

TEXAS CO-OP POWER



ON THE MOVE
WITH **CHET**

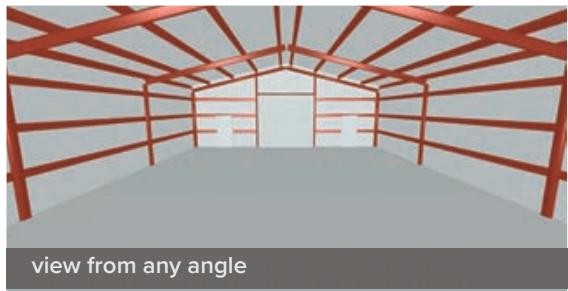
**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
ISSUE**

Daytripper Chet Garner
begins yearlong
Hit the Road series





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Texan Warbird Adventures offers flights in this World War II-era T-6 Texan.

SPECIAL TRAVEL ISSUE

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By Melissa Gaskill

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By Joe Nick Patoski

NEXT MONTH

This Little Piggy When pet potbellies outgrow expectations, rescuers step in.



PLANE: CHRIS SALAZAR | TEC. PIG: SVIETLIEISHA OLENA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



ON THE COVER Starting this month, enjoy Chet Garner's one-of-a-kind stories from Texas' back roads. Photo by Todd White | Courtesy Chet Garner

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Learning To Dance

I grew up in the 1930s going to these halls with my parents [*Hail the Halls*, February 2019]. That's how I learned to dance—on Daddy's toes and watching my parents having fun. My sister and I would run and play, then when it got late, fall asleep under the benches on a quilt listening to the music.

Anhalt Hall still looks just the same and is continuing the tradition today. Thanks for bringing it all back.

DOROTHY ALVES RODGERS | SCHERTZ
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

I was amused by the part that said Hank Wilson got his start in Texas dance halls. My reaction was that somewhere in the great beyond, Leon Russell is smiling. Russell chose that name for his first country album, *Hank Wilson's Back*, in 1973. I always appreciated that clever move to combine the last names of the two country music Hanks, Williams and Thompson.

STEVE FINLAY | LORENA
HEART OF TEXAS EC

Editor's note: The reference to Hank Wilson, which was in error, has been corrected to Hank Williams in the online version of the story.

My two favorites are (of course) the archetypal, venerable Gruene Hall in New Braunfels and Schroeder Hall near Fannin. I've heard a lot of good music in both.

SYLVIA PESEK | VIA FACEBOOK

Read Right Here

My kin have been scattered throughout Texas since their

It Was the Place To Be

Hail the Halls [February 2019] reminded me of a hall that was not mentioned, located in Lometa on U.S. 183.

The building is still

there but not in operation. Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters played there every third Friday night. It was the place to be if you liked to dance.

My late husband and I had our first date at a Jimmy Heap dance, where he told me, "I'm going to marry you someday." He did just that four years later.

MARTHA O. BURNHAM | SAN SABA | HAMILTON COUNTY EC



arrivals between 1839 and 1848. Yet, incredibly, I had never heard of or knew about cochineals [*The Bugs That Make You See Red*, February 2019]. Thanks to Martha Deeringer for bringing that most interesting and enlightening story to the pages of *Texas Co-op Power*.

MIKE NEAL EDMONDS | AUSTIN
PEDERNALES EC

Texas' First Flag

I don't see the first flag of the Republic of Texas [*A Chapter in La Bahia's History*, Currents, February 2019]. In fact, the only place I've ever seen it depicted as our flag is on the Texas State Historical Association website.

It perplexes me that the flag originally authorized by Texas' first Congress is everywhere ignored: "an azure ground with a large golden star central." Our

present flag didn't fly over Texas until January 1839.

JERRE CONDER | VAN ZANDT COUNTY
TRINITY VALLEY EC

Thanking a Veteran

As the proud father of a member of the 3rd Marine Logistics Group in Okinawa, I have a message for Vietnam veteran Dave Swallow of San Marcos [*Remembering Veterans*, Letters, February 2019]: A belated welcome home, sir, and of course, thank you for your service.

DANNY BOOTE | LITTLE ELM
COSERV

The Concept of Giving

I think there is a more meaningful interpretation of "charity begins at home" [*The Need for Charity*, Letters, January 2019]. The concept of charity begins at home.

I had the good fortune and blessing of being raised by two

exceptional and godly parents. I learned from hearing their words and observing their lives that you don't have to be Bill Gates to be a philanthropist. There are very few of us who can't give something.

DORA S. WHITE | ROCKSPRINGS
PEDERNALES EC

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

   Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 75, NUMBER 10 (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. **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.

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HAPPENINGS

San Jacinto Revisited

The largest battle re-enactment in the state is the centerpiece of the **SAN JACINTO DAY FESTIVAL, APRIL 13**, on the grounds surrounding the San Jacinto Monument in **LA PORTE**. The re-enactment portrays the events leading up to Texas winning its independence from Mexico at the decisive Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

Visitors can wander among the Mexican and Texian camps to learn what soldiers and their families experienced before the battle. At 3 p.m., the official (and historically accurate) re-enactment of the Battle of San Jacinto—considered the largest re-enactment in the Southwest—begins.

INFO ▶ sanjacinto-museum.org, (281) 479-2421

WEB EXTRAS
▶ Find more happenings online.



BY THE NUMBERS

2     

Campbell's Soup estimates 20 million households served the Thanksgiving staple green bean casserole last year. Dorcas Reilly, a Campbell's employee, came up with the simple, six-ingredient recipe in 1955. When Campbell's began putting the recipe on cans of its cream of mushroom soup in 1960, the dish's popularity took off. Reilly, 92, died in October 2018.

ALMANAC

Heart to Heart

50 YEARS AGO: On April 4, 1969, in Houston, Dr. Denton Cooley implanted the first completely artificial heart in a human being. The patient lived on the artificial heart for 64 hours but died 32 hours after receiving a new human heart. The first artificial heart is in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

◀ LOOKING BACK AT MUSIC THIS MONTH



CAPTURING TEXAS' rich music culture in two pages is impossible. Heck, multiple books have been written about Willie Nelson alone. We'll just try to hit the high notes.

1940s

1946 Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys release their biggest hit, *New Spanish Two Step*, which spends 16 weeks at No. 1 on the country chart.



1946 Clifton Chenier designs the first *frottoir*, or zydeco washboard, with Willie Landry in Port Arthur.

1950s

1953 Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton of Houston releases the song *Hound Dog*, which later becomes a hit for Elvis Presley.

1956 Perryville's Ray Price releases *Crazy Arms*, which spends 20 weeks at No. 1 on the country chart.

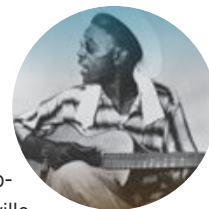
1958 Pianist Van Cliburn, from Kilgore, achieves worldwide recognition when he wins the inaugural International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

1960s

1960 Blues artist Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins of Centerville debuts at Carnegie Hall.

1960 *He'll Have To Go* by Panola County's Jim Reeves reaches No. 1 on the charts.

1964 The Beatles play their first Texas show, at Dallas Memorial Auditorium. A year later, they return for two shows at Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston.





LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY

'THERE'S NO ERASER'

Joe Huerta III started as a groundman at Medina EC, based in Hondo, in 2003—with “zero knowledge in this field,” he says—and worked his way up to become a journeyman lineworker.

“**My cousin** was a lineman for Medina EC, and every time we hung out, he would tell me stories about his job,” Huerta says. “I was told the job was hard, the hours were long, and the work was underappreciated. At the end of the day, the work of a lineman is a great way to provide for your family, to feel proud of a skill that you earn and continually learn throughout the years, and a great way to give back to the community.”

Today, Huerta is the safety and loss control manager at Nueces EC in Robstown, where the co-op will join others nationwide to celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day on April 8. Huerta is responsible for maintaining a culture of safety among the lineworkers.

“**In lineman’s work**, there’s no eraser,” Huerta says. “Once something happens ... that could be it.”

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Beatons Bag Attention of Co-ops Nationwide

HUNTER BEATON has won two national awards from the Boy Scouts and one from the Daughters of the American Revolution on top of the support that comes with a Texas Senate proclamation. It’s all for his Day 1 Bags initiative, which started as an Eagle Scout project but has grown to provide thousands of foster children with duffel bags brimming with clothes, toothbrushes and other supplies during what can be a tough transition.

Now Beaton and his mom, Paula, have the attention of electric co-ops across the U.S. after they won second place in the nationwide #WhoPowersYou contest, established by Touchstone Energy “to honor inspirational people in co-op communities—the people who power our lives.” The honor includes a \$2,000 prize.

Day 1 Bags and the Beatons, who live in Boerne and are members of Bandera Electric Cooperative, first appeared here in July 2018. They’re back as we debut Power of Our People, *Texas Co-op Power’s* campaign that recognizes co-op members who improve their community’s quality of life.

Watch this space as we showcase more examples of the Power of Our People in coming months.

VISIT TexasCoopPower.com to nominate a community treasure for recognition or email people@texascooppower.com with details.



LOOKING AHEAD TO ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NEXT MONTH ►

1970s

1971 Icon Willie Nelson moves from Nashville to Austin, forever changing its music scene.

1972 The first Kerrville Folk Festival is held.



1975 Accordionist Flaco Jiménez of San Antonio releases his first studio album, *El Rey de Texas*.

1979 Asleep at the Wheel wins its first Grammy Award with the single *One O’Clock Jump*.

1980s

1980 Austin music venue the Armadillo World Headquarters holds a New Year’s Eve blowout before closing its doors for good.



1982 *Fool Hearted Memory* becomes the first No. 1 hit for Poteet’s George Strait.

1985 Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble win their first Grammy with their album *Blues Explosion*.

1990s

1994 Lake Jackson’s Selena wins a Grammy for best Mexican-American album for *Live!*

1998 The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame is created in Carthage.



2000s

2001 Houston’s Beyoncé wins the first of her 23 Grammys when her group Destiny’s Child’s song *Say My Name* wins twice in the R&B category.

2004 ZZ Top of Houston is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

2007 *Sound Grammar* by jazz great Ornette Coleman of Fort Worth wins the Pulitzer Prize for music.

HOW TO MAKE TRAVEL
BE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE,
NOT THE DESTINATION

What MOVES you?

We typically think of transportation simply as a means to get from one place to another—a way to take a trip. Sometimes, though, a trip becomes as much about the way you travel as where you go.

Hit the road on a bicycle, and you get a completely different perspective than riding in a car along the same route. The scenery looks vastly different from a small boat on the water, where a river sets your route and speed, than from the shore. Aircraft a few thousand feet high offer a view you can't get any other way, along with the singular combination of the quiet of the sky and the thrill of speed. A horse not only goes places no road can, it also provides pleasant company along the way; plus, a horse does most of the work for you.

These experiences can be had across Texas, on your own or with established outfitters. Here are four excellent adventures featuring alternate modes of transport to get you started, along with suggestions for other opportunities that will move you.

TWO WHEELS

Nothing beats sightseeing from a bicycle. Pedaling down a country road, you feel the breeze on your face and sun on your skin, smell the grass and flowers, and hear the birds and rustling leaves. A bike makes it easy to stop and linger or take a scenic detour. All that plus some exercise, too.

All you really need is a bike and back roads with light traffic. But on a guided tour, someone else figures out the route, packs the snacks and even brings the bicycle. Texas Bike Tours creates custom itineraries for guided bike rides throughout the Hill Country, from a few hours to a few days. Owner Deaton Bednar says one popular route goes from Fredericksburg to Comfort.



Elizabeth and Daniel Piercey, from England, cycle around Fredericksburg, opposite. Afterward, they visit with Urban Herbal owner and chef Bill Varney, above.

CYCLISTS: SCOTT VAN OSBOL





A BIKE MAKES IT EASY TO STOP AND LINGER OR TAKE A SCENIC DETOUR.

Wendy and Kevin Parker of Houston spent a half day making the 32-mile ride, complete with a picnic and plenty of other stops. Their daughter Kennedy, 5, came along in a bike trailer.

“My husband and I love to bike and wanted to expose our daughter to biking somewhere outside of the city,” Wendy says. “We spread trips up to 60 miles over four or five days, riding around Fredericksburg and out through the Hill Country. Deaton even let my daughter jump into the van when Kevin got tired of pulling her.”

That’s another benefit of a guided tour: the sag wagon. One followed the Parkers the entire way and took the family’s luggage to Camp Comfort, where they spent the night. Their route followed scenic ranch roads along the Pedernales River, past old log cabins, farms, alpacas, donkeys and goats. The last leg into Comfort provided impressive views and a roller coaster of small hills, ending with lunch at High’s Café & Store.

“We totally had a blast,” Wendy says. They plan to do another trip once Kennedy can ride her own bike, counting on the sag wagon option.

From their home in England, Elizabeth and Daniel Piercey

Elizabeth and Daniel Piercey booked their cycling trip with Texas Bike Tours.

plan annual walking holidays to remote parts of Europe. They discovered Texas a couple of years ago when they added a few extra days to a Houston business trip. “We have to admit that we discovered the allure of Texas quite by chance,” Daniel says.

“Cycling in the Hill Country gave us a chance to slow down, relax, see the country at closer range and spend some time with (and get to know) a few locals,” he says. “Texans, so we’ve heard, like to talk, and we found this to be true. Maybe it is the lack of hurry, but people seem happy to share their thoughts.”

Those seeking a shorter taste of two-wheeled sightseeing can pedal miles of roads and trails at Resaca de la Palma State Park near Brownsville, where bike rentals are available. If it’s all about miles and speed, Bike Night at Circuit of the Americas near Austin turns riders loose on the 3.4-mile, 20-turn race-track from 6 p.m. until dark every Tuesday, March until July. Participants must register on-site or online, and rentals are available.

Texas Bike Tours, (760) 332-8668, texasbiketours.com

Resaca de la Palma State Park, (956) 350-2920, tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/resaca-de-la-palma

Bicycle Sport Shop Bike Night, bicyclesportshop.com/cota-bike-night

A HULL

Travelers flock to San Antonio to see its famous River Walk. Those who stay on the shores of the San Antonio River are missing the boat.

The San Antonio River Authority and partners have been restoring the river south of downtown, returning natural contours and planting thousands of trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Enjoy the results in a kayak rented from Mission Adventure Tours at Espada Park or the King William District, on routes of 2, 3 or 4 miles, on your own or guided.

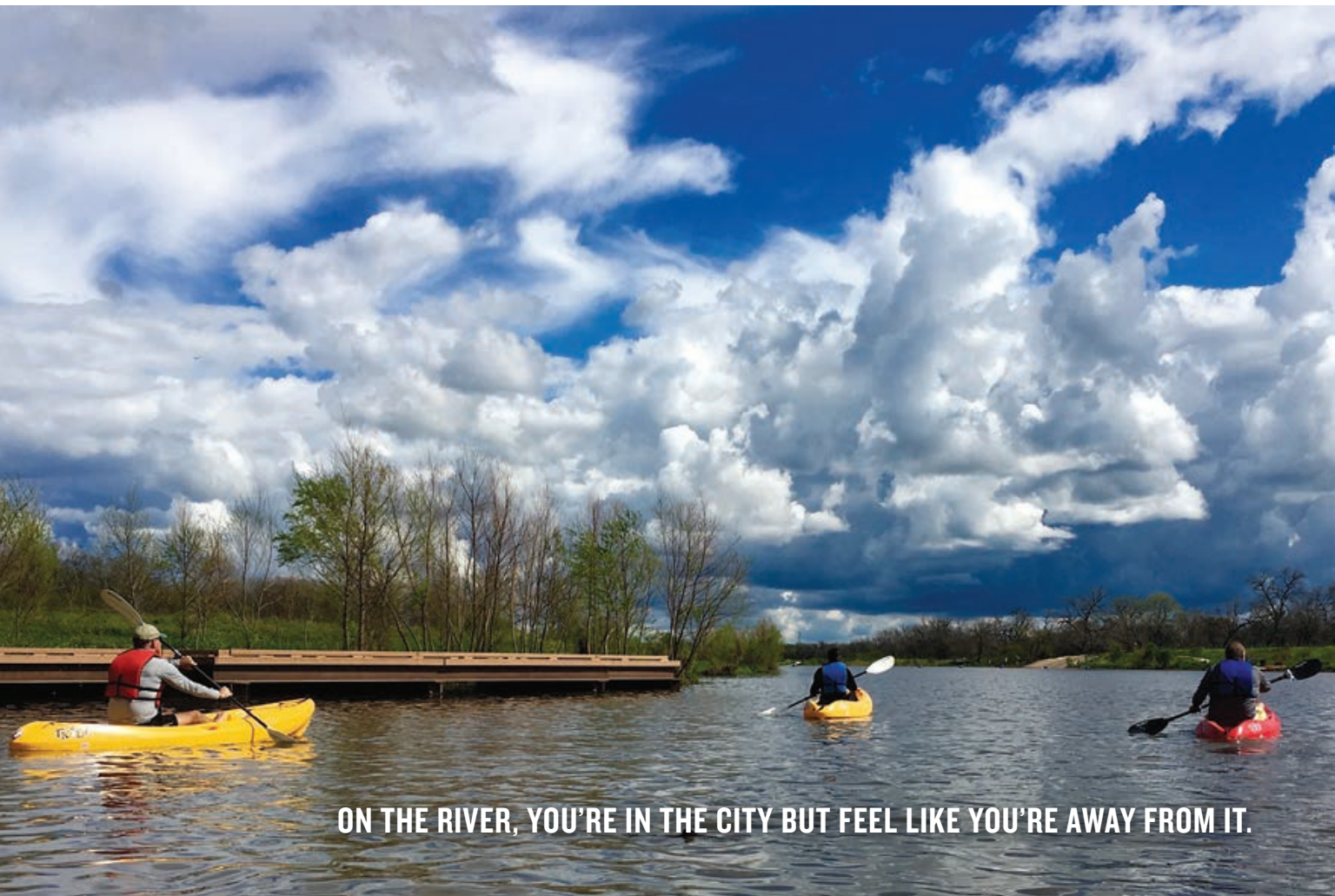
Teresa Maslonka has paddled with Mission Adventure Tours several times. “The amount of wild-ness incorporated into this city is phenomenal,” she says. “On the river, you’re in the city but feel like you’re away from it. We saw all different kinds of birds,

turtles and other wildlife, and it is so different from being on the sidewalk looking at the river.”

A guided trip not only puts those without experience at ease, but the guides also share knowledge about the river’s abundant wildlife. Single- and two-person kayaks are available and friendly dogs welcomed.



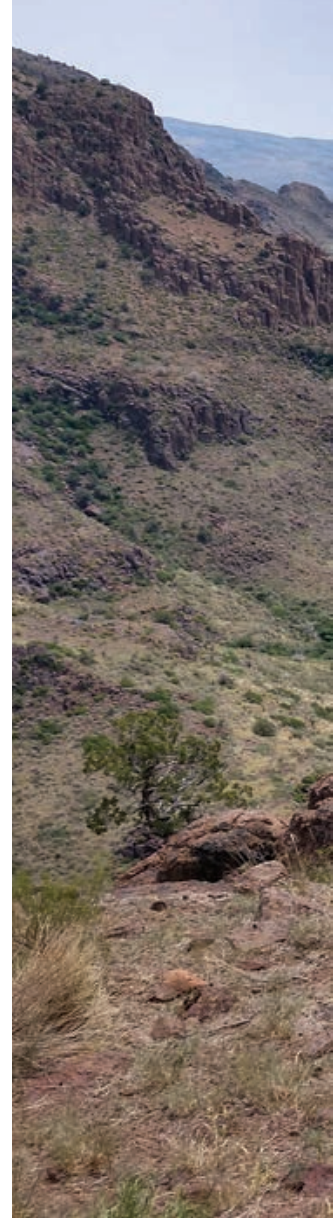
Kayaking the San Antonio River includes thrilling chutes, above, and the serene waters of Espada Park, below.



ON THE RIVER, YOU'RE IN THE CITY BUT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE AWAY FROM IT.



A Go Rio boat travels along the San Antonio River Walk downtown. The company's fleet of barges operates with electric, eco-friendly engines.



A more urban experience awaits on one of Go Rio Cruises' San Antonio River Walk rides. Thirty-five-minute tours depart from several spots along the River Walk every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and food and drinks are welcome aboard. Boat captains point out the sights in this historic-meets-modern area: the former circa-1850 school for boys, now the Omni La Mansión del Rio River Walk hotel; the Hyatt Regency San Antonio hotel, designed to avoid casting a shadow on the nearby Alamo; the first restaurant to offer riverside dining, now available at dozens of establishments; and a series of bridges spanning the river.

Go Rio also offers a boat shuttle service with 13 designated stops, from downtown through the Museum Reach section of the river north of downtown to the Pearl District. The shuttle offers a great way to see the sights, including a lock-and-dam system that takes a boat about seven minutes to go through.

You can experience other Texas cities from the water as well. Get a boat's-eye view of the birds and marine life of Galveston Bay and its historic port with Galveston Harbor Tours, and see the bustling maritime industry along the Houston Ship Channel on the Sam Houston Boat Tour's free 90-minute voyage. Rent a kayak or canoe at Backwoods Paddlesports to see the Fort Worth skyline from the Trinity River.

- Mission Adventure Tours, (210) 383-0872, missionkayak.com
- Go Rio Cruises, (210) 227-4746, goriocruises.com
- Galveston Harbor Tours, (409) 763-1877, galveston.com/harbortours
- Sam Houston Boat Tour, (713) 670-2631, porthouston.com/sam-houston-boat-tour
- Backwoods Paddlesports, (817) 470-2613, backwoodspaddlesports.com



RIVER BOAT: COURTESY GO RIO. HORSES: MISSY GANTRELL



THE VIEWS ARE TO DIE FOR. YOU CAN SEE FOREVER.

FOUR LEGS

As the sun sets over the toothy horizon of the Davis Mountains, riders finish up their supper and gather around a campfire. The swish of horses' tails blends with the crackle of the fire and rustle of the breeze. Stars fill the expanse of sky above and invite lingering, but soon the lure of cushy bedrolls proves too much. After all, tomorrow brings another full day of riding with Texas Horseback Adventures, based in Alpine.

"Every day out there, it's the best thing, the sheer beauty of the property and the amazing opportunity to ride through it," says Margaret O'Donnell, who has taken a number of overnight trips. "It is so relaxing to come back in the evening to sit and watch the horses then the sunset and eat a beautiful meal. People are stunned by the beauty of the skies and sunsets out here."

Opportunities like this ride on the open range, where you can disappear into a landscape with no trails or fences, are few and far between. Riders spend the night at cow camps on a vast ranch, striking out each day to explore the terrain of canyons, peaks and open country. Owner and guide Missy Cantrell chooses routes

based on riders' experience and desires and says it's all about giving them an authentic experience. Days include about six hours of riding, with a break for lunch with a view.

Along the way, riders see native plants, roadrunners and other wildlife, and signs of mountain lions and bears. "We saw mule deer and javelina and heard coyotes at night," O'Donnell says. "The views are to die for. You can see forever."

Days in the saddle and nights in a tepee aren't for everyone, of course. Those with a hankering for just a few hours astride a steed have many options around the state, including guided rides with Elm Creek Stables near Garner State Park with views of the Frio River canyon. There are also excursions through the dramatic landscape of Palo Duro Canyon with Old West Stables. Or channel your inner Fabio with a ride on the beach at sunset, courtesy of Stables at South Padre Island.

Texas Horseback Adventures, (325) 226-1966,
texashorsebackadventures.com

Elm Creek Stables, (830) 232-5365

Old West Stables, (806) 488-2180, oldweststables.com

Stables at South Padre Island, (956) 761-7743, spistables.com

WITH THE CANOPY OPEN, YOU FEEL THE AIR BLOWING, SMELL THE SALT AIR.



A PAIR OF WINGS

From 1,000 feet in the air, the world looks bigger and cleaner, its flaws less visible. Soaring above Mustang Island, the wide ribbon of sand and colorful clusters of people, umbrellas, chairs and beach towels become a work of art. Waves in the Gulf of Mexico draw sparkling lines of white, and ships on the blue water look like toys.

Texan Warbird Adventures offers this unique perspective from a World War II-era Navy T-6 Texan, a low-wing, open-cockpit plane known as “the pilot maker” for its role preparing pilots for combat. Retired Navy pilot and private aviation enthusiast Trey Hayden and his wife, Brandie, bought the plane about four years ago and started the tour company to share the thrill of flight, the history of the aircraft and Corpus Christi’s connection to military flying. George H.W. Bush, Neil Armstrong and John McCain all passed through Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

Local resident Barry Phillips celebrated a recent birthday with a T-6 tour, flying over the Intracoastal Waterway and Port

Pilot Trey Hayden takes passengers over Corpus Christi Bay in his World War II-era open-cockpit plane.

Aransas Ferry, down the beach, over Corpus Christi Bay and downtown, past the iconic Harbor Bridge and USS Lexington aircraft carrier, now a museum.

“Over the beach, you can see people playing in the surf and on the sand. The sand was white and the water was clear and green,” Phillips says. “We made a few circles over the Lexington and saw the same type of plane as the one we were in parked on the deck, a bright yellow one.”

“The open cockpit is the coolest thing. With the canopy open, you feel the air blowing, smell the salt air,” says Patrick Kaufer, another recent passenger. “It is very enjoyable and different. You get to see something that not a lot of people get to see. The Lexington, as big as it is, looks tiny from the air.”

More than 600 T-6 Texans still ply the skies, but only a few offer rides to the public. “I loved the idea of riding in an old plane,” Phillips says. “It looked like something out of a museum, but it’s clear the Haydens take wonderful care of it. Their love of what they’re doing really shows.”

Get sky-high views of the sprawling metropolis of Houston with Texas Biplane. And Greatest Generation Aircraft offers tours in a World War II-era C-47 from Fort Worth’s Meacham International Airport.

Texan Warbird Adventures, (844) 359-7654, texanwarbirdadventures.com
Texas Biplane, (281) 698-7524, texasbiplane.com
Greatest Generation Aircraft, (817) 291-3261, ggal.org

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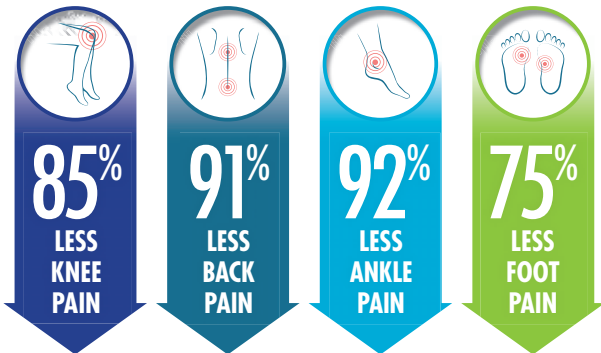
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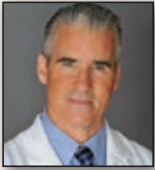
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MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH



Dr. Steven Battaglia
Board Certified Ear, Nose
and Throat Surgeon

MDHearingAid Makes Hearing Aids Affordable for Everyone

Advanced Hearing Aid Technology For Less Than \$200

Too many people with hearing loss go without a solution because they can't afford hearing aid prices. As a practicing Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon, Dr. Steven Battaglia has seen first-hand the hardships people suffer when they have hearing loss. That's why he jumped at the opportunity to join MDHearingAid in their quest to make FDA-registered, high quality hearing aids available to everyone who needs one.

"MDHearingAid has done an incredible service for the millions of people suffering from hearing loss, but can't afford high-priced hearing aids," states Dr. Battaglia.

It's Nearly Invisible One of the most important requirements for the new line of hearing aids would be for the device to be hard for others to see. One of the biggest objections people have to wearing a hearing aid is that they are embarrassed. MDHearingAid's design helps people get past this concern.

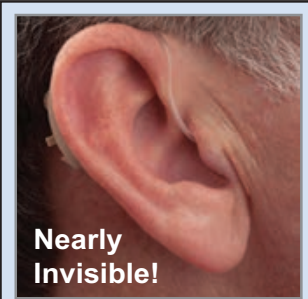
FDA-Registered Hearing Aid Outperforms Competitors

The new medical-grade hearing aid is called MDHearingAid PRO®. It is sleek, lightweight, and full of the same advanced technology found in higher-priced devices, but at a small fraction of the price. MDHearingAid couldn't understand why technology based products kept coming down in price, like computers, TVs, and DVD players, but not hearing aids. Once MDHearingAid was able to produce a device that costs less than \$200, the industry was turned upside down.

So How Did They Do It?

Since about 95% of the people who need a hearing aid only require a few settings, MDHearingAid PRO® simplified the need for certain variable components not needed by most people. This also makes it so easy for people to try the product, because no prescription is needed, even though it's an FDA-registered, medical-grade hearing aid.

45-Day Risk-Free Trial. You can try it at home and if you're not completely satisfied, just return it. It's that simple. They even provide **Free Shipping and Batteries.**



SAME FEATURES AS EXPENSIVE HEARING AID COMPETITORS

- ✓ Behind-the-ear hearing aid with thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile
- ✓ Accommodates Mild, Moderate, and Moderately Severe hearing loss
- ✓ Amplifies the critical frequencies of the human voice, without amplifying background sounds, so you can enjoy crisp, clear conversations
- ✓ Multiple sized Open-Fit & Closed-Fit ear domes allow for the perfect size for your ears.
- ✓ 2-Program toggle switch for customized hearing. Decrease background noise and choose the best program for your hearing loss.

Doctors & Patients Agree: "BEST QUALITY SOUND" "LOWEST AFFORDABLE PRICE"

"I previously owned a \$2,200 aid and I am much more satisfied with my MDHearingAid than I ever was with my 'custom fit' aid. Being a pianist, I can quickly change the program to Normal and roll the volume all the way down. I haven't enjoyed playing my piano this much in years!" – James B.

"I have a \$2,000 ReSound® Live Hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid PRO® in the right ear. I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two." – Dr. May, ENT Physician



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— J. from Orlando, FL



This 4-carat stunner was created from the aftermath of Mount St. Helens eruption!

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Created from the superheated volcanic rock dust of the historic Mount St. Helens eruption, helenite has become the green stone of choice for jewelry and fashion designers worldwide. Helenite's vivid color and immaculate clarity rivals mined emeralds that can sell for as much as \$3,000 per carat. Today you can wear this 4-carat stunner for **only \$99!**

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Spirit Lake Ring



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Beauty from the beast. Also known as "America's Emerald," helenite is not an emerald at all, but a brighter and clearer green stone that gem cutters can facet into

spectacular large carat weight jewelry. "It's just recently that luxury jewelers have fallen in love with helenite," says James Fent, GIA Graduate Gemologist. "Clear green color in a stone this size is rarely found in emeralds but helenite has come to the rescue."

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Bring home the **Spirit Lake Helenite Ring** and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the exceptional beauty of this rare American stone, simply return the ring within 30 days for a full refund of the item price. It's that simple. But we're betting that once you slide this gorgeous green beauty on your finger, it will take a force of nature to get you two apart!

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Actual size is 40.6 mm

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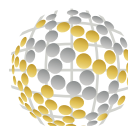
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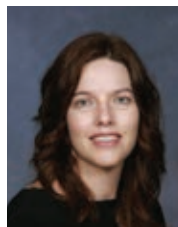
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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

HE IS A MAN WITH A WORK ETHIC A MILE LONG AND A COMMITMENT TO DOING THE JOB THE RIGHT WAY THE FIRST TIME. He took pride not only in the functionality of our power system but also the art of construction. Poles were placed straight, crossarms square, and lines sagged evenly. Over the years, he became synonymous with Houston County Electric Cooperative and served as Line Superintendent for three decades out of his 55 years as an employee. Most of our members know him by name.

Jack Vickers

Never one to seek the spotlight, Jack made me promise to let him retire quietly, without the usual fanfare. But I would be neglectful if I didn't acknowledge Jack and his career with Houston County Electric Cooperative.

Supplying power across a diverse distribution system involves much more than hanging a transformer and running service to a meter. There are elements of electricity such as voltage, amps, current, capacity, power factor, inrush, rotation, and phasing that must be understood to effectively operate a system. Jack is a self-taught man, blessed with an instinct for the science and engineering of electricity. He had the exceptional ability to assess a situation and determine what needed to be done - whether it involved installing new service or troubleshooting a problem.



During his career, Jack developed a reputation. If there was a system issue or an outage, everyone knew Jack was the one to call. Day or night, rain or shine, Jack would make sure the problem was resolved, and electricity was restored. It was this dedication that influenced, led, and shaped the lives of many men over the years. Jack taught them the art of being a good lineman and the purpose of a higher calling - you go out and do what others cannot so that everyone may have power.

I found a poem which reflects how we feel about all of our linemen but would like to dedicate this specifically to Jack Vickers, our leader, mentor, and friend.

“Lineman” by Jason Novak

There aren't many whose job is so high,
You can't count the poles you've driven by.
You're among the proud, skilled and few,
You've worked alone and with a crew.
You were taught by rough, tried and true,
Now when they need answers, they come to you.
At times all day, at times all night,
At times there seemed no end in sight.
When mother nature sent her best,
You put on your boots, there'd be no rest.
You passed on your skills and along the way,
Took pride in your work and earned your pay.
Some may say hero; some may not,
But they relied on you to keep the lines hot.
Fighting all kinds of weather, conditions, and strife,
[What we owe you for your sacrifice.]

Thank you, Jack, for your years of service. We are proud to say you represented the best of Houston County Electric Cooperative.



REMEMBER WHEN?

“IT WILL RUN EVERYWHERE!”

I'm not sure of the year, but it was the early 1940's in Pennington. I was very young and my father operated a sawmill. There were 8 of us boys and we lived in a log home. I remember someone coming down the hill while I was helping my father at the sawmill, he was wearing a white shirt and we were all curious why he was roaming the property. Come to find out, he was with the REA (electric cooperative) and he was in the area trying to seek interest for electricity. During those times, they would need a large group of people to commit to wanting electricity so that it would be cost effective. My father told the man that he wasn't interested in getting electricity because he didn't have anything to use it for, but if it would help our neighbors, we would get it. I can remember doing my homework by a kerosene lamp before we had the electricity, then all of a sudden life was different all because of a single lightbulb.

During that same time Hane Thornton, a Pennington native, was the one who wired up the houses in the area so that the REA could supply them power. He wired everyone's house with a pull-chain in the living room for a single bulb. One particular occasion, he wired our neighbor's home in Pennington and screwed in the light bulb. When he was ready to leave the wife exclaimed to the husband, "don't you ever leave that light bulb unscrewed because that electricity will run out on the floor and burn this house down!"

Looking back now I laugh at that, but at the time nobody knew what could happen when things like that occurred.

MAC EASTEPP - PENNINGTON, TEXAS



If you have a story you'd like to share,
please contact Kelby at 936-852-7240 or
by email kkoehler@houstoncountyelec.com.

We would love to hear from you!

Houston County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 52, Crockett, TX 75835

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TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

HOW THE WEST WAS WON

MISSION TEJAS STATE PARK IS LOCATED IN WECHES, approximately 22 miles northeast of Crockett along the El Camino Real (State Highway 21 East), named after Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, the first Spanish province in Texas.

The Mission was established on May 23, 1690, by Captain Alonzo de Leon and Father Massanet, a Franciscan friar. In a letter chronicling his visit, Father Massanet noted “The next morning [May 26] I went out with Captain Alonzo de Leon a little way and found a delightful spot close to the brook, fine woods, with plum trees like those in Spain. And soon afterward, on the same day, they began to fell trees and cart the wood, and within three days we had a roomy dwelling and a church wherein to say mass with all propriety.” However, the small mission was plagued from the beginning. Due to crop failures, difficulty obtaining supplies, a smallpox epidemic, and increased tensions with the Caddoans, the friars decided to abandon the area. They buried the cannon and the bells, packed away the vestments, and burned the mission before fleeing to San Antonio.

In 1934, a group of Houston County citizens purchased land, and a marker was constructed to commemorate the Mission San Francisco de los Tejas. With additional funding from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program, the 660-acre park now

known as Mission Tejas State Park was created. The Civilian Conservation Corps (“CCC”) was assigned to restore the area, constructing a dam and spillway, camping trails, and roads, and a hidden spring-fed pool that was lost but re-discovered in the 1980s. The CCC also constructed a replica commemorating the original Spanish mission from 1690.

The park is also home to one of the oldest known structures in the area – the Rice Family Log Cabin.

The home was built in 1828 by Joseph and Willie Masters Rice near a section of the El Camino Real de los Tejas. Translated, the Royal Road of the Tejas [Indians] was a historic route that stretched from Natchitoches, Louisiana to San Antonio and was used commercially and for those traveling to Texas in hopes of starting a new chapter in their lives. The Rice log cabin served as a stopover for immigrants, adventurers, and residents traveling across pioneer Texas. In 1973, the Rice family donated the old homestead to the State of Texas who moved it to its current location. Fully restored in 1974, the home contains original wallpaper and paint from the 1890s.

On April 27, 2019, visitors to the park can get a glimpse into what life was like during the 1800s. Hosted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Mission Tejas will celebrate its 14th Annual Folk Festival. This event takes attendees back in time to learn about the crafts, skills, trades, and history that helped early frontier Texans survive and thrive. Vendors offer one-of-a-kind,



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Early 1935 when the Mission was being constructed by the CCC.

handcrafted goods, and guests can experience some of the music popular from the period. There are activities for all ages, including a fan favorite, the Atlatl range where visitors can test their accuracy with the Atlatl - a spear-thrower used in primitive hunting and warfare. Quilting, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, outdoor cooking, and many other skills will be demonstrated. There are also interactive sites displaying historical items ranging from weapons to surgical instruments, where guests are encouraged to handle the tools and ask questions, allowing them to experience history in a unique way.

Along with miles of walking trails, a fishing pond, camping spaces, and the two historically rich structures, the park offers a variety of activities throughout the year for people

of all ages. To get more information about the park and their events and hours, call them at 936-687-2394 or visit the Mission Tejas State Park page on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Website (www.tpwd.texas.gov).



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

An interpretive guide to the Rice family log home is available.



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

To Do @ Mission Tejas:

- Camping
- Picnicking
- Sightseeing
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Geocaching

Call the park at (936) 687-2394 for a list of events!



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE



TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

14th Annual Mission Tejas Folk Fest

April 27th, 2019

10 AM - 3 PM

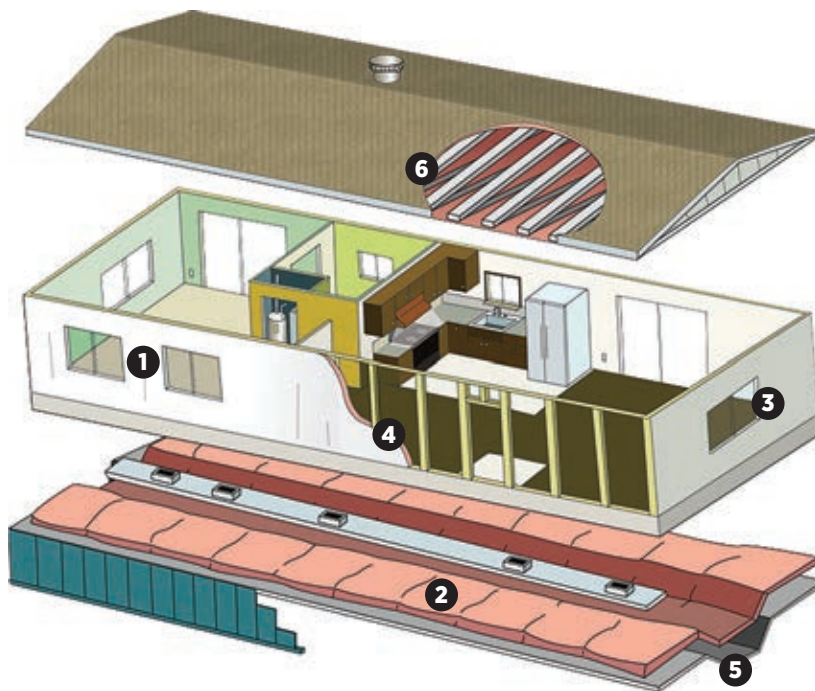
No admission fee, but a donation to the volunteer group, Friends of Mission Tejas, is appreciated.

Retrofitting Your Manufactured Home for Energy Efficiency

IF YOU LIVE IN A MANUFACTURED HOME, YOUR FAMILY MAY HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATELY higher energy bill than a family living in a traditional home.

But there are ways to bridge that gap. Whether your home is 5 years old or more than 50, most homes can benefit from energy efficiency measures that make up for simple wear and tear. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind can cause air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and ductwork can spring leaks, wasting cooling and heating energy.

If your home was built before 1976, the Department of Energy recommends the following tips for retrofitting your manufactured home for improved energy efficiency:



- 1** Install energy-efficient windows and doors.
- 2** Replace insulation in the belly.
- 3** Make general repairs (seal bottom board and caulk windows, doors and ducts).
- 4** Add insulation to walls.
- 5** Install or seal belly wrap.
- 6** Add insulation to roof or install a roof cap.

ILLUSTRATION: TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

In addition to these measures, consider properly sealing any openings around ducts and plumbing fixtures. Replace any incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs—both indoors and out. And reduce “phantom” loads by unplugging electronic devices such as computers, cellphone chargers and gaming systems when not in use. If you are planning to move to a new manufactured home, look for an Energy Star-rated model.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MARGOULLATPHOTOS | ISTOCK.COM

Bumbleberry Cobbler

- 1 cup blackberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup hulled and quartered strawberries
- 1¼ cups sugar, divided use
- ⅓ cup cornstarch
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, melted
- ½ cup whole-wheat flour
- ½ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup sliced almonds

- 1.** Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 - 2.** Combine berries, ½ cup sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, lemon juice and water in a pan over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until mixture thickens, then remove from heat.
 - 3.** In a bowl, combine butter, remaining sugar, flours, allspice, baking powder, salt and milk and mix until smooth. Fold in almonds.
 - 4.** Pour batter into an 8-by-8-inch baking dish. Spoon berry mixture into center of dish. Bake 45 minutes or until pastry top is browned. Allow to cool about 15 minutes before serving.
- Serves 8.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

Greetings from WASHINGTON, D.C.

Excitement is rising for the 2019 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Hailey and Cade will take off from June 12 - 21 and head to Austin to meet up with over 150 other students from across the state of Texas. From there, they'll travel to Washington, D.C. for a week of sightseeing and new experiences. Every June, electric co-ops from across the country send outstanding students to the nation's capital to visit the city's monuments and historical sights, meet with elected officials to witness their government in action and to learn about the cooperative business model. So much more than a sightseeing trip, Youth Tour allows students to meet others from all over the country and return home with a deeper understanding of themselves, the world and what it takes to be leaders - and they often put their newly acquired skills to use right here in the communities. For more information, visit our website at www.houstoncountyelec.com

Meet the Government-In-Action Youth Tour Representatives:



Hailey Dixon

- Senior at Slocum High School
- Daughter of Amanda Wilson
- Slocum FFA President
- Slocum Student Council Publicist
- Beta Club
- Yearbook
- UIL - Journalism

Hailey plans to attend Texas A&M University to obtain a bachelor's degree in Animal Science then she will apply to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. Her dream is to one day become a veterinarian.



Cade Noble

- Junior at Latexo High School
- Grandson of David and Sherri Noble
- Latexo FFA Reporter
- Latexo FFA Ag. Mechanics Member
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo participant
- Houston County Fair participant

Cade's goal is to attend either Texas A&M University, Sam Houston State University or Texas Tech University. He plans to major in engineering and minor in agriculture.



Presidential Powerboat

After extensive restoration, LBJ's prized 1965 craft is back on the water

BY LEE GADDIS

IT WAS A COLD, ICY EARLY MORNING AT our ranch in the Texas Hill Country. I had finished several cups of coffee and read *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* online. Because of the ice, I did not want to venture outside until the sun came up, so I started looking at boats for sale on Craigslist. I saw an ad for Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965 Glastron motorboat, and I thought, wow, owning LBJ's boat and keeping it on Lake LBJ would be pretty cool. The more I read, the more intrigued I was—especially because my grandmother was a friend of LBJ's.

When my wife, Gay, got up and sat down by me with her coffee, I asked, "How would you like to restore LBJ's 1965 motorboat and keep it on Lake LBJ?" She said, "It actually sounds like fun!"

I contacted the owner in Houston. After a conversation, it was clear that the boat had issues—like no motor. It was in bad shape and would require a total restoration, but I was still interested because of the boat's history. I asked the owner to send me his documentation, and I went through it carefully. I was convinced that this was President Johnson's boat. A plaque on the boat that read "Custom Built for President Lyndon Johnson by Glastron Boat Company" confirmed it.

When the boat arrived, I realized it was more of a disaster than I expected. All the wood was rotted, the seats were broken, and the fiberglass hull was pitted. And no motor. Still, it was LBJ's boat.

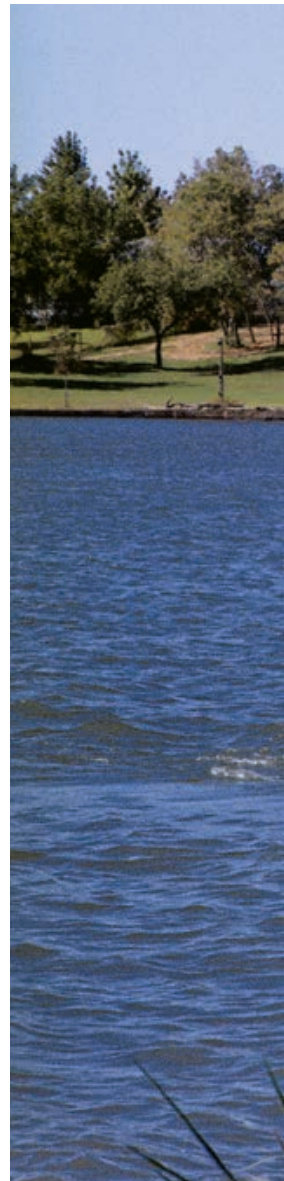
I took plenty of pictures and that afternoon drove over to Kingsland to see Rick Hartley at Lake LBJ Marine-

land. Hartley has been in the boat business most of his life and completed extensive restoration work on boats and hot rods. "I'll take it on if you let me make it perfect," he said after looking at the photos. "I don't want my name on it if it is not done right. And by the way, it won't be fast and it won't be cheap."

While Hartley was working on the boat, I continued researching its history. The president kept several boats on Lake LBJ, which he reached by helicopter from his ranch near Johnson City. The president was friends with a co-owner of Glastron Boats in Austin, Bill Gaston, who told him about a powerful new model, the V-204 Gulfstream, that they were building. The president had to have it.

Gaston delivered the boat to Johnson on June 13, 1965. Lyndon loved the boat because it was much faster than the crafts used by his Secret Service agents. He would wave to them as they attempted to keep up in their underpowered boats.

LBJ entertained reporters, foreign leaders, cabinet members and Supreme Court justices on the boat, as illustrated by hundreds of pictures from the LBJ





Presidential Library and Library of Congress. Supreme Court justices William O. Douglas and Abe Fortas, LBJ aide Jack Valenti and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall all were photographed on the boat.

After the president died, his family traded the boat in for a new Glastron ski boat. Gaston put the older boat into storage, where it stayed for 20 years. Eventually, Gaston donated the boat to the Boy Scouts, hoping they could either sell it or use it in some way to raise funds.

Unfortunately, the boat was stored in an open salvage yard for more than five years. Before I got to it, someone else was interested in saving the boat and bought it but quickly discovered it was too big a

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see vintage video of President Lyndon B. Johnson enjoying his boat on Lake LBJ.

project and donated the craft to a Glastron boat owners group in Houston. There it sat neglected.

Hartley's team put hundreds of hours into refinishing the fiberglass hull. They installed a new MerCruiser engine and drive, updated the electronics and rebuilt all the

seats. They were able to salvage the windshield and aluminum rails. It looks like new and is as historically correct as it can be.

We named the boat Lady Bird, and it is safely housed at a marina on Lake LBJ. Now, LBJ's boat proudly flies the American flag on the stern light pole, just as it did in 1965.

Lee Gaddis is chairman of T3, a marketing firm founded by his wife, Gay.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, Lady Bird and guests enjoy a 1965 outing on Lake LBJ in their Glastron boat, which Lee Gaddis has since salvaged and restored.

Wide-Open Spaces

The roads out West call to the joys of driving

BY JOE NICK PATOSKI

REMEMBER WHEN DRIVING WAS A PLEASURE, when the simple act of rolling down the highway was considered a form of relaxation? Texans' historic love affair with the highway has been tested by congestion, gridlock and other realities of 21st-century motoring. Navigating the freeways of Texas cities these days just isn't any fun.

But go far enough west—about 50 miles beyond Interstate 35 and the 98th meridian, where the humans and vehicular traffic thin out—and driving can become a pleasure again. Here in the wide-open spaces, you can chase two-lane blacktop to remote dots on the map; to where the landscape empties out and turns abstract, boiling down to earth, sky and horizon; to where it gets lonely enough that the sight of another car, pickup or tractor-trailer coming from the other direction reflexively inspires the index finger to lift off the steering wheel in a silent “hid-y” as it passes.

Bring along some Texas driving tunes, such as Robert Earl Keen's *The Road Goes On Forever*, Townes Van Zandt's *White Freightliner Blues* and Blind Leon Payne's *Lost Highway*, and you're set. A West Texas road trip is a vacation unto itself. The destination is almost beside the point.

But if you're one of those travelers who needs to know where you're going, I recommend the Panhandle and the Big Bend as endpoints. The Camino del Rio, the River Road, officially labeled FM 170, is the most scenic drive in Texas. Shadowing the Rio Grande for 50 miles between Lajitas and Presidio, the winding road reveals

spectacular views with every twist and curve and rise and drop.

The rugged mountain country is largely devoid of vegetation, infusing the landscape with an otherworldly aura. There are no services along the Camino, and driving the road at night is not recommended. This land is open grazing land, and cattle apparently like to congregate on the pavement after dark. In daylight, there isn't a better highway to mosey along.

The lure of the Texas Panhandle, more than 400 miles north of the Big Bend, is an excellent road grid with next to no congestion outside of Amarillo. The drives north of Amarillo, to Canadian, Perryton and Dumas, or those south and southeast of Amarillo through Palo Duro Canyon, cut through gently rolling plains with occasional outcroppings that hint at the Rocky Mountains looming to the west and north. With destinations that include Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, the Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument northeast of Amarillo and Adobe Walls historic site east of Stinnett, you can devise your own survey of the American West.

The Panhandle also is home to a portion of Route 66, America's most historic highway. Running through Texas for 179 miles between Shamrock and Glenrio, Route 66 was replaced long ago by the less poetic Interstate 40. But enough stretches of the original Route 66 remain, with a barbed wire museum, leaning water tower, skyscraping cross, vintage motels, highway cafés and miscellaneous roadside



Texas Highway 166, southwest of Fort Davis.

attractions to draw a steady stream of pilgrims chasing their version of the American dream. These tourists dress mid-century modern in T-shirts, jeans and poodle skirts as they cruise the Mother Road in vintage cars, motorcycles and RVs.

Roughly linking the Panhandle and the Big Bend is the Texas Forts Trail, mapped out by the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation. The trail connects historic forts located along a line between Wichita Falls and Del Rio. Each fort tells its own stories involving soldiers, settlers and natives dur-

ing the decades from Texas' entry into the United States to the forced removal of indigenous tribes.

Fort Griffin, Fort Richardson, Fort McKavett and Fort Lancaster are state historical sites. Fort Concho in downtown San Angelo is a national historic landmark owned and operated by the city. Fort Stockton, Fort Phantom Hill and Fort Chadbourne also are under local stewardship. I am partial to Fort Lancaster, south of Interstate 10 and east of Sheffield, which is at the start of a route (Texas 349, Ranch Road 2400 and U.S. 285) that passes through majestic canyons on the way to Sanderson and the Big Bend.

Overcrowding, often the case at other tourist sites, is not an issue at Texas' historic forts.

Overcrowding isn't an issue on West Texas roads, either, as long as you steer clear of the trucks, potholes and traffic in the Permian Basin oil patch. Out west in Texas, the road really does go on forever, and the pleasure of driving never ends.

Writer **Joe Nick Patoski** loves driving West Texas as much as he loves cool swimming holes, hot music and cold beer. His latest book is *Austin to ATX: The Hippies, Pickers, Slackers & Geeks Who Transformed the Capital of Texas* (Texas A&M University Press, 2019). He lives outside Wimberley and is a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative.

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READ ABOUT THIS MONTH'S NOMINEE ON PAGE 7

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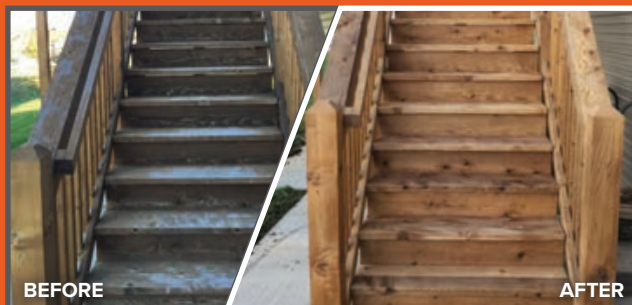


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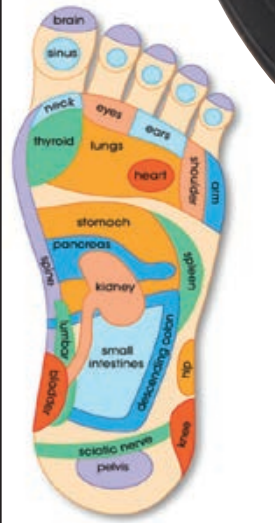
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Love From Midland

Born in Texas, silent film actress Bessie Love became a star in Hollywood

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

JUANITA HORTON, “THE PRETTIEST GIRL anyone in Midland had ever seen,” according to a 2007 article in the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*, was born in 1898 when Midland was still a barren cow town. The oil boom that would turn it into a thriving metropolis was still a few years in the future. Horton’s itinerant father moved the family from Texas to Arizona to New Mexico and finally to Los Angeles where, using the name Bessie Love, teenage Juanita would achieve stardom.

In her 1977 autobiography, *From Hollywood With Love*, Love described the poverty of her early years and the sequence of events that would gain her the attention of powerful Hollywood figures.

During a visit with the Horton family in Los Angeles, Western movie star Tom Mix suggested that Juanita should go into pictures. Her mother took this advice and hatched a plan for her daughter to wait near the entrance of famous silent film director D.W. Griffith’s studio on Sunset Boulevard in hopes she would get noticed. Instead of waiting outside, she knocked on the door, and Griffith invited her in.

Griffith asked Horton many questions. Was her family rich? Did she have stage experience? Had she studied drama? When she answered “No, sir” to each question, he inquired why she wanted to be in pictures. “Mama said I wasn’t trained to do anything,” she replied, “so there was nothing left for me but acting.” Griffith granted her an audition and a screen test, after which she was cast as an extra and paid \$2. She would continue to work as an actress for the next 60 years.



Bessie Love and Charles King in the 1929 film *The Broadway Melody*.

A Griffith associate, Frank Woods, gave her the stage name Bessie Love, claiming her real name was too long to go up in lights and no one east of the Rockies would know how to pronounce it.

In 1916, Griffith cast her in her first film, *The Flying Torpedo*, in which she played a Swedish maid. “In the early days,” Love wrote in her memoir, “movie sets were built next to each other and, since the films were silent, you might be working next to a Civil War scene while you were playing a Carmelite nun at prayers. You just ignored the noise and got on with it.”

Love made 10 films in her first year and played the leading lady opposite William S. Hart in *The Aryan* and Douglas Fairbanks in *The Good Bad Man*. A petite 5-footer with a mass of curly fair hair, Love possessed a combination of innocence and charm that drew audiences

into theaters. Her star was on the rise.

By the Great Depression, she had acted in nearly 100 films, including such classics as *Intolerance* and *The Lost World*. She made the transition to “talkies,” including 1929’s *The Broadway Melody*, for which she received an Academy Award nomination.

Love married William Ballinger Hawks in 1929 and later toured the United States in a lavishly produced variety act. During the tour, she discovered she was pregnant, but the marriage didn’t last. In 1935, when her daughter Patricia was 3, Love moved to London, returning to the states only briefly to seek a divorce.

Well into the 1980s, Bessie Love was a fixture on the stage in London and on British television. She died in London in 1986. Her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is a lasting testament to the little girl from Midland who became a movie star.

Martha Deeringer, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.

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DIY Takeout

BOWLS BRIMMING WITH COLORFUL salads (from slaw to potato), bubbling casseroles and platters of fried chicken—foods meant to bring and share—have long been part of American culture. Golden Rice Salad, this month's retro recipe redux and a dish that appeared in the magazine in October 1968, is a perfect example. We've made the classic more contemporary with flavorful oils and vinegars and punchy additions like Dijon mustard, oil-cured olives and cornichons (feel free to use dill pickles or any pickled peppers instead). Consider this timeless preparation the next time you want to feed a crowd.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Golden Rice Salad

- 1½ cups long-grain rice (such as Texmati)
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup oil-cured olives, pitted and coarsely chopped
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced
- 1½ cups thinly sliced celery
- ¼ cup chopped cornichons (or other pickles)
- ¼ cup pimiento or roasted red peppers
- 1 small onion (or 1 bunch scallions), minced
- ½ cup mayonnaise (plus more as desired for texture)
- Leaf lettuce or radicchio, for serving (optional)
- Sliced hard-boiled eggs, for garnish (optional)

1. Prepare the rice according to package directions, using water or chicken stock. Meanwhile, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper in a large mixing bowl. Add the warm rice and use a rubber spatula to toss until

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36



Retro Recipes

DIY Takeout

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

GAIL PATTERSON | PENTEX ENERGY

Whether you use crusty rolls or an entire loaf to slice, layers of cured meats, cheese and piquant Italian flavors create a sandwich bursting with personality. Giardiniera is a vinegar-based relish made with peppers, celery, carrots, cauliflower and spices. "I make several of these at a time," Patterson says. "They last for about a week in the fridge, are best at room temp and travel well."

Pressed Italian Sandwich

GIARDINIERA

- 1 jar (10 ounces) giardiniera, drained
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Crushed red pepper flakes, as desired for heat

FLAVORED BUTTER

- 1 jar (8 ounces) roasted red peppers (or pesto), drained
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened to room temperature

SANDWICHES

- 4 ciabatta sandwich buns
 - 4 slices Genoa salami
 - 4 slices hard Italian salami
 - 8 slices pepperoni
 - 4 slices ham
 - 8 slices provolone cheese
- Olive oil

1. GIARDINIERA: Combine the giardiniera, olive oil and red pepper flakes in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until combined but still chunky. Transfer the giardiniera mixture to a bowl and set aside.

2. FLAVORED BUTTER: Add the roasted

red peppers to the food processor (no need to wash after giardiniera) and process until chopped. Transfer the peppers (or pesto) to a mixing bowl, add the softened butter and use a spatula to evenly combine.

3. SANDWICHES: To make individual sandwiches, slice each ciabatta bun in half. Spread both sides with about 1 tablespoon of the flavored butter (you will have extra). Layer half of the meat and cheese on 4 ciabatta bun halves, ending with meat. Spoon about 1 tablespoon of the giardiniera mixture onto the meat and top each sandwich with the remaining meat and cheese and another tablespoon of giardiniera.

4. Cover each sandwich with the top bun and carefully slice the sandwiches in half and then wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Place the wrapped sandwiches on a baking sheet, top them with another baking sheet and weigh it down (large cans or a cast-iron skillet work well) for at least 1 hour, or up to a day in advance. For the best flavor, allow the sandwiches to come to room temperature before serving. ▶ Serves 4–8 depending on size of sandwiches.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

combined. Set aside to cool briefly.

2. Add the olives, eggs, celery, cornichons, pimientos, onion and mayonnaise and toss to combine. Taste and adjust seasonings, adding more salt, pepper, vinegar or mayonnaise as desired. Serve immediately (or chill up to two days in advance) on lettuce leaves garnished with slices of hard-boiled eggs. ▶ Serves 6–8.

COOK'S TIP For a deeper golden hue, add ½ teaspoon turmeric to the dressing. Consider garnishing each serving with freshly ground black pepper and a sprinkling of smoked paprika.

This month, Food Editor **PAULA DISBROWE** offers more of her favorite DIY Takeout recipes:



Best-Ever Baked Beans With Jalapeño Bacon

Serve these rich, bacon-topped beans at backyard barbecues and picnics or tote them to school or Scout potlucks—they'll be a hit with kids and grown-ups alike.

- 10 slices thick-cut jalapeño bacon (or regular bacon), diced
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper (any color), stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 1 jalapeño pepper, stemmed, seeded and finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (54 ounces) pork and beans
- ¼ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup molasses
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- ¼ cup hot sauce

1. Cook bacon in a large, deep skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat until it's browned but still moist, then set aside to drain on a paper towel.

2. Preheat oven to 325 degrees and set rack to the lower-middle position.

3. In the same skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the bacon grease (discard the rest) over medium heat. Add the onion, bell pepper, jalapeño and garlic and sauté 6–8 minutes, until softened.

4. Add the remaining ingredients, stirring

\$100 Recipe Contest

September's recipe contest topic is **Happy Hours**. We're kicking off fall with the best appetizers for game day, parties or family movie night. The deadline is **April 10**. Readers whose recipes are featured will receive a special *Texas Co-op Power* apron.

ENTER ONLINE at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; MAIL to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; FAX to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

to combine, and bring the mixture to a simmer over medium-high heat before removing from heat. Pour the beans into a baking dish and scatter the cooked bacon over the beans. Bake 2–2½ hours, until the beans have reached your desired consistency. Allow the beans to stand at least 15 minutes before serving. ▶Serves 10–12.

COOK'S TIP To feed an even larger crowd, up the amount of pork and beans to 84 ounces and make the remaining ingredients a “heaping” measurement.

Swiss Chard Slab Pie

I've toted this luscious, packed-with-greens pie on camping trips, taken it to potlucks, even knocked it out for weeknight dinners—happily anticipating the leftovers that are good hot or cold any time of day. The recipe is adapted from Kristin Donnelly's excellent *Modern Potluck* (Clarkson Potter, 2016). Sprinkling the top crust with flaky salt before baking gives it a delightful salty edge.

CRUST

- 3 cups flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1¼ cups (2½ sticks) cold unsalted butter, cubed
- ⅔ cup ice water

FILLING

- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- Generous pinch red pepper flakes
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 3 pounds red Swiss chard, leaves roughly chopped with stems reserved and cut into ¼-inch pieces
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 3 tablespoons currants
- ¼ cup pine nuts
- ¾ cup sour cream or Greek yogurt
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon water
- Flaky salt, for garnish

1. CRUST: In a food processor, pulse flour with salt and pepper. Add butter and

pulse until mixture resembles a coarse meal, with some large pieces of butter remaining. Sprinkle ice water on top and pulse just until dough comes together. Scrape onto a work surface, divide in half, and pat each half into a 6-inch square. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for about an hour.

2. FILLING: In a large Dutch oven or pot, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion, garlic, red pepper flakes and a pinch of salt, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are just softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the coriander, ginger and chard stems and cook until just softened, about 6 minutes. Stir in the wine and the currants and continue to cook until the liquid is reduced by half, about 8 minutes. Add the chard leaves in large handfuls, letting them wilt before adding more, then cook until the greens are tender and liquid has evaporated, about 5 minutes.

3. Transfer the chard mixture to a colander to cool completely and drain. When the mixture is cool, place it in a

large mixing bowl with the pine nuts and sour cream, season with salt and pepper, and use a rubber spatula to combine.

4. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out one piece of dough to a 12-by-16-inch rectangle. Use a bench scraper and a rolling pin to transfer the dough to the prepared baking sheet. Spread the chard filling evenly, leaving a 1-inch border. Roll out remaining dough and drape it over the filling. Fold the rim over itself and pinch edges to seal. Cut a few slits in the top of the pie, brush with egg wash and sprinkle with flaky salt.

5. Bake the pie 50–55 minutes, until the crust is golden and cooked through. For the best slicing results, let the pie cool for at least 15 minutes before cutting and then serve it warm or at room temperature. ▶Serves 8–10.

COOK'S TIP To avoid any traces of grit in the filling, wash the red Swiss chard leaves and stems carefully.



2018 GRAND PRIZEWINNER
Sherry's Shrimp Clemenceau
Sherry Zawadzki | Heart of Texas EC
Get the recipe at TexasCoopPower.com.

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Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: *Texas Co-op Power*/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries all can be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com. Entry deadline: June 10, 2019.

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WEB EXTRAS ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.

◀ **DENISE CRANE**, Victoria EC: A view from a kayak in Port O'Connor.

▼ **KAY BELL**, Nueces EC: "Getting up early at Big Bend leads to beautiful sunrises. This shot was taken from Dugout Wells in Big Bend National Park."



▼ **MICHAEL LANTY**, Concho Valley EC: "This old tractor is a fixture in Miles."

▶ **JONNIE ENGLAND**, Nueces EC: "The beautiful Panther Junction Road in Big Bend."



▶ **TERRI CARTER**, Rita Blanca EC: "Approaching Coldwater Draw on Highway 119 in Sherman County on a frosty winter morning."



UPCOMING CONTESTS

AUGUST FAMILY TIES	DUE APRIL 10
SEPTEMBER TEXAS VACATION	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER GIVING BACK	DUE JUNE 10

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Southwest Shootout

Paris April 24-28
(903) 784-2501, asaarchery.com

Professional and amateur archers compete by moving from station to station in the woods along the Trail de Paris and shooting at 3D targets resembling game animals. They compete for cash prizes and signature belt buckles.

April 11

Van Alstyne [11-13] Friends of Van Alstyne Library Book Sale, (469) 855-8205, vafol.com

12

Chandler [12-14] The Passion of Christ Play, (903) 849-2379

13

Bastrop Market Days 2019, (512) 718-4781

Grand Saline Main Street Festival, (903) 962-3122, grandsalinemainstreet.com

New Berlin Community Club Craft Fair and Rummage Sale, (210) 343-9570

Palestine Neches River National Wildlife Refuge Field Day, (903) 391-2444

New Braunfels [13-14] Folk Fest, (830) 629-6504, folkfestnb.com

17

Levelland [17-20] Little Dribblers 50th Anniversary Tournament, (806) 894-3157, levelland.com

18

The Colony Spring Eggstravaganza, (972) 625-1106, thecolonytx.gov

20

Kerrville Easterfest & Cookoff, (830) 896-1155, kerrvilletx.com



April 11-13
Van Alstyne
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21

Fort Davis Easter Sunday Egg Hunt & Picnic in the Park, (432) 426-3015, fortdavis.com

25

Linden [25-27] Wildflower Trails of Texas Festival, (903) 756-7502, lindenwildflowertrails.net

26

Grand Prairie [26-28] Main Street Fest, (972) 237-8100, mainstreetfest.com

27

Athens Henderson County Master Gardener Plant Sale, (903) 675-6130, txmg.org/hendersonmg

Bluff Dale Discover Bluff Dale, (817) 946-0141

Dallas Day to Play, (214) 823-4500, familygateway.org/dtp

Fort Worth Hops and Props Festival, (855) 733-8627, fortworthaviationmuseum.com

Lakehills Medina Lake VFD BBQ and Auction Fundraiser, (830) 751-2525, medinalakevfd.com

Weches Mission Tejas State Park Annual Folk Festival, (936) 687-2394



April 21
Fort Davis
Easter Sunday
Egg Hunt & Picnic

Buda [27-28] Buda Country Fair and Wiener Dog Races, (512) 914-2858, budalions.com

28

Montgomery Ride for Kids, (936) 582-1200

30

Tyler East Texas Giving Day, (903) 533-0208, easttexasgivingday.org

May

2

Stonewall [2-4] Rockets 2019, (830) 997-3567, systemsgo.org

3

Fort McKavett [3-4] West Texas Heritage Days, (325) 396-2358, visitfortmckavett.com

Seguin [3-4] Yellow Rose Fiber Producers Fiesta, (830) 433-5078, yellowrosefiberproducers.com

4

New Ulm Honey/Bee Jubilee, (979) 992-3570, newulmtexas.com

Stephenville Cowboy Capital MS Trail Ride, (254) 592-1895, ccmstrailride.com

Goliad [4-5] Cinco de Mayo Celebration, (361) 645-3752

Submit Your Event!

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

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Bible-Powered Flight

The Ezekiel Airship may have made man's first flight in 1902 near Pittsburg

CHET GARNER shares his Texplorations as the host of *The Daytripper* on PBS.

TEXAS IS NO STRANGER TO TALL TALES —whether it's Pecos Bill riding cyclones in the desert or sightings of a familiar ape-man in the East Texas pines. Some of these stories were clearly created for the campfire, while others are so crazy they just might be true. The story of the Ezekiel Airship is one of the latter.

Even though Ohio and North Carolina bicker over who can claim the Wright brothers and their legendary first flight in 1903, it may be that Texas beat them both.

On a cold day in December, I walked into the **Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center** in Pittsburg, not knowing what to expect. Of course, I found the typical collection of antique farming equipment and old photographs. But what I didn't expect was a full-sized aircraft hanging from the ceiling. It is a replica of the Ezekiel Airship, which local legend claims was the first aircraft in the world to carry a human into flight. But how could this be? I had never even heard of it, much less heard of the Baptist preacher named Burrell Cannon who built it. And so my education began.

Cannon, also a part-time mechanic, moved to Texas in the late 1800s. Inspired by a passage from Old Testament prophet Ezekiel about flying creatures and wheels within wheels, Cannon set out to design an aircraft. Given his solid reputation as a talented mechanic, and no doubt his charisma and salesmanship, Cannon was able to raise \$20,000 to fund his newly created Ezekiel Airship Manufacturing Company.



Within a few months, Cannon had finished his contraption, which donned a huge fabric canopy and eight wheels. If all worked as planned, a small gasoline engine would turn the wheels, which would rotate connected paddles and thereby push air into the canopy and lift the pilot off the ground.

As the story goes, one afternoon in 1902, two shop employees were testing the aircraft when the unthinkable happened: It flew! The airship carried unsuspecting pilot Gus Stamps about 160 feet at an altitude of 10 to 15 feet. Fearing the machine was about to crash, the pilot shut off the engine, cleared a fence and landed safely in a nearby field.

The event was allegedly witnessed only by the shop workers and a couple of children who happened to be walking by. Not even Cannon saw the flight, as he was busy preaching at a local church. To keep the developments secret until the proper time, nobody spoke publicly of the flight. No photographs were taken and no newspaper stories were written.

Cannon's grand idea was to transport the airship to the 1904 World's Fair in

Chet Garner ponders a flight in the 1902 Ezekiel Airship.

St. Louis. However, while the craft sat on a railcar near Texarkana, a thunderous storm passed through and laid the airship to waste.

Since that series of events, the debate has raged on. The young children who witnessed the flight eventually became old and, until their passing, never ceased sharing the story of how they saw the great airship fly. Cannon did attempt to rebuild the machine, but in 1913, his second model crashed into a utility pole and that was the end.

Is it true? Well, you know Texans never let the facts get in the way of a good story. However, if you ask the locals whether or not the airship flew on that eventful day in 1902, they'll tell you that "if grandma said it flew, then it definitely flew!" And that's good enough for me. Because if you can't trust grandma, who can you trust?

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video of his visit to Pittsburg.



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