

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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Groundbreaking buildings of the boom and bust



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Some of the 2015 Government-in-Action Youth Tour participants from Texas gather outside the White House.

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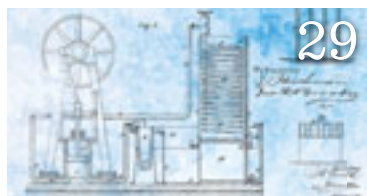
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**Insect Farming**

*Bug businesses fill a variety of needs, including human stomachs.*



YOUTH TOUR: TEC. CRICKET: KUTTELVASEROVA STUCHELOVA | SHUTTERSTOCK

**ON THE COVER** Spectators watch as a "human fly" climbs the Kyle Hotel in Temple at its grand opening in 1929. Illustration by John Kachik

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## Pecos River Experience

I was blown away by Lonn Taylor's story *Pecos River Flood of 1954* [March 2016]. My family made frequent fishing trips to the Pecos River area in South-west Texas before it empties into the Rio Grande, and we are living proof of how treacherous the river can be.

We were enjoying a fun-filled fishing trip after school was out in June 1954 when that flash flood hit. It was very early in the morning, but my dad could hear it coming, and we left everything except our two pickups and headed uphill to a ranger cabin to escape the raging currents. We lost all our camping gear and boat, but at least we all survived—and that was not the last time this happened to us.

I fully agree with Charles Goodnight's description of the river: "the graveyard of the cowman's hopes." But, boy, could you catch a lot of big catfish down there!

JEAN RINEHART | KINGSLAND  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC



## Texas on Top

I don't think the Western hat [*Cowboy Hatters*, April 2016] has ever actually been indicative of a cattleman wearer, even though it has, over the years, acquired the name "cowboy hat." I firmly believe that nowadays, the hat doesn't say, "cattleman." I believe that it says, loudly and proudly, "TEXAS!"

BILL MORRIS | CHAPPELL HILL | BLUEBONNET EC

records dating back to the early 1950s and have enjoyed thousands of hours of listening to country, folk, classical, jazz and rock 'n' roll.

DORIS FONTAINE | MOUNTAIN HOME  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

### Hands of Time

We're with the reader from Waxahachie [*Springing Forward*, Letters, March 2016]. We oppose daylight saving time, too. The twice-a-year time change is disrupting and totally unnecessary. Why can't we choose a time and stick with it? Why not put it to a statewide vote with three options: continue with the status quo, stay with DST year-round or stay with standard time all the time?

SHARON SCHWERTNER | BALLINGER  
COLEMAN COUNTY EC

### In Search of Cantaloupes

Thank you, Lonn Taylor, for your July 2012 article, *The Truth About Pecos Cantaloupes*. I did some digging myself when I couldn't find my favorite cantaloupe in the local grocery stores in Houston. To this day, it's hard to find the fruit in our stores. I even have the Mandujano brothers' phone number in my cellphone. I once saw the product labeled as "Stetson"—haven't seen it since. I want my cantaloupe back!

SHARI WOOLSON | HOUSTON

### Keyhole Inspirations

After reading *Keyhole Gardening* [February 2012], I was excited to learn that Deb Tolman was coming to our county to hold a keyhole workshop. After attending the workshop and with your magazine in hand, I started rounding up the supplies and soil. We decided to use a new but damaged water trough instead of building with rock.

The first year I found that burying plastic flowerpots and filling them with water helped me distribute the water better.

I always overplant, but it doesn't seem to bother the yield. I found that squash and tomatoes grow too large for the small space. Cucumbers did well, but the peppers always outdo themselves.

Thank you for bringing such a wonderful project to our attention.

SUE BROYLES | CHEROKEE  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

**Editor's note:** See more readers' keyhole garden photos (and post your own) on TCP's Facebook and Pinterest pages.



### What Goes Around ...

Yep, the old saying of "what goes around comes around" (pardon the pun) must be true [*Don't Skip It*, Currents, April 2016]. I have hundreds of vinyl

I really, really LOVE daylight saving time. So I vote to keep it. It has never bothered my sleep pattern.

GARY A. MCDONNELL | VALLEY MILLS  
HEART OF TEXAS EC

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

   Texas Co-op Power

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## The Time Is Ripe



Find more happenings all across the state at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

**PEACH SEASON** is about to begin, and for the 500 or so folks who call Stonewall home, that means it's time for the **55TH ANNUAL STONEWALL PEACH JAMBOREE & RODEO**.

Stonewall, the birthplace of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is in Gillespie County, which grows about 40 percent of the peaches in Texas.

JAMboree takes place June 17–18 at the Stonewall Chamber of Commerce, on Peach Street, of course. Area peach growers, many of whom are members of Central Texas Electric Cooperative, bring their crops to be judged. Other competitions determine the best peach pie, cobbler and salsa. Skills of a different sort are tested in contests for peach eating and peach pit spitting (say that 10 times fast).

**INFO** ▶ (830) 644-2735; [stonewalltexas.com](http://stonewalltexas.com)

**PEACHY IDEAS**  
If you need ideas about what to do with all those ripe peaches this month, check out Recipes, starting on Page 31.



## HURRICANE SEASON STARTS



**More than 10 years** and 27 major hurricanes have passed since a Category 3 or higher storm touched down in the United States. And though that's a record gap between landfalls, scientists say it's mostly a matter of circumstance and no reason for hurricane-prone areas to let down their guard, especially now that it's hurricane season, which runs June 1–November 30.

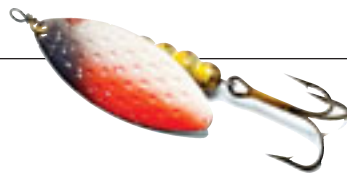
**“This luck cannot continue.** Climatology will eventually reassert itself with many more U.S. landfalling hurricanes,” according to an analysis by Colorado State University experts Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray. “Coastal residents must realize that hurricanes remain a serious threat and should take preparedness actions before every season.”

**Not since Hurricane Wilma** ripped through southern Florida in October 2005—to close out a record-breaking hurricane season that included Katrina and Rita—has a major hurricane made landfall in the U.S. Ike was a major hurricane in 2008 that dropped to just below major hurricane strength when it struck Texas. Ike still caused \$29.5 billion in damage, most notably in Galveston, Houston and the Bolivar Peninsula.

JAMBOREE & TOLEDO BEND: DAVID MOORE; PEACH: ARTEMISAM | STOCK.ADOBE.COM; UMBRELLAS: FRESHIDEA | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

HONORS

# Holy Toledo!



**JUNE 18  
IS NATIONAL  
GO FISHING DAY.**

**TEXAS TRIUMPHS** in *Bassmaster's* Best Bass Lakes of 2015 with a total of nine lakes on the magazine's list—three in the top 20, and Toledo Bend Reservoir taking the crown.

To set the rankings, *Bassmaster* surveyed states' fishery agencies, asked B.A.S.S. Nation for the best competition lakes and polled 630,000 Facebook fans. Next, a panel of bass fishermen ranked the lakes and sent their results to a 15-member fishing industry committee, which named the top 100.

"Although many rankings on the list required a lot of debate from our panel, Toledo Bend stood out to all as a clear No. 1 this year," *Bassmaster* Editor James Hall said.

## TEXAS LAKES IN THE TOP 100

- 1. Toledo Bend Reservoir, Texas/Louisiana
- 5. Sam Rayburn Reservoir
- 15. Lake Fork Reservoir
- 31. Lake Ray Roberts
- 42. Falcon Lake
- 50. Lake Conroe
- 62. Fayette County Reservoir
- 73. Lake Texoma, Oklahoma/Texas
- 86. Squaw Creek Reservoir

See photos of all 100 lakes at [bassmaster.com](http://bassmaster.com).



TECH KNOWLEDGE

# MASTERMINDS BEHIND THE WHEELS

**Electricity pioneers** Michael Faraday and Nikola Tesla probably never met in real life, but electric cars bearing their monikers soon will meet on the open road.

**That's if everything** goes according to plan for Faraday Future, a California-based, Chinese-backed carmaker that in January revealed plans for a single-seat, 1,000-horsepower, all-electric concept car. The company, named for the British electrochemist who lived 1791-1867 and discovered electromagnetic induction, is building a 900-acre, \$1 billion factory in Nevada.

**Tesla Motors**, which sold 50,000 electric vehicles in 2015 and is named for the Serbian-American physicist who lived 1856-1943 and perfected alternating current, expects to churn out a half-million vehicles per year by 2020.

WORTH REPEATING

*"We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles."*

— THOMAS A. EDISON

LIFESTYLE

# Hey, Good Lookin'



**PEOPLE SPEND ABOUT FOUR HOURS A WEEK GROOMING**, according to a German market research firm. GfK's 22-country survey shows that women spend an average of almost five hours a week on personal grooming (bathing, shaving, dressing, hair, makeup), while men spend just over three hours.

**MOLTO BELLO** Italians spend the most time grooming, just more than 5½ hours a week. Americans are third at about 5¼ hours. Chinese rank last at fewer than three hours.

**FETCHING TEXANS** Texans spend 44 minutes a day—about five hours a week—grooming, according to the American Time Use Survey. Only folks from Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina groom more, 45 minutes a day.

BY JOE O'CONNELL



# LOFTY LANDMARKS

## EARLY TEXAS SKYSCRAPERS SPROUTED AS SMALL-TOWN HOPES AND DREAMS TOOK ROOT

In January 21, 1929, the “human fly” gripped the brick wall and slowly ascended Temple’s sleekly narrow Kyle Hotel. A crowd of observers, decked out in their Sunday best, exchanged knowing glances and looked skyward. Halfway to the 13th and final floor, the man-fly pulled a Coca-Cola bottle from his pocket and took a leisurely sip. The onlookers laughed and cheered. Those lucky enough to purchase tickets to the grand opening party ventured inside to dance to Henry Lange and his orchestra’s hit song, *Hot Lips*. For \$1.50, they could stay the night in one of 125 rooms appointed with steam heat, ceiling fans and running ice water.

In October of that year, the stock market crashed, foretelling the Great Depression. Farmers saw cotton prices plummet. The town’s major employer, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway, implemented layoffs and pay cuts. Four of Temple’s five banks closed. Temple’s population remained static at 15,000 throughout the 1930s. Yet the Kyle and other high-rise Texas hotels like it held on for decades as towering symbols of something larger. Soldiers huddled in them during World War II. Community groups met for lunch. High school kids held proms.

The Kyle was the third “skyscraper” in Temple. The 113-room Doering Hotel—later sold and renamed the Hawn Hotel—had celebrated its opening in 1928 with a different human fly ascending its nine levels. The six-story Professional Building came second and housed a grocery, stenography school, barbershop, law office, flower shop and cigar store.

New Yorkers might argue whether any building with fewer than 20 stories, or perhaps even 50, could be billed as a skyscraper, but architect T.J. Gottesdiener, quoted in the *Christian Science Monitor* decades after the firm he worked for designed Chicago’s iconic Sears Tower, perhaps put it best: “What is a skyscraper? It is anything that makes you stop, stand, crane your neck back and look up.” In the late 1920s, high-rise buildings began to ascend in Texas, and they became a symbol of good times, progress and optimism in tough times ahead.

Frank Doering was a prominent Temple resident who sold his Ford dealership to jump into the hotel game. Doering’s family occupied the eighth floor, just below a ballroom that became a vital part of the Temple social scene. His grandson, Frank Harlan, now 85, spent a chunk of his childhood in the hotel, getting haircuts in Shorty Carmen’s barbershop, picking out his own steaks in the kitchen, and pushing the buttons to go up and down in the elevator repeatedly while its operator sternly looked on.

“I remember listening to the trains from the hotel,” Harlan said. “They still had steam engines back then. You would hear them blow the whistle and the sound of the wheels as they hit the crossing.”

Well-made, reliable elevators were one of the keys to the rapid construction of high rises, as were the mass produc-

**Postcards touted small-town skyscrapers, including the Baker Hotel, above, and Temple’s “best-ventilated hotel in Texas,” right.**





In October 1929,  
the stock market crashed,  
foretelling the Great Depression.  
Yet the Kyle and other  
high-rise Texas hotels like it  
held on for decades as towering  
symbols of something larger.

POST



tion of steel and a better understanding of structural loads. In Texas, health and transportation also factored into their construction. Temple was founded by the railroad in the 1880s, and residents quickly had a need for quality medical care, which led to the construction of what is now Scott & White Memorial Hospital. Hospital co-founder Dr. A.C. Scott Sr. worked with Beaumont businessman W.W. Kyle to open a hotel that could house hospital visitors. The hotel found success under the management of Theodore Brasher "T.B." Baker's hotel chain that included the Menger and Gunter hotels in San Antonio, the Stephen F. Austin in Austin, the Baker in Dallas and the Galvez in Galveston.

But the hotel magnate's name is most closely associated with the Baker Hotel in Mineral Wells, a 14-story edifice visible for miles. Since the 1880s, Mineral Wells, 50 miles west of Fort Worth, has staked its name and reputation on mineral water, and by 1910, 150,000 visitors a year came to "take the waters" to cure what ailed them. In 1927, locals raised \$150,000 to build the hotel.

Hotel impresario Baker saw the potential, and the 450-room Baker Hotel opened just weeks after the stock market crash in 1929. The hotel was a trifold marvel with an Olympic-size outdoor pool, a bowling alley, an 18,500-square-foot drinking pavilion and the rooftop Cloud Club that attracted celebrities including Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Jean Harlow and even the Three Stooges. During World War II, the hotel was filled to the brim with soldiers.

A similar lure of healing waters in the Central Texas town of Marlin led Conrad Hilton to open his eighth Hilton Hotel there in 1929. The nine-story structure, later renamed the Falls Hotel, connected through an underground tunnel to the Marlin Sanitarium-Bath House, opened by Dr. Neil Buie across the street. As many as 100,000 people a year came to Marlin via three rail lines.

New York Giants Manager John McGraw was so convinced of the mineral water's curative powers that he moved the baseball team's spring training to Marlin between 1908 and 1918, a stretch in which the Giants won the National League pennant four times. In her book, *Taking the Waters in Texas* (University of Texas Press, 2000), Janet Mace Valenza writes that the Marlin regimen involved drinking mineral water followed by two hours of baths, including full-body rubdowns with salt and oil.

Time passed and trends changed. Mineral baths were replaced by antibiotics and other medicines. Interstate 35 sent traffic zooming past Temple, and downtowns fell out of vogue. The 1970s saw the decline and then eventual closing of these hotels.

Baker Hotel, Mineral Wells, Texas



Rooms were \$2–\$2.50 at the Doering Hotel, opposite, built in 1928. The promise of healing mineral waters drew people and towering hotels to Mineral Wells, above, and Marlin, right.

The Falls and Baker became the targets of ghost hunters. Many attempts have been made to reopen them. Sometimes a reimagining worked. The mineral water still flows continuously from a fountain across from the Falls Hotel, but only a barbershop remains inside the hotel's doors.

But in Mineral Wells, the big story has been a nine-year effort to revitalize the Baker. A team has been working to attract foreign investors to cover an expected \$56 million price tag. Among the partners is Dallas businessman Brint Ryan, who did the impossible in 2012—he reopened the beautifully revived Hotel Settles in his hometown of Big Spring, as if turning the key on a portal to the past.

In Temple, the city obtained a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant in the late 1980s to transform the Kyle Hotel into low-cost housing for the elderly, and it remains open under the direction of the city's housing authority. The Doering/Hawn Hotel was purchased by the city of Temple with the intent to find a developer and bring it back to life. A deal is in the works, but, as with the Baker, full financing is pending.

Harlan, the grandson of its founder, dreams of living long enough to move into the renovated building. He toured the hotel's stripped-down ground floor last year. Age kept him from climbing the narrow staircase to the top, but a newspaper photo of the old hotel jarred him. In it was a ballroom piano wizened by time and covered with pigeon droppings. "I took piano when I was younger, and I remember doing a recital at the hotel. I was maybe 12, and I played *American Patrol* [a tune made popular by Glenn Miller] in the ballroom. It was probably on that very piano."

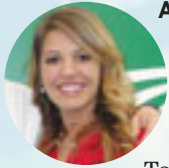
Joe O'Connell is an Austin writer.

**WEB EXTRAS** at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) Tour some of these historic buildings in a slideshow online.

# YOUTH TOUR ALUMNI

## FOLLOW CAREER PATHS TO TEXAS CO-OPS

BY SUZANNE HALKO



**AT FIRST, MEAGAN (JOHNSON) BROWN** didn't want to apply for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Her mom, Mary Johnson, an 18-year Comanche Electric Cooperative employee, kept insisting.

Eventually, Brown saw the value of Youth Tour—a free trip to Washington, D.C., plus an education about American co-ops, government and history—and won Comanche EC's sponsorship in 2011. The trip broadened her horizons and led to lasting friendships and life-changing opportunities.

"It gave her more pride in what rural electric co-ops do for people," Johnson says.

Because of Youth Tour, Brown met General Manager Kerry Kelton of Mid-South Synergy, the Navasota-based electric cooperative. "He said, 'When you come down to go to [Texas A&M University], give us a call. We will probably find a place for you,'" Brown recalls.

She interned with Mid-South and learned more about co-ops. "At a lot of large companies, you're just another employee," she says. "With a co-op, it's like a family."

Her Mid-South family also became her actual family when she married Jacob Brown, who still works in the co-op's accounting department.

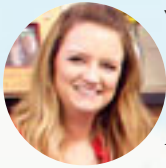
"We laughed when they started seeing each other," Johnson says. "We were like, 'Well, you're keeping it in the family, huh?' because everybody works at the electric co-op."

After getting an agricultural communications and journalism degree in 2014, Brown used her co-op experience to land a job with Bryan Texas Utilities, also a member of Texas Electric Cooperatives. Later she became an executive assistant with the City of Bryan.

As her mom says, "She has lived the co-op life."

U.S. CAPITOL: ANDREYKR | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB. HEADSHOTS: COURTESY SUBJECTS





**YOUTH TOUR ALSO LAUNCHED** Erin (Bischoff) Hughes' co-op career. In 2006, as a high school senior from Anderson, she won a Mid-South video contest, earning sponsorship to Washington, as well as a scholarship and an internship.

The internship turned into the job she kept while getting a degree in sociology from Sam Houston State University. She graduated in 2011.

"I've been here ever since," she says. "It's a different environment. They really care about their employees and their members."

Hughes is now Mid-South's Youth Tour coordinator and executive assistant to the co-op's general manager. In her job, she ushers students through an experience similar to her own, helping prepare the next generation for real-world work. She says Youth Tour participants make valued co-op interns because they have knowledge of what a co-op is and have proved their willingness to work by competing in the contest to win the trip.

Youth Tour "really opened the door for me at Mid-South, which has been amazing," Hughes says, explaining that her co-op job offers fulfilling career opportunities and allows her to live where she wants. "I really like the small-town feel. I love to travel, but I like coming home more."



**LIKE BROWN, SCOTT MEURER** heard about Youth Tour from his mother, Rosie Meurer, who's a career employee of Central Texas EC in Fredericksburg. He went on Youth Tour in 2000.

"After seeing all of the memorials of those who have done service for our country," says Meurer, a Pedernales EC member, "it helped inspire me to want to work in an environment where we provide service to folks and hopefully improve folks' quality of life."

Meurer earned an environmental science degree from McMurry University in Abilene and was working in San Antonio when he heard about an opening at TEC. Because of Youth Tour and his mom's career, he knew about the statewide trade association's service to electric co-ops and their members.

"It was really cool ... just growing up in that co-op environment and then to go and work with one and be a member," Meurer says.

Meurer started at TEC in 2007, serving with the inside sales team and then in supply chain sourcing. Now, as a supply chain analyst, Meurer evaluates member cooperatives' warehouse supplies and processes to ensure that they have the best inventory to serve their members.

"I'm glad it's worked out this way," Meurer says, "because there is no place better to work, that's for sure."

**Suzanne Halko** is a TEC communications specialist.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** Learn about Texas' Youth Tour history and how to apply; read *Your Tour* magazine; and find videos, photos and news.

**“At a lot of large companies, you’re just another employee. With a co-op, it’s like a family.”** —MEAGAN (JOHNSON) BROWN | COMANCHE EC | 2011



# YOUTH TOUR FACTS

TAKE THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO DC

## WHAT

An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., under the guidance of chaperones, to tour national historic sites, experience cultural diversity, meet U.S. congressional representatives, and learn about electric cooperatives and the energy industry

- Touring famous places
- Laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Visiting museums
- Seeing a production at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Going on a Potomac River boat cruise and dance
- Participating in National Youth Day with 1,000-plus students from around the country
- Meeting U.S. representatives and senators

## WHO

Texas high school students and their peers from around the nation who have won contests at their local electric cooperatives

## WHY

Electric cooperatives responded to then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, an advocate of rural electrification, who in 1957 suggested “sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.” Sponsoring students on the tour also follows the cooperatives’ guiding principle of concern for the community, a concept that includes supporting young people.

## WHERE

From Austin to Washington, D.C., via airplane for a whirlwind tour

- Supreme Court and Library of Congress
- Washington National Cathedral
- Arlington National Cemetery
- George Washington’s home at Mount Vernon
- Smithsonian Institution and Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Jefferson, Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials
- Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and National World War II memorials
- Washington Monument
- Kennedy Center

## WHEN

10 days in June

## HOW

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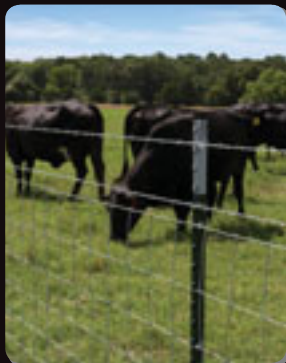


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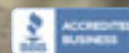
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# Say N-O to CO

**CARBON MONOXIDE IS A POISONOUS GAS** created when common fuels such as natural gas, oil, wood or coal burn incompletely. This odorless, colorless, tasteless gas is often called “the silent killer” because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology such as a CO alarm.

On average, about 170 people die every year from CO poisoning. Despite the fact that CO alarms are simple to install and provide an early warning of the dangerous

presence of carbon monoxide, an estimated 70 percent of U.S. homes are not protected by a working CO alarm.

Carbon monoxide can emanate from heating and cooking appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in enclosed areas.

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter period of time. Lower concentrations might more severely affect infants, pregnant women and people with conditions that limit their body’s ability to use oxygen, such as emphysema, asthma or heart disease. Extremely high levels of carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal within minutes.



**A simple alarm installed in the home can prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.**

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include fatigue, shortness of breath, drowsiness, headache and nausea.

**Here are ways to reduce the CO risk for your family:**

- ▶ If you have a fireplace, be sure to open the damper during use for proper ventilation.
- ▶ Have your chimney inspected by a professional every year.
- ▶ Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturer’s instructions and applicable local codes.
- ▶ Heating appliances that burn fuel should be inspected and serviced by a certified, licensed professional every year.
- ▶ Never use your oven, range, stovetop or clothes dryer to provide heat for your home. Never use barbecue grills (gas or charcoal) inside your home or garage.
- ▶ Only use portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas away from windows and doors. Never use a portable generator inside any part of your home.
- ▶ If you will be using a portable generator outside, be sure to install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.
- ▶ Only use battery-powered lights in tents and in recreational vehicles, including trailers, motor homes and boats. Never use fuel-burning camping equipment inside an enclosed space.
- ▶ Never run a vehicle inside a garage, even if the garage doors are open. Remove the vehicle as soon as possible after starting it.

—ESFI



**Upgrade to a cool roof for summer savings.**

## Cool Roofs

**IF YOU’VE EVER STOOD** on a roof during a Texas summer day, you know how hot it can get. The heat from a home’s roof makes the air conditioner work even harder to keep the inside cool.

If you want to upgrade an existing roof, you can:

- ▶ **Retrofit** the roof with specialized heat-reflective material.
- ▶ **Re-cover** the roof with a new water-proofing surface (such as tile coating).
- ▶ **Replace** the roof with a cool one.

If you are building a new home, decide during the planning phase whether you want a cool roof. A cool roof uses material designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Cool roofs can be made of a highly reflective type of paint, a sheet covering, or reflective tiles or shingles.

A cool roof can lower the surface temperature by up to 50 percent and save energy and money by requiring less air conditioning. Cool roofs make spaces like garages or covered patios more comfortable.

Nearly any type of home can benefit from a cool roof, but consider climate and other factors before you decide to install one.

—Energy.gov

# Put Your Computer To Sleep

**IN THE SAME WAY THAT APPS** and graphics eat up the battery power on your cellphone, extra features on computers can unnecessarily use energy. That could be costing you extra on your electric bill.

If your home has multiple computers, don't let them waste energy. Here's how to start conserving your dollars digitally:

- ▶ Delete extra applications and programs from your computer that you don't need, especially those that run "in the background" even when you're not using them. If you're unsure which ones are safe to uninstall, consult an expert first.

- ▶ Unplug seldom-used computers. Even when they are shut down, they continue to draw small amounts of electricity as long as they are plugged into the wall.

- ▶ Move the computer and printer in each room near the TV and phone charger, and plug all the devices into a power strip. That makes it easy to switch them all off when you leave the house for the day or turn in at night. The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that devices that are always turned on use up to 23 percent of a home's electricity—even if the appliances are rarely in use.

- ▶ Set each computer to "sleep" mode. That slows down the processor when it's not in use, so the entire module uses less electricity.

- ▶ Program the "hibernate" function on your computers to turn them off when they're not in use for more than 30 minutes. This setting is especially useful because it shuts the device down but makes it easy to recover everything you were working on when you switch it back on.

- ▶ Get rid of screen savers; they turn your computer monitor into an energy hog. It's better to set the monitor to sleep after 10–15 minutes of inactivity.

- ▶ Switch to a laptop or mobile device. Portable devices like tablets and e-readers use up to a third less energy than a big desktop computer and monitor.

- ▶ The next time you're shopping for a new computer, buy an Energy Star-rated machine. This designation guarantees that the machine is energy efficient.



Moving computers, printers and chargers to the same area makes them easy to control with a single power strip.



Stay indoors when lightning strikes.

## Stay Safe Around Lightning

**WHEN SUMMER STORMS** shoot lightning down from the sky, there are several things you can do to keep your family safe. Here is some advice from the National Weather Service:

- ▶ **Stay aware of weather conditions.** A simple forecast can tell you whether you need to delay outdoor activities, put away sports equipment or tools, or simply head inside to avoid danger.
- ▶ **Don't touch a plugged-in computer or TV** indoors when there's a lightning storm outdoors. Stay safe by using remote controls to operate them.
- ▶ **To preserve expensive pieces** of electronic equipment, unplug them before the storm hits. Once lightning starts, it's not safe to touch those plugs or cords.
- ▶ **Stay off of corded phones.** Lightning can travel through a home's wiring. It's OK to make calls on a cell or cordless phone during a lightning storm.
- ▶ **Keep a distance** from anything that can conduct electricity, like power lines, barbed-wire fences and, of course, metal ladders. Avoid showering or bathing during storms, too, as metal plumbing—and the water inside it—can conduct electricity.
- ▶ **Don't go outdoors** during a lightning storm, and stay away from windows and doors. Even a small leak or conduction point can let lightning into your home.

# What's *Your* Beef?

Brisket is king in Texas, but increasingly, massive and meaty beef ribs are in demand

BY JOHN MORTHLAND

FROM EVIE MAE'S PIT BARBECUE IN WOLFFORTH to Joe's Barbeque Company in Alvin, The Original Willie's Bar-B-Q in Alamo to Stillwater Barbeque in Abilene, beef ribs are winning a foothold in the Texas smoked meats pantheon. Given the size of these ribs and the price tag on them, you could even say they are doing so in a big way.

When it comes to barbecue, Texas, of course, has always been a beef state, meaning brisket rules, and beef sausage has a clear edge over pork. Beef ribs—due mainly to their expense, it turns out—have traditionally been modest sellers and have at times slipped off menus statewide almost entirely. Yet a recent wave of new traditionalists—urban eateries such as Franklin Barbecue in Austin, Pecan Lodge in Dallas and Killen's Barbecue in the Houston suburb of Pearland—has shown an inordinate interest in beef ribs. The enthusiasm is proving contagious; over the past five or so years, beef ribs have also been turning up more frequently on small-town menus, and for good reason. Silky and sublime, beef short ribs combine gelatinous texture with ambrosial flavor in a manner that makes them unbeatable.

Louie Mueller Barbecue in Taylor has long been ground zero for beef ribs, having served them since launching in 1949. Originally, according to third-generation owner (since 2006) and pitmaster Wayne Mueller, they used beef short ribs cut into thirds, and these items were “almost giveaways, you could hardly sell them at all.” In the early '80s, Wayne Mueller's father, Bobby Mueller, switched to chuck short ribs, which had more meat and more bone. But

in 2010, after noting that Black's Barbecue of Lockhart was adding beef ribs to its menu, Wayne Mueller decided to go for broke. He began buying up the biggest plate short ribs he could find, some of them as heavy as 2 pounds, and watched them become “like a new cut of beef that everybody who came in just had to try.” Beautifully marbled like a ribeye steak—no “fatty” and “lean” ends on these babies—their even distribution of fat and collagens keeps them sweetly succulent all the way through. They became Mueller's signature item.

They also created a financial quandary. Mueller, who subsequently switched to slightly smaller ribs of 1¼ to 1¾ pounds each, pays \$15 per pound for them, and sells the smoked meat for \$21.99. Thus, a single beef rib usually costs the consumer between \$25 and \$35, which does not exactly jibe with barbecue's image as the workingman's lunch. “What I'm selling them for, I don't make money on them,” Mueller says, “but people still get sticker shock when they come here to eat. But they also still demand their beef ribs.”

Evie Mae's, which opened in a trailer just south of Lubbock in Wolfforth early in 2015, had a similar experience when introducing plate short ribs to the region. “I don't know if nobody here'd ever had them before or what, but we couldn't give them away at first,” laughs Mallory Robbins, who co-owns Evie Mae's with her husband, Arnis, and expects to be operating out of a Wolfforth building this year. “Now they're usually the first thing we run out of every day; people call the day before and try to reserve one. But we still cook only 12 to 20



**A beef rib at Louie Mueller  
Barbecue in Taylor**

of them daily, as kind of a loss leader.”

As Rene Lopez Garza, co-owner of Gonzales Food Market, notes, “They sell pretty steady, but you really don’t cook a lot.” Gonzalez puts its beef ribs on the smoker in a pan, so the collected grease bubbles up to lend the bark a crunchier edge.

There is an alternative to beef short ribs, and that’s beef back ribs, a cheaper cut that is more bone than meat. (They are sometimes dubbed “shiners” because the meat is so thin that the bone shows through.) When cooked properly, their meat is tender with a distinct beefy flavor, but that flavor is more one-dimensional compared to the depth and complexity of short ribs. Still, they are easily affordable (costing the restaurateur little more than a buck a pound) and provide a satisfying meal. Eateries such as Cowpokes Bar-B-Q in Pearsall and Joe’s in Alvin swear by them.

Original Willie’s gets around the price-point dilemma by offering back ribs on its everyday menu while making short ribs a Tuesday special. It’s becoming increasingly common for barbecue joints to offer beef short ribs as a similar special, or to simply serve them sporadically, when they can get a good price, or on special occasions.

Once Texans try beef ribs, they tend to want more despite the high tariff. As for why that is, Robbins has a theory: “I guess some people have had bad experiences with them, and that’s why they think they don’t like them—but a good beef rib is *really, really* good.”

**John Morthland** wrote about music, food and popular culture for numerous magazines. He died March 8 at home in Austin.

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** Learn more about the types of beef ribs at barbecue joints.

# Sir Doug

Film aims to remind music world of Doug Sahm's niche in Texas lore

BY JOE NICK PATOSKI

IN THE COURSE OF 40 YEARS OF WRITING about musicians from Texas, such as Willie Nelson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Selena Quintanilla, ZZ Top and Freddy Fender, the one music story I really wanted to write almost got away. It was about the most important musician who ever crossed my path and who has been relegated to obscurity since his death almost 17 years ago.

Doug Sahm, native son of San Antonio, was a singer, guitarist, fiddler, pianist, composer, bandleader and an arranger. He could play all of Texas' indigenous musical styles—country and western, rhythm and blues, jump blues, western swing, Tex-Mex, conjunto, cajun and swamp pop—all authentically.

As a prodigy steel guitar player, he earned praise from Hank Williams, the father of country music. As a teenager, he watched T-Bone Walker, Gatmouth Brown and other electric blues guitar virtuosos play at the African-American night spot Eastwood Country Club near his house. He had local No. 1 hit records while still in high school. As leader of the pseudo-British rock band the Sir Douglas Quintet, he scored a hit with *She's About a Mover* and became running buddies with Bob Dylan. Sahm was as instrumental as Willie Nelson in putting Austin's music scene on the map in the early 1970s. In the '80s, he had international hits. In the '90s, he came home to found the first Tex-Mex supergroup, the Texas Tornados, with his longtime sidekick Augie Meyers, accordionist Flaco Jimenez and crooner Freddy Fender.

Sahm also wrote the best homesick Texan songs ever—*At the Crossroads*, with

the prescient lyric, "You just can't live in Texas if you don't have a lot of soul;" *Texas Me* ("I wonder what happened to the man inside that real old Texas me"); and *Beautiful Texas Sunshine*.

Sahm, who was 58 when he died of natural causes in 1999, looked like a Texan—a long-haired, fast-talking, pointy-boot-wearing kind of Texan. With his credentials and personality, you'd figure he was a charter inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Instead, he's almost forgotten.

So I decided to make a movie about him.

Music is not easy to convey in print. If I was going to tell Sahm's story and gin up enough interest to get him into the rock hall of fame, the audience needed to hear his music and see him speak to fully appreciate his kinetic energy.

After three years and \$750,000, *Sir Doug and the Genuine Texas Cosmic Groove* premiered in March 2015. Telling Sahm's story onscreen was rewarding, especially getting to interview Meyers, Jimenez and son Shawn Sahm—those closest to Doug—as well as musicians such as Boz Scaggs, Dr. John, Steve Earle, Jeff Tweedy, Los Lobos and Sunny Ozuna. I also interviewed Sahm's brother and other children.

I still obsess over what was left out. I was not able to include the story of Sahm performing on the storied *Louisiana Hayride* radio program from Shreveport as a child, three years before Elvis Presley appeared on the same show.

I couldn't include anything about Sahm's lifelong friendships with his mentors, western swing fiddler J.R. Chatwell



and African-American bandleader and saxophonist Spot Barnett. Then there was Sahm's mentoring of a kid named Jerry Garcia from a new band called the Grateful Dead. There was nothing about Sahm meeting the Beatles and running around with the Rolling Stones or producing rock 'n' roll pioneer Chuck Berry in San Francisco. What about his love of baseball, his deep knowledge of "rassling," his passion for all kinds of music and eagerness to introduce others to what he knew?

Even for those who don't know who Sahm is, the film tells the larger story of an artist coping with the world. In his case, he wasn't just the artist, but the artist who knew too much and had to play all the different kinds of music to satisfy himself,

even if it did not lead to fame and fortune.

You can still hear Sahm in the music of Meyers and Jimenez, the accordion legend Sahm brought out of the *barrio* to a global audience. And you can hear him in Shawn Sahm, who leads his dad's band, the Texas Tornados, alongside Jimenez and Meyers. Artists such as Los Texmaniacs, the Mavericks, Los Lobos, Joe King Carrasco, Charlie Sexton, Jeff Tweedy, Shinyribs, the Swindles, the West Side Horns, Alvin Crow, Dave Alvin and the Texas Mavericks carry on the Sir Doug groove.

The best part about making a film about Sahm was bringing him back to life for all the longtime fans who want to see and hear their hero. Their numbers may be more comparable to a cult than to a pop

star following, but they are passionate.

If enough people figure out who Sahm was—and is—and catch the bug as I did back in 1965 when I first heard *She's About a Mover*, who knows? Maybe the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame could carve out some extra space for the obscure Texas music cat who could play it all.

**Joe Nick Patoski**, a member of Pedernales EC, writes about music from his home in Wimberley.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com** See clips from the film and sign the petition to help get Sahm entered into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

► See *Sir Doug and the Genuine Texas Cosmic Groove*: June 11 at the Barnhill Center at the Historic Simon Theatre in Brenham, (979) 836-6980.

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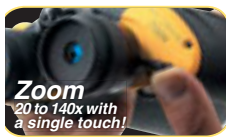


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# The Iceman Came to San Antonio

Inventions of French immigrant had chilling results in the 19th century

BY GENE FOWLER

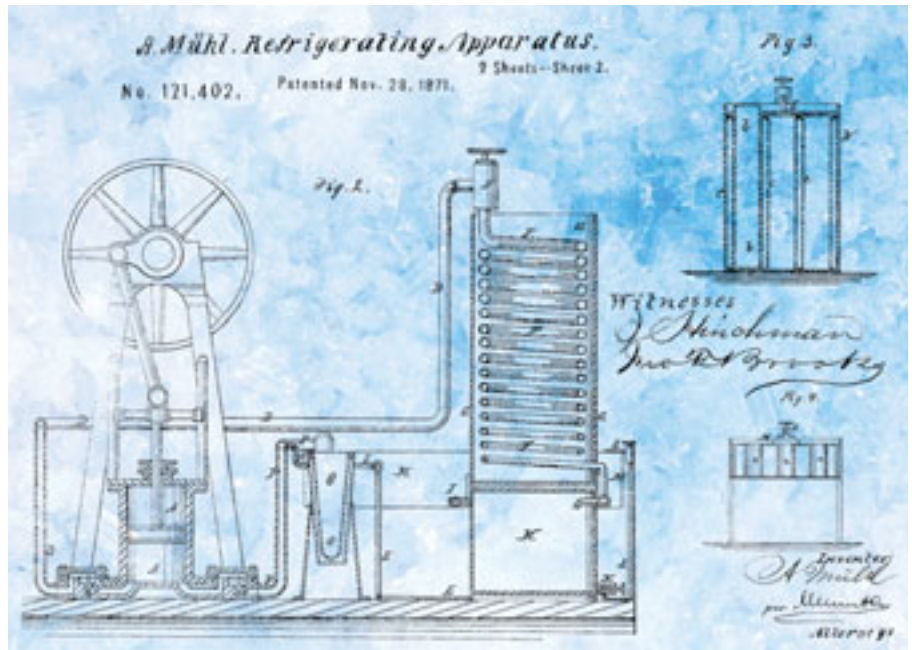
STORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS DRIFT through our family trees like falling leaves, while memories are preserved like pieces of a patchwork quilt. We may know from whence we came, but a little mystery must ever remain.

That certainly has been the case with Waco native Jamie Muhl's research into the accomplishments of his great-grandfather, Andrew Muhl (1831-1892). His relative helped keep Texas cool in the 19th century as a patent holder of an ice machine and an air conditioner.

"When I was 12, relatives told me that he invented air conditioning and patented an early ice machine," says Jamie Muhl, a member of Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative. Muhl, a retired homebuilder, has been tracking his great-grandfather for several years. And while he is careful to note that others are credited with pioneering our summertime salvation of AC, he has unearthed documentation that Andrew Muhl did, in fact, do a lot of really cool stuff.

Andrew Muhl was a native of France and studied mechanics in Paris. "He was a contemporary of Ferdinand Carré, who invented the ammonia vapor absorption cycle manufacturing machine in 1858," explains Muhl. "We believe he [Andrew Muhl] learned how to work on that machine and began developing his own ether ice machine there." About 1865, Andrew Muhl sailed for Mexico, to make his fortune producing ice cream. He eventually wound up in San Antonio.

That move proved fortuitous. Before the Civil War, Texans savored natural ice imported from the northern United States at great expense. After the war, Texas became a leader in pioneering the production of artificial ice. "While continuing with his own inventions," Jamie Muhl adds, "Andrew may have worked on a Carré machine in San Antonio that came into Texas through Matamoros."



Digging through newspapers in the San Antonio Public Library, Muhl confirmed that his ancestor was involved in ice production. A mention in the *San Antonio Daily Herald* from May 6, 1869, mapped Muhl's research trail north to the capital city. "We learn that Messrs. Muhl and Paggi of this city have engaged to take one of their Ice Machines to Austin and run it for the benefit of the people of that one-horse town," the paper wisecracked.

At the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Austin, Muhl found letters in French from his great-grandfather to J.B. LaCoste, an early San Antonio water works and icehouse entrepreneur, encouraging LaCoste and associates to get their machines working before they were scooped by the competition.

One of the letters was written in Waco, where Andrew Muhl moved in 1871 after receiving an inquiry about an ice machine from a druggist there. Recalling Andrew Muhl's Waco icehouse in a 1944 article, the *Waco Sunday Herald Tribune* wrote in a headline that "Waco Feared Muhl's Ice House Would Freeze Innards." In 1872, Andrew Muhl received some national pub-

licity when *Scientific American* magazine ran a story on his ether ice machine, noting that it had been in operation in Texas since 1867. Two years later, the Franco-Texan was awarded a patent for "Improvement in Apparatus for Cooling the Air of Buildings."

To date, Jamie Muhl's research trail has taken him to 30 research sites. In 2015, he traveled to Chicago for the Winter Conference of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. Thanks partly to Jamie Muhl's research, ASHRAE historians formally recognized Andrew Muhl as a Pioneer of the Industry.

Jamie Muhl also trekked to Columbus, Georgia, where a foundry made a deal with his great-grandfather to build four of his machines in 1872, shipping one of them to Havana, Cuba. As none of Andrew Muhl's U.S. machines exist, Jamie Muhl hopes to travel to Cuba. "You never know," he muses. "They keep vintage American cars running with such ingenuity; maybe they've got an Andrew Muhl machine that's still making ice."

Gene Fowler is an Austin writer who specializes in history.

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# Peaches

WHEN MY FRIEND REBECCA RATHER ran Rather Sweet Bakery in downtown Fredericksburg, her pastries amassed a loyal fan base. (I still miss her pink shortbread pig cookies.) In the heart of peach country—where orchard stands line the highway through nearby Stonewall—the luscious fruit naturally inspired her summer confections. She served these irresistible peach fried pies after the local Fourth of July parade every year. “One year, it was so hot that I refused to make them,” she remembers, “and everyone was mad.” Her new restaurant, Rebecca’s Farmhouse, in a 1920s farmhouse 10 miles east of Fredericksburg, opens this summer on U.S. 290.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

## Peach Fried Pies

### FILLING

- 6 peaches, peeled and chopped into ½-inch dice
- ¾ cup peach preserves

### CRUST

- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) chilled unsalted butter
- 1½ cups ice water
- Safflower oil (or another vegetable oil) for frying

### GLAZE

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

- 1. FILLING:** Combine the peaches with the preserves.
- 2. CRUST:** Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Cut butter into ½-inch cubes. Work the butter into the dry ingredients with a pastry cutter or your fingers until the mixture resembles cornmeal. Add ice water and gently form the dough into a ball. Divide the dough into thirds (each ball about the size of an orange).
- 3.** Sprinkle a thin layer of flour on a pastry board or other flat, smooth surface. Roll out each portion of dough to ¼<sup>16</sup>-inch thickness, a little thicker than a tortilla. Cut dough into circles with a 5-inch-diameter cutter (the plastic top of a 1-quart yogurt container works well). Each ball of dough should make 4 rounds.
- 4.** Put 1 tablespoon of peach filling in the

# Recipes

## Peaches



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

SUSIE MULLINS | COSERV

It's hard to imagine a more anticipated bounty than the fresh, fragrant peaches that arrive in Texas Hill Country orchards each summer. At their best—preferably soon after you've bought them from a roadside stand—they are ripe and juicy. This month's reader recipes provide delicious, sweet (and savory!) inspiration for your bushel.

### Peach-Banana Chiffon Pie With Gingersnap Crust

Named after the sheer, billowy fabric, chiffon pies typically have a gelatin-based filling that's lightened with whipped egg whites. With its light, mousse-like filling and crunchy gingersnap crust, this refreshing version is "the epitome of peach decadence," Mullins says. For a pretty presentation, consider garnishing each slice with a dollop of sweetened whipped cream, fresh peach slices and mint sprigs.

#### CRUST

- 30 gingersnap cookies
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter

#### FILLING

- ½ cup diced fresh peaches
- ¼ cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar, divided use
- 1 package (3 ounces) peach or apricot Jell-O
- ¾ cup boiling water
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg

#### Dash salt

- 2 egg whites
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups fresh peach slices
- 1 large or 2 small bananas, sliced

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. **CRUST:** Process cookies in a food processor into fine crumbs to equal 1¾ cup. Add butter and pulse until combined. Press the mixture into a 9-inch pie pan and bake 8 minutes, until fragrant and lightly toasted. Cool crust completely on a wire rack.
3. **FILLING:** Combine peaches with 2 tablespoons sugar in a small bowl and allow the mixture to macerate until the sugar dissolves.
4. In a medium mixing bowl, dissolve Jell-O in boiling water, then cool slightly. Stir into lemon juice and the peach mixture, and chill until partially set, about 30 minutes.
5. Whip the cream with 1 tablespoon sugar, vanilla, nutmeg and salt until soft peaks form, then set aside.
6. In a separate bowl, whip the egg whites with ¼ cup sugar and almond extract until stiff peaks form to make meringue.
7. Fold the whipped cream mixture and meringue into the partially set Jell-O mixture.
8. Top the gingersnap crust with the peach and banana slices. Use a spatula to spread the whipped mixture over the fruit layer. Refrigerate until pie is set, at least four hours. Makes one 9-inch pie.

**COOK'S TIP** This pie can be made a day ahead and refrigerated. Allow the pie to stand at room temperature 20 minutes before serving.

center of each dough round. Fold the dough in half; wet your fingers and press to seal the edges. Crimp the edges with a fork.

5. To fry the pies, pour about 3 inches of oil into a deep frying pan and set it over medium-high heat. The oil is hot enough when a scrap of dough dropped into the pan sizzles and bubbles. Fry the pies, a few at a time, until golden brown. (They float, so this should take about 2–3 minutes per side.) Drain the pies on paper towels.

6. **GLAZE:** Whisk together powdered sugar, milk and vanilla. Using a pastry brush, glaze the warm pies. Serve immediately or cool to room temperature. Makes 12 individual pies.

Recipe from *The Pastry Queen* by Rebecca Rather and Alison Oresman (Ten Speed Press, 2004) used with permission

### Fresh Peach Loaf

VIRGINIA PEHL | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Hailing from Stonewall, in the heart of peach country, Pehl uses her orchard bounty to make this moist and fragrant cake (which she calls a "loaf"). Paired with strong coffee and cream, it's also the perfect weekend breakfast.

#### CAKE

- 2 cups flour
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups peaches, mashed
- ⅓ cup peach juice, reserved from mashed peaches

#### TOPPING

- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a tube pan or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.
2. **CAKE:** Combine all cake ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat thoroughly to combine. Pour the batter into prepared pan.
3. **TOPPING:** In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar and chopped pecans. Sprinkle the pecan mixture over the cake.

### \$100 Recipe Contest



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November's recipe contest topic is **Make-Ahead Holiday Helpers**. What prepared dishes come to your rescue during the holiday crunch? The deadline is **June 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.





4. Bake about 40 minutes, until the cake is springy to the touch and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

## Fredericksburg Peach and Strawberry Salsa

CHRISTINE FRIESENHAHN | BANDERA EC

This fresh and fiery salsa is versatile. You can serve it over grilled chicken or pan-fried trout, layered with boiled shrimp and crab as a ceviche, or simply with your favorite tortilla chips.

- 4 large or 8 small peaches, peeled, pitted and chopped
- 1 pint strawberries, stemmed and chopped
- 1 cup minced red onion
- 2 fresh jalapeño peppers, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- Juice of 2 limes
- Juice of 1 orange
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar

1. Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl.

2. Allow mixture to sit 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, to allow flavors to meld before serving. Makes about 1 quart.

## Peach Salsa

LAUREN LEHMANN | FAYETTE EC

This salsa can be served immediately after cooking or canned to be enjoyed later. It's delicious on chips or crackers, or as a condiment for fish or chicken tacos.

- ½ cup white vinegar
- 6 cups peeled, pitted and chopped peaches
- 1¼ cups chopped red onion
- 4-5 jalapeño peppers, stemmed, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and finely chopped
- ½ cup finely chopped cilantro, loosely packed

- 2 tablespoons honey
- ½ teaspoon minced garlic
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper

1. Combine all ingredients in a large stainless steel saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring constantly, and then reduce heat and simmer gently, stirring frequently, until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

2. At this point, you can ladle the hot salsa into hot, sterilized pint jars and follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for canning, or refrigerate until cold and serve. This salsa will keep up to one week in the refrigerator. Makes about 6 pints.

### WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)

Reaching the end of the peach recipes is the pits, but you'll find Vanilla Bean Cupcakes With Peach Buttercream Icing online.



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**Pecan Pie Cake with Cinnamon Whipped Cream Frosting**  
**Jamie Parchman | Magic Valley EC**  
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**Two \$500 Best Sweet Dish Winners**

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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: July 10, 2016.

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# By Moonlight

THE STARS AT NIGHT ARE BIG AND BRIGHT, and so is the Texas moon. Enjoy these supermoons (when full moons are closest to Earth), wolf moon (January full moon) and blood moons (supermoons during a lunar eclipse).

GRACE ARSIAGA

**WEB EXTRAS at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com)** Find more reader photos that shoot for the moon.

◀ **DEE ANNA PIATEK**, Pedernales EC: South Texas cattle dine as a wolf moon rises.

▼ **MIKE ROEBUCK**, CoServ: Blood moon over Dallas



▲ **MALEIGH CANON**, Bluebonnet EC: Blood moon, September 2015

▼ **JIM BROWDER**, HILCO EC: Chapel steeple against a supermoon



► **RICK ROBERSON**, United Cooperative Services: Near Thurber, hours before the first Christmas full moon since 1977

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

OCTOBER CREEPY CRAWLIES	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER FIESTA!	DUE JULY 10
DECEMBER NATIVE	DUE AUGUST 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 Abendkonzert

**Boerne** [June 7-27]

(830) 249-7277, [visitboerne.org/calendar](http://visitboerne.org/calendar)

The Boerne Village Band, founded in 1860, is the longest continuously playing German band in the world outside of Germany. Since 1991, it has been performing a series of free summer "evening concerts" on Main Plaza.



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## June 7

**Abilene** [9-11] Children's Art & Literacy Festival, (325) 677-1161, [abilenecalf.com](http://abilenecalf.com)

**Coleman** [9-11] PRCA Annual Rodeo, (325) 625-2163, [colemantexas.org](http://colemantexas.org)

## 10

**Wylie** Smith Library's Summer Reading Club Kickoff, (972) 516-6250, [wylietexas.gov/library](http://wylietexas.gov/library)

**Nacogdoches** [10-11] Blueberry Festival of Quilts, (936) 347-2130, [lovebugfabric.com](http://lovebugfabric.com)

## 11

**East Bernard** Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 335-7907, [kkfest.com](http://kkfest.com)

**Edinburg** Culture Fest: Celebrating the Philippines, (956) 383-6246, [edinburgarts.com](http://edinburgarts.com)

**Jacksonville** Tomato Fest, (903) 586-2217, [jacksonvilletexas.com](http://jacksonvilletexas.com)

**Jefferson** Flag Day, 1-866-398-2038, [jeffersonrailway.com](http://jeffersonrailway.com)

June 7  
Abilene  
Children's Art  
& Literacy Festival



**Paris** Northeast Texas Classic Car Show, (903) 249-0123, [paristexas.com/events](http://paristexas.com/events)

## 16

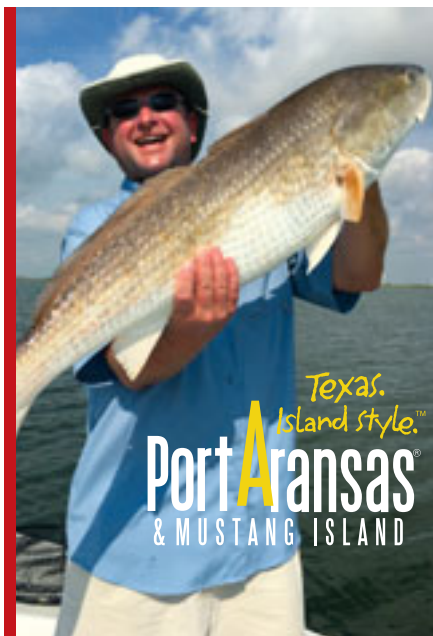
**Fredericksburg** Bach at Luckenbach, (830) 549-2483, [fredericksburgorchestra.com](http://fredericksburgorchestra.com)

## 17

**Albany** [17-18, 24-25] Fort Griffin Fandangle, (325) 762-3838, [fortgriffinfandangle.org](http://fortgriffinfandangle.org)

## 18

**Vidor** Maplecrest Baptist Church Car Show, (409) 673-7016, [maplecrestbaptistchurchvidor.org](http://maplecrestbaptistchurchvidor.org)



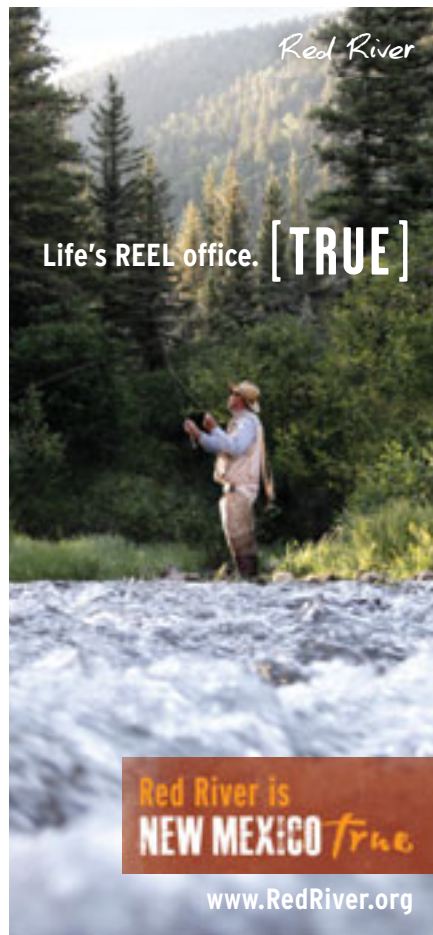
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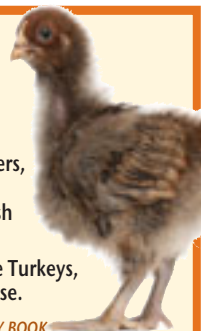
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**Denison** [18-19] "Lost Neighborhood" Self-Guided Tours, (903) 465-8908, texaslakestrail.com

**19**

**Fredericksburg** [19-22] Country School Association of America Conference, (830) 997-5116, countryschoolassociation.org

**21**

**Elgin** [21-25] Western Days Festival, (512) 285-4515, elgintxchamber.com

**23**

**Luling** [23-26] Watermelon Thump, (830) 875-3214, watermelonthump.com

**24**

**Henderson** Jim Reeves Tribute Show, (281) 852-8308, johnrexreeves.com

**Bremond** [24-25] Polish Festival Days, (254) 746-7636, bremondtxas.org

**Giddings** [24-25] Happy Hearts "Memories of Home" Quilt Show, (979) 542-2782

**25**

**Archer City** Short Grass Scamper, (940) 574-4217, acshortgrassscamper.com

**Bellville** Austin County Fair Summer Music Fest, (979) 865-5995, austincountyfair.com

**La Grange** Mayan & Aztec Dance Extravaganza, (979) 968-3017, visitlagrangetx.com/mayan

**Lott** [25-26] Sacred Heart Catholic Church Picnic, (254) 584-2011

**29**

**Freeport** [29-July 3] Fishin' Fiesta, (979) 233-1047, fishinfiesta.com



June 25  
La Grange  
Mayan  
& Aztec Dance  
Extravaganza

**July**

**2**

**Llano** Rock N' Riverfest, (325) 247-5354

**3**

**Palacios** [3-4] Lions Club 4th of July Celebration, (361) 920-2891, e-clubhouse.org/sites/palacios

**4**

**Kenney** Fourth of July BBQ, (979) 877-4617

**Kerrville** Robert Earl Keen's Fourth on the River, (830) 792-3535, kerrvilles4th.org

**Weslaco** Fourth of July Celebration, (956) 969-0838, facebook.com/alfrescoweslaco

**7**

**Arlington** Buddy Whittington, (817) 543-4301, levittpavilionarlington.org

### Submit Your Event!

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

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# El Paso's Magoffin Home

Adobe hacienda hearkens to pioneering family

BY GENE FOWLER

WHEN LOUISE MASSEY AND THE WESTERNERS first performed *My Adobe Hacienda* in 1941, it would be more than 50 years before the adobe Magoffin Home in El Paso was open to the public. But when I toured the historic site last year, the lyrics, “In my adobe hacienda, there’s a touch of Mexico,” seemed a perfect soundtrack.

“Built by Joseph Magoffin in 1875, the home is one of the best examples of territorial architecture in the Southwest,” notes Leslie Bergloff, **Magoffin Home State Historic Site** manager. Territorial architecture combines pueblo style with Victorian or, in the case of the Magoffin Home, Greek revival architecture.

Around 1850, Joseph Magoffin’s father, James Wiley Magoffin, built his own adobe hacienda about a mile east of the home’s site. The village that included James’ home and a trading post was called Magoffinsville, but a flood destroyed the settlement in 1868. Joseph Magoffin later served El Paso as mayor, judge and bank president, and he played a central role in bringing utilities to the city.

During my tour of the site, curator Danny Stevens said, “The exterior walls of the home are 3 to 3½ feet thick, and the interior walls are 2 to 2½ feet thick. Because they are made of adobe—bricks of clay, sand, straw and water, dried in the sun—they provide natural insulation, helping to heat the home in winter and keep it cool in the summer.”

The home has no foundation, so the adobe sits directly on the ground, causing gradual shifting of walls. Ongoing maintenance and periodic restoration are necessary. The latest round of work, completed in 2012, received an award from Preservation Texas in 2014.

With 19 rooms encompassing 5,000 square feet, the house deserves the grand



designations of “hacienda.” The entry room is a long hall with *vigas*, or wooden rafters, that were hauled by wagon from the Sacramento Valley near Cloudcroft, New Mexico, 100 miles away.

Pointing out a portrait of James Magoffin in the formal parlor that adjoins the large hall, Stevens summarizes Magoffin’s life. After early years in Kentucky, he made his name as a trader on the Santa Fe and Chihuahua trails. He lived in Chihuahua before settling in the El Paso area. Joseph Magoffin was born during his father’s time in Chihuahua and spoke Spanish and English. The Magoffin family, the curator says, was representative of El Paso as a multicultural city from its earliest days.

Nearly 80 percent of the furnishings and domestic items in the house museum were owned by the Magoffin family. The parlor features a cherrywood grand piano that arrived in El Paso by train in 1881, shortly after the city got its first rail connection. The backs of an Eastlake-style chair and settee were customized with carving details of horseshoes and Mexican eagles. Scrolls and fans from Asia adorn

the flowery mantle.

When Joseph Magoffin built the home in 1875, it was on the outskirts of El Paso. Grand homes, churches, office buildings and schools arose in the neighborhood after the arrival of the railroad, but when the family sold the home to the state of Texas in 1976, industrial and commercial development eclipsed the area. The **Magoffin Historic District** was established in 1985 to revitalize the neighborhood.

One of Joseph Magoffin’s granddaughters lived in the home until 1986. Proud of her heritage, she served cookies and showed her doll collection to visitors and tourists.

If she ever heard Louise Massey sing of “soft desert stars and the strum of guitars,” surely, she would have thought of her family’s own adobe hacienda and all the wonderful times within its walls.

**Gene Fowler** is an Austin writer who specializes in history.

**WEB EXTRAS at TexasCoopPower.com**



Find information to help plan your visit to the Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



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