

GRANDMA IS A
TIKTOK STAR

HOLIDAY SIDE DISHES
FOR YOUR GATHERINGS

WHEN TEXAS REACHED
INTO WYOMING

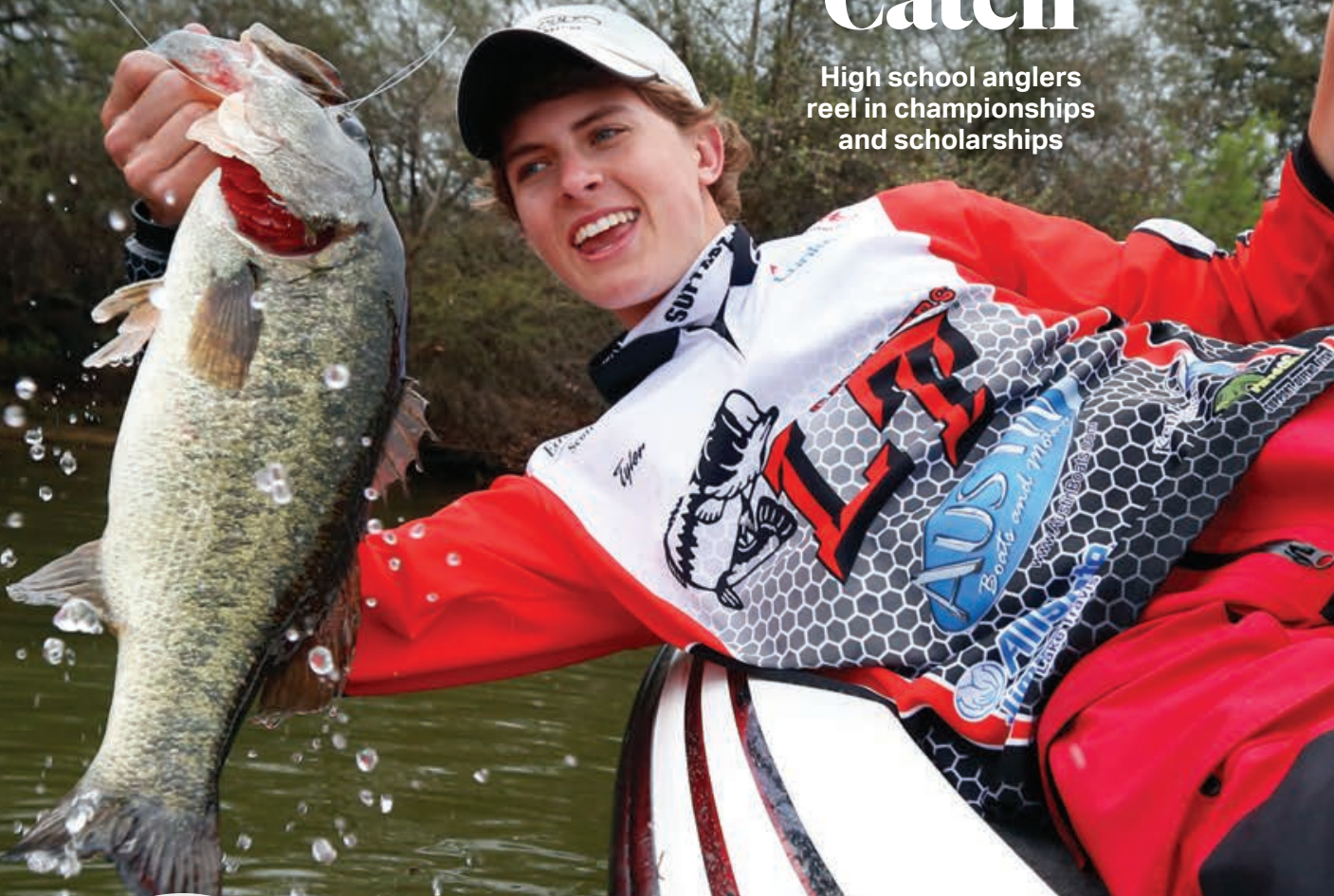
Texas Coop Power

FOR TRI-COUNTY EC MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2022

Prize Catch

High school anglers
reel in championships
and scholarships



**TRI-COUNTY
EC NEWS**
SEE PAGE 18

MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING



READY TO BUILD YOUR **DREAM?**

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at muellerinc.com, then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



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

November 2022



08

Grandma Goes Viral

She's a TikTok star whose down-home videos have amassed a global following.

*By Mark Wangrin
Photos by Scott Van Osdol*

12 Lakes' Allure

High school anglers get their hooks into lucrative tournament prizes and experiences.

*Story and photos
by Erich Schlegel*

ON THE COVER

Tyler Anderson of Lake Travis High School lands a bass during a tournament.

Photo by Erich Schlegel

ABOVE

Dawn Hodges has put her Bellville kitchen on the social media landscape.

Photo by Scott Van Osdol

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

Everything Was Bigger ...
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Holiday Sides
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Toe Tappin' in Turkey
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Aerials

38

Observations

The Arable Twos
By Martha Deeringer

Over the Moon

WANT TO SEE a total lunar eclipse?

The moon will pass through the darkest part of the Earth's shadow November 8, a phenomenon that will be visible in Texas wherever skies are clear.

Check it out 2:01–7:58 a.m. It's the last chance to see a total lunar eclipse from Texas until March 14, 2025.



Edible Edifice

The Traditions Club near Texas A&M University holds the world record for the largest gingerbread house, built in November 2013 in Bryan.

The brown gingerbread bricks lacquered in frosting required 1,800 pounds of butter, 7,200 eggs, 7,200 pounds of flour and nearly 3,000 pounds of brown sugar.

All told, the house stacked up to be 60 feet long, 42 feet wide and 10 feet tall. Oh, and it contained nearly 36 million calories.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I ...

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 September prompt: **Rural life is ...**

Seeing the dust rise a mile away and knowing you better get the laundry off the line and folded before mother pulls into the driveway.

BARBARA TWEED
TRI-COUNTY EC
FORT WORTH

Seeing more tractors go by your house than cars.

JOHN AND SHERRIE MOORE
BLUEBONNET EC
PAIGE

When you see every star in the sky and you can hear every sound that nothing makes.

COREY JACOB
PEDERNALES EC
DRIPPING SPRINGS

Knowing and helping your neighbor even though he's acres away.

ROBERT LANKFORD
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
APPLE SPRINGS

Far from Walmart.

ANGEL GORKA
CECA
MAY

Visit our website to see more responses.

75 Years of Insight

Meet the Press, the longest-running program on American TV, first aired November 6, 1947.

Dig This

NOVEMBER 4 is Arbor Day in Texas.

Your electric cooperative wants to keep you safe and your power on, reminding you that regardless of where you're planting, never dig without first calling 811 to locate underground utilities.



Landmark Election

Edith Wilmans became the first woman elected to the Texas Legislature when Dallas County voters chose her 100 years ago this month—November 7, 1922.

She served one term in the House and then ran unsuccessfully for governor.

Make sure to cast your vote on Election Day, November 8.



S-U-R-R-E-A-L

That's how San Antonio teen Harini Logan, above, described winning the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee in June.

Surreal could also describe Texans' prowess at spelling. Three of the other 12 finalists call Texas home. And Logan joins six other Texans who have won outright or shared titles since 2014.

That includes three from the state who were among the octo-champs in 2019—the only time eight contestants were co-champs.

Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Incredible Eggs

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Land, Sea or Sky

WIN 2 NIGHTS IN FREDERICKSBURG

The prize package of a midweek getaway in this charming Hill Country town includes lodging, food and attractions. Enter now to win.



TAYLOR CALLERY

Roll Call

“In 1959 my bus driver, Mr. Wisely, gave me a Standing Liberty quarter when he saw me crying over losing my Big Chief tablet.”

DAN KING
LAMAR ELECTRIC
PARIS

Returning Home

I loved the article showcasing young people returning to the family farm as entrepreneurs [*Connecting With the Land*, September 2022]. I am in a similar circumstance with my rancher father in a San Saba nursing home.

We have been in the area for five-plus generations, but I have lived all over and find I, too, am a “weirdo.” Glad to see I am not alone.

I was also pleased to see the article highlight how one family set up a business inviting more diverse communities, including LGBTQ and people of color, to the area to camp.

Michelle Pollock
Hamilton County EC
Lometa

This is a delicious burger [Homemade Popper-Topped Burgers, August 2022]. And the topper can also be tweaked into a topper for something hot off the grill. Yum.

MELINDA WOOD
SASARAK
VIA FACEBOOK

Costly Payoff

Kirk Tidwell’s statement, “I only get paid once a year, and this is my payday right here,” shook me [*Prized Fibers*, July 2022]. I guess I have always known that farmers only get paid when crops are sold, but seeing it in writing made it so real. Farmers and others in agriculture should be the most appreciated workforce in this country.

Roberta McLaughlin
Heart of Texas EC
Lorena

Landry’s Followers

As I traveled around the country, I tried to schedule trips to coincide with a Cowboys game [*The Most Glorious Autumn*, August 2022]. I watched Coach Landry sign autographs in every hotel lobby for almost 30 minutes before he could make it to the elevator.

Bill “Cowboy” Lamza
San Bernard EC
Hempstead



JULIA ROBINSON

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.

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chair Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Vice Chair** Neil Hesse, Muenster
Secretary-Treasurer Avan Irani, Robstown • **Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock
 Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor
PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE
 Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burlison
 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 Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull
Communications Specialists Alex Dal Santo, Suzanne Featherston, Travis Hill,
 Jessica Ridge • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz • **Food Editor** Megan Myers
Digital Media Specialist Caytlyn Phillips • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 79, Number 5 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 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. **Co-op members:** Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.
POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.
ADVERTISING Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication.
COPYRIGHT All content © 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehdand © 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



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: **HUK859-01**

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK859-01
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

**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!



Rating of A+



**What Stauer Clients
Are Saying About
Our Knives**

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

— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®



Watch Grandma Cook

She's a TikTok star whose down-home videos have amassed a global following

THE MOST UNLIKELY TIKTOK INFLUENCER

in Texas lives in an old country house behind a scattering of oak and hickory off Highway 36 about 5 miles north of Bellville, which is about the time it takes to drink a beer, judging by the number of empties Dawn Hodges usually finds beside the roadway in front of her farm.

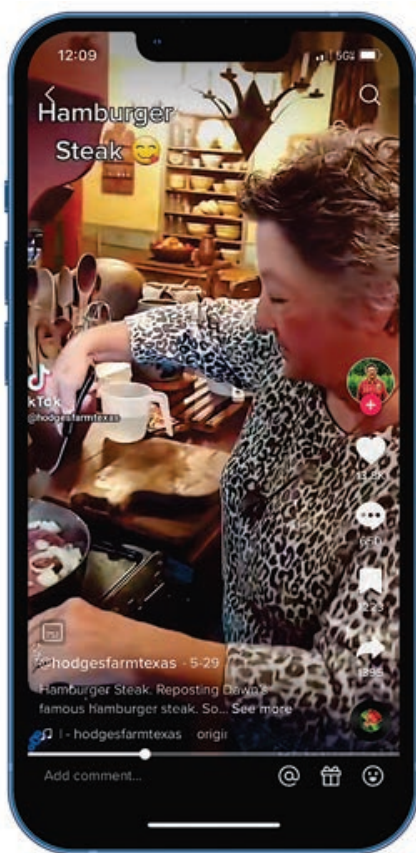
Quick-witted and flashing a smile beneath her piercing blue eyes, this Houston native is 76 years old, not quite 5 feet tall, uses glasses sparingly and can hear a visitor knock on the back door from her kitchen at the other end of the house.

We mention the kitchen because that's how we got here. Dawn cooks—well. And she loves to share her recipes on a social network most septuagenarians are as likely to use as a skateboard.

"I don't have the big head," says a bemused Dawn. "I'm not feeding off it—but I am enjoying it. I never thought people would be so interested in watching a grandma cook."

And yet, here she is, a TikTok star who has posted 173 videos and boasts more than 200,000 followers; her three-minute video on how to make pickles has 1.9 million views. At a follower's request, she filmed a shorter video with her 17-year-old grandson, Caden, and his friend, sampling the pickles, crunching loudly and looking happy. It got 166,800 views. Heck, a TikTok of her riding a tractor got 42,400 hits.

If there's one thing about a grandmother being a TikTok star that makes sense, it's that Dawn loves to talk. A visitor could come with 30 minutes' worth of questions and leave



OPPOSITE Dawn Hodges serves up a plate of fresh-baked oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. ABOVE Hamburger steak, as TikTok viewers see it come together.

four hours later with a notebook full of scribbling and a belly full of her delicious chocolate zucchini cake. (Yes, her recipe is on TikTok.)

A question about her cooking might lead to a yarn about Willie, the ill-fated family pig. One about how many critters she has on her farm turns into a tale of Squeaky, a sturdy, good-tempered feral cat who likes to kill gophers and drag them above an open door in her garage, much to the dismay of her two dogs—and anyone standing there when the door comes down.

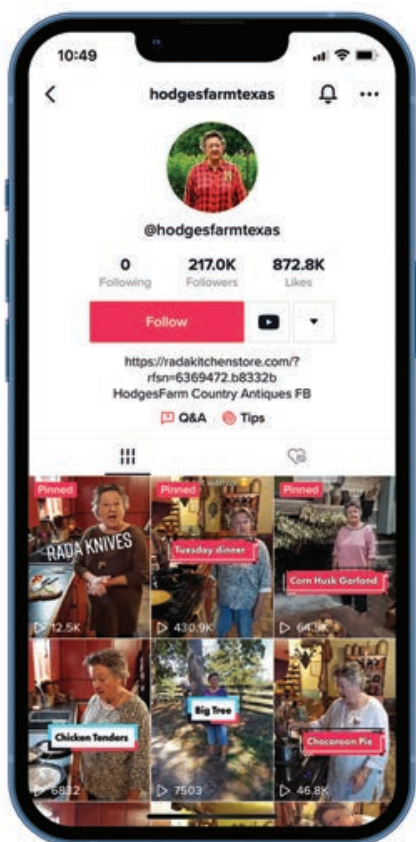
Outside the house, cobbled together from homes and parts of homes from the 1800s and filled with antiques of the same period, is the rest of the L-shaped, 95-acre

spread. There's the potting shed, a garden, a log cabin and an older structure surrounded by an overhanging porch that served as a commercial kitchen when Dawn and her late husband, Doug, gave a go at a business—a result of her fame as the Pimento Cheese Queen of Bellville, a story for another day—but now houses antiques and a refrigerator she stocks with farm eggs that neighbors can stop by and pick up on the honor system. Out back is the barn, a chicken coop, pasture, pond and the home of her daughter, Amy Owens.

Amy sparked Dawn's TikTok adventure because she wanted others to enjoy her mom's prowess in the kitchen.

"Well, I've always wanted to do that," Amy says, "because she's really good at telling people what to do. Anybody will tell you that."

And Dawn could always cook. Anybody will tell you that, too.



FROM LEFT Millions of viewers like seeing what Hodges is up to in her kitchen. Grandson Caden Owens shows the simplicity of producing a TikTok video. “I never thought people would be so interested in watching a grandma cook,” Hodges says.

In October 2020, Doug passed away. He spent 31 years as an office and then business manager at San Bernard Electric Cooperative before retiring in 2005, and he slowly succumbed to dementia. “It was the worst time of my life,” Dawn says.

Looking to lift her mother’s spirits, Amy suggested producing videos for YouTube and later Facebook. Dawn admits the videos were long and unfocused, but it was valuable experience.

One evening about a year ago, Amy, Caden and Dawn were eating supper when Caden said, “You should put them on TikTok. That’s where the videos go crazy.”

So they posted a blackberry custard pie video, and it has since gotten over 54,000 views. “And we’re like, whoa,” Amy recalls.

Her fame took off from there, with Dawn getting to share her passion with strangers all over the world.

“I don’t care whether you believe it or not, but God puts stuff on your heart,” she says. For her, that has almost always been cooking.

As a child, Dawn spent summers on her Aunt Mary’s farm. Mary was a superb cook, and Dawn was inspired. Dawn’s mom “cooked because she had to,” so Dawn became the self-

taught family chef-in-residence.

Enter TikTok, where creators can make short videos, ranging from a few seconds to up to 10 minutes, often set to music and modified by filters. It skews young—almost half its users are under 25.

After making its international debut four years ago, TikTok has captured short attention spans among Americans. The platform boasts 3.5 billion mobile app downloads worldwide. It’s a popular platform for businesses, marketing and entertainers trying to make it big and people who create memes, attempt unusual challenges and generally try to go viral.

Dale Blasingame hates the expression. “I think marketers use it too much,” says the assistant professor of practice in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Texas State University, where he specializes in social media. “They promise everything will go viral. If you’re producing consistently good content, you have a much greater chance of something finally hitting than if you’re doing nothing but trying to go viral all the time.”

Which brings us back to Dawn. Blasingame can see why she’s successful.

She looks different from many TikTok performers, he says. She’s genuine, displaying a rare comfort level with the platform, unlike many her age. Her videos have solid production value (“Just me and my fancy Samsung phone,” Amy says), aren’t overproduced and are clear, simple and easy to understand.

And she’s typecast for her role.

“When you stop to think about who you trust with cooking



tips, she kind of fits the exact bill, right?” Blasingame says. “Especially when you think about the typical TikTok user, who’s probably between 15 and 30. She’s Grandmother’s age.”

Not much is known about the algorithm TikTok uses, but one thing that’s obvious, Blasingame says, is that it’s equal opportunity.

“The greatest aspect of TikTok’s algorithm is that you don’t already need to be a celebrity, a superstar or a big name or have a big following to become a shining star on TikTok,” he says. “Unlike Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, it’s the one platform where anyone, literally anyone, can produce one piece of content that can catapult them to tens of thousands, even a million, followers.”

That’s not lost on Dawn, who ponders the ridiculousness of becoming a TikTok influencer.

“This blows my mind,” she says, shaking her head. “I thought TikTok was just a bunch of kids jumping around and acting crazy.”

She has also become aware of the flip side of TikTok fame—the trolls. Commenters will rag on her for using Velveeta instead of traditional cheese, for mentioning God a lot or any one of a dozen or more things.

“I had to almost ban a troll last night for just being tacky

“This blows my mind. I thought TikTok was just a bunch of kids jumping around and acting crazy.”

because Mom used a packet of gravy on her hamburger steak instead of making it homemade,” Amy says.

Dawn has her go-to reply for those instances: “I just respond with a heart emoji.”

The rest of her followers bring her joy. She hears from fans in Finland, Mexico, Canada, Germany and France, to name a few, and some ask for recipe substitutes when they can’t find some of the ingredients she grows in her spacious garden. And then there’s the Corpus Christi artist who created an oil painting of Dawn in 80 minutes, recorded a time-lapse video of the process and sent the TikTok to her.

She’s got a new fan, too. Blasingame, who became a vegetarian in May, still is intrigued by Dawn’s videos. There are the biscuits and sweet potato casserole, of course, but there are also memories of his own mother, who passed away in 2021.

“She kind of even looks like my mom a bit; they have a very similar hairdo,” he says sweetly. “When I watched her videos, that was the first thing that popped into my mind. My mom was a great cook.

“I wish I had videos like this preserved in time, you know, to try to remember all of her amazing recipes.”

Thanks to TikTok and Dawn Hodges, he kind of already does. ■



Lakes' Allure

High school anglers get their hooks into lucrative tournament prizes and experiences

How about a big fish tale?

Within the first few casts at the 6 a.m. start of one of the biggest Texas high school fishing tournaments this year, Hunter Boren and Joe Fleming hooked the biggest catches of the day—within seconds of each other. Captain and boat driver Mike Boren had to scramble to figure out which fish to net first.

“Mine weighed 7.95 pounds, and seconds later Joe caught his that weighed 7.6 pounds,” Hunter Boren says. “Those first few minutes were insane madness.”

With those fish, the Pearland High School seniors won the Texas High School Bass Association’s Angler of the Year tournament on Lake Conroe in June. Three weeks earlier, the team scored nearly the same quick hits to finish seventh in the THSBA State Championship on Belton Lake in Temple.

On the first day of the state championship—within minutes of the sunrise start—Fleming caught the first and biggest fish of that day. The 5.81-pound bass jumped once, then Fleming quickly wrangled it into the net, pumped his fist and high-fived Hunter Boren.

The Angler of the Year event is the final tournament in the THSBA circuit, which includes more than 50 tournaments. According to Matt Tolnay, who heads operations for the series, more than 3,100 anglers from 300 Texas schools compete for more than a half-million dollars in scholarships.

Boren and Fleming each won \$3,000 scholarships and \$1,000 gift cards from Academy Sports + Outdoors for winning Angler of the Year. Because THSBA isn’t part of the state’s University Interscholastic League, it can award prizes and scholarships.

The THSBA is the largest fishing circuit for high school anglers, but there are several smaller series, including Deep East Texas High School Fishing, based at the Sam Rayburn



OPPOSITE Early positioning—4 a.m.—helped Joe Fleming, left, and Hunter Boren land 30 pounds of bass and first-place trophies.
ABOVE Boat captain Mike Boren prepares to net one of Fleming’s bass.

Reservoir; the Central Texas High School Tournament Trail; and Texas B.A.S.S. Nation, run by Bassmaster.

On THSBA tournament days, boat ramps are busy with teams backing their crafts into a lake in the dark well before dawn, their glowing red and green navigation lights reflecting on the water. The tournament organizer gathers the teams to announce the rules and time for weigh-in.

Then, as dawn’s colors creep into the sky, anglers stand on their bows as the national anthem is played over a loudspeaker. When the starting horn goes off, teams zoom off to their first fishing spots, which they had identified in their preparation for the day. Tournaments are typically won in the first hour of fishing.

The rules are similar at most tournaments: one or two anglers per boat, driven by a registered adult “captain” (usually a parent). One- and two-day tournaments will usually start at 6 a.m., with weigh-in starting mid-afternoon. Anglers keep fish in live wells in their boats, then transfer them into oxygenated water troughs using a perforated bag for weigh-in. The heaviest bag of fish wins. The fish are then released back into the lake.

Most tournaments hold a practice fishing day before the competition begins, offering crucial preparation for competitors learning a new lake. Experienced anglers will know the fish patterns for that time of year—a serious advantage. Another way to get a leg up: Rise early on tournament day.

“In the Angler of the Year tournament, we were in our spot just after 4 a.m. and waited there to hold that spot until we could start fishing at 6 a.m.,” Hunter Boren says. “Fishing tournaments is competitive, but after weigh-in, it gives you the opportunity to walk around and meet new people from around the state.”

More than 3,100 anglers from 300 Texas schools compete for more than a half-million dollars in scholarships.

Mark Hooker, coach for the high school fishing teams from Montgomery, north of Houston, calls his program the most decorated in the state. “This year we have 92 anglers and are very competitive within our own team,” he says.

That competitive spirit led one of his teams to a historic national championship.

Although most high school anglers are boys, more and more girls are getting out on lakes. Montgomery anglers Fallon Clepper and Wyatt Ford, students at Lake Creek High School and members of MidSouth Electric Cooperative, won the 2022 High School Bass Fishing National Championship—the top tournament in the U.S. for high schoolers—in June at Pickwick Lake near Florence, Alabama.

The team spent 11 days practicing at the lake, researching fish patterns and water levels. Their hard work paid off, and Clepper became the first female national champion. “We definitely had our game on,” says Clepper, who split the \$10,000 cash prize with Ford. “My parents and grandparents were jumping up and down and cheering at the weigh-in.”

There’s big money to be made in professional bass fishing. But these days, there’s another route for turning passion for the sport into a career.

Tyler Anderson founded the Lake Travis High School fishing team when he was a sophomore, finishing fourth at state his senior year, in 2015. When he got to Texas A&M University, he joined the school’s fishing team and started expanding a YouTube channel he started back in 2013. Nine years, 782 videos and a quarter-million subscribers later, Tyler’s Reel Fishing boasts more than 32 million views, and Anderson is able to make a living off his content and sponsorships.

“I’m pulling my new 2022 FXR21 Skeeter bass boat with a Yamaha 250-horsepower engine and Native Slayer 10 kayak on my truck roof rack—all sponsors of mine,” Ander-

son says over the phone as he drives to Michigan to film smallmouth bass fishing. “I get paid by them and from YouTube ads.”

Anderson, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member, helps pro anglers Alton Jones and Alton Jones Jr. of Lorena, outside Waco, with their video content.

“I enjoy being outdoors with friends and family, making memories,” Anderson says. “As soon as I realized I could make a living fishing, I compared that to my friends’ jobs and realized that I could make a career out of my passion if I worked as hard as I could.” ■

ABOVE Wyatt Ford, left, and Fallon Clepper teamed up to win the 2022 High School Bass Fishing National Championship, making Clepper the first girl to do so.



Free Standard Shipping

ON TIER 1 ITEMS FOR ORDERS OVER \$60

Use Code 210331

To Receive Free Standard Shipping on Orders Over \$60



COLLIN STREET BAKERY™

We've Been Featured in



The Boston Globe

THE
BEST
THING I
EVER ATE

USA TODAY



The Washington Post

NETFLIX

People

The CHEW

Southern Living



The Dallas Morning News



TexasMonthly



CALL OR SCAN TO ORDER

800.292.7400

Point your smartphone's
camera at the QR Code
Or visit collinstreet.com



*Free standard shipping on tier 1 items for orders over \$60, with Offer code 210331. For orders under \$60 please add \$9.95 per U.S. shipment. Not valid with other offers and orders previously placed. Offer expires December 10 2022.



LEARN
MORE

TXGULFSEAFOOD.COM



Texas Department of Agriculture | Commissioner Sid Miller | TexasAgriculture.gov

WILD CAUGHT — FROM OUR — OWN BACKYARD

You don't have to go far to get the rich, sweet, succulent and buttery taste of crabmeat on your plate. Look no further than the Lone Star State.

With 367 miles of pristine coastline, blue crabs are a shore thing in Texas Gulf waters.



FRESH OUTTA TEXAS



**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/
CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

The End is Near

NOVEMBER, AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW, is a month in which Americans give thanks.

Naturally, what comes to mind is the holiday at the end of the month, when many gather with family and friends to count their blessings and enjoy a shared feast. I can think of many reasons to be thankful, including the fact that I am a member and employee of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, a business that exists to serve others. Spending every day alongside our talented employees who are focused on providing the best possible customer service to our members is truly a blessing.

However, there is another opportunity in the month to give thanks, and this one involves thanking others for making sacrifices on our behalf. This day falls on November 11, and it recognizes the men and women who have protected the freedoms we all enjoy. 800709339

This Veterans Day, I encourage you to thank the people you know—family members, friends or acquaintances—who have worn the uniform and served this country in the military. Please take a moment to reflect on what this day is truly about: to appreciate and recognize those who serve today and who served in the past and to remember their sacrifices, service with honor and dedication—and those who love and support them. It is because of veterans and their families that we as Americans can enjoy the freedoms that we often take for granted.

No matter the branch of service or the conflict, we all owe these people our gratitude for preserving and defending our great nation. It's a debt that we cannot repay but one that we can honor by sharing with them our thanks.

This year, I am thankful for another reason. I am thankful the Brazos bankruptcy is nearing the end. Since the very beginning – March 1, 2021 – we have been fighting for you and leaving no stone unturned, and this month Brazos's plan to exit bankruptcy will go before the judge. We will continue to keep you informed throughout the process. 3235600001

At our Annual Meeting last month, we announced that Tri-County Electric Co-op will seek traditional financing methods to cover our portion of the debt rather than securitization. Financing through CoBank, a member of the Farm Credit System, will allow us to earn capital credits that can be paid against our debt, rather than lining the pockets of Wall Street investors. This method will also provide us more flexibility, including no penalty for early payoffs. We plan to secure financing later this month. If you missed the Annual Meeting, you can watch the recording at tcectexas.com/annual-meeting.

Tri-County Electric Co-op will hold a virtual town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21, to further explain how this impacts you, our members. Please make plans to join us virtually by streaming online or by phone. Next month, the official notice for the new tariff will be posted in the *Texas Co-op Power* magazine. Learn more tcectexas.com/brazos. We are in this together. ■

Virtual Town Hall

Join us for a virtual town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21, to learn more about the Brazos Bankruptcy and the financing plan.

STREAM ONLINE
tcectexas.com/brazos

LISTEN BY PHONE
855-710-6229



**MAX
WADDELL**
CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 9

A Seat at the Board Table

THIS MONTH, WE GIVE THANKS. Thanks to our veterans. Thanks for our blessings. Thanks to you, our members. Your board of directors thanks you for putting your trust in us as the governing and regulatory body to take care of you. Just like you, we are all members of the co-op. Therefore, we make decisions with the entire membership in mind.

In the spirit of giving thanks, we want to thank you for participating in your co-op’s election and Annual Meeting. We set co-op records this year with our election turnout and virtual meeting participation. Staying involved and informed is a critical part of the cooperative business model.

Election

Every year, the membership has the opportunity to vote fellow members to the board of directors. This year, districts 5, 7 and 9 were on the ballot. As a membership, you elected three individuals to the board to serve three-year terms: Steve Harris, incumbent, was reelected to district 5; Sommer Portwood, nomination candidate, was elected to district 7; and I, Max Waddell, incumbent, was reelected to district 9. More than 19,600 members voted in the election, and the entire board appreciates you taking the time to participate. Each member who voted in the election by the deadline received a \$25 bill credit last month. Make sure to look at your October or November billing statement to see your credit. Member participation is a critical part of the cooperative business model. 24974001

Nominations for the 2023 election cycle will open soon. Please watch future *Texas Co-op Power* magazines to know when the nomination process will open for districts 1, 2 and 4.

Annual Meeting

Tri-County Electric Co-op held our 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members last month virtually. Members were able to stream online or listen by phone. We had an excellent turnout, and we would like to thank those who joined us to learn more about your co-op. If you missed the virtual meeting, a recording is available on our website at tcectexas.com/annual-meeting. A recap of the meeting will be in our December *Texas Co-op Power* magazine.

During the meeting, we awarded more than 200 door prizes that were donated by our vendors and partners. Without them, we would not be able to take care of you. A full list of door prize winners is available on our website at tcectexas.com/annual-meeting. ■



**STEVE
HARRIS**

DISTRICT 5



**SOMMER
PORTWOOD**

DISTRICT 7



**MAX
WADDELL**

DISTRICT 9

Youth Tour: A Personal

BY KENNEDY L. MOORE, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

What does it mean to be an American? This was the essay prompt that was part of my Youth Tour application.

Anticipation. This was the feeling I had when waiting to hear who the lucky recipient would be. *Excitement.* This was how I felt when my name was announced as my co-op's Youth Tour recipient. *Trip-of-a-lifetime.* This is how every Youth Tour participant describes an all-expenses-paid, weeklong trip to our nation's capital.

In 2017, I toured Washington, D.C. with the biggest group of Youth Tour participants yet – not just from Texas, but from every other state – 147 highschoolers from all over the Lone Star state. Being a part of this experience is what motivated me to pursue a degree in government, become an educator of the next generation, and now work for an industry that extensively promotes educational opportunities for our future workforce.

I come from a small, conservative town just south of Fort Worth. I never knew anyone from out of state, let alone out of the county. Needless to say, a riverboat cruise with teens from seven other states introduced me to an entirely different and new perspective. Wandering the streets of downtown D.C. was like visiting a new country with every forward step. My group and I were taken back in time and into the future with every Smithsonian Museum visited. 800848469

At first, I was afraid of going – realizing I wouldn't know a single person. What I discovered is that self-advocacy and personal confidence goes a long way. As a result of this personal epiphany and trip, I now have friends for life nationwide.

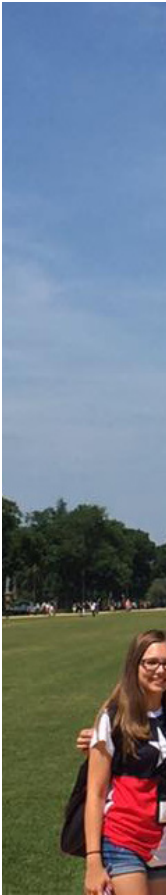
The time and effort you put into applying for such a prestigious and unique opportunity will place you heads above others. As former president Richard M. Nixon once said, "If you take no risks, you will suffer no defeats. But if you take no risks, you win no victories." ■



Meeting new friends from across the state is one of the best parts of Youth Tour!



Bill Flores took time to meet with me (right of Flores) and other students from his congressional district.



Perspective



The Texas flag shirts are an iconic part of the Texas Youth Tour. We had to stop and take a group photo with the Washington Monument.



All smiles at the National Mall!

Apply Today!

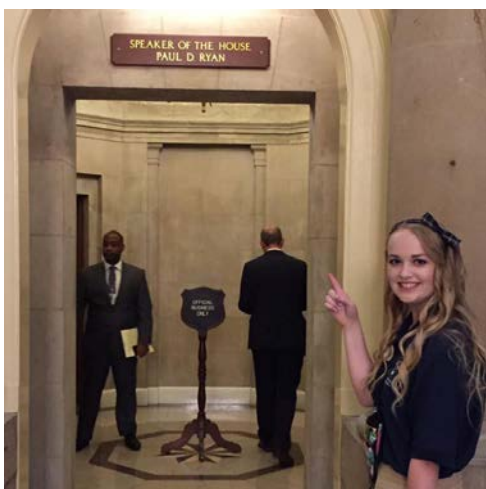
Don't miss your chance to win a spot on the trip-of-a-lifetime!

Tri-County Electric Co-op's applications are open for the 2023 Youth Tour.

Six local students will receive a 10-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Austin and Washington, DC, and a \$2,000 scholarship for college or tradeschool.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 13.

Learn more and apply online at tcectexas.com/youth-tour.



Stopping for a picture in front of Former Speaker Paul Ryan's office was a must for me during our Capitol tour.

Serving Country and Co-op

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE network analyst Doug Letz has been doing the same job most of his career, even though the technology and tools continue to evolve.

The location has jumped around, too.

Currently, Doug is working in Kuwait, for the Texas Army National Guard. It's his third overseas deployment since he joined the Army in 1981. After serving six years, he joined the reserve, and in 2005 was sent to Iraq. In 2012 the National Guard sent him to Afghanistan. 800772126

He came to Tri-County in August 2019, but maintained his reserve status with the Texas Guard Joint Forces, headquartered in Austin. In June, he went to Kuwait.

"I'm doing the same thing I did at work," he said. Doug stepped outside for the phone interview, into a mild 103-degree day. He enjoys what he does, but he's ready to come home.

"I sure miss everybody there, and I miss my role at Tri-County," he said. "I hope to get finished here real soon, then retire from the National Guard and do quite a few years there."

He hopes to be officially retired by the end of November.

No one is shooting at his unit now, but there are still hazards. It has gotten as hot as 122 degrees, and if you go out, you have to stop frequently, get out of the sun and stay hydrated.

"There's danger everywhere you go, even at home," he said, "but the Kuwaiti people are really nice – they're a great culture."

Doug and his wife, Holly, have seven kids and 14 grandchildren. He credits her for keeping things together at home.

"A lot of times people say, 'Hey, thanks for your service,' but they often forget about the ones who have to take care of everything when you go," he said. "They're left with the chores, the bills, everything. To me, they're sacrificing more at home than we do out here."

He's ready to re-join them, and his co-op family.

"Whenever they say, 'Okay, get on that plane,' I'll be running to it." ■



PHOTOS, TOP TO BOTTOM: Doug keeps the co-op employees up-to-date through sending us photos during his time serving our country.

Doug and Holly Letz have a blended family with seven kids between them, and 14 grandchildren. He hopes to see them all again by the end of November.

Since May, Doug has been serving in Kuwait as Network Operations Officer-in-Charge. He's shown in front of the wall that identifies his unit.

Co-ops Appreciate Veterans

BY ANNIE WATSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

EVERY YEAR ON NOVEMBER 11 we take the time to thank and honor those who have served our country. We have countless veterans in our membership and local communities and we cannot adequately express our gratitude for putting your lives on the line fighting for our freedom.

No matter which branch of the military you served with, there are three areas our co-op can resonate with you as a veteran. Co-ops are:

- ▶ **Mission-driven.** Our purpose is to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. This enables every co-op employee to perform their duties with a unified sense of purpose. 800656926
- ▶ **Using advanced technology.** From cybersecurity and broadband to the many facets of beneficial electrification and turning data into actionable insights, technology plays a major role in operating electric cooperatives.
- ▶ **Operating in challenging circumstances.** We are one of the largest and fastest-growing co-ops in the area. Our employees work through the heat, the cold, snow, ice, thunderstorms and everything in between to ensure you have reliable power. Additionally, we work with the electric co-ops across the nation as challenges arise. Last month our linemen traveled to Florida to assist with restoration efforts after Hurricane Ian. Co-ops continue to do all they can to keep the lights on throughout hurricane season, during ice storms and floods, and amid global health and economic crises.

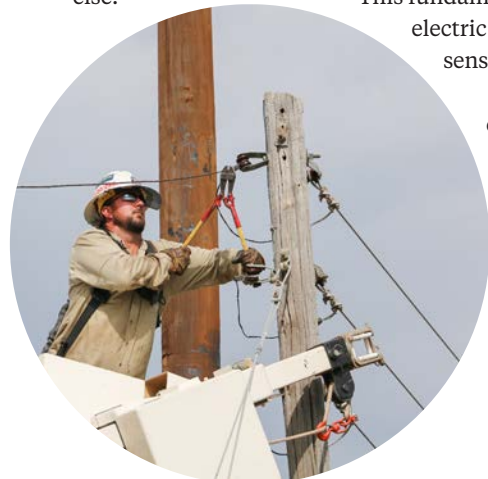
A wide variety of skills are required to keep operations running smoothly. Veterans can put their skills to work in jobs such as construction, equipment operation, engineering, customer service, communications, human resources, software analysis, cybersecurity and more. 800603598

Tri-County Electric Co-op employs 22 veterans who are essential to fulfilling our mission to take care of you, our member owners. These employee-veterans are linemen, staking/field engineers, technology gurus, engineers, and more.

We believe that hiring and caring for veterans and military spouses strengthens our work family and our local communities. Electric co-ops are nonprofit, community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to their member-owners. Unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops are owned by those they serve and prioritize members' interests—not profits—above all else.

This fundamental difference shapes every decision made by electric co-ops and provides employees with a unifying sense of purpose.

Tri-County Electric Co-op has various career opportunities available at tccetexas.com. ■





Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road

Aledo, TX 76008

Phone 817-444-3201

Email customer_service@tcectexas.com

Web tcectexas.com

President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Max Waddell, District 9 - Chairman

John Killough, District 6 - Vice Chairman

Margaret Koprek, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Ingle, District 1

Jorden Wood, District 3

Jerry A. Walden, District 4

Steve V. Harris, District 5

Sommer Portwood, District 7

Michael Sivertsen, District 8

Linking your Membership to Savings with Co-op Connections

BY KENNEDY L. MOORE, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

BEING A MEMBER of Tri-County Electric Cooperative just became a whole lot better— and so did your potential savings! Along with the 30 million and counting Touchstone Energy Cooperative members, you can save BIG at local and national stores. The Co-op Connections Program works by encouraging businesses to partner with Tri-County Electric Co-op and provide discounts to its members. In return, we help promote these businesses through our social media and publish features in our monthly *Texas Co-op Power* magazines. 8000238601

Accessing these deals and discounts is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

- ▶ Go to connections.coop
- ▶ Create an account
- ▶ Save money

This program provides more than your average grocery circular. In addition to typical specials, Co-op Connections allows you the chance to save 10% on sporting events, concerts, and performances; 20% on select hotel stays; 30% on movie tickets at select theaters.

More than 70% of consumers research and use discounts they find. Co-op Connections does that work for you, so all you need to do is present the offer to a participating business and reap the rewards.

Visit tcectexas.com/connections to learn more about the Co-op Connections Program, including local business deals and how to sign up for the program. ■

24/7 Outage Reporting

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

Online: oms.tcectexas.com

App: TCEC Connect

Phone: 817-444-3201

Text: OUTAGE to 25069

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,700 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 103,500 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Find your account number in pages 18-25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

VISIT US ONLINE

tcectexas.com

[Facebook.com/TCECTexas](https://www.facebook.com/TCECTexas)

Pumpkin Pie Cupcakes

BY SANDRA REILLY
KELLER

24 Golden Oreo Cookies

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup applesauce
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 15 oz can pumpkin
- 2 3/4 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ginger
- 1/8 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp salt

Topping

- 1 pint heavy whipping cream
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- Cinnamon for decoration

1. Split the Oreos and place the side with cream on the bottom of each liner, cream side up. Place the other side of the cookie aside.
2. Gently combine eggs, oil, applesauce, and vanilla with a mixer. Stir in sugar and brown sugar for several minutes, then stir in pumpkin.
3. In a separate bowl, sift dry ingredients together. Add dry ingredients to oils/sugars and stir only until combined.
4. Line cupcake pan with liners. Fill cupcake liners 3/4 full.
5. Bake at 350oF for 24-27 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean.
6. For the topping, whip heavy whipping cream until stiff peaks form. Add powdered sugar and vanilla and mix until combined.
7. Pipe topping onto cooled cupcakes and sprinkle cinnamon lightly on top to decorate.
8. Right before serving, position the remaining side of the Oreo in the whipped cream (standing up)!
9. Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP: Adding Oreos to the top and chilling causes the cookie to be too soft. You can chill the cupcakes until serving, adding the cookie just before serving. Or you can prepare topping and decorate cupcakes just before serving.



CONGDESIGN | PIXABAY

Tri-County Electric Co-op Member Recipe Submission Form

MEMBER

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

SUBMITTING YOUR RECIPE:

EMAIL: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to communications@tcectexas.com

ONLINE: tcectexas.com/recipe-submission

MAIL: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
200 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008



Thanksgiving SALE



FREE OR **NO** INTEREST FOR 60 MONTHS[^]
INSTALLATION & LABOR
PLUS RECEIVE A \$500 GAS CARD WITH PURCHASE*

UPGRADE YOUR OUTDATED BATHROOM IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY



 **Locally owned and Family Operated for over 20 Years. Born, Bred and Based in Texas.**

Master Plumber • Mark Williams • License # 37134

- Low Maintenance
- Easy to Clean
- Replacement Showers
- Replacement Tubs
- Tub to Shower Conversions
- Tub & Shower Combos
- Walk-in Tubs
- Accessibility Systems
- Factory Trained & Certified Installers
- Made in the USA

CALL NOW 800.364.2498



**MILITARY DISCOUNT
 SENIOR DISCOUNT
 FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT
 HEALTHCARE WORKER DISCOUNT**

*Free Installation - Labor is equal to 12% off the entire project. [^]Subject to credit approval. Fixed APR of 0.00% for 60 months. Payment example assumes \$10,000 on your purchase window expiration date with 60 amortized payments of \$166.67. - Two (2) \$250 Shell gift cards with purchase paperwork verification. ©2022 Zintex Remodeling. Expires 12/31/2022.

FALL 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!

\$11,450-30x40x12

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

\$17,950-40x50x12

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

www.ddmbuildings.com

WD Metal Buildings



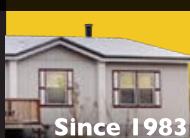
Offering 5" reinforced concrete slabs, erected metal buildings, overhead doors and more, all in one Turn Key Metal Building contract!

Visit www.WDMB2.com

PERMA-ROOF

from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing



Since 1983

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS

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

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 E-news

Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

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

HELPING YOU PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST



**TEXAS FARM BUREAU[®]
HEALTH PLANS**

New, Affordable Health Care Coverage Options for Texans!

- ✓ Individual and Family Plans
- ✓ Dental and Vision Options
- ✓ Better Coverage
- ✓ Better Rates
- ✓ Better Service

For more information and to get a quote, click or call today!

tfbhp.com
877.500.0140



SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY

Dept. 6XP442 **YES** Please send me the following:

| QTY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | TOTAL |
|--|--|-----------------|-------|
| | 56-Coin Collector's Set (limit 3) | \$29.95 | |
| | Display Folder | \$4.95 | |
| | Personalize my folder for \$1.97 each (Reg. \$3.95)* | | |
| 1 | Uncirculated Lincoln "Shield" Cent | FREE! | |
| | Shipping | FREE! | |
| | Sales Tax | FREE! | |
| ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS | | TOTAL \$ | |

Write your personalization here, limited to 30 characters including spaces

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

ACTUAL LETTERING WILL APPEAR ON ONE LINE.
Folder sold separately. Personalized items cannot be returned.

Payment Method: Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.
 VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to: **Dept. 6XP442**
 Littleton Coin Co.
 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
 Littleton NH 03561-3737

Now! Complete National Park Quarter Set Only \$29.95!

Don't miss out! The final coin has been released and quantities are limited for these **Uncirculated Complete 56-Coin sets!** The first coin in this set was issued in 2010.

- **FREE** Shipping!
- **FREE** Gift: Uncirculated Lincoln Shield Cent

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

Final Issue

Common Obverse
Actual Size

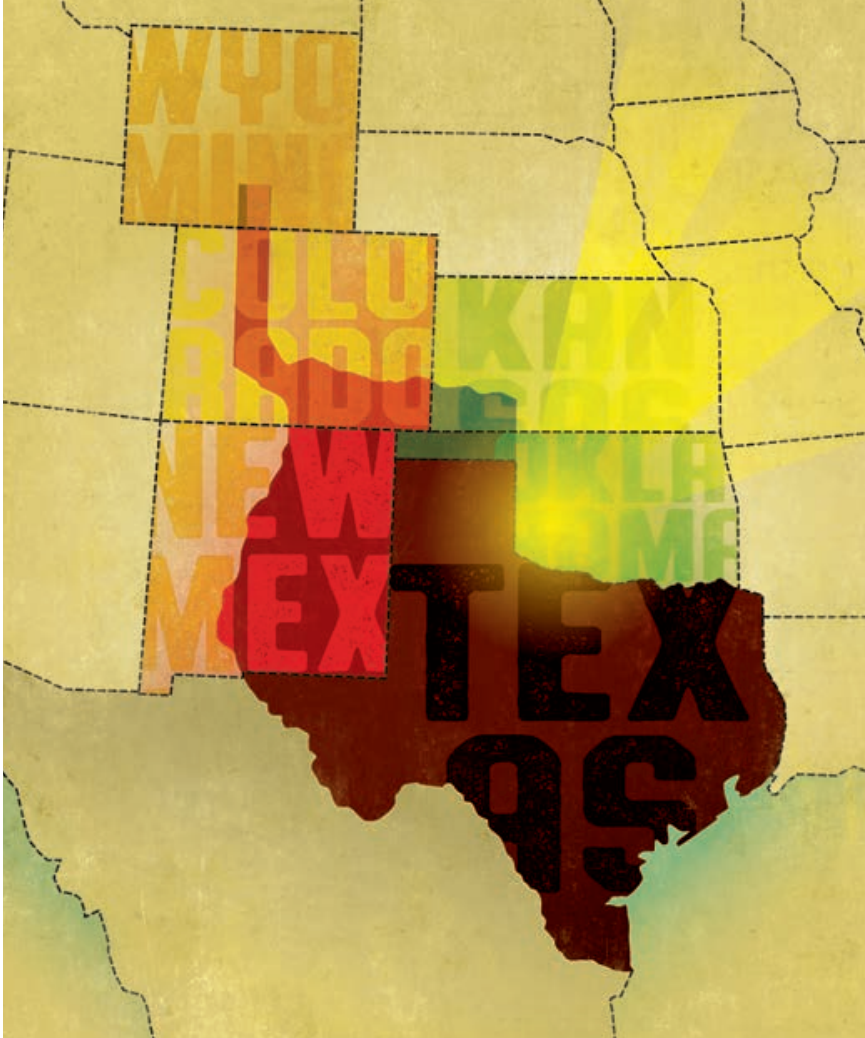
Personalize Your Folder!

- Add a name or special message
- Embossed in gold-colored foil

SAVE 50%
John Sample

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

Littleton Coin Company[®]
 Serving Collectors Since 1945



Everything Was Bigger ...

Lucky folks in modern-day Wyoming were Texans in 1845

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

TEXANS HAVE A kind of proverb that goes like this: “Driving across Texas isn’t a trip; it’s a damn career.”

Texas is big, no doubt about that. But it used to be a lot bigger—by about one-quarter.

When the Republic of Texas joined the U.S. in 1845, Texas’ borders were dramatically different. The northern boundary stretched all the way up into what is today southern Wyoming. The northernmost town in Texas wasn’t Kerrick; it was Rawlins—some 1,400 miles from Brownsville. A trip like that in 1845 would have been measured in seasons, not days. “We’ll leave in early spring and get there before

winter sets in.”

That slice of land was Texas’ original panhandle, encompassing part of the Rockies. They called that area the stovepipe because that’s what it looked like: a long skinny stovepipe jutting northward. You can still find vestiges of Texas up there. For instance, there’s a stream in Wyoming named Texas Creek.

Texas used to include what is today the panhandle of Oklahoma. That territory comprises three counties, one of them still named Texas County. So some Oklahomans still live in Texas—well, Texas County, anyway. Today the northern Texas border aligns with the latitude

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



established in the Missouri Compromise that restricted slavery to states south of that line.

The southwestern corner of Kansas was also originally Texas. That’s when Dodge City was in Texas. *Gunsmoke* always did seem like a Texas series. We know that Marshal Matt Dillon was born in San Antonio, and his father was a Texas Ranger. It’s all coming together.

New Mexico used to be about half its current size because Santa Fe, Taos and all of the eastern part of the state were Texas. In fact, Texas was so big in 1845 that if you had put a hinge on the northernmost part and flipped it northward, Brownsville would have been in Northern Canada, next to Hudson Bay.

So what happened to all our land? The U.S. government bought it in 1850 for \$10 million. They bought our claims in present-day Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas and Oklahoma for what amounted to 15 cents an acre. It may seem like we sold out cheap. But that’s \$380 million in today’s money, and Texas desperately needed the money.

Texas’ leaders had a state to build, but the only true assets were land—and a hardened people with unbreakable spirits. So we sold the land, paid off debts and got a much more appealing shape—one that fits nicely on T-shirts.

Even without all that land, we’re no slouch of a state. You know if you’ve ever driven it. We still measure distance in time. We still feel like we’re crossing an enormous frontier when driving Interstate 10 through West Texas or Interstate 35 north and south. And this old Texas saying is still valid: “The sun has riz, the sun has set, and here we is in Texas yet.” ■

Holiday Sides

Tasty servings that just might take center stage

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

During the holidays, I gravitate toward the side dishes over any turkey or ham. Rolls are always a must at my house, and these Cheesy Ranch Rolls have become a family favorite. They're wonderfully soft with a zesty flavor, and any leftovers are perfect for sandwiches the next day. For a larger crowd, simply double the recipe.

Cheesy Ranch Rolls

2 cups flour, divided use, plus more as needed
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons (1 packet) ranch seasoning
2¼ teaspoons (1 packet) instant yeast
½ teaspoon salt
¾ cup milk
2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter, plus more for topping
1 cup shredded Gouda or cheddar cheese

1. In a bowl, combine 1 cup flour, sugar, ranch seasoning, yeast and salt.

2. In a microwave-safe bowl or liquid measuring cup, combine milk and butter. Microwave in 15-second increments until milk is warm to the touch but not hot. Butter does not need to completely melt; it will melt as you mix the dough.

3. Pour milk and butter into dry ingredients and mix well to combine. Add ¼ cup flour and shredded cheese and mix well. Stir in remaining flour in increments, just until dough forms into a ball. Scoop onto a lightly floured surface and knead dough 6–8 minutes, until smooth and springy, adding flour as needed to prevent sticking. Shape into a ball, cover with a towel and let rest 10 minutes.

4. Cut dough into 12 pieces and roll each piece into a ball, then place in a greased square baking dish. Cover again and let rise 30 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 375 degrees.

5. Once rolls have risen, bake 20–25 minutes, until golden brown. Let cool slightly, then brush with melted butter and serve.

SERVES 12

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Brussels Sprouts With Walnuts and Cranberries.





Praline Sweet Potatoes

LANELL MCDANIEL
SAM HOUSTON EC

This easy sweet potato dish has a wonderfully crunchy crumble topping. It's equally at home served as a side or dessert. You'll need 2–3 pounds of sweet potatoes. Excess potatoes can be used to make sweet potato waffles or pancakes.

POTATOES

3 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes

1 cup brown sugar

2 eggs, beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ cup milk

½ cup (1 stick) melted butter

TOPPING

1 cup chopped pecans

½ cup brown sugar

⅓ cup flour

⅓ cup (¾ stick) melted butter

1. POTATOES Preheat oven to 350 degrees and butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. In a large bowl, combine sweet potatoes with brown sugar, eggs, vanilla, milk and butter. Pour into prepared dish.

2. TOPPING In small bowl, combine pecans, brown sugar and flour. Stir in melted butter with a fork until a crumble forms. Scatter evenly over the top of the sweet potatoes.

3. Bake 30–40 minutes, until topping is golden brown and crunchy.

SERVES 8

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

\$500 WINNER

Caramelized Onion Potato Medley Gratin

MARIAN EVONIUK
PEDERNALES EC



Potato fans, this one is for you! With three kinds of potatoes, caramelized onions and a pop of dill, Evoniuk's gratin will have you reaching for seconds and thirds.

SERVES 8–12



- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) unsalted butter**
- 2 large sweet onions, peeled and sliced**
- ⅓ teaspoon pepper**
- 1½ teaspoons salt, divided use**
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced**
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh dill**
- 2½ cups heavy cream, divided use**
- 1 pound Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced**
- 1 pound sweet potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced**
- 1 pound red potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced**
- 2½ cups shredded Gruyere cheese, divided use**
- 1 green onion, chopped, or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives**

1. Set a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat and add butter, onion, pepper and 1 teaspoon salt, and cover. Cook 25–30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the onions are lightly caramelized. Add garlic and dill and cook uncovered 1 minute more.

2. Pour in 2 cups heavy cream and bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low and simmer 3–4 minutes, stirring, until mixture is slightly thickened. Remove from heat and set aside.

3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter and set aside.

4. In a large mixing bowl, combine potatoes, remaining ½ teaspoon salt and 2 cups Gruyere. Pour in creamed onions and mix well, then pour into the prepared baking dish. Combine remaining ¼ cup cream and ½ cup Gruyere in a small bowl and spread over the top of the potatoes.

5. Cover with foil and bake 45 minutes, then uncover and bake until golden brown and bubbly, 30–45 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand 10 minutes, then garnish with chopped onion or chives and serve.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

INCREDIBLE EGGS DUE NOVEMBER 10

Perfect for breakfast, lunch and dinner, eggs make for a versatile main. What great dish do you hatch? Submit your recipes on our website by November 10 for a chance to win \$500.





Sweet Sour Red Cabbage

NANCY FILER
COSERV

Filer's family has been serving this dish during the holidays for nearly 100 years, and it's easy to see why. Tangy and lightly sweet, it goes well with any of your favorite main dishes.

1 head red cabbage, about 1½ pounds
4 slices bacon, diced
½ cup packed brown sugar

2 tablespoons flour
½ cup water
¼ cup white vinegar
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

1. Shred cabbage and measure 5 cups. Boil a large pot of water and add cabbage; bring back to boil and boil 5 minutes. Drain, transfer to a mixing bowl and set aside.
2. In a large sauté pan, fry diced bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove and drain on paper towels.
3. Discard all but 1 tablespoon bacon drippings. Return pan to medium heat and whisk in brown sugar and flour, taking care to break up any lumps. Whisk in water, vinegar, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until the mixture thickens, about 5 minutes.
4. Add the bacon and sauce to the cabbage, stirring gently to combine. Garnish with extra fried bacon if you like.

SERVES 6-8

Planning Makes Perfect

BY MEGAN MYERS

Wondering how much to serve at your next gathering? Use these guidelines when choosing dishes for the big meal.

Meat: 6 ounces per person (not including bones).

Appetizers: 6 pieces per person.

Potatoes: ½ cup per person.

Stuffing and casseroles: ½ cup per person.

Salad: 2 cups per person.

Vegetable sides: 1 cup per person.

Gravy and cranberry sauce: ¼ cup per person.

Rolls: 1-2 per person.

Keep in mind that as the number of side dish options grows, guests will likely eat less of each. Also, don't forget to plan for your favorite leftovers.



Fredericksburg

Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win a two-night getaway in Fredericksburg, including midweek lodging for two, dining and things to do.

TCP Enter Today
TexasCoopPower.com/contests





HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

In the magazine and on TexasCoopPower.com, we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



2023 Texas Cardinal Calendar

Enjoy a Beautiful New Bird Every Month!
2006 Official Texas State Artist George Boutwell's 2023 calendar features 12 watercolors of cardinals. \$12.50 each plus tax and \$3.50 shipping.

1-800-243-4316
gboutwell.com



Fudge and Divinity for the Holidays

The Best Fudge in Texas. The Best Divinity in the World.
Bring back those childhood memories of Christmas with the sweet gift of fudge and divinity from Holiday Farms.



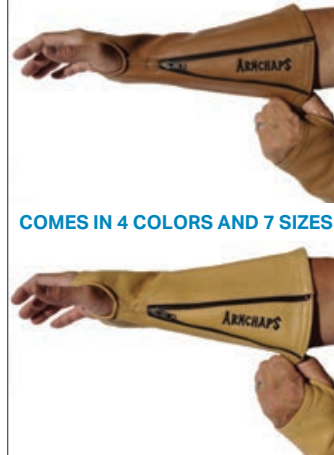
holidayfarmscandy.com
etsy.com/shop/DivinitybyDave



Homegrown Texas Pecans and Pecan Treats

Berdoll's Has Been Family-Owned for 43 Years.
We make delicious pecan pies, chocolate pecans, honey-glazed pecans and more! Visit our squirrel, Ms. Pearl, at our retail store or order online.

(512) 321-6157
berdoll.com



Ideal Arm Protection for Any Activity

COMES IN 4 COLORS AND 7 SIZES

Helps Prevent Bruising and Protects Those With Thin Skin!
Soft leather protective sleeves help protect you from 100's of injury-prone chores you do at work, home, farm, or ranch. Even has adjustable airflow!

(651) 492-4830
armchaps.com



The 2022 Texas Capitol Ornament

"Welcome to Songfest" celebrates the tradition of music in Austin as well as the diverse cultural traditions that came together to form Texas. Get 20% off orders over \$100 with coupon code COOP20.

1-888-678-5556
texascapitolgiftshop.com



Fresh "New Crop" Pecans

Pecans Are Our Passion!
New crop pecans, chocolate-covered nuts, specialty gift baskets, fudge, pecan pies. Our very own specialty roasted and salted pecans and gifts galore!

325-356-3616
sorrellsfarms.com



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Toe Tappin' in Turkey

Learn all about Bob Wills—the King of Western Swing—in his Panhandle hometown

BY CHET GARNER

IF YOU ASK someone to name the king of music, they'll likely mention Elvis Presley (the King of Rock 'n' Roll) or George Strait (the King of Country). However, true students of music genres will give credit to the everlasting King of Western Swing—Bob Wills. I took a trip to the Panhandle town of Turkey to pay homage to the legacy of this Texas-sized king.

Days generally pass by quietly in Turkey, unless you're here on the last Saturday in April, when thousands attend the Bob Wills Day celebration and keep string-pickin' circles going into the morning hours. I visited on a normal Thursday afternoon and found the main drag nearly empty, save for a few folks filling their bellies at Galvan's Restaurant. After polishing off a Mexican Platter No. 9, I scooted over to the old elementary school that's now the Bob Wills Community Center.

I wasn't too familiar with Wills other than a few of his hit tunes, like *San Antonio Rose* and *Bubbles in My Beer*. But inside this museum, I received a full-on education.

Wills spent much of his childhood in Turkey and began playing music right out of the crib, as his father was a champion fiddle player. Over time, Wills became enamored with musical styles that included jazz and blues. By the early 1930s, he had formed the Texas Playboys and created a new genre called Western swing, which blended all his favorite styles. It's a feat that landed Wills in both the Country Music and Rock & Roll halls of fame.

The museum is full of artifacts and stories of Wills' rise to stardom. Visitors are sure to leave with a new appreciation for the King of Western Swing—and a foot that won't stop stomping. ■

ABOVE Chet has fun fiddlin' around the tranquil town of Turkey.

TCP Chet tunes in to Turkey's pride and joy in his latest video on our website. Watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

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

NOVEMBER 09

Harlingen [9–13] Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, (209) 227-4823, rgvbf.org

11

Fort Worth Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade, tcvc@tcvc.us, fw2022parade.org

Lubbock Lubbock Symphony Orchestra: Madam Butterfly, (806) 792-8339, buddyhollyhall.com

Victoria Golden Crescent CASA Wine Pairing, (361) 573-3734, goldencrescentcasa.org

Salado [11–13] Scottish Gathering and Highland Games, (254) 947-5232, saladomuseum.org

Ingram [11–Dec. 16] ArtMart, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

12

Alvin Novemberfest, alvinrotaryclub@gmail.com, alvinrotary.org

Bastrop Red, White & Blue Veterans Appreciation Banquet, (330) 418-9164, rwbveterans.com

Burton Big Star Texas Night, (979) 251-4078, burtontexas.org

Elgin Veterans Appreciation Parade, (512) 281-5724, etx150.com

Henderson Heritage Syrup Festival, (903) 657-4303, hendersontx.us

Kerrville Veterans Day Car Show and Parade, (830) 792-2580, kerrvilletexascvb.com

13

Pearland Country Music Showcase, (281) 997-5970, visitpearland.com

14

Brazoria Henry Smith Day, (979) 345-3335, brazoriahf.org

15

New Braunfels [15-17] Festival of Trees, (830) 832-0089, facebook.com/festivaloftreesnb

17

Temple Taste of the Holidays, altrusatemple.org

Palestine [17-20, 23-27, Dec. 2-11, 16-Jan. 1] Walk of Lights, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

18

Bryan Lights On!, (979) 721-9506, destinationbryan.com

Alpine [18-19] Artwalk, (210) 218-1114, artwalkalpine.com

Henderson [18-20] The Magic of Christmas, (903) 392-0691, visithendersontx.com

New Braunfels [18-20] Weihnachtsmarkt, (830) 629-1572, newbraunfelsweihnachtsmarkt.com

Ingram [18-19, 25-27, Dec. 2-4, 9-11] A Christmas Carol, (830) 367-5121, hcac.com

19

Corpus Christi Wine Festival, info@corpuschristiwinefestival.com, corpuschristiwinefestival.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

WHY PAY MORE?

Get a jetted walk-in tub installed in your home for only

\$9,995

REGULAR PRICE **\$12,999**



WALK-IN TUB CLEARANCE SALE

SAVE **\$3,000** THROUGH NOVEMBER 2022

Over 100 tubs in stock. Models may vary. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you. We service all of Texas.



Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 18 YEARS ★

888-825-2362

bestbuywalkintubs.com



TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now

TexasCoopPower.com/shop



Texas Red Grapefruit and Avocados

Always a Gift in Good Taste! Orchard-fresh grapefruit and other Texas products are all hand-selected, carefully packed and shipped to be delivered just in time for the holidays.

1-800-580-1900 | crockettfarms.com



Crockett Farms

Always a Gift in Good Taste. Since 1961

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

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

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

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

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

2. Publication Number
0540-560

3. Filing Date
October 1, 2022

4. Issue Frequency
Monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually
Twelve

6. Annual Subscription Price
\$7.50

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
Publisher Texas Electric Cooperatives, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Texas 78701-2167

Editor Chris Burrows, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701
Managing Editor Karen Nejtcek, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701

10. Owner
Full Name Complete Mailing Address

Texas ECs, Inc., is a nonprofit association of rural electric cooperatives organized as a cooperative membership corporation under Article 1528b, Texas Civil Statutes. Its members are: Bailey County EC Association, Muleshoe; Bandera EC, Bandera; Bartlett EC, Bartlett; Big Country EC, Roby; Bluebonnet EC, Giddings; Bowie-Cass EC, Douglassville; Brazos EC, Waco; Bryan Texas Utilities, Bryan; Central Texas EC, Fredericksburg; Cherokee County EC Association, Rusk; Coleman County EC, Coleman; Comanche County EC Association, Comanche; Concho Valley EC, San Angelo; Cooke County EC Association, Muenster; CoServ EC, Corinth; Deaf Smith EC, Hereford; Deep East Texas EC, San Augustine; East Texas EC, Nacogdoches; Fannin County EC, Bonham; Farmers EC, Greenville; Fayette EC, LaGrange; Fort Belknap EC, Olney; Golden Spread EC, Amarillo; Grayson-Collin EC, Van Alstyne; Greenbelt EC, Wellington; Guadalupe Valley EC, Gonzales; Hamilton County EC Association, Hamilton; Harmon Electric Association, Hollis, Oklahoma; Heart of Texas EC, McGregor; HILCO EC, Itasca; Houston County EC, Crockett; J-A-C EC, Bluegrove; Jackson EC, Edna; Jasper-Newton EC, Kirbyville; Kames EC, Kames City; Lamar County EC Association, Paris; Lamb County EC, Littlefield; Lea County EC, Lovington, New Mexico; Lighthouse EC, Floydada; Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin; Lyntegar EC, Tahoka; Magic Valley EC, Mercedes; Medina EC, Hondo; Mid-South Synergy, Navasota; Navarro County EC, Corsicana; Navasota Valley EC, Franklin; North Plains EC, Perryton; Northeast Texas EC, Longview; Nueces EC, Robstown; Panola-Harrison EC, Marshall; Pedernales EC, Johnson City; Rayburn Country EC, Rockwall; Rio Grande EC, Brackettville; Rita Blanca EC, Dalhart; Rusk County EC, Henderson; Sam Houston EC, Livingston; Sam Rayburn Dam G&T EC, Nacogdoches; San Bernard EC, Bellville; San Miguel EC, Jourdanton; San Patricio EC, Sinton; South Plains EC, Lubbock; South Texas EC, Victoria; Southwest Rural Electric Association, Tipton, Oklahoma; Southwest Texas EC, Eldorado; Swisher EC, Tulia; Taylor EC, Merkel; Tex-La EC of Texas, Nacogdoches; Tri-County EC, Azle; Trinity Valley EC, Kaufman; United Cooperative Services, Cleburne; Upshur-Rural EC, Gilmer; Victoria EC Company, Victoria; Wharton County EC, El Campo; Wise EC, Decatur; Wood County EC, Quitman.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders None

12. Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

13. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
October 1, 2022

| 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
|---|--|--|
| a. Total Number of Copies | 1,825,506 | 1,859,692 |
| b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation | 1,814,529 | 1,848,492 |
| (1) Mailed Outside-County | | |
| (2-4) In-County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other Mailed Circulation | none | none |
| c. Total Paid and/or Requested | 1,814,529 | 1,848,492 |
| d. Free Distribution | 5,022 | 4,986 |
| (1) Free Outside-County Mailed Copies | | |
| (2-3) Free In-County/Other Outside the Mail | none | none |
| (4) Free Distributed Outside the Mail | 5,130 | 5,103 |
| e. Total Free Distribution | 10,152 | 10,089 |
| f. Total Distribution | 1,824,681 | 1,858,581 |
| g. Copies not Distributed | 825 | 1,111 |
| h. Total | 1,825,506 | 1,859,692 |
| i. Percent Paid and/or Requested | 99.44% | 99.46% |

| 16. Extent and Nature of Circulation | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| a. Paid Electronic Copies | none | none |
| b. Total Paid Print Copies | 1,814,529 | 1,848,492 |
| c. Total Print Distribution | 1,824,681 | 1,858,581 |
| d. Percent Paid | 99.44% | 99.46% |

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2022 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date
Karen Nejtcek, Managing Editor October 1, 2022



MATEE MUSEUM | DREAMSTIME.COM

Pick of the Month

Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival

Giddings, November 18-19
(979) 542-2716
www.giddingspubliclibrary.org

Bookworms won't want to miss this free festival featuring Texas author talks and readings. When not speaking, authors will sell their books and sign autographs and be available for pictures.

NOVEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

19

Henderson A Very Merry Market, (318) 780-0620, kvne.com

Luling Grinchmas Arts and Crafts Show, (830) 875-0123, lulingcc.org

Boerne [19-20] Fall Antique Show, (830) 329-2870, ci.boerne.tx.us

Fort Worth [19-20] Funky Finds Holiday Shopping Experience, (903) 665-7954, funkyfinds.com

Granbury [19-20] Winter Wine Walk, (817) 488-6789, crosstimberswinetrail.com

22

Wharton Christmas Holiday Parade, (979) 532-1862, whartonchamber.com

26

Jefferson Christmas Parade and Enchanted Forest Tree Lighting, (903) 665-3733, visitjeffersontexas.com

Nacogdoches Wassail Fest, (936) 559-2500, nactx.us

San Angelo Santa's Santa Fe Christmas, (325) 486-2140, sanangelorailway.org

DECEMBER

01

Cameron Christmas Parade, (254) 697-4979, cameron-tx.com

Kerrville Symphony of the Hills: The Miracle of Christmas, (830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

La Grange Schmecken-fest, (979) 968-3017, visitlagrangetx.com

Tyler Rotary Clubs of Tyler Christmas Parade, (903) 593-6905, visittyler.com

Paris [1-3] Texas BBQ Blowout, (903) 784-2501, cbabbq.com

02

Fredericksburg Light the Night Christmas Parade, (830) 997-5000, fredericksburg-texas.com

Brenham [2-3] Christmas Stroll & Lighted Parade, (979) 337-7580, jingle.cityofbrenham.org

03

Bowie Fantasy of Lights Christmas Festival and Lighted Parade, (940) 872-6246, cityofbowietx.com

Fredericksburg Kinderfest, (830) 990-8441, pioneermuseum.org

Round Top Houston Masterworks Chorus, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org

Aerials

We're flipping over the bird's-eye view these reader photos offer. Come along as they soar to capture the beauty of the Lone Star State.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 JIM BLAKE
COLEMAN COUNTY EC
 Springtime over Trickham, taken with a Typhoon H drone.

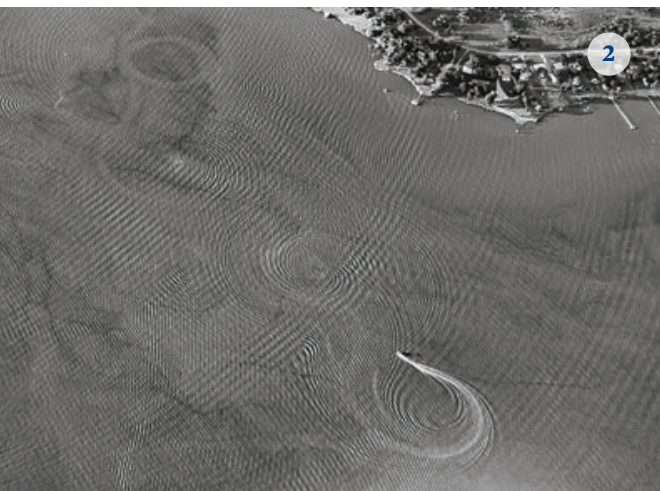
2 ROY O'REAR
TRI-COUNTY EC
 "Interference patterns in the waves made by a boat on Lake Arrowhead near Wichita Falls."

3 MIKE ZARELLA
PEDERNALES EC
 "A hawk's-eye view of the Pedernales River in Blanco County before the current drought."

4 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO
BARTLETT EC
 Palo Duro Canyon State Park.



1



2



3



4

Upcoming Contests

DUE NOV 10 Land, Sea or Sky

DUE DEC 10 Riding the River

DUE JAN 10 Taking Flight



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



The Arable Twos

Thankfulness and hope for a toddler's trials and travails on the farm

BY MARTHA DEERINGER
ILLUSTRATION BY
CHANELLE NIBBELINK

MY GREAT-GRANDSON, Waylon, is 2 and carries all the baggage that that designation suggests. His temper tantrums are epic, but he also finds joy in everyday things and loves with his whole heart—except when his little sister wants to play with his toy tractors and trucks. “Look!” and “Wow!” are his favorite expressions, although I fear that someday soon the dreaded “No!” will find its way onto this list.

But when I watch carefully, I can already see roots sinking into the earth beneath his constantly moving (and usually grubby) feet.

Waylon is a fourth-generation Texas farm boy finding his place among the hay fields and rocky cow pastures of his Coryell County home. When he hears the rattley roar of a diesel engine starting up,

he runs toward it as if the possibility of Grandpa or Uncle Justin leaving the machine shed on a tractor without him might mark the end of the world. When the mad dash works and I see his red hoodie perched on Grandpa's lap inside the cab of that big green tractor, I know he is in 2-year-old heaven. I can still hear the echo of our son's excited voice when he was that age, yelling for a yank on the throttle: “Pull the smoker, Daddy!”

It's not just the boys. My daughter, an elementary school librarian, can still drive a hay truck with the best of them, and granddaughter Hannah, helping scoop silage into a cow trough at the age of 8, once leaned on her shovel and announced, “You know, I may run this place someday.”

Waylon has already watched a calf being born. He has learned to be quiet so the livestock won't be disturbed. He has checked cows in the pasture from Grandpa's lap on the seat of the Kawasaki all-terrain vehicle, and he's learning to count calves (although so far, he's not very reliable beyond six).

This is how farm kids learn who they are and find their places in the world. They pick tomatoes and squash in the garden and see firsthand where their food comes from, feed and water livestock, and drop fresh eggs in the dirt on the way to the kitchen. Waylon has stepped on stickers, stirred up fire ants and been knocked down by the new Lab puppy, but none of these experiences discourage him from his never-ending quest to be outdoors.

Waylon may grow up to be an electrician or a brain surgeon, but right now he is developing a respect—perhaps even a love—for the land that feeds us. I hope that will last a lifetime. ■

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 MDHearing™ 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 MDHearing 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. The MDHearing VOLT 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?

"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard in years came back to me!"

— Don W., Sherman, TX

CHARGE AT NIGHT AND GO ALL DAY

**NEVER
CHANGE
A BATTERY
AGAIN!**



Carrying case is also the charger

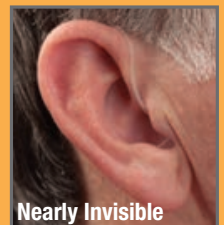
45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-710-9951

www.MDVolt.com



Nearly Invisible

Use Code **QZ32**
and get **FREE Shipping**

 **MDHearing™**

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

A+BBB
rating for
10+ years

Proudly designed in
America and supported
by US audiologists





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
- ✓ Includes Home Service + Streaming Requires internet connected Hopper.
- ✓ Includes Free Installation
- ✓ Includes FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo. unless you call to cancel.
- ✓ Includes HD Programming



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

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ **\$40** month for Internet

- ✓ 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.

FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/Sling 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



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

¡Se 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: Advertised price requires credit qualification, 24-month commitment, and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 11/16/22. 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 (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$10.99/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 means 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.