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## HOG HEAVEN

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Tom Lea's depiction of a gunner scanning for enemy warplanes.

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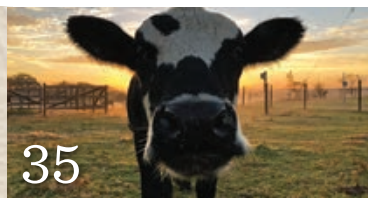
*Russian Interference*  
 By E. Dan Klepper

**NEXT MONTH**

**Drive In, Chill Out** *Drive-in theaters, long past their heyday, remain as beacons of nostalgia.*



TOM LEA ART: COURTESY TEXAS A&M PRESS



**ON THE COVER** *Lil Kevin, a rescued potbelly, plods the grounds of his forever home, at Oinkin' Oasis in Gilmer.* Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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## Other Blues Artists

The story [*Texas: A Blues State*, March 2019] would have been even better had it included Joe Tex (*Hold What You've Got*) and Joe Simon (*The Chokin' Kind*), notable blues and soul artists who performed in the Dallas area for years.

R.H. GRUY | GRANBURY  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

## Under the Green Flag

There was a mix-up on the historical details explaining our event Under the Green Flag [*A Chapter in La Bahia's History*, Currents, February 2019]. Mexico was fighting to win its independence from Spain, not to free Texas from Spanish rule.

Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Augustus William Magee were fighting to wrest Texas from Spanish rule with an idea of making it an independent country separate and apart from Spain or Mexico. The army they led was made up of Americans, Tejanos and Indians along with a handful of Spanish deserters.

SCOTT MCMAHON, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDIO LA BAHIA

## Raised in a Dance Hall

I was almost brought to tears when I saw *Hail the Halls* [February 2019]. I was raised in our local dance hall in Cypress—Cypress Gun and Rifle Club, aka Tin Hall. My dad remembered going there as a child with his dad in a horse and buggy. It was a huge two-story structure where people could meet and eat homemade pie downstairs while the two-steppin' went on upstairs on their immense wooden dance floor.

I slept on those chairs as a

## Long Live Texas Blues

I had so much fun reading about Texas blues artists [*Texas: A Blues State*, March 2019]. Every time I came to a name, I would type it into YouTube and listen to the artist's music. It really brought the article to life. Some of those early recordings were pretty rough and scratchy. Lightnin' Hopkins and T-Bone Walker are both stations on my Pandora playlist. Long live Texas blues.

LES MEADS | STOCKDALE | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC



child and learned to dance on my daddy's feet. Spent every Saturday night there while in high school.

SHERYL HENDRIX | GROESBECK  
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Your story brought back so many memories. I think my brother, sister and I were raised to the sound of polkas and waltzes in Hillje Hall. My uncles had a band, and my grandpa sold home-



brew behind the hall in the 1930s and '40s.

ROBERTA HOFBAUER | GUN BARREL CITY  
TRINITY VALLEY EC

Dave Shafer's radiant photos of dancers capture grace, exuberance and joy.

CARLOS RUMBAUT | CEDAR PARK  
PEDERNALES EC

## Sacrifice of Immigrants

As a 20-year Army veteran and retired major, Hispanic and the son of a Mexican immigrant, I was totally impressed with *A Hero in Any Language* [March 2019]. It will impress on a lot of people the appreciation we owe the nation's immigrants for their service and sacrifices.

Unfortunately, history

has a tendency to repeat itself, and today we find our government deporting our war veterans once again. Have we forgotten that we are a nation of immigrants?

ISRAEL HINOJOSA | HEBBRONVILLE  
MEDINA 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

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## HAPPENINGS

# Magnolia Days in Columbus

**WEB EXTRAS**  
► Find more happenings online.

The 100-year-old live oak and magnolia trees on the courthouse square in **COLUMBUS** supply the shade, and the chamber of commerce furnishes the fun **MAY 17-18** for the town festival of **MAGNOLIA DAYS**.

A family fun zone and beer and wine gardens as well as vendors, food and live music provide activities for all ages.

Magnolia, settled in the 1820s, is along the Colorado River, about 25 miles west of downtown Houston.

**INFO** ► (979) 732-8385, [magnoliadays.org](http://magnoliadays.org)

## PHILANTHROPY

# ALL HANDS ON DECK

**Time and saltwater** are scoring direct hits on the USS Texas, something the battleship mostly evaded during both world wars. The Texas, commissioned in 1914, is sinking where it sits docked in the Houston Ship Channel.

“**Due to constant** exposure to saltwater, the battleship Texas is suffering from damages and more than 300,000 gallons of water leaks each day,” says Tony Gregory, chairman of the Battleship Texas Foundation. The foundation’s Come and Save It campaign continues to gather petition signatures and collect donations in the hope of saving the ship. The petition will try to persuade state lawmakers to act on behalf of the ship.

**The goal** of a permanent dry dock solution could cost more than \$50 million. The effort to buoy the battleship welcomes supporters at [comeandsaveit.com](http://comeandsaveit.com).



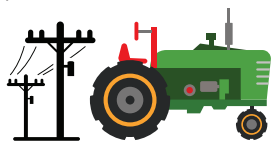
## ◀ LOOKING BACK AT ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY THIS MONTH



**FROM THE SPREAD OF ELECTRICITY thanks to co-ops to the dawn of the fracking industry, harnessing and consuming electricity and energy have hit many milestones since 1944, the year Texas Co-op Power debuted.**

### 1940s

**1944** The Pace Act extends the mission of the federal Rural Electrification Administration indefinitely beyond its original 1946 expiration date.



**1946** More than 50 percent of U.S. farms are electrified.

**1948** WBAP in Fort Worth becomes the first TV station in Texas.

### 1950s

**1951** Willie Wiredhand, composed of a lamp’s socket head, wire arms, two-pronged plug legs and a lineworker’s insulated gloves, is adopted as the official electric cooperative mascot.

**1951** The first commercial color TV broadcast takes place.

**1954** Bell Labs demonstrates the first practical silicon solar cell, powering a radio transmitter and toy Ferris wheel with energy from the sun.

### 1960s

**1964** Sony develops the first VCR for home use.

**1965** The Great Northeast Blackout plunges all of New York, portions of seven neighboring states and parts of eastern Canada into darkness for up to 12 hours.

**1969** Beginnings of the internet.

**1969** The first automated teller machine in the U.S., devised by Dallas engineer Donald Wetzel, is installed on Long Island.

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

# A Butterfly's Touch

**KATY HAMNER** was more nervous leaving the hospital with her 10-year-old daughter, Avery Graves, than when she took her home as a newborn. A simple visit to their family doctor, which revealed Graves had Type 1 diabetes, had turned into days in the intensive care unit.

“We had nobody when she was first diagnosed—nobody to turn to,” Hamner said.

Things didn't get much better when they got home. Graves had a hard time coping with a new lifestyle that included checking her blood sugar levels multiple times a day—a painful process.

So Hamner and Graves, now 12, members of Medina Electric Cooperative, started the Painless Butterfly Project, which funds painless lancing devices for children with Type 1 diabetes. They've funded and distributed 25 of the devices in the Hondo area, west of San Antonio, forming a community along the way.

“It's been really good for her,” Hamner said. “When she starts getting ... kind of upset about things, we'll have a kid or doctor that calls us, and I'll be like, ‘Time to go.’ And it kind of brings her back: ‘OK, I'm not the only one.’”

**INFO** ▶ [thepainlessbutterflyproject.org](http://thepainlessbutterflyproject.org)

**POWER OF OUR PEOPLE** recognizes co-op members who improve their community's quality of life. Nominate someone at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com).



LIFESTYLES

## Here Comes the Sun

**May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month**—a good time to think about the dangers of exposure to the sun and ways to lower your skin cancer risk.

**About 90 percent** of nonmelanoma skin cancers and 85 percent of melanoma cases are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

**More than 5.4 million** cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were treated in more than 3.3 million people in the U.S. in 2012, the most recent year statistics were available, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation.

**More people** are diagnosed with skin cancer each year in the U.S. than all other cancers combined.

**The best way** to defend against the sun's harmful UV rays is to shield your skin with clothing, sunscreen and shade.

### LOOKING BACK AT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEXT MONTH ▶

#### 1970s

**1976** The Apple I computer is introduced.

**1977** The U.S. Department of Energy is formed.

**1979** The Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurs.



#### 1980s

**1980** The first U.S. wind farm opens—in New Hampshire.

**1984** A power plant using tidal waves opens in Canada, the first of its kind in North America.

**1986** IBM unveils the PC Convertible, the first laptop computer.

**1988** South Texas Project Electric Generating Station near Matagorda becomes Texas' first nuclear power plant.

#### 1990s



**1996** The first modern electric car, General Motors' EV1, rolls off the production line.

**1999** Deregulation of the electric industry takes effect in parts of the state.

#### 2000s

**2008** Hydraulic fracturing begins in the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas.



**2017** Eighteen percent of Texas' energy is generated from wind and solar power, with wind making up the majority of the state's total renewable power generation.

HAMNER & GRAVES: COURTESY KATY HAMNER. SUN: RAMONA KAULITZKI | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. THREE MILE ISLAND: A.L. SPANGLER | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. ELECTRIC VEHICLE: MARNIKUS | DREAMSTIME.COM. SOLAR & WIND POWER: SOONTHORN WONGSAITA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

# THIS LITTLE PIGGY

BY CHRIS BURROWS | PHOTOS BY ERIC W. POHL





## When pet potbellies **outgrow expectations**, rescuers step in

The stories always seem to start the same: with a precious photo and a short conversation. Melanie Bolling's pet pig story began exactly that way.

"I saw a cute little piglet on Facebook, and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I need one,' "

she said of when she and her husband, Stephen, added weeks-old Pearl, a miniature potbellied pig, to their family in 2015. "It just kind of snowballed from there."

Soon Bolling found an online community of Metroplex-area pet pig parents, many of whom were looking for new homes for their animals. Since the Bollings live on 10 acres in Wills Point, east of Dallas, she felt compelled to help. She took in three pigs in 2016 and another 30 in 2017. Then 90 in 2018.

That's when Bolling realized most of the stories end the same way. Miniature pigs only start out that way, often outgrowing their owners' lifestyles and expectations—sent instead to the wilds of the internet or worse. Miniature pigs, so named because they're smaller than farm pigs, which can weigh up to 500–800 pounds, comprise more than a dozen breeds and can reach 200 pounds or more.

Experts estimate 90 percent of mini pig owners end up finding new homes for their pigs in their first two years. In response, dozens of rescues have cropped up across the state.

The Bollings started one of them. My Pig Filled Life, powered by Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, is home to more than 130 pigs across three barns. It's a big commitment that's only getting bigger.

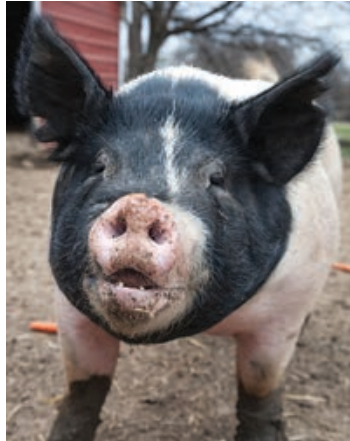
"I could take in a hundred [pigs] today and not make a dent in the amount of calls," Bolling said.

### THE PROBLEM

Mitsy Wempe will be the first to tell you that she and her husband, Jason, made a mistake.

The two animal lovers were looking to share their 10-acre plot in Gilmer when they came across miniature pigs for sale in 2014.

"I saw the piglets, and I'm like 'Oh my gosh.' They were so stinkin' adorable," Wempe said. "As soon as my eyes laid upon



them, I literally was hooked to the pigs."

They brought home Abigail first. Then many other pigs followed when friends and friends of friends realized the Wempes had space and were "the pig people," she said. "So then it turned into, 'Hey, I know somebody who has a pig and doesn't want it anymore, do you want it?'"

Soon the Wempes had their first male pig. That's when they slipped.

"We thought it would be interesting—fun, cool—to bring in an unneutered male and let him get my smallest pig pregnant because, of course, we were so ignorant," Wempe said. "Because, you know, if you mate it with a small pig, you'll have small pigs, right? Of course, that's not how it works."

Instead, unbeknownst to the Wempes, Magnus bred with four of their pigs, which led to 22 piglets in 30 days. He was neutered the next weekend, and the couple founded Oinkin' Oasis, a sanctuary served by Upshur Rural EC that houses more than 90 pigs, which will live out their days there.

The Wempes weren't the first to experiment with breeding, but they're among the few to decline the easy money it can bring in. "It really opened our eyes to—we are the problem,"

Wempe said. "That's when we decided we were going to rescue."

Since the 1980s, when Canadian farmer Keith Connell brought 19 straight-tailed potbellied pigs to the U.S. from Europe, untold thousands of breeders have taken a less noble path than the Wempes, breeding miniature pigs at runaway rates. Celebrities fueled a pet pig craze in the 2000s, when Tori Spelling, Denise Richards and Paris Hilton had reality TV shows that included leashed potbellies. The animals can fetch thousands of dollars each—prices that can be inflated with false descriptors, such as "teacup" and "micro."

"I try to remind people that it is very uncommon for a healthy pig to weigh less than 80 pounds as an adult," wrote Dr. Evelyn MacKay, a veterinary resident at Texas A&M University, in an email. "Although we have all seen pictures of cute, tiny pigs on the internet, the average pet pig is usually over 100 pounds."

Over many generations, dogs have been bred to take on a range of looks and sizes. Unscrupulous miniature pig breeders have claimed similar progress over mere decades.

"They sell this micro teacup lie," Bolling said.

Some unscrupulous breeders are worse, said Dan Illescas,

**Opposite: Melanie Bolling watches Rusty, one of the rescued potbellied pigs at My Pig Filled Life in Wills Point.**



**Mitsy Wempe interacts with P.J., one of the rescued pigs at Oinkin' Oasis in Gilmer, which she operates with her husband, Jason.**

who co-founded Central Texas Pig Rescue, a member of Bluebonnet EC, in Bastrop in 2016. Some breed pigs that aren't fully

grown—to give the illusion of tiny mothers—and even advise owners to underfeed pigs to keep them small, he said. Buyers who succumb to these tactics have few options.

“If I told you to only feed it a tablespoon of food a day, and you did that and it died—it's on you,” Illescas said. “You either feed the pig and it gets bigger than you wanted, or you don't feed the pig and it dies.”

### IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS

It was Pearl's cute features that got Bolling's attention, but it was her personality that forged a strong bond between them.

“When people reach out, I tell them my greatest need is always belly rubbers,” Bolling said. “These animals are super social, and physical contact and connection is what they crave most.”

According to findings published in the *International Journal of Comparative Psychology*, pigs live in complex social communities. They are adept at solving mazes and other tests, have excellent long-term memories, feel a range of emotions and respond to one

another's emotional states. Some experts claim pigs can outwit dogs, but don't confuse their behavior.

As animals that live their life as prey, not predators, “pigs have different drives than dogs do,” Illescas said. “I have to tell people five times that pigs aren't dogs. ... I explain it: ‘I know you know that pigs aren't dogs, but what you don't know is that your brain is telling you to look for dog behavior.’”

Owners frustrated by their pigs often turn to the internet, where misinformation abounds.

“When you have this big pig, but you have this information

### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to find ways to help the pig rescues featured here.



Experts estimate **90 percent** of mini pig owners end up finding new homes for their pigs in their first two years.

**Left: Rescued pigs love the attention and affection they get from Jason Wempe at Oinkin' Oasis. Below: Pigs move through the grounds at Oinkin' Oasis.**

much longer. They're sensitive to the weather because they can't sweat and have hair, not fur. They require special attention. That's why Bolling, who specializes in rehoming pigs, requires a rigorous process for prospective adopters.

"We have a great facility here, so if [a pig is] leaving here—and they may have been rehomed one, two, 10 times before—I need to know that it's a permanent place where they're going," she said. "I try to tell people, 'Think about the life you would have with a 3-year-old, and if you can't accommodate that life for 20 years, then don't take a pig.'"



**WORTH THE WORK**

**A** pig can change a person. Wempe stopped eating meat when pigs came into her life. A chance sighting of Wayland, one of her rescued farm pigs, through a kitchen window struck something in her.

"I literally was standing there frying up some bacon, and I just saw him and it killed me," she said. "We used to hunt. I got a rifle for Christmas one year. We were on a deer lease. We were those people."

Illescas stopped eating meat, too, and has forged a relationship with the vegan community in Austin, which helps with fundraising. CTPR spent more than \$85,000 on operations in 2017, Illescas said, before its population more than doubled. CTPR, which adopts out pigs in good health, focuses on pigs in greatest need—those with health issues that may have suffered from abuse or neglect. Veterinary students at Texas A&M benefit from caring for CTPR's pigs, which aren't always a focus of vet curricula.

"All veterinary students receive education on swine health, diseases and management practices, though this is a smaller part of the curriculum compared to dogs, cats, horses and cows," wrote MacKay, who helps care for CTPR pigs. "The focus has traditionally been on production-type swine medicine."

Mini pigs are a big commitment, a message Bolling, Illescas and Wempe hope to spread among veterinarians and the public. They're not quitting on their pigs.

"I'm a big believer in the Lord, and I felt like this was the place he was calling me to be, and it's opened so many doors," Bolling said.

Their stories won't end like the rest.

**Chris Burrows** is a TEC senior communications specialist.

you found on the internet that says pigs don't get big, you get kind of confused because you're not really sure what you're dealing with," Illescas said. "The truth is really mystified."

CTPR, which houses more than 250 pigs, fights misinformation with likes, shares and adorable photos. The rescue's Facebook and Instagram accounts count more than 35,000 followers, who are exposed to the realities of pet pigs. Still, it's an uphill fight, Illescas said.

"The people who have the information—us, other rescues, people who have pigs and learned the hard way—we have enough to do," he said.

Pet pig owners who do manage to find harmony at home know it's a lifestyle. Pigs can't be boarded like dogs, and they can live

# TOM LEA'S WAR



## Battlefield paintings by El Paso artist express the tragedy and pathos of World War II

**T**om Lea—noted muralist, author and war correspondent—grew up in El Paso, spending his childhood in the shadow of the Mexican Revolution during the second decade of the 20th century. Lea, son of a prominent lawyer who served two years as El Paso mayor, enjoyed the safety of an affluent household despite the dangers posed by the revolution's proximity. Decades later, he would witness a battlefront once again and provide Americans with a realistic and compassionate view of World War II as a war correspondent and illustrator for *Life* magazine.

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

Lea's chronicle of the tragedies and victories of the war created perhaps his most compelling artworks. The images he produced on the battlefield captured the heartfelt emotions of conflict in real time and under duress.

"Tom Lea started the artist-correspondent program for *Life* magazine as an 'embed,' recording real battles, not just paintings from news reports," explains Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute in El Paso, in an email. "It remained the most vivid part of his life and turned him from painting to writing. After WWII, Tom knew he needed words, not only paint, to express mankind's living and dying."

As *Life* described to readers in 1941, Lea was one of several artists whom the magazine commissioned to create "America's first gallery of defense art." The assignment was deemed a success, and soon *Life* had turned Lea into a special kind of war correspondent, traveling to the North Atlantic and South Pacific. He made sketches of what he saw. In one instance, after the ship on which he had been embedded was sunk, along with the photographic files on



Top: Tom Lea as he heads to war. Above: *Fighting Hornet* depicts the height of the Battle of Santa Cruz. Opposite: *That 2,000 Yard Stare* has become an iconic image of the effects of war on the human psyche.



John Lee  
1965



**Going In shows a Marine during the landing on Peleliu in 1944.**

board, Lea's drawings became the only record of the engagement. "In the fall of 1941," Lea wrote, "I went to sea aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer on duty in the submarine-haunted North Atlantic, as an Accredited War Artist-Correspondent of *Life Magazine*. ... I became, for deeply felt reasons, an eye-witness reporter, in drawings and paintings, of men and their machines waging a war worldwide."

Lea's work from this period, 82 pieces in all, portrays the war at its worst and Lea's illustrative skills at their best. Unsparring in its depiction of the true human cost of battle, it expresses an understanding of tragedy and pathos that required an unflinching eye, never turning away until an image was completed.

In 2008, Texas A&M University Press published a collection of Lea's remarkable sketches and powerful paintings and his firsthand written accounts of his assignments for *Life*. Margo wrote the foreword for the book.

A collection of his work is archived at the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and it tours periodically, including an exhibition at Fredericksburg's National Museum of the Pacific War.

"Although I had seen pictures of Tom Lea's World War II work several times, I was stunned when I viewed the originals at the National Museum of the Pacific War exhibition," says retired Marine Corps Gen. Michael William Hagee, president and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, which supports the museum. "Tom had a unique ability to bring the horror of war and the sacrifice and dedication of those who served and fought to his art. He obviously understood the fear, bravery, compassion and camaraderie of individuals on the battlefield. Having served in several conflicts, I have seen no artist that captures better the emotions

one experiences on the faces of his subjects."

Lea's creative training began at 18, with two years of formal instruction at the Art Institute of Chicago followed by a five-year apprenticeship with Chicago muralist John Norton and a period in Italy studying Renaissance frescoes. He returned to El Paso in his late 20s, an accomplished professional with a number of major works to his name.

"A singular aspect of Lea, sometimes overlooked, is the sheer versatility of his creative talents," says Victoria Ramirez, director of the El Paso Museum of Art. "Along with his prodigious output as a visual artist, he wrote novels, some of which are considered classics of Southwest literature. And in the realm of art, he was a master draftsman, illustrator and artist-reporter during World War II in addition to his substantial work in easel painting and murals."

**WEB EXTRAS**

► Read this story on our website to see more paintings and learn about the Tom Lea Trail.

Lea's considerable achievements made the founding of his namesake institute a necessity as much as an opportunity. The Tom Lea Institute, founded in 2009, is dedicated to documenting, exhibiting and sharing his works through a digital library, exhibitions and publications. The institute partners with academic foundations statewide that archive Lea's work, including the El Paso Museum of Art, the University of Texas at El Paso and the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The institute was also a key component to realizing its director's personal vision.

"In founding the Tom Lea Institute," Margo explains, "I've found joy in sharing a person and a place that I love." Texans who love history and art will no doubt appreciate her efforts.

Photographer, author and artist **E. Dan Klepper** lives in Marathon.



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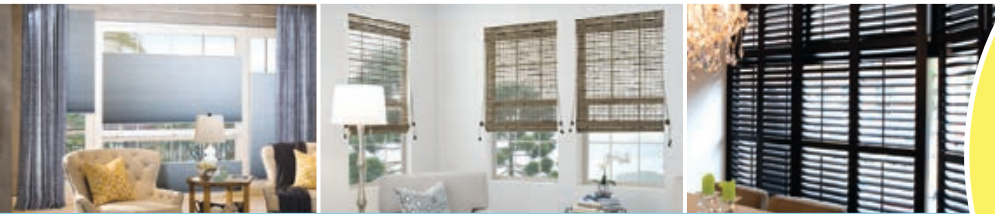
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# Our Commitment to You



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

**WE BELIEVE YOU, AS A MEMBER OF HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP,** deserve the absolute best. Every day we strive to honor our commitment of safety, reliability and service. We want to meet and exceed your expectations in all we do. To maintain quality service, it is necessary for us to increase rates at times. Beginning June 1st our members will see a \$2 increase in the monthly Base Charge.

Your board of directors and management team at Houston County EC have a healthy respect for the value of your dollar. We spend significant time and effort determining what is in the overall best interest of our consumer-members. We conducted a comprehensive cost of service study with an independent consulting firm. The purpose of the cost of service study is to identify the cost of providing service to each rate class and to provide recommendations to sustain the financial integrity of our cooperative.

As a non-profit organization, our goal is never to increase the percentage of operating margins. Our rate of return on operating margins is very conservative and is projected to remain below 2%. However, we need to recover costs to ensure financial stability, maintain sufficient working capital and provide safe, reliable service.

We would also like to provide additional information on your bill. As such, we will be splitting the Energy Charge (per kWh Charge) into two components on your bill. **The per kWh rate will not change.** The same rate you pay today will be split into an Energy Charge and a Delivery Charge.

The Energy Charge along with the Power Cost Adjustment reflects our wholesale cost of power. Wholesale power costs fluctuate monthly, which is why we have the Power Cost Adjustment. There is no margin on our Energy Charge or Power Cost Adjustment; we pass those charges on to our consumer-members at

our wholesale cost.

The Delivery Charge reflects our cost to maintain the distribution system and deliver energy to your meter. Delivery costs include items such as right-of-way maintenance, outage restoration and line inspection. We work hard to be efficient with your funds while maintaining over 5,000 miles of distribution line.

Our desire is to continue improving your service in the most economic manner possible. We are your cooperative, and you do have a voice. Please join us at our office on Tuesday, May 14th at 5:30 p.m. should you have questions or suggestions. We always aim to provide affordable, high-quality service.



## NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE

Houston County Electric Cooperative is providing notice that it intends to change rates for electric service. Pursuant to Texas Utilities Code section 41.061 the Cooperative has adopted a resolution approving the changes to the rates as presented below.

The monthly "**Customer Charge**" for the Residential service ("Schedule R"), Seasonal service ("Schedule S") and the Small Commercial service ("Schedule C") rate classes shall be changed as follows:

### CUSTOMER CHARGE

<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>CURRENT CHARGE</u>	<u>UPDATED CHARGE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
R	\$12.00/meter	\$14.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
S	\$20.00/meter	\$22.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
C Single-Phase	\$12.00/meter	\$14.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
C Multi-Phase	\$16.00/meter	\$18.00/meter	\$2.00/meter

The "**Minimum Bill**" charge for the Residential service ("Schedule R"), Seasonal service ("Schedule S") and the Small Commercial service ("Schedule C") rate classes shall be changed as follows:

### MINIMUM BILL

<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>CURRENT CHARGE</u>	<u>UPDATED CHARGE</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
R	\$14.00/meter	\$16.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
S	\$20.00/meter	\$22.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
C Single-Phase	\$14.00/meter	\$16.00/meter	\$2.00/meter
C Multi-Phase	\$18.00/meter	\$20.00/meter	\$2.00/meter

The amount of these charges for these rate classes have been in effect and unchanged since 2017. The proposed increases are necessitated by increases in overall operating costs for the Cooperative since that time.

The effective date of these updated charges will be June 1, 2019, or as soon thereafter as may be allowed by law.

If you have questions regarding these changes, please give us a call at (936) 544-5641 and we will be happy to discuss these changes with you. You are also invited to attend a **Public Meeting at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** to be held at the Cooperative's headquarters in Crockett, Texas to discuss these changes with the staff.



Mitchell Huff, Secretary

## Houston County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 52, Crockett, TX 75835

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kathi Calvert

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Courmier, President  
 Kennon Kellum, Vice President  
 Mitchell Huff, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Mary L. Pearl Adams  
 William Emmons  
 Kay Reed  
 Charles "Chuck" Siems  
 Grady Wakefield  
 David Whittlesey

## Contact Us

**TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE,  
 CALL OUR 24-HOUR HOTLINE**

**1-800-970-4232** toll-free

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

*For general information  
 during business hours*

**(936) 544-5641** local

**1-800-657-2445** toll-free

To report an outage or other problem with electrical service, press 1.

To make a payment over the phone or speak with a member services representative in the billing department, press 2.

For electrical connects, transfers and disconnects, press 5.

For directions to our office, mailing address or fax number, press 6.

For satellite internet services, press 7.

For staking and construction, press 8.

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**houstoncountyelec.com**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

# Rate Restructuring coming June 1

Houston County Electric Cooperative is restructuring residential, seasonal, and small commercial electric rates.

- In June, the Base Charge will increase \$2.00 for each electric rate class.
- The per kWh Charge will be broken down to Energy and Delivery components to provide more information.

**Rates are designed to reflect actual costs in equitable manner among different rate classes.**

## Base Charge - Increasing \$2.00

Covers your share of the cost to build and maintain the electric system that makes power available at your location. Every truck, transformer, wire, pole, and meter costs money. This equipment - and the people to operate it - are needed to safely deliver reliable electricity to your meter, regardless of how much electricity you use.

## Per kWh Charge - No change

Covers the cost of electricity and the cost of delivering electricity to your home or business. The kWh charges will vary each month depending on how much energy you consume.

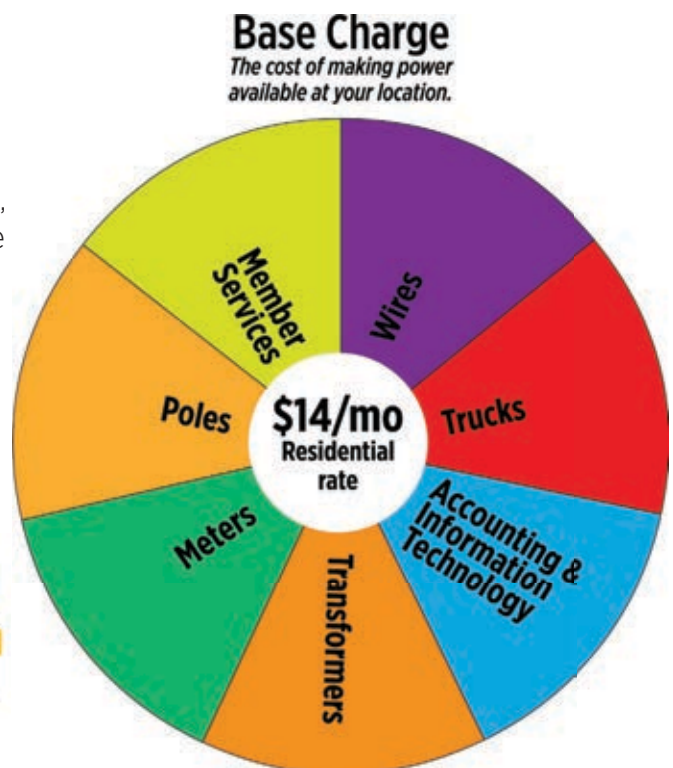
*Energy Charge:* This line item depicts our wholesale cost of power. This includes the cost of generation facilities producing electricity.

*Power Cost Adjustment (PCA):* This line item reflects fluctuations in our wholesale power costs. Market costs and generation performance vary monthly. The PCA provides a mechanism to pass along actual wholesale power costs.

*Delivery Charge:* This line item covers the cost of delivering electricity to your meter. It includes the costs associated with maintaining our distribution system. Right-of-way trimming, line inspection, and outage restoration are some of the maintenance activities required to safely deliver reliable service.

**The delivery cost is higher in rural areas because costs are shared by fewer consumers.**

Houston County Electric Cooperative 4.2 Members per mile to share costs	<b>VS.</b>	Other Utilities 20-40 Customers per mile to share costs
--	------------	---



## What you'll see in June:

<b>Residential</b>	Current Charge		New Charge
Base Charge	\$12.00		\$14.00
Energy Charge	9.23¢/kWh →	Energy Charge	3.465¢/kWh
		Delivery Charge	5.765¢/kWh

= 9.23¢/kWh  
the same since 1989

<b>Seasonal</b>	Current Charge		New Charge
Base Charge	\$20.00		\$22.00
Energy Charge	11.61¢/kWh →	Energy Charge	4.719¢/kWh
		Delivery Charge	6.891¢/kWh

= 11.61¢/kWh  
the same since 1989

# SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL BILL:

Current Charges & Adjustments	
Balance Forward	0.00
110-Base Charge	14.00
110-Energy Charge ( .03465 per kwh)	34.65
110-Delivery Charge ( .05765 per kwh)	57.65
Power Cost Adjustment ( .016 per kwh)	16.00
<b>Total Activity</b>	<b>122.30</b>

calculations based on 1,000 kWh

Notice that there is an additional line item, but the amount per kWh is **not increasing**. The new Energy Charge & Delivery Charge equal 9.23¢/kWh as it always has for residential service.

## Cost of Service Used to Develop Electric Rates

Our rate consulting firm completed a comprehensive *Cost of Service* study that examined all of the co-op's expenses and allocated them to the appropriate rate classifications. All expenses were allocated as either fixed costs of operating our cooperative or variable costs of providing and delivering energy. The rate restructuring comes directly from this analysis.

It was clear in our cost of service study that the base charge has not kept pace with increasing costs. Your board of directors, as members themselves, understand the value of your dollar. They are committed to operating your cooperative in a conservative, financially responsible manner. The increase in base charge is not to increase our margins. It simply reflects our cost to provide save, reliable service to our members.

Current Charges & Adjustments	
Balance Forward	0.00
110-Base Charge	12.00
110-Energy Charge ( .0923 per kwh)	92.30
Power Cost Adjustment ( .016 per kwh)	16.00
<b>Total Activity</b>	<b>120.30</b>

calculations based on 1,000 kWh



## LOCAL BUSINESS LISTINGS:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Bella Gifts from the Heart</b><br/>10% off purchase<br/>406 East Houston Ave, Crockett<br/>936-545-1906</p>   | <p><b>Janie's Flower Korner</b><br/>10% off LIVE plants (in-store only)<br/>605 East Bowie Ave, Crockett<br/>936-544-8432</p>    |
| <p><b>Bruner's Economy Car Center</b><br/>\$25 off Deductible<br/>3590 US HWY 287 N, Crockett<br/>936-544-7142</p>  | <p><b>Knights Inn</b><br/>10% off Avg. Daily Rate<br/>1600 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-544-5611</p>                          |
| <p><b>Collin's Tractor &amp; Equipment</b><br/>\$250 off any equipment over \$5,000<br/>650 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-544-3157</p>                              | <p><b>Knox Furniture</b><br/>10% off accessories purchase<br/>300 East Goliad Ave, Crockett<br/>936-544-2248</p>                 |
| <p><b>Cowboy Trailer Sales</b><br/>5% off trailer parts<br/>1530 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-546-2467</p>   | <p><b>Kwik Kar Oil &amp; Lube</b><br/>5% off any oil change<br/>303 West Goliad Ave, Crockett<br/>936-544-2424</p>               |
| <p><b>Craw-Dadeez Boil &amp; Go</b><br/>Save 25¢ per LB on any food product for sale during season.<br/>Location varies - follow on FB for info!<br/>936-546-1047</p> | <p><b>Stories of Texas</b><br/>10% discount on purchases<br/>501 East Goliad Ave, Crockett<br/>936-546-6978</p>                  |
| <p><b>Crockett Farm &amp; Fuel Center, Inc.</b><br/>10% Discount on rubber boots &amp; jewelry<br/>1405 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-544-3855</p>                  | <p><b>Sweet Stop Shaved Ice</b><br/>25¢ off any size shaved ice<br/>1300 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-546-1646</p>            |
| <p><b>Davy Crockett Bar &amp; Grill</b><br/>Free Soft Drink or Tea with lunch or dinner purchase!<br/>1260 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-243-6005</p>               | <p><b>Tata's Tex-Mex</b><br/>FREE sm. queso with entree purchase (dine-in)<br/>1511 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-545-8282</p> |
| <p><b>Davy Crockett Drug</b><br/>10% off all "Good Neighbor Pharmacy" products &amp; gift items<br/>107 South 4th St, Crockett<br/>936-544-2275</p>                   | <p><b>Texas Farm &amp; Home Magazine</b><br/>25% off for new subscribers<br/>202 South Main St, Grapeland<br/>936-687-2424</p>   |
| <p><b>Doc's BBQ &amp; Smoked Meats</b><br/>10% off an item<br/>1277 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-546-7743</p>  | <p><b>Thames Jewelry</b><br/>10% off jewelry purchase<br/>116 South 5th St, Crockett<br/>936-544-7762</p>                        |
| <p><b>Embers Inn</b><br/>10% off Avg. Daily Rate<br/>1401 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-544-5681</p>  | <p><b>The Grapeland Messenger</b><br/>50% off for new subscribers<br/>202 South Main St, Grapeland<br/>936-687-2424</p>          |
| <p><b>H&amp;W PowerSports of Palestine</b><br/>Save up to \$250.00!*</p>  | <p><b>Tyer's Processing</b><br/>10% off purchase of \$100 or more<br/>1300 North 6th St, Crockett<br/>936-544-7463</p>           |
| <p><b>Hargrove-Neel Inc. ~Heating &amp; Air~</b><br/>5% Discount on repairs*<br/>1117 East Houston Ave, Crockett<br/>936-544-7270</p>                                 | <p><b>White Horse Enterprise</b><br/>10% off new &amp; used tack<br/>1450 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-545-8868</p>           |
| <p><b>Houston County Courier</b><br/>5% off for new subscribers<br/>102 South 7th St, Crockett<br/>936-544-2238</p>   | <p><b>Willie Josey's Paint &amp; Body</b><br/>\$50 off your deductible<br/>1053 East Loop 304, Crockett<br/>936-544-2619</p>     |

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MELISSA BRISKO

### Corn Salad With Fritos

- 1 can (15 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- ½ cup diced red onion
- ½ cup diced green bell pepper
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ bag (10.5 ounces) crushed Chili Cheese Fritos

1. Combine all ingredients except Fritos. (You can do this the night before and refrigerate overnight.)
  2. Just before serving, fold in Fritos.
    - Serves 4-6.
- COOK'S TIP** If you're multiplying this recipe to serve a crowd, use green and red bell peppers for variety.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at **TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**



View [Connections.coop](http://Connections.coop) for an updated list!

Updated 3/27/2019

\*See offer online for details



# 2019 Scholarship Recipients

## DOROTHY H. GOODRUM SCHOLARSHIP



Camryn Craven  
Latexo HS  
Texas A&M University  
Major in Architecture



Jalyn Fletcher  
Slocum HS  
Sam Houston State University  
Major in Graphic Design



Railey Hardin  
Oakwood HS  
East Texas Baptist University  
Major in Psychology



Meredith Ecord  
Groveton HS  
Texas A&M University  
Major in Animal Science



Blake Georg  
Madisonville HS  
Texas A&M University  
Major in Business Administration



Jenna Holloway  
Elkhart HS  
Texas A&M University  
Major in Agriculture Leadership &  
Development



J.D. Martin  
Grapeland HS  
Sam Houston State University  
Major in Agriculture Engineering &  
Technology



Taylor Pennington  
Grapeland HS  
Sam Houston State University  
Major in Animal Science



Bailey Ingle  
Latexo HS  
Texas A&M University  
Major in Health



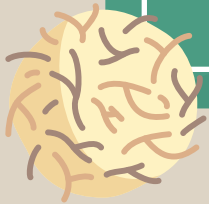
Jared Miller  
Centerville HS (Leon Co.)  
Texas State Technical College  
Laser Electro Optics Technology

## Congratulations, Seniors!

Ten local students whose families are served by Houston County Electric Cooperative, Inc., earned a \$1,000 Dorothy H. Goodrum Scholarship. The scholarships are designed to recognize students who have demonstrated academic success as well as showing a commitment to bettering their community. HCEC would like to congratulate the 2019 scholarship winners and are proud to reward the students for their academic success and dedication to their community. As a not-for-profit cooperative, one of our guiding principles is 'Commitment to Community,' and we cannot think of a better way than a scholarship program to give back to the communities we serve and encourage youth to be involved in their own community.

# GHOST TOWNS

ONCE THRIVING COMMUNITIES IN THE HCEC TERRITORY THAT ARE NOW FEATURED ON TEXAS' "GHOST TOWN" LIST.



Just like the books we read and the people we meet, the places around us have stories to tell. From once thriving, bustling towns, to now desolate areas with low (to no) populations, we want to visit the ghost towns that were once so full of life in the HCEC territory.

The creek and settlement were both named Ioni after finding tools and arrowheads left by the Indian tribe who had camped there. In 1884, the town's population peaked at 60, and although it had a school, three churches, a store, gristmill, and a gin, by 1896, the residents had dwindled to 25."

The town faded away in the early 20th Century and stopped appearing on maps by the 1920s. Ioni is located approximately 20 miles southeast of Palestine and 10 miles East of Elkhart. Population: 0.

**IONI**  
ANDERSON COUNTY



Letter with Ioni postmark in 1870. Courtesy of The John J. German Collection.

Providence got its beginning in 1858 when W.T. Miller donated eight acres for a cemetery, school and church.

This little settlement shared its name with at least six other Texas towns. In the late 1870s the Masons built a two-story combination school and church building and held their meetings on the second floor. A tornado in 1900 damaged the building, causing the school to be relocated to nearby Elkhart. The present one-story building, located on County Road 1223 off of FM 323 near Slocum, was salvaged and repaired with original materials, and regular church services continued through 1935. Population: Unknown.

**PROVIDENCE**  
ANDERSON COUNTY



November 1913, crossing the Trinity River on the Ferry at the Alabama Crossing. Photo courtesy of the Trinity County Museum

At what is now the dead end of FM 132 in Porter Springs, the small settlement of Alabama was established in the 1830s. It served as a shipping point during the Civil War and for many years was the only way to travel to and from Leon and Houston counties. A post office opened there in 1846, and it was home to the Trinity College, the first institution of higher education in Houston County. When the railroads were established in the 1870s, the town suffered due to lack of commerce on the river. Population: 0.

**ALABAMA**  
HOUSTON COUNTY



## NINEVEH LEON COUNTY

Located in between FM 542 and FM 1511 on FM 3178, Nineveh was founded in the late 1800s on the stagecoach route from Buffalo to Crockett. In the 1890s, the community became notorious for quarrels between the members of the Democratic party and the People's party. The post office was established there in 1900, with Benjamin F. Tubb as the postmaster. In 1907 there were two schools that also held church services by circuit-riding preachers. The population reached 50 by 1914 and the town had a cotton gin and a general store. From 1925 through the 1940s the community had expanded to 150 people but began to decline, and by 1950 the town had dwindled to only 80 residents and four businesses. Population: Unkown.

Bucareli, established in 1774, was populated by colonists who were forced from their home in Louisiana and ordered to move to San Antonio. The colonists begged Viceroy Antonio María de Bucareli y Ursúa to let them move closer to their original home and were granted a site where the Old San Antonio Road crossed the Trinity River. The settlement was named Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Bucareli and soon after it was founded it had a plaza, a church, a guardhouse, twenty houses of hewn wood, and numerous huts.

A storeowner and mill operator, Eli Coltharp, is credited for founding this community near County Road 4700 and State Highway 7 just 2 miles northeast of Kennard. He opened a store and post office on the stage route to Nacogdoches. The area boasted a gin, gristmill, blacksmith and milinery shops. A school building housed the Masonic Lodge No. 419. When the railroad bypassed Coltharp and a sawmill opened nearby, the town's farming business deteriorated. By 1946, Coltharp was dropped from the county map, although it is believed that some descendants still live in the area. Population: 0.

They were exempt from taxation and tithes for ten years. The community prospered for a while due to its renewed illegal trade with the French, but an epidemic in 1777 and raids by Comanche Indians doomed the settlement. Without official permission, the townspeople abandoned Bucareli and moved further East and established

Nacogdoches in April of 1779. Population: 0.

## BUCARELI MADISON COUNTY

## KITTRELL WALKER COUNTY

Just East of where FM 230 and FM 3478 intersect, you'll find the remains of the Kittrell settlement, named for its founder, Pleasant W. Kittrell. Pleasant Kittrell was a physician who served as a member of Sam Houston's cabinet and was instrumental in establishing the University of Texas. Kittrell chose the site of his namesake town because of its separation from the rest of county by the Trinity River. For years Kittrell was only accessible by boat. From 1878 to 1920, Kittrell had a post office, a schoolhouse, a general store, a cotton gin, and a seed mill. The maximum population was 104, but by 1945 had reduced to 25 residents. It was rumored the Sam Houston once lived on land in Kittrell. Population: Unknown.



**A historical marker is all that is left of Bucareli. It can be found on the west side of the Trinity River bridge along State Highway 21 in Madison County.**

Twelve miles north of Groveton, along FM 358 and among the tall pine trees, rests a town with a welcoming name. Friendship was established by the Reese family in the 1870s after they moved to the area to build a sawmill, a gristmill, and a cotton gin. Per school records, attendance reached 33 in 1898, but dropped down to just 16 students in 1910 and eventually consolidated with Pennington in 1939. After the second World War, the population depleted. The original Reese family farm stayed in operation by the descendants for over a century. Population: Unkown

## COLTHARP HOUSTON COUNTY

## FRIENDSHIP TRINITY COUNTY



**A Coltharp postmark from March 16, 1886. Courtesy of The John J. German Collection.**



**An image from Flora Gatlin Bowles' book "A History of Trinity County Texas, 1827 to 1928"**

# Instant Archives

The Portal to Texas History makes a wealth of research and documents available online

BY LIGHT T. CUMMINS

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN YOAKUM sits at a laptop researching a term paper for his history class. He reads about the great Texas cattle drives and examines maps of the trails to market towns in Kansas. A world away, an English-speaking reporter sits at a computer in a Yokohama newsroom, researching background about Lyndon B. Johnson to be included in an article about Texas politics for her readers in Japan.

The student and the reporter, more than 6,000 miles apart, are using a website known as the Portal to Texas History.

The free website contains nearly 12 million digitized historical documents for research. In 2002, University of North Texas librarian Cathy Hartman realized the impact digitization could have on traditional libraries and their paper materials. “Our goal,” she says, “was to create a technical infrastructure to preserve digital copies of Texas history materials and provide free access to the materials for everyone.” She set about securing a series of grants that funded the project.

By 2004, the initial set of digitized resources were online. Four years later, the National Endowment for the Humanities named the portal one of the best research sites on the internet. By 2010, it had 100 partners providing materials for digitization. UNT maintains the massive online collection.

Its contents span the pre-Columbian era to recent occurrences—for every geographical area of Texas. Each document on the portal is indexed and searchable.

Hartman, now retired dean of libraries

at UNT, explains the portal works with more than 400 partners around Texas, including libraries, museums, archives and private collectors, to share collections online. The portal currently receives about 1 million unique visits each month. People come back to it because there is always something new to discover.

“It is exciting,” she says, “to hear from genealogists who use the portal to track family history or from teachers who use it as a resource in their class.” Hartman says she has no favorite section but browses the collections regularly.

The portal has greatly assisted my writing about Texas history. My bibliographical book *Discovering Texas History* required examining hundreds of items. I accomplished this task during a week’s work on the portal, something that otherwise would have required well over a month of walking among shelves of several libraries.

My recent biography, *Allie Victoria Tennant and the Visual Arts in Dallas*, could have demanded my visiting several dozen archives. There I would have searched through thousands of unindexed paper items, turning page after page for many weeks, only intermittently finding the information I needed. Instead, a few days’ work in the portal enabled me to efficiently locate more than 1,500 documents, which I saved to my computer. The portal made that book a manageable research project in terms of expending my time and efforts.

In my travels while serving as the state historian of Texas, I talked with many other historians and all agree on the portal’s value. “It is accessible, easy to use



**WEB EXTRAS**

► Read this story on our website to see more archival photos.

and contains the most diverse collection of Texana imaginable,” said Deborah Liles, history professor at Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

The portal provides one-stop shopping for students, teachers, journalists, genealogists, writers or anyone with a general interest in Texas history.

New materials enter the archive constantly, contributed by many repositories throughout Texas. Libraries, archives and museums regularly loan paper items from their holdings. These include letters, newspapers, journals, public documents, manuscripts, school yearbooks, magazines, photographs and other historical materials. The staff at the portal digitizes these items, applies software to make each one searchable by computer and then adds them to the online collection. Once each item is digitized, the paper original is returned to its

owner. The portal grows more useful as documents are added and digitization technology advances.

The portal puts Texas history at the fingertips of every teacher and student in the state, from the smallest elementary school to the largest university. This has been my experience teaching at Austin College in Sherman. Over the years, hundreds of my students have written term papers along with a number of advanced theses based on their research in the portal. The portal also contains thousands of historical photographs that illustrate Texas history. I regularly enhance my class presentations by projecting images of key documents and images for student discussion.

Simply put, the Portal to Texas History has changed the researching, writing and teaching of history about our state.

**Light T. Cummins** served as state historian of Texas 2009-12 and is a professor emeritus at Austin College.

**Members of a Chicago and Rock Island Railroad survey crew, which worked a 10-mile stretch between Dallas and Fort Worth, circa 1902.**

# Russian Interference

Tumbleweeds—stray pests from Siberia and icons of loneliness—sometimes gang up on civilization

BY E. DAN KLEPPER

THE WINTER TRAFFIC JAM ALONG U.S. Highway 67, the blacktop spanning Big Bend country between Marfa and the border town of Presidio, surprised everyone. Deputy sheriffs lined the roadway, slowing vehicles to a crawl before moving them forward one at a time. Dozens of pickups and SUVs waited their turn, causing a temporary delay for cowboys, tourists and laborers. Backups, rare on this isolated stretch of road where sweeping grasslands rise toward the Chinati Mountains, are usually caused by a wayward cow.

This time, the culprit was a herd of tumbleweeds blown loose from a fence line, impeding drivers' views and rolling willy-nilly up and down the highway.

In another disruption that occurred in the past century, the tumbleweed escaped its humble origins as a nuisance weed and evolved into an allegorical icon of frontier mythology, representing the loner, the drifter and the rambling spirit. The weed's rise in status can be attributed to its nomadic movements that represent the ambition to wander. Its motion seems to be driven by a supernatural force as it appears and vanishes in the most isolated and unlikely places, inspiring some folks to call it a "windwitch." It embodies the magical and the mundane, as common as a dandelion yet representing our desire to be free.

Tumbleweeds and Texas go hand in hand, especially in the western half of the state, where they thrive along roadsides. The plants love disturbed, loosened soil in vacant lots, fallow agricultural fields and railroad sidings. Seeds require only

the slightest bit of water to germinate and can send a taproot down to subsurface moisture in 12 hours. Heat tolerant and fast growing, tumblers are bushy, spiny weeds that have been known to reach more than 6 feet in diameter. They dry out in the fall before detaching from the soil surface and, propelled by the wind, roll across the countryside scattering seeds.

In West Texas, this journey typically ends at a fence line, where hundreds of wayward tumbleweeds might gather for the winter. The weeds remain there, piled in rows, until a change in the wind and weather sends them all at once on their way again. The spontaneous migration can be impressive, creating sudden and sizable disruptions, such as the U.S. 67 traffic jam. Massive tumbleweed movements can even surround homes and barns, creating a fire hazard or impeding access like flood debris sent adrift and then lodged against itself in the wake of a hurricane.

As a member of the goosefoot family, the Texas tumbleweed is actually a Russian thistle, introduced to America in 1873 by contaminated flaxseed. Russian immigrants settling in South Dakota brought flax with them, unwittingly casting tumbleweed seeds into the soil as well. The Siberian native, capable of producing around a quarter-million seeds per plant, was originally dispersed by wind, railroad livestock cars and farming operations, including threshers and their traveling crews.

Before long, tumbleweeds could be found throughout the settled frontier. Hardy, invasive and drought-resistant,



**A tumbleweed along a fence line in West Texas.**

tumbleweeds quickly earned a reputation as an agricultural pest. “Tumbleweeds may be pesky, but cows love ‘em,” says William Holt Jowell, a retired Midland cattleman. “I used to raise Texas registered long-horns, and they would clear a pasture of young tumbleweed sprouts in short order, making livestock the best defense against the weed. But as soon as I moved the cattle out of the pasture, guess who’s back: tumbleweeds.”

As the tumbleweed’s notoriety advanced, so did its stature in the zeitgeist of the American West. The bundle of twigs was immortalized early in the 20th century by the Sons of the Pioneers, a western singing group with its own century-spanning legacy. Although the lineup

has changed since their debut in 1933, the Pioneers continue to sing the western classic *Tumbling Tumbleweeds*. “See them tumbling down, pledging their love to the ground,” the song begins. “Lonely but free, I’ll be found drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds.”

The weed’s celebrity doesn’t end with a song. Tumbleweeds have appeared as character “actors” in films and on television, including appearances in dozens of classic and contemporary Westerns, commercials and cartoons. They often have been employed to suggest emptiness, making a tumbling sphere of thistle one of the most recognizable cultural symbols of isolation. The metaphor is at odds with the truth, considering that the tumbleweed is now one of the country’s most common weeds.

**WEB EXTRAS**

▶ Read this story on our website to see more tumbleweed photos.

The U.S. 67 traffic jam eventually cleared up, thanks in part to the steadfast direction of law enforcement and collaborating

drivers. The tumbleweeds cooperated as well, pausing in their migration as the wind subsided, vacating the blacktop to gather in roadside ditches or up against another fence line. The cessation would hold, at least as long as the weather did, before the wind began to stir the grasslands, signaling a change in the air, turning the windmill blades before sending the tumbleweeds tumbling once again toward the horizon, aimless and carefree.

**E. Dan Klepper** is a photographer, author and artist who lives in Marathon.

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An advertisement for Nancy Johnson's Little Hats program. It features a photograph of an elderly woman, Nancy Johnson, wearing a red hat and smiling. She is surrounded by a large pile of red knitted hats. The text "There are so many people in the co-ops of Texas who do extraordinary things for other people." is written in a stylized font. Below the photo, the text reads: "—NANCY JOHNSON, whose Little Hats, Big Hearts program builds awareness of congenital heart defects. Texas Co-op Power, February 2017".

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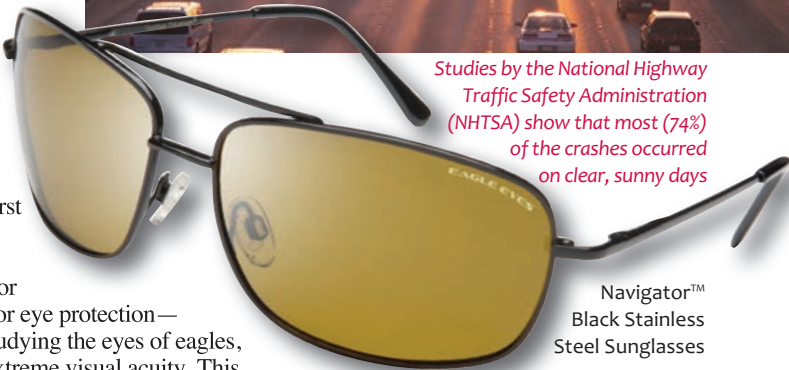
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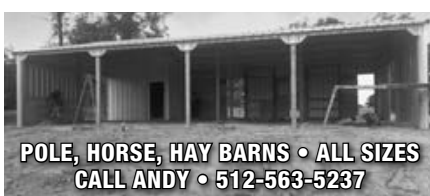
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# Baylor, the Man

Judge and minister is an unlikely namesake for the Baptist university in Waco

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

EVEN THOUGH THE NAME BAYLOR HAS been prominent in Texas higher education for 174 years, Judge R.E.B. Baylor's name was attached to the university only as the result of a quirky legislative process. Legislation to charter a Baptist university bore two other names before Baylor's was substituted.

In 1844, the Texas Baptist Educational Society directed Baylor, the Rev. William M. Tryon and J.G. Thomas to petition the Congress of the Republic of Texas to charter a Baptist university. The society first named the institution San Jacinto University, then Milam University, eventually deciding the university should bear the name of a prominent Baptist. Baylor's name was chosen because he had authored the legislation.

Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky, in 1793. His father served as a captain in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Although he attended schools around Paris, Kentucky, the younger Baylor was largely self-taught. He followed in his father's footsteps as a 19-year-old and joined the state militia during the War of 1812, taking up arms again in the Second Creek War in Alabama in 1836. As late as 1840, he rode into battle near San Antonio following the Council House Fight, after peace negotiations between Anglos and Comanches broke down.

In *History Along the Way*, Dan K. Utley wrote, "Baylor studied law in the Lexington office of his distinguished uncle, Jesse Bledsoe—who saw service in both the U.S. Senate and the Kentucky House of Representatives—passed the bar exam and opened his own office while in his early twenties."

Baylor served one year as a Kentucky state representative in 1819 before resigning



**Pompeo Coppini's statue of Judge R.E.B. Baylor after its unveiling at the Founders Day dedication at Baylor University in 1939.**

the position and moving to Alabama. Period accounts suggest the sudden move was motivated by grief after the death of his fiancée in a riding accident.

As a lawyer in Tuscaloosa, Baylor returned to politics and won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. He moved to Selma and then Mobile and in the summer of 1839, attended a revival at the Baptist church in Talladega led by his cousin, the Rev. Thomas Chilton. Baylor decided he needed to be saved. "Also a lawyer and former politician," according to Utley, "Chilton was a close colleague of David Crockett and enjoyed additional success as a minister. Baylor, viewed by various historians as a deist, Unitarian, atheist, infidel or agnostic, converted to Christianity while attending the revival." Not long afterward, the Talladega Baptist Church ordained him as a minister.

In 1839, Baylor moved to La Grange, where at the urging of preacher Z.N. Morrell, he became a crusading frontier clergyman. Serving as a justice of the Third Judicial Court of the Republic of Texas,

Baylor, with gun at hand, held court proceedings during the day, and in the evening, he preached and organized churches. He saw no conflict in this arrangement, although once during a sermon, he became overexcited and referred to his parishioners as "gentlemen of the jury." Baylor's charismatic sermons and keen intellect often moved his audiences to laughter or tears.

Baylor served as a trustee of Baylor University at its first location in Independence and taught law classes. He retired from the bench in the 1860s and lived out the remainder of his life in the nearby Gay Hill community. He died in 1873 and was buried on university grounds.

By the 1880s, Baylor University had outgrown its Independence site and merged with the all-male Waco University, and a women's school was established in Belton as Baylor Female College—now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Judge Baylor's remains were moved to Belton, but a fire in the administration building near his second grave forced another move. His third grave, covered by a simple marble slab, lies near the chapel at Mary Hardin-Baylor.

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

# Government Melts Over 270 Million Silver Dollars

*But collectors get an unexpected second chance*

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These vanished coins were not just any silver dollar—they were America's largest circulated coin, the beloved Morgan Silver Dollar. Each Morgan Dollar is struck from nearly an ounce of 90% fine silver and measures a massive 38.1mm in diameter. Morgan Silver Dollars were the engine of the American dream for decades. Created by famed American coin designer, George T. Morgan, they feature Lady Liberty's radiant profile and a majestic eagle, symbols of American strength and prosperity. Since their inception in 1878, they jingled in the pockets of famous and infamous Americans like John D. Rockefeller and Teddy Roosevelt, and desperados Jesse James and Al Capone. Today, Morgan Silver Dollars are the most collected coin in America.

## Lady Liberty takes a Final Bow

Just three years after the massive meltdown, the government gave the Morgan Silver Dollar a final chance to shine. In 1921, facing a serious shortage, the mint struck Morgan Silver Dollars for one more brief, historic year. Today, the last-ever 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar belongs in the hands of collectors, history buffs, or anyone who values the artistry and legacy of this American classic.

## A Private Vault Gives Up its Secrets

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## Layer Cakes

THE 1970S USHERED IN SLOW COOKERS, microwave cooking, fondue parties and a spotlight on wholesome foods like granola, whole grains and sunflower seeds. Cakes made with carrots, pineapple and other fruits also amassed a fan base. Coated in butter rum frosting, the following three-tiered Cider 'n' Spice Cake appeared in *Texas Co-op Power* in October 1977. Apple cider gives the cake a moist texture, while homey spices will remind you of autumn baking. For richer flavor, substitute dark rum for rum extract, or light molasses for the dark corn syrup.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

### Cider 'n' Spice Cake

#### CAKE

- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened
- 1½ cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup apple cider
- ¾ cup milk

#### FROSTING

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 4 cups powdered sugar (approximately)
- ⅓ cup dark corn syrup
- 2 teaspoons rum extract
- Walnut halves (optional)

**1. CAKE:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease three 8-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with waxed paper or parchment.

**2.** Cream the butter and sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Sift together dry ingredients, and combine the cider and milk. Alternating with the cider mixture, blend dry ingredients

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

# Retro Recipes

## Layer Cakes



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

ROSE M. DAILEY | HOUSTON COUNTY EC

"My family fondly refers to things I make as 'MeMa's throw-togethers,'" Dailey says. "I rarely ever go by a recipe, and if I do, it's usually three or four recipes that I have broken apart and put back together my way."

For this cake, she wanted bold chocolate flavor and rich chocolate frosting. The decadent result is a staple for Dailey family birthdays. "We are a family of chocoholics," she confesses.

## Triple Chocolate Cake With Chocolate Fudge Buttercream Frosting

### CAKE

- 2 ounces Baker's German's sweet chocolate
- 2 ounces Baker's semisweet chocolate
- ½ cup strong black coffee
- 2 cups flour
- ⅓ cup baking cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup buttermilk

### FROSTING

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 2 ounces Baker's semisweet chocolate
- ½ cup shortening
- ⅓ cup baking cocoa
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 pounds powdered sugar
- 1 cup milk, or more as needed



## \$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest topic is **Company Dinner**. Company is coming, and this is your moment to shine. What will you serve? The deadline is **May 10**. Readers whose recipes are featured will receive a special *Texas Co-op Power* apron.

ENTER ONLINE at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://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.

**1. CAKE:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease three 9-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with waxed paper or parchment. Microwave chocolate and coffee in large microwave-safe bowl on high 1½–2 minutes or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after 1 minute. Stir until chocolate is completely melted.

**2.** In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; set aside. Beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy.

Add the egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in the melted chocolate and vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk, beating well after each addition. In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites on high speed until stiff peaks form, then gently fold the whites into the batter.

**3.** Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans and bake 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cakes comes out clean. Immediately run a small metal spatula around the edges of cake layers in pans. Cool in pans on wire racks 15 minutes, then invert layers from pans. Cool cake layers completely.

**4. FROSTING:** Melt the butter and chocolate in microwave. Add the shortening, cocoa and vanilla. Stir until shortening is also melted. Add the powdered sugar a little at a time, alternating with the milk (about ¼ cup at a time of milk). Whisk well until you have a smooth, spreadable consistency. You might need a little more milk (if so, add a tablespoon at a time). The frosting should be firm and hold its form. ▶ Serves 8–10.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

into the creamed mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture.

**3.** Divide the batter between the three prepared cake pans. Bake 25–30 minutes, or until a tester inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes on wire racks before inverting the pans to remove the cakes. Cool completely before frosting.

**4. FROSTING:** Cream the butter. Alternately add the sugar and syrup, beating well after each addition. Beat in rum extract. Add more sugar as necessary for desired consistency.

**5.** To assemble the cake, place the bottom layer on a serving platter and spread an even layer of frosting over the top. Repeat with the remaining layers, and finish by frosting the top of the cake (or cover the entire cake with frosting, if you prefer). Garnish with walnuts, as desired. ▶ Serves 6–8.

## Cream Cheese Berry Cake

ARLEEN ACTON | PEDERNALES EC

Featuring a rich cream cheese and mascarpone frosting, this cake is a great way to showcase fresh, Texas-grown strawberries and blueberries.

### CAKE

- 2½ cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup water

### FILLING

- 2 cups berries (strawberries, blueberries and raspberries), divided use
- 3 tablespoons water
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch

### FROSTING

- 2½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1¾ cups powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 8 ounces mascarpone cheese, softened

**1. CAKE:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees and apply cooking spray to three 8-inch round

baking pans. Line the bottom of each pan with waxed paper or parchment.

**2.** In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a mixing bowl, combine the milk, oil, vanilla and eggs, then using an electric mixer, beat on low speed while adding the dry ingredients until mixed thoroughly. Then slowly add water until just combined.

**3.** Divide the batter into three pans and bake 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out with a few moist crumbs. Remove from oven and cool cakes in pans about 5 minutes. Invert cakes from pans and cool completely on wire racks.

**4. FILLING:** Add 1½ cups of mixed berries and 3 tablespoons of water to a food processor and purée until smooth. Combine the sugar and cornstarch in a saucepan. Stir in the berry purée and cook over medium heat until the mixture thickens. Remove from heat and cool briefly, then transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until completely cool. Can be made up to two days in advance.

**5. FROSTING:** Combine whipping cream, powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl, and whip on high speed until soft peaks form. Add the softened cheeses and whip until stiff peaks form again.

**6.** To assemble the cake, pipe a dam of frosting around the outer edge of the first layer and top with an even layer of half of the berry filling. Gently spread a layer of frosting over the top of the berries. Add another cake layer and repeat. Top with the third cake layer and frost the entire cake with the remaining icing. Top with ½ cup of fresh berries and refrigerate until ready to serve.

► Serves 6–8.

**COOK'S TIP** If you can't find mascarpone cheese, use 16 ounces of cream cheese instead.

## Jennie's Blackout Icebox Cake

MELISSA TURLEY | BANDERA EC

Turley says the cake is moist and dense, which makes for easy slicing and a beautiful presentation.

### CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1¾ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup baking cocoa
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons boiling water

### FROSTING

- ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, softened
- 1 cup baking cocoa
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- ¼ cup sweetened condensed milk

**1. CAKE:** Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans.

**2.** Whisk together the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk together the wet ingredients (minus boiling water) in a container with a pour spout. Whisk wet ingredients into dry, combining well. Slowly whisk in the boiling water until

the mixture is combined.

**3.** Divide the batter among the prepared pans. Bake 25–30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean. Cool cakes completely in pans on wire rack.

**4. FROSTING:** Beat the softened butter and cocoa together until smooth and creamy. Slowly add the powdered sugar and evaporated milk, alternating small amounts of each until the mixture is combined and smooth. Stir in the vanilla and sweetened condensed milk.

**5.** Invert layers from pans. Place the first layer on a serving plate and frost with one-third of the frosting. Top with second layer and frost the top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Refrigerate the cake at least 1 hour (or up to a day in advance) before serving. ► Serves 8.

**COOK'S TIP** If you're not up to a layer cake, feel free to divide the batter between two greased 9-by-5-inch loaf pans for a chocolate "snack" cake, freezing the other loaf for another time.

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# On the Ranch

*“I should’ve been a cowboy. I should’ve learned to rope and ride  
Wearin’ my six-shooter, ridin’ my pony on a cattle drive.  
Stealin’ the young girls’ hearts, just like Gene and Roy  
Singin’ those campfire songs. Whoa, I should’ve been a cowboy.”*  
—*Should’ve Been a Cowboy* by Toby Keith

**GRACE ARSIAGA**

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

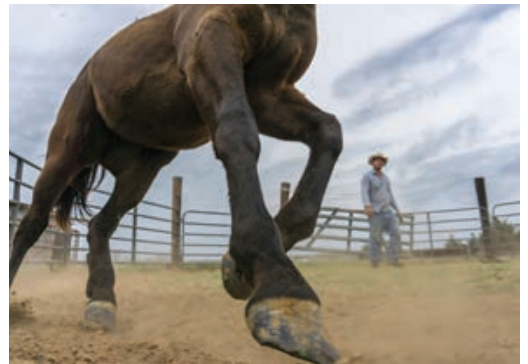


▲ **NANCY WEBSTER**, Bluebonnet EC: “I tried to get a photo of a cow’s silhouette against the rising sun, but the cow got curious when I squatted down.”



▲ **RYAN BRANCH**, Big Country EC: “Cattle drive on the Branch JS Ranches.”

▼ **JERALYN NOVAK**, Karnes EC: For over 100 years, the Huebner Brothers Cattle Company has been driving cattle from their winter pastures on the 30-mile Matagorda peninsula to their summer pastures south of Bay City.



▲ **JENNIFER TUGGLE**, PenTex Energy: “My husband, Sam, was starting the 2-year-olds in the round pen.”

▼ **BOBBY NORRIS**, Pedernales EC: “Big hat and rope with this black-and-white silhouette of a cowboy at work.”



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

SEPTEMBER	TEXAS VACATION	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER	GIVING BACK	DUE JUNE 10
NOVEMBER	UP THE CREEK	DUE JULY 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](http://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 Whimsy & Wonder

### Liberty Hill May 18

(512) 417-8448, libertyhillfun.com

Downtown businesses transform into art galleries hosting works from local artists as well as live art demonstrations and live music. Main Street features performers, stilt walkers and local artists. Check out sidewalk chalk artists and Austin's Scott Wade, the dirty car artist.



CHALK ART: PHILOPHOTO | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. RABBIT: M DOROTTYA | STOCK.ADOBE.COM. ATV: NORBERT JUDLOWIAK | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

## May 7

**Austin Great Futures Spring Luncheon**, (512) 444-7199, bgcaustin.org

## 9

**San Antonio Motherhood Luncheon**, (210) 607-9720, texanscan.org

## 10

**Coolidge [10-11] Mesquite Tree Festival**, (254) 747-1348

**Georgetown [10-11] Austin Square and Round Dance Association Mid-Tex Festival**, (830) 672-7384, asrda.org

**Levelland [10-11] Llano Estacado Rabbit Breeders Association Show**, (806) 786-2297, llerba.bravehost.com

**Paris [10-11] Eiffel in Love With Quilts**, (903) 784-2501, parisquiltshow.com

## 11

**Bonham Red River Art, Wine & Music Fest**, (903) 640-2196, creativeartscenterbonham.com



**May 10-11  
Levelland  
Llano Estacado Rabbit  
Breeders Association Show**

**Mineola Metric 100 Bicycle Ride**, (903) 569-2801, mineolametric100.org

**Wimberley Garden Tour**, (512) 636-0974, wimberleygardenclub.org

## 17

**Columbus [17-18] Magnolia Days Festival**, (979) 732-8385, magnoliadays.org

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**Mesquite** [17-18] Mesquite Meander, (972) 216-6468, [historicmesquite.org](http://historicmesquite.org)

**Star** [17-19] Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, (325) 437-1852, [cowpokesforkids.com](http://cowpokesforkids.com)

## 18

**Concan** Tippy Crawdad Golf Tournament, (830) 232-4471, [visituvaldecountry.com](http://visituvaldecountry.com)

**Fredericksburg** Hill Country Antique Tractor & Engine Club Tractor Show, (830) 889-0070, [rustyiron.org](http://rustyiron.org)

**Lorena M. Denton** Stanford Masonic Lodge 594 Car Show, (254) 855-3722

**Tyler** Smith County Master Gardeners Home Garden Tour, (903) 590-2980, [txmg.org/smith](http://txmg.org/smith)

## 24

**Palestine** [24-26] Celebration of Steam at Texas State Railroad, 1-855-632-7729, [texasstaterailroad.net](http://texasstaterailroad.net)

**Jacksonville** [24-27] Memorial Mudbug, (903) 724-4100, [riverrunpark.com](http://riverrunpark.com)

## 25

**Columbus** Country Market, (979) 732-8385, [columbusfmtx.org](http://columbusfmtx.org)

**Hunt** Crider's Rodeo and Dancehall Opening Night, (830) 238-4441, [cridersrandd.com](http://cridersrandd.com)

**New Braunfels** Antique Barn Sale and Market, (830) 832-9699, [newbraunfelsconservation.org](http://newbraunfelsconservation.org)

**Kerrville** [25-26] Festival of the Arts, (830) 895-7962, [kvarfest.com](http://kvarfest.com)

**Port Arthur** [25-26] Memorial Classic Fishing Tournament, (409) 626-2501, [saltclub.net](http://saltclub.net)



May 24-27  
Jacksonville  
Memorial Mudbug

## 31

**Stephenville** [31-June 1] Moo-La Fest, (254) 552-1222, [visitstephenville.com](http://visitstephenville.com)

## June

### 1

**Grand Prairie** Crawfish Boil, (972) 237-8100, [grandfungp.com](http://grandfungp.com)

**Waxahachie** Pancake Breakfast Fly-In, (469) 309-4045, [waxahachiecvb.com](http://waxahachiecvb.com)

### 6

**Columbus** Coastal Conservation Association Live Oak Chapter Banquet, (979) 732-1352, [ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/live-oak](http://ccatexas.org/find-your-chapter/live-oak)

### 7

**Amarillo** [7-8] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, [coorsranchrodeo.com](http://coorsranchrodeo.com)

## Submit Your Event!

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

A vibrant advertisement for Schlitterbahn's 40th Anniversary. The top half features a family of four (a woman, a young girl, a man, and a boy) enjoying a water slide ride on inflatable tubes. The background is a bright blue sky and water. Text overlays include "REASON #1 TO SCHLITTERBAHN. IT'S THE HOTTEST, COOLEST TIME!" in a pink banner, and a yellow box announcing "2019 40th Anniversary SEASON PASS GET YOUR SEASON PASS NOW PAYS FOR ITSELF IN 3 VISITS!". The bottom section features the Schlitterbahn logo, the text "NEW BRAUNFELS • SOUTH PADRE ISLAND • GALVESTON • CORPUS CHRISTI SCHLITTERBAHN.COM", and "FREE PARKING • COOLERS WELCOME" with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. A small disclaimer "NO CLASS OR ALCOHOL" is at the bottom right.



# Higher Education

An inspiring desk perched on Hancock Hill overlooks Sul Ross State University in Alpine



EVEN THOUGH LOTS OF Texas universities have grandiose lecture halls, only one can boast a classroom with a 20-mile view. And this learning experience gives new meaning to the phrase higher education.

You'll find Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

Founded in 1917, the school of 2,000 students was named for Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, the 19th Texas governor. Alpine is a charming burg an hour north of Big Bend National Park, and its average summer temperature sits comfortably in the mid-80s.

Sul Ross' 93-acre campus boasts beautiful buildings and the incredible Museum of the Big Bend. The classroom that achieves new heights is Hancock Hill, and hiking up to it is a student tradition going back to 1981, when some industrial tech students, led by Jim Kitchen, decided they needed a better place to study than their drab dorm room. So they grabbed a full-sized teacher's desk, threw it onto their strapping young backs and began hiking up the hill behind their dormitory. After about a mile, they found the perfect spot and planted the desk. It wasn't long before they were spending most, if not all, of their study time on top of Hancock Hill.

One day, Kitchen left a notebook in the desk, and the next time he returned, he discovered that another student had written deep thoughts and life ponderings on

its pages. He added his own and left the notebook. Slowly, the tradition and lore of the desk began to grow.

While I am not a Sul Ross Lobo, even I was tempted with the idea of climbing Hancock Hill and seeing what education it might bring. So early one morning, I set out for an adventure. After a good bit of searching, I found the unmarked trailhead at the back of the Industrial Technology Building parking lot. And so the journey began.

It wasn't long before the views became truly exceptional as I looked down upon the campus and Alpine below. As the trail climbed higher, the wide-open Texas skies helped my mind to open, too. I didn't have any fellow students that day, save for a jack rabbit and a race runner lizard.

I wasn't sure how long my outdoor study time would be. I'd heard that the hike takes anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour. After about 45 minutes hiking at a good pace, I didn't feel any closer to the desk than when I had begun, and I debated turning back. Suddenly, a dead tree full of rusted bikes caught my attention. A sign of

**Chet Garner studies the scenery from atop Hancock Hill.**

student life? Sure enough, over the next hill was the desk, complete with

the incredible view. Not only was I happy for a place to sit down, but the seemingly endless view immediately inspired my thoughts. "Wow, Texas is beautiful. I wonder what it looks like atop those other peaks. Why didn't I go to Sul Ross?"

I opened the desk drawers and sure enough found a journal full of student scribbles. I also found a book titled *Course in Mathematical Analysis Vol. 1*. The title made my brain hurt, so I immediately put it back inside. I did, however, take out my pen and leave my own musings in the journal. What did I write? You'll have to hike up the hill to find out. I even saved you some room right below mine. Just make sure you take a pen.

Chet Garner shares his Texplorations as the host of *The Daytripper* on PBS.

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video showing sweeping views of the Alpine area.

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- 144 Lumens
- Magnetic Base

COMPARE TO PERFORMANCE TOOL \$13.52  
MODEL: W2364

ITEM 63878/60566/63601  
63991/64005/69567/67227 shown  
42330249

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/1/19 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

## 20% OFF SUPER COUPON

ANY SINGLE ITEM\*

42343076

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discounts. Coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Truck Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressor, floor jacks, sales, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trencher/hatchbox, welders, Airmax, Ames, Bauer, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, DeWalt, Harbor Freight, Hercules, Icon, Juggler, Lynx, Posi-Lon, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Walco, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 9/1/19.

## CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

### 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$39.99**  
COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62  
MODEL: PCFP02003

SAVE 59%  
AIR DELIVERY: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown  
ITEM 61615/60637  
95275 shown  
42451606  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

### 18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

• 1000 lb. capacity  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

SAVE \$100  
**NOW \$7.99**  
COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS \$22.99  
MODEL: HFDOLLY

ITEM 60497/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown  
42451636  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## DEWALT SUPER COUPON



29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$9.99**  
COMPARE TO \$68.14  
DEWALT MODEL: DW1369

SAVE 85%  
**\$17.99**  
ITEM 5889  
62281/61637 shown  
42441097  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

### 2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

• 12 hour run time  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$449.99**  
COMPARE TO HONDA \$1009.99  
MODEL: EU2000I

SAVE \$560  
ITEM 62523  
42445035  
LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

### A. HOT DOG B. PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSORS

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$57.99**  
COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$98.62  
MODEL: PCFP02003

SAVE 59%  
AIR DELIVERY: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown  
ITEM 61615/60637  
95275 shown  
42451606  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

### 18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

• 1000 lb. capacity  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

SAVE \$100  
**NOW \$7.99**  
COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS \$22.99  
MODEL: HFDOLLY

ITEM 60497/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown  
42451636  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## CENTECH SUPER COUPON

### 2/10/50 AMP, 12 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER AND ENGINE STARTER

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$29.99**  
COMPARE TO SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC \$59.77  
MODEL: SE-1250

SAVE 49%  
**\$52.99**  
ITEM 60581/3418  
66783/60653 shown  
42454159  
LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

### 4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

• 400 lb. working load  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$6.99**  
COMPARE TO KEEPER \$22.80  
MODEL: 5505

SAVE 69%  
**\$11.99**  
ITEM 63094/90984  
60405/63056/63057/63150/61524 shown  
42462463  
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*

## drillmaster SUPER COUPON

### 1500 WATT DUAL TEMPERATURE HEAT GUN (572°/1112°)

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$8.99**  
COMPARE TO BLACK+DECKER \$28.06  
MODEL: HG1300

SAVE 67%  
**\$14.99**  
ITEM 35776/62340/62546/63104/96289 shown  
42464889  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

### 1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

• 1.3 GPM  
• Adjustable spray nozzle  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$79.99**  
COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON \$99.99  
MODEL: 20600

SAVE \$94  
**\$174.44**  
ITEM 63255/63254 shown  
42465675  
LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## KRAUSE & BECKER SUPER COUPON

### AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$169.99**  
COMPARE TO GRACO \$299  
MODEL: 262800

SAVE \$129  
**\$214.99**  
ITEM 68001/62915/60600 shown  
42466976  
LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## SUPER COUPON

### 10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$3.99**  
COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH \$8.09  
MODEL: FR1055

SAVE 50%  
**\$5.99**  
ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown  
42469515  
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

### 14" ELECTRIC CHAIN SAW

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$39.99**  
COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN \$80.74  
MODEL: 071-45247

SAVE 50%  
**\$49.99**  
ITEM 64498/64497 shown  
42472210  
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## SUPER COUPON

### 4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET

• Each pad measures 25" x 25"  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$6.99**  
COMPARE TO NORSK \$19.99  
MODEL: 001119346

SAVE 65%  
**\$9.99**  
ITEM 40187/61607  
62389/94635 shown  
42473680  
LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

### 72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$5.99**  
COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$19.99  
MODEL: 77280

SAVE 70%  
**\$9.99**  
ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown  
42475870  
LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



## BADLAND SUPER COUPON

### 2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

• Weighs 14.3 lbs.  
• 11-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H  
Customer Rating  
★★★★★

**NOW \$49.99**  
COMPARE TO SUPERWINCH \$189.99  
MODEL: 1125220

SAVE \$140  
**\$69.99**  
ITEM 68146  
61258/61297  
63476/61840 shown  
42480916  
LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 9/1/19\*



\*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 9/1/19.

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