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I got my new sport scooter right before going to Disney World with my family. Operating the scooter was easy and reliable. The ability to collapse it to take on the plane was another big plus. I'd definitely recommend it for travel. Rhonda J.

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Getting this scooter has changed my life. I'm able to enjoy the outdoors with my spouse, without struggling with tiring so easily. I get a lot of compliments and feel confident again. Thank you.

Albert D.

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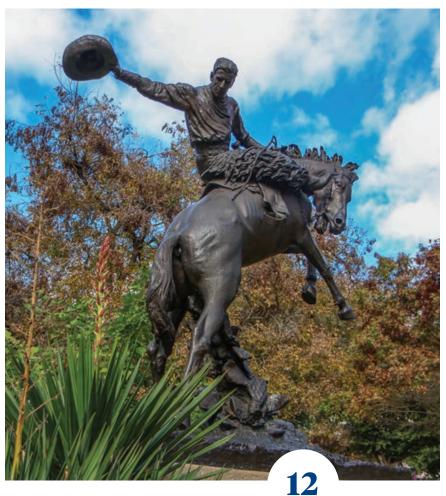
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# Texas Coop Power

# February 2025



# **06** It's Hip To Be a Square

The passionate square dance community makes room for new ideas to grow a grand tradition.

By Samantha Bryant Photos by Dave Shafer

# A Cowboy's Distinctive Trail

A New Yorker in Paris captured Texas and the West in an iconic statue.

By Chris Burrows



CONTENTS

**Co-op News** Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative



Footnotes in Texas History History to a Tea By Martha Deeringer



#### **TCP Kitchen** Easy Breads By Vianney Rodriguez

30

**Hit the Road** Tripping Through Time By Chet Garner



Focus on Texas Photo Contest: I Love

34 Observed Peace

**Observations** Peace of Mind *By Mark Troth* 

ON THE COVER Bill and Dolores Rowland prepare for the next dance. *Photo by Dave Shafer* ABOVE The Texas Cowboy Monument on the grounds of the Capitol. *Photo by Caytlyn Calhoun* 





# Houston Air Show

**BESSIE COLEMAN**, **AN** exhibition flyer and Waxahachie native, performed in her home state for the first time nearly 100 years ago—June 19, 1925, in Houston.

Her greatest accomplishment came in 1921 in France when she became the first Black licensed pilot in the world. Check out *Queen Bess Soared* on our website to learn more about this aviation pioneer.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

### Valentine's Cards

Lovers love Valentine's Day. So do creditors. One study found that 1 in 3 people in relationships say they may take on credit card debt when shopping for their significant others this month. Among this group, about half won't tell their partners about the debt.





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#### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Ten years ago we also looked at sculptures. Download our February 2015 issue and read about Daddy-O Wade's curious creations. Find it at TexasCoopPower.com/magazine-archives.

### FINISH THIS SENTENCE My first car was ...

Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our December prompt: **My favorite** holiday lights are ...

The stars. SUSIE LICON FARMERS EC FARMERSVILLE

In Johnson City at Pedernales Electric Cooperative and the courthouse. SHELIA BETZEL UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES VENUS

Ones I don't have to put up or take down. ED ROWLAND CECA CISCO

The ones reflected in my children's eyes. JESSICA PAXTOR PEDERNALES EC LEANDER

Visit our website to see more responses.



# COURTESY JOHN GRAEVE

#### **Sweet Memories**

My grandfather (Erwin Kresta) had a farm in El Campo with an orchard of orange and tangerine trees that were so productive he let people come and pick fresh fruits [*Everybody's Beeswax,* December 2024].

Next to that he had over 50 beehives, and the bees would visit the fruit trees daily—fruit-infused natural honey.

What I'd give to have some of Grandpa Kresta's honey.

Ron Faldik Bryan Texas Utilities Bryan

#### A Step in the Right Direction

I'm new to going to a lease with my husband, and after reading this, I will be sure to pack a compass [*The Lease* of Our Concerns, November 2024].

Rosie Strode Tri-County EC Cresson



#### Y2K in Hindsight

I remember very well in 1999 the news media blowing the whole Y2K issue completely out of proportion [*Black-Eyed Peace*, December 2024]. This was nothing less than fearmongering brought on by the computer industry to get everyone to purchase billions of dollars' worth of new computers.

Glenn Arthur Rebber Heart of Texas EC Valley Mills

You've given people like myself a huge compliment, and I'm glad you are so blissfully unknowing. I was one of thousands of software engineers working obscene hours ahead of the new year to keep the world running smoothly when the calendar flipped to the year 2000.

It was not a "supposed" glitch but very, very real.

Cindy Nichols Magic Valley EC Weslaco

#### TCP WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

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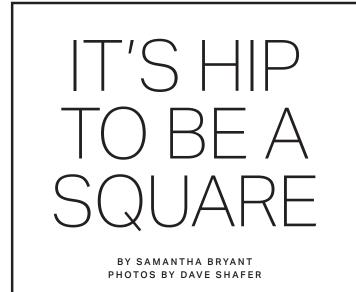
Bartonville, I had to share

another illuminated beauty, on Montclair Drive in Colleyville."

illuminated pecan in

JOHN GRAEVE TRI-COUNTY EC FORT WORTH





IT'S MID-JUNE, and the dance floor is hopping. Groups of eight dancers—two on each side of an imaginary square—turn, twirl, walk in time, and move in and out of a kaleidoscope of formations, skirts swirling and boots shuffling. A booming voice gives instructions over a loudspeaker: "Do-si-do, now promenade."

One pair moves faster than the others in their square. Michael and Caroline Knight turn together and then Caroline takes an extra twirl before they start interweaving with the other three pairs.

"It's style," Caroline says. "It just makes it more fun. Like you can do dry, just do the moves as they are, but when you get really confident and you kind of have a muscle memory of what the moves feel like, then you start adding more spins and flair, and it just makes it fun."

Among 272 dancers at the Brazos County Expo Complex in Bryan, Caroline, 26, and Michael, 33,



# The passionate square dance community makes room for new ideas to grow a grand tradition

are among the youngest on the floor one night at the Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival. The couple, customers of Bryan Texas Utilities, met while square dancing and, after attending the same club for six years, dated then eventually married in December 2024. They say the social aspect of square dancing—the state folk dance of Texas—is one reason they do it.

"It's like two-stepping in that you kind of have a community and that you find friends doing it," Caroline says, "but it's more of a community because you're not dancing with one person, you're dancing with seven other people."

Square dancing is not a spectator sport nor is it a competition—it's about having fun and developing friendships, all in time to music. And as some dancers are aging out, a passionate corps—and even some younger folks—are getting the word out about the physical, mental and social benefits of a pastime that's still finding its rhythm.

The 450 attendees at the four-day state festival are just some of the 2,500 square dancers who belong to more than 100 clubs across the state. That's a lot of dancers—but a lot fewer than there used to be.

OPPOSITE The swirl of skirts and smiles that is square dancing at the Brazos County Expo Complex in Bryan.

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Portraits of lifelong friends Mary Whitaker, Lewis Chumbley and Janet Arnold. Andrew and Elizabeth Chu. Jeff and Karen Nelson go for a spin.



"You have to leave your troubles at the door because there's not room for your troubles and concentrating on the dance." "Back in the '70s and '80s, the state dances would have 7,000 or 8,000 people at them, and the national dances would have 30,000 to 40,000," says Matthew Whiteacre, former president of the statewide square dance organization. "It's down to 10% of that now.

"So in 50 years, we've lost 90% of our dancers." Whiteacre, a BTU customer, set the theme of the state festival in June: To Boldly Dance ... Into the Future, which allowed for an element of science fiction and some conversation about the trajectory of square dancing.

The clubs sustain a tradition of modern Western square dancing, which has its roots in dances, like the French quadrille, that came over with European settlers to the American colonies but has evolved over the years as it



spread and mixed with other dance traditions, according to *Smithsonian Magazine*.

A component of square dancing that sets it apart from most other forms is the caller, a person who says, sings or chants the set of moves, known as calls, for dancers to follow. Callers can sing along with the song lyrics and sometimes use humor and rhymes as they guide the dancers. It can take years to master.

"I have to interweave the calls in with the lyrics, which that's a skill all in itself," says Scott Bennett, who has been a caller for over 40 years. "That's the thing that keeps me attracted to square dancing all these years—it forces me to use lots of different aspects of entertainment."

Historically, square dancing is done to traditional country songs that feature fiddles and banjos. And while folks still dance to that music, some callers, like Bennett, call to a mix of genres—classic rock, jazz and pop—anything with the right beat. Bennett says one of the more popular songs in recent years was *Call Me Maybe* by Carly Rae Jepsen.

"I'd put that on, and young folks would just be jumping through the ceiling they were so excited," Bennett says.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Portraits of Dolores and Bill Rowland, Karen and Jeff Nelson, 14-year-olds Arianna and Ezra, Ramona and Billy Grimsley, Gary and Claudia Lester, and Karen Gatherer.

ABOVE Caller Vernon Jones of Springtown.

# SQUARE DANCE 101

ANGEL: A higher-level dancer who helps beginners.

**CALL:** A set of moves that dancers perform when the announcer—the caller—says its name.

**CALLER:** The person who guides the dance by speaking or singing out the moves.

**CORNER:** The person on the other side of you who is not your partner (on your right if dancing the woman's part, left if dancing the man's).

**CUER:** The person guiding a round dance by telling dancers what steps to do.

**PATTER:** Calls that are spoken or chanted instead of sung.

**ROUND DANCE:** A choreographed ballroom dance for couples in which dancers follow a cuer and rotate around the dance floor.

**TIP:** A set of two square dances, generally consisting of a patter call followed by a singing call.

**YELLOW ROCK:** A hug between square dancers, particularly corners.

Dozens of calls are standardized through an international organization known as Callerlab. While some calls are fairly intuitive for dancers—such as circle left or forward and back—others have to be taught, such as flutterwheel, slip the clutch and box the gnat.

Most dancers take lessons and go through Callerlab's Mainstream program, says John Kephart, president of the Texas State Callers' Association. At this level, dancers learn 68 calls, but some have variations, equating to more than 130 total moves.

It sounds intimidating and may well stop some prospective participants, but any dancer will tell you to try it anyway, even if you have two left feet.

"If you can walk, you can square dance," says Caroline Knight, who lives in Bryan and is a member of the Brazos Barn Dancers. "I've seen young kids—6, 7—that know how to dance really well. And then there's people that are in their 90s that still dance."

The activity provides exercise—a two-hour dance can equate to more than 5,000 steps and burns potentially hundreds of calories. Studies even show the dancing may stave off dementia. Jimette Smith started dancing around 1975, and she said another mental benefit is stress relief.

"In square dance, a caller can call anything to any music," Smith says. "You have to listen—you can't anticipate because he can call anything. So you have to leave your troubles at the door because there's not room for your troubles and concentrating on the dance."

For 30 years, Smith owned a square dance apparel shop, Rhythm Creations, in Houston. She designed and sold the multicolored dresses, skirts, blouses and frilly petticoats that are worn during dances. Men typically wear long-sleeved Western shirts and bolo ties.

# DID YOU KNOW?

- There are square dance clubs in other countries, including Japan and Germany, but all the calls are done in English.
- The 75th National Square Dance Convention will be held in Waco in 2026, 20 years after the convention was last held in Texas—in San Antonio in 2006.
- There are camping square dance clubs.
- Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, hosted square dances on the White House lawn while he was in office.
- You can find a square dance club that offers classes in your area by visiting squaredancetx.com.



ABOVE Sue Blanchard twirls.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Portraits of Nora Creed-McClaskey, 11-year-old Lexi LeBlanc and grandmother Lea Ann McGee, 12-year-old best friends Caroline Einkauf and Meg Rhinehart, Tim and Tam Austin, Jan Albers, and Linda and Don Prendercast.

In recent years, some clubs have relaxed the dress code requirements—one of several ways square dance clubs are trying to attract more participants, including updating music and programs, while preserving the traditions and community that have attracted so many.

Square dancing in clubs became popular after World War II, according to the International Encyclopedia of Dance, but participation has declined in recent years as dancers age out and young people enjoy a plethora of options for socializing and burning calories. The pandemic also dealt a blow as dancers dropped out while clubs paused their activities.

Some clubs have incorporated a Callerlab program called Social Square Dancing, released in 2021. It has a shorter training period to appeal to new dancers. The organization also is pushing to streamline some of its other programs.

In an age when people can feel more isolated than ever, the community and connection square dancing provides are enticing new participants. The family-friendly nature of the activity—there's no drinking or smoking allowed enables multigenerational participation.

"Everybody here is part of what we call our square dance family," says Claudia Lester. She and her husband, Gary, found a community of unmatched camaraderie when they started dancing 15 years ago.

Some clubs are seeing an increase in numbers. Audrey Mansell, former president of the North Texas Square and Round Dance Association and a Tri-County Electric Cooperative member, said they've seen growth in their 26 clubs for the first time in 13 years, which she attributes to members intentionally inviting friends to join and adopting a relaxed dress code.

Ben Vinson, a freshman at Texas A&M University, danced in high school with the H-Town Squares, a club for teens and young adults in Houston geared toward homeschooled students. The club boasts 110 dancers, making it one of the largest in the state.

Vinson says the friendships he forged made the challenge



of learning the complicated moves worth his while.

"I do it mainly for the fellowship," he says, "but it's still a cool skill to have."

Caroline Knight also got into square dancing as a teenager when friends invited her to join them, though at first she was skeptical.

"I thought it was going to be super folky and corny, and I was like, 'I don't know if I'll like it, but I want to hang out with you so I'll give it a try,' "Knight says. "And it is so much fun, especially when you're dancing with people that are really excited about it."

Once a dancer is hooked, they may be in for life. Charles Spoon, president of the Lubbock Area Square and Round Dance Federation, encourages anyone who's curious about square dancing to try it. The 81-year-old is on the dance floor about 150 nights out of the year and went to his first dance when his then-girlfriend Ellen, now his wife, asked him to give it a shot.

"She said, 'Just try it one time. If you don't like it, you don't have to go,' and I said, 'OK,' " says Spoon, a member of South Plains Electric Cooperative. "So I tried it. That was back in 1968.

"And I'm still doing it." 🔳

Watch the video on our website and discover how square dancing is great exercise and an easy way to make new friends.



A New Yorker in Paris captured Texas and the West in an iconic statue

# A Cowboy's Distinctive Trail

#### BY CHRIS BURROWS

here's a 15-foot-tall, 100-year-old mystery on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton. In a tree-shaded area near the general academic building, a regal bronze sculpture of artist Diego Velázquez on horseback overlooks students and staff as they go about their days.

New Yorker Constance Whitney Warren sculpted Velázquez, a 17th-century painter, when she was living in Paris after World War I. The family of billionaire Harlan Crow donated the piece to UNT in 1994.

Nobody seems to know why.

"I do not have the answers," says Holly Hutzell, art registrar for the university. "We do not have a record as to why the donor gifted it to UNT. Nor do we know why the artist depicted the Spanish master on horseback."

But 200 miles north and south of Denton, up and down Interstate 35, iconic Western statues by Warren on the grounds of the capitols of Texas and Oklahoma need no explaining. Both bronzes depict life-size wooly-chapped cowboys astride broncos rearing back over cactuses. Along the path of the former Chisholm Trail, these century-old works could not be more at home. Right?

It was 100 years ago—January 19, 1925—that *The Austin Statesman* reported several thousand Austinites, visitors and lawmakers gathered at the Capitol and watched as two men dressed in cowboy garb pulled a white sheet from the newly christened Texas Cowboy Monument—a "tribute to the rough and romantic riders of the range," reads a weather-worn plaque at its base.

It was the day before Texas' first female governor, Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson, was sworn into office, and crowds were swarming in anticipation.

"There is not another place where the statue of a cowboy can with such fitness and such propriety be placed," said a representative of the sculptor's family, Charles Cason, at the unveiling. "Texas was the cowboy's home, and the very name



'cowboy' brings to every American's mind the name of Texas with all her glorious traditions and romance of the endless ranges."

Warren was born in 1888 to an affluent New York family, and despite a weekslong honeymoon through the American West after her marriage to a French count, in 1912, there's no evidence that she ever set foot in Texas.

"At an early age, she gained a fascination for the West from stories told by her father of his experiences as a mining engineer on the frontier," writes An Encyclopedia of Women Artists of the American West. Warren moved to France after the honeymoon, and when World War I broke out, she chauffeured English officers.

After the war, she poured herself into sculpture, executing



LEFT The Texas Cowboy Monument has overlooked the southwest corner of the Capitol grounds for 100 years.

ABOVE The dedication of Constance Whitney Warren's bronze statue January 19, 1925.

No one has done more to unravel the mystery of Warren than Sullivan, former professor of art history at UNT and later dean of Texas Christian University's College of Fine Arts.

Cowboy No. 2 was shipped to New York from Paris several months before the dedication in Austin.

It wasn't long before Oklahoma decided it needed a Warren bronco. Its Tribute to Range Riders, installed in 1928, was that capitol's first art piece.

Warren and the count divorced in 1922, she returned to the U.S. a few years later and in 1930, she committed herself to Craig House, a discreet asylum in upstate New York. Almost nothing is known of Warren's later years. She died in 1948.

After UNT received the Velázquez piece in the 1990s, Sullivan went to work solving its mysteries.

He made contact with some members of Warren's family in Massachusetts, and during the course of his research that formed the basis of a 3,000-word article published by the *Gilcrease Journal* in 2015, he discovered that a sculpture of Velázquez by French artist Emmanuel Frémiet was installed at the Louvre from 1893 to 1933, likely inspiring Warren's Velázquez in Denton.

Sullivan's research brought much-deserved detail to Warren's life. She was among few female sculptors of the early 20th century with the skills, means or ambition to produce art that typified the American frontier. She was a pioneer accepted by pioneers of another sort.

"Warren deserves greater recognition for her work," Sullivan wrote, "and for her willingness to follow her imagination into a male-oriented and male-dominated arena largely unexplored at the time by female artists."

some 100 pieces-mostly horses-between 1920 and 1930.

"A sharp observer of anatomy and a vigorous modeler, she was at her best with figures in violent action," Stuart Preston of *The New York Times* wrote in 1953.

Among those works was Warren's Cowboy No. 2, sculpted in 1921. It was exhibited at the 1923 Paris Salon, a premier annual art exhibition, and missed a bronze medal by two votes, instead claiming an honorable mention.

"This was prestigious recognition for an American woman artist," wrote the late Scott Sullivan. "The Cowboy was praised in the French press and highly popular in Paris. Cason told Gov. [Pat] Neff that the artist wished to donate the bronze to a western state. The governor agreed to accept it on behalf of Texas."

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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/ CEO KATHI

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### How We Balance Electricity Supply and Demand

ELECTRICITY IS ESSENTIAL for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that, behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet everyone's needs.

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Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Houston County EC knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings, when you start your day, and the evenings, when you cook dinner, run appliances and watch TV. Demand also increases when it's extremely warm or cold outside.

#### Looking Ahead

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of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Houston County EC remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we're preparing now for increased

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On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market

demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electricity supply.

Managing electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to secure and manage the power we need and keep the grid balanced.



## Financial Update on Winter Storm Uri Cost Recovery

**WE CONTINUE TO** make progress recovering from electricity costs of the winter storm four years ago. As a reminder, our initial power bill for electricity during Uri was \$24.9 million, which was higher than our normal power cost for an entire year.

Houston County EC borrowed funds to pay the power bill that we owed. For the past four years we have been steadily recovering the costs from our members to pay off the debt associated with the high cost of electricity during the winter storm. As of this month, February 2025, the remaining balance from the winter storm is below \$9 million.

While we are unable to prevent another severe winter weather event, we are in a better position to protect your rates and the costs associated with extreme weather through actions with East Texas Electric Cooperative, our local wholesale power partner.

We appreciate your commitment to Houston County EC.

#### Houston County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy' Cooperative 🔊

#### CONTACT US

P.O. Box 52 Crockett, TX 75835 Local (936) 544-5641 Toll-Free 1-800-657-2445 Web houstoncountyelec.com

General Manager Kathi Calvert

Board of Directors Dan Courmier, President Kennon Kellum, Vice President Mitchell Huff, Secretary-Treasurer Mary L. Pearl Adams William Emmons Larry Nelms Charles "Chuck" Siems Grady Wakefield David Whittlesey

## 24/7 Outage Hotline Number

For information and to report outages, please call us.

TOLL-FREE 1-800-970-4232

#### ABOUT HOUSTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 5,100 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 15,000 members in Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Freestone, Houston, Leon, Madison, Trinity and Walker counties.

#### **BUSINESS HOURS**

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **BOARD MEETING**

Fourth Thursday, 4 p.m.\* \*Subject to change. To verify, please call.

#### MEMBER SERVICE

For general information during business hours: (936) 544-5641 local, 1-800-657-2445 toll-free • To report an outage, press 1.

- To report an outage, press 1.
- To update your contact information, press 2.
  To speak to a member services representative
- regarding your account, press 4.
- Para hablar con un representante de habla español, presione 5.
- To connect, disconnect or transfer service, press 6.
- To report outdoor lighting issues or other nonemergencies regarding your electric service, press 7.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

houstoncountyelec.com





Check us out at TexasCoopPower.com/houston



## You Can Help When Winter Weather Impacts Reliability

WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP, electricity use increases. That's because heating systems run longer and harder to keep us comfortable while we're doing more activities inside. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Houston County Electric Cooperative, we work closely with our local generation and transmission cooperative on resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it's possible for demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve strain on the grid, and Houston County EC will inform you about the situation.

Houston County EC and our G&T take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way).

Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up a greater difference between the temperature setting and the outdoor temperature.

Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers. Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation. Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged or dirty. Replace it as needed.

When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs. Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in the water heater and pipes.

Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our community warm and connected.

# LINES DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Car accidents and weather are the main causes of downed power lines. But even on the ground, lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death.

#### Here are some rules to follow around downed lines:

If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.

If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.

Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line.

Don't drive over downed power lines.

If you're in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car and call 911.

#### Houston County EC encourages you to always practice safety.

PHOTO: MICHAEL BALLEW | SOUTHWEST TEXAS EC

#### Flip'n Texas Chili

- 11/2 pounds chili-grind beef
- 1 pound chili-grind pork
- 1 cup beef broth
- 8 ounces tomato sauce
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 4 tablespoons light chili powder, divided use
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 3 jalapeño peppers, chopped
- 2 habanero peppers, chopped 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 1. In a large pot, brown all the chili meat and drain excess fat. Add the

meat and drain excess fat. Add the broth and tomato sauce and simmer 30 minutes.

2. Add the bouillon cubes, 1 tablespoon light chili powder, paprika, onion powder, cayenne, jalapeños, habaneros and salt, and cook, stirring until well blended.

**3.** Add the remaining chili powder, white pepper, cumin and garlic, and simmer 50 minutes.

SERVES 6-8

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

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# WE FIND OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



# THEIR PASSIONS



As your Touchstone Energy cooperative, we are your energy community. The power we provide is much more than a way to keep the lights on, it plugs into the family, friends and neighbors who make up **Houston County Electric Cooperative.** 

# EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR

You = Sen

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- 13

FOR MORE INFO: www.houstoncountyelec.com/etreys call kelby bond at 936-852-7240 or kbond@houstoncountyelec.com

# Unshakable

New book tells of the man who spent more years than anyone fighting fires—and life's other challenges

BY JAN ADAMSON • ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC KITTELBERGER

**BILLY GENE "SHAKEY"** Holder can't help but smile when he thinks about the more than 50 years he worked as a firefighter. "I loved that job," he says. "You were helping people, and they were always glad to see you when you showed up."

When Holder retired in 2011, at age 77, he still passed the Irving Fire Department's agility test even though he was six years into a battle with Stage 4 cancer. He was the country's oldest active full-time firefighter when he hung up his boots after 56 years with the department.

Holder is the subject of a 2024 book written by his friend and fellow fireman Clif Clifton. Holder and his wife, Ginger, who live in McKinney, contacted Clifton about putting to paper Holder's story when they discovered Clifton had written poetry, journals and stories about his own career.

Turns out, Holder was one of Clifton's heroes. They had worked at different stations in the same fire department.

Holder was born in 1934, during the Great Depression, in Grayson County in North Texas. He was one of seven children and a scrapper almost from birth. With his family, he picked cotton as a child while they moved repeatedly to chase work. He had dyslexia, making learning difficult, and was picked on by other children.

That's when he learned to fight.

The family moved to Cartwright, Oklahoma, just over the Texas border, where Holder earned a reputation for settling matters with his fists, especially when defending an underdog or going up against a bully.

"I used to like to box, and everybody at work, I used to test. I used to tell them not to hit me in the face and then I'd hit them," he says with a laugh. "Then they boxed pretty good. I was a good ducker."

After a series of low-paying jobs throughout his youth, Holder's sister encouraged him to apply to become an Irving firefighter. After a long period of waiting anxiously for some positive word, Holder finally got the call and went to work as a fireman.

When he first joined the department in 1955, he was paid \$265 a month. He went on to join the swiftwater rescue and hazardous materials teams.

Telling the story of how he got his nickname— Shakey—makes his eyes twinkle. On his third day as a firefighter, some of his colleagues were preparing lunch, and Holder was trying to stay out of the way in the tiny kitchen they used. He bumped into the refrigerator and an electrical cord slipped down, touching his neck and startling him into knocking cooking utensils, pans and appliances to the floor.

The other firemen rushed to try to catch the falling items, but Holder believed they were trying to escape whatever danger had snaked around his neck. He took off at a run, knocking one of the men down.

When things calmed, he apologized. "I'm sorry guys, I've always been a little shaky about stuff," he told them. One of the firemen painted the accidentally misspelled word on the nervous fireman's car. And thus, Shakey was born.

At a recent signing for Clifton's self-published book, *The Legendary Story of Shakey*, a few of his fellow firefighters dropped by. Their admiration for Holder was clear as they exchanged stories about their service.

"I really liked working with those guys back then," Shakey says. "We had to learn to get along with each other."

Holder's long life has been full of adventure. At age 70, he went to Pamplona, Spain, and ran with the bulls. He says he has made and lost millions of dollars through assorted business deals but pretty much came out ahead.

At 91, he remains bright and amusing, though his cancer returned in 2023.

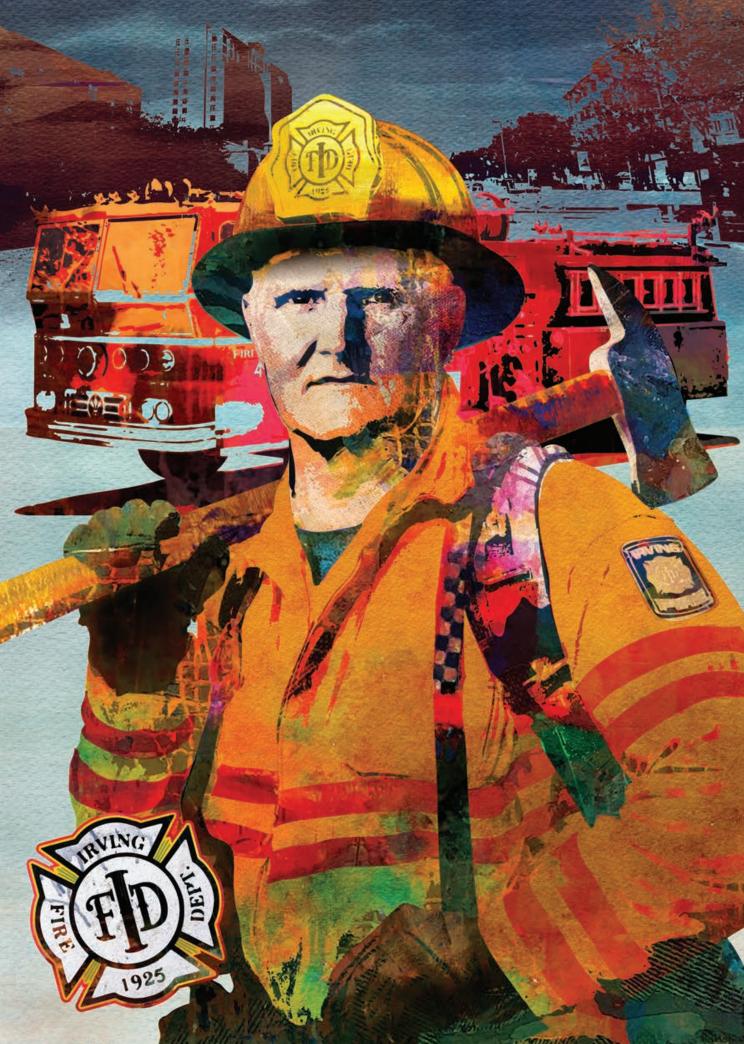
Holder's biographer, Clifton, is retired himself, having served for 34 years with the Irving department.

Clifton, who lives in Lewisville in North Texas, has been doing periodic mission work in Montenegro since 2007, and it was a mission friend who encouraged him to write more real stories of real heroes. He's been writing other books about firefighters as well as an autobiographical novel.

"I never thought I could be a writer," says Clifton, a Farmers Electric Cooperative member.

For the biography of Holder, he spoke with many friends of the legendary firefighter. He remains awed by the man and the life he has led.

"Every once in a while, you get a gift," Clifton says. "We got a gift in Shakey." ●



# Sacred Stone of the Southwest is on the Brink of Extinction





Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our *Sedona Turquoise Collection*. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you

could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for just \$99.

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# History to a Tea

Reenactors go to great lengths to share the important story of buffalo soldiers

BY MARTHA DEERINGER • PHOTO BY KENNY BRAUN

IT WAS A tight squeeze for Michael Brown, wedging his large frame into a small picnic table for a children's tea party at Mother Neff State Park, outside Waco. Donning a plastic necklace over his uniform and handling tiny cups, dainty canapés and tea cakes, he charmed the socks off the children and parents clustered around the tables at an annual park event.

As a buffalo soldier reenactor, these experiences bring him joy.

About 150 years earlier, in 1866, Congress created six all-Black Army regiments—later consolidated to four—that became known as the buffalo soldiers. Their main charge was to support the nation's westward expansion, build roads and other infrastructure, protect settlers, and guard postal routes throughout the Southwest and Great Plains.

That expansion often put the soldiers, some posted at forts in Texas, in direct violent conflict with the Native American tribes whose lands were being seized.

Originally commanded by white officers, the buffalo soldiers, numbering more than 40,000 in total, often faced extreme racism over 85 years of service. The last Black regiment was disbanded in 1951.

Differing accounts explain the buffalo soldier name. One is that Native Americans called the soldiers that because of their fierce fighting. Another is that Native people thought the soldiers' dark hair resembled buffalo fur. Still another says the name came from the buffalo-hide

#### FOOTNOTES IN TEXAS HISTORY

coats the troops wore in cold weather.

The buffalo soldiers persevered through extreme weather; infectious diseases with little access to treatment; and rough, unfamiliar terrain. But in many cases, it was the first opportunity for formerly enslaved men (and at least one woman) to work as professional soldiers and be paid the same \$13 monthly salary that white soldiers received.

All these years later, reenactors like Brown keep the important story of the buffalo soldiers alive. The all-volunteer Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association in San Antonio to which he belongs provides speakers for youth groups, schools, churches, trail rides and other historical events.

"Each of our 40 active members portrays one of the original soldiers from the 19th century," Brown says. "All are Army and Air Force veterans."

Brown was deployed with the Army 2005–06 in Afghanistan. As a buffalo soldier, he represents Sgt. Thomas Boyne, who received the Medal of Honor—the U.S. armed forces' highest distinction in 1882. All told, 18 African American soldiers earned a Medal of Honor during the American Indian Wars.

Brown, pictured left, who serves on the board for the group of reenactors, wears an 1874 Army field campaign uniform with a dark blue wool sack coat and sky-blue woolen pants, heavy enough to make a brave man melt into a puddle in the heat of a Texas summer.

It's worth the work for him.

"I especially love the educational portion of the program," Brown says. "We explain to the audience how the soldiers' past was tied into slavery and the honor of becoming the first professional soldiers. And for me, it's all about the kids."

The reenactors tell a broader story of what life was like on the frontier in Texas. While theirs is a serious mission, they make learning fun, including occasionally sitting down with a group of children to share tiny cups of tea. ●



Making cowboys and firefighters right at home (dessert lovers too)

#### BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Pan de campo, aka camp bread or cowboy bread, originated with the vaqueros of South Texas. My abuelita made it in a cast-iron skillet and enjoyed it with a steaming cup of coffee. It's a flatbread that resembles a thicker, flatter biscuit with a crispy outside and soft, chewy interior.

#### Pan de Campo With Strawberry Butter

#### STRAWBERRY BUTTER

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened 2 tablespoons powdered sugar ½ cup diced strawberries

#### PAN DE CAMPO

2 cups flour, plus more for dusting
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons salt
10 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening, divided use
¾ cup milk

**1. STRAWBERRY BUTTER** In a medium bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth and creamy.

2. Add powdered sugar and mix until well combined. Stir in strawberries. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour or overnight before serving.

**3.** PAN DE CAMPO Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt.

4. Add 8 tablespoons shortening and use a pastry cutter or two forks to cut the shortening into the flour until the mixture resembles pea-sized coarse crumbs. Add milk, stirring just until dough forms.

**5.** Turn dough onto lightly floured surface. Knead gently until dough comes together to form a ball. Using a lightly floured rolling pin, roll dough into a 1/2-inch-thick circle.

6. Grease a 10-inch skillet with remaining 2 tablespoons shortening, then place in oven for 5 minutes to heat through. Remove from oven, carefully place dough into skillet and return to oven. Bake 10 minutes, then flip bread and bake an additional 5 minutes.

**7.** Slice and serve topped with strawberry butter.

#### SERVES 8

Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Banana Bread with Cajeta Cream Cheese Frosting.



Firehouse Rolls dennis baum grayson-collin ec

When Baum was a cook at a fire station, he made these soft, fluffy rolls, which have a rich, buttery taste, daily for the crew. This easy recipe comes together quickly, delivering rolls baked to golden perfection that pair well with any dish.

1 packet active dry yeast (0.25 ounces) 1 cup warm water, roughly 110 degrees 2½ tablespoons sugar 2½ cups flour, plus more for dusting ½ teaspoon salt 1½ tablespoons solid vegetable shortening

**1.** Coat an 8-inch round pan with cooking spray or butter.

2. In a large bowl, whisk yeast in warm water. Let the mixture stand 5 minutes. Add sugar, flour, salt and shortening, stirring until well combined.

**3.** Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead about 1 minute. Divide and form into 12 balls. Place into prepared pan and cover with a towel.

**4.** Place in a warm area and allow to rise about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

**5.** Bake 20 minutes or until tops are lightly browned.

MAKES 1 DOZEN ROLLS



\$500 WINNER

## Crusty No-Yeast Bread

GRAYSON-COLLIN EC



This is perfect for new bakers. It's quick and easy, requiring no rising time or fancy techniques. Made with simple ingredients, this bread delivers a satisfying, golden crust with a soft, flavorful interior. Whether you're short on time or just starting out, this noyeast option ensures delicious, homemade bread in no time!

- 1½ cups water
- 2 teaspoons distilled white vinegar
- 4 cups flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon (1/8 stick) butter, softened

**1.** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a small bowl, stir together water and vinegar. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt, sugar, baking powder and baking soda. Add vinegar mixture to dry ingredients and stir to mix well.

**3.** Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead about 1 minute, sprinkling additional flour on the surface as needed to prevent sticking.

4. Shape the dough into an oval loaf. Place it on the prepared baking sheet and cut3 diagonal slits across the top of loaf.

**5.** Bake 30–35 minutes. Remove from oven and brush with butter. Allow to cool 5 minutes, then slice and serve warm.

SERVES 4

#### 🗰 \$500 Recipe Contest

MAKE IT SPICY DUE FEBRUARY 10 We're turning up the heat in our July issue, and we need your help. Send us your tastiest spicy recipes for a chance to win \$500. Enter by February 10. UPCOMING: BEEFY BURGERS DUE MARCH 10



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

#### Chocolate Orange Butter Bread

RITA HUIE UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

This delightful treat brings together the rich, velvety taste of chocolate with the bright, citrusy notes of orange. The buttery texture makes each bite soft and indulgent, perfect for breakfast or dessert. This is a must-try for those who love the classic combination of chocolate and citrus.

½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened, plus more for greasing the pan
2½ cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon orange zest
¼ cup dark cocoa powder
¼ cup brown sugar
1 egg, beaten
¾ cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon orange extract



- 2 tablespoons orange juice concentrate, undiluted
- 2 tablespoons orange liqueur or 2 additional tablespoons orange juice concentrate

Orange marmalade, for serving

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan with butter.

**2.** In a large bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, orange zest, cocoa powder and brown sugar.

**3.** In a medium bowl, stir together egg, buttermilk, orange extract, orange juice concentrate, liqueur and ½ cup butter until smooth.

**4.** Make a well in dry ingredients, add wet ingredients and stir well. The batter will be thick.

**5.** Spread the batter into prepared loaf pan. Bake 35–40 minutes or until a tooth-pick inserted comes out clean.

**6.** Remove pan from oven and allow to cool 15 minutes. Run a knife around edges of bread, and carefully remove from pan.

7. Slice and serve with orange marmalade.

SERVES 8

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ot only are these hefty bars one full Troy ounce of real, .999 precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring the crisp image of a Morgan Silver Dollar struck onto the surface. That collectible image adds interest and makes these Silver Bars even more desirable. Minted in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver, these one-ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to one-ounce silver coins or rounds. Plus, they offer great savings compared to other bullion options like one-ounce sovereign silver coins. Take advantage of our special offer for new customers only and save \$10.00 off our regular prices.

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What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage caused by weary eyes? No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

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#### HIT THE ROAD



## **Tripping Through Time**

Travel through the decades at the Jack Sisemore RV Museum

BY CHET GARNER

THE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY "road trip" by car happened in 1903, and since then, Americans have been obsessed with the freedom and adventure of the open road. Near the center of America's Mother Road (aka Route 66) is a museum that captures many of the ways we've traveled that road in style.

I pulled up to the drab aluminum building on the south side of Amarillo and had no idea I was about to enter a time portal. Inside the 18,000square-foot Jack Sisemore RV Museum sit dozens of vintage recreational vehicles and trailers looking like they just rolled off the showroom floor. Classic motorcycles, cars and even boats add to the intrigue.

RV dealer Jack Sisemore and his son Trent, who loved hunting down and restoring old trailers, started the collection over 25 years ago. When they ran out of room in their driveways, they decided to open a museum. Each vehicle is displayed with memorabilia, old advertisements and an explanation of what makes each model unique, such as the 1935 Torpedothe first Airstream.

I roamed through 30-foot-long coaches and peeked inside chrome pods that looked more like spaceships than RVs. Every trailer offered a look at the technology and style of the era, with plenty of linoleum and shag carpet to spare.

The museum, closed for the season but reopening in March, boasts rare specimens of the first Fleetwood and Itasca motor homes, and every turn revealed more treasures, such as the 1948 Flxible bus driven by Robin Williams in the 2006 movie RV.

While wandering through the museum, part of me yearned for the days before phones or GPS, when the road ahead was truly a mystery yet to unfold. But then I remembered that I would never have found a hidden gem like this one without the help of the all-knowing internet.

ABOVE Period clothing helps give Chet a feel for a camping experience from decades ago.

ICP Watch the video on our website as Chet turns back the clock on hitting the road. And find all his Texplorations on The Daytripper on PBS.



#### Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

### =bruary **Texas City Mainland** Mardi Gras, (409) 457-8080, mardigrasmainland.com Lubbock [11-16] Les Misérables, (806) 792-8339, buddyhollyhall.org Bellville Chocolate Walk, (979) 865-3407, bellville.com Brenham Sweet Dreams: Mandy Barnett Sings Patsy Cline, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com Fredericksburg [14-16, 21-23, 28-March 2] Peter and the Starcatcher, (830) 997-3588, fbgtc.org 15 Ennis Czech Music Festival, (972) 878-4748, ennisczechmusicfestival.com Lampasas Wild West Casino Night, (512) 556-5172, lampasaschamber.org Fredericksburg Sabrina Adrian, fredericksburgmusicclub.com Pearland Lunar New Year Festival, (832) 788-8776, facebook.com/pearlandchinese Bandera [20–22] Cowboy Mardi Gras, (830) 796-4849, banderacowboycapital.com Port Aransas [20-23] Whooping Crane Festival,

(361) 749-5919, portaransas.org

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Laredo [21–22] Jalapeño Festival, (956) 722-0589, jalapenofestival.org

**Granbury Jazz Fest**, (817) 578-5585, granburyjazzfest.com

Port Arthur Rotary Taste of Gumbo & More, (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

Corsicana The Barricade Boys: London's West End, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

San Marcos Mardi Gras Martinis, (512) 392-4295, heritagesanmarcos.org

Weatherford [27–28] Cheese 101, (940) 682-4856, clarkgardens.org

Brownsville [27–March 1] Charro Days, (956) 542-4245, charrodaysfiesta.com

# MARCH

Bandera [3–9] Texas Wool Week, texaswoolweek.com

Beaumont Taste of the Triangle, (409) 782-5514, thetastebmt.com

Fulton [6–9] Oysterfest, (361) 463-9955, fultonoysterfest.org

**Corpus Christi Camo & Country,** (361) 883-5500, amissionofmercy.org

Brackettville [7–8] Fort Clark Days, fortclarkdays.org

#### 💷 Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your May event by March 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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> NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE Circulation 590,500 Readership 1,358,150

## Texas Coop Power

Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

# I Love

There's a lot to love about Texas. From the diverse landscape to the fascinating wildlife, one can find beauty all around. But what makes it really special are the folks who call it home.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

#### 1 SHARON BURNS VICTORIA EC

A Texas sky captures the heart of a young boy.

#### 2 ANGIE MANTOR BANDERA EC

"Weston, my grandson, and his sweet friend loving the beautiful weather at his home in Comfort."

#### 3 SHEILA HOWARD WHARTON COUNTY EC

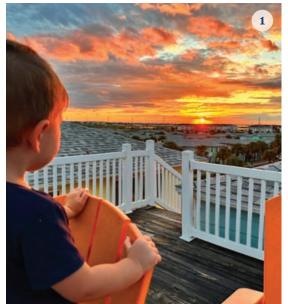
"Love was definitely in the air at the Tejas Ranch Horse Show, not only between the friends participating but also the horses."

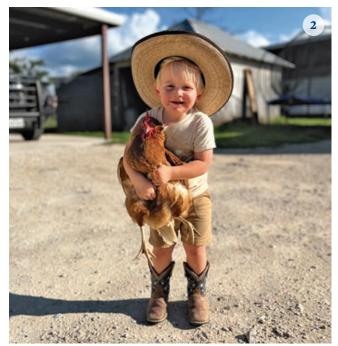
#### 4 PEGGY KUJAWA PEDERNALES EC

"When he found out it was too small to keep, he gave it a kiss before he released it."









#### **Upcoming Contests**

DUE FEB 10 Family Vacation DUE MAR 10 Catch of the Day DUE APR 10 College Life

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

CP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more I Love photos from readers.



## **Peace of Mind**

Setting a course for hope and serenity amid Alzheimer's anguish

BY MARK TROTH ILLUSTRATION BY ROCCO BAVIERA THERE WAS NO doubt that my friends, colleagues and family members had noticed a marked difference in me—yet they remained mostly silent, perhaps out of courtesy.

Repeating myself frequently in conversations, asking questions that had already been answered just minutes prior, frustrations with recalling people's names and number sequences (phone, addresses, passwords)—all signals of early-onset dementia. Regardless of what was noticeable or not to others, I knew I was not the same.

I was referred to a neurologist who specializes in cognitive disorders and went through myriad memory-related tests in addition to MRI diagnostics. I'm 69 and over three years into the initial diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment, confirmed as Alzheimer's disease.

There have recently been exciting research breakthroughs on the Alzheimer's front. Among them is a new drug being administered via infusion therapy. It has been proven in clinical trials to slow the disease's decline by breaking up the protein amyloid plaque build-up in the nerve cells. That build-up is responsible for brain dysfunction.

It isn't a cure but could add precious months of mental clarity to affected patients.

I was fortunate to qualify for the treatment after genetic testing and other requirements. My physicians, nurses and patient support group are a blessing to me and my wife.

Of course, as hopeful as I am for the potential to slow my cognitive decline and enjoy more quality time with my family, it is difficult to ignore the challenges they will soon endure.

I recently engaged a psychologist to help me cope better with the future. The initial sessions have proven highly educational and gratifying. I am positively in a better place now.

My doctor's advice is both simple and profound. His leading and listening skills allow me to reach deeper within and come to a quiet peace with regards to my future.

My prior mindset had been: It's the elephant in the room—heavy and ever present. But my doctor has me laser focused now on living for life and not for death.

Yes, I must surely take care of my family affairs so as to not place additional burden on my spouse and children. But most importantly my doctor implores me to strive for hope and peace of mind for whatever future I have.

Acceptance of this diagnosis and a renewed "living for life" mentality is my new North Star, guiding me home. Not so much for personal gratification but for serenity with my faith, family and friends. I have been blessed.





# The future of hearing aids has arrived

#### **FOX NEWS**

#### NEWSMAX

BUSINESS Forbes

#### larming fact: More than 48 million Americans hear so poorly that their quality of life significantly suffers as a result.

The problem: Most wait too long to act, hoping their hearing will improve on its own. Sadly, it never does. But now, a game-changing device is making waves across the industry, and experts say it's the biggest breakthrough they've seen in over a decade. It's the new Horizon IX hearing aids.



Horizon IX is currently the best-selling device at renowned U.S. company, hear.com, developed by top audio engineers from Signia. Their goal was to combine the best possible speech clarity with a comfortable, invisible design using cutting-edge German technology.



"It's a hearing aid people actually want to wear," says hear.com co-founder Dr. Marco Vietor. "It offers amazing speech clarity and smartphone connectivity in a virtually invisible design — and all that for a reasonable price!"

#### What makes Horizon IX so special?

It's one of the world's first hearing aids with dual processing. This is special because it's the first time engineers have been able to pack not one, but two stateof-the-art computer chips into a device this small. And with double the power comes double the clarity.



#### What do Horizon IX hearing aids have to offer?

- Amazing Speech Clarity™ Effortlessly understand every word, thanks to dual-processing
- Bluetooth connectivity Stream music and phone calls directly to your hearing aids\*
- Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries 28+ hours of battery life and a
  - portable case for on-the-go charging Easy, comfortable fit
- All-day wearing comfort, easy to combine with glasses
- Free smartphone app Adjust settings for every listening situation easily via smartphone

\*Bluetooth connectivity only available in Behind-the-Ear (BTE) models

This means that Horizon IX hearing aids offer all of the usual benefits of modern hearing aids with the added bonus of something completely new: they can process speech and background noise independently, then combine them for unparalleled, crystal clear sound.

#### Where can I get Horizon IX?

As of January 2025, hear.com has helped more than **540,000 Americans** enjoy life with better hearing, thanks to Horizon IX. Now, it's your turn!

Check if you qualify for a **45-day no-risk trial today**, and you could have a brand new pair of Horizon IX hearing aids on your doorstep in as little as 48 hours.





#### AND **NO Money Down** | **NO Monthly Payments** | **NO Interest** for 12 months<sup>1</sup>

Minimum purchase of 4 - interest accrues from the date of purchase, but is waived if paid in full within 12 months

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<sup>1</sup>**DETAILS OF OFFER:** Offer expires 3/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door at 0% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 2/1/2025 and 3/31/2025. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$200 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 3/31/2025. Subject to credit approxel.12-month Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, puics accrued in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Some Renewal by Andersen location coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit enewalbyandersen.com/license. <sup>1</sup>It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit enewalbyandersen.com/license. <sup>1</sup>It when the second of dotails. <sup>1</sup>Herview aggregators survey of 5-star review asame and thating frain all distribute transfere Default Tables. <sup>3</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201 \*Using U.S. and imported parts.