

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



DRIVE-INS

Preserving
an iconic movie
experience





great looks & long-lasting *performance*

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

Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com/roofing



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



Medina EC lineman Taylor Stacy cuts an 8-foot pizza with an old plow disc.

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**
The Nylon Campaign
By Ellen Stader
- 31 **Retro Recipes**
Standout Summer Sides
- 35 **Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: Feedin' Time
- 36 **Around Texas**
List of Local Events
- 38 **Hit the Road**
Lowly Activities in Arlington
By Chet Garner

ONLINE

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

Observations

Bad Moon Waning
By Clay Coppedge

Texas USA

D-Day's Texas Legend
By Gene Fowler

FEATURES

8 Drive In, Chill Out Drive-in theaters persist as beacons of nostalgia that offer cinema under a boundless sky.
Story by Travis P. Hill | Photos by Dave Shafer

12 Make It a Large Sometimes your eyes—like the oversized food on Texas menus—are bigger than your stomach.
Story by Jeff Siegel | Photos by Tom Hussey

NEXT MONTH

Grown Locally Texas Tech program puts students on a farm-to-table career path.



29

PIZZA: TOM HUSSEY. GRAPES: KOVALEVA KA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



31



35



38

ON THE COVER Sam and Shelbie Gaddy get cozy in a 1960s pickup at Brazos Drive-In Theatre in Granbury. Photo by Dave Shafer

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Blaine Warzecha, Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Vice Chair, Comanche; Robert Loth III, Secretary-Treasurer, Fredericksburg; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; Billy Jones, Corsicana; David McGinnis, Van Alstyne; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Clint Gardner, Coleman; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Bill Hetherington, Bandera; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham; Robert Walker, Gilmer; Brandon Young, McGregor • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Grace Fultz, Print Production Specialist; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Qasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Chris Salazar, Digital Field Editor; Ally Schauer, Intern; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader

FDA-Listed Hearing Aid

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS



“Amazing sound clarity.”

~ Susan L.

“This small device gives great hearing improvement.”

~ Jason P.

Discover a new way to buy medical-grade, FDA-Listed digital hearing aids that are designed by doctors and approved by audiologists. Our Hearing Help Express solution means FREE unlimited service and high-quality, effective, and durable hearing aids direct to you.

Start by trying the Apollo™-6205; it's the perfect hearing aid if you want the **BEST technology** for the **BEST price**. Its American made electronics give you crisp, clear sound for improved hearing and understanding.

100% DIGITAL • AMERICAN MADE TECHNOLOGY

Apollo™-6205

\$299 each

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE



- Risk-FREE 45-day home trial
- FREE Shipping
- FREE unlimited professional support

QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST AND TRY!



Our parent company, **IntriCon**, is a Class III medical device manufacturer that designs, develops, and produces hearing aids for ENT's and Audiologists. This allows us to ensure quality while saving you as much as 85% off local hearing aid retailers.

HearingHelp *express*
an IntriCon company

Improving hearing since 1979
750,000+ satisfied customers



“I really enjoy being part of the conversation again.”

~ Larry J.

**Try the Apollo™-6205
Risk-FREE for 45 days!
SEND NO MONEY NOW!**

If you like it then pay only \$299 each or simply send it back. It's that easy!

Call Mon-Thur 8am - 8pm • Fri 8am - 6pm • Sat 8am-12pm

1-888-812-0328 PROMO CODE 28-227

or order online: **HearingHelp.com**

Expires 8/31/19. Deposit required for online orders.

Another Lone Star Flag

The letter *Texas' First Flag* [April 2019] reminded me of the Lone Star flag flown in 1810 over the Republic of West Florida, the short-lived republic (78 days) with St. Francisville, now a city in Louisiana, as its capital.

The single, large white or yellow star in the center of a sky blue field was a symbol of rebellion after the settlers in West Florida rebelled against Spain to set up their own nation before being absorbed into Louisiana and the United States. History is interesting and does repeat, at least occasionally.

JOE WEBB | MARBLE FALLS
PEDERNALES EC

Safety Gear Evolution

Thank you for the article *Gearing Up* [March 2019]. Our grandson Mason Harper especially enjoyed seeing these pictures. He is employed by Primoris and wears lots of safety equipment.

LOREAN PULLEY | RIESEL
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Blues History

I met Lightnin' Hopkins in 1957 at the age of 15 [*Texas: A Blues State*, March 2019]. We would sit on the porch, and by watching his hands, I learned the three chords he used all the time. I was more of a novelty then, but I did play solo at times with the drummer, Joseph Kilpatrick, better known as the Black Spider. Luke "Long Gone" Miles played with us once, and Cleveland Chenier, Clifton's brother, played a washboard with us several times.

Those days are sadly gone,

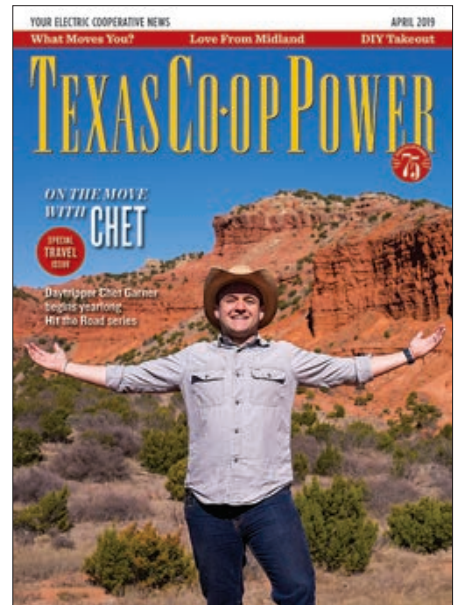
Chet Garner Hits the Road

Seen other Texas travel shows, but *Daytripper's* the best one. Chet's awesome. ... There's still so much to discover in the greatest state in the country.

JAIME GARZA | VIA FACEBOOK

You have been on the road for years, uncovering gems ... and having fun across our great state—and you do it all with fun and knowledge!

MARTHA HOLLOWAY LANDRY | VIA FACEBOOK



but back then, playing blues with Lightnin' was everything to me.

ROBERT R. COOK | NEW ULM

Back in 1966, a friend of mine found Lightnin' Hopkins playing at a backwoods bar outside Navasota. Later in the year, he was in Austin. He had a gig at a coffeehouse in an alley off 24th Street. He played the blues, quite often fretting with a whiskey bottle. I got to meet him that evening, and the next day I went out and bought an album with his music.

HAROLD LIECK | DEL VALLE
BLUEBONNET EC



As much as we in Bowie County, particularly De Kalb, would love to claim the blues and folk singer and writer Lead Belly as our own, he was actually born in Mooringsport, Louisiana. Lead Belly did reside in our area for a few years in the 1920s.

Lead Belly wrote many songs during his lifetime. Some are quite familiar, such as *Good Night, Irene; Cotton Fields Back Home; and Midnight Special*. One that was not so well-known was called *De Kalb Blues*, and that may well have depicted his life in our area.

CAROLYN MCCRARY | DE KALB
BOWIE-CASS EC

A Hispanic Hero

I am a fifth-generation Mexican American. I was very encouraged and inspired by the Marcelino Serna story and made to feel

proud of my Hispanic heritage [*A Hero in Any Language*, March 2019]. This story is one that will go into my scrapbook of many Hispanic heroes that have influenced me in my life.

ANTHONY BARRON | TERRELL
TRINITY VALLEY EC

GET MORE TCP AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Sign up for our e-newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

We want to hear from you!

ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share
EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com

MAIL: Editor, Texas Co-op Power,
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor,
Austin, TX 78701

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

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 75, NUMBER 12 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

© Copyright 2019 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wiredhand © Copyright 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



HAPPENINGS

A Day of Czech Treats

Join folks in **EAST BERNARD** on **JUNE 8** as they embrace their Czech heritage with the annual **KOLACHE-KLOBASE FESTIVAL**. *Kolache* are traditional Czech pastries—you might remember our feature story, *The Kolach Trail*, from January 2014—and *klobase* is the Czech word for sausage.

Obviously, food is the central theme of the festival, which includes a kolache-eating contest, but so is music—especially polka—and dancing. Part of the festival is indoors, at Riverside Hall, one of Texas' historic dance halls, which were featured in February's cover story, *Hail the Halls*.

INFO ▶ (979) 335-7907, kkfest.com



WEB EXTRAS
▶ Find more happenings online.

BY THE NUMBERS



Texline, in the far northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle, is 899 miles from Brownsville, in the southern tip of the Rio Grande Valley.

The folks in Texline, members of Rita Blanca EC, are closer to residents in 21 other states—Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming—than they are to fellow Texans in Brownsville.

◀ LOOKING BACK AT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THIS MONTH



SINCE 1944, the year *Texas Co-op Power* debuted, Americans have taken Polaroids, walked on the moon and come to rely on Velcro. These are just a few of the science and technology milestones we remember this month.



1940s

1945 Grand Rapids, Michigan, becomes the first city in the world to fluoridate its drinking water.

1948 The Polaroid Land camera, invented by Edwin Land and the first to produce finished prints instantly, goes on sale.

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

1950s

1954 The first pocket transistor radio, the Regency TR-1 from Texas Instruments, goes on sale.

1955 The hook-and-loop fastener, or Velcro, is patented by a Swiss engineer.

1957 The Soviet Union inaugurates the Space Age with its launch of Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite.

1960s

1965 San Antonio native Ed White becomes the first American to walk in space—during the Gemini 4 mission.



1967 Texas Instruments creates the first handheld calculator.

1968 Chemist Spencer Silver of San Antonio invents the low-tack adhesive that changes the world when it's used to create Post-It notes in 1980.

WORTH REPEATING *“Texas is big, and Texans are proud of it. Proudful boasts can be made about the countless facets of our greatness without the slightest sacrifice of honesty.”*

—JAMES EARL RUDDER, Texan and leader during the Allied invasion of France on D-Day, 75 years ago

TECH KNOWLEDGE

Get Over It

IMAGINE HOPPING INTO a personal flying machine and zipping over traffic to your favorite coffee shop. Seems pretty far-fetched, right?

It might not be. A team from Texas A&M University is working on a vehicle that looks a little like a flying egg with rotor blades mounted near the base and is among the final 10 in a competition called GoFly that drew scientists from 95 countries. The winner of the competition will be announced this fall.

GoFly contest rules stipulate that the personal flying device must be safe, quiet, ultracompact and capable of vertical takeoff and landing. It also must be able to carry a single person for a distance of 20 miles without refueling or recharging.

Moble Benedict, a Bryan Texas Utilities customer, is an aerospace engineering assistant professor and A&M’s team captain. “We want a regular person to be able to fly this thing with minimum flight training,” he told *The New York Times*.

Benedict says he can see personal flying machines becoming a reality within the next 10 years. Great! Will they have cup holders?



FLASHBACK

CINE ON THE SEA

While drive-in theaters evoke nostalgia, they’re still around and drawing moviegoers in Texas, as you’ll learn in our cover story, *Drive In, Chill Out*.

The first American drive-in opened 86 years ago this month in Camden, New Jersey. A year later, on July 5, 1934, the Drive-In Short Reel Theater in Galveston became the third U.S. drive-in. The theater was built for \$1,500 right on the beach, with cars facing out to sea over the Gulf of Mexico.

Admission for a car and all its occupants was 25 cents. For 10 cents, an adult walk-in could sit in the bench seats at the front—5 cents for kids.

It operated for 20 days before a hurricane destroyed it and was never rebuilt.

LOOKING BACK AT COMMERCE NEXT MONTH ►

1970s

1972 The first digital electronic watch, a Pulsar LED prototype built by Texas engineer George Thiess, debuts. Thiess is a director at HILCO EC in Itasca.



1974 A universal product code, or bar code, is used for the first time—at a supermarket in Troy, Ohio.

1980s

1983 The Motorola DynaTAC 8000x becomes the first commercial handheld cellphone.

1984 Apple kicks off a media campaign for its Macintosh computer during Super Bowl XVIII with a commercial invoking George Orwell’s *1984*.

1984 Michael Dell starts his computer company, then called PC’s Limited, in his dorm room at the University of Texas.

1990s

1991 Multipurpose internet mail extension allows emails to be sent with attachments.

1997 The first usable-by-anyone portable defibrillator debuts. It instructs the operator on how to use the paddles, automatically applies the correct voltage and sells for \$4,000.



2000s

2007 The iPhone is released, revolutionizing cellphones and popularizing touchscreens.



2018 The University of Texas’ McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis is chosen by NASA as one of three sites nationally to host a facility for its Space Geodesy Project, which aims to help scientists counter the effects of earthquakes, volcanoes, sea level changes and landslides.



DRIVE IN, CHILL OUT

Drive-in theaters, long past their heyday, remain as beacons of nostalgia that offer cinema under a boundless sky

PERHAPS ANY MOVIE could have marked the watershed moment of Ryan Smith's young adulthood, but on that midsummer evening in 2002, it was M. Night Shyamalan's *Signs* that colored the mood at the Sky-Vue Drive-In Theatre on the dusty outskirts of Lamesa.

Smith, in his early 20s and fresh out of his first year of law school at SMU, was in West Texas to learn from his grandfather about the family businesses—bits about farming, real estate, oil and gas, and, most notably, the movie theater business. Smith's grandparents, R.A. "Skeet" and Sarah Noret, opened the Sky-Vue in 1948, and he grew up hearing stories about the iconic drive-in, like the time a then-unknown Buddy Holly played atop the projection room or when Albert Noret, Smith's great-grandfather, invented the now-legendary Chihuahua Sandwich, a quintessentially Tex-Mex concoction of homemade chili meat and pimento cheese, shredded cabbage and diced onions between two tostada shells with a side of jalapeño. Yet, despite his family's long history with the theater, Smith had never seen a movie at the drive-in before that evening 17 years ago.

He had just finished helping out with a rush on the concession stand when he grabbed some food for himself and went outside to catch a bit of the movie. Sitting in his car and crunching away on a Chihuahua Sandwich, he felt enchanted by the whole scenario—the collective energy of the moviegoers that surrounded him in lawn chairs and truck beds, the sound of their laughter at the film's tension breakers—and thought, "Man, this has to be preserved and shared."

He gazed through his open sunroof at the stars glowing over the Llano Estacado and waited for the aliens to invade Mel Gibson's on-screen world.

"It was a communal experience, and yet, I was sitting in the privacy of my own vehicle, enjoying dinner," he says today. "It was an experience that I had never had before but had heard about. And I now understand why the experience was so beloved."

Smith never made it back to law

school. He instead felt a calling to deliver the drive-in experience to others. Just over a year after that night at the Sky-Vue, aided by investments from his family, he opened his first theater, Stars & Stripes Drive-In Theatre in Lubbock.

"So that began the journey," he says, "to try to draw inspiration from what my granddad did and share it with [more] people."

Smith, who also owns land in Lyntegar Electric Cooperative's service territory, has since expanded the Stars & Stripes brand with a second location, in New Braunfels, south of Austin, and today his operation accounts for two of fewer than 20 drive-ins open for business in the Lone Star State. Some of these theaters stand as paint-chipped remnants of a bygone era, when the outdoor double feature dominated the cinema experience and some 400 drive-ins dotted the Texas landscape. Others, like Fort



Lala Watkins prepares for hungry moviegoers at Coyote Drive-In in Fort Worth.

Worth's Coyote Drive-In, inject a twist of modernity into that paradigmatic pastime of the mid-20th century. But all of Texas' surviving

drive-in theaters share at least one quality: the promise of a singular form of entertainment served with a healthy dose of nostalgia—bolstered by the dedication of theater owners to preserving the pastime.

THE FIRST DRIVE-IN theater in the United States opened in Camden, New Jersey, in 1933, and by the late 1950s, there were more than 4,000 drive-ins throughout the country. They were so widespread and popular that to some degree, says D. Vogel, administrative secretary of the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association, "drive-in movie theaters built Hollywood."

But by 1980, the number of drive-ins had dropped to about 2,400, and a steady decline continued over the ensuing decade,

Opposite: As the sun sets in Granbury, Cowboy Fred awaits the next vehicle at Brazos Drive-In.

Whether it's a night out for the whole family or a romantic evening for two under the stars, there's still a drive-in theater in Texas to meet the occasion.



Coyote Drive-In's big screen set against the vast Texas sky at twilight.

operators, retirements of aging owners and increased competition from entertainment options like home video and multiplexes.

Hollywood's digital revolution—a shift from 35 mm film prints to digital projection that began in the early 2000s—put the nail in the coffin for some drive-ins. A digital projector with a bulb strong enough to project across a field can cost upward of \$70,000, a prohibitive expense for the mom and pop operations these theaters tend to be. But drive-ins that didn't make the switch would be left without new movies to show.

TODAY, THERE ARE FEWER than 400 drive-ins in the U.S. Though their numbers are small, these theaters continue to offer an engrossing experience wholly distinct from their indoor counterparts. A ticket to the drive-in typically provides double-feature entertainment for a lower price than one movie at an indoor theater. The food, also at a reasonable price point, tends to go beyond the standard fare of popcorn, soda and candy. And then there's the freedom granted by the outdoor environment.

"Your options are wide open," Vogel says. "You could just get up and look at the night sky. Or you could just take a quiet stroll around the field and watch families laughing and having a good time together. Or, you could get through the movie simply by taking a little nap until the next one came on."

It's the privilege of providing that experience that keeps many drive-in owners in the game. The defining trait of those who remain,

the result of a combination of factors, including land value increases that made it financially attractive for owners to sell their properties to devel-

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see a map of drive-ins operating in Texas and additional photos.

Vogel says, is "a genuine love for this business. That's what it takes."

And that's a love that Jennifer Miller knows well. She's the owner of Brazos Drive-In Theatre in Granbury, one of the oldest drive-ins in Texas. First opened in 1952, Brazos has welcomed moviegoers every year since, closing only for the winter

offseason. Miller is responsible for more than half of that track record.

She's poured her heart and wallet into the theater since she bought it in 1985. She runs the single-screen operation with just a handful of employees and works the concession stand every night it's open. She shelled out the money for the expensive equipment when digital conversion became necessary and set up a minimuseum featuring the drive-in's old film projector and other memorabilia in the vintage snack bar. The 67-year-old has even donned a bunny suit to entertain kids around Easter.

For Miller, the theater isn't about making money. It's about preserving a piece of history and providing family-friendly fun for her patrons. "I just want to be able to make enough money to keep improving it, so everyone can enjoy it. I guess that's my passion, my focus," she says. "If all I do is save the drive-in, then it's been very, very rewarding for me."

The sense of nostalgia is intrinsic to the historic grounds of the Brazos theater. Newer drive-ins, like the Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In in Austin, must work to evoke the feeling. For Blue Starlite owner Josh Frank, that requires more than showing a movie outdoors. "The movie is a part of the experience, but it's maybe 30%," he says.

Nestled in a partially paved clearing behind a Moose Lodge, the Blue Starlite consists of two mobile screens and a scattering of vintage and aging trailers—some of which can be rented for parties—and signage fonts that scream midcentury diner.

“I love nostalgia,” says Frank, who likens his theater more to an interactive show than a simple venue to catch a flick. “It’s about the classic culture, the nostalgia, the ’50s mentality. I would probably open a malt shop before I opened an indoor movie theater.”

The quest to revive a fading era is also what got Sam Kirkland, South Plains Electric Cooperative member, into the theater business. Kirkland grew up working for the Norets at the Sky-Vue in Lamesa, starting in 1957 and into the 1960s. In those years, he says, the theater was “the pride and joy of the town.”

Things had changed, though, by the late ’70s, when Kirkland was driving by the theater one day to find it closed and overgrown with weeds. He decided to clean it up and help the Norets reopen. Within a year, he bought the theater, which he and his wife kept alive until a fire destroyed the snack bar in 2015.

The demise of the Sky-Vue meant

Right: Cowboy Fred works the box office at Brazos Drive-In. Below: The expansive concession stand at New Braunfels’ Stars & Stripes Drive-In is a main attraction.

more than the loss of an entertainment attraction for the Lamesa community. It also represented the passing of a place where generations of memories were made, Kirkland says.

“It was a big deal,” he says. “We had a wonderful playground. I kept all of the original toys repaired. Parents would bring their kids to the Sky-Vue and say, ‘These are the same toys I played on when I was your age.’”



Though the Sky-Vue is no more, Kirkland and others are keeping the tradition alive. Hungry theatergoers can still find the famous Chihuahua Sandwich at Midland’s Big Sky Drive-In, where Kirkland is part owner, as well as at the Stars & Stripes in Lubbock. For those who favor libations with their movies, the Coyote Drive-In in Fort Worth serves up beer and wine, often paired with live music before the show, at its canteen—the sort of appurtenances audiences have come to expect from modern theaters.

Whether it’s a night out for the whole family or a romantic evening for two under the stars, there’s still a drive-in theater in Texas to meet the occasion. And it’s sure to outshine a stuffy night at the mall multiplex.

“The drive-in can give you something that the indoors can’t,” Kirkland says, “and that’s freedom.”

Travis P. Hill is a TEC communications specialist. He lives in Austin.





**MAKE
IT A**

LARGE

**SOMETIMES YOUR EYES—LIKE THE
OVERSIZED FOOD ON TEXAS MENUS—
ARE BIGGER THAN YOUR STOMACH**

BY JEFF SIEGEL | PHOTOS BY TOM HUSSEY

On a stage in front of the open kitchen at the Big Texan Steak Ranch and Brewery in Amarillo, an empty table looms above restaurant patrons enjoying warm meals on a rainy fall afternoon. At any moment, the table could become the center of attention—if only someone were to approach the kitchen and announce, “I want to eat the 72-ounce steak.” Once the steak is served, the digital clock on the wall behind the stage will start a 60-minute countdown. Spotlights

will click on. Webcams will broadcast the challenge around the world. And diners in the 500-seat restaurant will look up from their beef and beer to watch and shout encouragement.

At the Big Texan, visitors from around the world attempt to eat the restaurant’s legendary steak dinner—4½ pounds of beef plus a salad, dinner roll, baked potato, side of beans and shrimp cocktail. If they can devour everything in an hour, it’s free. During an eight-week period that included Labor Day weekend in 2018, 150 travelers from as far away as Ukraine and Australia took the challenge. Just 14 succeeded.

“Disneyland has Mickey Mouse,” says Big Texan’s Bobby Lee,



whose family has owned the Amarillo landmark for almost 60 years. “And we have the 72-ounce steak.”

Welcome to big food, Texas style. How about a pizza that’s 8 feet across? Or a 3-pound cinnamon roll? Or an eight-decker deli sandwich? Or a hamburger that includes a pound of bacon and a half-pound of cheese? If someone’s going to make such a colossus, you can bet someone will try to eat it.

“It was like, ‘Men of America, all the eyes are upon you,’” says Ed Montana of Amarillo, who finished the Big Texan steak dinner in 38 minutes during filming for the Travel Channel. “I didn’t want to let the side down. I had to finish it because macho men are meat

eaters, right?”

“It’s the wiry little guys you need to worry about when you’re watching someone try to finish the dinner,” Montana says. “The big guys, the 6-8 [tall] ones who look like offensive linemen, they don’t seem to do as well.”

High school and college students seem particularly fond of challenging the specialty of the house. But at Big Texan, more women finish the steak than men, even though more men attempt it.

At Mel’s Country Cafe in Tomball, north of Houston, the Mega

Kurt Oefinger of Hondo’s Dirt Road Cookers prepares an 8-foot pizza, above, then, with help from Medina Electric Cooperative employees, eases the hot pie onto a stand for slicing.



Mel Burger, which starts with 1½ pounds of beef, has been on the menu in one form or another since 1994. “I honestly think that when people see how big it is, they feel a need to try and conquer it,” manager Sherry Pierce says. “And it’s just not the people who try to eat it—it’s the people who get excited about seeing people try to eat it.”

Big food, the larger-than-life dishes like the Big Texan’s steak, is not uniquely Texan. It’s not even uniquely American. A decade ago, a group of Spanish chefs combined 32 tons of rice, sausage and seafood to create a monster version of paella, Spain’s national dish.

But many Americans embrace big food enthusiastically. We watch TV shows about it. We visit restaurants to see it—as well as to eat it. Our enthusiasm for big food is not necessarily about gluttony. Rather, it’s about what Texas Tech sociologist Carol Lindquist calls “our culture of abundance.”

“Big food in particular is part of that,” she says, “the idea that bigger is better, a hypermanifestation of our American-ness.”

Our culture of abundance is unique in world history. We are, with a few notable exceptions, the only culture that has never endured famine, which Europeans have suffered through as recently as the 20th century and still occurs in some parts of the world.

“We think that our abundance—that we always have had enough food to eat—is normal,” Lindquist says. “But it’s not. The early European settlers, when they arrived, couldn’t believe what they found, all the wildlife and the forests and the food. It was remarkable coming from the old country, where that hadn’t been seen in centuries. So that’s one reason how our enthusiasm for ‘bigger is better’ started.”

The Mega Mel Burger is seven times taller than the average



A Dirt Road pizza can feed up to 150 people. Will Schneider, left, a staking technician at Medina EC, digs in.

mouth can open. The Big Texan steak contains almost three times more calories than the federal government’s

recommended daily allowance. The 20-scoop ice cream sundae at Dallas’ Hypnotic Emporium contains significantly more than the recommended daily allowance of fat.

Wallets take a hit just as diets do. The Mega Mel costs \$24.95. The Mt. Hypnotic sundae costs \$38, which can be refunded if you finish it in less than 30 minutes. The Big Texan steak is \$72, and that’s only refunded if you meet the hour deadline.

But none of that seems to matter.

“I honestly think it’s about the spectacle,” says Kurt Oefinger of Hondo’s Dirt Road Cookers, whose specialty is an 8-foot pizza that starts with 25 pounds of flour and takes two hours to mix. Oefinger travels around the state, pizza oven in tow, creating his giant pies that include 3 pounds of pepperoni, 8 pounds of brisket, 6 pounds of sausage and 30 pounds of cheese. They cost \$800–\$1,500 and can feed as many as 150 people.

“As soon as they see that 8-foot pizza, everyone wants to dive in. But no one ever seems to be able to finish it, and there is always a lot left,” says Kassie Cox, Oefinger’s sister-in-law and an accountant for Medina Electric Cooperative in Hondo, west of San Antonio. “I’m not sure anyone knows exactly how big an 8-foot pizza is. It’s not like many people have seen one before.”

Learn more about writer **Jeff Siegel** at winecurmudgeon.com.

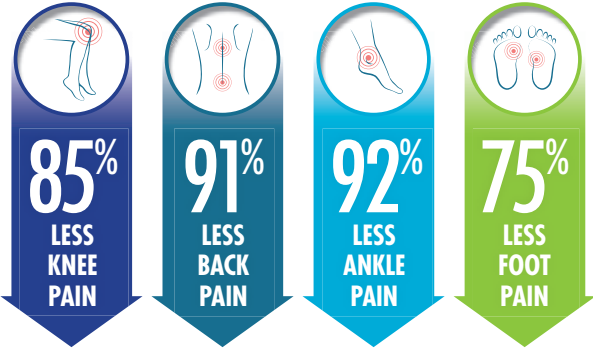
LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

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



PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM

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



Enjoy the benefits of exercise
with proven pain relief.

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

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

G-DEFY MIGHTY WALK \$150

X-WIDE WIDTH AVAILABLE

- Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**
- Gray TB9024MGS
 - Blue/Black TB9024MLU
 - Black TB9024MBL

- Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**
- Gray TB9024FGS
 - Salmon/Gray TB9024FGP
 - Purple/Black TB9024FLP



\$30 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8FLL2
www.gravitydefyer.com

Expires September 30, 2019
Free Exchanges • Free Returns
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$30 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.



Dr. Steven Battaglia
Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon

What Kind of Hearing Aids Do Doctors Use?

The same ones they recommend to their patients!

Doctors love MDHearingAids® for the same reasons patients do. These FDA-registered, medical-grade hearing aids have the same high-tech features found in more expensive hearing aids at a fraction of the cost.

Advanced Hearing Aid Technology For Less Than \$200

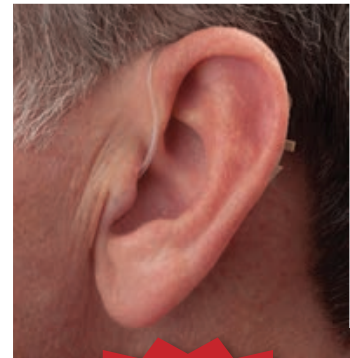
"MDHearingAids are better than expensive clinic hearing aids, which cost thousands more," says retired physician Dr. Robert A.

"I have had five pairs of expensive hearing aids and MDHearingAids are just as good," adds retired neurosurgeon Dr. Brian L.

Doctors Are Tired of Watching Their Patients Waste Money on Over-Priced Clinic Hearing Aids
MDHearingAids are the best value on the market, says Dr. Clarke:

"I'm a physician, and I know how much people spend on health care. They should get the best value, and this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional overly-priced hearing aids. I will be recommending MDHearingAids to my hearing-impaired patients."

Nearly invisible!



SAVE 90% COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL HEARING AIDS

CRISP, CLEAR SOUND

MDHearingAids were created by a board-certified otolaryngologist frustrated that patients couldn't afford the high price of hearing aids. So, he did the only logical thing...he created a low-cost, feature-packed hearing aid that costs over 90% less than a comparable hearing aid.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FEATURES

Behind-the-ear hearing aid with thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile. 2-Program toggle switch for customized hearing. Amplifies the critical frequencies of the human voice, without amplifying background sounds, so you can enjoy crisp, clear conversations.

NO AUDIOLOGIST NEEDED

Save time and money, cancel those audiologist appointments! Advanced hearing aid technology lets you easily program and adjust your MDHearingAid at home. Set-up is fast and easy, too, going from box to ear in just five minutes.

Try it RISK FREE for 45 Days

Try MDHearingAids risk-free with a 100% money-back guarantee for 45 days. Just call toll-free or visit the website shown below. Call now and get **free shipping** plus a **free, one-year supply of batteries**.

Call Toll-Free 1-800-253-8083

Visit www.GetMDHearingAid200.com
Free 1-Year Supply of Batteries with Offer Code JL33

MDHearingAid® 
The Doctor's Choice for Affordable Hearing Aids

Lightning Safety Enlightenment

NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK WAS LAUNCHED in 2001 to call attention to this often underestimated killer. Since then, U.S. lightning fatalities have dropped from about 50 per year to about 30. This decrease in deaths is largely due to greater awareness of the danger lightning poses and to more people seeking safety when thunderstorms threaten.

This year, Lightning Safety Awareness week is June 23–29, and we encourage you to heed these tips and raise your awareness of the dangers of lightning.

Protect Yourself

Use the 30/30 rule: When you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If fewer than 30 seconds pass, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of you and is dangerous. Immediately seek shelter indoors or in a hardtop vehicle and remain until you have not heard thunder for 30 minutes.

Don't touch concrete surfaces, including those in a garage. Lightning can travel through the metal wires in concrete walls and flooring. Stay off corded phones and plugged-in electronics.

Avoid plumbing and water, including bathing or doing laundry.

Never seek shelter under trees, poles or other tall structures as they are more likely to be struck by lightning.

Protect Your Property

Unplug appliances and other electrical items, such as computers and TVs to prevent damage from surges caused by lightning strikes.

Surge protection can help prevent damage to your electronics. **There are two types of surge protection:**

- ▶ **Point-of-use:** Protects devices that are directly plugged into the surge protector from most electrical surges.

- ▶ **Whole house:** Located at your main electrical panel or the base of the electric meter, this device provides protection for your entire electrical system.

However, neither type can safeguard against a direct lightning strike. If you live in an area prone to lightning, consider a lightning protection system.

MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH: If it's not raining or cloudy, you're safe from lightning.

FACT: If you can hear thunder, lightning is nearby. Lightning often strikes more than 10 miles from the center of a thunderstorm.

MYTH: A lightning strike victim carries a charge and should not be touched.

FACT: Lightning travels at about 220 million miles per hour and will have exited the body by the time you approach. Check for a pulse and render first aid if possible. Call 911 immediately.

MYTH: In the event of a lightning strike, the rubber in a car's tires protects occupants from being harmed.

FACT: If struck, it is the metal frame of the car that provides protection. The charge travels through the frame and into the ground without harming occupants if they avoid touching anything that conducts a charge.



AMRPHOTO | ISTOCK.COM



KATE SEPT2004 | ISTOCK.COM

Make a Plan for Energy Savings

THE FIRST STEP TO IMPROVING THE COMFORT AND EFFICIENCY OF YOUR HOME IS TO identify and prioritize energy-saving improvements. One way to do that is to perform a do-it-yourself energy audit. Online tools at hes.lbl.gov/consumer and togetherwesave.com can help.

After you know where your home is losing energy, use your findings to make improvements. But first, craft a plan that considers how any one change will affect the energy efficiency, comfort, durability, health and safety of your whole house. Changes in your energy usage habits are an important first consideration.

Plan your habit changes, and consider these ideas:

- ▶ Do you forget to turn off lights and electronics? Which items could be unplugged when not in use?
- ▶ Are you using window coverings for maximum heating, cooling and lighting benefits?
- ▶ How can you adjust your heating and cooling to save energy?

Next, plan your projects. Make a timeline of projects to do now, in the near future and over the long term. Start by sealing air leaks, then move on to other weatherization projects.

Ask yourself these questions to help with your planning:

- ▶ Where are the greatest energy losses in the home?
- ▶ What projects provide the greatest return on time and money investments?
- ▶ How long will it take for an investment in energy efficiency to pay for itself in energy cost savings? The website tools above estimate return on investment, yearly savings and payback times.
- ▶ How long do you plan to own your current home?
- ▶ What would help make your home most comfortable now? What projects should you plan for the future?
- ▶ What can you do yourself? What should you hire out? What is your budget?

Purchase materials and complete projects with these tips in mind:

- ▶ Search for federal, state and local incentives, such as tax credits and rebates, on the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency website, dsireusa.org.
- ▶ Visit energysaver.gov for guides and videos that show you how to complete DIY projects, including caulking, weatherstripping, installing storm windows and improving your water heater's efficiency.

Turn Out the Lights Without Making a Move

IF YOU'RE TIRED OF REMINDING EVERY-one in your house to turn off the lights when they leave a room, install light switches that do it for them.

Motion-sensing light switches contain small sensors that detect movement in a room. When they sense motion, they keep the lights on, and when all is still for a set amount of time, they switch the lights off.

Buy a good-quality model that is not so sensitive that it will flick on the lights every time a fly buzzes into the room. On the other hand, avoid models that only sense major movements, or you'll wind up waving your hands at the sensor every time you're working at your computer or watching TV and the switch thinks the room is empty.

The switches are easy to install on your own by first shutting off the breaker to the switch and testing to confirm that it's off. Then remove your existing switch and faceplate, disconnect the



TEC

wires, reconnect the wires to the motion-activated switch, screw it back into the wall and reattach the faceplate.

For rooms that you use most often during the day, install a motion-sensor switch that also detects daylight. It will switch the light on only when there is motion and the room is too dark.

Bad Moon Waning

Superstition's grip on our family may finally be slipping

BY CLAY COPPEDGE

IN OUR HOUSE, WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, even the most innocuous nonevent came laden with portent and prophecy. If you dropped a knife, it meant a man was coming to the house. Drop a spoon, a woman was on her way. (Forks, apparently, were gender-neutral.)

If your left palm itched, it meant you were about to come into money. An itchy foot meant you would soon walk on new ground. An itchy back sent mixed signals because it foretold either a whippin' or a huggin'.

That was about it for good omens.

My mother's world, formed in her Appalachian childhood of the 1930s and carried intact to the flatlands of Lubbock, was short on good-luck omens but full to the brim with bad ones. Even though she could have told me it was good luck to wear two shoes at all times, she chose instead to tell me I was hexed if I didn't.

One of her strictest superstitions was the practice of sitting down for at least 10 seconds when one of us went back into the house to retrieve something. Mama always reminded us to sit down and count to 10 before coming back out. And, for God's sake, please leave the house through the same door you entered!

To this day, I believe Mama had a hand in writing the Creedence Clearwater Revival song *Bad Moon Rising*. Literary as well as superstitious, she would actually say things such as, "It's an ill wind that bodes no good" as a portent of stormy weather, or "The spirits are restless" to justify skipping a trip or to forbid me from an otherwise justifiable pleasure.

At some point, I'd had enough. It riled me that Mama was well-read and smart about so many things but insisted on divining the shape of things to come through birdsongs or how you handled your silverware. "Superstition ain't the way," I'd tell her in my more civil complaints, quoting Stevie Wonder. Other times I flat-out mocked her.

Once, when she was looking for something in the back of the silverware drawer and accidentally pulled the whole drawer out and every fork, knife and spoon hit the floor with a teeth-rattling clatter, I wailed in mock terror: "Oh no! The whole town is coming to our house! And it's a mess!"

Mama explained why that was not funny while I picked up and washed every piece of the cursed silverware. As fate would have it, some folks from church dropped by that very evening. Mama explained how their unexpected arrival was a divine message meant for me and me alone: *Don't mock your mama*.

My dad managed to stay neutral on these issues. He always sat down when he had to go back in the house, and I never once saw him walk around with one shoe on and one shoe off. "I don't have infinite knowledge of the universe," he explained when I asked him why he put up with it. "It doesn't hurt anything and, besides, why take chances?"

Why, indeed?

Soon after I left home and started living on my own, it came as a stunner when I found myself sitting down for at least 10 seconds whenever I had to go back inside the house, and I never once went around



with one shoe on and one shoe off for more than five seconds. Even as a parent, I sometimes evangelized much in the style of my mother.

One day when my daughter was 8 or 9, I actually chastised her for walking around the house half-shod. Bad luck, I explained, walking around with one shoe on. She had heard this nonsense before, but now she challenged me with, “Explain yourself.”

And so I did, or at least I started to, but my voice faltered under my daughter’s calm, unblinking stare. She crossed her arms, tapped her foot, rolled her eyes and waited for me to finish.

Trying to regain a measure of authority, I concluded with, “Hey, we don’t have infinite knowledge of the universe. It might

be true. Why take chances?” but my voice trailed away as soon as I realized I’d just quoted each of my parents from their side of the issue, not mine.

My daughter put the matter into perspective, much as I once tried to do. “Don’t be such a drama dude, Dad. I’m just looking for my other shoe. OK? I don’t need to know all about the universe for that.”

I spied her other shoe and fetched it so she wouldn’t have to, but I was beaming inside, thinking, “Ah, that’s my girl!”

Later, I interpreted the incident as a personal breakthrough—an omen! The bad moon of superstition was waning now. A jinx was broken. *Hallelujah!*

Knock on wood.

Clay Coppedge, a member of Bartlett EC, lives near Walburg.

D-Day's Texas Legend

James Earl Rudder, an Aggie from Eden, led a Ranger battalion in the perilous invasion of France 75 years ago

BY GENE FOWLER

WHEN DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER REVISITED the beaches of Normandy 20 years after D-Day, he stood on a promontory called Pointe du Hoc and marveled at the bravery and accomplishments of the Allied forces. The former president, who had given the “let’s go” order for the massive force to cross the English Channel for the June 6, 1944, invasion of German-occupied France, spoke of one heroic phase of the operation conducted by specially trained Rangers who, he said, “could do anything.” The battalion’s ascent up the 100-foot cliffs and disabling of German artillery, Eisenhower recalled, was a “very dramatic piece of personal courage.” The hard-won defeat of the Germans entrenched on those cliffs was a key component to the invasion’s success.

This month, as we mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, one of the most important figures we honor was a Texan—Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder. Rudder, then a lieutenant colonel, led the 2nd Ranger Battalion in the invasion. “No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the 34-year-old commander of this Provisional Ranger Force,” wrote Gen. Omar N. Bradley, commander of the U.S. Army during the invasion, in his 1951 autobiography, *A Soldier’s Story*. “Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder, a rancher from Brady, Texas, was to take a force of 200 men, land on a shingled shelf under the face of a

100-foot cliff, scale the cliff, and there destroy an enemy battery of coastal guns.”

Born in the Concho County hamlet of Eden in 1910, Rudder grew up when old-timers still spun tales of the Civil War, Texas Ranger exploits and driving cattle up the trail. Raised in a hardscrabble home without electricity, Rudder excelled as a high school football player and earned a chance at higher education when a coach for John Tarleton Agricultural College arranged a partial “milk cow scholarship.” The Lions Club donated a 2-year-old Jersey heifer, which Rudder milked daily, trading the milk at Tarleton’s dining hall for reduced prices for his meals.

Rudder completed his education at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he played football and participated in ROTC. In June 1941, as war raged in Europe, he was called to active duty.

By November 1943, Rudder had earned the rank of major and commanded the

2nd Ranger Battalion. With his men, he boarded the Queen Elizabeth bound for the British Isles and—eventually—the coast of France. This would be what biographer Thomas M. Hatfield describes as Rudder’s “rendezvous with history” in *Rudder: From Leader to Legend*.

As Rudder boarded a troopship to cross the Eng-

lish Channel the afternoon of June 5, among an armada of thousands of vessels, the coming dangers were obvious. “What better way to die,” the Ranger commander said



JAMES RUDDER



Some of Rudder's Rangers and German prisoners after the assault on the cliffs at Pointe Du Hoc.

objectives on D-Day: disable six long-range 155 mm guns the Germans had installed on Pointe du Hoc; cut off a coastal road behind the point; and take out additional big guns at the nearby Pointe et Raz de la Percée. Allied bomber planes hammered the German positions before the landing, and the USS Texas served as the flagship for battleships, which blasted Nazi fortifications.

Despite the heavy shelling from Allied ships and bombers, Rudder's Rangers were under constant German fire as they ascended the cliff via expandable steel lad-

ders and rocket-propelled grapnel hooks with ropes attached. Suffering nearly 60% casualties, the soldiers later used the ladder sections as stretchers to evacuate the dead and wounded. Rudder himself, though shot in the leg and wounded in the chest and arm by an errant Royal Navy round, refused to evacuate for additional treatment. Rudder's men achieved their mission even though it took three days for the Rangers and other Allied forces to hold the area. One Ranger called his commander "one of the greatest men that ever lived." Another said, "Seeing [him] in command saved our day. He was the strength of the whole operation in spite of his wound. Under his leadership, miracles seemed possible."

Back home after the war, Rudder served

as mayor of Brady for six years. When Gov. Allan Shivers needed someone to reform the General Land Office after a scandal, he called on Rudder. From 1959 to 1970, the last 11 years of his life, Rudder served as president of Texas A&M University. He brought race and gender integration to the university, made the Corps of Cadets a voluntary organization, and improved the university's facilities and academics.

The memories of Pointe du Hoc and the men he led remained sacred to the Ranger commander. On a return visit to France in 1954, Rudder marveled at their heroic accomplishments. "Will you tell me how we did this?" the man from Eden asked. "It was crazy then, and it's crazy now."

Author **Gene Fowler** specializes in Texas travel and history.

Author **Gene Fowler** specializes in Texas travel and history.



“There are so many people in the co-ops of Texas who do extraordinary things for other people.”

—NANCY JOHNSON, whose Little Hats, Big Hearts program builds awareness of congenital heart defects.
Texas Co-op Power, February 2017

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Let us know about your local hero! Nominate a co-op member in your area who improves the community's quality of life.

Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com.

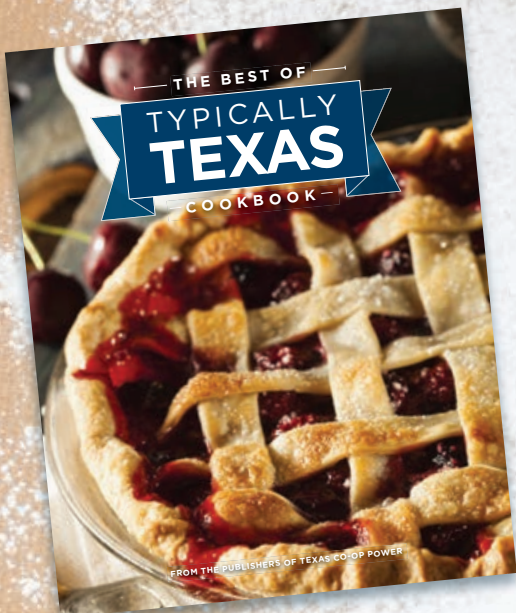
Include name, co-op affiliation and a short description of their work in the community.

We'll highlight select nominees in a future issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

TexasCo-opPower

WYATT McSPADEN

Give friends and family the Best of Texas.



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

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

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

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

\$29.95

From the publishers of *Texas Co-op Power*

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

TEARS FROM A VOLCANO

Uniquely American stone ignites romance

On May 18, 1980, the once-slumbering Mount St. Helens erupted in the Pacific Northwest. It was the most impressive display of nature's power in North America's recorded history. But even more impressive is what emerged from the chaos... a spectacular new creation born of ancient minerals named Helenite. Its lush, vivid color and amazing story instantly captured the attention of jewelry connoisseurs worldwide. You can now have four carats of the world's newest stone for an absolutely unbelievable price.

Known as America's emerald, Helenite makes it possible to give her a stone that's brighter and has more fire than any emerald without paying the exorbitant price. In fact, this many carats of an emerald that looks this perfect and glows this green would cost you upwards of \$80,000. Your more beautiful and much more affordable option features a perfect teardrop of Helenite set in gold-covered sterling silver suspended from a chain accented with even more verdant Helenite.

EXCLUSIVE FREE
Helenite Earrings
 -a \$129 value-
 with purchase of
 Helenite Necklace



Limited Reserves. As one of the largest gemstone dealers in the world, we buy more carats of Helenite than anyone, which lets us give you a great price. However, this much gorgeous green for this price won't last long. Don't miss out. Helenite is only found in one section of Washington State, so call today!

Romance guaranteed or your money back. Experience the scintillating beauty of the *Helenite Teardrop Necklace* for 30 days and if she isn't completely in love with it send it back for a full refund of the item price. You can even keep the stud earrings as our thank you for giving us a try.

Limited to the first 1600 orders from this ad only

4 carats of shimmering Helenite



"I love these pieces... it just glowed... so beautiful!"

— S.S., Salem, OR

Helenite Teardrop Necklace (4 ¼ ctw) ~~\$299*~~ Only \$129 +S&P
 Helenite Stud Earrings (1 ctw) \$129 +S&P
Helenite Set (5 ¼ ctw) ~~\$428*~~ **Call-in price only \$129** +S&P
 (Set includes necklace and stud earrings)

Call now and mention the offer code to receive FREE earrings.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code HEN169-01

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

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HEN169-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

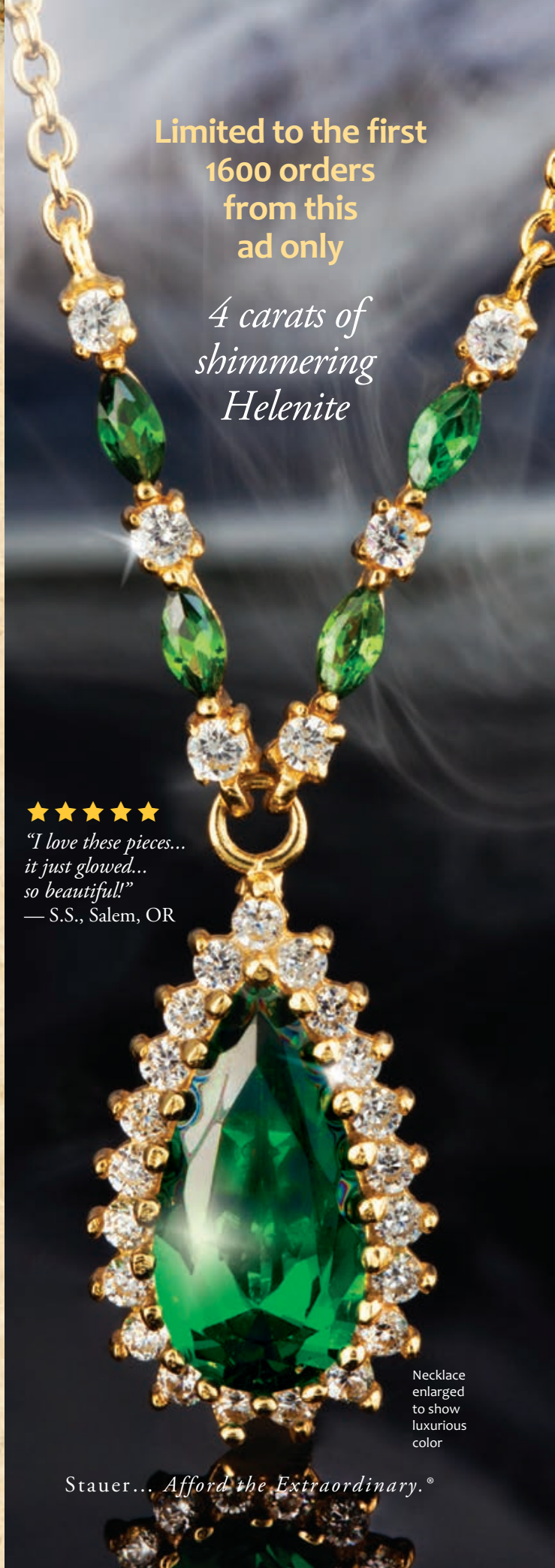


Rating of A+



* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

- 4 ¼ ctw of American Helenite and lab-created DiamondAura®
- Gold-finished .925 sterling silver settings
- 16" chain with 2" extender and lobster clasp



Necklace enlarged to show luxurious color

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*



NEVER SEAL YOUR WOOD OR CONCRETE AGAIN

PERMANENT ONE-TIME SOLUTION



**25%
OFF**
WITH THIS AD

- We clean, restore & permanently preserve your product.
- Prevents wood from rotting, decaying and further damage from moisture.
- Repels mold, mildew & fungus growth.
- Prevents concrete from pitting, flaking, dusting and scaling.
- Prevents salt & alkali damage.
- Backed by technology.

25
YEAR
GUARANTEE



Free Estimates

844.481.6862

PermaSealUSA.com

MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS

THE TEXAS TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER!

NEW MASSEY FERGUSON 1726L
4WD 25HP DIESEL TRACTOR PACKAGE

MASSEY FERGUSON 2706L
4WD 60HP DIESEL TRACTOR PACKAGE



SALES PRICE \$23,998.00 CASH OR \$299.00 PER MONTH

SALES PRICE \$33,998.00 CASH OR \$429.00 PER MONTH

Packages Include:

- MF Quick Attach L-105 Front End Loader with Skid Steer Bucket
 - Woods 5' Rotary Cutter
 - 5' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
- 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
- 16' HD Trailer with Ramps, Brakes & Spare Tire
- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires

Packages Include:

- MF Quick Attach L-135E Front End Loader with Skid Steer Bucket
 - Woods 6' Rotary Cutter with Slip Clutch
- Post Hole Digger with 9" Auger
- 3 Point Quick Hitch
- Insulated Canopy Top
- 6' Box Blade with Scarifiers
- 20' HD Trailer with Ramps, Brakes & Spare Tire
- No DPF Filter
- Choose Ag. or Ind. Tires



WE DELIVER EVERYWHERE!



MASSEY FERGUSON
TEXAS' TOUGHEST TRACTOR!

FOSTERS WORK & PLAY

3601 US Hwy. 190 W
Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 967 - 0011

www.fostersworknplay.com

sales@fostersworknplay.com

Disclaimer: All payments listed are based on a 0.9% interest rate for 84 months with 10% of purchase price down with approved credit through Agco Finance Corp. Prices listed may not include Sales Taxes, Freight, Set up, or Doc fees where applicable. Cash prices only apply to a cash sale or standard rate financing. All HP ratings listed are approximate Engine Horse Power Ratings.

Get the Muck OUT!

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

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

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

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

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

800-328-9350

KillLakeWeeds.com

Order online today, or request free information.

AQUACIDE CO.
PO Box 10748, DEPT 60HX
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748

Our 64th year

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

YOU NEED → **MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS**

Since 1983

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Contact us at **800.633.8969** or roofover.com

GET RESULTS! ADVERTISE IN THE

MARKETPLACE

ELAINE SPROULL (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

GET THE TEXAS CO-OP POWER

E-NEWSLETTER

SIGN UP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS

Quality Tools at Ridiculously Low Prices

GOOD **THUNDERBOLT** **ALKALINE BATTERIES** AA, AAA - 24 PK
 Item 61675 shown
SAVE 60%
 Also available in C-6 pk, D-6 pk, and 9 volt - 4 pk sizes
YOUR CHOICE
\$1.99
COMPARE TO ENERGIZER \$1.49
 MODEL: 551413526
 66125098
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

BETTER **THUNDERBOLT** **ALKALINE PLUS BATTERIES** AA, AAA - 18 PK
 Item 92404 shown
OVER 30% MORE PERFORMANCE
SAVE 49%
COMPARE TO DURACELL \$1.397
 MODEL: 00413330353
 66110677
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

BEST **THUNDERBOLT** **ALKALINE PLUS BATTERIES** AA, AAA - 18 PK
 Item 64490 shown
NEW
OVER 50% MORE PERFORMANCE
SAVE 49%
COMPARE TO DURACELL \$1.397
 MODEL: 00413330353
 66110677
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

ANY SINGLE ITEM
20% OFF
 66104470
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressor, floor jack, sales, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trencher/backhoe, welders, Admiral, Ames, Bauer, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Icon, Jupiter, Lynx, Poulter, Predator, Ridgid, Viking, Volcano, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 10/1/19.

HARDY **POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES** PACK OF 100
 • 5 mil thickness
12¢ PER PAIR
SAVE 59%
COMPARE TO VENOM \$14.97
 MODEL: VEM145
 ITEM 97581, 37050, 37051, 37052, 64417, 64418, 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68498, 68496 shown
YOUR CHOICE
\$5.99
COMPARE TO HONDA \$2.669
 MODEL: EBB500X1AT
 Wheel kit and battery sold separately.
 66111536
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PREDATOR **8750 MAX. STARTING / 7000 RUNNING WATTS / 13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATOR**
 ITEM 63086/68530/56169/56171/63085 shown
 ITEM 68525/63088/56168/56170/63087 CALIFORNIA ONLY
SAVE \$2,139
COMPARE TO HONDA \$2,669
 MODEL: EBB500X1AT
SUPER QUIET
 • GFCI outlets
NOW \$529.99
COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62
 MODEL: PCFP29203
YOUR CHOICE
\$399
 66112393
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

U.S. GENERAL **30", 4 DRAWER TECH CART**
 • 12,600 cu. in. of storage
 • 580 lb. capacity
 • Heavy duty gas struts hold lid open at 90 degrees
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$119.99
COMPARE TO SNAP-ON \$169.99
COMPARE TO \$880
 MODEL: KRBC10TBC
SAVE \$760
 Side tray sold separately.
 ITEM 64818 64096 shown
 66973812
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

OVER 5,000 5 STAR REVIEWS
FREE
 WITH ANY PURCHASE
SUPER BRIGHT LED/SMD WORK LIGHT/FLASHLIGHT
 • Super Strong
 • Ultra-Lightweight Composite Plastic
 • Magnetic Base & 360° Swivel Hook for Hands-Free Operation
 • 3-AAA Batteries (included)
 • 144 Lumens
ALL IN A SINGLE SUPER POWERFUL LIGHT
COMPARE TO PERFORMANCE \$13.52
 MODEL: W2364
 69567/60566/63601/67227 shown
 66104997
 Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 10/1/19 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS**
 A. HOT DOG
 ITEM 69269/97080 shown
 B. PANCAKE
 ITEM 61615/60637 95275 shown
Customer Rating ★★★★★
SAVE 59%
COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62
 MODEL: PCFP29203
YOUR CHOICE
\$399
COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62
 MODEL: PCFP29203
YOUR CHOICE
\$57.99
 66113299
 LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

BUNKER HILL **AMMO DRY BOX**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$3.99
COMPARE TO RANGEMAXX \$9.99
 MODEL: 1312-92
SAVE 60%
YOUR CHOICE
\$6.99
 ITEM 63135/61451 shown
 66114043
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PITTSBURGH **RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM FLOOR JACK**
 • Weighs 34 lbs.
SAVE \$91
COMPARE TO K TOOL \$151.42
 MODEL: KT163094
NOW \$59.99
YOUR CHOICE
\$79.99
 ITEM 64545/64552/64832/64980 62160/62516/60569 shown
 66115897
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

drill master **4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
SAVE 44%
COMPARE TO PERFORMAX \$17.99
 MODEL: 2411-1
NOW \$14.99
YOUR CHOICE
\$9.99
 ITEM 69645/95578/60623 shown
 66118032
 LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

BUNKER HILL SECURITY **WIRELESS SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$9.99
COMPARE TO FIRST ALERT \$32.99
 MODEL: SFA600
SAVE 69%
YOUR CHOICE
\$14.99
 ITEM 61910/62447/93068 shown
 66118333
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$59.99
COMPARE TO KOBALT \$99
 MODEL: 56Y-AIR164
SAVE \$39
YOUR CHOICE
\$79.99
 ITEM 69265/62344/64685/93897 shown
 66119320
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PITTSBURGH **TWO TIER EASY-STORE STEP LADDER**
 • 225 lb. capacity
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$19.99
COMPARE TO WERNER \$33.88
 MODEL: S322A-1
SAVE 40%
YOUR CHOICE
\$29.99
 ITEM 67514
 66121038
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PITTSBURGH **1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE**
 • Boom extends from 36-1/4" to 50-1/4"
 • Crane height adjusts from 82" to 94"
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$129.99
COMPARE TO IRONTON \$249.99
 MODEL: 46218
SAVE \$120
YOUR CHOICE
\$179.99
 ITEM 61858/69512/69445 shown
 66121094
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

CENSTECH **3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$39.99
COMPARE TO SUPER START \$89.99
 MODEL: 59001
SAVE 55%
YOUR CHOICE
\$57.99
 ITEM 38391/62376/64083/56349/62306 shown
 66123265
 LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

luminar **OUTDOOR** **24 FT., 18 BULB, 12 SOCKET OUTDOOR STRING LIGHTS**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$27.99
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
\$19.99
NEW
SAVE 50%
COMPARE TO PORTFOLIO \$39.98
 MODEL: SLC12BK
 ITEM 64486 ITEM 64739 63483 shown
 66123476
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PITTSBURGH **301 PIECE MASTER MECHANIC'S TOOL KIT**
LIFETIME WARRANTY
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$159.99
COMPARE TO KLUTCH \$299.99
 MODEL: 43994
SAVE \$140
YOUR CHOICE
\$199.99
 ITEM 63464/69312/63457/45951 shown
 66124438
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

PREDATOR **6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE**
Customer Rating ★★★★★
NOW \$99.99
COMPARE TO HONDA \$329.99
 MODEL: SX200UT2X2
SAVE \$230
YOUR CHOICE
\$119.99
 ITEM 60363/69730 ITEM 69727 shown CALIFORNIA ONLY
 66124777
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 10/1/19

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 10/1/19.

All Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

The Nylon Campaign

Texas Co-op Power has defended electric cooperatives against gossip and graft since 1944

BY ELLEN STADER

A NEFARIOUS FIGURE STROLLED INTO Washington, D.C., toting a suspicious satchel filled to overflowing with contraband. In black top hat and tails, he swaggered toward the U.S. Capitol, a stogie clenched in his teeth. At least, that's how a cartoon, titled *A New March on Washington*, portrayed him in the May 1946 issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

And when this cad arrived in the Capitol, what happened?

He doled out nylon stockings to lawmakers' wives.

The cad was Ham Moses, president of Arkansas Power and Light, an investor-owned utility. He offered the contraband to the wives of congressmen who would vote for an amendment—one prohibiting the Rural Electrification Administration from making loans to help generation and transmission cooperatives.

The scene was depicted as a cartoon, but it actually happened. Why was this payoff made of nylon? At the time, nylon stockings made a better bribe than a briefcase full of gold. In 1942, manufacturer DuPont had diverted its production to support the war effort. World War II robbed women of their cherished nylons, and the moment they began to sell again in 1946, stores were overwhelmed in nationwide riots. The payola was well-received, but the amendment failed.

"It's almost unbelievable what the power companies will stoop to in their effort to kill us off," responded Clyde Ellis, executive manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

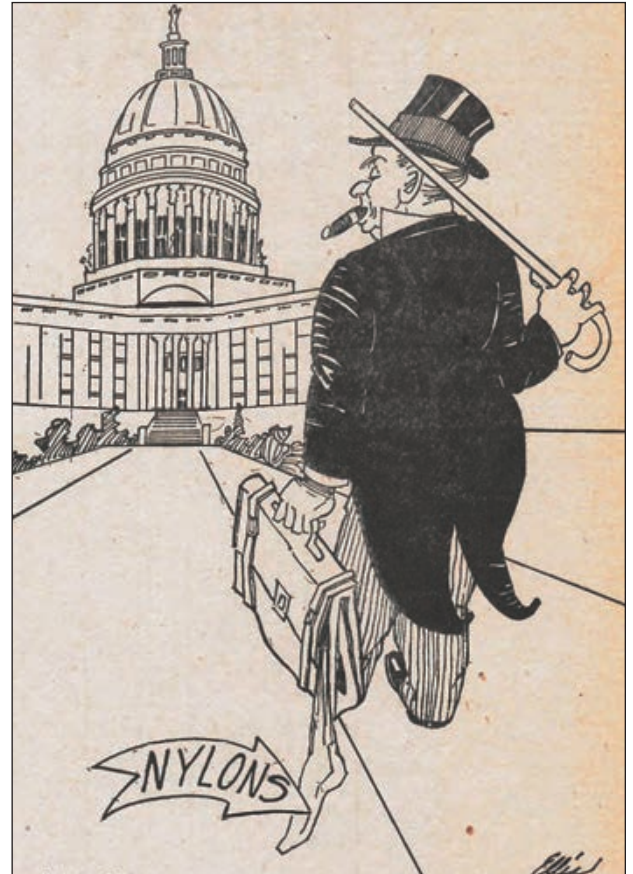
Long before this nylon campaign, the investor-owned utilities lobby already had thrown propaganda, bribery and legislative attacks at electric co-ops, with land grabs

and lawsuits to come. *Texas Co-op Power* articles from 1951 to 1991 document attacks from investor-owned utilities, lobbyists, legislators and even journalists from *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Associated Press*. After realizing its mistake in refusing to electrify rural America in the 1930s, private power spent decades taking swings at the co-ops that met the challenge instead. The resulting David-and-Goliath scenario has played out repeatedly, making for strange stories.

Take, for example, the brief and brutal feud between U.S. Sen. W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel of Texas and George W. Haggard, the first editor of *Texas Co-op Power* and then manager of the statewide electric cooperative association.

O'Daniel was something of a Goliath, himself. Years of radio popularity, a stint as governor of Texas and six years in the Senate had accustomed him to saying whatever he wanted—and in 1947 he called the co-op system "communistic."

Haggard fired back an indignant stone from his sling that flew to newspapers around the country via an Associated Press story: "This false and vicious charge ... is a studied insult to the 160,000 patriotic, substantial tax-paying farm and ranch families of this state who receive electricity through the REA cooperatives."



He attributed O'Daniel's smear to three motives: "profound and abysmal ignorance" of the way co-ops operated; the tendency of O'Daniel's congressional allies "to denounce everything that is for the general welfare of the American people as 'communistic'"; and O'Daniel's impending reelection bid.

Haggard then dealt the final blow, saying, "This looks like an effort to persuade the private utility interests, which hate the rural electrification program, to make a sizeable contribution to his campaign chest."

And though O'Daniel would later level the communist charge at other targets, including many of his own Senate colleagues, Texas electric co-ops never heard from him again.

Ellen Stader, a former *Texas Co-op Power* communications specialist, is a writer in Austin.

47857 **Special Offer for New Customers Only**

YES! Please send me the complete 6-Coin Set of Uncirculated 2017-2019 Native American Dollars for the special price of \$6.00 – regularly \$18.50, plus Free Shipping (limit 1 set). Also, send my FREE National Park Quarter (one per customer, please).

★
SAVE!

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED
WITHIN 30 DAYS**

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	6-Coin Collector's Set (limit 1 set)	\$6.00
	*Sales Tax	
	FREE Shipping!	
	TOTAL \$	

*We are required by law to collect sales tax on orders for the following states. Tax requirements are subject to change; visit LittletonCoin.com/TaxInfo for the up-to-date list. For orders paid by credit card, we will calculate and charge the tax required by law. Total Amount is taxable: CA,DC,IA,IL,IN,KS,MA,MD,ME,MN,MS,NJ,NV,NY,OH,OK,TN,VT,WI,WV

Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.

Charge my: VISA MC AMEX DISC

▶ Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Name _____ Please print clearly

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Please send coupon to: Dept. 5FD401 47857

Littleton Coin Company 1309 Mt. Eustis Road Littleton NH 03561-3737

45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

FREE Gift!

when you order within 30 days
Now get an Uncirculated National Park quarter!



Complete 6-Coin Set of 2017-2019 Uncirculated Native American Dollars

At face value!

Now own a complete 6-coin "P" & "D" set of Native American dollars for just \$6.00! You'll get the latest three years of this series, honoring the Native American contributions of Sequoyah, Jim Thorpe and contributors to the space program. Each was struck one year only, and never again. Plus, each "P" Philadelphia & "D" Denver issue is in mint Uncirculated condition.

SAVE, plus get FREE Shipping!

Order today and get the latest six coins of this prized series in a complete Uncirculated set – at face value! Plus, you get **FREE** shipping and **SAVE 67%** off the regular price of \$18.50!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. **Hurry, special low price – order right away!**

Mail today or order online at www.LittletonCoin.com/specials

America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945



Each dollar's date & mint mark is on the coin's edge.

- ✓ All 6 P&D coins of 2017-2019
- ✓ All Uncirculated
- ✓ Each design struck only for one year
- ✓ Free Gift – an Uncirculated National Park quarter!
- ✓ SAVE 67%, plus get FREE shipping

2019 HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST

\$2,500 IN PRIZES

\$1,000 GRAND PRIZEWINNER

One \$500 Best Savory Winner
One \$500 Best Sweet Winner
Two \$250 Honorable Mention Winners

Share your best original recipes!

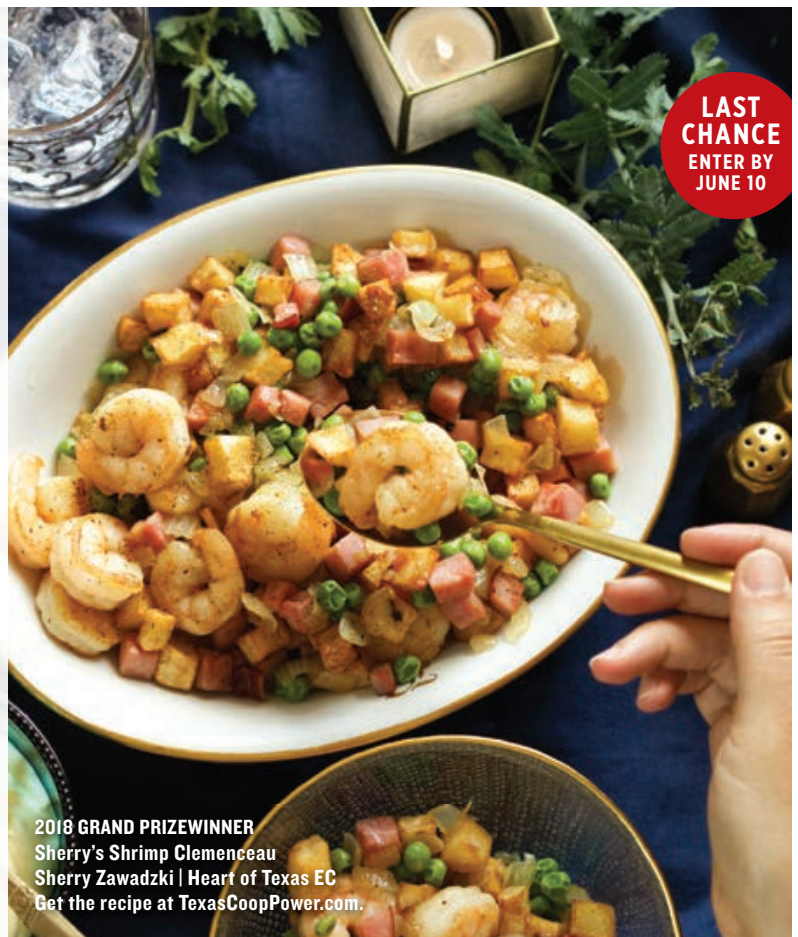
Show us how you add your personal touch to every part of a meal – from savory beginnings to sweet endings – for fun and festive holiday gatherings.

Send us your best ORIGINAL holiday recipes—ones you've developed, not copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine. Winners will be featured in our November 2019 issue. Enter by June 10 at TexasCoopPower.com.

Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

TEXAS COOP POWER

Enter online at 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. **Entry deadline: June 10, 2019.**



**LAST CHANCE
ENTER BY
JUNE 10**

2018 GRAND PRIZEWINNER
Sherry's Shrimp Clemenceau
Sherry Zawadzki | Heart of Texas EC
Get the recipe at TexasCoopPower.com.

Standout Summer Sides

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A POTLUCK, backyard barbecue or any summer cookout without a big roasting pan of baked beans. This recipe, which appeared in this magazine in July 1955, shows that the old-world combination of sweet add-ins (molasses, brown sugar and ketchup), salty pork fat and beans is pretty timeless. Feel free to double this recipe (you'll need a large roasting pan) if you're feeding a team or want leftovers. Regardless, consider the contributor's suggestion for a quick lunch: Spread leftover beans on buttered bread, top with a slice of cheese, and broil until warm and bubbly.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Old-World Baked Beans

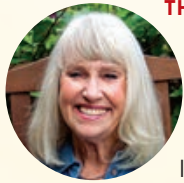
- 2½ cups navy beans
- 1 quart water
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- ¼ pound salt pork or bacon (cut into ½-inch slices)
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- ⅓ cup molasses
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard (or 1 teaspoon ground dry mustard)
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce
- 1 tablespoon salt
- ½ tablespoon ground ginger

- 1.** Rinse beans and place them in a large roasting pan or Dutch oven. Cover with water and soak overnight.
- 2.** Drain beans, add 1 quart water and simmer over medium-low heat, covered, until skins are easily pierced (do not boil). Bury the onion, salt pork or bacon, and garlic in beans.
- 3.** Stir together the molasses, brown sugar, ketchup, mustard, hot sauce, salt and ginger, then stir the mixture into the beans. Continue

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Retro Recipes

Standout Summer Sides



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

SHARON BROWN | PENTEX ENERGY

"This is my signature dish, and I never serve it without multiple recipe requests," Brown says. She makes it a day early to allow flavors to blend. It keeps in the refrigerator a week. Feel free to adjust the lime juice and cilantro to taste. "For large groups, I triple the recipe and serve it in a big bowl," she says. "People flip out!"

Southwest Couscous Salad

- 1½ cups water
- 1 cup uncooked couscous
- 2 cups canned corn with red and green peppers, drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained
- ¼ cup chopped tomato (or 6-8 cherry tomatoes, halved)
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions
- ½ bunch cilantro, chopped
- ⅓ cup olive oil
- ¾ cup fresh lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ⅓ teaspoon cayenne
- Salt, to taste
- Lettuce leaves, for serving (optional)
- Cilantro sprigs and lime slices, for garnish (optional)

1. Bring water to boil in a medium saucepan, remove from heat and stir in the couscous. Let the couscous stand 5 minutes, then fluff with fork and let cool.

2. In a large bowl, combine the corn, black beans, tomato, green onions and cilantro. Use a rubber spatula to fold in the couscous.

3. In a small jar with a lid, combine the olive oil, lime juice, garlic powder, cumin, cayenne and salt, and shake well to combine. Pour the dressing over the couscous and toss to coat.

4. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour or longer to allow flavors to blend. Line serving platter with lettuce leaves, spoon couscous mixture over leaves and garnish with cilantro and lime slices, if desired. ▶ Serves 12.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

to simmer the beans, covered, until they're very tender, about 2-2½ hours, or bake them in a 250-degree oven.

▶ Serves 12-14.

COOK'S TIP For added flavor, add bay leaves (fresh or dried), 1 teaspoon ground coriander or 2 teaspoons fresh chopped thyme or rosemary to the mix. Feel free to substitute Great Northern or cannellini beans for navy beans.

Crazy Stupid Corn

GAIL PATTERSON | PENTEX ENERGY

When you're looking for a warm, creamy comfort side, this mix of fresh vegetables, corn, hominy and bacon is a perfect partner for grilled sausages or burgers, or a fresh salad with grilled bread. Patterson suggests adjusting the seasonings to suit your preferences. For added heat, consider adding fresh chopped jalapeño or serrano peppers, or a pinch of cayenne.

- 6 slices thick-cut bacon, cut crosswise into thin strips
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
- 1 orange bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 12 ounces cream cheese
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) yellow corn, drained
- 2 cans (14 ounces each) creamed corn
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) white hominy, drained
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- Heavy cream, as needed

1. Cook the bacon in a large, deep skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat until crisp.

2. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the bacon to a paper towel-lined plate and set aside, reserving bacon fat in the pan.

3. Add the butter to bacon drippings and stir until melted. Add the peppers, onion and garlic and stir until softened. Add the cream cheese, reduce heat and cook until almost melted and smooth. Add the corn, creamed corn and hominy and stir to combine. Season with salt, pepper and



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

\$2,500 Holiday Recipe Contest

November's issue will feature winners of the 15th annual **Holiday Recipe Contest**. Share the dishes that make your holiday gatherings so special. Send us your best ORIGINAL recipes in the Savory Dish or Sweet Dish category, and your recipe could appear in *Texas Co-op Power* and win you a cash prize. The deadline is **June 10**. See complete rules at TexasCoopPower.com.

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



granulated garlic. Cook, stirring frequently, until cream cheese is fully melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in reserved bacon. Thin the mixture with cream if it seems too thick. Adjust seasonings as desired and serve warm.

► Serves 8.

Pecan Potato Salad

JANE MORGAN | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Cooking potatoes in broth and combining them with bacon, sautéed onions, sour cream and pecans creates a rich, German-style salad with a Texas flair. This salad (served warm or at room temperature) would be right at home with grilled brats and cold beer.

- 2 pounds small red potatoes (about 2 inches in diameter)
 - 3 cups beef or chicken broth
 - 5 slices bacon, cut crosswise into ¼-inch strips (about ¼ pound)
 - 2 tablespoons butter, divided use
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - ½ teaspoon sugar
 - 1½ tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves, plus extra for garnish
 - ½ cup chopped pecans
 - ½ cup sour cream
- Salt and pepper, as desired

1. In a large saucepan, combine potatoes with broth and simmer until just tender, about 20 minutes, then drain and cool briefly.
2. While the potatoes are cooking, cook the bacon in a medium-sized heavy skillet over medium heat until crisp. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the bacon to a paper towel-lined plate, reserving bacon drippings in the pan.
3. Add a tablespoon of butter to the bacon fat, then add the onion and cook, stirring, until tender. Transfer onion to a mixing bowl.
4. When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, thinly slice them and combine with onions. Add the sugar, parsley, pecans, sour cream and remaining butter to the warm potatoes and toss gently to combine. Season with salt and pepper, top with reserved bacon, and garnish with parsley or dill. ► Serves 6–8.

COOK'S TIP To perk up the flavor of this salad a bit, add a tablespoon or two of white vinegar to

the potato and onion mixture before tossing it with the dressing. For a nuttier flavor, lightly toast the pecans (and allow them to cool) before adding them to the salad.

Cucumbers and Sour Cream

JANE MORGAN | UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

When made with care, this cool, creamy and crunchy combination elevates just about anything (especially lamb burgers). “My mom would make this side dish in the summer to serve with grilled meat,” Morgan says. “It was always a delicious contrast that tasted like summer.” Note that the cucumbers need to drain for an hour, so plan accordingly.

- 4 small, firm cucumbers
 - 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- Salt (about ½ teaspoon for each cucumber)
- ¾ cup sour cream
 - 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - 3 tablespoons fresh minced dill (or 1 tablespoon dried)

1. Peel the cucumbers, halve lengthwise, scoop out the seeds and cut them into thin slices.

2. Combine the cucumber slices, onion and salt in a large bowl and toss to combine; transfer mixture to a colander and drain 1 hour.

3. In a separate bowl, combine the sour cream, vinegar, sugar and dill.

4. Rinse the cucumber mixture to remove salt, then drain and pat dry with paper towels to remove excess moisture. Fold the cucumbers and onions into the sour cream mixture, taste and adjust seasonings as desired, and refrigerate at least 30 minutes before serving.

► Serves 3–4.

COOK'S TIP Feel free to substitute an equal amount of fresh mint or tarragon for the dill.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read these recipes on our website to see the original Old-World Baked Beans recipe from July 1955.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER 

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

TEXAS TALKING PIES



ENTER NOW at TexasCoopPower.com/contests

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE WITH EVERY STEP

Featherlight Support



Cool Comfort Clogs

was \$16⁹⁹

SAVE \$7.00

Now Only

\$9⁹⁹

Ladies'

Dept. 77598 © Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr.)

Easy Slip On/Off Style

Slip Resistant Soles



Men's

Massaging Nodules Help:

- Stimulate Vital Acupressure Points
- Improve Circulation
- Relieve Stress



Ventilation Keeps Feet Cool, Dry & Comfy!

FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING when buying 2 or more

Connect With **DreamProducts.com**
website offers may vary

1-800-530-2689
Order Now Toll-Free

Receive A Free Surprise Gift with every order

Cool Comfort Clogs		Indicate Qty Under Size				
Ladies' #738	Sz (5)	Sz (6)	Sz (7)	Sz (8)	Sz (9)	Sz (10)
Men's #737	Sz (8)	Sz (9)	Sz (10)	Sz (11)	Sz (12)	Sz (13)
Pr(s) Cool Comfort Clogs @ \$9.99 pr.						\$
CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax						\$
Regular Shipping & Handling Add \$5.95 1st Pair						\$
FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more						\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)						\$ 2.95
Please Print Clearly						TOTAL \$

VISA MasterCard Discover®/NOVUSSMCards

Card# _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Dept. 77598 Email _____

Helps Improve Overall Health

Feather-light acupressure massaging clogs have strategically placed nodules that massage and stimulate pressure points with every step. Acupressure is believed to help overall health by increasing circulation. Easy slip on/slip off clog style with ventilated design allows air to circulate, keeping moisture to a minimum and your feet dry and comfortable. Fashion import made of man-made materials available for both men and women.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

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

Feedin' Time

FURRY, HOOFED AND FEATHERED FRIENDS are hungry to see what's on the menu at feedin' time. **GRACE FULTZ**

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

▼ **JENNY BOYD**, Cherokee County EC: "Donkey feedin' time."



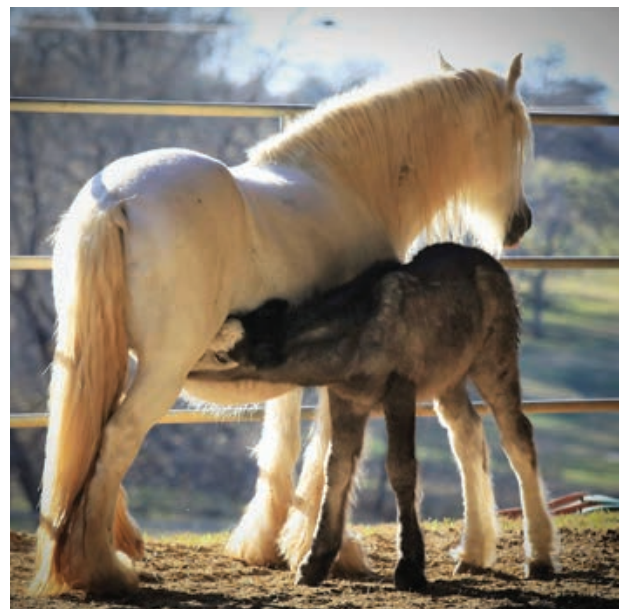
▲ **DUB AND JODY MCLAUCHLIN**, Farmers EC: "This filly is enjoying some deer corn, quick to not let any of the pasture calves share."



▲ **CHARLES ASCHENBECK**, Jackson EC: A squirrel hangs from a bird feeder before indulging in a meal of tasty sunflower seeds.



▲ **LORI RUTHERFORD**, Deep East Texas EC: "I took this photo after finding this nest full of babies in our grapefruit tree."



▲ **LINDA WOODS**, Bluebonnet EC: Arwen feeds from Aaronn. Both are gray gypsy vanners.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

OCTOBER	GIVING BACK	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER	UP THE CREEK	DUE JULY 10
DECEMBER	DESERTS	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.
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 Garden Tour

Celina June 8
(214) 957-3655, celinagardenclub.org

The tour offers a showcase of at least eight private gardens, farms and wineries in Celina and Weston in North Texas. Food will be available at most venues, including freshly prepared appetizers, shaved ice, fruit, ice cream and jarred items to take home.

June 7

Jacksonville Tomato Fest Classic 4-Man Scramble, (903) 541-4700, jacksonvilletexas.com/tomato-fest

Abilene [7-8] Stars Over Abilene 25th Annual Quilt Show, (325) 665-2724

Bonham [7-8] Highway 82 Yard Sales, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

Kerrville [7-8] Shakespeare in the Park, (830) 896-9393, playhouse2000.com

San Antonio [7-9] Texas Folklife Festival, (210) 458-2224, texasfolklife festival.org

8

Bandera Bandera Rodeo Club Youth Summer Series Rodeo, (830) 431-1030, banderarodeoclub.com

La Grange Art Stroll, (979) 968-3017, visitlagrangetx.com

14

Boerne [14-16] Berges Fest, (830) 249-7277, bergesfest.com

15

Brenham Summer Sip Wine Walk, (979) 337-7580, downtownbrenham.com

Fredericksburg Meusebach Creek Historic School Open House, (830) 997-7896, historicsschools.org

June 20-22
Stonewall
Annual Peach JAMBoree



GARDEN: ELENATHEWISE | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. COBBLER: STEPHANIE FREY | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. FIREWORKS: FIREWINGS | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

LOW COST Mobile Home Insurance

Covered with a national carrier?

Get your **Declaration Page** & call to compare!

Start Saving **Today!**

- Replacement Cost for Most Homes
- 96% Claims Satisfaction
- Escrow Billing, Payment Plans, Customer Portal and Online Payments

www.stdins.com

CALL NOW

800-522-0146



Serving Texas Mobile Homeowners since 1961



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



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINO.BUILDERS/TX 940-304-8068
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

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

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

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™

Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710

Serving Customers All Over Texas

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

Palestine Dogwood Jamboree:
Star Spangled Country, (903) 729-7080,
dogwoodjamboree.com

20

Stonewall [20-22] Annual Peach JAM-
boree, (830) 644-2735, stonewalltexas.com

21

Bremond [21-22] Polish Festival Days,
(254) 883-7279, bremondtxas.org

22

Hillsboro Elm Street Rod Run
Classic Car Show, (972) 291-2958,
roadsideamericatx.com

25

Seguin Taste of Seguin, (830) 303-6612,
silvercenterseguin.com

29

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

Wylie Bluegrass on Ballard, (972) 516-6016,
wylitexas.gov

Belton [29-July 7] 4th of July Celebration,
(254) 939-3551, rodeobelton.com



July 4-6
Fort Davis
Coolest Fourth of July

July

3

Spring Branch Hill Country Fun Fest,
(210) 488-8063, springbranchtennis.com

Waxahachie [3-4] Crape Myrtle Festival
and Parade, (469) 309-4045,
waxahachiecvb.com

4

Aubrey Freedom Fest, (940) 390-9184,
peaceoftherock.org

Boerne Fourth of July Fireworks,
(830) 249-3644, visitboerne.org

Kerrville Robert Earl Keen's Fourth on the
River, (830) 257-8233, kerrvilles4th.org

Lakehills American Legion Post 410 Fourth
of July Parade, (830) 751-3711, alpost410.com

Stephenville Fourth of July Celebration,
(254) 918-1295, recipro.stephenvilletx.gov

Fort Davis [4-6] Coolest Fourth of July,
(432) 426-3015, fortDavis.com

6

Tye Independence Day Celebration,
(325) 695-8253, cityoftyeedc.org

Submit Your Event!

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

AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

Gas Up and Go!

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

Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

From antiques to boutiques or one-of-a-kind creations, treasures are found at every turn in downtown Waxahachie. Every street has a café, and your every step will be carefree.

There's something going on every weekend including Gingerbread Trail Home Tour, Crape Myrtle Festival, Texas Country Reporter Festival and much more.

A place to
Discover

WAXAHACHIE ♥ *A Place in Your Heart, Texas*

waxahachiecvb.com | 469-309-4040





Lowly Activities in Arlington

Top O' Hill Terrace was a tearoom atop an underground gambling hideout

GANGSTERS, GAMBLING, PROSTITUTION and illicit liquor. These things spark images of Chicago or New York in the 1920s. However, right here in the Lone Star State, deeds involving such salacious elements were part of the day-to-day operations of an unassuming tearoom on an unassuming hill halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth. While the location looks different today, visitors can still step back in time to when Top O' Hill Terrace was "Vegas before Vegas."

In 1926, Arlington residents Fred and Mary Browning decided that Fred's plumbing career lacked the excitement they desperately wanted. Amid the growing success of horse racing at Arlington Downs, the Brownings decided to get in on the action.

When they purchased a tearoom along the old Bankhead Highway, authorities had no idea the couple had plans beyond the teacup. The Brownings immediately began renovations, moving the tearoom to construct a network of underground rooms and tunnels. The additions included a casino, restaurant, an office and five doors at which every patron had to use passwords to gain access. There were two-way mirrors, secret staircases and fake doors, all designed to make Top O' Hill raidproof. With the front gate a quarter-mile down the drive, patrons had ample time to hide the evidence and run into the garden to sip tea if police showed up. It was a cover so believable that many folks visited the tea garden without any knowledge of the illegal activities just beneath their feet.

The Brownings' reputation grew as quickly as their bank account. The casino took in \$50,000-\$100,000 every night and attracted countless celebrities, including



"Officer" Chet Garner and associates revisit Top O' Hill Terrace's shady past.

Bonnie and Clyde and John Wayne. The couple invested their cash

into a swimming pool and air conditioning, two luxuries that were extremely rare at the time. Fred's newfound connections led him into horse racing, most notably with his horse Royal Ford, whose foal Heelfly beat the legendary thoroughbred Seabiscuit in 1940. He also stepped into professional boxing, employing his facilities to manage and train boxers like Lou Brouillard and "Slapsie Maxie" Rosenbloom. Yet the Brownings' very success would soon become a curse.

Top O' Hill gained an influential enemy in J. Frank Norris, pastor of Fort Worth's First Baptist Church and an ardent supporter of Prohibition. Norris vowed to shut down the establishment and return it to the realm of respectability. His prophecy became a reality in 1947 when Texas Rangers led a successful raid on Top O' Hill. In 1956, Bible Baptist Seminary bought the property and transformed it into a Baptist college.

On my first guided tour, I expected to walk dark hallways and feel the breath of

notorious Texas gangster Benny Binion on my neck. Instead I found the bright and bustling Arlington Baptist University with few remnants of the former days of Top O' Hill. Soon after buying the property, the new owners tore down the tearoom and replaced the casino with a cafeteria. The stable and pool have been incorporated into daily student life, and unless you know the stories, you could miss the stable and pool completely. What does remain is the tea garden and one 50-foot escape tunnel, where creative visitors can imagine men in pinstriped suits and women in flapper dresses stuffing gambling chips into their pockets to the muted sounds of a jazz band.

While visitors can no longer throw \$20 down on the roulette table, the cost of a tour is well worth the money. And while almost every Texas town has its stories of forbidden back alleys or underground operations, no Prohibition-era story is as Texas-sized as that of Top O' Hill Terrace.

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

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video of his visit to Top O' Hill Terrace.



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

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

\$59⁹⁹ month for TV **PRICE LOCK!**

No Hidden Fees!

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

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

Plus, Add Blazing Fast Internet!

**Plus,
Add Blazing
Fast Internet!**

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

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

Unlimited Data
No Hard Data Limits!

Very Fast
Speeds from 25 Mbps-1 Gbps!

Available Everywhere
25 Mbps available at every US address!

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

1-866-290-7151

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

godish.com/pricelock



iSe Habla Español!

dish
Authorized Retailer

*Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification. Fees apply for additional TVs: Hopper \$15/mo., Joey \$5/mo., Super Joey \$10/mo. All offers require credit qualification, 2-year commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Qualification: Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/10/19. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$69.99 for AT120+, \$79.99 for AT200, \$89.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$20/mo. for Showtime and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. Gift and Pre-paid Cards: Courtesy of GoDISH.com for credit-qualified customers. Customers who do not qualify may be eligible for a secondary gift offer. Cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa® debit cards are accepted. Cards expire 6 months from date issued. Mail-in redemption form is required within 60 days of qualified activation to receive gift. Customer account must be current and in good standing at the time of redemption. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of gift. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. © 2019 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$39.99 price refers to 25Mbps plan. Restrictions apply. 25 Mbps internet service available nationwide, but may become temporarily unavailable to certain addresses based on local beam capacity. Availability is subject to change without notice. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately. Call for details.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2019 SEASON



Display one of our beautiful Kayak maintenance-free pools and save \$\$\$!

CALL NOW to qualify for this limited opportunity!

1-800-794-6839

www.swimtexsun.com



A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

- Save Money: \$1000-\$4000 Instant Rebate
- Financing Available/Pre-Approvals
- We Consider Anything Of Value On Trade

SWIM TEXSUN STAYcation In Your Own Backyard!

AMERICA'S BEST BUILT POOL—WE GUARANTEE IT!

If within 30 days after your purchase of an Award Winning Kayak Pool, you find another brand name pool with all of Kayak's features and benefits, we'll refund 100% of your purchase price, plus we'll give you the Kayak Pool **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**