

TEXAS REVOLUTION'S
FIRST CASUALTY

GETTING CREATIVE
WITH TACOS

THE PAINTED CHURCHES
OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

MARCH 2021

Room FOR Blooms

NATURE'S PALETTE CAPTIVATES
TEXANS EVERY SPRING

MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS

WELCOME TO THE BACK PORCH



Sometimes it's nice to sit on the back porch for a spell - talking, laughing and just making memories. At Mueller, we want to make your dream living space come true and give you peace-of-mind that it will protect what matters most to you. After all, we've been around for over 90 years, creating one-of-a-kind structures to meet your every need.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

March 2021



08

Flower Power

Wildflowers proliferate in an explosion of color along the highways and byways of Texas each spring, inspiring artists to capture the state's wild beauty and luring travelers off the beaten path.

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

ON THE COVER

A red patch of Indian paintbrush highlights a field of wildflowers near New Berlin.

ABOVE

A firewheel.

Photos by Rob Greebon

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

Wounded—Then Rejected

By Michael Hurd

30

TCP Kitchen

Tacos

By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Where Artistry Congregates

By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Diners

38

Observations

Few and Far

By Eli Winter

Month of Tweets

OF THE 654 SPECIES of birds documented in Texas, over half are migratory. Millions of these will fly the Texas skies starting this month on their way to northern breeding grounds after wintering in Mexico and Central and South America.

Some species, such as the prothonotary warbler, below, and red-eyed vireo, will go no farther north than Texas, where they'll make their home until the fall, when they migrate south again.



Scout's Honor

Since the Boy Scouts of America created the Eagle Scout rank in 1911, about 2.6 million Americans have earned one of Scouting's highest honors. Until last year, all Eagle Scouts were boys.

When Abby Winkelman, whose family is a member of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, became an Eagle Scout in October, when she was 14, she made history, becoming one of the first girls to reach the rank.

"I don't think I've ever set a goal this ambitious for myself, so I'm just really proud of myself that I met my goal," said Winkelman, of Troop 5131 in Austin, "and I planned and I got help from all my friends and all my community."



Hank the Cool Dog

Texas' coolest dog meets Texas' coolest character.

A new podcast series stars Matthew McConaughey as Hank the Cowdog, based on the long-running series of children's books written by Texan John R. Erickson, illustrated by Gerald L. Holmes and set in the Panhandle.

The podcast, which debuted in the fall, is available on all major podcast platforms.

“I will never forsake Texas and her cause. I am her son.”

—JOSÉ ANTONIO NAVARRO

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE SONG THAT GOT ME THROUGH A YEAR OF PANDEMIC IS ...

TCP 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 January prompt: **Life was better ...**

When my skate key was hanging around my neck, my knees were scabbed and the wind was blowing my hair from my face.

JANICE F. CONWAY
TRINITY VALLEY EC
KEMP

Before COVID-19.

GARY GALLOWAY
TRI-COUNTY EC
WEATHERFORD

When we could reach out and touch someone, literally. I miss hugs and handshakes.

CARMEN LOCKSTEDT
VICTORIA EC
VICTORIA

When the only screen we had was in our door, and we could see through it.

PATRICIA RAPACKI
MIDSOUTH EC
MONTGOMERY

After I recovered from ovarian cancer.

SHERRI JEFFERY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
MCKINNEY

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Drink to That?

USING HOUSTON as a model, researchers at Rice University have developed a plan to recycle wastewater economically and make it drinkable, which could reduce the need for surface water—from rivers, reservoirs and wells—by 28%.

“All the technologies needed to treat wastewater to drinking water quality are available,” Rice researcher Qilin Li said. “The issue is that today they’re still pretty expensive.”

This proposed system makes up for that by bringing down the cost of a city’s water supply. Recycled water doesn’t have to travel as far and is therefore cheaper.

Cheers.



TCP Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Kids Cooking

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Night Life

WIN A BOOK

Enter to win *Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide*.



RUSSELL A. GRAVES

Captured!

“Katmai National Park and Preserve holds a contest every year to name the fattest bear at Brooks Falls.”

JULIA FRANKENFIELD
MIDSOUTH EC
MONTGOMERY

No Fan of the Span

My wife drove across it with our teenage son in 1985 and could not drive back [*The Scariest Bridge in Texas*, January 2021]. It was so traumatizing for her that she has not been able to drive over any multilevel highway overpass, interstate or other even moderately high bridge since.

It should have a warning sign.

William Hamlin
Tri-County EC
Keller



Crossed it pulling a six-horse trailer with a truck full of squealing little girls [*The Scariest Bridge in Texas*, January 2021]. Not something I care to repeat.

KAY MOTLEY
VIA FACEBOOK

A World Opens

The Carnegie library of my hometown of Terrell did indeed fill a real need [*Literary Fortunes*, January 2021]. As a boy I was able to jump on my bike and spend time looking through the stacks and especially enjoying the reference room. The whole world opened for me.

Dan Wood Jr.
Trinity Valley EC
Terrell

Dialect in Danger

The Texas German dialect and culture are slowly dying out as they are not passed on to younger generations [*Burgs in a New Land*, December 2020]. Within the next 20 years, the Texas German dialect will become extinct after being spoken for close to 200 years.

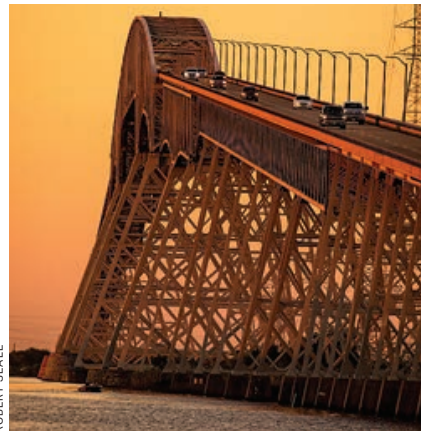
In 2001, I founded the Texas German Dialect Project at the University of Texas to record this unique dialect.

Hans Boas
Pedernales EC
Austin

Thank you for the article about the fear of crossing bridges and high overpasses. I am that person. I will go out of my way to avoid the flyovers in Houston and any other high or narrow bridge.

I no doubt annoy drivers behind me when I have no choice but to use one of these structures, and I crawl across it, white-knuckled, at 40 mph.

Linda Secrist
San Bernard EC
Magnolia



ROBERT SEALE

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 Twitter Instagram YouTube Telegram Telegram Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Marty Haught, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • **Senior Communications Specialist** Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge
Digital Content Producer Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 9 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2021 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2021 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American
MainStreet
Publications

Plant Faster, Easier With **NEW SUPER PLUGS!**



Pre-cut plugs are 10x bigger!

OR... Plant Your Way With **FREESTYLE PLUGS!**



Cut any size plugs from sheets!

THE ONE-TIME, LIFETIME LAWN SOLUTION



SAVE OVER 50%

Stays lush and green in summer

7 Ways Our Amazoy™ Zoysia Lawn Saves You Time, Work and Money!

- 1 - CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING BY AS MUCH AS 2/3
- 2 - NO GARDENING EXPERIENCE NEEDED - NO DIGGING UP OLD GRASS
- 3 - GROWS IN POOR, ROCKY, SANDY OR CLAY SOIL - IT DOESN'T MATTER
- 4 - FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS AND PARTIAL SHADE
- 5 - STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT
- 6 - STOPS CRABGRASS AND MOST SUMMER WEEDS FROM GERMINATING
- 7 - ENDS COSTLY RE-SEEDING AND NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Zoysia Farm
NURSERIES
Improving America's Lawns Since 1953

**GUARANTEED TO GROW
Or We'll Replace Plugs FREE!**

NOW 3 WAYS TO START YOUR AMAZOY ZOYSIA LAWN!

- 1) New Super Plugs come in handy trays, pre-cut as individual 3"x3" plugs ready to plant. Enough for 60 sq. ft. from \$24.95 + shipping.
- 2) Freestyle Plugs come in uncut sheets with up to 150 - 1" plugs. Or for less cutting and planting, make each plug bigger and plant them farther apart - your choice. Enough for 300 sq. ft. from \$29.95 + shipping.
- 3) Amazoy-Approved Seed - As the Zoysia Experts for 60+ years, we finally have a Zoysia seed that meets our standards and homeowners' expectations. Available in 2-lb. bags, enough to cover over 1,000 sq. ft.

ORDER YOUR WAY TODAY!
www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag

410-756-2311


Promo Code
5696

Harvested Daily From Our Farms
And Shipped To You Direct!

Amazoy is the trademark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia grass.
© 2021 Zoysia Farm Nurseries, 3671 Old Taneytown Rd, Taneytown, MD 21787

Never released into circulation -
Yours FREE!

Shown larger than actual size



Yours FREE!
2020 Kennedy Half Dollar

Get the 2020 Kennedy Half Dollar FREE!
Get an Uncirculated 2020 Kennedy Half Dollar - minted in limited quantities since 2002.

- Not available from the U.S. Mint
- Collector-preferred Uncirculated coin
- Largest regular-issue U.S. coin today

Order within 30 days to receive your 2020 Kennedy Half Dollar FREE - plus FREE shipping!
Why are we offering such a great deal? Because we're so sure you'll like this **FREE** coin that you'll

enjoy receiving a **RISK-FREE** trial selection of other popular coins to preview in your home. You'll receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance in 15 days - with option to cancel at any time. To receive your **FREE** 2020 Kennedy Half Dollar, mail attached coupon today!

Special Offer for New Customers Only - Age 18+

Special Offer for New Customers Only - Age 18+
ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

YES! Please send me the 2020 Kennedy Half Dollar **FREE** (regularly \$14.95), plus **FREE** shipping (limit 1 set).

Number of Sets: **1**

Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE**

Total Amount: \$ **FREE**

Please send coupon to:
Dept. 52Y434
1309 Mt. Eustis Road
Littleton NH 03561-3737
Littleton
Coin Company®
Serving Collectors Since 1945

Name _____ Please print clearly

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Apt# _____

E-Mail _____

©2021 LCC, Inc.

SEASONAL SWAY OF COLORS
DRIVES TEXANS WILD

Flower POWER

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

NATURE'S PALETTE CAPTIVATES Texans every spring. Sapphire blue, lemony yellow, crimson red, golden orange, lavender purple and ivory white. We love our wildflowers so much that we'll drive great distances to see them. Frame their colors in countless photos. Designate official state titles in their honor. Celebrate their return with festivals, parades and dances. Spread their seeds across our yards, campuses and roadsides. Pen words, compose music and paint landscapes that hail their natural glory.

We also revere the Texans who've promoted our 5,000-plus species of wildflowers and native plants. Foremost was Lady Bird Johnson, who started her national highway cleanup campaign during Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency and co-founded the National Wildflower Research Center in 1982. Now called the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the 284-acre complex in Austin supports the Botanic Garden and Arboretum of Texas as well as cultivated gardens and wild natural areas.

Another wildflower hero is Carroll Abbott of Kerrville, a native plant expert who lobbied in 1981 to establish the fourth Saturday in April as Texas Wildflower Day. That same year he was instrumental in founding the Native Plant Society of Texas, which now boasts 34 chapters with 2,800 members.

Other wildflower advocates made a difference, too. San Antonio civic leader Sallie Ward Beretta launched a state-wide campaign in the 1920s to stop the bluebonnet from being overpicked. As president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs and the San Antonio Council of Girl Scouts, she recruited volunteers to gather seedpods in fields around the city. Then they shared the seeds with other cities across the state and nation.

Large or small, every effort to protect our wildflowers makes a difference. You can do your part: Please don't pick, trample or uproot bluebonnets or any other wildflowers. No law prohibits Texans from picking bluebonnets unless they're on private property or state park land, but any flower picked or damaged can't reseed for the next spring's bloom.

So welcome back, wildflowers. We look forward to yet another glorious show!



ROB GREEBON | IMAGESFROMTEXAS.COM



A field of bluebonnets in the southern Chisos Mountains welcomes the sun as it rises on Big Bend National Park.

WELL, I DO DECLARE!
OFFICIAL STATE DESIGNATIONS

Officially WILD

STATE FLOWER

Most U.S. states claim one official state flower. Not Texas. We have at least 16. In 1901 the bluebonnet (*Lupinus subcarnosus*) went up against the prickly pear and cotton boll for the right to be named state flower. Rep. John “Cactus Jack” Nance Garner of Uvalde lobbied for the cactus bloom. Other legislators argued that cotton had made Texas rich. In the end, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America carried the day, and the bluebonnet won.

But floral dissent wasn’t over. Many didn’t like the bluebonnet choice. Of the state’s six bluebonnet species, *Lupinus subcarnosus* was the “least attractive,” opined botanist Howard S. Irwin in *Roadside Flowers of Texas*. So in 1971 state lawmakers amended legislation to include the more popular Texas bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) in addition to *Lupinus subcarnosus* and all other varieties of bluebonnet as the official state flower.

Since then, horticulturalists have developed different colors of bluebonnets, such as white and maroon. To date, they’ve introduced at least 10 bluebonnet varieties. Thus, Texas has at least 16 official state flowers ... for now.



WILDFLOWER CAPITAL OF TEXAS

DeWitt County

Wildflower trails crisscross DeWitt County, northwest of Victoria, where more than 1,000 wildflower species have been documented. A 1999 resolution adopted by the Texas House recognized the county as the Wildflower Capital of Texas.

TEXAS WILDFLOWER DAY

Fourth Saturday in April

In April 1981 the Legislature declared the fourth Saturday of April as Texas Wildflower Day. The resolution asks the governor “to issue an appropriate proclamation annually” to encourage the proper observance of the special day.

BLUEBONNET CO-CAPITALS OF TEXAS

Burnet and Llano counties

Every spring visitors admire wildflowers along the Highland Lakes Bluebonnet Trail, which winds through Burnet and Llano counties in Central Texas. In 1981 the Legislature designated the pair as Bluebonnet Co-capitals of Texas.



EDDIE WHITE

STATE FLOWER SONG

Bluebonnets

Our state flower song, *Bluebonnets*, has roots in Washington County. Julia D. Booth of Chappell Hill wrote lyrics for the song, which was composed by piano teacher Lora C. Crockett. On February 8, 1933, Alice Clay Routt of Chappell Hill, accompanied by Crockett on the piano, sang the tune for the Texas House. It was then adopted as the state flower song by the Legislature.

OFFICIAL BLUEBONNET FESTIVAL OF TEXAS

Chappell Hill Bluebonnet Festival

The Chappell Hill Historical Society hosted its first bluebonnet festival in 1964, calling it the Bluebonnet Antique Show. In 1983 the name changed to Chappell Hill Bluebonnet Festival. In 1997 the Legislature named the event, in the town east of Brenham, as the Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas.

**WILDFLOWER SEEDING
BRIGHTENS ROAD TRIPS**

Take It ON THE ROAD

SINCE THE 1930s the Texas Department of Transportation has planted native flowers and grasses along state highways. In 1934 the agency directed staff not to mow until wildflowers had set seed, a policy that still guides mowing schedules.

TxDOT's wildflower program has expanded in both scope and vision, and the department now maintains 800,000 acres of roadside along with 80 safety rest stops and 12 travel information centers. Every year TxDOT must reseed approximately 4,800 construction projects.

Enter native plants, which require less care, provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity. "Every fall we sow approximately 30,000 pounds of native flower and grass seed mixes," says Travis Jez, a TxDOT vegetation specialist. "Because monarch butterflies have become a species of major concern, we're also planting pollinator gardens and milkweeds, such as zizotes. What's cool is that all pollinators benefit."

No single seed source can supply the 15 tons that TxDOT sows annually. So Jez works with six Texas companies that specialize in producing seeds for native species. TxDOT also collaborates with Texas Native Seeds of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, a nonprofit program that develops commercial seed supplies of native plants for use in restoring habitats on private and public lands. The program supports six regional projects that select and grow plants endemic to their areas.

While you're searching for wildflowers, look out for bright green carpets along Texas roadsides. Those indicate that the areas have been hydro-seeded with a slurry of seeds, mulch and water. "The process is used for spreading seeds and to control erosion," Jez explains. "The mulch also holds in water and helps the seedlings get started."

As for the green color, "It allows applicants to see where they've sprayed the slurry," Jez says.



ROB GREEBON | IMAGESFROMTEXAS.COM



Bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush
accompany travelers along a stretch
of Texas 16 in Gillespie County.

Picture THIS

IN APRIL 1961 nature enthusiasts hurrahed the publication of *Roadside Flowers of Texas*. The classic guide written by botanist Howard S. Irwin showcases 257 wildflower paintings by Mary Motz Wills, a prolific artist and amateur botanist whose work was exhibited nationally. Her attention to the smallest details led to floral watercolors that were, as one columnist noted, “botanically accurate as well as artistically superb.”

Wills attended formal art schools and began painting flowers in 1913 while recovering from an illness in Panama, where her husband, a U.S. Army colonel, was stationed. After his death in 1925, Wills moved to Georgia and then to Abilene, where she aspired to record as many Texas flowers and plants as she could.

At her home studio, Wills painted plants that she collected or were sent to her by friends. She sometimes woke at 4 a.m. or worked through the night to capture blooms in their most natural form. “Some flowers only bloom at night, so I stay up until I get them painted,” she told a newspaper reporter in 1958.

A stickler for accuracy, Wills often noted on her paintings the common and botanical name of plants and where they grew in the wild.

In all, Wills produced more than 2,000 Texas botanical paintings. Many of the plants that she painted “were endangered species in her day, and some have disappeared entirely since then,” writes Cecilia Steinfeldt in *Art for History’s Sake: The Texas Collection of the Witte Museum*.

Wills died at 86 in 1961. Today, many of her delicate watercolors are housed for safe-keeping in Austin’s Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, San Antonio’s Witte Museum and Abilene’s Grace Museum. ■

TCP WEB EXTRA Pick up more wildflower facts and win a book that can make you an expert.



31-DAY SALE

windows & doors



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

When we say this sale ends on March 31st, we mean it! **You only have 31 days to get this discount, along with special financing or an extra 3% off!**¹

There are limited appointments available. Please call today to book your visit.

Now offering
virtual
appointments
too!

Sale ends March 31st!

SAVE \$300
on every window¹

SAVE \$825
on every patio door¹

★ **EXTRA 3%** ★
★ **Discount** ★
when you pay for your whole
project with cash or check¹

OR

NO NO NO for 1
Money Down Payments Interest year¹

Book your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis before the sale ends on March 31st

Austin:

512-298-1858 • 469-606-5229

Dallas/Fort Worth:

San Antonio:

210-961-9990 **TopWindowSolution.com**



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



¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to purchase of 3 or more windows and/or patio doors. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 3/31/21, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts. **All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio, and by Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. All are independently owned and operated affiliates operating in TX.**

R.F.I.D. Protection Means
MAXIMUM SECURITY!

Keep Cash & Credit Cards Safe!

Holds Up To
34 Cards
Or Photos



Money Pocket



Great For Travel!

The World's Most Worry-Free Wallet! R.F.I.D. security wallet has a metallic lining that stops thieves from stealing your precious financial information! Soft, rich leather case holds up to 34 credit cards, photos and cash, plus there's a bonus outside window pocket for your I.D. Compact fashion import measures 4 1/16" x 2 3/4". Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

R.F.I.D. Zip Up Security Wallet
FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING
when buying 2 or more
now only
\$12⁹⁹



Bonus Outside Window Pocket

FULL Zip Around R.F.I.D. Security



Connect With

DreamProducts.com

website offers may vary

1-800-530-2689

Order Now Toll-Free

M-F 6am-1am CST, S-S 6am-9pm CST

⚠ California Proposition 65 Warning: This product contains a chemical that exposure to is known by the State of CA to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not mouth or chew. See our website FAQ's for additional information.

Item #369955 - R.F.I.D. Zip Up Security Wallet

Style #247	(Tan) R.F.I.D. Zip Up Security Wallet(s) @ \$12.99 ea	\$
Style #101	(Black) R.F.I.D. Zip Up Security Wallet(s) @ \$12.99 ea	\$
*Add Applicable State/Local Sales Tax		\$
Shipping & Handling Add \$2.95 1st Wallet		\$
FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRIORITY PROCESSING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (Receive within 3-6 days of receipt of order)	\$2.95
Please Print Clearly		Total \$

<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	Exp. Date /
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS SM Cards	
Card#		
Name		
Address		
City		ST Zip
Daytime Phone #		
Email		

Send order to Dream Products, 412 Dream Lane,
P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690

Source Code **79921**

To receive this offer on the web, you MUST input the source code when ordering

Introductory Price!
LOW AS
\$31.25
each



Actual size
is 40.6 mm

This Is the End

The U.S. Silver Dollar Is About to Change...Forever!

Each year, millions of collectors and silver stackers around the world secure freshly struck American Eagle Silver Dollars. Minted in one Troy ounce of 99.9% pure U.S. silver, these legal-tender coins are perhaps the most widely collected silver bullion coins in the world... and they're about to change forever.

Final Release of Original Silver Eagle Design

Since 1986, the design of the "Silver Eagle" has remained unchanged: Adolph A. Weinman's classic 1916 Walking Liberty design paired with former U.S. Mint Chief Engraver John Mercanti's stunning eagle reverse. But in mid-2021, the U.S. Mint plans to replace the original reverse. This initial release is the FINAL appearance of the U.S. Silver Eagle's original design!

Collectors are Already Going Wild for This "Final" Release!

For any popular coin series, two dates tend to rise to the top of demand: the first and the last. This coin represents not just the final issue of perhaps the world's most popular silver coin, but also its 35th anniversary — an additional draw for collectors, who are already chomping at the bit, ready to secure as many coins as possible. And it's not just about the special anniversary and "last" that has them excited...

Higher Values + Slowed Production = DEMAND!

In the last 12 months, average monthly values of silver bullion have increased nearly 68%! Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the U.S. Mint slowing production of freshly struck 2020 Silver Eagles—and this could reoccur. Add in the final issue of the original design, and you have a trifecta of demand that has buyers around the world ready to pounce.

Timing is Everything

This is a strictly limited release offer for one of the world's most popular silver coins. As the last mintage to feature the original, 35-year-old design, it represents the end of an era at a time when silver values have seen a massive increase. Once word gets out that these 2021 U.S.

Silver Dollars can be secured at such a great price, you'll be facing far more competition. Call today and secure yours now ahead of the crowd!

Just Released — Call NOW!

Collectors around the world are already beginning to secure these coins. Don't wait. Call 1-888-201-7639 and use the special offer code below now, and your 2021 U.S. Silver Dollars will ship directly to your door. Plus, the more you buy, the more you save!

2021 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

1-4 Coins-	\$32.74 ea. + s/h
5-19 Coins-	\$32.65 ea. + FREE SHIPPING
20-99 Coins-	\$32.38 ea. + FREE SHIPPING
100-499 Coins-	\$32.20 ea. + FREE SHIPPING
500+ Coins-	\$31.25 ea. + FREE SHIPPING

FREE SHIPPING on 5 or More!

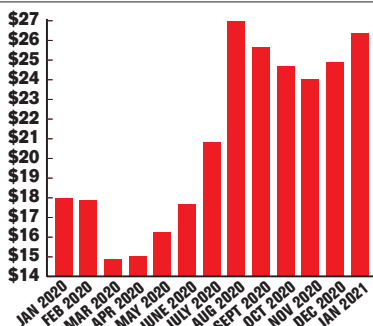
Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service

1-888-201-7639

Offer Code LRE230-01

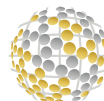
Please mention this code when you call.



Silver Trend Chart: Price per ounce based on monthly averages.

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. LRE230-01 • Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® 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. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. 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 GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2021 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



GovMINT.COM®
THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

KATHI
CALVERT

Lessons Learned

ON THE HEELS OF our record snowfall event in January, we at Houston County Electric Cooperative are busy preparing for spring storm season. We had many members without power for several days, and many of our employees were also returning home to cold, dark houses following 16-hour workdays. We fully understand your frustration and listened to your feedback.

We have reviewed our emergency operations and identified opportunities for improvement. The restoration effort was efficient. There is little we could have done to restore power faster with the breadth of damage sustained, but we could have improved our communication to provide you with more accurate information and realistic expectations.

By the time you receive this article, we will have implemented a new phone system. This project was in progress prior to the snowstorm, but the benefits of the project are more apparent now. In advance of a major weather event or early in an event, we will be able to rapidly expand the num-



ber of inbound phone lines to handle higher call volumes. We have trained employees in other departments to handle outage calls. During future emergency events, we will scale back routine operations further in order to provide more information to our members without power.

We are reviewing all our communication channels, from on-hold messaging to our HCEC app and social media sites, to ensure messaging is appropriate given the amount of damage sustained and the number of members affected. While more

people handling calls will be beneficial, we will continue to face capacity constraints. We have 68 employees providing service to over 22,000 meters. More than 65% of your Houston County EC workforce is focused solely on restoration efforts. At our outage peak from the January snow, 14,000 were without power. It is not feasible to personally handle 14,000 calls with our remaining workforce. Recognizing our limitations, we will do a better job of providing more information through other communication channels.

We have changed the outage map in the HCEC app to reduce confusion about whether an outage has been reported. We are also correcting internal processes that falsely reported power as restored when it had not been restored. I realize after several days without power, it would be extremely frustrating to receive erroneous notification of restoration.

We will continue to be responsive to your feedback and to take steps to make improvements. We take our responsibility to serve you seriously. We serve with both pride and humility.

I am confident that many understand the circumstances everyone faced in this unusual event. We recognize how discouraging it can be to wait for power to be restored. However, I am going to ask that all of our members be receptive to our feedback. We sacrifice much and give you our best. There were instances where your linemen were cursed and belittled while trying to restore your power. The linemen work long hours in a dangerous job. They are tired and hungry and trying to get your power restored. When someone curses or criticizes our linemen while they are trying to restore power, they are only making a dangerous situation worse. Safe power restoration is mentally and physically demanding. Additional distractions jeopardize the safety of our employees.

HCEC personnel answering calls are trying to help you. Our personnel are trained to provide you the best information available, but rude and ugly responses will not improve the situation or lead to faster restoration.

We are far from perfect. We make mistakes every day, but please respect the men and women of HCEC. We will respect your criticism of our efforts and strive to do better. ■

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle.
If you can't get to shelter:

- ▶ Avoid open fields and hilltops.
- ▶ Stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- ▶ Spread out if you're in a group.

Did You Know?

- ▶ All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- ▶ Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- ▶ If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

Shocking Facts About Lightning

- ▶ There are 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes annually in the U.S.
- ▶ Every year, 300 Americans are struck by lightning.
- ▶ Of those struck, 30 are killed and others experience lifelong disabilities.

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
Kay Reed
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.

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 check your account balance or make a payment using the automated system, press 3.
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



SNOW DAYS OFF

Here’s an inside look at what our outage restoration process entails, including information from our most recent major event, which was quite unusual for East Texas.

POWERING UP AFTER AN OUTAGE:

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. When a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may be a result. Our line crews work long hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here’s how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark.



1. HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

Transmission towers and conductors supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.



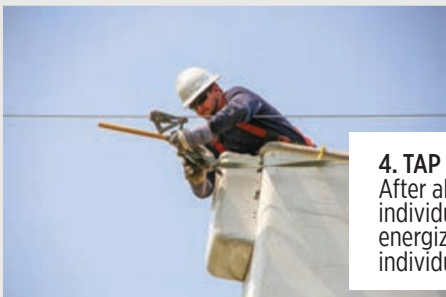
2. DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS

A substation serves thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation or the substation itself.



3. MAIN DISTRIBUTION CIRCUITS

If the problem cannot be isolated at the substation, distribution lines are checked. There are 4 to 8 main circuits out of each substation, each serving hundreds of members.



4. TAP LINES

After all main circuits are restored, individual taps are inspected and repaired, energizing service to smaller groups and individual homes and businesses.



HOW YOU CAN STAY SAFE AND PREPARED

- Always report your outage by:
 - Using the HCEC Mobile App.
 - Visiting our site at www.houstoncountyelec.com.
 - Calling 1-800-970-4232.
- Follow restoration efforts with our outage map on the HCEC Mobile App, on our website, or updates on our Facebook page.
- Create an emergency preparedness kit for you and your family.

Visit **ready.gov** for helpful guidelines.



TOP REASONS FOR OUTAGES

- **Storms:** Wind and lightning are top contenders for HCEC outage causes. More times than not, this causes trees to fall into our rights of way, which are 15 feet from the centerline of the main distribution circuit or the tap line.
- **Animals:** Squirrels, snakes and birds—though they're little, they can be problematic. Even hogs and cows can cause issues!
- **Other:** Car wrecks and stray balloons (yes, it happens!) are also common causes of power outages.

Major storm events that have caused damage to the HCEC system include hurricanes, tornadoes and, most recently, a snow storm!



A message for

CRITICAL CARE CONSUMERS

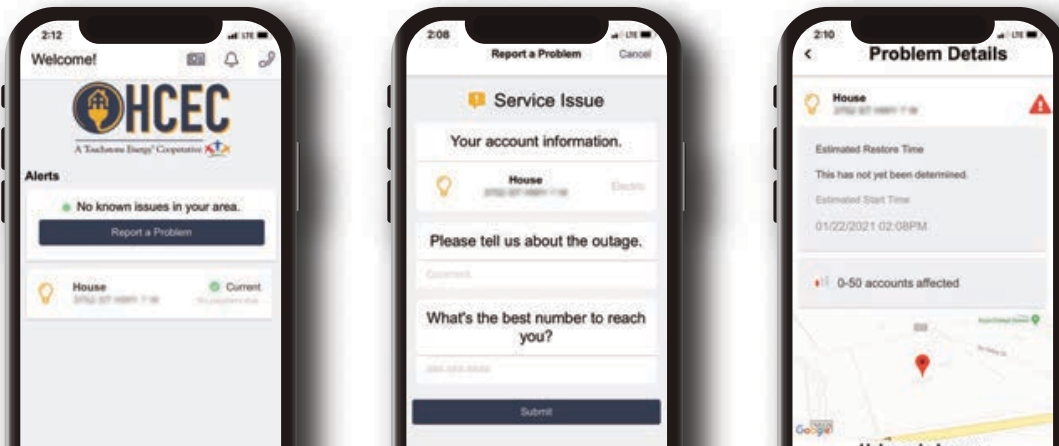
Unavoidable power outages happen. Sudden severe storms, vehicle accident damage, animal contact or other problems can interfere with your electric service and disrupt the power flow to your location. Our Critical Care Program does not guarantee uninterrupted, continuous power supply. The Critical Care Program allows us to prioritize restoration during normal operations. On widespread disasters and major outage events, restoration is prioritized based on the number of members affected and the extent of damage. Locations registered in the Critical Care Program are not exempt from planned service interruptions. If electricity is a necessity, you are responsible to make other arrangements. You may use battery backup, emergency generators or plan to temporarily relocate. For your own health and safety, please make appropriate plans for power interruptions. We urge you to

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN!

APP UPDATE AVAILABLE

- 1** Easily pay your bill in the palm of your hand.
- 2** Report and track outages with the click of a button.
- 3** Monitor daily usage and report service issues straight to HCEC.

As easy as 1, 2, 3!



Power in the palm of your hand!



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

SEARCH "HCEC" IN APPLE'S APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY.

1701 SE LOOP 304, CROCKETT
936-544-5641 (LOCAL) | 1-800-657-2445 (TOLL-FREE)
WWW.HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE IN THE DARK:

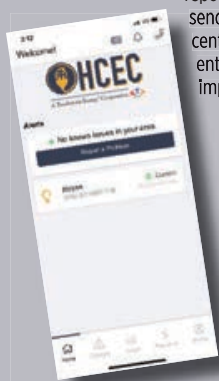
- Always report your outage.

WAYS TO REPORT YOUR OUTAGE:

HCEC MOBILE APP:

Available 24/7

- The HCEC mobile app is the quickest and easiest way to report an outage. It instantaneously sends an outage ticket to our dispatch center and in return you get a notification of receipt. Members can also enter comments about location information, outage causes or any other important information our Dispatch Center may need to know.



AVAILABLE IN YOUR SMART PHONE'S APP STORE BY SEARCHING 'HCEC'

HOUSTONCOUNTYELEC.COM

Available 24/7

- The HCEC online outage reporter is another quick and easy tool to report your outage. The online outage reporter instantly sends a notification to our Dispatch Center. This option allows members to enter important details about their outage, such as the cause.



OUTAGE HOTLINE—1-800-970-4232

Available 24/7

- The HCEC outage hotline is the automated system that reports outages to our dispatch center. Make sure to have your account number or meter number available to report the interruption at your location.

If you have any information regarding the cause of the outage (tree limb on power lines, broken poles, etc.) please contact us using the 'Drop Us A Line' feature on our website.
(houstoncountyelec.com/contact-us)

**IF YOUR SITUATION IS A
LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY,
DIAL 911.**



RICK PATRICK

Susan's Sriracha Bacon Chicken Bites

- 4 small boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (6 ounces each or about 1½ pounds total)**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice**
- 2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce**
- ½ teaspoon cumin**
- 16 slices bacon**
- ⅓ cup packed light brown sugar**

1. Cut each chicken breast into large, bite-size (about 1-inch) chunks and put them in a 1-gallon zipper bag.
2. Stir together oil, lime juice, Sriracha sauce and cumin and pour over the chicken. Let marinate for about 1 hour.
3. Cut each bacon slice into 2 pieces and drape each piece over and around a chicken cube, securing with a toothpick. Arrange wraps on a flat surface and sprinkle evenly with brown sugar.
4. Spray top rack of a broiler pan with high-temperature grilling spray and arrange chicken wraps on top.
5. Bake 6 inches under the broiling element at 350 degrees for 25–28 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
6. When chicken is cooked, set oven to broil and broil about 3–6 minutes, watching carefully all the while, until sugar starts to brown and edges of bacon are crisp.

Makes 32 appetizers.

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

POWER TIP

Don't block the supply and return air vents in your home with furniture or by closing them off. Blocking the vents makes your heater work harder.

RUNNA10 | ISTOCK.COM

Hill Country Empire

Charles Schreiner's legacy includes the YO Ranch and a university that bears his name

BY MARTHA DEERING • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID DANZ

THE ROUGH TERRAIN of the Hill Country that drew ambitious ranchers in the 19th century now lures vacationers seeking spring-fed rivers and limestone bluffs. That scenic beauty belies the challenges faced by early stockmen who were new to Texas.

One of the ambitious early settlers was Charles Armand Schreiner, who established a store in 1869 and methodically built a sprawling operation that covered half a million acres with the fabled YO Ranch. His name also would define banking and mercantile businesses as well as the Kerrville-based university he helped found in 1923.

Today, the legendary YO lives on with the help of creative marketing, and throughout the Hill Country, stories of the Schreiner family and its influence abound.

Schreiner was born at Reichenstein Castle in Alsace-Lorraine, a picturesque region then part of Germany and now France. In 1852, Schreiner's father, Gustave Schreiner, emigrated with his wife and five children halfway around the world, to Indianola. Once on Texas soil, they walked across the prairie to San Antonio in the sweltering September heat.

In a tragic twist, Gustave died from a rattlesnake bite 18 days after the family arrived in San Antonio. Sixteen-year-old Charles enlisted in the Texas Rangers. "It was the only way I could earn a man's wages," he explained decades later. After 2½ years as a Ranger, Schreiner took up ranching south of Kerrville. After his mother's death in 1857, he built a cabin along Turtle Creek and opened a store, supplementing his income by providing wool and beef for the government.

Schreiner married in 1861 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the 3rd Texas Infantry to fight in the Civil War. He returned to Texas four years later, after the surrender at Appomattox, with five gold dollars in his pocket. To save his funds, he walked home from San Antonio rather than ride a stagecoach.

He found his ranch and herd in miserable shape and, after working to bring the operation back to profitability, decided a store would be more lucrative. Schreiner moved his family to Kerrville and opened another store with a partner on Christmas Eve 1869. Total sales the first day were \$2.50 in cash and a bit more on credit. After 10 years in business, Schreiner bought his partner's interest, and the

Schreiner Mercantile Company grew into one of the largest general stores in the Southwest.

Most ranching operations in Texas had, like Schreiner's, suffered during the war. Millions of longhorn cattle roamed freely and by local standards were nearly worthless. Not so at the Kansas railhead markets. Schreiner joined other Texas cattlemen in discovering they could earn cash by gathering cattle and driving them north. The Western Trail plowed right through Kerrville, and Schreiner's store raked in payments in Spanish gold doubloons worth \$16 each. Schreiner used an ax to cut coins into pieces so he could make change.

Soon cowboys began to hand their cash over to Schreiner for safekeeping. Each night he hid his customers' money along with his own in a box under the floor and moved a barrel of salt over the stash. Occasionally, thieves stole merchandise from the store, but none discovered the cache under the floor. The operation grew with the region, and Schreiner chartered a bank and appointed his son as cashier, a job L.A. Schreiner held until he was nearly 100 years old and the private bank had become a chartered national bank.

Elected captain of a home guard unit in Kerrville, Schreiner also served as a county and district clerk. He increased his holdings by acquiring land (paying from a penny to 50 cents an acre) and stocking it with cattle. Later he diversified into sheep and goats, and in 1880 he purchased the YO Ranch, most of which remained in his family for more than a century.

Kerrville Mayor Bill Blackburn acknowledges the accomplishments of Schreiner and his family. "There was little farmland in Kerr County," he says, "and that left ranching, which was not easy because the soil was not deep and [was] rocky."

Schreiner built great wealth from his enterprising, Blackburn says, but especially from wool and mohair production. Other Texas ranches enjoyed long-lasting success, but Schreiner's stands out for overcoming the merciless Hill Country landscape. ■



SECRETS OF A BILLIONAIRE REVEALED

*"Price is what you pay; value is what you get.
Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like
buying quality merchandise when it is marked down."*

— wisdom from the most successful investor of all time

We're going to let you in on a secret. Billionaires have billions because they know value is not increased by an inflated price. They avoid big name markups, and aren't swayed by flashy advertising. When you look on their wrist you'll find a classic timepiece, not a cry for attention— because they know true value comes from keeping more money in their pocket.

We agree with this thinking wholeheartedly. And, so do our two-and-a-half million clients. It's time you got in on the secret too. The **Jet-Setter Chronograph** can go up against the best chronographs in the market, deliver more accuracy and style than the "luxury" brands, and all for far, far less. \$1,150 is what the **Jet-Setter Chronograph** would cost you with nothing more than a different name on the face.

With over two million timepieces sold (and counting), we know a thing or two about creating watches people love. The **Jet-Setter Chronograph** gives you what you need to master time and keeps the superfluous stuff out of the equation. A classic in the looks department and a stainless steel power tool of construction, this is all the watch you need. And, then some.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the **Jet-Setter Chronograph** for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price.

Time is running out. Now that the secret's out, we can't guarantee this \$29 chronograph will stick around long. Don't overpay to be underwhelmed. Put a precision chronograph on your wrist for just \$29 and laugh all the way to the bank. Call today!

CLIENTS LOVE

STAUER WATCHES...



"The quality of their watches is equal to many that can go for ten times the price or more."

— Jeff from McKinney, TX

TAKE 90% OFF INSTANTLY!

When you use your OFFER CODE

Jet-Setter Chronograph ~~\$299~~

Offer Code Price **\$29** + S&P **Save \$270**

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: **JCW389-01**

Please use this code when you order to receive your discount.



Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.®

Absolute best price
for a fully-loaded
chronograph
with precision
accuracy...

**ONLY
\$29!**



Limited to
the first 1900
responders to
this ad only.

"See a man with a functional chronograph watch on his wrist, and it communicates a spirit of precision." — AskMen.com®

- Precision crystal movement • Stainless steel case back & bracelet with deployment buckle • 24 hour military time
- Chronograph minute & small second subdials; seconds hand • Water resistant to 3 ATM • Fits wrists 7" to 9"

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. JCW389-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

ARK-LA-TEX
SHOP BUILDERS
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARN • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM
830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums
WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric slab *(Dirt may be extra)

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

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

BLAKE MATTSO, 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.

BRUSH SHARK




SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR
• 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
• Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.
(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

TCP Marketplace

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power.
ELAINE SPROULL (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$7,995 INSTALLED!





ONLYX SHOWERS FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED


BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY
★ CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ★

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.
Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 15 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.


Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury. 

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

Leaks? High energy bill? Roof rumble?

YOU NEED → MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS



Since 1983

PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders

Contact us at 800.633.8969 or roofover.com

Medicare Supplemental Insurance

We find the best options for you.

HCDT
BONDS INSURANCE

Jeremy Diller
210-647-0134
Jeremy@hcdtinsurance.com

FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.

 **ELLISON MARINE • FRANKLIN, TX.** 
45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • ellisonmarine@yahoo.com

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

Make your home more comfortable than ever

“To you, it’s the **perfect lift chair**.
To me, it’s the **best sleep chair** I’ve ever had.”

— J. Fitzgerald, VA

NOW
also available in
Genuine Italian Leather
(and new Chestnut color)



Pictured: Italian Leather chair
chestnut color. Chestnut color
also available in Duralux™ fabric

**Three Chairs
in One**
Sleep/Recline/Lift



You can’t always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries. Those are the nights you’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

Our **Perfect Sleep Chair®** does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. **Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation.** Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to

prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. **It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.**

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Genuine Italian leather, stain and water repellent custom-manufactured DuraLux™ with the classic leather look or plush MicroLux™ microfiber in a variety of colors to fit any decor. **New Chestnut color only available in Genuine Italian Leather and long lasting DuraLux™. Call now!**

The Perfect Sleep Chair®
1-888-604-7293

Please mention code 114094 when ordering.



REMOTE-CONTROLLED
EASILY SHIFTS FROM FLAT TO
A STAND-ASSIST POSITION

Footrest may
vary by model

Genuine Italian Leather
classic beauty & durability

Long Lasting DuraLux™
stain & water repellent

MicroLux™ Microfiber
breathable & amazingly soft



Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2021 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.



Wounded— Then Rejected

The first casualty of the Texas Revolution, a free Black man, had to fight for his residency in the new republic

BY MICHAEL HURD

SAMUEL MCCULLOCH JR. was biracial but considered a free Black man when, as a soldier with the Texian army, he was wounded during the Battle of Goliad on October 9, 1835, and considered the first casualty of the Texas Revolution. A musket ball shattered his right shoulder, and despite his injury and service, the postwar Texas government ordered him and all other free Blacks to leave.

Then, in a series of conflicting legislative moves, things got confusing. Could he stay, or did he have to go?

McCulloch was born in 1810 in South Carolina. His father was white, and his mother was Black, but no other records

of her status exist. McCulloch Sr. moved his son and three daughters, all considered free, to Texas, where they settled near the Gulf Coast in what is now Jackson County in May 1835.

The Battle of Goliad was the second skirmish of the revolution, coming one week after the brief skirmish known as the Battle of Gonzales and just four days after McCulloch joined the Texian army as a private with the 50-man Matagorda Volunteer Company. When the force attacked a Mexican army camp, McCulloch was first to enter the fort and the lone soldier wounded. The injury left his shoulder permanently disabled.

After the war McCulloch's residence status quickly began to twist and turn. Initially, the republic's constitution, adopted in September 1836, prohibited citizenship for "Africans and the descendants of Africans and Indians" and required all free Blacks to apply to the Congress for permanent residence. McCulloch made the required application for himself and his sisters in 1837, recounting his military service and stating that he had been "deprived of the privileges of citizenship by reason of an unfortunate admixture of African blood."

On June 5, 1837, the republic passed a law that permitted free Blacks to keep their residency if they had been living in Texas before the Republic's Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836.

With his petition still pending, McCulloch saw his residency status further imperiled on February 5, 1840. That's when an act was passed to prohibit the immigration of free Blacks and demand that all free Black residents vacate the republic within two years or be sold into slavery.

McCulloch filed a successful second petition, likely because of the Ashworth Act, passed December 12, 1840. This legislation provided that the Ashworth families, Black relatives in Jefferson County, could remain in Texas after influential whites intervened.

As a disabled veteran, McCulloch was eligible for a land grant and was awarded one league (4,428 acres) of land, two-thirds of which he chose to ranch and farm near Von Ormy.

Despite his land and his disability, McCulloch soldiered again, fighting in the battle of Plum Creek in 1840 against Comanches and serving as a spy during the Mexican invasion of San Antonio in 1842. He died in Von Ormy on November 2, 1893. ■

Tacos

Some of the most creative and complex flavors ever to meet a tortilla

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

This month, readers treat us to a variety of taco recipes, so naturally we crave salsa. We turn to Austin food advocate and community coordinator Héctor González, who has been sharing his recipes since moving from Mexico. "There are taquerías there that established their fame based on their salsas," González says. But, he says, you don't have to limit the versatile ingredient's use to a condiment—it is also the perfect base for cocktails. This salsa can easily be adapted to your tastes. Increase or decrease the jalapeño pepper or try a habanero if you want an extra kick.

Roasted Red Salsa

6 plum tomatoes

1 medium white onion, halved

3–5 cloves garlic

**1–2 hot peppers, such as jalapeños,
serranos or habaneros**

Fresh cilantro (optional)

Salt, to taste

COOK'S TIP You can turn this salsa into a michelada. Press $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salsa through a fine mesh strainer into a pint glass. Add 1 tablespoon lime juice and 1 teaspoon salt, or more to taste, then slowly pour in 12 ounces of Mexican lager. Cheers!

1. Roast the tomatoes, onion, garlic and peppers on the stovetop or under a broiler. Turn vegetables as needed, blackening all over. Keep an eye on the garlic and peppers, as they will roast faster than the tomatoes.

2. Add roasted vegetables, and cilantro if you like, to a blender or food processor and blend until smooth. A couple of pinches of salt will bring the salsa's brightness to the fore. Taste and adjust seasoning to your liking. You can serve this salsa warm, or chill until ready to serve.

MAKES ABOUT 3 CUPS

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Butternut Squash Tacos With Black Beans.





Fajita Tacos With Chimichurri Sauce

KITTIELE POTTS
BOWIE-CASS EC

For her fajita tacos, Potts uses a zippy chimichurri sauce that pairs beautifully with sweet caramelized onions.

FILLING

- 32-ounce sirloin steak**
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar**
- ¼ cup olive oil**
- ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 tablespoon salt**
- 1 tablespoon pepper**
- 1 teaspoon cumin**
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder**
- ½ teaspoon onion powder**
- ½ teaspoon paprika**

CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

- 1 cup parsley**
- 1 cup cilantro**
- ½ cup olive oil**
- ½ red onion**
- 20 green pitted olives**
- 4 cloves garlic**
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar**
- 1 tablespoon capers**
- 1 teaspoon oregano**
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes**
- ¼ teaspoon cumin**

CARAMELIZED ONIONS

- 4 onions**
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted**
- ⅓ cup olive oil**
- 1 tablespoon sugar**
- ¼ teaspoon salt**
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper**

TO SERVE

Tortillas

COOK'S TIP The sauce is best made in advance to allow flavors to meld.

\$500 WINNER

Grilled Garden Harvest Tacos

CHERYL SCHULMAN
FAYETTE EC



These vegetarian tacos pack a surprising amount of flavor into each bite, thanks to the crisp slaw and cool avocado crème. If you can't find ancho chile powder, substitute regular chili powder and a pinch of ground cayenne.

MAKES 6 TACOS

FILLING

- 3 large carrots**
- 2 medium zucchini**
- 1 large sweet potato**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin**
- 1 teaspoon ground ancho chile powder, or to taste**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- 2 ears corn, shucked**

"BRING THE HEAT" SLAW

- 3 cups shredded green cabbage**
- ⅓ cup chopped cilantro**
- 1 small jalapeño pepper, chopped**
- ⅓ cup diced jicama**
- ½ cup chopped red bell pepper**
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ½ teaspoon pepper**
- ½ teaspoon sugar**



AVOCADO CRÈME

- 1 large avocado**
- ½ cup Mexican crema**
- 2 teaspoons lime juice**

TO SERVE

- 12 corn tortillas**
- Crumbled cotija cheese**
- Pico de gallo**
- Lime wedges**

- 1. FILLING** Prepare grill to cook over medium-high heat.
- 2.** Peel carrots and cut in half lengthwise. Slice zucchini into strips ¼ inch thick. Peel sweet potato and dice into ¼-inch cubes. Toss all in olive oil, cumin, ancho chile powder and salt. Set aside.
- 3. SLAW** Mix cabbage, cilantro, jalapeño, jicama, bell pepper, vinegar, salt, pepper and sugar. Set aside.
- 4. CRÈME** Combine avocado, crema and lime juice in a blender and blend on low until smooth. Set aside.
- 5.** Place a sheet of foil on half of grill grates. Place carrots flat side down on foil along with sweet potato cubes. Place zucchini strips and corn directly on grill. Turn vegetables to char on all sides. Remove vegetables once they're well charred and tender all the way through, about 6 minutes total for the zucchini and 10 minutes for the carrots, corn and sweet potato. Let cool slightly, then slice zucchini and carrots into quarters and cut corn kernels off the cob.
- 6.** To assemble tacos, grill or warm the tortillas. Layer two tortillas, then top with grilled vegetables followed by slaw and avocado crème. Garnish with pico de gallo, cotija or lime juice.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

KIDS COOKING DUE MAR 10

Have your kids turned into sous-chefs? Share their kitchen creations with our readers. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by March 10.

CONTINUED >



Focus on Texas

Photo Contest

Submit your best photos for a chance to see your entry in the magazine!

Night Life

Deadline: March 10

Portraits

Deadline: April 10

TCP *Enter now*
TexasCoopPower.com



TCP Gift Shop

Find Texas Treasures

Texas food, music, housewares, gifts and more—find it all on our website, along with great deals for TCP readers.

Just pick and click—it's easy to shop for friends and family without leaving home.

TCP *Shop now*
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

RECIPES CONTINUED

1. FILLING Place steak in a shallow baking dish. Combine vinegar, olive oil and Worcestershire sauce and pour over steak. Cover and refrigerate; let marinate at least 4 hours.

2. SAUCE Combine ingredients in a blender or food processor and pulse until ingredients are completely chopped but not liquefied. The sauce should be somewhat thick and chunky.

3. ONIONS Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Peel off the outer paper layer of the onions, leaving the ends on. Halve onions lengthwise from stem to root. Place the onions in a casserole dish cut-sides up. Combine melted butter, olive oil, sugar, salt and pepper. Drizzle onions generously with the mixture. Cover loosely with foil and bake 30 minutes. Flip onions over and bake an additional 25 minutes, or until onions are tender and caramelized.

4. When ready to cook steak, prepare grill for direct heat cooking. Combine salt, pepper, cumin, garlic powder, onion powder and paprika, and season steak on all sides. Grill to desired doneness, about 10 minutes per side for a medium sirloin. Let steak rest 5 minutes.

5. Slice steak thinly and layer on tortillas with caramelized onions and chimichurri sauce.

SERVES 8



Instant Pot Carnitas Tacos

MELALEE WINKLER
COSERV

These carnitas tacos are made in an Instant Pot for all of the flavor in half the time. Instead of frying, Winkler finishes the carnitas under the broiler to get the crispy edges carnitas are known for. If you have leftovers, save some of the cooking liquid for reheating.

6–7 pounds boneless pork butt shoulder

1 tablespoon salt

1 tablespoon dried Mexican oregano, crumbled

1 tablespoon smoked paprika

1 tablespoon cumin

1 teaspoon chipotle powder

½ teaspoon garlic powder

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 cup orange juice

¼ cup chicken stock

1 yellow onion, quartered

TO SERVE

Flour tortillas

Diced red onion

Sliced radishes

Chopped cilantro

Crumbled queso fresco

Lime wedges

COOK'S TIP If you don't have an Instant Pot, you can also cook this in a heavy, covered pot in the oven at 325 degrees for 3½ hours.

1. Cut the pork butt into six or seven chunks. Mix together the salt, oregano, paprika, cumin, and chipotle and garlic powders. Rub the pork with the spice mixture on all sides.

2. Set the Instant Pot to sauté setting high. Heat the oil in the pot and, working in batches, brown the pork on all sides. Remove the pork and deglaze the Instant Pot with the orange juice and chicken stock, scraping up the browned bits.

3. Place the quartered onion in the pot and turn off the Instant Pot. Place all of the pork on top of the onion. Put the lid on, making sure the valve is set to seal, and set the Instant Pot to pressure cook, high, 1 hour.

4. When the time is up, allow natural release for 15 minutes, then manual release. Remove pork, reserving some of the cooking liquid. Discard the onion.

5. Pull pork with two forks and spread on a baking sheet. Drizzle with a small amount of the cooking liquid and place under the broiler until the pork is slightly browned and crispy on the edges, 3–5 minutes. Serve with grilled flour tortillas, red onion, radish, cilantro, queso fresco and lime wedges.

SERVES 12

Stauer Collector's Series

**FREE \$99 Binoculars
With Knife Purchase**

(see details)



Not shown
actual size.

BONUS! Call today and you'll also
receive this heavy duty sheath!

BLADE STUNNER

Beautifully made, magnificent to look at, this knife is a work of art at only \$99

It's not often you happen upon a blade smith who has gem cutting skills. In fact, you stand a better chance finding a needle in a haystack. But finding needles in haystacks is what we do best, so when we saw this master craftsman's handiwork, we made certain to procure some of these Southwestern masterpieces to complete our collection.

The stainless steel blade, bolster and pommel are exquisitely etched and would have looked great with a less ambitious handle. But the results of overachieving are stunning here. The turquoise-blue colored handle is ablaze with assorted stones like jasper, marble, sunstone, and coral that have been hand cut and inlaid in a Southwestern motif that conjures images of intricately beaded belts and moccasins.

Whether you collect blades, interesting stones, or are a lover of the great American Southwest, the **Sedona Knife** is more than cut out to do the job.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Sedona Knife**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in

"...Native American knives have since taken on a more artistic meaning in the modern era...these decorative style knives have become a must-have for any Southwestern home." — PRWeb, 2017

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars

-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
the Sedona Knife



**What customers are saying about
Stauer knives...**



*"Very hefty, well-built knife and sheath.
Extremely good-looking and utilitarian."*

— R., Lacey, Washington

your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of the **Sedona Knife**. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. You could pay nearly \$1,900 for a steel, fixed blade knife with a gemstone handle, but why would you when you can enjoy the superb craftsmanship of the **Sedona Knife** for only \$99. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Sedona Knife \$179*

Offer Code Price Only **\$99** + S&P **Save \$80**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: SEK166-01

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

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. SEK166-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use
the offer code versus the listed original
Stauer.com price.



Rating of A+

**California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding
Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.**

- 5" etched stainless steel blade; 9 1/2" overall length
- Turquoise-colored handle with accent stones including coral, marble, sandstone, tiger's eye, jasper and sunstone
- Leather pouch included

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Where Artistry Congregates

Czech and German painted churches in Central Texas are sparkling shrines

BY CHET GARNER

A TOUR OF TEXAS back roads takes you past prosaic scenes such as pastures full of grazing cows, profiles of spinning windmills and rural churches quietly awaiting their Sunday congregations. For most of these outlying houses of worship, a simple exterior foreshadows a modest sanctuary. That expectation changes in Fayette and Lee counties, where, concealed within unassuming facades, you'll find Old World decorative glory inside the region's painted churches.

I started my own churchgoing road trip with an apricot kolach because that's what you do when visiting Texas Czech country. I was on a mission to visit the area's five painted churches that are hidden in plain sight within the Czech and German communities that dot the map. My first stop was Dubina.

I pulled into a dirt parking lot and shrugged at what appeared to be an ordinary white building known as Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. As soon as I stepped inside, I was transported to a world of sacred traditions and intricate religious art. From floor to ceiling, the room dazzled in bright colors and inlaid metals adorning the altars and statues of saints. It was clear that the Czech immigrants who built this church in the late 1800s took great pride in their work and sought to recreate the traditions and artistry of their European homeland here in Texas.

I spent the entire day driving, relying on my GPS so I didn't miss a turn down an obscure road in Fayette or Lee counties. From St. Paul Lutheran in Serbin to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ammannsville, each sanctuary had its own feel and history. In the ornately painted St. Mary Catholic Church in High Hill, known as the "Queen of the Painted Churches," the wooden columns looked just like marble. I felt transported to Europe without leaving Texas. ■

ABOVE Chet inside St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ammannsville.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the painted churches in Fayette County and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

MARCH

01

College Station [1-11] Territory: The Exhibition in a Box, (979) 458-0539, arch.tamu.edu/inside/services/wright-gallery

06

Bulverde [6, 13, 20, 27] Saturday Night Rodeo, (830) 980-2226, tejasrodeo.com

09

Houston Viano String Quartet, (713) 348-5400, chambermusichouston.org

11

Tyler [11-14] Texas Rose Spring Kickoff II Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

12

Shiner [12-13] Pink Chandelier Market Barn Sale, (361) 798-0573, facebook.com/pinkchandeliermarket

McKinney [12-14] Third Monday Trade Days, (972) 562-5466, tmttd.com

13

Huntsville [13-14] Rusty Chippy Vintage Hippy & Garden Show, (936) 661-2545, huntsvilleantiqueshow.com

14

Dallas [14-June 20] Building on the Boulevard: Celebrating 20 Years of the Meadows's New Home, (214) 768-2516, meadowsmuseumdallas.org

Dallas [14-June 20] Fossils to Film: The Best of SMU's Collections, (214) 768-2516, meadowsmuseumdallas.org

15

Fredericksburg [15–20]
Spring Break at the Pioneer Museum, (830) 990-8441,
 pioneermuseum.net

16

Austin [16–20] **South by Southwest Online**,
 (512) 467-7979, sxsw.com

18

Brenham [18–21, 25–28]
The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey,
 (979) 830-8358,
 unitybrenham.org

19

Abilene [19–20] **Outlaws and Legends Music Fest**,
 (325) 660-8458,
 outlawsandlegends.com

Wichita Falls [19–20]
Cowboy True,
 (940) 767-2787,
 artscouncilwf.org/cowboy-true

Tyler [19–21] **United States Dog Agility Association Agility Trials**, (903) 882-8696,
 texasrosehorsepark.com

Palestine [19–April 4]
Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration, (903) 723-3014,
 www.texasdogwoodtrails.com

20

Corpus Christi Lecture: Kitchen Herbs,
 (361) 852-2100, stxbot.org

Irving Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra: Jonathan Jones, (972) 252-4800,
 lascolinassymphony.org

Luckenbach Mud Dauber Fest, (830) 997-3224,
 luckenbachtexas.com

Mesquite Eggcitement With the Bunny, (972) 216-6273,
 cityofmesquite.com/pard

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

LOW COST Mobile Home Insurance

Covered with a national carrier?

Get your Declaration Page & call to compare!

Start Saving Today!



● Replacement Cost for Most Homes

● Escrow Billing, Payment Plans, Customer Portal and Online Payments

4.8 Google Rating
 02/01/2021

www.stdins.com

CALL NOW

800-522-0146

Serving
 Texas Mobile
 Homeowners
 since 1961



STANDARD
 CASUALTY COMPANY



HOWARD DANIEL JR.

serves as board chair of Burke, an organization that assists with mental health needs and developmental disabilities.
POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | NOVEMBER 2020

**POWER
 OF OUR
 PEOPLE**

TexasCoopPower

**\$100
 WINNER**

Nominate someone today!

Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.



Hit the Road

Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events



TCP E-news

Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join



KEN MORRIS | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Pick of the Month

Classic Car Stampede

Bellville, March 13
 (979) 865-3187
austincountycruisers.com

Austin County Cruisers is a small group of die-hard car enthusiasts who share a passion for the mixture of mechanics and art that creates a vehicle. Cars, trucks and motorcycles from 1976 and earlier will be on display.

MARCH EVENTS CONTINUED

Palestine Dogwood

Festival, (903) 729-6066,
palestinechamber.org/dogwoodfestival

Belton [20-21] A Sami Show, (512) 441-7133,
samishow.com

New Braunfels [20-21] Old Gruene Market Days,
 (830) 629-5077,
gruenemarketdays.com

21

Kerrville Celtic Angels Ireland, (830) 896-9393,
caillouxtheater.com

Belton [21, 28, April 11, 18, 25] Healthy Kids Running Series, (254) 340-4577,
healthykidsrunningseries.org

26

West [26-27] West, Central Texas Ceramic Expo & Handcrafted Items,
 (254) 716-5227,
westceramicshow.com

Burton [26-April 3] La Bahia Antique Show and Sale, (979) 289-2684,
labahiaantiques.com

27

Abilene Triple Concerto: Beethoven at 250,
 (325) 677-6170,
abilenephilharmonic.org

Burnet Hill Country Lawn & Garden Show,
 (512) 756-9396,
burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org

Burton Texas Ranger Day,
 (979) 803-0393,
burtontexas.org

Sabinal [27-28] Wild Hog Festival and Craft Fair,
 (830) 486-8549,
sabinalwildhogfestival.com

San Antonio [27-May 9] Night of Artists,
 (210) 299-4499,
briscoemuseum.org/noa

APRIL

01

Levelland [1-3] American Business Club Pro Rodeo,
 (806) 777-1510,
abcrodeo.com

Karnack [1-24] Earth Day Flotilla, (903) 736-3063,
tinyurl.com/flotilla2021

Ennis [1-30] Bluebonnet Trails, (972) 878-4748,
bluebonnettrail.org

02

Jefferson [2-4] City-Wide Rummage Sale,
 (903) 665-2672,
jefferson-texas.com

03

Llano Fiddle Fest,
 (325) 247-5354,
facebook.com/llanofiddlefest

New Braunfels Jamestown Revival, (830) 964-3800,
whitewaterrocks.com

Palestine Easter Egg Express on the Texas State Railroad, (855) 632-7729,
texasstaterailroad.net

Diners

Diners sprinkled across the state offer cooking that tastes like home no matter where you travel. Here's what our members served up, and we're coming back for seconds!

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

CHRIS MILLER
BLUEBONNET EC

A diner Miller stumbled upon during a road trip on Route 66.

REAGAN MAZY
SAM HOUSTON EC

Sunset at Ranch Hand Cafe in Cleveland.

SHELLY BORGFELD
FITZPATRICK
PEDERNALES EC

"We spent our anniversary in the charming town of Blanco and had a delightful experience at the Chess Club."

SANDRA DRAKE
BLUEBONNET EC

Drake's grandson at Mama's Daughters' Diner.



Upcoming Contests

- DUE MAR 10** Night Life
- DUE APR 10** Portraits
- DUE MAY 10** Rust & Decay

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



Few and Far

Young musicians find out just how much luck and money Far West Texas requires

BY ELI WINTER
PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADDEN

CAMERON KNOWLER AND I rang in Christmas next to a trailer in the Christmas Mountains. It was 2018, and we had just done a show at Terlingua's Starlight Theatre. For breakfast we'd eaten cowboy omelets with Catfish, a legendary river guide who punctuated slow bites with a groan—"Oh, merciful days!"

Later that night, toward the end of an 11-hour drive to Austin, we sat in an empty Kerrville IHOP for 45 minutes without being served and wolfed down fast food in a parking lot late at night.

That's how touring goes sometimes: No matter the crowd size, guarantee or delusions of grandeur, whether you play bars, basements or arenas, you spend a lot of time driving. Especially in far West Texas.

We were just 21 and 22 but already seasoned touring musicians. My music re-

volves around instrumentals for six-string, 12-string and Weissenborn acoustic guitars. Cameron's guitar and banjo playing draws influence from old-time and bluegrass musicians of the rural South.

This tour marked the first time we had performed together regularly, reinterpreting traditional folk songs and devising our own, and our Christmas Eve concert marked a halfway point, for which we'd traveled from Houston to the desert and back—a route we had looked forward to.

Growing up in Houston, I thought of Far West Texas as a region of stark beauty and mystery. I listened to *StarDate* on the radio and gave a presentation on Fort Davis in fourth grade. It seemed impossibly far.

We were surprised to have made it. On the way out of Lubbock, we stopped by Buddy Holly's grave. Holly toured similarly, and his plane use began from a desire to avoid freezing on a tour bus between shows in the rural Midwest. Our concerts, perhaps like his, were small—a nonprofit record store in Dallas, a backyard barn in Austin and a hotel bar in Marfa—but they didn't need to be big. Cameron thought of it like Hollywood, less charmed by the \$10 cacao nibs we attempted to snack on during long drives or the person who asked him before a gig if we were together, then asked, "Are you any good?"

Each day we made enough money for the next, aware of the luck that permeated our travels: playing to a packed house in a repopulated ghost town the night before Christmas, the night after playing for an attentive handful on the outskirts of Austin.

At the homecoming show in Houston, we cracked jokes about our travels, and I thought back to Catfish, as I often do. These days had been merciful indeed. ■

TEXAS MINT

We are excited to announce the release of the 2021 Texas Silver Round – Revolution Series. This is the second release of a four-year series commemorating the battles of the Texas Revolution. Each Texas Silver Round is one troy ounce .9999 fine silver.

The obverse of the high-quality mint strike features Texas' iconic lone star in the foreground. The smooth engraving of the star is framed by a textured topographical outline of the state of Texas. "TEXAS" arches proudly over the top of the round's obverse in large capital letters, with "Precious Metals" presented inversely along the opposite side. The round's mintage year is engraved in the bottom left of the round, just southwest of what would be the Rio Grande bordering Texas and Mexico.

The reverse of the 2021 release displays a scene from the famous Battle of the Alamo. It depicts two Texian soldiers including the American icon, Davy Crockett, attempting to fend off Mexican soldiers attempting to breach the walls of the Alamo.



Use Coupon Code

TXPOWER2021

to get a free Collector's Booklet with any order!



BATTLE OF GONZALES

first in the series ● ● ● ● ●

The stunning 2020 Texas Silver Round depicts a scene from the Battle of Gonzales, with three Texian revolutionaries defending the famous Gonzales cannon, while brandishing the Come And Take It Flag.



BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

second in the series ● ● ● ● ●

The events of this famous battle took place on the days of February 23rd - March 6th, 1836. At the end of a 13-day siege, President General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission, killing the Texian and immigrant occupiers.

The Texas Silver Round can be purchased in a monster box produced exclusively for the Texas Mint. Packaged in 20 protective tubes of 25 rounds each, the monster box holds 500 1-ounce Texas Silver Rounds. Built from durable cold-rolled steel and finished with a matte black powder coat, the monster box lid features an orange cutout of the state of Texas. Each sealed monster box is secured with a unique serial number and a holographic seal to ensure maximum product protection.

The Texas Silver Round is also available to purchase in a similarly designed and secured mini-monster box, which contains 10 protective tubes of 25 rounds each for a total of 250 silver rounds.



FREE SHIPPING

GOLD / SILVER / PLATINUM



NO ORDER MINIMUMS



TEXMETALS.COM

We accept:



For precious metal storage solutions visit TexasDepository.com

959 STATE HWY 95N • SHINER, TX 77984 • 361.594.3624

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$64⁹⁹

month
for TV

+

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.



FREE Premium Channels

After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX

– Fully Integrated –
Just Change The Channel
And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ \$40

month
for Internet

per month
for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet/hughesnet

godish.com/pricelock



iSe Habla
Español!

1-866-290-7151

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

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:

Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/14/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. – 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.