

CADDO MOUNDS  
ON THE REBOUND

THE TAMALE-LOVING  
LONGHORN

OUR PIES OFFER  
A SLICE OF HEAVEN

# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

MARCH 2025

## The Greatest Mettle

Museum in Arlington  
celebrates Medal of Honor  
recipients' heroics





# CRUISE THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER

*Your All-Inclusive Lower Mississippi River Cruise Includes:*

- ★ 9-day/8-night exploration
- ★ 7 ports of call with guided excursion options at each
- ★ All onboard meals and our signature evening cocktail hour
- ★ Full enrichment package with guest speakers and nightly entertainment
- ★ Newest fleet of ships with just 90 to 180 guests
- ★ All tips and gratuities

---

*America's #1  
River Cruise Line*

---



Call today

**800-459-2596**

to request a  
free Cruise Guide

# March 2025



## 10

### 06 Home of the Brave

The long-awaited National Medal of Honor Museum in North Texas tells the stories of our nation's greatest heroes.

*By Cyndy Irvine*

### A Journey of Resilience

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site builds community while rebuilding itself after a devastating 2019 tornado.

*Story and photos by Anna Mazurek*

## 04

### Currents

The latest buzz

## 05

### TCP Talk

Readers respond

## 16

### Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

## 25

### Footnotes in Texas History

Sancho's Long Road  
*By W.F. Strong*

## 26

### TCP Kitchen

Pies, Pies, Pies  
*By Vianney Rodriguez*

## 30

### Hit the Road

Heaven in Houston  
*By Chet Garner*

## 33

### Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Small Spaces

## 34

### Observations

Nanny's Blessing  
*By Shane Torno*

#### ON THE COVER

The late George "Bud" Day received a Medal of Honor after his F-100, like the one behind him in Houston, was shot down over Vietnam.

*Photo by Robert Seale*

#### ABOVE

Exhibits at Caddo Mounds.

*Photo by Anna Mazurek*

# Women's History Month



THOSE RED AND WHITE signs herald a grocery chain that has grown to more than 435 stores in Texas and Mexico since its founding in 1905 in the Hill Country.

Howard E. Butt is credited with launching the H-E-B empire, but the family's first store was the creation of his mother.

Florence Butt, above, was the mother of three young sons and wife of a pharmacist unable to work because of tuberculosis. She invested \$60 to open C.C. Butt Grocery, named for her husband, on Main Street in Kerrville.

Howard took over the store in 1919 after he returned from World War I.



## TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Beefy Burgers

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Catch of the Day

**RECOMMENDED READING**  
Texas Independence Day is March 2. Read *Texas Independence* from March 2016 to learn more about the birthplace of a nation. Find it at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).

“Texas has yet to learn submission to any oppression, come from what source it may.”

—SAM HOUSTON

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Making my bed every morning is ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our January prompt: **The best year of my life was ...**

When my brother (now deceased) came home safe from the Vietnam War.

SUSAN MARTIN  
SAN PATRICIO EC  
THREE RIVERS

When I figured out that happiness is just a state of mind.

ADRIAN MAUI SCLAWY  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC  
ELKHART

The year I married the girl of my dreams—52 years ago.

STEVE BAILEY  
PENTEX ENERGY  
GAINESVILLE

2012, when I moved to Texas to join the love of my life after being apart for almost 40 years.

TOM DIFRANCESCA  
NUECES EC  
BISHOP

Visit our website to see more responses.

JANUARY 2025 Our Nosy New Neighbors

“As a child, I remember spotting black bears as far east as Waco. My mom told me their favorite drink was Dr Pepper.”

GLORIA CURRIN  
WOOD COUNTY EC  
VAN



JARED MARKGRAF

**Can We All Get Along?**

I checked out the videos from Rancho Ursa Major and was captivated by them [Our Nosy New Neighbors, January 2025]. I hope the black bears continue to thrive and that humans will be able to coexist with them.

Betsy Drapela  
Pedernales EC  
Boerne

Know what to do when encountering a mother with her cubs. If the cubs are scurrying up a nearby tree, try not to lose sight of the mother.

Back yourself slowly out of the area. Do not run until well clear of the area. The article mentioned carrying bear spray: excellent advice.

Frank Ott  
Concho Valley EC  
Eola

**Easing Into Y2K**

I spent New Year’s Eve 1999 at home logged into my work’s network watching Y2K come into our sites overseas, beginning with Japan—midnight their time, 9 a.m. Dallas time [Black-Eyed Peace, December 2024]. All systems were up and running.

I informed my boss. He told me to continue to monitor. Taiwan and the Philippines were next. Again, all systems up and running.

This continued until our Germany and France sites hit midnight, 5 p.m. Dallas time. All systems up and running.

My boss told me to enjoy the rest of my New Year’s Eve with my family.

Mark Murray  
Farmers EC  
McLendon-Chisholm

**Not Asking Too Much**

Loved this [Dear Santa, December 2024]. What a wonderful and simple time.

Laneta Beach  
Via Facebook



CHRIS WORMELL

**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.

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube LinkedIn Texas Co-op Power

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair** Avan Irani, Robstown  
**Vice Chair** Bryan Wood, San Augustine  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Cameron Smallwood, Burleson  
**Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Kerry Kelton, Navasota • Mark McClain, Roby

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

**COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Mike Ables, Bellville • Kathi Calvert, Crockett  
Marty Haught, Burleson • Tachi Hinojosa, Fredericksburg • Gary Miller, Bryan  
Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • Bryan Story, Blossom • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

**MAGAZINE STAFF**

**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevinis  
**Editor** Chris Burrows  
**Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski  
**Production Manager** Karen Nejtek  
**Creative Manager** Andy Doughty  
**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull  
**Communications Specialist** Samantha Bryant  
**Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Calhoun  
**Senior Designer** Stacy Coale  
**Assistant Production Manager** Alex Dal Santo  
**Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz  
**Food Editor** Vianney Rodriguez  
**Communications Specialist** Erin Sinclair  
**Communications Specialist** Claire Stevens  
**Proofreader** Louie Bond

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 81, Number 9 (USPS 540-560). Texas Co-op Power is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. Texas Co-op Power’s website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscription price is \$5.11 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.

**Co-op members:** Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.

**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** Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in Texas Co-op Power and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. 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.

**COPYRIGHT** All content © 2025 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wire-hand © 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



# HOME *of the* BRAVE



RECIPIENT: **SPC. JAMES C. MCCLOUGHAN**  
BRANCH: **ARMY**  
COMBAT: **VIETNAM WAR**

Among his heroics as a combat medic in May 1969, the private first class was hit twice by small arms fire and shrapnel from a grenade—bleeding heavily—as he rescued multiple wounded comrades.



RECIPIENT: **LT. COL. WILLIAM D. SWENSON**  
BRANCH: **ARMY**  
COMBAT: **AFGHANISTAN WAR**

The captain's combat team was ambushed in September 2009. His exceptional leadership and stout resistance against the enemy during six hours of continuous fighting rallied his teammates and effectively disrupted the enemy's assault.

## The long-awaited National Medal of Honor Museum in North Texas tells the stories of our nation's greatest heroes



**RECIPIENT: MAJ. GEN. PATRICK HENRY BRADY**  
**BRANCH: ARMY**  
**COMBAT: VIETNAM WAR**

Maj. Brady used three helicopters in one January 1968 day to evacuate 51 seriously wounded comrades. One aircraft was heavily damaged, and his missions encountered close-range enemy fire and descended through heavy fog and smoke.

BY CYNDY IRVINE



distinctive, boxy building under construction for the past three years in Arlington's entertainment district is not another sports arena or entertainment complex. Instead, in stark contrast to its glitzier surroundings, this structure's solemn purpose is to pay tribute to American heroes who have displayed exceptional courage under fire.

Heroes like Marine Corps 2nd Lt. George Herman O'Brien Jr., who charged through a hail of gunfire during the Korean War, fighting while injured and holding the line for hours. Like Army Sgt. James Marion Logan, who singlehandedly captured a German machine-gunner emplacement during World War II. Like John E. "Jackie" Kilmer, a Navy hospital corpsman who died using his body to shield an injured comrade during the Korean War.

The National Medal of Honor Museum will tell their important stories and those of many others. The much-anticipated national landmark is a tribute to recipients of our nation's highest and most prestigious military award for valor.

After a nationwide search, Arlington, in the Metroplex, was chosen in 2019 as the ideal setting due to its easy accessibility and location near the center of the country. Construction began in March 2022, and the grand opening is set for March 25, National Medal of Honor Day.

"We knew it is important for the museum to be located in an area which already has significant foot traffic and an infrastructure for supporting tourism," says Cory Crowley, executive vice president of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation. "Finally, we knew Texas has a strong and patriotic philanthropic base of generous individuals, families and corporations with whom this project would resonate."

Through an international competition, renowned architect Rafael Viñoly (who has since died) submitted the winning design for the museum. He reportedly was inspired by the heavy burden carried by members of the U.S. military and envisioned a large slab formation supported by five columns, each representing a branch of the military.

PORTRAITS: ROBERT SEALE; NOVEMBER 2024. LE MERIDIEN DALLAS. THE STONELEIGH



ALL IMAGES THIS SPREAD COURTESY NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

The museum’s dramatic structure follows Viñoly’s vision. Entry is through a spacious open-air rotunda encircled by the five concrete megacolumns that bear the primary building structure 40 feet overhead. Two glass elevators and a double helix of staircases lead to the upper level.

Inside, visitors will find galleries housing an extensive collection of personal mementos, compelling artifacts (including a fully restored Vietnam-era Huey helicopter), and state-of-the-art exhibits that tell the history of the Medal of Honor and the stories of the heroes who earned it.

Powered by a database of hundreds of hours of recorded video interviews, generative artificial intelligence will enable visitors to hold interactive conversations with medal recipients and hear their stories brought to life.

“Our museum is focused on collecting artifacts that will share the full history of the Medal of Honor, from its beginnings during the Civil War to modern day,” says Greg Waters, director of curatorial affairs. “The collections continue to grow as we bring in additional artifacts that will help us

ABOVE A nighttime rendering of the National Medal of Honor Museum designed by renowned architect Rafael Viñoly. The structure rests 40 feet high on five columns, each representing a branch of the military.

BELOW Entry is through a spacious open-air rotunda. Two glass elevators and a double helix of staircases lead to the upper level.

inspire our future visitors with these incredible Medal of Honor stories.”

The more than 100,000-square-foot complex, set on five acres alongside a small lake, includes a tranquil green space for reflection, an event center for memorials and ceremonies, an outdoor amphitheater, and the National Medal of Honor Griffin Institute.

The institute, with its 220-seat theater and conference center, will offer outreach programs and educational opportunities for all ages. “It’s one way we can live our mission to inspire, equip and connect people around the values inherent in the Medal of Honor—so everyone can live and lead with honor,” says Anthony Brock, executive director of the institute.

To receive the Medal of Honor, a recipient must have shown exceptional courage in combat, often risking their life beyond the call of duty. The medal is conferred by congressional approval only after an extensive review of supportive evidence and at least two eyewitness accounts documenting the heroic actions.

The president typically presents the medal in a formal White House ceremony before family members and invited guests. The medal is recognizable as a five-pointed star attached to a light blue neck ribbon—with slight variations in design between the military branches.

The Medal of Honor originated during the Civil





War when President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating the award in 1861 for Navy personnel and in 1862 for Army soldiers to honor “gallantry in action” during combat activities. Congress then established the Medal of Honor as a permanent decoration in 1863.

While more than 41 million Americans have served in the military all-time and more than 2 million have earned Purple Hearts, just 3,547 Medals of Honor have been conferred in more than 160 years. There are 19 double-recipients.

More than 600 of the medals have been awarded posthumously—a testament to the sacrifice required for the honor. Seventy-seven Medals of Honor have been awarded to Texans. Today there are 61 total living recipients across the U.S.

Retired Staff Sgt. Clint Romesha of Minot, North Dakota, who received the Medal of Honor for heroism in Afghanistan, says his medal was “not given for a day that went easy.”

“It’s a very personal thing, this museum,” the Army veteran says. “It’s not just highlighting the legacy of the medal and the recipients themselves, but it really shows the root and the values of the medal for all. ... It will share [the medal’s story] with the American people and constantly remind them that freedom isn’t free.”

The \$210 million museum is primarily funded by generous donations from private individuals, foundations and corporations. Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, a neighbor of the museum, contributed \$20 million.

“This is not a war museum or a history museum,” Crowley says. “It is a biography museum, which will leave visitors with the understanding we are all born with the potential to be extraordinary and we all have the opportunity to be heroes in our own communities, families or vocations.”

For O’Brien—who was promoted to major as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve and later returned to West Texas



## Did You Know?

Only one woman has ever been awarded the Medal of Honor: Mary Edwards Walker, who served as a Union Army surgeon during the Civil War.

Only one president has a Medal of Honor: Theodore Roosevelt, for his service during the Spanish-American War.

Nineteen Americans have been awarded two Medals of Honor.

The youngest Medal of Honor recipient, Willie Johnston, earned the award as an 11-year-old drummer during the Civil War.

Milton M. Holland, an African American from Panola County or Austin (sources vary), was the first Texas-born recipient of the Medal of Honor, for assuming command of a Union company during the Civil War.

Two Texans, Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole of Fort Sam Houston and Marine Pfc. Charles Howard Roan—both Medal of Honor recipients—died on the same day, Sept. 18, 1944, in separate actions during World War II.

It is illegal to wear someone else’s Medal of Honor.

There are three medal variants, as shown. Members of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard are eligible to receive Department of the Navy recognition.

to live and work—the medal represented so much more than his own sacrifice.

“This medal’s not mine. It belongs to those kids who never grew up to be grandfathers,” he said before he died in Midland in 2005. “It’s in trust, and I hope I wear it well.” ■

# A Journey of Resilience

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site builds community  
while rebuilding itself after a devastating 2019 tornado



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANNA MAZUREK

**On April 13, 2019,** 80 people were celebrating Caddo Culture Day at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, a pre-Columbian village and ceremonial center near Nacogdoches, in East Texas. Members of the Caddo Nation had traveled from several states to attend the festivities that included traditional dance and music performances, guided hikes, and artist exhibits—when tragedy struck.

A powerful storm system had unleashed multiple tornadoes early that afternoon, including one that swept directly over Caddo Mounds, even as visitors sought shelter in an interior room of the visitor center. A passerby was killed, and collapsing walls paralyzed one survivor and left others seriously injured.

“The shock of the 2019 tornado is unique to each individual who was present that day,” says Rachel Galan, assistant site manager. “Caddo citizen Tracy Burrows described the response of all of those there that day as a tribal response. With three hours before outside first responders were on the scene, all those on-site and the community around us took care of each other.”

But the healing process for the Caddo community took much longer and required a great measure of hard work.

Finally, on May 18, 2024, another gathering celebrated the grand reopening of a new 5,150-square-foot visitor center. Rebuilding became a pathway to recovery for the survivors, strengthening the Caddo connection to the site and to each other, and shaping the site’s future.

OPPOSITE The site’s traditional grass house was rebuilt thanks to efforts from the Caddo Nation and the Texas Historical Commission.

ABOVE The rebuilt visitor center includes tribal replicas and exhibits. It also has tornado shelters.



## Caddo History

By the year 800, the Caddo people were firmly established near the Neches River in present-day East Texas, anthropologists say, due to the abundance of food and fertile soil for agriculture.

While Caddo territory is mainly centered around the Red River Valley, in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, archaeological finds at the Caddo Mounds site—copper sourced from the Great Lakes and shells from the Gulf Coast—illustrate their vast trade network, which included the El Camino Real de los Tejas.

“This trail network has been appropriated as a Spanish-Euro western trail system, which is actually a network that was created over centuries, if not millennia, that connects Caddo all the way up to the Great Lakes with copper and Cahokia Mounds, Spiro Mounds and all the way down into Mexico City and over to Santa Fe,” says Lauren Toho-Murrow Haupt, an Indigenous anthropologist and citizen of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

“These were really wide networks of trade that really speak to how diverse Caddo were and how influential we were.”

The Caddo even influenced the name of the Lone Star State. “Texas comes from the Caddo word *tejas*, which means friend,” she explains.

Many centuries after the Caddo became established in the area, pressure from Anglo colonization efforts increased, and the Caddo were forced to leave Texas for Oklahoma in the 1850s. Today the Caddo Nation is headquartered in Binger, Oklahoma.

In 1982, a portion of the ancestral home of the Caddo Nation became the 397-acre Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, which is owned and overseen by the Texas Historical Commission.

The grounds include a section of the El Camino Real de los Tejas and three earthen mounds created about 1,000 years ago—one for burials, one for ceremonies and a third, a low platform, that doubled as a plaza space for meetings and gatherings. The mounds were one of the few features to survive the tornado unscathed.

## Rising Again

The Caddo term for a tornado experience is *shahó*, a word shared with the nation by Alaina Tahlate, a Caddo Nation citizen and language preservationist—and a survivor of the tragedy.

“That’s one of the gifts of that kind of tragedy—that shared experience,” explains Galan, whose husband, archaeologist Victor Galan, was paralyzed as a result of the tornado. “For many of us, it just deepened our relationship to the place and our commitment to the place.”

One of the main efforts of the restoration was rebuilding the site’s replica grass house, originally constructed in 2016. Traditionally, a grass house would have been built in a day, but the fundraising and rebuilding process after the tornado took roughly 18 months due to the pandemic, weather and supply shortages.

Five female Caddo apprentices were hired to rebuild the house with funding from the Texas Historical Commission and Friends of Caddo Mounds, an advisory nonprofit that supports the site.

Caddo society is matriarchal, with women being central to social organization, and matrilineal, with family lineage traced from the mother’s side. While choosing female apprentices wasn’t necessarily planned, Toho-Murrow Haupt, one of the apprentices, considers it “reflective of the significance of female participation through all dimensions of Caddo culture.”

Rachel Galan recalls the “really powerful experience” of witnessing the rebuilding process and “having the house rise again” thanks to the five apprentices—Toho-Murrow Haupt, Jackie Bullard, Kay O’Neal, Katelyn De Anne Polly and Debbie Turner.

Traditional Caddo houses are beehive-shaped structures with a tiered, multilayered exterior and a pointed top. “The grass houses were the place that the families came together,” Toho-Murrow Haupt says. “It’s where children got to listen to stories in the winter ... they were a place of connection.”

A hundred volunteers—Caddo and non-Indigenous—donated time and labor to assist through the nine-month rebuilding process. The grass house was completed in 2022.

**“That’s one of the gifts of that kind of tragedy—that shared experience. For many of us, it just deepened our relationship to the place and our commitment to the place.”**

“It was a special process of engaging in the matriarchy rite of looking to an elder to guide us maternally through the process and nurture and facilitate this growth of a house, which eventually became a home,” Toho-Murrow Haupt says.

“To be doing Caddo things with Caddo people was a really special experience that I wish every Indigenous person got to have. It was making new relationships and hearing stories from people I’d never met before.”

## Lasting Commitment

The completion of the \$2.5 million visitor center was also part of the first phase of the reconstruction efforts. The interior roof features a conical dome mirroring the structural shape of the grass house. The center includes tornado shelters and a berm for safety.

The site is currently raising money to build an education activity center, cisterns for rainwater collection and an open area for workshops and programs.

In addition, Galan has implemented a braided land conservation plan that weaves together Western-based science with traditional ecological knowledge acquired by Indigenous groups over generations.

The first programs “center on the revitalization and preservation of Caddo traditions: pottery, split-cane basket making, tending wild spaces and more that have led to nonextractive opportunities for Caddo citizens along with unique learning opportunities for visitors,” Galan says.

The programming includes weekend talks and workshops



ABOVE The exterior of the new visitor center was designed to blend into the natural environment with a self-weathering steel roof intended to mirror the shape of the Caddo mounds.

LEFT Archaeological excavations at the 20-foot burial mound, one of three earthen mounds on the site, revealed 90 bodies in roughly 30 burial pits.

such as ancient pottery techniques and the cultural importance of bead art. Educational activities include a free six-day family experience held over a series of three consecutive weekends and a six-week family garden camp.

These events are just one more way that shahó has brought more Caddo people to the site and increased their involvement while also bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors.

“By creating opportunities for authentic partnerships between Caddo citizens and the site, engaging Caddo citizens with the goal of being less extractive, and supporting cultural revitalization and preservation efforts, we have witnessed how an increase in Caddo participation with Caddo Mounds State Historic Site directly impacts visitation and interest in the site,” Galan says.

Caddo Mounds attracted 6,756 visitors last year—a 33% increase over 2023, with a notable bump after the rebuilding of the grass house and reopening of the visitor center.

Sustainability and land conservation are an integral theme of these new initiatives and a vital part of Caddo culture. Toho-Murrow Haupt says the Caddo coevolved with the land and maintained a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

“To truly live sustainably means to not leave a mark,” she says. “It means to allow for the full process of returning to the earth and completing that cycle.”

Though structures like the grass house are impermanent, the 2019 tragedy showed that the Caddo Nation and community’s commitment to the site is everlasting. ■





*Classic Chic —  
the toast of  
France*

## *Style and Sophistication for a Fraction of the Price!*

**I Lost a Fortune at the French Races, but Fortunately I Found This Bag**



**R**eady! Set! Go!" The starting gate opened and 19 horses galloped off, each jockeying for the lead. While Apache, the horse I bet on, was the odds-on favorite, his rival Napoleon pulled ahead in the race's final seconds.

In less than a minute I lost a fortune at the Paris horseraces.

After a brief moment of disbelief, something caught my eye. It seemed like every woman in Paris was carrying the same classic handbag! I had to have one for my own, so I had our handbag designers interpret this classic offer. Presenting the **Parisian Chic Claire Handbag**.

Inspired by the equestrian gear I encountered in the stables after the race. The **Claire Bag** is the color of saddle leather with metal adornments that recall horse bits and stirrups. Sturdy and chic, the Claire Bag is ideal for the woman on the go. See for yourself why the **Parisian Chic Claire Handbag** is the toast of France!

Backed by our **satisfaction guarantee**, you can revel in its sophistication risk-free for 30 days. Should it fail to dazzle, return it for a full refund of the item price.

#### **Jewelry Specifications:**

- Brown vegan leather.
- 8 1/2" x 4" D x 6 1/2" H, 9 1/2" H w/ handle.
- Two interior open pockets, two interior zipped pockets, one outside zipped

#### **Parisian Chic Claire Handbag**

~~\$299~~ \$39\* + S&P **Save \$260**

*\*You must use Insider Offer Code PCH163-01 to get this price.*

## **1-800-333-2045**

**Your Insider Offer Code: PCH163-01**



Rating of A+

## **Stauer®**

14091 Southcross Drive W.

Dept. PCH163-01, Burnsville, MN 55337

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

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO KATHI CALVERT

# Understanding the Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

THERE ARE A FEW key factors that affect electricity prices, and while most of those are out of our hands and yours, there are a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your bill from Houston County Electric Cooperative, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even log in to your online account to see when your electricity use may have spiked, such as a particularly cold or hot day.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

## Fuel Prices

Houston County EC purchases electricity from our power generation partner, East Texas Electric Cooperative, at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities.

That wholesale cost accounts for a significant portion of the cost of providing electricity to homes and

of extreme cold or heat, to manage our cost of power. When temperatures fluctuate and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of power typically goes up. Our goal is to provide stable and affordable rates.

## Infrastructure and Equipment

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity, Houston County EC members pay a monthly charge. This flat fee ensures the costs of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in our service territory, no matter how many kilowatts you use.

To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain a complex grid of power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

## You Have Control

While many of these external factors are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management.

Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting for heating and highest for cooling can help you save energy and money. Remember to have your heating and cooling system checked annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy costs by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times—typically 8 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Houston County EC is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost. ■



LSOPHOTO | ISTOCK.COM

businesses—and the cost of fuels used to generate that power fluctuate based on supply and demand.

While these fluctuations impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with our wholesale power provider to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

## Extreme Weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times





SEAN HANNON | ISTOCK.COM

## Electricity 101: The Flip of a Switch

**HAVE YOU EVER** wondered why they call it electricity? It's named after tiny parts of atoms called electrons, and that's the place to start in understanding how power plants make the electricity that reliably lights your home with the flip of a switch.

Getting all those electrons to march together inside a wire may be one of civilization's greatest and most complex engineering feats.

Just about all electricity generation starts with spinning a magnet inside a coil of wires. Inside most power plants are large turbines that accomplish this in different ways: falling water at a hydroelectric dam, burning coal or natural gas at a fossil fuel station, atomic energy at a nuclear power plant, or the rotating blades of a wind turbine.

One exception is solar energy, which uses materials that produce electricity when they're activated by sunlight.

Every one of those power plants is unimaginably complicated—think about what you would do if you were handed a lump of coal and were told to make it run your refrigerator.

Most large electric generating plants need large banks of transformers to boost the voltage for the long trip through wires held up by transmission lines and towers. As it nears your neighborhood, the voltage is reduced at one of those fenced-in complexes of wires and transformers called a substation.

As the electricity gets closer to your home or business, the voltage is reduced again with smaller transformers, which you can typically see mounted on a nearby utility pole or in a ground-level green box. This ensures the electricity entering your home is at a safe voltage for powering your lights, appliances and devices.

When you think about it, that's a lot of power in the simple flip of a switch. ■

## 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](http://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 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](http://houstoncountyelec.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/houston](http://TexasCoopPower.com/houston)



# East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar

**JUNE 9-13**

# ETREYS

**APPLICATIONS  
DUE MARCH 28**

## TOP 5 REASONS TO APPLY TO ETREYS:

- **Make new friends** across East Texas.
- **Gain a real-life college** experience at beautiful ETBU.
- **"Attended a Leadership Camp"** will look great on your resume
- **Learn about yourself** and build new skills you will use for the rest of your life!
- **It's all free!**

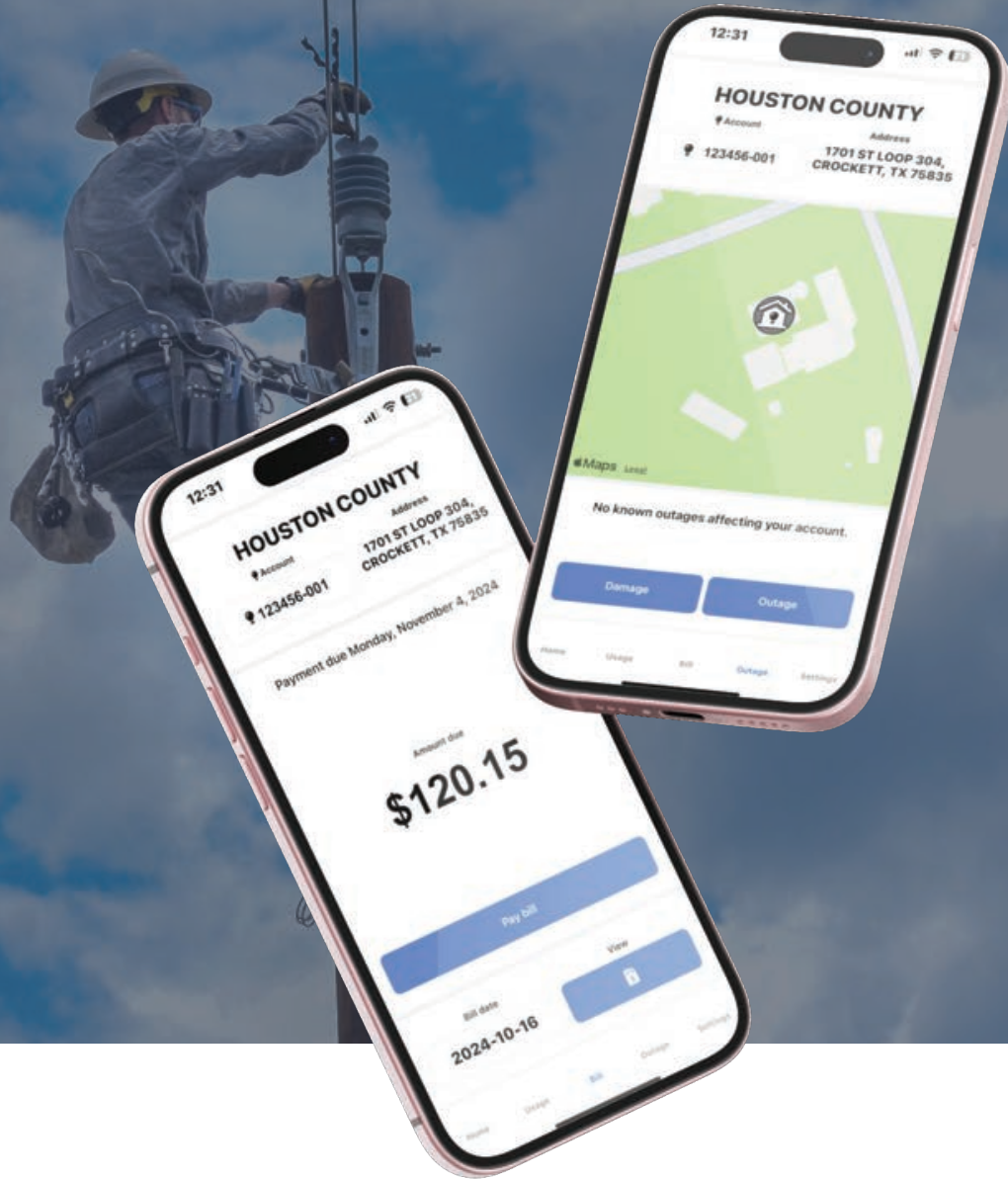
**\$3,500  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE!**



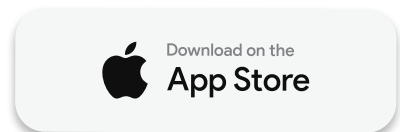
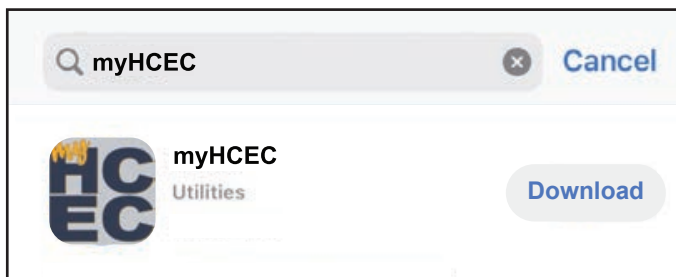
**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[WWW.HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM/ETREYS](http://WWW.HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM/ETREYS)  
CALL KELBY BOND AT 936-852-7240 OR  
[KBOND@HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM](mailto:KBOND@HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM)

# ATTENTION MEMBERS

## NEW MOBILE APP NOW AVAILABLE



**THE NEW APP IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD BY SEARCHING “myHCEC” IN YOUR PHONE’S APP STORE!**



| LARGE TREES  | MEDIUM TREES  | SMALL TREES  | NO TREE ZONE   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Height/spread of more than 70 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple</li> <li>• Oak</li> <li>• Spruce</li> <li>• Pine</li> </ul> | <p>Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birch</li> <li>• Sweetgum</li> <li>• Linden</li> </ul> | <p>Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington hawthorn</li> <li>• Goldenraintree</li> <li>• Eastern redbud</li> <li>• American arborvitae</li> <li>• Dogwoods</li> </ul> | <p>Avoid planting within 25 feet of power lines. When planting within 25 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.</p> |
|  |   |  |  |

# LOOK UP (AND DOWN) BEFORE YOU PLANT

**Spring is a great time to plant shade trees**, which eventually will grow up and out and cast nice shade on your house, keeping it cooler during the summer.

**But beware of where you plant.** Tree branches can conduct electricity, creating a possible shock hazard for utility workers who need to service overhead power lines that are too close to towering trees.

**Do some homework on the trees you've chosen before you plant them.** Know how tall and wide each tree will grow. That way, you can plant it in a spot where, when it's fully grown, it'll still be at least 10 feet from utility poles and overhead wires.

## HERE ARE A FEW OTHER SMART SPRINGTIME CAUTIONS:

- ▶ Don't climb a ladder that's within reach of a power line.
- ▶ Hire a professional to prune any tree branches that are near overhead wires. That's not a job for a do-it-yourselfer.
- ▶ Call your electric cooperative and 811 before you dig a hole to plant a tree to make sure you won't interfere with underground lines on your property. That's not only a safe practice—it's the law.



## Stay Alert During Storms

IN TEXAS, storm season starts early and stays late, so Texans need to know how to avoid the deadly hazards that severe storms can leave in their wake. Here are some common dangers that arise during storms.

**Carbon monoxide poisoning.** If the power goes out, you might need to use alternate means to power appliances or for light, heat or cooking. Gas-powered generators can pose hazards if not used safely. Make sure to operate portable generators according to safety specifications. Use generators, grills and camp stoves outside the house and garage, at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents.

**Electrocution.** Severe weather can snap electric lines and break poles, leaving live electric wires down where you or family members could be in danger of touching them. Power lines can carry enough voltage to injure and even kill, so exercise extreme caution around them if you must venture outside.

Never assume that a line isn't live just because it doesn't throw sparks, pop or hiss. Stay away from all downed wires and whatever they're touching, especially water or wet items.

Closer to home, make sure electrical cords and cables you use with portable generators are undamaged and in good repair. Keep cords away from puddles and sources of water.

**Flooding.** Avoid standing water, which can conceal electrical hazards—outlets or other electrical equipment. Don't operate appliances and equipment that are in water or have been underwater. Dry them out and have a qualified technician clear them for use first.

**House fires.** You might light candles if the power goes out. Place candles on stable, flat surfaces, out of traffic areas and away from the reach of children. Better yet, use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns instead.

**Gas explosions.** Storms can damage gas lines easily. If you smell or hear gas leaking, don't use electrical equipment—including landline phones—or switch lights on or off. Before you use a gas appliance or gas cylinder that has been underwater, have a professional check it for damage and leaks. ■



ALEKSANDR POTASHEV | ISTOCK.COM



112233 | ISTOCK.COM

### Texas Rattlesnake Eggs

**24 medium jalapeño peppers**

**8 mozzarella cheese sticks**

**2 cups buttermilk baking mix**

**1 pound hot pork breakfast sausage**

**1 pound cheddar cheese, grated**

**1 teaspoon red pepper flakes**

**1 teaspoon garlic salt**

1. Line a cookie sheet with parchment or aluminum foil.
2. Remove the stems and seeds of the jalapeños, keeping each whole.
3. Cut the cheese sticks into thirds and stuff a cheese piece into each pepper. Set aside.
4. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
5. Using a stand mixer, combine the baking mix, pork sausage, cheddar and spices; mix until it forms a stiff dough. Form dough into 24 rounded balls of equal size using a cookie scoop or heaping tablespoon. Take one piece of dough, flatten it and shape it around one stuffed jalapeño to completely seal it inside. Continue to form the dough pieces around each pepper until all are covered.
6. Place the "eggs" on the prepared baking sheet and bake 30–40 minutes or until lightly browned.

**MAKES 24 APPETIZERS**

**TCP** Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).

# Military Mosaic

An out-of-the-way Central Texas café houses a growing homage to American veterans

BY WILLIAM E. MOORE • PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADEN

I DISCOVERED THE Hwy 77 Cafe in 2013 while I was visiting Rosebud.

I was in the small town, between Waco and College Station and home to about 1,500 people, to document the local tiny jail. Calabooses were once a common architectural feature on the Texas landscape, and as an archaeologist, I was on assignment with Texas A&M University Press to document Rosebud's defunct 177-square-foot jail.

Since I was there at lunchtime, I asked the locals about a good place to eat.

Unanimously, the answer was the Hwy 77 Cafe, just north of town. Upon entering the small restaurant surrounded by fields and not much else, I was awestruck. Hundreds of photos of American military veterans graced the walls, veterans from Rosebud and across Texas.

When Martha Westerman opened the café in 2001, she hung a few military pictures of her relatives on a wall to honor their service. It wasn't long before customers began bringing their own pictures to add to the ever-growing tapestry of veterans representing all branches of service.

Today, nearly 650 portraits occupy the designated wall of honor, which now covers most of all four of the small restaurant's walls—up to 10 rows deep. It's a stunning collection interwoven with framed American flags and the daily specials that keep watch over diner tables with gingham tablecloths.

The second owners, Sue and Bill Sturrock, continued the tradition started by Westerman. The current proprietors, David Diaz and Monica Castellanos, members of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, were not aware of this custom when they purchased the café in 2022.

"Monica and I are proud to honor the tribute that Martha started 23 years ago, and we have the utmost respect for those who served," Diaz says. "We are constantly reminded of the pride the community has for its veterans, past and present."

Images of men and women of America's armed forces on these sacred walls date from the Civil War to those currently deployed at home and abroad. All major wars are represented, and the photos include veterans of famous battles and events such as the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Normandy landings on D-Day and the attack on Pearl Harbor. Also

represented are former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, and those killed or missing in action.

Each photo is numbered and appears on a list available to patrons who want to search for friends and relatives. This list identifies the veterans and their branch of service as well as when and where they served, with such particulars as their occupational specialty (tank driver, bombardier, etc.), rank and military honors.

Barbara Borden is one of the regulars at the café who has contributed to the military mosaic. I joined her and others for lunch and was treated to stories about various family members who are represented on the wall of honor.

"My husband, 1st Lt. Billy D. Borden, was a company commander at Fort Leonard Wood from 1969 to 1971, and my father-in-law, Billie E. Borden, was a gunner on the troop transport ship RMS Aquitania," she says. "They were proud to serve, and the family is grateful to know that they will be remembered by their photos, courtesy of the Hwy 77 Cafe."

On the back wall of the restaurant, Billy D. Borden occupies space No. 160, and Billie E. Borden is nearby, in spot No. 106.

I've added three photos of my own to these hallowed walls.

I joined the Army Security Agency in 1972 and served as a translator and aide to a colonel in Berlin. My father was a medic in World War I, transporting the wounded in France. And my cousin was a Marine Corps pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

It was the food that first attracted me to this diner (including the ever-popular liver and onions, scrumptious homemade pies, and excellent banana pudding), but it's the people—on the walls and behind the counter—who keep me coming back. It adds to my unwavering pride to know my family is among those greeting visitors as part of this grassroots café tribute.

As Gen. George S. Patton once said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the dead. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived." ■

Monica Castellanos and David Diaz own Hwy 77 Cafe in Rosebud, with walls honoring veterans.



EXIT

*Till*  
**VALHALLA**



EMERGENCY  
EXIT  
ONLY

6



HWY 77

HWY 77 CAFE

HWY

**ACT NOW!**  
*Your Deadline is approaching*



# Texas Property Owner? Let Ownwell reduce your property taxes!

- 86% Success Rate
- No Upfront Cost



Start saving at:

**ownwell.com/save8**

**Over 200,000 Satisfied Customers!**

## Ownwell reduces your property taxes in Texas by...



Fighting for a lower assessed value resulting in property tax savings.



Locking in lower tax assessment through an exemption.



Monitoring your property for additional tax savings.

*Don't delay...  
your deadline  
is approaching*

Start Saving at:

**ownwell.com/save8**

## Why Ownwell?

### 86% Success Rate

Our customers save \$1,102 on average.

### No Upfront Cost

Plus a free tax savings estimate.

### Completely Hassle-Free

We handle the entire process from start to finish.

### Savings-or-Free Guarantee

Pay just 25% of tax savings, the lowest rate in the industry. No savings, no fee. It's that simple!

## Getting Started is as easy as 1-2-3:

Sign up in less than 3 minutes online. We'll handle the rest.

- 1 Enter your address.
- 2 Get your savings estimate.
- 3 Answer a few questions.







**TCP** Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



He was wily.

He would often stop, face south and sniff the breeze for the smell of the Gulf. At night, a cowboy would rope him and tie him to a big bush or tree.

One day, the cattle balked at a full-flowing river. "Rope old Sancho and lead him in," a boss ordered. They did so, and Sancho led the herd across.

But as soon as he was released, Sancho returned to the rear of the herd where he could watch for chances to head home to his mesquite tree and tamales.

The herd nonetheless moved ever northward. Across the Canadian, across the Cimarron. Across Kansas, around Dodge City, across Nebraska, under the Black Hills and past the Bighorn Mountains—2,000 miles.

They finally reached Wyoming. Sancho was still halting now and then to sniff southward to see if he might get a whiff of Texas somewhere in the wind. He didn't like this new land.

The new ranch branded CR on Sancho, and the Shiner boys headed home, leaving Sancho behind.

The next spring, back in Texas, Rigby was riding near Kerr's home. He said, "I looked across the pear flat and saw something that made me rub my eyes."

He rode over and looked. It was Sancho. He had both the 7Z road brand and the CR range brand on him as plain as day. He went to talk to Kerr.

"Yes, Sancho got back six weeks ago," Kerr said. "Hoofs worn down to hair. But Maria went might near out of her mind with joy at seeing him." She hugged him and cried and fed him hot tamales.

After that, Sancho slept every night under the mesquite by the gate. ■

# Sancho's Long Road

The legend of the tamale-loving longhorn

J. FRANK DOBIE ADAPTATION BY W.F. STRONG

**FOLKLORE IS NOT HISTORY**, but it is historical. It gives us a window into the sentiments and humor of the people who lived in those times and told those stories.

One of folklorist J. Frank Dobie's favorite stories was that of a longhorn named Sancho. He heard it from John Rigby of Beeville, in South Texas. Dobie figured Rigby had dressed up the story a bit and admitted that he himself had done some "constructive work" on it over the years.

It goes like this.

There was a man named Kerr who lived on a small ranch out in the brush country south of San Antonio. One winter day in 1876, he found a cow dead in a bog with her near-lifeless calf beside her. Kerr roped the calf and took it home to his wife, Maria.

She cleaned up the poor calf and bottle fed him until Kerr could find another cow with a calf to adopt the orphan. Maria named the calf Sancho.

She began feeding him tamales, shuck and all, seasoned with peppers. Out in the brush, he began eating the chile pequin peppers that grew wild in shaded places.

Sancho was eventually branded and turned into a steer, but he was as strong as any bull. Nonetheless he remained Maria's pet and came in from the range each night to sleep under a mesquite tree.

When Sancho was 3, Kerr sold the steer to the Shiner brothers, who were to deliver three herds to buyers in Wyoming.

They branded him 7Z for the drive north, but Sancho kept lagging back and was tagged by the boys as one to watch.

# Pies, Pies, Pies

Regardless of the filling, you're guaranteed a slice of heaven

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Indulge in chocolaty goodness with this easy pie. A luscious mix of whipped cream and rich pudding creates a smooth, decadent filling. Each bite offers a satisfying crunch and melt-in-your-mouth sweetness, making this dessert irresistible for any chocolate lover!

## Chocolate Chip Pie

**1 quart heavy cream**  
**2 cups powdered sugar**  
**2 tablespoons vanilla extract**  
**1 box instant chocolate pudding mix**  
**(5.9 ounces)**  
**2 cups whole milk**  
**2 cups mini chocolate chips, divided use**  
**2 chocolate cookie pie crusts**  
**(9 inches each)**

1. Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, whip heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla on medium-high speed until medium peaks form, about 3–4 minutes. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together pudding mix and milk until smooth. Gently fold half the whipped cream and 1 cup mini chocolate chips into the chocolate pudding.
3. Divide filling evenly between crusts, and smooth out top with a spoon.
4. Top with remaining whipped cream and sprinkle with remaining 1 cup chocolate chips.
5. Place in fridge to chill at least 2 hours. Serve chilled.

**SERVES 12**

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in *Cocina Gris* at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Piloncillo Candied Pecan Pie.





## Peanut Butter Buttermilk Pie

ROSE M. DAILEY  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

This is a creamy, indulgent twist on a Southern classic. It combines the tangy goodness of buttermilk with the smooth, nutty flavor of peanut butter, creating a filling that's sweet and slightly tart.

**1 unbaked deep-dish pie crust  
(9 inches)**

**4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter**

**½ cup creamy peanut butter**

**1¼ cups sugar**

**3 tablespoons flour**

**⅛ teaspoon salt**

**1 cup buttermilk**

**4 eggs, lightly beaten**

**1.** Preheat oven to 425 degrees. If crust is not already in a pie dish, arrange unbaked crust in pie dish.

**2.** In a microwave-safe bowl, melt butter and peanut butter together in the microwave on medium-high (70% power) for 15 seconds, or longer as needed to melt butter. Allow to cool 5 minutes.

**3.** In a large bowl, stir together sugar, flour, salt and buttermilk. Stir in eggs to blend completely. Add the cooled peanut butter mixture and stir until smooth.

**4.** Pour filling into pie crust. Bake 10 minutes at 425 degrees, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 25–30 minutes longer.

**5.** Remove from oven and allow to cool before serving.

**SERVES 6–8**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

\$500 WINNER

## Strawberry Custard Pie

MILLIE KIRCHOFF  
NUECES EC



Delight your guests with this perfect blend of sweet and tangy flavors. Fresh strawberries nestled over a creamy custard are sweetened with vanilla and a hint of lemon juice for brightness. The velvety filling pairs beautifully with the buttery crust. This is a showstopper.

**1 pie crust (9 inches), prepared and baked according to package directions**

**2 egg yolks**

**1½ cups sugar, divided use**

**7 tablespoons cornstarch, divided use**

**¼ teaspoon salt**

**2 cups whole milk**

**1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter**

**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**

**1 cup water, divided use**

**1 tablespoon lemon juice**

**6 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered**

**1.** Place crust on a baking sheet. In a heatproof medium bowl, lightly whisk egg yolks.

**2.** In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, whisk together ¾ cup sugar, 4 tablespoons cornstarch, salt and milk. Bring to a boil. Boil 1 minute, whisking constantly.

**3.** Slowly pour ½ cup milk mixture into egg yolks, whisking constantly. Add egg mixture to the saucepan, reduce heat and cook for an additional minute, whisking constantly until mixture thickens.

**4.** Remove from heat and stir in butter and vanilla. Pour custard mixture into baked pie shell.

**5.** In a bowl, stir together remaining ¾ cup sugar, remaining 3 tablespoons cornstarch and 2 tablespoons water.

**6.** In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring remaining ¾ cup water to a boil. Stir in sugar mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 2–3 minutes until thick and clear. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Fold strawberries into syrup.

**7.** Spoon strawberries over custard mixture and chill in refrigerator at least 4 hours. Serve chilled.

**SERVES 6–8**



## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**BEEFY BURGERS** DUE MARCH 10

Backyard grilling is the best part of summer. How do you build your perfect burger? Submit your all-star recipe, and you might flip over \$500. Enter by March 10.

**UPCOMING: ONE-SKILLET DINNERS** DUE APRIL 10



## Edna's Dewberry Pie

TINA WEBB  
BLUEBONNET EC

Fresh berry filling crowned with a sweet, crunchy topping makes for one appetizing pie. Webb's mother-in-law, Edna, passed down this recipe that's been in the family for generations. Webb uses the native dewberries she gathers each season to make the pie, but blackberries will work too.

### PIE

- 1 unbaked pie crust (9 inches)
- 4 cups dewberries
- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ cup sour cream

### TOPPING

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter, chilled and diced



1. **PIE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. If crust is not already in a pie dish, arrange unbaked crust in pie dish.
2. Place dish on a baking sheet and place berries inside.
3. In a bowl, mix together sugar, flour, salt, eggs and sour cream. Pour mixture over dewberries.
4. **TOPPING** In another bowl, stir together flour and sugar. Use hands to work in butter

## Tips by the Ton

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

I baked a ton of pies for this issue. Before all that testing, I wish I had known:

**Place your pie on a baking sheet in the oven to prevent a huge mess.** The filling might bubble over. Trust me on this one.

**Don't rush the cooling process.** Allow the pie to cool completely before slicing. It's worth the wait.

pieces until large clumps form. Sprinkle topping over pie.

5. Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and allow pie to cool 2 hours at room temperature before serving.

SERVES 6-8

## WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BEGINS WITH YOU

Have your "Go Kit" packed and ready.

Create defensible space around your home.

Identify two evacuation routes incase one becomes compromised.

Communicate with local officials and learn how they will send emergency notifications.



[tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire](https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire)



## APPLY NOW for TREWA SCHOLARSHIPS

# \$30,000 AVAILABLE

for college-bound students

Application available at  
**TREWA.ORG**  
**DEADLINE: MARCH 15**

The Texas Rural Women's Association (TREWA) will award twenty \$1,500 scholarships to TREWA members or their children. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

**150 Years of Iconic U.S. Silver Dollars**

Peace

Silver Eagle Type 1

**FIVE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER U.S. SILVER DOLLARS, IN ONE SET!**



Morgan



Eisenhower



Silver Eagle Type 2



Actual sizes: 38.1-40.6 mm

Dates will vary

# YOUR ULTIMATE SILVER DOLLAR SET

150 Years of Iconic U.S. Silver Dollars from the Morgan to the Silver Eagle in One Master Collection!

The heritage of American Silver Dollars is rich, marked by stunningly beautiful designs that capture the hearts of collectors around the world. In this iconic U.S. Silver Dollar set, spanning nearly 150 years, you're getting FIVE American Silver Dollars issued over the last 15 decades that each reflect the history, culture and economic aspects of the United States.

## We've Done the Work for You with this Extraordinary 5-Pc. U.S. Silver Dollar Set

Each of these U.S. Silver Dollars is sought-after by collectors individually, but this set includes every design of U.S. Silver Dollar in American history, issued from 1878 to 2024!

**Morgan Silver Dollar:** First struck 146 years ago in 1878, the Morgan has a historic legacy as the coin that helped build the American West. Minted until 1904, then again in 1921, this 90% silver coin is the most collected vintage Silver Dollar in the world. Extremely Fine (XF) condition coin included in set.

**Peace Silver Dollar:** With a beautiful design memorializing peace following the end of World War I, the 90% silver Peace Dollar proved to be very popular with the American people. Extremely Fine (XF) condition coin included in set.

**Eisenhower Dollar:** The last circulating U.S. dollar coin, the Eisenhower Dollar was prized by Americans, with its design featuring war hero President Dwight D. Eisenhower, backed by an Apollo II moon landing design. The Eisenhower Dollar in this set was struck in 40% silver for collectors, in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

**Silver Eagle Type 1:** The first-ever U.S. Silver Dollar minted in 99.9% silver, these coins were first struck in 1986 following President Ronald Reagan's signing of the Liberty Coin Act into law on July 9, 1985. This gorgeous Silver Dollar features the

original, revered Type 1 "Heraldic Eagle" reverse design by John Mercanti, 12th Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint. In Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

**Silver Eagle Type 2:** In honor of the popular 99.9% silver coin's 35th anniversary in 2021, the Silver Eagle received a new, esteemed Type 2 "Eagle Landing" reverse design. This is the current issued coin by the U.S. Mint. In Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.



## SAVE with this Ultimate U.S. Silver Dollar Set!

You'll save both time and money on this 150 Year U.S. Silver Dollar Set, with FREE SHIPPING and a BONUS presentation case, plus a new and informative 150 Years U.S. Silver Dollars booklet! Call right now to get yours before they're gone!



**Ultimate U.S. Silver Dollars Set**  
Regular Price \$249 - \$199

**Save \$50.00 (over 20%) + FREE SHIPPING**

## FREE Bonus Pack — A \$25 Value!

With your order, you'll receive a Bonus Pack that includes: a Declaration of Independence 8.5 x 11" Commemorative, a 1934 \$100,000 Gold Commemorative Print, a 1957 \$1 Silver Certificate Note in Very Fine condition, a One-Ounce Morgan Copper Bar, and a Morgan Silver Dollar booklet.



For fastest service call today toll-free

**1-800-517-6468**

Offer Code YSL213-02  
Please mention this code when you call.

**SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

GovMint • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. YSL213-02, Eagan, MN 55121

FREE SHIPPING: Standard domestic shipping. Not valid on previous purchases.

GovMint.com® is a brand of Asset Marketing Services, LLC (AMS). AMS is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our 30 day Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). ©2025 Asset Marketing Services, LLC.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Heaven in Houston

A Rice University art installation transports viewers at dusk and dawn

BY CHET GARNER

**THERE I SAT**, in total silence, on the campus of Houston’s Rice University, surrounded by dozens of other people just staring at the ceiling. But this wasn’t any normal ceiling.

It was equal parts lights show, meditation and spaceship, slowly changing colors and seemingly transporting all of us into another dimension. After 40 minutes, the light show ended, and I felt like I’d been given a brain massage—a welcome side effect to witnessing the glory of the Twilight Epiphany Skyspace.

This bit of artistic madness was created by James Turrell, an internationally acclaimed master of color, light and messing with your eyes. In the daylight, this artistic installation built in 2012 looks like a giant UFO hovering over a Mayan pyramid. But at sunrise and sunset, the UFO fires up its engines and lifts off. It’s currently closed but will reopen in late spring.

I rolled onto Rice’s campus about 20 minutes before sunset. The experience is totally free and open to the public, and there was a docent on-site to answer questions. “So, we just go sit and stare?” I asked. “Yes,” she answered. “You’ll know when it starts.”

At first, I felt a bit uncomfortable sitting around with total strangers staring at a blank white surface. But as the daylight faded, the lights began to shine and we all drifted into a hypnotic trance. There were neons and purples, greens and reds, each fading slowly into the next.

Was I looking at the orange hues of a Texas sunset, or was it just a vibrant projection? Hard to say, as the edges of the giant square seemed to blend seamlessly into the surrounding sky.

Every now and then, a giggle would break the silence and remind me that this was indeed a very strange collective experience. However, sometimes the weirdest art is the most wonderful of all. ■

ABOVE Chet takes in the exterior of the Twilight Epiphany Skyspace.

**TCP** Watch the video on our website and see all Chet’s 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.

## MARCH

1

**Weatherford [1–31] Grow at Clark Gardens**, (940) 682-4856, [clarkgardens.org](http://clarkgardens.org)

8

**Abilene The Gatlin Brothers**, (325) 676-6211, [abileneconventioncenter.com](http://abileneconventioncenter.com)

**Luling Rajun’ Cajun Throwdown & Gumbo Cookoff**, (830) 875-5058, [lulingmainstreet.com](http://lulingmainstreet.com)

14

**Round Top [14–15] Herbal Forum & Plant Sale**, (979) 249-3129, [festivalhill.org](http://festivalhill.org)

**Tolar [14–15] Ceramic Expo & Handcrafted Items**, (254) 716-5227, [westceramicshow.com](http://westceramicshow.com)

16

**Fredericksburg St. Patrick’s Day Coin Hunt**, (830) 990-2044, [fbgtx.org](http://fbgtx.org)

22

**Huntsville Herb Festival at the Wynne Home**, (281) 787-3895, [texasthymeunit.org](http://texasthymeunit.org)

**Kingsville How To Recognize a Champion Horse**, (915) 533-0048, [tomlea.com](http://tomlea.com)

**La Grange David Wilcox**, (979) 968-9944, [thebugleboy.org](http://thebugleboy.org)

**Palestine Dogwood Festival**, (903) 729-6066, [palestinechamber.org](http://palestinechamber.org)

**Tomball Choo-Choo Chow Down**, (281) 290-1035, [tomballtx.gov](http://tomballtx.gov)

25

**Fort Worth [25–30] Clue**, (817) 212-4280, [basshall.com](http://basshall.com)

27

**Sagerton [27-29] Hee Haw,**  
(940) 200-0035, facebook.com/sagertonheehaw

28

**Cuero [28-29] Heirloom Stitches Guild of Cuero Quilt Show,** (361) 550-9388

**Georgetown [28-29] Quilt Show,** (512) 869-1812, handcraftsunlimited.com

**Hamilton [28-29] Hamilton County Master Gardener Vegetable Sale,** (254) 386-3919, hamilton-tx@tamu.edu

29

**Burnet Hill Country Lawn & Garden Show,** (512) 756-3059, burnetcountyhighlandlakes mastergardener.org

**Sabinal [29-30] Wild Hog Festival & Craft Fair,** (830) 486-8549, sabinalwildhogfestival.com

## APRIL

3

**Corsicana John Conlee,** (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

4

**Fredericksburg [4-6] Texas Fandango,** thetexasfandango.com

5

**Port Arthur Cajun Heritage Fest,** (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

**Waxahachie [5-May 26] Scarborough Renaissance Festival,** (972) 938-3247, srfestival.com

### TCP Submit Your Event

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

# Roadtrip!

Cherished history

Charm around every corner

Miles of trails to explore

Unique shopping

start planning!

**Nacogdoches**  
Texas Starts Here

## 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.

### WE BUY MINERALS

We pay cash for producing or non-producing mineral interests.

**CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337**

## Hit the Road

TCP Plan now  
TexasCoopPower.com/events

## RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS NOW BOOKING

Experience the beauty and history of Canada's rivers. 4, 5, 6, 7 nights of small ship cruising on a classic riverboat with departures from Kingston, Ottawa, and Quebec City. Call to request our free travel brochure.

**1-800-267-7868**  
www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com

# Small Spaces

Tiny and terrific, there's a whole world to explore right at our fingertips. Between the cracks of the sidewalk, tucked in the petals of a flower or deep in an underground cave, nature awaits if we only slow down long enough to take a look.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

**1 KATY FRANCESCHINI**  
PEDERNALES EC

"This little frog in our garden frog found the perfect spot to hide."

**2 SHELBY BARLET**  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

"I found this little guy looking for respite on my window-sill. Turns out he was trying to get away from my cat!"

**3 KATHERYN JAGER**  
PEDERNALES EC

"My husband, Garrett Smith, an environmental scientist, squeezes into a Texas cave entrance."

**4 GREGORY COTHERN**  
TRINITY VALLEY EC

"A tree frog finds shelter for the day in the leaf whorl of a canna lily."



## Upcoming Contests

**DUE MAR 10** Catch of the Day

**DUE APR 10** College Life

**DUE MAY 10** Off-Road Adventures



Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Small Spaces photos from readers.





## Nanny's Blessing

A grandmother sows memories for generations through her love of bluebonnets

BY SHANE TORNO  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
SARAH FERONE

**MY GRANDMOTHER, NANNY** to us kids, loved bluebonnets. She loved all wildflowers but especially bluebonnets.

She was a native Texan so that fact is probably no surprise. However, her love for these attractive weeds went beyond the standard Texas loyalty.

A typical Texan will happily drive for hours in the spring for the chance to view vast fields of the state flower. Of course she would often do this, but she would also collect seeds throughout the year so that she could plant them along highways in the fall.

As a child, I would sometimes accompany her and operate the shovel while she sowed the seeds in places where she could keep her eye on them during their growth.

Prior to these experiences with her, I had always assumed that the wildflowers

were responsible for their own dispersion. Now, whenever I see bluebonnets along the road, I imagine a little old woman urging a reluctant teen boy with a shovel to “keep up the pace!”

Nanny didn't just plant bluebonnets along the road though, she sowed them anywhere the sun shined. Her front yard, her side yard, her backyard, city parks, vacant lots, alleyways.

She was very successful, too. Her bluebonnet patches often attracted admirers, photographers and plenty of pollinators.

My wife also loves bluebonnets. She grew up in Kerrville and got to enjoy some of the state's best bluebonnet gazing with her family along the Hill Country's famously scenic Willow City Loop.

Once we had our own children, my wife and I would photograph our young sons in Nanny's bluebonnet patches. That's because, despite my shovel work with my grandmother, I never had any success growing my own.

Back in 2015, I bought some property out in the country that would eventually be my homesite. One of the first things I did with that property was plant bluebonnet seeds with my sons.

But no bluebonnets came up. Year after year I would plant more seeds. No bluebonnets.

Nanny died in December 2023 at the age of 97. She had good health and enjoyed her independence until the very end, and she even tended her garden with care up until the last few years.

She was a blessing to many people, even some who never knew her or knew why there were so many bluebonnets between Sinton and Rockport, north of Corpus Christi.

Last spring—inexplicably—I had some big, beautiful bluebonnet patches in my front flower bed, even though I didn't sow any seeds in the fall.

If you ask me if I think this is a coincidence, I would say, yes, of course it is.

But it is my favorite coincidence ever. ■



**RENEWAL**  
by **ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Get a **FREE** consultation!  
Call **855-962-5195**

# IT'S OUR 31-DAY SALES EVENT

Save Big on Replacement Windows and Doors!

**\$379**

**OFF EACH WINDOW<sup>1</sup>**

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

AND

**\$779**

**OFF EACH DOOR<sup>1</sup>**

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

**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



**TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.<sup>2</sup>**



**Offer Ends 4/30/2025**

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

**855-962-5195**

**FINDYOURWINDOW.COM**

**More 5-Star  
Reviews**



Than Other Leading Full-Service  
Window Replacement  
Companies\*

<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/30/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$379 off per window, get \$779 off per entry/patio door and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 3/1/2025 and 4/30/2025. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid 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. License numbers available at [renewalbyandersen.com/license](http://renewalbyandersen.com/license). Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>2</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. <sup>3</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 [renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest](http://renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest) for details. <sup>4</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. \*Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks Andersen Corporation. ©2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201