

REMEMBERING THAT
FIRST LIGHT BULB

DON'T MIND THOSE
ALLIGATORS

WINDMILLER KEEPS
WITS IN A PINCH

Texas Coop Power

FOR CECA MEMBERS

AUGUST 2024

On the Road Again

A photographer
piles on the miles to
capture rural Texas

I'm thinking more today about how to protect the money I've earned.

I've learned a lot of things over the years, talking to all sorts of experts in all sorts of fields. But one of the most important lessons I learned was from two former Directors of the U.S. Mint, who taught me everything I needed to know about the importance of protecting my savings with physical gold and silver.

In 25 years of working dirty jobs, the thought of a diversified portfolio really didn't cross my mind—but the more I learn, the better I feel about buying gold and silver from U.S. Money Reserve.

Is gold right for you? That's not for me to say. You've got to do your own due diligence. All I know is that today, it's not enough to simply work hard—you also have to save smart. So, call the number below. The folks at U.S. Money Reserve are standing by to help.



ALL-NEW VIDEO SERIES **WORK HARD SAVE SMART** with Mike Rowe



Follow Mike Rowe on his gold ownership journey: Call now for access to the all-new video series and your **FREE** Gold Information Kit.



Learn everything you need to know about gold!

- ✓ Answers to commonly asked questions about gold ownership
- ✓ Information on how gold can protect and grow your savings
- ✓ Access to special introductory offers
- ✓ Two additional exclusive reports: "2024 Global Gold Forecast" and "Protection in the Risk Zone"



[USMR.COM/MR3](https://www.usmr.com/mr3)

1-855-426-7168

VAULT CODE: TX45

August 2024



12

06 Open Roads, Open Eyes

Over five decades of crisscrossing Texas, a photographer learns to slow down to really see.

Photo essay by Wyatt McSpadden

In the Beginning

Few recall when electric co-ops lit up the countryside; Katie Phillips remembers every bit of her dad's life-changing work.

*Story by Tom Widlowski
Photo by Caytlyn Calhoun*

ON THE COVER

On the way north to Amarillo, just after crossing the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River.
Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

ABOVE

Katie Phillips enjoys quilting—and air conditioning, ample lighting and watching TV.
Photo by Caytlyn Calhoun

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

LBJ's Sense and Humor
By W.F. Strong

26

TCP Kitchen

Party Drinks
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road

A Jaw-Dropping Journey
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Textures

34

Observations

Friends in High Places
By Sam W. Young



TCP *Contests and More*

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Hearty Soups

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Young Photographers

RECOMMENDED READING
True or false: People used to believe you could dynamite rain out of the sky. They sure did, as we explained in *Rain, You Blasted Sky!* from August 2013.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I can't wait to learn ...

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 June prompt: **The next book you should read is ...**

The Time It Never Rained by Elmer Kelton. You will laugh. You will also cry.

JANIS HAGAN
NAVARRO COUNTY EC
CORNICANA

The Madstone by Elizabeth Crook. An amazing historical novel based in Texas just after the Civil War.

SUSAN ERVIN
PEDERNALES EC
GEORGETOWN

The Women by Kristin Hannah. An eye-opening book about the women of Vietnam.

DANI MACNEIL
BANDERA EC
PIPE CREEK

Visit our website to see more responses.

Rural Showcase

OVER THE NEXT YEAR, seven Texas cities will host a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition that examines the evolution of small towns as the American population moved into urban areas over the past 125 years.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America debuts August 24 in San Augustine. After six weeks in deep East Texas, the exhibition will move on to weekslong stays in Clifton, Brenham, Rockport, Buffalo Gap and San Elizario. The tour through Texas will end in Bandera on August 2, 2025.

To learn more, visit museumonmainstreet.org.



August 20
World Mosquito Day

Don't forget to celebrate **World Mosquito Day**. Wait, maybe not. Scratch that.

JUNE 2024 We Brake for Steak

“Chet Garner needs to go back to the Leona General Store on Thursday nights, when it’s just some of the best catfish anywhere.”

DARRELL HUTTO
 NAVASOTA VALLEY EC
 JEWETT



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Traveling South, Traveling East

I loved the idea of emotional healing by traveling to every state park [Trailblazer, June 2024]. I was a little disappointed that no South Texas parks were mentioned.

My favorite story in the issue was *Renewal in Blue*. I traveled to East Texas with the young girl and loved the ending with the bluebonnets.

Penny Brown
 Magic Valley EC
 Rio Hondo

Multiplying at the Sixes

As an avid fan of the *Yellowstone* TV series, it was captivating to learn about the Burnett family and how the Four Sixes Ranch began and grew into one of the 10 largest ranches in the state [Sixes on the Small Screen, May 2024].

Sarah Brown
 Bluebonnet EC
 Cedar Creek

Avenging Uncle

James Franklin Norfleet was my great-uncle [Payback Time, May 2024]. I remember when we would visit the Norfleets at their home in Hale County in the 1950s, and Aunt Eliza would regale us with stories of earlier days.

Uncle Frank awed us kids as he would always strap on his pistol belt before going outside. For kids growing up listening to *The Lone Ranger*, we were quite impressed.

Jim K. Hudgins
 San Bernard EC
 Bellville

Roadside Attractions

It seems to me that Michael Ford has discovered and perfected a new art form on the Texas landscape [Overpass Easels, May 2024]. His work is extremely expressive of Texas and unique in each example.

Mary E. Specia
 GVEC
 McQueeney



B.J. HINKLE

TCP WRITE TO US
 letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube LinkedIn Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Neil Hesse, Muenster
Vice Chair Avan Irani, Robstown
Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Wood, San Augustine
Board Members Dale Ancell, Lubbock
 Mark McClain, Roby • Julie Parsley, Johnson City • 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

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Chris Burrows
Associate Editor Tom Widowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtsek
Creative Manager Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull
Communications Specialist Samantha Bryant
Digital Media Specialist Caytlyn Calhoun
Assistant Production Manager Alex Dal Santo
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz
Food Editor Vianney Rodriguez
Senior Designer Jane Sharpe
Communications Specialist Claire Stevens
Proofreader Louie Bond

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 81, Number 2 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50.
Co-op members: Please notify your co-op of address 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* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication.

COPYRIGHT All content © 2024 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wired-hand © 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Open Roads, Open Eyes

Over five decades
of crisscrossing Texas,
a photographer learns
to slow down to really see





PHOTO ESSAY BY WYATT MCSPADDEN

When I was younger and living in Amarillo, it always seemed important to get where I was going and back as soon as possible.

For a few years after a divorce, my two boys and their mom lived in San Marcos. And so a couple of times a month, I'd make that 500-plus mile drive as fast as I could.

When I abandoned the Panhandle and moved to Austin, my freelance photography business kicked into a higher gear. The jobs were in every direction, in and around my new city.

I never griped about the mileage, but as I matured, I did start listening to my eyes. I made it a rule that if I saw something that caught my attention at 70 mph and I couldn't get it out of my mind after a couple miles, I'd go back to get a picture—or at least to visit and decide if what I saw was worth a return trip at a particular time of day.

The drives are much more mellow these days after 50 years as a professional photographer, and I navigate using a spiral-bound detail map of Texas counties. Driving seems to be the second-most important skill in my line of work.

Of course, skill No. 1 is making a good picture upon reaching my destination. Most often the job involves capturing a portrait of someone who has accomplished something a magazine editor thinks is worthy of a story. But sometimes it's capturing the feel, the presence of a place.

I'm pretty sure I've driven a million miles in Texas, but now I do it a mile at a time. That's how the pictures in these pages were made, driving slow(ish), with eyes wide open. ■

I know my way around the Amarillo area, having lived there until I was 40. I was joyriding and admiring the late-day clouds when the lonely little tree appeared on the horizon.



Early morning on the road between Earth and Dimmit, in the Panhandle, familiar territory from my early years making a living shooting for seed and cattle operations. I hadn't seen such a tall silage mound, and the man with his pitchfork caught my eye.





I was passing through Hico on my way to the Metroplex when I spotted this little house. It took some coaxing for the woman to pose.





ABOVE I have a collection of barbed wire, plastic and wind pictures. Artsy pictures of trash.

LEFT A blue Dodge seems to have a permanent parking spot between Sandy Fork and Luling.

OPPOSITE A classic farmhouse, newly plowed field and epic sky near Granger, in Williamson County. Irresistible.



In the Beginning

**Few recall when electric cooperatives lit up the countryside;
Katie Phillips remembers every bit of her dad's life-changing work**

Katie Phillips is old enough to remember the dark ages—when nightfall at her family's farm outside Coleman meant navigating by the shadowy illumination offered by carbide and coal-oil lamps and lanterns. When much of the work on her dad's dairy farm—milking, separating and bottling—happened before sunrise and without the benefit of electricity.

"It's a hard life," says Katie, who turns 97 next month. For her and her brother and two sisters growing up in the 1930s, there wasn't much free time for fun, and before electricity, there was no reading or playing games at night.

Milking started every day at 3 a.m., and a few hours later, Katie's dad, Charlie Pitts, was making the first of his twice-

daily deliveries of Oak Grove Dairy Farm milk to homes, stores and cafés around Coleman, south of Abilene, on the western Central Texas plains.

It never escaped Pitts' notice that just 4½ miles east, in town, folks had the luxury of electricity.

Back then in rural America, those 4½ miles might as well have been a million. Electricity stopped where the profits did, and in 1936, fewer than 3% of Texas farms had electricity.

But before long, farmers, ranchers and their neighbors

Katie Phillips' dad helped create Coleman County Electric Cooperative. She saw the co-op's first light bulb flicker on in 1937.

Katie remembers the first appliance in the house—a two-door refrigerator picked up at Gray Mercantile in town. It meant no more lugging ice home.

pooled their money and worked together to build the electric cooperatives that lit up the countryside and brought a better quality of life.

Katie Phillips is among few living Americans who witnessed that important history. She had a front-row seat.

Katie turned 9 in 1936, the year her dad became a local leader in the cooperative movement that was in its early stages.

In those days, the town of Coleman had not only electricity but phone service too, and Pitts realized he needed that to keep up with milk orders. To get it, he paid to have a line strung from Coleman, across a creek, to the farm. Katie remembers their party line phone number: 4-0-0.

“I always wanted something better,” Pitts told the family.

Getting electricity to the farm was another matter.

Pitts traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about the Rural Electrification Administration, which provided loans for the creation of cooperatives. He then visited neighboring farms, asking folks to contribute \$5 to help start a co-op.

Finally, in April 1937, the first Coleman County Electric Cooperative light bulb flickered on in the Pitts farmhouse—an honor befitting the co-op’s first board president.

“It was a great day for everybody because it was a completion of a long journey for Daddy,” Katie says. The Pitts kids had better lighting for their schoolwork, and Dad had a perfect place to read the Fort Worth newspaper he always had in the house.

Soon lines brought power to the dairy barn, where milking machines freed up farmhands.

Katie remembers the first appliance in the house—a two-door refrigerator picked up at Gray Mercantile in town. It meant no more lugging ice home. “I just know that it was one of the most wonderful feelings there was when we could go to that refrigerator and open both doors and look in there and see what was in it,” Katie says.

Decades later, Katie spends a lot of her days knitting under a lamp in a corner of her living room in a 100-year-old farmhouse 6 miles east of Coleman. Electricity is too commonplace to warrant much thought. It powers her iPhone, tablet, two TVs and brand-new Singer sewing machine.

She’s known around Coleman County EC for being there at the dawn of the co-op. When the co-op held its 85th annual meeting in July 2023, she was there, and it was her 85th annual meeting too. She has attended every last one.

“The first light bulb was the beginning of an amazing future for all of us,” says Synda Smith, the co-op’s CEO and

general manager. “There are few businesses that have a past connection like this. It feels so good to know that Katie still feels like we are doing what our earlier leaders wanted us to do by continuing to uphold the co-op business model.”

Katie has farmed most of her life around Coleman, except for two years in high school at Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio. She dated Harold Phillips for a little less than a year—sometimes on horseback—and they married in 1948 when she was 21.

Together they farmed for 66 years, until he died in 2014. Harold was one of the first farmers in the area to grow sunflowers and to use parallel terracing. They had five children, four of whom are still living—all within five miles of Katie. Two of the sons are farmers.

By her 50th wedding anniversary, Katie figured she was ready to give up farming, and she broke that news to Harold.

“I told him, ‘I think I’ve done enough now,’ ” Katie says. “And he said, ‘What would encourage you to do a little more?’

“I said, ‘You buy me an air-conditioned, four-wheel-drive tractor.’ ”

And that’s how she ended up the proud owner of a John Deere tractor that’s still in the family.

Katie, who says she needed no prescriptions until she turned 90, has other family heirlooms that she holds dear: A six-leaf table brought by covered wagon from Louisiana by Katie’s great-grandparents in the mid-1800s graces her dining room, and there’s a couple of glider-style chairs that her mother bought in New York and the chair her dad used to rock her to sleep.

But the greatest treasure might be Charlie Pitts’ old desk chair, the very one where he worked out the wrinkles and legal details of creating the electric utility that gave his kids—and his community—a brighter future.

And Katie still has a direct connection to the co-op office in town. One of her six grandchildren, Kathreyn Portis, is a member services representative at Coleman County EC, where she has worked almost four years.

“My family’s legacy in this county is a big one, so to get to be able to continue that means a lot to me,” Portis says. “Family isn’t just blood relatives. It’s these people,” she says of her three dozen colleagues at the co-op.

They all follow in the footsteps of a dairy farmer who wanted to leave the dark ages behind.

As Katie knits or quilts or watches her beloved Dallas Cowboys, she joins nearly 5,000 fellow co-op members in her community living a better life because of co-op power.

But she alone remembers that day in 1937 when her dad helped that first light bulb come on.

“It was magical,” Katie says. “It’s just the greatest thing in the world. When he found out that you could get electricity, he said, ‘We’re going to do it.’ ” ■



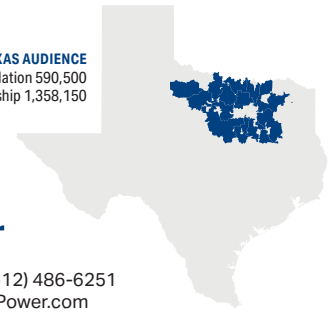
If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Be part of a statewide magazine without the statewide cost. Reach North Texas customers with *Texas Co-op Power*—a trustworthy name with affordable advertising options for regional and local businesses like yours.

Our North Texas advertising section targets homeowners living around Texas' largest metropolitan area. With a regional circulation of 590,500 and a readership of 1,358,150, *Texas Co-op Power* delivers a huge audience that's loyal and responsive.

NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE
Circulation 590,500
Readership 1,358,150



TexasCoopPower

Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

POLE BARNs

CALL
FOR BEST
PRICES

Free Estimates • Colored Metal Available
Variety of Sizes and Options
Fully Insured with Workers Comp

D.T. Construction

ZACH TINCHER—IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

☎

(918) 527-0117

☎

DTConstruction.com

CIRCLE G PRECAST CONCRETE

Products for Livestock and Wildlife
Drop us a pin and we'll deliver!

circlegprecastconcrete.com

J-Co

WORK CATTLE
ANY TIME,
ANY WHERE!

Cattle Hand

CATTLE WORKING CHUTE FOR THE SOLO CATTLEMAN

REDUCE
WORK TIME
TO 1-3
MINUTES
PER CALF!

WWW.J-CO.US

940-260-8949 | contact@j-co.us

Convert your trailer into a livestock hauling, on-site vet clinic!

TCP

Gift Shop

TCP

Shop now

TexasCoopPower.com/shop

TCP Marketplace

Advertise in *Texas Co-op Power* Marketplace

Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251

advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

Across Town | Across Texas

Blade Stunner

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

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

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

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

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars

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



**"I AM A KNIFE COLLECTOR AND THE
SEDONA LOOKS GREAT IN MY COLLECTION."**

— WILLIAM B.

Whether you collect blades, interesting stones, or are a lover of the great American Southwest, come be a part of the **largest community of knife enthusiasts** in the nation with Stauer.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of the Sedona Knife. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

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

Sedona Knife \$179*

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

1-800-333-2045



Your Insider Offer Code: **SEK247-03**

Rating of A+

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

14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. SEK247-03
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

Knife Specifications

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

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



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

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

ALAN LESLEY

Keep Your Cool

WHEN THE TEXAS HEAT bears down, there's one appliance that rides to the rescue: your air conditioner. I can't imagine life without it.

But cooling in the summer—and heating in the winter—accounts for a major portion of residential energy use. In fact, about 40% of all U.S. energy use is devoted to maintaining indoor temperature levels.

In Texas in August, I imagine that this percentage is considerably higher.

In light of that, I'd like to share with you some ways you can reduce air conditioning's effect on your power bill.

Change or clean the air filter regularly. This is probably the most important step you can take to increase efficiency and reduce the wear and tear on your central AC system, which has to work harder to force air through a clogged filter.

This advice also applies to those who rely on window AC units. Ensure that those units are also properly weatherstripped to prevent air leakage around the unit.

Use a programmable thermostat. These devices will turn up your temperature automatically during times of the day you specify, such as when nobody's home. In fact, if properly set, it can take a significant chunk out of your cooling bill. But if you purchase one, it's important to actually properly program it—a step many people skip.



Luckily, programmable thermostats have become easier to use in the past few

years. Newer ones can learn your usage patterns and automatically adjust temperatures without your input. Some can even be adjusted remotely with a smartphone.

Use fans wisely. An easy way to feel comfortable while setting the temperature up a couple of degrees is to use a fan. The air moving against your skin evaporates moisture, which makes you feel cooler. But be sure to turn fans off when nobody is around. They're only effective when blowing directly on someone.

Draw blinds or shades during the day. Keeping the sun's heat out of a room will help it stay cooler. Open shades after sunset to allow heat to escape. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Purple Heart Day
Wednesday, August 7

National 811 Day
Sunday, August 11

Waffle Day
Saturday, August 24

Eat Outside Day
Saturday, August 31

THE THERMOSTAT: WIMARKUSEN | ISTOCK.COM

SRDJAN PAVLOVIC | ISTOCK.COM

Air Conditioning's Cool History

WHEN CECA BEGAN PROVIDING electric service, air conditioning was not only primitive—it was a luxury only the wealthy could afford. Most rural residents spent sweltering summer days fanning themselves or finding much-needed relief at the nearest swimming hole.

Now AC is a necessity, and most—if not all—of our members enjoy its cooling comfort on Texas' triple-digit days. As summer bears down, we look back at the humble beginnings of the beloved air conditioner.

Big-City Start

In 1902, a 25-year-old engineer from New York named Willis Carrier was tasked with solving a humidity problem that was causing magazine pages to wrinkle at a Brooklyn publishing company.

Through his experiments, Carrier found that he could dry air by passing it through water-cooled coils, effectively controlling humidity. Within a year, he patented his "apparatus for treating air" and created what is now considered the foundation of modern air conditioning.

Air conditioning specifically intended to cool people was first installed at the New York Stock Exchange, which opened in 1903. Alfred Wolff, also a New York engineer, designed the system.

Wolff's system used three ammonia absorption machines, each with a cooling capacity equal to 150 tons of ice. Early systems like this were best suited for industrial use, and the NYSE's system was integrated into the architecture of the building.

Going Public

In 1904, organizers for the St. Louis World's Fair used mechanical refrigeration—until then used primarily for making ice—to cool the Missouri State Building. This was the first time on record that mechanical refrigeration was used to cool a building for public use and comfort.

Years later, Carrier refined his invention and added a central compressor, which reduced the size of the mechanical air conditioning unit, resulting in the centrifugal chiller in 1922. The changes also improved system reliability and lowered the cost.

Carrier debuted the device at the Rivoli Theatre in Times Square on Memorial Day weekend in 1925. Over the next few years, these systems were adopted by more movie theaters, and people flocked to them on hot days, giving rise to the phenomenon of the summer blockbuster.

Bringing AC Home

The first in-home AC didn't make its debut until 1929, when Frigidaire introduced a room cooler small enough for the purpose.

However, there were still challenges to wider adoption of the device, which required a 400-pound condensing unit and 200-pound cabinet—plus, it cost \$1,000 to install (more than \$18,000 in today's money).

Over the years, several more companies worked to create even smaller, less expensive AC units for residential use. In the early 1930s, Henry Galson finally hit the mark with a compact, inexpensive window air conditioner. He sold 43,000 systems by 1947.

Going Mainstream

By the 1960s, even as window air conditioning became much more affordable, most new homes were built with central AC systems.

Today, most homes in America have some form of air conditioning. According to the Energy Information Administration, 88% of U.S. households—more than 100 million homes—are equipped with AC. ■

Comanche Electric Cooperative Association

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

349 Industrial Blvd.
Comanche, TX 76442
Toll-Free 1-800-915-2533
Web ceca.coop

General Manager

Alan Lesley

Board of Directors

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

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

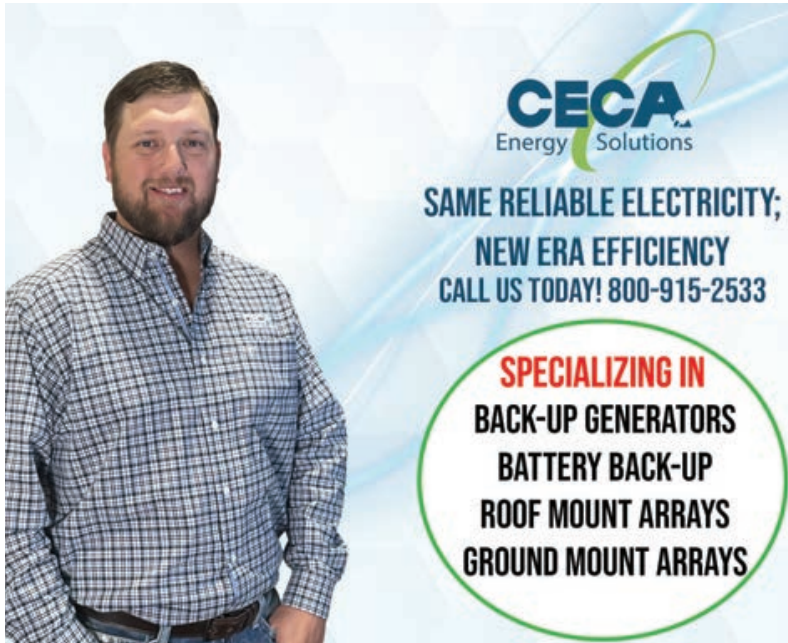
1311 W. Main St., Eastland, TX 76448
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

ceca.coop



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/comanche



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 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 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. ■

Nighttime Energy Use Helps Reliability

INSTEAD OF RUNNING your dishwasher right after dinner, consider waiting until bedtime to turn it on. Same with the clothes dryer. And how about charging your phone and other rechargeables while you sleep?

Most people use their electric appliances at the same times every day: early in the morning, when they're getting ready for work; right after dinner; and at midday. That means there's a lot of demand on a limited amount of electrical capacity all at the same time.

In the summer—when everyone's also running their air conditioner—that can tax the electrical system. It can even bring about a rotating outage, although that's rare. But it could put so much pressure on the grid that new power plants will be needed, and that's expensive.

A better solution: Spread your energy use out. Do the laundry and the dishes at midmorning, while everyone else is at work, or late at night, when most people are sleeping. ■



Statement of Nondiscrimination

IN ACCORDANCE WITH federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
 - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 - (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Declaración de No Discriminación

DE ACUERDO CON la ley federal de derechos civiles y las reglamentaciones y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA), se prohíbe al USDA, sus agencias, oficinas y empleados, e instituciones que participan o administran los programas del USDA, discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, religión, género, identidad de género (incluidas las expresiones de género), orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, estado civil, estado familiar/parental, ingresos derivados de un programa de asistencia pública, creencias políticas, o represalias por actividades previas sobre derechos civiles, en cualquier programa o actividad llevados a cabo o financiados por el USDA (no todas las bases se aplican a todos los programas). Las fechas límite para la presentación de remedios y denuncias varían según el programa o el incidente.

Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información sobre el programa (por ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje americano de señas, etc.) deberán comunicarse con la Agencia responsable o con el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Transmisiones al (800) 877-8339. Asimismo, se puede disponer de información del programa en otros idiomas además de inglés.

Para presentar una denuncia por discriminación en el programa, complete el Formulario de denuncias por discriminación en el programa del USDA, AD-3027, que se encuentra en línea en http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o escriba una carta dirigida al USDA e incluya en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de denuncias, llame al (866) 632-9992. Envíe su formulario completado o su carta al USDA por los siguientes medios:

- (1) correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; o
- (3) correo electrónico: program.intake@usda.gov

El Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) es un proveedor, empleador y prestador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.


Chicken Salad on Sourdough Toast

- 1 can chicken in water (10 ounces)**
- ¼ cup low-fat sour cream**
- ¼ cup Greek yogurt**
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped**
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard**
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt**
- ¼ cup sliced almonds**
- ¼ cup dried cranberries**
- 4 slices sourdough bread**
- ¼ cup spinach leaves**
- 1 large tomato, sliced (optional)**

1. Combine chicken, sour cream, yogurt, celery, mustard, salt, almonds and cranberries in a large bowl and mix well.

2. Lightly toast bread. Top with chicken mixture and spinach leaves. Add sliced tomatoes if desired. Serve immediately.

SERVES 2

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

Lauripatterson | iStock.com



DO IT RIGHT WITH DR[®] POWER EQUIPMENT

Conquer Seasonal Chores with DR[®]

Devour Brush Piles with a DR[®] Chipper Shredder

- Chip and shred with power to spare
- Bigger engines that chew up the competition
- Built USA tough for smooth, reliable operation



PRO XL520



FASTER, POWERFUL SHREDDING!

The 24 shredding hammers on our PRO XL520 model are serrated to create an extra aggressive shredding action to help pulverize everything to a fine mulch.

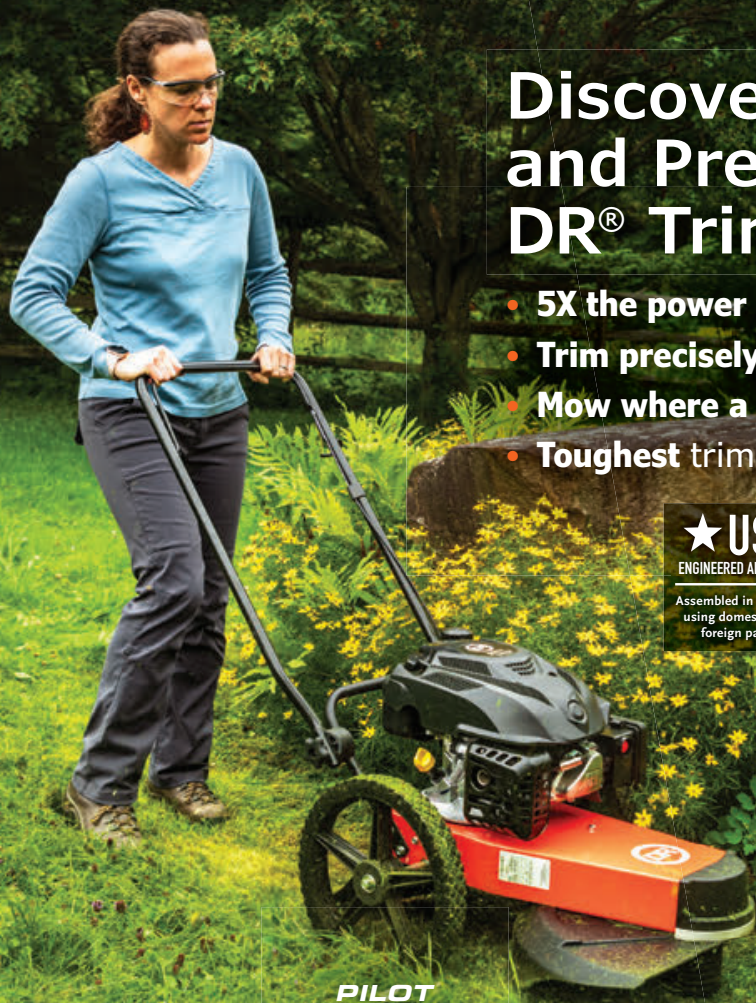
Discover the Power and Precision of a DR® Trimmer Mower

- **5X the power** of a handheld trimmer
- **Trim precisely** without arm fatigue
- **Mow where a bladed mower can't**
- **Toughest** trimmer cord available

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT
Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

STARTING AT JUST

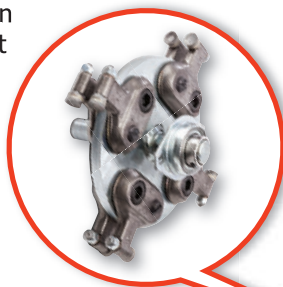
\$399⁹⁹



PILOT

Make Stumps Disappear Fast with a DR® Stump Grinder

- 3-sided Greenteeth® tungsten carbide-tipped teeth that last 3X longer
- Powerful engines that take 372 "bites" per second through the toughest hardwoods
- Self-propelled and electric start available



PRO XL

Scan the code to visit DRPower.com to shop the sale or request a free catalog!

Toll-free: 800-717-6278 | FREE SHIPPING options available



Catch a Wampus Cat

Irreverent Texans imported a mythical creature created in Appalachia

BY CLAY COPPEDGE • ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR CALLERY

CHEROKEE LEGEND tells of a young woman named Running Deer who once defeated an evil spirit, called Ew'ah, that she believed was responsible for driving her husband insane. Running Deer drew strength from the spirit of a mythical mountain cat but was afterward relegated to the deep woods and remote mountain passes of North Carolina, where she terrorized and drove insane anyone unfortunate enough to glimpse her.

Another legend has Running Deer as a young shape-shifter who slayed a catlike demon and became her tribe's spirit protector.

This is likely how the wampus cat of lore was born in the Appalachian Mountains, probably in East Tennessee or western North Carolina. And that's why all wampus cats—including those on the grid-iron in Texas—have a Cherokee lineage.

Appalachian settlers took the story from there and anglicized Ew'ah into a wampus cat, which likely derives from the 1840s slang term “catawampus” or, as some prefer, “cattywampus.”

If something was cattywampus, it was peculiar or frightening (likely influenced by the term “cata-mount,” another word for a cougar), and the wampus cat of lore can be as peculiar as a storyteller wants it to be. In some accounts, it has six legs (two for walking, four for fighting), walks upright and swims like a mink.

It didn't take long for the wampus cat to become the subject of stories designed to scare children into doing as they were told.

“Parents are telling us that they are experiencing less trouble keeping their children in after dark since the report gained circulation that the Wampus had been seen here,” *The Greeneville Daily Sun* in Tennessee reported in 1918.

The wampus cat began showing up in Texas newspapers in the early 1900s, most notably as the subject of a series of stories by frontier journalist and historian Don Hampton Biggers in a satirical Rotan newspaper called *Billy Goat Always Buttin' In*. Biggers had come to the small town northwest of Abilene in 1907 to establish a respectable weekly paper, but he published satire on the side as “a journal of such things as the editor takes a notion to write.”

When he needed to fill space in the paper, Biggers spun a series of yarns about the wampus cat, which

he called “a cross between a wildcat, badger and a lobo wolf, with fangs 2 inches long and claws that could peel the bark off of a mesquite tree.”

The locals knew it was a hoax, but visitors to the region often left Rotan dreading an encounter with the wampus cat of Biggers' imagination.

Biggers' son, Earl Biggers, in a 1961 interview with historian and scholar Seymour V. Connor, said his father came up with most of the wampus cat tales at the Rotan barber shop, where he and his pals would concoct outlandish stories.

In 1908, the same year Biggers was chronicling the creature's depredations in Fisher County, *The Houston Post* chronicled the game-by-game results of a local baseball team called the Wampus Cats. Since then, a number of schools have chosen the wampus cat as a mascot, including Itasca High School here in Texas.

As with descriptions of the cat itself, there is more than one story about how Itasca, which is between Fort Worth and Waco, chose the beast as its mascot.

A 1996 newspaper story quoted lifelong Itasca Nancy Bowman, who ran the school's special services, as saying that in the 1920s the high school team was having trouble finding a nickname. During a raucous postgame locker room celebration, a player shouted, “Wow, we were really wampus cats tonight!” Itasca had its mascot.

A Dallas radio station has called the wampus cat “the most quintessential Texas high school football mascot,” but it's not uniquely Texan. Schools in Conway, Arkansas; Atoka, Oklahoma; Leesville, Louisiana; and as far north as Clark Fork, Idaho, have also adopted the mythical creature as a mascot.

In 2003, a collegiate wood-bat baseball team in Albemarle, North Carolina, brought the creature closer to home. The Uwharrie Wampus Cats square off against the likes of the Carolina Disco Turkeys and the Boone Bigfoots.

Biggers and the other Rotan barbershop regulars would be delighted to know the creature they helped create has come full circle. ■



SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our *Sedona Turquoise Collection*. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you



could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for just \$99.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

The supply of Arizona turquoise is limited, don't miss your chance to own the Southwest's brilliant blue treasure. Call today!

Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------|-------------------|
| A. Pendant (26 cts) | \$299 * | \$99 | +s&p | Save \$200 |
| B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain | | \$149 | +s&p | |
| C. 1 1/2" Earrings (10 ctw) | \$299 * | \$99 | +s&p | Save \$200 |
| Complete Set** | \$747 * | \$249 | +s&p | Save \$498 |

**Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

Call now and mention the offer code to receive your collection.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code **STC890-09**

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

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

Stauer®

14091 Southcross Drive W., Dept. STC890-09,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



Rating of A+



B.

*26 carats
of genuine
Arizona turquoise
ONLY \$99*

A.

Necklace
enlarged
to show
luxurious
color

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®



Sense and Humor

LBJ's unique penchant for storytelling helped him navigate politics

BY W. F. STRONG

WHEN MOST PEOPLE think of Lyndon B. Johnson, they don't necessarily envision a man with a great sense of humor. After all, he was president during turbulent times.

"When the burdens of the presidency seem unusually heavy," he once joked, "I always remind myself it could be worse. I could be a mayor."

Though he didn't have the public eloquence of Kennedy or King, he was charismatic. He was a wonderful storyteller.

Writer and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin worked closely with the president for seven years, and because of her professional relationship with him, I would argue that her biography—out of all the biographies about the 36th presi-

dent—is the most humanizing.

No writer knew him better.

Goodwin told me she never tired of listening to him, though eventually she came to realize that his stories were not all completely true. Some were apocryphal, she said, and like Abraham Lincoln, LBJ used stories to animate his points, skewer his adversaries, and amuse and entertain.

He learned his storytelling, Goodwin said, from his father and grandfather, growing up in the Hill Country. Johnson would listen at night as they talked politics on the porch with local power brokers.

My own father, a great admirer of the president, shared a couple of LBJ stories with me long ago.

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



When Barry Goldwater and Nelson Rockefeller were campaigning to win their party's nomination for president in 1964, LBJ heard that both men were "cutting way back on their visits to California." Johnson said, "Reminds me of a case in Texas where a man wanted to run for sheriff against an unpopular incumbent named Uncle Johnny.

"Man asked his friend Dave if he thought he had a chance. Dave said, 'Well, I guess it depends on who meets the most people.' 'Yeah, that's what I was thinking,' said the man. Dave explained further, 'If he meets the most people, you'll win, and if you meet the most people, he'll win.'"

LBJ also told of a "boy in Texas who was very poor and tired of seeing his mama struggling so much to feed her family. So he sent a letter to God asking for \$100 for his mama. The letter got forwarded eventually to the postmaster general in Washington, D.C.

"He took pity on the boy and put \$20 in an envelope and mailed it to him. Two weeks later, the postmaster got a letter back from the boy that said, 'Dear God, thank you for sending the money, but next time don't send it through Washington cuz they took 80% of it.'"

Goodwin said she was happy to see that LBJ is getting long-deserved credit for the laws and policies he passed in his time, like the Voting Rights Act, as well as the institutions he helped found, like NASA and the Public Broadcasting Service.

If only he could have known how much progress his work would bring. He certainly would have smiled—and had a story ready. ■

Party Drinks

Find fruity refreshments—and a guide for mocktail options

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Spending every summer in Mexico growing up, nothing made me happier than sipping on a tall glass of *agua de sandía* (watermelon water) sold by local street vendors. It's a bright and refreshing drink made from watermelon, water, lime juice and sugar. August is peak watermelon season in Texas, so I'm excited to share this beloved drink from my childhood.



Agua de Sandía

8 cups diced watermelon

4 cups cold water

¼ cup sugar

Juice of 1 lime

Tajín, for the rim

Lime wedge, for the rim

1. Blend watermelon and water until smooth. Depending on the size of your blender, you may need to divide this into batches, blending half the watermelon and half the water at a time.
2. Strain into a pitcher. Stir in sugar and lime juice.
3. Spread Tajín on a plate. Run lime wedge around the rim of each glass and dip into Tajín. Serve over ice in Tajín-rimmed glasses.

SERVES 8

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifelife.com](https://www.sweetlifelife.com), where she features a recipe for Hibiscus Mint Tequila Punch.



Lemon Pucker Martini

DEBI OROZCO
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

I love a lightly sweet but bold-flavored cocktail, and that's exactly what this Lemon Pucker Martini recipe offers. It's a perfect balance between tart and sweet and proves incredibly refreshing.

- 2 tablespoons sugar, for the rim**
- 1 lemon wedge, for the rim**
- 2 ounces vodka**
- 1 ounce fresh lemon juice**
- ½ ounce limoncello**
- ½ ounce orange-flavored liqueur**
- 1 teaspoon agave**
- Lemon slice, for garnish**

1. Spread sugar on a plate. Run lemon wedge around the rim of a cocktail glass and dip into sugar. Place glass in the freezer until ready to serve.
2. Add vodka, lemon juice, limoncello, orange-flavored liqueur and agave to a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake vigorously.
3. Strain into chilled, sugar-rimmed cocktail glass. Garnish with lemon slice.

SERVES 1

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

Summer Beer

CINDY JARROTT
BLUEBONNET EC



Pour, stir, serve and sip!
A beer-based cocktail fit for a crowd, this simple summer beer is a fresh and smooth beverage that's designed for batching in bulk.

SERVES 6

- 1 can frozen pink lemonade (12 ounces)**
- 12 ounces vodka**
- 4 cans light beer (12 ounces each)**
- Frozen mixed berries, for garnish**

1. Add frozen lemonade and vodka to a pitcher. (You can use the lemonade can to measure 12 ounces of vodka.) Stir until lemonade is dissolved.
2. Add beer and stir to combine.
3. Pour into ice-filled glasses and top with frozen berries.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HEARTY SOUPS DUE AUGUST 10

When it's cold outside, we want nothing more than to cozy up inside with a piping hot bowl of soup. Send us your favorite comforting soup, and you could win \$500. Enter by August 10.





Texas Bluebonnet

CAROL BRADY
NUECES EC

It's time to pop open the bubbly and celebrate the waning days of summer. The addition of sparkling wine to this cocktail makes it feel a bit elegant, which is always a plus, but this festive drink can easily be whipped up for four or doubled for a crowd.

½ cup blue Curaçao liqueur
1½ cups lemonade
2 cups sparkling wine
Juice of 1 lemon
Orange slices, for garnish
Lemon slices, for garnish
Maraschino cherries, for garnish

1. Fill a pitcher with ice. Add blue Curaçao liqueur, lemonade, sparkling wine and lemon juice. Stir.
2. Serve over ice, garnished with fruit on skewers.

SERVES 4

TCP Vianney Rodriguez features many more cocktail recipes on sweetlifebake.com and in *Latin Twist: Traditional and Modern Cocktails*, the book she co-authored with Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack.

From Cocktail to Mocktail

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

Nonalcoholic cocktails don't have to be bland. Here are a few tips and tricks to keep your party hopping:

Replace sparkling wine with soda water for a guilt-free bubbly effect.

A mix of cranberry and grape juice produces a delicious sangrialike option.

Ginger beer punches up the flavor and adds a warm kick to a mocktail.

Nonalcoholic spirits are becoming more common in stores. From vodka to mezcal and nonalcoholic beer and wine, options are hitting shelves, ready to help you shake up a mocktail.

ONLY YOU CAN MAKE SMOKEY BEAR'S BIRTHDAY WISH COME TRUE

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF WILDFIRE PREVENTION

SMOKEY

80

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE 1915



tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire



TCP E-news

Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

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

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

Grab Your Piece of America's Silver Legacy



99.9% Fine Silver Bars

Actual size is 30.6 x 50.4 mm

Fill Your Vault with Morgan Silver Bars



Not only are these hefty bars one full Troy ounce of real, .999 precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring the crisp image of a Morgan Silver Dollar struck onto the surface. That collectible image adds interest and makes these Silver Bars even more desirable. Minted in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver, these one-ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to one-ounce silver coins or rounds. Plus, they offer great savings compared to other bullion options like one-ounce sovereign silver coins. Take advantage of our special offer for new customers only and save \$10.00 off our regular prices.

No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

A Special Way for You to Stock Up on Precious Silver

While no one can predict the future value of silver in an uncertain economy, many Americans are rushing to get their hands on as much silver as possible, putting it away for themselves and their loved ones. You'll enjoy owning these Silver Bars. They're tangible. They feel good when you hold them, You'll relish the design and thinking about all it represents. These Morgan Design One-Ounce Bars make appreciated gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations, creating a legacy sure to be cherished for a lifetime.

Order More and SAVE

You can save \$10.00 off our regular price when you buy now. There is a limit of 25 Bars per customer, which means with this special offer, you can save up to \$250.

Hurry. Secure Yours Now!

Call right now to secure your .999 fine silver Morgan Design One-Ounce Silver Bars. You'll be glad you did.

One-Ounce Silver Morgan Design Bar \$49.95 ea.

Special offer - \$39.95 ea. +s/h **SAVE \$10 - \$250**

BUY MORE SAVE MORE!

Limit of 25 bars per customer

Free Morgan Silver Dollar with every order over \$299 (A \$59.95 value!)



FREE SHIPPING over \$99!

Limited time only. Product total over \$99 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free **1-888-201-7144**

Offer Code **MSB216-03**
Please mention this code when you call.

SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER

GOVMINT®
THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

GovMint • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. MSB216-03, Eagan, MN 55121

Asset Marketing Services, LLC d/b/a GovMint is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of AMS's Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). Keeping your purchase means you agree to the Terms and Conditions. © 2024 GovMint. All rights reserved.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

A Jaw-Dropping Journey

Brazos Bend State Park has acres and acres of alligators

BY CHET GARNER

I LIKE ZOOS. The cages and fences offer comfort when staring into the eyes of an apex predator. But there’s something exhilarating about stepping into a natural habitat and encountering a wild creature in its element.

And that’s the draw of Brazos Bend State Park, which comprises nearly 5,000 acres of wetland marsh and coastal prairie in Fort Bend County. Visit on a sunny day and you’re almost guaranteed to have an encounter with its most famous residents—American alligators.

Driving into the park felt like visiting a movie set, amid oak trees dripping with Spanish moss that create a canopy over the road. It’s hard to believe that I was only 40 miles from downtown Houston. I stopped into the visitor center and asked where to find the gators. They simply pointed me toward the park’s 37 miles of trails and said, “That way.”

It turns out hundreds of alligators inhabit the park, and it’s not uncommon to see 40–50 on a good day, in addition to the park’s other reptiles, amphibians and 300-plus species of birds.

I set off on the trail surrounding 40-Acre Lake, and it wasn’t long before I came face-to-face with a living, breathing dinosaur. It was at least 7 feet long and sunning on the edge of the trail. I cautiously passed by, giving it a Texas nod on my way. Twenty feet down the trail was another and then another.

A ranger assured me that in the park’s 40 years, no one has been injured, much less killed, by an alligator. They’re fairly docile creatures and prefer flight over fight when it comes to humans. Even so, I didn’t want to tempt fate and was more than happy enjoying them all from a very safe distance. ■

ABOVE Chet keeps a safe distance from one of the hundreds of gators that roam freely.

TCP From the safety of your screen, join Chet as he wanders among the gators. Watch 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.

AUGUST

8

McKinney Thomas Craig, (214) 769-0645, thecomedyarena.com

9

Alpine [9–10] Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, (432) 294-1640, bigbendranchrodeo.com

10

Chappell Hill Wine and Cheese Stroll, (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

14

Brady [14–17] Heart of Texas Honky Tonk Festival, (325) 597-1895, heartoftexascountry.com

Corsicana [14–17] Red, (903) 872-5421, thewllac.com

17

Brenham Peter, Paul and Mary Alive; (979) 337-7240; thebarnhillcenter.com

Santo Southwest Open Chili Championship, (940) 733-6086, casichili.net

22

Fredericksburg [22–25] Gillespie County Fair, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

23

Decatur [23–24] Wise County Guild Quilt Show, (817) 991-3407, wisecountyquiltguild.org

24

Lubbock Book Festival, (806) 775-3634, lubbockbookfest.com

Castroville [24–25]
St. Louis Day Celebration,
(830) 931-2826,
saintlouisday.com

27

**Stonewall Commemoration
of Lyndon Johnson's
Birthday,** (830) 868-7128,
nps.gov/lyjo

29

Uvalde [29–Sept. 1]
Palomino Fest & Pro Rodeo,
palominofest.com

30

Fredericksburg [30–31]
Vereins Quilt Show,
vereinsquiltguild.org

**Marfa [30–Sept. 1] Lights
Festival,** (432) 217-6777,
marfachamberofcommerce.org

Granbury [30–Sept. 2]
**Labor Day Weekend
Festival,** (682) 936-4550,
granburysquare.com

31

**Sunrise Beach Village
Sip & Stroll,** (713) 299-1728,
sunrisebeachtx.gov

SEPTEMBER

7

**Luling Luling Foundation
Youth Grill-Off,** (830) 875-
2438, lulingfoundation.org

**McKinney Jurassic Night
Out at the Heard,** (972) 562-
5566, heardmuseum.org

**New Braunfels Donny
Edwards: Tribute to the King,**
(830) 627-0808, brauntex.org

TCP *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your November event by September 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



*Don't miss the
largest wine festival
in the Southwest!*

38th Annual
GrapeFest[®]
A Texas Wine Experience
Presented by
BANK of the WEST



September 12, 13, 14 & 15
Grapevine, Texas

GrapeFest.com



Hit the Road

TCP *Plan now*

[TexasCoopPower.com/events](https://www.texascooppower.com/events)

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

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

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP[™]
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710
Serving Customers All Over Texas

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

★ STILL THE TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER ★



Pkg. includes 4' Box Blade and Cutter

MT-122 & MT-125 Subcompact Tractor Packages

22 & 25 HP Diesels, 4x4, Hydro Trans, ROPS, R4 Industrial Tires, Quick Attach Loaders and Buckets, 4' Rotary Cutter and 4' Box Blades

AS LOW AS \$239 per month

0 down @ 3.9% interest for up to 84 months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

MT-355 H Full Size 55 HP Tractor Package

55 HP diesel, 4x4, Hydro Trans, R4 Tires, ROPS, Quick Attach Front Loader & Bucket, 6' Rotary Cutter and 6' Box Blade included

AS LOW AS \$449 per month

0 Down @ 3.9% Interest for up to 84 months WAC



Pkg. includes 5' Box Blade and Cutter

MT-225 H 25 HP Compact Tractor

4x4, Hydro Trans, Quick Attach Front Loader, and Skid Steer Bucket, R4 Tires, ROPS, 5' Rotary Cutter and 5' Box Blade included

AS LOW AS \$315 per month

0 Down @ 3.9% Interest for up to 84 months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

MT-458 CPS 58 HP Cab Tractor Package

Power Shuttle Trans, 4x4, R4 Tires, 2 Sets of Rear Hydraulic Remotes, AC & Heat, Stereo Ready, Quick Attach Loader and Bucket, 6' Rotary Cutter and 6' Box Blade, Fully Loaded With All Options!

AS LOW AS \$625 per month

0 Down @ 3.9% Interest for up to 84 months WAC

DELIVERY AVAILABLE



FOSTER'S WORK & PLAY

936-967-0011 • Text 713-899-7976 After Hours • fostersworknplay.com

3601 US Hwy 190 W • Livingston, Texas 77351 • sales@fostersworknplay.com

All horsepower ratings are approximate engine horsepower ratings from manufacturer. Prices and payments approximate with approved credit by AGCO Finance. 0% Interest Rates may be blended slightly because of implements other than MF Brand. All prices and payments may not include freight, set up, insurance or delivery if applicable



SPECIAL SAVINGS!

YOUR CHOICE OF A WALK-IN SHOWER OR WALK-IN TUB

- Lifetime Warranty
- Custom Sizes Available
- 100% Financing Available
- A+ BBB Rating
- Good Contractors List

TUB OR SHOWER FROM **\$9,995.00** INSTALLATION INCLUDED



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

- Trusted by Texans for 19 Years
- Tubs and Showers Made in America
- Visit Our Texas Showroom

Call for More Info
682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362
bestbuywalkintubs.com

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill? Roof rumble? Leaks?

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

Since 1983

Contact us at 800.633.8969 or **roofover.com**

BRUSH SHARK

SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

- 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
- Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

WE BUY MINERALS

We pay cash for producing or non-producing mineral interests.

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

Textures

The rough bark of a tree, the smooth surface of a pond in early morning, a display of soft bird feathers—the surfaces in our world offer a variety of visual and physical textures. From childhood we are told to look and not touch; but these offerings make us wish we could do both.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 KELTON CARVER
SOUTH PLAINS EC

"This is my show steer for 4-H and FFA activities. His hair is velvety smooth! His wrinkles depict his inquisitive personality."

2 CYRIL FERNANDES
PEDERNALES EC

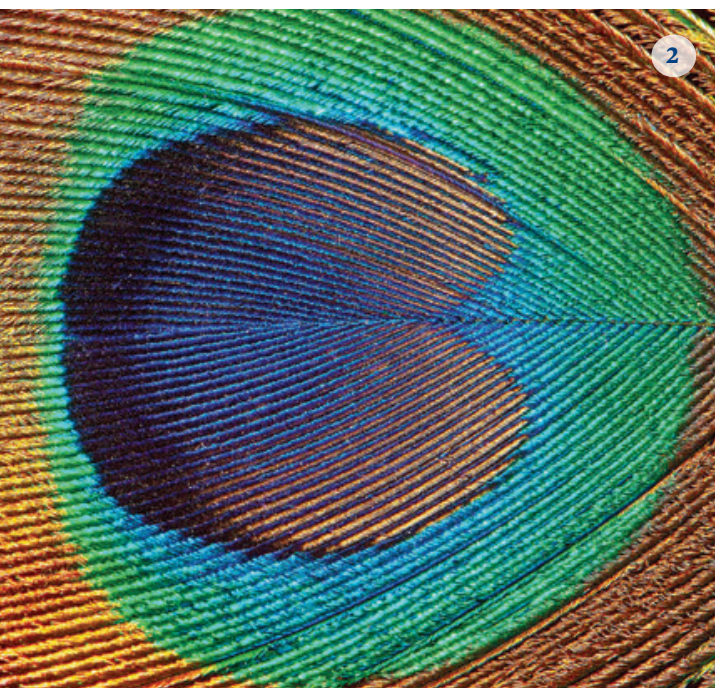
"Peacocks achieve their stunning plumage display through structural coloration called iridescence."

3 CARLY LATHAM
HEART OF TEXAS EC

"I love looking at the skin of a Texas horse apple."

4 DORA CAFFEY
TAYLOR EC

"A Rio Grande turkey shown in his finest ruffles."



Upcoming Contests


DUE AUG 10 Young Photographers

DUE SEP 10 Parks

DUE OCT 10 I Love



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

 See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Textures photos from readers.



Friends in High Places

He was known for saving windmills, but one day he saved a whole lot more

BY SAM W. YOUNG
ILLUSTRATION BY
KEVIN HOWDESHELL

DAD CAME HOME from work one day with his left hand in a big bandage. He had driven himself to a hospital, where his fingers were repaired by a surgeon. One finger was almost severed but was put back together and ultimately saved.

When I was young, he worked for West Texas Lumber Co. in San Angelo, the local Aermotor Windmill dealer. Later he worked on his own. Ranch owners for miles around knew he was the man to call if a windmill needed repairs or replacement from the 1930s into the '80s. The cattle and sheep had to have water.

My brother and I are firmly convinced that no one man installed more windmills than our father. He was still climbing the contraptions after his 80th birthday and after he sold his business.

Working on these machines was dan-

gerous, even for a professional. Windmillers free-climbed and stood with a helper on a platform—untethered—as they made their repairs.

Aermotor windmills pivot on a vertical mast, with all the weight sitting on a washer inside a small cavity just under the motor. The motor has to be lifted a few inches to replace that washer.

To lift the windmill, with all the weight of the mill and the sucker rods, a chain is tied to the push rod and the tower and then a helper has to turn the wheel by hand and hold it.

Dad always had to have a helper, of course, and I was usually his helper in the summertime and over Christmas breaks.

There were days when we would load the pickup in San Angelo with the parts of a new windmill, the rods and pipe, sand, gravel, cement—everything needed for installation. I remember once when we drove to a new well on King Mountain, south of Odessa, assembled the tower and mill, raised it up with the pickup, dug the anchors by hand, and had it pumping water before sundown.

But I wasn't Dad's helper that fateful day south of San Angelo.

On that day, the chain must have slipped, allowing the weight of the rotor assembly to smash his fingers. He didn't say so, but what else could it have been?

There was something else he didn't mention until a few days later.

His helper had reacted to the sight of the blood and started to pass out. Dad reached out and grabbed the man with his right hand to keep him from falling off the windmill platform.

I don't know just how the issue was resolved from that point, but I do know this: While Dad's left hand was trapped, he saved a man's life that day with his right hand—the day he came home with the big bandage. ■

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

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



Pictured is Luxurious & Lasting Miralux™. Ask about our 5 Comfort Zone chair.

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

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

unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Luxurious and Lasting Miralux, Genuine Leather, stain and liquid repellent Duralux with the classic leather look, or plush MicroLux microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. Call now!

journey
**perfect
sleep chair®**

Call toll-free now

1-888-300-9362

Please mention code 606476 when ordering.



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

Now available in a variety of
colors, fabrics and sizes.

Miralux™
luxurious & lasting



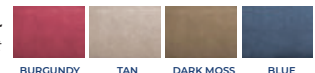
Long Lasting DuraLux®
stain & liquid repellent



Genuine Leather
classic beauty & style



MicroLux® Microfiber
breathable & amazingly soft



Scan with phone camera



enjoying life never gets old™

journey
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. Delivery only available in contiguous U.S.

© 2024 Journey Health & Lifestyle.





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

Get a **FREE** consultation!
Call **888-339-3144**

END OF SUMMER SALES EVENT

Save Big on Replacement Windows and Doors!

Buy One, Get One

40% OFF

AND

For a Limited Time, Get

\$45 OFF

All Windows and Doors¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

Each Window and Door¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4

AND NO Money Down | **NO** Monthly Payments | **NO** Interest for 12 months¹

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4 - INTEREST ACCRUES FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS



TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.²

Offer Ends **9/30/2024**

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

888-339-3144

FINDYOURWINDOW.COM



More 5 Star
Reviews



Than Other Leading Full-Service
Window Replacement
Companies³

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/30/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 8/1/2024 and 9/30/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$45 off each window or entry/patio door, minimum purchase of four (4) required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 9/30/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky[®] consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. ³It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. ⁴Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading full service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. ⁵Renewal by Andersen[®] and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA13747 ⁶Using U.S. and imported parts.