

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER



**TEXAN**  
*by* **NATURE**

Laura Bush and  
Texan by Nature  
inspire conservation

**BLUEBONNET NEWS**  
SEE PAGE 18



# LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

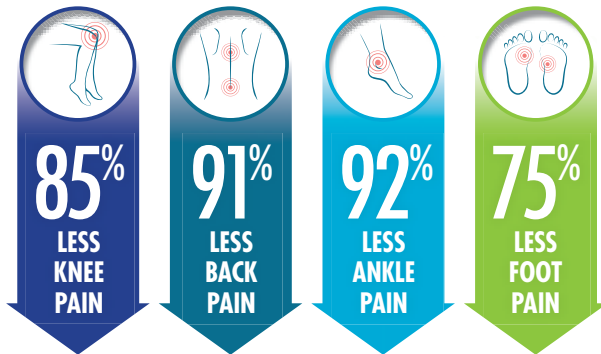
Plantar Fasciitis • Arthritis • Joint Pain • Heel Spurs • Back & Knee Pain



*“I’ve had lower back pain for years. Walking in these shoes was life changing for me. I feel like I’m walking on air.”*

– Bill F.

**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE SHOCK ABSORTION SYSTEM**



\*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

**Enjoy the benefits of exercise with proven pain relief.**

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improve Posture

## G-DEFY ION

**\$120** ~~\$150~~

**X-WIDE WIDTH AVAILABLE**

**Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**

- Black TB9025MBB
- Red/Gray TB9022MRG

**Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**

- Black/Blue TB9022FTL
- Gray/Teal TB9022FGU



# \$30 OFF

**With Promo Code MQ8EKJ4**

Expires October 31, 2018

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns  
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

**GravityDefyer.com/MQ8EKJ4**

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. This product has not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$30 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for this limited time offer. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.



On the Round Rock campus of Dell, a Texan By Nature Corporate Monarch Wrangler

**FEATURES**

**8 Naturally Protective** Laura Bush and conservation-minded Texan by Nature aim to “keep Texas, Texas.”  
By Melissa Gaskill

**12 East Texas Mojo** Writer Joe R. Lansdale’s gritty Pineywoods fiction captivates Hollywood and international fans.  
Story by E.R. Bills | Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

**NEXT MONTH**

**The Winters of Their Lives** They come from colder climes, and while they’re here, winter Texans volunteer and spread warmth.



**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**  
*Thomas Jefferson Rusk*  
By Robert Springer
- 31 **Recipes**  
*Cake Walk*
- 35 **Focus on Texas**  
*Photo Contest: Prom Night*
- 36 **Around Texas**  
*List of Local Events*
- 38 **Hit the Road**  
*Denison: Presidential Aspirations*  
By Dawn Cobb

**ONLINE**

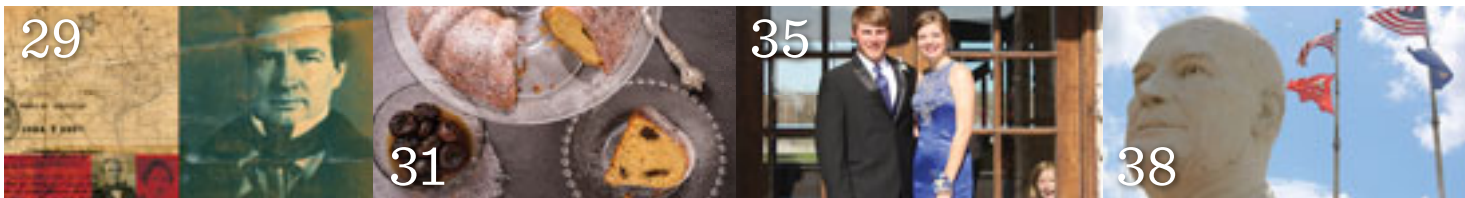
**TexasCoopPower.com**  
*Find these stories online if they don’t appear in your edition of the magazine.*

**Observations**

*Return to Sender*  
By Michael Pate

**Texas USA**

*Back on Texas Soil*  
By LaDawn Fletcher



**ON THE COVER** Allen Williams and Laura Bush speak to schoolchildren about native plants in Pharr. Photo by Grant Miller | Courtesy Texan By Nature

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Bryan Lightfoot, Chair, Bartlett; Blaine Warzecha, Vice Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Secretary-Treasurer, Comanche; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; William F. Hetherington, Bandera; Mark Stubbs, Greenville; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Jerry Boze, Kaufman; Clint Gardner, Coleman; Rick Haile, McGregor; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; Kathy Wood, Marshall • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohmann, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejetek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Administrative Assistant; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Gasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Taylor Montgomery, Digital Field Editor; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader



# Living in Mueller Style

OUR MUELLER CUSTOM BUILDING  
IS THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Mueller custom buildings make beautiful living spaces. Our strong, engineered exteriors provide flexibility for you to design a completely customized interior, while supporting large spans and open floor plans. Create your own unique space to call home. Give us a call or drop by today, and find out more about custom metal buildings from Mueller.\*

[www.muellerinc.com](http://www.muellerinc.com)

877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

\*Some exterior structures, such as carport & porches, were added post-engineering and not designed by Mueller. Please check local building codes before ordering.

**MUELLER, INC.**  
METAL BUILDINGS, ROOFING & COMPONENTS

## Nasty Trees: A Lesson

The devil's walking stick and Hercules club are not the same tree [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. Both are nasty if one grabs hold of them. The Hercules club can be found along many fences, as the birds excrete the seeds while sitting on the fence. The devil's walking stick can be found in wet areas and has super nasty spines if grabbed.

RALPH RIGGS | DENSON SPRINGS  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

## Thursday Night Legend

In the fall of 1971, I began my 40-year teaching career at John H. Reagan High School in Austin. W.E. Pigford, who was associate principal, became my mentor. He was truly a great, gentle man who had previously been coach and principal at the old black L.C. Anderson High School. He told me about coaching Dick "Night Train" Lane [*Thursday Night Lights*, February 2018] back in the mid-'40s and was honored to introduce Lane in 1974 when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mr. Pigford shared with me some of the challenges and struggles that black players faced during the years of segregation. However, he always seemed to dwell on the positives—emphasizing the rich and rewarding experiences he and his players had.

JOHN T. WENDE | DALE  
PEDERNALES EC

This took me back to my teenage years in Abilene, where my dad and I would go to Fair Park on Thursday nights and

## Devil History

I enjoyed this story a lot [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. There seems to be some devil history missing, however. Before Amistad Reservoir, there was a Devils Lake on the Devils River. There was also Lake Walk. Both were covered by Amistad.

There was also a large area on maps in the 1940s and 1950s that was labeled Hell's Half Acre. The area was southeast of Marathon and was rumored to be where the devil lived.

KENNETH HOLMES | DRIPPING SPRINGS | PEDERNALES EC



watch Woodson High play football. We would walk up and sit with the local supporters and revel in some of the comments. So long ago, and so many fond memories. Thanks for the trip back to my younger days.

EUGENE BEYER | JOHNSON CITY  
PEDERNALES EC

## Winning Recipe

I made Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce, below, [*Holiday Recipe Contest*, December 2017] today and it was delicious—moist and complemented by



the sauce and whipped cream. I left off apple compote but think it would be a great addition.

MARY DUNN VIA FACEBOOK | BOERNE  
BANDERA EC

## Wow-Worthy Borscht

This recipe [*Celery Borscht With Rye Croutons, Radish and Sour Cream*; Recipes; January 2018] is insanely delicious! I'd never even tasted borscht before. My husband found the recipe in the co-op magazine, and I decided to make it. Wows

all around the table—second and even third helpings.

MICHELLE FRANCO | AUSTIN  
PEDERNALES EC

## Vintage Look

I really like the vintage look to many of the illustrations

and pictures used in your magazine. My husband and I look forward to every monthly issue. Even better, I can review these again on your website.

D. MCBRIDE | GORDONVILLE  
GRAYSON-COLLIN 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 74, 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 2018 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wiredhand © Copyright 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





**WEB EXTRAS**  
► Find more happenings online.

## HAPPENINGS

# Leighton's Gift for Newborns

Chris and Amy Skaggs are determined to ease the stress and helplessness parents experience when they can't constantly be present with their newborns who must spend time in neonatal intensive care units.

In 2011, Amy gave birth to premature twins, Leighton and Jaxon, who remained hospitalized in the NICU for specialized medical care. But three weeks after she was born, Leighton died from a serious infection.

To memorialize Leighton, the Skaggses, members of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, started **LEIGHTON'S RIDE**, an annual motorcycle ride to raise money to purchase web cameras for NICU beds so parents can see and speak to their babies any time. Leighton's Ride is **MAY 19** in **CELINA**, north of Dallas. The 75-mile ride includes an after-party with a car show, music, raffle and food.

Since 2013, Leighton's Ride has purchased 45 webcams for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, where the twins were born. Leighton's brother, Jaxon, is 6 and doing fine as he finishes kindergarten.

**INFO** ► (972) 977-8156, [leightonsgift.com](http://leightonsgift.com)

## SPORTS SECTION

# SUPER SCHOOL

**Nick Foles**, a 2007 graduate of Westlake High School in Austin, became the second Chaparral quarterback to be named Super Bowl MVP, joining 1997 Westlake grad Drew Brees. Foles (below), who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, threw for three touchdowns and caught one from his own tight end in a 41-33 upset of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LII in February. Brees won a championship with the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

**The only other high school** to produce two Super Bowl quarterback MVPs is Isadore Newman School in New Orleans, a private school that produced brothers Peyton and Eli Manning.



## Did you know?



**25 YEARS AGO:** The Alamodome in San Antonio, built for an NFL team that never came, opened May 15, 1993. The arena was home to the San Antonio Spurs from 1993–2002.

## Historic Election



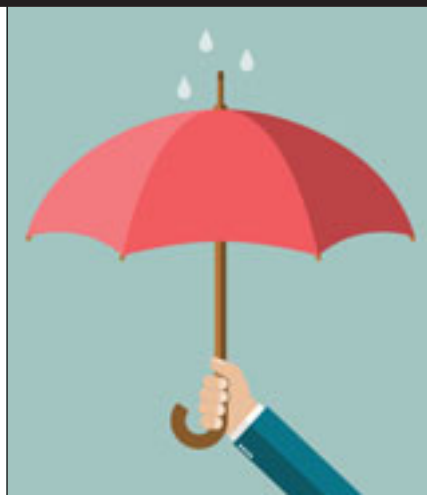
Wilhelmina Delco was elected to the Austin school board 50 years ago, in 1968, making her the first African-American elected to public office in Austin. In 1974, she won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives, making her the first black official elected at-large in Travis County. In 1991, she was appointed speaker pro tem, becoming the first woman and the second African-American to hold the second-highest position in the Texas House.

## Darkness in Big Bend

**AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF AMERICANS** have never seen the Milky Way. If that includes you, Big Bend Ranch State Park can help you change that.

**THE PARK HAS BEEN DESIGNATED** an International Dark Sky Park, joining Copper Breaks, South Llano River and Enchanted Rock state parks with this designation. Night skies are fading, and natural darkness is disappearing because of the growing glow of artificial lights.

**THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION** works to preserve the darkness as the authoritative voice on light pollution, educating lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees and the public about controlling light pollution.



## Farewell to a Pioneer

**Weatherman John Coleman** might not have been a household name when he died in January, but he dramatically changed how TV viewers get their weather news.

**The Alpine native** was working at a Chicago station in 1972 when he developed the first green-screen weather map ever used. The innovation not only enlivened forecasts, it allowed him to become the first weatherman to display weather satellite information on-screen for viewers to see.

**In 1975, he became** the original meteorologist on *Good Morning America*.

**Then, in 1981,** in the early days of cable TV, he co-founded the Weather Channel, where today millions of Americans turn for news about hurricanes, blizzards and wildfires.



INFANT WEGAN & DARK SKY: SHAW NIELSEN, SUPER BOWL: PATRICK SMITH | GETTY IMAGES, DELCO: ERIC MORALES, UMBRELLA: HVOSTIK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



# Naturally Protective

by Melissa Gaskill

When Sue Stutzman added native plants on part of her 2 acres in Magnolia in 2016, she immediately began

seeing more butterflies. Early on, she counted 35 species, then a few months later, 53.

Stutzman is an official member of the Monarch Wrangler program, launched to encourage people to create habitat for the iconic butterfly, whose numbers have dropped as much as 90 percent in the past 20 years mainly due to loss of habitat. Much of Texas lies on the route that millions of the butterflies follow on their spring and fall migrations.

The program comes from Texan by Nature, an organization founded in 2011 by former Texas and U.S. first lady Laura Bush, Katharine Armstrong and Regan Gammon. The three friends share a mutual interest in the natural resources of Texas and some serious conservation chops: Bush served as honorary chair

of the National Park Foundation; Armstrong previously chaired the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission; and Gammon had been on advisory boards for the National Park Foundation and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Right away, the women decided not to reinvent the wheel but to find successful conservation work and encourage more of the same. The organization's official mission became "to spur Texan-led conservation that produces tangible benefits for people, prosperity and natural resources." Or, as Bush says, "to keep Texas, Texas, for the benefit of Texans and wildlife."

In one of its first projects, Texan by Nature partnered with Goldthwaite, a Central Texas city, to create the Texas Botanical Gardens, a native landscape and education program.

The organization hosted a symposium on nature and human health at the Houston Methodist Research Institute and one on monarch butterflies at Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. That event drew more than 80 organizations.

"Part of the purpose of the monarch symposium was bringing





*Texan by Nature*—Laura Bush’s conservation-minded organization—aims to “keep Texas, Texas”

all those groups together,” says Joni Carswell, Texan by Nature executive director. At the event, 15 partners agreed to conduct research, create habitat and offer educational workshops. Texan by Nature decided to focus on education, including encouraging landowners to plant native milkweed. Monarchs lay their eggs solely on this plant, so it is critical to their survival—as is the survival of other native plants that provide food for adult butterflies.



To further encourage monarch habitat across the state, Texan by Nature then partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National

**Clockwise from top left: Laura Bush stands among the native grasses on her ranch in Crawford. A monarch butterfly on lantana. Native milkweed is an important food resource for monarch caterpillars.**

Wildlife Federation to create the Monarch Wrangler program. Landowners like Stutzman as well as civic organizations and corporations can apply for the designation.

Monarchs particularly appeal to Bush, Armstrong says, because the butterflies need prairie habitat. “Laura did extensive work developing a native prairie on the Central Texas ranch she and George [former President Bush] own. She’s not just talking about this stuff, she’s actually done it. She is an example of the kind of things she wants other people to do, what Texan by Nature is charged to do.”

While the program focuses on a single species, improving habitat for monarchs benefits many other species as well. Quail, for example, prefer the same habitat.

To date, Monarch Wranglers representing 65 residences, 14 landowners and 16 civic organizations have established



*To date, Monarch Wranglers* have established more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

**Fields with milkweed abound on the BAE Systems campus in Austin, above. Laura Bush visits with representatives from George W. Bush Elementary at Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, right.**

more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

“The idea of acres and acres can discourage some people, but a dedicated plot with nectar flowers doesn’t have to be huge to attract an amazing number of butterflies,” Stutzman says. “Overall, trees, shrubs and grasses provide shelter and can be larval host plants.” Natives, she adds, don’t require a lot of maintenance.

Corporate Monarch Wranglers include Dell and BAE Systems, representing a combined 124 acres. Stephen Ford, program director at BAE’s Austin Business Center, notes that changes inspired by the program on that campus led to long-term savings on mowing, fertilizing and watering.

Dell removed invasive species, planted milkweed and native plant plots, and reduced mowing on its 38-acre Round Rock campus. The company’s efforts also include an employee engagement program and interpretive signage that informs employees and visitors about conservation of native habitat. Physical changes to a landscape that benefit butterflies also improve the quality of work



life for employees. “When companies involve employees in their outdoor workplace environment and educate them about conservation, they can apply these ethics to their life, for example by practicing conservation at home,” Carswell says. “Research shows that it all ties back to the benefits nature has on both physical and mental health.”

Another Texan by Nature initiative, Conservation Wrangler, goes beyond monarchs, recognizing conservation projects of all types, so long as they

provide tangible returns, reach new and diverse audiences, and are science-based with measurable conservation outcomes.

According to Carswell, the organization recently decided to focus mainly on this program. “Monarchs are beautiful and we all identify them with freedom and nature itself,” she says. “But Conservation Wrangler is more general and has a broader reach. It highlights all the best conservation initiatives in Texas that are true to our mission and make an impact on our natural resources and economy.”

Taylor Keys, conservation associate for Texan by Nature, points out that the Conservation Wrangler program also reaches people in areas of Texas not on the monarch’s migration pathway.

Current Conservation Wranglers include the Texas Botanical



Gardens in Goldthwaite and Bracken Cave near San Antonio, home to the largest bat colony in the world. Texan by Nature helped generate support for the private purchase of 1,500 acres adjoining the cave that were slated for a major residential development.

For another Conservation Wrangler project, students at York Junior High School in Spring use GPS technology to help track the state bison herd in Caprock Canyons State Park, some 500 miles away. That partnership teaches students skills such as fundraising, research and use of technology; saves the park much-needed funds while increasing public awareness of the herd; and improves management of park habitat for the bison.

Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs, which recently became a Conservation Wrangler, works to restore and protect natural habitat in and around the 85,000-acre lake. A multigenerational group of volunteers, including high school students and inmate horticulturists from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ellis Unit in Huntsville, has planted more than 10,000 American water-willows at 18 sites.

Another Conservation Wrangler, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Learning Landscapes Collaborative, plans to incorporate native gardens throughout school districts in the area. Five school districts in the Valley already have committed to planting native butterfly gardens on their campuses, creating the potential for more than 150 gardens and 7,550 native plants. The wildlife these attract will benefit local ecosystems, and the gardens also will be used to promote outdoor education.

#### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to find more information from Texan by Nature about monarch habitats.

Electric cooperatives can participate easily, Carswell says, by using native plant species and water conservation practices in landscaping at offices and other facilities.

The organization provides step-by-step instructions for corporate entities to become recognized as Texan by Nature businesses.

"Many of these projects need additional partnership, funding and volunteers," Carswell says, "and Texan by Nature works to pair interested businesses with vetted, science-based projects."

Texan by Nature supports its Wranglers with 12–18 months of tailored support, connecting participants with industry expertise and sharing their efforts through blogging, social media, and newspaper and magazine articles.

"Electric utilities, including co-ops, have done a lot," says Armstrong. "We want to encourage them to keep doing it and to do more. You can always do more."

"If you're a Conservation Wrangler, you are among the best stewards in Texas," she adds. "The business community in Texas wants to do the right thing but for various reasons is sometimes tentative. One focus of the organization has been to help them see what they can do. Laura is a positive force for good and viewed as an honest broker. She brings out the best in people."

For Texan by Nature, it all goes back to a love for the special nature of Texas. "Our lives are enriched by the land beyond our back doors," Bush said in a presentation about the monarch conservation plan, "and each of us has a stake in its future."

As she documents butterfly species fluttering across her yard, Stutzman couldn't agree more.

See more of **Melissa Gaskill's** work at [melissagaskill.blogspot.com](http://melissagaskill.blogspot.com).

**Local high school students plant American water-willows at Lake Livingston during a Conservation Wrangler event.**



EAST  
TEXAS  
MOJO

WRITER JOE R. LANSDALE'S GRITTY PINEYWOODS FICTION

CAPTIVATES HOLLYWOOD AND INTERNATIONAL FANS

**FLORENCE, ITALY**, is possibly the last place you'd expect to find a bookshop named after a novel by a small-town Texas author. Florence is known for Basilica di Santa Croce, the resting place of Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli, and home of a statue and funerary monument to Dante. The city's Accademia Gallery is home to Michelangelo's *David*, and its Uffizi Gallery houses Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*.

But not far from the heart of Florence, across the Arno River at Ponte San Nicolò and a few blocks east on Via Giampaolo Orsini, sits a slice of Lone Star literary culture known as Libreria Mucho Mojo, a bookstore dedicated to the work of East Texas writer Joe R. Lansdale.

*Mucho Mojo* is the second book in Lansdale's Hap and Leonard series of crime novels. It's also the title of the second season of *Hap and Leonard*, a series on SundanceTV. Lansdale's writing has become significant in Italy perhaps because he garners Italian fascination with jolting horror and bare-knuckled crime fiction conveyed in a down-home East Texas drawl.

Lansdale's characters ply the muddy waters of the Sabine River and the backcountry roads that crisscross the Pineywoods.

They talk like Texans and navigate the world like Texans. If they haven't been in a tornado, they've seen one, and they're as comfortable in the 107-degree summer heat as they are facing a norther bearing down after it crosses the Red River. They don't all wear 10-gallon hats or swill Lone Star beer, but, at one point or another, every one of them has stepped over William Barrett Travis' line in the sand and is willing to fight for what they think is right, regardless of the odds.

So it's no wonder Hollywood came calling.

Lansdale's *Cold in July*, the story of an unassuming Texas everyman turned accidental hero, received film treatment in 2014, and Sundance recently aired a third season of *Hap and Leonard*. Meanwhile, several of Lansdale's other works, including *The Bottoms*, *A Fine Dark Line*, *The Thicket* and *Freezer Burn* have been optioned for the big screen. In an upcoming independent film project, *The Projectionist*, Lansdale will assume the director's chair and try his hand at translating his writing to film. And all this comes after the 2002 cult classic B-movie, *Bubba Ho-Tep*. Based on Lansdale's book of the same name, it features an elderly, spotlight-dodging Elvis and an African-American JFK (played

STORY BY E.R. BILLS | PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADEN

"I WAS  
BORN  
RURAL  
AND  
STILL  
LIVE  
RURAL."

by Ossie Davis) battling a misplaced ancient Egyptian mummy in an East Texas nursing home.

"He's so incredibly prolific," says Steven L. Davis, curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State University in San Marcos. "It's like you're in this river that's at flood stage and all these logs are floating by and each one is a Lansdale book. And you grab one and it's

the ride of your life and your favorite for a while—but then there's another and another. He's a wholly original literary voice that's created masterpieces that really explore and play with what it means to be Texan."

Even though Lansdale can boast more than 44 books, 400 short stories, and numerous articles and essays, most of his neighbors in the Lone Star State might not be familiar with his writing. He enjoys the respect of noted authors such as Stephen King and James Patterson, and counts *Game of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin a close friend, and yet he can remain unnoticed on many main streets in Texas.

Lansdale, 66, grew up in a family of modest means in Glade-water. "I've plowed with mules, raised my own food and worked as a truck cropper," says Lansdale, currently a resident of the Nacogdoches area and a member of Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative. "I was born rural and still live rural."

Lansdale's father was hardworking but illiterate; his mother had creative leanings and encouraged him to read. At a very early age, he knew he wanted to write. "I got interested in writing through comic books first," Lansdale says. "I enjoyed the stories. As I got older, I became more interested in characters and began to read more widely. I realized that a writer could create his or her own mythology. That excited me when I was young and it still excites me today. I still like telling stories and exploring new ideas."

Lansdale dabbled at college in Tyler, Austin and Nacogdoches and worked several blue-collar jobs. He never stayed away from East Texas very long. His first novel, *Act of Love*, went to press in 1981. In *The Bottoms*, which came out in 2000, Lansdale chronicles

a series of murders in Jim Crow Texas as seen through the eyes of a constable's children. In *A Fine Dark Line* (2002), Lansdale examines life in a small Texas town from the perspective of a teenager who discovers a box of forgotten love letters. And the narrative of *Lost Echoes* (2006) details the experiences of a grimly gifted young Texan bent on getting his life back on track. The list of Lansdale's offerings goes on and on, and it's distinguished by originality, suspense and a keen eye for the darkly humorous.

Lansdale is not the first East Texas writer to attract attention at the national or international level. Trinity native William Goyen (1915–1983) published several critically acclaimed novels—the most successful of which was *The House of Breath*—and short story collections in the 1950s and, like Lansdale, was highly regarded in Europe. Dubbed "The Voice of the Pines" by *Texas Monthly* in 2015, Goyen garnered the MacMurray Award for the best first novel by a Texan for *The House of Breath* and received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1951 and 1952.

Clarksville native William Humphreys' (1924–1997) first book, *Home From the Hill*, was well-received by critics in 1958 and made into a film starring Robert Mitchum and Eleanor Parker in 1960. His second novel, *The Ordways*, also enjoyed critical success and inspired comparisons to William Faulkner.

Goyen and Humphreys left East Texas to pursue their writing careers. Lansdale stayed put, and the region informs every page of his work. "I instantly recognize the characters," says Dale Lafleur, whose Port Neches bookshop, Fleur Fine Books, houses the largest collection of Lansdale titles for sale in the state. "I grew up with those guys and have been around them all my life. They remind me of family members, neighbors and friends."

And Lafleur can attest to the popularity of Lansdale's Pineywoods noir. "Joe's stuff is always in demand," Lafleur says. "He has a huge, loyal following, and the *Hap and Leonard* series has really boosted his visibility."

"The hardest thing for a writer to do is translate the feel of a good story onto the page," Davis says. "And then it's a matter of keeping the audience on the edge of its seat. Lansdale does both. He's earthy and eloquent at the same time. He's written some of the most important fiction ever to come out of the state, stuff that puts him in the top rank of Texas writers."

#### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to see a clip from Joe Lansdale's SundanceTV series, *Hap and Leonard*.

Mark Sanders, chairman of the English department at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, where Lansdale is a writer-in-residence, suggests that Lansdale is to East Texas what William Faulkner was to northern Mississippi. "He understands the culture of the characters," Sanders says. "The language, the folklore and the superstitions. He recreates the local color masterfully, and that's why he's probably the greatest active writer in Texas letters."

Literally and figuratively, East Texas may be a long way from Florence, Italy, but Joe Lansdale is a giant of letters in both, delivering unique universal characters in an East Texas drawl.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.



**\$29.95**

## Give Dad the Best of Texas.

Texas Co-op Power presents a collection of best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks ever, the *Typically Texas Cookbook* and *The Second Typically Texas Cookbook*.

This **cookbook** is filled with more than 700 recipes, including more than 300 dessert recipes.

Order online at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) and put *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook* in your kitchen for only \$29.95 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

To order by mail, send a check or money order payable to TEC for \$29.95 to *Best of Typically Texas Cookbook*, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery.

From the publishers of

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**

7 NIGHTS of AMAZING MUSIC ★ ★ ★

# TEXSTAR FORD LINCOLN

★ ★ ★ *Summer Nights Concert Series*

STEPHENVILLE CITY PARK BIRDSONG AMPHITHEATER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **2018** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- May 31 Roger Creager & Scott Kirby
- June 7 Casey Donahew & Shea Abshier
- June 21 Michael Martin Murphey w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- July 4 Larry Joe Taylor & The Tejas Brothers
- July 19 Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- Aug. 9 Moe Bandy w/Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines
- Oct. 13 Sundown on the Square  
Asleep at the Wheel

Sponsored By: Texstar Ford Lincoln • Stephenville Parks & Recreation

## AROUND TEXAS EVENT LISTINGS

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT  
[TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

## Gas Up and Go!

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

Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) has something for everyone.

# Quickly Absorbs for FAST Pain Relief

**BUY 2 GET 1 FREE**

Limited Time Only!



AS LOW AS

**\$13.33** EACH



- ✓ Arnica plus Eucalyptus and Emu Oil for muscle and joint pain
- ✓ Non-greasy formula can be used safely up to four times a day
- ✓ Mild scent disappears after application

## Arthritis, Muscle, Joint Pain?

Do you suffer from arthritis, muscle or joint pain, stiffness or swelling? Is an aching neck or back keeping you from your daily activities? Now, you can...

Ease stiffness, inflammation and soreness naturally with the MagniLife Arnica Pain Relief Gel.

**1-800-516-3481 / ArnicaPainGel.com**

## Order Now! MAGNILIFE®

PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071

Call Toll Free or Order Online  
**1-800-516-3481**  
**ArnicaPainGel.com**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Check/Money Order enclosed payable to: *MagniLife*  
 Charge my credit card

Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

ARNICA Pain Relief Gel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy 2 Get 1 FREE - Only \$13.33 per unit	\$59.97 <b>\$39.98</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Single unit - \$19.99 per unit	\$19.99
<b>MADE IN USA</b>	SHIPPING \$5.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	

# Financing the *Growth* of your Poultry Operation

- ★ Long-term fixed rates reducing interest rate risk
- ★ Opportunity to earn back money through our Patronage Program
- ★ Loan officers with understanding and experience in the industry



NMLS # 470323 | www.legacyaca.com | 866-885-3522

<b>Sulphur Springs</b> 303 Central Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482 903-885-9506	<b>Canton</b> 305 West Dallas Canton, Texas 75103 903-567-2251	<b>Gilmer</b> 1261 HWY 271 South Gilmer, Texas 75645 903-734-5550	<b>Kaufman</b> 201 West Mulberry Kaufman, Texas 75142 972-932-3610	<b>Longview</b> 2002 Judson Road, Suite 204 Longview, Texas 75605 903-307-9173
---	---	--	---	---

# RECIPE CONTEST

## WIN \$100

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



### Upcoming Contests

**OCTOBER ISSUE**  
The Great Pumpkin  
Deadline: May 10

**NOVEMBER ISSUE**  
Quick and Easy  
Holiday Appetizers  
Deadline: June 10

**ENTER TODAY AT**  
**TexasCoopPower.com**



# FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST

Every month, Focus on Texas features Texas photos submitted by our readers. Send us your best photos for a chance to see your entry in the magazine!

## Upcoming Contests

### SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Wedding Funnies

Deadline: May 10

### OCTOBER ISSUE

Clocks

Deadline: June 10

ENTER TODAY AT

**TexasCoopPower.com**

# BEST BUY WALK-IN BATH TUBS



Family owned, Texas-built

Lifetime guarantee against leaks

Great for circulation, arthritis, stiff joints and relaxation

Now Offering ONYX Custom Showers

### CALL FOR PRICING

(we give approximate pricing for the tubs and showers)

If you have any questions, please give us a call.

Visit Our Showroom

3405 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury



Granbury Chamber of Commerce Member

**888-825-2362** [www.bestbuywalkintubs.com](http://www.bestbuywalkintubs.com)

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

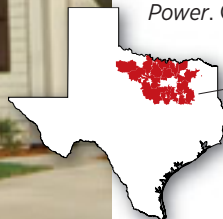
Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*.

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

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

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

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



# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Call: Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251  
Email: [advertising@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:advertising@TexasCoopPower.com)





# 'City

## INSIDE

At Bastrop federal prison, the hard work is aimed at turning lives around

# THE Fence'

By Patrick Beach

**Y**ou can't see much from the highway — just a sign saying Federal Correctional Institute Bastrop. About a half-mile up the entrance off Texas 95, visitors see a long, low series of beige buildings surrounded by formidable security fences, razor wire and towering lights. The facility, as is often the case with government buildings, sacrifices form over function.

The function is clear: Residents stay inside the fences.

The institution about 6 miles north of Bastrop is a low-security prison for men. Spanning 163 acres, it has a little more than 1,430 inmates: about 1,235 inside the main prison and the remainder in an adjacent facility.

Inmates here come from all over the U.S. and typically are held within 500 miles of where they are to be released. About half have drug-related offenses, 20 percent or more have sex offenses, and about 10 percent are serving sentences for weapons or explosives. Inmates at the satellite facility, called the camp, have minimum security classification, meaning they've had no history of violence or escape. Make no mistake: Those inmates have no more freedom than those in the main prison complex.

The institution was originally intended as a state facility for youthful offenders, but the Federal Bureau of Prisons

bought it during its construction. It was dedicated on Aug. 29, 1979, and first housed some 450 inmates. It became a low-security prison in 1993. The minimum-security satellite camp opened that same year. Today, the prison has a staff of 251. Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative supplies power to the facility.

There is a barbershop, a commissary — ramen is a hot seller — a chapel, and, crucially, multiple vocational and technical training facilities. Inmates can learn to be dental assistants, take horticulture courses or learn basic home construction. They can get a GED or certification in several vocations, including electric work, welding and culinary arts. There is a drug-treatment facility within the prison, too.

A man could walk into the prison functionally illiterate and walk out years later with enough training to get a foot in the door of a job in his chosen field.

The Bastrop prison also partners with regional businesses — including Goodwill Industries, City of Austin and Greater Texas Landscape Services — that are willing to work with prisoners nearing their release date. The businesses hold mock and real job fairs.

"Eighty-five percent of these inmates are going to get out within 10 years and be somebody's neighbor. We want them to be prepared to get jobs and abide by the law," prison executive assistant and spokesman Tom Barbee said.

Despite the opportunities for learning, this is still prison. A sense of discipline and structure is rigorously instilled. Beds — three to a cell — must be made crisply enough to pass muster with any Marine drill sergeant. Shoes must be under the bed. Personal items must be put away. No more

Continued on next page

‘Eighty-five percent of these inmates are going to get out within 10 years and be somebody’s neighbor. We want them to be prepared to get jobs and abide by the law.’

— **TOM BARBEE,**  
Executive assistant and spokesman

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative supplies power to the Federal Correctional Institute Bastrop. The prison uses about \$60,000 worth of power monthly, totaling about 786,000 kilowatt hours. Backup generators can continue to provide power for essential services if electric service is interrupted.

*Photos by Sarah Beal*



Continued from previous page

than two rolls of toilet paper can be out.

“Some of these guys, this is the first time in their lives they’ve made their bed,” Barbee said. “It’s about structure. These guys haven’t had a lot of structure.”

The lights come on at 5:30 a.m., 30 minutes before breakfast. Beds must be made and living areas prepared for inspection before going to work. Most inmates are at work by 7:15 a.m. in uniform — pants, boots, button-up shirt and belt. Every inmate has a job. They’re required to be in uniform until 4 p.m., unless cleared for recreation. At 10 p.m. it’s lights out. Visitors are allowed on Fridays, weekends and federal holidays.

That discipline migrates from the cell to work training and actual work. Some 350 inmates work in the auto shop under the supervision of a staff of 17, outfitting vehicles for the U.S. Border Patrol and other federal agencies. These are mostly pickups and SUVs. The vehicles come straight from the manufacturer and inmates paint and equip them with whatever the agency wants — custom wiring, cages, bedliners, the works.

The auto operation is a business within the prison, working with local and national companies. This specialized program turns out 175 vehicles a month, and the Bastrop prison is one of only three in the country doing such work. If you see a Border Patrol vehicle somewhere in Texas, there’s a good chance it spent time in Bastrop.

Inmates are paid a meager wage for this work, if they remember to clock in and out. But with hard work and many classroom hours, they can earn vocational accreditations.

Elsewhere, inside a large warehouse on prison grounds, inmates learn the basics of home construction. They essentially frame and build a house, then dismantle it. For more than two decades, prisoners have helped build projects for some area communities. The public gazebo in Veterans’ Memorial Park in downtown Elgin, for example, was built at the prison.

The prison’s culinary program, in partnership with Austin Community College, allows inmates to learn about the restaurant business and gain kitchen experience that can lead to certification. Some participants help produce food for prison staff. The prison turns out more than 4,000 meals each day — more palatable than you might think. “You don’t see a lot of



Prison spokesman Tom Barbee shows the warehouse where inmates learn to build a house, then dismantle it. Inmates have also helped build projects for some area communities, such as the public gazebo in Veterans Park in downtown Elgin. (Sarah Beal photos)

30-inch waists here,” Barbee said.

Other inmates’ needs are more pressing. A high percentage of Bastrop prisoners have a history of drug abuse. For some, there is a residential treatment program in a separate building within the prison’s fences. Last year, 89 prisoners completed treatment, which typically lasts nine months, and were then released to halfway houses scattered across the U.S.

Some men enter the prison with the functional equivalent of an elementary school education. Inside the walls, they can earn a GED, the equivalent of a high school diploma. Sixty-three inmates took that exam last year, and almost 2,500 have completed the program since the institution was dedicated nearly 39 years ago. The number of Bastrop prisoners earning that GED is high for a federal prison, Barbee said.

The Bastrop federal prison is part of the community. Barbee describes it as “a small city inside a fence.” The staff contributed about 2,500 pounds of nonperishable food to the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry last year in June, July and August. The prison runs an annual drive for new backpacks for area schoolchildren.

The facility has an education library and a loan program with the Bastrop Public Library, trading 5,000 to 6,000 books a year.



Near the prison, there’s a “re-entry resource center” for inmates nearing their release. And the Beyond the Bars speakers’ program lets men who had been prisoners in Bastrop or elsewhere come talk to inmates about the transition to life on the outside.

It’s not all work and lockdown at the Bastrop prison. There is recreation, including organized softball, flag football, soccer and basketball games. Inmates can paint — portraits of family members are popular; so is Al Pacino in “Scarface” — or do leatherwork they can send home.

When inmates realize they can create meaningful and useful keepsakes, it can boost their self-esteem, both behind bars and after their release.

The programs lay the groundwork for a better life, post-prison. The better a prisoner is prepared to rejoin society and resist past temptations and trespasses, the better the odds he can avoid another prison stint.

As Barbee put it, “These guys have given up their freedom, but they haven’t given up the right to be treated like human beings.” ■

### 3 notable inmates over the years



**SAM HURD:** A former Dallas Cowboy and Chicago Bear wide receiver, Hurd was sentenced in 2013 to 15 years in the Bastrop prison for drug charges. While with the Cowboys, Hurd caught quarterback Tony Romo's first pass in the NFL.



**RICHARD CAUSEY:** The former Enron executive was indicted in 2004 for wire fraud and conspiracy while with the Houston energy company. He pleaded guilty in exchange for testifying against fellow Enron officials Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling. He was released in 2011 after serving more than four years.



**CHRIS LAMPRECHT:** A Texas computer hacker who may have been the first person banned from the internet. He was sentenced not for computer crimes but for money laundering. Because he was known to be a hacker, he was banned from the web or other networked computers. He was released in March 2000. Lamprecht's internet ban expired when he was no longer under supervised release.

### Working inside, training for outside

Every inmate at the institution has a job, often one that includes training toward a possible career upon release. These include:



**ELECTRICAL:** Inmates can earn a certificate of completion from the institution. They learn to read wiring schematics and complete wiring diagrams. They also can receive certification in wire soldering.



**WELDING:** Prisoners can receive certification from the American Welding Society after completing written and practical exams. That is one of four certifications available to inmates, who must work, on average, more than five hours a day, five days a week for about six months to earn an accreditation.



**DENTAL ASSISTANT:** Inmates can complete 2,000 hours in this program to earn apprentice certification from the U.S. Department of Labor.



**CULINARY ARTS:** Inmates who complete this vocational training class receive 720 continuing education units from Austin Community College.



**BUILDING TRADES:** Inmates who complete this class receive a certificate of completion from the prison, which translates to 360 education credits from Austin Community College. Prison officials are working to get the course accredited through ACC.



**LANDSCAPING:** Inmates who complete this training class receive a certificate of completion from the prison. Inmates are also eligible to become certified as Master Gardeners by Texas A&M University by passing exams the school administers at the end of the class.

*Source: Tom Barbee, executive assistant and prison spokesman*

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Dear Member:

You are invited to the Annual Membership Meeting of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Inc., which will be held on May 8, 2018, 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.

At this meeting, incumbent directors seeking re-election in District 1, Richard Schmidt, and District 2, Shana Whiteley, and candidate for District 3, Bryan Bracewell, were unopposed and have been elected by general consent in accordance with Article II, Section 6 of the bylaws. Other business that may come before the meeting will also be addressed.

Sincerely yours,



**Roderick L. Emanuel**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Bluebonnet Board of Directors

# Join us

for Bluebonnet's

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

**MAY 8**

The Silos on 77 (formerly Sons of Hermann Hall)  
1031 CR 223, Giddings, TX

**REGISTRATION 1:30-2:30 P.M.**  
**MEETING STARTS AT 2:30 P.M.**

## 2018 Annual Meeting agenda

1:30 p.m. - 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 2017 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**



## WIN THIS TRUCK!

Any Bluebonnet member who submitted a completed proxy form (by mail or in person at a member service center by 5:30 p.m. May 1) or who registers at the Annual Meeting will be entered in a drawing to win a 2009 Ford F-150 extended cab 4X4 pickup. The truck, which has nearly 163,000 miles, is being retired from Bluebonnet's fleet. A member who has submitted a completed proxy does not have to be present at the Annual Meeting to be entered in the truck drawing.

*(Bluebonnet employees, members of the Board of Directors and spouses are ineligible to win.)*

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 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 which may come before the membership.

### 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.

### What are my voting options?

There were no ballot items to be voted on at the time this material was printed, but items that would require your vote, could have been added to the

Annual Meeting agenda no later than 10 days before the meeting. Members can vote after registering at the meeting or by submitting a completed proxy form. Those forms were mailed to members in March.

### 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 cast your ballot in person.

### If there is a vote, 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?

Representatives at the Member Services table 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.

If you have additional questions, call **800-842-7708** between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or email **memberservices@bluebonnet.coop**.

### How many Board of Director seats were up for election?

Three of the 11 seats on Bluebonnet's Board of Directors were up for election this year. Each director represents one of seven districts within our service area. The seats that were up for election this year represent District 1, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales and Hays counties; District 2, Travis County; and District 3, Bastrop County. Because the candidates for the three board seats, right, were unopposed, they were elected by general consent in accordance with Bluebonnet's bylaws.



**Richard Schmidt**  
District 1,  
Caldwell,  
Gonzales,  
Guadalupe and  
Hays counties



**Shana Whiteley**  
District 2,  
Travis County



**Bryan Bracewell**  
District 3,  
Bastrop  
County

# James Kershaw retires from Board after 36 years

Bluebonnet director 'made a difference that will serve ... for generations'

By Melissa Segrest

In 1982, the year James Kershaw joined Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors, the first mobile phone hit the market. It weighed 2 pounds and cost about \$4,000.

Today, cell phone technology is lightweight, more affordable and has revolutionized communications. And in those 36 years, Kershaw helped lead changes and modernization advances at Bluebonnet that have transformed the business of providing electric power to a 3,800-square-mile swath of Central Texas.

This month, Kershaw retires from his position as a Bluebonnet Board member representing Bastrop County.

"Jimmy Kershaw is one of the most humble, kind and giving men I've met, and it has been an honor to serve with him for so many years," Bluebonnet Board Chairman Ben Flencher said. "He continues to be an inspiration to me and those who have worked with him. Throughout his career, he has always had a smile and a positive attitude. He is an amazing man, and we will miss him on the Board."

Kershaw was born in Brenham in 1926, attending Alamo School there and then Stephen F. Austin High in Bryan. He achieved his goal of attending Texas A&M, but during his third semester, he was drafted into the Navy. He served for three years as a code translator and transmitter on a patrol torpedo boat in waters off the West Coast.

He returned to A&M to graduate in 1948, then earned a degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1951.

After two short stints with law firms, Kershaw was elected Bastrop County attorney. Four years later, he became district attorney for Bastrop, Bureson, Lee and Washington counties, a position he

held from 1956 to 1972. He returned to practicing law until retiring in 2016 after a 62-year law career.

"James Kershaw is an amazing gentleman and an incredible board member," said Roderick Emanuel, Bluebonnet board member. "He has made a difference that will serve the members of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative for generations to come. It has been an honor to serve with him for so many years."

A generous and civic-minded man, Kershaw was chairman of the Salvation Army of Bastrop and rang the fundraising bell during the holiday season for 25 years. He was chairman of the board and an attorney for the Aqua Water Supply Corporation, and a board member of Bastrop County FEMA.

Kershaw joined the board of the First National Bank of Bastrop in 1973 and was chairman for 25 years. Last year, he was named chairman emeritus. In February, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce. He and wife, Doris, are active in the Bastrop Museum and the county's historical society. They are both chalice bearers at Calvary Episcopal Church of Bastrop.

Kershaw appreciates Bluebonnet's employees. "The ladies and gentlemen who work there are the most enthusiastic folks," he said. "There are so many people who want to work for Bluebonnet because employees there are happy and always trying to do a good job. I hope



they treasure the opportunity they've been given, and I encourage them to keep working by the principles of the cooperative."

"Mr. Kershaw has had an enormous influence on Bluebonnet during his tenure on our board," said Matt Bentke, Bluebonnet's general manager. "He's always been courteous

and kind when interacting with our members and employees, but fierce when advocating on their behalf. We will certainly miss his presence on the board."

To the members of Bluebonnet, Kershaw offered a "huge thank you" for electing him to serve on their board of directors for so many years.

On a recent, sunny spring day, sitting in his home office, he made a bold assertion. "In all of my years on the Bluebonnet board, I never received a complaint about the co-op. Ever!" That could be as much a testament to the work of gentlemanly James Kershaw as it is to satisfied members and the work of cooperative employees.

He and Doris look forward to more travel, but these days, his favorite pastime is the simple joy of working in the front yard of his Bastrop home. Kershaw remembers the days before electricity reached rural Central Texans, when family members and friends gathered on front porches to stay cool and wave to neighbors. Today, almost 80 years later, his Bastrop neighbors can expect to see the same friendly wave from Kershaw. ■







James Kershaw, above left, when he became Bastrop County Attorney. (*Family photo*); below, the members of the Bluebonnet Board in 1987 — Kershaw is seated, the third man from left (*Bluebonnet archive photo*); at right, Kershaw in 2006, in front of the Bastrop County Courthouse (*Sarah Beal photo*). He was district attorney for a four-county area from 1956 to 1972. Inset, right, Kershaw in the early 1970s, near the end of his tenure in that role. (*Family photo*)



**CAPITAL CREDITS**

# Money in your pocket

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

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

The Board of Directors voted on the amount in April. Last year, the co-op returned \$3.14 million to its members and former members. In the past five years, Bluebonnet has returned \$23.73 million to its members.

Questions? Contact a member service representative at 800-842-7708 or [memberservices@bluebonnet.coop](mailto:memberservices@bluebonnet.coop).



Bluebonnet

## New hours in July!

Do you need to speak to a representative by phone at 800-842-7708? Or talk to someone in person through the drive-through or in a lobby at one of our five member service centers? The business hours for Bluebonnet's member services will change starting July 2. The new hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We have member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor. Find the addresses by clicking on "Contact Us" at the top of any page of our website, [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop).

### OFFICE CLOSING

Bluebonnet offices will be closed May 28 for Memorial Day. Report outages at 800-949-4414, [bluebonnet.coop](http://bluebonnet.coop) or via our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling member services at 800-842-7708.

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE



Not shown  
actual size.

Limited  
Collector's  
Edition

*Damascus steel forged to throw them for a curve at only \$79*

For centuries, a Damascus steel blade was instantly recognizable and commanded immediate respect. Recognizable because the unique and mysterious smelting process left a one-of-a-kind, rippled texture on the steel, and respected because Damascus steel's sharp edge and resistance to shattering were the stuff of legend. If you carried Damascus steel, you were ahead of the curve.

Today, you can own the legend.

The *Damascus Curva Knife* celebrates those legendary blades.

It uses modern Damascus steel, with the same rippled texture pattern on the blade, to create a curved folding knife that's 7 1/2" in total length. With a liner lock mechanism, which allows the knife to be opened and closed using just one hand, and an ergonomic handle made of buffalo horn and colored bone, this \$79 knife is a trophy for any hunter or collector.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of Damascus steel. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. But we believe that once you hold the *"The most common aspects of Damascus steel knives that enthusiasts consider ideal are the aesthetics and high performance."* — Knife Informer



**BONUS!** Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



*"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath. Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."*

— R., Lacey, Washington

*Damascus Curva Knife*, you'll be ready to throw a curve of your own.

**Limited Reserves.** Damascus steel blades are a lost art form that only a handful of artisan bladesmiths have

mastered. These legendary blades take time to forge and only a few are crafted each month. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

**Damascus Curva Folding Knife** ~~\$179~~\*

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P Save **\$100**

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Insider Offer Code: **CFK146-01**

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

**Stauer**® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. CFK146-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

\*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.



Rating of A+



• Damascus steel blade & bolster • Buffalo horn & colored bone handle • Liner lock

• Overall length, open : 7 1/2" • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

# MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

**Steel Mobile Home Roofing**  
 Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?  
 Contact us at **800.633.8969**  
 or **roofover.com**



**PERMA-ROOF**  
 from Southern Builders

Mobile Home Roofover Systems Since 1983

**WD METAL BUILDINGS**  
 Steel Shops • Ag Buildings  
 Barndominium Homes



*We put it all together for you!*  
 Concrete • Erection • Doors  
 Instant Prices at **WDMB.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.

**TEXAS MEDICAL PLANS**  
 Independent, Authorized Agent for



**BlueCross BlueShield of Texas**  
 An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association  
**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT COVERAGE**  
**1-888-888-6698**



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

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

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

**BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™**  
 Signal Securities, Inc., 5408 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 Thruwaymorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 873-4256.

**RHINO**  
 STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

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



*Farm • Industrial • Commercial*  
**RHINOBLDG.COM** 888-875-8233  
 INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

GET THE TEXAS CO-OP POWER  
**E-NEWSLETTER**



**SIGN UP TODAY AT**  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

**NEW and IMPROVED**  
 DR® Field and Brush Mowers

*Faster...Easier...  
 Lower-Priced!*

Mow fields, brush,  
 even saplings  
 with never-  
 before ease!



- ✓ NEW WIDE CUT MODELS for faster mowing!
- ✓ NEW POWER STEERING for easier handling!
- ✓ NEW LOW PRICES reduced up to \$500!

ATTENTION: TRACTOR AND ATV OWNERS!  
 NEW MODELS starting at \$1399<sup>99</sup>



**FREE SHIPPING 6 MONTH TRIAL**  
 SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY  
 Call for **FREE DVD and Catalog!**

TOLL-FREE  
**877-201-5850**  
 DRfieldbrush.com



18C88X © 2018

**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  
**\$91.00**

A **50 lb. bag** treats 2.50 to 5.00 acres  
**\$327.00**

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.

**AQUACIDE CO.**  
 PO Box 10748, DEPT 55HX  
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748



Our 63<sup>rd</sup> year

# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

850 Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

### CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

**3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS**

**A. HOT DOG**  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown

**B. PANCAKE**  
ITEM 60637/61615  
95275 shown

**YOUR CHOICE**  
~~\$399~~  
**\$57.99**

• Air delivery:  
0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI  
1 CFM @ 40 PSI

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE MODEL: 622382 **\$98.62** **SAVE 59%** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

81713239  
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS SUPER COUPON

**12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW**

• Laser guide

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$129.99**  
~~\$104.99~~

Blade sold separately.

COMPARE TO KOBALT MODEL: 54050501 **\$299** **SAVE \$169** ITEM 61969/61970  
69684 shown

81715891  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### FREE SUPER COUPON

WITH ANY PURCHASE **PITTSBURGH**

**6 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET**

• Magnetic Tips  
• Ergonomic Handles

COMPARE TO HUSKY MODEL: 20210003 **\$7.97**

ITEM 62728/62583  
47770/62570 shown

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**

81762090

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/7/18 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE Gift per customer per day.

### SUPER COUPON

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM\*

81759325

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% OFF on 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club Membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open back items, 3 Day Parking Lot Drive Item, compressors, floor jacks, saws, law mowers, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, generators, welders, Adrenaline, Arma, Bama, Cobra, Coveralls, Engines, Earthquake, Fasces, Hercules, Icon, Japhet, Lynx, Poodle, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on Motor Bicycles, Motorcycles. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/7/18.

### U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

**30", 5 DRAWER MECHANIC'S CARTS**

Item 64031 shown

Item 64060 shown

• 15,000 cu. in. of storage  
• 700 lb. capacity  
• Weighs 139 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR**  
~~\$199.99~~  
**\$169.99**

Item 64033 shown

COMPARE TO SNAP-ON MODEL: 820234960 **\$1,175** **SAVE \$1,005** ITEM 64031/64061  
64059/64060/64032  
64030/64033

81717318  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### KRAUSE & BECKER SUPER COUPON

**AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT**

• No. 517 nozzle for 12" to 16" fan width

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$169.99**  
~~\$214.99~~

COMPARE TO GRACO MODEL: 282800 **\$299** **SAVE \$129** ITEM 62915/60600 shown

81718789  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

**2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR**

• 4.7 hours run-time  
• Recoil start

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$449.99**  
~~\$499.99~~

COMPARE TO HONDA MODEL: EU2000i **\$999** **SAVE \$549** ITEM 62523

81721409  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH #1 SELLING JACKS SUPER COUPON

**RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY SERVICE JACK**

• Lifts from 5" to 18-1/4"  
• Weighs 74 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$149.99**  
~~\$279.99~~

COMPARE TO POWERBUILT MODEL: 647593 **\$135.27** **SAVE \$60** ITEM 69227/62116  
62584/68048 shown

81724257  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### CENTECH SUPER COUPON

**AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$49.99**  
~~\$99.99~~

**SAVE 50%**

ITEM 69955/64284  
69594/42292 shown

81725908  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### drillmaster SUPER COUPON

**4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$99.99**  
~~\$149.99~~

COMPARE TO PERFORMAX MODEL: 2411-3 **\$259.00** **SAVE \$161** ITEM 69645/60625 shown

81723919  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### CENTRAL MACHINERY SUPER COUPON

**10 TON HYDRAULIC LOG SPLITTER**

• Accepts logs up to 18" long and 6-1/2" diameter

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$899.99**  
~~\$1199.99~~

COMPARE TO SUN JAE MODEL: LJM **\$1325.55** **SAVE \$42** ITEM 62291  
67090 shown

81723588  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### SUPER COUPON

**SOLAR ROPE LIGHT**

• Great outdoor accent lighting  
• Super bright light

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$9.99**  
~~\$13.99~~

COMPARE TO HAMPTON BAY MODEL: 62036-6538 **\$29.97** **SAVE \$66%** ITEM 62533/63941/68353 shown

81731462  
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### GREENWOOD SUPER COUPON

**1-1/4 GALLON HOME AND GARDEN SPRAYER**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$89.99**  
~~\$129.99~~

**SAVE 51%**

COMPARE TO ROUNDUP MODEL: 190315 **\$187.1** ITEM 63124/63145/95692 shown

81733922  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### SUPER COUPON

**4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET**

• Each pad measures 25" x 25"

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$6.99**  
~~\$8.99~~

COMPARE TO NORSK MODEL: 109115946 **\$19.99** **SAVE \$65%** ITEM 61607/62389  
94635 shown

81735387  
LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### drillmaster SUPER COUPON

**18 VOLT, 3/8" CORDLESS DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$199.99**  
~~\$249.99~~

Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

COMPARE TO RYOBI MODEL: P1811 **\$99** **SAVE \$79** ITEM 69652/62872/62869/68287 shown

81739770  
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

**1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER**

• 1.3 GPM  
• Adjustable spray nozzle

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$199.99**  
~~\$299.99~~

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATON MODEL: 20600 **\$179.93** **SAVE \$99** ITEM 63255/63254 shown

81740995  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### HARDY SUPER COUPON

**SPLIT LEATHER WORK GLOVES WITH COTTON BACK 5 PAIR**

**NOW \$5.99**  
~~\$7.99~~

**SAVE 34%**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO FIRM GRIP MODEL: 6022-24 **\$9.12** ITEM 62716/60450/62371/62714/66287 shown

81741432  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### COBRA SUPER COUPON

**4 CHANNEL WIRELESS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WITH 2 CAMERAS**

• Night vision

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$229.99**  
~~\$249.99~~

COMPARE TO ALC MODEL: ALC-AWS3266 **\$329.99** **SAVE \$100** ITEM 63842

81747011  
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

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

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOW \$39.99**  
~~\$49.99~~

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**

COMPARE TO KOBALT MODEL: 9899 **\$19.97** **SAVE \$80%** ITEM 63015/61328/47902/62843 shown

81750670  
LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

**12 VOLT, 150 PSI PORTABLE INFLATOR**

**SAVE 58%**

**NOW \$6.99**  
~~\$9.99~~

COMPARE TO CUSTOM ACCESSORIES MODEL: #9008 **\$16.89** ITEM 63109/4077/63152 shown

81761735  
LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 9/7/18\*

\*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 9/7/18.

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.

# ‘He Was About the Work’

Thomas Jefferson Rusk wore many hats in Texas’ early days

BY ROBERT SPRINGER

THE EARLY TEXAS REPUBLIC WAS RIFE with partisanship, and to make it function effectively, the mercurial Sam Houston needed a get-the-job-done counterweight. Fortunately, Thomas Jefferson Rusk came forward.

“Houston was flamboyant. He was larger than life,” says Scott Sosebee, associate professor of history at Stephen F. Austin State University. “Rusk was your typical genteel Southerner.”

Rusk adapted his skills to a range of challenges. He served as secretary of war for the Texas Republic, inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District, chief justice of the Supreme Court for the Texas Republic and U.S. senator from the state of Texas. Rusk was mentioned as a presidential candidate in 1856, putting him on the national stage.

Though a gifted politician, he was also a “moody man and prone to bouts of despair,” says Sosebee.

In 1834, Rusk came from Georgia to the Mexican territory of Texas to recover money embezzled by his business partners. He caught one of the men, who informed Rusk that all of the money had been lost in a card game, according to Charles Swanlund, professor of history at Blinn College in Bryan. Ruined back home, Rusk learned he could get a couple thousand acres for staying in Texas, so he remained in Nacogdoches.

Rusk sensed opportunity in Texas. “There was a chance for him to advance, particularly if the Texas revolution was successful,” says Swanlund. “There was plenty of work for a man like Rusk to do in Texas at that time.”

After organizing recruits to help Stephen F. Austin, Rusk was quickly promoted to inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District then to sec-



retary of war for the Texas Republic.

Rusk then joined Houston to help defeat Santa Ana at the Battle of San Jacinto. Swanlund says Rusk wasn’t as volatile as Houston, and this served him well in dealing with his more famous colleague. “They’re both drinking men, and that certainly gave them common ground,” he says. “Rusk was just kind of a middle-of-the-road, down-to-earth guy, and he tried to not really get involved in the personal politics. He was about the work.”

Given the opportunity to become the first president of the Republic of Texas, Rusk declined. He had arrived in Texas to rebuild his personal fortune and had been too busy fighting the war to achieve his goal, so he opened a law practice to support his family. “He always seems to be more comfortable in the background,” says Swanlund.

Rusk played so many roles in Texas history that it’s difficult to choose a defining one. Sosebee believes that Rusk himself would choose secretary of war, an important role that he enjoyed despite his lack of military training. “He liked that military bearing, and being the secretary of war allowed that,” Sosebee says.

Swanlund and Sosebee agree that Rusk’s

## WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to learn more about Thomas Jefferson Rusk.

legacy-defining contribution was as one of the two first senators from the new state of Texas (Houston was the other). True to

his get-the-work-done nature, Rusk was instrumental in the Compromise of 1850, according to Swanlund. As part of the accord, Texas was persuaded to give up territory north of the Missouri Compromise parallel and any claims on New Mexican lands. In return, the federal government would assume Texas’ war debt of \$10 million. Rusk was such an effective senator that his term was renewed before it expired, according to Swanlund.

In 1856, while Rusk was in Washington, D.C., he received word his wife had died. Later, still deeply saddened by the loss, Rusk committed suicide at his ranch in Nacogdoches.

Rusk managed to thrive in hyper-partisan times with the volatile and contradictory Houston as a contemporary. Among the Republic of Texas’ unsung founders, Rusk has a notable standing.

**Robert Springer** is a freelance writer who loves Tex-Mex and armadillos.

# WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2018 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](http://WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM)

**STAYcation at Home in 2018!**

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

*A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.*



**NEW MF GC1705L**



**MASSEY FERGUSON**  
THE LEGEND SINCE 1847



**NEW MF 1526L**

23 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,  
Quick Attach DL 95 Front End Loader  
**\$11,998 Cash or \$159.00 per month**

25 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 100 Front End Loader  
**\$16,998 Cash or \$229.00 per month**



**NEW MF 1734EL**

34 HP, 4WD, Gear Drive Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 105 Front End Loader  
**\$17,998 Cash or \$239.00 per month**



**NEW MF 2705EL**

50 HP, 4WD, Shuttle-Transmission,  
Quick Attach L 135 Front End Loader  
**\$24,998 Cash or \$319.00 per month**



**WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!**

**FOSTERS WORK & PLAY**

3601 US Hwy. 190 W  
Livingston, Texas 77351

**(936) 967 - 0011**

[www.fostersworknplay.com](http://www.fostersworknplay.com)

[sales@fostersworknplay.com](mailto:sales@fostersworknplay.com)

\*Disclaimer: All payments listed are based on 4.49% interest rate for 64 months with 10% of purchase price down with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices do not include sales taxes, freight or set up charges where applicable. All HP ratings listed are approximate base engine HP.

## Cake Walk

SPRING USHERS IN CELEBRATIONS—graduations, baby and bridal showers, and special confections made just for mom. What better way to celebrate your loved ones than with a luscious, beautiful homemade cake? This month's winning recipes range from a three-tiered masterpiece perfumed with lemon and rosemary to a pretty pink cake flavored (and colored) with cherry juice. Moist and fragrant from brandy-plumped prunes and citrus zest, the following pound cake is one of my favorites. With a dusting of powdered sugar, it's pretty enough to serve at brunch or a backyard barbecue. I like it best for breakfast (is that wrong?) with a cup of strong coffee. Note that the brandy-plumped prunes should be prepared a day in advance, and feel free to substitute dried cherries or cranberries.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

### Drunken Prune Pound Cake

#### BRANDY-PLUMPED PRUNES

16 ounces prunes  
Brandy to cover

#### POUND CAKE

3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup dark brown sugar  
4 eggs  
1 cup buttermilk, well-shaken  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
½ teaspoon almond extract  
Grated zest of 1 medium orange  
Grated zest of 1 lemon  
½ cup chopped brandy-plumped prunes

**1. PRUNES:** Place prunes in a clean, sealable glass jar and pour brandy over the top until it covers them by about an inch.

**2. CAKE:** Preheat oven to 325 degrees and position the rack in the lower third

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

# Recipes

## Cake Walk



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

ALI WHITEHEAD | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Eleven-year-old Ali Whitehead enjoys the unique combination of flavors in this three-tiered show-stealer, including rosemary from her grandmother's herb garden. "I like to bake this cake around the holidays and any time my parents or grandparents will let me make a mess in the kitchen," she says.

### Lemon Rosemary Cake With Cream Cheese Frosting

#### BATTER

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (2¼ sticks) butter, softened
- 2½ cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 1½ cups sour cream
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

#### FROSTING

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 8 cups powdered sugar
- 2¼ teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest

**1. BATTER:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees; grease and flour three 9-inch round baking pans.

**2.** In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the

eggs and yolk, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

**3.** In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Alternating with the sour cream, add dry ingredients to butter mixture, beating well after each addition. Mix in lemon juice, zest and rosemary.

**4.** Divide the batter evenly between the three pans and bake 25–30 minutes, or until edges begin to brown. (For even baking, rotate the pans after 15 minutes.) Cool the cakes for 10 minutes in pans before inverting onto a wire rack to cool completely.

**5. FROSTING:** Beat together cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar, 2–3 cups at a time, along with lemon juice and zest and mix until smooth. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake, and garnish with lemon and rosemary. ▶ Serves 16.



IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,  
YOU'LL WIN A TCP APRON!

### \$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest theme is **The Great Pumpkin**. Pumpkin appears in just about everything, from quick breads to creamy soups—even lattes! Send us your favorite recipe that makes the most of this versatile ingredient. The deadline is **May 10**.

ENTER ONLINE at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://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

of oven. Apply cooking spray to a tube or Bundt pan, or coat generously with butter and flour (tapping out excess).

**3.** In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt and baking soda. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream butter and sugars at medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add the flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Mix in extracts and zests and fold in the chopped prunes.

**4.** Pour in tube or Bundt pan and bake for 1 hour, until the cake pulls away from the pan and a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. ▶ Serves 8–10.

**COOK'S TIP** Plumping dried fruit in brandy or another spirit is an old-fashioned way of preserving them. I keep a container of these in my pantry—for this cake and as a fast topping on vanilla or coffee ice cream. Kept in a cool, dark place, the prunes will keep for months. Wrapped in plastic, this cake keeps well (actually improving in flavor) for about five days.

### Cherry Almond Cake With White Chocolate Custard Filling

LARKANN STEFFENS | VICTORIA EC

Maraschino cherry juice imparts a pale pink hue to this elegant cake. Chopped cherries and almonds lend an appealing texture, while the whipped topping adds a festive element. For best results, prepare the white chocolate custard a day in advance so it has plenty of time to chill before assembly.

#### CUSTARD

- 1¼ cups sugar
- 1½ tablespoons cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups whole milk
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ⅔ cup white chocolate morsels
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, cut into slices

#### BATTER

- ½ cup coarsely chopped sliced almonds
- 16 maraschino cherries, cut into eighths
- 16 whole maraschino cherries, drained
- ¾ cup whole milk





- ¼ cup maraschino cherry juice
- 3 cups cake flour, sifted
- 2½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup (about ⅔ stick) butter, softened
- ⅓ cup vegetable shortening
- 1½ cups sugar
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract
- 5 egg whites

**TOPPING**

- ¾ cup heavy cream
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract

1. **CUSTARD:** Whisk sugar, cornstarch and salt together in a small saucepan. Turn heat to medium-high and whisk in milk and egg yolks. Stir constantly, until mixture is thickened and bubbly, about 10–15 minutes.
2. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and white chocolate morsels, and whisk in butter slices one at a time. Place the custard in a bowl, covering with plastic

- wrap to prevent a skin, and refrigerate until cold.
3. **BATTER:** Combine almonds and cut cherries in a small bowl; set aside. Place whole cherries on paper towels to drain. Combine milk and cherry juice in a measuring cup and set aside.
  4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans, or line with parchment.
  5. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter, shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the flour mixture alternately with the cherry milk mixture, beginning and ending with dry ingredients, blending well after each addition. Add almond extract.
  6. Using a clean bowl and beaters, whip egg whites until stiff.
  7. Fold almonds and cherries into batter, then fold in egg whites. Divide batter between the two pans and bake 30–35 minutes or until springy to touch.
  8. Cool cakes in pans for 5 minutes, then invert onto wire racks to cool completely

- (carefully peel away parchment, if using).
9. **TOPPING:** Using beaters or a standing mixer, whip the heavy cream, powdered sugar and extracts to a thick whipped cream for piping, or slightly smoother consistency for spreading. Refrigerate the whipped cream until you're ready to use it.
  10. To assemble cake, gently spread 1 cup of cold custard over the first layer of cooled cake, allowing some to drip down sides. Place the second layer on the cake and gently spread another cup of custard over the top. Pipe or spread whipped cream onto the cake, and garnish with the whole cherries. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. ▶ Serves 10–12.

**COOK'S TIP** Store any leftovers in the refrigerator for up to three days.

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story online to see a recipe for Chile Chocolate Cake With Cherry Chipotle sauce. Plus you'll find dozens more cakes in our archive of more than 700 recipes.



**2017 GRAND PRIZEWINNER**  
**Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce**  
 Rebekah Stewart | San Bernard EC  
 Get the recipe at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).

**14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST**

**\$2,500 IN PRIZES**

- \$1,000 GRAND PRIZEWINNER**
- One \$500 Best Savory Winner
- One \$500 Best Sweet Winner
- Two \$250 Honorable Mention Winners

**Share your best original recipes!**

Show us how you add your personal touch to every part of a meal—from savory beginnings to sweet endings—for fun and festive holiday gatherings.

Send us your best ORIGINAL holiday recipes—ones you've developed, not copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine. Winners will be featured in our November 2018 issue. Enter by June 8 at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).

Go to [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) for details and official rules.

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**

Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries all can be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). **Entry deadline: June 8, 2018.**



## Two Story Gable Garages



**20' x 24' Starting at \$31,700**

Shown: 30x40, 4:12 roof pitch, two 10x10 Garage Doors

## One Story Gable Garages



**20' x 20' Starting at \$22,000**

Shown: 20' x 24', 8:12 roof pitch, 16' x 7' garage door, concrete lap siding

## Metal Garages / Shops



**30' x 40' Starting at \$30,000**

Shown: 20'x30', 2 - 10'x7' Garage Doors, 2 - 36" Delux Cupolas

## Ulrich Garages & Metal Buildings

Cleburne, TX

**877-213-7703**

- Financing Available
- Free Design Consultation
- Industry Leading Warranty
- On Site Construction
- Family Owned for 3 Generations

[www.UlrichGarages.com](http://www.UlrichGarages.com)

## FATHER'S DAY • GRADUATION



### Custom Crafted Personalized Gifts

Personalized livestock brands, logos and names on custom-made metal bootjacks (steel, iron, bronze, aluminum), leather coaster sets, luggage tags and marble trivets. Lasting gifts for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions. Call for free brochure.

**CRAWFORD & COMPANY | SINCE 1983**

888-301-1967 | [www.crawjacks.com](http://www.crawjacks.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**

# AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

## Gas Up and Go!

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

Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) has something for everyone.

**PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT**  
**[TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)**



## Purchase or Refinance Hobby Farm, Ranch or Ranchette

- ✓ 15 or 30 year fixed rate mortgage
- ✓ 5 to 160+ acres
- ✓ Loan amounts from \$150,000-\$2,000,000
- ✓ Outbuildings, Livestock, Schedule F allowed
- ✓ Cash out refinance

**First Source Capital Mortgage, Inc.**  
 77 FM 3356, PO Box 968, Van Alstyne, TX 75495

Dan Cunyus NMLS#218025

[dan@fscap.com](mailto:dan@fscap.com)

**Phone: 903-482-1123 or 972-569-7726**

Corp NMLS# 217672



**Apply today at [www.fscap.com](http://www.fscap.com)**



# Prom Night

HAIR AND MAKEUP? CHECK. HEELS AND FORMALS? CHECK. Dressing up or down, arriving by limo or tractor, Texans love a high school prom. It's a rite of passage and a celebration of youth; it's time to get a little crazy and cut loose. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

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

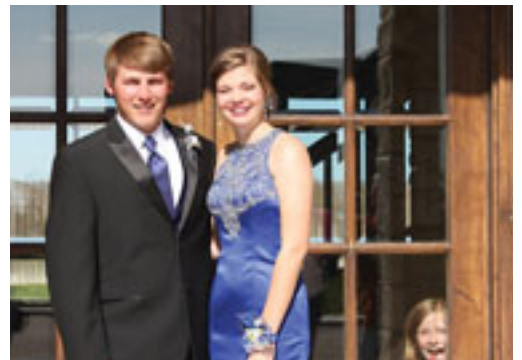
◀ **CAROLYN SCHLINKE**, Karnes EC: "My granddaughter, Caryn Smart, 17, took her favorite show bull, Zeus, to the Runge High School prom so she could take pictures with him."

▼ **KARA KLEIMANN**, San Bernard EC: "A little rain did not keep this group from having fun at their high school prom in Columbus."



▲ **BONNI WILSON**, Wise EC: Prada pre-prom in Valentine

▶ **SUSAN O'BRIEN**, Lyntegar EC: "My granddaughter, Jayli, and her date, Corbin, posing before the 2017 Spearman prom are surprisingly joined by Jayli's little sister, Brooklyn."



▲ **LOIS JACKSON**, Cherokee County EC: "When brothers Tate and Cade Duncan headed to the prom, they decided to go in true redneck style!"

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

SEPTEMBER	WEDDING FUNNIES	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER	CLOCKS	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER	ABANDONED BUILDINGS	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](http://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 Music in the Park

**Comfort** May 8–Oct. 9  
(830) 285-9345, [gaddischurch.org/events](http://gaddischurch.org/events)

Music in the Park starts its third season with the Almost Patsy Cline Band. The concerts, at the gazebo in Comfort Park, are held every second Tuesday and feature a different artist each month. They are sponsored by Gaddis United Methodist Church. Bring lawn or camp chairs and enjoy the music.

## May 9

**Kerrville** Circle of Service Dinner,  
(830) 315-5762, [kerrvillekroc.org](http://kerrvillekroc.org)

**Marble Falls** [9–12] MayFest,  
(830) 693-2815, [marblefalls.org/mayfest](http://marblefalls.org/mayfest)

## 10

**Grapevine** Education Express,  
(817) 431-3340, [educationexpresstx.com](http://educationexpresstx.com)

**Crockett** [10–12] Lions Club PRCA  
Rodeo, (936) 544-5641,  
[facebook.com/crockettnoonlions](http://facebook.com/crockettnoonlions)

## 11

**Decatur** [11–13] Texas Scottish Festival  
& Highland Games, (469) 424-1930,  
[texasscots.com](http://texasscots.com)

## 12

**Edinburg** Music Festival, (956) 383-6246

**Greenville** Audie Murphy Day,  
(903) 450-4502, [amacmuseum.com](http://amacmuseum.com)

**Kyle** Squeeze Me on the Square,  
(512) 262-3939, [cityofkyle.com/recreation](http://cityofkyle.com/recreation)

**Ladonia** Spring 20 Mile Garage Sale,  
(214) 226-2046, [cocladonia.org](http://cocladonia.org)

**Round Top** A Night With the Tribute  
to George Strait, (979) 249-3390,  
[stonecellarwines.com](http://stonecellarwines.com)

**Wimberley** Garden Club Garden Tour,  
(512) 842-3142, [wimberleygardenclub.org](http://wimberleygardenclub.org)

**Beaumont** [12–26] *Young Frankenstein*,  
(409) 833-4664, [beaumontcvb.com](http://beaumontcvb.com)

May 18  
Columbus  
Magnolia Days  
Festival



COMFORT: KAREN COOPER; MAGNOLIA: KHUDDOLIY | DREAMSTIME.COM; FARMERS MARKET: JAMIE HOOPER | DREAMSTIME.COM

USA
Mention this ad and  
**SAVE \$200!**

Made in USA

## Do You Have a Lake or Pond? Keep it healthy with aeration.

**Why you need aeration:**

- Increases oxygen levels
- Equalizes temperature
- Lowers nitrogen levels
- Decreases bottom muck
- Reduces fish kills
- Fewer insects
- Eliminates odors
- Less algae growth

Solar and AC options available for any size pond

### U.S. Solar Mounts

(608) 272-3999 • [info@ussolarmounts.us](mailto:info@ussolarmounts.us)  
[www.ussolarmounts.us](http://www.ussolarmounts.us)

Dealer inquiries welcome

\$200 off applies to in-stock packages.

## Restoring and Preserving Our History

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.

Visit our website for a tour map and information on our historic schools and community centers.

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

[WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG)

# 13

**Palestine** Throw Mama on the Train, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

# 16

**Vernon** [16-19] Santa Rosa Roundup 74th Rodeo and Parade, (940) 552-6868, santarosaroundup.com

# 18

**Seguin** Hotshot's Reunion and Fish Fry, (830) 379-6382, seguinchamber.com

**Clifton** [18-19] Syttende Mai Parade and Celebration, (254) 652-3499, bosquecountynst.org

**Columbus** [18-19] Magnolia Days Festival, (979) 732-8385, columbus-texas.org

**Star** [18-20] Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, (325) 437-1852, cowpokesforkids.com

# 19

**Navasota** First Responders Day, (936) 870-4700, firstrespondersdaytx.com

**San Marcos** [19-20] Dirt Dauber Clay Festival, (512) 558-1723, eyeofthedog.com

# 20

**Bleiberville** VFD Fish Fry, (979) 249-6382, bellville.com



# 25

**West Tawakoni** [25-26] VFD Hand Fishing Tournament, (972) 670-1715, facebook.com/laketawakonihandfishing

# 26

**Cuero** Main Street Farmers Market, (361) 275-2112, cuero.org

**Lewisville** Fiesta Charra, (972) 219-3401, cityoflewisville.com

**Hubbard** [26-28] Memorial Day Weekend Trade Days, (254) 576-2521, hubbardcity.com

# 31

**Tyler** [31-June 3] Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, (972) 822-3533, squaredancetx.com

# June

# 1

**Amarillo** [1-2] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, coorsranchrodeo.com

**Bonham** [1-2] Highway 82 Yard Sale, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

# 2

**Little Elm** Craft Brew & Que, (214) 618-1401, lakefrontlittleelm.com

**McKinney** Date Night at the Heard, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

## Submit Your Event!

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

38<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Scarborough Renaissance Festival

Step Back in Time for the Time of Your Life

APRIL 7 THRU MAY 28

Saturdays, Sundays & Memorial Day Monday

27 Stages, 200 Shoppes, Artisan Demonstrations and so much more...

**More than a dozen new shows for 2018!**

**Discount Tickets Available Now at [SRFestival.com](http://SRFestival.com)**

Just 30 Minutes south of Downtown Dallas in Waxahachie

# Presidential Aspirations

Denison invites visitors to tour Eisenhower's birthplace

BY DAWN COBB

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER CASTS A LONG presidential shadow over the North Texas town of Denison, but he's not the only famous former resident. For a contrast of historic characters with local ties, consider that gunfighter and gambler John Henry "Doc" Holliday once practiced dentistry here.

Denison's Eisenhower monument, at 16 feet tall, offers the first and most visible clue from Interstate 75 that Denison relishes its role as birthplace to the 34th president.

Denison also is known as Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's childhood home. The airline pilot achieved international fame in January 2009 when he successfully landed the disabled Flight 1549 in the Hudson River, saving all 155 people on board.

Even though Eisenhower's connection to Denison is tenuous because his family moved back to Abilene, Kansas, when the future president was only a year old, the family's history is on display in a white two-story house where he was born in 1890. The house joins several historic buildings, including a general store at 609 S. Lamar Ave., in the **Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site**. Guided tours of the home, which features period furniture, relate the story of the Eisenhower family's stay in Denison.

The historic park's perennial plant gardens attract monarch butterflies in the area as they follow their seasonal migration. A bronze of Eisenhower is surrounded by benches, convenient for a moment of reflection.

For a more vigorous experience, explore **Eisenhower State Park's** 420 acres, where wooded areas invite hiking or camping and the nearby lake allows access for boaters.

A 15-minute drive south and east from the state park delivers you to **Grayson County Frontier Village**, where more than a



### The President Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Monument in Denison

dozen buildings dating to the 19th century were relocated to the property by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to create a historic town on a 17-acre park.

The village includes a log cabin, a jail and a school. Just outside the school's door is a bell affixed to a pole with a rope attached to ring the children in for lessons. Nearby Loy Lake is open for fishing, kayaking and picnicking.

Back in Denison, you'll find a green and yellow Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad train parked on tracks behind the brick **Katy Depot** on Main Street, once the center of a regional transportation hub. **The Red River Railroad Museum**, on the back side of the Katy Depot, preserves pieces of history from when the building reigned as a Union Passenger Depot (i.e., a train station used by more than one railroad company or line).

The MKT Railroad established the rail-

head in Denison in 1872, and the town grew up around the station. In 1901, Denison established an interurban railway that ran from Denison to Sherman. The town itself is named for MKT Vice President George Denison.

The depot continued as a bustling business until the late 1980s, when a merger shuttered the station for good. The building, with landscaped grounds punctuated by historical markers, now serves as an events center.

"Doc" Holliday opened a dentist's office in downtown Denison after leaving Dallas under a cloud, but the exact location is neither known nor marked—befitting, in some ways, his status as an Old West legend.

**Dawn Cobb** is the PR communications specialist at CoServ, the electric co-op in Corinth.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Visit our website to see our March 2018 story about how a Denison viticulturist saved the French wine industry.

# ONE ASSET SOARS ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

## SPECIAL RELEASE U.S. GOVERNMENT-ISSUED AT-COST GOLD COINS FROM THE U.S. MINT

One of America's largest gold distributors today announces special, rock-bottom pricing on official U.S. government-issued gold coins from the United States Mint. For one month or while supplies last, U.S. Money Reserve is offering you the opportunity to purchase Gold American Eagle Coins at the incredible at-cost price of only \$136.00 each—one of the best government-issued gold coin deals available anywhere today.

Designated as official U.S. legal tender, these gold coins are fully backed by the U.S. government for their gold weight, content and purity. Congressionally authorized gold coins provide American citizens with a way to convert their money from a declining paper currency into a tangible precious metal. Even gold's recent 10-year performance has surpassed major stock indexes.

If you have been waiting to enter the gold market, this is your opportunity to join the thousands of Americans who are protecting their wealth with physical gold.

CALL NOW:

# 1-855-426-7168

Vault No: TX27



1/10-ounce Gold  
American Eagle

*Official Gold Coin of the United States of America: \$5 American Eagle*

## GET IN ON ONE OF THE BEST GOLD OFFERS AVAILABLE.

At cost, completely free of dealer markup:

# \$136<sup>00</sup>

PER GOLD COIN

SPECIAL GOLD ALLOTMENT EXCLUSIVELY FOR RECIPIENT'S OF THIS OFFER! BEGINNING TODAY, TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER.

- 1 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coin \$ 136.00
- 5 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coins \$ 680.00
- 10 - Gov't-Issued Gold Coins \$ 1,360.00

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX • DISCOVER • CHECK • BANK WIRE



©2018 U.S. Money Reserve. The markets for coins are unregulated. Prices can rise or fall and carry some risks. The company is not affiliated with the U.S. Government and the U.S. Mint. Past performance of the coin or the market cannot predict future performance. Prices may be more or less based on current market conditions. Special offer is strictly limited to only one lifetime purchase of 10 below- or at-cost coins (regardless of price paid) per household, plus shipping and insurance (\$15-\$35). Price not valid for precious metals dealers. All calls recorded for quality assurance. 1/10-oz. coins enlarged to show detail. Offer void where prohibited. Offer valid for up to 30 days or while supplies last. Coin dates our choice.

# Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



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



**\$59<sup>99</sup>**  
month  
for TV +

**ADD INTERNET**

**Blazing-Fast  
Internet**

**It's All Included!**

**2-YEAR PRICELOCK**

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



**40+ FREE Premium Channels**



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

**Only \$49.99 for 25 Mbps!**

**Unlimited Data**  
No Hard Data Limits!

**Very Fast**  
Speeds from 25 Mbps-1 Gbps!

**Available Everywhere**  
25 Mbps available at every US address!

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

Subject to availability. Restrictions apply.

**1-866-290-7151**

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



[godish.com/pricelock](http://godish.com/pricelock)



**¡Se Habla Español!**

\*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: Advertised price requires credit qualification and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/11/18. 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 \$55/mo. for HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz 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 \$8.99/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. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. © 2018 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$49.99 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.