (log in to your account and look under the My Usage tab), or on the MyBluebonnet mobile app (click the Usage tab).

- 1. USAGE EXPLORER:** Get a detailed look at your past and current energy use, all in one place. View your electricity use and temperature trends by the month, day or hour.
- 2. USAGE COMPARISON:** Compare past monthly bills side by side and determine if new energy-saving habits are making a difference.
- 3. AVERAGE USAGE:** Select a time period to see how much electricity you used.



Keep an eye on our social media for video tips and giveaways. Plus, find more tips and resources to help you save money and electricity at bluebonnet.coop/saving-money

RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid



**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

**NEW LOW
PRICE**

~~REG. \$299.98~~
**ONLY
\$149⁹⁹**
Each When You Buy a Pair

PLUS FREE SHIPPING
Limited Time Only!

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$149⁹⁹ be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

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

The MDHearingAid® VOLT uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 800,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

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

CHARGE AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY

**NEVER
CHANGE
A BATTERY
AGAIN!**

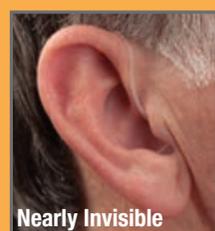


Carrying case is also the charger

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

**For the Lowest Price Call
1-800-535-4118**
www.MDVolt.com



Nearly Invisible

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

MDHearingAid® 
DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Proudly assembled in America! 

SUMMER SAVINGS



Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service
Second to None

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

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

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

*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



40'x15'x12'



Made in Texas



30'x40'x12'



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



**Call today for
our best pricing!**

www.ddmbuildings.com

BRUSH SHARK




SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

- 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
- Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

Low Cost Pole Barns

26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed

Call now for our best pricing!

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

Call Ron: 512-367-0428

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

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

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

830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

WD Metal Buildings



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

Instant Prices @ WDMB.com

TCP Gift Shop



TCP Shop now
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

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

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

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

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

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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

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

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

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

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

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

journey
perfect
sleep chair

1-888-796-0741

Please mention code 117357 when ordering.



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

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

Genuine Italian Leather
classic beauty & style

Chestnut



! New Brisa™
luxurious & lasting

Light Gray



Saddle



Chocolate



Long Lasting DuraLux™
stain & liquid repellent

Burgundy



Tan



Chocolate



Blue



MicroLux™ Microfiber
breathable & amazingly soft

mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™



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





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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Most Glorious Autumn

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

BY W.F. STRONG

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Burgers

Beyond the beef lie flavorful options that are sure to sizzle

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

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



Falafel Burgers

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

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

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

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

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Hatch Chile Turkey Burgers.



Homemade Popper-Topped Burgers

MARIA PENNER
LAMAR ELECTRIC

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

TOPPING

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

BURGERS

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

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

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

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

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

Spicy Bacon Burgers

DANIEL BATES
COSERV



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

SERVES 8

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

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

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

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

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

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

GLUTEN-FREE RECIPES DUE AUGUST 10

Gluten-free cooking isn't a trend; it's here to stay.

What's a fixture in your kitchen? Submit your recipes on our website by August 10 for a chance to win \$500.



RECIPES CONTINUED

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

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

SERVES 4-6

Spicy Lamb Burgers

CINDY JOHNSON
COSERV

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

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



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

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

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

SERVES 4

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

Back to the 70's

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MOO-LA

1972 - 2022

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

Moo-La
Erected Sept. 23, 1972
For Moo-La's History, visit stephencountytx.com

ERATH COUNTY
Recognizing the Dairy Industry

AFFORDABLE LIFE INSURANCE

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

10 - Year
Guaranteed
Level Rates

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

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

Call Wiley Maddox Today to Request an Application:

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

Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm EST

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

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

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

Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM

**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

STAYcation at Home in 2022!

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.





COURTESY CHET GARNER

Heaven Beyond Hell's Gate

Possum Kingdom Lake offers a scenic slice of paradise

BY CHET GARNER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Know Before You Go

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

AUGUST

07

D'Hanis Holy Cross Catholic Church Homecoming Picnic, (830) 363-7269, holycross-dhanis.org

11

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

12

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

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

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

Plano [12–13] Quilt Plano, 1-800-817-5266, qgplano.org

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

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

13

Cedar Park Treasure of the Hills Senior Center Senior Expo, (512) 331-6000, toth-seniors.com

Grand Prairie Hatch Chile Fest, (972) 237-8084, grandfungp.com/farmersmarket

Junction Car Show, (325) 446-5658, junctiontexas.com/car-show

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

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

17

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

19

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

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

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

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

20

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

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

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

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

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

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

World's Finest Eye Cream

a "selections" product in Oprah magazine



AIRBRUSH

Eye Refining Treatment

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

Compare to:

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

Reg \$68
Now only
\$39.99

Use 40% discount code: **TEX39** at
www.dremu.com or call **800-542-0026**

Free Shipping — Open 24/7

WALK-IN TUBS
FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED

ONYX SHOWERS
FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED

A circular seal on the tub reads: "SATISFACTION GUARANTEED", "LIFETIME WARRANTY", "100% GUARANTEED".



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 17 YEARS ★

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 17 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.



888-825-2362 **www.bestbuywalkintubs.com**

Never lose electricity again!



Own the #1 brand in home standby power.

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

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

Limited Time BONUS OFFER!

GENERAC



*Price does not include installation.

*Built in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

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

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

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

BLAKE MATTSO, CFP™
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710
Serving Customers All Over Texas

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing



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



RACHELRICCI | DREAMTIME.COM

Pick of the Month

AIA Sandcastle Competition and Viewing

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

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

28

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

SEPTEMBER

01

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

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

02

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

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

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

03

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

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

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

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

04

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

AUGUST EVENTS CONTINUED

25

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

26

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

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

27

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

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

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

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

Motor Sports

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

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

**1 DANNY PICKENS
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC**

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

**2 RONALD HAVARD
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

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

**3 PAIGE LUECKEMEYER
TRI-COUNTY EC**

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

**4 LISA BENNETT
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**

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



Upcoming Contests

- DUE AUG 10** Winter Wildlife
- DUE SEP 10** Nature's Colors
- DUE OCT 10** First Responders



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



The Stars Below

An abundant West Texas cactus garden sparkles in its own way

BY SUZANNE FEATHERSTON
ILLUSTRATION BY CARL WIENS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LIVE LIFE PAIN-FREE



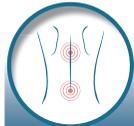
PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM



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



85%
LESS KNEE PAIN



91%
LESS BACK PAIN



92%
LESS ANKLE PAIN



75%
LESS FOOT PAIN

Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

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

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

gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145



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

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black



\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8HPS4

www.gdefy.com

Expires November 30, 2022

Free Exchanges • Free Returns

60-Day Try Defy

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Medical Technology Corp.
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



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



Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!

Same Bill. Same Price. **\$69⁹⁹** month for TV Every Month. For 2 Years.



It's ALL Included with DISH!

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



\$300 Get TV. Get \$100. Add Internet. Get \$300.

4000 1234 5678 9012 3456

Gift Card EXPIRES END 01/25

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card300 when you order both TV and internet services. Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation certain conditions apply. Free \$30 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualified service premium customer qualification only.

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

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ **\$40** month for Internet
Now Just...

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



Save up to \$20/mo.*
*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

These Exclusive Extras Are Included!

FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App

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

Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant

Hey Google
Tune to ESPN

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

Your Favorite Apps in One Place!

NETFLIX **pandora**
prime video **YouTube**

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

iSe Habla Español!

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 11/9/22. **2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost:** Programming package upgrades (\$84.99 for AT120+, \$94.99 for AT200, \$104.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). **Regional Sports:** RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change):** Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. **Premium Channels:** 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. **Remote:** The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. **Other:** Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. – 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.