



# Notice of CECA 2023 District Meeting

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023 • 6 p.m.**

CECA Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd., Comanche

## **To: All Members in District 2**

Highway 36 east from Comanche, thence south and west to Highway 36

**This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 2.**

Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements and information concerning election of directors.

**This meeting also will be open for discussion of any affairs of the cooperative.**

**A \$15 credit on electric service will be given to each attending member (family) from District 2.**

Refreshments will be served and prizes will be given away during the meeting.

Accessible facilities will be provided upon request.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



**To: All Members in District 2**  
**From: Alan Lesley, General Manager**  
**Subject: Nomination of Directors**

The CECA Board of Directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your District 2 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October, when they'll be voted on by the whole membership.

Additionally, we will review various issues in the electric industry that most affect our members.

The meeting will be open for discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. That means that you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperative members have is being able to participate in the nomination and selection of directors of their cooperative. Other utilities' boards of directors are selected by shareholders, whose say is determined by the amount of shares they own; they're most interested in the rate of return on their investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

**Please complete the registration card below and bring it to the district meeting. This card is your entry for the prize drawings.**



## Registration Card for District 2 Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 • 6 p.m.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Following is an excerpt from the bylaws of CECA detailing important information about director nominations.**

**ARTICLE III • DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 3.2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE**

(a) To be eligible to become or remain as Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative, a Member must:

- (1) be a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative,
- (2) be receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence,
- (3) be a citizen, or legal resident, of the United States,
- (4) not, within the past ten (10) years, have been convicted of a felony nor of any crime involving moral turpitude,
- (5) not be employed nor have a material financial interest in a competing enterprise, or in a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative,
- (6) not be, or have been, an employee of, nor received compensation from, the Cooperative for the longer term of:
  - (a) 5 years prior to the election, or
  - (b) for so long as the individual's former Cooperative supervisor remains employed by the Cooperative.

**SECTION 3.3. DISTRICTS PLAN**

**DISTRICTS DESCRIBED.** The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into seven (7) Districts, and each District shall be represented by one (1) Director who is a resident of that District. Said seven (7) Districts shall be from time to time reviewed and constituted by the Board of Directors, with notice of the district descriptions provided to the Members in advance of the annual director nomination process.

Not less than seventy (70) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of the Members in each year for the election of Directors, the board of Directors shall review the composition of the several Districts and if it should be found that inequalities in representation have developed which can be corrected by a re-delineation of Districts or by the addition of Districts, the board of Directors shall reconstitute the Districts.

**DIRECTOR TERMS.** A Director's term begins: 1) after the individual consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after the Director is elected or appointed. A Director's term ends after: 1) a successor Director consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after a successor Director is elected or appointed. Directors' terms shall be three (3) years. Directors shall be elected on a staggered-term basis.

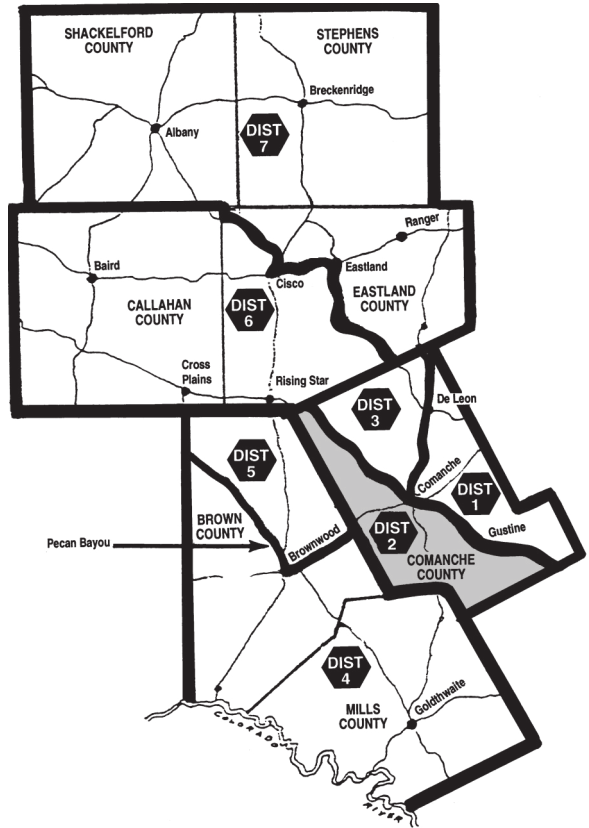
**DIRECTOR RESIGNATION.** A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, President, or Secretary receives the written notice of resignation. If a Director's resignation is effective at a later date and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Director's resignation, then the pending Director vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Director's resignation.

**NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS.** Not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of Members for the election of Directors, the Board of Directors shall call a meeting or meetings of the Members of such Districts as are to have vacancies for Director, such meetings to be held not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members at suitable places in or near the Districts affected.

The purpose of the District meetings shall be to nominate, by vote of those Members present in person, no more than two candidates for each vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors. Notice of each District meeting of Members shall be given by the Secretary for such length of time and in such manner as the Board of Directors may direct provided that notice stating the place, day and hour and the purpose of such meeting, shall be given by mail, publication, or electronically not less than ten (10) days prior to such District Meeting. Such District Meetings however, shall be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors.

The first order of business at each District Meeting shall be the selection of a Chairman, who shall appoint a Secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen (15) of the Members residing in the District present at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum, but in the event

# CECA Board District Boundaries



a quorum is not present at such meeting, the Director then serving such District shall be the official nominee for such District. In addition, the Board shall establish deadlines and appropriate forums in order to allow any qualified Member of such Districts to obtain petitions bearing the signatures of at least 30 District Members in order to be nominated and have their name placed on the ballot for election of that District's director election. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Director Candidates, who have been nominated, either at a District meeting or by petition, shall be required to execute an appropriate form to be made available to election judges attesting that the candidate is qualified under these Bylaws to be elected and serve as a Director of the Cooperative.

Voting shall be in person only. Mail-in ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member present may vote for one nominee as above provided for such District. The two candidates for each place on the Board of Directors receiving the highest number of votes shall be the official nominees of the District. The minutes of such District meeting shall set forth, among other matters the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall certify the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes as the official nominees of the District for Director. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five (5) days after such District Meeting.

The Secretary of the Cooperative shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting of Members for the election of Directors, a list of nominations for Directors as shown by said certified copies of minutes of said District Meetings. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting of the Members for election of Directors, or separately, but at least ten days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the respective Districts.

# Meeting for Members in District 2

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 • 6 p.m.

CECA Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd., Comanche

## The Power of Giving Back

As a member-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at member meetings because you are an owner. That's a huge advantage over the big, corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company, no vote for the board of directors and no stake in the power company's future. That's why co-ops work so well throughout America: Because when people want power, we deliver.

## We Get Our Power From You—Our Member-Owners



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



# Notice of CECA 2023 District Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 2023 • 6 p.m.

Mullin First Baptist Church, 303 N. 6th St., Mullin

## To: All Members in District 4

Mills County, plus the portion of Brown County south of Highway 67 and including the portion of Brown County west or south of Pecan Bayou

### **This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 4.**

Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements and information concerning election of directors.

### **This meeting also will be open for discussion of any affairs of the cooperative.**



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

**A \$15 credit on electric service will be given to each attending member (family) from District 4.**

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Additionally, we will review various issues in the electric industry that most affect our members.

The meeting will be open for discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. That means that you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperative members have is being able to participate in the nomination and selection of directors of their cooperative. Other utilities' boards of directors are selected by shareholders, whose say is determined by the amount of shares they own; they're most interested in the rate of return on their investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

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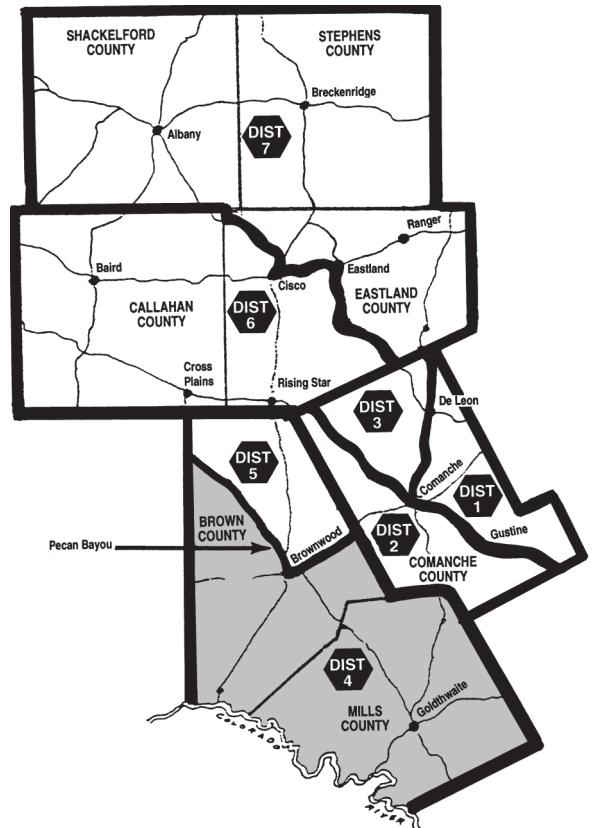
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Mullin First Baptist Church

303 N. 6th St., Mullin

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## We Get Our Power From You—Our Member-Owners



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



HENRY TROST'S  
HANDSOME HOTELS

RECIPES SHOWCASE  
GARDENS' BOUNTY

A VEGGIE STAND  
BUILT ON TRUST

# Texas Co-op Power

FOR CECA MEMBERS

JULY 2023

## A Haven for All

Hill Country summer  
camp changes lives



**NEW!**

# RECHARGEABLE In-Your-Ear Hearing Aid



**BUY 1 GET 1  
FREE**

~~REG \$299.98~~  
**ONLY \$149<sup>99</sup>**  
Each When You Buy a Pair

**PLUS FREE SHIPPING**  
*Limited Time Only!*

**How can a rechargeable hearing aid that fits inside your ear and costs only \$149<sup>99</sup> be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?**

**The answer:** Although tremendous strides have been made in Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

**The MDHearing™ NEO** uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price. Over 800,000 satisfied MDHearing customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered rechargeable hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. **NEO** is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

**PLUS... It fits inside your ear.**

*"I was amazed! Sounds I hadn't heard in years came back to me!"*

— Don W., Sherman, TX

**CHARGE AT NIGHT AND GO ALL DAY**



Actual size

Charging case

**Our smallest hearing aid ever!**

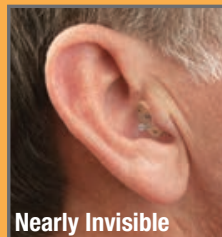
**45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**

If you are not completely satisfied with your hearing aids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!

**For the Lowest Price Call**

**1-800-775-3975**

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



Nearly Invisible

Use Code **GX55**  
and get **FREE Shipping**



**MDHearing™**

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Proudly designed in America and supported by US audiologists



# July 2023



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## 06 'I Love All the Love Here'

Camp CAMP has fostered community and joy for decades.

*Story and photos by Julia Robinson*

## Sleeping Giants

Henry Trost's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases.

*By Pam LeBlanc*

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Jacob enjoys the big swing at Camp CAMP—Children's Association for Maximum Potential.

*Photo by Julia Robinson*

#### ABOVE

Hotel El Capitan's inviting lobby.

*Photo courtesy Hotel El Capitan*



**TCP** *Contests and More*

**ENTER CONTESTS AT  
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Slow Cooker

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Golden Hour

**TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY**  
Two readers will each win 5 pounds of wild-caught Texas shrimp. Enter now to win.

**FINISH THIS SENTENCE**  
**Darkness is only scary when ...**

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

Here are some of the responses to our May prompt: **Mom always said ...**

Because I said so!

POLLY HALE  
PEDERNALES EC  
BLANCO

Kill them with kindness.

PHYLLIS SUTTLE  
MIDSOUTH EC  
IOLA

The only teeth you need to floss are the ones you want to keep. (She lived to 102 and had all her own teeth.)

KATHRYN SHELTON  
WISE EC  
PARADISE

Make your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.

GARY L. RAYBON  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO  
WHARTON COUNTY EC

Visit our website to see more responses.

*July 11*  
**Cow Appreciation Day**

Texas has more reasons to celebrate than any other state. With about 12.5 million head of cattle, we have almost twice as many as the next most-populous state, Nebraska.

# Ascending Over Arizona

**ABILENE'S ARIELLE ASH** led the first-ever all-female flyover at the end of the national anthem at the Super Bowl in February.

Ash, a lieutenant in the Navy and a graduate of Texas Tech University, piloted an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

The four-aircraft flyover commemorated 50 years of female pilots in the U.S. Navy. Women were first admitted to Navy flight school in 1973.



## Skeeter Bleeders

Rice University bioengineers have teamed with other experts to study the bloodsucking behavior of mosquitoes using patches of synthetic skin made with a 3D printer, eliminating the need for human volunteers.

## Berry Burst Pavlova

“Wow! The whole family loved it, which is miraculous. My granddaughter says that’s what she wants for her birthday cake every year—for the rest of her life. She’s 24.”

MARY RILEY  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
COLLEGE STATION



MEGAN MYERS

## A Vanishing Tongue

*Auf Wiedersehen* [May 2023] was a bittersweet read. Less than a week earlier, in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, it was reported that upper-level studies in German would no longer be offered at the high school, as only half of the minimum registrants required to offer the classes had signed up. How sad.

The UT project participants certainly have their work cut out for them.

Françoise Wilson  
Central Texas EC  
Gillespie County

I grew up in Fredericksburg hearing Spanish (or Tex-Mex), English and Texas German. Talk about confused. When I moved, someone asked if I was from Fredericksburg. How did you know?, I asked. Your accent.

Julie Ausbrook  
Via Facebook



NOAH WOODS

## In Texas and Beyond

The assertion that if you can learn to surf the sloppy chop in Texas, you can surf just about anywhere is true, as I have been able to surf in California, Mexico, Hawaii and Japan [*Surf Your Turf*, May 2023].

But I must point out that Brad Lomax’s partner in the Texas Surf Museum was Pat Magee (not McGee). If you look at the background in the photo of Brad Lomax, that’s Pat surfing in the blue trunks to Lomax’s right.

Joe Bonorden  
Pedernales EC  
Canyon Lake

## Recalling Kitty Hawk

Although I didn’t serve aboard the Kitty Hawk, I was deployed in its battle group in 1984 while serving aboard the USS Long Beach, and we were there in the Sea of Japan on March 21, 1984, when the collision with the Soviet nuclear submarine occurred [*Breaking Up*, February 2023]. I have a photo of that damaged Soviet sub in my home office. Thank you for the well-deserved remembrance.

Thomas Mueller  
Fayette EC  
Rutersville

**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.

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo  
**Vice Chair** Neil Hesse, Muenster  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Avani Irani, Robstown  
**Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Julie Parsley, Johnson City  
Doug Turk, Livingston  
Brandon Young, McGregor

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop  
Marty Haught, Burleson • Gary Miller, Bryan  
Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma  
John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham  
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

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Jessica Ridge

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0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

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cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to

the member. If you are not a member of a sub-

scribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual

subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50.

**Co-op members:** Please notify your co-op of ad-

dress changes or other subscription requests.

**POSTMASTER** Send address changes to *Texas*

*Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado

St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose

label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* show-

ing old address and key numbers.

**ADVERTISING** Contact Elaine Sproull at (512)

486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for informa-

tion about purchasing display ad space in *Texas*

*Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications

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Texas Electric Cooperatives  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

American MainStreet  
Publications



‘I  
Love  
All  
the  
Love  
Here’



# A treasured Hill Country summer camp fosters community and joy



It was 44 years ago when Dr. Chris Plauche wrote a letter clearing one of her pediatric patients to take part in summer camp. The child wanted to ride a horse that summer.

But Plauche was devastated to learn that her patient was denied entry anyway. So she, along with other doctors and health care professionals, took 32 children with disabilities for a weekend camp experience themselves.

“It was 1979, so it was before the Americans with Disabilities Act and nothing was accessible and it rained all weekend,” Brandon Briery says. “But they pushed wheelchairs through the mud and rode horses and canoed in the rain and had the time of their lives.”

The physicians knew that couldn’t be a one-time experience.

More than four decades later, participants are still having the time of their lives at Camp CAMP—Children’s Association for Maximum Potential—nestled along the Guadalupe River in Center Point. It’s a special kind of summer camp that changes lives. Located on a sprawling property about 55 miles northwest of San Antonio, Camp CAMP is a haven for visitors of all abilities, offering them the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, gain independence and have fun. Last year it served more than 1,400 children and adults with weeklong summer camp sessions, respite weekends for caregivers and family retreats.

## Nobody Is Invisible

It’s a warm cloudless morning, and parents are dropping off their kids for a CAMP weekend. After the COVID tests and medical briefings, each camper is paired with a counselor and assigned a cabin.

Hugs and high-fives abound because many campers and counselors know each other already. One camper-counselor pair plays basketball; others bring out coloring books. Over in the “swing-zebo,” several campers sway in the circle of porch swings, a popular spot for those with autism or other sensory processing disorders for whom swinging is a soothing activity.

Camp CAMP was designed to be fully accessible, with wheelchair ramps, accommodating bathrooms and specialized equipment that allow campers with physical disabilities to fully participate. During the summer, more than 70 counselors, many of whom are college students or recent graduates, receive extensive training to work with the campers. More than 100 health care staff are on-site to administer medications, provide overnight care and ensure the safety of participants. Dedicated volunteers return year after year to help as well.

Gia Barrera, a 16-year-old assistant cabin counselor, started out as one of those volunteers and made the transition to full-time staff last summer. She is sitting with Erin, a camper in her early 20s who is nonverbal but communicates with smiles, vocalizations and touch. Erin rocks back and forth as they eat lunch and plan out the afternoon.

“Camp is for the camper,” Barrera says. “They have complete autonomy over any decision they want to make.” For some, that means no formal activities at all, if that’s what they desire.

One of Barrera’s campers last summer wanted to make friendship bracelets all day. Another camper who loves machines spent hours with her in the laundry room, watching the spin cycle. “Working here gives you a greater understanding of everything,” she says. “It puts a lot of things into perspective for you. I love all the love here.”

CAMP’s mission is simple: to strengthen and inspire individuals with disabilities and those who care for them through recreation education. Campers are 5–55 years old with mild to severe medical conditions, including physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some campers require breathing assistance, others have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism spectrum disorder. But at CAMP, everyone is simply a camper.

OPPOSITE At Camp CAMP in Center Point, campers and counselors bond over activities that include archery, field sports, outdoor cooking and canoeing. ABOVE Savannah, left, and Audrey share a moment on a swing.



Every activity, including swimming and horseback riding, is adaptable to each person's needs so they all can have fun. Crafts, field sports, canoeing, outdoor cooking, an evening dance party and the big swing, which suspends campers in a harness attached to utility poles, offer a variety of adventures.

First up today is archery, where Michael Maffei, assistant camp director, greets campers as they line wooden bleachers. Maffei first attended as a camper back in 2003, so he knows how special the place can be.

He spent his early working life in the private sector but felt something was missing when he rejoined CAMP as an employee. "In the second hour of being in a full-time role here, I helped a young man named Soren shoot a bullseye," Maffei says. "He was so excited he just vibrated like a teakettle that was about to erupt. In that moment, I had more fulfillment and job satisfaction in my second hour at camp than in the four previous years."

Down at the canoe launch, staff members gently place Cassie into a supportive chair cradled by one of her counselors. She is unable to use her limbs and is nonverbal, but it's clear she loves being on the water.

As the boat is launched into the Guadalupe River, a relaxed smile spreads across her face. Two counselors paddle her downstream and back again—a simple journey that most people would take for granted.

"There are so many times out there in the cold, cruel world that the disabled either get overlooked, purposefully left out, unintentionally left out or they're just invisible," says Briery, CAMP's chief program officer. "CAMP isn't about the buildings, it's not even about the activities. It's about building relationships, building community and bringing people together."

FROM LEFT Kristi takes her turn on the big swing. Caleb readies his archery shot with help from Michael Maffei and Samika Iyer.

## Dignity in a Safe Place

For many campers, CAMP is a life-changing experience where they develop a sense of independence. For parents, CAMP provides peace of mind knowing their child is in a safe and supportive environment being cared for by trained professionals. Kristen Reid says sending her son was an easy decision.

"As soon as you drive in and you get out, everyone's so friendly, everyone's so welcoming," Reid says. "They know what they're doing, and they love these children."

At a fall retreat, she got to spend a weekend at Camp CAMP with her whole family. She shared a cabin with Payton, 9; her husband; and 6-year-old daughter.

Reid rode a horse with Payton, who is nonverbal. They share a passion for the animals, and the experience was unforgettable.

"Not only could I see it with his hand movements, I could hear it with the sound that he was making ... I could feel he was shaking with excitement," Reid says. "For me to be there and actually see and feel it for myself was a really, really touching moment for me."

The retreat also connected the Reids to other families with similar needs. "And then you can kind of bounce ideas off each other or sometimes just vent to each other when you're having a bad day and you've spent three hours on the phone with insurance," Reid says.

That community and that belonging are exactly what Briery hopes CAMP provides.

"Some days are super long and hard in different ways, helping to manage what can be challenging behaviors," he says. "It's all worth it in the end because we create this safe space where people are treated with dignity, and they're respected, and they know that they belong." ■





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# SLEEPING GIANTS

HENRY TROST's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases

BY PAM LEBLANC



SIT ON A ROCKING CHAIR on the front porch of the Gage Hotel in Marathon, and time slips away.

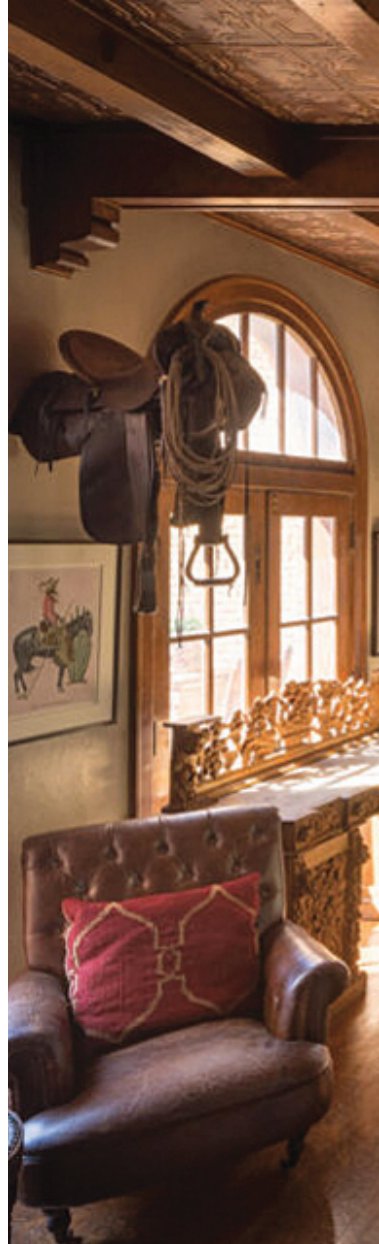
In the lobby behind you, a worn leather saddle hangs from the wall. Across the street, a train rumbles past. In the distance, a gray-green carpet of cactus and brush ripples into the distance like a prickly runway.

The view probably hasn't changed much since architect Henry C. Trost designed this hotel nearly a century ago.

The two-story brick structure, with its arched entryway and wrought-iron door, is just one of hundreds of buildings—fire stations, city halls, high schools, banks and courthouses—that Trost designed across Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

But it's the four hotels scattered throughout far West Texas that many know best. They're full of character, thoroughly Texan and located in a region of the state known for its dramatic landscapes and independent-minded residents. There was almost a fifth hotel here, too—architectural documents found at the El Paso Public Library indicate plans for a hotel in the small town of Valentine, also in the Big Bend.

"I would encourage people to get off the interstate, drive down into town to visit the hotels and take a step back in time," says Margaret Smith, great-niece of Henry Trost and secretary of the board of the Trost Society, which works to preserve the architect's work. "Learn the history that was made in the hotels and the history of the area."



PHOTOS COURTESY GAGE HOTEL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Marathon's Gage Hotel, which opened in 1927, features a grand lobby and rooms that are at once modern and rustic.



Born in 1860, Trost was the son of German immigrants. He moved from Toledo, Ohio, to El Paso in 1903 and co-founded Trost & Trost, an architectural firm, with brother Gustavus (Smith's grandfather). A third brother, Adolphus, a structural engineer, joined later.

The company built its well-appointed West Texas hotels near railroad stations and designed them with spacious lobbies and large dining rooms to accommodate business dealings. Later, the hotels also became popular among families. The firm was also known for its artistic touches and for using reinforced concrete for fireproofing.

"The buildings look like a piece of art and not just a building," Smith says. "That makes them stand out."

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## GAGE HOTEL Marathon

Trost "was considered *the* architect of the Southwest in those years," says Carol Peterson, general manager. "If you were going to hire the best architect in those days, you would hire Henry Trost if you could."

That's what Alfred S. Gage did. The cattleman, who moved from Vermont to Texas in 1878 to seek his fortune, accumulated more than a half-million acres. He commissioned Trost to build a hotel that could double as a base to oversee his empire.

The hotel opened in 1927, but Gage died just a year later. A series of owners took over after his death, including one who tried to "spruce up" the hotel with dropped ceilings and linoleum floors.

"[Trost] had a very wide-ranging style," Peterson says. "The Gage is a bit more Mission style, as opposed to the Holland and Paisano."

J.P. and Mary Jon Bryan of Houston bought and renovated the Gage in 1978, and they still own it today. In addition to 14 rooms in the original building, with its delightfully creaky wooden floors and ranch décor (including a stuffed mountain lion), guests can book more modern rooms in the Los Portales annex.

"It's really become a very beloved, iconic Texas property," Peterson says. "It's not commercial, it's not cookie cutter. Everything about it has a hand-touched feel."

## HOLLAND HOTEL Alpine

Trost wasn't involved in designing the original Holland Hotel, which opened in 1912. But he designed the "new" larger building, which opened next door in 1928 and was later connected to the first.

Sink into a comfy couch in front of the fireplace in the grand lobby, and you'll see the same arched windows and decorative tiles of some of Trost's other properties.

"The thing that makes the Holland special is the position it occupies in the town of Alpine—not geographically but in people's minds," says Alicia Fernbaugh, who manages the 27-room hotel and lives in what once served as the ballroom. "It's very much the heart of the town."

The building stood vacant in the 1960s and '70s, and for a time in the '80s, part of it was converted into offices. Over time, some of the old furnishings were sold off. Now and then, an old bedframe or chandelier discovered in an attic finds its way back home to the hotel.

The Century Bar and Grill, with its shady patio, is known for its margaritas and chicken-fried steak.

"It's very welcoming and warm," Fernbaugh says. "People feel very at home here."



LESLEY VILLARREAL | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL



MICHAEL HOWARD | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL

FROM ABOVE Holland Hotel décor and the Century Bar and Grill in Alpine.

## HOTEL EL CAPITAN Van Horn

Just two blocks off Interstate 10 in Van Horn, the red neon sign of Hotel El Capitan invites travelers to pull off and enjoy a quiet respite in a mostly forgotten town.

The 50-room hotel, named for the rocky peak at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, an hour away, looks much like it did when it opened in 1930, as part of the Gateway chain of hotels operated by Charles Bassett in El Paso. Back then, ranchers gathered in the lobby to sell cattle, make land deals and sip coffee.

The Pueblo Revival-style concrete structure attracted cross-country travelers and tourists exploring nearby national parks.

The hotel closed in the late 1960s, and a bank took over the space. Then in 2007, Lanna and Joe Duncan of Fort Davis, who also own the Paisano, bought it from the bank.

"Although we are sister properties to the Paisano, and the layout inside is almost identical, the exterior is 100% different," says Starvanna Cottrell, general manager. "El Capitan was made to look more like adobe, although it's concrete. The Paisano's exterior is much more European looking."

A fountain bubbles in the courtyard. In the lobby, colorful tiles, exposed wooden beams and wrought iron banisters add character. A sign salvaged from the old coffee shop hangs opposite the fireplace.

"And you can still get a 5-cent cup of coffee, no matter how you want it," Cottrell says.

COURTESY HOTEL EL CAPITAN



COURTESY HOTEL PAISANO

FROM ABOVE The Hotel Paisano's pool was added in 1960. Outside, an inviting courtyard, and inside, a 5-cent cup of coffee.

## HOTEL PAISANO Marfa

Another hotel in the Gateway chain, the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, also opened in 1930. “Hotels were built different years ago,” says Vicki Barge, general manager. “They were built with more of a sense of community.”

Step inside its lobby and you’ll find ornate tilework hand selected by Trost, leather chairs and a stuffed buffalo head.

Like the Gage, the Paisano had close ties to the cattle industry. When it opened, trains regularly stopped in Marfa to load and unload cattle. Several ranches kept offices at the hotel.

“He wanted his buildings to look like they belonged to the landscape, and he did a great job of that,” Barge says. “They do look like they should be just where they are.”

Many guests know the Paisano for its connection to the 1956 film *Giant*, starring James Dean. Photographs of Dean hang on walls, and the movie plays nonstop in the lobby.

Dean, along with co-stars Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and Dennis Hopper, stayed at the Paisano for about two weeks during filming. Today, guests can book one of the hotel’s 42 rooms or suites and swim in a pool that was added in 1960.

“I find it warm and friendly,” Barge says. “It’s kind of a look back at bygone days but still extremely viable now.” ■



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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

ALAN LESLEY

## Working All Year To Keep the Lights On

**PROVIDING RELIABLE POWER** is and always will be CECA's top priority. Power reliability seems to be making news more than ever these days, and we're doing all we can to meet the moment.

As the energy industry continues to change and more sectors of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, more and more strain is being placed on the electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to share a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the stable supply of power you depend on and deserve.

### Modern Vegetation Management

I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do too. While trees provide shade and beauty, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

Here's the good news: Healthy trees typically don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems.

That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in rights-of-way (the land a utility uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines). The ROW enables CECA

to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

Traditional vegetation management is costly and time-consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. But our thoughtful, proactive approach to trimming and pruning has been honed by decades of work in our part of Texas.

### Help Us Help You

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our service area for a few hours, CECA can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service.

Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we'll always notify you in advance of a planned outage. To ensure you receive that heads up, make sure we have your current contact information on file. ■



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## Energy-Saving Projects for the DIYer

**ARE YOU A** weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a couple of project ideas for you—both of which can be completed in a day or less.

### Get Smart About AC

Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep those costs in check; Energy Star-certified models can save you 8% or more on annual energy costs.

Smart thermostats are becoming more affordable and allow you to set custom schedules and adjust the settings from anywhere using your phone. They'll also learn your cooling and heating preferences over time.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your heating and cooling system at the breaker panel, disconnecting and removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat, and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi network.

### Dry the Old-Fashioned Way

If you have enough outdoor space, a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on the electricity the dryer would have used, but you'll also save on cooling costs in the summer since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home and make your air conditioner work harder. Additionally, air-drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, some wire, and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need some rapid-set concrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line.

If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option for you, no sweat! You can buy or easily create an indoor drying rack that folds to save space. Websites like [thespruce.com](http://thespruce.com) and [hgvtv.com](http://hgvtv.com) offer step-by-step tutorials for various indoor clothes racks. ■



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

#### Macaroni and Cheese Day

Friday, July 14

#### Day of the Cowboy

Saturday, July 22

#### Tell an Old Joke Day

Monday, July 24

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3. A CECA-installed roof-mount meter.

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CECA offers various options, from backup generators and battery systems to roof-mount 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've evolved 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 members money on their monthly bills.

There are many companies out there 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 they feel solar may be a good option for them, we're able to handle the sale and installation as well.

CECA is proud to be your trusted energy partner, and if you have any interest in a solar power project for your property, that falls right in line with our aim to provide safe and reliable energy at an affordable cost to all our member-owners. For us, solar power is another avenue to continue to do just that for our members.

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 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. ■



**“CECA has the unique ability to analyze your energy consumption and utilize these new technologies to optimize efficiency for our members.” -Riley Hilliard**

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## Celebrate America Safely

**CECA WISHES YOU** a safe and happy Independence Day!

To ensure you have the best holiday possible, we'd like to remind you about a few important safety tips from the American Red Cross.

### Fireworks With Forethought

Nothing says Fourth of July like a spectacular fireworks display. The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show presented by professionals. **But if you must put on your own display, be sure to follow these safety tips:**

- ▶ Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- ▶ Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- ▶ Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- ▶ Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a dud.
- ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children, pets and anything flammable.
- ▶ Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

### Guarding the Grill

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you're grilling in your backyard or in a community

space, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun topped off with safety. **We recommend the following safety tips:**

- ▶ Supervise the grill at all times.
- ▶ Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- ▶ Never add charcoal starter fluid once the coals have been ignited.
- ▶ Always follow the grill manufacturer's instructions.

### Safe Sun Exposure

Fireworks and cookouts aren't complete without a sunny day. **Here's hoping we have good weather—and if we do, make sure you enjoy the sun safely:**

- ▶ Use a broad-spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- ▶ Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, CECA wishes you a safe and happy Fourth of July. ■

# Summer Conservation Tips

IN THE HEAT OF a Texas summer, we all want to keep cool in the air conditioning and grab a cold drink from the fridge. But remember that summer is the peak demand season for electricity, and the appliances that help make the season's searing heat bearable can also drive up your electric bill.

## Keep Your Fridge Cool

With summer's high temperatures, you're more likely to open the fridge frequently for cool drinks. **Here are some tips to keep refrigerator energy use to a minimum:**

- ▶ Locate the refrigerator away from heat sources—the oven, the dishwasher and direct sunlight.
- ▶ Allow at least a 1-inch space around the outside of the fridge to enable air circulation.
- ▶ Clean the condenser coils at least once a year.
- ▶ Check the tightness of the door seals.
- ▶ Use a thermometer to check the inside temperatures: The fridge should be 36–38 degrees and the freezer zero to 5 degrees.

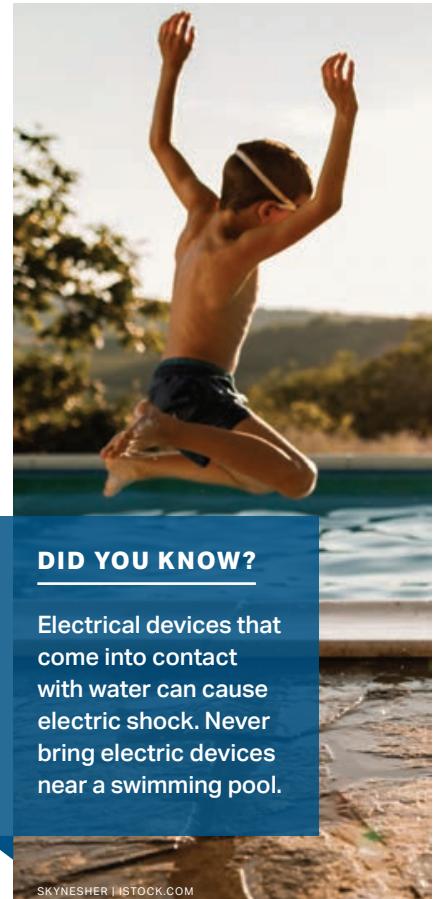
## Make Friends With Your Freezer

- ▶ Keep the freezer as full as possible.
- ▶ Mark items for quicker identification to reduce open-door time.

## Give Your AC an Assist

Your air conditioner works hard all summer long. **Follow these tips to keep it from heating up your electric bill too much:**

- ▶ You save 3%–5% for each degree you raise the thermostat. Try setting it at 78 degrees.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans in conjunction with the AC to feel cooler.
- ▶ Keep humidity levels as low as possible by always using an exhaust fan, if you have one, when taking a shower.
- ▶ Maintenance is important. Clean or change AC filters regularly, and have units professionally cleaned, inspected and tuned every season to keep them running at peak efficiency. ■



### DID YOU KNOW?

Electrical devices that come into contact with water can cause electric shock. Never bring electric devices near a swimming pool.

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### POWER TIP

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. Fill any holes or gaps with caulk or spray foam.

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# Ranchland Revival

Texas ranchers work with the Audubon Society to restore grasslands and natural habitats

BY MARGARET BURANEN • PHOTO BY RALPH LAUER

**JON TAGGART'S** ranching operation near Grandview would look familiar to a Texas rancher of 150 years ago. The native prairie grasses that Taggart's black and red Angus cattle eat are the same types that grew in the 19th century.

Most days, Taggart works on his ranch, Burgundy Pasture Beef, not from a vehicle but from the back of his trusty American quarter horse. While he could use herbicides and fertilizers that the rancher of yesteryear didn't have access to, he doesn't. The land doesn't need those modern aids, and the cattle don't need hormones or antibiotics. Taggart and his son, Ben, practice sustainable ranching.

"I base my management style on history—on what grew well here in the past," Taggart explains.

What grew well were native prairie grasses, annuals and perennials. His land now nurtures Johnson grass, big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, and clover and other legumes. The deep-rooted perennial grasses keep moisture in the soil, providing food for the cattle even in droughts.

Burgundy Pasture Beef was the first Texas ranch to qualify for the Audubon Society's Conservation Ranching certification, in 2018. Audubon began the program a year earlier in response to an alarming decline in meadowlarks, scissor-tailed flycatchers, and other native prairie birds and wildlife due to the loss of their natural habitats.

Fourteen other Texas ranches are now in the program, including Roam Ranch in Fredericksburg, Sneary Family Cattle in Bay City, Pajarito Ranch in Pandora and DWD Longhorns in Tarpley. About 68,000 acres of prairie grasslands in Texas have been certified as fully restored prairie land under the program.

Thomas Schroeder manages Audubon's Conservation Ranching initiative in Texas and Oklahoma. He helps ranchers achieve the society's certification.

Qualifying requires completing a detailed management plan that's unique to each ranch. Schroeder says the plan is created with input from the rancher, Audubon staff and sometimes other stakeholders.

"We meet at the ranch and start with an understanding of the program and Audubon's target species of birds for different parts of the state," Schroeder says. "We ask what the rancher's goals are and how we can improve the habitat. We want

to create as diverse a habitat as possible."

And the plans are pragmatic.

"We allow for contingencies such as droughts," Schroeder says.

He says ranchers get involved with the program for two reasons. "Primarily they want to be recognized for doing good things on their land," he says. "Audubon helps them tell that story. It connects ranchers to consumers."

The second reason is the economic advantage conservation techniques offer. "You can raise one-third more animals, with rotational grazing, on the same amount of land," Schroeder says. "Over time, both the quality and quantity of the grasses and forages improve."

Schroeder says that the Audubon program has helped participants "see their ranches in a different perspective, opened their eyes. They tell me they're recognizing different species of birds and wildlife, spotting new grasses they haven't seen before.

"It's a lot of work to tell the story of how cattle are an important part of the system. So often, cattle are considered a problem or bad for the environment. But managed properly, cattle can be a tool for our grasslands."

The Audubon Society works with ranchers from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast and in Central, East and West Texas. More than 100 ranches in 16 states are Audubon-certified.

At Taggart's ranch, south of the Metroplex, he has found sustainable ranching to be less work and more profitable than regular ranching. Without fertilizer, herbicides, labor to clear brush, hormones or antibiotics, input costs are much lower. And he finds a ready market for leaner, healthier grass-fed beef.

Reestablishing a native prairie, especially if the land has been tilled and damaged by modern farming methods, takes time. Taggart says it's usually three to four years, depending on rainfall.

But it's worth the wait.

"If you take care of the soil, it will take care of everything." ■

Native prairie grasses sustain Jon Taggart's cattle at Burgundy Pasture Beef near Grandview.



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



then swung north of the most traveled roads, bushwhacking his way through mesquite and mottes of trees.

When the Texians put up the white flag, they asked to return to their homes. Woll told them that “if they did not surrender at discretion, they would be exterminated without exception.”

Woll took 62 prisoners, among them several high-value civilians: seven lawyers, a judge, two doctors, a surgeon and prominent business leaders. He told them they would return with him to the border, where they would be released. Instead, they were marched all the way to Mexico’s infamous Perote Prison, where many were held for two years, subjected to hard labor and chains. A few died en route, and some died in captivity.

Woll didn’t occupy San Antonio long. His goal was to be a disruptive force, preventing Texians from feeling secure and also to inhibit migration from the U.S. Woll’s other objective was to determine if there were credible military buildups for a Texas invasion of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Texians sounded the alarm that San Antonio had fallen. Volunteers grabbed their guns and saddled their horses. They gathered in Seguin, pushed on to Salado Creek and tempted Woll to pursue them. Woll took the bait, and the Texians, from the cover of the woods, killed and wounded more than 60 Mexican soldiers while the Texians lost only one. Sadly, on another portion of the creek, three dozen Texians were killed.

Santa Anna had once again underestimated Texas. He wanted to unsettle the new republic with fear and chaos and keep them isolated. Instead, he drove the Texians toward a collective desire to join the U.S., which they did six years later. ■

# Second Sacking

Six years after the Alamo, Mexican troops twice stormed San Antonio

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

**MOST TEXANS BELIEVE** the Battle of San Jacinto settled everything. Once Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna was decisively defeated, he signed a treaty guaranteeing Texas independence. So Mexican troops would never again set foot on Texas soil nor darken our door—right?

Not quite. Just six years after Santa Anna’s Pyrrhic victory at the Alamo, Mexican forces twice tramped to San Antonio. First Gen. Rafael Vásquez showed up with 700 men to a mostly evacuated city in March 1842. They headed back across the Rio Grande after just two days, having set off a panic in Texas.

Then six months later, Santa Anna sent another army to sack San Antonio

and occupy the Alamo. Gen. Adrián Woll led a force of about 1,400 troops who awakened the town with the heart-stopping boom of a cannon blast at dawn, followed by military trumpeters playing reveille. They quickly pacified minor resistance on their way to the central plaza. This was the 19th-century version of shock and awe.

Near the plaza, Texas patriots quickly put up fierce resistance, shooting through rifle loopholes in the walls, but it was fruitless. They were surrounded by a Mexican force of many hundreds.

How did such a large army make it all the way to San Antonio without anybody noticing? Woll, a French mercenary, was quite wily. He crossed the Rio Grande about 20 miles south of Eagle Pass and

# Garden Bounty

Harvest time takes on a new twist with these timely treats

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Why not shake things up with a new seasonal take on sangria? A splash of mezcal over fresh peaches, sugar, lemon juice and mint gives this sangria a Mexican twist. It's a refreshing way to beat the Texas heat.



## Peach Mezcal Sangria

- 1 pound fresh peaches, sliced
- ¼ cup sugar
- 6 fresh mint leaves, finely chopped
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¾ cup mezcal
- 1 bottle white wine (750 milliliters), chilled
- 2 cups sparkling water, chilled
- Fresh mint leaves, for garnish
- Lemon slices, for garnish

**COOK'S TIP** Make it a mocktail by using white grape juice instead of wine and zero-proof mezcal, like that made by Houston-based Cut Above.

1. In a bowl, combine sliced peaches, sugar, chopped mint, lemon juice and mezcal and stir to combine. Refrigerate 1 hour.
2. Add refrigerated fruit and wine to a large pitcher. Stir to combine and top with sparkling water.
3. Serve over ice. Garnish with mint and lemon slices.

SERVES 6

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Fresh Peach Tart.



## Italian Turkey Zucchini Meatballs

LORI BEGGS  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

After a bumper crop of zucchini, Beggs incorporated it into her meatball recipe, knowing her son wasn't a fan and hoping he wouldn't notice. The result: meatballs that are tender, flavorful and taste just like your favorites.

- 1 cup shredded zucchini**
- 1 pound ground turkey**
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- ½ onion, grated with juices**
- ½ cup breadcrumbs**
- 1 egg**
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic**
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning mix**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 2 teaspoons olive oil**

1. Spread shredded zucchini out onto a paper towel. Add another paper towel on top and press to absorb moisture from the zucchini.
2. In a bowl, mix all ingredients except for the olive oil. Form the mixture into meatballs by hand.
3. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs to skillet, brown on all sides and cook through, about 15 minutes.
4. Serve with your favorite pasta and sauce.

SERVES 4

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Fresh Corn Loaf

CATHY TOWER  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

Perfect for brunch or Sunday dinner, Tower's fresh corn loaf is bursting with garden flavors. A hint of cayenne pepper makes the fresh vegetables pop. Serve warm with butter or honey. This loaf is even tastier the next day.

SERVES 8-10

- 2 cups fresh corn kernels**
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes**
- ½ cup chopped onion**
- ¾ cup chopped green bell pepper**
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal**
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese**
- 2 eggs**
- ½ cup evaporated milk**
- ½ cup water**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Apply cooking spray to a 2-quart baking dish.
2. In a bowl, combine corn, tomatoes, onion, bell pepper, cayenne pepper, salt, cornmeal and cheese.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, evaporated milk and water. Add to corn mixture and mix well.
4. Spoon into baking dish. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**SLOW COOKER** DUE JULY 10  
We want your best set-and-forget recipes. Submit yours online by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.



## Candied Jalapeños

JILEEN PLATT  
BOWIE-CASS EC

Platt gifts her East Texas pepper bounty by cooking up candied jalapeños. These tasty gems are delicious on sandwiches, burgers, eggs and tacos. The recipe can easily be doubled.

- ½ pound jalapeño peppers**
- 1 cup sugar**
- ½ cup cider vinegar**
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric**
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger**
- ⅛ teaspoon ground allspice**

1. Prepare a water bath canner or a large pot and heat to boiling, adding half-pint jars and lids to sterilize.
2. Slice jalapeños into ¼-inch round slices.
3. In a saucepan combine sugar, vinegar, turmeric, ginger and allspice. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook until syrup has reduced and thickened.



4. Carefully add jalapeños to warm jars, gently pushing down, filling up to leave ½-inch headspace.
5. Ladle hot syrup over jalapeños, leaving ¼-inch headspace and removing air bubbles. Wipe rims, top with canning lid and screw on bands. Continue until all jalapeños are canned.
6. Return jars to canner and return to a boil. Boil for 10 minutes. Remove jars, allow to cool. Store in a cool, dark place.

**MAKES 4 HALF-PINT JARS**

## Essential Canning Tools

BY MEGAN MYERS

**Canning doesn't have to be complicated, but you'll want to have these basics before you start.**

**Large pot:** You don't need a special water bath canning pot; any pot large enough to hold jars covered with water will do. Make sure to keep jars from touching the bottom of the pot.

**Jar lifter:** These special tongs help you transfer hot jars into and out of the water bath.

**Wooden dowel or chopstick:** Use either of these implements instead of a knife to remove air bubbles to prevent scratching the inside of the jar.

**Fresh canning lids:** Wax seal lids cannot be reused, so be sure to have enough on hand. Rings can be reused until they start to rust.



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## One Weird Wonder

Austin's Cathedral of Junk is an unfolding work of ... art?

BY CHET GARNER

**THEY SAY ONE MAN'S** trash is another man's treasure. If that's true, I was standing atop one of the most valuable treasure heaps in all of Texas. But rather than a pile of gold bullion or Fabergé eggs, this treasure trove consisted of busted TVs, at least one prosthetic leg and about 60 tons of accumulated stuff. It's definitely not the sort of "treasure" that sells at fancy auctions. But for artist Vince Hannemann, this is indeed a priceless work of art.

I was in Hannemann's South Austin backyard, atop his infamous Cathedral of Junk, a 30-foot tower consisting of multiple rooms and countless layers of—for lack of a better word—junk. License plates, wheelchairs and action figures formed into one massive structure that Hannemann started building in the late 1980s using pieces of his own trash.

As it took shape, neighbors started bringing him boxes of refuse that he puzzled and wired into the ever-expanding mass. Over three decades, the pile of trash became something more. It became a cathedral.

As he gave me a tour, Hannemann pointed out some of his favorite items that came with their own mysterious origin stories. One was a dented and burned timecard punch clock. "Did somebody get fired, smash the clock and then set the building on fire?" he wonders.

At first, the cathedral's haphazard form seemed like chaos, but as I walked the grounds, I slowly noticed that every room, wall and panel had a theme. Sometimes the junk was organized by color, other times by its decade of creation. Before long, the junk transformed into a work of art before my eyes. It's a creation too glorious for any gallery and more appropriately exhibited in an Austin backyard. ■

ABOVE Appointments are required to pay homage at the backyard Cathedral of Junk.

**TCP** See more of the clutter that makes Chet's heart flutter in the video on our website. And see all his 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.

JULY

01

**Cuero [1–August 26] Black Cowboys: An American Story**, (361) 277-2866, [chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://chisholmtrailmuseum.org)

07

**Kerrville [7–8] Open Pro Rodeo**, (830) 997-1864, [kerrvilletexascvb.com](http://kerrvilletexascvb.com)

08

**Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival**, (817) 596-3801, [parkercountypeachfestival.org](http://parkercountypeachfestival.org)

13

**Fort Stockton [13–15] Water Carnival**, [fswatercarnival.org](http://fswatercarnival.org)

14

**Hempstead [14–15] Watermelon Festival**, (979) 921-5095, [hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com](http://hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com)

**Laredo [14–16] International Sister Cities Festival**, (956) 794-2200, [visitlaredo.com](http://visitlaredo.com)

**Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] The Last Round-up of the Guacamole Queens**, (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

15

**Brownwood Dino Day**, (325) 641-1926, [browncountymuseum.org](http://browncountymuseum.org)

**Burnet 100-Year Boat-a-Thon**, (830) 798-7632, [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)

**Friona Cheeseburger Festival**, (806) 250-2761, [friona-chamber.com](http://friona-chamber.com)

19

**Amarillo [19–22] Iron Horse Shoot Out**, (806) 353-2911, [ironhorseshootout.com](http://ironhorseshootout.com)

21

**Fredericksburg Historic Wrede School Open House**, (830) 685-3321, [historicschools.org](http://historicschools.org)

**Palestine [21-23, 28-30] Matilda the Musical**, [thetexasstheater.com](http://thetexasstheater.com)

28

**Naples [28-29] Watermelon Festival and Rodeo**, (903) 458-0425, [facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch](https://facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch)

29

**Boerne Hot Summer Night Antique Tractor Pull**, (210) 445-1080, [theagricultural.org](http://theagricultural.org)

**Giddings Sip and Shop: Christmas in July**, (979) 542-3455, [giddingstx.com](http://giddingstx.com)

**Kingsville Back to School Festival**, (361) 500-5892, [cbabbq.com](http://cbabbq.com)

**Stephenville Elks Lodge BBQ Cookoff**, (254) 979-5019, [facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq](https://facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq)

## AUGUST

04

**Huntsville [4-5] Genealogy Weekend**, (936) 291-5471, [huntsvilletx.gov](http://huntsvilletx.gov)

**Olton [4-5] Sandhills Celebration**, (806) 285-2292, [oltonchamber.org](http://oltonchamber.org)

**Kerrville [4-5, 11-13, 18-20] A Murder is Announced**, (830) 896-9393, [caillouxperformingarts.com](http://caillouxperformingarts.com)

05

**Camp Wood Old Settlers Reunion**, (830) 597-6241, [nuecescanyonchamber.org](http://nuecescanyonchamber.org)

### TCP *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Submit your October event by August 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



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# Waterfalls

"Just a winding stream where I can drift and dream  
 And now I'm waiting for you  
 By a waterfall I'm calling you  
 We can share it all beneath a ceiling of blue."  
 —From the song *By a Waterfall* by Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

1 **RANDY DULL**  
 COSERV  
 Gooseberry Falls in Minnesota.

2 **DEANNE BROWN**  
 PEDERNALES EC  
 "Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park offers hikers a reminder of the power of nature."

3 **MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO**  
 BARTLETT EC  
 Rainbow falls.

4 **SABRENA ST. CLERGY**  
 JASPER-NEWTON EC  
 "Colorado Bend State Park—a hidden gem."



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUL 10** Golden Hour
- DUE AUG 10** Mailboxes
- DUE SEP 10** Local Landmarks



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

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Waterfalls photos from readers.



## Honest-to-Goodness Veggies

In the country, a trusted type of commerce still works

BY MIKE LEGGETT  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
ANNA GODEASSI

**FOLKS DO THINGS** differently out in the country, whether it's putting in a garden, processing their own hogs or raising beef to market.

Larry Westphal does a little of everything on his land along County Road 202 in Burnet County. Westphal, 70, has some cows and 200 head of sheep to keep him busy most of the year, but he's taken his garden to a whole new level.

He plants and harvests vegetables and tomatoes in a plot near his house that's about 40 feet square. With his wife, Judy, he picks, eats and cans what he is able to, but he still has a surplus almost every summer.

So Westphal decided to test his entrepreneurial skills and sell some of his annual harvest at local farmers markets. He also built himself a display stand several

years back and sells squash and tomatoes and sometimes peppers to anyone who wants them.

But Westphal doesn't sit by the stand, near the gate to his property. Rather, he hand-letters signs for each vegetable and sells them individually on the honor system.

The money goes into a small box that hangs off the stand, which could present a temptation for some, but this system works for Westphal. "Everybody around here is pretty honest," he says. "Unless it's a cat or one of the neighbor's chickens, I don't lose anything to somebody stealing it."

The little bit of money the stand generates doesn't go very far. "It pays for the seed," says Westphal, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member. "That's about all it does."

Most of his business is local, too. "I think most of it is just our neighbors," Westphal says. "Everybody has been pretty honest. I figure if they're that hungry, they're welcome to it."

When we're driving past during the week, my wife and I debate how we'd eat our squash, if we bought some. I'm a sliced-and-fried guy, but Rana prefers stewed with onions—each the way our mothers made it.

Westphal comes by his gardening and farming instincts naturally. His grandfather, who emigrated to the U.S. from Germany, ran a dairy in Minnesota for years. "My dad left that place as fast as he could," Westphal says, remarking on what a tough business it was.

His maternal grandfather was a sharecropper in Oklahoma, where Westphal spent some of his early days walking along behind a tractor. "I was 4 or 5 years old, and you can't make a living off a place like that anymore."

There's not much money selling surplus vegetables for a dollar apiece either, but there's more satisfaction. And that's why he does it. ■

To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory...

# But When Driving, These Sunglasses May Save Your Life!

**Drivers' Alert:** Driving can expose you to more dangerous glare than any sunny day at the beach can... do you know how to protect yourself?

The sun rises and sets at peak travel periods, during the early morning and afternoon rush hours and many drivers find themselves temporarily blinded while driving directly into the glare of the sun. Deadly accidents are regularly caused by such blinding glare with danger arising from reflected light off another vehicle, the pavement, or even from waxed and oily windshields that can make matters worse. Early morning dew can exacerbate this situation. Yet, motorists struggle on despite being blinded by the sun's glare that can cause countless accidents every year.

**Not all sunglasses are created equal.** Protecting your eyes is serious business. With all the fancy fashion frames out there it can be easy to overlook what really matters—the lenses. So we did our research and looked to the very best in optic innovation and technology.

**Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist. A NASA rocket scientist.** Some ordinary sunglasses can obscure your vision by exposing your eyes to harmful UV rays, blue light, and reflective glare. They can also darken useful vision-enhancing light. But now, independent research conducted by scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has brought forth groundbreaking technology to help protect human eyesight from the harmful effects of solar radiation light. This superior lens technology



Slip on a pair of Eagle Eyes® and everything instantly appears more vivid and sharp. You'll immediately notice that your eyes are more comfortable and relaxed and you'll feel no need to squint. The scientifically designed sunglasses are not just fashion accessories—they are necessary to protect your eyes from those harmful rays produced by the sun during peak driving times.

was first discovered when NASA scientists looked to nature for a means to superior eye protection—specifically, by studying the eyes of eagles, known for their extreme visual acuity. This discovery resulted in what is now known as Eagle Eyes®.

**The Only Sunglass Technology Certified by the Space Foundation for UV and Blue-Light Eye Protection.** Eagle Eyes® features the most advanced eye protection technology ever created. The TriLenium® Lens Technology offers triple-filter polarization to block 99.9% UVA and UVB—plus the added benefit of blue-light eye protection. Eagle Eyes® is the only optic technology that has earned official recognition from the Space Certification Program for this remarkable technology. Now, that's proven science-based protection.

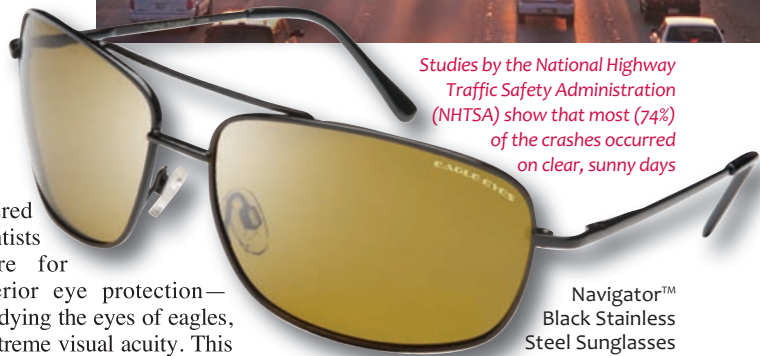
**The finest optics: And buy one, get one FREE!** Eagle Eyes® has the highest customer satisfaction of any item in our 20 year history. We are so excited for you to try the Eagle Eyes® breakthrough technology that we will give you a **second pair of Eagle Eyes® Navigator™ Sunglasses FREE— a \$59.95 value!**

That's two pairs to protect your eyes with the best technology available for less than the price of one pair of traditional sunglasses. You get a pair of Navigators with stainless steel black frames and the other with stainless steel gold, plus one hard zipper case and one micro-fiber drawstring cleaning pouch are included. Keep one pair in your pocket and one in your car.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** If you are not astounded with the Eagle Eyes® technology, enjoying clearer, sharper and more glare-free vision, simply return one pair within 30 days for a full refund of the purchase price. The other pair is yours to keep. No one else has such confidence in their optic technology. Don't leave your eyes in the hands of fashion designers, entrust them to the best scientific minds on earth. Wear your Eagle Eyes® Navigators



Studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that most (74%) of the crashes occurred on clear, sunny days



Navigator™ Black Stainless Steel Sunglasses

Receive the Navigator™ Gold Sunglasses (a \$59.95 value) **FREE!** just for trying the Navigator™ Black



Navigator™ Gold Stainless Steel Sunglasses



Certified EAGLE EYES® was developed from original NASA Optic technology and was recently inducted into the Space Foundation Technology Hall of Fame.

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Black or Tortoise-Shell design



with absolute confidence, knowing your eyes are protected with technology that was born in space for the human race.

**Two Pairs of Eagle Eyes® Navigator™ Sunglasses \$119.90†**

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