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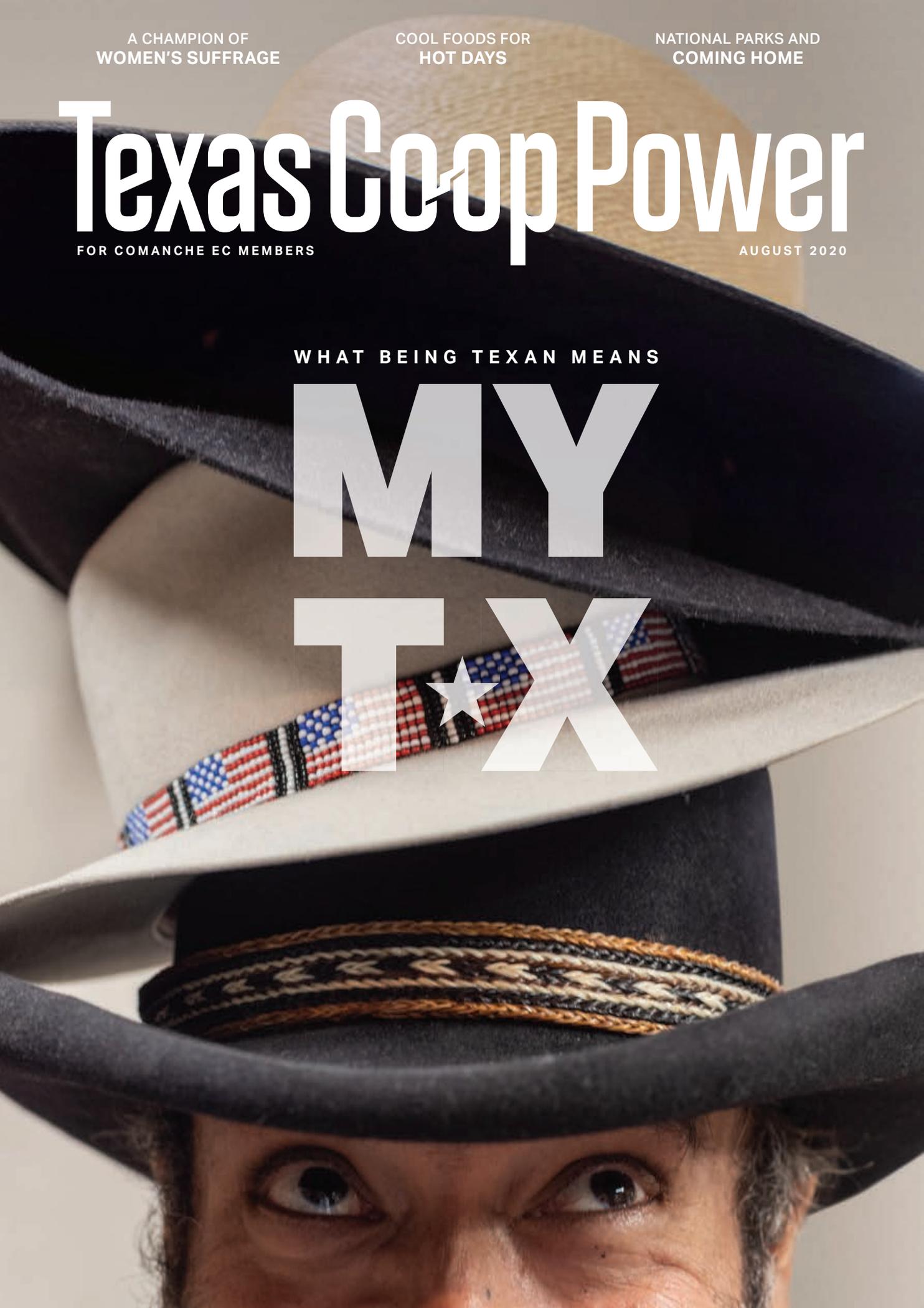
Texas Coop Power

FOR COMANCHE EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2020

WHAT BEING TEXAN MEANS

MY
TX



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August 2020



08

MY TX

What does being a Texan mean? A variety of folks with special connections to the state share their thoughts.

Introduction by Joe Holley

ON THE COVER
David Torres
of Texas Hatters.
*Photo by Wyatt
McSpadden*

ABOVE
One reason
we love Texas?
Bluebonnets!
Photo by Eric W. Pohl

04 **Currents**

06 **TCP Talk**

18 **Co-op News**
Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.

29 **Footnotes in Texas History**
Empowering Every Vote
By Tanya Estes

30 **TCP Kitchen**
Cool Foods
By Megan Myers

34 **Hit the Road**
Mysterious Message
By Chet Garner

36 **Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: On the Water

38 **Observations**
Coming Home
*Story and photo by
karla k. morton
and Alan
Birkelbach*

Bee Aware

FLOW HIVE, an Australian company that markets a structure to harvest honey without disturbing the bees, reminds us as we recognize World Honey Bee Day on August 15 how essential bees are to life on Earth. The more than 19,000 species of bees are responsible for pollinating 30% of the world's food crops and 90% of wild plants.

For the past 15 years, bee populations have been declining at an alarming rate largely due to climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

Worker bees, which are female, produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their five- to six-week life span. These are the only bees most people ever see.



What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.

“Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has ever blessed my vision.”

—SAM HOUSTON

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

WHEN I THINK OF TEXAS, I THINK OF ...

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 city. Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **To me, being a Texan means ...**

It's already 90 degrees by 9 a.m. and saying, "Oh, what a beautiful day."

MIKE WHITLEY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
MCKINNEY

Being the salt of the earth and having a salty story or two to prove it.

MARK BROWNING
SAM HOUSTON EC
GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

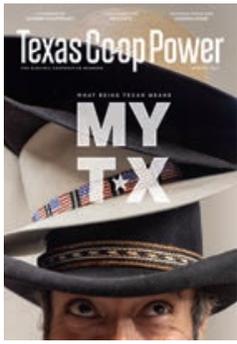
DALENE MASDEN
MEDINA EC
MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'.

CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.





TCP'S NEW LOOK

From cover to cover, *Texas Co-op Power* is a new magazine. Read, enjoy and share your ideas about every section. We want to hear from all 3.7 million of you, by email or on Facebook.

127.36 feet

Ashrita Furman caught an intact water balloon thrown 127.36 feet by Bipin Larkin—a world record—on August 8, 2012, in New York. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day.



Acclaimed Clipper

HENRY MILLER MORGAN opened the first college for African American barbers in 1933 in downtown Tyler. The school had only five chairs, but it thrived, and within 20 years Morgan had opened schools in Houston, Dallas, New York, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Morgan was born 125 years ago—August 25, 1895, in Tyler.



TCP Contests and More

[ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://ONTEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST
On Wheels

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Vegetarian

WIN A BOOK

Enter to win copies of three books mentioned in this issue.

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

Want more about cowboy hats?
Check out *Cowboy Hatters* from April 2016.



An Alternate Reality

“I read *Black Like Me* in 1967 in high school. Eye-opening and inspiring, which led me to choose *I Have a Dream* for a class presentation.”

JOYCE BATTARBEE
 NAVASOTA VALLEY EC
 JEWETT

Rare Treat

The last time I saw a horny toad was 15-plus years ago, and that was the first time I had seen one in probably 25 years [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. I caught the little guy to show my boys; they had never seen one before. We looked him over. I didn't want to let him go, but I knew we had to.

Tammie Frenzel
 Heart of Texas EC
 Westphalia



I grew up playing with these prehistoric lizards just a mile from where I currently live [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. These fellas are still breeding strong out here.

ALICEA LOGAN-MASTERS
 VIA FACEBOOK

Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?

I am aghast you did not include Mi Tierra in the heart of El Mercado [*We Brake for Queso*, June 2020]. Opened in 1941, sitting 500 patrons at a time and slinging enchiladas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Noble Dunson
 Central Texas EC
 Kingsland

We don't want to forget Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. I've been eating there for 24 years and have not had one bad meal.

Patricia Martin
 Cherokee County EC
 Starrville

Dear Dairy

I love the photo on telling us Texas Tech University will have a vet school [*More Critter Care*, Currents, June 2020]. Texas A&M is a fabulous institution, but they discontinued their dairy science program several years ago. (Your photo showed a Holstein dairy calf.) Texas Tech will, I hope, bring dairy science back to our veterinary programs.

Gabrielle Gordon
 Tri-County EC
 Tarrant County



TCP WRITE TO US
 letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn icons followed by Texas Co-op Power

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TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 2 (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.

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MY TEX

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

DURING MY TIME as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* some years ago, I also taught a journalism course every semester at George Washington University. One morning in class, I happened to mention that I had crafted something of an unofficial beat I called “eccentric Texans.”

A young woman remarked, “Gee, Mr. Holley, you sure must be busy!”

I suppose I was.

There was something about my native state that seemed to lend itself to individuality, if not necessarily eccentricity, whether I was writing about big-time politicians, athletes, show people, even a renowned lady wrestler from Amarillo. If they were Texans, chances are there was a particularity about them that defied predictability.

Living in D.C. and working at *The Post*, I was still a Texan. The place where I was born and where I had lived most of my life was in my bones, in my blood. I couldn’t shake my Texas identity any more easily than I could smooth out my Central Texas twang. It gradually dawned on me that when I wrote about Texas, I wrote with more authority, more concreteness, more feeling for the place and its people. I decided to come home—home to Texas.

My return meant coming home to family, literally and figuratively. Once again covering the immense expanse of Texas as a journalist, I rediscovered not only the rich diversity of this place but also the shared sense of identity that transcends difference. Whether I’m talking to a Panhandle rancher near Lipscomb or an East Texas teacher in Kirbyville, a Gulf Coast shrimper out of Port Isabel or a West Texas nurse in McCamey, I know—and they know—that we both are Texans. This place has shaped us.

Black, brown or white; man or woman; old or young—we’re family. Like your kinfolks and mine, we don’t always get along, but as Texans we share an identity and an abiding respect for what we have in common. We know each other well. **JOE HOLLEY**





“**THE MOMENT I KNEW** what it meant to be Texan was the evening my wife and I were invited to watch George Strait play a private show at Gruene Hall a few years back. There were all kinds of people in the room—professional wrestlers, songwriters, regular folks, you name it. The random group of people came from all walks of life to see and hear King George. It was the epitome of “Texanness.””

JAY B SAUCEDA

JAY B SAUCEDA is an entrepreneur and photographer whose book *A Mile Above Texas* features 150 photos of Texas taken from a Cessna 182T. Saucedo was raised in La Porte.



HE HAS MADE MUSIC for decades, though you've probably never heard Mark Erlewine play. He's a luthier—a repairer and creator of guitars at his shop in Austin. A badly mangled instrument affirmed his karma as a Texan, though it's not the threadbare acoustic guitar for which he is legendary.

"I was in my shop about 20 years ago, when a man and woman, decked out in full Texas attire—jeans, cowboy boots and hats—came in with a large black garbage bag holding the pieces of a Martin guitar," Erlewine says. "The man explained that she had put the guitar over his head during one of their arguments, but since then they had started counseling to mend their relationship. They told me part of the process of putting their relationship back together was to have the guitar put back together.

"I was able to mend the guitar and can only hope their relationship has fared as well."

There's no question about the love story of the other guitar—Willie Nelson's Trigger. Willie's pick and fingernails have carved a gaping hole in the spruce wood of his Martin N-20 classical guitar.

The strains of that relationship fall to Erlewine to mend, and as he has since 1976, he lovingly and tenderly nurses Trigger. Reunited with Willie, they continue a love story that has enraptured a state and changed its musical history.

MARK ERLEWINE first fell in love with Texas when he visited with friends from high school in 1967. He moved his guitar shop to Austin from Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1974.





"STOPPING THE CAR immediately to place down kids and puppies in a field of bluebonnets for pictures. Could there be a snake in there? Sure. But the pictures are worth it."

TIFFANY CHEN, who, with husband Leon, started Tiff's Treats in 1999 in an Austin apartment while they were students at the University of Texas. Today the cookie and brownie delivery company has 46 locations in Texas and operates in Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte.



"STEVIE USED TO SIT THERE and play for tips to pay for getting his hat blocked," David Torres says, gesturing toward the two-seat shoeshine stand by the front door of Texas Hatters in Lockhart. "We modified the flat top and named it the SRV."

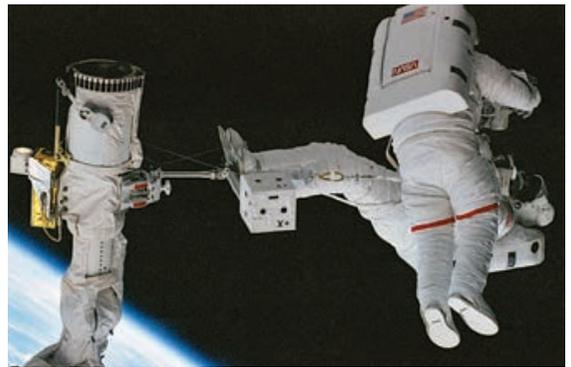
Not every celebrity gets a Texas Hatters style named for them. There is no Prince Charles or Pierce Brosnan or George W. Bush. Stevie Ray Vaughan did get the SRV.

Torres apprenticed at Texas Hatters when he met the owner's daughter, Joella, who later became his wife. She represents the third generation to operate the celebrated business, which moved to Lockhart from Buda in 2006.

"I grew up in the shop," Joella says, "and making a hat is like making a sculpture."

DAVID TORRES and **JOELLA GAMMAGE-TORRES** operate Texas Hatters in Lockhart. Many Texans will remember the original Austin location on South Lamar Boulevard.





"I HAVE LOGGED more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. No matter where I traveled and lived, I have always returned to Texas."

BERNARD A. HARRIS JR., a physician, former astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. The Temple native is CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in Dallas.



"WE'RE PROUD TO BE TEXANS," says Tom Perini, who with his wife, Lisa, owns Perini Ranch Steakhouse. "We're out here in the real Texas, surrounded by wheat and cattle."

They share the story of the day four men in suits came in. "They were looking around and made me nervous. I thought they might be insurance inspectors or something," Tom says, "so I went over and sat down." It turns out the four were developing a steakhouse concept for a restaurant chain.

"What do you do to make this place so Texas?" one asked.

"We don't," Tom answered. "It is."

TOM and LISA PERINI own the legendary Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap.



TCP WEB EXTRA Enter online to win an overnight getaway or the book *Perini Ranch Steakhouse: Stories and Recipes for Real Texas Food*.

WYATT MCSPADEN

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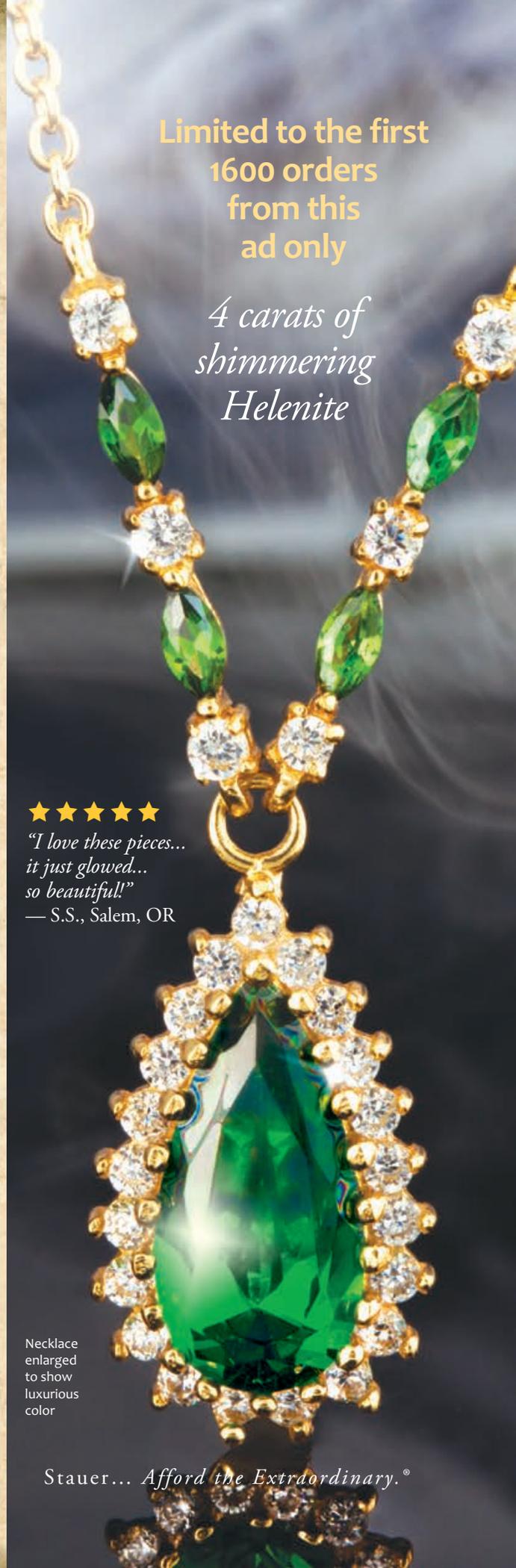


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it just glowed...
so beautiful!"*

— S.S., Salem, OR

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MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

**ALAN
LESLEY**

A Name You Can Trust

RECENTLY CECA CONDUCTED a survey of our membership to help us determine if the service we provide is meeting members' needs and just what direction we might need to take if adjustments are necessary. With this survey complete, I'm happy to report the results.

First, we received a great response. Not surprisingly our employees received high marks for the way they interact with members. These individuals, from the linemen in the field to office personnel, work very hard to become the knowledgeable, courteous, competent and efficient representatives you deserve. Our rating of 93 in this area tells us our employees are doing well. We frequently receive notes from members acknowledging individual employees or crews who have gone the extra mile to help fix a problem or simply give of their time to provide more understanding on how to use electricity more efficiently. We appreciate this acknowl-

edgement of their efforts and promise to continue to make every interaction with you a pleasant experience.

As expected the survey indicated that most of our members still prefer *Texas Co-op Power* for delivering routine messages. When you received your magazine this month, you probably noticed it looks a little different.

The new design is an effort to make *Texas Co-op Power's* pages cleaner and easier to read while keeping its engaging, informative content clearly in focus. We hope this goal has been accomplished and that you enjoy the new look.

We learned our members increasingly prefer that CECA communicate by text message any information concerning power outages and other power issues. This is a service we've been exploring for some time, and due to the high response rate in the survey, we'll be making this issue a priority moving forward. If you'd like to receive texts during outages, please give us a call at your convenience to ensure we have your current contact information when we do launch the program.

As in past surveys, the rate we must charge for the service we deliver is always a point of concern. We know the monthly bill we send is a significant



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24/7

**Outage
Hotline**

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power quality issue.

TOLL-FREE
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ABOUT COMANCHE EC

CECA operates in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd.
Comanche, TX 76442
Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Early

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801
Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., closed from 1–2 p.m.

Eastland

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

ceca.coop





CURRENT NEWS

Capital Credits Allocated

CAPITAL CREDITS WERE RECENTLY ALLOCATED to the accounts of CECA members.

At the end of the calendar year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins from operations were made during the year and allocate those margins to members' accounts. CECA's operating margin is any money left over after all of its operating costs have been paid. Because members are also owners of the cooperative, operating margins are allocated to their accounts as capital credits.

These capital credits will be returned to members in the future in the form of estate returns or general returns when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative, as determined by the board of directors.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant, credited to each member's account, even if the member moves away from CECA's lines. That's why it is important that departing members keep the co-op informed of their current mailing address—so that those members can receive capital credits returns when they are paid.

Capital credits for 2019 were calculated by multiplying each

member's bill by the multipliers listed in the table below. For example, if your total annual residential bill from the co-op (consisting of energy billing and power-cost adjustment) was \$500, simply multiply that amount by 0.05701824. The product is \$28.51.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please feel free to contact the co-op office.

This article is intended to serve as an official notice of allocation of capital credits for 2019.

Residential	0.05701824
General Service	0.06614032
Large Power	0.02564776

A Name You Can Trust continued from Page 18
burden to some, so we constantly look for ways to help our members better understand CECA's rate structure, billing system, and how rates and bills are calculated. Each month, we seek to educate members about best practices for electric usage through informative articles in these pages. Our goal is to meet our members where they are. If our written communication doesn't provide the detail necessary to help manage your monthly bill, I invite you to call and visit with us personally. We have great employees who are eager to sit down and help you determine how best to control your electric costs.

Finally, judging by the responses to our survey, member interest in both community and rooftop solar is very high. Our members haven't been able to see it, but over the past two years, CECA has researched and analyzed this alternative

energy source, resulting in a recently constructed community solar farm at our Comanche office. We've also established CECA Alternative Energy Services, a program that offers rooftop solar for members and nonmembers alike. These services are now available. Give our office a call to find out if solar energy is a good fit for you.

At its formation CECA established a mission to provide electric service to those areas that were underserved. Since then we've gone a long way toward satisfying that charge. However, the demand for reliable, affordable electricity is as resonant today as it was on day one. We want to thank members for their willingness to complete our survey. It's your candid, honest responses that help us to continually improve. ■

*Thank You
for giving us a high rating!*

85



**American Customer
Satisfaction Index**

That's the American Customer Satisfaction Index score given to CECA by its members on our recent survey. The ACSI is one of the most recognized measures of customer satisfaction in the country and gauges satisfaction for companies nationwide. Our score of 85 is higher than that of some of the nation's largest companies. Thank you for your faith in us. We will strive not only to maintain that score but to improve it in the future!

CECA Earns an 85 From ACSI

CECA RECENTLY RECEIVED an American Customer Satisfaction Index score of 85 on a 0–100 scale—an impressive number among electric utilities and in the broader service industry.

CECA scored 12 points higher than the average cooperative energy utility score of 73, as well as 13 points higher than the averages for both investor-owned utilities and municipal energy utilities, per the 2020 ACSI Utility Sector Report.

Our score is also higher than top-scoring companies like Costco, Amazon, Southwest Airlines, Papa John's, Hyatt, Domino's and Starbucks, based on 2019 ACSI reports.

"We are pleased with our cooperative's performance this year and are happy that our members feel the same," said Alan Lesley, CECA general manager. "This ACSI score confirms CECA's value and quality in the eyes of our members, and we look forward to maintaining this level of satisfaction and furthering the co-op difference to our membership."

The ACSI is the only national cross-industry measure of customer satisfaction in the United States. Each year, the ACSI uses data from interviews with roughly 500,000 customers as inputs to an econo-

metric model for analyzing customer satisfaction with more than 400 companies in 46 industries and 10 economic sectors.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, of which CECA is a member, has participated in the ACSI Monitor Program since 2011 and was the highest-rated cooperative energy utility group from 2014–2018, according to ACSI reports. This consistency showcases our continued commitment to maximizing the cooperative difference.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is a national network of electric cooperatives across 46 states that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their members. By working together, Touchstone Energy cooperatives stand as a source of power and information for their 30 million member-owners every day. Learn more at touchstoneenergy.com.

You can learn more about the ACSI by visiting theacsi.org. ■

Check Out CECA's Online Services



When temperatures spike or drop, your electricity use goes up. Even if you don't lower or raise your thermostat, your air conditioning and heating units work longer to maintain the set temperature.

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Tracking Your Usage

Log in to your CECA account to track your energy use against the weather and compare kilowatt-hours consumed daily, monthly and yearly.

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Contact CECA for first-time login instructions, then find it all on our website, ceca.coop. Don't let the weather catch you unprepared!

Operation Round-Up Offers Microgrants to Area Teachers

CECA's Operation Round-Up Board of Directors has created a microgrant program to help teachers with classroom projects and educational field trips. The program is sponsored by the membership of CECA through Operation Round-Up.

Five grants of \$1,000 each will be available to K–12 teachers at qualifying schools during the 2020–2021 school year. Qualifying school districts are 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.



FIVE GRANTS OF \$1,000 EACH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO K-12 TEACHERS AT QUALIFYING SCHOOLS DURING THE 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

Applications and program details can be found on our website, ceca.coop, under the Youth Opportunities tab. The deadline for entries is September 30. If you have questions, contact Shirley at 1-800-915-2533 or sdukes@ceca.coop.



Operation Round-Up is a community service program funded by the members of CECA. As a participant, your electric bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar each month, with the few extra cents going into the Operation Round-Up fund. The average annual tax-deductible contribution is about \$6 per account. Visit our website, ceca.coop, under the Member Benefits tab, for more information on the program or to enroll.

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Make Energy Savings Fun for Kids

WANT TO TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN to use energy more efficiently? Make it a fun, interactive learning experience.

Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Give your kids a penny or even a quarter every time you see them turning off the lights or TV when they leave a room. Take a coin back if they leave their video games running or leave lights on in an empty room.
- ▶ Reward older kids with a small bonus on their allowance each month that they help lower the household energy bill.
- ▶ Educate your children about how they might be wasting energy by holding the refrigerator door open or leaving the front door ajar when they run outside. Then deputize your little ones as your home's "energy police." Put them on the lookout for energy wasters like phone chargers that are plugged into the wall without a phone on the other end or TVs that are on when nobody's watching.
- ▶ Spend an afternoon decorating badges that put your children in charge of your home's Operation Save Energy. Then take them on a "raid" of the house, looking for ways your family is wasting energy.
- ▶ Set up an energy efficiency obstacle course. Send your kids on a race through the house to find other family members or friends acting out energy-wasting activities. Tell your kids they have to find culprits in each room and correct the energy wasters before they can move on. Time them as they race through the house and award points each time they correct an action.
- ▶ Each week, post a chart on the refrigerator and keep a tally of each time a family member gets caught wasting energy. The person with the fewest tallies by Friday night gets to pick the movie. ■



CHARLOTTE LAKE | ISTOCK.COM

Tasty Tuna Tacos

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

1 box taco shells, 12 count
2 cans (6 ounces each) chunk light tuna in water
¼ cup finely chopped green onions
¼ cup finely chopped red bell pepper
¼ cup finely chopped yellow bell pepper
1 bunch fresh cilantro (rinsed, dried, stems removed)
½ cup finely grated carrots
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice (half of 1 large lime)
2 cups thick and chunky mild salsa
8 ounces grated Monterey Jack or pepper jack cheese
1 can (4 ounces) sliced ripe olives

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil and arrange taco shells in a single layer. Warm 5–7 minutes.

2. For filling, drain and chop tuna and place in a medium-sized bowl. Add onions, peppers, cilantro and carrots. Add lime juice to tuna mixture. Thoroughly mix all ingredients using a large mixing spoon.

3. Remove taco shells from oven and add ¼–⅓ cup of filling mixture to each taco shell. Follow with 2 tablespoons salsa and 2 tablespoons grated cheese. Garnish with 10–12 olive slices. Serve immediately.

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The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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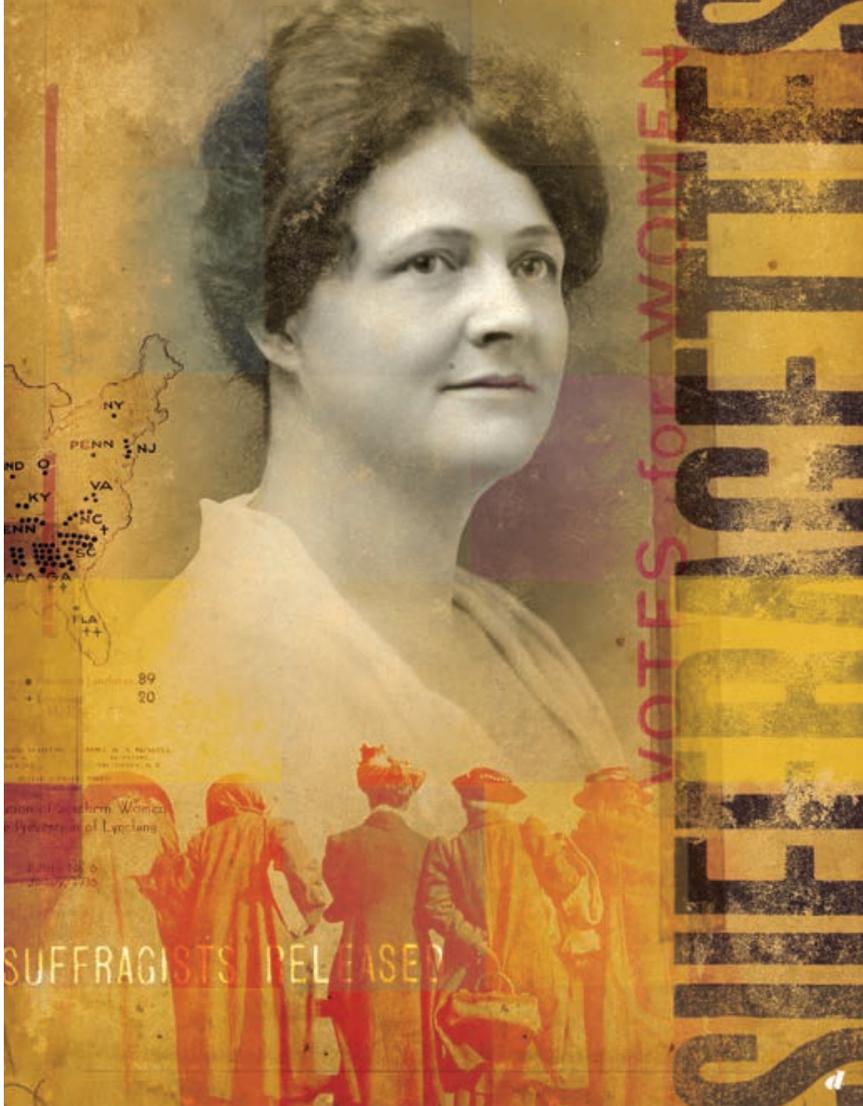
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Empowering Every Vote

Activist Jessie Daniel Ames took on women's suffrage and lynching

BY TANYA ESTES

DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN fought for the right to vote, a widowed mother of three mobilized thousands of women to vote in just 17 days. In a race against the clock, Jessie Daniel Ames employed an unexpected resource to register voters before a critical election that changed the course of Texas history by diminishing the political influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ames family moved from Palestine to Georgetown when Jessie was a child. She led a quiet and dutiful life, graduating from Southwestern University in 1902, a rare accomplish-

ment for a woman at the time.

Ames married a few years after college, but her husband died in Guatemala of malaria in 1914, leaving her a pregnant widow with two children. To support her young family, Ames went to work for her family's telephone company in Georgetown. Managing a communications business taught her how to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and this success further paved the way for her equal rights activism.

Ames founded the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League in 1916 and wrote *Weekly Suffrage Notes*, a column in *The*

Williamson County Sun. By 1918 she became treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

In 1918 the Legislature passed a bill that gave Texas women the right to vote in a primary but gave them only 17 days to register before the election. Using the telephone company to contact voters, Ames and her fellow suffragists registered more than 3,500 women to vote in Williamson County. In just two weeks, they provided voting instructions and staged mock elections to prepare these women for their historic first vote.

This voter registration campaign helped secure the election of anti-klan candidate Dan Moody as Williamson County attorney, and Moody actively prosecuted many klan members. This election victory gave Moody the momentum to get elected Texas attorney general and go on to become governor. Ames continued to register voters by founding the Texas League of Women Voters.

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote and was ratified August 18, 1920.

Though proud of her suffrage efforts, Ames felt such organizations did not do enough for African American civil rights. She led campaigns against lynching as an atrocious act of racism and set about ending it through work with the Texas Interracial Commission and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. She also founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which excluded Black women under the belief that only white women could influence other white women.

After more than 30 years working for social justice, Ames retired quietly. She is buried in Georgetown, a few blocks from the courthouse where she mobilized thousands of women in a movement that confirmed the power of every vote. ■

Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

At the height of summer, the last thing my husband and I want to do is turn on the stove. We do plenty of grilling, of course, but when the temperatures soar, we seek out chilled recipes that help our family cool down at the end of the day. This recipe uses juicy summer tomatoes to create a quick and easy chilled soup that goes with just about any meal. If you have fresh herbs in your garden, feel free to add those. Basil is the perfect accompaniment, but thyme or oregano also works well.

Easy Gazpacho

4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds

1 cucumber

¼ cup chopped red onion

1 clove garlic

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Core and quarter tomatoes and remove seeds, then add tomatoes to a blender or food processor.

2. Peel and quarter cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Add cucumber, onion, garlic, vinegar and olive oil to blender.

3. Blend mixture until completely smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and chill soup until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh herbs, as desired.

SERVES 4

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Cucumber Tomato Salad With Pesto.





Baja Black Bean Salad

DEBI MARION
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Black bean salad is a versatile dish that can serve as a meatless main, side or scrumptious topper for tacos. Making it ahead of time ensures that the flavors intermingle and keeps you out of the kitchen during the heat of the day.

1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed

1/3 cup diced celery

1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber

1/4 cup diced red bell pepper

1/4 cup diced green bell pepper

1/4 cup diced red onion

1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese

1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced

1/4 cup olive oil

1 tablespoon vinegar

1 lime, zested and juiced

1. In a medium bowl, combine beans, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, cheese, cilantro and jalapeño.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and lime zest and juice. Pour over bean mixture and stir to coat.

3. Cover and refrigerate 2–4 hours to let flavors meld.

SERVES 4



\$500 WINNER

Mama's Chilled Sauerkraut Corn Relish

LORY VON STADEN
HEART OF TEXAS EC



Summer's hot dogs and sausages get a boost from this lively sauerkraut topping. It's an excellent side dish for other grilled fare, too. Von Staden recommends using it to add a peppery zing to steaks.

SERVES 12

1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/4 cup vinegar

1/2 teaspoon celery seeds

1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained

1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper

**1 jar (4 ounces) pimientos, drained
Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. Pour sauerkraut into a colander set over the sink. Press with the back of a spoon or use your hands to drain excess liquid from the sauerkraut.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together sugar, oil, vinegar and celery seeds. Stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is well blended.

3. Add the drained sauerkraut, corn, bell pepper and pimientos to the dressing and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

4. Cover and chill at least 8 hours before serving, to let the flavors meld.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

VEGETARIAN DUE AUG 10

A new year is the perfect time to add more vegetables and legumes to your diet. We're looking for your go-to Vegetarian recipe. Enter our January 2021 contest online by August 10.

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Serve this vibrant salad as soon as it's prepared to keep the watermelon crisp and the greens from wilting.

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper, to taste
½ medium watermelon, diced
1½ cups baby greens
1 cup diced cucumber
½ cup chopped mint leaves
¼ cup crumbled feta cheese
¼ red onion, sliced very thin

1. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine watermelon, greens, cucumber, mint, feta and onion. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and toss gently to coat evenly.

SERVES 6



Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This chilled salad is wonderful on a hot day. Make it ahead of time to let the dressing flavors meld, but be sure not to add the peanuts until just before serving so they retain their crunch.

DRESSING

½ cup mayonnaise
½ cup prepared French onion dip
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
2 tablespoons toasted sesame seed oil
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon celery salt
1 teaspoon sugar

SALAD

5 cups finely chopped green cabbage
¾ cup finely chopped carrot
¾ cup chopped celery
¾ cup chopped red bell pepper
½ cup finely chopped red onion
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
3 cups shredded cooked chicken
1 cup coarsely chopped dry roasted peanuts

1. **DRESSING** Combine all of the dressing ingredients in a small bowl and set aside or refrigerate until ready to make the salad.
2. **SALAD** In a large bowl combine cabbage, carrot, celery, bell pepper, onion, parsley and chicken.
3. Add the dressing to the salad and stir to combine thoroughly.
4. Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in the peanuts.

SERVES 6

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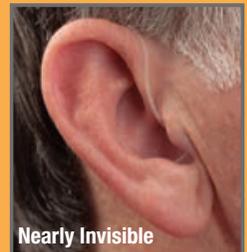
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Mysterious Message

Prehistoric rock art at White Shaman Preserve seems to tell a story

BY CHET GARNER

WHO IS THE WHITE SHAMAN? It's a mystery that has intrigued archaeologists ever since the discovery of this rock art mural decades ago. I made the trip to Comstock for my opportunity to ponder the mystery for myself.

You'll find the White Shaman Preserve, owned by San Antonio's Witte Museum, on U.S. Highway 90, less than 2 miles from Seminole Canyon State Park, about halfway between Comstock and Langtry. The surrounding landscape, the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, holds hundreds of drawings and murals dating back 2,000–4,000 years.

After a short hike led by Bryan Bayles, curator of anthropology and health at the Witte Museum, we climbed a treacherous path to a rock shelter approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet deep and perched along a cliff near the Pecos River. A mural, a complicated composition covering the shelter's entire wall, includes figures, animals, squiggly lines and dots. In the middle stands the White Shaman, an ominous figure with tiny arms and legs. Without an interpreter I could not have understood this cryptic scene.

As Bayles began to explain, the complexity of the mural came to life. Figures I didn't see at first suddenly became clear. Colors that I had missed became vibrant. And I realized that there was much more to this mural than my untrained eye could have noticed. According to tradition, a shaman is a Native American healer and a conduit to the spirit world. And so it's believed that this mural tells a spiritual story—perhaps even the story of creation.

The most amazing aspect is that it was all painted at one time to tell one story. Deciphering that story's mystery is something every Texan should try.

ABOVE Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from White Shaman Preserve and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS. Enter online to win the book *The White Shaman Mural* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

Know Before You Go

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

AUGUST

07

New Braunfels [7–8] Whiskey Myers, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

Kerrville [7–Sept. 19] Texas: The Land & the Legacy, the Art of Robert Pummill, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

Kerrville [7–8, 14–16, 21–22] Little Shop of Horrors, (830) 896-2553, caillouxtheater.com

13

Edinburg [13–15] Edinburg UFO Festival, (956) 383-6246, edinburgufo.com

14

Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] No Body Like Jimmy, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

Ingram [14–Sept. 18] Point of View—Hill Country Arts Foundation Annual Juried Show, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

Kerrville Kids' Triathlon, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Lake Jackson Bird Banding, (979) 480-0999, visitbrazosport.com

17

Dallas Inks & Skylines, (214) 712-7040, reuniontower.com/hours-events/

21

Tyler [21–23] Texas Rose Breed Show, (817) 683-8284, texasrosehorsepark.com

22

Lakeway Cool Arts Sales & Studio Tour, (512) 261-1010, lakeway-tx.gov

23

Castroville St. Louis Day Celebration, (830) 931-2826, saintlouisday.com

Tyler Western Dressage Lite, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

28

Kerrville Blackwood Singers, (830) 896-9393, caillouxtheater.com

29

College Station Dancing for the Health of It! Back to the '80s, (979) 774-4176

Kerrville River Roadster Show, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

SEPTEMBER

02

Tyler [2-6] Texas Rose Sporthorse Cup, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

03

La Grange [3-6] Fayette County Fair, (979) 702-2426, fayettecountyfair.org

05

Doss VFD Benefit Fish Fry, (830) 669-2352, dossvfd.org

Fort McKavett New Exhibit Debut and Movie Screening, (325) 396-2358

Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala, (713) 503-0470

McKinney [5-Feb. 15] Dinosaurs Live!, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

Submit Your Event

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

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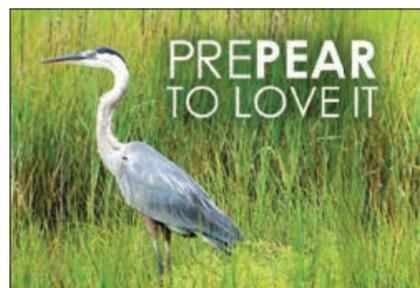
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On the Water

This month, our readers blew us out of the water with terrific catches that flowed in from around the state. Texas photographers of all ages take amazing nature shots like a duck takes to water. You'll be in hot water if you miss out, so let's get quackin'!

GRACE FULTZ



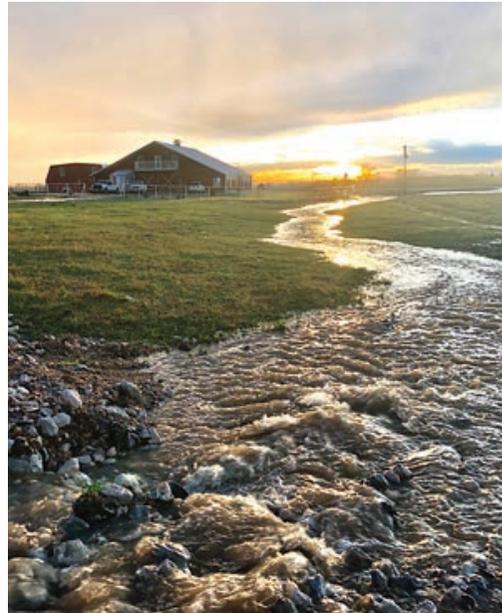
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

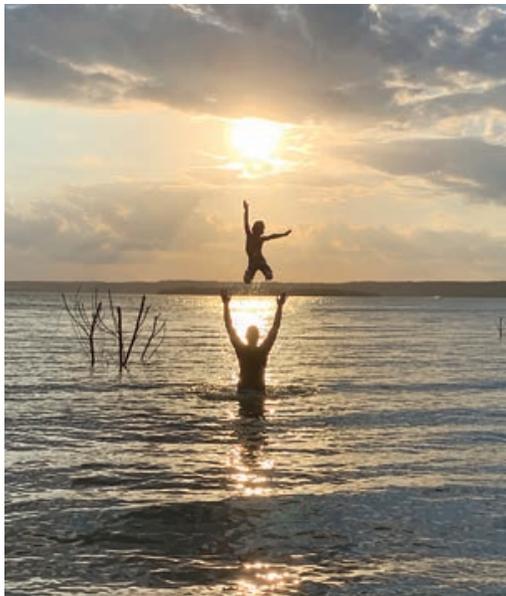
STEVEN CHERNOSKY
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES
"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

KAREN FULGHUM
BANDERA EC
"My husband, Mike Fulghum, skiing on beautiful Medina Lake years ago."

MARIA FRIESEN
LAMAR ELECTRIC
A stream rushes by after a March rain in Brookston.

JAMIE B. WAGNER
PEDERNALES EC
Tricolored heron wading in the salt marsh on South Padre Island.





Upcoming Contests

DUE AUG 10 On Wheels

DUE SEP 10 Forests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles

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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**YEISHA CULP
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**
"My 10-year-old daughter, Jacque, took this while playing in the backyard."

**ANNE LEHNICK
BLUEBONNET EC**
"Skyler at 2½ feeding the seagulls in Rockport with her dad."

**TINA WEBB
BLUEBONNET EC**
"My son, Colin, is an avid fisherman. One of his favorite spots, as seen here, is Lake Somerville."

**JASMINE CHANDLER
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**
Chandler's son, Beau, and husband, Kai, play in Lake Bridgeport.





karla k. morton's suitcase at White Sands National Park.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Enter online to win morton and Birkelbach's book, *The National Parks: A Century of Grace*.

social consciousness. In this digital age, there is no replacement for nature at its most profound. Wonder cannot be exported or imported but can be captured with words—and those words can travel unlimited miles.

The parks are a gift, a legacy, something uniquely American. What better way to instill inspiration in our fellow humans than by bringing these beauties, in the form of books, into their homes. We believe poetry is every person's art, just as the national parks are every person's inheritance.

Texas was built on big dreams and big quests. Had we lived in a lesser state—another state—we would not have had that in our blood. It prepared us culturally to think beyond borders, to think past the horizon.

Travel doesn't make San Antonio or Fort Worth less iconic. Texas prepares you for wide-accepting visions and makes you appreciate home even more.

A lot of the early parks were created under monumentalism. Consider the Alamo, the Chisholm Trail and Willie Nelson—is there anything more monumental than Texas?

This is what we came home to, and still come home to—every time.

Texas has a rich and deep literary history. We were spoon-fed this from our youth. Like Homer recounting the journey of Odysseus, we longed to be the eyes and ears for the homebound, to bring our tales back to the hearth.

We're certainly not the first artists who believe inspiration could come through great natural beauty, who have fallen in love with the grandeur of our national parks, but we wanted to take it one step further and try to do something incredible: to infuse that beauty into the written word—the eternal language of poetry. ■

Coming Home

The wonders of Texas prepared distinguished poets to appreciate America's national parks

STORY AND PHOTO
BY KARLA K. MORTON
AND ALAN BIRKELBACH

THE NATIONAL PARKS are America's priceless treasures. These lands still need those who are willing to give their time and hearts to make sure the parks continue to be protected.

As poets laureate, this was our calling: to visit all 62 national parks and write poems and take photos for each, with a percentage of our book sales going back to the national parks.

We, however, are *Texas* poets laureate. There are new meanings of grand. Even by national park standards, Texas stands up: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, ocean, plains, Big Thicket. Because our eyes were already widened by Texas, we had the capacity to appreciate all the wonders the national parks had to offer.

Certain things should never fall out of

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