

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



FIRST ON THE SCENE

Volunteer fire departments draw from electric co-ops to protect communities

BLUEBONNET NEWS
SEE PAGE 18





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Mason High's Madelyn Heath fires up fans.

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ON THE COVER *Cindy Lott and John Holzer train as North Hays County Fire and Rescue volunteer firefighters.* Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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More About Murata

There is a section about Sachihiko Ono Murata and the Caddo Lake pearls [*Caddo's Gems*, August 2019] in my dad's book, *Caddo Was...* My dad writes that he interviewed Murata after the bombing of Pearl Harbor for a newspaper story. There were rumors that Murata was a spy and used "high-powered radio equipment" to report to the Japanese government.

But Murata had no electricity, and his radio equipment was "a collection of outdated throw-away junk, spliced together with pieces of discarded house wiring" powered by a dry-cell battery. After the article was published, the rumors disappeared.

FRANCES HARE | GARLAND
PANOLA-HARRISON EC

Early Days of Electricity

We were living in Knox County, where my daddy's family had settled around 1900. I remember the electric light that hung above my parents' bed [*Reliable as Electricity*, August 2019]. Daddy loved to read, so after his day of farming and supper, he stretched out on the bed under the light to read.



Caddo Legend Rings True

The lady who received \$900 for her pearl was a neighbor of my parents and grandparents in the Lewis community in Cass County [*Caddo's Gems*, August 2019]. Years ago, my mother told me about her

first cousin, Louis Thrower. He wanted to get married but had no money.

He went diving for pearls and found one that enabled him to buy his fiancée a ring, and he even had a little money left over to start their married life together.

MARY ECHOLS | KILDARE | BOWIE-CASS EC



One day in 1945, we had a thunderstorm, and like any 2-year-old, I sought safety next to my daddy when I was frightened. Imagine how scared we all were when lightning struck and a ball of orange fire came down that electrical wire and blew out the lightbulb.

MARILYN GODFREY | STEPHENVILLE
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Flicker of Truth

Enjoy the tidbit info like Smokey Bear turns 75 [*No Candles, Please*, Currents, August 2019].

DANNY GEROLD | VIA FACEBOOK

Not Pulling Your Chain

I noticed an error in *75th Anniversary Timeline: Rural Life* [August 2019].

Stihl would like people to think that it introduced the first one-man chain saw. In fact, the first one-man, gasoline-powered

chain saw was introduced in 1946 by IEL with the model name Beaver. This saw took the industry by storm and forced other chain saw manufacturers to either design a one-man chain saw or go bankrupt.

I have worked in the chain saw industry almost my whole life and have collected them for about 20 years—having amassed about 250, dating from the 1940s.

PAUL WATKINS | SAVOY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Big Screen, Big Memories

I think my first was *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. The more I tried to remember the first movie I saw at my town's iconic drive-in, the more I remember all the great summer and early fall nights watching the big screen light up the whole parking lot.

Drive In, Chill Out [June 2019]

was quite a nice little invitation to remember an experience that newer generations can miss out on. I fully intend to make sure my children get to experience it.

ARGENTINA DEARING | NAVASOTA
MID-SOUTH SYNERGY

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Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 76, NUMBER 4 (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.

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HAPPENINGS

Camp Craig Allen Fundraiser

Camp Craig Allen, a nonprofit dedicated to physically disabled adults, children and veterans of North Texas, holds its annual fundraiser, the **AMATEUR BBQ COOK-OFF AND MUSIC FEST, OCTOBER 11-12** at Toyota Stadium in **FRISCO**. The stadium is powered by CoServ, an electric cooperative based in Corinth.

Camp Craig Allen promotes advocacy and independence through educational, recreational and therapeutic programs. Its goal is to build a completely barrier-free facility where people with physical disabilities can participate in a variety of activities.

INFO ▶ (940) 395-0226, campcraigallen.org

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Find more happenings online.



TECH KNOWLEDGE

LAUDING LEDS

You already know residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs—especially if they're Energy Star certified.

But did you know the first patented LEDs were developed in 1962 by Texas Instruments? They were used with IBM computers to control punch card readers.

Something to think about October 7, National LED Light Day.

◀ LOOKING BACK AT OUTDOORS THIS MONTH

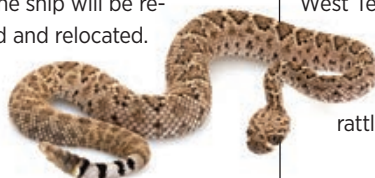


IN THE 75 YEARS since *Texas Co-op Power* debuted in July 1944, the great outdoors of Texas has welcomed magnificent parks, breeding bats and even Willie Nelson.

1940s

1944 Big Bend National Park is established.

1948 The San Jacinto Battleground is the new home for the battleship Texas, which becomes the first permanent battleship memorial museum in the U.S. The site has closed and the ship will be repaired and relocated.



1950s

1953 Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower of the U.S. and Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico dedicate Falcon International Reservoir.

1957 Monahans Sandhills State Park, which boasts dunes up to 50 feet tall, opens in West Texas.

1957 Sweetwater holds its first rattlesnake roundup.

1960s

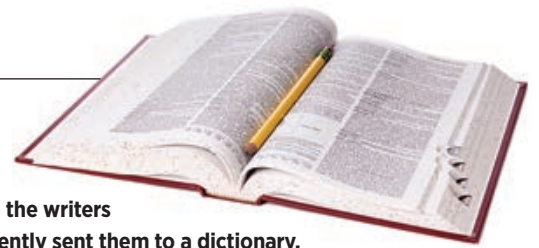
1960 The cavern that became Natural Bridge Caverns, the largest in Texas, is discovered.

1966 *Texas*, an outdoor summer musical at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, is performed for the first time.

1968 Padre Island National Seashore, encompassing a portion of the largest barrier beach in the U.S., is dedicated.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MEANINGFUL DAY

To commemorate National Dictionary Day, October 16, the writers and editors at *Texas Co-op Power* share words that recently sent them to a dictionary.

Chris Burrows

Stevedore: A dockworker responsible for loading or unloading ships in port.

Travis Hill

Prolix: So wordy as to be tiresome.

Charles Lohrmann

Magisterial: Having or showing great authority.

Jessica Ridge

Frontispiece: An illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book.

Tom Widlowski

S'more: Looked up not for its meaning but for its spelling.

ENERGY INFO

Going Hog Mild

ZERO S, ONE CLEAN MACHINE



IN 1894, two steam engineers and an inventor in Germany released the first production motorcycle, eponymously called the Hildebrand & Wolfmüller.

In 2018, more than 350,000 two-wheeled machines were registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, but their mystique may be slipping. Eighteen percent more bikes were on Texas roads in 2013.

So manufacturers are going electric to broaden their appeal.

Harley-Davidson started taking preorders this year for its first all-electric motorcycle, called the LiveWire. The 2020 model boasts 146 miles of city range.

European manufacturers aren't far behind. Triumph and Ducati have plans to develop their own all-electric bikes.

But Zero Motorcycles, a California company, beat them all to market in 2006. Their latest model, the Zero S, packs a 223-mile city range.

HISTORY LESSON

Century of Advocacy

The League of Women

Voters of Texas turns 100 this month. The nonpartisan political organization, formed October 19, 1919, focused its efforts in the early years on educating the newly enfranchised women voters of the state.

Today, the league promotes voter education and participation, and advocates solutions in the public interest on key policy issues.

LOOKING BACK AT SOCIETY NEXT MONTH ▶

1970s

1970 Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site opens to the public.

1972 Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which includes Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at over 8,700 feet, is established.

1973 Willie Nelson holds his first Fourth of July picnic—at a ranch in Dripping Springs.



1980s

1980 Renovation of the Congress Avenue bridge in Austin inadvertently creates an ideal bat roost on the underside of the structure. Some 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats spend their summers under the bridge.

1986 The Don't Mess With Texas anti-littering campaign begins with a TV commercial featuring blues great Stevie Ray Vaughan.



1990s

1990 Travis County designates Hamilton Pool a nature preserve.

1991 Big Bend Ranch State Park opens on a limited basis.

1996 Sea Center Texas, an aquarium, fish hatchery and education center located on 75 acres in Lake Jackson, opens. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens also opens.

2000s

2007 Big Bend Ranch State Park opens fully to the public.

2011 The U.S. and Mexico announce a binational cooperative conservation plan to protect and preserve the Big Bend/Rio Bravo region—North America's largest and most diverse desert ecosystem.



AFTER-GAME MEALS AND FUN KEEP TEENS SAFE ON

A Final Score



STORY BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

PHOTOS BY SCOTT VAN OSDOL

Each cobbler? With *ice cream*?" says Kelcey Doss, a junior at Mason High School, as she fist-bumps the air while waiting in a serving line with other cheerleaders and football players. It's nearly 11 p.m. on a Friday in October 2018, and the Mason Punchers have scored yet another victory on their way to a state championship. Win or lose, though, everyone makes a beeline from the stadium, nicknamed the Puncher Dome, to a postgame event called fifth quarter at the Mason Church of Christ.

Since 1969, teenagers have met inside the church's fellowship hall for camaraderie and a hot meal. Tonight, the hall is decked out with tablecloths, party ware and fresh carnations in the Mason Puncher colors of purple and white. Doss carries her plates to a purple-topped table and plops down with five other girls. "I'm going to eat my dessert first," she announces.

Seated next to her, fellow cheerleader Grace Perlichek ponders a question in between mouthfuls of a sloppy Joe, piled high with corn chips. "Why do we come to fifth quarter?" she says. "Because it gives us something to do after the game."

"And we can hang out," adds Doss, who's downed the cobbler and moved on to her sloppy Joe.

"Plus, we get free, delicious food," concludes Kendra Munsell, another varsity cheerleader sharing the table.

Across Texas, similar fifth quarter events shift into noisy gear once the Friday night lights go out. Each one's different, but most are hosted by volunteers from community churches who want to provide a positive and alcohol-free place for teens to go after home football games. Food is the big draw, but many offer basketball, bonfires, pingpong, video games, music or door prizes.

"Our fifth quarters bring the community and churches together and provide a safe alternative for our young people after

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS



Clockwise, from opposite page: Mason High's Otto Wofford warms up before his final home game. Cheerleader Sydney Anderson springs into action. Mary Hemphill started Mason's fifth quarter 50 years ago. Alexis Hernandez, left, and Isis Martinez have a blast.

football games," says Laura Snyder, a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church in Salado, about halfway between Waco and Austin. "Our churches have hosted them for at least 10 years. New volunteers always step up and keep the tradition going."

Exactly when and where the tradition started is difficult to pin down. Try to trace who originally came up with the name "fifth quarter," and it gets even dicier. In Blanco, west of Austin, Florine and Harold Lord, members of Pedernales Electric

Cooperative, both now in their 90s, recall hosting their first after-game parties in 1971. "Back then, we hardly had any kids in our Methodist church," Florine says. "There was nothing for them to do, either. So we invited schoolkids to our church after home football games. They'd eat and have fun. If we could keep one child from being hurt or killed, it was worth it."

These days, ministers and church representatives with the Blanco Ministerial Alliance coordinate fifth quarter schedules. Volunteers with participating churches host students. "Our goal is to provide a safe and spiritual place for our students after ballgames," says Carlos Cloyd, pastor with the Blanco United



Above: Defensive back Tyson Keller becomes a trumpeter at half-time. **Right:** Punchers assistant coach Michael McLeod and player Jace Eckert in the chili line. **Opposite:** From left, Lucy, Trish, Jeff and Rudy Rochat celebrate a victory at the Puncher Dome.



Methodist Church, which is a member of PEC. “We want them to hear a message, have fun and get something to eat.”

In Mason, the tradition started in 1969, when members of the Church of Christ decided teens needed a place to go after home football games. “My husband was a church elder,” recalls Mary Hemphill, 85. “First, we fed them at our house. Then we cooked steaks at the church after the game. For 49 straight years now, we’ve cooked good stick-to-your-ribs food for the kids at the church.

“It doesn’t matter if they win or lose the football game,” Hemphill adds. “We celebrate the kids.”

Through the years, fifth quarters have spread across Texas. In Palestine, southeast of Dallas, local churches have hosted fifth quarters since at least the early 1980s. “I graduated in 1984 from Palestine High School, and I remember going to them,” says Danny Rodriguez, administrative pastor with the Evangelistic Temple in Palestine. “This year, 17 churches partnered together and hosted separate fifth quarters for students at Palestine Junior High and Palestine High School.”

After home games, kids met at their respective school gymnasiums for food and games. “Our churches and school district worked together for the benefit of the kids,” Rodriguez says. “Our goal was to connect with kids and develop relationships with them. That way, if they ever need help, they know pastors they can call on.”

In Eldorado, south of San Angelo, members with the First

Baptist Church budget for their fifth quarter ministry. The money goes toward pizza rolls, taquitos, cheese dip, chips, sodas and lemonade. Kids can just hang out or play games, like pingpong and foosball.

“We host about 40 students after home games in our basement youth room,” says youth minister Jason Crookham. “Fifth quarters give us a way to support our kids and invite them into our building so they’ll feel more comfortable. Adults can then share time with them and let them know they’re welcome here.”

After home games in Carrizo Springs, in South Texas, teens hang out in the fellowship hall at the First Baptist Church. “We’ve hosted fifth quarters for six years,” says youth minister Jeff Janca. “All kids are welcome, and we have them register and give an emergency number just in case. They start eating right away, and we let them chill down for 30 minutes. Then we have a worship time followed by games or activities.”

Across Texas, similar fifth quarter events shift into noisy gear once the Friday night lights go out. “We want them to hear a message, have fun and get something to eat.”



Back at the Mason Church of Christ, Corky Mueller ladles seasoned beef from a jumbo roaster oven onto buns while other volunteers divvy out corn chips and shredded cheese. “This is a way of giving back to our community, and I’m a 1958 Puncher graduate myself,” says Mueller, who spent his afternoon cooking up 50 pounds of hamburger meat. “Mason has good kids, and there’s not a one who doesn’t tell us ‘thank you.’”

Mueller and his wife, Brenda, are among a dozen church couples who sign up annually to prepare fifth quarter menus that feed 80–100 students. Pulled pork, Mexican stew and sliced barbecue rank among kids’ favorites. “I came up with tonight’s concoction earlier today,” Mueller says. “Frito pie seemed too bland, so I decided to serve it on buns. We’ll see what happens. The kids may throw it back at me.”

Misty Martin, a member of Central Texas EC, who graduated in 2001 from Mason High School, moved from Austin back to her hometown five years ago. “I had no intention of ever living in Mason again, but the people and community drew me back,” she says during halftime at the Puncher Dome. “Fifth quarters are

WEB EXTRAS

► Visit our website to see a video of Mary Hemphill talking about the fifth quarter tradition she helped start in Mason 50 years ago.

Now our younger daughter, Sterling, who’s a junior varsity cheerleader, goes.”

Mason’s close-knit atmosphere impresses district superintendent John Schumacher. “There is a culture here where the school and community expect our kids to do their best,” he says. “With that expectation, they each support them in reaching excellence. Everyone is behind each child.”

Head coach Kade Burns, a 1995 Puncher graduate, attended fifth quarters as a teenager. “My late father, Melvin, was head coach here for 11 years, and he had the most wins in our school’s history,” says Burns, who stepped down from coaching in February, when he was named Mason High School’s principal. “After a game, we’d always rush out of the locker room over to here. Fifth quarters are a fantastic way for kids to hang out and share stories. They contribute to the overall culture of our school and give the kids a real sense of community.”

Over in the dessert line, Ethan Powell, a varsity football player, sums up the night while waiting for a bowl of cobbler topped with ice cream. “It’s neat how everyone comes to this church, no matter how the game turned out,” says the high school senior. “They’re always so supportive of us, and they make such great food. That was the first time I ever had a Frito pie hamburger, and I was not disappointed.”

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Blanco.

part of that. I remember how the food was always awesome. We didn’t have a winning team my senior year. We lost bad, but the food at fifth quarters always made up for it.”

Losing wouldn’t be a problem in 2018. The Punchers finished an undefeated season by winning the Class 2A Division 1 state championship in December—the school’s second football title.

Jim Bob Smith, class of ’95 and a CTEC member, fondly recalls attending fifth quarters. “When you live in a small town like Mason, football is the go-to thing,” he says. “Everyone attends Mason football games. Afterward, fifth quarters give kids a place to socialize in a safe environment. My oldest daughter, Steeley, went to fifth quarters.

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ERIC W. POHL

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, WITH STRONG TIES



TO CO-OPS, SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL TEXAS

For as long as he can remember, Mitch Creed dreamed of being a firefighter. He grew up in the North Texas town of Lindsay and, after getting married, moved to nearby Muenster. While working for a local machine shop, he realized his dream by joining the Muenster Volunteer Fire Department in 2009.

Creed enrolled in emergency medical technician courses at Grayson College and fire school at the Haz-Co Emergency Response Training Center in Denison, becoming certified as a firefighter and an EMT. When his wife, Kami, became pregnant, Creed sought a job with benefits. He found one at PenTex Energy, an electric cooperative based in Muenster, where he became a lineworker.

Working as a first responder for both the electric co-op and the volunteer fire department, he understands how the organizations work together in the community. “I’m surrounded by guys that I consider family,” says Creed, who moved up through the VFD ranks to become chief. “When you spend eight hours a day hanging out with your crew [at PenTex Energy], you make a tight bond. Then, of course, there’s a whole other group of guys at the fire department that you make tight bonds with.”

For Creed, the success of the co-op and VFD comes down to the people and the camaraderie. “Without bonds like these, both the co-op and fire department wouldn’t be able to function efficiently,” he says.

Across Texas, numerous co-op employees and board members serve their communities as volunteer firefighters. They comprise a diverse body of men and women who share a sentiment common among volunteer firefighters and electric cooperative team members—concern for community. Indeed, Concern for Com-

and my church taught me to put others first. In the rural areas, neighbors rely on neighbors in time of need and are there for each other.” Spiess spent 31 years with the Industry VFD—as a firefighter, an EMT, assistant chief and chief. Eight of his co-workers at San Bernard EC serve as volunteer firefighters.

Many Texas co-ops offer electricity safety training for first responders. Nueces EC, in South Texas, presents a 2.5-hour comprehensive safety class for fire departments. Live demonstrations show emergency personnel how to properly react to situations that involve electricity.

Lynn Simmons, director of communications for South Plains EC, in Lubbock, says several of her colleagues who are also volunteer firefighters exemplify the synergy among cooperatives, VFDs and the community. “South Plains EC appreciates and supports the local VFDs because they help protect our members and the co-op’s infrastructure,” she says. “We have about a half-dozen employees that are part of VFDs. Our employees wearing both a hard hat and fire helmet help us understand the value of cooperation in sustaining the quality of life in our local communities.”

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Small towns and unincorporated areas depend on volunteer fire departments. In rural areas, VFDs provide the only available fire and emergency medical responders. According to the State Firefighters’ & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, 77% of fire departments in Texas are composed of all-volunteer crews. That’s higher than the national average of 65%, according to a 2019 report by the National Fire Protection Association.

OTHERS FIRST

munity is one of the seven principles that guide cooperatives, which celebrate National Cooperative Month in October.

Sam Campbell serves as vice president of the board at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative and as secretary-treasurer for the Star Volunteer Fire Department. “Our motto for the Star Volunteer Fire Department is ‘Helping each other is what we do.’ We believe that if you help others when they need help, then they will help you in a time of need,” he says.

Volunteer firefighters with North Hays County Fire and Rescue in Dripping Springs gather for training. The department consists of volunteer and career first responders.

John Spiess, member services supervisor at San Bernard EC, west of Houston, and a former volunteer firefighter, explains, “Growing up in a rural community and being involved in Boy Scouts

As communities depend on volunteer fire departments, the departments themselves depend on their communities. Most VFDs are nonprofits and receive little funding from local taxes, relying instead on individual donors and community fundraising.

Steve Doty, president of the Bleiberville VFD, says his department’s annual fish fry is its only fundraiser. “All of our operating and equipment purchases must be covered by this single event,” Doty says. “Although we provide services to the community at no charge, we are a private, nonprofit corporation and receive no money from the government. Many people in our area are not aware of this and assume that their property taxes cover our expenses.” Bleiberville VFD has about 35 active firefighters, including lineworker Greg Giebel and supply warehouse manager Carl Kokemor, who work for San Bernard EC.



North Hays County firefighters undergo swift-water rescue training on the Comal River in New Braunfels.

VFD to help purchase a tender truck, \$50,000 to the Dale Volunteer Fire Department to buy a cab and chassis for a new brush truck, and \$25,000 to Salem VFD to help with a new storage building.

“We have awarded a lot of grants in support of the many volunteer fire departments and first responders across our 3,800-square-mile service area,” explains Melissa Segrest, manager of marketing and communications for Bluebonnet EC. “They are vital to the communities we serve.”

CoServ, based in Corinth, operates a charitable foundation that provides annual grants to volunteer fire departments. In the past two years, the foundation has awarded more than \$75,000 to four nearby VFDs.

Last year, Medina EC, in South Texas, provided grants to two volunteer fire departments. The Pearsall VFD received \$2,000 to purchase a portable defibrillator, and the Devine Fire and Rescue Department received \$4,900 toward a brush truck.

Campbell, of Hamilton County EC, knows firsthand how beneficial co-ops are to their communities. “As a director, I realize that other communities in our service area have special needs, and our electric co-op is always willing to lend a hand with equipment and employees,” he says. “Through the Hamilton Electric Co-op, our fire department has received grants from LCRA to establish a building to house our trucks, equipment and to provide a community center for our residents.”

Medina EC assists volunteer fire departments that serve its 17-county service area by donating retired co-op vehicles. Since the inception of its vehicle donation program in 2015, Medina EC has donated vehicles to eight local fire departments.

Bandera EC supports more than 18 VFDs in its service territory, including Leakey, Pipe Creek and Medina. The co-op has provided personal protective equipment and satellite phones for first responders.

Two Bandera EC employees are volunteer firefighters. Technician Kenneth Alf has worked for the co-op for 29 years and has been with the Tarpley VFD for 30 years. Donny Rambin, a facilities maintenance technician, has been with the co-op for 13 years and the Medina VFD for 10 years.

“BEC has close ties with VFDs because the safety and well-being of our members is important to us,” says Samantha Gleason, BEC communications design specialist, whose brother and grandfather volunteer with the Pipe Creek VFD. “Volunteer firefighters work hard in rural areas like ours. These volunteers respond to more than just fires. They also respond to car accidents, loose cattle, downed power lines—you name it.

“VFDs provide life- and property-saving services, which align with our cooperative principle, Concern for Community, and our mission to improve the quality of life for our members.”

Writer and photographer **Eric W. Pohl**, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Dripping Springs.

CO-OPS LENDING A HAND

In addition to local support, rural fire departments receive grants from organizations such as the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Lower Colorado River Authority and electric co-ops.

In 2018, Pedernales EC provided grants to volunteer fire departments in its 24-county service area, including more than \$7,000 to Driftwood, North Hays County and Henly VFDs for training room and helipad upgrades.

“Volunteer fire departments are critical to our members’ safety, especially in the rural communities we serve,” says Caroline Tinsley Porter, community relations coordinator with Pedernales EC. “Without their commitment to serving others, many families and businesses in our service territory would be at elevated risk.”

Bastrop-based Bluebonnet EC partnered with LCRA last year to support fire departments. Grants included \$50,000 to South Lee County

WEB EXTRAS

► Read about how co-op members help fire departments when they round up their bills. Also, see how widespread the co-op connection is to VFDs.

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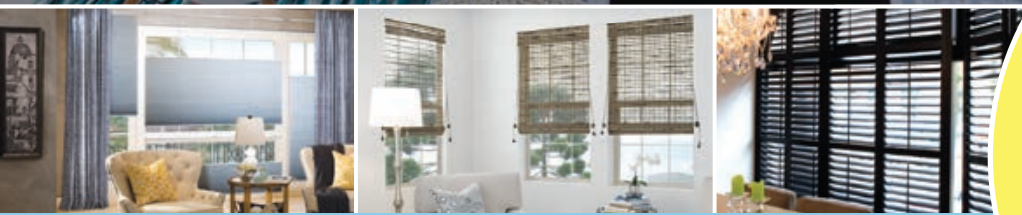
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This is one in a series of stories about some of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's earliest residential members



THE DUBE LEGACY

The 1940 family home still stands, drawing a son back to the area where his father's memories still ring clear

By Clayton Stromberger





Bluebonnet member Oscar Dube Jr. took a trip down memory lane as he shared photos of his younger days. From left, he is seen with his sister and father, in the 36th Division of the National Guard, and in front of the old family home in the late 1940s. (Dube family photos)

80th
ANNIVERSARY

Oscar Herman Dube worked hard. He was known for it. As a youth growing up in the rolling farmlands of northeastern Bastrop County, between McDade and the Lee County line, he would hitch up a mule early in the morning at his parents' farmhouse and head off to plow the nearby cotton and corn fields for 50 cents a day, often keeping at it until the light faded.

"From sunup to sundown," says his son, Oscar Herman Dube Jr., 79, who lives with his wife, Loretta, in a ranch house just half a mile south of the land where his father grew up. "Long days. There were three boys and two girls (in Oscar Sr.'s family), and they didn't have a whole lot to eat, often just homemade bread and homemade syrup. They said that sometimes he'd be so tired that he would fall asleep and his face would fall in the plate, and it would stick to it because of all the syrup."

A gritty perseverance came naturally to Oscar Sr. He was the direct

descendant of Wendish immigrants on his father's side – the Dubes (pronounced Du-bee) – and also on his mother's side, the Wolfs. The Wends were people of Slavic descent who lived in eastern Germany and chose to immigrate to the United States for a variety of reasons, including religious and cultural freedom and economic opportunity.

Members of both the Dube and Wolf families were among the famous group of 600 Wends who decided to sail for Texas in 1854, led by their Lutheran pastor. They suffered many hardships and losses

Continued on page 20



At left, Oscar Dube Jr. and his wife, Loretta, recently visited the family farmhouse on Wolf Road in McDade, half a mile from their current ranch home. Above are siblings Martha and Oscar Jr. at the farmhouse in the early 1950s. (Left, Sarah Beal photo; above, Dube family photo)

Continued from page 19

along the way: Oscar Sr.'s great-grandfather, Michael Dube, died of cholera and was buried in Ireland; his great-grandmother, Rosina Dube, carried on to Galveston with their 10 children. One child died in Houston – the first Wend, according to family history books, to die on Texas soil.

The surviving Wends founded the community of Serbin, southwest of Giddings in southwestern Lee County, and gradually dispersed to outlying farm areas, including Fedor in north central Lee County and the land around McDade. Members of the Dube and Wolf families arrived in the McDade area in about the 1870s, Oscar Jr. says. The fact that both a Dube Lane and a Wolf Road wind through this quiet rural area attests to the early importance of those families to the region.

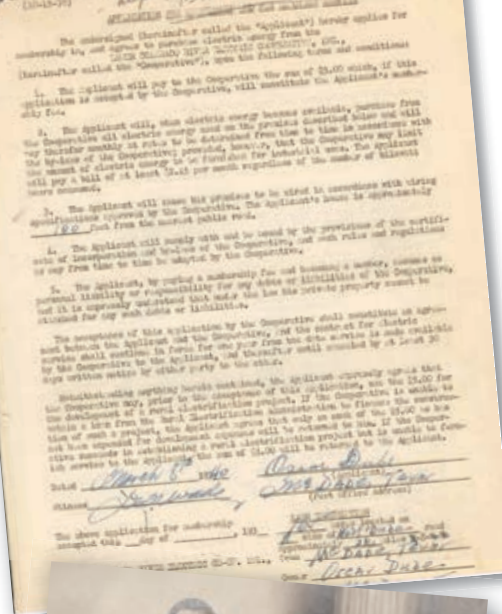
Oscar Dube Sr. – born in 1899, on the cusp of the 20th century – grew up in a world where electricity was something folks had in the big cities. It was not a part of the landscape as far as the eye could see. But as advances in technology began to work their way into the countryside, Oscar Sr. eagerly embraced them, his son says – even if it took a while to adjust to the new ways.

“When he got his first car, he was used to telling his mules to stop at the gate,” Oscar Jr. says with a grin. “So the first time driving his new car, he told it to stop at the gate: ‘Whoa!’ It didn’t stop. It just broke right through.”

When news hit the area that the Lower Colorado River Electric Cooperative (later renamed Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative) was taking applications for electric service, Oscar Dube Sr. didn’t waste time. His original application form, preserved in the Bluebonnet archives for four generations, is dated March 8, 1940, for his newly built farmhouse on Wolf Road. On his form, which listed potential appliances that would need electrical wiring in the home, Oscar Sr. put a check mark next to a radio, washing machine, electric range and water heater.

For Oscar Sr., 1940 was a momentous year. Aside from building his house with the help of a friend and signing up for electricity, at age 41 he married Alma Wiede, who grew up on a farm in Clifton, near Waco. They met at the wedding of a friend of Oscar Sr.’s, at which he was the best man and Alma was the maid of honor. The final big personal event of 1940 was the birth of young Oscar Jr. in November, probably within a month or two after the lights came on. (The co-op contract allowed six months for service to be provided).

A daughter, Martha, was born in 1943. Martha (Dube) Berry, who now lives in



Dube family photos
Oscar Dube Sr. signed a member agreement with the Lower Colorado River Electric Cooperative (later renamed Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative) on March 8, 1940. He married Alma Wiede on Jan. 28, 1940.

Austin, remembers how everyone pitched in on the farm. It taught her the value of hard work, she says.

“I remember hoeing in the watermelon patch and driving the tractor when my brother and father would pull corn,” Berry says. “And I did that when I was very young. That was my job in the summertime. I remember we raised black-eyed peas and cream peas, and one morning I picked 90 pounds of peas. We all did whatever we needed to do.”

Oscar Jr. recalls that even with a few new appliances as the 1940s went along, life was still rugged on the farm by today’s standards.

“When I look back, it’s hard to believe how my father made a living,” Oscar Jr. says. “But all of the families around us, we were all in the same boat, so to speak. None of

us had any money. We lived off the farm. It was hard. We didn’t get a tractor until about 1947. We had our own chickens, and our own hogs that we butchered, and calves, and sheep, too. And a big garden. Dad raised some hogs and some cattle, and that’s about what he did.”

Though the Wends spoke their native Sorbian, they also spoke German, and that was the primary language in the household until Oscar Jr. started going to school, where English was required, he recalls. Alma had grown up speaking German in her family as well. Even after that, German was often spoken at night in the Dube home after the kids went to bed. Gradually the Sorbian faded away.

Before electricity, Alma cleaned clothes using a washpot and a rubboard, and the couple used kerosene and coal oil lamps. Oscar Jr. and Loretta still have one of the lamps. Christmas meant a box of apples from a store in McDade and one toy.

“That house had a wood cookstove,” Oscar Jr. says, “and a wood heater. This will sound strange to you, probably, but we just had a bath about once a week — and we’d take a bath in the kitchen. This cookstove had a water reservoir, so that’s where we had the warm water for our bath. And we didn’t have a bathroom in the house. We finally had a bathroom built, but it just had a commode — before that, just an outhouse. We didn’t have a bathtub until I was a sophomore in high school” in 1957.

Young Oscar Jr.’s mother canned everything, including meat, as she’d done growing up in Clifton. In the 1950s, Oscar Sr. got into the business of raising hatching eggs and ended up tending 4,000 chickens. “Dad worked really hard,” Oscar Jr. recalls, “and he had the highest hatching rate in Bastrop County.” The chickens were the only residents that had any form of air conditioning – foggers and fans. Oscar Jr. put a hammock in the chicken house so he could cool off after lunch.

Eventually, the new appliances came – first, a refrigerator, and then a big boxy radio to replace the battery-powered one, and then a washing machine and an electric stove. Oscar Jr. remembers how his parents would store fresh milk and butter in the refrigerator, and the smell of Alma’s fresh-baked bread would often waft up from the new oven.

Then, in 1953, when Oscar Jr. was 13, something new replaced the boxy radio as the center of family entertainment.

“My sister and I just couldn’t get over it — it was a television,” he remembers, and his father was in charge of it, especially on Sunday evenings. Sunday was the one day Oscar Sr. didn’t work. The day often began with a half-hour morning journey in the



Photo by Sarah Beal

Loretta and Oscar Dube Jr. sold their Austin business in 1997 and bought a Bastrop County ranch adjacent to the family lands.

1945 Chevy on sandy back roads to Fedor for Lutheran services, and continued with an afternoon visiting with neighbors under shady trees, and then family supper at the dining table. Only then would Oscar Sr. pull the set out to the front porch and the family would watch TV. Oscar Sr. twisted the antenna to bring in different stations from around Central Texas. In later years, Oscar Jr. remembers, his father loved to watch wrestling. The whole family loved watching "Gunsmoke" and other westerns.

The younger Dubes have kept the old family farmhouse in good shape, though no one lives in it. It sits quietly in a field at a little turn in Wolf Road, surrounded by the old chicken sheds in the meadow and Oscar Sr.'s old pickup. Some of Oscar Jr.'s cattle graze nearby. He can look through the side window of the old house and see where he sat for supper at the table, which is still there, too.

"I had to sit next to the drafty window," he says with a smile during a recent visit to the old farmhouse. "It wasn't such a great spot." Behind him, next to the old house, stands a grey power pole. A line runs from the top of it to the house, carrying electricity, because sometimes Oscar Jr. uses the old water pump next to the house to get water to the cattle.

Oscar Jr. and Loretta married in 1963. Loretta, who grew up in West Austin on Jefferson Street, remembers the first time she came out to the country to visit Oscar Jr.'s



Photo by Sarah Beal

Oscar Dube Jr. recalled the days of using a kerosene lamp before his family got electricity in the early 1940s.

family at this house. It was winter, and the woodstove was having a hard time keeping up. "It was so cold I used five quilts," she says.

In his late 80s, Oscar Sr. continued to put on his work boots and walk his fields, searching for work to do. In the end, as his

memory began to fail, the family had to take Oscar Sr.'s boots away: It was the only way to keep him from going out to check on the field, where he would sometimes get lost. Eventually Oscar Jr., Loretta, Martha and her late husband, Weldon Berry, moved Oscar Sr. and Alma to a house in Austin to care for them. Oscar Sr. died in 1992 at age 92; Alma died four years later at age 89.

Oscar Jr. and Loretta had long and successful careers running an office supply company. After selling the company in 1997, they bought their Bastrop County ranch property — by luck, a ranch and house were available adjacent to the family lands — and began living on it in 1998. The gate at the entrance to the property announces it as "L & O Dube Ranch." Their two children and their grandchildren visit as often as they can. Everyone in the family, including Martha Berry, her husband Weldon Berry, and their two children and grandson, agreed that the old farmhouse and the Dube land should be preserved for future generations.

"It really means a lot to me when I go down to see the house and occasionally walk through it and think of the memories," Martha Berry says. "I'm glad it's still standing."

"Our son and daughter and their children just love it down here," Oscar Jr. says, as a gentle breeze blows through the post oak trees on a hot day. "My son, who lives in Austin, he'll sit on the back porch all day. He says, 'It's just like heaven.'"

Tomorrow's line workers are training today at Bluebonnet

Cooperative's program hires and prepares the next generation

By Will Holford

Tristin Lagrone first heard about working for Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative at a Lexington High School career day when he was a sophomore.

"I didn't think about working for Bluebonnet that day," said Lagrone, 22. Until a few months ago, he had worked for three years as a commercial electrician.

"But after three years of driving to Austin for work, I was burnt out and ready for a change when I saw the opening for this internship."

Lagrone was among the second group of interns that Bluebonnet recently hired for its apprentice line worker program. The co-op wanted to find applicants from communities in or near its service area, which was perfect for Lagrone, who lives near Lexington.

It takes a lot of training, time and specialized skills to become a line worker. Bluebonnet, along with electric utilities across the country and state, are facing two challenges: replacing experienced line workers who are near retirement and the boom of economic growth and low unemployment in Texas. Bluebonnet is growing rapidly, having topped 100,000 meters this year. Add to that the fact that it takes years to learn how to be an electric line worker, a trade that is difficult and potentially dangerous.

To face these challenges and prepare for the future, in 2018 the cooperative launched an internship program to hire and

train the next generation of line workers. Seven interns were hired in 2018 and seven more were hired this year. Bluebonnet wants to give area residents opportunities to learn the trade and get a head start toward a long, rewarding career close to home.

"Our goal is to find motivated, talented people and help them enter into the trade," said Matt Bentke, Bluebonnet's general manager. "We have hired a great group of young people who are from here or have ties to our communities. When they successfully complete the program, they'll be certified journeyman line workers, ready to earn a good living and serve their communities in critically important jobs. That's a win for everyone."

All of the interns are from Central Texas and grew up knowing about Bluebonnet. Another five new employees are line workers who have had prior training and are ready to step directly into the cooperative's four-year apprentice program.

"Several of the interns we hired were referred to us by employees and others in our communities," Bentke said. "And that's not unique to this most recent group. That's true nearly every time we hire for any job. That is one of the greatest compliments and surest signs that we have the right culture in place."

The new interns will participate in a six-month program of classroom instruction and field observation. Those who successfully complete that training will step into Bluebonnet's four-year apprentice program. Bluebonnet employees administer and teach that program, which consists of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. During their internships and apprentice training, the new line workers will receive full-time pay and benefits.

"We will provide constant communication throughout the process," said David Tobola, Bluebonnet's manager of operations and a homegrown line worker from Giddings who currently lives in Bastrop. "During their



six-month internship, we'll be patient, bring them along at the right pace and give them the instruction and feedback they need along the way to be successful."

The interns and new apprentices will work with crews out of the Bluebonnet service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings and Red Rock.

The new line workers took different paths to get here, but they have a common thread woven into their decision: Bluebonnet's service and values.

Joe Scheid is an apprentice candidate who

orkers



Photo by Ralph Barrera

lives near Independence today, but he grew up in East Texas, and was looking for a good career to follow his service in the Air Force. He entered Kilgore College's electric power technology program at age 32. After completing the 10-week course, he was drawn to Bluebonnet because of the area and the cooperative.

"I talked to some of the guys I know at my home co-op," Scheid said. "They liked the work. I like being challenged and being outside, so I thought I'd like it, too. When I started looking at co-ops, I was attracted to

Central Texas and was really drawn to Bluebonnet because of its values. They are what set Bluebonnet apart from everyone else."

Out of 50 applicants for the jobs this year, more than 30 were interviewed. Lagrone remembers the moment he found out he got the job. "I got the call when I was working in Austin. I was so excited, I was ready to go home and start working for Bluebonnet right then," he said.

He and six of his fellow interns are on the job now, making each day a career day serving Bluebonnet's members. ■

Many of Bluebonnet's new interns and apprentice candidate line workers are from the cooperative's service area. From left, Brent Ellis, Trey Townsend, Eric Cobb (apprentice candidate), Ryan Smith, Tristin Lagrone, Nick Baker, Preston Vaughn, Caleb Clay and Joe Scheid (apprentice candidate). Not pictured are apprentice candidates Cade Courtemanche, Ryder Lane and Nick Scott.

Five parties for members marked the cooperative's 80th year



Photos by Sarah Beal

JoAnn and Antone Schrader of Caldwell meet Bluebonnet's new mascot at the Giddings member service center during one of five 80th birthday parties across the service area.

Thanks for celebrating with us

Eighty years ago, on Aug. 2, the electric cooperative that became Bluebonnet received its state charter and began the work of bringing power to a large swath of Central Texas.

This year, Bluebonnet celebrated its 80th anniversary in a variety of ways, but in late July and early August, we were ready to party with members.

The cooperative hosted five birthday parties at each of its member service centers, in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

Because of the emphasis on history, each party had a display of vintage electric appliances from the 1930s and later, along with a colorful timeline about the history of electric appliances.

Members enjoyed cookies and popcorn while they visited with Bluebonnet's employees and executives, a line worker who shared stories about his job, and our inflatable light bulb mascot.

There were coloring contests for kids, and five winners were drawn at random from each party to win an Amazon Fire 7 kids tablet. There was also a drawing at each party for a new small appliance.

To see more scenes from the parties, go to Bluebonnet's Facebook page and click on photos.



Above, Bluebonnet General Counsel Sarah Newman-Altamirano visits with Freddie Zoch at the Giddings birthday party.



Left, Andrew Muniz, 6, of Manor tries his hand at the coloring contest while wearing a line worker's insulated glove.



Photos by Sarah Beal

Left, Bluebonnet's member service centers are illuminated in pink to bring awareness to breast cancer. Above, Heath Walden, a Bastrop crew supervisor, sports a pink hard hat.

We're turning pink for awareness

Love of community is at the heart of what we do at Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, and we're proud to help raise awareness of breast cancer in October. For the seventh year in a row, Bluebonnet is turning pink this month to bring attention to the need for more research and support

for those with this form of cancer.

During Breast Cancer Awareness month, our member service centers are illuminated in pink, line workers wear pink hard hats, Bluebonnet service trucks bear pink ribbon decals and employees will sometimes wear pink T-shirts.

In October, Bluebonnet members can pick up an informational handout (in English and Spanish), a pink ribbon pin or a pink paper ribbon embedded with flower seeds at any of our member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor.



Photo by Sarah Beal

Find out about careers at Bluebonnet

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Inc. is one of the largest electric cooperatives in Texas and has been serving its members since 1939.

The cooperative serves more than 100,000 members and owns and maintains 11,750 miles of power lines across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 Central Texas counties.

In accordance with federal, state and local laws, Bluebonnet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability unrelated to job

requirements, genetic history, veteran status or any other legally protected status.

Bluebonnet accepts applications for its Department of Labor Certified Apprentice Program for line workers on the first Tuesday of every month, and for all other open positions as they become available.

Applications may be completed on the coop's website. Go to bluebonnet.coop and click on About, then Careers, or click on Careers at the bottom of any page on the website.

Have a Bluebonnet online account? Please make a small change.

To provide better online member service, Bluebonnet is preparing to update its website in the coming months.

In a few weeks, members with online accounts will be asked to change their username to their email address.

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When logging in at bluebonnet.coop, you will be prompted to change your username to your email address.

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Charming the Soviets

How piano virtuoso Van Cliburn twice helped thaw Cold War relations

BY DAVID LATIMER

ON MAY 20, 1958, A TICKER-TAPE PARADE through the streets of New York cheered America's hottest celebrity, a 23-year-old Texan named Van Cliburn. The honoree's accomplishment? He had conquered Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, winning first place in the first International Tchaikovsky Competition's piano division in Moscow.

The Soviet Union had intended for the event to demonstrate Russian superiority in music and achieve a propaganda victory.

The story of Cliburn's stunning success in Moscow has been told in two recent books, *Moscow Nights: The Van Cliburn Story* and *When the World Stopped to Listen*. Both books cover the competition, the improbable American victory and the historic Cold War context.

Harvey Lavan Cliburn Jr. was born July 12, 1934, in Shreveport, Louisiana, but his family moved to Kilgore in East Texas when he was 6. His father worked for the Magnolia Oil Company, and his mother, Rildia Bee, was a classically trained pianist. Her musical roots help explain Cliburn's deep affinity for the dramatic Russian style of performance.

Bee studied in New York at the Institute of Musical Art, the predecessor of the Juilliard School, and was a student of Arthur Friedheim, a pianist from St. Petersburg. This musicality was reinforced when Cliburn attended the Juilliard School in 1951, at age 17 and became a student of Rosina Lhévinne, who had graduated from the Moscow Conservatory. When Cliburn auditioned for her already-full class, she sensed in his technique the tradition that was her own.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to watch videos of Van Cliburn.



Texan Van Cliburn wowed the audience and judges in Moscow.

Seven years later, by the time of the Tchaikovsky Competition finals in Moscow, Cliburn had won over the crowds. "His admirers in the concert hall and those who heard him on the radio or saw him on television were hooked from the moment the 23-year-old appeared on stage," Stuart Isacoff writes in *When the World Stopped to Listen*. "But it wasn't the music alone that drew them. His Southern charm was as thick as gravy on fresh biscuits as he greeted his new fans with the prim decorousness of a proper East Texas gentleman, unfailingly gracious at every turn."

Following the Tchaikovsky piece, a Rachmaninoff concerto sealed the deal. Showers of flowers fell on the stage, and the audience chanted "Vanya, Vanya"—their name for Cliburn. It's likely that this frenzied adulation made sure the judges' decision in favor of the American would not be overturned by Soviet edict. Premier Nikita Khrushchev endorsed the choice and invited his new friend for return visits.

Cliburn enjoyed a successful concert

and recording career for the next 20 years. He stopped performing in 1977, though he continued to make public appearances and to support the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, held in his adopted hometown of Fort Worth.

He returned to public performance in December 1987, when President Ronald Reagan hosted the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. Cliburn played an after-dinner concert starting with the state anthem of the Soviet Union followed by *The Star-Spangled Banner*. After the scheduled program, Cliburn played *Moscow Nights*, a popular Russian song that had the Russian delegation singing along. At Gorbachev's invitation, Cliburn returned to Russia for a series of concerts and found an enthusiastic welcome.

In 2012, Van Cliburn was diagnosed with bone cancer, and he died February 27, 2013. At his funeral in Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Orchestra and a chorus performed his favorite church hymns and then *Moscow Nights*.

David Latimer lives in Austin and teaches at Austin Community College.

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Company Dinner

BECAUSE IT WAS SERVED AT ALMOST every meal, some historians dubbed the 1950s “the meat decade.” After all, the era served up bacon and sausage for breakfast, saw the birth of Whataburger in Texas and celebrated special occasions with dishes like this simple yet sophisticated beef tenderloin served with a dollop of blue cheese butter, published in June 1959. To raise the bar (and add a modern touch or two), enhance the butter with a splash of cognac, roast the meat over sprigs of fresh rosemary or thyme, and garnish with flaky salt. You can also serve the sliced meat with your favorite aioli and roasted new potatoes, or over arugula, with lemon wedges on the side.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Imperial Tenderloin of Beef

- ¼ pound blue cheese, softened
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons cognac or other brandy
- 1 beef tenderloin (4–6 pounds)
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ cup (½ stick) melted butter
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 4–5 sprigs fresh rosemary (optional)
- Flaky salt, for serving

1. Use a rubber spatula to combine the blue cheese, butter and brandy until smooth. Transfer the mixture to a large square of plastic wrap, roll into a cylinder and chill (this can be done up to two days in advance).

2. Drizzle the tenderloin with enough olive oil to lightly coat, and generously season with salt and pepper. Allow the meat to marinate at room temperature at least

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Watch Paula make this recipe in a video online.

Retro Recipes

Company Dinner



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

MELISSA TURLEY | BANDERA EC

This dressed-up take on pizza will feed a crowd. "For the prettiest presentation, I like to use half a yellow and half a red bell pepper," says Turley. "Served with a big salad, it's the perfect colorful, festive dinner for company and sure to be a hit with all palates. Just switch up the fillings to suit your tastes."

Supreme Pizza Braids

FILLING

- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
- 1 bell pepper, halved, seeded and thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons dried basil
- 1 cup pizza or spaghetti sauce, divided use
- 12 slices salami
- 10-12 slices cheddar cheese
- 10-12 slices provolone or mozzarella cheese
- 1 can (2.25 ounces) sliced black olives
- Parmesan cheese to taste

DOUGH

- 5 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt or garlic salt
- 2 cups hot water (120-130 degrees)
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 egg

1. FILLING: In a medium skillet over medium heat, melt butter, then sauté bell pepper, onion and basil until soft and lightly browned. Set aside.

2. DOUGH: In a stand mixer, combine dry ingredients, then slowly add wet ingredients while mixing on low speed. Continue to mix about 5 minutes, adding flour as necessary to keep bowl clean, but dough should still be soft and slightly sticky. Remove dough and cut in half.

3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a greased or parchment-lined cookie sheet, spread out half of dough to form a large rectangle, about 10 by 14 inches.

4. Spread ½ cup of sauce down center third of dough. Spread half of pepper and onion mix down center on top of sauce. Layer salami slices over peppers and onions. Layer cheese slices, alternating flavors, down center of salami. Sprinkle with half the olives. Sprinkle generously with Parmesan.

5. Cut 6-8 slits diagonally down each outer third of dough. Alternating sides, lift, twist, cross and pinch dough, forming a long, twisted braid shape that encloses all the filling.

6. Repeat steps 4-5 for the other half of dough, creating a second braid on a second pan.

7. Bake about 15-20 minutes, or until puffy and lightly browned.

► Serves 18-20.



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\$100 Recipe Contest

March's recipe contest topic is **Crawfish, Oysters, Crab and More**. March is prime time for Texas seafood, before Gulf waters warm up. Send us your favorite ways to prepare and serve our coastal bounty. The deadline is **October 10**.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

30 minutes (or up to 1 hour). Meanwhile, combine the garlic and melted butter in a small saucepan over medium-low heat, just until the butter begins to sizzle. Remove from heat, stir in Worcestershire sauce and allow the mixture to cool at least 5 minutes.

3. Heat oven to 450 degrees. Place the tenderloin on a rack fitted into a roasting pan, tucking the rosemary sprigs under the meat, and brush the entire surface of the tenderloin with the butter-garlic mixture. Roast 45-60 minutes, basting the meat with garlic butter every 15-20 minutes, until a meat thermometer registers 145 degrees. Allow the meat to rest 10 minutes before slicing. Serve warm tenderloin slices drizzled with pan juices, if desired, and topped with a dollop of blue cheese butter (it should melt into the meat) and a sprinkle of flaky salt.

► Serves 6-8.

Shrimp BBQ

DARLYNDA CANALES | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Perfect for a casual dinner, this messy favorite is meant for dipping bread and using your fingers. "My daughter Marlyss had just seen the movie *Forrest Gump* and asked me how Bubba would be able to make barbecued shrimp," Canales says. "Now we had made shrimp numerous ways, but never had I tried to make Shrimp BBQ. But I love a good challenge! This recipe is the one we came up with that we liked the best."

SAUCE

- 1 jalapeño pepper
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon cumin

SHRIMP

- 8 small frozen cobs of corn
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup chopped onion



- 1 bottle (12 ounces) beer
- 2 pounds uncooked medium shell-on shrimp, deveined

1. SAUCE: Roast the jalapeño over an open flame 2 minutes, then set aside.
2. In a saucepan, melt butter, then add brown sugar. Bring butter-sugar mixture to a low boil.
3. Meanwhile, in a blender, place the roasted jalapeño (destemmed), tomato sauce, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, salt, cayenne pepper, garlic, onion and cumin. Blend ingredients until smooth. Add this to the butter-sugar mixture in the saucepan. Simmer about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. SHRIMP: Cook corn according to package directions. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Add onion, stir to coat, and return to oven until onion is soft, about 5 minutes.
5. Remove dish from oven and carefully add beer, sauce, shrimp and corn. Stir together until all the shrimp and corn

cobs are coated with the sauce.
6. Return dish to oven and bake until shrimp are pink, 20–25 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking time. Serve with toasted baguettes and coleslaw. ▶ Serves 8.

COOK'S TIP To catch any spills, set the 13-by-9-inch dish on a larger rimmed baking sheet before adding all the liquids, then put both pans in the oven together.

Blue Cheese Salad Delight

PATRICK SPAGON | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

A big, tasty salad with lots of toppings is sometimes just the thing to make dinner special.

- 4 strips bacon
- 10–12 romaine lettuce leaves, washed
- 4 medium tomatoes
- 2–3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 12 pitted black olives, halved
- 3 tablespoons grated mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup blue cheese dressing

- ¾ cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1½ cups garlic croutons
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

1. Cook bacon until crisp. Crumble and set aside.
2. Tear lettuce leaves into bite-size pieces and arrange in a large, shallow salad bowl. Cut tomatoes into bite-size wedges and arrange on top of lettuce. Drizzle olive oil over tomatoes. Add salt and pepper, preferably freshly ground.
3. Arrange olives in a circle near edge of bowl. Sprinkle mozzarella over top. Pour blue cheese dressing over all. Sprinkle blue cheese bits over dressing.
4. Add croutons and crumbled bacon evenly over top of salad. Finish with a sprinkle of chopped fresh chives. Serve immediately. ▶ Serves 4–6.

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Read these recipes on our website to see the original Imperial Tenderloin of Beef recipe from June 1959.



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

▼ **DENNIS DURKEE**, Victoria EC: A chain of volunteers pass recycled oyster shells into the bay water at Goose Island State Park, near Rockport, to restore fragile oyster reefs.



▲ **DENISE SELLERS**, Pedernales EC: Volunteers read with students at Lago Vista Elementary School.



▼ **JESUS ROJAS**, Nueces EC: "Cooking for the Lenten season at our church."



▲ **HEIDI FRAZIER**, Bluebonnet EC: As a Girl Scout troop leader for more than 15 years, Frazier has assisted Scouts with a number of community service activities. This year, her high school-age troop donated and installed a flagpole at the Caldwell Girl Scout House.



▲ **MADELAINE PACK**, Tri-County EC: Pack and Melony Block serve dessert at the Tri-County EC Annual Meeting.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

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October 8

Lewisville [8, 15, 22, 29] **Rocktober Concert Series**, (972) 219-3401, visitlewisville.com

10

Driftwood Friends Foundation BBQ Fundraiser, (512) 592-1345, thefriendsfoundation.org

New Braunfels Bacon Brothers: The Shaky Ground Tour, (830) 606-1281, gruenehall.com

11

Fredericksburg [11-13] **Texas Mesquite Arts Festival**, (830) 997-8515, texasmesquiteartfestivals.com

12

Lago Vista St. Mary's Oktoberfest, (512) 267-2644, stmaryoktoberfest.org

Midland Patsy's Breast Cancer Cook-Off, (432) 312-5944, patsyscookoff.com

Rusk Fair on the Square, (903) 683-4242, ruskchamber.com

October 12
Midland
Patsy's Breast
Cancer Cook-Off



13

Pipe Creek PCVFD Annual BBQ and Raffle, (830) 535-4511, pipecreekvolfire.org

18

Canton [18-19] **Texas Star Quilters Guild Annual Quilt Show**, (903) 896-7100, texasstarquilters.wixsite.com/tsqg



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Jasper Fall Butterfly Festival, (409) 384-2762, jaspercoc.org

Taylor Bluebonnet Horse Expo, 1-888-542-5163, bluebonnethorseexpo.com

Waco Oakwood Cemetery's Walking Tales, (254) 717-1763, wacoheartoftexas.com

20

Brenham Butcher's Ball, 1-800-778-3196, butchersball.com

Huntsville St. Thomas Church Fall Festival, (936) 295-8159, saintthomashuntsville.org/bazaar

Smithville St. Paul's Catholic Church Bazaar, (512) 921-0751, stpaulsmithville.org

24

Wylie Boo on Ballard & Night of Wonder, (972) 516-6016, wylietetexas.gov

Groves [24-27] Pecan Festival, (409) 962-3631, grovescofc.com

25

Grapeland [25-27] Lone Star Blues and Heritage Festival, (936) 687-2594, lonestarlbluesfest.com

26

Athens Tomato Town: Henderson County Master Gardeners, (903) 675-6130, txmg.org/hendersonmg

Granbury Bow Wow Trick or Treat, (817) 964-0333



October 19
Jasper
Fall Butterfly Festival

Point Venture Holiday Bazaar, (281) 799-0114, facebook.com/pvannualartsbazaar

Waxahachie Texas Country Reporter Festival, (469) 309-4045, texascountryreporter.com/festival

November

1

Oakville Dobie Dichos: Campfires, Chili con Carne and the Words of J. Frank Dobie, (361) 319-3067, dobiedichos.com

2

Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair, (903) 268-1598, kimfelt94@icloud.com

Pearland Pearland Opry on the Square, (281) 997-5970, visitpearland.com

Pipe Creek Castle Lake Ranch VFD Annual Turkey Shoot, (830) 535-6611, banderacowboycapital.com

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Team Spirit

Football field in San Saba, built over a cemetery, has a lively history

EVERY SPORTS FAN WITNESSES MOMENTS of inexplicable athleticism or a notable lack thereof: A baseball player misses an easy grounder; a basketball player hits a last-second jumper with eyes closed; or a football player running for a game-winning touchdown trips in the open field. When such things happen on San Saba's football field, the locals don't ask why because they know the reason: spirits!

I visited Rogan Field on a cold February day, when the wet chill seemed to penetrate directly to my bones. My first impression was that this field looked like a normal high school football field: 120 yards long, goal posts at each end and a scoreboard painted in Armadillo purple and gold. But what I couldn't see, and what makes Rogan Field eerily different, were the legends buried 6 feet below the turf. This field was built on top of a pioneer cemetery.

The tale begins in 1934, when San Saba's high school football team played on the infield of a horse track north of town. The team desperately needed a field closer to campus, and the coaches found the perfect lot adjacent to the Methodist church. The only problem was that this lot was already occupied, and the inhabitants would not move. Since 1858, the property had been an early settler cemetery, but after years of neglect, it was overgrown and weedy. This wouldn't have been a problem, except that when the Rogan family donated the land, they stipulated that it be maintained.

Even so, the team seized the opportunity. The Rogan family gifted the land



Make no bones about it: Rogan Field was haunted when Chet visited.

approached, with numerous bodies still unclaimed, the players simply moved the remaining tombstones and left the bodies to become the team's first season ticket holders.

Since that 1935 football season, San Saba has enjoyed an otherworldly home-field advantage that gives new meaning to the term "school spirit." Lucky for the Armadillos, the resident spirits seem to like their new placement and regularly perform strange feats in favor of the home team. Opposing players drop passes or trip for no apparent reason, leading fans to conclude that the spirits must be reaching up from the grave.

The Armadillos have used this legend to wage psychological warfare against opponents. Brad McCoy (father of former Longhorns quarterback Colt McCoy), who coached at San Saba 1989–1994, even placed a sign saying "Welcome to the Graveyard" near the visiting team's locker room. No team has been more cursed than

to the school, calling on all folks to come and claim the remains of their loved ones. As the season

the Goldthwaite Eagles, who won two state championships in the 1990s yet lost four consecutive times at Rogan Field.

Knowing the field's history, I expected to see an apparition in full uniform floating above the turf or a sign touting the field's ghostly origin. Sadly, I saw the stadium has been completely wiped clean of any reference to the graveyard. The current coaches seem more focused on winning games the traditional way than relying on help from the beyond.

But regardless of whether the team will acknowledge their presence, I'm sure that when the game is on the line, everyone on the home sideline is hoping the spirits will rise up once more and pull out another mysterious feat to help the Armadillos. For many Texans, high school football has always been a life-or-death matter. But perhaps the folks in San Saba have figured out that sometimes it can be both life *and* death.

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 of his visit to San Saba High School's Rogan Field.

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SUPER COUPON

SOLAR ROPE LIGHT

- 16 ft. of warm white LEDs

\$12.99
NOW \$8.99
SAVE 72%



COMPARE TO HAMPTON BAY
ITEM 62533/63941/64625/68353 shown

\$32.97
MODEL: 84130

Customer Rating
★★★★★

23234532

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

U.S. GENERAL

30" BULK STORAGE TECH CART

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



\$119.99
NOW \$99.99

COMPARE TO SNAP-ON
MODEL: KRBCFLTPC

\$411
SAVE \$311
Side tray sold separately.
ITEM 64002

23235345

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

HARDY

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES PACK OF 100

- 5 mil thickness

12¢ PER PAIR
NOW \$5.99
SAVE 59%
COMPARE TO VENOM
ITEM 97581, 37050, 64417, 64418, 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68498, 68496 shown



MODEL: VEN4145
23235876

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS



YOUR CHOICE \$39.99
\$59.99
• Air delivery: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE
MODEL: PCFP02003

23235980

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

PITTSBURGH

1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE

- Boom extends from 34" to 45"
- Crane height adjusts from 69-5/8" to 82"



\$249.99
NOW \$139.99
SAVE \$110
\$199.99

COMPARE TO IRONTON
MODEL: 46218

ITEM 69512/69445/61858 shown
23236746

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

HaulMaster

18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

- 1000 lb. capacity



\$22.99
NOW \$10.99
SAVE 65%
\$7.99

COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS
MODEL: HOFDOLLY

ITEM 60497/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown
23239273

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

PITTSBURGH

RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM FLOOR JACK

- Weighs 33 lbs.



\$91
NOW \$59.99
SAVE \$31
\$79.99

COMPARE TO K TOOL
MODEL: KTJ03094

ITEM 64552/64832/64980
68053/62160/62516/60569/64545 shown
23245937

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

SUPER COUPON

TWO TIER EASY-STORE STEP LADDER

- 225 lb. capacity



NOW \$19.99
\$29.99

COMPARE TO WERNER
MODEL: S322A-1

ITEM 67514
23248130

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL



\$99
NOW \$59.99
SAVE \$39
\$79.99

COMPARE TO KOBALT
MODEL: SBY-AIR184

ITEM 69265/62344/64685/93897 shown
23264038

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

COVER PRO

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE



\$290.75
NOW \$169.99
SAVE \$120
\$199.99

COMPARE TO SHELTER LOGIC
MODEL: 76377

ITEM 62859/63055/62860 shown
23272667

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

WARRIOR

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET



\$68.14
NOW \$10.99
SAVE 83%
\$18.99

COMPARE TO DEWALT
MODEL: DW1369

ITEM 5889/62281/61637 shown
23272725

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

PORTLAND

14" ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW



\$49.99
NOW \$39.99
SAVE 50%
\$80.74

COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN
MODEL: 071-45247

ITEM 64498/64497 shown
23281241

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

PITTSBURGH

40 PIECE, 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SAE AND METRIC SOCKET SET



\$49.98
NOW \$4.99
SAVE 90%
\$5.99

COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN
MODEL: CMNT12018

ITEM 47902/975/63015/62843 shown
23290233

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

HaulMaster

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET



\$19.99
NOW \$5.99
SAVE 70%
\$9.99

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK
MODEL: 77280

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown
23292449

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET



\$9.99
NOW \$6.99
SAVE 65%
\$19.99

COMPARE TO NORSK
MODEL: 001119346

ITEM 40187/61607/62389/94635 shown
23295066

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

CENTECH

3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER



\$59.99
NOW \$49.99
SAVE 44%
\$89.99

COMPARE TO SUPER START
MODEL: 55001

ITEM 38391/62376/64083/56349/62306 shown
23291763

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 2/12/20

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 2/1/20.

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