

Texas Coop Power

FOR COMANCHE EC MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2020



CECA

**YOUR ANNUAL
MEETING IS
GOING DIGITAL!**

OCTOBER 12, 2020

SEE DETAILS INSIDE





MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

ALAN
LESLEY

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT that 2020 has been unlike any year in recent memory, with adapting to an ever-changing way of life somehow becoming our new normal. For the past 81 years, CECA has held an annual meeting of members. The main purpose of this meeting is to report on the happenings of the cooperative and to elect directors, who guide the cooperative and ensure its responsible operation and stewardship.

This past summer the board deliberated over how to safely conduct the 82nd annual meeting. Considering all the predictions and necessary precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that canceling the in-person event was the best course of action to ensure the safety of members, employees and guests. While this decision was most unfortunate, the CECA Board of Directors emphasized that the spirit and principles of the annual meeting should continue. To that end, co-op staff went to work creating a virtual annual meeting for all members who wish to participate. Beginning October 12 and through the end of the month, members can view CECA's 82nd annual meeting by visiting our website, ceca.coop.

This virtual meeting will touch on important information and happenings within the cooperative, just as we would have during a traditional

annual meeting. It is the hope of all CECA employees and leadership that you will find this information useful and informative. Although we will not be available to answer your questions in person, as we do in a live meeting, please know that we are just a phone call away and available to answer any questions and hear any concerns you might have.

Unfortunately, given the nature of the situation, our renowned annual fish fry will have to be canceled this year. The door prizes, however, will continue to be distributed, but through a digital channel. Below you will find instructions for locating the video of the meeting as well as instructions on how to qualify for the door prizes.

We apologize for this inconvenience but look forward to next year, when we will return to the in-person meeting format with a new agenda and some exciting plans. In the meantime, we encourage you to keep up with the affairs of the cooperative through the pages of *Texas Co-op Power*, and on our website and Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages. And as always, you can reach us by calling 1-800-915-2533 or emailing memberservices@ceca.coop.

How To Participate in the 2020 Annual Meeting

And qualify for door prizes

THE DIGITAL VERSION of the 2020 CECA annual meeting can be found on our website, ceca.coop, and our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

To qualify for door prizes, members should have their account name and number handy and sign in before viewing the video. An instructional video will be included to assist you in this process. Should you have any problems or questions, call us at 1-800-915-2533.

Thank you and good luck in the drawing!

Following is an excerpt from the bylaws of CECA detailing important information about director nominations.

ARTICLE III - DIRECTORS

SECTION 3.2 QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE.

To be eligible to become or remain as Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative, a Member must:

1. be a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative,
2. be receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence,
3. be a citizen, or legal resident, of the United States,
4. not, within the past ten (10) years, have been convicted of a felony nor of any crime involving moral turpitude,
5. not be employed nor have a material financial interest in a competing enterprise, or in a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative,
6. not be, or have been, an employee of, nor received compensation from, the Cooperative for the longer term of:
 - (a) 5 years prior to the election, or
 - (b) for so long as the individual's former Cooperative supervisor remains employed by the Cooperative.

SECTION 3.3 DISTRICTS PLAN

Districts Described. The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into seven (7) Districts, and each District shall be represented by one (1) Director who is a resident of that District. Said seven (7) Districts shall be from time to time reviewed and constituted by the Board of Directors, with notice of the district descriptions provided to the Members in advance of the annual director nomination process.

Not less than seventy (70) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of the Members in each year for the election of Directors, the board of Directors shall review the composition of the several Districts and if it should be found that inequalities in representation have developed which can be corrected by a re-delineation of Districts or by the addition of Districts, the board of Directors shall reconstitute the Districts.

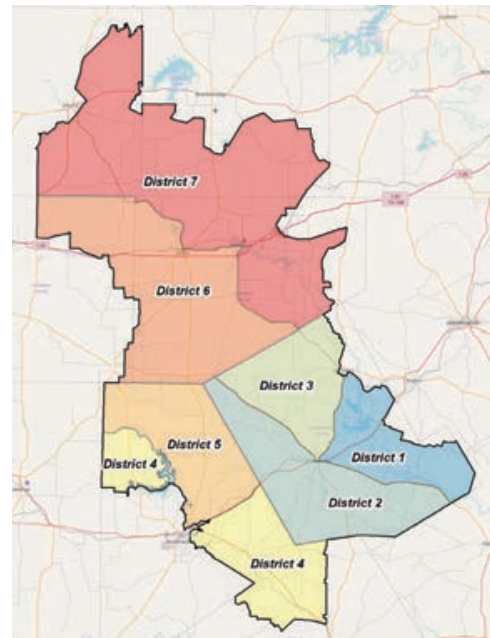
Director Terms. A Director's term begins: 1) after the individual consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after the Director is elected or appointed. A Director's term ends after: 1) a successor Director consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after a successor Director is elected or appointed. Directors' terms shall be three (3) years. Directors shall be elected on a staggered-term basis.

Director Resignation. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, President, or Secretary receives the written notice of resignation. If a Director's resignation is effective at a later date and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Director's resignation, then the pending Director vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Director's resignation.

Nomination of Directors. Not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of Members for the election of Directors, the Board of Directors shall call a meeting or meetings of the Members of such Districts as are to have vacancies for Director, such meetings to be held not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members at suitable places in or near the Districts affected.

The purpose of the District meetings shall be to nominate, by vote of those Members present in person, no more than two candidates for each vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors. Notice of each District meeting of Members shall be given by the Secretary for such length of time and in such manner as the Board of Directors may direct provided that notice stating the place, day and hour and the purpose of such meeting, shall be given by mail, publication, or electronically not less than ten (10) days prior to such District Meeting. Such District Meetings

CECA BOARD DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



however, shall be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors.

The first order of business at each District Meeting shall be the selection of a Chairman, who shall appoint a Secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen (15) of the Members residing in the District present at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum, but in the event a quorum is not present at such meeting, the Director then serving such District shall be the official nominee for such District. In addition, the Board shall establish deadlines and appropriate forums in order to allow any qualified Member of such Districts to obtain petitions bearing the signatures of at least 30 District Members in order to be nominated and have their name placed on the ballot for election of that District's director election. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Director Candidates, who have been nominated, either at a District meeting or by petition, shall be required to execute an appropriate form to be made available to election judges attesting that the candidate is qualified under these Bylaws to be elected and serve as a Director of the Cooperative.

Voting shall be in person only. Mail-in ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member present may vote for one nominee as above provided for such District. The two candidates for each place on the Board of Directors receiving the highest number of votes shall be the official nominees of the District. The minutes of such District meeting shall set forth, among other matters the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall certify the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes as the official nominees of the District for Director. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five (5) days after such District Meeting.

The Secretary of the Cooperative shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting of Members for the election of Directors, a list of nominations for Directors as shown by said certified copies of minutes of said District Meetings. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting of the Members for election of Directors, or separately, but at least ten days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the respective Districts.

DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 NOMINATE INCUMBENTS

CECA MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 met in July and nominated incumbent directors James “Pete” McDougal and Monty Carlisle to represent their respective districts for another term.

The meeting for District 2 was held July 22 at CECA headquarters in Comanche. A quorum was present, and members nominated James “Pete” McDougal. The meeting for District 4 was held July 23 at the Mullin Community Center. A quorum was present, and members nominated Monty Carlisle.

With no other nominations from either district, McDougal and Carlisle will remain as directors for these districts.

YOUR 2021 CECA DIRECTORS



**RANDY DENNING
DISTRICT 1**



**PETE MCDUGAL
DISTRICT 2**



**RUBY SOLOMON
DISTRICT 3**



**MONTY CARLISLE
DISTRICT 4**



**TROY STEWART
DISTRICT 5**



**LOREN STROEBEL
DISTRICT 6**



**PHIL TAYLOR
DISTRICT 7**

CO-OPS COUNT:
BY THE NUMBERS

1918 PANDEMIC
HIT OIL FIELDS

FINDING PORTRAITS
IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Texas Coop Power

FOR COMANCHE EC MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2020

If the Shoe Fits

Farriers help build
horse health from
the ground up





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At Mueller, we soar above the rest with our manufacturing capabilities, outstanding quality and long-lasting performance. From workshops and agricultural buildings to complex projects such as airplane hangars, we provide solid building solutions backed by an even stronger warranty. Contact us today to take-off on your dream building.



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October 2020



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The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas.

Story by Tom Widlowski
Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart.

Story by Brenda Kissko
Photos by Kristin Tyler

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Memorable Moment
By Julia Robinson

ON THE COVER

Farrier Jim Crawford at McManus Ranch in Irion County.

ABOVE

Crawford shapes a horseshoe.

Photos by Kristin Tyler

Howdy, Pandowdy

OUR RECIPES THEME this month (Page 30) is Cobblers, Crisps, Buckles and Betties. Seems like a lot of names for a dish that is essentially fruit baked with batter, biscuits, dough or crumble.

Turns out those dishes, which have been around since colonists arrived in this country with their recipes from England, go by many other names, including crumbles, grunts, slumps, bird's nest pudding, sonkers and pandowdies.



Lights Out

General Electric, co-founded by Thomas Edison, inventor of the modern lightbulb, recently sold its 129-year-old lighting business.

The New York Times compared this move to Kellogg abandoning cornflakes or Ford getting out of the auto industry.

Worms in Space?

Absolutely.

NASA's red, sleek and wavy typographical logo from the 1980s returned to the heavens May 30, adorning the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched two American astronauts aboard the Crew Dragon.

When the logo debuted in 1975, it became known as the worm, and the original NASA logo, which debuted in 1959 with the agency, was coined the meatball. The worm was NASA's official logo 1975–1992, then the agency went back to the meatball.

The minimalist worm was popular in the marketing industry but scorned by NASA insiders, who favored the round blue meatball with its white type, planets, stars and orbital path enhanced with a red chevron.



\$30

That's the average weekly allowance, which about two-thirds of parents fork over to kids.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT I EVER GOT WAS ...

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 August prompt: **When I think of Texas, I think of ...**

Mermaids in San Marcos, Big Tex in Dallas and Prada in Marfa.

WHITNEY OLDFATHER
PEDERNALES EC
SAN MARCOS

Blue skies, bluebonnets and Willie.

PJAE STANLEY
COSERV
LITTLE ELM

Home.

PAM SHORT ALFRED
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
KENNARD

Big sky and endless horizon.

AUTUMN VOGEL
TRINITY VALLEY EC
ELMO

Beaches, forests, mountains, two time zones, and taking two days to go north to south or east to west.

DEBBIE MOBLEY
HEART OF TEXAS EC
VALLEY MILLS

Windmills, sunsets, dirt roads, and cornbread and beans.

DONNA GENTRY WEEDEN
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Now This Is a Selfie

WE KNOW YOU LOVE your selfies, our Focus on Texas theme this month (Page 37).

The selfie above might be the coolest of all—because it was the first.

Robert Cornelius, an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast in Philadelphia, made a daguerreotype of himself in 1839. He removed the camera's lens cap; ran into the frame, where he sat for several minutes; then covered the lens again.



TCP Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST
Saddles

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Tacos

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

More Than Electricity, October 2018, tells how co-ops are "the fabric of the community."



WYATT MCSPADDEN

My TX

“My family told about bad luck superstitions. One was putting a hat on a bed, as was wearing more than one hat at a time.”

JANICE MARTIN
CENTRAL TEXAS EC
KINGSLAND

My TX Moment

My personal *My TX* [August 2020] moment was 30 years ago and half a world away. I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Saudi Arabia. Near our camp was a group of Mujahedeen fighters, and they always left a grizzled old man to guard their camp.

One day he flagged us down. He started talking and pointing up and to the rear of my vehicle. I asked my interpreter what he wanted, and he said, “Texas.” The man recognized the small Texas flag on my radio aerial.

Alfred W. Evans
Hamilton County EC
Gatesville



The canyon is so beautiful [*Palo Duro Love Letters*, July 2020]. Very cool to have this famous artist’s work and letters reflecting that beauty.

CINDI RAK MULCAHEY
VIA FACEBOOK

Their TX

Congratulations, Pam LeBlanc, for declaring yourself a Texan [*No Longer a Yankee*, July 2020].

Without saying it, you seemed to echo Jay B Saucedá’s comment that Texas mystique is not built on small stuff or mediocrity or even above-average stuff but on the overwhelming.

J.K. Goode
Fayette EC
Weimar

Fixin’ To Learn

I didn’t realize the word *fixin’* was Texan—as I’ve used it all my life having been born in Shreveport and raised in south Louisiana [*Finish This Sentence*, August 2020]. My husband has always asked me where I got it. Now I know how to answer him.

Paula Bonin
Trinity Valley EC
Gun Barrel City



COURTESY JACK CHASE

I am fortunate enough to own an SRV flat-top hat from Texas Hatters. I was a regional VP for Epic Records and helped launch Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. I bought several of these hats from the Texas Hatters shop when the album *Texas Flood* was released in 1983.

Jack Chase
CoServ
Carrollton

TCP WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

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

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Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Huntsman Blade \$249*

Offer Code Price Only \$79 + S&P Save \$170

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



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- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade • Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters • Includes genuine leather sheath

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Stauer® 8x21
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Binoculars

-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO



BY TOM WIDLANSKI
ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas

IN SOME WAYS, the less you think about your electric cooperative, the better. That means your power has stayed on almost without fail, outages are quickly remedied, and your monthly bills are fair and reasonable.

But a lot of thought goes into electric co-ops because they are so much more than power providers. They are united by a business model that values community over profits. They are locally owned and democratically controlled by their customers, called members. They work together to achieve goals and solve problems. Your cooperative is one of more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

The co-op business model is used by a wide variety of organizations—not just electric utilities. Ace Hardware; REI, which specializes in outdoor clothing and gear; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; and Land O'Lakes operate as co-ops. In fact, there are more than 40,000 co-op businesses in the U.S., with 350 million members, according to a University of Wisconsin study.

October is National Cooperative Month, a good opportunity to show the reach, scope and numbers behind Texas' electric co-ops that, when added up, reveal the significant impact they have on rural and suburban communities. ■



30–35
pounds of gear

weighs down lineworkers when climbing a pole—hooks, a belt, tools and more.

9,300
people work at the
69
electric co-ops in the state.



3.7
million readers

of Texas Co-op Power, which has been landing in mailboxes since 1944. That's like everybody in Houston and Dallas having the same favorite magazine as you.

85
years

of co-ops in Texas. Bartlett EC, formed in 1935 as the first co-op in the country to receive a Rural Electrification Administration loan, turned on its first light March 7, 1936, at a farmhouse outside Bartlett.

3

million Texans

enjoy co-op electric service, mostly in rural and suburban areas.



325,000

miles of co-op power lines in Texas, enough to encircle Earth more than 13 times.

1,338,828

hours worked

without a lost-time incident at Bandera EC, which was honored in March for that long stretch of safety—remarkable considering the high voltage within arm's length of its lineworkers every day.

241

of Texas' 254 counties are served by electric co-ops.



47

million lightning bolts

struck Texas in 2019—the most of any state by far. Not all of them knocked out power, but you can bet many of them put workers on edge.

\$1.6 million

in scholarships awarded annually to college students by co-ops. A stack of 1.6 million \$1 bills would reach 573 feet high—or nearly twice the height of the Texas Capitol.

5.5

million poles hold up power lines in Co-op Country in Texas.



Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart

Why Horses Wear Shoes

It's another sunny December day in West Texas, and Jim Crawford crosses the fifth and final cattle guard on his two-hour drive to the McManus Ranch from his home near Ballinger. Crawford is there to shoe horses, as he has been doing on this ranch since the early 1970s. He pulls his trailer to a convenient spot near the barn.

He wears denim, lace-up boots, suspenders and his signature red-and-white polka-dot welding cap. Last he ties on the leather farrier apron he stitched himself. Crawford is wearing the same outfit I remember him always wearing when he visited as I grew up on this ranch. My dad, Beaver McManus, a member of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, says it's the same uniform young Crawford wore the day he met him as a junior high boy when he came out to the ranch with his great-uncle Houston Crawford.

When you live this far out, you look forward to visitors. The days that Crawford comes to the ranch to shoe horses are days filled with storytelling. More often than not, farriers become lifelong friends with horse owners. "I couldn't have gotten along without him the last 30 years," Dad says. "He's more than someone who just came out to shoe our horses. He's part of our extended family."

Farrier, derived from the Latin word *ferrarius*, meaning blacksmith, is the professional name given to horseshoers. Many prefer to be called farriers, but others, like Crawford, prefer the simpler term "horseshoer." No matter what they're called, they're necessary to the state's equine industry.

Crawford recalls first getting the horseshoeing gig at the ranch. Houston asked him to meet at the mailbox before dawn, and the young shoer beat him there. "I think that impressed him, that he didn't have to wait on me," says Crawford, a member of Coleman County Electric Coopera-

tive. Houston welcomed him to the house and made his signature extra-strong coffee. "It was boiling in the cup," Crawford laughs. "I thought, jeez, how does his system handle that? Must be cast iron." Nearly 50 years later, he still remembers the gray horse he shod that day.

Crawford loves his work, but he originally dreamed of becoming a calf roper.

"I had a lot of try, but I didn't have the talent," he jokes. "I could win fifth if they were paying four." The first horse Crawford shod was his own calf roping horse, Wimp, named after the horse's grandfather, Wimpy P-1, born on the King Ranch and the first horse registered with the American



OPPOSITE Farrier Jim Crawford has been fitting shoes onto horses for decades. ABOVE Crawford rasps one of Peanut's hooves for a final fit at McManus Ranch in Irion County.



Originally, nearly 100% of his clients were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Quarter Horse Association. Crawford hoped a regular horseshoeing clientele would enable him to stay at the roping gig longer.

In the spring of 1972, Crawford used his GI Bill benefits to go to horseshoeing school. An outbreak of screwworms in the summer of '72 forced ranchers to ride their land daily to monitor their livestock. This created high demand for farriers. Crawford was getting calls to book his services before he'd completed the 10-week course. When he finished, he had a satisfying work schedule and a long list of clients. He became so busy shoeing horses he never returned to roping.

Crawford's customers come to him through word-of-mouth recommendations. A stack of spiral notebooks tell the stories and names of most horses he's shod through the decades.

"Showing up and having the shoe stay on made my career," Crawford says. "When I first started, guys used their horses hard." Originally, nearly 100% of his clients

were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for its inventory of horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Though there's been a transition in the horse's function from work to pleasure, horses are still big business in Texas and create a constant demand for farriers.

Why do horses need shoes? There's an old saying, "no foot, no horse," which speaks to the importance of a horse's feet to its overall health. Each horse's foot includes a mechanism that pumps blood back up to the heart, so each foot is like an auxiliary heart for the



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Crawford shapes a horse shoe at his anvil. The tools and nails he uses. Crawford explains how he gives horses a proper fit. A homemade tool used to nail shoes to hooves. Crawford shows up for jobs with racks of horse shoes in the bed of his pickup.

edgeable in the treatment of many hoof diseases, such as laminitis, navicular disease and thrush.

It's believed that the horse was domesticated around 3000 B.C., and Egyptians and Persians are credited with creating the first horseshoes from woven reeds and grass. The horseshoe has evolved through the ages, though the steel shoe has not changed much since the mid-1800s, when Henry Burden patented a machine that could mass-produce horseshoes. Although many synthetic shoes have come on the market in recent years, the majority of farriers still put on a steel shoe that's either hand-forged or ready-made and shaped either cold or hot and fitted to the animal.

Before a shoe is placed, the farrier will clean and trim the hoof to ensure a level and balanced foot. Even hooves that go without shoes likely need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The farrier will then customize the shoe to mimic the shape of that horse's hoof wall. The shoe is nailed outside of the wall from the bottom, so the nails penetrate the portion of the hoof that has no feeling.

The Texas Professional Farriers Association comprises about 200 members that meet regularly for continuing education. Texas does not require farriers to have a license to practice, but the TPFA helps members achieve certification through the American Farrier's Association. Certification exams include a written and a practical

animal. A horse's hoof is a living, growing part of that anatomy. Most components of a horse's hoof are elastic, so they also act as shock absorbers.

When the growth of the hoof is balanced by equal wear and no disease or abnormalities are present, horseshoes are not necessary. Horseshoes are used for protection, traction and correction. Whether it is racing, ranching or rodeoing, a horse's work is rough on its feet. That's when shoes are necessary. Shoes also correct some problems with gait and lameness.

Horseshoeing is both art and science, and skilled farriers pride themselves on helping to keep horses sound. Farriers study the anatomy of a horse's entire leg and are knowl-

Crawford, who once dreamed of becoming a calf roper, found his calling in 1972.

TCP WEB EXTRA Learn more about alternative shoes and how to find or become a farrier, and read a proverb that puts a fine point on the value of horseshoes.

component. The TPFA also hosts clinics and competitions throughout the year.

“A shoe should be a complement to the horse, not an interruption,” says Danny Anderson, TPFA president. Anderson owns Indian Creek Forge in Whitesboro and is a member of PenTex Energy. He says the organization is growing, and there is an up-and-coming generation of farriers.

Veterans in the industry are passing along their knowledge of the trade to new members, and they don’t all look like Crawford. Women have gotten involved.

According to the 2019 Farrier Business Practices Report produced by *American Farriers Journal*, 18% of farriers are women, up from 8% reported three years prior. In 2018 Cornell University admitted its first all-female class to its farrier program.

Nichole Smith co-owns SS Horseshoeing in Wichita Falls with her husband, Stephen, and is leading the way in the growing sector of female farriers. She was the first woman in the world to achieve multiple farrier certifications and has mentored other women.

“I’m really excited that so many young ladies are getting involved and doing so well,” Smith says. “Some ladies are small-statured, and they need to be prepared to use their brain to overcome some of the challenges. I’ve always been welcomed in this industry, like family, and I appreci-



ate that.” Smith forges all the steel and aluminum shoes she sets.

Although technology like 3D printing is quickly advancing this industry, there’s no replacement for the friendly smile and personal care for horses a farrier brings.

Crawford smiles as he looks back at his career: “Having people know that I did a good job and knowing that I was appreciated—that’s the reward.” ■

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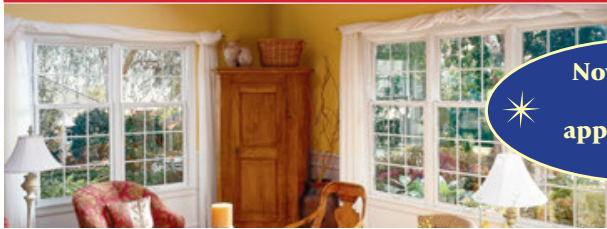


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To Call It a Diamond Would Be an Insult

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When French chemist, Henri Moissan discovered an incredibly rare mineral in a 50,000 year-old meteorite, little did he know the amazing chain of events that would follow. Along with winning a Nobel prize, he gave the world a stone that surpasses even the finest diamond in virtually every aspect that makes a woman go weak in the knees. And, we have this swoon-worthy stone right here for a down to earth price.

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MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

**ALAN
LESLEY**

Strengthening Community: October Is National Co-op Month

A time to celebrate the
community we call home

AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. But our mission extends beyond that. As a co-op, we strive to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community—a charge that has been more critical in recent months than ever before.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. To me this principle is central to the DNA of CECA, and it sets us apart from other utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and our annual meeting month. As part of this year's celebration, CECA is highlighting the many ways we help power our communities.

Who could have fathomed at the beginning of the year that COVID-19 would test our community and nation? The rapidly changing circumstances caused by the pandemic have created difficulties and opportunities for your co-op. Over the past several months, we've been challenged to operate differently, and CECA has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

To ensure the reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain physical separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and valued members. We believe these measures were necessary to protect our community. For our members who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here, too.

While the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I'm heartened to see how our community has pulled together.

More than 80 years ago, CECA was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do—strengthen our communities. ■

24/7

**Outage
Hotline**

CECA crews are
available 24/7 in
the event of a power
quality issue.

TOLL-FREE
800-915-2533

ABOUT COMANCHE EC

CECA operates in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd
Comanche, TX 76442
Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801
Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

ceca.coop





Protect Yourself Against Cybercrime

RANSOMWARE, CREDENTIAL THEFT, phishing emails and other attempts at cybercrime are no longer a question of if but of when. It only takes one click on a malicious email, website or attachment to allow access to private information or for a virus to infiltrate a smartphone or computer.

Since October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, it's a good time to review some simple things you can do to protect yourself from cybersecurity threats.

Keep Your Defenses Up

- ▶ Make sure all your computer software—including your web browser—is updated. Keeping software up to date helps ensure that your system can block cyberthreats that are always evolving.
- ▶ Create strong passwords and keep them private. It can take five days to crack a nine-character password but more than two centuries to crack a password consisting of 12 characters or more.
- ▶ Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk. Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi. Encrypt sensitive data when using a public Wi-Fi network.

Don't Fall for a Phish

- ▶ Be on the lookout for emails, phone calls and other messages that try to gain access to your private information. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If something seems off, trust your instincts.
- ▶ Think before you click! Don't click links or attached files in emails or text messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click, as the account may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing it. There are many ways to spot a phish, and you can see them all at staysafeonline.org.

Remember, you are your best line of defense against cybersecurity threats. ■

Safety Tips for Hunters

THIS HUNTING SEASON, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



- ▶ Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Know where the power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines might not be as visible.
- ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes into contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any nonelectrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews. ■



CASA

Every Child Has a Chance—

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

"We all, no matter what we are doing in life, have a lot of commitments and other things that pull us in different directions. But these children need a voice, and they need someone to advocate for them. And if not you, if not me, then who?" —Denise Imiola, CASA volunteer

WHEN CHILDREN IN TEXAS are removed from a home because of unsafe conditions, the state of Texas steps in to give them a place to live. But it's people like Brian and Denise Imiola, volunteers with Court Appointed Special Advocates, who give those kids a voice.

"We all, no matter what we are doing in life, have a lot of commitments and other things that pull us in different directions, but these children need a voice, and they need someone to advocate for them," Denise said. "And if not you, if not me, then who?"

Between September 1, 2018, and August 31, 2019, 51,417 children lived under the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Brown, Comanche and Mills counties were home to 325 of those children—264 in Brown County, 42 in Comanche County and 19 in Mills County. CASA in the Heart of Texas advocated for many of them, but the group's leadership wants to see that proportion increase.

"Our program served a total of 101 children during that same time period: 65 Brown, 19 Comanche, and 17 Mills. That means that we served only 31% of the children that we could

have served in our service area overall," said Michelle Wells, executive director of CASA in the Heart of Texas. "We did better in some counties than others—25% of Brown County children [were] served, 45% of Comanche County children [were] served, and 89% of Mills County children [were] served."

CASA was founded in 1977, when a Seattle judge decided he needed to know more about the children whose lives were in his hands. His solution was to ask community volunteers to act as a voice in court for abused and neglected children. These court-appointed special advocates provided him with the detailed information he needed to safeguard the children's best interests and ensure that they were placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The program was so successful that it was copied around the nation.

Thirty-fifth District Court Judge Stephen Ellis heard of the success of CASA and set about to determine how to bring it to Brown County. CASA in the Heart of Texas was founded in April 2000 and incorporated in September of that same year. The first executive director was hired in February 2001. Within a few weeks the first training class began, and by March 2001



the first volunteers were sworn in and assigned cases. The group expanded into Mills County in August 2002 and into Comanche County in September 2003.

When children can't live safely at home, a court can give the state of Texas temporary legal custody. Child Protective Services places these children in foster care, which is meant to be temporary until a permanent living arrangement is found. When CPS becomes involved in a case, the agency performs an investigation. If that investigation determines a child cannot remain safely at home, the court becomes involved. The law requires each child to have an attorney and a guardian appointed to represent them. CASA serves as that guardian. The attorney is just what it sounds like; a lawyer whose client is a child in this case. Just like they would with an adult, the attorney finds out what their client's position is from talking to the child and people around the child. They then advocate for their client's position and also protect their legal rights. If a child wants to go back home to their mom and dad, that's what the attorney has an obligation to argue.

As appointed guardians, CASA volunteers take into account what the child wants and makes sure everyone involved is aware of the child's wishes. However, CASA takes it a step further by ensuring that the child's wishes are also in the child's best interest.

"Sometimes what they want isn't necessarily what's best for them," Wells said. "So our volunteers do an in-depth investigation into the child's situation—not investigating the abuse or neglect, CPS does that. But investigating what the child's needs are, what the family strengths are, what the family weaknesses are, what they need to be [in] order to be reconciled as a family. In gathering all that information, our volunteers make recommendations about what should happen for the child. We provide those recommendations through a court report and also through testimony in court to really recommend what is best for the child."

CASA is made up primarily of volunteers who must pass a rigorous background check and complete 36 hours of classroom and independent study in addition to three hours of observation in court. At the end of that training process, they are sworn in by the court and are ready to be assigned a case.

Duties of the volunteers vary depending on each case but can range from talking to the child's biological and foster parents to investigating their background by speaking with teachers, doctors, therapists and family friends. In court, volunteers advocate for what the child needs. Volunteers spend 10–15 hours per month on a case and must be willing to make at least a 12-month commit-

TEXAS CASA STOCK PHOTO



—It's
YOU!

TEXAS CASA STOCK PHOTO

"You talk to the child about some of the tough times or the foster family as they try to work through issues of bringing a new child into the home. There's a lot going on there, and I think that sometimes at the end of the day we look at each other and say we could have done a little more than that or I wish we had done a little more to push the ball forward to help these children."
—Brian Imiola, CASA volunteer



TEXAS CASA STOCK PHOTO

ment to each case.

"What's unique about the CASA volunteers is that we are talking to everybody, so we are able to facilitate between people to make sure that the right hand knows what the left hand is doing and to coordinate some of this stuff that otherwise would not necessarily be coordinated," Wells said.

Brian and Denise Imiola joined the CASA family in February 2020 and are currently working on their first case.

"We were looking for opportunities to do good things, and this is a great one," Brian said. "But I think what struck us about CASA were really three things. One was the mission. You know you are helping children move forward through some really difficult things that they've experienced. Two is CASA is challenging where a lot of other opportunities might not be as challenging. You do talk to everybody and at any given day you might talk to a medical health professional. You may talk to a parent or a caregiver, a teacher, a placement center. You may be talking to all those people, and not only are you talking to them, but each time you talk to them, you are putting on a different hat, a different role. In one of them you may be just a sounding board, one you might be a coach, an investigator, a reporter of information. Other times you might be a coordinator or just someone to listen to.

"So it's not only that you are talking to everyone, but you're talking to them in very different ways. And that is challenging, which is a good thing too. I think the other thing that attracted us to CASA is the amount of responsibility as a volunteer. You are court-appointed, which is a responsibility, and a big one. And in a system that the kids are in, they move a lot. And they change

placements, they see different doctors as they move, they see different care providers, they have a lot of fluidity in their lives. And as a CASA you become the one person or couple that's going to be there for them."

Denise Imiola affirmed the couple's commitment and dedication to the children they will serve. "I think it's important also to keep in mind the reason why we're doing this," she said. "We appreciate that [through this article] more people will hear about [CASA] and learn about it and realize that there's a real need and a real opportunity to make a difference."

CASA in the Heart of Texas currently has 25 volunteers—not nearly enough to support all the children needing advocates. If you are interested in making a difference in a child's future, contact CASA in the Heart of Texas at (325) 643-2557 or Texas CASA at 1-844-230-6467 or visit texascasa.org or becomeacasa.org. ■



TEXAS CASA STOCKPHOTO

INTERESTED IN SOLAR?

LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR DECISION

CECA is making it possible for you to have readily available solar power without the upkeep and obstacles of owning your own system. Alternatively, CECA can help you install and maintain your own system. Both options are excellent ways to reduce your ecological footprint.

COMMUNITY SOLAR CUSTOM SOLAR

CECA's first community solar project is a 1-megawatt site located at our headquarters in Comanche. The array consists of 3,720 panels and is set to produce approximately 2 million kilowatt-hours of solar energy per year. As a CECA member, you can receive output from the solar facility according to your needs and interest. There is no contract, and you may cancel your participation at any time.

CECA community solar allows members to eliminate the risk and cost of installing solar panels on their property. Instead members can purchase up to half of their average residential usage in 100-kWh blocks and get credit for the energy produced by the panels.

The cost to the member per block is based on actual kilowatt-hour cost at the time the block is purchased. Currently that amount is about \$12, but it is subject to change as the market fluctuates. Every month, the energy output of your portion will be calculated and credited to your bill. The solar energy will offset energy produced from traditional fuels. Your share will be included as a line item on your regular bill.

To reiterate, no contract is required for members who wish to participate in community solar. You may withdraw from the program at any time. There is a signed agreement between you and the cooperative that locks in your fixed price for a set contract term, or until you decide to withdraw from the program..

Community Solar Benefits

- No installation or maintenance costs for the member
- No holes in your roof or on your property
- No issues with shading or roof direction
- Renters or homeowners with restrictive covenants can participate
- No upfront costs for financing or installation
- No contract required

CECA's custom solar service gives you the freedom to tailor your solar array to suit your needs. Members and nonmembers of the cooperative can have a rooftop or ground solar array built on their own property, with installation and maintenance provided by CECA.

Representatives of the co-op will design a custom solar array based on your current usage and will install and maintain the system. CECA is a local, established cooperative with more than 80 years in business.

CECA maintains a partnership with National Cooperative Bank to offer financing to approved custom solar purchasers. CECA has negotiated an industry-leading price point of roughly \$2.80 per watt installed, and that is before any potential savings from tax subsidies. CECA will buy back any excess power at the same cost we are billed from our power provider each month. Your bill will reflect the amount of energy you saved using your own production as well as a credit for all kilowatt-hours sold back to the cooperative.

For this service, a contract is required for the purchase of a system from the cooperative as well as for financing with the financial institution of your choice. Our systems are backed by industry-best warranties, which CECA will facilitate and maintain for a monthly fee of \$12. This maintenance contract relieves the member of any financial burden for repairs on or replacement of warranted parts on the system.

Custom Solar Benefits

- Maximize savings
- Potential eligibility for tax subsidies
- Outright ownership

HOW DO I ENROLL?

To enroll, visit our website at www.ceca.coop and fill out the form under Renewable Energy under the Energy Center tab or call our member services department at 1-800-915-2533.



Did You Know?

October is National Cooperative Month. There are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members.

STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES.

ANDRESR | ISTOCK.COM

STEVE DEBENPORT | ISTOCK.COM



Raise Energy Awareness

OCTOBER IS Energy Awareness Month, an ideal time to teach children about energy and the role it plays in everyday life.

The U.S. Department of Education suggests using science, art and reading activities to teach children about energy and conservation this month.

Fostering strong connections with energy and technology can create appreciation for the ways energy is a part of children's lives and helps them be mindful of the need for energy conservation to ensure future well-being.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ▶ Discover what energy is. Explain the sources of energy and how it is used to do work.
- ▶ Conduct science experiments to demonstrate energy, such as by creating a solar oven or a rain machine.
- ▶ Explore your house for ways to conserve energy: Unplug unused appliances and turn off lights.
- ▶ Color or draw renewable energy sources like solar power, wind power or hydropower.
- ▶ Read about energy in books or online. ■



FOTOSTORM STUDIO | ISTOCK.COM

Almond Pumpkins

1½ cups almond butter, smooth or chunky

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

½ teaspoon almond extract

4–5 cups powdered sugar

36 whole roasted almonds

2–3 cups white candy chips, or

3–4 squares white bark coating
Red and yellow food coloring

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

1. Blend almond butter, butter and extracts in a bowl. Add powdered sugar and mix thoroughly until firm. Shape into about 1½-inch balls. Push an almond into the top of each ball to form a “stem.” Cover and place in freezer until firm.

2. Melt candy chips or bark coating. Add food coloring as desired and stir. Dip pumpkins into coating and place on waxed paper to harden. Cool before serving.

MAKES 3 DOZEN COOKIES.



KALI NINE LLC | ISTOCK.COM

OCTOBER HOLIDAYS

World Teachers' Day
Monday,
October 5

Global Hand-washing Day
Thursday,
October 15

Boss's Day
Friday,
October 16

Halloween
Saturday,
October 31

WE'RE BRINGING FLEXY BACK

The Stauer Flex gives you vintage style with a throwback price of **only \$79**.

Just like a good wristwatch movement, fashion is cyclical. And there's a certain wristwatch trend that was huge in the 1960s and then again in the 1980s, and is ready for its third time in the spotlight. We're talking, of course, about the flexible stretch watch band.

To purchase a vintage 60s or 80s classic flex watch would stretch anyone's budget, but you can get ahead of the crowd and secure a brand new version for a much lower price.

We're rolling back the years AND the numbers by pricing the *Stauer Flex* like this, so you can put some bend in your band without making a dent in your wallet.

The *Stauer Flex* combines 1960s vintage cool with 1980s boardroom style. The stainless steel flex band ensures minimal fuss and the sleek midnight blue face keeps you on track with date and day subdials.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.

Experience the Stauer Flex for 30 days. If you're not convinced you got excellence for less, send it back for a refund of the item price. Your satisfaction is our top priority.

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EMERGENCY PRODUCTION!



Actual size is 40.6 mm

Rush Production of U.S. Silver Dollars Creates 2nd Lowest Mintage in History

One of the most popular ways to buy silver is the Silver Eagle—legal-tender U.S. Silver Dollars struck in one ounce of 99.9% pure silver. When the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping the world, demand skyrocketed. But there was a problem...

U.S. Mint Halts Production

West Point, the U.S. Mint branch that normally strikes Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) Silver Eagles, went into lockdown. Prices quickly shot up, and freshly struck Silver Eagles became much harder to find at an affordable price. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. Mint knew it had to act—and act fast.

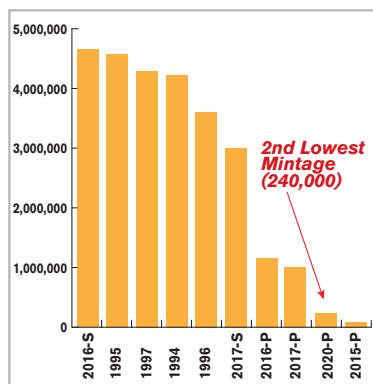
Philadelphia Steps Up

For just 13 days, the U.S. Mint struck an “Emergency Production” run of U.S. Silver Dollars at the Philadelphia Mint. This was great for silver buyers, and *really* great for collectors. Here’s why:

The Mystery of Silver Bullion

A coin’s value is often tied to its rarity. One way to determine a coin’s rarity is by its mint mark—a small letter indicating where a coin was struck. Since Silver Eagles are almost always produced solely in West Point, the coins don’t feature one of these mint marks. But this year’s Silver

Eagles were also produced in Philly—so few (a scant 240,000) that they are now the second smallest mintage of Silver Eagles ever struck! So how do we tell a 2020(W) Silver Eagle from a 2020(P)?



Certified “Struck at” Coins

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) is one of the world’s leading third-party coin grading services. Thanks to some skilled detective work, they have certified these coins as being struck at the Philadelphia Mint during this special Emergency Production run. What’s more, a number of these coins have been graded as near-flawless Mint State-69 (MS69) condition—just one point away from absolute perfection!

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Purity:	99.9% Silver
Diameter:	40.6 mm
Mintage:	240,000
Condition:	Mint State-69 (MS69)
Certified:	Emergency Production

2020(P) Emergency Production American Eagle Silver Dollar

NGC MS69 Early Releases —~~\$79~~

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Main Street in Desdemona at the height of the oil boom in 1918, which was also when the flu pandemic struck.

Boomtown Pandemic

The deadly flu outbreak of 1918 hit oil fields hard

BY GENE FOWLER

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has drawn comparisons to the influenza outbreak of 1918, what became known as the Spanish flu, which was the 20th century's deadliest pandemic. The Spanish flu infected about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Tens of millions died worldwide, including approximately 675,000 Americans.

Of the 5,000 Texans killed in World War I, a third are believed to have died from influenza. While the battlefield, with soldiers crowded in makeshift ramparts, provided a natural incubator for the virus, social conditions during

Texas' early 20th-century oil boom also allowed the disease to spread unchecked. The lack of suitable housing and access to fresh water, and poor sanitation in towns besieged by thousands of boomers — as Ranger, Burkburnett and Desdemona were in 1918 — created an environment in which infection flourished.

Researcher Ben Wright found evidence of the boomtown epidemic in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Industry, an archive of recordings held by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. "Part of my job is to work out ways the center's collections inform current issues," said Wright. "The past is never lacking in its

warnings, lessons and reassurances."

The interviews and other materials in the archive were gathered in the 1950s and include direct testimony about the 1918 flu pandemic.

Interviewee Walter Cline, who later became mayor of Burkburnett, served as field director for the Red Cross at Call Field near Wichita Falls when the flu hit. Cline headed into the Burkburnett oil field with doctors and nurses as well as food, clothing, medicine and other donated resources. His team found people "suffering from flu and exposed in covered wagons and under these tarpaulins," he said. "In one place, you'd find a mother dead, with a little 6- or 8-months-old baby crawling around over her breast, trying to open her dress. ... I think on our first trip west of Burkburnett, we gathered up some six or eight dead men, women and children, and they continued to die until we found temporary shelter for them."

Fred Jennings, a rig manager at Goose Creek Oil Field near Baytown, recalled, "The people died, and they just died so fast here till they didn't have no undertakers. You'd just have to put them in pickup trucks and haul them to Houston. Just put them in a pine box and bury them any way you could. ... I saw one man working and walk home and was dead in 30 minutes."

Don Carleton, Briscoe Center executive director, says we don't know the full impact of the 1918 pandemic, but the disease reached Texas' highest office. Researching his forthcoming biography of Gov. William P. Hobby, Carleton learned that Hobby fought the deadly contagion just as desperately as the roughnecks of the oil fields.

"I was quite surprised to learn that even our state's governor was afflicted with the disease," Carleton said. ■

Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps

Lots of names for turning fruit and a crunchy topping into irresistible treats

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Buckles and betties and cobblers and crisps—whatever you call them—are the essence of comforting, down-home cooking. Everyone has their favorite recipe in their back pocket, no matter the season. Our family is partial to crisps. That buttery, crunchy topping is tempting enough to eat on its own, and pairing it with juicy fruits (and a scoop of ice cream) makes it difficult to resist. Another bonus: These dishes are easy to make, so dessert can happen any night of the week.



Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for greasing the dish
4 cups frozen mixed berries
1 tablespoon lemon juice
¼ cup sugar
4 tablespoons flour, divided use
1 cup rolled oats
¼ cup chopped pistachios
⅓ cup brown sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon cinnamon

COOK'S TIP To make this recipe gluten free, use oat flour, almond flour or your favorite gluten-free blend.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.
2. In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.
3. In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.
4. Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

SERVES 6

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Blackberry Basil Crumble.



Cherry Blueberry Buckle

BECKEY BROWN
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

BUCKLE

**½ cup (1 stick) salted butter, softened,
plus more for greasing the dish**

½ cup sour cream

½ cup sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Zest and juice of 1 orange

¼ teaspoon salt

¾ cup heavy whipping cream

2 cups pancake and waffle mix

1¼ cups frozen pitted cherries

¾ cup frozen blueberries

2 tablespoons brown sugar

TOPPING

1¼ cups heavy whipping cream

¼ cup powdered sugar

Zest and juice of 1 orange

Mint leaves, for garnish

- 1. BUCKLE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.
- Using a stand mixer, cream butter, sour cream and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, orange zest and juice, salt, and whipping cream, mixing on low to combine.
- Slowly add pancake and waffle mix, scraping down sides as needed while mixing.
- Spread batter into prepared pan and top with cherries and blueberries. Sprinkle top with brown sugar.
- Bake 30–35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and buckle is puffed and brown. Let cool slightly before serving.
- 6. TOPPING** While the buckle bakes, whip the cream, powdered sugar, zest and juice

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

PB&J Peach Cobbler

CHUCK BURGESS
HEART OF TEXAS EC



The unexpected addition of peanut butter makes this cobbler a dish reminiscent of your favorite childhood lunch. To make the mixing easier, warm the peanut butter and preserves in the microwave for 10–15 seconds.

SERVES 12

**½ cup (1 stick) butter, plus more
for greasing the dish**

¾ cup crunchy peanut butter

¾ cup milk

1 cup sugar

1 cup flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

**1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches
in juice, drained**

¾ cup peach preserves

½ cup brown sugar

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish with butter.
- Melt remaining butter in a medium bowl. Whisk in peanut butter then milk until blended.
- In another bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Add the butter mixture and stir until blended. Pour into baking dish and spread evenly.
- In a medium bowl, mix peaches, preserves and brown sugar. Then spoon evenly over batter. Bake 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbly.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TACOS DUE OCT 10

Whether you love them soft, crunchy or puffy, tell us what makes your tacos the best. Enter at TexasCooPower.com/Contests by October 10.

RECIPES CONTINUED

together until soft peaks are formed. Chill until ready to serve. Serve buckle with a dollop of whipped cream and a mint leaf.

SERVES 12



Spiced Apple Cobbler

C. PAIGE YOUNG-CANNON
PEDERNALES EC

You don't need to peel the apples, making the prep easy enough for kids like Sylvia Cannon, who submitted this recipe with the help of her mom.

FILLING

- 1 tablespoon butter, melted, plus more to grease baking dish
- 5 small sweet apples, cut into chunks
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt

TOPPING

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- ¾ cup plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided use
- 1½ cups self-rising flour
- 5 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¾ cup milk

COOK'S TIP If you don't have self-rising flour, you can make your own. For each cup of all-purpose flour, add in 1½ teaspoons baking powder and ½ teaspoon salt.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch ceramic baking dish with butter and set aside.

2. **FILLING** In a large bowl, pour melted butter over cut apples. Add sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, vanilla and salt. Stir and set aside.

3. **TOPPING** In a separate bowl, cream butter and ¾ cup sugar until pale and fluffy. Add flour and toss to coat the butter, then cut coated butter into the flour using a pastry blender or two forks. The mixture should resemble sandy crumbs.

4. Add remaining sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and milk. Mix until smooth; it will be very thick.

5. Pour filling into prepared dish, making sure to include any accumulated juices. Dollop the topping evenly over the apples.

6. Bake until topping is golden and puffed, and filling is bubbling, about 45 minutes.

SERVES 8

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Matagorda Island Lighthouse

Ancient tower once guided ships to Indianola

BY CHET GARNER

IF THE HEAT DIDN'T TAKE ME, the mosquitoes would, so I pedaled as fast as I could through the grass and sand, hoping I was rolling in the right direction. I was committed to seeing the Matagorda Island lighthouse, and the price of admission is a 2.5-mile trek across this desolate island.

The barrier island is 38 miles long and uninhabited, save for a small outpost used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD ran a daily ferry to the island until 2003, when a fire destroyed the state's boat, and the ferry service was lost in the flames. If you want to visit Matagorda Island now, you either float your own boat across Espiritu Santo Bay or enlist a fishing guide in Port O'Connor. I reached the island with the help of guide Mike Bohac, who delivered me to Matagorda, pointed toward the lighthouse and said, "Head that way."

After an hour of pedaling, I could see the lighthouse. It was built in 1852 to guide ships through Pass Cavallo on their way to Indianola. Numerous renovations and a relocation raised the structure to where it now sits, 91 feet above sea level. The Confederate States army tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from falling into Union hands, but the cast-iron structure survived.

I peered into a small glass window at the bottom of the lighthouse and wondered what the view was like from the top. Volunteers open it up on special occasions, but my trip was not one of those. Near the lighthouse, I inspected the foundation for the lightkeeper's home and a small cemetery where deceased keepers lie in rest, still guarding the tower.

It was easy to imagine the isolation they must have felt here on the edge of Texas. ■

ABOVE Chet takes a selfie with the 1852 Matagorda Island lighthouse.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the Matagorda lighthouse and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

OCTOBER

03

Alvarado [3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31] Sunset Hill Tree Farm Pumpkin Patch, (817) 713-6114, sunsethilltreefarm.com

08

Tyler [8-11] Fall Fun—Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

09

Ingram [9-10, 16-17, 23-24] Count Dracula, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

10

Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair, (903) 268-1598

Kerrville Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet, (830) 459-6198, kerrmarketdays.org

Brenham [10, 16-17, 24] Hot Nights, Cool Tunes, (979) 337-7580, downtownbrenham.com

11

Dallas Prism Health North Texas Virtual LifeWalk 2020, (214) 521-5191, lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk

16

Austin [16-19] American Institute of Architects Austin Homes Tour, (512) 452-4332, aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020

Terlingua [16-17] Ride 4 Trails, (432) 371-3382, ride4trails.com

17

Tyler [17-18] North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Fall Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

20

Edinburg [20-24] Virtual Los Muertos Bailan, (956) 383-6246, edinburgarts.com/ losmuertosbailan

22

Canton [22-24] Classic Country & Honky Tonk Halloween Party, (903) 245-6300, visitcantontx.com

24

Grand Saline Goody Trail & Trunk or Treat on Main, (903) 962-5631, grandsalinemainstreet.com

New Braunfels Simpson Texas Car and Bike Show, (830) 625-1774, playinnewbraunfels.com

Kerrville [24-25] Haunted Ghoul Pool, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Rusk [24-25] Pumpkin Patch Train Ride, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

Buffalo Gap [24-Nov. 7] Scarecrow Festival, (325) 572-3365, taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/ scarecrow-festival

26

Jacksonville Trunk or Treat, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com

28

Rosanky Christmas in October Toy Drive, (512) 360-3968, rosankybaptistchurch.com

30

Tyler [30-Nov. 1] Texas Rose Autumn Breed Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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COURTESY CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM



Pick of the Month

Two Women Look West

Cuero, Oct. 8–Nov. 1
(361) 277-2866,
chisholmtrailmuseum.org

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum features photographs of the King Ranch by Helen C. Kleberg and Toni Frissell. Kleberg was a self-taught photographer and wife of the longtime CEO of the King Ranch. Frissell was a New York fashion photographer. They photographed the King Ranch from the 1930s to the 1950s.

OCTOBER EVENTS CONTINUED

31

Kerrville Family Fright Night, (830) 257-7300,
kerrvilletx.gov

Kerrville Pumpkin Run/Walk and Harvest Festival, (830) 315-5762,
kerrvillekroc.org

Austin [Oct. 31–Nov. 15] Virtual Texas Book Festival, (512) 477-4055,
texasbookfestival.org

NOVEMBER

01

Houston Rockin' Resiliency Virtual Luncheon, (713) 623-6543,
thewomensfund.org/events

Lubbock West Texas Latino Artist Día De Los Muertos Celebración, (806) 792-1212,
loshermanosfamilia.org

07

George West A Day of Stories, (361) 436-1098,
dobie-westtheatre.com



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Selfies

The modern self-portrait, a selfie captures Texas life in a personal way. Now, thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to put ourselves in someone else's boots.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

GAIL WISE
TRI-COUNTY EC

This little fella "came over any time we worked the cows."

VIRGINIA GARCIA
KARNES EC

Cinnamon, a new chick on the farm, loves taking selfies.

DOUGLAS RATCHFORD
BLUEBONNET EC

"An early morning flight in a good friend's 1930 Waco biplane."

DOLLY HOLLINGSWORTH
SAN PATRICIO EC

"I said smile for the camera, and she sure did."



Upcoming Contests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles

DUE NOV 10 Diners

DUE DEC 10 Storms

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

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



Francisco “Panchito” Flores of San Antonio is a third-generation *charro*—Spanish for cowboy—learning the Mexican rodeo tradition of *charreada*.

Memorable Moment

Look for striking portraits in your everyday life

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JULIA ROBINSON

WHEN I BECAME a photojournalist, portraits were a dreaded assignment. I wanted to document real people living real lives, not direct them like a studio photographer.

Initially I hid behind my documentarian role to avoid the hard work of corralling light. But as I learned more about portraiture, I wanted to get better—so I consumed the lavish sets of Annie Leibovitz; the sculpted light of Martin Schoeller; the whimsical, dark vision of Dan Winters; the dynamism of Robert Seale.

Making an emotional connection with a subject to tell a story with an image is a skill I find more valuable than slick lighting, perfect hair and teeth, or a celebrity face. The portraits made by Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Walker Evans and Sally Mann

have helped me tell the story of a person, a place or a moment in history.

I’ve gotten better at lighting and directing people who begin a photo session with, “I hate photos of myself.” The most meaningful portraits I have made are not those for a newspaper or a business client. They’ve been grandparents at someone’s wedding, my nieces as they grow, my family at ease. The portraits I value the most are the environmental and the informal.

Looking back through my family photos, it’s the candid portraits that stand out. A moment of connection between family members, the peak action of a laugh, the details of a bedroom or a set of toys that add to the nostalgia. Portraits don’t always need to be taken in a studio or in our best clothes. They can be “found” in our everyday lives.

The class photo on the mantel has an official purpose—to pause the march of time from grade to grade. The same is true for the annual family Christmas card and the child in bluebonnets. The images that stop me in my tracks, however, are the laughter, the quiet connection, the unaware expressions of self.

The only secret is practice. Try bringing your camera everywhere for a day. If you make picture-taking a seamless part of everyday life, the people you photograph won’t think twice when you point the lens in their direction.

Hunt the good light in your house, your backyard or on the walk to the park. If you want to make a noncandid portrait, the window light from a north- or south-facing window will be the most flattering, along with the golden hours just before dusk and just after dawn.

Observe the moments that spark your connection and joy. Think about what makes a person light up, and see if you can capture it. One fleeting and hard-won image like this is worth a thousand studio sessions. ■

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