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IN THE FIELD

THE HERO OF  
CINCO DE MAYO

READER PHOTOS:  
HISTORIC TEXAS

# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

MAY 2021

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# May 2021



08

## Serendipity Spinners

Members of a San Angelo cooperative spin wool from their own flock.

*By Brenda Kissko  
Photos by Kristin Tyler*

## 12 Listening to Texas

How folklorists saved the soundtrack of the Lone Star State.

*By Gene Fowler*

### ON THE COVER

Colorful skeins of yarn created by the Serendipity Spinners.

### ABOVE

Peggy Tharp, Ruth Jordan and Sandy Pederson of the spinning club.  
*Photos by Kristin Tyler*

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*By E. Dan Klepper*



# A Preponderance of Orthographers

**YOUNG TEXANS** have proven masterful at spelling words that seemingly come from a jostled Scrabble board. They have pretty much owned the Scripps National Spelling Bee in recent years.

Three of the eight co-champions in 2019 came from Texas. Sohum Sukhatankar of Dallas dazzled with his winning word, *pendeloque*. Abhijay Kodali of Flower Mound spelled *palama*. And Rohan Raja of Dallas aced *odylic*.

They followed in the footsteps of 2018 champion Karthik Nemmani of McKinney, who hoisted the trophy after spelling *koinonia*.

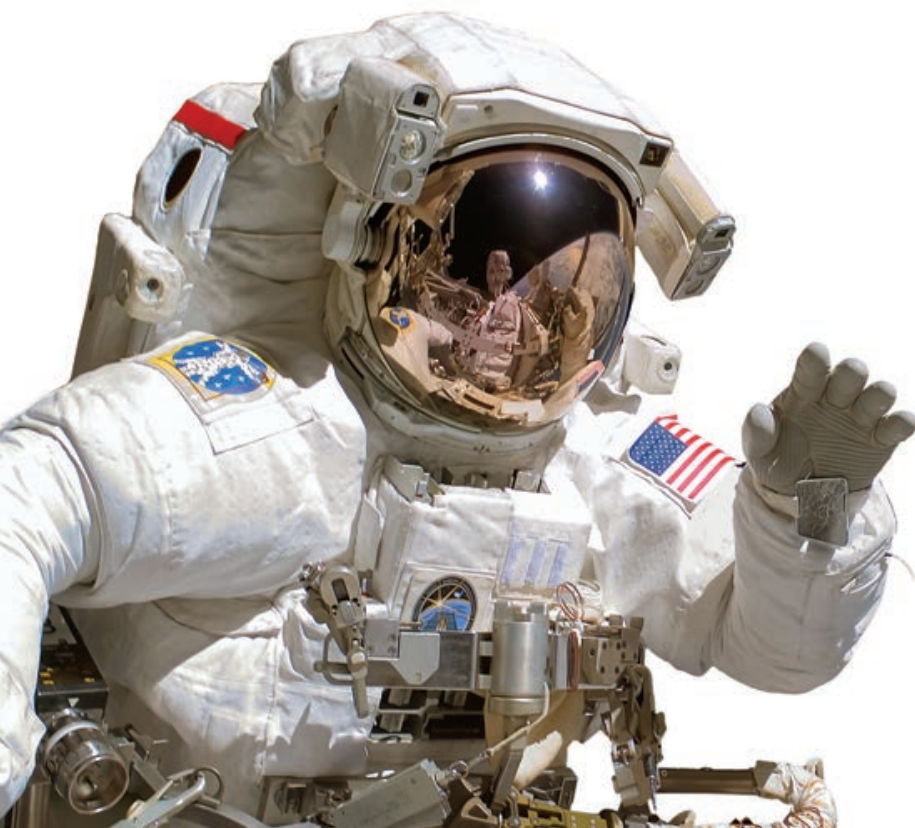
Nihar Janga of Austin shared the title in 2016 after spelling *Gesellschaft*.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of the 2020 bee. The 2021 finals are scheduled for July 8.

May 5

## NATIONAL ASTRONAUT DAY

An etymology dictionary cites 1880 as the earliest use of the word "astronaut." That's when English writer Percy Greg coined it for a fictional spaceship.



## FINISH THIS SENTENCE THIS MEMORIAL DAY, I HONOR ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Below are some of the responses to our March prompt: **The song that got me through a year of pandemic is ...**

*If We Make It Through December* by Merle Haggard.

INOCENCIA MARTINEZ  
MAGIC VALLEY EC  
MERCEDES

*Texas Sun* by Khruangbin and Leon Bridges.

MELANIE BURRIS  
NUECES EC  
PORTLAND

*Still Not Dead* by Willie Nelson.

FD HERMAN  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC  
BIG VALLEY

*We Shall Overcome* by Pete Seeger.

SANJAY SHAH  
COSERV  
CARROLLTON

*This Little Light of Mine.*

PEGGY HOWARD  
VICTORIA EC  
VICTORIA

*Don't Let Me Down* by the Beatles.

JERRY CHANDLER  
PEDERNALES EC  
CANYON LAKE

To see more responses, read Currents online.



“Motherhood is the greatest thing and the hardest thing.”

—RICKI LAKE



**TCP** *Contests and More*

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**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Cheese

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Rust and Decay

**RECOMMENDED READING**  
*Double Exposure* (July 2018) revisits a couple's pose at Cadillac Ranch.

## LBJ Archives at 50

The LBJ Presidential Library at the University of Texas at Austin turns 50 on May 22. It was the first presidential library to be located on a college campus and the first anywhere in Texas.

### The First Five Presidential Libraries

Opened June 30, 1941

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Hyde Park, New York

July 6, 1957

**Harry S. Truman**

Independence, Missouri

May 1, 1962

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Abilene, Kansas

August 10, 1962

**Herbert Hoover**

West Branch, Iowa

May 22, 1971

**Lyndon B. Johnson**

Austin, Texas



TWIN SISTERS  
DANCE HALL  
NEAR BLANCO

## Care To Dance?

**TEXAS DANCE HALL PRESERVATION** donated \$262,520 to assist 32 historic dance halls with expenses in 2020.

Dance halls across the state were shut down for most of 2020, unable to hold dances, weddings, festivals and fundraisers because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 1,000 dance halls, built mostly by European immigrants, once dotted parts of Texas. Today, fewer than 400 remain. Read *Hail the Halls* from February 2019 to learn more.



LBJ PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY





## Flower Power

“Your March cover started my day with a happy smile. You all knocked it out of the ballpark with photos of Texas flowers in breathtaking colors.”

AUDNETTE CODY LARGENT  
FAYETTE EC  
EMORY

## Family Roots

Some of the more interesting pass-along plants [*Putting Down Roots*, February 2021] were introduced by Lorenzo de Zavala when he was a minister to France when Texas was a republic. Roses were a gift from France and planted by Adina de Zavala, his granddaughter, in their Lynchburg homestead, eventually shared and spread into surrounding communities. These roses are still found in some of our older cemeteries.

Mike Shoup  
Bluebonnet EC  
Independence



Salsa was great during the snow-pocalypse [*Tacos*, March 2021]. Spicy food and soups for cold days and nights always seem to go good together.

DAVID NORTON  
VIA FACEBOOK

## A Flyer's Fate

Col. Carl Crane, my grandfather, and William Ocker were pioneers in instrumentation flying [*Flying Blind*, January 2021]. Had Crane not pursued this solution, I might not be here.

The story goes that he was flying a congressman's son in bad weather in Ohio when he became disoriented and almost crashed. Neon lights of a hotel that he saw at the last minute allowed Crane to get his bearings and correct his plane's direction, saving their lives.

Lisa Mittel  
Southwest Texas EC  
San Antonio

## Bread and Butter

As a youngster in Boerne in the 1950s, one of my treats was simple well-buttered bread, and the butter was from either Falfurrias or the Comfort Creamery, depending on whether my parents shopped in San Antonio or at our local Boerne grocery [*A Name That Sticks*, February 2021]. Back then the butter was better than the bread.

Dell Hood  
Pedernales EC  
Wimberley



CHIARA VERCESI

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1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

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

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# TEXAS MINT

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

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

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



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## BATTLE OF GONZALES

first in the series ● ● ● ●

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



## BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

second in the series ● ● ● ●

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

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

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# Serendipity Spinners

**MEMBERS OF A SAN ANGELO  
COOPERATIVE SPIN WOOL  
FROM THEIR OWN FLOCK**

BY BRENDA KISSKO • PHOTOS BY KRISTIN TYLER

Yarn created by the  
Serendipity Spinners gets  
woven into a blanket.



Turning materials that nature provides into a handiwork can remind us of a simpler way of life and provide a reward beyond the finished product.

Such has been the experience of the Serendipity Spinners, who for 19 years have been starting from the ground up and spinning wool into yarn, which they then craft into prized possessions.

Although they come from varied backgrounds in and around San Angelo—doctors, businesswomen, retired teachers, certified public accountants—they share a common love for the spinning tradition. And they are members of their own co-op, which owns a flock of sheep, goats and alpacas whose wool, mohair and fiber they spin and blend into rugs, scarves, hats and other craft pieces. The group, which includes several members of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, meets at Ruth Jordan's property on the South Concho River near San Angelo, where their flock lives on 11 acres.

"Each spinner brings her special knowledge and talent to the group," Jordan says. They share techniques, supplies and equipment, she explains. "Beginning spinners usually start with me as the teacher, with everyone pitching in for help and encouragement."

Even though the members chose the name Serendipity because they liked the sound of the word, its meaning holds relevance for original member Peggy Tharp. She had given up weaving because there was no place to buy materials in West Texas. Serendipity Spinners changed that.

Being involved in the process from the beginning—starting with animals and through the finished product—offers creative satisfaction. "Spinning is fulfilling and elemental," Tharp says. "This group got me to do something I'm not sure I could do otherwise."

The Serendipity Spinners continue a tradition of spinning that dates back more than 10 centuries, to a time when fibers were hand spun on spindles. The spinning wheel was invented in India and introduced to Europe in the Middle Ages. The wheel sped up the yarn-making process, which became mechanized during the 18th century.

Crafters who crochet typically buy yarn from big-box stores and craft shops, which mostly supply acrylic wool. Yarn spun from natural fibers can be harder to come by and costs more. Purists buy raw fibers and spin them into their own yarn. The Serendipity Spinners take it a step further by



ABOVE, FROM TOP Alpacas owned by the Serendipity Spinners near San Angelo are one source of the group's wool; unspun wool; Ruth Jordan spins wool into yarn.



LEFT Jordan feeds one of the Shetland sheep the Serendipity Spinners count on for the breed's desirable wool. BELOW The spinners gather in Jordan's home to enjoy their centuries-old craft.



Each spring, the group hires a local to shear their sheep and goats. The spinners shear the alpacas and do the skirting (the term for sorting and cleaning the wool) of all the fleeces themselves. The wool is then carded—combed—into roving so the fibers are lined up and ready to be spun into yarn.

When group members gather, they enjoy a potluck of food and fellowship. The room is filled with familiar smiles, the scent of fresh-baked treats and the gentle whirring of spinning wheels. The Serendipity Spinners are not in business to make a profit; they're in business to produce affordable fiber for members to use.

The group sells dryer balls made from their castoff scrap fiber at craft fairs and events at the Chicken Farm Art Center in San Angelo. The dryer balls are the one product the group sells collectively, and they use the proceeds to help with the cost of feeding and shearing their flock and processing their wool.

The Serendipity Spinners' flock came about during a spinning session when one of the ladies complained about the high cost of fiber. Jordan suggested the group invest in their own flock, so each member chipped in \$200, and they purchased four sheep.

They sought a variety of sheep breeds to produce a diversity of fibers. Their flock now includes Teeswater, Wensleydale, California variegated mutant, Jacob, merino and Rambouillet. Each breed has unique qualities in its fiber and yarn.

Mohair, produced by Angora goats, is glossy and strong and dyes beautifully. Merino is soft. Jacob is strong and ideal for rugs and handbags. Teeswater is lustrous. CVM offers larger fleece that's easy to spin and is often blended with other fibers. Alpaca fleece comes in a variety of shades and colors. Shetlands produce an especially desirable fiber for hand spinning in many colors.

San Angelo, well-known as one of the largest sheep, wool and mohair markets in the U.S., makes a fitting home for the Serendipity Spinners. The Texas Sheep and Goat

raising their own sheep to produce their own wool.

The group spins the wool into yarn on varied styles of spinning wheels: some Saxony, some Castle, some electric, some antique heirlooms.

"If only these wheels could tell us their stories," says Jordan, who owns several. She purchased one from northern Europe at a secondhand shop in Mason, concluding it probably came to Texas with the German pioneers who settled the Hill Country. Her Schacht Matchless wheel came from an estate sale, and she learned that its former owner, whose initials are painted on the wheel, traveled from New York to Mexico to teach spinning there.

Through her experience with different wheels, Jordan has become the mechanic of the Serendipity Spinners, troubleshooting occasional problems.

Though there are faster ways of acquiring a scarf nowadays, the machine-made one you select from the shelf at the department store won't be imbued with the same love a handmade scarf offers. The Serendipity Spinners take the wool from a sheep they've cared for and work it through every step of the process to become a warm wrap.





The spinners' livestock range on 11 acres along the South Concho River.

Raisers Association and the Mohair Council of America are headquartered in the city.

The Serendipity Spinners observe Roc Day, or St. Distaff's Day, each January 7, the traditional date that the cottage industry spinners in Europe resumed spinning the day after Epiphany. The San Angelo women celebrate with

a weekend spinning retreat at the Jordan Ranch near Menard. On that weekend they exchange handmade items.

"Fiber friends are the finest," Jordan says, smiling as she reflects upon her time with her fellow spinners. ■



3-12-51

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Retrieve Farm

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Howard Byater - (knew Iron Head)  
Freddy Long  
Dorothy Dickerson + 3 others (Alvin Johnson, Andrew P. Crane)



11



if no more  
tuning down

Been gone looking  
nd  
rs

with The Song of God.

aa Big Day in Dallas  
nna, David McFalls  
Jacob, Winton, Bartlett  
(M.C.)

W. Perry Wilson

John Avery Lomax records Richard Amerson at a home in Alabama. Ruby Terrill Lomax, at top, accompanied Lomax on many trips through the South and kept meticulous notes of the field recordings.



# Listening To Texas

**T**he late Blanche Inez “Aunt Tootsie” Bell Simmons of Pflugerville had never heard the fiddle music of her great-uncle, Peter Tumlinson Bell of Carrizo Springs, until she was nearly a century old.

In 2008, Austinite Dan Foster, who researches old-time fiddlers and fiddle music, brought Tootsie copies of a compact disc, *P.T. Bell—Master Texas Fiddler*.

The fiddle tunes on the CD were captured on an ancient Vibromaster recording machine by folklorist William A. Owens in Carrizo Springs in 1941, when the musician Bell was 74. The Vibromaster recorded directly to aluminum discs. Verner Lee Bell said that among his first memories was sitting on the floor while his grandfather fiddled into the recorder as little curls of aluminum twisted away and fell under the table as the recording was made. Owens wrote that the audio on the aluminum discs was played back with a cactus needle.

Owens was following a tradition begun by John Avery Lomax, among the best known of all field recorders. Originally funded by Harvard University, Lomax traveled through Texas with his son Alan and wife, Ruby Terrill Lomax, recording authentic, undocumented folk songs until his death in 1948.

One man Lomax recorded, whose name was only given as Blue, at the Smither Farm in Walker County concluded his singing by addressing President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and urging him to come to Texas and do something for the poor folks on tenant farms. Alan Lomax later wrote that his experience at the farm changed his life and the mission for his work. From that point forward, he believed he needed to record the views of the unheard people in rural America.

A similar drive to preserve rural cultural traditions motivated other field recorders. Though some recordings were made in urban settings, these traditions were largely rural, and they continue to influence Texas music and lifeways in the 21st century.

Others who took on this mission include Américo Paredes and Tary Owens (no relation to William Owens). Field

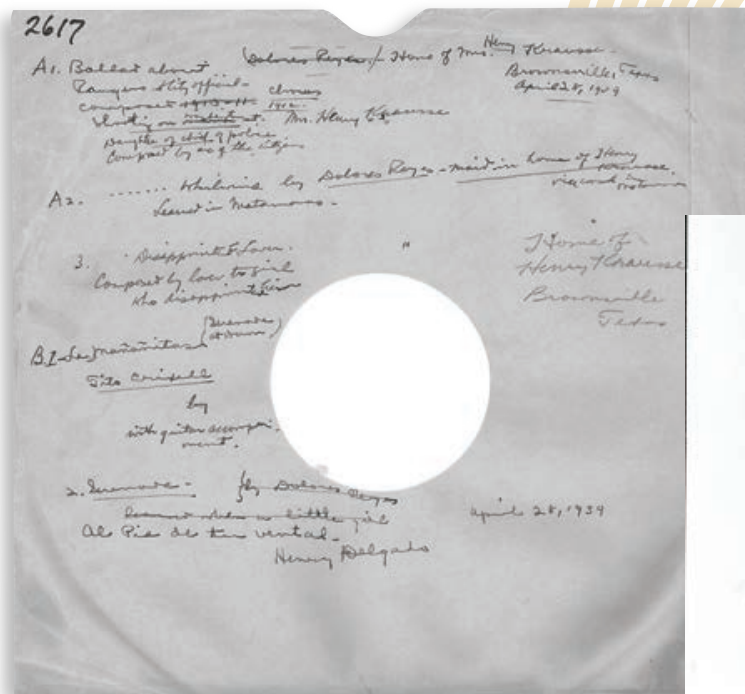


Jack Thorp was a pioneer in collecting and preserving homespun ballads.

recorders preserved cowboy songs, Old World ballads, Appalachian reels, Black spirituals, *corridos* and *canciones* that had been handed down through families from pioneer days. If not for the work of the field recorders—those truly listening to Texas—these musical traditions might well have disappeared.

Some of these recorded traditions became part of American culture. Cowboy Jack Thorp collected sagebrush songs in Texas in 1889 and produced a booklet titled *Songs of the Cowboys* in 1908. Based on that publication and John Lomax’s 1910 publication, *Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads*, the oral history of Western music seeped into mainstream American culture. As a direct result, the 1920s saw the creation of an archetype, the singing cowboy, on radio and records. And with the advent of “talkies,” motion pictures with sound, in the 1930s, the crooning caballero was firmly established as an American icon.

William A. Owens spent much of the 1930s and early ’40s trekking the state in search of songs. Born in Lamar County



Américo Paredes studied the stories, humor and border ballads—*corridos*—of the Rio Grande Valley for decades after becoming the first Mexican American to receive a doctorate in English from the University of Texas.



*Corrido de Kiansis*, about the famed trail drives from South Texas. “Many of the trail drivers were Mexicans,” he writes, “some taking their own herds, others working with Anglo outfits.”

Other border songs collected by Paredes include the stories of Texas journalist Catarino Garza, who led a revolt against Mexican dictator

Porfirio Díaz, and Goliad native Ignacio Zaragoza, who led a Mexican force that defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862—a victory celebrated today as Cinco de Mayo. The song *A. Zaragoza* was sung at 1867 Cinco de Mayo festivities in San Ygnacio by a local *guitarrero* named Onofre Cárdenas and remained in the borderlands’ oral tradition until Paredes learned it from the Zapata County singer Mercurio Martinez in 1950.

Tary Owens became one of Paredes’ students at the University of Texas in the 1960s and earned a Lomax Foundation grant to record such artists as country bluesmen Mance Lipscomb and Bill Neely as well as piano legends Robert Shaw and Roosevelt Williams, also known as Grey Ghost. As Ruth K. Sullivan wrote in the *Journal of Texas Music History*, Owens documented a wide range of styles in Texas and “helped provide ... a much more complete understanding of the unique and complex musical heritage of the Lone Star State.”

Some of Owens’ 1965 tapes were recently released on CD as *Teodar Jackson With T. J. Jackson: African-American Fiddling From Texas*. Foster explains that this music is “something rare and old as yet unheard in the familiar sound of old-time fiddling today. Teodar’s recordings have much to teach us about the sound of African American music in its own right.”

Thanks to Owens’ field recordings and the discovery of Teodar Jackson by young audiences, the fiddler was slated to play the Newport Folk Festival in 1966, where an even greater audience awaited his music—but he died before that happened. Listen to Jackson’s fiddle, and you’re truly listening to Texas. ■

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Experience John Avery Lomax’s East Texas Tour virtually.

in 1905, he returned home to Pin Hook to record singers in the early days of rural electrification. “A mystery, at times a superstition about electricity penetrated folk minds,” he wrote in his 1983 book, *Tell Me a Story, Sing Me a Song*.

Owens’ quest took him from the streets of Dallas’ Deep Ellum to the King Ranch to the woods of Texas’ deepest east. In East Texas he was often guided by Irvin “Cocky” Thompson of Silsbee, who, Owens wrote, “knew the paved roads ... the wagon roads, the trails that led to lonely cabins or became lost in the rootings of hogs hunting for mast.”

In the unincorporated Houston County community of Austonio, Lemuel Jeffus—who could reportedly “make people grin like possums with his crazy old songs”—gathered locals and families from Bug Hill to record sacred harp singing for Owens. Marveling at the aluminum disc on the folklorist’s machine, they testified quietly, “I ain’t never heered my own voice.”

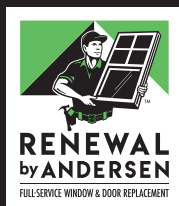
**I**n Brownsville and Matamoros, Owens recorded a young Paredes and his then-wife, the future Queen of the Bolero, Chelo Silva. One performance seems especially emblematic of listening to Texas. “Chelo sang a version of the traditional Spanish *Cielito Lindo*,” Owens wrote, “that progressed from the original, through a *guapango* [hupango], a Negro blues, and ended as a cowboy yodel. To them, such a mixture seemed natural on the border.”

Though authorities did not allow Owens to take his Vibromaster into Mexico, a Matamoros cantina singer taught Paredes the words and melody to another song, the story of Gregorio Cortez, a ranch hand who fled Texas after a tragic struggle with the sheriff of Karnes County. Paredes’ dissertation on the story and its corrido, published as the 1958 book, *With His Pistol in His Hand*, has become a bed-rock text in Mexican American studies.

Paredes rounded up a lifetime of border music in his 1976 book, *A Texas Mexican Cancionero*.

He included the oldest complete Tex-Mex corrido, *El*





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*Two legends come together for epic jewelry*



“White Buffalo Stone is stunning with its striking black & white contrast, and to our knowledge, this is the only unique vein in the world.”

— Tony Otteson, 2019

To show exquisite details, jewelry shown is not exact size.

## A RARE MEETING OF THE MINES

The American Southwest is steeped in legend. From untamed deserts to Wild West towns, its stories are as rich and mysterious as its beautiful expansive vistas. So we made the trek to two remote mines in this captivating region to join two of the Southwest's most legendary stones into one epic collection.

First we went to the only source of the illusive White Buffalo stone in the world—the Otteson Mine located in Tonopah, Nevada. White Buffalo has a bold, captivating presence with a distinctive white background and black matrix and is named after the white buffalo—a symbol of sacred life and abundance to Native Americans.

Then we went to one of the few places on earth that produce rare, natural turquoise—the Kingman Turquoise Mine nestled in the Acerbate Mountains of Arizona. Kingman is one of the oldest and largest turquoise mines in the world. It was mined by prehistoric Native American tribes dating back over a thousand years. The beautiful, high-quality stones from this mine feature an array of green and blue shades with exquisite veining and marbled patterns.

The *Two Legends Collection* celebrates the unique and rare beauty of these legendary stones with generous cabochons of White Buffalo accented with rounds of the coveted Kingman turquoise. The antiqued silver-finished settings showcase these rare desert gems beautifully.

**100% Satisfaction Guaranteed.** Experience what it's like to wear a legend for 30 days. If you're not happy, send it back for a refund of the item price. We want your experience to be epic.

**Limited Availability.** Stones with only one source are hard to come by. Don't miss out on owning a legend. Call today!

### Two Legends Collection

A. White Buffalo & Kingman Turquoise Ring (4 1/2 ctw)  
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MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT/  
CEO

**DARRYL  
SCHRIVER**

# Update: Winter Storm Grid Crisis and Brazos Bankruptcy

**IT IS NOW MAY** and we are still sorting through the aftereffects of Winter Storm Uri, which brought record-low temperatures across the state for multiple days in February and wreaked havoc on the Texas electric grid. I have reported to you over the past couple of months that your Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and management team are conducting a thorough investigation of the impacts of the storm and why Brazos Electric Power Cooperative (Brazos), our generation and transmission cooperative and power supplier, made a hurried decision to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Tri-County Electric Co-op has hired an excellent team of outside consultants and legal counsel to advise us, and we are making progress with our investigation.

Prior to, during and after the storm, I have been open and transparent with you, our member-owners. In my 20 plus years in this industry, sorting through this predicament has been one of the biggest and most complex challenges of my career. Throughout this entire process, I have pressed for answers and accountability from Brazos. We have unfortunately learned that Brazos's generation fleet did not operate as expected during the winter storm, which caused excessive costs to be incurred. These generation units are designed to act as a hedge and produce electricity to protect all Brazos's member-cooperatives, including Tri-County Electric Co-op, from the volatility of the ERCOT market. It has become painfully obvious that this did not happen in February. 800873045

Ultimately, Brazos incurred approximately \$2.1 billion in bills from ERCOT, which was three times its cost of power for the entire 2020 year. Although Brazos disputes this debt and issued a notice of force majeure to ERCOT, and disputes \$1.8 billion of the charges from ERCOT, Brazos hurriedly filed for bankruptcy. Brazos released a statement declaring the filing was to protect its member-cooperatives and to preserve its ability to conduct transactions in the ERCOT market. However, what is puzzling is that immediately prior to Brazos's filing, Brazos allocated to each member-cooperative their assumed initial share of the disputed ERCOT charges and then provided a "temporary affordability adjustment" to the member-cooperatives to offset some of these charges.

As of this writing, we have yet to obtain requested backup data to validate Tri-County Electric Co-op's allocation of initial costs. As you may recall in February, Brazos also announced it would charge member-cooperatives an additional two cents per kilowatt-hour for February electric use. Brazos then removed the adder on its next bill. Furthermore, due to the bankruptcy filing and its associated asset performance during the winter storm, Brazos's credit rating was downgraded to a "D" placing additional operational strains on Brazos. Because of the downgraded rating, Brazos is not able to transact business in the ERCOT market as efficiently as before.

In addition to our investigation, the Texas legislature has conducted a series of hearings to understand what happened to the state's electric grid that provides power to 90% of Texans. They are moving slow with the legislative process and we are preparing for other options in case the legislature fails to pass legislation that will prevent the downward spiral of high electric costs being pushed onto our members. Tri-County Electric Co-op's management has been active in the legislative process with our elected legislative delegation and those in leadership positions to explain necessary changes needed to prevent this from ever happening to us again.

This debacle is far from over and it is an extremely fluid situation. This Brazos situation was not of Tri-County Electric Co-op's making and, as proactive as we have been, there is only so much we can affect and control in relation to the problems of Brazos. Brazos has many problems but it remains unclear to what degree this will ultimately affect Tri-County Electric Co-op. One thing I can say for certain is I am doing all that I can to hold Brazos accountable and protect the member-owners of Tri-County Electric Co-op. We are in this together. ■



# Director Nominations

THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS met on Friday, March 12, 2021, to review and accept applications from members seeking nomination to the board of directors through the committee.

The committee approved the following nomination candidates to be placed on the official 2021 election ballot:

**District 3**

Jorden Wood (Incumbent)

**District 6**

John Killough (Incumbent)

**District 8**

Jarrett Armstrong (Incumbent)

Michael Sivertsen

The nomination candidate slate is presented by the Committee on Nominations and Qualifications based on the eligibility of members who submitted application packets to seek nomination by 5 pm on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Committee members are Steve Bartley, District 3; Randy Marshall, District 4; Ramey Keeth, District 5; Danny Tuggle, District 6; Ranell Scott, District 7; Lesley Boone, District 8; Robert Gotcher - chairman, District 9

**Petition Candidates**

In the June *Texas Co-op Power*, the Nominations and Qualifications committee will report a full slate of director candidates to the membership. The deadline for members of districts 3, 6 and 8 to submit applications to seek nomination through member petition was 5 pm on Thursday, April 15. The committee met on Monday, April 19, to review and accept eligible candidates seeking nomination through petition. 800819597

**2021 Official Election**

Each year, three director seats are up for election by the membership. In 2021, director districts 3, 6 and 8 are up for election. While directors are nominated by members of their district, the entire membership votes on directors during the official election.

Members can expect their official 2021 election ballot on the September *Texas Co-op Power*. ■



FATHHOCA | ISTOCK.COM

## Become an Active Co-op Member

**MAKE 2021 THE YEAR** you convert from being a “customer” of your electric cooperative to being a “member.”

The fact is, you’re already a member. You buy your electricity from a utility that is organized as a member-owned and member-governed cooperative, which means that every one of its consumers owns a part of it.

As a member-owner, you have some privileges that customers of investor-owned electric companies don’t have—like the right to vote in elections for the cooperative’s board of directors. You can even run for the board yourself if you want to. Any co-op member can.

Your co-op is not-for-profit, which means any money made in excess of expenses, or margins, is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

This year, be an active member. Start by planning to participate in your cooperative’s annual meeting and voting in the official election in September. 800592726

How many other kinds of businesses give you a voice? Exercise your membership privileges and get involved with your electric cooperative this year. ■

**DID YOU KNOW?**

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Time to inspect your home for any lamps, appliances, electronics, cords, plugs or outlets that need repair or replacement to prevent hazards.

PHOTOEVENT | ISTOCK.COM



# Cutting-Edge

Keller ISD's career-tech program expands its boundaries to prepare students for work, life

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

**GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN STUDENTS** have graduated from high school and gone to college or into the workforce feeling lost and directionless. It's a classic story: kids leaving home, going out to find themselves.

Many of the young people who attend Keller schools have a different story.

Thanks to the vision and commitment of Keller Independent School District and the community, they can walk out of high school not only with a clear direction, but with advanced training, hands-on experience, college credit, certifications – even a job – through one of the country's top career and technical education (CTE) programs.

This 35,000-student school district is in the heart of Tri-County Electric Cooperative's territory in North Tarrant County; many of its campuses and thousands of its residents get their power from the co-op. Keller ISD also sits in the middle of one of the most innovative business corridors in the United States, the booming area between Dallas/Fort Worth International and Alliance airports.

Keller ISD's mission? Help students find their passion and

equip them to pursue it.

"We look at it from almost a parent's perspective," said Dr. Robert Wright, director of CTE for Keller ISD, said. "What do I want my kid to walk out of high school with? We want him to know one or two things: either, 'This is what I want to do,' which is awesome, or perhaps 'This isn't what I want to do,' which is just as valuable."

In 2014, voters approved a bond program that included repurposing an intermediate campus, with a \$37.8 million renovation and addition, to create KCAL – the Keller Center for Advanced Learning. This campus, located on Bursey Road, is the cornerstone of the CTE program. Since it opened in April 2017, it has brought many of the district's vocational programs from its four high school campuses and sparked a redesign of the curriculum to get everyone on the same page.

Leslee Shepherd, the district's executive director of student advancement, told the Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce in January that KCAL allowed the district to move beyond the limitations of a normal high school campus. 800860886

"We offer programs there that require specialized equipment that really cannot be replicated on campus, because of the restraints of classroom size," she said. "At KCAL you see a lot of lab spaces where students are able to engage in hands-on work."

KCAL offers state-of-the-art facilities for traditional vocational fields like automotive technology, construction trades, culinary arts, ag and veterinary science, nursing and cosmetology. It also provides hands-on learning for budding engineers, architects, software designers, graphic artists and filmmakers. On a typical school day, students at KCAL build and test robots, fly drones and experiment with conductors, capacitors and electric circuits.

They can also train as emergency medical technicians in a fully-equipped ambulance box and flex their legal muscles in a courtroom straight out of *Law & Order*. KCAL even has a state-of-the-art recording studio for the district's fine arts



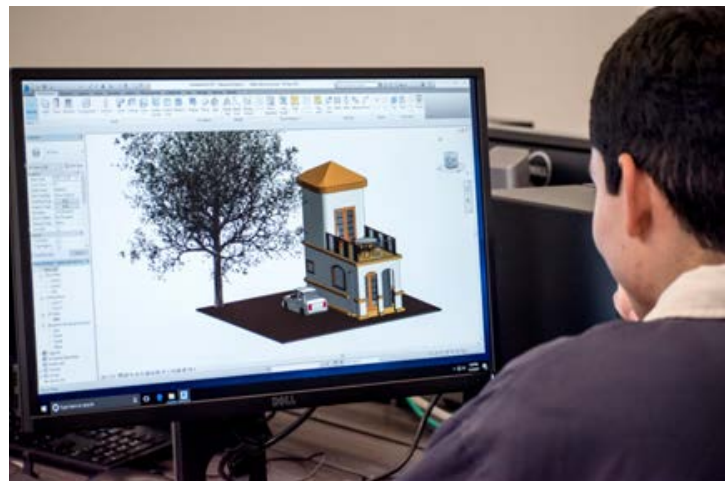
TOP: In engineering classes, students get hands-on experience designing machines and seeing how they work in the real world.

RIGHT: KCAL architecture students are able to design buildings with advanced computer programs and strong instruction and guidance.

OPPOSITE TOP: The Keller Center for Advanced Learning has been open four years on Bursey Road.

OPPOSITE RIGHT: KCAL engineering students get an introduction to the school's mobile classroom, which they use when they go to the district's elementary schools to demonstrate the kinds of things they do at the specialized campus.

*Photos courtesy of Keller ISD.*







students, and a mobile classroom allows its students to go on the road and show elementary students the choices that will be available to them in a few years.

In short, if it connects a high school student to a potential career, you'll find it at KCAL.

Classes in business, finance, accounting, teaching, training and numerous other vocation-oriented subjects still take place on each of the district's four regular high school campuses – Fossil Ridge, Central, Keller High and Timber Creek. In all, more than 11,000 students from the seventh through 12th grades take part in some type of CTE training before they graduate.

But Keller doesn't wait until the seventh grade to get students thinking about the future.

"Our STEM programs go all the way down to kindergarten in most elementary schools," Wright said. "Kids are learning about engineering, math, science and technology all the way down to that level. It's beginning to get that creativity flowing and be able to think about more than just kindergarten – they're beginning to think about the future a little bit, priming that pump to what's available."

### The Next Steps

KCAL has earned Keller ISD national recognition, but the district isn't resting on its laurels. Three years ago, they helped put together a 13-district consortium to begin training students in aero-robotics – technology that uses unmanned aerial vehicles to deliver freight, and at some point, people. Alliance Airport and its corridor of manufacturing, shipping, call centers and corporate offices will be the epicenter of that developing technology. Working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments and many of the companies along that corridor, Keller ISD and the consortium are blazing a trail for the state and the nation.

"Based on our proximity to the Alliance corridor, that's something we're going to need here," Wright said. "Amazon

and all those folks that are around here are going to demand those type of technologies, so we're starting to build the students who will be able to do that."

Wright said the consortium recently got its second grant from the state of Texas.

"It doesn't always happen that the state will give you money to do something, but they see the power in it," he said. "That's literally the future. Talk about stability in a job. If you can be a young man or young woman who's getting to this now and learning all those technologies, the sky is the limit – no pun intended."

This fall, the district will open another specialized high school – Keller Collegiate Academy (KCA) – to provide hands-on learning and training in several health-care related professions. 800815868

"We're super-excited," Shepherd said. "This campus is going to provide additional CTE programming for our students, focused in the area of health sciences."

Students will be able to earn an associate degree in nursing



or surgical technology, and even finish a level-2 certification in vocational nursing – graduating high school well on their way to a bachelor’s or master’s degree in nursing. The program will be rigorous and the students will be qualified with both classroom and hands-on experience as KCA partners with several area hospitals.

“I think this last year has proven how much we need qualified nurses in our health care system,” Shepherd said. “This is our way of giving back to the community in that regard, individuals who are highly prepared and well-trained, entering the workforce ready to go.”

Wright said just under 100 kids will make up the inaugural class. Both the number of students and the course offerings will expand in the near future.

“We’re going to have so many different things that these kids are going to be able to do, it’s going to be amazing,” he said. “They can leave school making \$70,000 a year with zero debt. They will basically leave high school and walk into the workforce. As a parent, and as a community member, that is just amazing to me.”

### Primed for Partners

Job shadowing, internships and practicums are just some of the areas where the public can join with the district in helping give students real-world experience.

Scholarships are another opportunity to pitch in: community engagement coordinator Olivia Moore told the Chamber luncheon attendees that in the past three years, the district has raised more than \$130,000 to provide scholarships to graduating CTE seniors who plan to further their education. Donations, sponsorships and job-related partners are welcome by contacting KCAL at 817-743-8000 or email Moore at [Olivia.Moore@Kellerisd.net](mailto:Olivia.Moore@Kellerisd.net).

CTE coordinator Keith Killebrew said involvement

**“This is our way of giving back to the community in that regard, individuals who are highly prepared and well-trained, entering the workforce ready to go.”**

—LESLEE SHEPHERD

opportunities are almost unlimited.

“We have upwards of 115 partners that we try to get kids involved with,” he said. “It can be mentorship, it can be assessment – coming in and looking at projects – it can be taking kids as interns, job-shadowing, things like that.”

Killebrew said one of the things the district is most proud of is its partnership with Lockheed-Martin, the Fort Worth-based manufacturer of the next-generation F-35 fighter jet.

“They have an internship program,” he said. “We provide more than half of the interns for that program – 26 kids who go out there and work on real-world projects.”

He said the interns become part of the environment and ultimately develop company loyalty. They get the skillset to build their resume, and ultimately are offered an opportunity, after their junior year in college, to become full-time employees. 800728048

“The greatest resource of all is our rock-star kids,” Killebrew said. “CTE is a K-12 program. We have engineers in kindergarten, we really do – and we’re always looking for new partners, new faces to come be a part of what we do.”

When you think about it, Keller ISD and Tri-County Electric Cooperative are kindred spirits: high-tech, people-oriented, and all about making connections. ■



TOP: KCAL culinary students are mixing up dough on cake day.

RIGHT: A student works to build a bench in the wood shop.

*Photos courtesy of Keller ISD.*







Be sure to follow safety precautions for all the electric appliances in today's modern kitchens.

BLACKCAT | ISTOCK.COM

## Remember Electrical Safety this Month

**MAY'S DESIGNATION AS** National Electrical Safety Month makes it a good time to review electrical hazards and think about how to keep common household dangers at bay.

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for 35,000 home fires causing more than 1,130 injuries, 500 deaths and \$1.4 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International. Because the average American home was built in 1977, many can't keep up with the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

To help prevent adding to the sobering statistics about electrical dangers, watch for the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system, which include:

- ▶ Frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses. 800635028
- ▶ Lights dimming when other devices are turned on.
- ▶ Buzzing sounds from switches or outlets.
- ▶ Discolored outlets.
- ▶ Appliances that seem underpowered.

To maintain an electrically safe home, install the following safety devices in your home according to codes:

- ▶ Arc-fault circuit interrupters protect against electrical fires caused by malfunctions.
- ▶ Surge protective devices provide safeguards against surges that can damage or reduce the life spans of

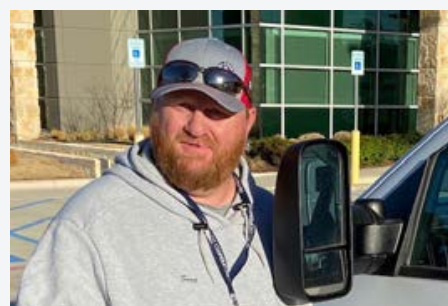
electrical systems and devices.

- ▶ Ground-fault circuit interrupters protect against electric shock.
- ▶ Tamper-resistant receptacles have an internal shutter system to prevent foreign objects from being inserted into an outlet.

About 3,300 home fires are started by extension cords every year, so it's important to follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Don't substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- ▶ Don't run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If a cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which is a fire hazard.
- ▶ Don't use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- ▶ Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products it powers and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- ▶ Don't use a cord that has a lower rating than the appliance or tool you are plugging in.
- ▶ Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- ▶ Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots.
- ▶ Ensure your extension cord has a polarized or three-prong plug. ■

## I Work for You



### SEAN MAYBEN

**Meter Technician**  
**Metering & Field Communications, Aledo**

When Sean graduated high school, in a class of 32 at Hebron, Nebraska, he felt like he was done with small-town life. Three semesters at the University of Texas convinced him he was more social than studious. He went home, got an associate's degree and began working as a construction electrician.

He found Tessa, his future wife, who prevailed upon him to enroll in Kansas State University, where he finished his degree in 2007. After 10 years as an insurance claims adjuster, his dad, who had been in the utility industry for 40 years, pointed him to an opening at Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

He applied a few months after new CEO Darryl Schriver had arrived, and started in November 2017, just as the co-op began the shift to AMI meters. Sean loves that the job is not monotonous. He splits his time between the field and the office and works throughout the co-op's territory.

But the best thing about Tri-County Electric Co-op is the family atmosphere, something that was brought home in dramatic fashion after he and Tessa had their third child in August 2019. Grady was born with a heart defect and they spent his first six months in the cardiac ICU at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth. The way the co-op family rallied around them made a lasting impression. 8000871102

"They just absolutely embraced what we were going through," he said. "They offered donations, babysitting, meals – everyone stepped in. It was pretty moving."

Grady is a happy baby now. Big brother Trent, who loves soccer and video games, will be 7 in May, and Sienna, 4, just loves whatever her brother is into. They live in the not-so-small town of Weatherford. ■



**Jerry Ermis Memorial Rib Feed**  
May 2



**Aim High for the Kids Clay Shoot**  
May 6

## Your Co-op's Community Calendar

### May

2

**Jerry Ermis Memorial Rib Feed**  
Seymour Volunteer Fire  
Department

6

**Springtown Chamber of  
Commerce Banquet**  
springtownchamber.org

**Aim High for the Kids Clay Shoot**  
eastparkerchamber.com

**WISD Education Foundation Golf  
Tournament**  
weatherfordisd.com

**The Taste**  
metroportchamber.org

**Party with a Purpose**  
nisdtx.org

7

**Azle Area Chamber of Commerce  
Golf Tournament**  
azlechamber.com

**NOTE:** Events are subject to postponement or cancellation due to COVID-19 guidance. Please check the event resource for updates.

**Interested in promoting your event in the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power*?**  
Email [pr@tcectexas.com](mailto:pr@tcectexas.com) with the event name, date and where readers can find more information.

13

**Fired Up**  
kellerchamber.com

15

**Keller Education Foundation  
Rooted Gala**  
kisdfoundation.net

20

**Taste of Parker County**  
wc.edu

### June

4

**Aledo Summer Blast**  
aledo-texas.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](mailto:customer_service@tcectexas.com)

**Web** [tcectexas.com](http://tcectexas.com)

### President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

### Board of Directors

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**Max Waddell**, District 9 - Vice Chairman

**John Killough**, District 6 - Secretary/Treasurer

**Kevin Ingle**, District 1

**Margaret Koprek**, District 2

**Jerry A. Walden**, District 4

**Steve V. Harris**, District 5

**Larry Miller**, District 7

**Dr. Jarrett Armstrong**, District 8

**24/7**

## Outage Reporting

For information and  
to report outages, please  
contact us.

Online: [oms.tcectexas.com](http://oms.tcectexas.com)

App: TCEC Connect

Phone: (817) 444-3201

### ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,424 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 96,400 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](http://tcectexas.com)

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



# BBQ Sauerkraut

BY ANN WESBROOKS  
LAKE KEMP

- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 5 slices bacon, diced
- 16 oz. can of sauerkraut
- 16 oz can of diced tomatoes
- 3/4 cup brown sugar

1. In a skillet, sauté onion and bacon. Pour into 2-quart baking dish.
2. Add sauerkraut, tomatoes and brown sugar.
3. Bake uncovered at 350°F for 2 hours. Sauerkraut should look caramelly around the edges.

Enjoy!



KATHARINA KLINSKI | PIXABAY

## Did you know you can sign up for text and email notifications?

Members can sign up to receive text and emails to stay up-to-date on your account or to receive special alerts.

### Signing up is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Log in to your online member portal or TCEC Connect
2. Go to "Notifications"
3. Set up your preferences for text and emails



### Notification options:

- Daily Usage
- Bill Creation Notification
- Payment Receipt
- Due Date Reminder
- Special Alerts
- And More!

*Never miss an update on your account with this member benefit.*

## 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 [pr@tcectexas.com](mailto:pr@tcectexas.com)

**ONLINE:** [tcectexas.com/recipe-submission](https://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



## IN THE NEWS:

*Moissanite is a game changer... A hot trend in big bling—an alternative to diamond..."*

— Today Show on NBC



A.

Jewelry shown is not exact size. Pendant chain sold separately.

Price Drops 83%... ONLY Through Stauer

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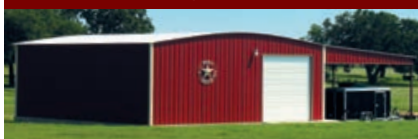
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## TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong  
read this story.



# The Hero of Cinco de Mayo

A Texan named Zaragoza led the battle against the French in Mexico

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY RAUL ALLEN

**I HAVE LONG KNOWN** that 19th-century Mexican general Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín was a Texan, but I didn't know how deep his Texas roots went until I did some digging—pun intended. I learned that he was born in Goliad in 1829, when Texas was still part of Mexico. My research told me that his mother, María de Jesús Seguín, was from San Antonio and a cousin of Tejano hero Juan Seguín, who fought Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna in the Texas Revolution and for whom the city of Seguin is named.

Zaragoza's father owned 11 leagues, or just under 50,000 acres, along the Red River in Northeast Texas, according to the Texas General Land Office. He

bought it for 100 pesos a league in 1830. That's mind-blowing. You couldn't even buy a square foot of that land today for 100 pesos. All this proves Gen. Zaragoza's Texas bona fides.

When Zaragoza was in his early 20s, he joined the revolutionary army of Benito Juárez and eventually led an army of volunteers in defeating Santa Anna. Yes, that same Santa Anna. Zaragoza's victory effectively removed Santa Anna as dictator of Mexico. That's another reason we should recognize Zaragoza. Like all good Texans, he despised the dictator and wanted him dead so democracy could live.

It is astonishing that Santa Anna was once again in power 20 years after his

humiliating loss to Sam Houston's army at San Jacinto. But Santa Anna had more political lives than a cat and was president of Mexico 11 times. No one ever failed so often and so badly and still managed to claw his way back into power.

In 1862 the French, under Napoleon III, wanted to make Mexico their own colony. They sent an impressive force of 8,000 crack troops to take the country by storm. Juárez directed Zaragoza to Puebla to defend Mexico from the French invasion. This was Mexico's San Jacinto moment because Zaragoza commanded half as many men as the French and was definitely the underdog in the battle to defend Puebla.

The French army's commander, Gen. Charles Latrille de Lorencez, held the same haughty attitude toward his Mexican opponents that Santa Anna had about the Texans in 1836. Latrille wrote that the Mexicans he faced "were of a lower race, poorly organized, poorly disciplined, of low morals," and in a uniquely French insult of a military force, said that they "lacked good taste."

Despite their poor taste, Zaragoza and his army achieved a stunning victory May 5, 1862, over those French troops. The French lost 500 men, while the Mexicans lost only 100 and sent the French back to the coast, licking their wounds. The French hadn't lost a battle in 50 years, so this was a demoralizing defeat, and the contribution of the victory to Mexico's national pride cannot be overstated. Sadly, Zaragoza died four months later of typhoid fever. He was just 33.

So we raise our glasses on Cinco de Mayo to salute native Texan Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín for his San Jacinto-like victory at Puebla and for helping to remove Santa Anna from power. Again. ■



# Potluck Dishes

It's all about sharing, including these family favorites

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Though they're on hold for now, potlucks have historically been a large part of gatherings, especially across the South. Author and journalist Toni Tipton-Martin brings this to light beautifully with her award-winning cookbook *Jubilee*. Here's her recipe for baked beans, which is sure to become your new go-to.



TONI  
TIPTON-  
MARTIN



## Baked (Barbecued) Beans

**6 slices bacon, divided use**  
**1 cup minced onion**  
**½ cup minced green bell pepper**  
**2 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 cup packed dark brown sugar**  
**½ cup molasses**  
**½ cup ketchup or tomato sauce**  
**2 tablespoons mustard**  
**2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar**  
**1 tablespoon liquid hickory smoke (optional)**  
**½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes**  
**¼ teaspoon pepper**  
**2 teaspoons salt, or to taste**  
**1 pound cooked navy beans, plus 3 cups cooking liquid; or 3 cans (15.5 ounces each), undrained**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cut 3 slices of the bacon into 1-inch strips. In a skillet, cook the cut bacon until browned and crisp. Use a slotted spoon to remove to paper towels to drain.
3. In the same pan, sauté the onion, bell pepper and garlic over medium heat until tender and the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in the brown sugar, molasses, ketchup, mustard, vinegar, liquid smoke (if using), red pepper flakes, pepper and salt. Mix well. Cook over medium-low heat until the sugar is dissolved, about 1½ minutes.
4. In a large bowl, combine the beans, their liquid, the sauce and the cooked bacon. Pour into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish or a 3-quart casserole dish. Place the remaining 3 slices of bacon on top of the beans. Cover and bake 45 minutes. Uncover, increase the oven temperature to 425 degrees, and bake 15 minutes more to brown the bacon slices.

**SERVES 6-8**

Reprinted with permission from *Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African American Cooking* by Toni Tipton-Martin (Clarkson Potter, 2019).

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Tortellini Pasta Salad.





## Hawaiian Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

DEBORAH ANDERSON  
COSERV

Coconut and pecans make this cake even more special. Anderson shares her grandmother's secret recipe, which is a crowd-pleaser.

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter**
- 1 can (20 ounces) sliced pineapple**
- Maraschino cherries**
- 1 cup unpacked brown sugar**
- 1 cup pecan halves**
- 1 cup shredded, sweetened coconut**
- 3 cups Bisquick**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 cup milk**
- 4 tablespoons shortening**
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract**

**COOK'S TIP** In place of Bisquick, you can substitute 3 cups flour, 1½ tablespoons baking powder and 1½ teaspoons salt, and increase the shortening to 6 tablespoons.

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 10- or 12-inch cast-iron skillet on a stovetop. Remove from heat. Add pineapple in a circular design and insert a cherry into the center of each pineapple ring. Sprinkle brown sugar, pecans and coconut on top and in between the pineapple rings.
- 2.** In a large bowl, beat Bisquick, sugar, eggs, milk, shortening and vanilla using an electric mixer, scraping the bowl as needed, until batter is smooth. Pour on top of the fruit and nuts in the skillet, making sure to cover completely.
- 3.** Bake 40–50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean and the cake's surface is golden brown. To prevent sticking, immediately flip cake

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

## Arroz con Pollo Estilo Panameño

SUZANNE FULTON  
BLUEBONNET EC



A hit at family meals, this recipe was passed down to Fulton from her mother, who learned it while living in Panama. Don't skimp on the olive juice, which adds a unique briny flavor to the dish.

SERVES 8

- Olive oil or vegetable oil**
- Salt and pepper**
- 8 chicken thighs**
- 2 onions, diced**
- 4 cloves garlic, minced**
- 3 tablespoons paprika**
- 2 large carrots, sliced thinly**
- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes**
- 7 cups water**
- 3 cups basmati rice, uncooked**
- 1 bag (10 ounces) frozen petite green peas, thawed**
- 1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped**
- 1 jar (5.75 ounces) sliced salad olives, juice reserved**

- 1.** Heat the olive oil in a large, heavy-bottomed stock pot. Salt and pepper the chicken, and brown on all sides, working in batches so as not to crowd the pot. Set chicken aside.
- 2.** Using the same pot, sauté onions and garlic with paprika, scraping the bottom as you stir. Add carrots and cook 2 minutes, stirring often. Add tomatoes and water and bring to a boil. Add chicken and cook 5 minutes.
- 3.** Stir in rice and cook over low heat, covered, until rice has absorbed most of the liquid, about 15 minutes.
- 4.** Remove lid and add peas, then continue cooking until rice begins to stick to the bottom and chicken is falling apart, about 10 minutes more. Stir in parsley and olives. Add olive juice to taste. Adjust salt if needed.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

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## RECIPES CONTINUED

onto a serving dish, holding plate firmly to the cake while flipping.

**SERVES 8-10**



### Kickin' Chicken Spaghetti

JAMIE MUNIZ  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

There are probably as many chicken spaghetti variations as there are Texan families—and for good reason. This creamy, cheesy dish is a favorite for Sunday dinners.

- 1 pound spaghetti**
- 3 cups shredded chicken**
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) cream of chicken soup**
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) cream of mushroom soup**
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese**
- 1 orange bell pepper, diced**
- 1 jar (4 ounces) diced pimiento peppers**
- 2 cans (4 ounces each) diced green chiles**
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt**
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese**

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Boil spaghetti until it's al dente. Drain noodles and pour into a large bowl.

**2.** Mix in shredded chicken, soups, cheddar cheese, bell pepper, pimientos, green chiles, seasoned salt and cayenne pepper.

**3.** Pour into a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. Sprinkle on pepper jack cheese. Bake 45 minutes, until bubbly.

**SERVES 8**

## Potluck Safety Tips

BY MEGAN MYERS

- ▶ Don't reuse marinades from raw meats. If you need to baste while cooking, set aside some marinade ahead of time.
- ▶ Use a meat thermometer to ensure dishes are fully cooked.
- ▶ Set cold foods over a bowl or shallow baking dish filled with ice. For hot foods, use a chafing dish or serve in a slow cooker.
- ▶ Cream cheese- or whipped cream-based desserts will melt in warm temperatures. Keep them in the fridge or cooler until serving time.
- ▶ Discard food that has been out of the refrigerator or off the grill for more than two hours. If it's above 90 degrees where the food is, discard after one hour.

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Used Cars

Visit Amarillo's Cadillac Ranch to leave your mark on an art shrine

BY CHET GARNER

**IF YOU USED** a can of spray paint in an art museum, you'd be escorted out immediately. If you visit Amarillo's most iconic art installation without paint, you will be left out, with no way to leave your mark on the ever-changing sculpture known as the Cadillac Ranch.

Fueled by steak and eggs from the stockyard cafe inside the Amarillo Livestock Auction, I set out in search of cattle—cattle-acks. That is, the 10 Cadillac sedans half-buried nose down in the Texas prairie in 1974 by the art collective known as the Ant Farm. This automotive Stonehenge has become a must-stop destination for travelers on historic Route 66.

The Cadillac Ranch is unmissable. The distinctive tail fins are the only thing taller than a fence post on the southern horizon just west of town. A dozen vehicles parked nearby confirm that this is my stop. Since painting the Cadillacs is encouraged, I grab my spray paint and head into the field to see this High Plains anomaly firsthand.

Vibrant coats of fresh paint cover every inch of the classic Caddies. The cars are so beat up that the layers of paint might be the only thing holding them together. I felt like I was exploring a junkyard and a holy shrine, a sensation possibly caused by the fact that the cars are buried at the same angle as the sides of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

After a few minutes of contemplation, I pondered what timeless contribution I could add to the sculpture. Knowing that anything I sprayed would soon be covered by another pilgrim's paint, I wrote my name and reveled in the knowledge that once it does get covered, it will be forever entombed in one of Texas' most famous sculptures. That alone was worth the trip. ■

ABOVE Chet tagged Cadillac Ranch, as many visitors do.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from Cadillac Ranch and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

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**Corpus Christi [1–9] Bucca-**  
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buccadays.com

**Brenham [1–2, 6–9, 13–16]**  
**Ben Butler,** (979) 830-8358,  
unitybrenham.org

### 06

**Mesquite [6–Aug. 5] Court-**  
**yard Concert Series,**  
(972) 216-8132,  
mesquiteartscenter.org

### 07

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**Palestine Texas State Rail-**  
**road: Wines in the Pines,**  
1-855-632-7729,  
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**Weimar [7–8] Gedenke!,**  
(979) 725-9511,  
weimartexas.net

**Fredericksburg [7–9]**  
**175th Anniversary Opening**  
**Weekend Ceremonies,**  
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**Ingram [7–8, 14–15]**  
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### 08

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**Lufkin** *Winter Dance Party*,  
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angelinaarts.org

**Bulverde** [8, 15, 22, 29]  
**Saturday Night Rodeo**,  
(830) 980-2226,  
tejasrodeo.com

**Waxahachie** [8-9, 15-16,  
22-23, 29-31] Scarborough  
Renaissance Festival,  
(972) 938-3247,  
srfestival.com

14

**Columbus** [14-15] Magnolia  
Days Festival, (979) 732-8385,  
magnoliadays.org

15

**Jefferson** [15-16] Historic  
Jefferson Train Show,  
(903) 665-3733, historic  
jeffersontrainshow.com

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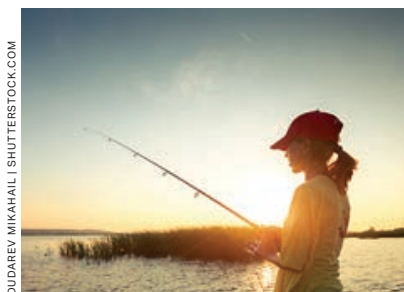


## Hit the Road Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) has something for you.

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## Pick of the Month

### Babes on the Bay

Fulton, May 14–15  
(361) 205-0182  
[babesonthebay.com](http://babesonthebay.com)

This fishing tournament describes itself as the largest women's angling event in the country. The Coastal Conservation Association created the tournament in 2000 to make the sport more inclusive and teach conservation-minded approaches to saltwater fishing. The event includes live music, vendors and educational outreach by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other conservation organizations.

29

**Belton ASCO Spartacus Dash**, (254) 340-4577, [ascospartacusdash.com](http://ascospartacusdash.com)

**Hunt Jack Nelson**, (830) 238-4441, [cridersrandd.com](http://cridersrandd.com)

**Kerrville Family Free Day**, (830) 896-2553, [museumofwesternart.com](http://museumofwesternart.com)

**Seguin Lone Star Book Festival**, (512) 554-9560, [lonestar.bookfestival.network](http://lonestar.bookfestival.network)

**Abilene [29–30] Kristen Hertenberg and Her All-Star Band**, (325) 677-6710, [abilenephilharmonic.org](http://abilenephilharmonic.org)

JUNE  
03

**Stephenville [3–5] Moo-La Fest**, (254) 552-1222, [visitstephenville.com](http://visitstephenville.com)

04

**New Braunfels Aaron Watson**, (830) 964-3800, [whitewaterrocks.com](http://whitewaterrocks.com)

**Amarillo [4–5] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo**, (806) 376-7767, [coorsranchrodeo.com](http://coorsranchrodeo.com)

**Hearne [4–5] Crossroads Home Town Festival**, (979) 402-1337

05

**Jacksonville All Smiles Tomato Fest 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run**, (903) 586-0741, [jacksonvilletexas.com](http://jacksonvilletexas.com)

**Leander Old Town Street Festival**, (512) 259-1907, [oldtownstreetfestival.com](http://oldtownstreetfestival.com)

**Sherman [5–7, 11–14, 18–21, 25–28], Mamma Mia**, (903) 893-8525, [scptheater.com](http://scptheater.com)

06

**New Braunfels Travis Tritt**, (830) 964-3800, [whitewaterrocks.com](http://whitewaterrocks.com)

## MAY EVENTS CONTINUED

22

**New Braunfels Jon Wolfe**, (830) 964-3800, [whitewaterrocks.com](http://whitewaterrocks.com)

27

**Kerrville [27–July 2] Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show**, (830) 895-2911, [kerrvilletexascvb.com](http://kerrvilletexascvb.com)

28

**Brenham Bob Wills' Texas Playboys Starring Jason Roberts**, (979) 337-7240, [thebarnhillcenter.com/events](http://thebarnhillcenter.com/events)

**Groesbeck [28–30] Heritage Festival**, (254) 729-6123, [groesbeckchamber.com](http://groesbeckchamber.com)

**Kerrville [28–30] Texas Masters of Fine Art and Craft Invitational Exhibition**, (469) 223-4162, [texasmasters.com](http://texasmasters.com)

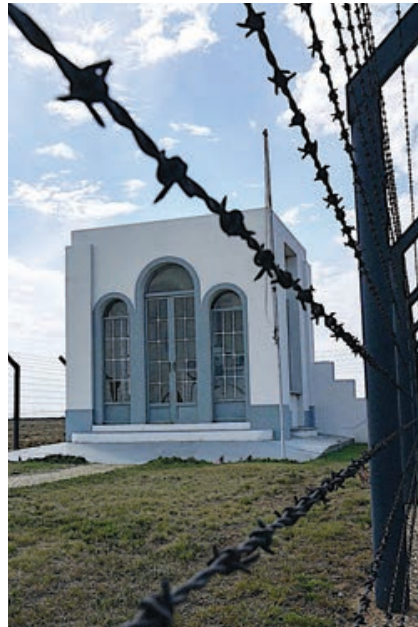
**Jacksonville [28–31] Memorial Day Mudbug Ride**, (903) 724-4100, [riverrunpark.com](http://riverrunpark.com)



# Historic Texas

From the somber to the spectacular, we Texans have a lot of history under our boots. Photographs give us a look into the lives of our forebears like no other medium, and what a story they continue to tell today!

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT

DAVID WHITTLE  
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC  
San Felipe United Methodist Church in San Felipe.

CHRISTENA STEPHENS  
LYNTEGAR EC  
The chapel at the World War II prisoner-of-war camp near Hereford.

CYNTHIA BANDA  
MAGIC VALLEY EC  
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

SHERRI JEFFERY  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
"Before huge signs and banners, companies painted their logos on their buildings."



## Upcoming Contests

- DUE MAY 10 Rust and Decay
- DUE JUN 10 Fillin' Stations
- DUE JUL 10 Funny Signs

Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

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





## TCP WEB EXTRA

Find places in Texas with official Dark Sky status.

## Universal Appeal

The night skies of far West Texas bring celestial wonders to light

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY E. DAN KLEPPER

I AM OFTEN SURPRISED by the way the night skies of far West Texas remind me of scenes in science fiction movies. Above the silhouette of a mountain horizon, nighttime skies are at their most dramatic, offering unobstructed views of comets, satellites, meteors and galaxies, all unraveling in a dreamlike firmament.

Long past sunset, in the late hours after midnight, the sky seems particularly otherworldly. Perhaps it's because in these later hours the sky's recognizable touchstones—Orion, Sirius, the dipper—are hanging askew rather than in their accustomed places or, in concert with the Earth's rotation, have disappeared altogether. Or maybe it's the mischievous temperament of the sky itself, aware that the few who glance up into deep night are bleary and disoriented

and easier to lure away from reason. These darkest moments provide the wily universe with a chance to perform atmospheric wonders unlike those that ever inhabit our waking hours.

As a lifelong astronomy enthusiast with only a basic understanding of how the universe actually works, my lack of knowledge about the science of stars and planets means I am astonished every time I look through a telescope—a sort of blessing disguised as ignorant bliss. The first time I peered at the spiraling Andromeda galaxy through professional optics, in Fort Davis at one of the McDonald Observatory's star parties, it made my head spin. I couldn't look away, irritating the other visitors in line behind me who were waiting for a turn at the eyepiece. But each time I would begin to draw back, I was pulled in again, as if the galaxy's spiraling movement—eons in the turning—could be felt as well as seen.

When I was a kid growing up in South Texas, I had my own telescope—an inexpensive junior scientist scope my parents gave me for Christmas one year. By today's standards, it was a toy. But the optics were good enough to extend my visible reach skyward, much farther than I had ever experienced, and I spent hours outside, just staring into the craters of the moon. Fifty years later my enthusiasm for the universe survives in the Big Bend, beneath one of the darkest skies in Texas. Waking from a deep sleep to pull on a pair of boots and lumber outside to witness meteor showers, comets and lunar eclipses never disappoints. Many of these astronomical events occur overhead for just a moment each year, or once in a lifetime, and sometimes only once in a millennium, but they are fleeting proof of the mythic fires in the sky, highlighting a short list of events that have yet to feel the compromise of a human-made world. ■





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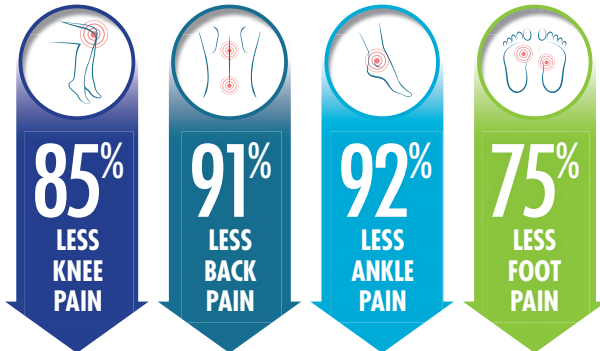


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