

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER



## COUNT ON TEXAS

Record-setting Youth Tour group explores D.C.

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Youth Tour visitors in the office of U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas

**WEB EXTRAS**

▶ Watch the 2017 Youth Tour video online.

**FEATURE**

**8** **The State With the Most** Texas Youth Tour contingent proves everything is bigger in ... Washington, D.C.

By Suzanne Featherston

**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**

*Dia de los Muertos*

By Gene Fowler

**31 Recipes**

*Sunday Cooking*

**35 Focus on Texas**

*Photo Contest: Costume Party*

**36 Around Texas**

*List of Local Events*

**38 Hit the Road**

*All the King's Horses*

By E. Dan Klepper

**ONLINE**

**TexasCoopPower.com**

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

**Texas USA**

*Bats and Bat Caves in Texas*

By Samuel Botsford Buckley

**Observations**

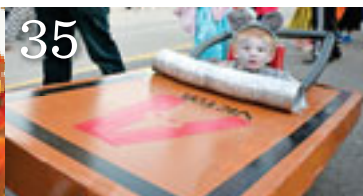
*Tangled Up in Taylor*

By Joe O'Connell



**NEXT MONTH**

**Welcome Home** *The Gary Sinise Foundation provides new homes and a new start for injured veterans.*



YOUTH TOUR: ANNIE MCGINNIS | TEC. VETERAN: JULIA ROBINSON

**ON THE COVER** *Margo Cruz, Lauryn Jones and Mary Robinson at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.* Photo by Annie McGinnis | TEC

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*Bring Texas nature home for the holidays.*



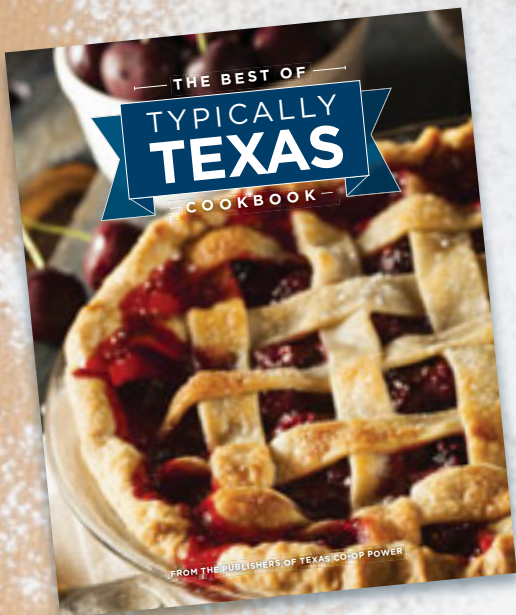
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From the publishers of *Texas Co-op Power*

## More Hot Tips

Having worn contact lenses for 50-plus years and loving hot peppers, I empathized with your comment about getting capsaicin in your eyes [*Tame the Flame*, Recipes, August 2017]. Yeowww!

Here are a couple more tips I've discovered to mitigate the pain:

► Scrub your hands with soap and water and a bristle brush immediately after handling peppers. The capsaicin seems to soak into your skin, making it more difficult to remove the longer you wait.

► Or rinse your hands with a little rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol.

► When hand-washing, use cold water. Hot water will volatilize the capsaicin, resulting in a pungent, mucous membrane-irritating, pepper-spray aroma.

**KEN KONVICKA | GRAHAM UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES**

## Derailed by Blizzard

Although I was in the third grade, the blizzard [*Blizzard of 1957*, March 2017] is a special memory of mine! My daddy was an engineer for the Santa Fe Railway. He received orders to take a crew to the north out of Amarillo to try to locate anyone who was stranded. As the train traveled north, the drifts of snow covering the tracks prevented his train from moving fast until finally it just stopped! The packed snow was just too much for the powerful diesel engine.

Even the radios in the engine and caboose ceased to operate. For eight days, there was no word from the train. The crew gathered in the caboose and

## Restoring Power After Harvey

It is great to see cooperative helping cooperative during a time of need.

Thanks to the electric cooperatives for their great service to rural and suburban Texans.

**JOHN D. BRADFORD | VIA FACEBOOK**



eventually had to tear out some inside wood of the caboose to burn in the stove to keep warm.

My mom put up a good front so my sister and I wouldn't worry. They had no food until a crewman whittled a slingshot and was able to provide a few sparrows to nibble on.

One day, after lunch, we were marching to our classroom, and I saw my daddy standing beside the door. I broke line and ran to those big arms held out to scoop me up. Daddy was safe and home again!

Until the day he died, he always carried some crackers



and a can of Vienna sausages either in his work satchel or in the glove box of our car—just in case.

**LINDA SANDERSON MOORE | LUBBOCK SOUTH PLAINS EC**

## Counting on UConn

Thank you for mentioning the University of Connecticut women Huskies in the By the Numbers section [*Currents*, March 2017]. It was a lovely surprise for a proud alumnus happily living in Austin. I guess we'll have to wait for them to get their 12th Final Four win, in 2018.

**RENEE OPELT PEDERNALES EC**

## Warms the Heart

My family has been playing dominoes for 80-plus years [*Bonding Over 42*, Letters, April 2017]. When growing up, my brother and my dad would sit on the foot of my bed on cold

winter nights with a board in the center of the bed, and my sister and I would have our feet under the cover. We would play 42 while mom popped popcorn and played the piano.

**MARY KING | ATHENS TRINITY VALLEY 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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## HAPPENINGS

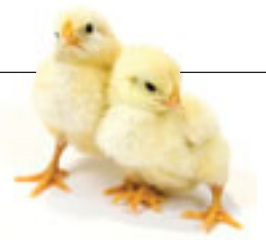
# Let Bacon Be Your Beacon

YOU'LL NEED A MAP—AND MAYBE SIRI—to find the self-proclaimed nation's largest bacon cook-off. **BACON BASH TEXAS, OCTOBER 21**, is in **CRANFILLS GAP**. Even the event's website concedes, "We have to be honest. Cranfills Gap, Texas, is out in the middle of nowhere!"

About 55 miles northwest of Waco, in United Cooperative Services' territory, pork, music and charitable causes have taken over the town of 265 for one day every year since 2012.

Bacon Bash, which includes an auction and other fundraisers, benefits Niki Warms the Cold and children with Type 1 diabetes. Niki Warms the Cold distributes coats and blankets to those in need across Texas. Pederson's Natural Farms, a member of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, donates more than 750 pounds of bacon for the cook-off. The winning team gets featured on Pederson's bacon packages distributed nationwide.

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## HONORS

### Here a Chick, There a Chick

**Counting your chickens** before they hatch is frowned upon. After that, though, it can be quite lucrative.

**Luke Robitaille**, from the Fort Worth suburb of Euless, found that out at the Raytheon Mathcounts National Competition in May. Robitaille, a home-schooled seventh-grader, answered the final question in less than a second to win a \$20,000 scholarship and a trip to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

**The question:** In a barn, 100 chicks sit peacefully in a circle. Suddenly, each chick pecks the chick immediately to its left or right. What is the expected number of unpecked chicks?

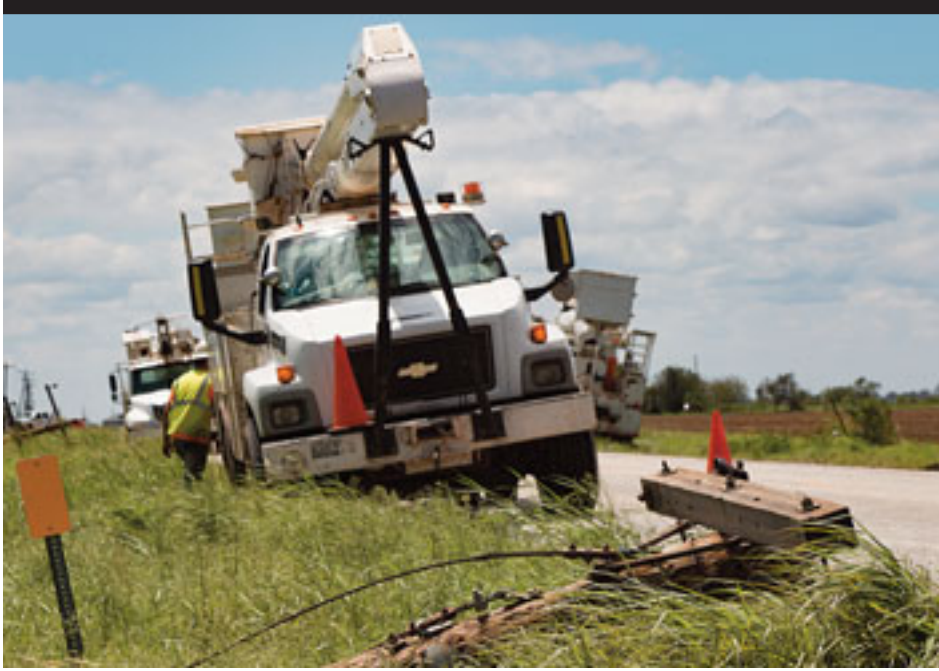
#### WEB EXTRAS

▶ Find the answer online.

## WORTH REPEATING

*“Always try to associate yourself with and learn as much as you can from those who know more than you do, who do better than you, who see more clearly than you.”*

—**DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**, born October 14, 1890, in Denison, making him the first of two U.S. presidents born in Texas. Lyndon B. Johnson of Stonewall is the other.



Crews work to restore power for Victoria EC members.

## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

# Co-ops Respond to Hurricane Harvey

**WHEN HURRICANE HARVEY** made landfall August 25, Co-op Country took the brunt of the most powerful storm to strike the state in decades. First 130 mph winds ravaged the Coastal Bend; then the Category 4 storm dumped unprecedented rainfall on areas inland. Both wreaked havoc on property, people and power lines.

Texas' electric cooperatives rallied. They sent crews and supplies from all corners of the state to restore power and help those in need. These numbers illustrate the swift and massive response:

▶ **179,016** co-op meters lost power due to the storm. About 97 percent were back online 10 days later. Hurricane Ike took out some 300,000 co-op meters in 2008.

▶ **300** outside lineworkers were housed and fed by Victoria EC, which lost power to its entire system during the storm. Many worked stretches of 13 hours or more in the wind, rain and mud. "I can't say enough about the support that we've received from people all across the state—without hesitation, willing to leave their families to come restore power to our members," said Blaine Warzecha, VEC general manager. "That is truly touching."

▶ **ABOUT ONE-THIRD** of Texas' 67 distribution electric cooperatives sent crews to help with restoration efforts needed at the 15 Texas co-ops affected by the storm. Crews from the Panhandle and North and West Texas traveled hundreds of miles to assist.

▶ **\$75 BILLION** in total losses due to the storm, including property damage, lost wages and disrupted business—mostly due to hard-hit Houston—make it one of the most expensive in history, according to Moody's Analytics. More than 70 deaths are attributed to Harvey.

### WANT TO HELP?

▶ Find out how online.

### NEXT MONTH

▶ Photos and video from the front lines.

## HISTORY LESSON

# Land Sakes!

**The oldest state agency** in Texas, the General Land Office, opened October 1, 1837, in Houston. John P. Borden had the herculean task of compiling and preserving the Spanish and Mexican land titles issued before the republic. With no funds or employees, he acquired documents from all over Texas by the end of 1837. In 1839, he hauled almost 2½ tons of documents by wagon and moved the GLO to Austin.

**Today the GLO** manages state lands, provides veterans benefits, helps Texans recovering from natural disasters and manages the vast Texas coast. Its website, [glo.texas.gov](http://glo.texas.gov), offers information for disaster relief, road conditions and other Hurricane Harvey recovery resources.



## BY THE NUMBERS



**The Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant**, also called the Longhorn Ordnance Works, at Caddo Lake, began producing munitions 75 years ago. From October 18, 1942, to August 14, 1945, when Japan formally surrendered, effectively ending World War II, the plant produced 414,805,500 pounds of TNT. It played a role in defense production during the Cold War and was where the first U.S. missiles were destroyed in 1988 as the U.S. and Soviet Union agreed to end the nuclear arms race.



# The State

# With the Most

// By **Suzanne Featherston**

TEXAS YOUTH TOUR CONTINGENT PROVES EVERYTHING IS BIGGER... IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

**ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN YOUNG TEXANS** made history in 2017 as the largest group of Texas teens to visit Washington, D.C., on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, the annual action-packed trip sponsored by electric cooperatives. The state also sent the most high school-age students of any of the 46 states that participated this June.

“You’re the largest delegation,” said Braden Huggins, a 2016 alum sponsored by HILCO Electric Cooperative, who welcomed the 2017 group of high school students and recent graduates at orientation. “Every chance you get when you talk to someone else from another state, make sure they know that Texas is the largest state. You gotta let ‘em know. Brag about it.”

With a group that large—large enough to justify a chartered flight from Austin to Dulles International Airport, three private buses and two floors of an Arlington hotel—a kid might blend

YOUTH TOUR: TAYLOR MONTGOMERY | TEC





into the crowd. Instead, the experience of exploring icons of American government, heritage and culture with that many people in the same stage of life helps each student better see his or her place in the world and be inspired to make a difference.

“It takes one person to change the world for the better,” said Thelma McGhee, a 1965 participant sponsored by Comanche EC, during orientation. “That person is you.”

Over the program’s 53 years, Texas co-ops have sent 4,030 teens to Washington. Today, Youth Tour’s whirlwind itinerary features more than 25 destinations in the state and national capitals, inspirational speakers, appointments with elected officials, tours, dances and an endless parade of pizza, sub sandwiches and Oreos. To say it is a marathon is an understatement because, in fact, it’s closer to three marathons. This year, Tracy Begley, a chaperone from Grayson-Collin EC, logged 68.76 miles walking June 7–16. “... with 49.75 hours of sleep in 10 days,” said Begley, one of 18 chaperones. “Yeehaw!”

**2017 Youth Tour participants start their trip at the Texas Capitol.**



### **Make It // YOUR TOUR**

Local electric cooperatives select Youth Tour winners through annual competitions such as essay, speech or video contests. Each winner’s travel expenses are covered by her or his co-op and sponsors, and coordinators at Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association handle all the arrangements. Contact your local co-op to apply, and visit [texasyouthtour.com](http://texasyouthtour.com) for more information.

★ *In honor of being the state with the most students,* here are some of the most memorable moments for the young Texans who went on the 2017 trip.

**MOST EMBARRASSING** // Ambika Kapil so admired the beauty of the U.S. Capitol that she felt compelled to get a picture of herself there. She turned to the closest man in a suit for help. “I was like, ‘Hey, can you do a picture?’” recalled Kapil, sponsored by CoServ. The man agreed and offered to be in the photo, too. She hesitated, so he snapped a photo of her alone. “I was like, ‘Thanks, sir,’ and walked away,” she said. “Then I heard this girl say, ‘Mike Pence!’” The vice president of the United States had just taken her photo, which she then accidentally deleted.



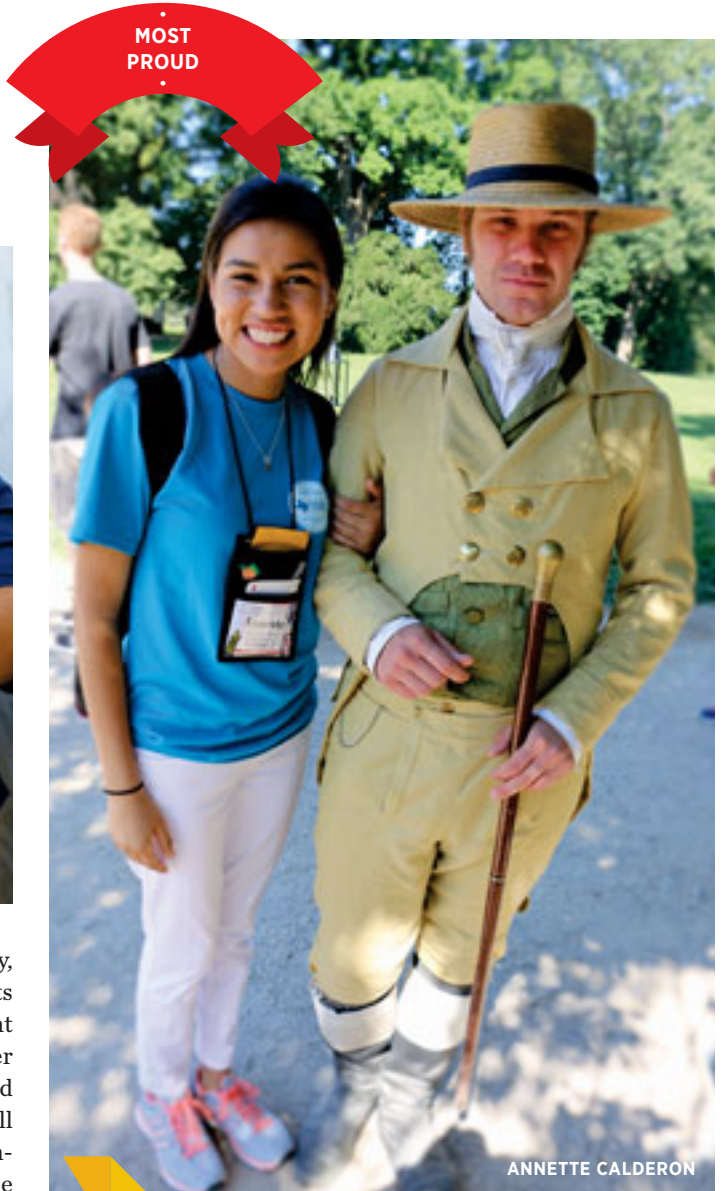
**MOST EMBARRASSING**

AMBIKA KAPIL

Other embarrassing moments brought laughter to the journey, too, such as when **Jarrett Pistle** from Bartlett EC ripped his pants at a dance (“I was doing a whip, and it just got a little too ‘turnt up,’” he said); and when **Mia Diaz** from Lamb County EC lost her brand-new cellphone in Austin and had to have it shipped overnight to Washington; and when a chaperone tripped and fell (without serious injury) during a tour of Capitol Hill while a congressional intern pressured her to hurry. *Clap, clap, clap.* “Come on, ladies,” said the intern, oblivious to the chaperone lying on the marble floor.

**MOST PROUD** // For her humility, **Annette Calderon** from Comanche EC earned a place on the Youth Leadership Council, a national program that invites one student from every state participating in Youth Tour to return to Washington for a leadership workshop then attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s annual meeting. During an interview, Calderon made the judges proud with her answer to the question, “Why should we select you as the Texas representative?” She responded by

saying, “I am not above anyone ...” and described how she would use the leadership lessons of YLC to help children, as she aspires to become a pediatric oncologist.



ANNETTE CALDERON



BAILEY MCCLURE

Other proud moments included hearing young Texans ask intelligent and relevant questions of their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill and watching **Bailey McClure** from Swisher EC visit the Newseum, where she expressed her opinion by pinning a sticker on the “no” side of an interactive sign that asked if hate speech should be banned. “Because what is hate speech?” she asked. “That’s purposely vague.”

YOUTH TOUR: ANNIE MCGINNIS & TAYLOR MONTGOMERY | TEC: HEADSHOTS: COURTESY PARTICIPANTS; BANNERS: BLAN-K | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



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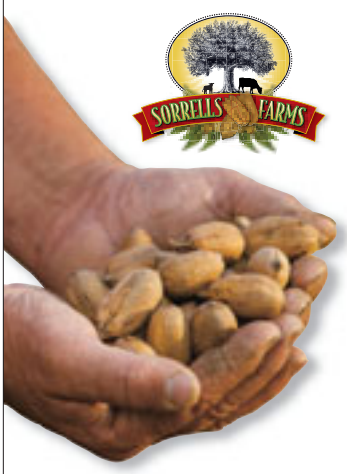
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ABIGAIL MORALES

MOST  
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JOSIE HEFLIN

**MOST REAL** // For Abigail Morales of Magic Valley EC, the reality of being in Washington didn't sink in until she stood before the Lincoln Memorial. "When I was looking at the monument, I got so emotional ... I can't believe it's real," she said. "It didn't hit me that we were here until I touched one of the columns."

Another moment of realization came on Creighton Rogers' 18th birthday, which he celebrated in Washington. That morning, the group encountered 25 military veterans visiting the capital to see war memorials, thanks to the Honor Flight Network. Rogers, sponsored by Rusk County EC, shook the veterans' hands and thanked them for their service. As he did, one gentleman said he'd served in World War II and photographed the dropping of an atomic bomb when he was 18 years old—the same age as Rogers.

**MOST FUN** // Roaring laughter could be heard from the halls of the Kennedy Center while the young Texans watched *Shear Madness*. The flexible and partially ad-libbed production humorously depicts a murder mystery but changes outcomes based on audience interaction. The Youth Tour participants demonstrated their spirit of cooperation by chiming in with information about the case, eventually singling out a culprit. Before being led off the stage in handcuffs, the actor playing that night's chosen criminal said he had one last remark: "The stars at night ..." he said, and the audience—mostly Texas Youth Tour students—finished the line with "are big and bright—clap, clap, clap—deep in the heart of Texas!" Applause erupted.

**MOST SURPRISING** // Rep. Louie Gohmert of Tyler invited his young East Texas constituents to the Capitol for a special behind-

the-scenes nighttime tour. Four students—Rogers; Josie Heflin from Upshur Rural EC; and Jess Hill and Brianna Anding from Deep East Texas EC—got an up-close look at features including the rotunda and the Senate floor. For Heflin, the highlight of the evening was looking out over the city from the balcony where presidential inaugurations are held.

"My favorite part was to see how lit up it was," she said. "It was as if you could see for miles and miles. If you look to your left, you could see the monuments. If you look to the right, you can see the Kennedy Center."

Youth Tour also offered unexpected moments—little life lessons—such as when Abby Busby from Bandera EC gleefully figured out the best way to wheel her suitcase off an escalator; and when Kallie Cox from Swisher EC and Gwyneth James from CoServ discussed the differences between "tacos" and "burritos," and "pop" and "coke." More surprises included a Secret Service agent at the White House answering all the questions of Caroline Wakefield from Houston County EC, including if he would dive in front of a bullet (he said it would be an honor); and a chaperone catching a bull snake hatchling she found slithering over tea cups in a gift store at Mount Vernon.

**MOST EMOTIONAL** // Ben Seago from Bryan Texas Utilities knelt at the grave of his great-grandfather at Arlington National Cemetery. Using an app, he navigated among the more than 400,000 tombstones to pay his respects to Army Lt. Gen. Edward J. O'Neill, who served in World War II.

Moments before, the delegation witnessed four of their peers—

**MOST SURPRISING**

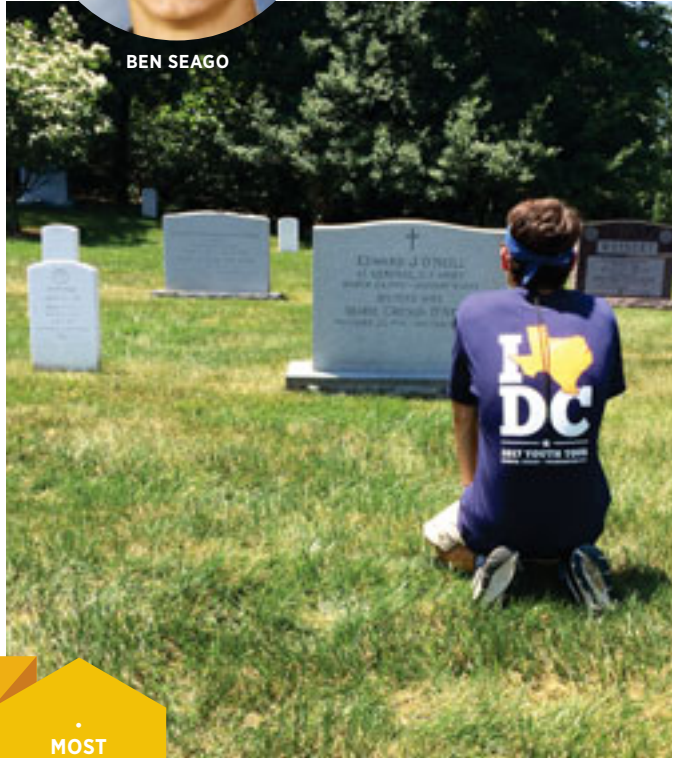


**CREIGHTON ROGERS    JESS HILL    BRIANNA ANDING**



**BEN SEAGO**

**▶ WANT IN ON THE FUN?**  
Watch the 2017 Youth Tour video online and see our *10 Reasons To Apply for Youth Tour* on Page 14.



**MOST EMOTIONAL**

**Chloe Hunt** from Navasota Valley EC; **Jordan Pyatt** from Victoria EC; **Jack Morgan** from Medina EC; and **Bentley Harbison** from

South Plains EC—participate in a ceremony to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Seago’s great-grandfather was the commander who traveled to France in 1958 to select the body of the unidentified WWI soldier to be reburied in that very tomb.

After Seago rose to his feet, he brushed away his knee prints from the grass with his toe. He said he understands how the retired lieutenant general “not only contributed to an amazing country but that he brought up an amazing family.”

The trip offered other moving moments, too, such as when **Kristen Wolfe** from Farmers EC wept in the Holocaust Memorial Museum, prompting **Justin Morrison** of Bandera EC to offer a consoling shoulder; and when **Laryssa Garcia** from Magic Valley EC searched for her uncle’s name among the 58,195 engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

More tears flowed when it came time to say goodbye on the 10th day, back in Austin, when hardly a dry eye watched the farewell celebration.

Addressing the group that final night, Calderon reflected on their journey. She said the memorials honoring leaders in government, history and faith inspired her. “How grand it is to say, ‘I want to be the same as them,’” she said. “I want to be the best American citizen I can be.”

**Suzanne Featherston**, a former Texas Electric Cooperatives communications specialist who served as a Youth Tour chaperone for the first time in 2017, is now the editor of *Mining Quarterly* in northeastern Nevada.

**YOUTH TOUR // Legacy**

Youth Tour harkens to Lyndon B. Johnson’s days as a senator. Seeing what he perceived as young Americans’ apathy toward democracy inspired him to make a request. In 1957, Johnson charged co-op leaders with sending teenagers to the nation’s capital “to see what our flag stands for and represents.”

Because these nonprofit, member-owned organizations formed out of a grassroots movement that allowed rural areas to receive electricity through the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, co-op leaders recognized the importance of educating the next generation about government and community involvement.

In 1965, Texas co-ops joined the nationwide Youth Tour program and have since sent 4,030 on what alumni call the trip of a lifetime.



**BENTLEY HARBISON    CHLOE HUNT    JORDAN PYATT    JACK MORGAN**



# 10

## REASONS TO APPLY FOR YOUTH TOUR

You could stay home next summer, or you could kick it off with a 10-day trip to Washington, D.C. On Youth Tour, you'll laugh until your face hurts, crane your neck at tall buildings, stand humbled by national memorials and get inspired by leaders. You'll love it so much that you'll weep when it's over. Need more convincing? Here are 10 reasons to apply for Youth Tour.

### 1. It's free.

Your electric cooperative, statewide association and sponsors completely cover the cost of Youth Tour, including airfare, hotels, meals and attractions.

Go to [TexasYouthTour.com](http://TexasYouthTour.com) to find your co-op and apply!



You spend days touring popular attractions in D.C., including memorials, monuments and museums. You'll go on a cruise on the Potomac River and see a show at the Kennedy Center.

### 2. IT'S FUN.

### 3. You get to travel.

You get to leave your summer job, siblings and routine behind for 10 days! No making your bed for 10 days!



### 4. You meet new people.

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## 5. You get a classic American adventure.

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You are surrounded by venues that focus on science, art, history, space, American culture and so much more. You return home with a ton of newfound knowledge.



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*"The play of color in opals is so gorgeous they sometimes don't even seem real and yet they are."* — from the Couture Show

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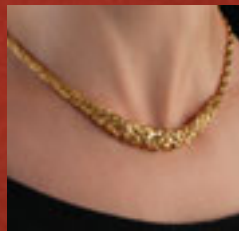
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# Who You Gonna Call? Scam Busters!

**SCAMS PREYING ON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** members appear to be on the rise again. In several states, electric co-ops and other utilities are joining together to warn the public about phone calls, emails and visits from scammers.

### Mechanics of a Scam

Here's how a typical scam works: Someone impersonating an employee from an electric cooperative's billing/collections department contacts a co-op member and claims the co-op has not received payment for the member's bill. The caller threatens to shut off the customer's electricity if payment is not received immediately. The member panics and figures out a quick way to pay, whether through a prepaid card, a money transfer, or giving the caller their bank account or debit/credit card information.

Any members who fall for such a scam—which can happen to anyone—are still responsible for their electric bills, in addition to having lost the amount they “paid” (and possibly much more, if they provided banking numbers or other personal information that thieves could reuse).

### A Flair for Fraud

Scammers are becoming craftier and more tech-savvy by making it appear that they're calling from local area codes or telephone exchanges. Some members have reported that their co-op's name appeared on the caller ID, prompting them to take the call and believe the caller's identity claim. It's even been reported that some scammers have offered rebates for good payment history!

Co-ops around the country are seeing other types of fraud, too. In South Carolina, several co-op members reported a man wearing a co-op badge, claiming to be a solar provider working in partnership with the cooperative. The man, who drives a white, unmarked van, solicits members for appointments to discuss solar installations. This is how he gains entry to members' homes.

The co-op warned its members via social media that it has no such partnerships with any solar providers, nor would its employees ask to enter a member's home.

### Where To Turn for Help

Public awareness and protection initiatives started by electric cooperatives and other utilities—such as the national coalition



**Co-op employees won't show up at your home asking for payment or trying to sell you something.**

Utilities United Against Scams and Vermont's new Scam Busters campaign—are using social media, local news and bill inserts to educate and protect members and customers

by ensuring that they know what to do when thieves come knocking or calling.

During such a call, if co-op members are unsure about who is on the other end of the phone, they should neither make a payment nor give out any personal information. Instead, they should hang up on the caller, then call their electric cooperative and the police.

**To avoid falling for scams, the Texas Attorney General's office advises member-customers to remember three tips:**

- ▶ If someone calls claiming to represent your local electric cooperative and demands immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call the member service number listed on your electric bill.
- ▶ Do not give in to high-pressure calls seeking personal information. Never provide Social Security numbers, credit card numbers or bank account information to anyone who requests it during an unsolicited phone call or in-home visit.
- ▶ Never allow anyone into your home to check electrical wiring, natural gas pipes or appliances unless you've scheduled an appointment or reported a utility problem. Anytime co-op employees arrive at your residence, request that they produce proper identification before transacting any business.



Never use water on an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher rated for electrical fires instead.

## What's That Hissing Sound?

### IF YOU HEAR A HISSING SOUND BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A CAT, CHECK YOUR ELECTRICITY.

Damaged wires and outlets can hiss when something's wrong—just like a cat. But hissing electricity is much more dangerous than an angry feline. It can signal the potential for a deadly shock or an electrical fire.

National Fire Prevention Week, October 8–14 this year, is a perfect time to check your cords and outlets to prevent an electrical accident. Here are some tips to follow for keeping your home safe:

**1. When electrical cords are damaged, worn, cracked or corroded, the chances of fire or power surges increase significantly.** Check for loose or improper connections, cracked wire insulation, chewed electrical wiring, or frayed appliance or electrical cords. Call a licensed electrician to fix wiring problems; electricity is not a do-it-yourself project.

**2. It's common sense: Avoid plugging anything into an electrical outlet that is too near a water source.** Did you know that even plugging a cellphone into a charger too close to water can create a hazard? If it falls into a tub or sink, and you stick your hand in to retrieve it, you could get shocked.

**3. Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home?** To douse electrical fires, which usually start because of faulty wires or outlets, you need one—and it needs to be the right one, the kind rated to put out electrical fires. Never throw water onto an electrical fire; it can electrocute you.

**4. Childproof all electrical outlets within the reach of small children.** Insert outlet covers where the prongs of an appliance go. That will prevent toddlers from sticking fingers and other objects into the sockets.

**5. Cramping too many plugs into a power strip and plugging it into an outlet that's not equipped for the load can cause the outlet to overheat and the circuit to trip.** If you need more outlets, hire a licensed electrician to solve your problem.

## Stop the Vampires!

**THE LITTLE VAMPIRES WHO RING YOUR** doorbell on Halloween night aren't the only fiends you should be afraid of. Electricity vampires are all over your house, all year long.

Electrical vampires are appliances and electronics that continue to draw electricity, even when they are turned off.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, vampires account for up to 5 percent of the energy use in your house.

**Here is a list of the most likely vampires in your house:**

- ▶ Computers, modems, routers, printers and other related equipment.
- ▶ Your flat-screen TV. The larger it is, the more energy it uses—on and off.
- ▶ Home theater equipment, including surround-sound devices.
- ▶ Your cable or satellite TV box.
- ▶ Anything with a digital time display, like your microwave oven or DVD player.

An electrical device is a vampire if it has a continuous display, like your digital clock; charges batteries, like your mobile phone charger; or has a remote control, like your TV.

The best way to stop these vampires is to unplug them when you're not using them. A power strip lets you flip one switch to stop a group of vampire electronics from using electricity.



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# Bats and Bat Caves in Texas

Excerpt from the September 27, 1887, issue of *Forest and Stream*

BY SAMUEL BOTSFORD BUCKLEY

NUMEROUS BAT CAVES ARE IN TEXAS, IN the limestone of the cretaceous formations being mostly west, northwest and north of Austin. In these caves, the bats stay during the day, coming forth about sunset and returning about daybreak. In northwest Burnet County, about one mile from the Colorado River, at an elevation of about 1,500 feet, there is a large bat cave in a hard, dark limestone, destitute of fossil, but probably of lower carboniferous age. During the late war, the bat deposits of this cave were used for the manufacture of saltpeter to make powder for the Confederate army.

A Mr. Allen, living in the river bottom about two miles below the cave, told me about it and its millions of bats, saying that it probably was very extensive, but that it only had been explored for a short distance. I proposed that we should explore and measure its extent, and arrangements were soon made. Our party of six men and boys, with candles and pine for torches, descended about 20 feet on an old ladder fastened to one of the perpendicular sides of the entrance by those making saltpeter. The opening to the cave has a diameter of about 20 feet one way and from 10 to 15 feet the other. At the bottom of the ladder, the entrance to the cave is about 10 feet high and 20 wide, going nearly horizontally, and enlarging at a short distance from the entrance.

We did not go far before the strong odor peculiar to the dwellings of bats became unpleasant. At 50 or 60 feet from the entrance, we began to see large numbers of bats hanging in clusters from the rocks

above and on the sides of the cave. Our lights caused some of these to fly, but we kept onward, measuring the distance with a tape line. Entering a large right-hand opening, the top soon became lower, and our way was up and down over large deposits of bat manure. At about 300 feet from the entrance, the highest part of the cave was 8 to 10 feet; all along were bushels of bats above and on the sides of the rocky walls. Our lights and talk aroused them, and we soon had swarms of them flying around us, extinguishing our lights, compelling us to make a hasty retreat and putting a stop to farther explorations.

Next day, toward sunset, I rode with Mr. Allen on horseback to witness the egress of the bats. The sun was about an hour high when we arrived. There we had glorious views of the mountains and plains of Burnet and Llano counties and the valley of the Colorado River. Half an hour before sunset a few bats flew to the entrance of the cave, and after circling around a moment or two they returned to give notice that it was time to come out and begin work. About 15 minutes later, they began to come forth in large crowds, circling around until they were 25 or 30 feet above the ground, when they darted away in every direction in a galloping flight. So thick did the circling up column become as to form a dense mass of life. The rush and flapping of wings made a noise like a mighty wind. Never before had I seen such a grand exhibition of active life. They chatted gayly, and seemed as happy as school children when school is dismissed.

We watched the rush of bats until nearly dark, and when we left they were



coming forth as thick and fast as ever. The scene to me was more wonderful than anything I had ever seen, for there must have been millions of bats in that cave. I was told that sometimes they did not return home again until sunrise. The inhabitants of that region are not troubled with mosquitoes and have few nocturnal insects.

Some years ago I occupied a room in the old land office at Austin which was then used for the geological collection. The ceiling above was of sheet iron, having a little attic above, next to the roof. To me, the attic was inaccessible. It was the home to thousands of bats, whom I could sometimes hear chattering during the day. I slept in the room below and just before

daybreak I often heard the bats coming home jabbering in a lively way as they jumped along on the ceiling above, apparently talking of their adventures during the night. A jolly set they were.

Bats are not such somber, dismal things as they have been represented. Like the birds, they destroy our insect enemies, therefore bats are friends of the farmer and gardener, and should receive his protection. The bat caves of Texas will furnish a large amount of fertilizing material of great value to the agriculturist. At present the cheap rich lands in the vicinity of these caves seem to require little aid from fertilizers.

**Samuel Botsford Buckley** served as state geologist of Texas 1874-1875.

# Tangled Up in Taylor

Champion wrestler dominates sport but is gunned down over fight for what's right

BY JOE O'CONNELL

MIKE YOKEL TOOK THE BAIT. AS THE reigning world middleweight wrestling champ, Yokel traveled from his Utah home to Taylor, Texas, in 1914. He was seeing dollar signs because the locals were known for making large bets on their native son, Elmer "Pet" Brown. Yokel thought he would make some easy money.

Yokel had heard the word spread far and wide that Brown was the real deal. Brown had dropped out of high school and trained with a former Army boxer. Then he and one of his brothers, Jim, attended a Chicago wrestling school.

The Texas wrestling craze began near Taylor in a cotton gin owned by the Brown family. The Brown boys were natural athletes: Ned was a baseball ace, Frank a rodeo champ and Pet a wiry but rugged right tackle on the Taylor High football team. Wrestling was a sideline interest for all four: The brothers folded each other into pretzels with their father, William, coaching. Soon, more area youths tried exotic moves like the standing cradle hold, half nelson and flying mare. African-American kids joined in, chief among them Pet's pals, brothers known as White and Black Noble, wrote Taylor resident Landgon Richter in a 1977 *Old West* magazine article.

An Americanized variety of the English "catch-as-catch-can" wrestling style was the rage, and Brown became its Texas star. Named for the notion that wrestlers would seek any advantage over opponents, the style had been adopted by carnival wrestlers who traveled town to town taking on locals. It was part sport, part entertainment and all business.

Enter Yokel and his cash-craving agent. Fans overflowed the Taylor City Hall auditorium for the match between the 158-pounders. Betting continued as the battle progressed, *Waco News-Tribune* writer Jinx Turner recalled in a 1926 article. "At the end of the first 30 minutes, Brown had never been able to get on top of Yokel," Turner wrote. "He had succeeded in his uncanny manner of twisting out of every hold put on by Yokel."

Another hour passed.

Yokel began a full-on assault, but Brown slithered free again and again. Finally, Yokel applied a toe hold, and the referee prepared to call the match over. But Brown escaped, turned, grabbed Yokel by the arm and tossed him into the air. Yokel landed on his head, striking a board at the edge of the mat. The impact knocked Yokel unconscious, and Brown was crowned the champ.

Yokel's manager demanded a rematch, which took place near the end of 1914 in Salt Lake City. The battle dragged on for more than four hours, but Brown once again emerged victorious. A third rematch in Salt Lake City ended in a draw after five hours and 55 minutes.

In Taylor, Brown was a celebrity. His fans, including future Texas Gov. Dan Moody, also of Taylor, dressed in their finest clothes and boarded the train to Houston, where Brown was a major draw. Taylor residents revered Brown as an honest man and a hero.

But wrestling was not a clean operation. In a 1916 bout against Jack Harbertson, Brown was accused of jabbing fingers in his opponent's mouth and nose, and



Harbertson won the match and title based on the fouls. Brown maintained his innocence, regarded the fight as fixed and never accepted the loss.

The next year, Brown openly accepted defeat at the hands of Clarence Eklund. The pair met in the ring three times: Brown won the first match outright, and the second was a draw. In the third fight, Eklund grabbed Brown's arm with such fervor that tendons ripped.

"Wrestling has long been under deep suspicion," a *Houston Post* reporter wrote after the loss. "The wrestlers themselves were the chief offenders, for they pulled all sorts of crooked stunts and had all sorts of frame-ups. Not a breath of suspicion

was ever attached to Pet Brown, for he has stood for all that is clean in the game."

Brown was pragmatic about wrestling and had pooled his winnings into a lucrative road-paving business. His wrestling bouts became rare as his crews crisscrossed Texas.

Brown's luck ran out in Cisco in May 1923. A worker stepped on a nail, so Brown drove him to the hospital. He returned the man to the construction camp outside of town, where, in a nearby tent, Constable L.J. Starkey was confronting workers about gambling. Brown suspected a shake-down for cash and stepped in. Starkey shot the unarmed Brown through the heart. Alph Dillard, who had wrestled with

Brown in Taylor, helped carry the lifeless body to Brown's wife.

Starkey testified he shot in self-defense, fearing Brown's physical ability as a wrestler. He faced trial three times. The first ended with 11 jurors for conviction, one for acquittal. A second trial also resulted in a hung jury. In the third trial, in 1924, the judge told jurors they could consider Brown's wrestling skills in reaching their verdict. Starkey was acquitted.

Little remains of Brown's Gin, the spot where a star athlete began to chase a dream and Taylor gave rise to a national celebrity wrestler.

Joe O'Connell is an Austin writer.

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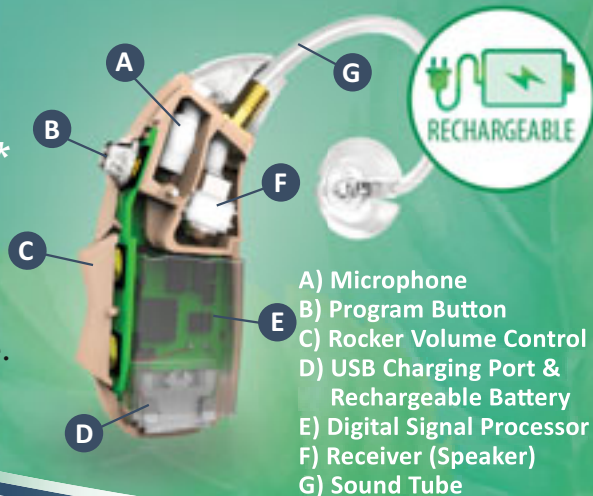
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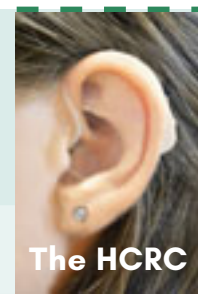


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**drillmaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

**SAVE 60%**

**\$999** Compare \$1499

ITEM 69645/60625 shown

26875875

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**EARTHQUAKE XT** **SUPER COUPON**

**NEW** **1/2" COMPOSITE EXTREME TORQUE AIR IMPACT WRENCH**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- 1190 ft. lbs. bolt breakaway torque

**SAVE \$394**

**\$1299** Compare \$1499

ITEM 62891

26879621

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**TWO TIER COLLAPSIBLE EASY-STORE STEP LADDER**

ITEM 67514

**SAVE 50%**

**\$199** Compare \$299

- 225 lb. capacity

26883573

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PORTLAND** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**7 AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW 9.5" BAR**

**SAVE \$34**

**\$649** Compare \$799

ITEM 68862 63190/62896 shown

26885040

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**16 OZ. HAMMERS WITH FIBERGLASS HANDLE**

CLAW RIP

ITEM 69006 60715/60714

ITEM 69005/61262 47873 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**YOUR CHOICE \$299** Compare \$499

**SAVE 70%**

**\$99** Compare \$9.97

26895953

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT**

**SAVE 71%**

**\$99** Compare \$34.95

ITEM 63100

26907524

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SOLAR ROPE LIGHT**

ITEM 62533 63941/68353 shown

**SAVE 66%**

**\$99** Compare \$139

**\$29.97**

- Great outdoor accent lighting
- Super bright light

26975025

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**TILTING FLAT PANEL TV MOUNT**

**SAVE \$85**

**\$149** Compare \$249

ITEM 62289/61807 shown

27028048

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**UNION SAFE COMPANY** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**1.51 CUBIC FT. SOLID STEEL ELECTRONIC DIGITAL FLOOR SAFE**

**NEW**

**SAVE \$75**

**\$999** Compare \$1299

Compare \$175

ITEM 91006/62678/62977 shown

27083883

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**GREENWOOD** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

**SAVE 39%**

**\$899** Compare \$1299

ITEM 61280/63124 63145/95692 shown

Compare \$14.97

23303518

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**CENTECH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

**SAVE 57%**

**\$299** Compare \$499

ITEM 60561 60653 shown

Compare \$69.99

27164282

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

**SAVE 65%**

**\$699** Compare \$999

ITEM 61607/62389 94635 shown

Each pad measures 25" x 25"

27257114

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**U.S. GENERAL** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**44" 13 DRAWER INDUSTRIAL QUALITY ROLLER CABINET**

- 14,200 cu. in. of storage
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**\$349<sup>99</sup>**

ITEM 69387/62744  
63271/68784 shown

SAVE **\$2200** Compare **\$3099<sup>99</sup>** ~~Compare \$2550~~

27363063

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**Bauer** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT**

- 450 in./lbs. torque
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Compare **\$69<sup>99</sup>** ~~Compare \$99~~ **SAVE \$39**

ITEM 63531

27378222

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**HARDY** **SUPER COUPON**

**MECHANIC'S GLOVES**

SIZE	ITEM
MED	62434/62426
LG	62433/62428
X-LG	62432/62429

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**YOUR CHOICE \$3<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$5<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare **\$16.12**

Item 62429 shown

28059085

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**BADLAND** **Battle Tested** **SUPER COUPON**

**2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$499<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$77<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$119.99~~

- 1-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H
- Weighs 14.3 lbs

**Voted Best Winches**

ITEM 61840/61297/63476/61258 shown

28125129

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**HEAVY DUTY FOLDABLE ALUMINUM SPORTS CHAIR**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 50%**

ITEM 62314  
63066/66383 shown

**\$199<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$29<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$39.99~~

28215730

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**WARRIOR** **SUPER COUPON**

**29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 83%**

Compare **\$60** ~~\$17<sup>99</sup>~~ **\$9<sup>99</sup>**

ITEM 62281/61637 shown

28289063

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PITTSBURGH** **Automotive** **SUPER COUPON**

**1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$169**

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**\$999<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$169<sup>99</sup>~~

Compare **\$269**

ITEM 69512/61858/69445 shown

28332813

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PORTLAND** **SUPER COUPON**

**1750 PSI PRESSURE WASHER**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NEW**

- 1.3 GPM
- Adjustable spray nozzle

**\$199<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$99<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$179.33~~ **SAVE \$99**

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

28421433

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

- 5400 lb. capacity

**\$199<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$29<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$60.95~~ **SAVE 67%**

ITEM 60658/97711 shown

28488554

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC** **SUPER COUPON**

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

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$599<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$89<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$229.99~~ **SAVE \$170**

ITEM 69265/62344/93897 shown

28534656

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

**1000 lb. capacity MOVER'S DOLLY**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$799<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$10<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$19.97~~ **SAVE 59%**

ITEM 93888 shown  
61899/62399/63095/63096  
60497/63098/63097

28576560

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SUPER COUPON**

**3-POINT QUICK HITCH**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- 2000 lb. capacity
- 27-3/16" Clearance

**\$199<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$99<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$169.99~~ **SAVE \$90**

ITEM 97214

28609865

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**CENTECH** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER**

**\$399<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$54<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$64.99~~ **SAVE 38%**

ITEM 38391/62376/62306 shown

28641341

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**CENTECH** **SUPER COUPON**

**AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$499<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$9<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$39.99~~ **SAVE 87%**

ITEM 69594/69955  
42292 shown

28706781

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**Bunker Hill Security** **SUPER COUPON**

**WIRELESS SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$999<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$15<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$31.46~~ **SAVE 68%**

ITEM 69590/61910/62447/93068 shown

28753215

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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

**\$299<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$4<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$8.58~~ **SAVE 65%**

ITEM 69249/69115  
69137/69129  
69121/877 shown

28813875

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**SUPER COUPON**

**300 lb. working load 10" PNEUMATIC TIRE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$399<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$5<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$19.89~~ **SAVE 79%**

ITEM 69385/62388/62409  
62698/30900 shown

28853198

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**Bunker Hill Security** **SUPER COUPON**

**60 LED SOLAR SECURITY LIGHT**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$299<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$39<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$69.99~~ **SAVE 57%**

Includes 6V, 900 mAh NiCd battery pack.

ITEM 62534/69643 shown

28917584

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PITTSBURGH** **SUPER COUPON**

**9 PIECE FULLY POLISHED COMBINATION WRENCH SETS**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**YOUR CHOICE \$599<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$7<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$14.97~~ **SAVE 59%**

ITEM 69043/63282/42304 shown  
SAE  
ITEM 42305/69044/63171  
METRIC

28970250

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 2/7/18\*

**PREDATOR** **SUPER COUPON**

**6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$999<sup>99</sup>** ~~\$119<sup>99</sup>~~ ~~Compare \$329.99~~ **SAVE \$230**

ITEM 60363/69730  
ITEM 69727 shown  
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# Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead traditions celebrate the circle of life in Mexican culture

BY GENE FOWLER

MY LATE FRIEND DALLAS HAD A HEALTHY perspective on death.

Also known as Nevada Slim, Dallas Turner, who passed on in 2014 at nearly 90, was a singing cowboy and radio pitchman. Though he was not eager to leave this world, he was excited about discovering the essence that remains when one's blood ceases to pulse. And Dallas promised to return and visit me from the other side. His vow reminds me of the Mexican and Mexican-American traditions of *Dia de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead.

We all carry in our hearts the memories of loved ones who have traveled on, and each November 1 and 2, many Texans commemorate that remembrance with elaborate celebrations. They prepare *ofrendas*, or altars, for the dead where they display photographs and treasured items of the departed as well as favorite foods and beverages. Celebrants don skeleton costumes, paint their faces like *calaveras* (skulls) and decorate gravesites with sugar skulls and the *flor de los muertos*, or flower of death. Usually marigolds, the bright and pungent flower petals are placed to guide loved ones from their graves back to their former homes.

Celebrate death? Absolutely, Bertha Zubiato of Presidio explains in preparation for Dia de los Muertos at Marfa's Chinati Foundation. The Mexican philosophy that informs Day of the Dead teaches that death does not represent the end of life but rather the passage through another existence. Like the round *pan de muertos*, or bread of death, the Mexican worldview sees life as never-ending.

In her book, *Digging the Days of the Dead*, the late scholar Juanita Garcíagodoy traces the roots of Dia de los Muertos to Mesoamerican cultures, following Spanish and folk influences. Over the centuries,



she says, a festival in which the Aztecs reunited with the departed was blended with Catholic observances of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to initiate the tradition.

"It's important to remember that Day of the Dead is an indigenous celebration of family," explains Ward S. Albro, an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and one of the authors of *The Day of the Dead—Dia de los Muertos*. "When I first got interested in it many years ago, though it was observed in South Texas, it really wasn't widely known in Mexico north of Mexico City. Now it's a national holiday in Mexico."

Regina M. Marchi, a Latino Studies professor at Rutgers University, notes in her book *Day of the Dead in the USA* that South Texans have cleaned and decorated ancestors' graves since at least the 1890s, but before the 1970s, these commemorations did not generally include creating *ofrendas*, burning copal incense, or making *pan de muertos* and sugar skulls.

After years of presenting muertos talks through the Humanities Texas Distinguished Speakers Bureau, Albro confirms that the tradition has spread from the Rio Grande to the Red River.

The city of Tyler hosted its first public

Day of the Dead celebration in 2016. The 2017 Denison festival and parade, featuring large skeleton marionettes, will be the town's seventh annual event. Funds raised through the Dia de los Muertos Celebration of Life at West Texas A&M University in Canyon go to scholarships. Denton's lively reunion of the living and the dead has grown to include coffin races since its debut in 2011. The Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg exhibits altars made by residents and maintains an archive of images and stories.

In a radio interview on Marfa Public Radio, Zubiato explained that altars often display as many as 20 symbols. The *papel picado*, colored paper cut with beautiful muertos designs, symbolizes the air as the souls of the dead pass through the paper. Fruits and flowers represent the earth. Fire lights the way for spirits' return, and the vital element of water gives life anew.

"We learn about death when he puts his hand on the ones we love," added radio guest Azusena Nunez, "and that loss is our legacy."

"But nobody really dies," said radio host Lorne Matalon, "until someone stops remembering them."

Gene Fowler specializes in Texas history.

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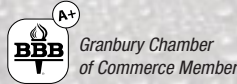


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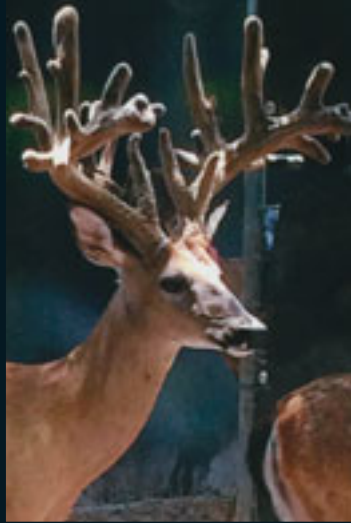
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## Sunday Cooking

THE NOTION OF SUNDAY COOKING suggests a homey, hearty dish that pulls family together around the table for the most restorative meal of the week. Because I grew up in the Midwest, Sunday meant pot roast—especially when the weather cooled. In my favorite recipe, a well-marbled chuck roast is braised in coffee and whiskey. To create the deepest flavors, season the meat an hour before cooking and brown it on all sides before roasting. The aromas that permeate your home will have you anticipating the meal even more than usual.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

### Cowboy Pot Roast With Coffee and Whiskey

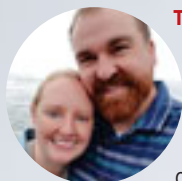
- 1 boneless chuck roast (about 3 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 1 bulb garlic
- 1-3 serrano chiles, as desired for heat
- 1-2 cups beef broth
- 2 tablespoons instant espresso powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked Spanish paprika
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups canned tomatoes with their juice
- ½ cup whiskey
- 2-4 fresh bay leaves, torn
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced into 4-inch lengths
- 1 pound Yukon gold or fingerling potatoes, sliced into 2-inch chunks or halved

**1.** An hour before you plan to cook, take the beef out of the fridge. Combine the salt, pepper, cumin, thyme and rosemary in a bowl; massage the spicy mixture evenly over the roast.

**2.** While the meat comes to room temperature, preheat the oven to 250 degrees and assemble the other ingredients. Slice each onion into 8 wedges, and peel and crush the garlic cloves. Slice each serrano from just below the stem to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

## Sunday Cooking



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

**JOHN MADISON**  
PEDERNALES EC

"My wife and family

can't get enough of these ribs," Madison says. Double-wrapping the ribs at first lets them benefit from the long, slow cook. You can precook them in the oven and finish them over a charcoal fire, but using your grill or smoker for the entire process is a lot more fun.

### Smoky Fall-off-the-Bone Ribs

- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ⅓ cup chili powder
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1½ teaspoons cumin
- 1½ teaspoons mustard powder
- 1 full rack baby back pork ribs
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- 3 cloves garlic, minced

**1.** To make the rub, combine the brown sugar, chili powder, Worcestershire, cumin and mustard powder in a small bowl.

**2.** Place a large sheet of foil on a sheet pan, and then place the same size sheet of waxed paper on top of the foil.

Slice the rack of ribs in half, then place both halves on the waxed paper, meat-side down.

**3.** Remove the silver skin from the bone-side of the rack. Generously season the ribs with salt and pepper. Spread the garlic on the bone side of the ribs followed by some of the rub. Spread rub on the meat-side of the ribs.

**4.** Stack the half racks, meat-side down, in the center of the waxed paper. Wrap the ribs in waxed paper first, then wrap with foil so they are completely sealed.

**5.** Prepare a grill or smoker for indirect cooking (or heat an oven to 225 degrees) and cook the ribs 3½–4 hours, until tender. Then remove from heat and allow ribs to rest, wrapped, 15–20 minutes.

**6.** To finish the ribs, prepare a hot grill. Carefully unwrap the ribs (they'll release steam) and grill the racks meat-side down over direct heat until nicely charred, about 3–5 minutes. Flip the rack, baste with your favorite sauce, if desired, and cook a few more minutes. Serves 4.



### \$100 Recipe Contest

March's recipe contest topic is **Luck of the Irish: Potatoes**. Who doesn't love potatoes? The starchy staple can be prepared thousands of ways. Send us your favorite. The deadline is **October 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.

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



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

the tip (so it is split but stays intact).

**3.** In a large measuring cup, whisk together the beef broth, instant espresso and paprika until blended.

**4.** When you're ready to cook, heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. When the pot is very hot but not smoking, add the roast and cook until it is crusty and deep brown on all sides.

**5.** Transfer meat to a plate, lower the heat to medium and place the onions, garlic and chiles in the pot. Cook, stirring, until mixture is coated with beef fat and the onions soften. Add the broth mixture, tomatoes, whiskey and bay leaves, stirring up any browned bits. Return the roast to the pan and nestle into the liquid.

**6.** Cover the pot and place in the oven. Roast 1 hour, then carefully turn roast over and return to oven for another hour.

**7.** Remove pot from oven, and tuck carrots and potatoes around the meat. Cover and cook for a final hour or until the vegetables are tender. Remove the pot from the oven and allow the meat to rest, uncovered, for at least 30 minutes or up to 1 hour.

**8.** To serve, use a fork and tongs to remove pieces of the meat to plates. (It will be very tender.) Surround with vegetables and a generous portion of the juice. Serves 6–8.

**COOK'S TIP** Pot sizes vary, so make sure the broth only comes one-third to halfway up the sides of the roast. Too much liquid will result in more of a stew than slow-roasted meat with gravy.

From *Cowgirl Cuisine: Rustic Recipes and Cowgirl Adventures From a Texas Ranch* (William Morrow, 2007) by Paula Disbrowe

### Hearty Pasta Soup

MILLIE KIRCHOFF | NUECES EC

For a broth with a deeper flavor, use fire-roasted tomatoes and simmer with a Parmesan rind (discard before serving).

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided use
- 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 large carrot, diced (about 1 cup)
- 3 stalks celery, diced (about 1 cup)
- 2–3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) diced or



- crushed tomatoes
- 1 can (15 ounces) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (12 ounces) V-8 Spicy Hot vegetable juice
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon each dried basil, oregano and parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon each black pepper and dried thyme
- 2 cups beef, chicken stock or water
- 8 ounces ditalini or other small shape pasta

Shredded Parmesan cheese, for serving  
Crusty bread, for serving

1. Place 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven and brown the ground meat over medium-high heat. Drain excess fat, if desired.
2. Add the remaining olive oil and the onion, carrot, celery and garlic, and

sauté 2–3 minutes. Add remaining ingredients except pasta and simmer 30–40 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook the pasta to al dente, then drain and briefly rinse.
4. Add pasta to the soup pot, plus additional broth or water for desired consistency. Simmer an additional 8–10 minutes.

5. Adjust seasonings as desired and serve with shredded Parmesan and crusty bread. Serves 6–8.

### Easy “No-Roll” Cabbage Rolls

PATTI SCHOBAY | VICTORIA, EC

Love cabbage rolls but hate the lengthy prep time? This hearty “deconstructed” casserole delivers the satisfaction of the long-simmered flavors with much less work.

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 large sweet onion, chopped
- 2 bell peppers, chopped

- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 pounds ground beef
- Salt, black pepper and cayenne pepper to taste
- 1 cup uncooked rice
- 3 cups V-8 Spicy Hot vegetable juice, or more to taste
- 1 medium head cabbage, sliced into 1/2-inch strips

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Melt the butter in a large, deep skillet, then add the onion, peppers and celery. Sauté until the onions are lightly browned, then add the ground beef and cook until the meat is browned.
3. Remove from heat, and season with salt, pepper and cayenne to taste. Add the rice and V-8, and stir to combine.
4. Place half the cabbage in an even layer in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish, cover with half the meat mixture, then repeat layers and cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes, then remove foil and bake another 45 minutes, until the cabbage is tender. Serves 8–10.

## 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


**FEBRUARY ISSUE**  
Jailhouses  
Deadline: October 10

**MARCH ISSUE**  
Downtown  
Deadline: November 10


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# Costume Party

YOUNG OR OLD, WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY, active or just actively seeking candy—Texans love to dress up. These winners are prepped, padded, painted and posed in their favorite getups this month as we celebrate the right to party! **GRACE ARSIAGA**

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ See more photos online.

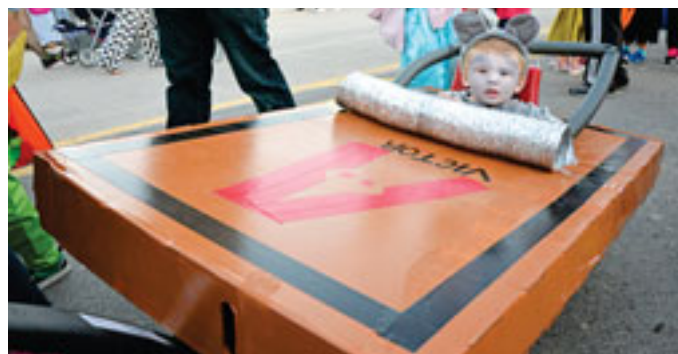
◀ **SHARMYN BAILEY**, United Cooperative Services: Brian Giddens prepares for the Halloween race at Cowtown BMX in Fort Worth.

▼ **PEARL NEMETH**, Grayson-Collin EC: “My friends and I dressed as Spice Girls for a trivia night at our church.”



◀ **GARY JOSEFF**, CoServ: Joseff’s granddaughter, Kaiya Ellis, 8, celebrates her birthday party on a “pirate ship” out of Port Aransas.

▼ **JUDY TRUESDELL**, Farmers EC: “Little mouse Tristan Zachary is pulled along by his dad at Wylie’s Boo on Ballard trick-or-treat event.”



◀ **PENNY SMITH**, Bowie-Cass EC: Co-op members James and Penny Smith (Shaggy and Velma, right), with grandson Gavin Porterfield (Scooby-Doo, center), and Brian and Marilyn Porterfield (Fred and Daphne) are ready for the annual family Halloween party.

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

FEBRUARY	JAILHOUSES	DUE OCTOBER 10
MARCH	DOWNTOWN	DUE NOVEMBER 10
APRIL	WESTERN WEAR	DUE DECEMBER 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 Texas State Title Cobbler Championship

**Llano** October 21

(325) 247-5354, llanochamber.org

Cobbler dates to the mid-1800s in Llano. Blackberry and peach are favorites, but you'll see varieties of savory and sweet cobblers in the competition. This year's contest is part of the Llano River Chuck Wagon Cook-Off, featuring family and kids activities, plus music.

COBBLER: STEPHANIE FREY | DREAMTIME.COM. SCARECROW: PRYZMAT | DREAMTIME.COM. GUITAR: NONOHARI | DREAMTIME.COM

## October 7

**Geronimo** Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser, (830) 708-1549

**Johnson City** Wild Game Dinner, (830) 833-5335

**Liberty Hill** Sculpture Garden Festival, (512) 470-1326, lhsculptures.com

**Pin Oak** St. Mary's Church Festival, (512) 921-0751

## 11

**Rockport** [11-31] First Learning Tree Pumpkin Patch & Festival, (361) 729-0883, fltree.org

## 12

**Neches** [12-15] Muddin' for a Cure, (903) 724-4100, riverrunpark.com

## 13

**Mesquite** [13-14] Treasures Barn Sale, (972) 216-6468, historicmesquite.org

**Cuero** [13-15] Turkeyfest, (361) 275-2112, turkeyfest.org

## 14

**Denison** Eisenhower Birthday Celebration, (903) 465-8908, visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com

**Greenwood** Fall Festival, (940) 389-8497

**Leesville** Country Fair, (830) 424-3622

**Ponder** Barn Dance Benefit, (469) 682-9723, ridingunlimited.org

**Chappell Hill** [14-15] Scarecrow Festival, (979) 836-6033, chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com

October 14  
Chappell Hill  
Scarecrow  
Festival



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**Edom** [14-15] Art Festival, (903) 852-6473, visitedom.com

## 20

**Farmers Branch** [20-21] Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival and Chili Cookoff, (972) 919-2631, bloominbluegrass.com

**Brenham** [20-22] Texas Arts and Music Festival, 1-888-273-6426, texasartsandmusicfestival.com

**Dripping Springs** [20-22] Songwriters Festival, (512) 659-1576, dripping Springs songwriters festival.com

## 21

**Cleveland** MusicFest, (281) 592-8786

**Southlake** North Texas Walk for PKD, (817) 647-5553, walkforpkd.org/northtexas

**Fredericksburg** Hill Country Indian Artifact Show, (830) 626-5561, hillcountryindianartifacts.com

**Jasper** Fall Fest, (409) 384-2762, jaspercoc.org

**Kerens** Cotton Harvest Festival, (903) 396-2665, kerenscottonharvestfestival.com

**Spring Branch** BSB Fire & EMS Gala: Feathers & Fedoras, (830) 228-4206, bsb911.com/2017-gala



Dripping Springs  
October 20-22  
Songwriters Festival

**Whitesboro** United Methodist Men's Annual BBQ, (817) 908-7282

## 26

**Wylie** Boo on Ballard, (972) 516-6000, wylietexas.gov

## 28

**Anna** Glowfest, (972) 924-8533, annaglowfest.com

**Cedar Park** Barktoberfest, (512) 260-7722, centraltexaspcpa.org/barktoberfest

## 29

**Schertz** Bexar County Czech-Slovak Heritage Festival, (210) 659-9132, bexarcounyczechsociety.com

## 31

**Bastrop** Trick or Treat Trail, (512) 332-8990, bastropdowntown.com

## November

### 3

**Bluff Dale** [3-4] Junk & Antique Market, (817) 894-2036, cowsmith.com

### 4

**Crockett** *The Wonder Bread Years*, (936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

**McKinney** St. Gabriel's Holiday Boutique, (972) 542-7170, stgabriel.org

### Submit Your Event!

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

# AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

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# All the King's Horses

Kingsville and the Wild Horse Desert offer visitors glimpse of ranching legacy

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

THE SOUTH TEXAS GRASSLANDS ONCE stretched from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande. Called the Wild Horse Desert by Texians, the region was named for the mustangs that roamed the robust wildlands and was legendary for desperadoes' lawlessness. After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War in 1848 and established the Rio Grande as the U.S. border with Mexico, the horses and criminals remained, but their demise came inexorably through the work of hunters, sheriffs and ranchers until settlers, the rule of law and fences took over.

Today, the region provides modern conveniences alongside a hefty dose of history, all accessible by following U.S. Highway 77, a huisache-scented byway, from Kingsville to Raymondville. Start in Kingsville, named for King Ranch founder Richard King. Head first to the **King Ranch Museum** for an introduction. Housed in the Henrietta Memorial Center, constructed in 1907 to house Kingsville's ice factory and power plant, the museum displays saddles, guns, vintage cars and photographs.

Now a National Historic Landmark, the massive King Ranch has evolved and diversified. The habitat may be the ranch's greatest asset, encompassing a wildlife-rich environment that covers more than 825,000 acres of coastal plains, bay shores, thorn scrub, savannahs and grassland. Native species thrive. For a firsthand look, head to the visitors center on the ranch's Santa Gertrudis Division, just west of town.

Daily bus tours feature views of the ranch's wildlife and its Santa Gertrudis cattle. See the camp house and pens that are landmarks in the annual roundups. View Henrietta King's home, built in 1912 after the first ranch residence burned. Or get a closer look at the wildlife and Wild Horse Desert habitat by scheduling a King Ranch birding tour. The tours offer op-



**Master craftsman Roberto Salas at the King Ranch Saddle Shop**

portunities to explore native habitat. More than 350 species of birds have been confirmed on the ranch, and Tom Langschied, the head birding guide, shows birders white-faced ibis, green jays and brush-loving songbirds.

Back in town, you can visit small-town attractions such as **Roy's Hobbies and Electronics**, King Barber Shop and a food truck named Brink's that serves fresh Gulf seafood. Stop by the **King Ranch Saddle Shop** to see more of the King Ranch legacy.

South of Kingsville, off U.S. 77 and 8 miles north of Riviera, FM 628 provides scenic access to Baffin Bay. You'll pass through the community of Vattman where, in 1907, a Minnesota land developer purchased land from the King Ranch, then partnered with Fr. Edward Vattmann and the Catholic Colonization Society of America to recruit families and form communities. Vattman's church, rebuilt after a 1916 hurricane destroyed the original, remains in use today. The handsome brick building features stained-glass windows imported from Germany. The church hosts an annual Thanksgiving dinner fundraiser (as it has for more than 90

years). If you enjoy a home-cooked holiday meal, purchase your tickets early.

Drive another 3 miles east on FM 628, and you'll arrive at the shores of Cayo del Grullo, where you'll find **King's Inn**, a Coastal Bend landmark. Established in 1935, the inn serves meals family-style. Order shrimp, oysters, frog legs or catch of the day. Fried or grilled, the platters of seafood include hush puppies, an avocado-curry salad and a view of the bay.

Back south along U.S. 77, you'll find yourself in the town of Sarita, where exhibits at the **Kenedy Ranch Museum of South Texas** recount the legacy of the Kenedy family. Sarita Kenedy devoted much of her significant inheritance to establishing the Kenedy Memorial Foundation.

Finish up your Wild Horse Desert tour in Raymondville, eastern gateway to the Rio Grande Valley. Raymondville is a farming community with an eye on the future. Its vast array of giant wind turbines suggests that wind power, not ranching, could ascend in the modern age.

**E. Dan Klepper** is a photographer, author and artist who lives in Marathon.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Learn more about visiting these Wild Horse Desert places.

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60-64	\$17.20	\$13.30	\$28.00	\$21.50	\$55.00	\$42.00	\$136.00	\$103.50
65-69	\$20.50	\$16.00	\$33.50	\$26.00	\$66.00	\$51.00	\$163.50	\$126.00
70-74	\$27.40	\$21.40	\$45.00	\$35.00	\$89.00	\$69.00	\$221.00	\$171.00
75-79	\$37.00	\$30.10	\$61.00	\$49.50	\$121.00	\$98.00	\$301.00	\$243.50
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