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MARCH 2025

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Museum in Arlington
celebrates Medal of Honor
recipients' heroics





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06 Home of the Brave

The long-awaited National Medal of Honor Museum in North Texas tells the stories of our nation's greatest heroes.

By Cyndy Irvine

A Journey of Resilience

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site builds community while rebuilding itself after a devastating 2019 tornado.

Story and photos by Anna Mazurek

ON THE COVER

The late George "Bud" Day received a Medal of Honor after his F-100, like the one behind him in Houston, was shot down over Vietnam.

Photo by Robert Seale

ABOVE

Exhibits at Caddo Mounds.

Photo by Anna Mazurek

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By Shane Torno

Women's History Month



THOSE RED AND WHITE signs herald a grocery chain that has grown to more than 435 stores in Texas and Mexico since its founding in 1905 in the Hill Country.

Howard E. Butt is credited with launching the H-E-B empire, but the family's first store was the creation of his mother.

Florence Butt, above, was the mother of three young sons and wife of a pharmacist unable to work because of tuberculosis. She invested \$60 to open C.C. Butt Grocery, named for her husband, on Main Street in Kerrville.

Howard took over the store in 1919 after he returned from World War I.



TCP Contests and More

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FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Catch of the Day

RECOMMENDED READING

Texas Independence Day is March 2. Read *Texas Independence* from March 2016 to learn more about the birthplace of a nation. Find it at TexasCoopPower.com.

"Texas has yet to learn submission to any oppression, come from what source it may."

—SAM HOUSTON

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Making my bed every morning is ...

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 January prompt: **The best year of my life was ...**

When my brother (now deceased) came home safe from the Vietnam War.

SUSAN MARTIN
SAN PATRICIO EC
THREE RIVERS

When I figured out that happiness is just a state of mind.

ADRIAN MAUI SCLAWY
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
ELKHART

The year I married the girl of my dreams—52 years ago.

STEVE BAILEY
PENTEX ENERGY
GAINESVILLE

2012, when I moved to Texas to join the love of my life after being apart for almost 40 years.

TOM DIFRANCESCA
NUECES EC
BISHOP

Visit our website to see more responses.

JANUARY 2025 Our Nosy New Neighbors

“As a child, I remember spotting black bears as far east as Waco. My mom told me their favorite drink was Dr Pepper.”

GLORIA CURRIN
WOOD COUNTY EC
VAN



JARED MARKGRAF

Can We All Get Along?

I checked out the videos from Rancho Ursa Major and was captivated by them [Our Nosy New Neighbors, January 2025]. I hope the black bears continue to thrive and that humans will be able to coexist with them.

Betsy Drapela
Pedernales EC
Boerne

Know what to do when encountering a mother with her cubs. If the cubs are scurrying up a nearby tree, try not to lose sight of the mother.

Back yourself slowly out of the area. Do not run until well clear of the area. The article mentioned carrying bear spray: excellent advice.

Frank Ott
Concho Valley EC
Eola



CHRIS WORMELL

Easing Into Y2K

I spent New Year's Eve 1999 at home logged into my work's network watching Y2K come into our sites overseas, beginning with Japan—midnight their time, 9 a.m. Dallas time [Black-Eyed Peace, December 2024]. All systems were up and running.

I informed my boss. He told me to continue to monitor. Taiwan and the Philippines were next. Again, all systems up and running.

This continued until our Germany and France sites hit midnight, 5 p.m. Dallas time. All systems up and running.

My boss told me to enjoy the rest of my New Year's Eve with my family.

Mark Murray
Farmers EC
McLendon-Chisholm

Not Asking Too Much

Loved this [Dear Santa, December 2024]. What a wonderful and simple time.

Laneta Beach
Via Facebook

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.

Texas Co-op Power

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HOME *of the* BRAVE



RECIPIENT: **SPC. JAMES C. MCCLOUGHAN**
BRANCH: **ARMY**
COMBAT: **VIETNAM WAR**

Among his heroics as a combat medic in May 1969, the private first class was hit twice by small arms fire and shrapnel from a grenade—bleeding heavily—as he rescued multiple wounded comrades.



RECIPIENT: **LT. COL. WILLIAM D. SWENSON**
BRANCH: **ARMY**
COMBAT: **AFGHANISTAN WAR**

The captain's combat team was ambushed in September 2009. His exceptional leadership and stout resistance against the enemy during six hours of continuous fighting rallied his teammates and effectively disrupted the enemy's assault.

The long-awaited National Medal of Honor Museum in North Texas tells the stories of our nation's greatest heroes



PORTRAITS: ROBERT SEALE; NOVEMBER 2024. LE MERIDIEN DALLAS. THE STONELEIGH

RECIPIENT: **MAJ. GEN. PATRICK HENRY BRADY**
BRANCH: **ARMY**
COMBAT: **VIETNAM WAR**

Maj. Brady used three helicopters in one January 1968 day to evacuate 51 seriously wounded comrades. One aircraft was heavily damaged, and his missions encountered close-range enemy fire and descended through heavy fog and smoke.

BY CYNDY IRVINE

A distinctive, boxy building under construction for the past three years in Arlington’s entertainment district is not another sports arena or entertainment complex. Instead, in stark contrast to its glitzier surroundings, this structure’s solemn purpose is to pay tribute to American heroes who have displayed exceptional courage under fire.

Heroes like Marine Corps 2nd Lt. George Herman O’Brien Jr., who charged through a hail of gunfire during the Korean War, fighting while injured and holding the line for hours. Like Army Sgt. James Marion Logan, who singlehandedly captured a German machine-gunner emplacement during World War II. Like John E. “Jackie” Kilmer, a Navy hospital corpsman who died using his body to shield an injured comrade during the Korean War.

The National Medal of Honor Museum will tell their important stories and those of many others. The much-anticipated national landmark is a tribute to recipients of our nation’s highest and most prestigious military award for valor.

After a nationwide search, Arlington, in the Metroplex, was chosen in 2019 as the ideal setting due to its easy accessibility and location near the center of the country. Construction began in March 2022, and the grand opening is set for March 25, National Medal of Honor Day.

“We knew it is important for the museum to be located in an area which already has significant foot traffic and an infrastructure for supporting tourism,” says Cory Crowley, executive vice president of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation. “Finally, we knew Texas has a strong and patriotic philanthropic base of generous individuals, families and corporations with whom this project would resonate.”

Through an international competition, renowned architect Rafael Viñoly (who has since died) submitted the winning design for the museum. He reportedly was inspired by the heavy burden carried by members of the U.S. military and envisioned a large slab formation supported by five columns, each representing a branch of the military.



ALL IMAGES THIS SPREAD COURTESY NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

The museum's dramatic structure follows Viñoly's vision. Entry is through a spacious open-air rotunda encircled by the five concrete megacolumns that bear the primary building structure 40 feet overhead. Two glass elevators and a double helix of staircases lead to the upper level.

Inside, visitors will find galleries housing an extensive collection of personal mementos, compelling artifacts (including a fully restored Vietnam-era Huey helicopter), and state-of-the-art exhibits that tell the history of the Medal of Honor and the stories of the heroes who earned it.

Powered by a database of hundreds of hours of recorded video interviews, generative artificial intelligence will enable visitors to hold interactive conversations with medal recipients and hear their stories brought to life.

"Our museum is focused on collecting artifacts that will share the full history of the Medal of Honor, from its beginnings during the Civil War to modern day," says Greg Waters, director of curatorial affairs. "The collections continue to grow as we bring in additional artifacts that will help us

inspire our future visitors with these incredible Medal of Honor stories."

ABOVE A nighttime rendering of the National Medal of Honor Museum designed by renowned architect Rafael Viñoly. The structure rests 40 feet high on five columns, each representing a branch of the military.

BELOW Entry is through a spacious open-air rotunda. Two glass elevators and a double helix of staircases lead to the upper level.

inspire our future visitors with these incredible Medal of Honor stories."

The more than 100,000-square-foot complex, set on five acres alongside a small lake, includes a tranquil green space for reflection, an event center for memorials and ceremonies, an outdoor amphitheater, and the National Medal of Honor Griffin Institute.

The institute, with its 220-seat theater and conference center, will offer outreach programs and educational opportunities for all ages. "It's one way we can live our mission to inspire, equip and connect people around the values inherent in the Medal of Honor—so everyone can live and lead with honor," says Anthony Brock, executive director of the institute.

To receive the Medal of Honor, a recipient must have shown exceptional courage in combat, often risking their life beyond the call of duty. The medal is conferred by congressional approval only after an extensive review of supportive evidence and at least two eyewitness accounts documenting the heroic actions.

The president typically presents the medal in a formal White House ceremony before family members and invited guests. The medal is recognizable as a five-pointed star attached to a light blue neck ribbon—with slight variations in design between the military branches.

The Medal of Honor originated during the Civil





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THE NAVY

Did You Know?

Only one woman has ever been awarded the Medal of Honor: Mary Edwards Walker, who served as a Union Army surgeon during the Civil War.

Only one president has a Medal of Honor: Theodore Roosevelt, for his service during the Spanish-American War.

Nineteen Americans have been awarded two Medals of Honor.

The youngest Medal of Honor recipient, Willie Johnston, earned the award as an 11-year-old drummer during the Civil War.

Milton M. Holland, an African American from Panola County or Austin (sources vary), was the first Texas-born recipient of the Medal of Honor, for assuming command of a Union company during the Civil War.

Two Texans, Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole of Fort Sam Houston and Marine Pfc. Charles Howard Roan—both Medal of Honor recipients—died on the same day, Sept. 18, 1944, in separate actions during World War II.

It is illegal to wear someone else's Medal of Honor.

There are three medal variants, as shown. Members of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard are eligible to receive Department of the Navy recognition.

War when President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating the award in 1861 for Navy personnel and in 1862 for Army soldiers to honor "gallantry in action" during combat activities. Congress then established the Medal of Honor as a permanent decoration in 1863.

While more than 41 million Americans have served in the military all-time and more than 2 million have earned Purple Hearts, just 3,547 Medals of Honor have been conferred in more than 160 years. There are 19 double-recipients.

More than 600 of the medals have been awarded posthumously—a testament to the sacrifice required for the honor. Seventy-seven Medals of Honor have been awarded to Texans. Today there are 61 total living recipients across the U.S.

Retired Staff Sgt. Clint Romesha of Minot, North Dakota, who received the Medal of Honor for heroism in Afghanistan, says his medal was "not given for a day that went easy."

"It's a very personal thing, this museum," the Army veteran says. "It's not just highlighting the legacy of the medal and the recipients themselves, but it really shows the root and the values of the medal for all. ... It will share [the medal's story] with the American people and constantly remind them that freedom isn't free."

The \$210 million museum is primarily funded by generous donations from private individuals, foundations and corporations. Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, a neighbor of the museum, contributed \$20 million.

"This is not a war museum or a history museum," Crowley says. "It is a biography museum, which will leave visitors with the understanding we are all born with the potential to be extraordinary and we all have the opportunity to be heroes in our own communities, families or vocations."

For O'Brien—who was promoted to major as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve and later returned to West Texas

to live and work—the medal represented so much more than his own sacrifice.

"This medal's not mine. It belongs to those kids who never grew up to be grandfathers," he said before he died in Midland in 2005. "It's in trust, and I hope I wear it well." ■

A Journey of Resilience

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site builds community
while rebuilding itself after a devastating 2019 tornado



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANNA MAZUREK

On April 13, 2019, 80 people were celebrating Caddo Culture Day at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, a pre-Columbian village and ceremonial center near Nacogdoches, in East Texas. Members of the Caddo Nation had traveled from several states to attend the festivities that included traditional dance and music performances, guided hikes, and artist exhibits—when tragedy struck.

A powerful storm system had unleashed multiple tornadoes early that afternoon, including one that swept directly over Caddo Mounds, even as visitors sought shelter in an interior room of the visitor center. A passerby was killed, and collapsing walls paralyzed one survivor and left others seriously injured.

“The shock of the 2019 tornado is unique to each individual who was present that day,” says Rachel Galan, assistant site manager. “Caddo citizen Tracy Burrows described the response of all of those there that day as a tribal response. With three hours before outside first responders were on the scene, all those on-site and the community around us took care of each other.”

But the healing process for the Caddo community took much longer and required a great measure of hard work.

Finally, on May 18, 2024, another gathering celebrated the grand reopening of a new 5,150-square-foot visitor center. Rebuilding became a pathway to recovery for the survivors, strengthening the Caddo connection to the site and to each other, and shaping the site’s future.

OPPOSITE The site’s traditional grass house was rebuilt thanks to efforts from the Caddo Nation and the Texas Historical Commission.

ABOVE The rebuilt visitor center includes tribal replicas and exhibits. It also has tornado shelters.



Caddo History

By the year 800, the Caddo people were firmly established near the Neches River in present-day East Texas, anthropologists say, due to the abundance of food and fertile soil for agriculture.

While Caddo territory is mainly centered around the Red River Valley, in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, archaeological finds at the Caddo Mounds site—copper sourced from the Great Lakes and shells from the Gulf Coast—illustrate their vast trade network, which included the El Camino Real de los Tejas.

“This trail network has been appropriated as a Spanish-Euro western trail system, which is actually a network that was created over centuries, if not millennia, that connects Caddo all the way up to the Great Lakes with copper and Cahokia Mounds, Spiro Mounds and all the way down into Mexico City and over to Santa Fe,” says Lauren Toho-Murrow Haupt, an Indigenous anthropologist and citizen of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

“These were really wide networks of trade that really speak to how diverse Caddo were and how influential we were.”

The Caddo even influenced the name of the Lone Star State. “Texas comes from the Caddo word *tejas*, which means friend,” she explains.

Many centuries after the Caddo became established in the area, pressure from Anglo colonization efforts increased, and the Caddo were forced to leave Texas for Oklahoma in the 1850s. Today the Caddo Nation is headquartered in Binger, Oklahoma.

In 1982, a portion of the ancestral home of the Caddo Nation became the 397-acre Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, which is owned and overseen by the Texas Historical Commission.

The grounds include a section of the El Camino Real de los Tejas and three earthen mounds created about 1,000 years ago—one for burials, one for ceremonies and a third, a low platform, that doubled as a plaza space for meetings and gatherings. The mounds were one of the few features to survive the tornado unscathed.

Rising Again

The Caddo term for a tornado experience is *shahó*, a word shared with the nation by Alaina Tahlate, a Caddo Nation citizen and language preservationist—and a survivor of the tragedy.

“That’s one of the gifts of that kind of tragedy—that shared experience,” explains Galan, whose husband, archaeologist Victor Galan, was paralyzed as a result of the tornado. “For many of us, it just deepened our relationship to the place and our commitment to the place.”

One of the main efforts of the restoration was rebuilding the site’s replica grass house, originally constructed in 2016. Traditionally, a grass house would have been built in a day, but the fundraising and rebuilding process after the tornado took roughly 18 months due to the pandemic, weather and supply shortages.

Five female Caddo apprentices were hired to rebuild the house with funding from the Texas Historical Commission and Friends of Caddo Mounds, an advisory nonprofit that supports the site.

Caddo society is matriarchal, with women being central to social organization, and matrilineal, with family lineage traced from the mother’s side. While choosing female apprentices wasn’t necessarily planned, Toho-Murrow Haupt, one of the apprentices, considers it “reflective of the significance of female participation through all dimensions of Caddo culture.”

Rachel Galan recalls the “really powerful experience” of witnessing the rebuilding process and “having the house rise again” thanks to the five apprentices—Toho-Murrow Haupt, Jackie Bullard, Kay O’Neal, Katelyn De Anne Polly and Debbie Turner.

Traditional Caddo houses are beehive-shaped structures with a tiered, multilayered exterior and a pointed top. “The grass houses were the place that the families came together,” Toho-Murrow Haupt says. “It’s where children got to listen to stories in the winter ... they were a place of connection.”

A hundred volunteers—Caddo and non-Indigenous—donated time and labor to assist through the nine-month rebuilding process. The grass house was completed in 2022.

“That’s one of the gifts of that kind of tragedy—that shared experience. For many of us, it just deepened our relationship to the place and our commitment to the place.”

“It was a special process of engaging in the matriarchy rite of looking to an elder to guide us maternally through the process and nurture and facilitate this growth of a house, which eventually became a home,” Toho-Murrow Haupt says.

“To be doing Caddo things with Caddo people was a really special experience that I wish every Indigenous person got to have. It was making new relationships and hearing stories from people I’d never met before.”

Lasting Commitment

The completion of the \$2.5 million visitor center was also part of the first phase of the reconstruction efforts. The interior roof features a conical dome mirroring the structural shape of the grass house. The center includes tornado shelters and a berm for safety.

The site is currently raising money to build an education activity center, cisterns for rainwater collection and an open area for workshops and programs.

In addition, Galan has implemented a braided land conservation plan that weaves together Western-based science with traditional ecological knowledge acquired by Indigenous groups over generations.

The first programs “center on the revitalization and preservation of Caddo traditions: pottery, split-cane basket making, tending wild spaces and more that have led to nonextractive opportunities for Caddo citizens along with unique learning opportunities for visitors,” Galan says.

The programming includes weekend talks and workshops



ABOVE The exterior of the new visitor center was designed to blend into the natural environment with a self-weathering steel roof intended to mirror the shape of the Caddo mounds.

LEFT Archaeological excavations at the 20-foot burial mound, one of three earthen mounds on the site, revealed 90 bodies in roughly 30 burial pits.



such as ancient pottery techniques and the cultural importance of bead art. Educational activities include a free six-day family experience held over a series of three consecutive weekends and a six-week family garden camp.

These events are just one more way that shahó has brought more Caddo people to the site and increased their involvement while also bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors.

“By creating opportunities for authentic partnerships between Caddo citizens and the site, engaging Caddo citizens with the goal of being less extractive, and supporting cultural revitalization and preservation efforts, we have witnessed how an increase in Caddo participation with Caddo Mounds State Historic Site directly impacts visitation and interest in the site,” Galan says.

Caddo Mounds attracted 6,756 visitors last year—a 33% increase over 2023, with a notable bump after the rebuilding of the grass house and reopening of the visitor center.

Sustainability and land conservation are an integral theme of these new initiatives and a vital part of Caddo culture. Toho-Murrow Haupt says the Caddo coevolved with the land and maintained a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

“To truly live sustainably means to not leave a mark,” she says. “It means to allow for the full process of returning to the earth and completing that cycle.”

Though structures like the grass house are impermanent, the 2019 tragedy showed that the Caddo Nation and community’s commitment to the site is everlasting. ■

Myth Busting with Geothermal Heat Pumps

by Brian Shaw, Texas Territory Manager
WaterFurnace

“Well, you could have a geothermal heat pump, but...”

...You Need a Bunch of Land

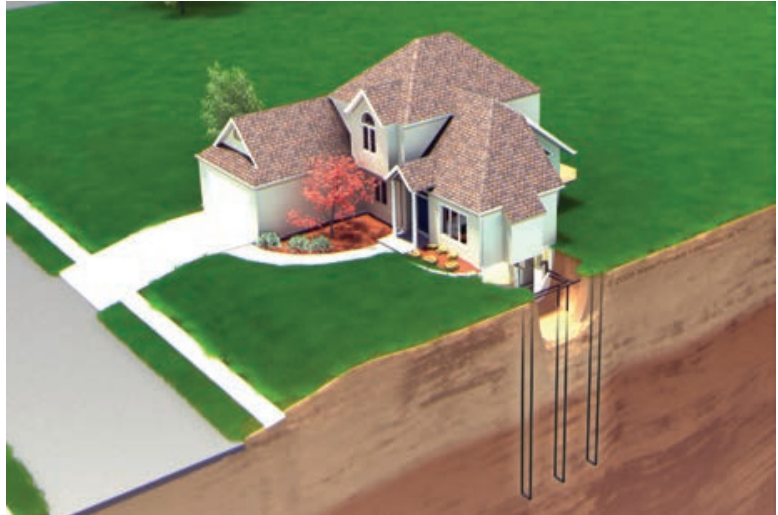
As one old timer put it, “If you have a lawn mower, then I can put in a geo unit.” With numerous options for the underground loop systems, that’s actually true. A vertical loop is often installed under driveways or even 10’ x 10’ patches of ground. There are many other options including using an existing water well, a pond, or if in fact you have more than ½ an acre, a long horizontal ditch is a great solution. If you Google “ground heat exchanger options” you will find a variety of solutions that might work for you.

...It Isn’t Safe

Since geothermal heat pumps are 100% electrical, there is no combustion of gas or oil in the home for heating. So, there’s no chance of smelly fumes, explosions, or carbon monoxide poisoning. Because heat pumps are certified by independent laboratories, they include safety cutoff switches for every circuit in the system.



A geothermal unit easily integrates into your current heating and cooling system.



When using a geothermal unit, about 75% of the heating and cooling energy comes from the earth.

...Electric Heat is Expensive to Operate

Some geo systems are installed with electric strip heat for extreme cold weather. And yes, that can add to your electric bill. However, modern systems are designed to operate without backup heat down to extremely low temperatures. And if your underground system (the “loop”) is sized right, no backup heat is needed at all.

...It’s Too Expensive to Install

Installing geothermal heating and

cooling for your home or building is an investment, no doubt about it.

Geo system owners quickly realize their systems are saving so much money they are recouping their investments in 5-7 years. With the 30% tax credit and other incentives geo can even cost less than a new boiler or HVAC system to install. When you consider the loop will outlive anyone alive today and the heat pump will deliver twice the useful life of most alternatives, that makes for a much more attractive investment.

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2. ENERGY STAR rated units qualify for 30% through 2032, 26% through 2033 and 22% through 2034

GENERAL
MANAGERERIC
HALFMANN

Why We Encourage Conservation

YOU MAY WONDER why we encourage you to conserve energy. After all, we're in the business of selling electricity. Why would we encourage our members to use less of it?

Your cooperative isn't in business to make a profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. Karnes Electric Cooperative is owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's good common sense. Although fossil fuels are still relatively abundant, their quantity is finite. Depleting these natural resources means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy also saves you money in two ways: Less power simply makes for a lower bill, and when many consumers lower their usage, it saves your cooperative money as well.

You see, Karnes EC must keep enough power (capacity) reserved to supply all members' highest usage. If that energy peak can be flattened, the co-op pays less for power. New power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they would otherwise, and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed.

Here at your cooperative, we're working to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and by setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability and service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on Karnes EC to continue looking out for you.

Just remember that we all need to conserve energy of all types—from gasoline to natural gas to propane. Many types of fuel make up our nation's energy picture and affect our pocketbooks. You can help us keep costs affordable by conserving all types of energy, not just electricity. ■



MILAN MARKOVIC | ISTOCK.COM

Using Less Energy To Keep Things Clean

YOUR ENERGY STAR clothes washer or dishwasher operates very efficiently. That's likely one of the reasons you bought it.

But there are simple ways to further reduce how much electricity each of these appliances consumes. Selecting a lower water level or temperature on your washing machine will save even more.

Some Energy Star clothes washers even boast extra energy-cutting features such as presoak and suds saver.

Up to 80% of the energy used by your dishwasher goes to heating water. An Energy Star-qualified dishwasher with a booster heater allows you to set the temperature on your home's water heater at a lower 120 degrees.

In addition, many Energy Star dishwashers offer efficiency settings, such as energy-saving and short-wash cycles that shave energy and water consumption. Most models come equipped with an air-drying option that helps lower electric bills.

While your Energy Star appliances will save money overall, taking advantage of their special energy-saving features can help save even more. ■

Electricity 101: The Flip of a Switch

HAVE YOU EVER wondered why they call it electricity? It's named after tiny parts of atoms called electrons, and that's the place to start in understanding how power plants make the electricity that reliably lights your home with the flip of a switch.

Getting all those electrons to march together inside a wire may be one of civilization's greatest and most complex engineering feats.

Just about all electricity generation starts with spinning a magnet inside a coil of wires. Inside most power plants are large turbines that accomplish this in different ways: falling water at a hydroelectric dam, burning coal or natural gas at a fossil fuel station, atomic energy at a nuclear power plant, or the rotating blades of a wind turbine.

One exception is solar energy, which uses materials that produce electricity when they're activated by sunlight.

Every one of those power plants is unimaginably complicated—think about what you would do if you were handed a lump of coal and were told to make it run your refrigerator.

Most large electric generating plants need large banks of transformers to boost the voltage for the long trip through wires held up by transmission lines and towers. As it nears your neighborhood, the voltage is reduced at one of those fenced-in complexes of wires and transformers called a substation.

As the electricity gets closer to your home or business, the voltage is reduced again with smaller transformers, which you can typically see mounted on a nearby utility pole or in a ground-level green box. This ensures the electricity entering your home is at a safe voltage for powering your lights, appliances and devices.

When you think about it, that's a lot of power in the simple flip of a switch. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

International Women's Day
Saturday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 9
Set clocks forward 1 hour.

St. Patrick's Day
Monday, March 17

National Ag Day
Tuesday, March 18

Karnes Electric Cooperative

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118
Toll-Free 1-888-807-3952
Web karnesec.org

General Manager
Eric Halfmann

Board of Directors

Paul T. Brysch Jr., President, District 5
Clif Royal, Vice President, District 6
Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, District 1
Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, District 3
L. Scott McClaugherty IV, District 4
David Ross Nieschwitz, District 7
Boyd Vaughan, District 2

24/7 Outage Reporting

TOLL-FREE
1-888-807-3952

ONLINE
At karnesec.org using your SmartHub account, or use the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Please be prepared to provide your account number and meter number.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online or via the SmartHub app
- 24-hour pay-by-phone
- Auto bill pay
- Mail
- In person
- Night drop
- Kiosk

OFFICE LOCATIONS
Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Karnes City Headquarters
1800 N. U.S. Highway 181, Karnes City

Pleasanton Member Service Center
1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

MISSION STATEMENT
Providing quality service to empower communities and improve lives.



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/karnes

Director Nominating Committee To Be Appointed

THE KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Board of Directors will meet March 25 to appoint a committee of members to nominate candidates for the election of directors for districts 1 and 4. The nominating committee will meet April 3. The election of directors will then be held at the annual meeting June 12.

The following is an excerpt from the bylaws pertaining to the qualifications and nomination of such candidates. The full Karnes EC bylaws can be found on our website, karnesec.org.

Article IV, Section 3. Qualifications

To become and remain a director, a person must comply with the following general qualifications (“Director Qualifications”):

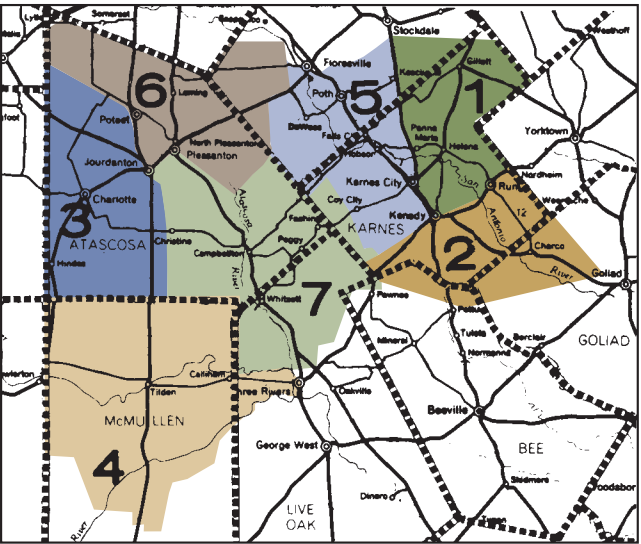
1. Be an individual who has been a Member in good standing for the most recent twelve (12) months prior to becoming a candidate for Director and who maintains their principle place of residence in the area certified by the Public Utility Commission as being within boundaries served by the Cooperative under its certificate of convenience and necessity, and whose domicile is receiving electric service from the Cooperative. A Member in “good standing” means a Member who has not been subject to disconnection for nonpayment within the most recent twelve (12) months; “Subject to disconnection” means payment for electric service has not been made by the “Pay By Date” listed on the Disconnect Notice.
2. Be above the legal voting age;
3. Have not been previously removed or disqualified as a director;
4. While a candidate for director, while a director and during the five years immediately before becoming a candidate for director or a director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
5. Before becoming a director, graduate from high school or earn an equivalent degree or certification;
6. Except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least three-fourths of all Board Meetings during each twelve-month period and to periodically attend certain continuing education programs for directors;
7. While a director and during the three years immediately before becoming a director, is not engaged in business with, employed by or materially affiliated with, and does not have a material financial interest with another director, a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy, supplies or services to the Cooperative or its Members;
8. Is not the incumbent or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid;
9. Is not a Close Relative (defined below) of an incumbent director or Cooperative employee;
10. An individual who was, at one time, or is currently, employed by or an independent contractor of the Cooperative is not eligible to serve as a director until at least sixty (60) months after leaving the employment of or contracting with the Cooperative. Once becoming a director, an individual will not be eligible to be employed by the Cooperative until at least sixty (60) months after leaving the position of director;
11. Be bondable; and
12. Comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board, including but not limited to director training sessions, workshops and conferences.

Close Relative Defined. As used in these Bylaws, “Close Relative” means a person who is related within the first degree or second degree by blood, adoption or marriage (including common law), or family-in-law. First degree, second degree, and family-in-law relatives are defined as a spouse, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and step relatives to the same degree aforementioned.

Nothing in this section contained, shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Districts are defined on key maps filed in the Cooperative office.

Article IV, Section 5. Nominations

(a) Nominations by Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than sixty



DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	TERM EXPIRES
1	Larry R. Schendel	2025
2	Boyd Vaughan	2027
3	Frank A. Geyer Jr.	2026
4	L. Scott McClaugherty IV	2025
5	Paul T. Brysch Jr.	2027
6	Clif Royal	2027
7	David R. Nieschwitz	2026

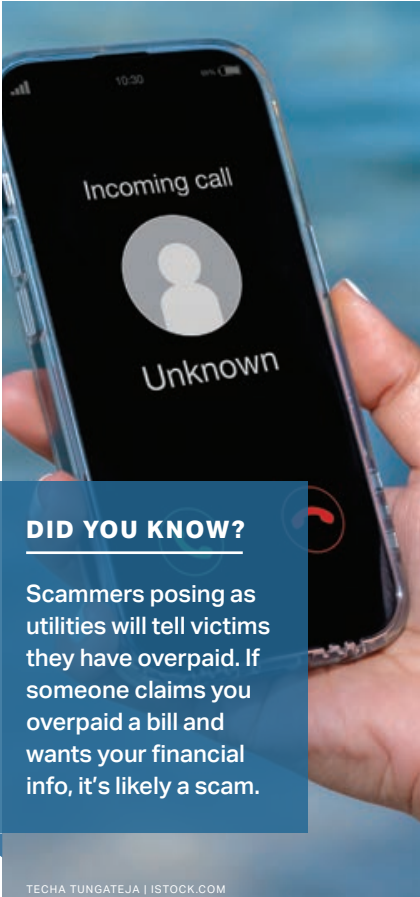
(60) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of one (1) Member from each district for which a director is to be elected, and one (1) Member at large, who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. Not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting, the nominating committee shall nominate one (1) or more nominees for each director position whose term expires at the upcoming annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, or in the event of an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, nominations shall be posted not later than the twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election. The term of each nominating committee shall expire one (1) day after the conclusion of the membership meeting for which such committee was appointed.

(b) Nominations by Petition. Any fifty (50) or more Members, residing at the time of such nomination, in the district for which a director is to be elected acting together may by written petition signed by such Members nominate for director a nominee residing in such nominating area; provided, however that such written petition must be received by the Cooperative at the Cooperative’s principal office to the attention of the General Manager not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of Members or any membership meeting at which directors are to be elected, or in the event of an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, such written petition must be received not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the election. The secretary shall post such nomination at the principle office of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting or in the event of an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, such nomination shall be posted not later than the twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election.

(c) Notice of Nominations. The Secretary shall mail, with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected; and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations, by petition and by the incumbent director, if any.

(d) Nominations at the Meeting. At the meeting of the Members at which directors are to be elected, Members may not make nominations from the floor or nominate or vote for write-in candidates.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section, shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Scammers posing as utilities will tell victims they have overpaid. If someone claims you overpaid a bill and wants your financial info, it’s likely a scam.

TECHA TUNGATEJA | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

Set equipment like home printers and scanners to switch to sleep mode when not in use. The equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

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JUNE

12

THURSDAY

SAVE THE DATE

Karnes EC Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 12

Karnes City ISD

Performing Arts Center

OKSANA SAZHNEVA | ISTOCK.COM



TERO VESALAINEN | ISTOCK.COM

Know the Signs of a Scam

THE INCREASING SOPHISTICATION of and our reliance on technology has led to an increase in scams. Con artists continually change their tactics, but there are a few foolproof red flags.

Recognizing these common signs of a scam identified by the Federal Trade Commission could help you avoid one.

Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know.

Criminals often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name of someone from the Federal Trade Commission, Social Security Administration, IRS or Medicare, or they'll make up a name and title that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company—including Karnes Electric Cooperative—a tech company or even a charity asking for donations.

They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

Scammers say there's a problem or a prize.

They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer. They may say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information.

Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

Scammers pressure you to act immediately.

They want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't

check out their story.

They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way.

They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card.

Scammers may send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

Some of the ways you can avoid a scam just take a few minutes to implement and could protect you from serious financial issues and embarrassment.

Block unwanted calls and text messages on your mobile phone.

You can do this through the settings on your phone or by downloading a call-blocking app.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is likely a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists that you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service, a payment app or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone—a friend, family member, neighbor—what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

If you ever get a suspicious call from someone claiming to be with Karnes EC, hang up and call us to verify. ■

Insulated in Savings

ENSURING YOUR HOME is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and adds a protective layer that reduces heat gain during the summer.

Most older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. While it's not the least expensive efficiency improvement, adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites, such as the Department of Energy's, provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit energy.gov/insulation to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

It's important to understand how insulation effectiveness is measured. Insulation is rated in R-value, which measures the material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value you'll need depends on factors like climate, the type of heating and cooling system, and which area of the home you plan to insulate.

Insulation is offered in a wide range of materials from bulky fiberglass rolls to cellulose materials made from recycled paper products. If you're considering installing additional insulation, talk to an expert who can offer guidance on the right materials for your budget, climate and comfort needs.

Investing in proper insulation for your home not only enhances comfort but also reduces energy consumption. ■



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Texas Rattlesnake Eggs

24 medium jalapeño peppers
8 mozzarella cheese sticks
2 cups buttermilk baking mix
1 pound hot pork breakfast sausage
1 pound cheddar cheese, grated
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 teaspoon garlic salt

1. Line a cookie sheet with parchment or aluminum foil.
2. Remove the stems and seeds of the jalapeños, keeping each whole.
3. Cut the cheese sticks into thirds and stuff a cheese piece into each pepper. Set aside.
4. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
5. Using a stand mixer, combine the baking mix, pork sausage, cheddar and spices; mix until it forms a stiff dough. Form dough into 24 rounded balls of equal size using a cookie scoop or heaping tablespoon. Take one piece of dough, flatten it and shape it around one stuffed jalapeño to completely seal it inside. Continue to form the dough pieces around each pepper until all are covered.
6. Place the "eggs" on the prepared baking sheet and bake 30–40 minutes or until lightly browned.

MAKES 24 APPETIZERS

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

Military Mosaic

An out-of-the-way Central Texas café houses a growing homage to American veterans

BY WILLIAM E. MOORE • PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADDEN

I DISCOVERED THE Hwy 77 Cafe in 2013 while I was visiting Rosebud.

I was in the small town, between Waco and College Station and home to about 1,500 people, to document the local tiny jail. Calabooses were once a common architectural feature on the Texas landscape, and as an archaeologist, I was on assignment with Texas A&M University Press to document Rosebud's defunct 177-square-foot jail.

Since I was there at lunchtime, I asked the locals about a good place to eat.

Unanimously, the answer was the Hwy 77 Cafe, just north of town. Upon entering the small restaurant surrounded by fields and not much else, I was awestruck. Hundreds of photos of American military veterans graced the walls, veterans from Rosebud and across Texas.

When Martha Westerman opened the café in 2001, she hung a few military pictures of her relatives on a wall to honor their service. It wasn't long before customers began bringing their own pictures to add to the ever-growing tapestry of veterans representing all branches of service.

Today, nearly 650 portraits occupy the designated wall of honor, which now covers most of all four of the small restaurant's walls—up to 10 rows deep. It's a stunning collection interwoven with framed American flags and the daily specials that keep watch over diner tables with gingham tablecloths.

The second owners, Sue and Bill Sturrock, continued the tradition started by Westerman. The current proprietors, David Diaz and Monica Castellanos, members of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative, were not aware of this custom when they purchased the café in 2022.

"Monica and I are proud to honor the tribute that Martha started 23 years ago, and we have the utmost respect for those who served," Diaz says. "We are constantly reminded of the pride the community has for its veterans, past and present."

Images of men and women of America's armed forces on these sacred walls date from the Civil War to those currently deployed at home and abroad. All major wars are represented, and the photos include veterans of famous battles and events such as the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Normandy landings on D-Day and the attack on Pearl Harbor. Also

represented are former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, and those killed or missing in action.

Each photo is numbered and appears on a list available to patrons who want to search for friends and relatives. This list identifies the veterans and their branch of service as well as when and where they served, with such particulars as their occupational specialty (tank driver, bombardier, etc.), rank and military honors.

Barbara Borden is one of the regulars at the café who has contributed to the military mosaic. I joined her and others for lunch and was treated to stories about various family members who are represented on the wall of honor.

"My husband, 1st Lt. Billy D. Borden, was a company commander at Fort Leonard Wood from 1969 to 1971, and my father-in-law, Billie E. Borden, was a gunner on the troop transport ship RMS Aquitania," she says. "They were proud to serve, and the family is grateful to know that they will be remembered by their photos, courtesy of the Hwy 77 Cafe."

On the back wall of the restaurant, Billy D. Borden occupies space No. 160, and Billie E. Borden is nearby, in spot No. 106.

I've added three photos of my own to these hallowed walls.

I joined the Army Security Agency in 1972 and served as a translator and aide to a colonel in Berlin. My father was a medic in World War I, transporting the wounded in France. And my cousin was a Marine Corps pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

It was the food that first attracted me to this diner (including the ever-popular liver and onions, scrumptious homemade pies, and excellent banana pudding), but it's the people—on the walls and behind the counter—who keep me coming back. It adds to my unwavering pride to know my family is among those greeting visitors as part of this grassroots café tribute.

As Gen. George S. Patton once said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the dead. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived." ■

Monica Castellanos and David Diaz own Hwy 77 Cafe in Rosebud, with walls honoring veterans.





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the toast of
France*

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I Lost a Fortune at the French Races, but Fortunately I Found This Bag



Ready! Set! Go!" The starting gate opened and 19 horses galloped off, each jockeying for the lead. While Apache, the horse I bet on, was the odds-on favorite, his rival Napoleon pulled ahead in the race's final seconds.

In less than a minute I lost a fortune at the Paris horseraces.

After a brief moment of disbelief, something caught my eye. It seemed like every woman in Paris was carrying the same classic handbag! I had to have one for my own, so I had our handbag designers interpret this classic offer. Presenting the **Parisian Chic Claire Handbag**.

Inspired by the equestrian gear I encountered in the stables after the race. The **Claire Bag** is the color of saddle leather with metal adornments that recall horse bits and stirrups. Sturdy and chic, the Claire Bag is ideal for the woman on the go. See for yourself why the **Parisian Chic Claire Handbag** is the toast of France!

Backed by our **satisfaction guarantee**, you can revel in its sophistication risk-free for 30 days. Should it fail to dazzle, return it for a full refund of the item price.

Jewelry Specifications:

- Brown vegan leather.
- 8 1/2" x 4" D x 6 1/2" H, 9 1/2" H w/ handle.
- Two interior open pockets, two interior zipped pockets, one outside zipped

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



He was wily.

He would often stop, face south and sniff the breeze for the smell of the Gulf. At night, a cowboy would rope him and tie him to a big bush or tree.

One day, the cattle balked at a full-flowing river. "Rope old Sancho and lead him in," a boss ordered. They did so, and Sancho led the herd across.

But as soon as he was released, Sancho returned to the rear of the herd where he could watch for chances to head home to his mesquite tree and tamales.

The herd nonetheless moved ever northward. Across the Canadian, across the Cimarron. Across Kansas, around Dodge City, across Nebraska, under the Black Hills and past the Bighorn Mountains—2,000 miles.

They finally reached Wyoming. Sancho was still halting now and then to sniff southward to see if he might get a whiff of Texas somewhere in the wind. He didn't like this new land.

The new ranch branded CR on Sancho, and the Shiner boys headed home, leaving Sancho behind.

The next spring, back in Texas, Rigby was riding near Kerr's home. He said, "I looked across the pear flat and saw something that made me rub my eyes."

He rode over and looked. It was Sancho. He had both the 7Z road brand and the CR range brand on him as plain as day. He went to talk to Kerr.

"Yes, Sancho got back six weeks ago," Kerr said. "Hoofs worn down to hair. But Maria went might near out of her mind with joy at seeing him." She hugged him and cried and fed him hot tamales.

After that, Sancho slept every night under the mesquite by the gate. ■

Sancho's Long Road

The legend of the tamale-loving longhorn

J. FRANK DOBIE ADAPTATION BY W.F. STRONG

FOLKLORE IS NOT HISTORY, but it is historical. It gives us a window into the sentiments and humor of the people who lived in those times and told those stories.

One of folklorist J. Frank Dobie's favorite stories was that of a longhorn named Sancho. He heard it from John Rigby of Beeville, in South Texas. Dobie figured Rigby had dressed up the story a bit and admitted that he himself had done some "constructive work" on it over the years.

It goes like this.

There was a man named Kerr who lived on a small ranch out in the brush country south of San Antonio. One winter day in 1876, he found a cow dead in a bog with her near-lifeless calf beside her. Kerr roped the calf and took it home to his wife, Maria.

She cleaned up the poor calf and bottle fed him until Kerr could find another cow with a calf to adopt the orphan. Maria named the calf Sancho.

She began feeding him tamales, shuck and all, seasoned with peppers. Out in the brush, he began eating the chile pequin peppers that grew wild in shaded places.

Sancho was eventually branded and turned into a steer, but he was as strong as any bull. Nonetheless he remained Maria's pet and came in from the range each night to sleep under a mesquite tree.

When Sancho was 3, Kerr sold the steer to the Shiner brothers, who were to deliver three herds to buyers in Wyoming.

They branded him 7Z for the drive north, but Sancho kept lagging back and was tagged by the boys as one to watch.

Pies, Pies, Pies

Regardless of the filling, you're guaranteed a slice of heaven

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Indulge in chocolaty goodness with this easy pie. A luscious mix of whipped cream and rich pudding creates a smooth, decadent filling. Each bite offers a satisfying crunch and melt-in-your-mouth sweetness, making this dessert irresistible for any chocolate lover!

Chocolate Chip Pie

1 quart heavy cream
2 cups powdered sugar
2 tablespoons vanilla extract
1 box instant chocolate pudding mix
(5.9 ounces)
2 cups whole milk
2 cups mini chocolate chips, divided use
2 chocolate cookie pie crusts
(9 inches each)

1. Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, whip heavy cream, powdered sugar and vanilla on medium-high speed until medium peaks form, about 3–4 minutes. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together pudding mix and milk until smooth. Gently fold half the whipped cream and 1 cup mini chocolate chips into the chocolate pudding.
3. Divide filling evenly between crusts, and smooth out top with a spoon.
4. Top with remaining whipped cream and sprinkle with remaining 1 cup chocolate chips.
5. Place in fridge to chill at least 2 hours. Serve chilled.

SERVES 12

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Piloncillo Candied Pecan Pie.





Peanut Butter Buttermilk Pie

ROSE M. DAILEY
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

This is a creamy, indulgent twist on a Southern classic. It combines the tangy goodness of buttermilk with the smooth, nutty flavor of peanut butter, creating a filling that's sweet and slightly tart.

- 1 unbaked deep-dish pie crust (9 inches)**
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter**
- ½ cup creamy peanut butter**
- 1¼ cups sugar**
- 3 tablespoons flour**
- ⅛ teaspoon salt**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 425 degrees. If crust is not already in a pie dish, arrange unbaked crust in pie dish.
- 2.** In a microwave-safe bowl, melt butter and peanut butter together in the microwave on medium-high (70% power) for 15 seconds, or longer as needed to melt butter. Allow to cool 5 minutes.
- 3.** In a large bowl, stir together sugar, flour, salt and buttermilk. Stir in eggs to blend completely. Add the cooled peanut butter mixture and stir until smooth.
- 4.** Pour filling into pie crust. Bake 10 minutes at 425 degrees, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 25–30 minutes longer.
- 5.** Remove from oven and allow to cool before serving.

SERVES 6–8

\$500 WINNER

Strawberry Custard Pie

MILLIE KIRCHOFF
NUECES EC



Delight your guests with this perfect blend of sweet and tangy flavors. Fresh strawberries nestled over a creamy custard are sweetened with vanilla and a hint of lemon juice for brightness. The velvety filling pairs beautifully with the buttery crust. This is a showstopper.

- 1 pie crust (9 inches), prepared and baked according to package directions**
- 2 egg yolks**
- 1½ cups sugar, divided use**



- 7 tablespoons cornstarch, divided use**
- ¼ teaspoon salt**
- 2 cups whole milk**
- 1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- 1 cup water, divided use**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- 6 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered**

- 1.** Place crust on a baking sheet. In a heatproof medium bowl, lightly whisk egg yolks.
- 2.** In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, whisk together ¾ cup sugar, 4 tablespoons cornstarch, salt and milk. Bring to a boil. Boil 1 minute, whisking constantly.
- 3.** Slowly pour ½ cup milk mixture into egg yolks, whisking constantly. Add egg mixture to the saucepan, reduce heat and cook for an additional minute, whisking constantly until mixture thickens.
- 4.** Remove from heat and stir in butter and vanilla. Pour custard mixture into baked pie shell.
- 5.** In a bowl, stir together remaining ¾ cup sugar, remaining 3 tablespoons cornstarch and 2 tablespoons water.
- 6.** In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring remaining ¾ cup water to a boil. Stir in sugar mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 2–3 minutes until thick and clear. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Fold strawberries into syrup.
- 7.** Spoon strawberries over custard mixture and chill in refrigerator at least 4 hours. Serve chilled.

SERVES 6–8

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

BEEFY BURGERS DUE MARCH 10

Backyard grilling is the best part of summer. How do you build your perfect burger? Submit your all-star recipe, and you might flip over \$500. Enter by March 10.

UPCOMING: ONE-SKILLET DINNERS DUE APRIL 10



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

Edna's Dewberry Pie

TINA WEBB
BLUEBONNET EC

Fresh berry filling crowned with a sweet, crunchy topping makes for one appetizing pie. Webb's mother-in-law, Edna, passed down this recipe that's been in the family for generations. Webb uses the native dewberries she gathers each season to make the pie, but blackberries will work too.

PIE

1 unbaked pie crust (9 inches)
4 cups dewberries
1½ cups sugar
½ cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup sour cream

TOPPING

½ cup flour
½ cup sugar
4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter,
chilled and diced



- 1. PIE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. If crust is not already in a pie dish, arrange unbaked crust in pie dish.
- 2.** Place dish on a baking sheet and place berries inside.
- 3.** In a bowl, mix together sugar, flour, salt, eggs and sour cream. Pour mixture over dewberries.
- 4. TOPPING** In another bowl, stir together flour and sugar. Use hands to work in butter

Tips by the Ton

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

I baked a ton of pies for this issue. Before all that testing, I wish I had known:

Place your pie on a baking sheet in the oven to prevent a huge mess. The filling might bubble over. Trust me on this one.

Don't rush the cooling process. Allow the pie to cool completely before slicing. It's worth the wait.

pieces until large clumps form. Sprinkle topping over pie.

5. Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and allow pie to cool 2 hours at room temperature before serving.

SERVES 6-8

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Eisenhower Dollar: The last circulating U.S. dollar coin, the Eisenhower Dollar was prized by Americans, with its design featuring war hero President Dwight D. Eisenhower, backed by an Apollo II moon landing design. The Eisenhower Dollar in this set was struck in 40% silver for collectors, in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

Silver Eagle Type 1: The first-ever U.S. Silver Dollar minted in 99.9% silver, these coins were first struck in 1986 following President Ronald Reagan's signing of the Liberty Coin Act into law on July 9, 1985. This gorgeous Silver Dollar features the

original, revered Type 1 "Heraldic Eagle" reverse design by John Mercanti, 12th Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint. In Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.

Silver Eagle Type 2: In honor of the popular 99.9% silver coin's 35th anniversary in 2021, the Silver Eagle received a new, esteemed Type 2 "Eagle Landing" reverse design. This is the current issued coin by the U.S. Mint. In Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition.



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Heaven in Houston

A Rice University art installation transports viewers at dusk and dawn

BY CHET GARNER

THERE I SAT, in total silence, on the campus of Houston's Rice University, surrounded by dozens of other people just staring at the ceiling. But this wasn't any normal ceiling.

It was equal parts lights show, meditation and spaceship, slowly changing colors and seemingly transporting all of us into another dimension. After 40 minutes, the light show ended, and I felt like I'd been given a brain massage—a welcome side effect to witnessing the glory of the Twilight Epiphany Skyspace.

This bit of artistic madness was created by James Turrell, an internationally acclaimed master of color, light and messing with your eyes. In the daylight, this artistic installation built in 2012 looks like a giant UFO hovering over a Mayan pyramid. But at sunrise and sunset, the UFO fires up its engines and lifts off. It's currently closed but will reopen in late spring.

I rolled onto Rice's campus about 20 minutes before sunset. The experience is totally free and open to the public, and there was a docent on-site to answer questions. "So, we just go sit and stare?" I asked. "Yes," she answered. "You'll know when it starts."

At first, I felt a bit uncomfortable sitting around with total strangers staring at a blank white surface. But as the daylight faded, the lights began to shine and we all drifted into a hypnotic trance. There were neons and purples, greens and reds, each fading slowly into the next.

Was I looking at the orange hues of a Texas sunset, or was it just a vibrant projection? Hard to say, as the edges of the giant square seemed to blend seamlessly into the surrounding sky.

Every now and then, a giggle would break the silence and remind me that this was indeed a very strange collective experience. However, sometimes the weirdest art is the most wonderful of all. ■

ABOVE Chet takes in the exterior of the Twilight Epiphany Skyspace.

TCP Watch the video on our website and see all Chet's Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

MARCH

1

Weatherford [1–31] **Grow at Clark Gardens**, (940) 682-4856, clarkgardens.org

8

Abilene **The Gatlin Brothers**, (325) 676-6211, abileneconventioncenter.com

Luling **Rajun' Cajun Throwdown & Gumbo Cookoff**, (830) 875-5058, lulingmainstreet.com

14

Round Top [14–15] **Herbal Forum & Plant Sale**, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org

Tolar [14–15] **Ceramic Expo & Handcrafted Items**, (254) 716-5227, westceramicshow.com

16

Fredericksburg **St. Patrick's Day Coin Hunt**, (830) 990-2044, fbgtx.org

22

Huntsville **Herb Festival at the Wynne Home**, (281) 787-3895, texasthymeunit.org

Kingsville **How To Recognize a Champion Horse**, (915) 533-0048, tomlea.com

La Grange **David Wilcox**, (979) 968-9944, thebugleboy.org

Palestine **Dogwood Festival**, (903) 729-6066, palestinechamber.org

Tomball **Choo-Choo Chow Down**, (281) 290-1035, tomballtx.gov

25

Fort Worth [25–30] **Clue**, (817) 212-4280, basshall.com

27

Sagerton [27-29] Hee Haw,
(940) 200-0035, facebook.com
/sagertonhee-haw

28

Cuero [28-29] Heirloom
Stitchers Guild of Cuero
Quilt Show, (361) 550-9388

Georgetown [28-29]
Quilt Show, (512) 869-1812,
handcraftsunlimited.com

Hamilton [28-29] Hamilton
County Master Gardener
Vegetable Sale,
(254) 386-3919,
hamilton-tx@tamu.edu

29

**Burnet Hill Country
Lawn & Garden Show,**
(512) 756-3059,
burnetcountyhighlandlakes
mastergardener.org

Sabinal [29-30] Wild Hog
Festival & Craft Fair,
(830) 486-8549,
sabinalwildhogfestival.com

APRIL

3

Corsicana John Conlee,
(903) 874-7792,
corsicanapalace.com

4

Fredericksburg [4-6]
Texas Fandango,
thetexasfandango.com

5

Port Arthur Cajun Heritage
Fest, (409) 985-7822,
visitportarthurtx.com

Waxahachie [5-May 26]
Scarborough Renaissance
Festival, (972) 938-3247,
srfestival.com

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1 KATY FRANCESCHINI
PEDERNALES EC

"This little frog in our garden frog found the perfect spot to hide."

2 SHELBY BARLET
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

"I found this little guy looking for respite on my window-sill. Turns out he was trying to get away from my cat!"

3 KATHERYN JAGER
PEDERNALES EC

"My husband, Garrett Smith, an environmental scientist, squeezes into a Texas cave entrance."

4 GREGORY COTHERN
TRINITY VALLEY EC

"A tree frog finds shelter for the day in the leaf whorl of a canna lily."



Upcoming Contests

DUE MAR 10 Catch of the Day

DUE APR 10 College Life

DUE MAY 10 Off-Road Adventures



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Small Spaces photos from readers.



Nanny's Blessing

A grandmother sows memories for generations through her love of bluebonnets

BY SHANE TORNIO
ILLUSTRATION BY
SARAH FERONE

MY GRANDMOTHER, NANNY to us kids, loved bluebonnets. She loved all wildflowers but especially bluebonnets.

She was a native Texan so that fact is probably no surprise. However, her love for these attractive weeds went beyond the standard Texas loyalty.

A typical Texan will happily drive for hours in the spring for the chance to view vast fields of the state flower. Of course she would often do this, but she would also collect seeds throughout the year so that she could plant them along highways in the fall.

As a child, I would sometimes accompany her and operate the shovel while she sowed the seeds in places where she could keep her eye on them during their growth.

Prior to these experiences with her, I had always assumed that the wildflowers

were responsible for their own dispersion. Now, whenever I see bluebonnets along the road, I imagine a little old woman urging a reluctant teen boy with a shovel to “keep up the pace!”

Nanny didn’t just plant bluebonnets along the road though, she sowed them anywhere the sun shined. Her front yard, her side yard, her backyard, city parks, vacant lots, alleyways.

She was very successful, too. Her bluebonnet patches often attracted admirers, photographers and plenty of pollinators.

My wife also loves bluebonnets. She grew up in Kerrville and got to enjoy some of the state’s best bluebonnet gazing with her family along the Hill Country’s famously scenic Willow City Loop.

Once we had our own children, my wife and I would photograph our young sons in Nanny’s bluebonnet patches. That’s because, despite my shovel work with my grandmother, I never had any success growing my own.

Back in 2015, I bought some property out in the country that would eventually be my homesite. One of the first things I did with that property was plant bluebonnet seeds with my sons.

But no bluebonnets came up. Year after year I would plant more seeds. No bluebonnets.

Nanny died in December 2023 at the age of 97. She had good health and enjoyed her independence until the very end, and she even tended her garden with care up until the last few years.

She was a blessing to many people, even some who never knew her or knew why there were so many bluebonnets between Sinton and Rockport, north of Corpus Christi.

Last spring—inexplicably—I had some big, beautiful bluebonnet patches in my front flower bed, even though I didn’t sow any seeds in the fall.

If you ask me if I think this is a coincidence, I would say, yes, of course it is.

But it is my favorite coincidence ever. ■



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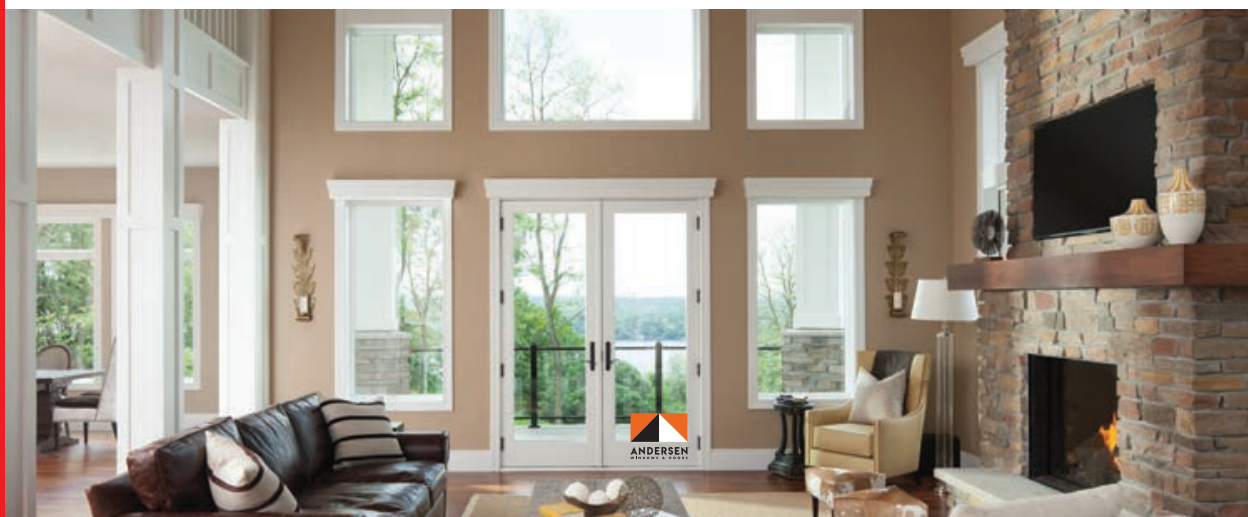
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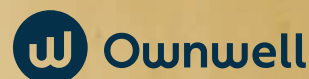
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