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MARCH 2025

The Greatest Mettle

Museum in Arlington
celebrates Medal of Honor
recipients' heroics





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10

06 Home of the Brave

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

By Cyndy Irvine

A Journey of Resilience

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

Story and photos by Anna Mazurek

04

Currents

The latest buzz

05

TCP Talk

Readers respond

16

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

Footnotes in Texas History

Sancho's Long Road
By W.F. Strong

26

TCP Kitchen

Pies, Pies, Pies
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road

Heaven in Houston
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Small Spaces

34

Observations

Nanny's Blessing
By Shane Torno

ON THE COVER

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

Photo by Robert Seale

ABOVE

Exhibits at Caddo Mounds.

Photo by Anna Mazurek

Women's History Month



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

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

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

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



TCP Contests and More

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FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Catch of the Day

RECOMMENDED READING
Texas Independence Day is March 2. Read *Texas Independence* from March 2016 to learn more about the birthplace of a nation. Find it at TexasCoopPower.com.

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

—SAM HOUSTON

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Making my bed every morning is ...

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

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

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

SUSAN MARTIN
SAN PATRICIO EC
THREE RIVERS

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

ADRIAN MAUI SCLAWY
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
ELKHART

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

STEVE BAILEY
PENTEX ENERGY
GAINESVILLE

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

TOM DIFRANCESCA
NUECES EC
BISHOP

Visit our website to see more responses.

JANUARY 2025 Our Nosy New Neighbors

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

GLORIA CURRIN
WOOD COUNTY EC
VAN



JARED MARKGRAF

Can We All Get Along?

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

Betsy Drapela
Pedernales EC
Boerne

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

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

Frank Ott
Concho Valley EC
Eola

Easing Into Y2K

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

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

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

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

Mark Murray
Farmers EC
McLendon-Chisholm

Not Asking Too Much

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

Laneta Beach
Via Facebook



CHRIS WORMELL

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

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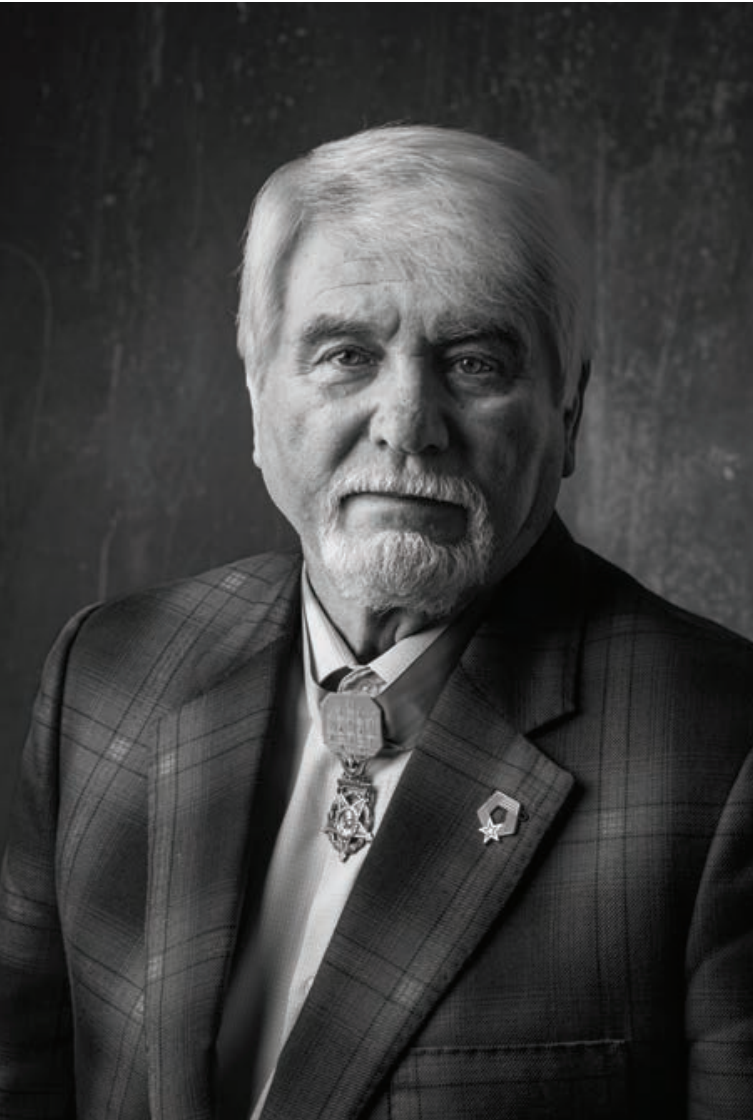
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HOME *of the* BRAVE



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

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



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

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

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



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

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

BY CYNDY IRVINE



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ALL IMAGES THIS SPREAD COURTESY NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Medal of Honor originated during the Civil



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Did You Know?

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

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

Nineteen Americans have been awarded two Medals of Honor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Journey of Resilience

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



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANNA MAZUREK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Caddo History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rising Again

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lasting Commitment

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

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

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

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

The programming includes weekend talks and workshops



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Myth Busting with Geothermal Heat Pumps

by Brian Shaw, Texas Territory Manager
WaterFurnace

“Well, you could have a geothermal heat pump, but...”

...You Need a Bunch of Land

As one old timer put it, “If you have a lawn mower, then I can put in a geo unit.” With numerous options for the underground loop systems, that’s actually true. A vertical loop is often installed under driveways or even 10’ x 10’ patches of ground. There are many other options including using an existing water well, a pond, or if in fact you have more than ½ an acre, a long horizontal ditch is a great solution. If you Google “ground heat exchanger options” you will find a variety of solutions that might work for you.

...It Isn’t Safe

Since geothermal heat pumps are 100% electrical, there is no combustion of gas or oil in the home for heating. So, there’s no chance of smelly fumes, explosions, or carbon monoxide poisoning. Because heat pumps are certified by independent laboratories, they include safety cutoff switches for every circuit in the system.



A geothermal unit easily integrates into your current heating and cooling system.



When using a geothermal unit, about 75% of the heating and cooling energy comes from the earth.

...Electric Heat is Expensive to Operate

Some geo systems are installed with electric strip heat for extreme cold weather. And yes, that can add to your electric bill. However, modern systems are designed to operate without backup heat down to extremely low temperatures. And if your underground system (the “loop”) is sized right, no back up heat is needed at all.

...It’s Too Expensive to Install

Installing geothermal heating and

cooling for your home or building is an investment, no doubt about it.

Geo system owners quickly realize their systems are saving so much money they are recouping their investments in 5-7 years. With the 30% tax credit and other incentives geo can even cost less than a new boiler or HVAC system to install. When you consider the loop will outlive anyone alive today and the heat pump will deliver twice the useful life of most alternatives, that makes for a much more attractive investment.

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1. 14.5¢ kWh - June 2024 Texa's Monthly Electricity Rate Average | Actual data powered by Symphony

2. ENERGY STAR rated units qualify for 30% through 2032, 26% through 2033 and 22% through 2034



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

ALAN
LESLEY

Why We Encourage Conservation

YOU MAY WONDER why we encourage you to conserve energy. After all, we're in the business of selling electricity. Why would we encourage our members to use less of it?

Your cooperative isn't in business to make a profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. CECA is owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's good common sense. Although fossil fuels are still relatively abundant, their quantity is finite. Depleting these natural resources means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy also saves you money in two ways: Less power simply makes for a lower bill, and when many consumers lower their usage, it saves your cooperative money as well.

You see, CECA must keep enough power (capacity) reserved to supply all members' highest usage. If that energy peak can be flattened, the co-op pays less for power. New power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they would otherwise, and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed.

Here at your cooperative, we're working to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and by setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability and service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on CECA to continue looking out for you.

Just remember that we all need to conserve energy of all types—from gasoline to natural gas to propane. Many types of fuel make up our nation's energy picture and affect our pocketbooks. You can help us keep costs affordable by conserving all kinds of energy, not just electricity. ■



SVITTLANA | ISTOCK.COM

Celebrate National Day of Unplugging

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME you spent a day without checking your phone? If you can remember it, good for you. When's the last time you complained about someone else overusing their phone? And be honest: Did you text those complaints or post them on Facebook?

Phones are part of the fabric of work and social life now—97% of American adults own cellphones, with 91% owning smartphones. Much of the conversation about screen time involves management, moderation and controls on the phone that limit or monitor screen time. But what about a 24-hour digital detox?

Since 2009, millions of Americans have participated in the National Day of Unplugging, which asks people to turn phones off at sunset Friday, March 7, and to keep them off until sunset March 8.

Even if you can't unplug for 24 hours, consider reading a book, taking a walk or spending time with friends and family for just a few hours.

By participating in this annual event, you can begin to gain a fresh perspective, reduce stress and anxiety, improve your physical health, and strengthen your relationships with those around you. ■

Understanding the Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, CECA electric bills have undergone some changes. New terms have been introduced on the bills, which might raise questions about how energy bills are developed to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable power.

CECA wants to address these changes, clarify their significance and explain how to read the updated bills, which include two new line items—CECA Delivery and Power Supply.

We want to help consumers better understand the purpose of the updates, how they support the daily operations of CECA and how electricity is delivered reliably to homes and businesses.

We also want to use this opportunity to remind you that weather fluctuations can have a big impact on energy charges. CECA has practical tips for reducing energy usage that can help consumers manage monthly expenses more effectively.

CECA Delivery Charges

The top section of the CECA electric bill, labeled CECA Delivery, outlines costs associated with maintaining the infrastructure necessary to provide reliable service.

These charges support a complex grid of power lines, substations and other essential equipment. Each CECA member pays a fixed monthly facilities charge and a delivery charge based on kilowatt-hour usage. These charges are vital for ensuring the safe and reliable distribution of electricity.

Power Supply Charges

The middle section of the CECA electric bill, labeled Power Supply, reflects the market cost of electricity, determined by monthly kWh usage. These costs include power generation, transmission, substation maintenance and the Power Cost Recovery Factor.

Electricity is purchased by CECA from various providers through a competitive bidding process and delivered to local communities. Approximately 70% of the total cost of providing electricity is derived from power generation expenses, which fluctuate based on supply and demand for fuel.

To mitigate market volatility, CECA collaborates with power providers to plan ahead by estimating and prepurchasing electricity as needed. This approach is particularly important during extreme weather conditions, as it stabilizes electricity prices for consumers.

Extreme Weather

Texas weather is unpredictable, and fluctuations can lead to increased electricity usage and higher costs. During winter and summer months, homes and businesses rely more heavily on electricity to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures.

While weather conditions can't be controlled, CECA monitors forecasts to anticipate periods of high demand. Spikes in demand typically result in higher electricity prices, making forecasting and power purchasing strategies essential to minimizing price volatility.

Consumers Have Control

A significant portion of the total energy bill is based on electricity usage, which is reflected in the CECA Delivery charge and Power Supply charge. Consumers can take steps to lower these costs by reducing energy consumption.

The most effective way to reduce energy use is through thermostat management. Heating and cooling systems account for a large share of residential energy consumption, so adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting in winter and the highest in summer can save energy. Ensuring the system is well maintained and filters are clean will help improve efficiency.

Energy costs can also be reduced by scheduling energy-intensive tasks during off-peak periods, typically 11 p.m.–7 a.m. Sealing air leaks around windows and doors and other gaps will further reduce strain on heating and cooling systems.

CECA remains committed to providing reliable and affordable power. Contact us for additional tips or resources for managing energy consumption and understanding your bill. ■

Loc	Map Location	Description	Rate	Meter #	Service Dates From	To	Meter Readings Prev	Plus	Mult	kWh kW	kWh-kW Rate	Amount
001		WIREDHAND RESIDENCE		99999	11/30/24	12/31/24	195675	197120	1	1445		
CECA DELIVERY												
		CECA FACILITY CHARGE	\$32.00									32.00
		CECA DELIVERY CHARGE	\$0.038200/kWh									62.31
											CECA Delivery Total	94.31
POWER SUPPLY Includes generation, transmission, substation, and PCRPF												
		ENERGY CHARGE	\$0.092400/kWh									133.52
											Power Supply Total	133.52
ADDITIONAL SERVICES & FEES												
		MEMBER EQUITY CREDIT										-48.48
		OPERATION ROUND-UP										0.65
											Additional Total	-47.83
											SUBTOTAL	170.00
<small>Please note the "Member Equity Credit" appearing as a line item on your bill. As a member of CECA, you share in any allocated return on equity from your cooperative.</small>												
Page: 1 of 1		DRAFT SCHEDULE 01/26		Total Due:		170.00						
				If Not Paid By:		01/26/25						
				Amount Will Be:		170.00						
Customer Number: 12345-001												
Customer Name: WIREDHAND WILLIE												

A mockup of the new CECA electric bill.

Scholarships Available

Don't Miss These Opportunities!

- Scholarship for Excellence
- ORU Technical Scholarship

CECA

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Today!**

SCAN ME



Deadline: April 7

www.ceca.coop/scholarships



SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES

for our CECA Member Cookbook

CECA

Categories for Recipes :

- Appetizers & Beverages
- Soups & Salads
- Bread, Spreads & Sauces
- Vegetable & Side Dishes
- Meats & Main Dishes
- Desserts



Deadline: March 7

Submit your recipes by scanning QR code, emailing or mailing in to

Email:

tmcgehee@ceca.coop

Mail to: CECA

C/O: Triston McGehee

P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

Submit a recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit.

Community Calendar

We're excited to announce the launch of the CECA Community Calendar, designed to highlight events in our service area.

Comanche

Comanche Market, March 1, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., 1300 E. Central Ave.

The market will bring locals and travelers to the courthouse square for a wide variety of goods. For more information, call (325) 330-3666 or email texashandmadesuds@gmail.com.

Texas Independence Day Celebration, March 2, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.,

Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Chili and Comanche Stew lunch will be served. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com.

Annual Banquet, March 6, 6:30 p.m. **Comanche High School**, 1600 N. Austin St. The event is \$45 per person, catered by The Harvest featuring salad with ranch, prime rib, parsley potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and water, tea or coffee. Tables can bid on a dessert, and the winning dessert is served to your table. Ten percent of dessert auction proceeds benefit local nonprofits. A silent auction will be held.

Comanche Art Showcase, April 4–5, **Homestead Hall**, 101 N.

Houston St. A VIP event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. April 4. Meet three award-winning Texas artists, (two Western, one landscape), mingle, eat and drink. Tickets are \$45 and includes two wine tickets or \$30, which does not include wine.

Local Artist Showcase and Street Market, April 5. Free to attend. View art in shops around the square. Vote for the People's Choice Awards.

Frontier Day at the Museum, April 12, 1–4 p.m., **Comanche County Museum**, 402 Moorman Road. Returning guests include David Woolam with his chuckwagon, Deborah Nowlin Keith with her mules, John & Ingrid Nabers, the Spinners & Weavers, the SCV 1904, local Boy Scouts, and Kevin Wilson and Cris Bloyd with other displays. There will be a 1905 Cadillac display and refreshments that include sandwiches, snacks and finger foods. For questions, call (325) 356-5115 or email comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com.

CECA welcomes your local event submissions.

If you have any events you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Triston McGehee. Event information must be submitted two months in advance for inclusion in the magazine. The calendar is published monthly and includes events for the month of publication as well as the following month. CECA reserves the right to edit or exclude events due to space limitations and other considerations. Please note that we do not verify the accuracy or reliability of the information posted in the Community Calendar. To confirm event details, please contact the event organizers directly. Submit your events by Friday, March 7, to have them included in the May issue. Be sure to include your events for June as well. Email tmcgehee@ceca.coop; write to CECA at P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442; or call 1-800-915-2533.

Cisco

Cisco Chamber of Commerce events: Easter Egg Hunt at the Conrad Hilton Center, April 12; **Spring Fling Vendor and Craft Show**, April 26; **Citywide Spring Garage Sale**, April 26; **Keep Cisco Beautiful Trash Off Day and Tire Disposal**, April 26. For more information on these events, call the chamber at (254) 442-2537 or email ciscochamberofcommerce@gmail.com.

442-2537 or email ciscochamberofcommerce@gmail.com.

Cross Plains

Fundamentals of Cybersecurity, March 17, noon–1 p.m. Lunch is provided. The event is free for Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce members and is \$15 per seminar for nonchamber members. For more information, contact the chamber at (254) 725-7251 or crossplainschamber@yahoo.com.

Sidewalk Sale, March 22, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. For more information, contact the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce at (254) 725-7251 or crossplainschamber@yahoo.com.

De Leon

De Leon Market; March 8, April 12; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; **Community Auditorium**; 125 S. Texas St. Indoor venue with over 30 vendors. The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, email deleontxmarket@gmail.com or call Jerry Leonard at (817) 371-7869 or Mark Beaty at (432) 209-3275.

Early

Catch, Clean and Cook, March 1, 9:30 a.m., **Early Visitor Center at Early Town Center Park**, 109 Kelcy Way. An introductory fly-fishing clinic where participants will learn about fly-fishing, gear, casting, and how to clean and cook a fish. There will be an opportunity to fly-fish. Space limited to 15–20 people. Minimum age to participate is 14. Participants aged 14–18 must be accompanied by a parent who must participate in the clinic. All participants should bring a hat, sunglasses or other protective eyewear, a fishing license, sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle, and snacks. For questions contact dhudson-brian@earlytx.net.

Buy Texas Markets, March 15, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., **Early Visitors and Events Center**, 419 Garmon Drive. Explore unique, locally made products from talented Texas vendors at our Buy Texas Market, where all of the items are handmade. For more information, contact eventcenterassist@earlytx.net.

Courts and Controllers, March 29, 2 p.m., **McDonald Park**, 101 Park Drive. Join us for a basketball, volleyball and gaming tournament. The Howard Payne Basketball and Volleyball department will help run the sport games, and Mobile Game-Drop's gaming trailer will host the gaming tournament with the help of the Esports Program of HPU. Contact aconstancia@earlytx.net for more information.

Smart City Expo, April 24, 4 p.m., **McDonald Park**, 101 Park Drive. This is your chance to meet the people who work for you at the city of Early. This fun-filled event for children has different types of city vehicles: fire trucks, police cars, tractors, trash

trucks, street sweepers and many more. Mark your calendars and join us at this family-friendly event! For more information, email aconstancia@earlytx.net.

Eastland

Rip's Ribs Cook-Off & Rip's Wine Festival & Jazz Festival,

April 12. Join us for a sizzling celebration at Rip's Ribs Cook-Off, where grill masters showcase their BBQ skills in a mouthwatering competition. Pair your plate with selections from local wineries at Rip's Wine Festival, featuring tastings, live jazz music and a vibrant atmosphere that captures the heart of Eastland. For more information, contact the Eastland Chamber of Commerce at (254) 629-2332 or chamber@eastland.net.



Register Your Child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

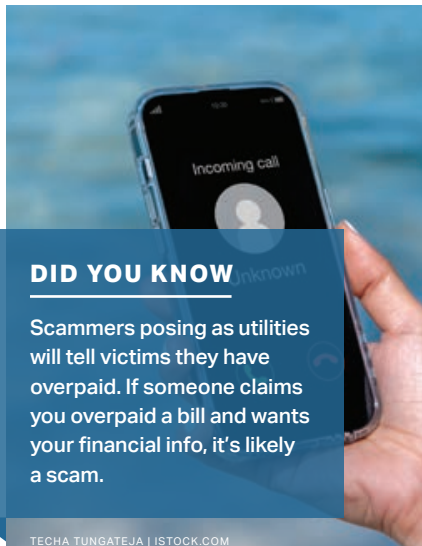
ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD to love reading by signing them up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program for our members sponsored by CECA's Operation Round-Up.

The Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children worldwide by partnering with local communities to provide specially selected, high-quality books each month to participating children from birth to age 5. Personalized with the recipients' names and mailed directly to their homes, these books create an exciting reading experience and encourage families to spend time enjoying books together.

Best of all, the program is available at no cost to all children under 5 who reside in CECA's service territory.

Each book is carefully chosen by a panel of childhood literacy experts and includes tips on the inside cover for enhancing engagement and interaction between the child and their caregiver. Additionally, the Imagination Library sends two Spanish-English bilingual titles per age group each year.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! To sign up your child, visit ceca.coop/imagination-library or scan the QR code above. ■



DID YOU KNOW

Scammers posing as utilities will tell victims they have overpaid. If someone claims you overpaid a bill and wants your financial info, it's likely a scam.

TECHA TUNGATEJA | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

Set equipment like home printers and scanners to switch to sleep mode when not in use. The equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

JITTAWIT.21 | ISTOCK.COM

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!



Why does membership matter? An AirMedCare Network membership doesn't determine if you are flown, but, for the low cost of \$5/month on your CECA electric bill, it protects you from any financial burden if you are transported by an AMCN provider. You are **GUARANTEED TO HAVE NO OUT-OF-POCKET COST** only if transported by us.

AirMedCare Network is an alliance of affiliated air ambulance providers—including Air Evac Lifeteam, Guardian Flight, Med-Trans Corporation and REACH Air Medical Services—providing you financial protection from over 320 locations across 38 states!

MANY COMMERCIAL INSURANCE POLICIES HAVE HIGH DEDUCTIBLES AND CO-INSURANCE, WHICH APPLY WHETHER OR NOT YOUR AIR MEDICAL PROVIDER IS IN-NETWORK.

- A decade ago, only 55% of health benefit plans had a deductible. Today, 81% of them have deductibles and more than 24% are high-deductible plans, requiring patients to pay even more out of pocket. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, families with high-deductible plans pay an average of \$4,332 out of pocket.
- If you lose your insurance coverage or don't have insurance, membership still guarantees no out-of-pocket expense.
- AMCN has partnered with Teladoc - the most trusted telehealth provider in the world. Serving over 20 million members, Teladoc is available to AMCN members at a discounted rate. Requesting a visit with a doctor is easy anytime, day or night, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by web, phone, or with the Teladoc app.
- AMCN membership helps keep our lifesaving air medical service in your area. Since we are all part of the Global Medical Response family of companies, your membership helps to fund the aircraft providing the lifesaving mission.
- Our Patient Accounts Department is staffed with a highly skilled insurance negotiation team. For members and non-members, this team works on your behalf—at no cost to you—as an advocate with your insurance provider. This takes the confusion and burden off of you.

Disclaimer: This offer is for personal households of CECA members only.

Contact your local Membership Sales Manager for questions:

Leigh-Anne Aiken | 325-488-1372 | amcnrep.com

leighanne.aiken@gmr.net |

Sign Up Today: <https://www.ceca.coop/air- evac-lifeteam>

IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE PART A ONLY

air ambulance isn't covered
(must have Part B)

IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE PART B

20% co-pay (approx. \$1,391),
if the transport is deemed
medically necessary

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Membership terms and conditions apply. Dispatch decisions are made by emergency medical personnel; membership does not guarantee transport by an AMCN provider.



CECA Offers Residential Solar Solutions for Members

DID YOU KNOW that CECA installs and sells solar power arrays? We have trained professionals who can evaluate your electricity use and property to provide the perfect fit for your home or business based on your usage patterns. We encourage members to include CECA in their solar array installation plans from start to finish.

CECA offers various options, from backup generators and battery systems to roof- and ground-mount arrays. Energy efficiency has progressed with new technologies, allowing members to take a more active role in optimizing their energy consumption. We're beyond the days of just turning off the lights or adjusting the thermostat when leaving the house.

If you're interested in optimizing your household's energy consumption, please call Riley Hilliard at 1-800-915-2533 to set up a free energy audit and solar power analysis. Solar power may not be a good fit for everyone, but under the right circumstances, it can save CECA members money on their monthly bills.

There are many companies marketing the installation of solar panel arrays in every county CECA serves, and this has created confusion around solar buyback plans and raised concerns about fair pricing in a new and changing industry. We're here to help our members navigate this confusion, and if you feel solar may be a good option for you, we can handle the sale and installation as well.

CECA does require that an application process be completed before interconnection with our system, to ensure proper safety, liability and metering standards are met. Regardless of the solar power vendor you choose, please contact us before you start your project to be sure that your plans are compliant and that your project goes smoothly.

You can always discuss your solar project plans with CECA staff for general information or specific needs. Solar power can be a great energy efficiency tool, and we applaud our members who are working to conserve power. Call us at 1-800-915-2533 to learn more about how we can help. ■

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24/7

**Outage
Hotline
Number**

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

TOLL-FREE
1-800-915-2533

ABOUT CECA

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Esta institución es un proveedor de servicios con igualdad de oportunidades.

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



Check us out at
[TexasCoopPower.com/comanche](https://www.texascooppower.com/comanche)



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



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

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

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

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

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

Parisian Chic Claire Handbag

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



He was wily.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sancho's Long Road

The legend of the tamale-loving longhorn

J. FRANK DOBIE ADAPTATION BY W.F. STRONG

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

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

It goes like this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pies, Pies, Pies

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

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

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

Chocolate Chip Pie

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

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

SERVES 12

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in *Cocina Gris* at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Piloncillo Candied Pecan Pie.





Peanut Butter Buttermilk Pie

ROSE M. DAILEY
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

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

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

4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter

½ cup creamy peanut butter

1¼ cups sugar

3 tablespoons flour

⅛ teaspoon salt

1 cup buttermilk

4 eggs, lightly beaten

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

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

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

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

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

SERVES 6–8

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

\$500 WINNER

Strawberry Custard Pie

MILLIE KIRCHOFF
NUECES EC



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

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

2 egg yolks

1½ cups sugar, divided use

7 tablespoons cornstarch, divided use

¼ teaspoon salt

2 cups whole milk

1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 cup water, divided use

1 tablespoon lemon juice

6 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVES 6–8



TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

BEEFY BURGERS DUE MARCH 10

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

UPCOMING: ONE-SKILLET DINNERS DUE APRIL 10



Edna's Dewberry Pie

TINA WEBB
BLUEBONNET EC

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

PIE

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

TOPPING

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



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

Tips by the Ton

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

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

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

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

pieces until large clumps form. Sprinkle topping over pie.

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

SERVES 6-8

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS BEGINS WITH YOU

Have your "Go Kit" packed and ready.

Create defensible space around your home.

Identify two evacuation routes incase one becomes compromised.

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



tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire



APPLY NOW for TREWA SCHOLARSHIPS

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for college-bound students

Application available at
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Morgan

Eisenhower



Silver Eagle Type 2



Actual sizes: 38.1-40.6 mm

Dates will vary

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

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

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

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

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



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Heaven in Houston

A Rice University art installation transports viewers at dusk and dawn

BY CHET GARNER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TCP Watch the video on our website and see all Chet’s Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

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

MARCH

1

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

8

Abilene The Gatlin Brothers, (325) 676-6211, abileneconventioncenter.com

Luling Rajun’ Cajun Throwdown & Gumbo Cookoff, (830) 875-5058, lulingmainstreet.com

14

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

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

16

Fredericksburg St. Patrick’s Day Coin Hunt, (830) 990-2044, fbgtx.org

22

Huntsville Herb Festival at the Wynne Home, (281) 787-3895, texasthymeunit.org

Kingsville How To Recognize a Champion Horse, (915) 533-0048, tomlea.com

La Grange David Wilcox, (979) 968-9944, thebugleboy.org

Palestine Dogwood Festival, (903) 729-6066, palestinechamber.org

Tomball Choo-Choo Chow Down, (281) 290-1035, tomballtx.gov

25

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

27

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

28

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

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

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

29

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

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

APRIL

3

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

4

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

5

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

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

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1 KATY FRANCESCHINI
PEDERNALES EC

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

2 SHELBY BARLET
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

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

3 KATHERYN JAGER
PEDERNALES EC

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

4 GREGORY COTHERN
TRINITY VALLEY EC

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



Upcoming Contests

DUE MAR 10 Catch of the Day

DUE APR 10 College Life

DUE MAY 10 Off-Road Adventures



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Nanny's Blessing

A grandmother sows memories for generations through her love of bluebonnets

BY SHANE TORNO
ILLUSTRATION BY
SARAH FERONE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But it is my favorite coincidence ever. ■



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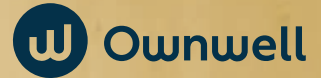
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