

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



# 2019 Annual Meeting

# INNOVATION

## OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

AFTER 80 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, CECA HAS STAYED THE COURSE TO INNOVATE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF YOUR POWER COOPERATIVE. JOIN US AT OUR NEW LOCATION AS THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.

Saturday, October 12, 2019

## JOIN US AT OUR NEW LOCATION!

349 Industrial Blvd. ■ Comanche, Texas



COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

**To the member addressed:**

You are hereby given official notice that the Annual Meeting of Comanche Electric Cooperative will be held at our new headquarters building in Comanche on Saturday, October 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

Three members are to be elected at this meeting as directors for three-year terms, along with other business that might come before the meeting.

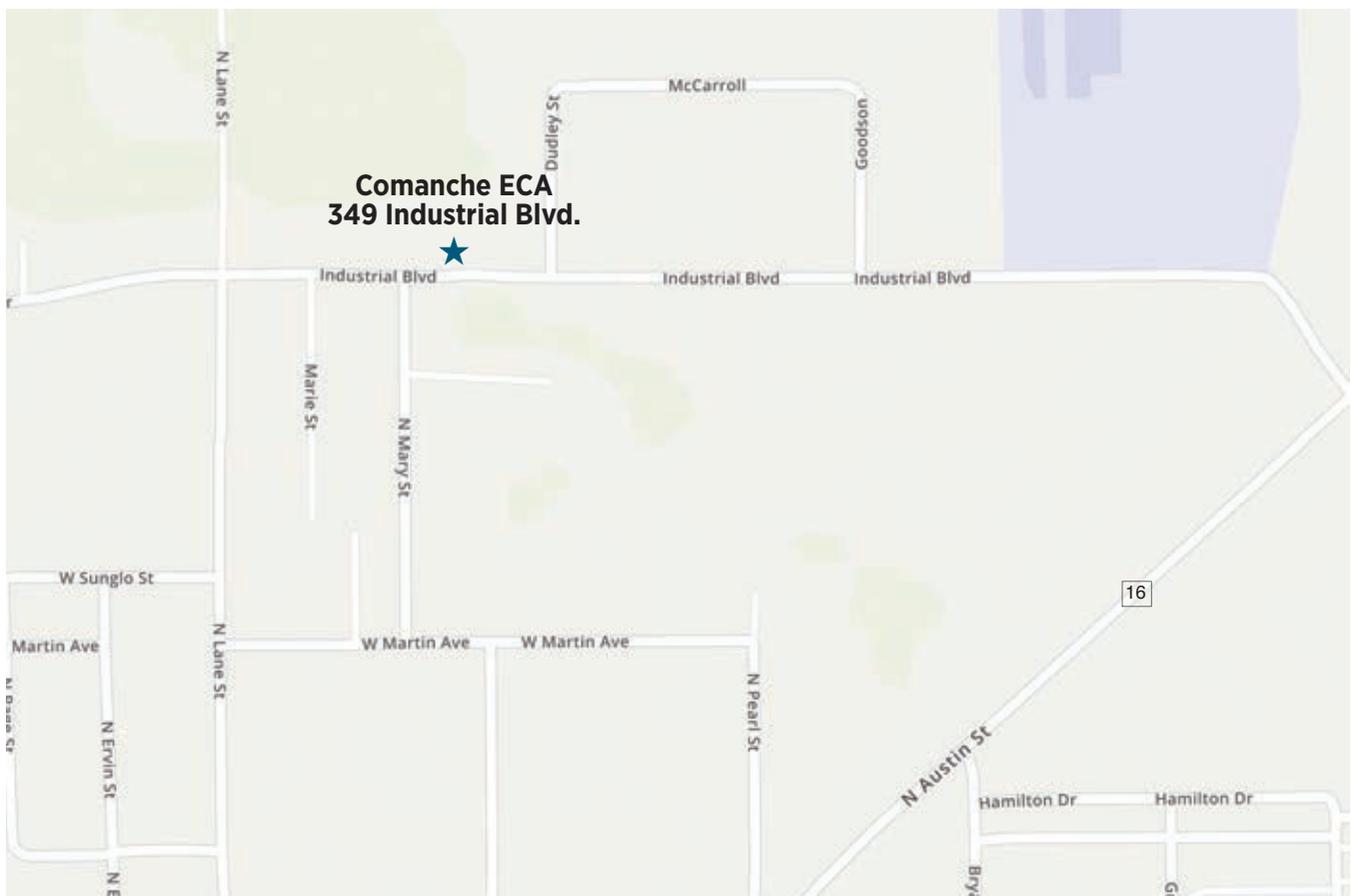
We urge you to be present for this meeting **Saturday, October 12, 2019, at 10 a.m. at 349 Industrial Blvd. in Comanche.**

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and will close when the call for the vote is made.

*Ruby Solomon*

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

## COMANCHE ECA NEW HEADQUARTERS



**JOIN US FOR THE**



**2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

Comanche ECA Headquarters, 349 Industrial Blvd., Comanche

---

**9 A.M.**

**Registration and health fair**

**Health fair closes PROMPTLY at 10 a.m.**

**Refreshments**

**Entertainment**

*Sam Whiskey Band*

**Presentation of the colors**

*Comanche Boy Scouts*

**National anthem**

*Annette Calderon*

---

**10 A.M.**

**Call to order**

**Invocation**

**Introduction of directors and special guests**

**Report of officers**

**Report on quorum**

**Reading of notice, proof of publication**

**Reading of last year's minutes**

**Election of directors**

**Manager's report**

**Election judge's report**

**Unfinished business**

**Drawing for door prizes**

**Adjourn**

---

**11 A.M.**

**Catfish and chicken lunch**

*Catfish Corner*

Handicap provisions made available upon request.



**TEAR OFF THIS CARD AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO YOUR ANNUAL MEETING.**  
THIS IS YOUR **REGISTRATION CARD AND TICKET FOR DOOR PRIZES.**

*(Cannot be duplicated)*

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS**

**District meetings for nominating candidates for the board were held as follows:**

The meeting for **District 3** was held August 22 at Perkins Middle School in De Leon. A quorum was present, and members nominated Ruby Solomon.

The meeting for **District 5** was held August 26 at May High School. A quorum was present, and members nominated Troy Stewart.

The meeting for **District 6** was held August 27 at the Scranton Community Center. A quorum was present, and members nominated Loren Stroebel.

**Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual membership meeting October 12.**

**ABOUT YOUR NOMINEES**

**DISTRICT 3**



**RUBY SOLOMON**

*Comanche County (Highway 36 northwest from Comanche thence east to Highway 16)*

**Ruby Solomon** represents CECA in District 3. She serves as secretary-treasurer of the board. She is a lifelong resident of the De Leon area, where she and her husband, Jerry, spend much of their time enjoying quality time with their grandchildren and family.

**DISTRICT 5**



**TROY STEWART**

*Brown County north of Highway 67 and east or north of Pecan Bayou*

**Troy Stewart** resides 5 miles south of May and has been a member of CECA all his life. Along with farming and ranching, he raises horses and has done some auctioneering. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of May.

**DISTRICT 6**



**LOREN STROEBEL**

*Eastland and Callahan counties less that portion of Eastland County east or north of Highway 6*

**Loren Stroebel** serves on CECA's board of directors representing District 6. He and his wife, Nora, live and work on their ranch south of Cisco. Stroebel also does some construction work. The Stroebels are very active in their church.

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER



## FIRST ON THE SCENE

Volunteer fire departments draw from electric co-ops to protect communities





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Mason High's Madelyn Heath fires up fans.

**FEATURES**

**8 A Final Score** Food and fun activities draw teens to community gatherings after high school football games.

Story by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers | Photos by Scott Van Osdol

**12 Putting Others First** Volunteer fire departments, with strong ties to co-ops, sustain life in rural Texas.

Story and photos by Eric W. Pohl

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**ONLINE**

**TexasCoopPower.com**

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

**Texas USA**

*Guiding Your Garden*

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

**Observations**

*Ranch Hands on the Wheel*

By Brenda Kissko

**NEXT MONTH**

*In the Making* Artisans infuse their singular creations with uncommon passions.



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FOOTBALL GAME: SCOTT VAN OSDOL. JEWELRY: JULIA ROBINSON



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**ON THE COVER** *Cindy Lott and John Holzer train as North Hays County Fire and Rescue volunteer firefighters.* Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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

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## More About Murata

There is a section about Sachihiko Ono Murata and the Caddo Lake pearls [*Caddo's Gems*, August 2019] in my dad's book, *Caddo Was...* My dad writes that he interviewed Murata after the bombing of Pearl Harbor for a newspaper story. There were rumors that Murata was a spy and used "high-powered radio equipment" to report to the Japanese government.

But Murata had no electricity, and his radio equipment was "a collection of outdated throw-away junk, spliced together with pieces of discarded house wiring" powered by a dry-cell battery. After the article was published, the rumors disappeared.

FRANCES HARE | GARLAND  
PANOLA-HARRISON EC

## Early Days of Electricity

We were living in Knox County, where my daddy's family had settled around 1900. I remember the electric light that hung above my parents' bed [*Reliable as Electricity*, August 2019]. Daddy loved to read, so after his day of farming and supper, he stretched out on the bed under the light to read.



## Caddo Legend Rings True

The lady who received \$900 for her pearl was a neighbor of my parents and grandparents in the Lewis community in Cass County [*Caddo's Gems*, August 2019]. Years ago, my mother told me about her

first cousin, Louis Thrower. He wanted to get married but had no money.

He went diving for pearls and found one that enabled him to buy his fiancée a ring, and he even had a little money left over to start their married life together.

MARY ECHOLS | KILDARE | BOWIE-CASS EC



One day in 1945, we had a thunderstorm, and like any 2-year-old, I sought safety next to my daddy when I was frightened. Imagine how scared we all were when lightning struck and a ball of orange fire came down that electrical wire and blew out the lightbulb.

MARILYN GODFREY | STEPHENVILLE  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

## Flicker of Truth

Enjoy the tidbit info like Smokey Bear turns 75 [*No Candles, Please*, Currents, August 2019].

DANNY GEROLD | VIA FACEBOOK

## Not Pulling Your Chain

I noticed an error in *75th Anniversary Timeline: Rural Life* [August 2019].

Stihl would like people to think that it introduced the first one-man chain saw. In fact, the first one-man, gasoline-powered

chain saw was introduced in 1946 by IEL with the model name Beaver. This saw took the industry by storm and forced other chain saw manufacturers to either design a one-man chain saw or go bankrupt.

I have worked in the chain saw industry almost my whole life and have collected them for about 20 years—having amassed about 250, dating from the 1940s.

PAUL WATKINS | SAVOY  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

## Big Screen, Big Memories

I think my first was *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. The more I tried to remember the first movie I saw at my town's iconic drive-in, the more I remember all the great summer and early fall nights watching the big screen light up the whole parking lot.

*Drive In, Chill Out* [June 2019]

was quite a nice little invitation to remember an experience that newer generations can miss out on. I fully intend to make sure my children get to experience it.

ARGENTINA DEARING | NAVASOTA  
MID-SOUTH SYNERGY

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

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## HAPPENINGS

# Camp Craig Allen Fundraiser

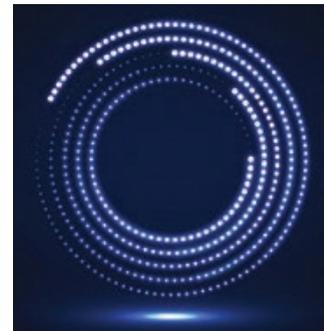
Camp Craig Allen, a nonprofit dedicated to physically disabled adults, children and veterans of North Texas, holds its annual fundraiser, the **AMATEUR BBQ COOK-OFF AND MUSIC FEST, OCTOBER 11-12** at Toyota Stadium in **FRISCO**. The stadium is powered by CoServ, an electric cooperative based in Corinth.

Camp Craig Allen promotes advocacy and independence through educational, recreational and therapeutic programs. Its goal is to build a completely barrier-free facility where people with physical disabilities can participate in a variety of activities.

**INFO** ▶ (940) 395-0226, [campcraigallen.org](http://campcraigallen.org)

### WEB EXTRAS

▶ Find more happenings online.



## TECH KNOWLEDGE

# LAUDING LEDS

**You already know** residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs—especially if they're Energy Star certified.

**But did you know** the first patented LEDs were developed in 1962 by Texas Instruments? They were used with IBM computers to control punch card readers.

**Something to** think about October 7, National LED Light Day.

## ◀ LOOKING BACK AT OUTDOORS THIS MONTH



**IN THE 75 YEARS** since *Texas Co-op Power* debuted in July 1944, the great outdoors of Texas has welcomed magnificent parks, breeding bats and even Willie Nelson.

### 1940s

**1944** Big Bend National Park is established.

**1948** The San Jacinto Battleground is the new home for the battleship Texas, which becomes the first permanent battleship memorial museum in the U.S. The site has closed and the ship will be repaired and relocated.



### 1950s

**1953** Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower of the U.S. and Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico dedicate Falcon International Reservoir.

**1957** Monahans Sandhills State Park, which boasts dunes up to 50 feet tall, opens in West Texas.

**1957** Sweetwater holds its first rattlesnake roundup.

### 1960s

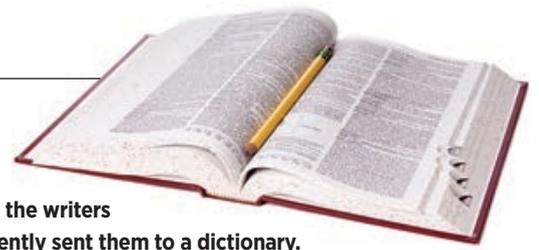
**1960** The cavern that became Natural Bridge Caverns, the largest in Texas, is discovered.

**1966** *Texas*, an outdoor summer musical at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, is performed for the first time.

**1968** Padre Island National Seashore, encompassing a portion of the largest barrier beach in the U.S., is dedicated.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



# MEANINGFUL DAY

To commemorate National Dictionary Day, October 16, the writers and editors at *Texas Co-op Power* share words that recently sent them to a dictionary.

**Chris Burrows**

Stevedore: A dockworker responsible for loading or unloading ships in port.

**Travis Hill**

Prolix: So wordy as to be tiresome.

**Charles Lohrmann**

Magisterial: Having or showing great authority.

**Jessica Ridge**

Frontispiece: An illustration preceding and usually facing the title page of a book.

**Tom Widlowski**

S'more: Looked up not for its meaning but for its spelling.

ENERGY INFO

# Going Hog Mild

**ZERO S, ONE CLEAN MACHINE**



**IN 1894**, two steam engineers and an inventor in Germany released the first production motorcycle, eponymously called the Hildebrand & Wolfmüller.

In 2018, more than 350,000 two-wheeled machines were registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, but their mystique may be slipping. Eighteen percent more bikes were on Texas roads in 2013.

So manufacturers are going electric to broaden their appeal.

Harley-Davidson started taking preorders this year for its first all-electric motorcycle, called the LiveWire. The 2020 model boasts 146 miles of city range.

European manufacturers aren't far behind. Triumph and Ducati have plans to develop their own all-electric bikes.

But Zero Motorcycles, a California company, beat them all to market in 2006. Their latest model, the Zero S, packs a 223-mile city range.

HISTORY LESSON

# Century of Advocacy

**The League of Women**

Voters of Texas turns 100 this month. The nonpartisan political organization, formed October 19, 1919, focused its efforts in the early years on educating the newly enfranchised women voters of the state.

**Today, the league** promotes voter education and participation, and advocates solutions in the public interest on key policy issues.

**LOOKING BACK AT SOCIETY NEXT MONTH ▶**

## 1970s

**1970** Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site opens to the public.

**1972** Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which includes Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at over 8,700 feet, is established.

**1973** Willie Nelson holds his first Fourth of July picnic—at a ranch in Dripping Springs.



## 1980s

**1980** Renovation of the Congress Avenue bridge in Austin inadvertently creates an ideal bat roost on the underside of the structure. Some 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats spend their summers under the bridge.

**1986** The Don't Mess With Texas anti-littering campaign begins with a TV commercial featuring blues great Stevie Ray Vaughan.



## 1990s

**1990** Travis County designates Hamilton Pool a nature preserve.

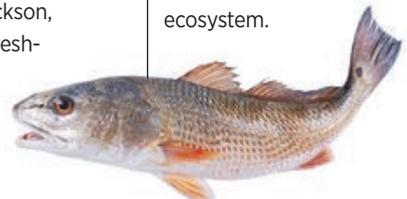
**1991** Big Bend Ranch State Park opens on a limited basis.

**1996** Sea Center Texas, an aquarium, fish hatchery and education center located on 75 acres in Lake Jackson, opens. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens also opens.

## 2000s

**2007** Big Bend Ranch State Park opens fully to the public.

**2011** The U.S. and Mexico announce a binational cooperative conservation plan to protect and preserve the Big Bend/Rio Bravo region—North America's largest and most diverse desert ecosystem.



AFTER-GAME MEALS AND FUN KEEP TEENS SAFE ON

# A Final Score



STORY BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

PHOTOS BY SCOTT VAN OSDOL

Each cobbler? With *ice cream*?" says Kelcey Doss, a junior at Mason High School, as she fist-bumps the air while waiting in a serving line with other cheerleaders and football players. It's nearly 11 p.m. on a Friday in October 2018, and the Mason Punchers have scored yet another victory on their way to a state championship. Win or lose, though, everyone makes a beeline from the stadium, nicknamed the Puncher Dome, to a postgame event called fifth quarter at the Mason Church of Christ.

Since 1969, teenagers have met inside the church's fellowship hall for camaraderie and a hot meal. Tonight, the hall is decked out with tablecloths, party ware and fresh carnations in the Mason Puncher colors of purple and white. Doss carries her plates to a purple-topped table and plops down with five other girls. "I'm going to eat my dessert first," she announces.

Seated next to her, fellow cheerleader Grace Perlichek ponders a question in between mouthfuls of a sloppy Joe, piled high with corn chips. "Why do we come to fifth quarter?" she says. "Because it gives us something to do after the game."

"And we can hang out," adds Doss, who's downed the cobbler and moved on to her sloppy Joe.

"Plus, we get free, delicious food," concludes Kendra Munsell, another varsity cheerleader sharing the table.

Across Texas, similar fifth quarter events shift into noisy gear once the Friday night lights go out. Each one's different, but most are hosted by volunteers from community churches who want to provide a positive and alcohol-free place for teens to go after home football games. Food is the big draw, but many offer basketball, bonfires, pingpong, video games, music or door prizes.

"Our fifth quarters bring the community and churches together and provide a safe alternative for our young people after

# FOOTBALL FRIDAYS



**Clockwise, from opposite page: Mason High's Otto Wofford warms up before his final home game. Cheerleader Sydney Anderson springs into action. Mary Hemphill started Mason's fifth quarter 50 years ago. Alexis Hernandez, left, and Isis Martinez have a blast.**

football games," says Laura Snyder, a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church in Salado, about halfway between Waco and Austin. "Our churches have hosted them for at least 10 years. New volunteers always step up and keep the tradition going."

Exactly when and where the tradition started is difficult to pin down. Try to trace who originally came up with the name "fifth quarter," and it gets even dicier. In Blanco, west of Austin, Florine and Harold Lord, members of Pedernales Electri Coop-

erative, both now in their 90s, recall hosting their first after-game parties in 1971. "Back then, we hardly had any kids in our Methodist church," Florine says. "There was nothing for them to do, either. So we invited schoolkids to our church after home football games. They'd eat and have fun. If we could keep one child from being hurt or killed, it was worth it."

These days, ministers and church representatives with the Blanco Ministerial Alliance coordinate fifth quarter schedules. Volunteers with participating churches host students. "Our goal is to provide a safe and spiritual place for our students after ballgames," says Carlos Cloyd, pastor with the Blanco United



**Above:** Defensive back Tyson Keller becomes a trumpeter at half-time. **Right:** Punchers assistant coach Michael McLeod and player Jace Eckert in the chili line. **Opposite:** From left, Lucy, Trish, Jeff and Rudy Rochat celebrate a victory at the Puncher Dome.



Methodist Church, which is a member of PEC. “We want them to hear a message, have fun and get something to eat.”

In Mason, the tradition started in 1969, when members of the Church of Christ decided teens needed a place to go after home football games. “My husband was a church elder,” recalls Mary Hemphill, 85. “First, we fed them at our house. Then we cooked steaks at the church after the game. For 49 straight years now, we’ve cooked good stick-to-your-ribs food for the kids at the church.

“It doesn’t matter if they win or lose the football game,” Hemphill adds. “We celebrate the kids.”

Through the years, fifth quarters have spread across Texas. In Palestine, southeast of Dallas, local churches have hosted fifth quarters since at least the early 1980s. “I graduated in 1984 from Palestine High School, and I remember going to them,” says Danny Rodriguez, administrative pastor with the Evangelistic Temple in Palestine. “This year, 17 churches partnered together and hosted separate fifth quarters for students at Palestine Junior High and Palestine High School.”

After home games, kids met at their respective school gymnasiums for food and games. “Our churches and school district worked together for the benefit of the kids,” Rodriguez says. “Our goal was to connect with kids and develop relationships with them. That way, if they ever need help, they know pastors they can call on.”

In Eldorado, south of San Angelo, members with the First

Baptist Church budget for their fifth quarter ministry. The money goes toward pizza rolls, taquitos, cheese dip, chips, sodas and lemonade. Kids can just hang out or play games, like pingpong and foosball.

“We host about 40 students after home games in our basement youth room,” says youth minister Jason Crookham. “Fifth quarters give us a way to support our kids and invite them into our building so they’ll feel more comfortable. Adults can then share time with them and let them know they’re welcome here.”

After home games in Carrizo Springs, in South Texas, teens hang out in the fellowship hall at the First Baptist Church. “We’ve hosted fifth quarters for six years,” says youth minister Jeff Janca. “All kids are welcome, and we have them register and give an emergency number just in case. They start eating right away, and we let them chill down for 30 minutes. Then we have a worship time followed by games or activities.”

# Across Texas, similar fifth quarter events shift into noisy gear once the Friday night lights go out. “We want them to hear a message, have fun and get something to eat.”



Back at the Mason Church of Christ, Corky Mueller ladles seasoned beef from a jumbo roaster oven onto buns while other volunteers divvy out corn chips and shredded cheese. “This is a way of giving back to our community, and I’m a 1958 Puncher graduate myself,” says Mueller, who spent his afternoon cooking up 50 pounds of hamburger meat. “Mason has good kids, and there’s not a one who doesn’t tell us ‘thank you.’”

Mueller and his wife, Brenda, are among a dozen church couples who sign up annually to prepare fifth quarter menus that feed 80–100 students. Pulled pork, Mexican stew and sliced barbecue rank among kids’ favorites. “I came up with tonight’s concoction earlier today,” Mueller says. “Frito pie seemed too bland, so I decided to serve it on buns. We’ll see what happens. The kids may throw it back at me.”

Misty Martin, a member of Central Texas EC, who graduated in 2001 from Mason High School, moved from Austin back to her hometown five years ago. “I had no intention of ever living in Mason again, but the people and community drew me back,” she says during halftime at the Puncher Dome. “Fifth quarters are

Now our younger daughter, Sterling, who’s a junior varsity cheerleader, goes.”

Mason’s close-knit atmosphere impresses district superintendent John Schumacher. “There is a culture here where the school and community expect our kids to do their best,” he says. “With that expectation, they each support them in reaching excellence. Everyone is behind each child.”

Head coach Kade Burns, a 1995 Puncher graduate, attended fifth quarters as a teenager. “My late father, Melvin, was head coach here for 11 years, and he had the most wins in our school’s history,” says Burns, who stepped down from coaching in February, when he was named Mason High School’s principal. “After a game, we’d always rush out of the locker room over to here. Fifth quarters are a fantastic way for kids to hang out and share stories. They contribute to the overall culture of our school and give the kids a real sense of community.”

Over in the dessert line, Ethan Powell, a varsity football player, sums up the night while waiting for a bowl of cobbler topped with ice cream. “It’s neat how everyone comes to this church, no matter how the game turned out,” says the high school senior. “They’re always so supportive of us, and they make such great food. That was the first time I ever had a Frito pie hamburger, and I was not disappointed.”

**Sheryl Smith-Rodgers**, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Blanco.

part of that. I remember how the food was always awesome. We didn’t have a winning team my senior year. We lost bad, but the food at fifth quarters always made up for it.”

Losing wouldn’t be a problem in 2018. The Punchers finished an undefeated season by winning the Class 2A Division 1 state championship in December—the school’s second football title.

Jim Bob Smith, class of ’95 and a CTEC member, fondly recalls attending fifth quarters. “When you live in a small town like Mason, football is the go-to thing,” he says. “Everyone attends Mason football games. Afterward, fifth quarters give kids a place to socialize in a safe environment. My oldest daughter, Steeley, went to fifth quarters.

#### WEB EXTRAS

► Visit our website to see a video of Mary Hemphill talking about the fifth quarter tradition she helped start in Mason 50 years ago.

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY ERIC W. POHL

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, WITH STRONG TIES



## TO CO-OPS, SUSTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL TEXAS

**F**or as long as he can remember, Mitch Creed dreamed of being a firefighter. He grew up in the North Texas town of Lindsay and, after getting married, moved to nearby Muenster. While working for a local machine shop, he realized his dream by joining the Muenster Volunteer Fire Department in 2009.

Creed enrolled in emergency medical technician courses at Grayson College and fire school at the Haz-Co Emergency Response Training Center in Denison, becoming certified as a firefighter and an EMT. When his wife, Kami, became pregnant, Creed sought a job with benefits. He found one at PenTex Energy, an electric cooperative based in Muenster, where he became a lineworker.

Working as a first responder for both the electric co-op and the volunteer fire department, he understands how the organizations work together in the community. “I’m surrounded by guys that I consider family,” says Creed, who moved up through the VFD ranks to become chief. “When you spend eight hours a day hanging out with your crew [at PenTex Energy], you make a tight bond. Then, of course, there’s a whole other group of guys at the fire department that you make tight bonds with.”

For Creed, the success of the co-op and VFD comes down to the people and the camaraderie. “Without bonds like these, both the co-op and fire department wouldn’t be able to function efficiently,” he says.

Across Texas, numerous co-op employees and board members serve their communities as volunteer firefighters. They comprise a diverse body of men and women who share a sentiment common among volunteer firefighters and electric cooperative team members—concern for community. Indeed, Concern for Com-

and my church taught me to put others first. In the rural areas, neighbors rely on neighbors in time of need and are there for each other.” Spiess spent 31 years with the Industry VFD—as a firefighter, an EMT, assistant chief and chief. Eight of his co-workers at San Bernard EC serve as volunteer firefighters.

Many Texas co-ops offer electricity safety training for first responders. Nueces EC, in South Texas, presents a 2.5-hour comprehensive safety class for fire departments. Live demonstrations show emergency personnel how to properly react to situations that involve electricity.

Lynn Simmons, director of communications for South Plains EC, in Lubbock, says several of her colleagues who are also volunteer firefighters exemplify the synergy among cooperatives, VFDs and the community. “South Plains EC appreciates and supports the local VFDs because they help protect our members and the co-op’s infrastructure,” she says. “We have about a half-dozen employees that are part of VFDs. Our employees wearing both a hard hat and fire helmet help us understand the value of cooperation in sustaining the quality of life in our local communities.”

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**S**mall towns and unincorporated areas depend on volunteer fire departments. In rural areas, VFDs provide the only available fire and emergency medical responders. According to the State Firefighters’ & Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas, 77% of fire departments in Texas are composed of all-volunteer crews. That’s higher than the national average of 65%, according to a 2019 report by the National Fire Protection Association.

# OTHERS FIRST

munity is one of the seven principles that guide cooperatives, which celebrate National Cooperative Month in October.

Sam Campbell serves as vice president of the board at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative and as secretary-treasurer for the Star Volunteer Fire Department. “Our motto for the Star Volunteer Fire Department is ‘Helping each other is what we do.’ We believe that if you help others when they need help, then they will help you in a time of need,” he says.

**Volunteer firefighters with North Hays County Fire and Rescue in Dripping Springs gather for training. The department consists of volunteer and career first responders.**

John Spiess, member services supervisor at San Bernard EC, west of Houston, and a former volunteer firefighter, explains, “Growing up in a rural community and being involved in Boy Scouts

As communities depend on volunteer fire departments, the departments themselves depend on their communities. Most VFDs are nonprofits and receive little funding from local taxes, relying instead on individual donors and community fundraising.

Steve Doty, president of the Bleiberville VFD, says his department’s annual fish fry is its only fundraiser. “All of our operating and equipment purchases must be covered by this single event,” Doty says. “Although we provide services to the community at no charge, we are a private, nonprofit corporation and receive no money from the government. Many people in our area are not aware of this and assume that their property taxes cover our expenses.” Bleiberville VFD has about 35 active firefighters, including lineworker Greg Giebel and supply warehouse manager Carl Kokemor, who work for San Bernard EC.



**North Hays County firefighters undergo swift-water rescue training on the Comal River in New Braunfels.**

VFD to help purchase a tender truck, \$50,000 to the Dale Volunteer Fire Department to buy a cab and chassis for a new brush truck, and \$25,000 to Salem VFD to help with a new storage building.

“We have awarded a lot of grants in support of the many volunteer fire departments and first responders across our 3,800-square-mile service area,” explains Melissa Segrest, manager of marketing and communications for Bluebonnet EC. “They are vital to the communities we serve.”

CoServ, based in Corinth, operates a charitable foundation that provides annual grants to volunteer fire departments. In the past two years, the foundation has awarded more than \$75,000 to four nearby VFDs.

Last year, Medina EC, in South Texas, provided grants to two volunteer fire departments. The Pearsall VFD received \$2,000 to purchase a portable defibrillator, and the Devine Fire and Rescue Department received \$4,900 toward a brush truck.

Campbell, of Hamilton County EC, knows firsthand how beneficial co-ops are to their communities. “As a director, I realize that other communities in our service area have special needs, and our electric co-op is always willing to lend a hand with equipment and employees,” he says. “Through the Hamilton Electric Co-op, our fire department has received grants from LCRA to establish a building to house our trucks, equipment and to provide a community center for our residents.”

Medina EC assists volunteer fire departments that serve its 17-county service area by donating retired co-op vehicles. Since the inception of its vehicle donation program in 2015, Medina EC has donated vehicles to eight local fire departments.

Bandera EC supports more than 18 VFDs in its service territory, including Leakey, Pipe Creek and Medina. The co-op has provided personal protective equipment and satellite phones for first responders.

Two Bandera EC employees are volunteer firefighters. Technician Kenneth Alf has worked for the co-op for 29 years and has been with the Tarpley VFD for 30 years. Donny Rambin, a facilities maintenance technician, has been with the co-op for 13 years and the Medina VFD for 10 years.

“BEC has close ties with VFDs because the safety and well-being of our members is important to us,” says Samantha Gleason, BEC communications design specialist, whose brother and grandfather volunteer with the Pipe Creek VFD. “Volunteer firefighters work hard in rural areas like ours. These volunteers respond to more than just fires. They also respond to car accidents, loose cattle, downed power lines—you name it.

“VFDs provide life- and property-saving services, which align with our cooperative principle, Concern for Community, and our mission to improve the quality of life for our members.”

Writer and photographer **Eric W. Pohl**, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Dripping Springs.

## CO-OPS LENDING A HAND

In addition to local support, rural fire departments receive grants from organizations such as the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Lower Colorado River Authority and electric co-ops.

In 2018, Pedernales EC provided grants to volunteer fire departments in its 24-county service area, including more than \$7,000 to Driftwood, North Hays County and Henly VFDs for training room and helipad upgrades.

“Volunteer fire departments are critical to our members’ safety, especially in the rural communities we serve,” says Caroline Tinsley Porter, community relations coordinator with Pedernales EC. “Without their commitment to serving others, many families and businesses in our service territory would be at elevated risk.”

Bastrop-based Bluebonnet EC partnered with LCRA last year to support fire departments. Grants included \$50,000 to South Lee County

### WEB EXTRAS

► Read about how co-op members help fire departments when they round up their bills. Also, see how widespread the co-op connection is to VFDs.

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Power

Deadline: October 10

**MARCH ISSUE**

First Ride

Deadline: November 10

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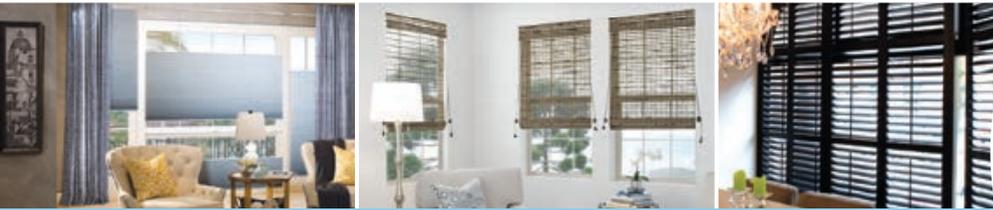
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# Co-ops Support Volunteer Firefighters in Shared Mission



MESSAGE FROM  
**GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY**

## WE'RE PROUD OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS HERE AT CECA.

I'm talking about our lineworkers, who charge into potentially deadly storms to restore power.

We also appreciate another special group of first responders who make our communities better by providing critical emergency services: volunteer firefighters.

Most small communities across the state are served by volunteer fire departments, staffed by civilians who undergo special training so they can fight fires, respond to vehicular

of the communities in Co-op Country.

Needless to say, these firefighters bolster the well-being of our members, and they can do so only with the support of the community. Most VFDs are nonprofits with budgets that typically don't benefit from tax dollars, so they rely on grants, donations and community fundraising. The VFD fish fries, barbecues and raffles you hear about are largely their only means to raise money to purchase new equipment.

October is National Cooperative Month, when we celebrate the many ways co-ops serve our communities in addition to providing safe and reliable electricity. Indeed, electric cooperatives, following the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, often work behind the scenes to help fire departments thrive. Read *Putting Others First* on Page 12 to learn more about the close connection between co-ops and VFDs.

We're proud that we've provided electricity to our part of the state for more than 80 years and of the many ways we have improved quality of life in our communities. Volunteer fire departments in this country go back even further in history.

The first VFD was established by Benjamin Franklin in 1736 in Philadelphia. He also helped prove that lightning—a cause of many fires in colonial America—and electricity were the same phenomenon. Franklin thought the lightning rod, which deflects lightning away from buildings to prevent fires, to be his greatest invention.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, we also salute volunteer firefighters. Their dedication and selflessness make our communities safer. We're gratified to be able to contribute to their success.



collisions and tend to medical emergencies. Some 65% of the more than 1 million firefighters in the United States are volunteers, according to the National Fire Protection Association. And 95% of volunteer firefighters work in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people each, which describes many

# Join Us at Our New Location!

**2019 Annual Meeting  
Saturday, October 12  
New CECA Headquarters  
349 Industrial Blvd., Comanche**

**9 a.m.**

**Registration and health fair**

**Health fair closes PROMPTLY at 10 a.m.**

**Refreshments**

**Entertainment**

*Sam Whiskey Band*

**Presentation of colors**

*Comanche Boy Scouts*

**National anthem**

*Annette Calderon*

**10 a.m.**

**Call to order**

**Invocation**

**Introduction of directors and special guests**

**Report of officers**

**Report on quorum**

**Reading of notice, proof of publication**

**Reading of last year's minutes**

**Election of directors**

**Manager's report**

**Election judge's report**

**Unfinished business**

**Drawing for door prizes**

**Adjourn**

**11 a.m.**

**Catfish and chicken lunch**

*Catfish Corner*



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## HEADQUARTERS

349 Industrial Blvd  
Comanche, TX 76442

## EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

## EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

## OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday–Friday,  
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.,

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.;  
closed 1–2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and  
Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

## General Manager

Alan Lesley

## Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1  
Pete McDougal, District 2  
Ruby Solomon, District 3  
Monty Carlisle, District 4  
Troy Stewart, District 5  
Loren Stroebel, District 6  
Phil Taylor, District 7

## Report an Outage

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power quality issue by calling 1-800-915-2533.

## Contact Us

### CALL US

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**RANDY DENNING**  
DISTRICT 1



**PETE MCDUGAL**  
DISTRICT 2



**RUBY SOLOMON**  
DISTRICT 3



**MONTY CARLISLE**  
DISTRICT 4

## Your CECA Employees

37 Years

**EDDIE STRUBE**  
Director of Outside Operations

36 Years

**LARRY MORGAN**  
District Foreman

**BOBBY REED**  
1st Class Lineman

32 Years

**LARRY HATLEY**  
Safety Coordinator

29 Years

**KELLIE DETERS**  
Director of Finance and Office Services

**SHIRLEY DUKES**  
Communications/  
Public Information Specialist

23 Years

**KENDALL KEITH**  
1st Class Lineman

22 Years

**JIM LESTER**  
Engineering/Mapping Supervisor/  
Dispatch

21 Years

**ALAN LESLEY**  
General Manager

**TIMOTHY PALLETTE**  
1st Class Lineman

20 Years

**JENNIFER HANSON**  
Dispatch/System Operator

**SHELLEY THEDFORD**  
Billing Supervisor/Collection Officer

19 Years

**PAM MCCLAIN**  
Dispatch

18 Years

**CHAD NEWMAN**  
Grounds Maintenance

17 Years

**ORACIO LOPEZ**  
Service Lineman

**TOMMY PATTERSON**  
Meter Technician

16 Years

**KEITH STEWARD**  
Lineman/Power Quality

14 Years

**BRANDON COOK**  
1st Class Lineman

**DALE OGLE**  
Shop

13 Years

**CHAD FOREMAN**  
Director of IT

12 Years

**RACHEL FORD**  
HR Specialist/Benefit Admin

**GUY CLAWSON**  
Staking Technician

**JUSTIN RILEY**  
Working Crew Foreman

**SCOTT RUTLEDGE**  
1st Class Lineman

**ADAM TALLY**  
Service Lineman

9 Years

**DAVID CISNEROZ**  
PC Specialist

**TOMMY HESBROOK**  
1st Class Lineman

7 Years

**ELIZABETH WEATHERMON**  
Assistant Accountant

6 Years

**JAKE SCHWARTZ**  
Service Lineman

5 Years

**RYAN HARRIS**  
1st Class Lineman

**BRANDON KIDWELL**  
Dispatch

**SHANE KINNAMON**  
Dispatch

4 Years

**RILEY HILLIARD**  
Member Service Representative

**MARIZA MARTINEZ**  
Accounting Clerk

3 Years

**MIRNA HERNANDEZ**  
Customer Service Representative

2 Years

**MARISOL FLIGHT**  
Customer Service Representative

1 Year

**CLAYTON BOONE**  
PC Support Analyst

**NIC ZAVALA**  
3rd Class Lineman

**TRENT TAYLOR**  
3rd Class Lineman

**KLAY STRICKLAND**  
3rd Class Lineman

**MATTHEW MAJORS**  
3rd Class Lineman

Less Than 1 Year

**MAEGAN CAFFEY**  
Customer Service Representative

**DEREK MAY**  
Apprentice Lineman

**TRENDON MORIN**  
Apprentice Lineman

**JAYDEN PIERCE**  
Apprentice Lineman

OVER THE YEARS, THE COOPERATIVE HAS ATTRACTED AND kept employees who are loyal and dedicated to the work of bringing dependable electric service to the members. We have some employees with many years of experience and

expertise, some who have fewer years of experience and are training for additional responsibilities, and some who are just beginning. Employees listed represent 579 years of combined experience.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**TROY STEWART**  
DISTRICT 5



**Loren Stroebel**  
DISTRICT 6



**Phil Taylor**  
DISTRICT 7



**Alan Lesley**  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Employee Service Awards

### 20 Years

#### Jennifer Hanson

Hanson began her career with CECA in 1999 as a staking technician, followed by a stint as dispatcher, and is currently in the new construction department. She was raised in the May community and currently lives in Harmony with her husband, Marty, on his family's farm. She enjoys drawing and acrylic painting in her spare time.



#### Shelley Thedford

Thedford began her career at CECA in 1999 as a cashier and is currently the billing supervisor and collection officer. She and her husband, Jason, live in the Hasse community. Thedford enjoys working in her yard and spending time with her family, including her grandchildren.

### 5 Years

#### Ryan Harris

Harris is a first-class lineman who works in CECA's Eastland territory. He and his wife, Karey, have one son, Hayes. In his free time, Harris enjoys hunting, fishing and kayaking.



#### Brandon Kidwell

Kidwell began his career with CECA in 2014 and currently works as a dispatcher. Kidwell and his wife, Jennifer, have three children: Danny, 12; Ryan, 6; and Everly, 7 months. Kidwell enjoys golfing, fishing and coaching his kids in their various sports.



#### Shane Kinnamon

Kinnamon is the daytime dispatcher for CECA. He and his wife, Charity, helm a family that includes their three sons, William, Seth and Alex, and Kinnamon's brother, Justin. Kinnamon enjoys spending time with his family outdoors and being in the water.

# WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON ON YOUTH TOUR

## **EACH YEAR, COMANCHE ELECTRIC**

Cooperative Association sponsors up to two students on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. This seven-day tour includes visits to the National Cathedral, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution and a host of other sites of national importance. The students also have some downtime balanced by fun dinners, shopping and other social gatherings.

CECA's Youth Tour contest is open to any student, sophomore or above, who attends school in the co-op's service area or whose parents or legal guardians are members of CECA. Qualifying schools include Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

This is an all-expenses-paid trip, with the co-op covering winners' airfare, transportation, lodging, meals, insurance and admission charges.

The winners of the 2019 contest were Kayleah Hall and K'Leigh Harlin. Hall is a senior at Bangs High School and the daughter of Louis and Rachel Hall. Harlin is a senior at De Leon High School and the daughter of Julie and Larry Harlin.

Applications are being accepted for the 2020 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. To apply, visit our website, [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop), or contact the member services department at 1-800-915-2533 or [member\\_services@ceca.coop](mailto:member_services@ceca.coop). The deadline for applications is December 31.

**CECA's 2019 Youth Tour participants were Kayleah Hall, left, and K'Leigh Harlin.**



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## 2019 Scholarship for Excellence

**Hannah Stuart** is attending Howard Payne University to obtain a kinesiology degree.

She is a graduate of Cisco High School and the daughter of Darrell and Mary Ann Stuart.



**Hailee Rae Stacy** is the daughter of Bradlee and Kalli Stacy and a graduate of Eastland Independent School District. She is attending Texas A&M University in pursuit of a prelaw degree.



**Colton Piri** is attending Angelo State University in pursuit of a biology degree. He is the son of Andrew and Laura Piri of Blanket.

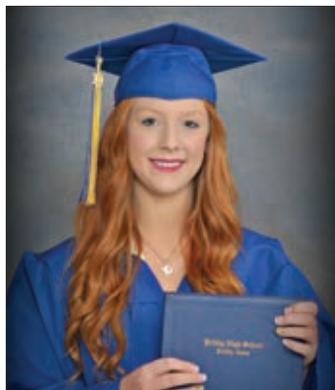


**Kenna Hall** is the daughter of Wade and Betty Hall. She is a graduate of Comanche High School. She is attending Hardin-Simmons University in pursuit of a degree in social work.



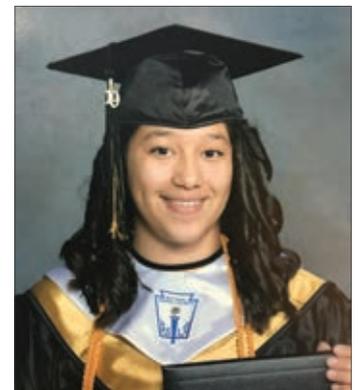
**Thomas Kinnin** is the son of Wade and Paula Kinnin and is an Early Independent School District graduate. He is attending the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in pursuit of a degree in Christian studies and mass media communications.

## 2019 Operation Round-Up Scholarship



**Kaitlynn Glass** is a graduate of Priddy High School and the daughter of G.W. and Lori Glass. She is attending Texas A&M University to obtain a preveterinary medicine degree in animal science.

**Jennifer Anaya** is a graduate of Comanche High School and is the daughter of Filiberto Anaya. She is attending Angelo State University to obtain a biology degree.



Applications are being accepted for the 2020 graduating class. CECA offers five \$2,000 Scholarships for Excellence and two \$1,000 Operation Round-Up Scholarships. For more information, visit our website, [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop), or contact our member services department at 1-800-915-2533 or [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).



# Student Leadership Conference

**Comanche Electric Cooperative Association is looking for high school juniors with strong leadership skills to attend the Student Leadership Conference at the Texas 4-H Center on Lake Brownwood.**

The conference introduces students to different components of leadership as well as habits and practices that will propel students into future leadership roles. Attendees will enhance their skills through hands-on activities, speaking opportunities and fun-filled events.

Students are mentored by local community members who guide them in their activities and demonstrate and discuss the qualities required of a leader.

## **Students from the following schools are eligible to apply:**

Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

**For more information, visit our website, [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop), or contact our member services department at 1-800-915-2533 or [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).**

## **Deadline to apply is October 25.**

**Apply at [ceca.coop/content/ceca-student-leadership-conference-0](http://ceca.coop/content/ceca-student-leadership-conference-0).**

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Start your adventure at [TexasYouthTour.com](https://TexasYouthTour.com).

Visit [Facebook.com/TexasYouthTourAlumni](https://Facebook.com/TexasYouthTourAlumni).

Apply by December 31. Sponsored by CECA. Call 1-800-915-2533 or visit [ceca.coop](https://ceca.coop).



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# Charming the Soviets

How piano virtuoso Van Cliburn twice helped thaw Cold War relations

BY DAVID LATIMER

ON MAY 20, 1958, A TICKER-TAPE PARADE through the streets of New York cheered America's hottest celebrity, a 23-year-old Texan named Van Cliburn. The honoree's accomplishment? He had conquered Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, winning first place in the first International Tchaikovsky Competition's piano division in Moscow.

The Soviet Union had intended for the event to demonstrate Russian superiority in music and achieve a propaganda victory.

The story of Cliburn's stunning success in Moscow has been told in two recent books, *Moscow Nights: The Van Cliburn Story* and *When the World Stopped to Listen*. Both books cover the competition, the improbable American victory and the historic Cold War context.

Harvey Lavan Cliburn Jr. was born July 12, 1934, in Shreveport, Louisiana, but his family moved to Kilgore in East Texas when he was 6. His father worked for the Magnolia Oil Company, and his mother, Rildia Bee, was a classically trained pianist. Her musical roots help explain Cliburn's deep affinity for the dramatic Russian style of performance.

Bee studied in New York at the Institute of Musical Art, the predecessor of the Juilliard School, and was a student of Arthur Friedheim, a pianist from St. Petersburg. This musicality was reinforced when Cliburn attended the Juilliard School in 1951, at age 17 and became a student of Rosina Lhévinne, who had graduated from the Moscow Conservatory. When Cliburn auditioned for her already-full class, she sensed in his technique the tradition that was her own.

## WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to watch videos of Van Cliburn.



**Texan Van Cliburn wowed the audience and judges in Moscow.**

Seven years later, by the time of the Tchaikovsky Competition finals in Moscow, Cliburn had won over the crowds. "His admirers in the concert hall and those who heard him on the radio or saw him on television were hooked from the moment the 23-year-old appeared on stage," Stuart Isacoff writes in *When the World Stopped to Listen*. "But it wasn't the music alone that drew them. His Southern charm was as thick as gravy on fresh biscuits as he greeted his new fans with the prim decorousness of a proper East Texas gentleman, unfailingly gracious at every turn."

Following the Tchaikovsky piece, a Rachmaninoff concerto sealed the deal. Showers of flowers fell on the stage, and the audience chanted "Vanya, Vanya"—their name for Cliburn. It's likely that this frenzied adulation made sure the judges' decision in favor of the American would not be overturned by Soviet edict. Premier Nikita Khrushchev endorsed the choice and invited his new friend for return visits.

Cliburn enjoyed a successful concert

and recording career for the next 20 years. He stopped performing in 1977, though he continued to make public appearances and to support the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, held in his adopted hometown of Fort Worth.

He returned to public performance in December 1987, when President Ronald Reagan hosted the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. Cliburn played an after-dinner concert starting with the state anthem of the Soviet Union followed by *The Star-Spangled Banner*. After the scheduled program, Cliburn played *Moscow Nights*, a popular Russian song that had the Russian delegation singing along. At Gorbachev's invitation, Cliburn returned to Russia for a series of concerts and found an enthusiastic welcome.

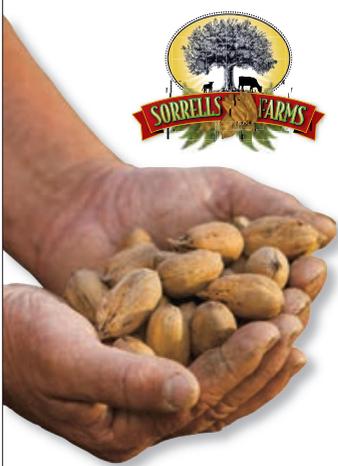
In 2012, Van Cliburn was diagnosed with bone cancer, and he died February 27, 2013. At his funeral in Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Orchestra and a chorus performed his favorite church hymns and then *Moscow Nights*.

David Latimer lives in Austin and teaches at Austin Community College.

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## Company Dinner

BECAUSE IT WAS SERVED AT ALMOST every meal, some historians dubbed the 1950s “the meat decade.” After all, the era served up bacon and sausage for breakfast, saw the birth of Whataburger in Texas and celebrated special occasions with dishes like this simple yet sophisticated beef tenderloin served with a dollop of blue cheese butter, published in June 1959. To raise the bar (and add a modern touch or two), enhance the butter with a splash of cognac, roast the meat over sprigs of fresh rosemary or thyme, and garnish with flaky salt. You can also serve the sliced meat with your favorite aioli and roasted new potatoes, or over arugula, with lemon wedges on the side.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

### Imperial Tenderloin of Beef

- ¼ pound blue cheese, softened
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons cognac or other brandy
- 1 beef tenderloin (4–6 pounds)
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ cup (½ stick) melted butter
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 4–5 sprigs fresh rosemary (optional)
- Flaky salt, for serving

**1.** Use a rubber spatula to combine the blue cheese, butter and brandy until smooth. Transfer the mixture to a large square of plastic wrap, roll into a cylinder and chill (this can be done up to two days in advance).

**2.** Drizzle the tenderloin with enough olive oil to lightly coat, and generously season with salt and pepper. Allow the meat to marinate at room temperature at least

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Watch Paula make this recipe in a video online.

# Retro Recipes

## Company Dinner



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

MELISSA TURLEY | BANDERA EC

This dressed-up take on pizza will feed a crowd. "For the prettiest presentation, I like to use half a yellow and half a red bell pepper," says Turley. "Served with a big salad, it's the perfect colorful, festive dinner for company and sure to be a hit with all palates. Just switch up the fillings to suit your tastes."

## Supreme Pizza Braids

### FILLING

- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
- 1 bell pepper, halved, seeded and thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons dried basil
- 1 cup pizza or spaghetti sauce, divided use
- 12 slices salami
- 10–12 slices cheddar cheese
- 10–12 slices provolone or mozzarella cheese
- 1 can (2.25 ounces) sliced black olives
- Parmesan cheese to taste

### DOUGH

- 5 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt or garlic salt
- 2 cups hot water (120–130 degrees)
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 egg

**1. FILLING:** In a medium skillet over medium heat, melt butter, then sauté bell pepper, onion and basil until soft and lightly browned. Set aside.

**2. DOUGH:** In a stand mixer, combine dry ingredients, then slowly add wet ingredients while mixing on low speed. Continue to mix about 5 minutes, adding flour as necessary to keep bowl clean, but dough should still be soft and slightly sticky. Remove dough and cut in half.

**3.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a greased or parchment-lined cookie sheet, spread out half of dough to form a large rectangle, about 10 by 14 inches.

**4.** Spread ½ cup of sauce down center third of dough. Spread half of pepper and onion mix down center on top of sauce. Layer salami slices over peppers and onions. Layer cheese slices, alternating flavors, down center of salami. Sprinkle with half the olives. Sprinkle generously with Parmesan.

**5.** Cut 6–8 slits diagonally down each outer third of dough. Alternating sides, lift, twist, cross and pinch dough, forming a long, twisted braid shape that encloses all the filling.

**6.** Repeat steps 4–5 for the other half of dough, creating a second braid on a second pan.

**7.** Bake about 15–20 minutes, or until puffy and lightly browned.

► Serves 18–20.



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## \$100 Recipe Contest

March's recipe contest topic is **Crawfish, Oysters, Crab and More**. March is prime time for Texas seafood, before Gulf waters warm up. Send us your favorite ways to prepare and serve our coastal bounty. The deadline is **October 10**.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

30 minutes (or up to 1 hour). Meanwhile, combine the garlic and melted butter in a small saucepan over medium-low heat, just until the butter begins to sizzle. Remove from heat, stir in Worcestershire sauce and allow the mixture to cool at least 5 minutes.

**3.** Heat oven to 450 degrees. Place the tenderloin on a rack fitted into a roasting pan, tucking the rosemary sprigs under the meat, and brush the entire surface of the tenderloin with the butter-garlic mixture. Roast 45–60 minutes, basting the meat with garlic butter every 15–20 minutes, until a meat thermometer registers 145 degrees. Allow the meat to rest 10 minutes before slicing. Serve warm tenderloin slices drizzled with pan juices, if desired, and topped with a dollop of blue cheese butter (it should melt into the meat) and a sprinkle of flaky salt.

► Serves 6–8.

## Shrimp BBQ

DARLYNDA CANALES | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Perfect for a casual dinner, this messy favorite is meant for dipping bread and using your fingers. "My daughter Marlyss had just seen the movie *Forrest Gump* and asked me how Bubba would be able to make barbecued shrimp," Canales says. "Now we had made shrimp numerous ways, but never had I tried to make Shrimp BBQ. But I love a good challenge! This recipe is the one we came up with that we liked the best."

### SAUCE

- 1 jalapeño pepper
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon cumin

### SHRIMP

- 8 small frozen cobs of corn
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup chopped onion

- 1 bottle (12 ounces) beer
- 2 pounds uncooked medium shell-on shrimp, deveined

**1. SAUCE:** Roast the jalapeño over an open flame 2 minutes, then set aside.  
**2.** In a saucepan, melt butter, then add brown sugar. Bring butter-sugar mixture to a low boil.  
**3.** Meanwhile, in a blender, place the roasted jalapeño (destemmed), tomato sauce, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, salt, cayenne pepper, garlic, onion and cumin. Blend ingredients until smooth. Add this to the butter-sugar mixture in the saucepan. Simmer about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.  
**4. SHRIMP:** Cook corn according to package directions. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Add onion, stir to coat, and return to oven until onion is soft, about 5 minutes.  
**5.** Remove dish from oven and carefully add beer, sauce, shrimp and corn. Stir together until all the shrimp and corn

cobs are coated with the sauce.  
**6.** Return dish to oven and bake until shrimp are pink, 20–25 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking time. Serve with toasted baguettes and coleslaw. ▶ Serves 8.

**COOK'S TIP** To catch any spills, set the 13-by-9-inch dish on a larger rimmed baking sheet before adding all the liquids, then put both pans in the oven together.

### Blue Cheese Salad Delight

PATRICK SPAGON | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

A big, tasty salad with lots of toppings is sometimes just the thing to make dinner special.

- 4 strips bacon
- 10–12 romaine lettuce leaves, washed
- 4 medium tomatoes
- 2–3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 12 pitted black olives, halved
- 3 tablespoons grated mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup blue cheese dressing

- ¾ cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1½ cups garlic croutons
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

**1.** Cook bacon until crisp. Crumble and set aside.  
**2.** Tear lettuce leaves into bite-size pieces and arrange in a large, shallow salad bowl. Cut tomatoes into bite-size wedges and arrange on top of lettuce. Drizzle olive oil over tomatoes. Add salt and pepper, preferably freshly ground.  
**3.** Arrange olives in a circle near edge of bowl. Sprinkle mozzarella over top. Pour blue cheese dressing over all. Sprinkle blue cheese bits over dressing.  
**4.** Add croutons and crumbled bacon evenly over top of salad. Finish with a sprinkle of chopped fresh chives. Serve immediately. ▶ Serves 4–6.

### WEB EXTRAS

▶ Read these recipes on our website to see the original Imperial Tenderloin of Beef recipe from June 1959.



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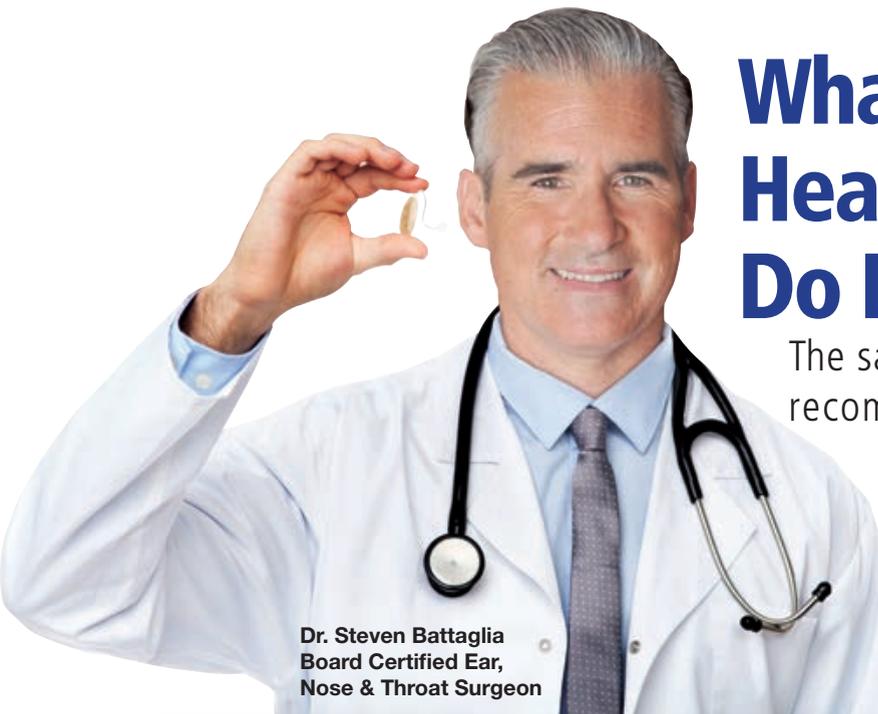
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SOME SAY THEY'RE JUST BEING NEIGHBORLY, and some prefer to remain anonymous, but Texans really love to lend a helping hand. From hometown to downtown, these folks have hearts as big as Texas. **GRACE FULTZ**

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

▼ **DENNIS DURKEE**, Victoria EC: A chain of volunteers pass recycled oyster shells into the bay water at Goose Island State Park, near Rockport, to restore fragile oyster reefs.



▲ **DENISE SELLERS**, Pedernales EC: Volunteers read with students at Lago Vista Elementary School.



▼ **JESUS ROJAS**, Nueces EC: "Cooking for the Lenten season at our church."



▲ **HEIDI FRAZIER**, Bluebonnet EC: As a Girl Scout troop leader for more than 15 years, Frazier has assisted Scouts with a number of community service activities. This year, her high school-age troop donated and installed a flagpole at the Caldwell Girl Scout House.



▲ **MADELAINE PACK**, Tri-County EC: Pack and Melony Block serve dessert at the Tri-County EC Annual Meeting.

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

FEBRUARY POWER	DUE OCTOBER 10
MARCH FIRST RIDE	DUE NOVEMBER 10
APRIL SUNSETS	DUE DECEMBER 10

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

## Pick of the Month Edom Art Festival

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## October 8

**Lewisville** [8, 15, 22, 29] **Rocktober Concert Series**, (972) 219-3401, visitlewisville.com

## 10

**Driftwood Friends Foundation BBQ Fundraiser**, (512) 592-1345, thefriendsfoundation.org

**New Braunfels Bacon Brothers: The Shaky Ground Tour**, (830) 606-1281, gruenehall.com

## 11

**Fredericksburg** [11-13] **Texas Mesquite Arts Festival**, (830) 997-8515, texasmesquiteartfestivals.com

## 12

**Lago Vista St. Mary's Oktoberfest**, (512) 267-2644, stmaryoktoberfest.org

**Midland Patsy's Breast Cancer Cook-Off**, (432) 312-5944, patsyscookoff.com

**Rusk Fair on the Square**, (903) 683-4242, ruskchamber.com

October 12  
Midland  
Patsy's Breast  
Cancer Cook-Off



## 13

**Pipe Creek PCVFD Annual BBQ and Raffle**, (830) 535-4511, pipecreekvolfire.org

## 18

**Canton** [18-19] **Texas Star Quilters Guild Annual Quilt Show**, (903) 896-7100, texasstarquilters.wixsite.com/tsqg



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## 19

**Jasper Fall Butterfly Festival**, (409) 384-2762, [jaspercoc.org](http://jaspercoc.org)

**Taylor Bluebonnet Horse Expo**, 1-888-542-5163, [bluebonnethorsesexpo.com](http://bluebonnethorsesexpo.com)

**Waco Oakwood Cemetery's Walking Tales**, (254) 717-1763, [wacoheartoftexas.com](http://wacoheartoftexas.com)

## 20

**Brenham Butcher's Ball**, 1-800-778-3196, [butchersball.com](http://butchersball.com)

**Huntsville St. Thomas Church Fall Festival**, (936) 295-8159, [saintthomashuntsville.org/bazaar](http://saintthomashuntsville.org/bazaar)

**Smithville St. Paul's Catholic Church Bazaar**, (512) 921-0751, [stpaulsmithville.org](http://stpaulsmithville.org)

## 24

**Wylie Boo on Ballard & Night of Wonder**, (972) 516-6016, [wylietetexas.gov](http://wylietetexas.gov)

**Groves [24-27] Pecan Festival**, (409) 962-3631, [grovescofc.com](http://grovescofc.com)

## 25

**Grapeland [25-27] Lone Star Blues and Heritage Festival**, (936) 687-2594, [lonestarbluesfest.com](http://lonestarbluesfest.com)

## 26

**Athens Tomato Town: Henderson County Master Gardeners**, (903) 675-6130, [txmg.org/hendersonmg](http://txmg.org/hendersonmg)

**Granbury Bow Wow Trick or Treat**, (817) 964-0333



October 19  
Jasper  
Fall Butterfly Festival

**Point Venture Holiday Bazaar**, (281) 799-0114, [facebook.com/pvannualartsbazaar](http://facebook.com/pvannualartsbazaar)

**Waxahachie Texas Country Reporter Festival**, (469) 309-4045, [texascountryreporter.com/festival](http://texascountryreporter.com/festival)

## November

### 1

**Oakville Dobie Dichos: Campfires, Chili con Carne and the Words of J. Frank Dobie**, (361) 319-3067, [dobiedichos.com](http://dobiedichos.com)

### 2

**Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair**, (903) 268-1598, [kimfelt94@icloud.com](mailto:kimfelt94@icloud.com)

**Pearland Pearland Opry on the Square**, (281) 997-5970, [visitpearland.com](http://visitpearland.com)

**Pipe Creek Castle Lake Ranch VFD Annual Turkey Shoot**, (830) 535-6611, [banderacowboycapital.com](http://banderacowboycapital.com)

### Submit Your Event!

We pick events for the magazine directly from [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Submit your event online for December by October 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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# Team Spirit

Football field in San Saba, built over a cemetery, has a lively history

EVERY SPORTS FAN WITNESSES MOMENTS of inexplicable athleticism or a notable lack thereof: A baseball player misses an easy grounder; a basketball player hits a last-second jumper with eyes closed; or a football player running for a game-winning touchdown trips in the open field. When such things happen on San Saba's football field, the locals don't ask why because they know the reason: spirits!

I visited Rogan Field on a cold February day, when the wet chill seemed to penetrate directly to my bones. My first impression was that this field looked like a normal high school football field: 120 yards long, goal posts at each end and a scoreboard painted in Armadillo purple and gold. But what I couldn't see, and what makes Rogan Field eerily different, were the legends buried 6 feet below the turf. This field was built on top of a pioneer cemetery.

The tale begins in 1934, when San Saba's high school football team played on the infield of a horse track north of town. The team desperately needed a field closer to campus, and the coaches found the perfect lot adjacent to the Methodist church. The only problem was that this lot was already occupied, and the inhabitants would not move. Since 1858, the property had been an early settler cemetery, but after years of neglect, it was overgrown and weedy. This wouldn't have been a problem, except that when the Rogan family donated the land, they stipulated that it be maintained.

Even so, the team seized the opportunity. The Rogan family gifted the land



**Make no bones about it: Rogan Field was haunted when Chet visited.**

approached, with numerous bodies still unclaimed, the players simply moved the remaining tombstones and left the bodies to become the team's first season ticket holders.

Since that 1935 football season, San Saba has enjoyed an otherworldly home-field advantage that gives new meaning to the term "school spirit." Lucky for the Armadillos, the resident spirits seem to like their new placement and regularly perform strange feats in favor of the home team. Opposing players drop passes or trip for no apparent reason, leading fans to conclude that the spirits must be reaching up from the grave.

The Armadillos have used this legend to wage psychological warfare against opponents. Brad McCoy (father of former Longhorns quarterback Colt McCoy), who coached at San Saba 1989–1994, even placed a sign saying "Welcome to the Graveyard" near the visiting team's locker room. No team has been more cursed than

to the school, calling on all folks to come and claim the remains of their loved ones. As the season

the Goldthwaite Eagles, who won two state championships in the 1990s yet lost four consecutive times at Rogan Field.

Knowing the field's history, I expected to see an apparition in full uniform floating above the turf or a sign touting the field's ghostly origin. Sadly, I saw the stadium has been completely wiped clean of any reference to the graveyard. The current coaches seem more focused on winning games the traditional way than relying on help from the beyond.

But regardless of whether the team will acknowledge their presence, I'm sure that when the game is on the line, everyone on the home sideline is hoping the spirits will rise up once more and pull out another mysterious feat to help the Armadillos. For many Texans, high school football has always been a life-or-death matter. But perhaps the folks in San Saba have figured out that sometimes it can be both life *and* death.

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

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video of his visit to San Saba High School's Rogan Field.

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