

OUTLANDISH CHARACTERS  
OF BYGONE RODEOS

WHEN THE QUEEN  
CAME TO TEXAS

CHET LOOKS AT  
BUDDY HOLLY'S LEGACY

# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2022

## Esports Enters the Arena

Students play their way  
to scholarships and careers  
in video gaming







# MUELLER METAL BUILDINGS



## COUNT ON US FOR CUSTOM BUILDINGS

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings. We manufacture each building to meet your needs and deliver real value. Additionally, you can select from a variety of colors with limited paint warranties up to 40 years. Start designing your building today at [www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool](http://www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool).



Learn more at: [www.muellerinc.com](http://www.muellerinc.com)  
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

# February 2022



12

## 08 A Whole New Ballgame

The booming business of esports finds eager participants in rural schools.

*By Chris Burrows*

## Stretching the Blanket

Outlandish characters and hard-to-believe yarns defined the early days of Texas rodeo.

*By Gene Fowler  
Illustration by Douglas Jones*

ON THE COVER

At 100,000 square feet, Esports Stadium Arlington is the largest dedicated gaming facility in North America.

*Photo courtesy Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau*

04

**Currents**

The latest buzz

06

**TCP Talk**

Readers respond

18

**Co-op News**

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

**Footnotes in Texas History**

Her Majesty's Visit  
*By W.F. Strong and Lupita Strong*

30

**TCP Kitchen**

Pasta  
*By Megan Myers*

34

**Hit the Road**

A Glimpse of Buddy Holly  
*By Chet Garner*

37

**Focus on Texas**

Photo Contest: Public Art

38

**Observations**

The Muse in Museum  
*By Babs Rodriguez*





## FINISH THIS SENTENCE THE BABY OF THE FAMILY ALWAYS ...

**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.

Below are some of the responses to our December prompt: **The hardest job in the world has to be ...**

A single mom.

TISH CORTINAS  
COSERV  
MCKINNEY

That's easy. Utility lineman.

GINA SCHULTE HALLE  
VIA FACEBOOK

Still being a rancher in Central Texas when you are 88 years old.

SCOTT SINGLETON  
PEDERNALES EC  
MARBLE FALLS

Taking care of your aging, ailing parents.

MARY DIAZ  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
SHERMAN

The caretaker of a spouse with dementia.

SHARON MARTIN  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
GRANBURY

To see more responses, read Currents online.

# 'Dillo Day

THE FOLKS IN BEE CAVE, just west of Austin, don't pay much attention to Punxsutawney Phil on Groundhog Day. Instead, they rely on an armadillo named Bee Cave Bob on February 2 to prognosticate the arrival of spring. Bob has served the role since 2012.



## TWOSDAY

February flaunts a special Tuesday this year with a rare numerical alignment: 2/22/22. And twice that day, at 2:22, deuces are really wild.

(If you insist on using the 24-hour clock, the second instance of twos aligning that day will be 22:22.)



# Best Dressed

The nation's electric co-ops have deployed enough wind and solar power capacity to serve nearly

**2.7 million** homes.

A TEXAS A&M University professor has developed water-based nanocoatings that, when added to military uniforms, protect against fire and UV light and change color in the presence of certain chemicals.

The softness of cotton and the strength of nylon are typically compromised when a protective property is added, but Jaime Grunlan has come up with a nontoxic solution that can add protection without changing the structure of the fabric. He hopes this technology can also benefit nonmilitary protective clothing.



## 50 Years of Easy Joe

Mr. Coffee, the first automatic drip machine for home use, started making it a little easier to get going in the morning in 1972.



### TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Stone Fruits

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Industrial

**RECOMMENDED READING**  
Chet Garner visited another West Texas spot with keepsakes from a musical legend, Roy Orbison, in *Wink's Spectacle* from September 2019.



RKO PICTURES | GETTY IMAGES

**A Wonderful Flick**

“It is nice that this old black-and-white movie, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, is still a treasure. I bet it will be for another 75 years.”

STEPHANIE RIGGIN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
LOCKHART

**Looking Out for Bison**

I was born in the Ozarks at Evening Shade, Arkansas, but I got here as quickly as I could. I married a native Texas girl 20 years ago.

I am a true Texas history buff and love your monthly stories. I had never heard of the Texas State Bison Herd [*Last of Their Kind*, November 2021]. Please keep the stories coming.

J.D. Perkins III  
Bluebonnet EC  
Red Rock

What one animal said to another [*Safe Passage*, November 2021]: “Oh, let’s don’t cross here. Let’s go down to the land bridge, which is 5 miles south of here. It’s much safer.”

JOHN PERRIN  
VIA FACEBOOK

**Snowbird Love**

My husband and I are winter Texans. Your magazine teaches us about our winter home state and provides us with travel ideas while we are there.

Merlene S. DeZur  
NEC Co-op Energy  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**True to Her Word**

I live in the Maverick community [*Biography of a Word*, November 2021]. My house is near the old Maverick School, which I love to photograph. A roadside marker dedicated to Maverick is nearby. And, yes, I am a maverick.

Sherry York  
Via Facebook

**Reaching Readers**

*Carpe Diem, Mom* [December 2021] so aptly expressed Babs Rodriguez’s feelings in a clear and fun way. It also demonstrated her love of her parents and family, which is always nice to hear.

Greg Sethness  
Central Texas EC  
Sunrise Beach



ANNA GODEANSKI

**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 Texas Co-op Power

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo • **Vice Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Neil Hesse, Muenster • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka  
 Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor  
**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin  
**COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
 Matt Bentke, Bastrop • Marty Haught, Burlison • Ron Hughes, Sinton  
 Gary Miller, Bryan • Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma • John Ed Shipnough, Bonham  
 Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado  
**MAGAZINE STAFF**  
**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevins  
**Editor** Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski  
**Production Manager** Karen Nejtsek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty  
**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull  
**Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill  
**Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge  
**Digital Content Producer** Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe  
**Proofreader** Shannon Oelrich • **Digital Media Intern** Sabrina Macias

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 78, Number 8 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power*'s website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.  
**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** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. 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. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





# Finally . . . a better mobility solution than Scooters or Power Chairs.

The **Zoomer's** versatile design and 1-touch joystick operation brings mobility and independence to those who need it most.

If you have mobility issues, or know someone who does, then you've experienced the difficulties faced by millions of Americans. Simple tasks like getting from the bedroom to the kitchen can become a time-consuming and potentially dangerous ordeal. You may have tried to solve the problem with a power chair or a scooter but neither is ideal. Power chairs are bulky and look like a medical device. Scooters are either unstable or hard to maneuver. Now, there's a better alternative . . . the Zoomer.

***My Zoomer is a delight to ride!** It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the-out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.*

Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

After just one trip around your home in the Zoomer, you'll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It's not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll



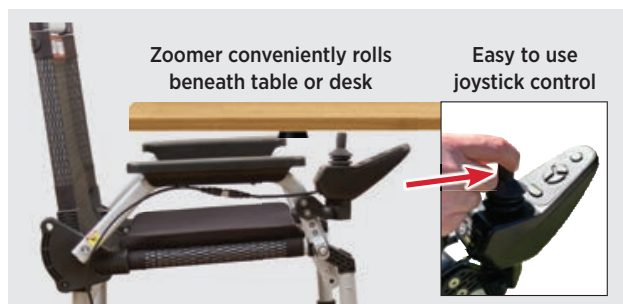
right up to a table or desk - there's no need to transfer



Folds to 12" in seconds

to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it's not in use.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own Zoomer.



Ready to get your own Zoomer? We'd love to talk to you.

Call now toll free and order one today! **1-888-690-0245**

Please mention code 116376 when ordering.





# A Whole New Ballgame

**The booming business  
of esports finds eager  
participants in rural schools**



BY CHRIS BURROWS

## Ryan Conger thought his athletics career was over.

Rounding third base in a baseball game in 2017, the LeTourneau University sophomore hit an uneven spot in the field. He heard a pop in his knee and knew right away it was his ACL. He was gutted.

“I was like, man, if I don’t have baseball, I really don’t know what I’m going to do,” he said. “I make good grades, but it was only because I wanted to play baseball.”

Sidelined with what can be a career-ending injury, Conger channeled his competitive energy into a video game called NBA 2K. The native of Palmer, south of Dallas, worked his way up the basketball game’s rankings, playing against others from around the world, and was drafted in 2018 by a professional competitive gaming affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks NBA team.

In September, Conger and his team won their second straight championship on a virtual basketball court, marking Conger as one of the best NBA 2K players in the world and earning him a cut of a half-million-dollar prize. His competitive career wasn’t over; it just looks a whole lot different now.

Conger and his teammates occupy one of the many big and bright stages of competitive video gaming—known as esports—and their work and winnings are made possible by the booming new industry that attracts 26.6 million monthly viewers who watch gamers compete in a vast array of virtual venues. Beyond sports games, the online universe extends to strategy and battle arena games and even traditional board games, like chess.

Esports brought in more than \$1 billion in revenue for the first time in 2021 and has given rise to a whole host of career paths for professionals in marketing, information



technology, game design, broadcasting and many other fields—in addition to the game-playing pros on arena stages and online. Now educators at schools are preparing students to take advantage.

“Esports is not the five professionals sitting on the stage,” said Matt Tarpley, a member of the Texas Scholastic Esports Federation board. “There’s 10 times more people behind the scenes doing all sorts of other work.”

In 2018, Tarpley approached the principal at the high school in Merkel, west of Abilene, where he worked in IT. He pitched a gaming team that would be managed by an esports-centered marketing class.

“I said, ‘Man, I don’t necessarily understand this, but I do understand that our kids are going to be into it, so let’s try it,’” Principal James Stevens said. Tarpley taught the class and coached the team, and more than two-thirds of the school’s students expressed interest in the class.

“We used to get in trouble for playing video games, but now it’s really cool because we see that video games help us develop our problem-solving skills, our critical-thinking skills,” said Jansen Wilhite, who took over for Tarpley in 2021. “These are all great skills to have for when we enter the job force.”

Wilhite grew up with video games, playing Donkey Kong as a child and World of Warcraft with her husband as an adult. Her degree is in microbiology, but she teaches physics and now Merkel’s gaming course, where her students learn all about the types of video games, how they’re developed and how to foster positive gameplay environments.

“I never anticipated a career in video games, but here we are,” Wilhite said. “It’s really cool for me to get to use both halves of myself at work.”

ABOVE Ryan Conger competes in the 2021 NBA 2K league playoffs four years after an ACL tear ended his college baseball career. Conger said he planned to use his winnings to help his father open a food truck.



Wilhite also runs Merkel’s after-school esports team, which competes in online chess and other video games against teams across Texas. Like the team at Sabine High School, in Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative’s territory in Northeast Texas, where technology director Randy Cox was surprised by the buy-in he received from the superintendent.

“When you tell someone you want to start a program where we do competitive video games, I expected to get a little bit of a laugh, but he was very supportive,” Cox said. “It’s one more thing that students can get involved in with our school.”

Merkel, Sabine and more than 400 other high schools across Texas now field esports teams, and even some middle schools are beginning to form clubs—part of a pipeline forming to feed some 250 colleges across the country that offer nearly \$15 million in scholarships to esports competitors and to feed the array of fields that support all of it.

Dallas public schools boast 60 esports clubs, but rural districts like Merkel and Sabine are making sure their students don’t get left behind. They’re working cooperatively to learn what’s working and what isn’t, how to get buy-in from administrators, where to get resources for

computers and equipment, and how to form leagues while the University Interscholastic League ponders official esports inclusion. Not every school has gamers on staff, fast internet or money for high-powered computers.

“Our rural schools in our area have always said, ‘Hey, we understand that we can’t do this by ourselves, but if we come together, we can get things done,’” said Shawn Schlueter, a

**Esports brought in more than \$1 billion in revenue for the first time in 2021.**

**Now educators at schools are preparing students to take advantage.**

technology consultant who works with educators in 13 counties. “We’re starting to see that where administrators and even interested teachers are calling us and saying, ‘You know, I see that [esports] could be valuable. How do I get going with it?’”

That value extends beyond the classroom. Esports can have profound benefits for students who aren’t interested in traditional sports, extending to them the positive effects of team building, communication and community support that have long been available to athletes.

“I always say that esports programs are primed for the kids who slip through the cracks of schools,” Schlueter said. “Even in a rural school where everybody has to do something, there are groups of



OPPOSITE PAGE The Mavs Gaming Hub in Dallas, site of last year's NBA 2K playoffs. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP The Merkel High School esports marketing class hosts a tournament. University of North Texas students celebrate at a national tournament. Texas Wesleyan University students compete.



**In Texas,** dozens of smaller and lower-profile colleges like McMurry are cashing in by enticing competitors with scholarship money. The University of North Texas and the University of Texas at Dallas field some of the most competitive esports programs in the nation, part of a burgeoning esports hotbed in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, where the \$10 million Esports Stadium Arlington—the largest such venue in North America—has space for 2,500 spectators.

But there are opportunities everywhere for esports professionals like Kyle Murto.

He was preparing for a college soccer career when a string of injuries put him in the hospital, where he cracked open his laptop and climbed the ranks. Pro teams didn't come calling, but Blinn College did. Now Murto helps coach the Brenham-based school's esports team, which competes against Division I giants—and wins.

"Smaller schools don't have that name recognition, so we have to go out and make a name for ourselves before the universities really get into the game," Murto said.

At McMurry, Tarpley is focused on education and personal growth, not wins and losses. He holds workshops for content creation, personal branding and livestreaming and finds graphic design, statistics, broadcasting and other work for students to master.

"Everybody wants to be in this space," he said. "It's going to be everywhere eventually. It's just a matter of time."

Tarpley's team meets regularly with a mental health coach—esports' version of an athletic trainer—and he strives to make sure women are included in an activity that's been dominated by men. He's not forming the next Ryan Conger but the next Jansen Wilhite—multiskilled gamers and leaders who can cultivate programs like Merkel's.

"I had several local schools call me, several local principals that know me. They're like, 'Hey, we hear y'all are doing esports. Can you tell me about it?'" Stevens said. "Of course, my first thing is, to be really successful you have to have a Matt Tarpley." ■

kids that do nothing, and this helps engage those kids."

Principal Stevens has seen it firsthand at Merkel.

"It's attracted a lot of the kids who showed up at 8 and left at 4," he said. "I've seen better participation, better grades, better attendance out of all those students, and it gave them something to be proud of involved with the school."

Some of those students followed Tarpley to McMurry University in Abilene, where he now coaches the esports program.

"They're on track to get a degree all because of esports," Stevens said.

**TCP** Go online to watch the University of North Texas take down LSU in a national playoff game.





**"HACKBERRY SLIM"**  
**"FOGHORN"**



**"BUCK" ★ "MR RODEO"**





# STRETCHING THE BLANKET

Outlandish characters  
and hard-to-believe  
yarns defined the early  
days of Texas rodeo

**RODEO COWBOY** Hackberry Slim Johnson came clean in 1956 when he described the 1906 train-jumping accident near Dalhart that cost him half a leg. “I’ve told so many damned lies about losing that leg,” he told an interviewer. But soon after this brief walk on the straight and narrow path of truth, Johnson reverted to his usual yarn about losing the appendage in a “wreck with a wild horse.”

Even though lies might be too harsh a term for the tall tales whipped up by early rodeo cowboys, Johnson was simply following the Texas tradition of stretching the blanket. Even when characters like him, Buck Steiner, Milt Hinkle and Foghorn Clancy told the truth, the stories still sounded like whoppers.

In its beginnings in the late 19th century, mirroring the recently shuttered American frontier, rodeo presented a vast stage for self-invention. “For decades, rodeo was busy defining itself,” says W.K. Stratton, author of *Chasing the Rodeo* and other books. “The sport was based on the Mexican charreada tradition, which subsequently inspired ‘cowboy contests’ on ranches and in small cattle towns in the West. The advent of Wild West shows and their showbiz elements influenced rodeo as well.

“There was no national sanctioning organization, no set rule-book, so rodeos varied from town to town. People expected to be entertained, and cantankerous old-timers were always a big draw. While elements of showbiz remain, today rodeo is made up of sanctioned athletic contests with standardized events and judging.”

But in its wild and woolly days of old, characters ran the show.

## MR. RODEO

**MILT HINKLE**, aka Mr. Rodeo, first glimpsed daylight in 1881 on the patch of Texas Panhandle that became the town of Bovina, which grew from a camp that was part of the XIT Ranch. In 1904, he claimed, Hinkle became the second man to accomplish the act of bulldogging, first performed by the Black cowboy Bill Pickett and known today as steer wrestling. In another boast, Hinkle bragged that he was the first to apply the term “rodeo” to a roundup event.

In 1919 a *Saturday Evening Post* correspondent wrote about having seen Hinkle suffer a hip injury at a rodeo in Bovina. Three months later, having escaped from the hospital, Hinkle was spotted in Cheyenne, Wyoming, by the same reporter, who described him as “a howling, squawking maniac,” hobbling on crutches as he got ready to bulldog.

*The Laredo Times* credited Hinkle with the world record for bulldogging from an automobile traveling at 68 mph in 1931. That same year, he agreed to stand in for an “aerial bulldogger” in Nuevo Laredo during the annual Washington’s Birthday Celebration. As Mr. Rodeo prepared to leap onto the running bull, however, *el toro* turned and charged the aircraft, wrecking it. The border paper reported that Hinkle was not seriously injured.

Decades later, however, Hinkle repeatedly told scribes that he landed successfully on the bull, breaking its neck, and that he himself suffered a crippling hip displacement. Mr. Rodeo had become a promoter, and before his death at 91, he relived the wild old days, lugging his scrapbooks around to reporters and writing for *True West* and *Frontier Times Magazine*.

## FOGHORN

**ONE YEAR YOUNGER** than Hinkle, famed rodeo announcer Frederick Melton “Foghorn” Clancy tried his hand at bronc riding in an 1898 cowboy tournament in San Angelo. The contest was won by the great Samuel Thomas “Booger Red” Privett, the Erath County native whose legend says he was never thrown, no matter how “outlaw” a horse he drew. And while Foghorn didn’t fare so well in the saddle, the experience opened another career door.

Clancy was working as a hand on the Hittson Ranch in Palo Pinto County when the Spanish-American War broke out. He quit to join the Army but was turned down for being underweight, so he began selling newspapers in the health resort town of Mineral Wells, bellowing headlines to drive sales. Local press observed that he “sounded like a foghorn at sea,” which provided a nickname and a second job as town crier. “I would ride horseback through the little resort,” he wrote in his 1952 autobiography, *My 50 Years in Rodeo*, “singing out about the attractions at the summer opera house or pavilion.”

Clancy’s stentorian reputation had preceded him in San Angelo, and after his unceremonious buck-off, the folks hosting the ropin’ and ridin’ contest offered him a job as announcer. This was a time before public address systems, but Foghorn lived up to his name, announcing rodeos from one-horse Western towns to Madison Square Garden.

Shortly after he died in 1957, the *Hereford Brand* reported on a quest by Fort Worth’s Pioneer Days celebration, held at the historic stockyards, to find the loudest Texan. Clancy would have been a shoo-in, and organizers recalled how, in “the old days of the rodeo, the mighty voice of the late Foghorn Clancy rattled the windows.”

**“I would ride horseback through the little resort singing out about the attractions at the summer opera house or pavilion.”**

**“When I die, I want to go in style. With my boots on. Dancing, maybe, or maybe while riding a buffalo.”**

Dancing, maybe, or maybe while riding a buffalo.”

In 1979, shortly after appearing in the Willie Nelson film *Honeysuckle Rose*, the 91-year-old white-whiskered cowboy danced to Nelson’s band playing *Milk Cow Blues*, then sat back down and slipped into the sunset. ■

## BUCK

**BORN IN BASTROP** in 1899, T.C. “Buck” Steiner lived to see two centuries turn. But long before he died in 2001, the crusty cowpoke had packed several life-times into one.

He started early, leaving grade school to pursue the cowboy life. After driving cattle through the streets of Austin, he left home at age 12 to perform in rodeos and Wild West shows, sharing bills with the likes of Annie Oakley and Tom Mix. Steiner demonstrated proficiency at roping, wrestling and riding spirited stock, but he developed a specialty of riding bulls facing backward. As he recalled in endless press features, riding backward was far more lucrative than riding forward.

Around age 16 he worked for a time at the San Antonio Stockyards. Then at some point, according to the biography of Buck in the Handbook of Texas, a law enforcement career was cut short when he shot at a carload of politicians while working traffic management during a parade. While trailing cattle from Mexico to San Antonio, Steiner reportedly downed a few drinks with Pancho Villa. Later, it’s said, he bent elbows with Al Capone.

Back home in Austin, where a German immigrant ancestor had owned the town’s first harness and saddlery shop, Steiner bought and sold land, operated his own touring rodeos, rented his stock to other rodeos, and opened Capitol Saddlery in 1930. News reports say that he had as many as 96 saddle makers working for him and supplied Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck and Company. In a 1950s rodeo tour of Cuba with Gene Autry, Autry and Steiner got caught up amid Fidel Castro’s revolution. An emergency call to Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson saved their bacon.

The Steiners have been called the royal family of rodeo. Son Tommy Steiner ran the rodeo business until closing it in 1984, and grandson Bobby Steiner won the bull riding world championship in 1973. Buck’s great-grandson, Sid Steiner, won the steer wrestling world championship in 2002.

## HACKBERRY SLIM

**TOWARD THE END** of his long life, Hugh “Hackberry Slim” Johnson II carried his scrapbooks around to newspaper offices in towns where he’d rodeoed in days gone by. Time and again the “only one-legged bronc buster, bulldogger, steer rider and calf roper” in rodeo told the story of his first prosthetic leg, made from a hackberry tree. He talked about working on the XIT and rodeoing with Hoot Gibson and Will Rogers, about the time he drove a bull through a Georgetown furniture store and about winning all-around cowboy in Harlingen in 1933.

He often talked about bison. Hackberry bought his first bison, named Chihuahua, in 1923 and was still producing his “buffalo rodeos” in his 80s. “When I die, I want to go in style,” he often said. “With my boots on.







# THE FIFTH C? Cut, Color, Carat, Clarity... Chemistry?

Is it possible that the mind of a scientist can create beauty and romance better than Mother Nature? The Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, DiamondAura®, was created with one mission in mind: To create brilliant cut jewelry that allows everyone to experience more clarity, more scintillation and larger carat weights than they have ever experienced. We've taken 4.5 total carats of our diamond alternative and set them in a three-stone drop necklace—the result is our most stunning, fiery, faceted design yet! In purely scientific measurement terms, the refractory index of these stones is very high, and the color dispersion is actually superior to mined diamonds.

**Perfection from science.** We named our brilliant cut alternative stones DiamondAura® because “they dazzle just like natural diamonds but without the outrageous cost.” We won't bore you with the incredible details of our scientific process—we'll only say that it involves the use of rare minerals heated to a temperature nearly as high as 5,000°F. This process can only be accomplished through the use of

very modern and expensive laboratory equipment. The result of this process is a clear marvel that looks better than the vast majority of mined diamonds. Don't believe us? The book *“Jewelry and Gems – The Buying Guide”* praised the technique used in our diamond alternative. “The best diamond simulation to date, and even some jewelers have mistaken these stones for mined diamonds,” it raved.

**The 5 C's.** Our *3-Stone Classique Necklace* retains every jeweler's specification: color, clarity, cut and carat weight. The fifth C? We're throwing the chemistry in for free. The transparent color and clarity of our diamond alternative DiamondAura® emulates the most perfect diamonds—D Flawless: Both are so hard they will cut glass. The brilliant cut maximizes the fire and radiance of the stone, dispersing the light in an exquisite rainbow of colors.

**Rock solid guarantee.** This .925 sterling silver necklace features three brilliant, prong-set DiamondAura® rounds with a total carat weight of 4.5. Try the DiamondAura® *3-Stone Classique Necklace* at \$39 for 30 days. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your purchase, simply return it to us for a full refund of the item purchase price.

#### Jewelry Specifications:

- 4.5 ctw of the Ultimate Diamond Alternative® DiamondAura®
- .925 sterling silver setting

#### DiamondAura® 3-Stone Classique Necklace

~~-\$299~~ \$39\* + S&P **Save \$260**

*\*Special price only for customers using the offer code below.*

## 1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: DAN153-01

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DAN153-01,  
Burnsville, MN 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

Stauer®  
Impossible Price  
ONLY  
**\$39**

COMPARE THE BRILLIANCE, FIRE & PRICE		
	Mined Flawless Diamond	<b>DiamondAura Necklace</b>
Hardness	Cuts Glass	<b>Cuts Glass</b>
Cut (58 facets)	Brilliant	<b>Brilliant</b>
Color	“D” Colorless	<b>“D” Colorless</b>
Clarity	“IF”	<b>Clear</b>
Dispersion/Fire	0.044	<b>0.066</b>
4 ½ ctw Necklace	\$4,000+	<b>\$39</b>



You could spend over \$4,000 for a similarly designed necklace and with LESS “fire” than our DiamondAura®

Necklace enlarged to show brilliant detail.



# ★ ★ ★ PRESIDENTS' DAY ★ ★ ★ Window Special!



Presidents' Day Special ENDS  
Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Buy 1 window or door,  
get 1 window or door  
**40% OFF<sup>1</sup>**

PLUS

★ Take an additional ★  
★ **\$200 OFF** ★  
★ your project<sup>1</sup> ★

PLUS

**NO NO NO**  
Money Down Payments Interest  
**FOR 1 YEAR<sup>2</sup>**

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, and every window that we custom-build has to live up to their strict quality standards
- Our window helps make homes more comfortable because our Fibrex<sup>®</sup> material is **two times stronger than vinyl**
- To lock in this Presidents' Day Special, call on or before **Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** and schedule your free Window and Door Diagnosis



Call to schedule your appointment. Limited appointments are available.



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

Austin

**512-298-1858 • 210-961-9990**

San Antonio

Dallas/Fort Worth

**469-606-5229 • TopWindowSolution.com**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. Special Presidents' Day \$200 discount valid during first appointment only. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 2/28/22, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

## Cooperation Powers You

**WHEN YOUR POWER** goes out, your first response is probably to alert Houston County Electric Cooperative. After all, Houston County EC is the name that appears on your electric bill. We deliver power to your home, and when there's an issue with that power, it's typically our employees who are tasked with getting your lights back on.

But that's just a small part of the vast infrastructure required to light up your home. Your local co-op builds and maintains the lines and equipment that deliver power, but we don't generate electricity. That's the job of our generation and transmission cooperative.

G&T cooperatives are wholesale power suppliers owned and governed by electric distribution co-ops, like Houston County EC. They produce electricity directly or buy it in bulk from other companies, then dispatch that electricity over high-voltage transmission lines to local distribution cooperatives.

Our G&T is East Texas Electric Cooperative, which generates its own electricity and purchases power from other providers. East Texas EC's energy mix includes coal, natural gas and renewables, including hydroelectric and wind power.

Just as you are a member of Houston County EC, Houston County EC is a member of East Texas EC. In all, East Texas EC's eight member co-ops serve hundreds of thousands of consumer-members like you across 46 counties.

By joining forces with other distribution cooperatives through the G&T, we reduce our individual costs. East Texas EC's diverse energy mix

combined with the long-term nature of our power purchase agreements help maintain reliability and price stability.

That said, we can't control every aspect of our power costs. Fuel supply fluctuations, extreme weather and unexpected events can cause the cost of power to escalate.

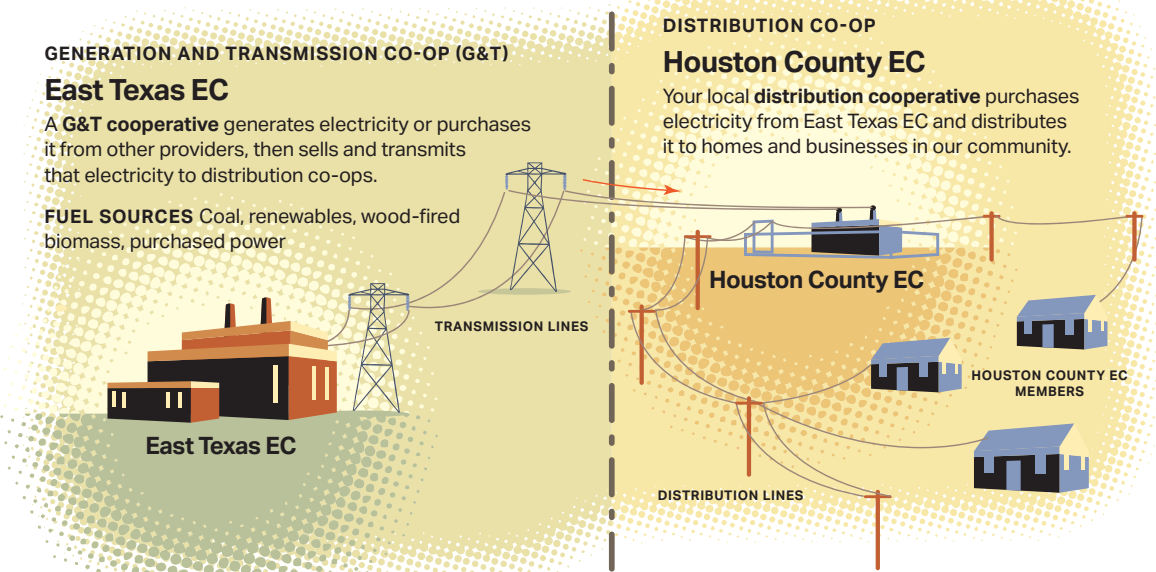
When power costs increase, East Texas EC passes those costs along to its member co-ops. Houston County EC covers those costs through a component on your bill that adjusts to reflect changes in the price of electricity. We collect only the amount needed to cover the power costs, and if the market cost of power drops, so does your bill.

Houston County EC doesn't mark up the cost of power to turn a profit—nor does East Texas EC. Rather, any revenue we receive in excess of our expenses is called margins. As member-owned electric cooperatives, we allocate those margins each year to you—the members—as capital credits and eventually return that money to you when it becomes financially feasible.

The capital credits that East Texas EC allocates to Houston County EC flow through to you as well—because you share in the ownership of the G&T.

Capital credits are an integral part of Members' Economic Participation, one of the seven principles that guide all co-ops and allow us to deliver on the promise of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

People—not profits—that's the co-op way. ■







## Solar Farm Begins Production

**THE FIRST SOLAR** array in Houston County Electric Cooperative’s service territory came online in December. The new addition, built and owned by Hecate Energy, is a 7-acre, 1-megawatt solar field. Houston County EC leased the land adjacent to the Mustang Prairie substation to Hecate Energy for its solar array. In an agreement with Hecate Energy, Houston County EC will procure energy from the Mustang Prairie project.

Last month, General Manager Kathi Calvert discussed beneficial electrification and the alignment it has with the values of Houston County EC. “Beneficial electrification is providing cheaper, greener energy while enhancing resiliency and reliability to improve your quality of life,” she said, and our partnership with Hecate Energy will help us achieve that. ■

## Houston County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

P.O. Box 52  
Crockett, TX 75835  
**Local** (936) 544-5641  
**Toll-Free** 1-800-657-2445  
**Web** [houstoncountyelec.com](http://houstoncountyelec.com)

### General Manager

Kathi Calvert

### Board of Directors

Dan Courmier, President  
Kennon Kellum, Vice President  
Mitchell Huff, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mary L. Pearl Adams  
William Emmons  
Larry Nelms  
Charles “Chuck” Siems  
Grady Wakefield  
David Whittlesey

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline Number

For information and to report outages, please call us.

**TOLL-FREE**  
1-800-970-4232

### ABOUT HOUSTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 5,100 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 15,000 members in Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Freestone, Houston, Leon, Madison, Trinity and Walker counties.

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### MEMBER SERVICE

For general information during business hours: (936) 544-5641 local, 1-800-657-2445 toll-free  
To report an outage, press 1.  
To update your contact information, press 2.  
To check your account balance or make a payment using the automated system, press 3.  
To speak to a member services representative regarding your account, press 4.  
Para hablar con un representante de habla español, presione 5.  
To connect, disconnect or transfer service, press 6.  
To report outdoor lighting issues or other nonemergencies regarding your electric service, press 7.

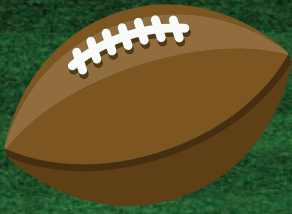
### VISIT US ONLINE

[houstoncountyelec.com](http://houstoncountyelec.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/houston](http://TexasCoopPower.com/houston)





# Super Bowl Energy Savings



Here are **3** easy ways to save if you're hosting a Super Bowl party.

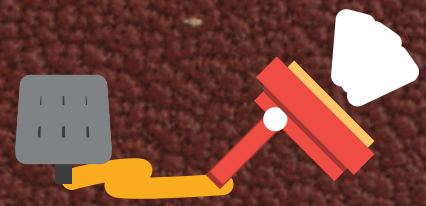


**Before guests arrive, lower the thermostat.**

(extra people = additional warmth indoors)



**Cook with smaller countertop appliances to save energy.**



**Taking the party outdoors? Use solar lights (free energy!) to enhance the ambiance.**



**Have fun watching Super Bowl LVI.**  
(and the commercials!)





# Super Easy Super Bowl Recipes:

recipes from [www.texascooppower.com/food](http://www.texascooppower.com/food)



## Barbecued Sausage

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1 cup ketchup
- ½ tablespoons hot pepper sauce
- ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ⅓ cup vinegar
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 can (12 ounces) beer
- 1 lemon, chopped
- 1 sausage link

1. Simmer butter and onion in ⅓ cup water in a medium saucepan until onion is tender. Add remaining ingredients except sausage to onion mixture and cook, uncovered, until thickened.

2. Cut sausage into about 24 bite-size pieces. Transfer sauce to a slow cooker and add sausage. Cook until sausage is heated through.

**Serves 24**

## Everything But the Kitchen Sink Cheeseball

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimientos, undrained (optional)
- 2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
- ½ cup chopped cooked bacon (about 4 slices) or bacon bits, divided use
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans, divided use
- Dash of salt
- Dash of pepper

- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
- 2 cups shredded colby or American cheese
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley (optional)
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- Assorted crackers, to serve

1. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sour cream until fluffy. Add onion, undrained pimientos, pickle relish, ¼ cup bacon, ¼ cup pecans, salt and pepper and stir to incorporate. Stir in cheeses and mix well.

2. Cover cheese mixture with foil or plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator until firm, about 4 hours.

3. In a small bowl, combine the remaining bacon and pecans, parsley, and poppy seeds. Turn cheese mixture onto waxed paper and form into a ball. Roll the chilled cheeseball into the bacon mixture to coat, pressing gently to adhere it to the cheese.

4. Wrap the completed ball in waxed paper, then in plastic wrap or foil. Chill until ready to serve.

**Serves 16**

## Zesty Sausage Dip

- 1 roll (16 ounces) Jimmy Dean hot sausage
- 4 tubs (16 ounces each) cream cheese
- 3 cans (10 ounces each) Rotel tomatoes and peppers (mild or spicy)

1. Brown sausage, drain grease and return sausage to pan.

2. Mix in cream cheese and Rotel until melted and smooth.

**Serves 24**

## Cajun Pinwheels

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- Dash salt and pepper
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup black olives
- ¼ cup green olives
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 1 pound cooked salad shrimp, deveined and chopped
- 7 flour tortillas, at room temperature

1. Combine cream cheese, spices, olives, onion, cheese and shrimp in a small bowl. Stir well. Spread over each tortilla, then roll tightly.

2. Cover rolled tortillas with plastic wrap and chill in refrigerator at least 2 hours. Slice rolls ½-inch thick and layer onto platter.

**Serves 4-6**

## Dr Pepper Pulled Pork Sandwiches

- 3-4 pounds pork loin
- Pork seasonings (seasoned salt, pepper, garlic powder, mustard powder and/or cayenne pepper)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 sweet onions, sliced thinly
- ¾ cup barbecue sauce
- 12-20 ounces Dr Pepper

1. Coat a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray or brush with oil.

2. Season the pork loin generously (this can also be done the night before), coat with garlic and place it in the slow cooker.

3. Top the pork with onion slices and barbecue sauce, then pour in enough Dr Pepper to cover.

4. Cook on low heat about 8 hours or on high 4 hours.

5. Shred the meat with two forks, allowing the mixture to soak up the sauce. Serve on slider buns with extra sauce, sliced onions and pickles.

**Serves 24**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Super Bowl Sunday is the second-biggest eating day of the year for Americans behind Thanksgiving, according to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. In 2020 the National Chicken Council projected that Americans would eat a record-breaking 1.4 billion chicken wings over Super Bowl weekend.



FCFAFOTODIGITAL | ISTOCK.COM

## Have a Plan for Potential Power Outages

**WINTER CAN BRING** beautiful days for brisk walks and snow angels. Winter's fury can also produce icy roads, subfreezing wind chills and power outages.

Unfortunately, heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down on power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

Planning can make riding out a prolonged power outage much safer and a little more comfortable. How long it takes for your power to be restored depends on several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages in your area and when it becomes safe for co-op personnel to get to the affected areas.

Take steps to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm long before one is forecast. A good way to start is to put an emergency kit together. **Houston County Electric Cooperative suggests starting with these items.**

**Water:** Stock up on bottled water for consumption. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends storing at least 1 gallon per person per day.

**Food:** Have enough food, including nonperishable packaged or canned foods, juices, special foods for infants or the elderly, and snack foods, for three to seven days.

**Utensils:** Be sure you have a manual can opener, paper plates and plastic utensils.

**Layers and added warmth:** Gather blankets, pillows and warm clothing.

**Medicine and other items:** Include a first-aid kit, common

over-the-counter drugs, prescriptions and any essential medical equipment.

**A phone charger:** Keep a fully charged power pack on hand. Also gather:

- ▶ Toiletries, hygiene items and moist towelettes.
- ▶ A flashlight and extra batteries.
- ▶ A battery-operated radio or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio.
- ▶ A list of emergency phone numbers.
- ▶ Toys, books and games.
- ▶ Pet food and other pet care items.
- ▶ Supplies for alternate heating methods, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

**Make sure your heating system is in proper working order and observe these safety tips:**

- ▶ Never use a portable generator indoors, in a garage, or anywhere near windows or doors because they emit deadly carbon monoxide.
- ▶ Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can create deadly backfeeding, which occurs when electricity travels from the generator through the power lines.
- ▶ Monitor the temperature in your home. Infants and older people are more susceptible to the cold.
- ▶ Avoid going outside. Downed power lines could be hidden in snow and ice, making them difficult to identify. Assume all downed and hanging lines are energized and deadly. ■



# Improper Generator Use Can Be Deadly

**DURING LONG-TERM** power outages, many people rely on portable generators for emergency power. Their growing popularity has resulted in millions of generators being used as a backup power source for homes and small businesses. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly.

Follow this guidance for permanent and portable generators from Safe Electricity to help keep yourself and those around you safe.

## Permanent Standby Generators

All standby generators require a permanent transfer switch, which must be installed by a professional electrician.

The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and utility repair crews from backfeeding, which occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity back through power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

## Portable Generators

Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground generators.

Never operate generators in a home, garage or other enclosed building. Place them in a dry, outdoor location well away from doors and windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Never plug portable electric generators into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring. This can energize power lines and injure you or others working nearby.

Turn off generators and allow them to cool before refueling.

Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating generators. Once a generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances.

Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by it. ■



JJ GOVIN | ISTOCK.COM



DOBLE-D | ISTOCK.COM

## Practice Whole-Family Fire Drills

**AN AMERICAN RED CROSS** survey found that most people think they have more time to flee a house fire than they actually do. They believed they have at least five minutes to get out of the house before it's too late. In reality, you may have two minutes or less.

The survey also found that fewer than half of parents have talked to their children about fire safety, and most haven't mapped out an escape route for their families to take during a fire or chosen a safe place for everyone to meet outside.

### Improve your family's chances of surviving a fire by:

**Installing smoke alarms** on every floor of the house and outside of bedrooms. Change the batteries at least once a year.

**Choosing an escape route** that allows everyone in the family to get out of the house within two minutes. Occasionally practice following the route as part of a fire drill. ■

## Hey, foodies!

Chet here! Join me at the all-new **TexasCoopPower.com** to learn about tasty Texas eats.



# Courthouse Proceedings

Mason County rallies to rebuild courthouse gutted by nighttime blaze

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS • ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE DALTON COWAN

**MOST NIGHTS PASS QUIETLY** in Mason, a Hill Country community of about 2,300 residents. So when sirens wailed after 10 p.m. last February 4, Misty Martin texted a friend and learned a house had caught fire. Then more sirens blared. Curious, Martin stepped outside in her pajamas. What she saw from her front yard made her gasp.

“Flames were coming out of our courthouse,” she recalls. In a flash Martin jumped into her car and picked up her friend. On the square the women joined other distressed onlookers, many dressed in pajamas and robes, as massive flames engulfed their historic courthouse.

“We knew that county records and some furnishings had been moved out around Christmas for renovations,” says Martin, a fourth-generation Mason native. “We wondered if maybe it was an electrical fire.”

Within minutes the roof and its octagonal dome with a bell and four clock faces collapsed. Firefighters from nearby communities also responded to the scene, but the inferno was too intense. Once the smoke cleared, only the building’s charred outer sandstone walls, concrete second floor, concrete columns and seven chimneys remained.

Heartbroken but resilient, residents that night vowed they’d rebuild their grand centerpiece. Built in 1909, the Classical Revival-style edifice designed by architect Edward C. Hosford was the third Mason County courthouse (fire destroyed the first one in 1877).

For generations it housed the comings and goings of residents. Within its walls, attorneys argued court cases, couples signed marriage licenses (and divorce decrees), parents celebrated adoptions and properties exchanged hands. Children played on its grassy lawn beneath towering pecan trees, and families lined up along the low stone fence that encircles the courthouse to watch parades pass.

“The county originally paid nearly \$40,000 to build our courthouse,” says Jerry Bearden, the Mason County judge of nearly two decades and a Central Texas Electric Cooperative member. “We’re looking at a projected \$21 million to rebuild it.”

More than half that amount had been earmarked by June. As part of its Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, the Texas Historical Commission in 2020 awarded Mason County a \$4.1 million restoration grant, Bearden says. Some funds

had already gone toward architectural work, leaving \$3.7 million for rebuilding. Additionally, the Texas Legislature allocated \$6 million for the courthouse, and insurance money from the Texas Association of Counties could contribute up to \$12.7 million. For its part, Mason County will be responsible for more than \$3.3 million.

Providing those funds is the mission of Friends of the Courthouse, a nonprofit founded in April 2021. Contributions may be made via the group’s website and three local banks. This spring the organization will host a benefit concert and live auction on the courthouse square.

“Raising enough money will be a marathon, not a sprint,” says Curtis Donaldson, board vice president and vice president of lending and business development at the Commercial Bank. “We’ll also be applying for private grants and hosting more fundraisers.”

Structural engineers examined the courthouse’s surviving walls and second-level floor soon after the fire. Their analysis found the century-old bones to be structurally sound for use in rebuilding. From there, demolition crews cleaned up debris and hauled off hazardous materials. CPM Texas, which oversaw the 1990s restoration of the Texas Capitol, was hired to manage the reconstruction project.

“We’re hoping to have construction complete by March 2023,” says Bearden, who’s been officing with county staff in a nearby annex. “It’s real hard to understand why this happened to our courthouse.”

What happened was a suspected arsonist allegedly first set fire to a family member’s house that night. Then he allegedly broke into the courthouse through the north doors, and on the second floor, it’s believed he poured gasoline in the courtroom and offices of the district judge and adult probation officer. Nicholas Miller of Mason was caught the next day after a chase south of Waco. Felony charges against him include two for arson.

Meanwhile, townspeople in Mason held fundraisers to help the family rebuild their burned home.

“We take care of each other here in Mason,” Martin says. “They’re a good family, and it’s not their fault. It still hurts that we lost our courthouse. She was the heart of our town. But really, it’s the people who are the true heart. We will rebuild and move on.” ■







# JUST RELEASED!

LOW AS  
**\$36.50**  
each



Actual size is 40.6 mm

## World's Most Popular Silver Coin Demand for Silver Is Strong. Get Your 2022 Silver Eagles!

### The Most Important Coin in the Modern Era

When President Ronald Reagan signed the Liberty Coin Act into law, he didn't know American Eagles would have the impact they've had, year after year. The coins were so popular that between 1986 and 2021, over 561 million were struck. That's more than HALF A BILLION coins, easily making Silver Eagles the most widely-collected, best-selling bullion coins in the world.

Each year, millions of collectors and silver stackers around the world secure freshly struck American Eagle Silver Dollars. Minted in one Troy ounce of 99.9% pure U.S. silver, these legal-tender coins are hugely popular now, but may soon become even more popular! Keep reading to find out why.

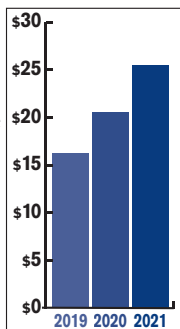
### Higher Values + Slowed Production = DEMAND!

Over the last three years, average monthly values of silver bullion have increased nearly 57%! At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the U.S. Mint slowing production of freshly struck Silver Eagles and using branch mints to help increase supply, but only in limited quantities.

### What This Means for You

Silver values are up, and silver is in high demand in the marketplace. In addition, many experts believe that the price of silver could continue to increase in the next 12 to 24 months. And while no one can accurately predict the future, there are two questions you should be asking yourself right now:

- 1) Do I own enough physical silver?
- 2) Which silver coins are right for me?



Silver Trend Chart:  
Price per ounce based on yearly averages.

### Guaranteed By the U.S. Government

These 2022 Silver Eagles have just been released by the U.S. Mint. They are guaranteed for weight and fineness by the U.S. government. They're the world's most liquid and secure one-ounce silver coins. They're also recognized around the world, making them easier to sell when the time is right if you make that decision in the future. Silver Eagles are the safest way to buy silver—period!

### Don't Wait —

### NOW Is the Time to Buy!

Last year, when the new design first became available, demand was high, and many paid a premium for Silver Eagles. Call now to lock in our low prices, and your 2022 U.S. Silver Dollars will ship directly to your door. Don't pay more for the 99.9% fine silver you want for you and your family. The more you buy, the more you save, plus receive a FREE U.S. Mint Tube when you buy 20 or more.



### 2022 American Eagle Silver Dollar

1-3 Coins-	\$37.95 ea. + s/h
4-9 Coins-	\$37.50 ea. + <b>FREE SHIPPING</b>
10-19 Coins-	\$37.25 ea. + <b>FREE SHIPPING</b>
20-49 Coins-	\$36.95 ea. + <b>FREE SHIPPING</b>
50+ Coins-	\$36.50 ea. + <b>FREE SHIPPING</b>

### FREE SHIPPING on 4 or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

Call today toll-free for fastest service

# 1-888-201-7639

**Offer Code SRE194-01**

Please mention this code when you call.

Prices subject to change due to market fluctuations. Call NOW for the best price!

**SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. SRE194-01, Eagan, MN 55121

GovMint.com\* 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. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. 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 GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



# WINTER SAVINGS



## Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service  
Second to None

**DDM Brenham Office**  
979-251-9503

301 Salem Road • Brenham

**DDM Bastrop Office**  
512-321-0336

1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

\*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



40'x15'x12'



Made in Texas



30'x40'x12'



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses  
Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient

**Call today for our best pricing!**

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

Is your CD about to

roll over  
and  
play dead



**PROBLEM**

CD rates + .60%  
Tax rate - .15%  
(at 25% bracket)

**Net Yield + 0.45%**

**SOLUTION**

3.00% for 5 years  
2.35% for 3 years

Talk with Layton Financial about a potentially better choice than CDs for part of your retirement savings.

Greg Layton | 281-335-8300  
Glayton2010@gmail.com

**ARK-LA-TEX**  
SHOP BUILDERS  
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"  
SHOPS • BARN • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM  
**830-730-0515**  
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



**BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES**

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

**WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric stub. \*(Dirt may be extra)

**Low Cost Pole Barns**  
26' x 48' x 10'  
3 Sides Enclosed  
**Call now for our best pricing!**  
Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites  
**Call Ron: 512-367-0428**

**WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES**

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap  
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps  
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles  
**TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX**  
All transactions private, confidential & secure.

**830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.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**

**TCP Marketplace**  
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace  
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251  
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

NEW

# RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid

**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**  
**Only \$299<sup>99</sup>**  
LIMITED TIME ONLY!

## How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$299<sup>99</sup>

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

The <sup>®</sup> **VOLT** uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 600,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, FDA-registered rechargeable hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. MDHearingAid 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. Now that you know... why pay more?

### 45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

**1-800-829-1681**



*"This is truly a miracle... I don't even know how to begin thanking you for giving me my life back!"*

– Sherri H., Granville, NY

**CHARGE AT NIGHT AND GO ALL DAY**

Never Change a Battery Again!



Charging Case



**Limited-Time  
FREE BONUS OFFER**  
– \$150 Value –



MDHearingAid<sup>®</sup> >>>

**SQ40**





Queen Elizabeth II walks with Gov. Ann Richards.

**TCP** Listen to W.F. Strong read this story on our website.



# Her Majesty's Visit

Queen Elizabeth II's 1991 trip to Texas was a momentous occasion

BY W.F. STRONG AND LUPITA STRONG

**DURING HER 70-YEAR** reign, Queen Elizabeth II has witnessed many of the world's pivotal events, and one honorable mention where she became the event is her 1991 two-day visit to the Lone Star State.

Elizabeth was the first British monarch to visit Texas, and Texans gave her an impressive tip of the Stetson. She loved it. She asked her U.S. chief of protocol, "Why didn't I come here sooner?"

Texas has long had a special relationship with Great Britain, one of the first nations to recognize the Republic of Texas. Texans even flirted with the notion of becoming part of the British Empire in the 1840s, but the U.S. had other plans.

Five years before the queen was here, her majesty's son, Charles, the Prince of Wales, came to Texas to help celebrate

the Texas sesquicentennial. He cut into the 45-ton world's largest birthday cake with a 3-foot sword. I mean, it was Texas; what else was he supposed to use?

At the Capitol, the prince was given a giant gavel. He laughed and said that it was the biggest he had ever had and "extremely appropriate coming from Texas." While touring San Jacinto later that week—it was February but warm—he remarked, "If it's this hot in the winter, I'd like to see what it's like in the summer."

Texas has had 14 kings, but it was a queen who was most celebrated by Texans. In May 1991, Elizabeth visited Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston with an itinerary that included visits to the River Walk, the Alamo, NASA and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in

Houston. She even took a ride on the San Antonio River on a beautifully decorated barge.

When Elizabeth arrived at Dallas' Love Field, she was greeted with strains of *The Yellow Rose of Texas*. The words to *God Save the Queen*, the British national anthem, were recited before the playing of the song so that the mostly Texan audience wouldn't sing *My Country 'Tis of Thee* to the familiar tune.

While in Dallas, she knighted Cecil Howard Green, an honorary title for the British-born founder of Texas Instruments and co-founder of the University of Texas campus there.

Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh, accompanied Elizabeth on the visit, part of their 13-day trip to the United States. Sitting next to him at the dinner commemorating the 150th anniversary of Dallas' founding was Louise Caldwell, president of the Dallas Historical Society. She remarked, "It was very hard to find anything that he didn't know more about than me, including Texas history."

The queen recounted the story in which a man tells his son: "Never ask a man where he's from. If he's from Texas, he'll tell you. Otherwise no use embarrassing him by asking."

At the Capitol, Gov. Ann Richards hosted the queen, and 8,000 people gathered to catch a glimpse. The queen declared, "No state commands such fierce pride and loyalty. Lesser mortals are pitied for their misfortune in not being born Texans." And she, the most traveled monarch in the world, knows what she's talking about. ■

# Pasta

This most flexible staple anchors a variety of dishes and flavors

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Pasta has been a staple in our home for as long as I can remember. And why not? It's economical, filling and can be made into so many different dishes. Whether you have hungry kids in the house or just need something hearty on a cold night, there are plenty of options. This Pesto-Baked Penne is perfect for transforming leftover chicken and pesto into something new. You can easily make this recipe vegetarian by swapping in mushrooms or roasted winter squash for the chicken.

## Pesto-Baked Penne

**16 ounces penne pasta**  
**1 tablespoon olive oil**  
**1 cup ricotta cheese**  
**1/3 cup pesto**  
**2 tablespoons heavy cream or half-and-half**  
**1/4 cup chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes**  
**2 cups diced chicken**  
**1/2 cup shredded mozzarella**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and coat a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish with cooking spray. Cook penne just to al dente, according to package directions. Reserve 1/4 cup pasta water, drain and transfer to a large bowl. Toss pasta with olive oil and set aside.
2. In another bowl, stir together ricotta, pesto and cream until blended. Add reserved pasta water to thin, if desired. Pour sauce over pasta and stir well to coat. Stir in the tomatoes and chicken, then transfer to prepared dish. Sprinkle mozzarella on evenly.
3. Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 5–10 minutes, until cheese on top is melted, if preferred.

SERVES 8

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Roasted Butternut Squash Lasagna.







## Gleason Family Goulash

SAMANTHA GLEASON  
BANDERA EC

This recipe is a great option for a make-ahead meal, as the flavors are even better the next day. In a clever trick, Gleason adds baking soda to help reduce the acidity from the tomatoes.

- 2 cups uncooked pasta (rotini, elbow or bow tie)**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic**
- 1 pound ground beef or turkey**
- 1 pound yellow squash or zucchini, diced**
- ½ sweet onion, chopped**
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano**
- 1 teaspoon dried sweet basil**
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning**
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ½ teaspoon pepper**
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) fire-roasted diced tomatoes, undrained**
- ¾ cup ketchup**
- 1 tablespoon sun-dried tomato paste**
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce**
- ½ cup water or beef broth**
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**
- ½ teaspoon baking soda**
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar**

1. Cook pasta in lightly salted water according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan or deep-sided skillet over medium heat, add olive oil and garlic and cook 2 minutes, stirring to prevent burning. Add ground beef and cook 5 minutes, then add squash and onion. Continue to cook until beef is browned, stirring as needed.

CONTINUED >

\$500 WINNER

## Seafood Manicotti Alfredo

ANECIA HERO  
COSERV



This seafood manicotti feels fancy but is easy enough to put together on a weeknight. It's important to not overcook the pasta and handle it gently so it doesn't tear, so consider cooking a few extra shells just in case.

SERVES 4



PASTA

- 8 manicotti shells**
- 8 ounces cooked shrimp, tails removed, diced**
- 4 ounces cooked crabmeat, flaked**
- 1 egg, lightly beaten**
- 1 cup ricotta cheese**
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese**
- ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning**
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder**

SAUCE

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter**
- 1 cup heavy cream**
- 1¼ cups shredded Parmesan cheese**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

1. **PASTA** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray and set aside. Cook pasta in lightly salted boiling water for 7 minutes. Drain and transfer to a lightly greased baking sheet to cool.

2. In a large bowl, combine shrimp, crab, egg, ricotta, Parmesan, mozzarella, lemon juice, Creole seasoning and garlic powder. Stir until uniformly combined, then transfer to a piping bag or large zip-close bag. Cut off the bag tip and carefully pipe filling into cooked shells; fill one end of the shell, then the other. Transfer shells to prepared baking dish.

3. **SAUCE** In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, melt butter. Add heavy cream and Parmesan and cook, whisking often, until cheese is melted and sauce is thickened and smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

4. Pour half of the sauce over the pasta, reserving the remaining sauce for serving. Cover dish with foil and bake 20 minutes. Serve with additional warmed sauce on top.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

STONE FRUITS DUE FEBRUARY 10

How do you turn peaches, plums, cherries and apricots into the stars of your kitchen? Submit your recipes online by February 10 for a chance to win \$500.



RECIPES CONTINUED

3. Stir in oregano, basil, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, salt and pepper, then stir in diced tomatoes with their juices, ketchup and tomato paste.
4. In a small bowl, whisk together tomato sauce, water, Worcestershire sauce and baking soda. Slowly add the mixture to the pan, stirring until foaming stops. Cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Add cooked pasta and balsamic vinegar and stir well. Cover again and simmer another 10–15 minutes.

SERVES 8

### Meaty Mexican Mac and Cheese

CHUCK BURGESS  
HEART OF TEXAS EC

Perfect for those who love their mac and cheese fully loaded, Burgess' "3MC" gets its kick from a medley of favorite taco flavors. Make it as mild or as spicy as you like, with hot sauce and tortilla chips served on the side.



- 2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil
- 1½ pounds lean ground beef
- 1 pound ground pork sausage
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 can (10 ounces) Ro-Tel tomatoes, mild (or to taste)
- ½ cup salsa, mild (or to taste)
- 1 can (4 ounces) diced green chiles, mild (or to taste)
- 1 pound uncooked macaroni pasta
- 1 pound Queso Blanco Velveeta
- 10 ounces queso fresco, crumbled

- 1 cup Mexican crema or heavy cream
- Pepper jack cheese, shredded

1. In a large pot with a lid over medium-high heat, heat oil, then add meats and onion. Cover and cook until meat is browned, stirring occasionally. Add salt, chili powder, tomatoes, salsa and chiles. Stir well and cook 10–15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Meanwhile, cook pasta to al dente according to package directions. Drain and return to original cooking pot; set aside.
3. In a microwave-safe bowl, add Velveeta, queso fresco and cream and microwave 3 minutes. Stir well and continue to cook in the microwave in 30-second increments, stirring after each time, until melted and smooth. (Or combine ingredients in a saucepan and melt over medium heat.)
4. Stir cheese sauce into macaroni to coat, then pour pasta into the meat mixture. Heat on low 5 minutes or until heated through, stirring to blend well. Serve with pepper jack cheese on top.

SERVES 8–10

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

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

**BLAKE MATTON, 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.

**WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS**  
**WHERE TEXAS BECAME TEXAS** **TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**  
**FEBRUARY 26-27**

**BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS**  
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY  
★ CELEBRATING 17 YEARS ★

**CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.**  
Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 17 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.

**888-825-2362** [www.bestbuywalkintubs.com](http://www.bestbuywalkintubs.com)

**TCP E-news**  
**Sign up now**  
[TexasCoopPower.com/join](http://TexasCoopPower.com/join)



# Field Dress For Success

The hunt for the perfect outdoorsman knife is over. There's only one tool you need: the Whitetail™ Hunting Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

The consummate outdoorsman never goes on deep woods hunting trips without the essentials. Not just the basics for every hunting trip, but the items he's come to depend on over the years.

Our new **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that's perfect for skinning. With the Whitetail at hand, you'll be ready for field dressing in only seconds, and you'll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. According to Gear Patrol, a full tang blade is key, saying "A full tang lends structural strength to the knife, allowing for better leverage ...think one long steel beam versus two."

The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood. If hunting is your life, then the Whitetail™ Knife was designed to make your life easier.

With our limited edition **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers. What you won't get is the trumped up price tag. We know a thing or two about the hunt—like how to seek out and capture an outstanding, collector's-quality knife that won't cut into your bank account.

This knife can be yours to use out in the field or to display as the art piece it truly is. But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

## Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.

Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the craftsmanship. 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. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the **Whitetail's** handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

**Whitetail™ Hunting Knife \$79\***

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P Save **\$30**

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Insider Offer Code: **WHK326-02**

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

**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. WHK326-02  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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



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



Not shown actual size.



## What customers are saying about Stauer knives...

★★★★★

"Good value. Great looking. Sufficiently sharp. Overall an "A" purchase and I ordered three."

— B. of Maryland



- 5 ½" 420HC stainless steel blade • Full-tang design with gut hook • Pakkawood handle with brass pins • Bonus heavy duty nylon sheath

*Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.*



COURTESY CHET GARNER

## A Glimpse of Buddy Holly

Lubbock museum honors native son's enduring musical legacy

BY CHET GARNER

I REMEMBER THE first time I heard Buddy Holly. My older brother bought the soundtrack from the film *Stand by Me*, and for weeks the song *Everyday* was stuck in my head. Soon I discovered *Peggy Sue*, *Rave On* and other classic hits. My feet have been tapping ever since.

It wasn't until decades later that I learned Holly was born and raised in Lubbock and that the world's best Buddy Holly museum sits in the heart of the Hub City.

The first thing I noticed as I turned off Crickets Avenue was a larger-than-life set of Holly's signature black-rimmed glasses. Holly once considered wearing contact lenses to help his rock star image, but contacts hurt his eyes and he needed glasses to see the crowd. That's a good thing, as the glasses became as much a part of his timeless look as the electric guitar in his hands. This is just one of many facts I learned inside Lubbock's Buddy Holly Center.

The museum is full of artifacts and a complete timeline of how a kid from Lubbock forged a new rock 'n' roll sound that changed the world. One display shows mementos from Holly's high school days, including his baseball mitt and Converse high-tops. Another display holds items from Buddy's rise to fame, including a tweed sports coat he wore on tour and a pair of super-hip suede shoes.

It's hard to believe that Holly's career lasted only a few years, cut short by a plane crash in Iowa. His black-rimmed glasses recovered from the wreckage now sit silently in a case at the end of the museum's timeline.

The center gives every generation a connection to the man and his music. As the title of one of his hit songs says, his legacy will *Not Fade Away*. ■

ABOVE Chet visits the Buddy Holly Center in Lubbock.

**TCP** Check out the Buddy Holly Center through Chet's eyes on our website. You'll want to see all his Explorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## FEBRUARY

10

**Lufkin My Funny Valentine**, (936) 633-5454, [angelinaarts.org](http://angelinaarts.org)

**Port Aransas Chocolate Crawl**, (361) 749-5919, [portaransas.org](http://portaransas.org)

**Round Rock [10-13] Texas Basket Weavers Association Annual Conference**, (512) 925-3596, [texasbasketweavers.com](http://texasbasketweavers.com)

11

**Fredericksburg [11-12] Luckenbach Hug-In & Valentine Ball**, (830) 997-3224, [luckenbachtexas.com](http://luckenbachtexas.com)

**Port Lavaca [11-12] South Texas Square and Round Dance Association February Frenzy**, (361) 575-2665, [stsrda.org](http://stsrda.org)

**Fredericksburg [11-13, 18-20, 25-27] Clue: The Musical**, (830) 997-3588, [fredericksburgtheater.org](http://fredericksburgtheater.org)

12

**Jefferson Queen Mab Ball**, (903) 742-1405, [mardigrasupriver.com](http://mardigrasupriver.com)

**New Braunfels Love the Run You're With 5K**, (830) 626-8786, [athleteguild.com](http://athleteguild.com)

**Dallas [12, 19, 26] The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Dinner Show**, 1-866-496-0535, [thedinnerdetective.com](http://thedinnerdetective.com)

15

**Gladewater [15-March 15] Helen Lee Estate Daffodil Gardens**, (903) 845-5180



17

**West Tawakoni [17-19] Catmasters Classic on Lake Tawakoni**, (325) 998-2191, thecatmasters.com

18

**Brenham The Funniest Night of Your Life With Todd Oliver**, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

**Brenham [18-19] Hearth and Home Quilt Show**, (979) 661-4761, friendshipquiltguild.weebly.com

**Kerrville [18-19] Hill Country Quilt Guild Winter Quilt Show**, (281) 974-6220, hillcountryquiltguild.com

**Ozona [18-19] Ozona Land Stewardship Blowout**, (325) 392-3737

**Fredericksburg [18-20] Trade Days**, (210) 846-4094, fbgradedays.com

**Galveston [18-20, 25-27, March 1] Mardi Gras! Galveston**, (409) 763-8676, galveston.com

**Victoria [18-20, 24-27] Ring of Fire**, (361) 570-8587, theatrevictoria.org

19

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**, (979) 480-0999, gcbo.org

**Mesquite Daddy-Daughter Dance**, (972) 204-4925, visitmesquitetx.com

**Palacios African American Heritage Day**, (310) 650-9352, citybytheseamuseum.org

**West Columbia Market Day**, (979) 345-4656, visitvarnerhogplantation.com

**Nocona [19-26] Mardi Gras Nocona Style**, (940) 825-3526, nocona.org

MORE EVENTS >

### TCP Submit Your Event

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

## PROTECTING YOUR ENDLESS ADVENTURES Savings for a Limited Time



Experience limited time savings on RV and other storage and hobby buildings, now through February during Building Value Days!

To learn more or to get started today, visit [mortonbuildings.com](http://mortonbuildings.com).

800-447-7436 | [MORTONBUILDINGS.COM](http://MORTONBUILDINGS.COM)

©2022 Morton Buildings, Inc. Certain restrictions apply. A listing of GC licenses available at [mortonbuildings.com/licenses](http://mortonbuildings.com/licenses).



## Fredericksburg

### Getaway Contest

Enter to win a two-night stay in charming and historic Fredericksburg, where you'll enjoy unique food, architecture and culture.

TCP Enter Today

[TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/contests)



# Texas' Lowest Life Insurance Rates

## Whole Life Insurance

Monthly Rates Guaranteed for Life  
No Health Questions

Age	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
45	\$36	\$54	\$89
50	\$40	\$60	\$99
55	\$45	\$68	\$112
60	\$57	\$85	\$141
65	\$68	\$102	\$170
70	\$87	\$129	\$215
75	\$113	\$169	\$282
80	\$157	\$235	\$391

## 10-Year Term Life

Monthly Premium

Age	\$100,000	\$250,000
25-35	\$7	\$10
40	\$8	\$12
45	\$11	\$17
50	\$14	\$24
55	\$20	\$37
60	\$30	\$65
65	\$44	\$102
70	\$87	\$178

**Call today to request a FREE Price Comparison Report for you and your family members.**



**1-800-323-3220**

**LifeQuotes, Inc.**  
Over 400,000 Customers Insured

Texas Agency Lic. 13686, Agent 738393



W. SCOTT MCGILLI DREAMSTIME.COM

## Pick of the Month

### Texas Independence Day Celebration

Huntsville, March 2  
(936) 291-9726  
huntsvilletexas.com

March 2 is Texas Independence Day and Sam Houston's birthday. Huntsville, where the Texas statesman is buried, and Sam Houston State University hold annual celebrations for the occasions, including a graveside ceremony.

25

**La Grange [25-26] Best Little Quilt Show in Texas,** (979) 242-3514, coloradovalleyqqg.com

**Lubbock [25-26] Friends of the Lubbock Library Last Friday BookStore,** (806) 775-2852, lubbockfol.org

26

**Granbury JazzFest,** (650) 265-1193, granburyjazzfest.com

**Henderson Mardi Gras Gumbo Cook-Off,** (903) 392-0691, visithendersontx.com

**Irving Irving Symphony Orchestra: Musical Treasures From the World,** (972) 831-8818, irvingsymphony.org

27

**Lufkin Croce Plays Croce,** (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

## MARCH

FEBRUARY EVENTS CONTINUED

20

**Fredericksburg Lone Star Brass,** (830) 997-6523, fredericksburgmusicclub.com

23

**Lufkin [23-24] Rob Schneider,** (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

24

**Corsicana The Magic of Bill Blagg,** (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

**Kerrville Symphony of the Hills: Heart of the Strings,** (830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

**Port Aransas [24-27] Whooping Crane Festival,** (361) 749-5919, portaransas.org/whooping-crane-festival

04

**Fredericksburg Texas A&M Singing Cadets,** (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

**Lubbock [4-5] Lubbock Area Square and Round Dance Federation Conclave Dance,** (806) 786-8589, squaredancelubbocktx.com

05

**Kerrville Looking Back with John Moore,** (830) 896-8976, lookingbackjkm22@gmail.com

06

**Lufkin Bella Gaia,** (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

**Orange Fiddler on the Roof,** (409) 886-5535, lutchter.org



# Public Art

"A true work of art takes at least an hour."  
—Charles Schulz, creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



**1** STEPHANIE EHLERT  
GREENBELT EC  
"I found this beauty driving through Brady."

**2** GLENN TIMMONS  
SOUTH PLAINS EC  
Parking meter art east of Lubbock.

**3** DEBRA CZERNY  
BLUEBONNET EC  
Tom Besson painted this mural in downtown Elgin.

**4** CARMEN GALLO  
PEDERNALES EC  
A recycled bicycle at Yellow Bike Project in Austin.



## Upcoming Contests

- DUE FEB 10** Industrial
- DUE MAR 10** Morning Glory
- DUE APR 10** Motorsports



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

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



## The Muse in Museum

Artistic inspiration abounds in the comfort of the Kimbell Café

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ  
ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA LIEDO

**WHEN I TRAVEL,** I seek out museums. As a writer always in search of a quiet place where my laptop is welcome, museum cafés help me meet deadlines and recharge in ways coffeehouse clatter never could.

The atmosphere of a good museum café pulls me out of time and settles me in a world—my chair, stool or booth—literally surrounded by artistic inspiration. Masterpieces a glance away, these settling-in spots are elevated musing favorites for any number of reasons: They are sure to be more subdued than the average coffee shop; the people-watching is stellar; and there’s a hum in the atmosphere that inspires some of my best thinking.

Why it took me decades of courting the creativity muse in distant cafés only to discover I could have coffee with her

in my hometown of Fort Worth, I do not know. I do remember the moment it occurred to me that I had too long overlooked such a prime location for contemplation. Just before Christmas one year, I stopped at the Kimbell Art Museum for a gift shop run. I plodded up the broad limestone steps to the gallery level, overwhelmed by obligations, my head full of deadlines.

Drawn into the light that fills Louis I. Kahn’s vaulted masterpiece, I headed straight for the Kimbell Café. From my seat I could see Aristide Maillol’s *L’Air*, a bronze female figure, floating in a courtyard. European masterworks beckoned from across the corridor. Immediately I was transported. That’s the other bonus that comes from stopping into a hometown museum: There is a sense of excitement that I associate with travel. Without planes or trains, I can step out of the workaday world and feel I am on a journey—even when I’m less than a mile from home.

Seated beneath fragments of a sixth-century mosaic, cupping my warm coffee mug, I realized I was steps away from Michelangelo’s first known painting. And just like that, I lay my burdens down.

Now I return regularly to the Kimbell’s café for creative therapy. I can energize myself in 10 minutes or 20, view one painting or a dozen, before or after my coffee. Or I can simply sit quietly. No entrance fee and no passport required.

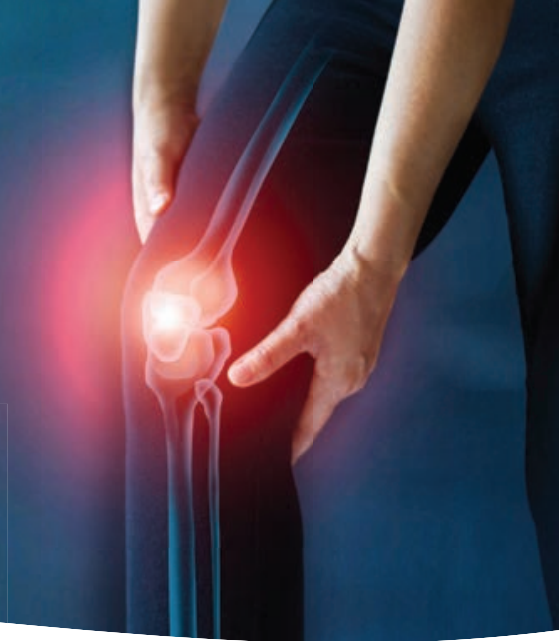
And while the soup-and-sandwich lunch options are dependably tasty, a post-pandemic offering of an afternoon tea service takes me to happy memories served up abroad. It also offers up my favorite sort of nibbling—scones with housemade jam, finger sandwiches, cookies—and because it’s served as “tea for two,” I’m sometimes inspired to share with a friend.

That is, of course, when I’m not meeting my muse. ■





# LIVE LIFE PAIN FREE



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE  
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



**FREE (\$50 Value)  
Corrective Fit Orthotics**  
with every shoe purchase  
Excludes sandals.

## Clinically Shown to Relieve Knee Pain

**↓ 85% LESS  
KNEE PAIN**

In a 2017 double-blind study by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

## Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improved Posture

### **gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$135**

This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease.

**Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue
- TB9024MBL Black

**Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon
- TB9024FLP Black

**X-WIDE  
WIDTH  
AVAILABLE**

## **\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER**

**Promo Code MQ8BPR5**

**www.gdefy.com**

**Expires May 31, 2022**

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns**

**100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

**Call 1(800) 429-0039**

Gravity Defyer Medical Technology Corp.  
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. \$20 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.

# dish

## Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!

**\$200** Visa® Prepaid Card

Get TV. Get \$100. Add Internet. Get \$200.

1234 5678 9012 3456

4000

Gift Card

EXPIRES END 01/25

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card200 when you order both TV and internet services. Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation, certain conditions apply. Free \$200 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualifying service (premium customer qualification only).

**\$69<sup>99</sup>** month for TV

**2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!**

**It's All Included!**

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.



**FREE Premium Channels** After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

**NETFLIX** | **- Fully Integrated -**  
Just Change The Channel And Watch!  
Netflix subscription required.



**Add Internet!**

**Blazing-Fast Internet**

~~\$59<sup>99</sup>~~ month for Internet

**\$40** per month for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

**Save up to \$20/month!\***

\*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet

godish.com/pricelock

iSe Habla Español!

**1-866-290-7151**

**dish**  
Authorized Retailer

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:  
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 4/13/22. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$64.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.