

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



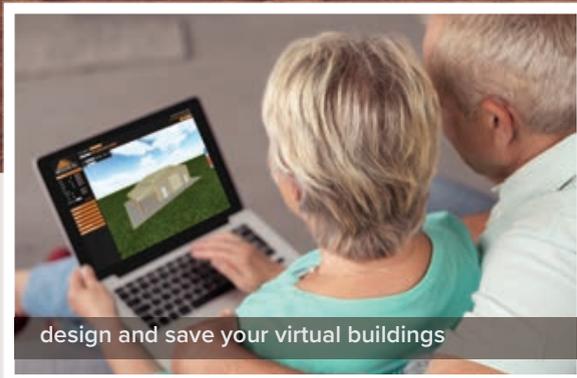
BOOT SCOOTIN'

Dance halls revolve around community



BLUEBONNET NEWS
SEE PAGE 18





design and save your virtual buildings



view from any angle



click to get a quote

better by *design*

Design your own virtual building with Mueller's 3D Design Tool. Choose the building size, door and window placements, colors and more. Once you have saved your design, just click to get a free quote. Then, our engineering and manufacturing team will take over, making your dream building a reality.

Get started at: www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool



www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



The dance floor at Twin Sisters welcomes couples from all generations.

FEATURE

8 Hail the Halls Texas dance halls in Co-op Country stand as monuments to history and community.

Story by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers | Photos by Dave Shafer

FAVORITES

- 5 Letters**
- 6 Currents**
- 18 Local Co-op News**
Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.
- 29 Texas History**
The Bugs That Make You See Red
By Martha Deeringer
- 31 Retro Recipes**
Cozy Casseroles
- 35 Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: Two of a Kind
- 36 Around Texas**
List of Local Events
- 38 Hit the Road**
Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens
By Eileen Mattei

ONLINE

TexasCoopPower.com

Find these stories online if they don't appear in your edition of the magazine.

Texas USA

Convictions and Concrete
By Gene Fowler

Observations

King of Cakes
By Melissa Gaskill



NEXT MONTH

Texas: A Blues State Widespread influences created 'a sort of international blues, a United Nations gumbo of sounds.'



29



31



35



38

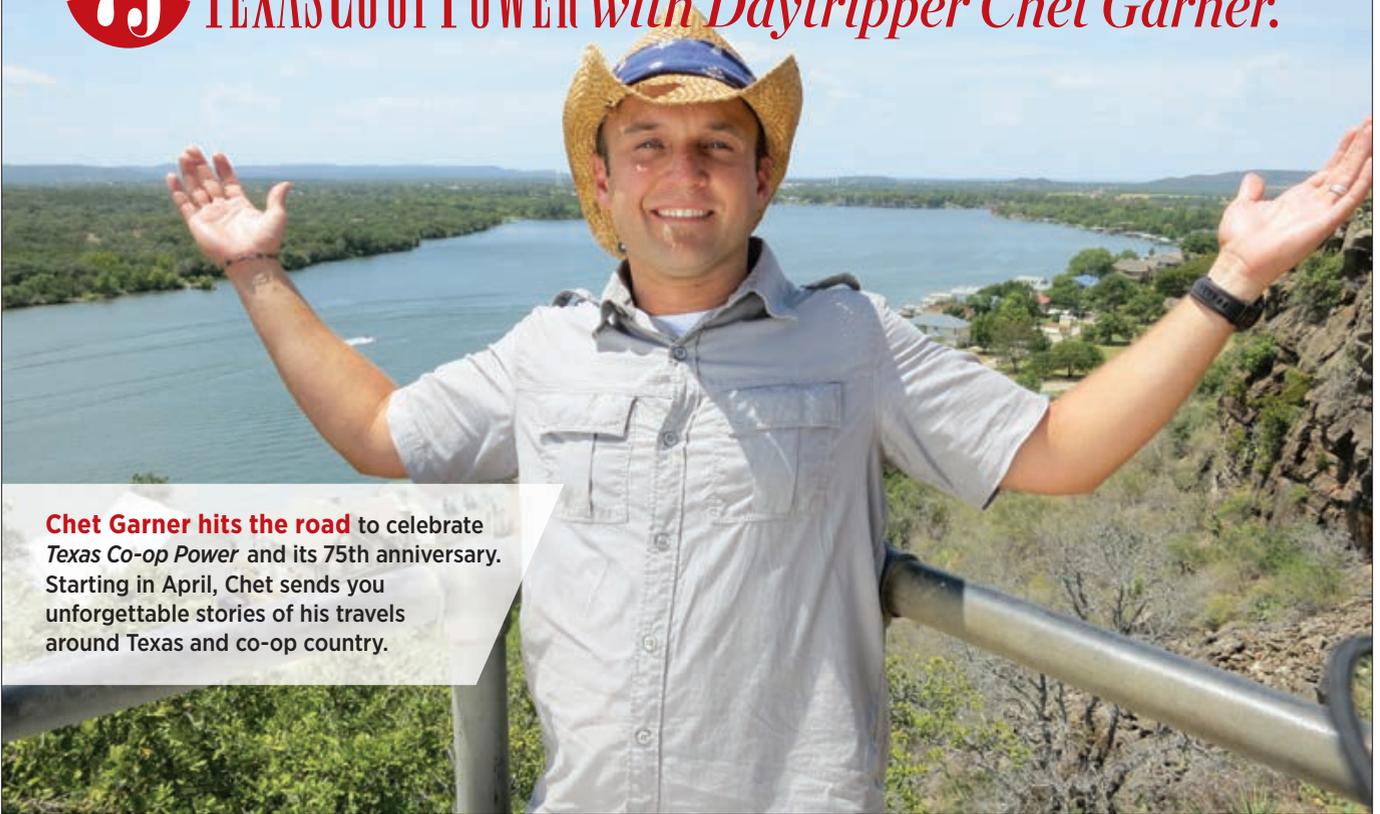
DANCE HALL: DAVE SHAFER. GUITAR: VERESHCHAGIN DMITRY | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ON THE COVER Michael McGowan and Elizabeth Yevich enjoy an evening at Twin Sisters Dance Hall outside Blanco. Photo by Dave Shafer

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Blaine Warzecha, Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Vice Chair, Comanche; Robert Loth III, Secretary-Treasurer, Fredericksburg; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; Billy Jones, Corsicana; David McGinnis, Van Alstyne; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Clint Gardner, Coleman; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Bill Hetherington, Bandera; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham; Robert Walker, Gilmer; Brandon Young, McGregor • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Administrative Assistant; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Qasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Chris Salazar, Digital Field Editor; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Ellen Stader, Proofreader



TEXAS CO-OP POWER *with Daytripper Chet Garner.*



Chet Garner hits the road to celebrate *Texas Co-op Power* and its 75th anniversary. Starting in April, Chet sends you unforgettable stories of his travels around Texas and co-op country.

THE TEXAS TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER!

NEW MASSEY FERGUSON 1726L
4WD 25HP DIESEL TRACTOR PACKAGE

MASSEY FERGUSON 2706L
4WD 60HP DIESEL TRACTOR PACKAGE



SALES PRICE \$23,998.00 CASH OR \$299.00 PER MONTH

SALES PRICE \$33,998.00 CASH OR \$429.00 PER MONTH

Packages Include:

- MF Quick Attach L-105 Front End Loader with Skid Steer Bucket
 - Woods 5' Rotary Cutter
 - 5' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
 - 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
- 16' HD Trailer with Ramps, Brakes & Spare Tire
- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires

Packages Include:

- MF Quick Attach L-135E Front End Loader with Skid Steer Bucket
 - Woods 6' Rotary Cutter with Slip Clutch
- Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
 - 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
- 6' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- 20' HD Trailer with Ramps, Brakes & Spare Tire
- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires



WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!



MASSEY FERGUSON
TEXAS' TOUGHEST TRACTOR!

FOSTERS WORK & PLAY

3601 US Hwy. 190 W
Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 967 - 0011

www.fostersworknplay.com
sales@fostersworknplay.com

Disclaimer: All payments listed are based on a 0.9% interest rate for 84 months with 10% of purchase price down with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices listed may not include Sales Taxes, Freight, Set up, or Doc fees where applicable. Cash prices only apply to a cash sale or standard rate financing. All HP ratings listed are approximate Engine Horse Power Ratings.

Remembering Veterans

It was good to read about the programs across Texas remembering veterans [*Circle of Life*, November 2018].

People's attitudes have changed since the late 1960s and early '70s. Being a Vietnam veteran, I remember being called baby killer, cursed at and spat upon. It's good to see the changes.

DAVE SWALLOW | SAN MARCOS
PEDERNALES EC

Beauty of a Song

Pretty Paper [November 2018] brought tears to my eyes.

My folks took me to downtown Texarkana each Saturday, and there was a man with no legs selling pencils. He sat on a "car dolly" with wheels.

Later on, I learned he took his three children to school each day as they walked, pushing his dolly with two wooden blocks.

MARIE FREEMAN | SIMMS
BOWIE-CASS EC



Horses and People

Winston Churchill said, "There is nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse." Texas wouldn't exist as we know it except for horses and longhorn cattle [*The Healing Power of Horses*, December 2018], so I hope most Texans would still share Churchill's sentiment.

TOM GUINN | WESLACO | NUECES EC

Leonard Brothers, and some of my most cherished memories are of time spent there with Mother and Daddy.

MELISSA PEGRAM | VIA FACEBOOK

I love this song. Never knew who wrote it. Thanks for this lovely story.

KAREN LOMBARDO | VIA FACEBOOK

I love hearing "behind the song" stories. What a story of perseverance!

SUZANNE MORGAN LOUDAMY | VIA FACEBOOK

Such a beautiful story. I do so wish the man would have known the song was written about him. I shopped at Leonard's all my life, and I never saw him.

PAT FLETCHER GARCIA | VIA FACEBOOK

In the song, he was portrayed as a poor outcast because of his weak legs. I love the fact he was a strong, resourceful man able to provide for his family with pride and dignity.

PAULA OWENS | VIA FACEBOOK

Texas and World War I

I was delighted to read Gene Fowler's article *World War I at the Doorstep of Texas* [November 2018]. Far too few native and new Texans are aware of these and other important events in our history.

MARIAN LILES | KINGSLAND
PEDERNALES EC

Pleasant Memory

I was pleasantly surprised to see the picture of Bob's Oil Well [*Abandoned Buildings*, Focus on Texas, November 2018]. As a youngster growing up in Plainview in the 1940s, when we were traveling through Matador, we would always stop so we could see all the rattlesnakes Bob had in the station. I still go through Matador from time to time and remember those days.

CARL BONDS | WHITNEY
HILCO EC

Mammoth Discovery

I found a vertebral bone in 1958 when squirrel hunting on a creek east of Clifton. It was about 10

inches long and 5 inches wide. A big chunk of white bone. I was going to Baylor University at the time and brought it to the Strecker Museum. They studied it and told me it was a mammoth vertebral body, probably a young mammoth. I read Martha Deeringer's *Waco's Mystery Mammoths* [November 2018] with interest.

RONALD T. STANLEY | LINDALE
WOOD COUNTY EC

GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

Sign up for our e-newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

We want to hear from you!

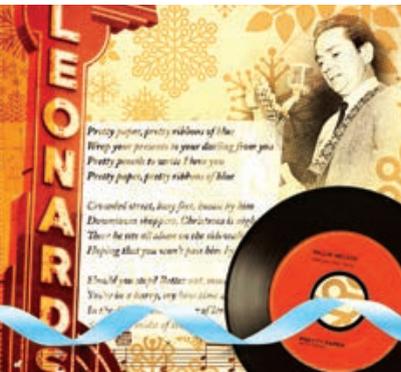
ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share
EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com

MAIL: Editor, Texas Co-op Power,
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor,
Austin, TX 78701

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



Texas Co-op Power



I remember the man Willie Nelson wrote this song about. I saw him many, many times in front of Leonard Brothers, along with the blind couple who sang hymns close by him. We shopped regularly at

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 75, NUMBER 8 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

© Copyright 2019 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wiredhand © Copyright 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



HAPPENINGS

A Chapter in La Bahia's History

Texas history is securely anchored to the Texas Revolution, fought 1835–36, but less noted is Mexico's 1812–13 push to wrest Texas from Spanish control.

Historians will re-enact in **GOLIAD** an encampment depicting the 1812 siege of Presidio La Bahia as part of **UNDER THE GREEN FLAG, FEBRUARY 23–24**.

A Mexican force led by Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Augustus William Magee, advancing under an emerald green banner and with U.S. support, took the fort from the Spanish in November 1812 and held it until February 1813.

The revolution was crushed August 18, 1813, in the Battle of Medina.

INFO ▶ (361) 645-3752



WEB EXTRAS
▶ Find more happenings online.

HISTORY LESSON

WILEY UPRISING

Police were sent to Wiley College on February 24, 1969, in response to student demonstrations on the East Texas campus. The demonstrations helped integrate public facilities in Marshall.

WORTH REPEATING

“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

—**CARTER G. WOODSON**, who on February 7, 1926, initiated National Negro Week, now Black History Month

◀ LOOKING BACK AT SPORTS THIS MONTH



TEXAS AND TEXANS have left indelible marks on golf courses, fields, arenas and racetracks since *Texas Co-op Power* first landed in mailboxes in July 1944, including:

1940s

1945 Golfer Byron Nelson of Waxahachie wins 11 consecutive PGA tournaments, a record that still stands.

1948 The Girl's Rodeo Association is formed in San Angelo. Now called the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, it's the oldest of its kind anywhere.



1950s

1954 Duke Washington of Washington State University is the first African-American to play in a football game at the University of Texas.

1955 Jockey Willie Shoemaker of Fabens wins the first of his 11 Triple Crown races as he rides Swaps to victory at the Kentucky Derby.



1960s

1960 The Houston Oilers win the first American Football League championship. They repeated in 1961.

1963 The Texas Longhorns and coach Darrell Royal win the school's first football national championship.

1966 Texas Western plays an all-black starting lineup against all-white Kentucky in the NCAA men's basketball championship game, winning 72-65.



Mark Stubbs works the ropes as David McDowell climbs the pole.

CO-OP PEOPLE

Eye-Opening Experience

MARK STUBBS, general manager at Farmers Electric Cooperative, ventured far afield last October when he temporarily became a lineman, teaming up with two of the best in the state to compete at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas.

"I learned some things that I did not know," Stubbs says.

David McDowell and Danny Moss, who together have won the senior division five times at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo, needed somebody 50 or older for the international competition. They took a chance on Stubbs, their boss.

Stubbs took a chance that his 30 years behind a desk wouldn't belie his fitness for the rigors of line work.

Starting in late August, Stubbs rose at 5:30 a.m. many mornings to practice with McDowell and Moss, whose task was to turn Stubbs into a serviceable groundman for the timed competition.

Stubbs' job was to hoist tools and equipment up to the other two on the pole.

"It really is a brotherhood," Stubbs says. "I was honored to get a glimpse into that."

The trio finished in sixth place out of 11 teams in Kansas, and Stubbs already is talking about improving on that this year.

ALMANAC



150 YEARS AGO: *Harper's Weekly* publishes a cartoon of Uncle Sam with chin whiskers—the first time he appeared this way—February 6, 1869.

BY THE NUMBERS

390,000,000

February 22 is National Skip the Straw Day. Americans use an estimated 390 million plastic straws daily. Put them end to end and they'd circle the Earth nearly twice. At least one Texas company is doing its part to reduce disposable plastic straw waste: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema recently switched to corn-based biodegradable straws at all its locations.

LOOKING AHEAD TO POLITICS NEXT MONTH ▶

1970s

1972 The Dallas Cowboys win Super Bowl VI, the first for a Texas team.

1973 Tennis star Billie Jean King, 29, defeats Bobby Riggs, 55, in three sets at the Astrodome in a match billed as the Battle of the Sexes.



1980s



1984 Sprinter and long jumper Carl Lewis from the University of Houston wins four gold medals at the Olympics in Los Angeles. In all, the four-time Olympian won nine golds.

1990s

1991 Refugio's Nolan Ryan, pitching for the Texas Rangers, records his seventh and final career no-hitter, a major-league record.

1995 Brownfield and Texas Tech star Sheryl Swoopes becomes the first female basketball player to be honored with an eponymous shoe, the Nike Air Swoopes.



1999 The Dallas Stars win the Stanley Cup.

2000s

2013 Simone Biles of Spring wins her first world title. She goes on to become the most decorated gymnast in American history—with 25 combined Olympic and world championship medals.

2014 Leta Andrews retires at Granbury High School with 1,416 career wins, more than any other U.S. high school basketball coach.

2017 The Houston Astros win the World Series.



TEXAS DANCE HALLS STAND AS MONUMENTS TO HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

HAIL *the* HALLS

Imagine this scene in a Texas dance hall:

A band belts out a tune while couples of all ages spin one another around a hardwood floor. Some steal kisses or show off fancy twirls. A little girl, balanced atop her granddaddy's boots, sways in time. Kids knee-high to a grasshopper race around the floor, and no one fusses. At rustic tables, friends and families chat, sip drinks and wave at dancers gliding past. A short reach away, babies and toddlers snooze on blankets spread across the floor.

The folksy scene could describe a dance hosted last month at Anhalt Hall in Spring Branch or one held in the 1890s at Braun Hall in northwest San Antonio.

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS | PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER



Dancers can two-step and twirl all evening the first Saturday of every month at Twin Sisters Dance Hall near Blanco.



**Each distinct, the buildings had one common feature:
AN EXPANSIVE WOODEN FLOOR THAT WELCOMED FAMILIES.**

“Dance halls are magical because their culture hasn’t changed since the 1870s, when the first ones were built,” says Patrick Sparks, a structural engineer and historic preservationist based in San Antonio. “Dancing’s as fundamental to Texas as the Alamo, cowboys, longhorns and oil.”

More than 1,000 dance halls built by German, Czech, Polish and a few Swiss immigrants once dotted parts of Texas. In the mid-19th century, the weary newcomers stepped off ships in Texas ports, most often Galveston or Indianola, on their way to settle as far west as the Hill Country.

Living conditions were harsh, and yet these isolated settlers worked hard to establish their unique way of life. To provide their friends and neighbors a place to meet, discuss business, share barbecue dinners and dance, they constructed spacious halls. Each building incorporated the skills of its artisan community, reflecting its customs and musical tastes. Architecture varied from simple, metal-sided barns with window flaps, such as those of Kendalia Halle, to round halls with a center support column, such as Bellville Turnverein Pavilion.

As meeting places, the buildings served the primary interests of their founders. Progress (*fortschritt*) and shooting club (*schützen verein*) members built the whitewashed Nordheim Shooting Club Dance Hall. German businessmen built an ornate dancing pavilion called the Garten Verein (garden club) for Galve-

ston’s German community. Near Burton, one of many German gymnastic clubs (*turn vereins*) built the La Bahia Turn Verein Hall. A German singing society (*gesangverein*) founded the Millheim Harmonic Harmonie Verein Hall in Sealy.

Texas music legend Johnny Bush and his band bid farewell to dancers at Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall.

In Czech communities, polka dancers kept floors hopping at halls built by two fraternal orders: the SPJST (Fayetteville’s SPJST Hall No. 1) and KJT (Ammannsville’s



German immigrant and rancher Max Krueger built Twin Sisters Dance Hall as a dance pavilion and community center in the mid-1870s.

her 80s, still oversees Sunday night dances on the second floor.

Each distinct, the buildings had one common feature: an expansive wooden floor that welcomed families. “Then and now, that’s what makes a true Texas dance hall,” says Deb Fleming, executive director of Texas Dance Hall Preservation in Austin. “Its largest architectural feature must be the dance floor, and it must also allow children, unlike a saloon or honky tonk.”

Fleming, a San Antonio native who did not grow up around Texas dance halls, discovered her ancestral roots because of one. In 2007, she visited Panna Maria, considered the nation’s oldest Polish settlement, established in 1854, to research the community’s historic hall. At the visitors center, a local woman with a laptop offered to print out Fleming’s genealogy. Her family tree traced back to Johann Rzeppa, Flemings’ great-great-grandfather and one of Panna Maria’s original settlers.

“I had no idea about our family’s connection to Panna Maria,” says Fleming, a Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative member. “Neither did my father. The experience made me wonder how many other Texans have their own family connection to a Texas dance hall and don’t even know it.”

Thanks to dance halls, Texas music is known worldwide. Without them, those early brass, string and accordion bands wouldn’t have birthed such genres as western swing, country or conjunto. Eventually, several bands made a good living, traveling from one dance hall to the next. Bob Wills, Willie Nelson, Hank Wilson and Ray Benson are among those who got their starts in dance halls.

Fewer than 400 halls survive in Texas. Of those, about 25 percent stand abandoned, such as Gillespie County’s Cherry Springs Dance Hall, where Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole and Patsy Cline performed. Or they’re used for storage.

In 2008, Preservation Texas collectively identified all Texas dance halls as endangered places

KJT Hall). Most of the other halls were built by religious or agricultural organizations, and individuals built a few. One example is Sefcik Hall in Seaton, a two-story clapboard building built in 1923 by Tom Sefcik. His daughter Alice Sefcik Sulak, now in

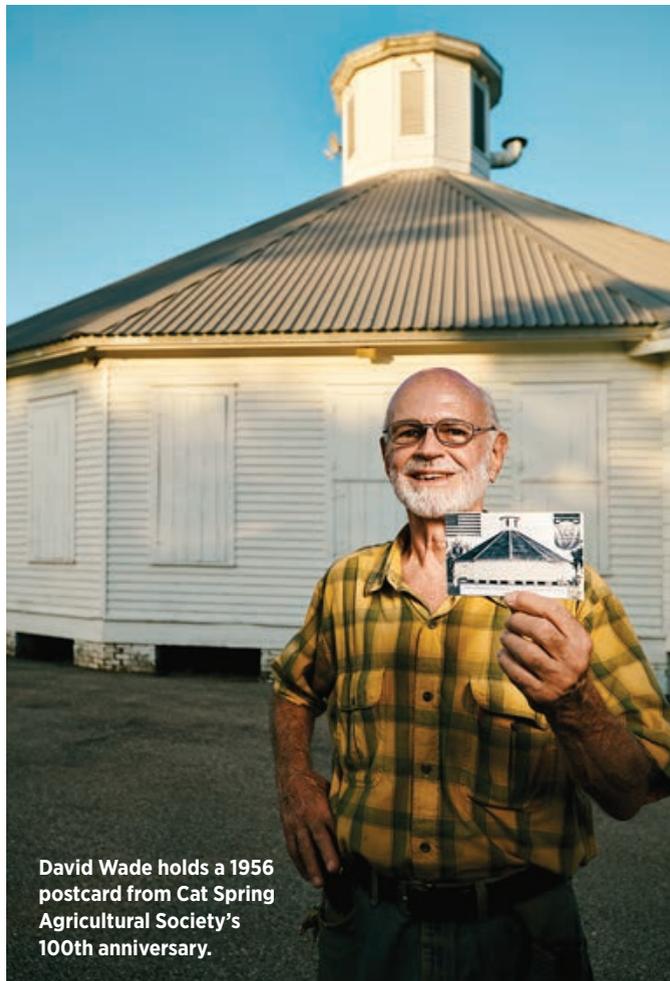
worthy of protection as architectural, historical and cultural landmarks. The nonprofit advocacy group cited neglect, suburban development, highway projects, shrinking grassroots support and lack of public awareness as threats to dance hall survival.

The designation came a year after Sparks, along with historic preservationist Stephanie McDougal and the late Texas music historian Steve Dean, founded the nonprofit Texas Dance Hall Preservation. Since its start, the volunteer group has worked to inventory existing halls, spread the word about their historical importance and partner with owners to keep them afloat.

Dean’s advocacy for dance halls ran deep. In 2014, he asked via social media whether someone could make a documentary about them. Filmmaker Erik McCowan of Rosanky responded.

“First we visited the Round Top Schützen Verein’s annual shooting competition that’s been held every year since 1873,” recalls McCowan, a Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative member. “That’s when I realized the history of these places runs much deeper than I thought. After Steve and I saw what was left of New Bern Helvetia Hall near Taylor, I knew I had to make a film.”

More than three years in the making, *Dance Hall Days* shares the down-home stories of 56 classic halls. Some stand forgotten, such as Cistern Hall in Cistern and Kreutzberg Shooting Club



David Wade holds a 1956 postcard from Cat Spring Agricultural Society’s 100th anniversary.

Dance Halls and Electric Co-ops

Only two Texas dance halls host live music nearly every day. Built in 1878, **Gruene Hall** in New Braunfels stands as one of the state’s oldest dance halls. The iconic **Luckenbach Dance Hall**, immortalized by singer Waylon Jennings, draws visitors from around the world.

After Medina EC formed in 1938, one of its first customers was the **Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall**. “The co-op put electricity in the dance hall to show farmers how it worked,” says Clyde Muennink, club secretary-treasurer.

San Bernard EC approved the **Cat Spring Agricultural Society** as a member in March 1941, says David Wade, society treasurer. “The society paid \$115.39 to have the building wired for electricity,” he says. “In 2007, matching grants helped us pay \$85,000 to have everything rewired.”

In 2015, Bluebonnet EC awarded the **Kovar Osveta SPJST Lodge #38** a \$17,500 capital grant to fund hall renovations.



A dancer who came all the way from California on a dance hall tour looks over photos at Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall.

Hall near Boerne. Fire destroyed several, including the Fredericksburg Social Turn Verein Hall in 2016 (members voted to rebuild). Siblings restored their family's Park Hall (now called Hruska's at Park) near Fayetteville, and Renck Hall in Warrenton hosts antique sales. But dancing still ranks No. 1 at many others, including the Albert Dance Hall in Albert and Schroeder Hall in Goliad.

Throughout the 82-minute film, Dean steps in and out of halls, sharing his hopes and wisdom. Sadly, he died April 28, 2018, the day after *Dance Hall Days* won Best Texas Film at the Hill Country Film Festival in Fredericksburg.

Rich stories captured by McCowan's film abound within the walls of Texas dance halls. "These places live and breathe the stories of Texas," Fleming says. "They're melting pots of our state's culture. Every time we lose one, we lose a piece of Texas history."

Twin Sisters Dance Hall

BLANCO | SERVED BY PEDERNALES EC

Fewer than a dozen couples two-stepped across the hardwood floor one summer night in 2015. Jo Nell Haas, watching from her perch by an open door, thought back to monthly dances when crowds jammed the checkerboard tinsided Twin Sisters Dance Hall.

German immigrant and rancher Max Krueger built the hall, 7 miles south of Blanco, as a dance pavilion and community center in the mid-1870s. Severe drought later forced Krueger to sell the building. Subsequent owner Henry Bruemmer Jr. sold the hall and surrounding land in 1918 for \$5 to Twin Sisters Hall Club, a nonprofit group that still runs the facility.

Through the years, countless families have gathered at Twin

Sisters, once the site of a German community named for a pair of nearby hills. In the 1970s, Haas met her husband, Joe, on the oak floor. Like many other couples, they taught their children how to dance there, and their families celebrated weddings beneath its arched blue ceiling.

Recent attendance at dances, however, had waned to the point where Haas, club president, considered closing the doors. She knew the night's ticket sales would barely pay the band. Frustrated, Haas slipped outside that night in 2015 and tapped a familiar number into her cellphone.

On the other end, Steve Dean picked up. He listened as Haas unloaded her worries. Then his passion for historic halls took hold. "Keep your head up," he yelled. "Don't give up! I'll rob a bank if I have to, to keep Twin Sisters open. But don't you shut those doors!"

Three summers later, Haas reflects back on that night. "I thought we'd have to shut down," she says, seated at one of Twin Sisters' wooden tables. "But then the TDHP showed us how to up our marketing and book bands that are more popular."

Nowadays, big crowds turn out for Twin Sisters' monthly first Saturday dances. Hall rentals for weddings, proms, parties and reunions have boosted revenues. In March 2018, the club replaced Twin Sisters' leaky metal roof with money from fundraisers and grants, including a community grant awarded by Pedernales EC.

"Twin Sisters Dance Hall has always been about family and community," Haas says. "All of us volunteers work hard to continue that tradition."

Twin Sisters Dance Hall, 6720 Highway 281 S., Blanco, 78606; (830) 833-5773; twinsistershall@gmail.com; twinsistersdancehall.com.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see a map of 130 dance halls still in use. Plus, enjoy a slideshow of the halls featured here.



**Bob Wills, Willie Nelson, Hank Wilson and Ray Benson
ARE AMONG THOSE WHO GOT THEIR STARTS IN DANCE HALLS.**

Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall

CAT SPRING | SERVED BY SAN BERNARD EC

Many of the German and Czech immigrants who settled Cat Spring in the 1850s had education but no farming know-how. They joined together in 1856 as the Agricultural Society of Austin County, later renamed for Cat Spring. The men met regularly to trade information and acquire garden seeds. They and their families tended fruit orchards, canned vegetables, compared fences and experimented with growing tea and coffee.

“We were the first extension service before Texas A&M University,” says David Wade, Cat Spring Agricultural Society treasurer and a San Bernard EC member. “The U.S. Patent Office would send seeds to the society for testing, and members reported back on how they performed.”

In 1902, German carpenter Joachim Hintz built the group’s 12-sided, white-clapboard social center, the largest of the three round halls he built in Austin County, including the Bellville Turnverein Pavilion and Peters-Hacienda Community Hall in Sealy. During dances, couples proceed counterclockwise on the pine floor around the center pole, which supports the beamed ceiling.

In addition to public dances, the hall hosts weddings, anniversaries and events for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas

Farm Bureau and other ag groups.

Approximately 200 society members pay \$10 annual dues. Up until the 1950s, minutes were recorded in German. Even though women always were involved in the organization’s affairs, they were allowed to join the society just over a decade ago.

“I serve as secretary, and my brother Malcolm Dittert is president,” says Marilyn Nelson, a San Bernard EC member. “Before him, our father, grandfather and great-grandfather were presidents, too. I’ve gone to the hall all my life. While my parents danced, we kids would sleep on pallets under benches, on tables and in the kitchen.”

Since 1856, families have come together for the society’s annual June Fest. The activity-packed evening includes a barbecue supper, live auction, petting zoo and a free dance. “Traditionally, June Fest was held the first Sunday of June,” Nelson says. “But we had to change it to Saturday to make it more convenient for people who travel.

“It’s hard to keep the community involved with the hall and agricultural society,” she adds. “We’re trying to keep it all going. We’ve got to.”

Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall, 13035 Hall Road, Cat Spring, 78933; (979) 865-2540; catspringagsociety.org.

Folks have gathered at the site of Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall in Medina County since 1890.

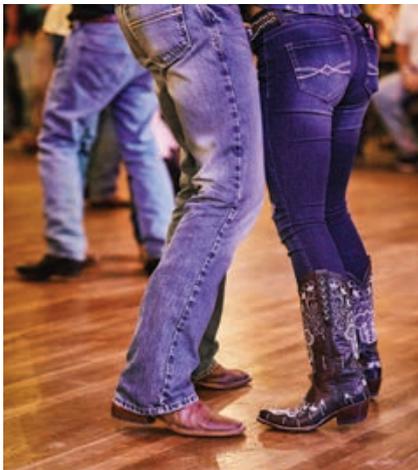
The spacious interior of the 12-sided dance hall in Cat Spring.

Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall

QUIHI | SERVED BY MEDINA EC

On a horse-themed calendar, third-grader Savannah Grohman marks birthdays and upcoming dances at the Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall. “She’s been going there all her life,” says mom Jackie Grohman, a Medina EC member. “Sometimes, Savannah helps her grandparents stock sodas and water. Or she and I dance together in a corner.”

Family traditions keep alive country western dances at the tin-sided hall, set on cedar posts among live oaks near Quihi Creek in Medina County. Folks have gathered at the same place since 1890, when German



Fayette’s Frolicking

Fayette EC is believed to be the electric co-op with the most historic dance halls in its service area, including:

- Ammannville KJT Hall, Ammannville
- Cistern Hall, Cistern
- Dubina KJT Hall #6, Dubina
- Freyburg Hall, Freyburg
- Harmonie Hall, Shelby
- Hruska’s at Park, Fayetteville
- Round Top Schützen Verein, Round Top
- Swiss Alp Hall, Swiss Alp

settlers founded the Quihi Schützen Verein for community protection against frontier-era threats. These days, Quihi Gun Club members, who number about 600, still meet regularly to hone their rifle skills and compete in annual shoots.

“Until 1950, you had to speak and read German in order to become a member,” says Clyde Muennink, club secretary-treasurer and Savannah’s grandfather. “We require that members be men at least 21 years old and have lived in Medina County for one year. Since 1890, our club has had a burial fund. When a

member passes, we each give a dollar toward burial costs.”

Floods washed away the hall a few times. In the 1960s, the group enlarged the building and set it on 5-foot posts. In a May 2010 flood, 2 feet of water got inside. By the next weekend, members had it cleaned up for a party for a family that had no place else to go.

“I’ve been going to the hall since I was a week old,” says Muennink, a Medina EC member who’s managed the place where he met his wife, Kathy, for 27 years. “My parents met and married there. So did my wife’s. My mother still dances at the hall, and she’s in her 90s. We all grew up there. It’s like home to us. Maybe because it is.”

Quihi Gun Club and Dance Hall, County Road 4517, Hondo, 78861; (830) 426-2859; quihidancehall.com.

As a teen, writer **Sheryl Smith-Rodgers** of Blanco two-stepped at Robstown Community Hall, which is served by Nueces EC.



Actual size
is 40.6 mm

Just Released:

Secure Your New U.S. 2019 Silver Dollars Now!

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact, it's been the country's most popular Silver Dollar for over thirty years. So when a new mintage of Silver Dollars is released, many of those same people are already standing in line, ready to secure the freshest silver coins straight from the United States Mint.

Today, you can count yourself among the world's top collectors by getting ahead of millions of Silver Dollar buyers and securing freshly struck Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) 2019 American Eagle Silver Dollars.

America's Brand New Silver Dollar

This is a strictly limited release of one of the most beautiful silver coins in the world. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. The 100-year-old design features a walking Lady Liberty draped in a U.S. flag on one side and a majestic U.S. Eagle and shield on the other.

The Most Affordable Precious Metal— GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED

Silver is by far the most affordable of all precious metals — and each full Troy ounce American Eagle Silver Dollar is government-guaranteed for its 99.9% purity, authenticity, and legal-tender status.

A Coin Flip You Can't Afford to Lose

Why are we releasing the most popular Silver Dollar in America for a remarkably affordable price? We're doing it to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of smart collectors and satisfied customers have known since 1984 — GovMint.com is *the best source for coins worldwide.*

Timing is Everything

Our advice? Keep this stunning offer to yourself. Once word gets out that 2019 Silver Dollars are finally available, especially at such a great price, you'll be facing far more competition for those very first 2019 Silver Dollars. But by calling today, you can secure yours ahead of the rush.

Call Now And Beat the Crowd!

The American Eagle Silver Dollar is one of the best selling and most widely collected silver coins in the world. Don't miss out — call now and secure your very own American Eagle Silver Dollars ahead of the crowd. Plus, the more you buy, the more you save!

2019 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

- 1-4 Coins - \$19.45 each + s/h
- 5-9 Coins - \$19.05 each + s/h
- 10-19 Coins - \$19.00 each + **FREE SHIPPING**
- 20+ Coins - \$18.95 each + **FREE SHIPPING**

FREE SHIPPING on 8 or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service

1-888-835-8675

Offer Code AES245-01

Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. AES245-01 • Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® is a private distributor of coin and currency issues and privately licensed collectibles, and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. GovMint.com is not an investment company and does not offer financial advice. The collectible coin market is highly speculative and involves risk. You must decide for yourself if you are willing to accept these risks, including the risk that you may not be able to liquidate your purchases at prices acceptable to you. GovMint.com makes every effort to ensure facts, figures and offers are accurate; however, errors may and do occur. GovMint.com reserves the right, within its sole discretion and without prior notice to the consumer, to decline to consummate any sale based on such errors. All facts and figures, and populations of graded, autographed or pedigreed coins, are deemed accurate as of the date of publication, but may change significantly over time. All purchases from GovMint.com are governed by our Terms and Conditions, available at www.govmint.com/terms-conditions. All rights reserved © GovMint.com.



GOVMINT.COM®

THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™

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

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



NEW Footrest Extension for even more head to toe support.



Sit up, lie down — and anywhere in between!

Easy-to-use remote for massage, heat, recline and lift

We’ve all had nights when we just can’t lie down in bed and sleep, whether it’s from heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – it could be a variety of reasons. Those are the nights we’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in, one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises feet and legs to precisely the desired level, supports the head and shoulders properly, operates easily even in the dead of night, and sends a hopeful sleeper right off to dreamland.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair® is just the chair to do it all. It’s a chair, true – the finest of lift chairs – but this chair is so much more! It’s designed to provide total comfort and relaxation not found in other chairs. It can’t be beat for comfortable, long-term sitting, TV viewing, relaxed reclining and – yes! – peaceful sleep.

Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of positions, including the Trendelenburg position and the zero gravity position where your body experiences a minimum of internal and external stresses. You’ll love the other benefits, too: It helps with correct spinal alignment, promotes back pressure relief, and encourages better posture to prevent back and muscle pain.



This lift chair puts you safely on your feet!

And there’s more! The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the multiple massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage. Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of fabrics and colors – **Call now!**

The Perfect Sleep Chair® 1-888-730-4246

Please mention code 110606 when ordering.

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a custom-made bedding product, we can only accept returns on chairs that are damaged or defective.

Long Lasting DuraLux Leather				
Tan	Chocolate	Burgundy	Black	Blue
DuraLux II Microfiber				
Burgundy	Cashmere	Fern	Chocolate	Indigo



25
YEAR
GUARANTEE



NEVER SEAL YOUR WOOD OR CONCRETE AGAIN

PERMANENT ONE-TIME SOLUTION



**25%
OFF**
WITH THIS AD

- We clean, restore & permanently preserve your product.
- Prevents wood from rotting, decaying and further damage from moisture.
- Repels mold, mildew & fungus growth.
- Prevents concrete from pitting, flaking, dusting and scaling.
- Prevents salt & alkali damage.
- Backed by technology.

Free Estimates

844.481.6862

PermaSealUSA.com

RECIPE CONTEST

WIN \$100

Submit your best recipes for a chance to win \$100 and a *Texas Co-op Power* apron!

Upcoming Contests

JULY ISSUE
Cooking With Texas Gulf Shrimp
Deadline: February 10

AUGUST ISSUE
Here's the Beef
Deadline: March 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS

Call us, don't wait another day. Our products have been made in Texas since 2006. We customize, so why pay for something you don't want. Get exactly what you want at an affordable price. So stop struggling and start enjoying your bath again. Call us for an in home no pressure presentation. What do you have to lose?

Visit our showroom at 3411 E. Hwy. 377 in Granbury.

WE INSTALL ACROSS TEXAS!

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

This year is Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's 80th anniversary, so over the next months, we will supplement some of our magazine stories with historical photos to offer a glimpse of life in the region in decades past. U.S. 290 and Texas 71 and the vehicles on them looked nothing like today's bigger crowded highways. At right, construction begins on what is to become U.S. 290 in Chappell Hill, near Brenham, in March 1922. At far right, in 1942, a Dodge half-ton pickup stops on the side of what is now Texas 71 in Bastrop County. *Historic photos courtesy of Texas Department of Transportation*



the STUCK-IN-TRAFFIC BLUES

If you travel the **major highways** in Bluebonnet's area at **rush hour**, it's a familiar refrain. Relief may be around the corner: Some big **road improvements** are in the works.



By Ben Wear

Dock Jackson grew up on the road to Houston. But back then, in the 1950s and 1960s, the “highway” from Austin to the coastal plains that passed through Bastrop was just a small-town street named Chestnut. From the front yard of his childhood home, Jackson could watch travelers making their heedless way through the town of about 3,000. After some time spent in Austin, Dallas and New York as a young man, he returned home and served 24 years on the Bastrop City Council.

“I remember it as the busiest highway,” he said recently. “Not busy like 71 now, of course, but pretty busy. Everything came through town. In those days, people got a chance to see Bastrop.”

That old town route gave way to a true highway loop south of old Bastrop: four lanes and a new bridge over the Colorado River that was cut through bottomland in the early 1970s. That highway drew development, then traffic lights and, in the past decade, overpasses that the Texas Department of Transportation, or TxDOT, built to bypass city traffic. Now more than 50,000 cars and trucks blast through Bastrop on Texas 71 each day.

Jackson is one of many residents in the Bluebonnet region who have seen highways grow crowded and clogged.

Bastrop and Bastrop County, like much of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative’s western service area, have exploded with growth and traffic in the past 20 years as Austin expands east toward what used to be more rural communities. And TxDOT, reacting to the growth in eastern Travis County, Elgin, Bastrop and San Marcos, has begun driving money and highway expansions into Blue-

The toll of traffic: injuries, fatalities

TEXAS 71 Between Texas 130 in eastern Travis County and Smithville, 2013-2018

SERIOUS INJURIES: **935, or 187 per year**

FATALITIES: **33, or 6.6 per year**

The top speed limit of Texas 71 between Bastrop and Smithville is 75 mph

U.S. 290 Between Texas 130 near Manor and Giddings, 2013-2018

SERIOUS INJURIES: **926, or 185.2 per year**

FATALITIES: **52, or 10.4 year**

The top speed limit between Giddings and Elgin is 70 mph

Statistics courtesy of TxDOT

bonnet’s service area.

The state agency, responsible for expansion and maintenance of interstates, U.S. highways, state highways and farm-to-market roads, plans to spend more than \$400 million on highway expansions in Lee, Bastrop and Caldwell counties between 2019 and 2024. Bluebonnet’s eastern areas, including Burleson and Washington counties, are still mostly rural in character and TxDOT’s plans there are more modest. Across the cooperative’s service area, the myriad roads that do not fall under TxDOT jurisdiction are built, maintained and improved by counties and cities.

“The traffic dollars follow demand,” said Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, who took office in 2012 and was re-elected in November for another four-year term leading the county Commissioners Court. “They go where the population is, and where the traffic is, always lagging behind development. We’ve lagged in the past, but I’m very happy now.”

Bluebonnet provides power across a 3,800-square-mile swath of Central Texas within 14 counties. The cooperative serves

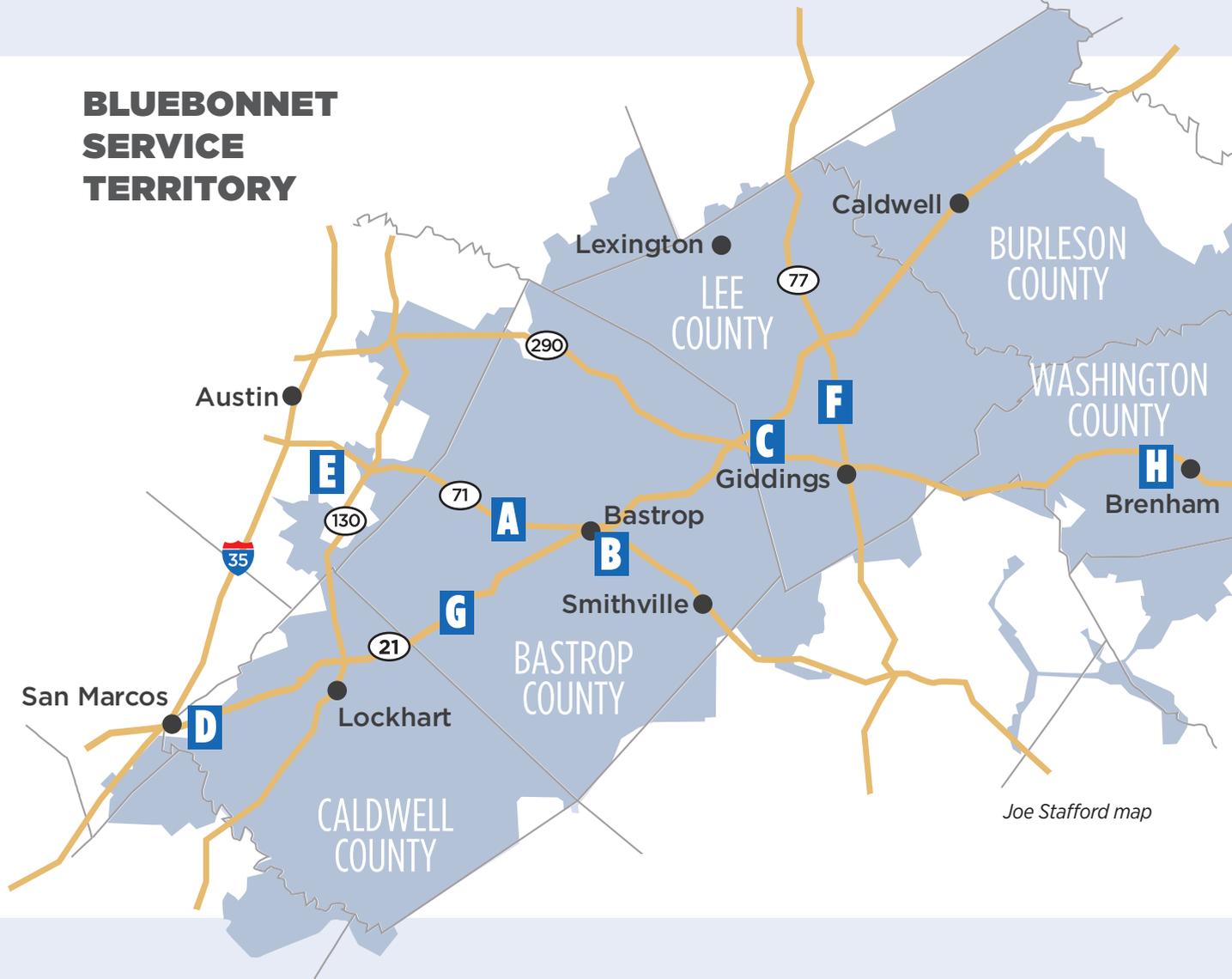
Continued on next page

Above, evening rush-hour traffic along U.S. 290 crawls into Manor from Austin.

At right, Dock Jackson, a former Bastrop City Council member, seen in front of Texas 71 in Bastrop, remembers when traffic traveled through town via Chestnut Street. Texas 71 was rerouted south of old Bastrop in the early 1970s. Photos by Sarah Beal



BLUEBONNET SERVICE TERRITORY



Joe Stafford map

Continued from previous page

more than 98,000 meters with 11,000-plus miles of power lines.

Bastrop County, which had about 17,500 residents in 1970 when Jackson was nearing high school graduation, had almost 85,000 people in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The city of Bastrop itself has more than doubled in population in that time to 9,700 residents, while Elgin has grown 70 percent to about 8,800.

The growth in Hays County and San Marcos has been even more remarkable. Eastern parts of Hays County in or near San Marcos east of Interstate 35 are part of Bluebonnet's service area. San Marcos has ballooned by about 150 percent since 1970, to just over 63,000 people in 2017, and what was a primarily rural Hays County has sprouted rooftops in Buda and Kyle and seen its population grow by 650 percent in that time.

The rapid growth is also popping up in Bluebonnet's service area in Caldwell County. In the last 18 years, the population there has grown by more than 32 percent, and in the last few years, Caldwell has become one of the fastest growing counties in the Austin area.

In the Bluebonnet service area, TxDOT

has a number of major projects on deck, which it believes will handle the continuing growth as well as address other traffic hurdles in the cooperative's eastern counties, including Lee and Washington.

Other projects will impact Bluebonnet members commuting to and from Austin. Other less extensive road projects are planned for areas scattered across the service area.

Making Texas 71 a freeway

For the past decade, TxDOT has been building overpasses along the highway in and just west of Bastrop, and only adding traffic lights to newly built frontage roads at intersections such as Loop 150, Texas 304 and Texas 95. But there are still five spots between Bastrop and Austin where cars going 70 mph might round a bend or crest a hill and face a red light: FM 1209, Pope Bend Road, Tucker Hill Lane, Kellam Road and Ross Road.

TxDOT has set aside \$142.1 million to eliminate those remaining bottlenecks with bridges over the crossing roads. The agency expects the work on the FM 1209 overpass to start in 2023, while work on the other intersections is expected to begin in the fall of

2020 and be completed by 2022.

In theory, for the first time, there would be a true expressway between Austin and Houston — a combo of Texas 71 and Interstate 10 beginning at Columbus — and Bluebonnet members would have clear sailing to and from Austin. But the possibility remains that TxDOT, reacting to additional development, could decide to install more stoplights in the interim.

"I tried to get a promise out of them that they wouldn't add any," Pape said. "They couldn't promise. But I honestly believe they will not."

New Colorado River crossings

The Texas 71 bridge over the Colorado River and a freight railroad track just east of the river are nearing 50 years old, and frontage roads dead-end on either side of the river. That is going to change. In March, TxDOT plans to start construction of new frontage road bridges on either side of the existing Texas 71 bridge.

That \$46.3 million project should take three to four years to complete, TxDOT officials estimate. Then, in a separate project,

Continued on page 22

Major road projects in the next 5 years



The Bluebonnet region continues to see major highway construction projects that accompany the area's explosive growth. Here are the biggest projects underway, listed roughly in order of overall impact to the region.

- A TEXAS 71 OVERPASSES** — \$142.1 million to bypass five traffic lights from FM 1209 to Kellam Road. Construction to begin between 2020 and 2023 on various overpasses.
- B TEXAS 71 FRONTAGE ROADS** at Colorado River in Bastrop — \$46.3 million to build frontage road bridges on either side of the existing main highway bridge. Work to start in spring 2019.
- C U.S. 290 MEDIAN AND SHOULDERS** — \$84.9 million to convert undivided four-lane highway to a divided highway, with wider shoulders, between Paige and Giddings.
- D SAN MARCOS LOOP** — \$78 million to complete the FM 110 loop around San Marcos' southern and eastern sides. Construction to begin in 2019 on all three segments.
- E TEXAS 130 EXPANSION** — \$220 million to expand the tollway from four lanes to six lanes between Texas 71 and Texas 45 North, and to add three flyover bridges at U.S. 290.
- F WIDEN U.S. 77 SHOULDERS** in Lee County — Add wider shoulders to the road north of Giddings. Work to begin in 2020.
- G TEXAS 21 EXPANSION** in Bastrop and Caldwell counties — Add passing lanes in various sections of the road between Bastrop and San Marcos. Work could start by late 2019.
- H IMPROVE U.S. 290 CLOVERLEAF** in Brenham — TxDOT is working on designs for this \$50 million project on the city's west side and hopes to begin work in 2024.

— Ben Wear



At left, looking west toward Austin along U.S. 290 in Manor, traffic lights contribute to the congestion in the area. TxDOT doesn't plan to eliminate them in the foreseeable future. However, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority said it is open to new talks about an extension of the tollway from U.S. 183 in Austin to several miles east of Manor. Photo by Ray Bitzkie



TxDOT plans to add medians and ample road shoulders throughout the 11-mile stretch of U.S. 290 between Paige and Giddings. Construction is expected to begin by the end of this year. *Photo by Sarah Beal*

Continued from page 20

highway traffic would be temporarily diverted to those new frontage road bridges so that the 1972 bridge can be demolished and replaced with a new Texas 71 bridge that will be several feet higher above the river, Pape said.

“It will get a little bit worse for a couple of years, before it gets a whole lot better,” he said.

Dividing U.S. 290

Most of U.S. 290 in the stretch from the eastern edge of Austin through Lee and Washington counties, is already a divided highway — two lanes on each side with a grassy median in the middle. This is infinitely safer than having four lanes separated by only a double yellow stripe, particularly at that highway’s speed limits of up to 75 mph.

But today, for much of the 11 miles of U.S. 290 between Paige and Giddings, the highway is a dangerous four-lane, undivided road with generally narrow shoulders. In December 2018, TxDOT began taking construction bids for three projects, totaling \$84.9 million. Those projects will include medians and ample road shoulders throughout that stretch. The last of the bids will come this spring, and construction should begin along that part of the highway by the end of 2019.

As for U.S. 290’s numerous traffic lights in Manor, Elgin, Giddings, Brenham and other spots in the Bluebonnet area, TxDOT officials said there are no plans in the foreseeable future to eliminate them.

About a decade ago, the Central Texas Re-

What’s the speed limit?

Ever wonder how speed limits are determined for area highways and roads? They are set by the Texas Transportation Commission, an appointed board that governs the Texas Department of Transportation. The process is complex.

Among the factors that go into determining a speed limit are engineering recommendations based on field surveys of actual speeds motorists drive. The theory behind that is that drivers will, in general, drive at a speed that is appropriate to the design and condition of a given stretch of road.

gional Mobility Authority, the toll agency headquartered in Austin, had planned to build a turnpike extending from U.S. 183 in Austin to several miles east of Manor. But Manor residents and business owners at the time rebelled at the idea of an expressway through the middle of their town. The tollway opened in 2015, but stops just west of Manor.

Mobility authority officials say now they are open to talking about an extension of the tollway, which would eliminate grinding rush hour traffic through Manor. TxDOT reports that 47,570 vehicles traveled on U.S. 290 dai-

ly in 2017. But those talks are in early stages, and it is unclear when or even if that project will happen.

Looping San Marcos

Earlier this decade, TxDOT completed the first stretch of FM 110, a new loop around San Marcos’ lightly developed southern and eastern sides. Virtually all of that loop — the completed part and the three segments yet to be built (running 11.2 miles from Texas 123 to Interstate 35 at Yarrington Road) — are in the Bluebonnet service area.

TxDOT plans to take bids on all three of those new segments in 2019, officials said, with construction to follow. The remaining construction cost is an estimated \$78 million. TxDOT plans to initially build the loop as a two-lane road and eventually expand it into a divided four-lane highway.

“The loop is going to be quite a game changer,” said John Thomaides, mayor of San Marcos from 2016 until 2018. “Economically, it’s a huge boon for the city. We’ve already seen companies that are looking to locate in San Marcos and looking to locate on that loop.

“The future is very bright here, if we kind of let it happen.”

Tollway expansions

Bluebonnet members who commute to Austin and back will also be aided by a huge project already underway, as well as several others to begin soon east of Austin.

The mobility authority is two years into construction to expand about eight miles of U.S. 183 from U.S. 290 to Texas 71 near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. This \$750 million expansion from a four-lane road with traffic lights to a six-lane tollway that will also have four to six free frontage road lanes should be finished in late 2020.

The mobility authority and TxDOT, meanwhile, are about to begin \$220 million of expansion work on the Texas 130 tollway, a busy stretch of which is in the western part of Bluebonnet's service area. Early this year, the authority will begin a \$127 million project to add three flyover bridges to the U.S. 290/Texas 130 interchange to ease the transition between those two highways. Only one such direct connecting bridge is there now. And TxDOT is about to begin two projects to add a third lane to each side of Texas 130 between Texas 45 North in Pflugerville and Texas 71 east of the airport.

More road projects in the works

TxDOT has a number of other projects on smaller, less trafficked roads set to begin in 2019 and 2020, including widening several miles of U.S. 77 in Lee County and three stretches of Texas 21 in Caldwell and Bastrop counties. That crucial road between Bastrop and San Marcos, much of which now is just two lanes, would become what TxDOT calls a "Super 2," with passing lanes added on alternating sides to make it essentially a three-lane

The U.S. 290 cloverleaf on Brenham's west side tends to create bottlenecks, particularly when special events such as football games put more people on the road. TxDOT plans to rework the cloverleaf; construction could begin in 2024, officials said. Photo by Sarah Beal

Try some TxDOT tools

The state's Department of Transportation website, txdot.gov, has useful information for drivers, particularly about highway conditions and improvement projects.

DriveTexas.org shows current conditions, closures, construction and other information across the state. By providing your location, the map will tell you about road conditions in your area.

On the txdot.gov homepage, a link takes you to the Project Tracker program, where you can follow progress of road construction projects.

For an overview of TxDOT's ongoing efforts to improve the state's roads, go to texasclearlanes.com.

road for much of its length. That change will reduce the number of drivers trying to pass in the oncoming lane, a primary cause of head-on collisions.

Pape said he has been told TxDOT has Super 2 expansions in mind for a 16-mile stretch of Texas 95 between Elgin and Bastrop. That part of the highway has had an increasing number of accidents in recent years — and 23 fatalities since 2010. In 2018, at least 40 crashes and five deaths were reported on that part of the highway. TxDOT has no near-term improvements planned, but it began to reassess the speed limit on that stretch of Texas 95 after four members of a family died in a crash last October.

"Help is on the way, but it's taken longer

than it should have taken," said Jackson, who has remained politically involved since leaving the Bastrop council in 2009. Texas 95 "is not well lit and so narrow. We have all these little crosses, markers on the road where people have been killed."

Plans for co-op's eastern counties

Former Washington County Judge John Brieden, who stepped down in January after eight years in office, has highway goals that are important to residents there.

In particular, Brieden would like to see a reworking of the troublesome U.S. 290 cloverleaf on Brenham's west side. That interchange between U.S. 290 to the west and a loop around Brenham is a bottleneck on the route from Houston to Austin, particularly when special events such as football games attract more drivers.

"There are only one-lane entrances and exits that back up," Brieden said. "Sometimes we have traffic stacked up as much as two miles."

The interchange situation, Brieden said, has been a real "hot potato" in the Brenham community.

The state is working on it, said officials with TxDOT's Bryan district. The district is "developing concept alternatives" about how to improve the U.S. 290 cloverleaf, spokesman Bob Colwell said.

TxDOT has allotted \$50 million for the eventual reworking of the cloverleaf, Colwell said in an email, and officials envision starting the construction in 2024.

In January, the agency planned to award a contract of about \$3.5 million, Colwell said, to widen narrow FM 50 by adding shoulders and turn lanes from about two miles north of FM 2621 to where the road feeds into Texas 105 on Brenham's east side. ■



Bluebonnet, LCRA help fund community projects



The Washington, Texas, Volunteer Fire Department will get a generator to help supply water to fight fires and provide other emergency services during a power outage, thanks to a \$19,740 community development grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. The grant is part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. From left to right: Pamela Jo "PJ" Ellison, LCRA board member; John Brieden, former Washington County judge; Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member; Robert Jensen, Washington Texas VFD captain; Kyle Merten, Bluebonnet representative; Russell Borgstedte, VFD secretary; David Bledsoe, firefighter; Clyde Miller, VFD fire chief; Billy Jensen, VFD vice president; Ken Mutscher, Bluebonnet Board vice chairman; and Robert Mikeska, Bluebonnet Board member.



The Round Top Family Library is replacing its aging heating and air conditioning system, thanks to help from a \$13,154 community development grant from LCRA and Bluebonnet. Front row, from left to right: Laura D. Figueroa, LCRA board member; Pamela Jo 'PJ' Ellison, LCRA board member; Deborah Kainer, library board member; Barbara Smith, library director; Byron Balke, Bluebonnet Board assistant secretary/treasurer; and Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member. In back, from left to right: Tammy Massengale, library supporter; Bruce Spaulding, Sue Spaulding and Lovetta Hicks, library board members; Russell Jurk, Bluebonnet Board member; Julie Wantland, library president; Steve Ditsler, library board member; and Mark Johnson, Bluebonnet representative.



The Dale Volunteer Fire Department is getting a new brush truck, thanks to a \$50,000 community development grant from LCRA and Bluebonnet. From left to right: Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member; Clifton Holder, firefighter; Joyce Buckner, Bluebonnet representative; John Hernandez, Dale VFD president; Brian Barrington, Dale VFD fire chief; Milton Shaw, Bluebonnet Board member; Rick Arnic, LCRA Governmental Affairs representative; and A.S. Mercado with Dale VFD.



The Dime Box Lions Foundation can begin construction on the town's first community park, thanks to a \$20,700 community development grant from LCRA and Bluebonnet. From left to right: Carol Richardson, Dime Box Lions Club member; Joyce Lerche, club member; Carol Dismukes, club secretary; Jan Perry, club president; Russell Jurk, Bluebonnet Board member; Sharon Brown, club treasurer; Roger Wubbenhorst, club program chairman; Barbara Hoover, club member; Brandon Scott, Leo Club trustee; Patti Adcock, club member; Mark Johnson, Bluebonnet representative; Katie Guynes, Leo Club president; Lori A. Berger, LCRA board member; and Cassidy Aguilar, Leo Club historian.

Application deadline nears for co-op Board seat candidates

Candidates for four seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors must submit petitions, filing fees and completed application for nomination forms by 4 p.m. Feb. 13, 2019, at any of the co-op's five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor.

The seats up for election represent District 1 for Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe

and Hays counties; District 3 for Bastrop County; District 5 for Burleson County; and District 7 for Washington County.

Get information about eligibility and the application on bluebonnet.coop: Click on the About tab, then Leadership in the drop down bar and then click on the Becoming a Director link. You can also call a member service representative at 800-842-7708.

EIGHT DECADES OF LIGHTING THE WAY!

It's a milestone year for Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. We're turning 80. The co-op, originally called the Lower Colorado River Electric Cooperative, received its state charter on Aug. 2, 1939. The mission was to provide electricity to rural residents in 10 Central Texas counties (which later grew to include parts of 14 counties). In 1965, the co-op was renamed Bluebonnet.

We're celebrating our history with stories in Texas Co-op Power magazine, fun content in our social media, on our website



and at our five member service centers — where we will host birthday parties (and all members are invited). We'll have displays of old appliances at our Annual Meeting, a call for heritage recipes from our members, video memories from some of our oldest residential and business members, a look at what was happening in each of our eight decades and

some great giveaways throughout the year (including some new appliances).

Follow us in the magazine, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube for content you'll enjoy. Are you one of Bluebonnet's earliest members, or do you know someone who is? We want to tell your story. Please contact Lisa Ogle at 512-332-7968 or email her at lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop.



A handful of hardy linemen pose in 1947 at the cooperative's headquarters in Giddings. Photo courtesy of Gene and Karen Urban

In the headlines: February 1939

- Germany launched the battleship Bismarck.
- 'Stagecoach,' the John Ford-directed Western movie starring Claire Trevor and John Wayne, was released.
- The average annual wage in the U.S. was \$3,800.

CONTACT US

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 729
Bastrop, TX 78602

Member services: **800-842-7708**, email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop or visit one of our five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

OFFICE CLOSING

Bluebonnet offices will be closed Feb. 18 in observance of **Presidents' Day**.

REPORT OUTAGE, PAY BILL

Report outages at **800-949-4414**, bluebonnet.coop or via our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling member services at **800-842-7708**.

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

For inquiries about Bluebonnet's pages in Texas Co-op Power magazine, contact Lisa Ogle at **512-332-7968** or lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop.

BOARD MEETING

Bluebonnet's Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. **Feb. 19** at Bluebonnet's Headquarters, 155 Electric Ave., Bastrop.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO POWER YOUR

EDUCATION

30 SCHOLARSHIPS for trade and technical programs

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is awarding \$2,500 each to qualified students graduating from high school or accredited home study programs.

30 SCHOLARSHIPS for colleges or universities

Get information from your high school counselor, Bluebonnet's member service centers or at bluebonnet.coop. For applications, click the Scholarships link under the Community tab.

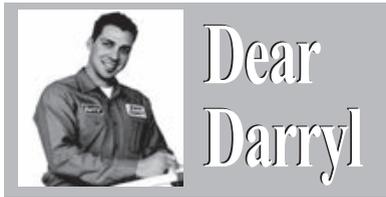


Application deadline is 5 p.m. March 8, 2019

Questions? Contact Karen Urban at 512-332-7961 or karen.urban@bluebonnet.coop

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

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



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

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

Clogged and Smelly – Austin , TX

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

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS7", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.



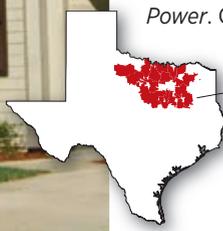
If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*.

We know that now, more than ever, it makes sense to target your audience with a trustworthy name—a name like *Texas Co-op Power*, which creates more advertising options for regional and local businesses like yours.

Our North Texas advertising section targets homeowners living around Texas' largest metropolitan area. With a regional circulation of 527,000 and a readership of 1,212,100, *Texas Co-op Power* delivers a huge audience that's loyal and responsive.

Be part of a statewide magazine—without the statewide cost. Reach North Texas customers with *Texas Co-op Power*. Call or email today.



NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE
Circulation 527,000 • Readership 1,212,100

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Call: Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251

Email: advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS



RHINO
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
Engineered Stamp Blueprints



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINO.BUILDERS/TX 940-304-8068
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

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

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

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

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

WD METAL BUILDINGS
Turn-Key Solutions



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

Instant Prices at WDMB.com



POLE, HORSE, HAY BARNs • ALL SIZES
CALL ANDY • 512-563-5237

LOW COST Mobile Home Insurance

Covered with a national carrier?
Get your Declaration Page & call to compare!

Start Saving Today!

- Replacement Cost for Most Homes
- 96% Claims Satisfaction
- Escrow Billing, Payment Plans, Customer Portal and Online Payments

www.stdins.com
CALL NOW
800-522-0146

Rated By
A- EXCELLENT
A.M. BEST

Serving Texas Mobile Homeowners since 1961



Steel Mobile Home Roofing
Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

Contact us at 800.633.8969 or
roofover.com



PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Mobile Home Roofover Systems Since 1983

Low Cost Pole Barns
26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed
\$7,995

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites
Call Ron: 512-367-0428

BRUSH SHARK



SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR
• 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
• Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.
(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

A RIDE PRESERVED FOR GENERATIONS.
IN THE BUILDING MADE FOR GENERATIONS.



**BUILDING
VALUE
DAYS**

Your dream garage begins with limited-time savings when you commit during Building Value Days. Now through February 28.

800-447-7436 | MORTONBUILDINGS.COM



©2019 Morton Buildings, Inc. A listing of GC licenses available at mortonbuildings.com/licenses. Certain restrictions apply. Ref Code 606

BURN SAFELY

with the
Stainless Steel
BurnCage™

PERFECT FOR:

- Sensitive financial documents
- All burnable household waste*
- Old leaves and branches

STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION

is lightweight, durable, and portable (it folds for easy storage).

PERFORATED LID and sidewalls maximize airflow and trap embers.

1600° TEMPERATURES mean more thorough burning with less ash.



* Always check local ordinances before burning.

Now In 3 Sizes!

No more UNSAFE and UNSIGHTLY rusty barrel!

Call for **FREE Information Kit and Factory Direct Offer!**

BurnCage.com
TOLL FREE **877-200-8321**



198F9X © 2019

SCHLITTERBAHN

**WIN
SEASON
PASSES FOR
A FAMILY
OF 5**



GET DETAILS AND ENTER ONLINE AT
TexasCoopPower.com/contests

Check out schlitterbahn.com for more about Schlitterbahn.



SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPARKS AND RESORTS

The Bugs That Make You See Red

Aztecs and Europeans treasured the radiant hue produced by cochineals living on prickly pear cactuses

BY MARTHA DEERING

RED LIPS, RED FLAGS, RED LIGHTS, RED dresses, red sports cars.

The color catches our eye, accelerates our heartbeat and quickens our breath. It's the color of power, passion and excitement—and for centuries, a tiny insect that thrives in Texas, the American southwest and Mexico has produced the brightest, clearest reds. Extract from cochineal insects still colors foods, cosmetics and clothing throughout the world.

Before the Texas Revolution, Col. Juan Almonte noted that the cochineal crop, gathered twice yearly in Texas, was hauled to Laredo and shipped to agents of the British crown. They needed it to color their red coats. When the Lone Star flag was adopted in 1839, the red field was dyed with cochineals.

Cochineals belong to the scale family. The parasitic bugs are about one-third the size of a ladybug and feed on the spiny pads of prickly pear cactuses. A glance will tell you if cochineals have infested a cactus: The pads are covered with bits of white fluff. Females possess carminic acid, which is distasteful to ants and grubs that might otherwise find them delicious. It is also what creates her carmine, or red pigment.

Even though the insect appears white, crushing the female cochineal releases the dark red liquid. Aztecs discovered this and already were doing a land-office business in cochineals when Spain claimed the New World. Spanish ships soon carried dried cochineals to Europe alongside plundered silver and gold. Cochineal created more intense and permanent color than any previously known red pigments, so the dye was immediately in demand for silks, velvets and tapestries.

According to Amy Butler Greenfield,



author of *A Perfect Red*, artists Titian, Rubens, Van Dyck, Rembrandt and Van Gogh adopted cochineal red. As Mexicans skillfully cultivated the insects, they developed a new species, *Dactylopius coccus*, which was twice the size of wild cochineals and more profitable. In addition to producing striking scarlets and crimsons, cochineal also could be formulated to create shades of soft pink and rose that resisted fading.

Europeans also used cochineal powder to make cosmetics to stain their lips and cheeks. The vivid reds created an outstanding contrast to their pale faces, which they whitened with lead powder. Along

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to learn the deep secret to imperial purple coloring.

the way, medical uses became popular, and apothecaries concocted their own secret formulas, which they touted as antidepressants.

In spite of the

best efforts of pirates who tried to steal cochineals and establish farms in Europe, the temperamental little bug resisted transfer to new climes. Collected specimens died in cold, rain, heat and other environmental changes, as did the cactuses on which they thrived. A few of these early industrial pirates lost fortunes when their entire stolen crop of cochineal-infested cactus rotted in the holds of ships during the voyage to Europe.

When bright aniline dyes made from coal tar were developed in the 1850s and '60s, the cochineal industry took a hit. Today, the use of cochineals is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to produce a natural red color for fruit juices, gelatins, candies, shampoos, cosmetics, yogurt, maraschino cherries, popsicles, and even pink tequila and lemonade. Read the label. Does it say cochineal, carmine, carminic acid or Natural Red 4? Any way you say it, that means bug red.

Martha Deering, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.

Stay Safer & More Independent with a Jacuzzi® Luxury Walk-In Bathtub

SAVE \$1,500

on your NEW Walk-In Tub
with ONE DAY installation



Low Entry Step

*Don't let mobility concerns end your ability to enjoy
a relaxing and therapeutic bathing experience*

The safety features of the Jacuzzi® Walk-In Bathtub help with mobility in and out of the tub, and also help you feel more secure and independent when bathing at home.

Enjoy Legendary
Jacuzzi®
Jet Technology

- ✓ **NEW!** Epsom salt compatible with hydromassage relaxes the mind and body
- ✓ **NEW!** A quieter and energy efficient pump provides a more enjoyable bathing experience
- ✓ **NEW!** Relaxing Bubble Foot Massage
- ✓ **NEW!** Heated back and seat for more comfort and relief
- ✓ **PLUS!** Installation in as little as one day available!

NEW!



**Epsom Salt
Compatible**

Now enjoy the relaxing health benefits of Epsom salt in your tub without the worry of rust or damage to your tub's components.

CALL TODAY & SAVE \$1,500

Call now for limited-time savings on your new Walk-In Bathtub and details on installation that takes as little as ONE DAY!



Call: **1-888-819-0404**

or Visit: www.JacuzziWalkIn.com

Ask About
Affordable
Financing

The **NEW** Gold Standard
of Walk-In Bathtubs



Cozy Casseroles

CASSEROLES HAVE TIMELESS APPEAL for good reason. Most can be prepared with inexpensive ingredients, are easy to assemble and serve a crowd. Case in point: Lone Star Casserole, a hearty mix of beef and vegetables braised in creamy tomato sauce that appeared in the April 1965 *Texas Co-op Power*. The dish relies on round steak. To update the dish, I browned the meat in olive oil instead of shortening and replaced canned mushrooms with cremini. I couldn't resist adding a bit of smoky bacon and fresh herbs to make the results richer and more fragrant. As the original recipe suggests, serve the dish with noodles or rice.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Lone Star Casserole

- 2 pounds round steak, cubed
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 strips thick-cut bacon, diced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ cup thinly sliced celery
- 10–12 cremini mushrooms, stemmed and sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh (or 1½ teaspoons dried) rosemary or thyme
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Season the steak with salt and pepper. Heat the olive oil in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot and shimmering, add the steak and bacon and cook, stirring, until browned, about 7–9 minutes. Transfer the meat to a plate and set aside.
3. Add the carrots, onion, celery, mushrooms, garlic and fresh herbs to the skillet and cook, stirring, until

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Retro Recipes

Cozy Casseroles

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

MARTHA JO WHITT | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC



This crowd pleaser was given to Whitt by her college roommate, Jane Caddel Brewer (a Pedernales EC member),

whose father, Charles

Caddel, served for decades as a director at San Patricio EC. This dish is a snap to assemble and hits all the comfort notes.

Jane's H-Bar-C Casserole

- 1½ pounds ground meat (beef or turkey)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 can (15 ounces) hominy, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) chili (beans or no beans, as desired)
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) mushroom soup
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles
- 1 pound Velveeta Mexican cheese
- Fritos (or other corn chips) for topping

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine the meat, onion and bell pepper in a large skillet over medium-high heat, season generously with salt and pepper, and cook until the meat is browned and the vegetables have softened. Add the hominy, chili, mushroom soup and green chiles to the meat mixture and simmer, stirring, until combined. Pour the mixture into a buttered 9-by-13-inch casserole and top with processed cheese (sliced, cubed or grated, as desired) and a layer of crushed Fritos. Bake 30–40 minutes, until bubbly. ▶ Serves 10–12.

\$100 Recipe Contest

July's recipe contest topic is **Cooking With Texas Gulf Shrimp**. We're casting a net for the state's tastiest shrimp dishes. What's yours? The deadline is **February 10**. Readers whose recipes are featured will receive a special *Texas Co-op Power* apron.

ENTER ONLINE at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; MAIL to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; FAX to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

softened and golden. Return the meat to the skillet (and any juices), sprinkle with flour and stir until the ingredients are coated. Add the remaining ingredients, stir to combine and then pour into a buttered 9-by-13-inch casserole. Bake about 1½ hours, until the meat is tender. Serve warm, with noodles, rice or crusty bread. ▶ Serves 8.

Ranch Hand Chicken Casserole

ROBIN WANTLAND | LAMAR EC

"This is a great do-ahead casserole," Wantland says, and we agree—especially when you want to feed a hearty, satisfying dish to a crowd. You can use a store-bought roasted chicken or simmer your own and use the homemade stock. To intensify the flavor, serve this casserole with wedges of lime, your favorite hot sauce and freshly chopped cilantro.

- 1 whole cooked chicken
- 2 poblano peppers
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, minced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) corn, drained
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans
- 1 teaspoon cumin

Salt and pepper, to taste

- ¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup chicken stock, plus more for tortillas
- 12 corn tortillas
- 4 cups grated cheddar cheese (regular or sharp)

1. Remove meat from the chicken and set aside.
2. Roast the poblanos under a broiler or over a gas flame on a stovetop, turning them evenly as needed until blackened. Allow them to cool in a bowl covered with a dishcloth. Then peel, seed, stem and dice them and set aside.
3. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat and sauté the onion and garlic 3–5 minutes, until softened and fragrant. Add the corn, tomatoes, poblanos, black beans, cumin, and a sprinkling of salt and pepper;

sauté 1–2 minutes and then remove from heat.

4. In a separate saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat; add the flour and whisk until lightly browned and smooth. Gradually add the milk and chicken stock, stirring until the sauce is thick and smooth. Pour the sauce over the vegetables, stir to combine, and season to taste with additional salt and pepper.
5. Heat oven to 350 degrees and butter or apply cooking spray to a 9-by-13-inch casserole.
6. Dip tortillas in additional chicken stock to soften, then slice each tortilla into four strips. Place ⅓ of the tortilla strips in the bottom of the prepared dish and cover with half the chicken. Pour half of the vegetable mixture over the chicken and sprinkle half of the grated cheese. Place another ⅓ of the tortilla strips over the cheese, cover with the remaining chicken, then cover with the remaining vegetable mixture. Top with the remaining tortilla strips, sprinkle the remaining cheese and cover tightly with foil.
7. Bake the casserole 20 minutes, then remove the foil and bake another 20 minutes. ▶ Serves 8–10.

COOK'S TIP Add a smoky flavor by using diced fire-roasted tomatoes.

Gefüllter Kohl (Filled Cabbage Rolls)

BELINDA GRAMS | PEDERNALES EC

Cultures find comfort in various ways, and Grams avows the following dish as "a truly savory, truly authentic German casserole." The recipe traveled from northern Germany with her great-grandmother, Hattie Elsa Pfeiffer Keidel, and first appeared in the *PTA Fredericksburg Home Kitchen Cookbook* in 1916. Consider serving the hearty, meat-filled rolls with German-fried potatoes made with bacon, onion and green pepper.

CABBAGE ROLLS

- 1 small cabbage
- ½ pound ground beef
- ½ pound ground pork
- ½ cup breadcrumbs, softened with as much water as they will absorb
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons milk

- Salt and pepper, to taste
 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter, softened to room temperature

SAUCE

- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
 2 tablespoons flour
 Salt and pepper, to taste
 Pinch grated nutmeg
 1 egg yolk

- 1. CABBAGE ROLLS:** Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
- Separate larger cabbage leaves; core and quarter smaller center. Place the leaves in boiling water 2–3 minutes, then remove from heat and let them stand 5–10 minutes (reserve liquid).
- Rinse leaves in cold water and drain. Combine the beef and pork with the breadcrumbs, eggs, milk and seasonings.
- Coat an 8-by-8-inch casserole with butter.
- Place about ⅓ cup of meat mixture in the center of each cabbage leaf and wrap into a snug bundle; place the bundle

seam-side down in the casserole dish. Repeat with remaining meat and cabbage leaves. Cover the dish with foil and bake 75 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake 15–20 minutes, or until the cabbage is tender, basting occasionally with cooking juices. Invert the stuffed rolls onto a platter, reserving the liquid. Tent cabbage rolls with foil or place in oven at low heat to keep warm.

6. SAUCE: Melt the butter in a skillet. Add the flour and enough of the reserved liquid (cooking juices and cabbage water) to make a smooth sauce. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg; whisk in egg yolk and pour the mixture over the cabbage rolls. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP To make a deconstructed version, layer cabbage leaves and the meat mixture in a buttered slow cooker and cook on high 4 hours.

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Read these recipes on our website to see the original Lone Star Casserole recipe from April 1965.

WANT THE CONSUMMATE CASSEROLE?

Choose the right dish: Shallow baking dishes are best for creating a crunchy topping, whereas deeper roasting pans are good for preserving moisture.

Undercook your pasta: For the best texture, boil noodles 2–3 minutes fewer than the package indicates to allow the pasta to finish cooking in the oven.

Choose the right cheese: Aged cheeses like Parmesan, Asiago and feta offer sharp and tangy flavors, but they won't create a creamy texture. For an ooey-goopy consistency, go with meltable cheeses like cheddar, asadero and Gruyère.

Brighten rich flavors: Finely grated lemon zest, a tablespoon of Dijon mustard or a few dashes of your favorite vinegar-based hot sauce will make flavors pop. —PD

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

NEXT MONTH

TEXAS: A BLUES STATE Widespread influences created 'a sort of international blues, a United Nations gumbo of sounds.'

A HERO IN ANY LANGUAGE

Mexican immigrant Marcelino Serna became the most decorated Texan of World War I.

Look for additional content online
TexasCoopPower.com



TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Enter to win a Texas-made gift during our 75th Anniversary.

CROCKETT FARMS TEXAS GRAPEFRUIT



ENTER NOW at TexasCoopPower.com/contests

COPPER

Support Zip Socks

SAVE \$7
off original price

only
\$9.99

The Miracle Of COPPER Helps Improve Circulation & Combat Pain & Fatigue

FREE Shipping & Handling
when buying 2 or more

Drug Free Pain Relief!

Consistent, gentle compression helps to keep blood flow circulating, easing aches and pains, swelling and fluid retention. Copper properties have long been believed to assist in fighting bacteria & odor, wicking away moisture and increasing blood flow. Import in polyester, nylon & elastane, with open toe design, is perfect for swollen, tired feet and side zipper makes them easy to put on and take off.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

Great For
Men & Women

Copper Infused Compression Stockings Help:

- Improve Circulation
- Reduce Swelling & Fluid Retention
- Fight Bacteria And Odor
- Soothe Aching Legs & Feet



Gentle Compression Helps Keep Blood Flow Circulating



Easy On/Off Zip-Up Compression



Measure Calf Circumference	
S/M	Fits Calves Up To 16"
L/XL	Fits Calves Up To 19"

Item #85487 (S/M) ___ Copper Support Zip Socks @ \$9.99

Item #85488 (L/XL) ___ Copper Support Zip Socks @ \$9.99

CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax \$

Regular Shipping & Handling Add \$4.95 1st Pair
FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more \$

FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional)
Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment) \$ 2.95

Check or money order payable to: Dream Products, Inc.
Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496

VISA MasterCard Discover@NOVUSSMCards

TOTAL \$

Exp. Date / /

Card#

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Dept. 77622

Email _____

1-800-530-2689
Order Now Toll-Free

Receive A Free Surprise Gift
with every order

Connect With
DreamProducts.com
website offers may vary



Open Toe
For Swollen Or
Sensitive Feet

Dept. 77622 © Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr)

Two of a Kind

SEARCH HIGH AND LOW—there’s just no match for these pairs. Cut from the same cloth, they go together like biscuits and gravy, like hogs and mud. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

WEB EXTRAS ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.

◀ **MIKE DOWNEY**, Bryan Texas Utilities: “My son Davis is wheeling after my late father, Sherwood Downey, one day on the farm many years ago.”



▲ **SALIMA ASARIA**, CoServ: “Charmed, are we?”

▼ **MARY RUST**, Comanche EC: “Two fawns out for an early-morning adventure.”



◀ **CHARLES BAXTER**, CoServ: “Two Texas state birds with the same thing in mind.”

▼ **LINDA LEE BICKFORD**, Grayson-Collin EC: Bickford’s nephews, Dustin and Daniel.



UPCOMING CONTESTS

JUNE FEEDIN' TIME	DUE FEBRUARY 10
JULY TRUCKS	DUE MARCH 10
AUGUST FAMILY TIES	DUE APRIL 10

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Wine Swirl

Nacogdoches February 9
(936) 564-7351, visitnacogdoches.org

This Saturday evening wine and food pairing event sponsored by the city's Main Street program showcases Texas wineries and local and regional food trucks along historic brick streets downtown. Wineries will be stationed in booths outside of shops.

WINE: DENIZ BAYRAM | DREAMSTIME.COM. KIMONO: SUPAWAT BURSUK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. MASK: MICHAEL FLIPPO | DREAMSTIME.COM

February

7

McKinney Black History Month: A Conversation With Author Zachary Wood, (972) 540-5067, mckinneytexas.org

8

Levelland [8-9] High Plains Cowboy Church in the Dirt Series, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

Port Lavaca [8-9] South Texas Square & Round Dance Association February Frenzy, (361) 575-2665, squaredancetx.com

Fredericksburg [8-24] Wine Lovers Celebration, (872) 216-9463, texaswinetrail.com

9

Austin Rodeo Austin Gala & Youth Art Auction, (512) 919-3000, rodeoaustin.com

Ennis Czech Music Festival, (972) 878-4748, ennisczechmusicfestival.com

San Antonio Asian Festival, (210) 458-2300, asianfestivalsa.com

10

Bastrop Rockne Historical Association Fundraiser, (512) 304-8379, facebook.com/rharockne

15

Luckenbach [15-16] Hug-In and Valentine Ball, (830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

February 9
San Antonio
Asian Festival



TOUR TEXAS NEW WAYS

SPECIAL
TRAVEL
ISSUE

In the **APRIL 2019 TRAVEL ISSUE**, we'll share some creative and cool ways to travel Texas and create adventurous memories.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

FIND YOUR GETAWAY at TexasCoopPower.com

AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

Gas Up and Go!

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! It's all listed under the Events tab on our website.

Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Rosenberg [15-17] Houston Glass Show, (713) 410-4780, maxmillerantiques.com

16

College Station Eisenhower Dance
Detroit, (979) 862-5766,
academyarts.tamu.edu

Denison Celebrate With the Presidents,
(903) 465-8908,
visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com

Port Arthur Rotary Club Taste of Gumbo,
(409) 985-7822

17

Crockett Cinderella, (936) 544-4276,
pwfaa.org

21

Nacogdoches [21-23] Nacogdoches
Film Festival, (936) 645-1499,
nacogdochesfilmfestival.com

Edinburg [21-24] Fiesta Edinburg,
(956) 383-4974, edinburg.com

22

Galveston [22-March 5] Mardi Gras!
Galveston, (409) 770-0999,
mardigrasgalveston.com



February 28
Port Arthur
Mardi Gras
Southeast Texas

23

Fredericksburg Historic Cave Creek
School Open House, (830) 990-1017,
historicschools.org

Henderson Mardi Gras/Gumbo Cook-Off,
(903) 392-8232, visithenderson.tx.com

Palestine Mardi Gras Parade,
(903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

28

Kerrville A New World: Classical Music
Lands in America, (830) 792-7469,
symphonyofthehills.org

Port Arthur [28-March 3] Mardi Gras
Southeast Texas, (409) 721-8717,
mardigras.portarthur.com

March

2

Lago Vista [2-3] La Primavera Race,
(512) 267-7952, lagovista.org

3

San Antonio Bexar County Czech Heritage
Society Annual Dance, (210) 494-5171,
bexarcountycezchheritagesociety.com

7

Mansfield [7-17] Arts Week, (817) 804-5796,
visitmansfieldtexas.com

Submit Your Event!

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



2016 – Code Talkers
of WWI and WWII

2017 – Sequoyah &
Cherokee Syllabary

2018 – Honoring sports
legend Jim Thorpe

Complete 6-Coin Set of 2016-2018 Uncirculated Native American Dollars



Each dollar's date & mint
mark is on the coin's edge.

- ✓ All 6 P&D coins of 2016-2018
- ✓ All Uncirculated
- ✓ Each design struck only for one year
- ✓ Free Gift – an Uncirculated National Park Quarter!
- ✓ Save 76%, plus get FREE shipping

At face value!

Now own a complete 6-coin "P" & "D" set of Native American dollars for just \$6.00! You'll get the last three years of this series, honoring the Native American contributions of Code Talkers, Sequoyah and Jim Thorpe. Each was struck one year only, and never again. Plus, each "P" Philadelphia & "D" Denver issue is in mint Uncirculated condition.

SAVE, plus get FREE Shipping!

Order today and get the latest six coins of this prized series in a complete Uncirculated set – at face value! Plus, you get **FREE** shipping and **SAVE 76%** off the regular price of ~~\$25.95~~!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination 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. **Hurry, special low price – order right away!**

Mail today or order online at www.LittletonCoin.com/specials

America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945

FREE Gift!

when you order within 30 days
Now get an Uncirculated
National Park quarter!



45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

41816

Special Offer for
New Customers Only

✓ **YES!** Please send me the complete 6-Coin Set of Uncirculated 2016-2018 Native American Dollars for the special price of \$6.00 – regularly ~~\$25.95~~, plus Free Shipping (limit 1 set). Also, send my FREE National Park Quarter (one per customer, please)

★
SAVE!

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED
WITHIN 30 DAYS

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	6-Coin Collector's Set (limit 1 set)	\$6.00
	*Sales Tax	
	FREE Shipping! Merchandise TOTAL	

*We are required by law to collect sales tax on orders received beginning January 1, 2019 for the following states. Tax requirements are subject to change; visit LittletonCoin.com/TaxInfo for the up-to-date list. For orders paid by credit card, we will calculate and charge the tax required by law. Total Amount is taxable: HI, IA, KY, MA, MD, ME, MN, MS, NJ, NV, OH, OK, TN, VT, WI, WV

Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.

Charge my: VISA MasterCard
 American Express Discover

▶ Card #: _____ Exp. Date []/[]/[]

[] []

Name _____ Please print clearly

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Please send coupon to: Dept. 5BM400 41816

Littleton Coin Company
1309 Mt. Eustis Road
Littleton NH 03561-3737

America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945

A Close-Up With Nature

Corpus Christi botanical gardens put visitors eye to eye with flora and fauna

BY EILEEN MATTEI

INSIDE THE ORCHID CONSERVATORY AT the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, I'm curious about a bananalike pod dangling from a vine climbing the 14-foot-high walls. "That's a vanilla bean," explains volunteer Jorge Garcia. "Vanilla is an orchid native to the Americas."

Benches in the center of the conservatory overflow with hundreds of orchids parading purple, yellow, pink, red and white flowers. Aerial roots hang down from vanda orchids like long, wavy hairs. "Orchid roots like to come out of the pot," Garcia says.

Nearby, a screened butterfly house shelters plants that attract monarchs, queens, gulf fritillaries and black swallow-tails. Signs identify tropical milkweed, hibiscus and butterfly bushes that butterflies visit to sip nectar or lay eggs. A buck-eye with multiple eye spots on its wings flutters around my knees.

My husband, Guy, relaxes on a swinging bench under a cedar elm as I wander through the sensory garden, touching a sandpaper tree, sniffing scented geraniums and marveling at the bright purple clusters of American beautyberry.

We stroll through the bromeliad collection—pineapples, ball moss and living walls of plants—to the hummingbird garden. I spot yellow-striped bumblebees and a buff-bellied hummingbird zipping around the mealy blue sage and Turk's cap.

Michael Womack, the gardens' executive director, meets us at the rose garden and guides us down a nature trail's crushed granite path. Meandering through 165 acres of native thorn scrub and wetlands,



Charlie is one of the playful macaws that call the center home.

the trail sports large interpretive panels that feature photographs of wetland animals from the botanical gardens' Wildlife in Focus contest.

"We are trying to preserve a natural spot in the middle of Corpus Christi," Womack says. "This is a safe place to experience nature and see its diversity."

From the bird tower overlooking a gator lake, we spot coots and black-necked stilts. Boardwalks lead us to a wetland gazebo, where we watch tricolored herons, roseate spoonbills and ibises.

Ecosystems support more than plants and birds, and I'm thrilled to have a slender vine snake twine around my wrist in the visitors center, where guests can interact with about 55 reptiles and 30 parrots.

"Resident reptiles help people see the native reptiles in our region and appreciate brush country habitats," Womack says.

Huckleberry, a cockatoo, leans into Guy's hand, tilting upside down to have his neck stroked. I fall for Ivan, a 12-pound green iguana with iridescent orange

scales and long claws.

"Tortoises and snakes are the big deal for kids," says Dedra Benedict, an animal care specialist. "Adults prefer the birds." Benedict leads parrot talks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, showing off the personalities of some of the birds. "They need a lot of attention. People think the parrots are going to do the talking here, but they refuse to learn the script. Macaws, cockatoos and other parrots behave like 2-year-olds."

Tequila, a blue-and-gold macaw, has a reputation as a dancer, so I wiggle my shoulders at him. Perched on the back of a chair, he begins swaying and bouncing like a bobblehead doll. What a colorful dance partner!

"We want people to make the connection that exotic parrots and reptiles are linked to plants," Womack says. "The parrots live in forests, which are home to many of our tropical plants."

Eileen Mattei, a Nueces EC member, is a Texas master naturalist in Harlingen.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to view a slideshow.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

PREDATOR BEATS HONDA

3500 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR



3500	MAX. STARTING WATTS	3000
3000	RUNNING WATTS	2800
100 LBS.	WEIGHT	131 LBS.
2.6 GAL.	TANK SIZE	3.4 GAL.
4	OUTLETS	4
YES	OVERLOAD PROTECTION	YES
212 cc	ENGINE SIZE	196 cc
YES	LOW OIL ALERT	YES
YES	PARALLEL CAPABLE	YES
YES	POWER SAVER	YES



HONDA EU3000ISA

Customer Rating

★★★★★

SAVE \$1,299

ITEM 63584

NOW \$699.99

COMPARE TO PROSKIT \$1,999

PRICE \$1,999



LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

*HONDA EU3000ISA stated specs

FREE SUPER COUPON

WITH ANY PURCHASE



CENTECH 7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER

- 3.5" LCD Display
- Battery Included

COMPARE TO PROSKIT \$167

MODEL: MT-1210

ITEM 98025/30756/63604

63758/63759/69096/90899 shown



LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

20% OFF SUPER COUPON

ANY SINGLE ITEM*



41978044

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts, coupons or any of the following items: 40 Service Inside Truck Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale Item, compressor, floor jack, sales, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trencher/shovel, welders, AirMilk, Ames, Sauer, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, DeWalt, Harbor Freight, Hercules, Icon, JigLife, Lysac, Poulan, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Volcano, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/19.

HARDY SUPER COUPON

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES
PACK OF 100
• 5 mil thickness

12¢ PER PAIR

NOW \$5.99

COMPARE TO VENOM \$14.97

MODEL: VEN145

ITEM 97581, 97582, 97583, 37050, 37051, 37052, 64417, 64418, 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68498, 68496 shown

41981356

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

30" BULK STORAGE TECH CART

• 4847 cu. in. of storage
• 355 lb. capacity
• Extra deep top compartment and drawer for maximum storage space.

NOW \$84.99

COMPARE TO SNAP-ON \$395

MODEL: KRBCLTPC

SAVE \$310

ITEM 64002

Side tray sold separately.

41981516

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

SUPER COUPON

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE/WEATHER RESISTANT TARP

NOW \$2.99

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$9.98

MODEL: B68X10-Y

SAVE 70%

ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown

42005972

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

21 GALLON, 2.5 HP, 125 PSI VERTICAL OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

• Air delivery:
5.8 CFM @ 40 PSI
4.7 CFM @ 90 PSI

NOW \$149.99

COMPARE TO HUSKY \$229

MODEL: C201H

SAVE \$79

ITEM 61454/69091/62803/63635/67847 shown

42013197

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

BADLAND ZXR SUPER COUPON

12,000 LB. TRUCK/SUV WINCH

• Weighs 83.65 lbs.
• 21" L x 10-1/8" H

NOW \$299.99

COMPARE TO WARN \$699.99

MODEL: 98820

ITEM 64045/64046/63710 shown

42024958

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

CENTECH SUPER COUPON

2/10/50 AMP, 12 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER AND ENGINE STARTER

NOW \$29.99

COMPARE TO SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC \$59.99

MODEL: SE-1250

ITEM 60581/3418 60653 shown

42030069

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

COVERPRO SUPER COUPON

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE

NOW \$169.99

COMPARE TO SHELTER LOGIC \$270

MODEL: 76377

SAVE \$100

ITEM 62859/63055/62860 shown

42039822

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

14" ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW

NOW \$39.99

COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN \$99.99

MODEL: 071-45247

ITEM 64498/64497 shown

42040959

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

SUPER COUPON

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

NOW \$3.99

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH \$7.35

MODEL: FR1065

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

42045960

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

PITTSBURGH #1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA SUPER COUPON

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY LOW PROFILE FLOOR JACK

• Weighs 73 lbs.

NOW \$199.99

COMPARE TO TEQ \$149.99

MODEL: T8300182

ITEM 64264/64266/64879/64881 61282/62326/61253 shown

42053517

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

3/8" x 14 FT., GRADE 43 TOWING CHAIN

• 5400 lb. capacity

NOW \$199.99

COMPARE TO MIBRO \$64.99

MODEL: 426920

SAVE 69%

ITEM 60658/97711 shown

42053552

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

3-POINT QUICK HITCH

NOW \$199.99

COMPARE TO DOUBLE HH \$159.99

MODEL: 10712

SAVE \$80

ITEM 97214

42062105

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

301 PIECE MASTER MECHANIC'S TOOL KIT

LIFETIME WARRANTY

NOW \$159.99

COMPARE TO KLUTCH \$299.99

MODEL: 43994

ITEM 63464/63457/45951 shown

42062785

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

BUNKER HILL SECURITY SUPER COUPON

60 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT

Includes 6V, 900 mAh NiCd battery pack.

NOW \$29.99

COMPARE TO SUNFORCE \$59.99

MODEL: 82123

SAVE 50%

ITEM 62534/56213/69643 shown

42073261

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

SUPER COUPON

TWO-TIER EASY-STORE STEP LADDER

• 225 lb. capacity

NOW \$199.99

COMPARE TO WERNER \$338.88

MODEL: S322A-1

ITEM 67514

42074389

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

• 1.3 GPM
• Adjustable spray nozzle

NOW \$199.99

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON \$174.44

MODEL: 20600

SAVE \$94

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

42080192

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/19

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 6/1/19.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

\$69⁹⁹
month for TV

+

Add Internet!
Blazing-Fast Internet

~~\$59⁹⁹~~
month for Internet

\$39⁹⁹
month for Internet

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

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. Go to godish.com/internet to verify your discount. TV service not required for Internet.

It's All Included!

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

After 3 mos. you will be billed \$20/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX – Fully Integrated –
Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

\$100 Get DISH. Get \$100.

1234 5678 9012 3456

4000

Gift Card

Expires END 01/25

Courtesy of GoDISH.com. Valid only in U.S.

Must mention offer code **Card100**.

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

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

iSe Habla Español!
dish
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

*Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification. Fees apply for additional TVs: Hopper \$15/mo., Joey \$5/mo., Super Joey \$10/mo. All offers require credit qualification, 2-Year commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/10/19. 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 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). 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 \$20/mo. for Showtime and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. Gift and Pre-paid Cards: Courtesy of GoDISH.com for credit-qualified customers. Customers who do not qualify may be eligible for a secondary gift offer. Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa® debit cards are accepted. Cards expire 6 months from date issued. Mail-in redemption form is required within 60 days of qualified activation to receive gift. Customer account must be current and in good standing at the time of redemption. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of gift. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. © 2019 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$39.99 price refers to 25Mbps plan. Restrictions apply. 25 Mbps internet service available nationwide, but may become temporarily unavailable to certain addresses based on local beam capacity. Availability is subject to change without notice. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately. Call for details.