

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



HOG HEAVEN

Rescues save pigs from owners in over their heads



BLUEBONNET NEWS
SEE PAGE 18





great looks & long-lasting *performance*

Mueller metal roofs offer many advantages, including curb appeal, weather resistance and durability. You can choose from a wide range of designer colors to complement your home, backed by up to a 30 year limited paint warranty. It all adds up to lasting peace of mind. Get a metal roof you can trust from a company you can trust – a Mueller metal roof.

Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com/roofing



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



Tom Lea's depiction of a gunner scanning for enemy warplanes.

FEATURES

- 8 This Little Piggy** When pet potbellies outgrow expectations, rescuers step in.
Story by Chris Burrows | Photos by Eric W. Pohl
- 12 Tom Lea's War** El Paso artist's battlefield paintings express the tragedy and pathos of World War II.
By E. Dan Klepper

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**
Baylor, the Man
By Martha Deeringer
- 31 Retro Recipes**
Layer Cakes
- 35 Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: On the Ranch
- 36 Around Texas**
List of Local Events
- 38 Hit the Road**
Higher Education
By Chet Garner

ONLINE

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

Texas USA

Instant Archives
By Light T. Cummins

Observations

Russian Interference
By E. Dan Klepper

NEXT MONTH

Drive In, Chill Out *Drive-in theaters, long past their heyday, remain as beacons of nostalgia.*



TOM LEA ART: COURTESY TEXAS A&M PRESS



ON THE COVER *Lil Kevin, a rescued potbelly, plods the grounds of his forever home, at Oinkin' Oasis in Gilmer.* Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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 Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtsek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Paula Disbrow, Food Editor; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Qasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Chris Salazar, Digital Field Editor; Ally Schauer, Intern; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader

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



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.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2019 SEASON

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

Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



PRE-APPROVED FINANCING AVAILABLE!

WE CONSIDER ANYTHING ON TRADE!

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM



STAYcation at Home in 2019!

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

Other Blues Artists

The story [*Texas: A Blues State*, March 2019] would have been even better had it included Joe Tex (*Hold What You've Got*) and Joe Simon (*The Chokin' Kind*), notable blues and soul artists who performed in the Dallas area for years.

R.H. GRUY | GRANBURY
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Under the Green Flag

There was a mix-up on the historical details explaining our event Under the Green Flag [*A Chapter in La Bahia's History*, Currents, February 2019]. Mexico was fighting to win its independence from Spain, not to free Texas from Spanish rule.

Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Augustus William Magee were fighting to wrest Texas from Spanish rule with an idea of making it an independent country separate and apart from Spain or Mexico. The army they led was made up of Americans, Tejanos and Indians along with a handful of Spanish deserters.

SCOTT MCMAHON, DIRECTOR
PRESIDIO LA BAHIA

Raised in a Dance Hall

I was almost brought to tears when I saw *Hail the Halls* [February 2019]. I was raised in our local dance hall in Cypress—Cypress Gun and Rifle Club, aka Tin Hall. My dad remembered going there as a child with his dad in a horse and buggy. It was a huge two-story structure where people could meet and eat homemade pie downstairs while the two-steppin' went on upstairs on their immense wooden dance floor.

I slept on those chairs as a

Long Live Texas Blues

I had so much fun reading about Texas blues artists [*Texas: A Blues State*, March 2019]. Every time I came to a name, I would type it into YouTube and listen to the artist's music. It really brought the article to life. Some of those early recordings were pretty rough and scratchy. Lightnin' Hopkins and T-Bone Walker are both stations on my Pandora playlist. Long live Texas blues.

LES MEADS | STOCKDALE | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC



child and learned to dance on my daddy's feet. Spent every Saturday night there while in high school.

SHERYL HENDRIX | GROESBECK
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Your story brought back so many memories. I think my brother, sister and I were raised to the sound of polkas and waltzes in Hillje Hall. My uncles had a band, and my grandpa sold home-



brew behind the hall in the 1930s and '40s.

ROBERTA HOFBAUER | GUN BARREL CITY
TRINITY VALLEY EC

Dave Shafer's radiant photos of dancers capture grace, exuberance and joy.

CARLOS RUMBAUT | CEDAR PARK
PEDERNALES EC

Sacrifice of Immigrants

As a 20-year Army veteran and retired major, Hispanic and the son of a Mexican immigrant, I was totally impressed with *A Hero in Any Language* [March 2019]. It will impress on a lot of people the appreciation we owe the nation's immigrants for their service and sacrifices.

Unfortunately, history

has a tendency to repeat itself, and today we find our government deporting our war veterans once again. Have we forgotten that we are a nation of immigrants?

ISRAEL HINOJOSA | HEBBRONVILLE
MEDINA 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

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 75, NUMBER 11 (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

Magnolia Days in Columbus

WEB EXTRAS
► Find more happenings online.

The 100-year-old live oak and magnolia trees on the courthouse square in **COLUMBUS** supply the shade, and the chamber of commerce furnishes the fun **MAY 17-18** for the town festival of **MAGNOLIA DAYS**.

A family fun zone and beer and wine gardens as well as vendors, food and live music provide activities for all ages.

Magnolia, settled in the 1820s, is along the Colorado River, about 25 miles west of downtown Houston.

INFO ► (979) 732-8385, magnoliadays.org

PHILANTHROPY

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Time and saltwater are scoring direct hits on the USS Texas, something the battleship mostly evaded during both world wars. The Texas, commissioned in 1914, is sinking where it sits docked in the Houston Ship Channel.

“**Due to constant** exposure to saltwater, the battleship Texas is suffering from damages and more than 300,000 gallons of water leaks each day,” says Tony Gregory, chairman of the Battleship Texas Foundation. The foundation’s Come and Save It campaign continues to gather petition signatures and collect donations in the hope of saving the ship. The petition will try to persuade state lawmakers to act on behalf of the ship.

The goal of a permanent dry dock solution could cost more than \$50 million. The effort to buoy the battleship welcomes supporters at comeandsaveit.com.



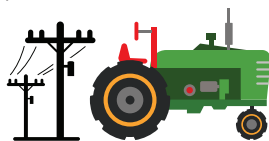
◀ LOOKING BACK AT ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY THIS MONTH



FROM THE SPREAD OF ELECTRICITY thanks to co-ops to the dawn of the fracking industry, harnessing and consuming electricity and energy have hit many milestones since 1944, the year Texas Co-op Power debuted.

1940s

1944 The Pace Act extends the mission of the federal Rural Electrification Administration indefinitely beyond its original 1946 expiration date.



1946 More than 50 percent of U.S. farms are electrified.

1948 WBAP in Fort Worth becomes the first TV station in Texas.

1950s

1951 Willie Wiredhand, composed of a lamp’s socket head, wire arms, two-pronged plug legs and a lineworker’s insulated gloves, is adopted as the official electric cooperative mascot.

1951 The first commercial color TV broadcast takes place.

1954 Bell Labs demonstrates the first practical silicon solar cell, powering a radio transmitter and toy Ferris wheel with energy from the sun.

1960s

1964 Sony develops the first VCR for home use.

1965 The Great Northeast Blackout plunges all of New York, portions of seven neighboring states and parts of eastern Canada into darkness for up to 12 hours.

1969 Beginnings of the internet.

1969 The first automated teller machine in the U.S., devised by Dallas engineer Donald Wetzel, is installed on Long Island.

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

A Butterfly's Touch

KATY HAMNER was more nervous leaving the hospital with her 10-year-old daughter, Avery Graves, than when she took her home as a newborn. A simple visit to their family doctor, which revealed Graves had Type 1 diabetes, had turned into days in the intensive care unit.

“We had nobody when she was first diagnosed—nobody to turn to,” Hamner said.

Things didn't get much better when they got home. Graves had a hard time coping with a new lifestyle that included checking her blood sugar levels multiple times a day—a painful process.

So Hamner and Graves, now 12, members of Medina Electric Cooperative, started the Painless Butterfly Project, which funds painless lancing devices for children with Type 1 diabetes. They've funded and distributed 25 of the devices in the Hondo area, west of San Antonio, forming a community along the way.

“It's been really good for her,” Hamner said. “When she starts getting ... kind of upset about things, we'll have a kid or doctor that calls us, and I'll be like, ‘Time to go.’ And it kind of brings her back: ‘OK, I'm not the only one.’”

INFO ▶ thepainlessbutterflyproject.org

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE recognizes co-op members who improve their community's quality of life. Nominate someone at TexasCoopPower.com.



LIFESTYLES

Here Comes the Sun

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month—a good time to think about the dangers of exposure to the sun and ways to lower your skin cancer risk.

About 90 percent of nonmelanoma skin cancers and 85 percent of melanoma cases are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

More than 5.4 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were treated in more than 3.3 million people in the U.S. in 2012, the most recent year statistics were available, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation.

More people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year in the U.S. than all other cancers combined.

The best way to defend against the sun's harmful UV rays is to shield your skin with clothing, sunscreen and shade.

LOOKING BACK AT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEXT MONTH ▶

1970s

1976 The Apple I computer is introduced.

1977 The U.S. Department of Energy is formed.

1979 The Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurs.



1980s

1980 The first U.S. wind farm opens—in New Hampshire.

1984 A power plant using tidal waves opens in Canada, the first of its kind in North America.

1986 IBM unveils the PC Convertible, the first laptop computer.

1988 South Texas Project Electric Generating Station near Matagorda becomes Texas' first nuclear power plant.

1990s



1996 The first modern electric car, General Motors' EV1, rolls off the production line.

1999 Deregulation of the electric industry takes effect in parts of the state.

2000s

2008 Hydraulic fracturing begins in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas.



2017 Eighteen percent of Texas' energy is generated from wind and solar power, with wind making up the majority of the state's total renewable power generation.

THIS LITTLE PIGGY

BY CHRIS BURROWS | PHOTOS BY ERIC W. POHL



When pet potbellies **outgrow expectations**, rescuers step in

The stories always seem to start the same: with a precious photo and a short conversation. Melanie Bolling's pet pig story began exactly that way.

"I saw a cute little piglet on Facebook, and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I need one,' "

she said of when she and her husband, Stephen, added weeks-old Pearl, a miniature potbellied pig, to their family in 2015. "It just kind of snowballed from there."

Soon Bolling found an online community of Metroplex-area pet pig parents, many of whom were looking for new homes for their animals. Since the Bollings live on 10 acres in Wills Point, east of Dallas, she felt compelled to help. She took in three pigs in 2016 and another 30 in 2017. Then 90 in 2018.

That's when Bolling realized most of the stories end the same way. Miniature pigs only start out that way, often outgrowing their owners' lifestyles and expectations—sent instead to the wilds of the internet or worse. Miniature pigs, so named because they're smaller than farm pigs, which can weigh up to 500–800 pounds, comprise more than a dozen breeds and can reach 200 pounds or more.

Experts estimate 90 percent of mini pig owners end up finding new homes for their pigs in their first two years. In response, dozens of rescues have cropped up across the state.

The Bollings started one of them. My Pig Filled Life, powered by Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, is home to more than 130 pigs across three barns. It's a big commitment that's only getting bigger.

"I could take in a hundred [pigs] today and not make a dent in the amount of calls," Bolling said.

THE PROBLEM

Mitsy Wempe will be the first to tell you that she and her husband, Jason, made a mistake.

The two animal lovers were looking to share their 10-acre plot in Gilmer when they came across miniature pigs for sale in 2014.

"I saw the piglets, and I'm like 'Oh my gosh.' They were so stinkin' adorable," Wempe said. "As soon as my eyes laid upon



them, I literally was hooked to the pigs."

They brought home Abigail first. Then many other pigs followed when friends and friends of friends realized the Wempes had space and were "the pig people," she said. "So then it turned into, 'Hey, I know somebody who has a pig and doesn't want it anymore, do you want it?'"

Soon the Wempes had their first male pig. That's when they slipped.

"We thought it would be interesting—fun, cool—to bring in an unneutered male and let him get my smallest pig pregnant because, of course, we were so ignorant," Wempe said. "Because, you know, if you mate it with a small pig, you'll have small pigs, right? Of course, that's not how it works."

Instead, unbeknownst to the Wempes, Magnus bred with four of their pigs, which led to 22 piglets in 30 days. He was neutered the next weekend, and the couple founded Oinkin' Oasis, a sanctuary served by Upshur Rural EC that houses more than 90 pigs, which will live out their days there.

The Wempes weren't the first to experiment with breeding, but they're among the few to decline the easy money it can bring in. "It really opened our eyes to—we are the problem,"

Wempe said. "That's when we decided we were going to rescue."

Since the 1980s, when Canadian farmer Keith Connell brought 19 straight-tailed potbellied pigs to the U.S. from Europe, untold thousands of breeders have taken a less noble path than the Wempes, breeding miniature pigs at runaway rates. Celebrities fueled a pet pig craze in the 2000s, when Tori Spelling, Denise Richards and Paris Hilton had reality TV shows that included leashed potbellies. The animals can fetch thousands of dollars each—prices that can be inflated with false descriptors, such as "teacup" and "micro."

"I try to remind people that it is very uncommon for a healthy pig to weigh less than 80 pounds as an adult," wrote Dr. Evelyn MacKay, a veterinary resident at Texas A&M University, in an email. "Although we have all seen pictures of cute, tiny pigs on the internet, the average pet pig is usually over 100 pounds."

Over many generations, dogs have been bred to take on a range of looks and sizes. Unscrupulous miniature pig breeders have claimed similar progress over mere decades.

"They sell this micro teacup lie," Bolling said.

Some unscrupulous breeders are worse, said Dan Illescas,

Opposite: Melanie Bolling watches Rusty, one of the rescued potbellied pigs at My Pig Filled Life in Wills Point.



Mitsy Wempe interacts with P.J., one of the rescued pigs at Oinkin' Oasis in Gilmer, which she operates with her husband, Jason.

who co-founded Central Texas Pig Rescue, a member of Bluebonnet EC, in Bastrop in 2016. Some breed pigs that aren't fully

grown—to give the illusion of tiny mothers—and even advise owners to underfeed pigs to keep them small, he said. Buyers who succumb to these tactics have few options.

“If I told you to only feed it a tablespoon of food a day, and you did that and it died—it’s on you,” Illescas said. “You either feed the pig and it gets bigger than you wanted, or you don’t feed the pig and it dies.”

IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS

It was Pearl’s cute features that got Bolling’s attention, but it was her personality that forged a strong bond between them.

“When people reach out, I tell them my greatest need is always belly rubbers,” Bolling said. “These animals are super social, and physical contact and connection is what they crave most.”

According to findings published in the *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*, pigs live in complex social communities. They are adept at solving mazes and other tests, have excellent long-term memories, feel a range of emotions and respond to one

another’s emotional states. Some experts claim pigs can outwit dogs, but don’t confuse their behavior.

As animals that live their life as prey, not predators, “pigs have different drives than dogs do,” Illescas said. “I have to tell people five times that pigs aren’t dogs. ... I explain it: ‘I know you know that pigs aren’t dogs, but what you don’t know is that your brain is telling you to look for dog behavior.’”

Owners frustrated by their pigs often turn to the internet, where misinformation abounds.

“When you have this big pig, but you have this information

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to find ways to help the pig rescues featured here.



Experts estimate **90 percent** of mini pig owners end up finding new homes for their pigs in their first two years.

Left: Rescued pigs love the attention and affection they get from Jason Wempe at Oinkin' Oasis. Below: Pigs move through the grounds at Oinkin' Oasis.

much longer. They're sensitive to the weather because they can't sweat and have hair, not fur. They require special attention. That's why Bolling, who specializes in rehoming pigs, requires a rigorous process for prospective adopters.

"We have a great facility here, so if [a pig is] leaving here—and they may have been rehomed one, two, 10 times before—I need to know that it's a permanent place where they're going," she said. "I try to tell people, 'Think about the life you would have with a 3-year-old, and if you can't accommodate that life for 20 years, then don't take a pig.'"



WORTH THE WORK

A pig can change a person. Wempe stopped eating meat when pigs came into her life. A chance sighting of Wayland, one of her rescued farm pigs, through a kitchen window struck something in her.

"I literally was standing there frying up some bacon, and I just saw him and it killed me," she said. "We used to hunt. I got a rifle for Christmas one year. We were on a deer lease. We were those people."

Illescas stopped eating meat, too, and has forged a relationship with the vegan community in Austin, which helps with fundraising. CTPR spent more than \$85,000 on operations in 2017, Illescas said, before its population more than doubled. CTPR, which adopts out pigs in good health, focuses on pigs in greatest need—those with health issues that may have suffered from abuse or neglect. Veterinary students at Texas A&M benefit from caring for CTPR's pigs, which aren't always a focus of vet curricula.

"All veterinary students receive education on swine health, diseases and management practices, though this is a smaller part of the curriculum compared to dogs, cats, horses and cows," wrote MacKay, who helps care for CTPR pigs. "The focus has traditionally been on production-type swine medicine."

Mini pigs are a big commitment, a message Bolling, Illescas and Wempe hope to spread among veterinarians and the public. They're not quitting on their pigs.

"I'm a big believer in the Lord, and I felt like this was the place he was calling me to be, and it's opened so many doors," Bolling said.

Their stories won't end like the rest.

Chris Burrows is a TEC senior communications specialist.

you found on the internet that says pigs don't get big, you get kind of confused because you're not really sure what you're dealing with," Illescas said. "The truth is really mystified."

CTPR, which houses more than 250 pigs, fights misinformation with likes, shares and adorable photos. The rescue's Facebook and Instagram accounts count more than 35,000 followers, who are exposed to the realities of pet pigs. Still, it's an uphill fight, Illescas said.

"The people who have the information—us, other rescues, people who have pigs and learned the hard way—we have enough to do," he said.

Pet pig owners who do manage to find harmony at home know it's a lifestyle. Pigs can't be boarded like dogs, and they can live

TOM LEA'S WAR



Battlefield paintings by El Paso artist express the tragedy and pathos of World War II

Tom Lea—noted muralist, author and war correspondent—grew up in El Paso, spending his childhood in the shadow of the Mexican Revolution during the second decade of the 20th century. Lea, son of a prominent lawyer who served two years as El Paso mayor, enjoyed the safety of an affluent household despite the dangers posed by the revolution's proximity. Decades later, he would witness a battlefront once again and provide Americans with a realistic and compassionate view of World War II as a war correspondent and illustrator for *Life* magazine.

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

Lea's chronicle of the tragedies and victories of the war created perhaps his most compelling artworks. The images he produced on the battlefield captured the heartfelt emotions of conflict in real time and under duress.

"Tom Lea started the artist-correspondent program for *Life* magazine as an 'embed,' recording real battles, not just paintings from news reports," explains Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute in El Paso, in an email. "It remained the most vivid part of his life and turned him from painting to writing. After WWII, Tom knew he needed words, not only paint, to express mankind's living and dying."

As *Life* described to readers in 1941, Lea was one of several artists whom the magazine commissioned to create "America's first gallery of defense art." The assignment was deemed a success, and soon *Life* had turned Lea into a special kind of war correspondent, traveling to the North Atlantic and South Pacific. He made sketches of what he saw. In one instance, after the ship on which he had been embedded was sunk, along with the photographic files on



Top: Tom Lea as he heads to war. Above: *Fighting Hornet* depicts the height of the Battle of Santa Cruz. Opposite: *That 2,000 Yard Stare* has become an iconic image of the effects of war on the human psyche.



John Lee
1965



Going In shows a Marine during the landing on Peleliu in 1944.

board, Lea's drawings became the only record of the engagement. "In the fall of 1941," Lea wrote, "I went to sea aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer on duty in the submarine-haunted North Atlantic, as an Accredited War Artist-Correspondent of *Life Magazine*. ... I became, for deeply felt reasons, an eye-witness reporter, in drawings and paintings, of men and their machines waging a war worldwide."

Lea's work from this period, 82 pieces in all, portrays the war at its worst and Lea's illustrative skills at their best. Unsparring in its depiction of the true human cost of battle, it expresses an understanding of tragedy and pathos that required an unflinching eye, never turning away until an image was completed.

In 2008, Texas A&M University Press published a collection of Lea's remarkable sketches and powerful paintings and his firsthand written accounts of his assignments for *Life*. Margo wrote the foreword for the book.

A collection of his work is archived at the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and it tours periodically, including an exhibition at Fredericksburg's National Museum of the Pacific War.

"Although I had seen pictures of Tom Lea's World War II work several times, I was stunned when I viewed the originals at the National Museum of the Pacific War exhibition," says retired Marine Corps Gen. Michael William Hagee, president and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, which supports the museum. "Tom had a unique ability to bring the horror of war and the sacrifice and dedication of those who served and fought to his art. He obviously understood the fear, bravery, compassion and camaraderie of individuals on the battlefield. Having served in several conflicts, I have seen no artist that captures better the emotions

one experiences on the faces of his subjects."

Lea's creative training began at 18, with two years of formal instruction at the Art Institute of Chicago followed by a five-year apprenticeship with Chicago muralist John Norton and a period in Italy studying Renaissance frescoes. He returned to El Paso in his late 20s, an accomplished professional with a number of major works to his name.

"A singular aspect of Lea, sometimes overlooked, is the sheer versatility of his creative talents," says Victoria Ramirez, director of the El Paso Museum of Art. "Along with his prodigious output as a visual artist, he wrote novels, some of which are considered classics of Southwest literature. And in the realm of art, he was a master draftsman, illustrator and artist-reporter during World War II in addition to his substantial work in easel painting and murals."

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see more paintings and learn about the Tom Lea Trail.

Lea's considerable achievements made the founding of his namesake institute a necessity as much as an opportunity. The Tom Lea Institute, founded in 2009, is dedicated to documenting, exhibiting and sharing his works through a digital library, exhibitions and publications. The institute partners with academic foundations statewide that archive Lea's work, including the El Paso Museum of Art, the University of Texas at El Paso and the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The institute was also a key component to realizing its director's personal vision.

"In founding the Tom Lea Institute," Margo explains, "I've found joy in sharing a person and a place that I love." Texans who love history and art will no doubt appreciate her efforts.

Photographer, author and artist **E. Dan Klepper** lives in Marathon.



3DAYBLINDS®
YOU'LL LOVE THE TREATMENT

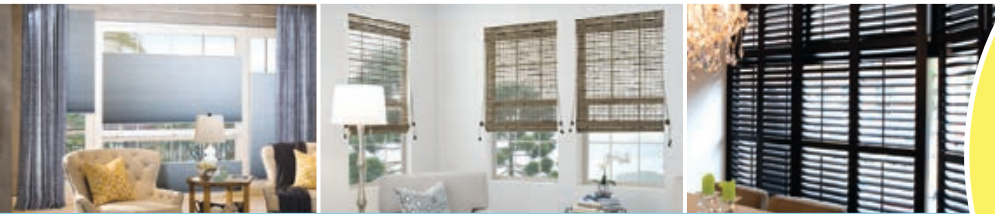
CUSTOM BLINDS, SHADES,
SHUTTERS & DRAPERY



Celebrate with SAVINGS!



Ask About The Benefits Of Layering With Drapery



HURRY!
Limited Time Offer!

BUY 1 GET 1
50%*
OFF

on Custom Blinds,
Shades & Drapery

Call To Schedule Your **FREE**
In-Home Design Consultation

1-855-454-3942

or visit www.3DayOffer393.com



WE DESIGN, WE MEASURE, WE INSTALL, YOU RELAX!®

*This offer must be presented at the time of purchase. Offer valid on 3 Day Blinds brand products only. Buy 1 window covering and receive the 2nd one of equal or lesser value at 50% off! Offer excludes Shutters, Special Orders, installation, sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid on previous purchases or with any other offer or discount. Offer Code BGXB. Offer Expires 7/31/19. 3 Day Blinds LLC has the following licenses: AZ ROC 321056, CA #1005986, CT HIC.0644950, NJ #13VH09390200, OR #209181, PA #PA107656, WA #3DAYBDB842KS, Nassau County, NY Home Improvement License H01073101, Rockland County, NY #H-12401-34-00-00. © 2019 3 Day Blinds LLC.



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 – Lubbock, 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 "TXS8", 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.

TESTIMONIAL

I AM 83 YEARS OLD AND HAVE ARTHRITIS IN EVERY JOINT IN MY BODY - ESPECIALLY MY FEET - WHICH ACHE AND CRAMP DURING THE NIGHT - SERIOUSLY DISTURBING MY SLEEP. YOUR AMISH ARTHRITIS CREAM (SMITH'S) (4OZ JAR) IS THE ONLY PRODUCT THAT HAS PROVIDED ME WITH ABSOLUTE RELIEF FROM THE PAIN

PLEASE TELL ME WHERE I CAN PURCHASE IT ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP ME OBTAIN THIS WONDERFUL CREAM WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Sincerely, *Yancy S.*
CONCORD, NH



"CRAFTED WITH CARE"
FOR DEEP PENETRATING RELIEF FOR PAINFUL MUSCLES AND JOINTS

NATURAL INGREDIENTS



Size: 4.5 oz / 128 grs
Regular Price ~~\$23.99~~

\$19.99
SPECIAL DISCOUNT

Also available at Focker Barrel
OLD COUNTRY STORE

TO ORDER BY MAIL

SMITH AMISH:
PO Box 606, Fairfield, FL 32634

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Check or money order enclosed (Make payable to Smith Amish)

Charge my credit / debit card



Account #

BY PHONE

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM ET

866-419-3567
www.MyZeroPain.com

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Smith Amish Arthritis Cream - 4 oz (Special Discount per unit \$19.99)		\$19.99	
*LIMIT 5 at this special price (Free S&H over \$45)		S&H	\$3.95
		TOTAL	

Exp. Date
m m y y Signature _____



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

**Restoring and Preserving
Our History**

*The Friends of Gillespie County
Country Schools*

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

A Driving Tour map and an Open House schedule are available on our website.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG

All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Member of Country School Association of America.

BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS

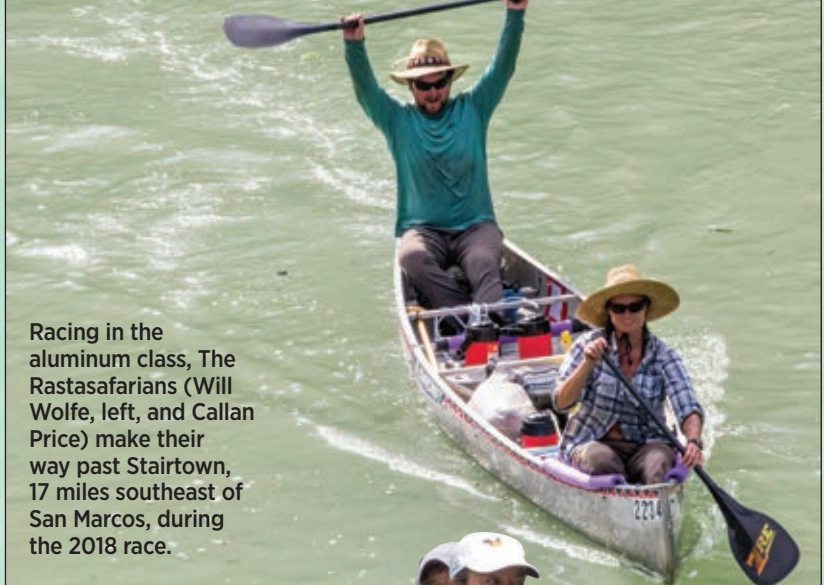
100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE
LIFETIME WARRANTY
100% GUARANTEED

WE INSTALL ACROSS TEXAS!

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.

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com



Racing in the aluminum class, The Rastasafarians (Will Wolfe, left, and Callan Price) make their way past Stairtown, 17 miles southeast of San Marcos, during the 2018 race.



Team Boogie Again (Veronica Sosa, in front, and John Bugge) approaches the Staples dam, about 10 miles southeast of San Marcos.



As one of world's toughest canoe races, Texas Water Safari starts in San Marcos and annually attracts hundreds of paddlers in a grueling, daring dash to the Gulf Coast

HARD CANOEING

By Ed Crowell
Photos by Jay Godwin

The small Caldwell County river town of Martindale gears up every spring for what's billed as "The World's Toughest Canoe Race." Boats can be seen on sawhorses in yards and garages, strapped onto trucks and trailers, and going down the San Marcos River on practice runs.

The race is why Jay and Kristin Daniel moved their family from Katy to Martindale in 2017. They wanted to be closer to the action they love. Both are veterans



Kristin and Jay Daniel, seen in 2018, moved to their home in Martindale the year before to be closer to the Texas Water Safari, a 260-mile paddling race from San Marcos to the Gulf of Mexico. Jay has raced 24 times, including with the overall winning team in 2017.

of the Texas Water Safari, a grueling 260-mile paddle odyssey from San Marcos to the Gulf of Mexico. About the first 60 miles of the race run through the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative service area. The Daniels, members of Bluebonnet, launch their boats for practice runs on the San Marcos River just behind their

house. As they prepared for the safari last year, the front entrance of their house all but screamed, "Racers at work!" Two skinny, six-seat boats stretched across sawhorses near the carport. One was Jay's winning boat from 2017. The other was the boat he would use in the 2018 race with a different set of team-



Spring Lake in San Marcos, above, is filled with boats before the 2018 race begins. At right, the Miller Creek Racing Team jumps into the water after successfully passing its boat down the spillway of the Zedler Mill dam in Luling.

CORE NG

mates. Hydration supplies, water pumps, tools, lights and other gear laid in wait nearby.

Kristin, who competed in the 2010 safari with Jay in a tandem boat, would serve as one of two team captains. The captains for each boat scurry by road to checkpoints along the race route on the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers to toss racers supplies of water, ice and food.

Inside the Daniels' house, the dining room table held a 3-foot-tall silver Texas Water Safari trophy cup engraved with the names of the overall winning team members for each year the race has been run. Jay was taking his turn with the trophy that rotated among members of the 2017 team. The trophy's base has been expanded over the years to hold all the winning

Continued on next page





A crowd of race fans gathered in Martindale to see boats navigate rapids, going over or under a low-water bridge — depending on river levels — and passing near several roads.



Continued from previous page

names since the safari began in 1963. The motivation for racers is purely for the thrill of the chase, because the safari has no cash prizes.

This year's race, the 56th Texas Water Safari, is scheduled for June 8. The paddling-only marathon begins in San Marcos at the Meadows Center on Spring Lake, near the headwaters of the San Marcos River. Martindale, 7 miles downstream, is a popular viewing area with the racers turning through rapids, going over or under a low-water bridge — depending on river levels — and passing near several roads.

Jay was still uncertain at the beginning of April whether he would be racing in his 25th safari this year. He has finished 18 of them, a typical ratio for an exhausting race that claims many “DNFs” (did not finish). Of the 134 teams that started in the 2018 race, 51 were unable to make the Gulf Coast finish line at the fishing village of Seadrift on San Antonio Bay by the official cutoff time of 100 hours — four days and four hours.

Physical exhaustion from day-and-night paddling takes the biggest toll, compounded by laborious and slippery portages around dams and logjams. Spiders and mosquitoes are major annoyances, as is avoiding alligators near the coast.

Jay became a DNF in 2011. While he and a partner were carrying their two-person boat around the Gonzales dam, Jay fell on the concrete slab beside the dam. “I woke up with a concussion, or so they told me,” Jay said. “It makes me hurt just thinking about the sternum rub they did

2019 Texas Water Safari

WHO: 134 boats in 2018; likely similar in 2019

WHEN: Begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 8; entrants must check in with their boats by 8 a.m.

WHERE: Starts at Spring Lake, 201 San Marcos Springs Drive, San Marcos

ENDS: First finishers in the 260-mile race will arrive Sunday night at Seadrift on San Antonio Bay; racers have 100 hours to be considered finishers

REGISTRATION: Online only at texaswatersafari.org. Early registration fee \$200/person by May 5 or \$250 by May 24. Entrants must be 18 years old for solo racing or 13 if in boat with adult. Boats can only be people-powered.

FOR SPECTATORS: Spectators can watch from shore prior to start. Access is limited at start but plentiful along the San Marcos River to Interstate 35. Other locations for viewing include Martindale, Staples, Fentress and Luling on the San Marcos River. Also Gonzales, Cuero and Victoria on the Guadalupe River.

INFORMATION: texaswatersafari.org

on me with their knuckles to make sure I didn't lose consciousness again.”

Despite the arduous nature of the competition, there has been only one fatality in the race's history. In 2012, a solo racer who was not a veteran paddler failed to take in adequate electrolytes and collapsed south of Gonzales. He was airlifted to a hospital but died the next day.

Other paddling races around the world also feature long distances and challenging, unpredictable water conditions. It is difficult to compare exact degrees of toughness in Texas with races on the Missouri and Yukon rivers and in Australia, Africa, Canada and South America.

Jay's advice to any would-be competitors of the Texas Water Safari: Train a lot and learn the river.

As a veteran, his work is a bit more complex. His role in six-person boats for the 2017 and 2018 races was crucial: “I'm the driver,” he said. “When we need to turn the boat, I'm in control.” From the rear seat,





The members of team ‘Can’t Paddle No More,’ Jeff Feguson and Tom Hallberg, make their way through Martindale. Below, Veronica Sosa takes a soak below the Staples dam.

using his paddle and the boat’s rudder, he guides the craft through rapids, rocks and logjams on the twisting route.

In last year’s race, his team came in fourth overall after 46 hours, 24 minutes, about 10 hours behind the winning boat. He had predicted the 44-foot-long boat he outfitted from a carbon and Kevlar fiber hull would place third or fourth. All the big boats are customized by the racing teams and have no size limits. They are just wide enough for the paddlers to sit atop hard, narrow seats without backs.

Jay, 55, knows the competition well after so many years paddling with various teams in different sizes of boats. And he knows what to expect from the two Texas rivers, where race-week flows can vary widely from flood-to-drought levels.



The 2018 safari “was the first time in a few years that we had relatively low water flow, so that made a difference,” he said after the race. “It caught some people by surprise. But for us the race was straightforward. There wasn’t a lot of drama.”

The course record of 29 hours, 46 minutes, was set in 1997 by a six-person boat in near flood-stage conditions. Jay said organizers today would not hold the race in such high water because of liability concerns.

The last six miles of the race can be the most challenging. That’s where the Guadalupe River ends at San Antonio Bay and paddlers must cross the open water at the top of the bay to reach Seadrift. Wind and wave conditions can vary widely. Sometimes, if the bay waters are too rough, the racers get out of their boats to “push-swim” to the finish line at the Seadrift seawall.

“We did have a pretty long swim in the bay at the end, but it wasn’t the worst swim there or the best one,” Jay said of the 2018 finish. “We dropped from third to fourth place. It was a little bit choppy, a little cross-ways to the waves and we were a lot tired by then.”

No serious mishaps occurred for his boat full of experienced racers, but Jay said a fish did catch them by surprise at night: “One of our guys had a light hanging from his neck and a gar jumped at him and he got scratched a little.”

There’s no sleep time in the highly competitive and speedy six-person boats. “I fight through sleep, but about four in the morning is tough. At sunrise, I wake up mentally,” he said.

Jay grew up in San Antonio, paddled boats as a Boy Scout and has worked around the state as a programs specialist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. His boating expertise was honed when he worked for a canoe livery service in Martindale before his first safari in 1985. “I got hooked being around all these cool toys on the river,” he said.

With the 2018 team, there was a “lot of fun in the boat, cutting up with jokes and silliness,” he said. “It can get pretty sour out there when it’s hot and miserable and you’re paddling all the time. So if you can keep your spirits up, that is a long way toward success.”

The Miller Creek Racing Team name

The Miller Creek Racing Team checklist

In the 2018 race, team captains Kristin Daniel and Tom Vanderveer made 16 handoffs of drink and food supplies to the six men in the canoe to keep them hydrated and fed for an estimated racing time of 40 to 50 hours:

- Gallons of water: 46
- Pounds of ice: 700
- Jugs filled with water and electrolyte mix: 92
- Spiz bottles (food replacement liquid): 90
- Ice packs to cool necks and shoulders: 56
- Topo Chico and other bottled waters: 42
- Other sodas and drinks: 20
- Individual food packets: watermelon, mixed fruit, avocado, bacon, sandwiches (peanut butter and jelly, and ham and cheese) and candy bars (Snickers and Payday)

painted on their black boat was a bit of humor as well. Numerous small tributaries feed the rivers. When someone kept asking their names, the teammates said they were all called Miller Creek.

The most unusual phenomenon for Jay in 2018 was the strength of a solo racer, Andrew McEwan, an experienced white-water kayaker from Washington, D.C., who came in fifth overall just 45 minutes behind Jay’s six-person boat.

“He shot out at the beginning of the race like a cannon. We were dumbfounded in our boat. He had over an hour lead over us in Gonzales. We caught up with him after that, but he was amazing for a guy who had never been down the course before. He had never raced that far before, he told me later.”

Kristin Daniel has been involved in Jay’s teams as support crew since they started dating in 1996. In 2010, when they paddled the race together, they finished 32nd overall.

She’s glad she raced that one time with her husband but said, “I’m really not a paddler. What comes second nature

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

to Jay, making split-second decisions, doesn't apply to me. Instead, I've enjoyed being a team captain and holding seminars to teach others how to do that."

Last year she served as a team captain along with Tom Vandever, the son of a racer in Jay's boat.

"They were waiting for us every time we got to a checkpoint with everything we needed," Jay said. "I can't hardly imagine what it would be like to get there and not have them there."

Checkpoints serve a dual purpose. Volunteer officials wait there to record times and keep track of racers who otherwise are mostly out of sight on the rivers. Team captains drive to the checkpoints with the essentials for racers' hydration and energy. If the boats carried everything for two to four days and nights of paddling, that extra weight would slow down the paddling pace and delay finish times.

Kristin and Tom filled their cars with supplies and mapped out the 11 official checkpoints and a few other spots where they could reach Jay's boat during last year's race. In some places they had to scramble down steep riverbanks or trudge through heavily wooded areas to wade into the current.

Standing waist deep in the San Marcos River below the Zedler Mill dam in Luling, Kristin and Tom waited for a long 10 minutes, clutching water jugs and plastic bags full of food and ice. The current was a tricky swirl as they maintained



The Miller Creek Racing Team passes its long boat down the Staples Dam, upper left. Above, Heather Harrison, left, and Cecili Bugge maneuver their boat under another boat as they launch into Spring Lake at the start of the race. Upper right, the Cowboys, with John DuPont in front, launch their boat into Spring Lake. Right, Carley Morris and Kathy Hurst, reflected in sunglasses, wait for another team to pass under a bridge near Stairtown.

their footing while looking for Jay's team to approach the top of the dam. Kristin was relieved when the crew members came into sight and hopped out on a concrete apron to lower their boat down a rocky spillway.

The paddlers got in again and aimed for the captains. The bags of supplies were heaved into the boat. In a minute or two, the crew was back to racing.

"Because we're handing off six water jugs,

food bags and electrolyte mix bottles for each racer, it takes two captains at each supply point to do it quickly. We have a basic schedule of when they expect to be at each checkpoint, but some of it is random depending on conditions," Kristin said.

Traffic jams from spectators in vehicles on roads along the San Marcos River, particularly near viewing points from Martindale to Luling, can cause problems for the



Coming in September: Texas Junior Water Safari

For paddlers at least 13 years old (with an adult racer in the boat) or 18-year-olds as solo paddlers, there is a 16-mile sprint version of the water safari race scheduled for Sept. 21, 2019. The younger competitors begin in San Marcos City Park and end at the FM 1977 bridge in Staples. Entrants can only register at 8 a.m. on the day of the race, at the starting location.



CAPITAL CREDITS

Cha-ching! Excess revenue returned to members

Most Bluebonnet members will see a credit on their bill this month. It's called "capital credits," one of the benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative.

The co-op shares with its members money it collects above what is required to run the business. The amount that members receive depends on how much electricity they used in the previous years and how long they have been Bluebonnet members.

Questions? Contact a member service representative at memberservices@bluebonnet.coop or 800-842-7708.



resupply team. "And there's an occasional accident. I like having a backup with another captain in a different vehicle," Kristin said.

Crowds of viewers turn out to watch the race through San Marcos and at accessible spots downstream to Luling, but below there, the distances and times between boats widen and it's harder to catch a view of many boats before nightfall.

Jay and Kristin's 17-year-old daughter hopes to join the family sport someday. Kassy, a student at San Marcos High School, watched last year's race among spectators at Cottonseed Rapids, the site

of a long-gone cotton mill in Martindale. She cheered as her father and crew plunged through water pouring over and around boulders.

She said it's a race her high school friends know little about. But for her it's a natural, especially since the family moved to Martindale.

Now, living on the river, she can easily put in a boat to test the flow and practice her paddling skills. When her race day arrives, Kassy will find out if she's got what her father said is his key to enduring the race — "a whole long streak of stubborn." ■

Accurate contact information helps us restore power

Whether it's a cell phone or land line, make sure that we have the correct phone number that is tied to your account. When you have a power outage and you call from that phone number, it immediately links us to your address in our system. That helps Bluebonnet to more quickly locate your outage and restore power. There are three ways to update your contact information:

ONLINE: Log in at bluebonnet.coop or on our mobile app, go to the Preferences tab, and make changes in the Contact Info section. Then save those changes.

BY PHONE: Call member services at 800-842-7708 anytime between 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BY MAIL: Fill out the form that is part of your billing statement, and mail it back along with your payment.

Bluebonnet is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2019 by visiting some of the cooperative's earliest commercial members. This month we feature one of the many churches that joined the cooperative in 1939. See a complete list with this story at bluebonnet.coop (click Community, then News).



Historical Texas-German church continues to draw members

St. Matthew Lutheran Church exemplifies a traditional Texas-German Lutheran church, with features such as a carved wooden altar with a statue of Christ and narrow stained glass windows. *Sarah Beal photos*



By Clayton Stromberger

As you head into gently rolling ranch and farm land northeast of Brenham, just after you turn onto FM 50, you'll notice a sign on the right in a big patch of grass that four Lutheran churches welcome you.

The four distinctive white-steepled churches dot the landscape of this undulating stretch of Washington County countryside. They stand as ongoing places of worship and as historic sites marking the centers of small — and now mostly vanished — rural communities where German immigrants gathered to farm and carve out a rugged new life in the late 1800s: St. John in Prairie Hill, Immanuel in Wiedeville, Bethlehem in what was known as William Penn and, perched in the middle of a triangle made by the other three, St. Matthew on the rise of land known as Sandy Hill.

St. Matthew is one of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's oldest members. Located on

FM 2621 about halfway between Brenham and Independence, the church once had a family grocery store next door and a little schoolhouse across the road.

Now nature has almost overgrown the old store, and the school is long gone, made obsolete in the early 1950s when school buses began taking children to Brenham.

It's a peaceful spot with a view of surrounding hills and ranch land. The old cemetery lies behind the white clapboard sanctuary, and a Bluebonnet substation rises behind the dilapidated store.

Every Sunday, dozens of members file into the sanctuary, which — like the simply designed but handsome exterior — has

many of the elements of traditional Texas-German Lutheran churches. The carved wooden altar, featuring a large statue of Christ, resembles the ornate front of a European cathedral.

"I grew up in an old German Lutheran church in Indiana myself, and it was a bigger church, with a much bigger altar, but it was the same design," Pastor Kris Brower said.

Narrow stained glass windows bathe the arched ceilings in a gentle natural light, while a warm glow comes from an original and ornate gold-colored chandelier with glass globes that hangs over the center aisle. And of course there is an organ — a newer all-electric one since the older half-electric one was fried a few years back when lightning hit the steeple. There is also a marble baptismal font (a piece of furniture that holds water used in baptisms) and a raised wooden pulpit off to one side, perched slightly above the congregation like the prow of an old sailing ship.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH



BLUEBONNET MEMBER SINCE 1939

Q&A

with *Pastor Kris Brower*

Q In a recent cold and windy morning, we dropped in on St. Matthew to visit with Brower during his weekly office hours and get a glimpse back in time. Brower came to the congregation from the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 2012 as a newly ordained pastor after leaving a business career to follow a calling to the ministry.

Tell us about the history of this beautiful building.



The original sanctuary was built in 1891 a little further down the hill, and it was blown down by a big storm in August of 1915. The congregation decided to rebuild, and this one

was dedicated in December of 1915 — so it only took them three months to build it. The only thing they were able to salvage from the wreckage was the bell and the baptismal font, and we still use both of those. The building here is pretty much as it was then. The old church had two of these big oil lamp chandeliers; I don't know where the other one got off to, but we still have one. Now it's electric. So it was pretty poorly lit in those days, and you probably wanted to wear heavy clothes



in the wintertime. They didn't have air conditioning in this building until the '90s, I think, so they used to be able to open these stained-glass windows from the top down or bottom up. We've got them sealed now to keep the wind and bugs out.

You must get a lot of requests from folks who want to get married here.

Our congregation voted a few years ago not to have weddings for non-members. I did have one couple come in that was married here 50 years prior, and they wanted to renew their vows on their 50th anniversary, so that's what we did. They'd grown up here, and they live in New Jersey now.

How large is the congregation these days?

We're averaging about 55, 57, somewhere in there. It used to be up over a hundred many years ago. But with the general

decline in church membership — too many other distractions in life — it's been down some. We've held steady now for the last 20 years. Our average age is somewhere in the upper forties. When I first came here seven years ago, there were a lot more older people. Probably the bulk of the active members are older; the younger people have a tendency to come and go. When I first came here, people (were) telling me, "This church is dying; we're going to close our doors," and I said, "Well, that isn't necessarily true." We've got a highway out here that's paved, didn't used to be. At one time, the attendance was confined to people who lived in the immediate area because they walked to church or rode a horse. Now we have people who come from 25 to 35 miles away. They tell me it's because we teach the Bible, and they like the friendliness of the people.

You have a remarkable wall of confirmation class photos in the parish hall.

The earliest picture here is from 1899. There are some missing because when the church blew down, some of the photos were destroyed. So I went back and found the names of those who were in the classes before that and posted them here. This is like a family tree. Folks come in here and say, "Well that's my grandpa, and that's my grandma, and that's my mom, and that's my dad!" And of course a lot of these people are buried back in the cemetery here. I have put all these photos on the computer here, so when people see their family members, I can say, "Well, if you like that picture, I can email you a copy of it." ■



ANNUAL MEETING

May 14, 2019

Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Member:

You are invited to the Annual Membership Meeting of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Inc., which will be held on May 14, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. at The Silos on 77, formerly the Sons of Hermann Hall, 1031 CR 223, Giddings, Texas. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. and close at 2:30 p.m.

Four of the 11 seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors are up for election this year. Three of the incumbent candidates — Milton Shaw, District 1, representing Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Hays counties; Ben Flencher, District 5, representing Burleson County; and Ken Mutscher, District 7, representing Washington County — were unopposed and are re-elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws. There are four candidates for the District 3 seat, representing Bastrop County: incumbent Debbi Goertz and contenders Juanita Valarie Neidig, Ron Spencer and Matthew Weilert. Other business that may come before the meeting will also be addressed.

Sincerely yours,

Roderick L. Emanuel
Secretary/Treasurer
Bluebonnet Board of Directors

2019 Annual Meeting Agenda

1:30-2:30 p.m. Registration and Voting

2:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Call to Order — Ben Flencher, Board Chair

Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance — Roderick L. Emanuel,
Board Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman/President's Report — Ben Flencher, Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer's Report — Roderick L. Emanuel, Board Secretary-Treasurer

- Read Notice of Annual Meeting
- Read Affidavit of Proof of Mailing
- Read Certification of Number of Members Receiving Service
- Read Certification of Number of Members in Attendance
- Read 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes (or ask for a motion to waive reading of minutes and ratify Board's approval)

General Manager's Report — Matt Bentke, General Manager/CEO

Unfinished Business — Matt Bentke, General Manager/CEO

New Business — Matt Bentke, General Manager/CEO

Door Prize Drawings

Ballot Canvassing Results — Sarah Newman-Altamirano, General Counsel

Adjourn

2019 ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTION FAQ

Whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, be sure to get your completed proxy voting form to us in time. It must be postmarked no later than May 7, 2019, or hand-delivered to a member service center by **5:30 p.m. May 7**. If you need more information after reading the questions and answers below, call 800-842-7708 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop.

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

Bluebonnet's Annual Meeting is one of the many benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative. The meeting, held each year in May, offers members the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, the general manager and the co-op's executive staff. Members hear a "State of the Co-op" message, elect directors and attend to any business that may come before the membership.

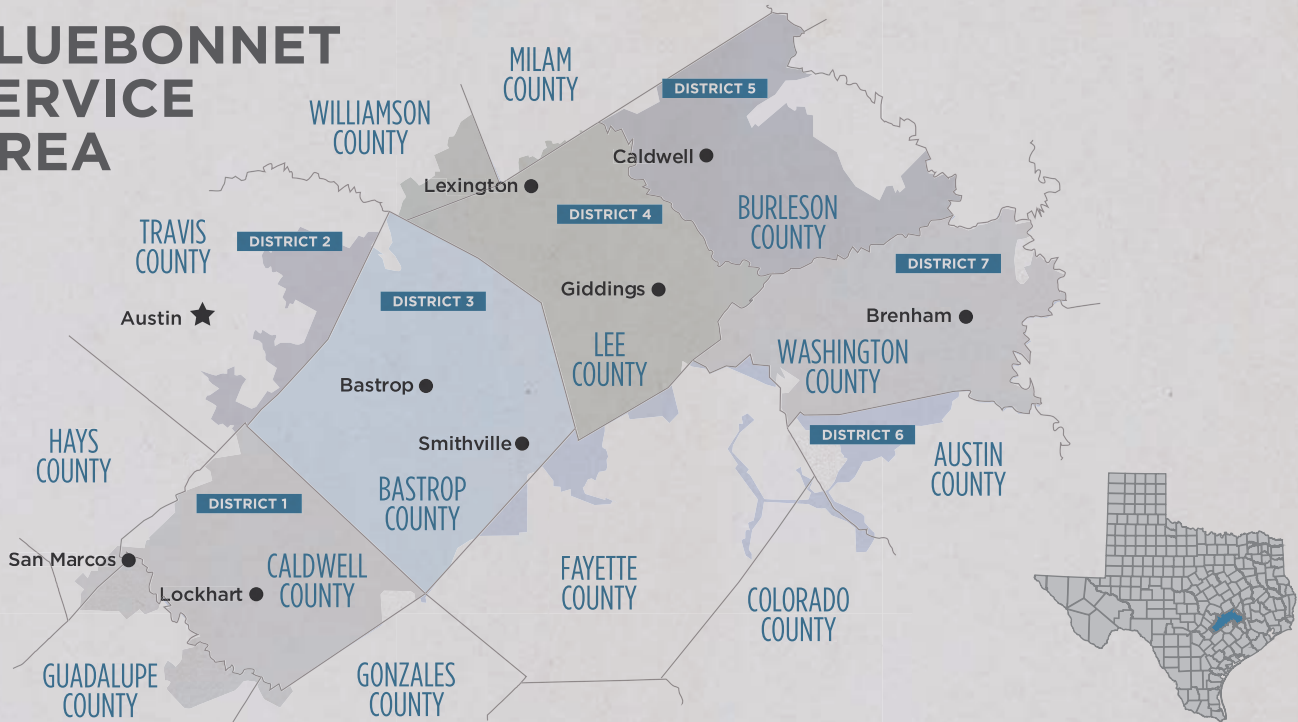
Bluebonnet's service area is divided into seven districts. Can I vote for candidates in all districts or just the district in which I live?

During contested Board elections, co-op members can vote for directors in all districts. The districts in the co-op's service area were drawn along Bluebonnet's service area boundary and county lines. The seven districts are represented by one to three directors based on, among other things, the number of meters in each district.

How many Board of Director seats are up for election?

Four of the 11 seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors are up for election this year. Three of the incumbent candidates — Milton Shaw, District 1, representing Caldwell, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Hays counties; Ben Flencher, District 5, representing Burleson County; and Ken Mutscher, District 7, representing Washington County — were unopposed and are re-elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws. There are four candidates for the District 3 seat, representing Bastrop County: incumbent Debbi Goertz and contenders Juanita Valarie Neidig, Ron Spencer and Matthew Weilert.

BLUEBONNET SERVICE AREA



What are my voting options?

There are four candidates for the co-op's District 3 Board seat. There are currently no additional ballot items to be voted on this year. However, items can be added to the Annual Meeting agenda that would require a vote by members. Those items would have to be added no later than 10 days before the Annual Meeting. Your proxy could be used in that vote, which is why your proxy selection is important.

What is proxy voting, and how does it work?

Proxy voting allows members who cannot attend the Annual Meeting to designate another person to vote in his or her place. On the proxy, members can assign their vote to either Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee or to an individual. Proxies are counted together with those registered at the Annual Meeting to ensure at least 1 percent of Bluebonnet's membership is present in person or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum.

Who serves on Bluebonnet's Proxy Committee?

The Proxy Committee is composed of all Bluebonnet Board members whose terms are not currently up for election. This year's Proxy Committee members are Roderick Emanuel, Byron Balke, Shana Whiteley, Bryan Bracewell,

Russell Jurk and Robert Mikeska.

How do I vote by proxy?

Complete the proxy form and return it by mail or drop it off at any of Bluebonnet's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor. If you misplace the proxy form, stop by a member service center to pick one up or call 800-842-7708 and ask a representative to mail one to you. Proxies must either be hand-delivered to a member service center by 5:30 p.m. May 7, 2019, or mailed to:

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

Mailed proxies must be postmarked by May 7, 2019.

Can this proxy be used again at future Annual Meetings?

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

Can I vote at the Annual Meeting if I sent in a proxy form?

When you register at the meeting, you may revoke your proxy and then vote in person.

What information do I need to bring with me to register at the Annual Meeting?

You will be asked to verbally recite two pieces of information that are on

your account. This account verification process is identical to the one performed any time members would like to transact business on their accounts. You can simply tell the member service representative at the registration desk any two of the following pieces of information about your account: the name(s) listed on the account, your Bluebonnet account number, your birthday, last four digits of your Social Security number, your driver's license number or your mailing address.

Who administers the election?

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

Can I change my address or do other business at the Annual Meeting?

Bluebonnet's member service representatives at the information booth will be able to help members with most of their co-op business and answer any questions they would normally handle at any member service center or through the call center.

2019 NOMINEES FOR BLUEBONNET'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Flencher District 5 (Incumbent)



Flencher, chairman of the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, has been on the electric co-op's Board since 1987. He is an ex-officio member of Bluebonnet's Board committees — Audit & Finance, Employee Services, Energy Services, Legal & Governance, Member Experience and Technology. He grew up in a banking family in Somerville and began his lifelong banking career by rolling coins and filing checks as a young boy at the bank where his father worked. He was officially hired when he was in eighth grade and continued to work at the bank while in college. Today, he is president of that same bank — Citizens State Bank, Somerville — a position he's held since 1981. Under his leadership, the bank has grown to six locations. Flencher graduated from Texas A&M University in 1974 with a degree in finance. He is a lifelong member of the First Lutheran Church in Somerville. He and his wife Betsy, have four sons: Aaron and Cory, who work in the banking industry; Ryan, who works in commercial real estate; and Josh, who owns a dirt contracting company. The Flenchers have five grandchildren, with another due this spring.

Kenneth Mutscher District 7 (Incumbent)



Mutscher, vice chairman of the Bluebonnet Board of Directors, has been on the electric co-op's Board since 1998. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications and Director Gold credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He chairs Bluebonnet's Employee Services Committee and is a member of the Technology Committee. He also serves as an ex-officio member of the Audit & Finance, Energy Services, Legal & Governance and Member Experience committees. Mutscher was an investigator for the state's Board of Pharmacy, a National Guard officer and owned a financial services business in Brenham. He is retired and lives in Brenham. He was an all-around athlete at Brenham High School, lettering in football, baseball, basketball and track. He attended Blinn College on a baseball scholarship and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1965 with a business administration degree. He has worked with several community organizations, including the Brenham Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Coastal Conservation Association, Washington County Little League and the Bluebonnet Beef Breeders Association of Washington County. He is a director of the Blinn College Foundation Board and has held numerous offices as a member of Grace Lutheran Church. Mutscher enjoys golf, fishing, hunting, traveling and raising Brangus cattle. He and his wife, Sarita, have a son, Kevin, who is an attorney in Brenham, and one grandson.

Debbi Goertz District 3 (Incumbent)



Goertz has served on the Bluebonnet Board of Directors since 2017. She has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. She chairs Bluebonnet's Technology Committee and is a member of the Energy Services and Legal & Governance committees. Goertz has been an attorney in Bastrop since 2004, representing clients in civil matters including trusts and estates law, and some Medicaid issues. She was born in Kilgore and grew up there and in Bryan. After graduating from Bryan High School, she received a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in merchandising from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She worked at Bloomingdale's in Dallas as a department manager before opting for a career change. Goertz attended Baylor Law School in Waco and earned her law degree in 1993. After graduation, she moved to Bastrop and has been a Bluebonnet member since 1998. Goertz worked briefly in a Bastrop law firm before beginning a career with the Texas Department of Public Safety, first as a hearing examiner, then as Texas' administrator for school bus safety. She has worked with numerous Bastrop and Smithville nonprofit groups, including Samella Williams Angels Unaware Ministry, Children's Advocacy Center, Bastrop County Historical Society and Family Crisis Center, and was a Girl Scout leader for 10 years. Her daughter, Abby, is a student at the University of Texas at Austin.

Ron Spencer District 3



Spencer grew up in Houston, where he graduated from high school in 1974 and then attended technical school to become a certified welder. He moved up the ladder during six years in the oil rig industry. In 1980 he joined his family's business, International Management Services Inc., a Houston-based consulting firm specializing in helping companies work in America's free-trade zones. During his 10 years with IMS, Spencer worked at a subsidiary, overseeing procurement and logistics of medical supplies and pharmaceutical materials. In 1990, he moved to Austin and began working at Dell, where he worked in the procurement department and was responsible for all mass storage products. At Dell, Spencer developed the framework for a new supply chain design and inventory management system. He became global senior manager, overseeing the procurement of the company's mechanical devices and power supplies. In 2000, he left Dell to set up his own consulting practice, working with global suppliers of electronic components. After living in Florida for three years, he returned to his Texas roots, moving to Bastrop in 2011. He is semi-retired, but is an active investor in real estate and restaurants. He has also been an avid pilot for 15 years. Spencer is on the board of directors for the Bastrop Economic Development Corp. and on the advisory board for the Smithville Airport. His son, Justin, is a University of Texas at Austin graduate working in the Austin restaurant industry. Spencer has two grandchildren.

Juanita Valarie Neidig

District 3

Neidig is an accomplished business owner with more than 30 years of experience in the electric supply industry. In 2002, she started LTH Enterprises Ltd. and is the managing partner. The company provides electrical, plumbing and custodial materials for new and remodeled construction projects, as well as maintenance and operations supplies to clients that include schools and universities as well as city, county and federal governments. She was born and raised in east Austin, graduated from Johnston High School, and immediately went to work at an electrical distribution company. She held positions in several electric supply companies, gaining 14 years of experience and knowledge that led to the start of her successful business. She serves on the Elgin ISD Board of Trustees and the Elgin Education Foundation. She is active at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Elgin High School's scholarship committee, athletic booster club, and baseball & softball fundraising committees. Neidig is a proponent of Blue Santa, Coats for Kids in Austin and the Ronald McDonald House charities. In her spare time, she is an avid runner, qualifying for the Boston Marathon, completing five marathons and more than 50 half marathons and triathlons. She and her husband of 22 years, Harlan, have two children: Jacob, who will attend Stanford University in the fall, and Emma, who is active in Elgin High softball and volleyball. They live on their working cattle ranch that straddles Travis and Bastrop counties.



Milton Shaw

District 1 (Incumbent)

Shaw has served on the Bluebonnet Board of Directors since 2010. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications and Director Gold credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Shaw is chairman of Bluebonnet's Legal & Governance Committee and is a member of the Employee Services and Member Experience committees. He grew up in Luling and traveled America during a 30-year career with Shell Oil Co. He and his family moved to six states while he managed marketing of Shell's real estate assets and oversaw multimillion-dollar budgets. Shaw has decades of experience in community relations and customer service. After graduating from what is now Texas State University in San Marcos in 1962, Shaw managed a store for Western Auto and later was a manager in the Sears department store chain's management development program. He retired from Shell in 1998 and returned to Luling with his wife and high school sweetheart, Judy. They run a few head of cattle on 46 acres in Caldwell County. Shaw is active in his community, including service over the years in the Luling Chamber of Commerce, Community Action, Inc., Kiwanis Club, Caldwell County Development Board, Polonia Water Supply Corp. and McNeil Baptist Church. He and Judy have three sons: Milton Jr., a worldwide customer service manager for Shell; Mark, executive vice president — chief legal and regulatory officer for Southwest Airlines; and Michael, partner in the Jackson Walker law firm in Houston. The Shaws have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Matthew Weilert

District 3

Weilert has more than 30 years' experience in corporate safety and risk reduction. He is a decorated Navy veteran who grew up in Bastrop. His father was CFO of Austin Meter, a maker of boiler turbine generator control systems. Weilert graduated from Bastrop High School and earned a degree in safety engineering from Texas A&M University in College Station in 1985 on a Navy scholarship. In 1996, he founded Systems Thinking Institute, which brings field-tested process improvement concepts to international businesses. Companies that have used those concepts include Battelle, GM, United Defense, Kratos Defense and Panera Bread. The concepts have been taught in the U.S., Canada and Malta. The institute uses structured questions within day-to-day business operations to help companies improve their bottom-line results. Weilert moved the institute from New Hampshire to Texas in 2010. He set aside that work for nearly two years to care for his father in hospice until September 2018. Since then, Weilert launched a startup he hopes will "disrupt Amazon" by building a team that will deliver authentic, individual interactions for online shoppers and put a personal face to that process. Weilert, an Eagle Scout, has been active in Boy Scouts in Austin, Bastrop and Pensacola, Fla. He has been a member of Ascension Catholic Church in Bastrop since childhood and was part of a team that introduced a men's leadership program to more than a dozen Catholic churches in the Austin diocese. He has a son, 9-year-old Stephen Carl.



Vote and you could win great prizes!

Anyone who votes either by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, will be entered in a drawing to win a **2010 Ford F-150** being retired from Bluebonnet's fleet, above. Anyone who votes by proxy will be entered in a drawing for more prizes. Get more information at bluebonnet.coop.

Where demanding meets dependable.

Texans tackle large properties with heavy-duty mowers.

INTEGRATED PARK BRAKE automatically engages when steering levers are moved outwards, and disengages when levers are pulled together

ADJUSTABLE 21-, 22.5- AND 24-INCH SEATS increase comfort and reduce operator fatigue

LARGE FUEL TANK maximizes your mowing day

STRONG, WELDED FRAME reinforced with 2X3-inch structural tube ensure machine is ready to take on even the roughest tasks

UNIQUE THREE-POSITION ADJUSTABLE FOOT PLATFORM enhances comfort by allowing the operator to move the foot platform forward and back

HIGH-CAPACITY PRO MOWER DECK stamped from a single sheet of 9-gauge steel with commercial grade reinforcements for added strength and durability

CUTTING-HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT SYSTEM WITH TRANSPORT LOCK allows the cutting height to be adjusted with the turn of a dial and provides a quick return to the desired cutting height after lifting the deck for transport



THE NEW JOHN DEERE Z700 SERIES ZTRAK™ zero-turn mowers bring heavy-duty construction and comfort to the residential market. Five models, including the Z720E, Z735E, Z730M, Z735M and Z740R, offer homeowners a durable solution that will stand up to the demands of mowing larger properties while enhancing operator comfort.

Featuring **23 TO 25 HORSEPOWER** (17.2 to 18.6 kW) engines and a heavy-duty frame, the Z700 Series mowers provide homeowners with the power, performance and durability that is needed when maintaining Texas-sized properties. Additionally, a large fuel tank maximizes your mowing day.

The integrated park brake allows the operator to audibly hear the brake click into place. The brake automatically engages when steering levers are moved outwards, and disengages when the levers are pulled together, allowing the operator to quickly start and stop work in a natural motion.

The Z700 Series machines are equipped with a **HIGH-CAPACITY PRO MOWER DECK** in one of three sizes: 48-, 54- and 60-inch. The mower deck is stamped from a single sheet of nine-gauge steel with commercial grade reinforcements for added strength and durability. The cutting height adjustment system with transport lock allows operators to adjust the cutting height with the turn of a dial, and then quickly return to the desired cutting height after lifting the deck for transport.

Operator comfort is also at the forefront of the Z700 design, which includes an adjustable, three-position foot platform and high-back seat. The three-position foot platform is designed so operators can move it forward and back for a comfortable position, regardless of their height.

Additionally, the Z730M and Z735M models are equipped with the ComfortGlide system, an industry-first. The ComfortGlide™ suspension actually moves with you, travelling 3-inches fore and aft to absorb bumps for enhanced ride quality.

► Z740R - ZTrak™ Zero Turn Mower

- 23.5-hp (17.5 kW)* FX series engine
- 48-, 54-, or 60-in. High-capacity PRO mower deck with welded deck reinforcements
- 24-in. seat with fully adjustable mechanical suspension
- Cut height adjustment dial adjusts mower in ¼-in. increments from 1.5 - 5 inches

Equipped with large rear tires, the Z700 series offers operators a gentle ride regardless of speed. Optional Michelin® X® Tweel® Turf Airless Radial Tires are available on the Z740R model, providing extra reliability and enhanced ride quality. With Michelin X Tweel Turf Airless Radial Tires, flats, patch kits and replacement tires are a thing of the past. Additionally, they have a wear life that is three times that of a traditional pneumatic tire.



JOHN DEERE

TACKLERS OF THE TO-DO-LIST, RUN WITH US

ON A Z700 SERIES ZTRAK™ MOWER.

It's the weekend. Your to-do-list is long, and your time for mowing is short. The Z700 Series is built so you can get your mowing done. Fast. With mowing speeds up to 10 mph and our High-capacity PRO Mower Decks, covering serious ground doesn't have to be so serious. And you can customize your ride with a three-position foot platform and comfortable seat.

It's time to hit the ground mowing. What are you waiting for?

Nothing Runs Like A Deere™ | [JohnDeere.com/Z700](https://www.johndeere.com/Z700)



MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS



GCC
GOLDEN CRESCENT
CONSTRUCTION
CUSTOM STEEL BUILDINGS
361-573-5775
www.gccbuildings.com

When EXPERIENCE counts, you can COUNT on us!

- Patios
- Carports
- Garages
- Shops
- Barns
- Hay Sheds
- Barndominiums
- Steel Frame Homes

ACCREDITED BUSINESS



ARK-LA-TEX
SHOP BUILDERS
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"
SHOPS - BARNs - CABINS - WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM
830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums
SHOPS STARTING AT \$10,300

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



PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

Since 1983

Contact us at 800.633.8969
or roofover.com

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

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

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

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



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



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



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

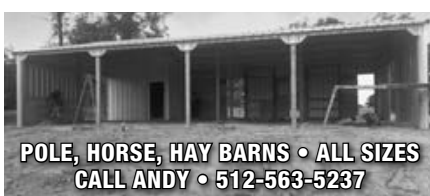
Medicare Supplement Plans differ in premiums, not benefits.

Let's review what works best for you.
gary@medigapplansforyou.com
833-301-7200 Independent Agent #2327334



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



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

OWN LAND?

Lease pasture wanted for cattle
Will trade/do improvements.
Manage hunters. Have references.
254-681-1498 • Bart.Koerth@gmail.com

FLOATING FISHING PIER
On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.

45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.

Baylor, the Man

Judge and minister is an unlikely namesake for the Baptist university in Waco

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

EVEN THOUGH THE NAME BAYLOR HAS been prominent in Texas higher education for 174 years, Judge R.E.B. Baylor's name was attached to the university only as the result of a quirky legislative process. Legislation to charter a Baptist university bore two other names before Baylor's was substituted.

In 1844, the Texas Baptist Educational Society directed Baylor, the Rev. William M. Tryon and J.G. Thomas to petition the Congress of the Republic of Texas to charter a Baptist university. The society first named the institution San Jacinto University, then Milam University, eventually deciding the university should bear the name of a prominent Baptist. Baylor's name was chosen because he had authored the legislation.

Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, in 1793. His father served as a captain in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Although he attended schools around Paris, Kentucky, the younger Baylor was largely self-taught. He followed in his father's footsteps as a 19-year-old and joined the state militia during the War of 1812, taking up arms again in the Second Creek War in Alabama in 1836. As late as 1840, he rode into battle near San Antonio following the Council House Fight, after peace negotiations between Anglos and Comanches broke down.

In *History Along the Way*, Dan K. Utley wrote, "Baylor studied law in the Lexington office of his distinguished uncle, Jesse Bledsoe—who saw service in both the U.S. Senate and the Kentucky House of Representatives—passed the bar exam and opened his own office while in his early twenties."

Baylor served one year as a Kentucky state representative in 1819 before resigning



Pompeo Coppini's statue of Judge R.E.B. Baylor after its unveiling at the Founders Day dedication at Baylor University in 1939.

the position and moving to Alabama. Period accounts suggest the sudden move was motivated by grief after the death of his fiancée in a riding accident.

As a lawyer in Tuscaloosa, Baylor returned to politics and won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. He moved to Selma and then Mobile and in the summer of 1839, attended a revival at the Baptist church in Talladega led by his cousin, the Rev. Thomas Chilton. Baylor decided he needed to be saved. "Also a lawyer and former politician," according to Utley, "Chilton was a close colleague of David Crockett and enjoyed additional success as a minister. Baylor, viewed by various historians as a deist, Unitarian, atheist, infidel or agnostic, converted to Christianity while attending the revival." Not long afterward, the Talladega Baptist Church ordained him as a minister.

In 1839, Baylor moved to La Grange, where at the urging of preacher Z.N. Morrell, he became a crusading frontier clergyman. Serving as a justice of the Third Judicial Court of the Republic of Texas,

Baylor, with gun at hand, held court proceedings during the day, and in the evening, he preached and organized churches. He saw no conflict in this arrangement, although once during a sermon, he became overexcited and referred to his parishioners as "gentlemen of the jury." Baylor's charismatic sermons and keen intellect often moved his audiences to laughter or tears.

Baylor served as a trustee of Baylor University at its first location in Independence and taught law classes. He retired from the bench in the 1860s and lived out the remainder of his life in the nearby Gay Hill community. He died in 1873 and was buried on university grounds.

By the 1880s, Baylor University had outgrown its Independence site and merged with the all-male Waco University, and a women's school was established in Belton as Baylor Female College—now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Judge Baylor's remains were moved to Belton, but a fire in the administration building near his second grave forced another move. His third grave, covered by a simple marble slab, lies near the chapel at Mary Hardin-Baylor.

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

Government Melts Over 270 Million Silver Dollars

But collectors get an unexpected second chance

It's a *crime*.

Most Americans living today have never held a hefty, gleaming U.S. silver dollar in their hands.

Where did they go? Well, in 1918, to provide aid to the British during WWI, the U.S. government melted down nearly half of the entire mintage—over 270 million silver dollars. If all those missing silver dollars could be stacked, they would tower over 400 miles into the sky! If laid in a chain, they would span 6,400 miles—enough to stretch from New York to Los Angeles more than 2½ times!

These vanished coins were not just any silver dollar—they were America's largest circulated coin, the beloved Morgan Silver Dollar. Each Morgan Dollar is struck from nearly an ounce of 90% fine silver and measures a massive 38.1mm in diameter. Morgan Silver Dollars were the engine of the American dream for decades. Created by famed American coin designer, George T. Morgan, they feature Lady Liberty's radiant profile and a majestic eagle, symbols of American strength and prosperity. Since their inception in 1878, they jingled in the pockets of famous and infamous Americans like John D. Rockefeller and Teddy Roosevelt, and desperados Jesse James and Al Capone. Today, Morgan Silver Dollars are the most collected coin in America.

Lady Liberty takes a Final Bow

Just three years after the massive meltdown, the government gave the Morgan Silver Dollar a final chance to shine. In 1921, facing a serious shortage, the mint struck Morgan Silver Dollars for one more brief, historic year. Today, the last-ever 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar belongs in the hands of collectors, history buffs, or anyone who values the artistry and legacy of this American classic.

A Private Vault Gives Up its Secrets

Millions *more* silver dollars were melted over the past ninety years and today, private hoards account for virtually all the surviving Morgan Silver Dollars. We should know—we hunt for them every week. In fact, on one buying trip into America's heartland, as we were guided into a wealthy owner's massive private vault, we were thrilled to discover a hoard of nearly two thousand 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars, all having actually circulated in American commerce nearly 100 years ago! We wasted no time in securing the entire treasure trove of silver dollars into our own vault.



Saved from Destruction, but Bound for Extinction

It's been estimated that only 15% of all the Morgan Dollars ever minted have survived to the present day. And the number grows smaller with each passing year. The 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar is the last of its kind. But you can get one now before they're only a memory. Your chance to own this legend won't last long, so get yours today—and at a fantastic value!

Don't Miss Out on this Incredible Low Price Offer

Today, you can secure your very own 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar—the last Morgan Silver Dollar ever struck—for the incredibly low price of just \$29.95 each! Plus, you can buy with complete confidence. If you aren't completely satisfied with your Morgan Silver Dollars, you can return your coins within 30-days for a full refund (less s/h). So don't wait—order your 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars today!

1921 Last Morgan Silver Dollar	
1-4	\$29.95 ea. + s/h
5-9	\$28.95 ea. + s/h
10+	\$27.95 ea. FREE SHIPPING



FREE SHIPPING on 6 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

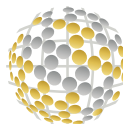
1-800-973-9208

Offer Code MDS133-11

Please mention this code when you call

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. MDS133-11, Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2019 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



GOVMINT.COM®

THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™



Layer Cakes

THE 1970S USHERED IN SLOW COOKERS, microwave cooking, fondue parties and a spotlight on wholesome foods like granola, whole grains and sunflower seeds. Cakes made with carrots, pineapple and other fruits also amassed a fan base. Coated in butter rum frosting, the following three-tiered Cider 'n' Spice Cake appeared in *Texas Co-op Power* in October 1977. Apple cider gives the cake a moist texture, while homey spices will remind you of autumn baking. For richer flavor, substitute dark rum for rum extract, or light molasses for the dark corn syrup.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Cider 'n' Spice Cake

CAKE

- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened
- 1½ cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup apple cider
- ¾ cup milk

FROSTING

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 4 cups powdered sugar (approximately)
- ⅓ cup dark corn syrup
- 2 teaspoons rum extract
- Walnut halves (optional)

1. CAKE: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease three 8-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with waxed paper or parchment.

2. Cream the butter and sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Sift together dry ingredients, and combine the cider and milk. Alternating with the cider mixture, blend dry ingredients

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Retro Recipes

Layer Cakes



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

ROSE M. DAILEY | HOUSTON COUNTY EC

"My family fondly refers to things I make as 'MeMa's throw-togethers,'" Dailey says. "I rarely ever go by a recipe, and if I do, it's usually three or four recipes that I have broken apart and put back together my way." For this cake, she wanted bold chocolate flavor and rich chocolate frosting. The decadent result is a staple for Dailey family birthdays. "We are a family of chocoholics," she confesses.

Triple Chocolate Cake With Chocolate Fudge Buttercream Frosting

CAKE

- 2 ounces Baker's German's sweet chocolate
- 2 ounces Baker's semisweet chocolate
- ½ cup strong black coffee
- 2 cups flour
- ⅓ cup baking cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup buttermilk

FROSTING

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 2 ounces Baker's semisweet chocolate
- ½ cup shortening
- ⅓ cup baking cocoa
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 pounds powdered sugar
- 1 cup milk, or more as needed



\$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest topic is **Company Dinner**. Company is coming, and this is your moment to shine. What will you serve? The deadline is **May 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.

1. CAKE: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease three 9-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with waxed paper or parchment. Microwave chocolate and coffee in large microwave-safe bowl on high 1½–2 minutes or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after 1 minute. Stir until chocolate is completely melted.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; set aside. Beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add the egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in the melted chocolate and vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk, beating well after each addition. In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites on high speed until stiff peaks form, then gently fold the whites into the batter.

3. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans and bake 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cakes comes out clean. Immediately run a small metal spatula around the edges of cake layers in pans. Cool in pans on wire racks 15 minutes, then invert layers from pans. Cool cake layers completely.

4. FROSTING: Melt the butter and chocolate in microwave. Add the shortening, cocoa and vanilla. Stir until shortening is also melted. Add the powdered sugar a little at a time, alternating with the milk (about ¼ cup at a time of milk). Whisk well until you have a smooth, spreadable consistency. You might need a little more milk (if so, add a tablespoon at a time). The frosting should be firm and hold its form. ▶ Serves 8–10.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

into the creamed mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture.

3. Divide the batter between the three prepared cake pans. Bake 25–30 minutes, or until a tester inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes on wire racks before inverting the pans to remove the cakes. Cool completely before frosting.

4. FROSTING: Cream the butter. Alternately add the sugar and syrup, beating well after each addition. Beat in rum extract. Add more sugar as necessary for desired consistency.

5. To assemble the cake, place the bottom layer on a serving platter and spread an even layer of frosting over the top. Repeat with the remaining layers, and finish by frosting the top of the cake (or cover the entire cake with frosting, if you prefer). Garnish with walnuts, as desired. ▶ Serves 6–8.

Cream Cheese Berry Cake

ARLEEN ACTON | PEDERNALES EC

Featuring a rich cream cheese and mascarpone frosting, this cake is a great way to showcase fresh, Texas-grown strawberries and blueberries.

CAKE

- 2½ cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup water

FILLING

- 2 cups berries (strawberries, blueberries and raspberries), divided use
- 3 tablespoons water
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch

FROSTING

- 2½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1¾ cups powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 8 ounces mascarpone cheese, softened

1. CAKE: Preheat oven to 350 degrees and apply cooking spray to three 8-inch round

baking pans. Line the bottom of each pan with waxed paper or parchment.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a mixing bowl, combine the milk, oil, vanilla and eggs, then using an electric mixer, beat on low speed while adding the dry ingredients until mixed thoroughly. Then slowly add water until just combined.

3. Divide the batter into three pans and bake 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out with a few moist crumbs. Remove from oven and cool cakes in pans about 5 minutes. Invert cakes from pans and cool completely on wire racks.

4. FILLING: Add 1½ cups of mixed berries and 3 tablespoons of water to a food processor and purée until smooth. Combine the sugar and cornstarch in a saucepan. Stir in the berry purée and cook over medium heat until the mixture thickens. Remove from heat and cool briefly, then transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until completely cool. Can be made up to two days in advance.

5. FROSTING: Combine whipping cream, powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl, and whip on high speed until soft peaks form. Add the softened cheeses and whip until stiff peaks form again.

6. To assemble the cake, pipe a dam of frosting around the outer edge of the first layer and top with an even layer of half of the berry filling. Gently spread a layer of frosting over the top of the berries. Add another cake layer and repeat. Top with the third cake layer and frost the entire cake with the remaining icing. Top with ½ cup of fresh berries and refrigerate until ready to serve.

► Serves 6–8.

COOK'S TIP If you can't find mascarpone cheese, use 16 ounces of cream cheese instead.

Jennie's Blackout Icebox Cake

MELISSA TURLEY | BANDERA EC

Turley says the cake is moist and dense, which makes for easy slicing and a beautiful presentation.

CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1¾ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup baking cocoa
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons boiling water

FROSTING

- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened
- 1 cup baking cocoa
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- ¼ cup sweetened condensed milk

1. CAKE: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans.

2. Whisk together the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk together the wet ingredients (minus boiling water) in a container with a pour spout. Whisk wet ingredients into dry, combining well. Slowly whisk in the boiling water until

the mixture is combined.

3. Divide the batter among the prepared pans. Bake 25–30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean. Cool cakes completely in pans on wire rack.

4. FROSTING: Beat the softened butter and cocoa together until smooth and creamy. Slowly add the powdered sugar and evaporated milk, alternating small amounts of each until the mixture is combined and smooth. Stir in the vanilla and sweetened condensed milk.

5. Invert layers from pans. Place the first layer on a serving plate and frost with one-third of the frosting. Top with second layer and frost the top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Refrigerate the cake at least 1 hour (or up to a day in advance) before serving. ► Serves 8.

COOK'S TIP If you're not up to a layer cake, feel free to divide the batter between two greased 9-by-5-inch loaf pans for a chocolate "snack" cake, freezing the other loaf for another time.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER 

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

TEXAS TALKING PIES



ENTER NOW at TexasCoopPower.com/contests

MAGNETIC COMPRESSION THERAPY

Helps Relieve Sore, Aching
Muscles & Poor Circulation



Recommended To Help:

- Improve Circulation
- Reduce Painful Swelling
- Relieve Heaviness & Fatigue
- Control Varicose Veins
- Provide Warmth & Support

Open
Toe For
Freedom &
Comfort



Easy On/Off
Zip-Up Compression



Incredible stockings pack a triple dose of powerful pain-reduction therapies. Gentle graduated compression, easy on, easy off zip-up style and magnetic therapy, believed by millions to help ease pain and increase circulation. Powerful relief for sore, aching muscles, poor circulation, varicose veins and more. Import of cotton/poly/elastane.

Measure Calf Circumference

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

Join Our VIP List:
Go To Our Website &
Sign Up To Receive Exclusive Email
Offers And Get 10% Off
Your First Order!

(First Time Email Signups = 10% Off)

Magnetic Zipper
Compression Socks

SAVE \$7
off original price

Only \$999 pair

Buy 3 pair and get

FREE
shipping & handling!

#84089	Mag. Zipper Compression Socks Black S/M @ \$9.99	\$
#84841	Mag. Zipper Compression Socks Black L/XL @ \$9.99	\$
#84090	Mag. Zipper Compression Socks Brown S/M @ \$9.99	\$
#84840	Mag. Zipper Compression Socks Brown L/XL @ \$9.99	\$
CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax		\$
Add \$4.95 for Shipping and Handling for 1 pair		
Add \$5.95 for Shipping/Handling for 2 pair		
FREE Shipping/Handling when buying 3 + pair		\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)	\$ 2.95
TOTAL		\$

Please Print Clearly

VISA MasterCard Discover®/NOVUSSM Cards

Card#

Exp. Date

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

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

Dept. 77599

Email _____

Connect With

DreamProducts.com

website offers
may vary

1-800-530-2689

Order Now Toll-Free

Receive A Free Surprise Gift
with every order

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

On the Ranch

*“I should’ve been a cowboy. I should’ve learned to rope and ride
Wearin’ my six-shooter, ridin’ my pony on a cattle drive.
Stealin’ the young girls’ hearts, just like Gene and Roy
Singin’ those campfire songs. Whoa, I should’ve been a cowboy.”*
—*Should’ve Been a Cowboy* by Toby Keith

GRACE ARSIAGA

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



▲ **NANCY WEBSTER**, Bluebonnet EC: “I tried to get a photo of a cow’s silhouette against the rising sun, but the cow got curious when I squatted down.”



▲ **RYAN BRANCH**, Big Country EC: “Cattle drive on the Branch JS Ranches.”

▼ **JERALYN NOVAK**, Karnes EC: For over 100 years, the Huebner Brothers Cattle Company has been driving cattle from their winter pastures on the 30-mile Matagorda peninsula to their summer pastures south of Bay City.



▲ **JENNIFER TUGGLE**, PenTex Energy: “My husband, Sam, was starting the 2-year-olds in the round pen.”

▼ **BOBBY NORRIS**, Pedernales EC: “Big hat and rope with this black-and-white silhouette of a cowboy at work.”



UPCOMING CONTESTS

SEPTEMBER	TEXAS VACATION	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER	GIVING BACK	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER	UP THE CREEK	DUE JULY 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 Whimsy & Wonder

Liberty Hill May 18

(512) 417-8448, libertyhillfun.com

Downtown businesses transform into art galleries hosting works from local artists as well as live art demonstrations and live music. Main Street features performers, stilt walkers and local artists. Check out sidewalk chalk artists and Austin's Scott Wade, the dirty car artist.



CHALK ART: PHILOPHOTO | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. RABBIT: M DOROTTYA | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. ATV: NORBERT JUDLOWIAK | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

May 7

Austin Great Futures Spring Luncheon, (512) 444-7199, bgcaustin.org

9

San Antonio Motherhood Luncheon, (210) 607-9720, texanscan.org

10

Coolidge [10-11] Mesquite Tree Festival, (254) 747-1348

Georgetown [10-11] Austin Square and Round Dance Association Mid-Tex Festival, (830) 672-7384, asrda.org

Levelland [10-11] Llano Estacado Rabbit Breeders Association Show, (806) 786-2297, llerba.bravehost.com

Paris [10-11] Eiffel in Love With Quilts, (903) 784-2501, parisquiltshow.com

11

Bonham Red River Art, Wine & Music Fest, (903) 640-2196, creativeartscenterbonham.com



**May 10-11
Levelland
Llano Estacado Rabbit
Breeders Association Show**

Mineola Metric 100 Bicycle Ride, (903) 569-2801, mineolametric100.org

Wimberley Garden Tour, (512) 636-0974, wimberleygardenclub.org

17

Columbus [17-18] Magnolia Days Festival, (979) 732-8385, magnoliadays.org

Grind Away ANY Size Stump FAST!



The **DR® STUMP GRINDER** uses carbide-tipped cutting teeth (taking 360 "bites" per second) to reduce any stump to a pile of woodchips. Grinds stumps below ground level so they are gone forever!

- **Faster, safer and easier** than digging, burning, or using chemicals.
- **New, more powerful and lower-priced models.**
- **Now towable** with your riding mower or ATV.



Self-Propelled Model Available!

DRstumpgrinder.com

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL Walk-Behind Brush Mower!



Starting at just
\$1499⁹⁹



*Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

The DR® Field & Brush Mower is Now Better than Ever!

FASTER. Up to 20 HP and 34"-wide cut for faster mowing!

EASIER. Power steering gives you fingertip control.

NEW CHOICES: including PTO and tow-behind models for tractors & ATVs.

DRfieldbrush.com



Get the Muck OUT!

Marble size AquaClear™ Pellets clear your lake or pond bottom.

Beneficial microorganisms. Restore balance in natural and man made surface waters. Increase water clarity. Improve water quality. Eliminate black organic muck.

A **10 lb. bag** treats 0.50 to 1.00 acres
\$94.00

A **50 lb. bag** treats 2.50 to 5.00 acres
\$339.00

Apply weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly to maintain. No water use restrictions! **FREE SHIPPING!**

800-328-9350

KillLakeWeeds.com

Order online today, or request free information.

Our 64th year

AQUACIDE CO.

PO Box 10748, **DEPT 50HX**
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748



FREE SHIPPING

6 MONTH TRIAL

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
Go online or call for details.

Go Online or Call for **FREE Info Kit!**

TOLL FREE **877-201-5850**



**AROUND TEXAS
EVENT CALENDAR**

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com



Mesquite [17-18] Mesquite Meander, (972) 216-6468, historicmesquite.org

Star [17-19] Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, (325) 437-1852, cowpokesforkids.com

18

Concan Tippy Crawdad Golf Tournament, (830) 232-4471, visituvaldecountry.com

Fredericksburg Hill Country Antique Tractor & Engine Club Tractor Show, (830) 889-0070, rustyiron.org

Lorena M. Denton Stanford Masonic Lodge 594 Car Show, (254) 855-3722

Tyler Smith County Master Gardeners Home Garden Tour, (903) 590-2980, txmg.org/smith

24

Palestine [24-26] Celebration of Steam at Texas State Railroad, 1-855-632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

Jacksonville [24-27] Memorial Mudbug, (903) 724-4100, riverrunpark.com

25

Columbus Country Market, (979) 732-8385, columbusfmtx.org

Hunt Crider's Rodeo and Dancehall Opening Night, (830) 238-4441, cridersrandd.com

New Braunfels Antique Barn Sale and Market, (830) 832-9699, newbraunfelsconservation.org

Kerrville [25-26] Festival of the Arts, (830) 895-7962, kvarfest.com

Port Arthur [25-26] Memorial Classic Fishing Tournament, (409) 626-2501, saltclub.net



May 24-27
Jacksonville
Memorial Mudbug

31

Stephenville [31-June 1] Moo-La Fest, (254) 552-1222, visitstephenville.com

June

1

Grand Prairie Crawfish Boil, (972) 237-8100, grandfungp.com

Waxahachie Pancake Breakfast Fly-In, (469) 309-4045, waxahachiecvb.com

6

Columbus Coastal Conservation Association Live Oak Chapter Banquet, (979) 732-1352, ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/live-oak

7

Amarillo [7-8] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, coorsranchrodeo.com

Submit Your Event!

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

A large advertisement for Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts. The background is a bright blue pool with people on inflatable rafts. At the top, a red banner says "REASON #1 TO SCHLITTERBAHN. IT'S THE HOTTEST, COOLEST TIME!". On the right, a yellow box says "2019 40th Anniversary SEASON PASS GET YOUR SEASON PASS NOW PAYS FOR ITSELF IN 3 VISITS!". At the bottom, it lists locations: "NEW BRAUNFELS • SOUTH PADRE ISLAND • GALVESTON • CORPUS CHRISTI" and the website "SCHLITTERBAHN.COM". It also says "FREE PARKING • COOLERS WELCOME" and "NO CLASS OR ALCOHOL". There are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



Higher Education

An inspiring desk perched on Hancock Hill overlooks Sul Ross State University in Alpine



EVEN THOUGH LOTS OF Texas universities have grandiose lecture halls, only one can boast a classroom with a 20-mile view. And this learning experience gives new meaning to the phrase higher education.

You'll find Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

Founded in 1917, the school of 2,000 students was named for Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, the 19th Texas governor. Alpine is a charming burg an hour north of Big Bend National Park, and its average summer temperature sits comfortably in the mid-80s.

Sul Ross' 93-acre campus boasts beautiful buildings and the incredible Museum of the Big Bend. The classroom that achieves new heights is Hancock Hill, and hiking up to it is a student tradition going back to 1981, when some industrial tech students, led by Jim Kitchen, decided they needed a better place to study than their drab dorm room. So they grabbed a full-sized teacher's desk, threw it onto their strapping young backs and began hiking up the hill behind their dormitory. After about a mile, they found the perfect spot and planted the desk. It wasn't long before they were spending most, if not all, of their study time on top of Hancock Hill.

One day, Kitchen left a notebook in the desk, and the next time he returned, he discovered that another student had written deep thoughts and life ponderings on

its pages. He added his own and left the notebook. Slowly, the tradition and lore of the desk began to grow.

While I am not a Sul Ross Lobo, even I was tempted with the idea of climbing Hancock Hill and seeing what education it might bring. So early one morning, I set out for an adventure. After a good bit of searching, I found the unmarked trailhead at the back of the Industrial Technology Building parking lot. And so the journey began.

It wasn't long before the views became truly exceptional as I looked down upon the campus and Alpine below. As the trail climbed higher, the wide-open Texas skies helped my mind to open, too. I didn't have any fellow students that day, save for a jack rabbit and a race runner lizard.

I wasn't sure how long my outdoor study time would be. I'd heard that the hike takes anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour. After about 45 minutes hiking at a good pace, I didn't feel any closer to the desk than when I had begun, and I debated turning back. Suddenly, a dead tree full of rusted bikes caught my attention. A sign of

Chet Garner studies the scenery from atop Hancock Hill.

student life? Sure enough, over the next hill was the desk, complete with

the incredible view. Not only was I happy for a place to sit down, but the seemingly endless view immediately inspired my thoughts. "Wow, Texas is beautiful. I wonder what it looks like atop those other peaks. Why didn't I go to Sul Ross?"

I opened the desk drawers and sure enough found a journal full of student scribbles. I also found a book titled *Course in Mathematical Analysis Vol. 1*. The title made my brain hurt, so I immediately put it back inside. I did, however, take out my pen and leave my own musings in the journal. What did I write? You'll have to hike up the hill to find out. I even saved you some room right below mine. Just make sure you take a pen.

Chet Garner shares his Texplorations as the host of *The Daytripper* on PBS.

WEB EXTRAS ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video showing sweeping views of the Alpine area.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

44" x 22" DOUBLE BANK EXTRA DEEP CABINETS

- 14,000 cu. in. of storage
- 2600 lb. capacity
- Weights 291 lbs.

NEW
Customer Rating **★★★★★**
HOLDS 20% MORE

YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
SAVE \$2,285
\$449.99

COMPARE TO **\$2,735**
SNAP-ON MODEL: KRAA813FPB0

ITEM 64444 64445 64446 shown
BLACK ITEM 64441 64442 64443 shown
RED ITEM 64134 64281 64133 shown
GREEN ITEM 64954
ORANGE ITEM 64955
YELLOW ITEM 64956

42344338
LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

FREE SUPER COUPON

WITH ANY PURCHASE

ULTRA BRIGHT LED PORTABLE WORK LIGHT/FLASHLIGHT

- 144 Lumens
- Magnetic Base

COMPARE TO PERFORMANCE TOOL **\$13.52**
MODEL: W2364

ITEM 63878/60566/63601 63991/64005/69567/67227 shown

42330249

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/1/19 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

20% OFF SUPER COUPON

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

42343076

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts. Coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Truck Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressor, floor jacks, sales, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trencher/hatchbox, welders, Airmax, Ames, Bauer, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, DeWalt, Harbor Freight, Hercules, Icon, Jopliter, Lynx, Posi-Lon, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Walcun, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/1/19.

HARDY SUPER COUPON

MECHANIC'S GLOVES

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$4.99
~~\$5.99~~

COMPARE TO VALEO **\$14.99**
SAVE 66%

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 64178, 64179, 62428 shown

42420765
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

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

- Weights 73 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$179.99
~~\$199.99~~

COMPARE TO TEQ CORRECT **\$179.99**
MODEL: T8300182

ITEM 64264/64266/64879/64881 61282/68049/60688/62326/61253 shown

42437362
LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

WARRIOR SUPER COUPON

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$9.99
~~\$17.99~~

COMPARE TO DEWALT **\$68.14**
MODEL: DW1369

ITEM 5889 62281/61637 shown

42441097
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

- 12 hour run time

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$449.99
~~\$499.99~~

COMPARE TO HONDA **\$1009.99**
MODEL: EU2000I

ITEM 62523

42445035
LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

CENTRALPNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

A. HOT DOG
B. PANCAKE

ITEM 69269/97080 shown
ITEM 61615/60637 95275 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**
Air delivery: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI

YOUR CHOICE \$39.99
~~\$57.99~~

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE **\$98.62**
MODEL: PCFP02003

42451606
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

- 1000 lb. capacity

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$7.99
~~\$10.99~~

COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS **\$22.99**
MODEL: HOFDOLLY

ITEM 60497/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown

42451636
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

CENTECH SUPER COUPON

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

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$29.99
~~\$52.99~~

COMPARE TO SCHUMACHER **\$59.77**
MODEL: SE-1250

ITEM 60581/3418 66783/60653 shown

42454159
LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

- 400 lb. working load

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$6.99
~~\$11.99~~

COMPARE TO KEEPER **\$22.80**
MODEL: 5505

ITEM 63094/90984 60405/63056/63057/63150/61524 shown

42462463
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

drillmaster SUPER COUPON

1500 WATT DUAL TEMPERATURE HEAT GUN (572°/1112°)

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$8.99
~~\$14.99~~

COMPARE TO BLACK+DECKER **\$28.06**
MODEL: HG1300

ITEM 35776/62340/62546/63104/96289 shown

42464889
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

- 1.3 GPM
- Adjustable spray nozzle

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$79.99
~~\$99.99~~

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON **\$174.44**
MODEL: 20600

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

42465675
LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

KRAUSE & BECKER SUPER COUPON

AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$169.99
~~\$214.99~~

COMPARE TO GRACO **\$299**
MODEL: 262800

ITEM 68001/62915/60600 shown

42466976
LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

SUPER COUPON

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$3.99
~~\$5.99~~

SAVE 50%

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH **\$8.09**
MODEL: FR1055

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

42469515
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

14" ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$39.99
~~\$49.99~~

COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN **\$80.74**
MODEL: 071-45247

ITEM 64498/64497 shown

42472210
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET

- Each pad measures 25" x 25"

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$6.99
~~\$9.99~~

COMPARE TO NORSK **\$19.99**
MODEL: 001119346

ITEM 40187/61607 62389/94635 shown

42473680
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$5.99
~~\$9.99~~

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK **\$19.99**
MODEL: 77280

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown

42475870
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

BADLAND SUPER COUPON

2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

- Weights 14.3 lbs.
- 11-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$49.99
~~\$69.99~~

COMPARE TO SUPERWINCH **\$189.99**
MODEL: 1125220

ITEM 68146 61258/61297 63476/61840 shown

42480916
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19*

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 9/1/19.

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.



Get DISH.
Get \$100.
Must mention offer code **Card100**.

Same Bill. Same Price. Every Month. For 2 Years.

\$59⁹⁹ month for TV **PRICE LOCK!**

No Hidden Fees!

- **No 1st Receiver Fee**
- **No HD Fee**
- **No Price Increases for 2 Full Years**

- ✓ **Includes** 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ **Includes** Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ **Includes** Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.
- ✓ **Includes** HD Programming
- ✓ **Includes** One TV, Add More for \$5
- ✓ **Includes** NETFLIX Fully Integrated Netflix subscription required.
- ✓ **Includes** FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$20/mo unless you call to cancel.



Plus, Add Blazing Fast Internet!

**Plus,
Add Blazing
Fast Internet!**

**Finally, Internet That Bridges
The Digital Divide!**
This new service competes with Internet in the most densely populated areas.

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

Unlimited Data
No Hard Data Limits!

Very Fast
Speeds from 25 Mbps-1 Gbps!

Available Everywhere
25 Mbps available at every US address!

Starts At
\$39⁹⁹ month for internet
Save up to \$20/mo.*

1-866-290-7151

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

godish.com/pricelock



¡Se 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 \$59.99 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 (\$69.99 for AT120+, \$79.99 for AT200, \$89.99 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.