



2022

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Walk-Through Meeting

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. In-Person Meeting

Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

REACHING OUT TO
BILINGUAL CHILDREN

WEEKNIGHT DINNERS
MADE EASY

A FATHER'S
ILLUMINATING WAYS

Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

JUNE 2022

Eating Wild

Texans are turning
to foraging
for fun and food





WE'RE **MORE** THAN METAL ROOFING

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at muellerinc.com, then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



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

June 2022



12

08 The Grazing Craze

Pushed along by the pandemic and prices, foraging for wild edibles is a growing trend.

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

Speaking to Children

Meet the South Texas educator on a mission to instill a love of language in bilingual readers.

By Carlos Sanchez

Illustration by John Jay Cabuay

ON THE COVER

Flowers from elderberry trees can be eaten right off the branch.

Photo by Enciero | stock.adobe.com

ABOVE

Zapata County author María Alma González Pérez.

Illustration by John Jay Cabuay

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

Doctor's Orders

By Martha Deeringer

30

TCP Kitchen

Weeknight Dinners

By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Eruption Evidence

By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Industrial

38

Observations

Pop's Light Touch

By Babs Rodriguez

First in a String



LEGENDARY FIDDLER Alexander "Eck" Robertson, left, who was raised on a farm in the Panhandle, made musical history 100 years ago this month.

Robertson and Henry C. Gilliland recorded four fiddle duets June 30, 1922, at the Victor Talking Machine Co. in New York City. The tracks are regarded as the first commercial recordings of country music.



TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Holiday Sides

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Hometown Pride

WIN BOOKS BY FEATURED AUTHOR
Enter online now to win the three bilingual alphabet books written by María Alma González Pérez, featured on Page 12.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE
MY SINGING
IS SO BAD ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our April prompt: **I remember when a dollar could buy ...**

A large soda, large French fries order and a hamburger big as a hubcap.

JOE TREVIÑO JR.
BARTLETT EC
KILLEEN

A day at the State Fair of Texas.

BRENDA WEBB
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
GUNTER

Three watermelons on the side of Highway 281 south of San Antonio.

DARREL MILLER
PEDERNALES EC
LAGO VISTA

To see more responses, read Currents online.

GAMBUSIA IS GONE

A tiny Texas fish is among 23 species that federal wildlife officials want to declare extinct.

The San Marcos gambusia, an inch-long fish found only in the San Marcos River in Hays County, was last collected in the wild in 1983. The Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that it join 21 other animals and one plant in being removed from the endangered species list and declared extinct.



Co-ops Rule

Electric cooperatives dominated the 2021 J.D. Power rankings for customer satisfaction, with 14 co-ops—including Texas' Magic Valley EC and CoServ—finishing among the top 20 U.S. residential power providers in the annual survey of electric customers.



Gov. Jordan

AMONG BARBARA JORDAN'S many accomplishments was becoming Texas governor for a day 50 years ago this month.

Months before her election to the U.S. House, her colleagues in the Texas Senate unanimously elected Jordan president pro tem. Gov. Preston Smith and Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes both made plans to be out of state June 10, 1972, enabling Jordan to step in as acting governor, making her the first Black woman in the U.S. to preside over a legislative body.



June 17

National Eat Your Vegetables Day

We know gardens across Co-op Country produce bounties of amazing crops. But this month we spotlight folks who look beyond cultivated patches for wild edibles. See *The Grazing Craze* on Page 8.



TRACI DABENKO

The Inside Track

“Many West Texas towns like Hamlin have no tracks left, and we could sure use some commerce that stops here today.”

JEFF CLATERBAUGH
BIG COUNTRY EC
HAMLIN

Enduring Cookware

I inherited my grandmother's cast iron, which she inherited from her mother [*Cast-Iron Comeback*, March 2022]. It makes the best cornbread and fried eggs. To imagine how many meals were cooked in these pans just blows my mind.

David Krabbe
Hamilton County EC
Kempner

I have to say, besides the original chocolate Texas sheet cake, this is the best, most decadent cake I have EVER had [*Texas Praline Sheet Cake*, March 2022]. I've literally been thinking about it all week.

NICOLE PARKER
VIA FACEBOOK

Using the cast-iron skillet my mother got for a wedding gift in 1943.

Larry Artz
Via Facebook



RUSSELL A. GRAVES

Blessed Comfort

I want to participate in the Blessing Box Project when I retire [*Hope in a Box*, March 2022]. Such a hard time for a woman.

Jacky Manchester
Grayson-Collin EC
Van Alstyne

Well Put

I love that section in the magazine [*Finish This Sentence*]. It awakens the thought process in a lot of people.

Inocencia S. Martinez
Magic Valley EC
Mercedes

Threads of Truth

When I was 10, we visited cousins in Ingram [*Just Add Adventure*, March 2022].

We went to a river to play, and it had a smooth concrete small dam with water pouring over it. I had a blast sliding down it time after time until I realized that the seat of my favorite pair of shorts was in shreds.

Roberta McLaughlin
Heart of Texas EC
Lorena

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Gary Raybon, El Campo • **Vice Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo
Secretary-Treasurer Neil Hesse, Muenster • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Matt Bentke, Bastrop • **Marty Haught**, Burleson • **Ron Hughes**, Sinton
Gary Miller, Bryan • **Zac Perkins**, Hooker, Oklahoma • **John Ed Shinpaugh**, Bonham
Rob Walker, Gilmer • **Buff Whitten**, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull
Communications Specialist Alex Dal Santo • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz
Communications Specialist Travis Hill • **Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe • **Proofreader** Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 78, Number 12 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues for the previous 12 months are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American Handprint
Publications

Make your home more comfortable than ever

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

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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

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

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

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

The Perfect Sleep Chair®
1-888-871-8598

Please mention code 117020 when ordering.

Also available in
Genuine
Italian
Leather



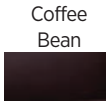
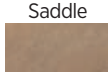
REMOTE CONTROLLED
EASILY SHIFTS FROM FLAT TO
A STAND-ASSIST POSITION

Now available in a variety
of colors, fabrics and sizes.
Footrests vary by model

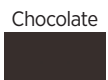
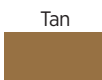
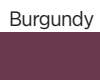
Genuine Italian Leather
classic beauty & style



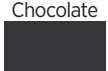
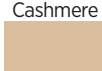
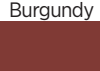
New Brisa™
plush & durable



Long Lasting DuraLux™
stain & liquid repellent



MicroLux™ Microfiber
breathable & amazingly soft



Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned,
but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



The Grazing Craze

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

I've yanked henbit and chickweed for years from my native-plant gardens, nearly eradicating the weeds that pop up every winter.

If only I'd known that the European species make tasty additions to salads. So I decided in December to let them stay put. Then I'd have some fresh leaves and flowers to toss with spinach, tomatoes and dressing.

Many of the native plants are edible too, like turk's cap, dayflower, wood sorrel and spiderwort. Hold on—eat my natives? The concept boggles my mind. As a Texas master naturalist, I'm familiar with most of the ones that grow in my region. On the other hand, since childhood I've been conditioned to eat foods only bought at grocery stores or intentionally grown in gardens, not picked from a lawn or some wild place.

Then I recall our ancestors foraged to survive. Their hard-

Pushed along by the pandemic and prices, foraging for wild edibles is a growing trend

scrabble lifestyles make me determined to loosen up. And I am. In March I picked blossoms from our eastern redbud tree and added them to salads. This summer I've been nibbling on turk's cap berries and pink evening primrose leaves. As I learn more about wild edibles, the plants that grow around my yard have taken on a different meaning.

I'm not alone in my new outlook. For a number of reasons, more and more people are hunting for edible plants.

"It used to be just adventurer eaters, foodies and cooks who mainly foraged," says Mark Vorderbruggen, author of an *Idiot's Guides* book on foraging. "Then the pandemic came, and people got scared about getting food if the markets closed. It made them go outside in search of alternative food sources. Now with inflation, food has become more expensive. People want to know where they can get free nutrition."



Cut With Care

So what makes a wild plant edible? In a nutshell, it's nonpoisonous, palatable and digestible. Many have health benefits too. "In vitamins, minerals and protein, wild food can match and even surpass the nutritional content of our common foods," writes Delena Tull in *Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest*. "Dandelion greens are more nutritious than spinach."

Foragers must always ask for permission before scouring private property. On public lands, it's illegal to take plant materials. Steer clear of toxic areas, like highway roadsides and places frequented by pets.

And some final words of caution: Before eating any wild plant, be absolutely certain of its identity. Read books on the subject, learn some basic botany, take foraging classes and go out with an experienced forager to gain an understanding of what you should and shouldn't eat.

Then start with easy plants, like turk's cap and pecans. As you gain knowledge, add species that you can readily identify. Also, eat wild edibles in moderation and be mindful of possible reactions. For example, if you're allergic to cashews and mangoes, avoid their cousins: evergreen and flameleaf sumacs.

"Nature is a mishmash of greens and browns," says foraging expert Courtney Taylor of Weston, north of Dallas. "To most people, plants all look the same. It takes time, patience and consistency to learn the nuances between them. Wood clover and clover, which are both edible, look similar but have subtle differences."

Taylor, a Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative member, teaches basic foraging classes and compiled a 60-page e-book on North Texas edibles. In every class, she stresses foraging etiquette.

"Leave an environment better than you found it," she says. "Only harvest what you're going to use. Only take a leaf or two from a small plant. If you take all the leaves, that plant won't go to flower. As a forager you want that plant to be there next year. I believe that conscientious foragers can actually increase an environment's health and wild food populations."

Depending on the month, Taylor harvests mulberries, persimmons, dewberries, pecans, black walnuts, hackberries and beautyberries among many others—often foraging in her rural neighborhood and along country roads. "The tastiest greens to me are lamb's-quarters and chickweed," she says. "I also eat a lot of dandelion leaves for their health benefits. I like to make smoothies with them."

Educating others about useful plants is a top priority for Vorderbruggen, who produces videos, podcasts and presentations on the subject. "Most people assume all

Foraging Do's & Don'ts

Know what you're picking before you eat it.

Stay off private land unless you have permission.

Don't take plant materials from public lands; it's illegal.

Steer clear of toxic areas, like highway roadsides and places frequented by pets.

Pick up any litter you find.



WATCH YOUR STEP

Look out for poison ivy when you get the itch to forage.

OPPOSITE Wild mulberries can be found all over Texas. Take a foraging class to learn to identify edible plants.
LEFT Courtney Taylor is a 20-year foraging expert, especially on North Texas edibles.



COURTESY COURTNEY TAYLOR

plants are poisonous,” says the Houston resident, who holds a master’s in medicinal chemistry and a doctorate in physical organic chemistry. “Even people who want to forage and have read the books still have a fear of misidentifying something and dying as a result. My goal is to help them to trust themselves and eat a plant that they’ve properly identified.”

Rooted to the Spot

In far North Texas, Kimberly Clark, a member of Fannin County EC, learned to forage by watching YouTube videos and joining foraging groups on Facebook. “Now my two kids like to forage with me on our acreage and in our area,” she says. “We harvest elderberry, cattails, water violets, peppergrass and sorrel. My son’s favorite is wild carrot, also known as Queen Anne’s lace.” (Caution: Queen Anne’s lace looks similar to two extremely toxic plants: poison hemlock and water hemlock.)

Come midsummer, Tom Mitchell Jr. of Cleburne steers a golf cart around his neighborhood, looking for clusters of ripe flameleaf sumac berries. “They make a great mock lemonade,” says Mitchell, a commercial pilot and United Cooperative Services member. “I put the berries in a pot of water and let them sit overnight. Then I strain the pink liquid and add some honey. The lemony flavor comes from the berries’ malic acid. I also dry sumac berries, then grind them up to use as a spice.”

Last year, forager Racheal Balliu—a Pedernales EC member and registered nurse who lives near Canyon Lake—took some “yard butter” to a party. At first her friends hesitated to sample the creamy condiment, mixed with chickweed, peppergrass, henbit and wild onions. “I’ve found that people are sometimes nervous to try foraged foods,” Balliu says. “But after trying my butter, they loved it. They also love the pesto that I make with chickweed, basil, parmesan and pecans.”

Her interest in wild foods has since morphed into a business called Forest Girl Wild American Tea. Her green and roasted yaupon teas are available online and sometimes at farmers markets. “Yaupon holly is the only natural caffeine in North America,” she explains. “I hand-pick



COURTESY MARK VORDERBRUGGEN

yaupon leaves on family land, wash and air-dry them, and then package the leaves as both tea bags and loose leaf.”

In the Rio Grande Valley, wild edibles aren’t as easy to find. That’s because more than 90% of native habitats have been cleared through the years for agriculture and urbanization. “The nature we see here is more sterilized,” says Jackelin Treviño of McAllen. “Buffalo grass and oaks are lovely, but they’re not forageable. I see that gradually changing as cities plant more native plants.

“Foragers here are basically limited to private property with permission and conserved areas, where foraging is discouraged,” she continues. “When I’m able to forage, my favorite wild edible in the Valley are berries from brasilwood. They look like blueberries, are shiny like grapes and taste like blackberries.”

Out west in El Paso, the Chihuahuan Desert would seemingly offer even fewer finds. But outdoorsman James Harris

Sheryl's Top 5 Wild Edibles for Beginners

CHICKWEED



DANDELION



knows better. For nearly a decade, he’s researched the vegetation and wildlife that inhabit the arid region that he’s called home all his life. Now he shares his knowledge about wild foods and other survival skills through videos.

“Out here, one of our most plentiful wild edibles are honey mesquite pods and beans,” he says. “They’re very versatile. You can use them to make small cakes, teas, jellies, jams and energy bars. They also make a good coffee substitute, even though they don’t have caffeine.”

Prickly pear cacti are also very common, Harris says, and their pads and fruit are edible. “They’re a pain to gather because of the thorns, so I always carry tweezers,” he says. “Another edible is the banana yucca, which I call the ‘super-market of the desert.’ The young flower stalks can be cut and cooked like asparagus. The white flowers are edible. You can also cook the green fruits.”

From yuccas to chickweed, I noted a common interest in my conversations with foragers from across the state: They all love getting outside and exploring wild places. As Harris explains, “Being outdoors grounds you closer to the earth. You have a higher appreciation for the seasons and the plants when you interact with nature.”

I couldn’t agree more. ■

OPPOSITE Mark Vorderbruggen, left, leads a foraging class at Spoke Hollow Outfitters near Wimberley in the Hill Country. RIGHT James Harris uses the fruit of prickly pear cactus, called tunas, to make refreshing juice.



COURTESY JAMES HARRIS

Texas’ Most Toxic Plants

- Castor bean
- Jimsonweed
(angel trumpet,
moonflower,
thornapple)
- Nuttall’s death camas
- Poison hemlock
- Poison ivy
- Texas mountain
laurel (mescal bean)
- Water hemlock



CHECK BEFORE YOU PICK

Toxic hemlocks look similar to the edible Queen Anne’s lace, above.



HENBIT



PINK EVENING
PRIMROSE

TURK’S CAP





Speaking to Children

Meet the South Texas educator who isn't slowing down in her mission to instill a love of language in bilingual readers

To understand what drives María Alma González Pérez, one must understand her love of language. Because her mother had only a grade school education, González Pérez mostly spoke Spanish—the only language she knew until enrolling in school—with clarity and precision.

“She did not want us mispronouncing words,” González Pérez says. “She would say that the proper use of the language was something that defined you as an educated person.”

Upon that principle, González Pérez earned a doctorate in education, then became a professor, college administrator, children’s book author and, most recently, an entrepreneur—all while advocating for the importance of language. González Pérez, 70, is now a decade into her latest career—a publisher on a quest to bring more Hispanic culture into children’s books.

The native of Zapata County, on the border in South Texas, won a prestigious International Latino Book Award in 2021 for her book *¡Todos al rodeo! A Vaquero Alphabet Book*. The children’s picture book is the third in her series of what she calls “ABC books,” which tell a story through the letters of the alphabet. She uses the genre to infuse Hispanic culture into children’s literature to foster bilingual literacy.

It’s the kind of book she wishes she had as a young student.

“I was always trying to unravel this mystery called English,” González Pérez says. “It was a sink-or-swim approach to learning.” Her moment of awakening, she says, came in the eighth grade, when she first enrolled in a Spanish course and received a textbook for that class. “This is the book they should have given me in the first grade,” she says. “They did it backwards.”

González Pérez’s vaquero book teaches children that the American cowboy and the cattle industry itself emerged from the arrival of Spaniards who introduced the horse to North America. Words like “rodeo” and “lasso,” the book points out, are Spanish in origin.

The book also draws from the author’s own life; González Pérez, a member of Medina Electric Cooperative, comes from a land-grant family whose large property holdings were bestowed on early Texas settlers by the Spanish crown. She grew up on a 1,000-acre ranch that touched the banks of the Rio Grande, so she’s familiar with the vaquero way of life. Her Texas roots reach back so many generations that she calls herself a Tejana instead of a Mexicana.

González Pérez frequently uses the Spanish word for courage—*coraje*—as she speaks. Her cultural awareness in a part of the state where Hispanic culture is the norm gave her the coraje to excel in school even though she had to learn English while she was learning other subjects. And her mother’s insistence on excelling gave González Pérez a sense of self, she says. “I never felt that I needed to be anybody else other than who I was.”

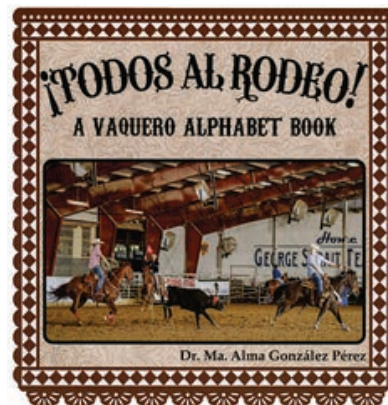
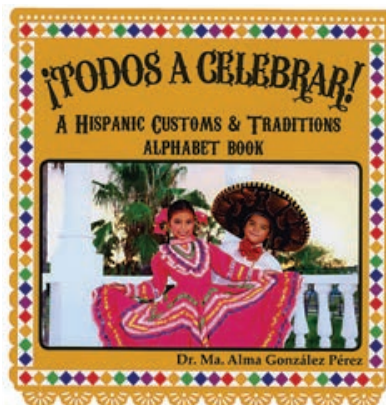
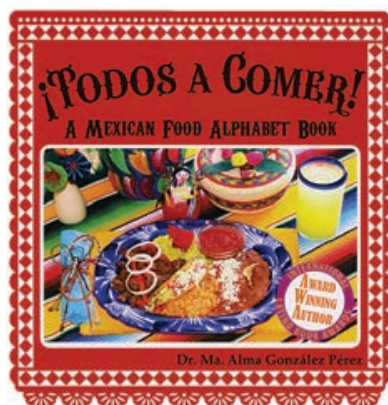
So with a sense of coraje, González Pérez left the cultural comfort of South Texas to master English by immersion. She attended Texas Woman’s University in Denton in the 1970s, then “relatively devoid” of Hispanic people, she says.

After securing undergraduate and master’s degrees, González Pérez returned to South Texas, where she taught, raised a family and eventually attended Texas A&M International University in Laredo for her doctorate. Her dissertation on the relationship between Spanish proficiency and academic achievement among high school graduates in South Texas fueled what would become a lifelong pursuit.

Literacy, her study showed her, extends beyond the pages of books into cultural understanding. It’s the context on which idioms are built and understood, and it’s the antitoxin of cultural misunderstanding and outright xenophobia.

González Pérez frequently uses the Spanish word for courage—*coraje*—as she speaks.

“I never felt that I needed to be anybody else other than who I was.”



Literature, she believes, immerses readers in the experiences of others—puts them in the shoes of protagonists. But as a professor at the University of Texas-Pan American (now UT Rio Grande Valley), González Pérez was frustrated by a lack of culturally relevant Hispanic literature available for her students. They were studying to become bilingual teachers using a curriculum based in English.

“I started gauging them, and that’s when I learned that they had not been exposed to any literature written by Hispanic authors,” González Pérez says. That sparked something in the professor.

Lino Garcia Jr., a retired UTRGV professor, sees the need for Hispanic stories from Hispanic authors.

“We should be doing that at the pre-K level,” he says. “Instead of talking about the Taj Mahal, we should be talking about Spanish missions, about the Camino Real—about things that Hispanic students can relate to. This gives them a sense of identity. This gives them a sense of worth.”

González Pérez’s first book was *¡Todos a Comer! A Mexican Food Alphabet Book*—the best-selling of her series for children. The second book, *¡Todos a Celebrar!*, spotlighted Hispanic customs and traditions.

Of course, writing culturally inclusive books is one thing; getting them distributed, González Pérez discovered, was a big, new challenge. So with the help of her three daughters, she launched Del Alma Publications (*del alma* means “of the soul”). An attorney, a business major, and an engineer and graphic designer, Anita Pérez, Maricia Rodriguez and Teresa Estrada, respectively, helped their mother get the

business going in 2008.

“I have a dream team in my daughters,” González Pérez says. “I told my daughters, ‘Let’s play with it for five years. If it flies, great. If it doesn’t, nothing was lost but a lot was learned.’”

It flew.

González Pérez’s initial goal was to target South Texas. But her first bulk order of more than 25 books came, instead, from Redondo Beach, California. Next came an order from Philadelphia for several hundred books. The demand was nationwide. Del Alma Publications has shipped thousands of books over the past 14 years—to individuals, schools, libraries, book donors and nationwide book distributors.

But she isn’t done yet.

“We’ve made great strides in meeting the biliteracy challenges of the Hispanic learner,” González Pérez says. “However, we still need to write many more books about stories that our children need to read.

“Not only to inform and educate but to help them develop a greater sense of cultural identity and pride.” ■

TCP Enter online to win González Pérez’s three bilingual alphabet books, above.





Good afternoon,

As a local business, we understand the importance of conserving energy and saving money, particularly in a world of **more frequent ice storms** and wildfires. The past couple years of winter storms have impacted us all. The challenge of keeping our homes warm and secure is always on our minds. And then there is the pain of **skyrocketing fuel prices...**

The best windows and doors ensure an extra layer of security for your family. They'll help retain the climate you pay for by keeping heat in in the winter and heat out in the summer.

If an upgrade to make your home comfy and efficient makes sense, I'm happy to offer you this special reader's discount this month! **Please give my team a call. We'll come work up a price at a time that fits your busy life!**

Warmly,

Steve Johnston

Steve Johnston

General Manager

Renewal by Andersen of North Texas

www.LocalWindowDiscount.com



Renewal by Andersen Savings Offer

Month/Year June 2022

Publication Texas Co-op Power

Save \$ 312 on windows¹

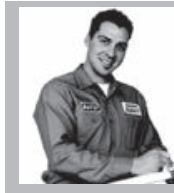
Save \$ 780 on doors¹

\$ 0 down 0 payments 0 % interest for 12 months²

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 6/30/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 7/10/22. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



Dear
Darryl

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS16", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.

Beachcombing at home.

Texas Co-op Power presents an illustrated *Seashells of Texas* poster by artist Aletha St. Romain, 20x16 inches, suitable for framing.

Order online at TexasCoopPower.com for only \$20 (price includes tax, shipping and handling).

Bonus offer: Get 2 posters shipped to the same address for just \$30.



\$20
or 2 for
\$30

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

From the publishers of **TexasCoopPower**



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the President and General Manager



**GENERAL
MANAGER**

**BRAD
BIERSTEDT**



PRESIDENT

**PAUL T.
BRYSCH, JR.**

AS KARNES ELECTRIC Cooperative celebrates 84 years of service to our members, we want to thank you for your patience and support throughout a challenging year. The past year has been full of disruption and uncertainty, but it has also offered opportunities to learn and grow.

In September 2021, we completed our new cooperative headquarters building. We are excited to be able to welcome KEC members to our new facility, which features expanded office space for administrative, member service and field personnel; a hardened dispatch center and server room; a multipurpose room for employee training and meetings; increased warehouse capacity; vehicle storage; and a vehicle maintenance area. All of that was accomplished without any additional cost to our members, thanks to long-term financial planning by the board of directors and management.

Just as 2020 brought us the pandemic, 2021 started with challenges of its own. We continue to deal with the effects of inflation, fuel prices and supply chain issues. KEC's cost to provide service has increased as a result. Materials to construct and maintain our infrastructure, repair our service vehicles,

and run our daily operations come with much higher price tags and significantly longer lead times. Prices in some cases have doubled, and we are now seeing lead times on materials in excess of one year. We continue to work with our suppliers to manage our inventory and to make sure we utilize all resources to contain costs.

As always, our membership remains the cooperative's focus. In 2021 we were able to utilize a few new pieces of technology to increase communications with our membership. One of these is an automated phone outage reporting system, which offers our membership the ability to report an outage automatically over the phone. This will be a critical part of Karnes EC's emergency operations plan for storm preparations. Expanding communication efforts will continue into 2022 as we begin to offer text notifications for various events, including power outages, restored power outages and emergency notifications.

Due to the lack of spring rains and dry conditions, we have experienced numerous pole fires across our electric distribution system. The dry conditions enable dirt and dust to accumulate on insulators, which when mixed with fog or drizzle creates a conductive path for electricity to travel from the wire to the pole or crossarm, causing a fire. Normally, periodic rain naturally washes and cleans insulators. Lengthy outages can occur until our service crews assess and repair the damage. Thank you for your patience and understanding if you have experienced a power outage due to a pole fire.

Improving the resiliency of our electric distribution grid is a major priority for us. Our focus is on maintenance programs that improve the safety and reliability of our system. We continue to invest in pole testing and remediation, right-of-way clearing and vegetation management, and construction work plan projects aimed at identifying older electric distribution facilities in need of replacement in our service territory.

We are mindful about providing affordable electric rates. Power

supply costs make up 74% of our total operating expenses. Therefore, it is critical that we work closely with our wholesale power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative, to manage generation resources and ensure that we get the best possible savings for our members. In 2021 the average residential rate members paid for power was 10 cents per kilowatt-hour, based on a monthly usage of 1,000 kWh. This represents an increase of 2.8% per kilowatt-hour compared to 2020. Natural gas prices, which greatly affect KEC's power generation cost, steadily increased, and this has led to the increased cost of energy to our members.

As you will see in the annual financial report, the cooperative remains financially strong and well positioned to meet the needs of our members. In August 2021 the board of directors authorized \$2 million in capital credits to be returned to our members. Since 1989, KEC has returned a total of \$20,430,844 in capital credits.

As part of our commitment to support our community, we award scholarships to graduating students pursuing higher education. We are proud to announce that in 2021, we awarded scholarships to 18 students from across our service area in the amount of \$1,500 each—the most scholarships we have awarded to date. Sixteen scholarships were awarded to students attending a qualifying four-year university. Two scholarships were awarded to students attending a two-year or vocational college. Including this year, the cooperative has provided 258 scholarships totaling \$257,200.

We partnered with CoBank, one of our financial lenders, through their Sharing Success program, to support local not-for-profit agencies in our service area. In 2021, KEC proudly awarded \$2,500 in donations to three organizations, with CoBank generously matching each donation for a combined total of \$15,000 in community support.

Those recipients included the Texas Ramp Project, which serves nine of our 12 counties, providing free wheelchair ramps to low-income adults and people with disabilities. Another recipient for 2021 was Jamie's Ranch, which offers various free accessible events and activities for children and adults with special needs in a beautiful ranch setting. The final recipient of the year was Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of South Texas, which acts as the voice for children in court and works to provide a safe, loving home for every child. We look forward to sustaining this partnership with CoBank to continue to empower our communities.

Our dedicated employees and board of directors work hard to provide for the needs of the cooperative and will continue to strive to improve all aspects of our business—from the safety of our employees and members to electric reliability, member service, technology and financial performance.

As we remain cautious about the pandemic, we look forward to this year's annual meeting. We will once again offer our members a choice between attending a walk-through or a traditional in-person meeting. Whichever choice you make, we look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Paul T. Brysch, Jr.
President

Brad Bierstedt
General Manager

Board of Directors



Paul T. Brysch, Jr.



Frank A. Geyer, Jr.



**Leonard Scott
McClagherty IV**



Shirley Hofmann



David R. Nieschwitz

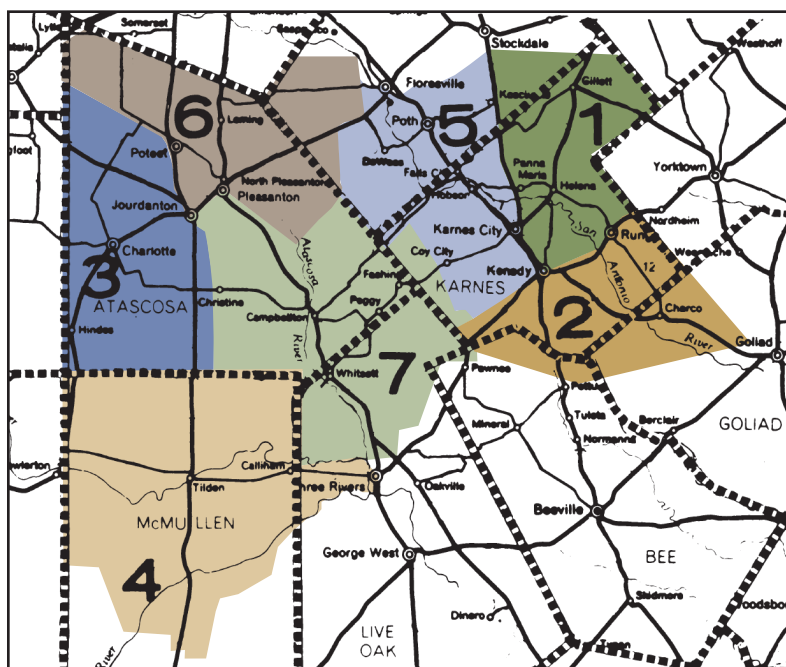


Clif Royal



Larry R. Schendel

Director Districts



DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	TERM EXPIRES
1	Larry R. Schendel	2022
2	Shirley Hofmann	2024
3	Frank A. Geyer, Jr.	2023
4	L. Scott McClaugherty IV	2022
5	Paul T. Brysch, Jr.	2024
6	Clif Royal	2024
7	David R. Nieschwitz	2023

Statement of Income and Patronage Capital

AS OF DECEMBER 31	2021	2020
OPERATING REVENUES		
Residential	\$ 22,503,007	\$ 21,859,472
Irrigation	2,437,623	2,959,746
Commercial and Industrial	72,458,368	67,217,822
Rent From Electric Property and Other Electric Revenue	37,349	41,211
Other	429,112	312,534
Unbilled Revenue	540,000	(270,000)
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 98,405,459	\$ 92,120,785
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$ 72,813,526	\$ 66,773,398
Distribution—Operation	2,326,350	2,219,902
Distribution—Maintenance	4,318,224	4,186,553
Consumer Accounts	1,579,006	1,660,893
Administrative and General	3,928,197	3,555,356
Depreciation and Amortization	8,111,241	5,977,670
Taxes	265,751	222,981
Other Interest Expenses	80,027	109,536
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 93,422,322	\$ 84,706,289
OPERATING MARGINS		
Before Fixed Charges	\$ 4,983,137	\$ 7,414,496
Interest on Long-Term Debt	(641,663)	(777,470)
After Fixed Charges	\$ 4,341,474	\$ 6,637,026
Capital Credits—G&T	3,063,993	3,699,573
Capital Credits—Other	233,655	305,295
Net Operating Margins	\$ 7,639,122	\$ 10,641,894
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Interest Income	\$ 94,628	\$ 479,627
Other Nonoperating Income	(3,445,588)	33,668
Net Nonoperating Margins	\$ (3,350,960)	\$ 513,295
Net Margins	\$ 4,288,162	\$ 11,155,189
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
APBO Assumption Change	\$ 0	\$ (1,733,231)
Comprehensive Income	\$ 4,288,162	\$ 9,421,958
Minimum Pension Liability Change	0	1,733,231
Increase in Patronage Capital	\$ 4,288,162	\$ 11,155,189
Patronage Capital—Beginning of Year	150,309,852	140,913,525
Unbilled Revenue Transferred to Other Equities	(540,000)	270,000
Patronage Capital Retired	(2,044,185)	(2,028,862)
Patronage Capital—End of Year	\$152,013,829	\$150,309,852



MESSAGE
FROM
SECRETARY-
TREASURER

LARRY R.
SCHENDEL

To the members of
Karnes Electric Cooperative,
Karnes City:

The accounting firm of Bolinger,
Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP
performed an audit of our
financial statements for the
year ended December 31, 2021.

We received a clean opinion
on that audit. The complete
audit report is on file at the
headquarters office of Karnes
Electric Cooperative.

Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer
Karnes Electric Cooperative

Balance Sheet

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

2021

2020

ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT AT COST

Electric Plant in Service	\$286,203,711	\$273,271,950
Construction Work in Progress	25,884,530	16,316,714
Aid to Construction	(162,419,707)	(157,744,458)
	\$149,668,534	\$131,844,206
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	28,126,815	22,318,376
	\$121,541,719	\$109,525,830

OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS AT COST OR STATED VALUE

Investments in Associated Organizations	\$ 50,633,842	\$ 47,549,732
Life Insurance Cash Surrender Value	291,673	289,922
Other Investments	38,870	18,714
	\$ 50,964,385	\$ 47,858,368

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash—General	\$ 4,907,933	\$ 11,346,021
Short-Term Investments	5,000,000	8,100,000
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Allowance for Uncollectibles of \$171,028 in 2021 and \$169,106 in 2020)	7,104,390	6,496,285
Unbilled Revenue	8,550,000	8,010,000
Materials and Supplies at Average Cost	4,708,196	3,900,658
Other Current and Accrued Assets	193,777	196,816
	\$ 30,464,296	\$ 38,049,780
Total Assets	\$202,970,400	\$195,433,978

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

EQUITIES

Memberships	\$ 89,080	\$ 87,240
Patronage Capital	152,013,829	150,309,852
Accumulated Comprehensive Income		
Minimum Pension Liability Adjustment	0	(7,795,883)
Other Equities	8,849,608	8,308,222
	\$160,952,517	\$150,909,431

LONG-TERM DEBT

RUS Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	\$ 525,508	\$ 575,307
FFB Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	10,306,958	10,759,793
CFC Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	526,908	551,204
CoBank Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	5,367,909	6,187,013
	\$ 16,727,283	\$ 18,073,317

OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Deferred Compensation	\$ 38,870	\$ 18,714
-----------------------	-----------	-----------

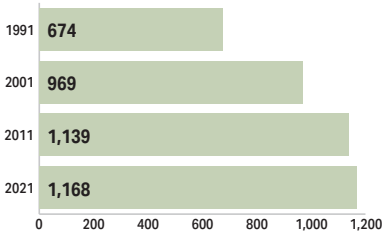
ACCUMULATED PROVISION FOR PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

Minimum Pension Liability	\$ 0	\$ 4,313,900
---------------------------	------	--------------

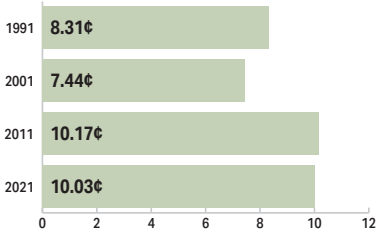
CURRENT LIABILITIES

Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,385,700	\$ 1,506,000
Short-Term Line of Credit	3,902,000	0
Accounts Payable	401,385	2,786,049
Accounts Payable—Purchased Power	6,541,436	5,997,755
Consumer Deposits and Prepayments	5,130,041	5,061,425
Accrued Taxes	798,503	827,633
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	752,809	1,083,677
	\$ 18,911,874	\$ 17,262,539
Deferred Credits	\$ 6,339,856	\$ 4,856,077
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$202,970,400	\$195,433,978

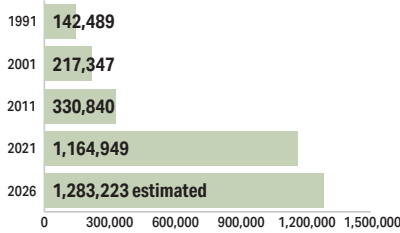
Average Monthly kWh Usage per Consumer (Residential Classification)



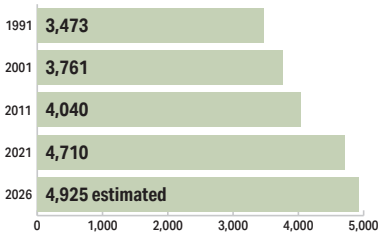
Average Monthly kWh Cost per Consumer (Residential Classification)



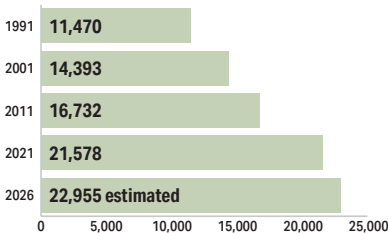
Annual kWh Sales (In Thousands)



Miles of Line



Number of Meters



Where Your Dollar Went



YEAR	PURCHASED POWER	OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINING SYSTEMS	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST	TAXES AND INSURANCE	MEMBERS' CAPITAL CREDITS AND MARGINS
2000	66.6¢	16.8¢	8.3¢	5.7¢	2.2¢	0.4¢
2001	66.7¢	16.0¢	7.5¢	4.9¢	2.0¢	2.9¢
2002	63.8¢	14.8¢	7.3¢	4.0¢	2.4¢	7.7¢
2003	65.0¢	15.8¢	7.4¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	5.7¢
2004	69.0¢	15.5¢	7.3¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	2.1¢
2005	70.5¢	13.3¢	6.4¢	4.1¢	2.1¢	3.6¢
2006	70.8¢	13.4¢	6.0¢	4.4¢	2.0¢	3.4¢
2007	70.6¢	14.8¢	6.5¢	5.1¢	1.8¢	1.2¢
2008	76.4¢	12.2¢	5.5¢	4.3¢	1.5¢	0.1¢
2009	70.7¢	12.2¢	5.3¢	4.4¢	1.4¢	6.0¢
2010	67.9¢	13.0¢	5.4¢	4.3¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2011	67.2¢	14.1¢	5.3¢	4.0¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2012	66.2¢	14.6¢	5.2¢	3.7¢	1.4¢	8.9¢
2013	69.4¢	12.7¢	4.3¢	2.6¢	1.1¢	9.9¢
2014	70.5¢	10.8¢	3.1¢	1.8¢	1.0¢	12.8¢
2015	67.6¢	9.4¢	4.0¢	1.6¢	1.1¢	16.3¢
2016	68.3¢	9.3¢	5.2¢	1.3¢	1.1¢	14.8¢
2017	68.8¢	9.4¢	5.3¢	1.1¢	1.1¢	14.3¢
2018	69.8¢	9.0¢	5.2¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	14.0¢
2019	69.1¢	9.8¢	5.5¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	13.6¢
2020	72.5¢	11.4¢	6.5¢	1.0¢	1.5¢	7.1¢
2021	74.0¢	14.9¢	8.2¢	0.7¢	1.4¢	0.8¢

Where Your Revenue Came From

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Farms and Ranches	20.7%	17.6%	15.2%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%	15.2%	14.5%
Towns and Subdivisions	11.1%	9.5%	8.3%	7.7%	8.0%	7.9%	8.5%	8.5%
Irrigation	3.6%	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	3.2%	2.5%
Small Commercial	12.0%	10.2%	8.0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.8%	7.5%	7.2%
Large Commercial	27.0%	32.5%	40.8%	42.5%	41.5%	41.2%	41.9%	41.9%
Public Buildings	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Oil Wells	24.4%	26.9%	24.7%	24.7%	25.3%	25.7%	23.3%	24.7%
Other Revenue	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Employees

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Jacob Asebedo	Second-Class Lineman	4
Sonny Barrientez	First-Class Lineman	26
Robert Bazan	Warehouse/Work Order Coordinator	35
Jesse Benavides	Serviceman	6
Jennifer Berger	Member Service Representative I	Less than 1
Bradley Bierstedt	General Manager	11
Karen Brysch	Billing Coordinator	23
Mary Buehring	Administrative Assistant/Staking	10
Leroy Castillo	Warehouse Materials Handler	3
Esperanza Cumpian	Member Service Representative I	13
Fredrick Currie	Line Locate Coordinator	15
Adolfo Delagarza	Warehouse Materials Handler	29
Daniel Diaz	Apprentice, First Class	3
Peter Dragon	Staking Technician III	44
Cory Ebrom	Purchasing Agent	19
Joe Escandon	Construction Foreman	23
Rebecca Frazier	GIS Technician	7
Suzanne Friesenhahn	Consumer Accounting Representative	10
Pedro Garcia	Operations Supervisor	18
Richard Garcia	Staking Technician II	11
Daniel Garza	Apprentice, First Class	3
Jesus Gonzales	Operations Supervisor	20
Justin Gray	Serviceman	12
Kole Hamilton	Groundman	Less than 1
Clifton Henke	IT Systems Analyst	5
Bart Homeyer	Right-of-Way Assistant	Less than 1
Troy Hughey	Groundman	Less than 1
Emily Janysek	Executive Assistant	20
Patrick Janysek	Operations Manager	35
Justin Jarzombek	Staking Technician I	3
Timothy Jendrusch	Mechanic I	9
Steve Jonas	Apparatus and Maintenance Technician	22
Hunter Jurgajtis	Second-Class Lineman	7
Teren Jurgajtis	Maintenance Foreman	16
Glenn Kelley	First-Class Lineman	12
C. Shane Knight	Distribution Services Manager	8
Russell Korzekwa	Staking Superintendent	21
Barbara Kotzur	AMI Support Specialist	15
Thomas Kowalik	Building/Grounds Maintenance Technician	Less than 1
Nathan Krudwig	Groundman	Less than 1
Tammy Labus	Finance and Accounting Manager	37

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Alfredo Lopez	Serviceman	7
Hector Lopez	Assistant Fleet Shop Foreman	20
C. Ryan Luttrell	Apprentice, First Class	3
Rebecca Mueller	Lead Member Service Representative	26
Randy Ortiz	Serviceman	10
Stephanie Ortiz	Member Service Representative II	4
Ernest Pacheco	Serviceman	34
Kevin Palermo	Second-Class Lineman	11
Donna Pawelek	Staking Coordinator	36
Gary Pawelek	First-Class Lineman	31
Tosha Pennington	Dispatcher	Less than 1
Irma Pesqueda	Member Service Representative I	1
Brenda Quintanilla	Operations Coordinator	20
Nicolas Quintanilla	Accounting Clerk—Fleet	Less than 1
Candace Reynolds	Accountant	5
Xavier Ribble	IT Technician I	2
Tyler Rockowitz	Groundman	Less than 1
Paul Rodriguez	First-Class Lineman	11
Clint Royal	Serviceman	24
Susanne Ruple	Member Service Manager	4
Cody Salas	Second-Class Lineman	7
Marcos David Salas	Groundman	Less than 1
Raul Salinas	Meter Technician	8
Jacob Sanchez	Staking Technician II	5
Kimberly Sanchez	Member Communications Coordinator	2
Alicia Sandoval	Work Order Clerk	7
John Saucedo	Second-Class Lineman	2
Tommy Shoemake	Dozer Operator	1
Sonya Sizemore	Dispatcher	12
Steve Stanley	Serviceman	6
Matthew Thiele	Business Development Coordinator	5
Rudolfo Torres	Construction Foreman	16
Amanda Turner	Lead Member Service Representative	7
Christopher Vajdos	Meter Technician	10
Vanessa Villanueva	Member Service Representative II	1
Bonnie Wiatrek	Human Resources Coordinator	38
William David Wilson	Technology Manager	9
Darlene Woelfel	Senior Accountant	38
Quintus Woelfel	Fleet Shop Foreman	35
Robert Zuniga	Safety Coordinator	6

Service Awards

EMPLOYEES			
Quintus Woelfel	35	Clifton Henke	5
Patrick Janysek	35	Matthew Thiele	5
Robert Bazan	35	Jacob Sanchez	5
Brenda Quintanilla	20	Candace Reynolds	5
Jesse Gonzales	20		
Emily Janysek	20		
Hector Lopez	20		
Barbara Kotzur	15		
Fredrick Currie	15		
Suzanne Friesenhahn	10		
Randy M. Ortiz	10		
Christopher Vajdos	10		
Mary Ann Buehring	10		

DIRECTORS	
Shirley Hofmann	25
Paul T. Brysch, Jr.	10

Annual Meeting Program

Monday, June 6
In-Person Meeting 7–8 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Invocation
3. Welcome Address
4. Introduction of Guests
5. Secretary’s Report of Number Present/Reading of Official Notice
6. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
7. Election of Directors
8. Naming of Canvassing Committee
9. Treasurer’s Report
10. Annual Management Report
11. Unfinished Business
12. New Business
13. Report of Election
14. Adjournment of Meeting
15. Drawing of Attendance Prizes

2021 Minutes

Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc., Annual Membership Meeting Karnes City, Texas • August 9, 2021

The Annual Membership Meeting of Karnes Electric Cooperative Inc. was held August 9, 2021, at the Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center in Karnes City. KEC Board President Paul Brysch called the meeting to order and called on Minister James Schendel to give the invocation. Mr. Brysch then led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brysch welcomed all in attendance and explained how the annual meeting format has changed to include a walk-through style meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. along with a pre-recorded president's welcome, secretary of treasurer's report and a general manager's report. Those same prerecorded reports were presented for the members attending the in-person meeting. In the president's welcome, Mr. Brysch welcomed all in attendance and introduced the Board of Directors. He expressed how COVID-19 has affected our membership and caused KEC to cancel the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting. Mr. Brysch mentioned how KEC is an essential business and the employees have continued to adapt to the many challenges including Winter Storm Uri. He noted that the cooperative was exposed to three consecutive days of ERCOT mandated outages. During this event, our employees worked as quickly as they safely could to restore power. He reported that despite the event Karnes Electric remains financially strong and does not anticipate any significant increase to the overall cost of power due to the winter storm. He then thanked South Texas Electric Cooperative for their strategic decisions to hedge against market forces to protect KEC from many of the financial repercussions of this extreme weather event.

Mr. Brysch then called on General Manager Brad Bierstedt who introduced several special guests in attendance and then asked all past and present military personnel to stand and be recognized.

Secretary-Treasurer Larry R. Schendel was given the floor and announced that 186 members were registered and that a quorum was present. He then turned the floor back over to Mr. Brysch. Mr. Brysch asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting that was published in the August 2021 issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine, which was mailed to the membership July 27, 2021, or have it read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Brysch then asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June 3, 2019, Annual Meeting, also published in the August 2021 issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine or have them read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as published. Motion carried.

Attorney Melissa Sykes was then given the floor to conduct the election of directors. She noted that in March 2021, KEC's Board of Directors voted to amend the Bylaws of the Cooperative to address certain issues that arose due to governmental restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cooperative also made other conforming changes consistent with changes in state and federal law since the last bylaw's revision in 2012.

Those revisions included: (1) providing flexibility as to the time and place of the Annual Meeting, (2) provisions relating to events of Force Majeure such as the ability to hold all or parts of the meetings virtually, (3) ability to hold an election without an annual meeting in the event of a Force Majeure event, (4) lowering the required number of signatures for nomination of candidates for directors by petition from 100 to 50, (5) provisions to permit incumbent directors to place their names into nominations if not nominated by committee or petition, (6) to remove the provision for nomination from the floor during the Annual Meeting in order to avoid disruption of the meeting to review floor nominees' qualifications pursuant to the Bylaws, and (7) permitting the board to hold meetings by remote communication.

Mrs. Sykes recognized the Nominating Committee who met on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, and nominated the candidates for districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Mrs. Sykes recognized candidates nominated by the committee for District No. 2 and District No. 3 and announced there were no nominations by petition.

Mrs. Sykes recognized candidates nominated by the committee for District No. 4 and recognized the nominee made by written petition.

Mrs. Sykes recognized candidates nominated by the committee for District No. 5, 6, and 7 and announced there were no nominations by petition.

Mrs. Sykes introduced the members appointed to serve on the 2021 canvassing committee and instructed all the voting members to mark their ballots.

The ballots were collected by Mrs. Sykes and the canvassing committee, who then retired to count the votes.

Mr. Schendel then gave the treasurer's report for 2021. He reported that the cooperative remains financially sound, ending the year with a very strong equity ratio and total net margins of \$11,155,189. The cooperative finished the year with total assets of \$195,433,978.

The cooperative returned capital credits totaling \$2,024,522. This increases the total amount of capital credits returned to members to date to \$18,219,978.

Mr. Brysch then called on Mr. Bierstedt to give the management report.

Mr. Bierstedt expressed his appreciation to the board and employees for their hard work and dedicated service and to the members during the most extraordinary year in the history of the cooperative. He discussed the cooperative's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and safety protocols implemented to keep members and employees safe and reported that recent technology enhancements have allowed employees to adapt to daily challenges and find new and creative ways to continue serving KEC members. He reported that during this unprecedented time, the board authorized the suspension of disconnects and late fee penalties to help members who were struggling financially.

Mr. Bierstedt then reported on Winter Storm Uri and the record-breaking demand on the Electric Reliability Council of Texas power grid that led to mandated load shed across the state of Texas to avert a catastrophic collapse of the statewide electric grid.

He provided a summary of the events that took place over the three consecutive days of ERCOT mandated rolling blackouts and thanked STEC for their role in protecting KEC from a significant increase in power cost because of the storm.

Mr. Bierstedt discussed the recent completion of the Pleasanton Member Service Center building project and provided an update on the new Karnes City Headquarters facility under construction and the benefit of much-needed space, improved security, updated technology, and increased operational efficiencies.

Mr. Bierstedt then commented on the economic impact of the pandemic and decreased oil production and reiterated that KEC remains financially strong and well positioned to meet the future needs of its Members. He discussed KEC's focus on maintenance programs and ongoing investment in pole testing and remediation, right-of-way clearing and vegetation management, and construction work plan projects aimed at identifying aging electric distribution facilities in need of replacement.

Kimberly Sanchez, Member Communications Coordinator, then reported on concern for community and stated that over the past 20 years the cooperative has awarded a total of 248 scholarships, totaling \$242,200. She then recognized the following 18 winners of \$1,500 scholarships: Anna Bonnet, Karnes City High School; Annalynn Moczygemba, Karnes City High School; Brianna Garcia, Pleasanton High School; Blake Moos, Pleasanton High School; Brooke Gislser, Karnes City High School; Camry Mangum, Homeschool; Heaven Marquez, Pleasanton High School; Jordyn Lyssy, Poth High School; Kaylie Measels, McMullen County ISD; Kylee Rodriguez, Karnes City High School; Madison Maglievaz, Poteet High School; Madison Yow, Jourdanton High School; Mary Pierce, Floresville High School; Matthew Kutz, Goliad High School; Nadine Rapstine, Fall City High School; Paige Tam, Kenedy High School; Rene Ortiz, Jourdanton High School; and Seth Robertson, Charlotte High School.

Mrs. Sanchez announced that the 2020 and 2021 Government-in-Action Youth Tours were canceled due to the pandemic.

Mr. Bierstedt recognized the following employees and directors for their dedicated service to Karnes Electric Cooperative:

Jessie Benavides, Serviceman, 5 years
Steve Stanley, Meter Technician, 5 years
Robert Zuniga, Safety Coordinator, 5 years
Brad Bierstedt, General Manager, 10 years
Richard Garcia, Staking Technician II, 10 years
Matthew Garza, Warehouse Coordinator, 10 years
Kevin Palermo, Second-Class Lineman, 10 years
Paul Rodriguez, First-Class Lineman, 10 years
Teren Jurgajtis, Maintenance Foreman, 15 years
Rudolfo Torres, Construction Foreman, 15 years
Russell Korzekwa, Staking Superintendent, 20 years
Sonny Barrientez, First-Class Lineman, 25 years
Rebecca Mueller, Lead Member Service Representative, 25 years
Gary Pawelek, First-Class Lineman, 30 years
Donna Pawelek, Staking Coordinator, 35 years
David Ross Nieschwitz, Director District 7, 5 years
Larry Schendel, Director District 1, 50 years

In conclusion, Mr. Bierstedt thanked all the cooperative employees for their hard work and dedication, the board for their service, and the members for the opportunity to serve them.

Mr. Brysch then opened the meeting up for member comments. Members were asked to limit their comments to five minutes or less. There were none.

Mr. Brysch then asked if there was any unfinished business to come before the meeting. There being none, Mr. Brysch asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Mr. Brysch now called upon Mrs. Sykes to report the official election results:

District No. 2	District No. 5
Shirley Hofmann 126	Paul T. Brysch, Jr. 150
Thomas Natho 40	Clifford Spahn 18
District No. 3	District No. 6
Frank A. Geyer, Jr. 137	Cliff Royal 165
Margarito Rodriguez 28	
District No. 4	District No. 7
L. Scott McClaugherty IV 133	David R. Nieschwitz 168
Robert Gonzales 37	

There being no further business, upon motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Sanchez then conducted the drawing for door prizes, which included a combination of 40 gift cards, 20 \$100 bill credits, a \$250 Visa gift card for those registrants that brought in their preprinted registration card and a grand prize of a \$250 Visa gift card.



Paul T. Brysch, Jr.
President



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer



RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid

BUY 1
GET 1 **FREE**

**NEW LOW
PRICE**

REG ~~\$299.98~~
**ONLY
\$149⁹⁹**

Each When You Buy a Pair

PLUS FREE SHIPPING
Limited Time Only!



How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$149⁹⁹ be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

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

The MDHearingAid® VOLT uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 600,000 satisfied MDHearingAid customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. MDHearingAid is a medical-grade, digital, rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance; and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

CHARGE AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY

**NEVER
CHANGE
A BATTERY
AGAIN!**



Carrying case is also the charger.

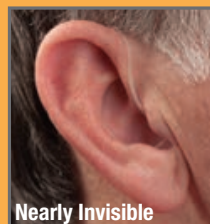
45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

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

For the Lowest Price Call

1-800-890-6187

www.MDVolt.com



Use Code **SR17**
and get **FREE Shipping**

MDHearingAid® >>>

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Proudly assembled
in America!



SUMMER SAVINGS



Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service
Second to None

DDM Brenham Office
979-251-9503
301 Salem Road • Brenham

DDM Bastrop Office
512-321-0336
1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

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

*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



Made in Texas



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



40'x15'x12'



30'x40'x12'



**Call today for
our best pricing!**

www.ddmbuildings.com

Low Cost Pole Barns

26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed

Call now for our best pricing!

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

Call Ron: 512-367-0428

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX

All transactions private, confidential & secure.

830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now

TexasCoopPower.com/shop

WD Metal Buildings



- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- All Metal Framework
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors
- Continuous Roof Design

Instant Prices @ WDMB.com



SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

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

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com



ARK-LA-TEX SHOP BUILDERS

"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARN • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM

830-730-0515

8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

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

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

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

SECRETS OF A BILLIONAIRE REVEALED

*"Price is what you pay; value is what you get.
Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like
buying quality merchandise when it is marked down."*

— wisdom from the most successful investor of all time

We're going to let you in on a secret. Billionaires have billions because they know value is not increased by an inflated price. They avoid big name markups, and aren't swayed by flashy advertising. When you look on their wrist you'll find a classic timepiece, not a cry for attention— because they know true value comes from keeping more money in their pocket.

We agree with this thinking wholeheartedly. And, so do our two-and-a-half million clients. It's time you got in on the secret too. The **Jet-Setter Chronograph** can go up against the best chronographs in the market, deliver more accuracy and style than the "luxury" brands, and all for far, far less. \$1,150 is what the **Jet-Setter Chronograph** would cost you with nothing more than a different name on the face.

With over two million timepieces sold (and counting), we know a thing or two about creating watches people love. The **Jet-Setter Chronograph** gives you what you need to master time and keeps the superfluous stuff out of the equation. A classic in the looks department and a stainless steel power tool of construction, this is all the watch you need. And, then some.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Experience the **Jet-Setter Chronograph** for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price.

Time is running out. Now that the secret's out, we can't guarantee this \$29 chronograph will stick around long. Don't overpay to be underwhelmed. Put a precision chronograph on your wrist for **just \$29** and laugh all the way to the bank. Call today!

**CLIENTS LOVE
STAUER WATCHES...**

★★★★★
*"The quality of their
watches is equal to many
that can go for ten times
the price or more."*

— Jeff from McKinney, TX

TAKE 90% OFF INSTANTLY!

When you use your OFFER CODE

Jet-Setter Chronograph \$299

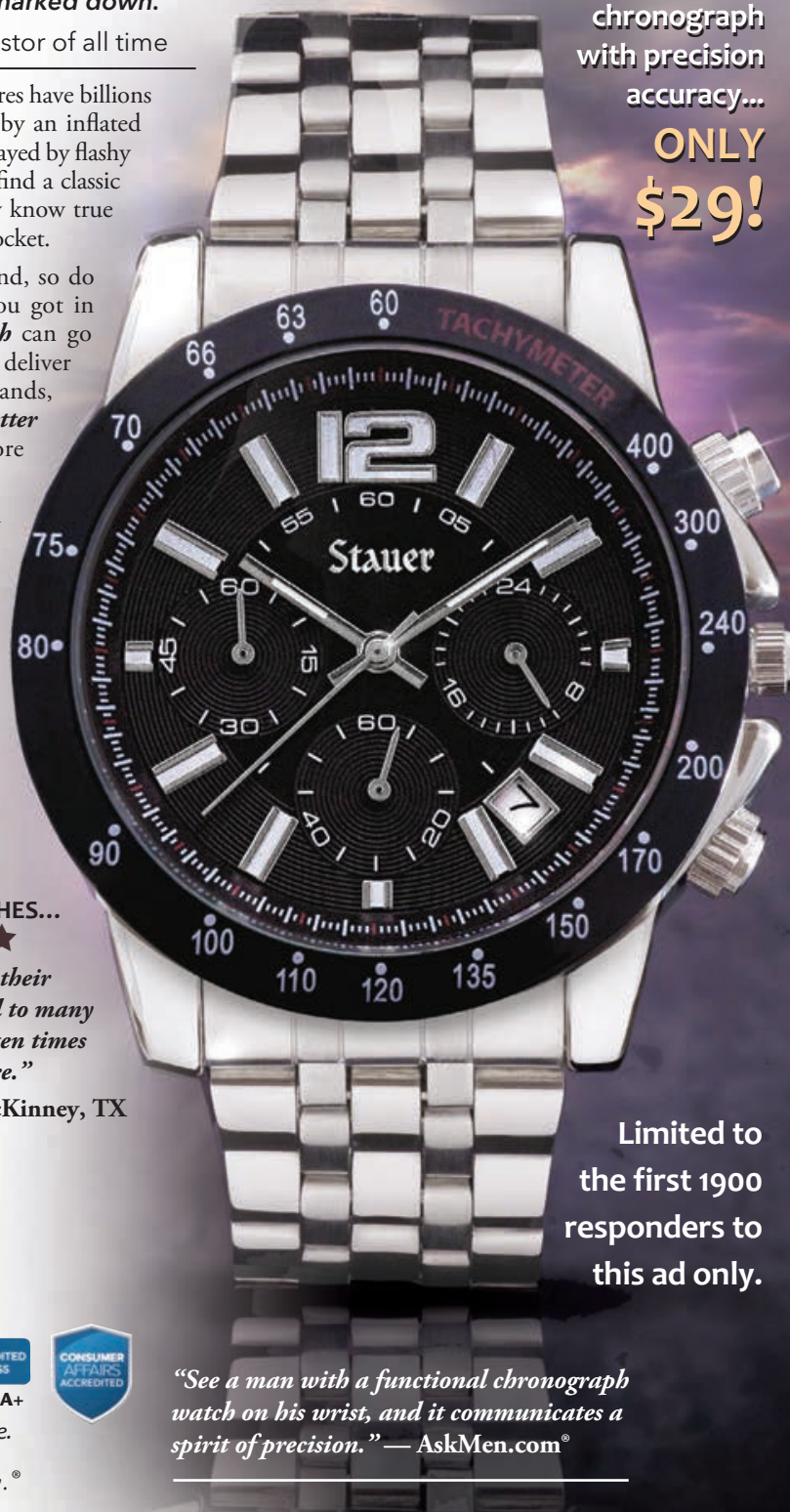
Offer Code Price \$29* + S&P Save \$270

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: JCW477-01

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

Stauer...Afford the Extraordinary.®



**Absolute best price
for a fully-loaded
chronograph
with precision
accuracy...**

**ONLY
\$29!**

**Limited to
the first 1900
responders to
this ad only.**

*"See a man with a functional chronograph
watch on his wrist, and it communicates a
spirit of precision." — AskMen.com®*

- Precision crystal movement • Stainless steel case back & bracelet with deployment buckle • 24 hour military time
- Chronograph minute & small second subdials; seconds hand • Water resistant to 3 ATM • Fits wrists 7" to 9"

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. JCW477-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com
† Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.



Doctor's Orders

UT medical school faculty left Galveston to provide aid during World War I

BY MARTHA DEERING • ILLUSTRATION BY DANA SMITH

WHEN DR. ETHEL LYON HEARD returned to Texas after serving overseas with the Red Cross during World War I, she was holding tightly to the hand of a 3-year-old orphan from France named Jean Thibaut. After the child's house was nearly destroyed by a mortar in 1918, he was discovered in a back room the following day and brought to the hospital where Lyon Heard worked.

Before the war, Lyon Heard taught classes in hygiene and child care at the University of Texas' medical school in Galveston. Making space in her life for a child orphaned by war was just one of the countless acts of service and moments of bravery undertaken by UT faculty when the U.S. joined the war effort.

"These men and women sacrificed their lives and future professions by en-

listing in the war effort in Europe," says Dwayne Jones, director of the Galveston Historical Foundation. "The effects of the war redirected each life and altered the direction of health care forever."

Known today as the University of Texas Medical Branch, the school started in October 1891 with 13 instructors, 23 students and one building.

The mettle of the school was tested right away when the devastating 1900 Galveston hurricane struck. Much of the city was destroyed, but Galveston doctors led recovery efforts.

When the U.S. formally entered World War I in 1917, new and catastrophic forms of combat—trench warfare and chemical and biological weapons—required increased medical care for troops. The situation worsened when the Spanish

flu pandemic swept across the battle-grounds of Europe, killing thousands in just a few days. The American Expeditionary Forces sent out an urgent call for physicians, medical faculty and medical students to assist in the war effort.

The Council of National Defense urged medical students to stay in school and faculty to continue their critical teaching duties. But that didn't stop some of UT's medical personnel, who joined personnel from other leading U.S. universities in enlisting.

Lyon Heard's husband, Dr. Allen George Heard, adjunct professor of pediatrics, joined the medical corps and was assigned to British forces in England. Wounded twice, he received two citations for "conspicuous bravery" in action on the battlefields of France.

Dr. Herbert Lee McNeil, an assistant professor of clinical pathology, was assigned to oversee a hospital with 4,000 patients, later serving on the front lines. Dr. Estill Lee Rice was business manager of the school's medical magazine as a student. He served aboard the USS Nicholson, where he led a rescue mission to treat sailors injured in a German U-boat attack. Dr. Jess Autry Flautt was an instructor in obstetrics and gynecology before enlisting in the Navy Medical Corps on the day after the U.S. declared war. He rescued men from a ship loaded with explosives.

In November 2019, UTMB unveiled a Texas Historical Commission marker to honor the extraordinary contributions of eight members of the school's faculty and 11 students who served during the war effort. Some of the physicians sacrificed their hard-earned professional positions, and in some cases their lives, to serve.

Dr. Ben Raimor, UTMB's president, hopes the marker inspires today's physicians. "The physicians honored on the new historical marker represent service before self, which is what we continue to instill in our students today." ■

Weeknight Dinners

Busy day? No need to sweat it with these stress-free dishes

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Quick and easy dinners are the backbone of our meals. One of my favorites is a stir-fry—you can throw almost anything you have on hand in, and less than 30 minutes later you have a full meal. This beef and green bean stir-fry is a go-to in my family, especially when we have lots of green beans from the garden or tucked away in the freezer. If you like it spicy, add your favorite hot sauce to the dish.

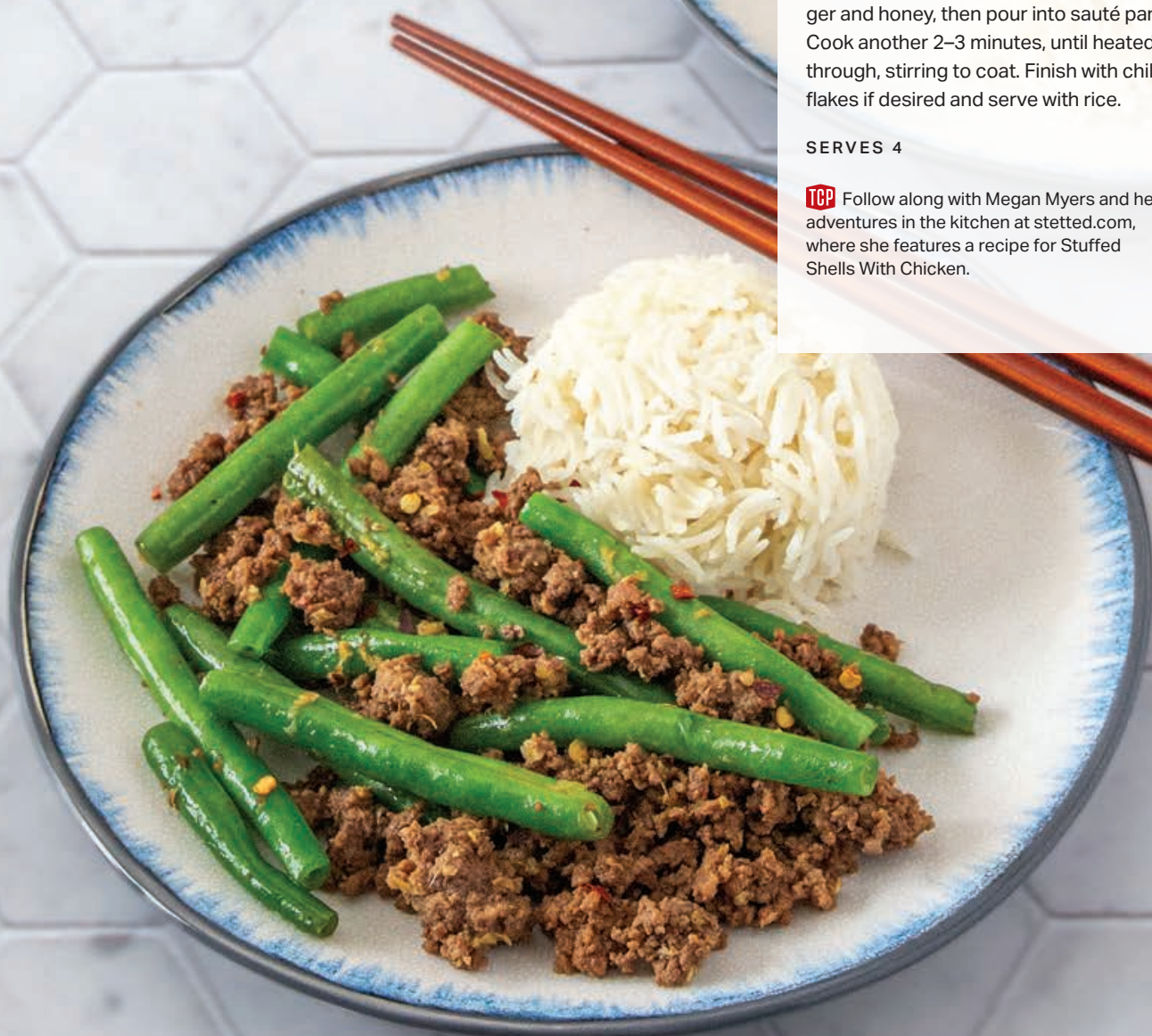
Beef and Green Bean Stir-Fry

1 pound ground beef
1 pound green beans, trimmed
3 tablespoons soy sauce
2–3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
1–2 teaspoons honey
Crushed red chile flakes (optional)
Cooked rice, to serve

1. In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, cook the ground beef until browned, breaking into pieces as it cooks. Drain excess grease if desired.
2. Stir in the green beans and cook for about 5 minutes, until beans are bright green and crisp-tender.
3. Whisk together soy sauce, garlic, ginger and honey, then pour into sauté pan. Cook another 2–3 minutes, until heated through, stirring to coat. Finish with chile flakes if desired and serve with rice.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Stuffed Shells With Chicken.





Spaghetti Carbonara

LINDA HARDWICK
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Carbonara is the ultimate comfort food and easier than you might think. This version brings in heat with crushed red chile flakes, so add according to your tastes.

- 1 pound spaghetti or other pasta
- 4–6 slices bacon, chopped
- 5–6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon crushed red chile flakes, or to taste
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley (optional)

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil and add pasta, cooking according to package instructions. Reserve ½ cup pasta water and drain pasta, setting aside to keep warm.
2. While the pasta cooks, in a large frying pan over medium heat cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon and set aside.
3. To the same pan, add garlic and red chile flakes and sauté for 1 minute, then add white wine, scraping up any stuck bits on the bottom of the pan.
4. Whisk together eggs and Parmesan, then add pasta, egg mixture, bacon and reserved pasta water to the frying pan, tossing with tongs to mix together and create a creamy sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste, and serve with parsley.

SERVES 6

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

Eggplant Pizzettes

KAY LEUSCHNER
NUECES EC



Quick, easy and filling, this is a twist on standard eggplant Parmesan. Serve it as is for a lighter meal or add to a dish of pasta with extra sauce.

SERVES 4

- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon dried basil
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 eggplant, cut into ½-inch slices
- 1 jar (26 ounces) spaghetti sauce
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella or other cheese

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a shallow bowl, combine breadcrumbs, spices, garlic powder and Parmesan.
2. Spread a thin layer of mayonnaise on both sides of eggplant slices. Dip each slice into breadcrumb mixture, pressing gently to adhere the coating to both sides.
3. Arrange eggplant on an ungreased rimmed baking sheet and bake 15 minutes or until tender.
4. Remove from oven and reduce temperature to 375 degrees. Spread each eggplant slice with a dollop of spaghetti sauce and top with mozzarella. Return pan to the oven for 10–15 minutes or until cheese is melted.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HOLIDAY SIDES DUE JUNE 10

We know there's pride in the sides at your holiday feast. Submit your recipes on our website by June 10 for a chance to win \$500.





Zuppa di Ceci

SIMONA CUDE
BANDERA EC

This easy dish—the name means chick-pea soup—gets a burst of vibrant flavor from lemon juice and capers. Cude recommends mashing some of the chickpeas before serving for a creamier soup.

2 tablespoons olive oil
½ onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced

1 medium golden potato, diced
1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Pinch crushed red chile flakes
3 cups vegetable broth
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 cups croutons, divided use
2 tablespoons drained capers (optional)
Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

1. In a large soup pot over low heat, heat oil. Add onion and garlic and cook 2 minutes. Add potato and cook another 2 minutes.
2. Stir in chickpeas, chile flakes, broth, salt and pepper. Raise heat to medium-high and bring to a boil, then reduce to low and cook 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasonings if desired.
4. Add ½ cup croutons to each of 4 bowls and ladle soup over the top. Top with capers and parsley, if using.

SERVES 4

Batching for Busy Days

BY MEGAN MYERS

You can freeze cooked beans and grains, like rice and quinoa, for easy use later.

1. Cook as usual, doubling or tripling the recipe for larger batches.
2. Let cool completely. Cool grains quickly by spreading onto a large sheet pan.
3. Scoop into freezer-safe bags or containers in 1- or 2-cup increments. Remove as much air as possible, then seal, label and store in the freezer.
4. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator or more quickly in a bowl of warm water; or add to your favorite soups while frozen.

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



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

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

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our **Sedona Turquoise Collection**. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for **just \$99**.

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

Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

A. Pendant (26 cts)	\$299	\$99*	+s&p	Save \$200
B. 18" Bali Naga woven sterling silver chain		\$149	+s&p	
C. 1 ½" Earrings (10 ctw)	\$299	\$99*	+s&p	Save \$200
Complete Set**	\$747	\$249*	+s&p	Save \$498

**Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

1-800-333-2045 | Offer Code **STC657-09**

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. STC657-09, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

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

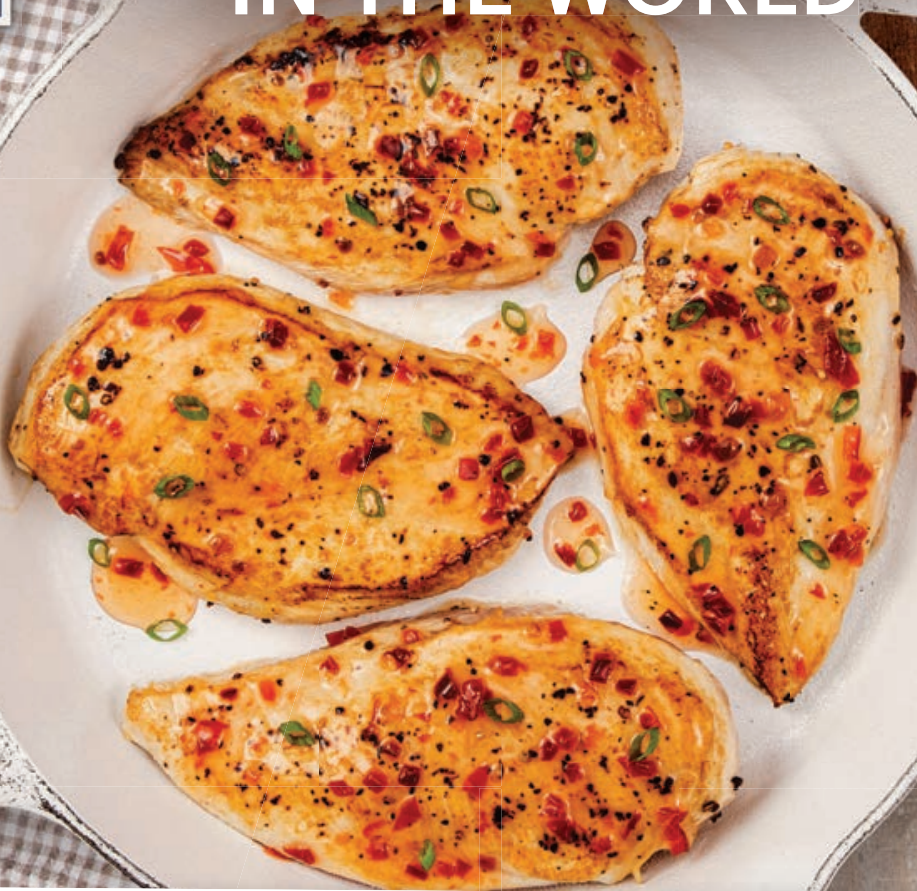


26 carats
of genuine
Arizona turquoise
ONLY \$99

Stauer...
Afford the Extraordinary.®



THE BEST TASTING CHICKEN — IN THE WORLD™ —



Best of PERDUE Sampler

(11+ lb.) 14+ lb. = **55+ Servings**

- 2 Trays – Diced Chicken Breasts (2.4 lb.)
- 2 Trays – Chicken Breast Strips (2.4 lb.)
- 2 Trays – Thin-Sliced Chicken Breasts (2.4 lb.)
- 1 Bag – Boneless Chicken Breasts (2 lb.)
- 1 Bag – Boneless Chicken Tenderloins (2.5 lb.)
- + 2 More Trays - Chicken Breast Strips **FREE**

**\$60
OFF**

~~\$139.90*~~ Separately

Your
Price

\$78.99

FREE SHIPPING

PLUS 2 More Trays
FREE STRIPS



Call
1.800.473.7383

Ask For
Perdue Box170

– OR –
www.PerdueFarms.com/perduebox170



No Antibiotics Ever

100% Veg Fed



Guaranteed Quality

Home Delivery



Offer Expires 9/30/2022. Not valid with any other offers. *Savings shown based on total of single item base price. Free shipping available in select states.

Limited one order per household. Valid for new customers only. Visit PerdueFarms.com or call 1.800.473.7383 for full Terms and Conditions.

*All pictures shown are for illustration purpose only. Product is frozen at peak freshness and carefully packaged in eco-friendly shipping materials to ensure safe delivery.



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Eruption Evidence

Drive into the Paisano Pass Volcano in far West Texas to view prehistory

BY CHET GARNER

IF I CLOSE my eyes to imagine a volcano, I see a Polynesian island with palm trees, beaches and an endless ocean. I definitely don't imagine the cactus-filled landscapes of West Texas.

Yet there I was, standing on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 90, halfway between Alpine and Marfa, staring at the Paisano Pass Volcano, which—fortunately for visitors—has been dormant for about 30 million years.

The drive west from Alpine to the ancient site was impressive. Red cliffs and strange rock spires on each side of the road made me feel like I was traveling back to the Cretaceous Period. Honestly, I wouldn't have been surprised if a T. rex had crossed the road in front of me. I crested a hill and dropped into a valley, where I pulled into a roadside park to read an educational panel about the lava-formed landscape.

All around me were colorful cliffs, knobby boulders and crag-covered mountains that were formed during the Oligocene Epoch, 23–33 million years ago. Dinosaurs were extinct then, but giant mammals walked the earth, including 18-foot-tall beasts that looked like a mix between horses and rhinos. It was during this era that the Paisano Pass Volcano exploded and then collapsed back onto itself, leaving a 3-mile-wide caldera that stretches as far as you can see from the small park.

Geologists come from all over the world to study this volcano because it exposed layers of rock normally hidden miles below the surface of the earth. The Big Bend is still tectonically active and has even experienced violent earthquakes as recently as 1998. While another volcanic eruption is unlikely, I never say never in Texas. And so I promptly got back in my truck and continued down the road. ■

ABOVE Chet studies a roadside panel depicting the history and geology of the Paisano Pass Volcano.

TCP Chet vs. the volcano: It's not a movie, but it is a video on our website. Watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

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

JUNE 09

Lufkin Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

Abilene [9–11] Children's Art and Literacy Festival, (325) 677-1161, abilenecalf.com

Lockhart [9–11] Chisholm Trail Roundup, (512) 398-2818, chisholmtrailroundup.com

Temple [9–11] Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, (254) 223-2484, squaredancetx.com

10

Levelland Sip & Swirl, (806) 894-9079, downtownlevelland.com

Fredericksburg [10–11] Craft Beer Festival, (830) 997-8515, fbgcrafterbeerfestival.com

Fredericksburg [10–11] Thomas Michael Riley Music Festival, (830) 997-3224, thomasmichaelriley.com

Blanco [10–12] Lavender Festival, (830) 833-5101, blancolavenderfest.com

Elgin [10–11, 19] Juneteenth Festival, (512) 963-2721, elgintx.com/194/juneteenth-festival

San Antonio [10–Aug. 6] Fiesta Noche del Rio, (210) 226-4651, fiestanochesa.com

11

East Bernard Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 335-7907, kkfest.com

Fredericksburg Pride in the Pacific, (830) 997-8600, pacificwarmuseum.org

Jacksonville Tomato Fest, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com/tomato-fest

Kyle Market Days, (512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com

Mesquite Rodeo Road Rally, (972) 284-9411, rodeoroadrally.com

Nacogdoches Texas Blueberry Festival, (936) 564-7351, texasblueberryfestival.com

Lufkin [14-15] Blue Man Group, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

Stonewall [16-18] Peach JAMboree, (830) 644-2735, stonewalltexas.com

Kyle Ash Pavilion Skate Night, (512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com

Longview [17-19] Great Texas Balloon Race, (903) 753-3281, greattexasballoonrace.com

Comanche Rodeo Parade, (325) 356-3233, comanchechamber.org

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

Bowie [18-25] Jim Bowie Days Rodeo and Celebration, (940) 872-1114, jimbowiedays.org

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event


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



WALK-IN TUBS
FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



ONYX SHOWERS
FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



HOWARD DANIEL JR.
serves as board chair of Burke, an organization that assists with mental health needs and developmental disabilities.
POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | NOVEMBER 2020

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

TexasCoopPower **\$100 WINNER**

Nominate someone today!

Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.

PEACH JAMBOREE

Rodeo & Dance

JUNE 16TH-18TH

THURSDAY
WAGON ACES

FRIDAY
GRANGER SMITH

SATURDAY
MUSCADINE
BLOODLINE

PRESENTED BY
McLane Ford
of Fredericksburg



STONEWALL home of the
sweetest peaches and
the best wineries in **TEXAS**

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

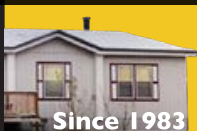
1-800-359-4940 TEXAS
TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

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

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

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

**Steel Mobile
Home Roofing**



High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

**MOBILE HOME
ROOFOVER
SYSTEMS**

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



CHRISTIN LOLA | DREAMTIME.COM

Pick of the Month

**100th Annual Freestone
County Fair and Rodeo**

Fairfield, June 13-18
(903) 388-5003, fcfar.org

Check out the rodeo action, live-stock show, rides, food and other entertainment as Free-stone County's annual fair celebrates the century mark. Fairfield is about 60 miles east of Waco.

JUNE EVENTS CONTINUED

22

**Levelland [22-25] Golden
Spread Classic Steer
and Heifer Show,**
(806) 759-1102,
goldenspreadclassic.com

23

Mexia [23-25] Rodeo,
(254) 562-5569,
mexiachamber.com

25

**Arlington Tommy DeCarlo
With Rudy Cardenas,**
(817) 543-4308,
levittpavilionarlington.org

Brenham Crystal Gayle,
(979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com

**Comanche Red Dirt
Dinner and Dancing,**
(325) 325-3233,
comanchechamber.org

Ennis Freedom Fest,
(972) 878-4748,
visitennis.org

**Belton [25, July 1-4]
4th of July Celebration,**
(254) 939-3551,
beltonchamber.com

JULY

01

**Canadian [1-4] Fourth
of July Celebration,**
(806) 323-6234,
canadiantx.com

02

**Boerne Music in the
Cave: American Stories
by Marbrisha Trio,**
(830) 537-4212,
cavewithoutaname.com

**Fredericksburg [2-3,
16-17] Pari-Mutuel Horse
Racing,** (830) 997-2359,
gillespiefair.com

**Granbury [2-4] Hometown
4th of July,** (817) 573-1622,
visitgranbury.com

**The Colony Liberty by
the Lake,** (972) 625-1106,
visitthecolonytx.com/events

03

Addison Kaboom Town,
(972) 450-2800,
addisonkaboomtown.com

**Grand Prairie [3-4]
Lone Stars & Stripes
Fireworks Celebration,**
(972) 263-7223,
lonestarpark.com

04

**Cameron 4th of July
Fireworks,** (254) 697-4979,
cameron-tx.com

**Fredericksburg 4th of July
Parade and Fireworks,**
(830) 997-6523,
visitfredericksburgtx.com

Lubbock 4th on Broadway,
(806) 749-2929,
broadwayfestivals.com

**McKinney Red, White and
Boom,** (972) 547-7480,
mckinneytexas.org

**Tomball July 4th Fire-
works and Street Fest,**
(281) 351-5484,
tomballtx.gov

Industrial

Docks, factories, train yards and mills are all reminders of local industry that dot the Texas landscape—or used to. Rediscover remnants of the past and celebrate innovations that move us into the future.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 LISA CORKER
FAYETTE EC

"Beautiful sunset at the Galveston shipyard."

2 REAGAN FERGUSON
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

An abandoned Fort Worth incinerator.

3 STEPHANIE EHLERT
GREENBELT EC

Pastureland in Jericho on what used to be part of Route 66.

4 DANNY PICKENS
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC

"This abandoned factory in Longview seems as though everyone just walked away and left it to decay."



Upcoming Contests

DUE JUN 10 Hometown Pride
DUE JUL 10 Aerials
DUE AUG 10 Winter Wildlife



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Pop's Light Touch

A keepsake reminds a daughter of her father's illuminating ways

BY BABS RODRIGUEZ
ILLUSTRATION BY
NAVINA CHHABRIA

MY FATHER was always telling someone to turn out a light.

Except when he was telling one of his five children to turn one on.

"Time for bed, turn out your light."

"Turn out the light you left on in the bathroom."

"Turn on your desk light, you'll ruin your eyes."

A military man who ran a tight ship at home, Pop had a sixth sense when it came to knowing who had left an unoccupied room without flipping a switch or who was reading in the dark.

I think about him whenever I set up the furnishings in a new household because he taught me the power of light to set a mood. He had strong opinions about which combination of lamps would generate the best conversation

or encourage lingering over dinner or—with a measured flipping of switches—not so subtly end an evening.

For my 13th birthday, I was allowed to host my very first boy-girl fiesta, made yet more festive by the number of string lights he hung in the backyard trees. However, that gesture may have been less about mood setting and more about oversight. That was definitely how he used the porch lights, flashing them on and off during my high school years and sending clear messages to any one of us daughters hovering outside with a date for what he considered too long.

Maybe his time on the air base or studying the lighted dials in a bomber's cockpit made him keenly attuned to messaging via lighting, but he never bought a lamp or a fixture without some research. Except for one.

Once, at an antiques show, he impulsively purchased a tiny brass lamp. He called it a fairy lamp, although it looked nothing like the glass Victorian-era candle lamps of that name. It was charming, with signs of the maker's hand in the unpolished brass base and a thin metal shade that looked like a pointed gnome's cap.

When he bought it, I was sad that the lamp's wiring was so dangerously undone that there was no doubt it was a fire hazard. And while he forbade me from ever actually using it, I kept that lamp in my room, imagining the places it might have illuminated in years past.

Pop had it rewired for me when I left for college, and it's traveled with me around the world. It is the most meaningful gift I ever received, but in case the metaphor eluded my young self, he included a card: "If you get homesick, Daughter, know I've always left a light on for you."

I think of him every time I switch it on, but only after I've turned out all the lights I'm not using. ■



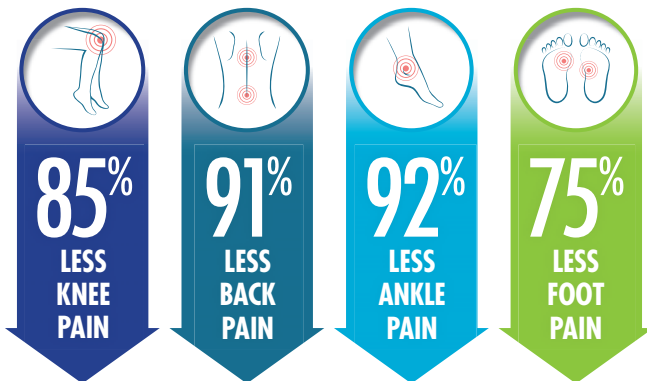
LIVE LIFE PAIN FREE



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



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



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

Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

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

gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145

**X-WIDE
WIDTH
AVAILABLE**

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

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black



\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8FPS4

www.gdefy.com

Expires September 30, 2022

Free Exchanges • Free Returns

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

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



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

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

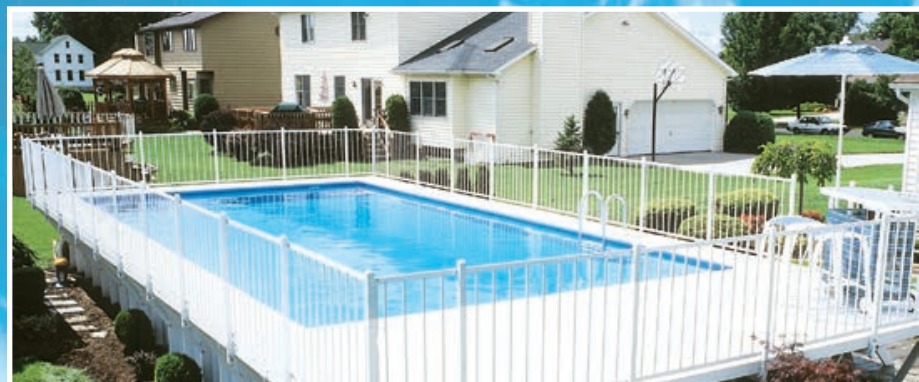


Display one of our beautiful Kayak maintenance-free pools and save \$\$\$!

CALL NOW to qualify for this limited opportunity!

1-800-794-6839

www.swimtexsun.com



A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.



SWIM TEXSUN

STAYcation In Your Own Backyard!

- Save Money: \$1000-\$4000 Instant Rebate
- Financing Available/Pre-Approvals
- We Consider Anything Of Value On Trade

AMERICA'S BEST BUILT POOL—WE GUARANTEE IT!

If within 30 days after your purchase of an Award Winning Kayak Pool, you find another brand name pool with all of Kayak's features and benefits, we'll refund 100% of your purchase price, plus we'll give you the Kayak Pool **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**