



Notice of CECA 2022 District Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2022 • 6 p.m.
Perkins Middle School Cafeteria
600 N. Johnson St., De Leon

To: All Members in District 3

Northern Comanche County (west of state Highway 16
and east of state Highway 36)

**This meeting is for the purpose of nominating
candidates for director of District 3.**

Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements
and information concerning election of directors.

**This meeting also will be open for discussion
of any affairs of the cooperative.**



Your TouchstoneEnergy Cooperative 

**A \$15 credit on
electric service
will be given to
each attending
member (family)
from District 3.**

Refreshments will
be served and prizes
will be given away
during the meeting.

Accessible facilities
will be provided
upon request.



To: All Members in District 3
From: Alan Lesley, General Manager
Subject: Nomination of Directors

The CECA Board of Directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your District 3 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October, when they'll be voted on by the whole membership.

Additionally, we will review various issues in the electric industry that most affect our members.

The meeting will be open for discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. That means that you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperative members have is being able to participate in the nomination and selection of directors of their cooperative. Other utilities' boards of directors are selected by shareholders, whose say is determined by the amount of shares they own; they're most interested in the rate of return on their investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

Please complete the registration card below and bring it to the district meeting. This card is your entry for the prize drawings.



Registration Card for District 3 Meeting

Monday, July 18, 2022 • 6 p.m.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

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

ARTICLE III • DIRECTORS

SECTION 3.2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE

- (a) 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.

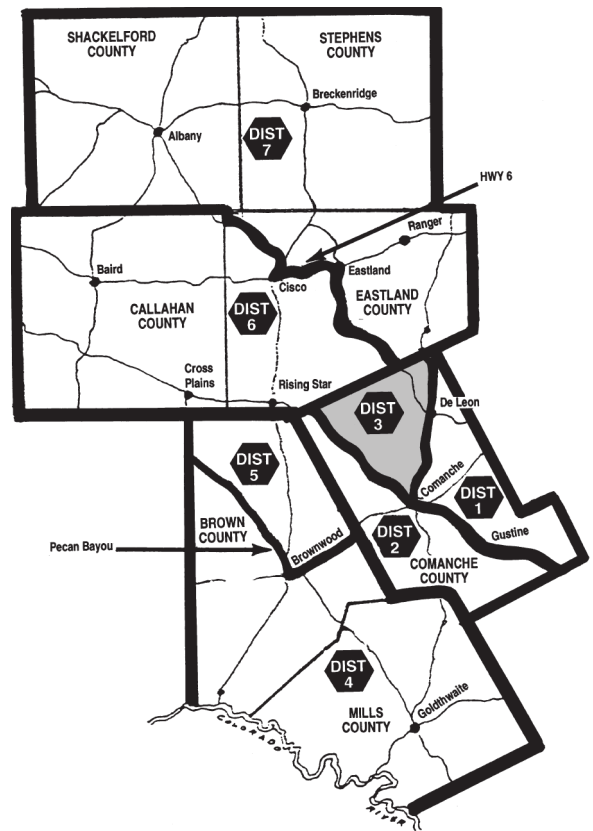
DIRECTOR RESIGNATION. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, 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 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

CECA Board District Boundaries



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.

Meeting for Members in District 3

Monday, July 18, 2022 • 6 p.m.
Perkins Middle School Cafeteria
600 N. Johnson St., De Leon

The Power of Giving Back

As a member-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at member meetings because you are an owner. That's a huge advantage over the big, corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company, no vote for the board of directors and no stake in the power company's future. That's why co-ops work so well throughout America: Because when people want power, we deliver.

We Get Our Power From You—Our Member-Owners



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



Notice of CECA 2022 District Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 • 6 p.m.

May School Cafeteria
3400 CR 411 E., May

To: All Members in District 5

Comanche County (Highway 16 north of Comanche, thence east to Highway 36)

This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 5.

Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements and information concerning election of directors.

This meeting also will be open for discussion of any affairs of the cooperative.

A \$15 credit on electric service will be given to each attending member (family) from District 5.

Refreshments will be served and prizes will be given away during the meeting.

Accessible facilities will be provided upon request.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



To: All Members in District 5
From: Alan Lesley, General Manager
Subject: Nomination of Directors

The CECA Board of Directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your District 5 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October, when they'll be voted on by the whole membership.

Additionally, we will review various issues in the electric industry that most affect our members.

The meeting will be open for discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. That means that you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperative members have is being able to participate in the nomination and selection of directors of their cooperative. Other utilities' boards of directors are selected by shareholders, whose say is determined by the amount of shares they own; they're most interested in the rate of return on their investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

Please complete the registration card below and bring it to the district meeting. This card is your entry for the prize drawings.



Registration Card for District 5 Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 • 6 p.m.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

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

ARTICLE III • DIRECTORS

SECTION 3.2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE

- (a) 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.

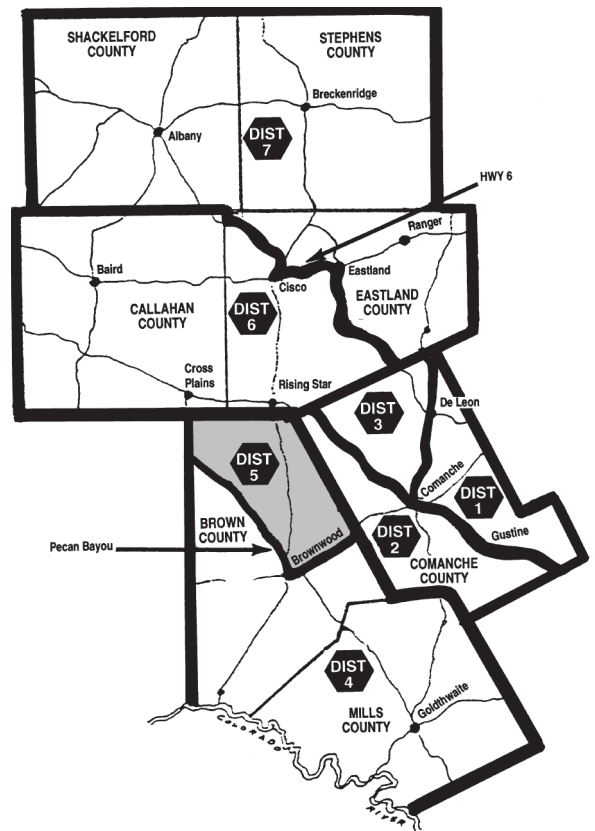
DIRECTOR RESIGNATION. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, 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 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

CECA Board District Boundaries



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.

Meeting for Members in District 5

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 • 6 p.m.

May School Cafeteria

3400 CR 411 E., May

The Power of Giving Back

As a member-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at member meetings because you are an owner. That's a huge advantage over the big, corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company, no vote for the board of directors and no stake in the power company's future. That's why co-ops work so well throughout America: Because when people want power, we deliver.

We Get Our Power From You—Our Member-Owners



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



Notice of CECA 2022 District Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 • 6 p.m.

Scranton Community Center, CR 569 (RR 1864)
just east of intersection with CR 151

To: All Members in District 6

Eastland and Callahan counties (less than a portion of
Eastland County east or north of Highway 6)

**This meeting is for the purpose of nominating
candidates for director of District 6.**

Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements
and information concerning election of directors.

**This meeting also will be open for discussion
of any affairs of the cooperative.**

**A \$15 credit on
electric service
will be given to
each attending
member (family)
from District 6.**

Refreshments will
be served and prizes
will be given away
during the meeting.

Accessible facilities
will be provided
upon request.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



To: All Members in District 6
From: Alan Lesley, General Manager
Subject: Nomination of Directors

The CECA Board of Directors and I personally invite you to attend your District 6 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October, when they will be elected at large.

Additionally, we will review various issues in the electric industry that most affect our members. The meeting will be open to discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. That means you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperatives afford to their members is the ability to participate in the nomination and selection of the co-op's directors. Other utilities' boards or directors are selected by shareholders, whose say is determined by the number of shares they own and who are mainly interested in the rate of return in the investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

Please complete the registration card below and bring it to the district meeting. This card is your entry for the prize drawings.



Registration Card for District 6 Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 • 6 p.m.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

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

ARTICLE III • DIRECTORS

SECTION 3.2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE

- (a) 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.

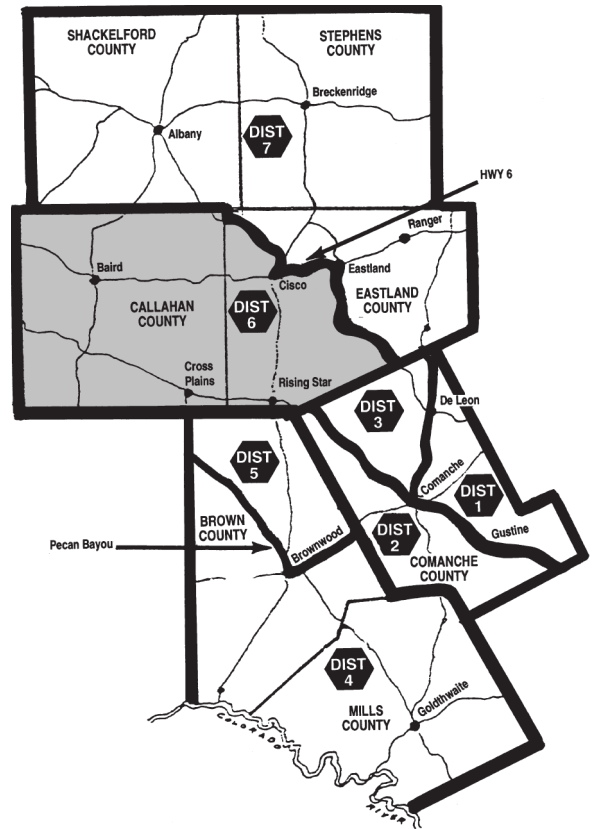
DIRECTOR RESIGNATION. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, 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 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

CECA Board District Boundaries



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.

Meeting for Members in District 6

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 • 6 p.m.

Scranton Community Center,

CR 569 (RR 1864) just east of intersection with CR 151

The Power of Giving Back

As a member-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at member meetings because you are an owner. That's a huge advantage over the big, corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company, no vote for the board of directors and no stake in the power company's future. That's why co-ops work so well throughout America: Because when people want power, we deliver.

We Get Our Power From You—Our Member-Owners



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

COTTON GINS TRANSFORM
THE LANDSCAPE

TEXAS BRIDGE,
COLORADO PRIDE

CHET BRAVES
THE GHOST ROAD

Texas Coop Power

FOR CECA MEMBERS

JULY 2022

Texas' Best Bird

Kreuz Market
serves up superb
barbecued chicken



MUELLER METAL ROOFING

LASTING PROTECTION FOR YOUR HOME



Mueller metal roofs provide long-lasting beauty, weather resistance and energy efficiency. You can select from a wide range of designer colors to complement your home, backed by limited paint warranties up to 40 years. It all adds up to lasting peace of mind. Get a metal roof you can depend on from a company you can trust – a Mueller metal roof.



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

July 2022



08

Prized Fibers

Cotton gins still turn sweat and tears into a treasured commodity.

Story and photos by Julia Robinson

12

Why'd the Chicken Cross the Pit?

Because Kreuz Market has perfected the once-scorned barbecued bird.

*By Joe Nick Patoski
Photos by Wyatt McSpadden*

ON THE COVER

Chicken that pitmaster Roy Perez describes this way: "Simple. With love."

Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

ABOVE

Jerry Harris inspects raw cotton at King Mesa Gin.

Photo by Julia Robinson

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

Colorado's Texas Bridge
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

Stone Fruits
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Creeping Along
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Morning Glory

38

Observations

Can't Top This
By Andy Rhodes

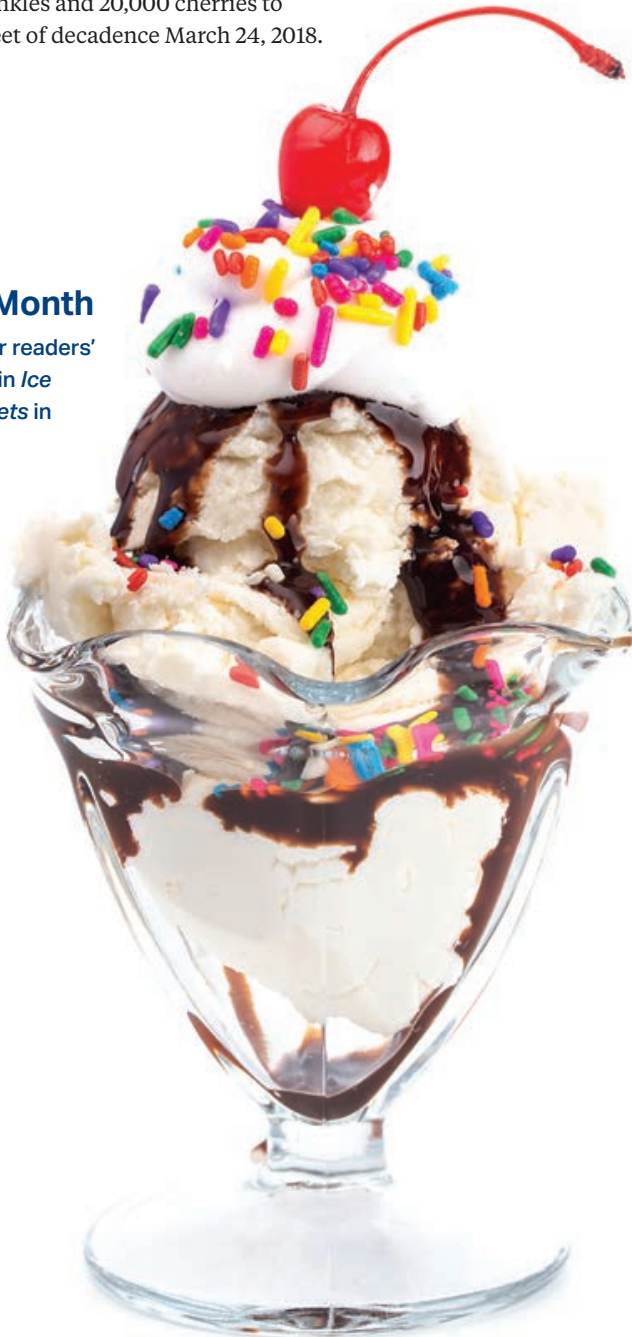
Sundae Best

THE WORLD'S LONGEST ice cream sundae—more than 15 football fields long—was concocted four years ago in College Station.

The creators at the Spirit of Texas Festival used 500 gallons of H-E-B Texans Tackle Crackle ice cream, 2,000 cans of whipped cream, 300 gallons of chocolate and strawberry syrup, 25 pounds of sprinkles and 20,000 cherries to assemble 4,549 feet of decadence March 24, 2018.

July National Ice Cream Month

Celebrate with our readers' recipes, featured in *Ice Creams and Sorbets* in July 2021.



WORKING FROM HOME?

Save electricity by unplugging your least-used devices—printers and scanners—when you don't need them.

Your electric cooperative is in the people business; it just happens to sell power. The less you use, the more you'll save.



Dig This

Texas Co-op Power readers ... well, they rock.

One reader, inspired by an October 2021 story, donated \$20,000 to a research program in South Texas.

Learning Rocks featured a Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center program, above, involving high school students in Comstock. The donation will help Shumla purchase a camera with accessories, scaffolding to help students photograph rock art and tablets for data entry.



HQ TX

Texas is home to 53 Fortune 500 companies, the most in the nation.

TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Finger Foods

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Aerials

TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY

Two readers will each win 5 pounds of wild-caught Texas shrimp. Enter now to win.

News Flash

LIGHTNING OVER TEXAS reached a long way, though not to the ground.

A storm April 29, 2020, produced a bolt that stretched a record 477 miles, from Southeast Texas to Mississippi. Scientists used satellite technology to confirm the record in February.

Also this year, Flatonia, a small town about halfway between Houston and San Antonio, was announced as the lightning capital of the U.S. Vaisala, a weather measurement and analysis company, determined that Flatonia received 1,043 lightning events per square mile in 2021—more than any other city in the country.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I FEEL
PATRIOTIC
WHEN ...

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 May prompt: **Three words that brighten my day are ...**

I love you.

SANDRA BOWEN
BIG COUNTRY EC
HAWLEY

Ice cold beer.

STEPHEN SEWELL
PEDERNALES EC
KEMPNER

I've got this. (A nice young man ahead of me in line at 7-Eleven this morning decided to pay for my juice and coffee.)

LINDA RIDEOUT
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



BRAVE UNION

A Deep Dive

“What a fascinating story about a fascinating aspect of our state. I was amazed to learn such a unique place exists in the Lone Star State.”

DONALD HAHN
HAMILTON COUNTY EC
HICO

Hope Lives On

To find that the photo of the Wantland family was taken inside what was the old Hope Lutheran Church of Buckholts really took my breath away [*'A Little Source of Joy,'* May 2022].

Our family were members of Hope Lutheran, and our daughter's wedding was the last one before the old church was hauled off to the pasture of the man who purchased it to use as a barn. The building was later cut into several pieces and moved to Round Top to be restored and used as a children's library.

Lamerle Zajicek
Lucas



ERICH SCHLEGEL

I love Ms. Dolly, not only for her music [*'A Little Source of Joy,'* May 2022]. She has done so much for the community she grew up in.

SHERRI CONSTABLE
VIA FACEBOOK

It Takes the Cake

The Texas Praline Sheet Cake featured in March was one of the most amazing cakes I've ever made. It was a big hit on our Easter table.

I've made several of the recipes featured in the magazine over the years and really liked them all, but this cake takes the cake.

Cindi Boyd
Medina EC
Freer

A Great Mix

I love your magazine. I am always surprised at how much you get into so few pages. And it's a great mix of heartfelt stories, usable information, wonderful recipes and beautiful pictures. You represent our state well.

Anita Askew
Pedernales EC
Wimberley

Along Those Lines

As a child in the 1940s and '50s, we would travel between Vernon and Amarillo. There were always hundreds of scissor-tailed flycatchers on the electric lines [*Scissortail Signals,* April 2022]. My favorite bird. I love them.

Penny Haulman
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.

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

MAGAZINE STAFF

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

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 79, Number 1 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

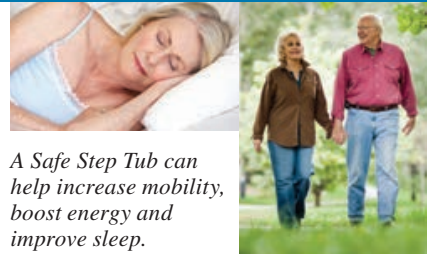
SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back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

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

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



How a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can change your life



A Safe Step Tub can help increase mobility, boost energy and improve sleep.

Remember when...

Think about the things you loved to do that are difficult today — going for a walk or just sitting comfortably while reading a book. And remember the last time you got a great night's sleep?

As we get older, health issues or even everyday aches, pains and stress can prevent us from enjoying life.

So what's keeping you from having a better quality of life?

Check all the conditions that apply to you.

Personal Checklist:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Skin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia | <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Back Pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Circulation |

Then read on to learn how a Safe Step Walk-In Tub can help.

Feel better, sleep better, live better

A Safe Step Walk-In Tub lets you indulge in a warm, relaxing bath that can help relieve life's aches, pains and worries.

It's got everything you should look for in a walk-in tub:

- Heated Seat – Providing soothing warmth from start to finish.
- *MicroSoothe*[®] Air Therapy System – helps oxygenate and soften skin while offering therapeutic benefits.
- Pain-relieving therapy – Hydro massage jets target sore muscles and joints.
- Safety features – Low step-in, grab bars and more can help you bathe safely and maintain your independence.
- Exclusive Shower Package – Only walk-in tub offering a standing shower option.

Call now toll free
1-888-404-5060

for more information and for our Senior Discounts.

Financing available with approved credit.

Call today and receive a

FREE SHOWER PACKAGE

PLUS \$1600 OFF

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-888-404-5060

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

Safe Step includes more standard therapeutic and safety features than any other tub on the market, plus the best warranty in the industry:

Hydro-Jet Water Therapy – 10 Built-In Variable-Speed Massaging Water Jets

16 Air Bubble Jets

Complete Lifetime Warranty on the Tub

Personal Hygiene Therapy System and Bidet

Anti-Slip Tub Floor

Foot Massaging Jets

Wider Door, The Industry's Leading Low Step-In

Heated Seat and Back

Electronic Keypad

MicroSoothe[®] Air Therapy System

New Rapid Fill Faucet

Arthritis Foundation

CSLB 983603 F13000002885 13HV08744300

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB

www.BuySafeStep.com

= PRIZED



Texas' cotton gins have turned more sweat and tears into lint than

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIA ROBINSON

At times the fabric of Texas' economy has been 100% cotton. The availability of cotton products, though, belies a complicated transformation.

"Blood, sweat and tears," says Kirk Tidwell, a cotton farmer in Lamesa, about halfway between Lubbock and Midland. "There's a lot of tears sometimes."

"There's just so much risk; we don't know from the day we plant it if it's ever going to make it to harvest or not," says Tidwell, who also serves on the board of directors at Lyntegar Electric Cooperative. "We may lose it to a hailstorm or a sandstorm or an early freeze. We're always just hopeful."

That cotton-hope blend—formed by a lot of hard work and a little luck—has not frayed much over two centuries. Times are still tough for cotton farmers, but cotton gins are still going. Texas had 4,300 gins in 1900; 185 operate today,

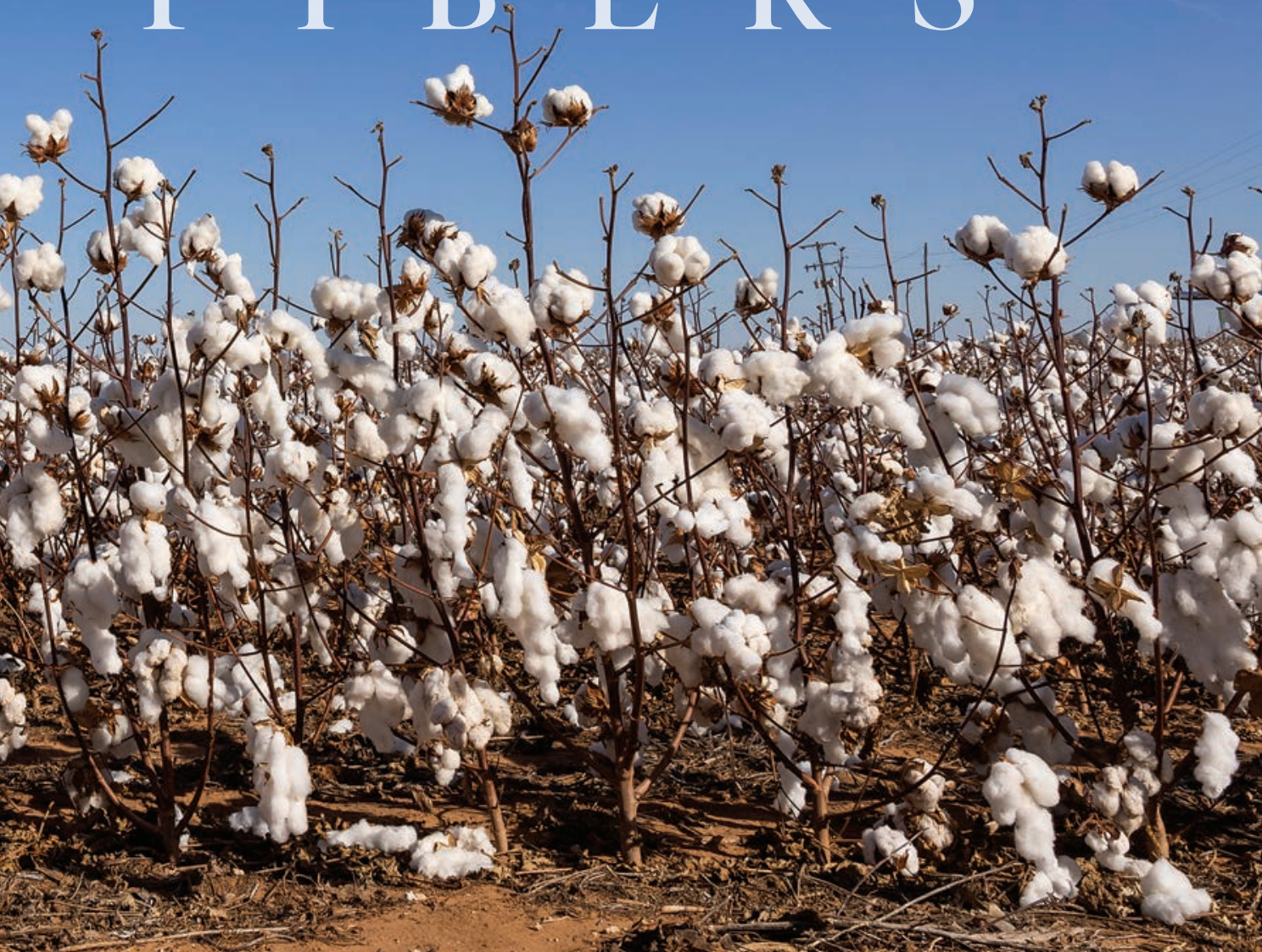
according to the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association.

"I would guess half of those are on the way out," says Jerry Harris, general manager of King Mesa Gin in Lamesa.

"As the number of gins go down, the number of bales ginned stays the same or goes up," Harris says as 18-wheelers pull onto scales with round bales bound in colorful plastic. "There used to be a gin every 6 miles because that's as far as people wanted to carry their crop, but now people will come hundreds of miles with a crop."

Spanish missionaries were the first to raise cotton in Texas. By 1821, Anglo colonists turned to the crop in earnest, reaping profits and building an industry by relying on the labor of enslaved people. Cotton drove the state's economy until the 20th century. Today it thrives in several areas of the state, and the South Plains region around Lubbock, where Tidwell farms, devotes more land to growing cotton than any other part of the world—as much as 3 million acres some years. Irrigation and easy weed control make

F I B E R S =



any other state for 150 years—and they're still innovating

growing cotton there more productive than in other parts of the state.

Starting at Odessa and going north up the Panhandle, the soil turns reddish brown as fields of cotton spread beneath the pump jacks and wind turbines that dominate the horizon. It's a geography of vast spaces—"so flat that your dog can run away, and you'll still see him a week later," a Texas congressman once said—and the white bolls in tidy rows are set off dramatically against unblemished blue skies.

Since 1850, Texas has led the nation in cotton production, tallying 8 million bales in 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Every one of those bales is processed at a cotton gin, where bolls move through machines that separate the embedded seeds, which are about the size of a grain of rice, from the prized fiber, which is called lint. Cotton production at this scale is possible only because of the gins that dot the state.



TOP The South Plains region around Lubbock devotes more land to growing cotton than any other part of the world. ABOVE A handful of cotton seed left over after the ginning process.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Kirk Tidwell raises cotton on 6,500 acres in Lamesa. An 1833 hand-operated cotton gin. Jerry Harris runs King Mesa Gin in Lamesa. Curtis Stewart, manager at Spade Co-op Gin northwest of Lubbock, catches cotton seeds as they fall through a gin's spinning blades.

The largest gin in the world, Adobe Walls Gin in Spearman, about 35 miles from the Oklahoma border, produces 300,000 bales per year. Operations were much smaller during fall and winter harvests generations ago, when cotton gins became gathering places where farmers socialized and shared news while waiting their turn to have their crops baled. Those days could be stressful.

“There was a lot riding on the processing and selling of your cotton,” says Andrew Torget, a University of North Texas professor and author of *Seeds of Empire: Cotton, Slavery, and the Transformation of the Texas Borderlands, 1800–1850*. “This is an industry where you basically have one payday. The emotional tenor of that was tremendous. How much profit you had, what you could buy your kids or couldn’t for the coming year—all these things got concentrated in this one location and this one experience for farmers.

“Today we like to look back with a sort of bucolic romanticism about things that are unfamiliar to us, but I think we forget the terrors and the fears and the helplessness that sometimes accompany those experiences.”

Still, gins greatly eased much of the anxiety of cotton farming, which in the early days of our state was only possible because of labor by enslaved people. It takes 10 hours for one person to remove enough seeds by hand to get 1 pound of lint. “Cotton has this problem that the seeds are stuck inside this prison of fibers,” Torget says. “How you get those out is a real bottleneck because doing it by hand means you can’t do it at scale.”

Early gins used hand-cranked stone or iron rollers to separate the seeds from the fiber and could process 5 pounds of lint per day. In 1794, Eli Whitney designed a machine, a cylinder with spikes that pulled lint clean from the seed as it was cranked, that increased production to 50 pounds per day.

Two years later, Henry Ogden Holmes patented a design that increased the output to thousands of pounds per day with a set of spinning saw teeth on a circular steel blade that pulled lint from seeds in a continuous motion. This design



Since 1850, Texas has led the nation in cotton production, tallying 8 million bales in 2021.

year. In 1915 it pressed nearly 1,000 bales.

“We would have been serving 60 farmers in a really good day,” says Tynan Shadle, the museum’s programs coordinator and a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. Teams and wagons full of cotton would wait their turn—first come, first served—in the yard. Some farmers camped out the night before; some would unload in the morning and return in the afternoon with another load.

The gin featured pneumatic tubes that inhaled the raw cotton and blew it through the entire ginning process, an innovation that came from Robert Munger of nearby Ruttersville. The system is still used today in gins around the world.

Nothing from cotton was wasted in those days. Seed was separated from the lint and delivered back into the farmer’s wagon to plant for the next year. Sometimes the gin bought it to use as livestock feed or to press into oil.

The Burton gin continued operations until 1974, when it closed its doors after producing only seven bales that year. Lint cleaning, feed milling and other services had kept the facility going longer than most, but its time had come.

“We’ve seen boll weevil infestations lead to crop failures, two world wars taking men off the farms, and then the GI Bill, which gave those returning men better opportunities,” Shadle says. “We saw a mass exodus from farms.

“Cotton was just not able to make enough money, and so it was more profitable to switch back to cattle. Not too long after that, they began finding natural gas in the area, too.”

A community group formed a nonprofit and began restoring the Burton Farmers Gin in 1990. It’s the oldest operating cotton gin in the U.S. and is a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Out in Lamesa, King Mesa Gin, which operates around the clock at times to keep up with the 7 tons of raw cotton delivered several times a day by truck, is the only gin in the U.S. to offer DNA tracing to its producers, ensuring the same cotton that’s sent overseas for manufacturing is the same cotton in the finished product on store shelves.

In 2019, Texas growers were responsible for three-quarters of all American organic cotton, which is grown using more sustainable practices. “Where you’re sitting right now is in a hundred-mile circle of the most organic cotton grown in the U.S.,” says Harris, a member of Lyntegar EC.

For Tidwell, becoming part owner of King Mesa just made sense for ensuring his livelihood.

“We went in together as a community to keep the gin in the community, under our control and to do it the way we’ve always done it,” he explains from his knee-high cotton field. “I only get paid once a year, and this is my payday right here.” ■

is still used in modern cotton ginning. Gin designs and innovations proliferated across the South, and daisy chains of gins began to be operated by animal and water power.

Visitors to the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton, halfway between Austin and Houston, can see some of this history up close, including an open stand that reveals 80 saw blades that spin vertically through metal ribs. A group of local German farmers sold \$50 shares, raising \$10,000 to build the Burton Farmers Gin in 1913. The gin fired up for the first time August 3, 1914, and produced 82 bales that



Roy Perez, general manager and head pitmaster at Kreuz Market in Lockhart.

WHY'D THE CHICKEN CROSS THE PIT?

Because Kreuz Market has perfected the once-scorned barbecued bird

THE **poor barbecued chicken.**

The holy trinity of Texas barbecue consists of beef brisket, pork ribs and sausage. Other meats pulled from pits around these parts include prime rib, pork chops and giant beef.

Barbecued yardbird? Not so much. Even the generic turkey breast gets more 'cue love.

Traditionally, slow-smoked chicken has been regarded as too tricky to cook consistently, the end product either undercooked with too much red visible or overcooked to a dryness rivaling jerky.

Chicken, it would seem, is meant to be fried, roasted on a rotisserie or grilled in the Mexican style of the El Pollo Loco and Pollo Regio franchises.

For the past 10 years, however, the best barbecued chicken in Texas has been turned out quietly, as something of an afterthought—an almost under-the-counter thing—in one of the most obvious places on Earth: Kreuz Market in Lockhart, one of the temples of Texas barbecue.

Moist and tender, every morsel packs savory-sweet smoked flavor, enveloped by deep-bronzed skin that's crispy, not greasy.

Full disclosure: "Best barbecue" is a loaded phrase, I know. But that's how my friend Wyatt McSpadden described the whole chicken wrapped in butcher paper he brought me when I was bedridden following a hospital stay last year. I didn't open the sack until about three hours after he left. When I did, bells rang and the lights started flashing.

Chicken!

I was part of the original *Texas Monthly* barbecue team for the magazine's top-50 barbecue joints ranking in 1997 and 2003. Barbecued chicken was never part of the discussion on either top-50 quest.

McSpadden photographed some of the top-50 locations, and today he's known as one of the foremost photographers

of Texas barbecue, capturing pitmasters including Austin's Aaron Franklin and Lexington's Tootsie Tomanetz and sampling their esteemed meats.

I met him at Kreuz Market to gauge his assessment, and now I'm willing to stick my neck out and declare it's the best.

Roy Perez chuckles when he hears that.

He says he started tinkering with yardbirds 10 years ago, after noting a number of customers—typically first-timers—asking about chicken. "It wasn't on the menu for years," he says. "We got tired of people asking, 'You got chicken?' and 'You ain't got chicken?' In my head, I went, 'You want chicken? We got Golden Chick, Chicken Express, all these chicken places.'"

But those are fried, not slow-smoked.

"There's something about barbecued chicken that's different," he says. "It just came to me: 'Can I do chicken?' I thought: Let's throw it on there and mess with it, see how it turns out."

As general manager and head pitmaster at Kreuz and with 35 years' experience, the mutton-chopped Perez is renowned for turning out top-shelf brisket as well as exceptional pork ribs, dino beef ribs and sausage.

But a hands-on approach to minding the pit and trial and error led him to consistently turn out slow-smoked birds that are moist and flavorful throughout. His favorite part? "I've always liked the thigh," he says. "We're old-school. As you can see, I'm sitting here keeping my eyes on this fire instead of sitting in an office somewhere."

Perez says he learned the pitmaster trade from Rick Schmidt, one of the owners at Kreuz Market when he started, back in 1987. Chicken takes as much skill as any of the cuts that Kreuz is known for.

"You've got to stay on it, take care of it," Perez says. "Keep an eye on it, twist on the leg to see if it's still tender and still needs more cooking. It's all visual. We don't use thermometers."

Still, most barbecue pit bosses don't share his respect for the craft.

"These guys laugh when we're cooking the chicken," Perez



CHOICE CHICKEN

We asked electric cooperative employees where they get their barbecued bird. Here are a few of their favorite spots.

Mimsy's Craft Barbecue, Crockett
Lockhart Smokehouse, Dallas
Iceman's BBQ, Edgewood
Stiky Ribz, Forney
Bar-B-Que To-Go, Ganado
Heavy's Bar-B-Que, Hondo
Back Porch BBQ & Grill, La Grange
Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que, Llano
The Smoking Oak, Mercedes
Mack's Split Rail BBQ, Mineola
Judge Hunt's BBQ, Quitman
Hickory Roots BBQ, Terrell

Slow-smoked chicken at Kreuz Market.

Roy Perez's method emphasizes simplicity: about two hours of cooking time at about 300 degrees.

says. "I'll say, 'Those are ready.' 'No, they're not!' I'll say 'OK, get a thermometer so we can check the internal temperature.' Sure enough, they'll poke it and say, 'How did you do that?'"

"With my years of experience, I don't need nothing to tell me this is done or this is not done. You got to make sure how it all comes out because people travel from all over. Even the locals—you don't want to let them down."

His method emphasizes simplicity: about two hours of cooking time at about 300 degrees.

"Put it in the back, let it cook slowly. When you know it's ready, take it off, put it in a container with the lid to keep the moisture in," Perez says. "It's such a little piece of meat; you have to keep an eye on it. You can't walk away like you can with a brisket."

The wood that provides the heat in Perez's pit is post oak. The seasoning, he says, "is no secret: just salt and pepper, a little cayenne, chili powder—same way we do our brisket." But timing is everything. "You can't sell it too early. If it's got blood in there, people might get sick. You can't sell it too late."

Kreuz was famous for not providing barbecue sauce as a condiment; the establishment has never used sauce in the cooking process, no matter the meat.

"It's cheating," Perez says. "It's a quick way out. Here we've

always been, 'Don't put nothing on it. Eat it, try it before you start covering it up with sauce.' Simple. With love. Everything else will take care of itself."

This is barbecue I can eat almost every day.

Hipster barbecue fetishists in search of the exotic tend to bypass the bird. Perez says it's because most young folks don't have the time or patience to slow-smoke chicken.

"They don't want to cook something that you have to babysit," he says. "They want to throw on a big brisket, a big clod, big rack of ribs, ring of sausage, pork chops. Then you get a little chicken—'Man, I don't want to sit here all day—it's hot!'"

Only one of Kreuz Market's eight pits accommodates chicken. The other pits, where briskets are cooking at 700 degrees, are too hot. Chicken sales have steadily increased, Perez says, despite a determined lack of emphasis on the product.

"We don't cook much of it," he says. "We're not known for chicken. The old people who have been coming for years don't order chicken. They don't want something new or different. They're set in their ways."

For the rest of us though, there's a whole other reason for making a barbecue pilgrimage to Lockhart: Roy Perez's barbecued chicken. ■

ALL-NEW mobility technology

Introducing the world's lightest mobility scooter with anti-tip technology

The So Lite™ Scooter is easy to transport and almost impossible to tip over.

Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I'd once enjoyed. I thought I'd made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the So Lite™ Scooter. Now there's nothing that can hold me back.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that's designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the So Lite™ Scooter is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 275 pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery! What's



Why a So Lite™ Scooter is better:

- Latest "No-Tip" Technology
- Lightweight yet durable
- Folds and locks in seconds
- Easier to operate



Exclusive Electronic Stability Control helps prevent tipping

more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it's designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a So Lite™ Scooter of your very own.

The So Lite™ Scooter

Call now Toll-Free

1-888-965-0498

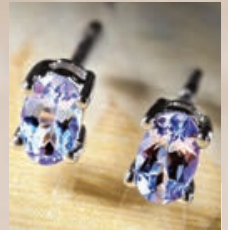
Mention promotion code 117219.

© 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



"The most important gemstone discovery in over 2,000 years."

— Henry Platt, former president and chairman of Tiffany & Company



EXCLUSIVE FREE
Tanzanite Stud Earrings
-a \$99 value-
with your purchase of the Sunburst Tanzanite Ring



"This ring is incredibly beautiful — the pictures do not do it justice! ...well worth the price."
— K. M., Palm Coast, FL

African Gem Cutter Makes \$2,689,000 Mistake... Will You?

This story breaks my heart every time. Allegedly, just two years after the discovery of tanzanite in 1967, a Maasai tribesman knocked on the door of a gem cutter's office in Nairobi. The Maasai had brought along an enormous chunk of tanzanite and he was looking to sell. His asking price? Fifty dollars. But the gem cutter was suspicious and assumed that a stone so large could only be glass. The cutter told the tribesman, no thanks, and sent him on his way. Huge mistake. It turns out that the gem was genuine and would have easily dwarfed the world's largest cut tanzanite at the time. Based on common pricing, that "chunk" could have been worth close to \$3,000,000! The tanzanite gem cutter missed his chance to hit the jeweler's jackpot ... and make history. Would you have made the same mistake then? Will you make it today?

In the decades since its discovery, tanzanite has become one of the world's most coveted gemstones. Found in only one remote place on Earth (in Tanzania's Merelani Hills, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro), the precious purple stone is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. Luxury retailers have been quick to sound the alarm, warning that supplies of tanzanite will not last forever. And in this case, they're right. Once the last purple gem is pulled from the Earth, that's it. No more tanzanite. Most believe that we only have a twenty year supply left, which is why it's so amazing for us to offer this incredible price break. Some retailers along Fifth Avenue are more than happy to charge you outrageous prices for this rarity.

Not Stauer. Staying true to our contrarian nature, we've decided to lower the price of one of the world's rarest and most popular gemstones.

This stunning two-total carat Sunburst Tanzanite Ring features marquise-cut gems set dramatically in gorgeous sterling silver. Each facet sparkles with the distinct violet-blue hue of the precious stones. But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include these tanzanite studs **FREE** with your purchase of the ring — a \$99 value!

Limited Availability. We only have ~~1200~~, 954 left for this ad only. Of course, your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you are not completely aglow with the Sunburst Tanzanite Ring, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price. But, please don't wait, our supply is dropping rapidly.

Jewelry Specifications:

- 2 ctw genuine tanzanite set in .925 sterling silver setting; whole sizes 5–10

Sunburst Tanzanite Ring (2 ctw) ~~\$349~~ \$79* + S&P **Save \$270**
Plus FREE Tanzanite Studs (½ ctw) with your purchase of the Sunburst Tanzanite Ring — a \$99 value!

*Special price only for customers using the offer code.

1-800-333-2045

Your Offer Code: TZR664-12

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. TZR664-12, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . **The Zinger.**

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"

—Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding - when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move



Available in Green, Black and Blue (shown)

forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.



Now available in a Joystick model
(Zoomer Chair)

Joystick can be mounted on the right or left side for rider's comfort

Why take our word for it? Call now, and find out how you can get a **Zinger** of your very own.

journey
zinger

Call now and receive a utility basket absolutely FREE with your order.

1-888-348-0271

Please mention code 117324 when ordering.

mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™

journey
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle





MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

Plan for a Safe and Happy Fourth

JULY HAS ALWAYS been a favorite month of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school, and we celebrate Independence Day. Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled burgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and, of course, fireworks. It's a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at CECA, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we remind you of a few important safety tips from the American Red Cross.

It wouldn't be Independence Day without a spectacular fireworks display. The safest way to enjoy this part of the holiday is to head to a local fireworks show. **But if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:**

- ▶ First check to see if your area has an active burn ban. If so, fireworks are prohibited due to high fire danger, and you should not set off any.
- ▶ Always follow the instructions on fireworks packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- ▶ Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- ▶ Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- ▶ Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a dud.
- ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.

- ▶ Never throw or point fireworks toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your backyard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety.

We recommend the following safety tips:

- ▶ Supervise your grill at all times.
- ▶ Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- ▶ Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. **Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you enjoy the sun safely:**

- ▶ Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often, especially if you'll be swimming.
- ▶ Protect your eyes with sunglasses.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for signs of heatstroke: hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing.

CECA wishes your family a safe and special Independence Day. ■



ATAKANI / ISTOCK.COM



SHAPECHARGE | ISTOCK.COM

New Utility Scams Capitalize on COVID

A SPATE OF SCAMS is targeting utility customers, as fraudsters alter their strategies and seek to capitalize on vulnerabilities created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of an electric cooperative in Wisconsin recently reported two unique tactics, according to a report from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

One involved a call from a bogus representative of an investor-owned utility claiming to have taken over the member's account and demanding immediate payment or disconnection. The member wasn't fooled and contacted the co-op to warn others.

This scam comes on the heels of an earlier trick in which a swindler claiming to be with the co-op told a member that she had overpaid her utility bill and to that get the refund she was due, she'd need to provide her financial information. The member didn't fall for the scam, hung up the phone and notified the co-op.

Members need to stay vigilant because scammers have adapted their tactics over the past two years to exploit consumer vulnerabilities and changes in habits created by the pandemic.

The increased use of technology paired with concerns about the economy have created a breeding ground for scams, according to Utilities United Against Scams.

Numbers from the Federal Trade Commission show that consumer fraud in general spiked during the past two years.

In 2021, about a quarter of all reported fraud losses stemmed from scams originating on social media. Those scams resulted in \$770 million in total losses, which is an 18-fold increase from 2017, according to the agency's latest Consumer Protection Data Spotlight report.

Somos, the entity that manages toll-free numbers in the U.S., tracks when those numbers are used fraudulently. They often work with UUAS to combat scams, and their collaboration has shut down more than 12,000 phone numbers since 2017.

If you receive a suspicious message—whether a phone call, text, social media message or email—regarding your electric cooperative account, please contact CECA immediately. ■

Comanche Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

349 Industrial Blvd.

Comanche, TX 76442

Toll-Free 1-800-915-2533

Web ceca.coop

General Manager

Alan Lesley

Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1

Pete McDougal, District 2

Ruby Solomon, District 3

Monty Carlisle, District 4

Troy Stewart, District 5

Loren Stroebel, District 6

Phil Taylor, District 7

24/7

Outage Hotline Number

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

TOLL-FREE

1-800-915-2533

ABOUT CECA

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

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd.

Comanche, TX 76442

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Early

1801 CR 338

Early, TX 76801

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed from 1–2 p.m.

Eastland

1311 W. Main St.

Eastland, TX 76448

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE

ceca.coop



Check us out at

TexasCoopPower.com/comanche



ZELJKOSANTRAC | ISTOCK.COM

Ways To Save Energy With Kids

GETTING KIDS INTERESTED in saving energy can seem tough at first, but it doesn't have to be. With warmer months upon us, saving energy will be crucial for keeping electricity bills low. Getting kiddos engaged now will help them form energy-saving habits for the future.

Before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first be prepared to answer, "What's in it for me?" As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. To counter this indifference, parents can explain why it's important to save energy and how it benefits the child and the world at large, to help kids understand the need to change their habits and motivate them to do so.

In the simplest and most transactional terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities—that's something children can get behind. Less tangible but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, to help conserve natural resources and benefit the environment.

Once you've got the kids on board that conserving energy is important, here are fun ways to teach kids how to be energy efficient and get them excited about saving energy.

Turn the learning experience into a game. One example is to create an "energy treasure hunt" around the home, where the family searches for devices or appliances that use the most electricity. After finding these items, you can discuss with your kids a few ways for those devices to use less energy.

Another game to play with your kids is I Spy for any energy-saving technologies in stores while out running

errands. Encouraging your kids to find a wide variety of devices around stores can keep them even more engaged. Teach them about the Energy Star logo, which identifies the most energy-efficient devices and appliances.

Create a reward system. One simple method is a star chart. You can use the chart to keep track of stickers and reward your child for every 10 stickers that they earn for doing some activity that saves energy. Stickers could be earned every time your child remembers to turn off the light in a room when they exit, unplugs devices (like phone chargers) that they're not using or showers in less than five minutes. Rewards can be small things that get your child excited, like a piece of candy or a small toy, or getting to pick dinner or dessert.

Discuss lifestyle changes as a family or as an individual, but also make the changes fun. This could be getting the family together to play a board game instead of watching TV. You could also suggest reading a book together instead of using electronic devices. Encourage them to play outdoors with friends instead of playing video games indoors. Incorporating energy-saving practices into everyday life is the best way to ensure the habit has a lasting impact.

Teaching your kids to save energy can be easier when you make it fun. With a little creativity, each of these suggestions can be modified for your family. Each of us, including our kids, can do our part to save energy. ■

Beware of Co-op Equipment

AS YOU SPEND TIME OUTSIDE this summer, CECA reminds you to use caution near electrical equipment. Often we are surrounded by electric infrastructure without even realizing it, so look up and around to make sure you know the location of poles, power lines, transformers and other co-op property in your surroundings.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you touch a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to rescue it. Call your co-op for assistance instead.

Don't fly drones near electrical equipment. Remote control toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity. To avoid accidents, keep the remote control toy in sight at all times and avoid flying in windy conditions that might make you lose control.

Keep kites away from power lines. Kites can cause power outages if they come into contact with power lines, so it's best to fly them only in wide-open areas. If the wind pushes your kite near a power line, let go of it and don't try to retrieve it without help from your co-op. Never attach anything metal to a kite or fly it when it's wet.

Leave balloons inside and away from power lines. Keep them tethered at all times and attached to weights. Never use metallic ribbon on balloons. Be especially careful with Mylar balloons, whose metallic coatings conduct electricity and can cause short circuits or power surges if they come into contact with power lines. Properly dispose of balloons by puncturing them to release the helium that could cause them to float away.

Here at CECA, your safety is important to us. Share this message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun. ■



ULZAI I ISTOCK.COM



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Independence Day

Monday, July 4
Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

Give Something Away Day

Friday, July 15

International Day of Friendship

Saturday, July 30

ROMOLO TAVANI I ISTOCK.COM



Do it Right with DR[®]

America's Original Field & Brush Mower



★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

- MOW FIELD GRASS up to 8' high
- CUT BRUSH up to 3" thick
- Engines up to 22 HP
- Decks up to 34" wide
- Power steering

PLUS ALL-NEW

Commercial-Grade XD Series with hydrostatic drive!



DRfieldbrush.com

SALE!

**FREE
SHIPPING**

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY

DR Power Equipment

A GENERAC POWER SYSTEMS COMPANY

Great Gardens Start with DR® Rototillers!



- Bust sod and churn through the most compacted ground
- Prepare seedbeds or till garden waste back into your soil
- Full line includes walk-behinds, tow-behinds, and cultivators



DRrototiller.com



Trim and Mow the EASY Way!

- TRIM fencelines & perimeters
- MOW waist-high grass & weeds
- 5X the power of handheld trimmers
- Self-propelled models
- Gas- or battery-powered

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT
Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.

DRtrimmer.com

Request your **FREE PRODUCT CATALOG**
Online or Toll-Free at 888-206-4243

GoDRpower.com



Ascending Acclaim

Van Horn has always offered views of the stars; now rockets provide a closer look

BY MELISSA GASKILL • ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VOGIN

THE WORLD WATCHED in July 2021 as Blue Origin sent four people on a 10-minute ride to the edge of space, 66.5 miles up. The trip launched from a facility about 20 miles outside Van Horn, in far West Texas.

It was the first time many folks had ever heard of the tiny town of about 2,000. And for some Van Horn residents, it was the first time they'd heard of Blue Origin.

The company started construction on the facility, dubbed Launch Site One, in 2006 on former ranch property north of town. It began testing rockets there in 2012. Some Van Horn residents noticed the sound of rockets blasting off, but many could have mistaken it for train cars connecting on the busy track that slices through the town.

Van Horn Mayor Becky Brewster was city administrator when Blue Origin first arrived. "Most people thought, these are big ideas, but it's never going to happen," she says. "There wasn't a lot of public participation in the process. They kept pretty much to themselves, and construction was so far away that it didn't affect our daily lives one way or the other."

That changed in 2021 as test launches became more frequent and once humans started riding the rockets.

"That first launch was unreal," Brewster says. "We were almost overcome. All the hotels were full. News reporters were having to stay in Marfa and El Paso." Space enthusiasts lined the highway to watch the launch.

The flights travel at three times the speed of sound, and occupants float weightlessly for several minutes before their craft descends by giant parachutes for a dusty desert landing nearby.

Some signs of Van Horn's new far-out identity have popped up: a mural of Blue Origin CEO Jeff Bezos on the side of a building, Blue Origin feather logos on others, space-themed T-shirts and mugs on sale at Hotel El Capitan and at Boots and Scoops, a café. El Capitan's Gopher Hole Bar has a large silver feather over the door, a token of appreciation from the company.

The feather also adorns a sign along Texas Highway 54 marking the entrance to the launch site. Thomas Lancaster and Belle Peña of Marfa Cement Works, members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, produced the artsy display—a 20-foot stainless steel

feather perched alongside a blue concrete planter filled with native plants.

Blue Origin chose this area for Launch Site One because it provided safe, open space to test, transport and fly launch vehicles, a Blue Origin representative said.

The sprawling launch facility includes a vehicle barn, launch pad and training center. About 10 minutes away is Astronaut Village, a collection of Airstream trailers with a restaurant and bar for those preparing to travel to space.

Van Horn's economy has long relied on much older forms of transportation; the railroad and Interstate 10 run through town, making it a hub for day trips to Guadalupe Mountains National Park and the McDonald Observatory. But the town is starting to embrace its new role in the cosmos.

"We started a Facebook page where we share announcements of launches," Brewster says. "And we're working on an app for this five-county region to highlight points of interest for tourists."

Van Horn officials meet regularly with Blue Origin, and Brewster says the town would like to have a viewing area for launches. Blue Origin has helped bring in more than \$1 million for the community through grants that benefit the school district, food bank and infrastructure, according to Morrissey, who said the company is building an apartment complex and a dozen single-family homes in the area. Blue Origin employs 285 people and 50 contractors in West Texas, and some serve on city councils, school boards and in community groups.

Van Horn's longtime residents have had mixed reactions to the whole space thing, Brewster says. "Some people don't even pay that much attention; others see endless possibilities."

Anyone can sign up online to book a seat on future Blue Origin flights. Prices aren't public, but a seat on the first flight went for \$28 million in an auction. Blue Origin donated that money to its Club for the Future, which funds nonprofit organizations working to support the future of life in space.

The rest of us can make the much less expensive trip to Van Horn. And even take home a T-shirt. ■



BLUE ORIGIN

LAUNCH SITE ONE

FIGURE 2

For the Man Who Gives Everything and Expects Nothing

Stauer®
Impossible Price
ONLY
\$79

If you're anything like my dad, you give your family everything. Your name, your time, your values — the people in your life know they can depend on you for practically anything. In exchange for imparting all of this energy and experience, you expect nothing in return.

The point? You deserve to treat yourself once in a while. You do so much for the people you care about. Now it's time to focus on you for just a few minutes. That's where the Men's Due Volta Watch comes in. This astonishing innovation provides a digital readout that's powered by a precise quartz engine, combining both analog and digital timekeeping.

Outfitted with a stopwatch, alarm, a.m./p.m. settings, and day, date and month complications, this timepiece stands out from the crowd. With its large face and handsome, masculine design, this watch is perfect for the back nine and the happy hour afterwards. Water-resistant up to 3 ATM, this timepiece won't wimp out if you have a run-in with a water hazard.

Other hybrid watches can sell for thousands of dollars, but because we've built more than 1 million watches, we know how to create real value. That's why we can offer this timepiece for just \$79! If you're not completely satisfied with this watch, return it for a full refund.

Act quickly! This one-of-a-kind watch has been one of our fastest sellers this year. Of our original run of 2,872, we only have 389 left for this ad! In the last couple of years there's been a watch shortage, but Stauer has got you covered. If you're the kind of man who gives everything and expects nothing in return, it's time to treat yourself.

Watch Specifications:

- Complications: stopwatch, alarm, a.m./p.m. settings, and day, date and month
- Precision movement chronograph
- Stainless steel caseback and crown
- Water-resistant to 3 ATM

Men's Due Volta Watch ~~\$399~~ **\$79*** + S&P **Save \$320**

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: DVW141-01

JOIN MORE THAN 1 MILLION SMART
PEOPLE WHO OWN STAUER WATCHES

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DVW141-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

SUMMER SAVINGS



Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service
Second to None

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

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

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

*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



40'x15'x12'



Made in Texas



30'x40'x12'



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses
Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient

Call today for our best pricing!

www.ddmbuildings.com

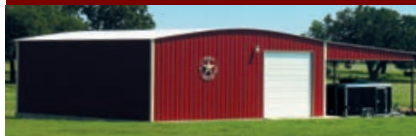
TCP Marketplace

Get results! Contact us today for information on statewide and regional advertising opportunities.

ELAINE SPROULL (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com
TexasCoopPower.com/advertise

TexasCoopPower

WD Metal Buildings



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

Instant Prices @ WDMB.com

830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES
Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums
WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

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

Low Cost Pole Barns
26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed
Call now for our best pricing!
Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites
Call Ron: 512-367-0428

TCP Gift Shop
TCP Shop now
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

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

I 'Bearly' Made It Out Alive

A 12-inch stainless steel knife for only \$79



What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable... this is an incredibly fine instrument." — H., Arvada, CO



"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN



It was a perfect late autumn day in the northern Rockies. Not a cloud in the sky, and just enough cool in the air to stir up nostalgic memories of my trip into the backwoods. This year, though, was different. I was going it solo. My two buddies, pleading work responsibilities, backed out at the last minute. So, armed with my trusty knife, I set out for adventure.

Well, what I found was a whole lot of trouble. As in 8 feet and 800-pounds of trouble in the form of a grizzly bear. Seems this grumpy fella was out looking for some adventure too. Mr. Grizzly saw me, stood up to his entire 8 feet of ferocity and let out a roar that made my blood turn to ice and my hair stand up. Unsnapping my leather sheath, I felt for my hefty, trusty knife and felt emboldened. I then showed the massive grizzly over 6 inches of 420 surgical grade stainless steel, raised my hands and yelled, "Whoa bear! Whoa bear!" I must have made my point, as he gave me an almost admiring grunt before turning tail and heading back into the woods.

JOIN MORE THAN 322,000 SHARP PEOPLE WHO COLLECT STAUER KNIVES

I was pretty shaken, but otherwise fine. Once the adrenaline high subsided, I decided I had some work to do back home too. That was more than enough adventure for one day.

Our Grizzly Hunting Knife pays tribute to the call of the wild. Featuring stick-tang construction, you can feel confident in the strength and durability of this knife. And the hand carved, natural bone handle ensures you won't lose your grip even in the most dire of circumstances. I also made certain to give it a great price. After all, you should be able to get your point across without

getting stuck with a high price.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars **FREE** when you purchase the Grizzly Hunting Knife.

Make sure to act quickly. The Grizzly Hunting Knife has been such a hit that we're having trouble keeping it in stock. Our first release of more than 1,200 SOLD OUT in TWO DAYS! After months of waiting on our artisans, we've finally gotten some knives back in stock. Only 1,337 are available at this price, and half of them have already sold!

Knife Specifications:

- Stick tang 420 surgical stainless steel blade; 7 1/4" blade; 12" overall
- Hand carved natural brown and yellow bone handle
- Brass hand guard, spacers and end cap
- FREE genuine tooled leather sheath included (a \$49 value!)

The Grizzly Hunting Knife ~~\$249~~ \$79* + S&P
Save \$170

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

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

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **GHK148-02**

EXCLUSIVE FREE
Stauer 8x21 Compact Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with your purchase of the Grizzly Hunting Knife

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. GHK148-02, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



Colorado's Texas Bridge

The Royal Gorge Bridge, highest in America, was built and owned by Texans

BY W.F. STRONG

BRIDGES ARE MEASURED in three ways: longest, tallest and highest. In Texas, the Fred Hartman Bridge across the Houston Ship Channel boasts the longest span at 1,250 feet and is the tallest at 440 feet. But it's not the highest. That honor goes to the aptly named Pecos High Bridge, where the deck is an astounding 273 feet above the Pecos River—nearly a football field straight up.

The highest bridge in America is the Royal Gorge Bridge—just shy of 1,000 feet high. It's in Colorado. But without Texas, it might not exist at all.

The Royal Gorge Bridge was the dream of Lon P. Piper of San Antonio. They say he stood on the edge of the gorge in 1928

and imagined laying a bridge across it. He had already built a bridge across the Rio Grande into Mexico.

The Royal Gorge would be different though. It would be a bridge to nowhere, one that would exist purely to give tourists heart-stopping views they couldn't get anywhere else in the world.

Within two years it was done—at a cost of \$350,000, or more than \$6.2 million today. When it was finished, Piper owned the highest bridge in the world, and it would remain so for 72 years.

Piper hired bridge engineer George Cole of Houston to design the Royal Gorge Bridge and to serve as the general contractor. With 80 workers, they com-

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



pleted the project in seven months without a fatality or any serious injuries.

As I learned about the bridge's history, I couldn't help but notice its national character. It was a bridge built by Texans in Colorado spanning the Arkansas River with Oregon timber for the deck. Cole went on to design and build a railroad that would take brave riders to the bottom of the gorge at a 45-degree angle. Now there are gondolas far above the gorge for those who want to go higher still and zip lines for those who can't get enough tachycardia in their lives.

In 1947, Piper sold the bridge to another Texan, Clint Murchison Sr., who bought it sight unseen as an investment and strangely never traveled there to walk across his magnificent possession. Instead, Murchison set up the Royal Gorge Bridge Co. and managed the Colorado property from Dallas. When he died, the bridge was passed on to his sons, Clint Murchison Jr. (you remember him—he founded and owned the Dallas Cowboys for 25 years) and John Murchison. When John died, his wife, Lucille, inherited the bridge, and they say she just loved it, traveling often to see it.

For the past 21 years, Texan Mike Bandera has served as the Royal Gorge Bridge's general manager of operations. But today, the bridge—after nearly 100 years—has Colorado ownership. After Lucille Murchison passed it on to her grandchildren, they sold it a few years ago to nearby Cañon City.

So I'd like to say this to Colorado, about the world-class bridge we envisioned, financed, built and managed for you all those years: You're welcome. ■

Stone Fruits

This season of abundance offers a variety of delectable options

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

When summer hits, I know I'm not the only one looking forward to that first bite of a juicy peach. My family loads up on stone fruits, making sure to have enough to cover our snack cravings and to enjoy in sweet and savory recipes. In this curry, fresh nectarines take the place of the dried fruits more commonly used. You can peel the nectarines if you like; I keep the skins intact to let them bubble away into the sauce.



Chicken Nectarine Curry

1 tablespoon olive oil
2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs
2 teaspoons salt, divided use
½ teaspoon pepper, divided use
1 onion, halved and thinly sliced
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
2 teaspoons cumin
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon ground turmeric
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
⅛ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
1 cup chicken broth
4 nectarines, pitted and sliced
½ cup chopped fresh parsley, divided use
2 cups cooked couscous
¼ cup roughly chopped pistachios (optional)

- 1.** In a large straight-sided skillet with a lid, add oil and heat over medium-high. Season the chicken on both sides with half of the salt and pepper, then add to the hot skillet. Cook until browned on both sides, about 12 minutes total. Remove from pan and set aside on a plate.
- 2.** Reduce heat to medium and add onion. Sauté until slightly softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic and ginger and cook another 30 seconds. Stir in remaining salt, pepper and spices, and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.
- 3.** Add a small amount of chicken broth to deglaze the pan, scraping the bottom, then pour in remaining broth. Return chicken to the pan with any accumulated juices. Scatter nectarine slices over the top.
- 4.** Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer for about 25 minutes. Remove lid and stir occasionally. Once chicken is tender, simmer uncovered for 5 minutes to thicken sauce. Stir in half the parsley and serve over couscous, with remaining parsley and pistachios for garnish.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Peach Barbecue Sauce.



Apricot Scones

JANET EAKINS
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

These tender scones, a perfect way to feature dried apricots, are wonderful straight out of the oven but also keep well, so you can enjoy them multiple days in a row.

- 2½ cups flour**
- ½ cup plus 2 teaspoons sugar, divided use**
- 2 teaspoons baking powder**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cold and cut into pieces**
- 1 cup finely chopped dried apricots**
- 1 cup plus 1½ tablespoons heavy cream, divided use, plus more as needed**

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour, ½ cup sugar, baking powder and salt. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut butter into flour mixture until crumbly and butter is evenly blended. Add apricots, stirring to mix well. Add 1 cup cream, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. If mixture looks too dry, stir in more cream, 1 tablespoon at a time, until dough is equally moistened and coming together.
3. On a lightly floured surface, scoop out dough and knead gently just to bring it together. Pat dough into an 8- to 9-inch circle and cut into 8 equal wedges. Place on baking sheet slightly separated, brush with remaining 1½ tablespoons cream and sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake 20 minutes or until browned.

SERVES 8

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

\$500 WINNER

Peach Cream Cheese Danish

MARY MITCHELL
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC



Easy to make and bursting with peaches, this braided danish makes for an elegant presentation on the brunch or dessert table. Swap in your favorite fresh or canned fruits and serve as is or with ice cream on the side.

SERVES 6



FILLING

- 6 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature**
- ¼ cup sugar**
- 1 egg yolk, at room temperature**
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract**
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice**
- Pinch of salt**

PASTRY

- Flour, for dusting**
- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed**
- 1 can (15 ounces) sliced peaches, drained and sliced into bite-size pieces**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tablespoon water**
- 1–2 tablespoons coarse sugar**

GLAZE

- ½ cup powdered sugar**
- 1½ teaspoons milk**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. **FILLING** In a bowl, beat together cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add egg yolk, vanilla, lemon juice and salt and beat together until well blended.
3. **PASTRY** Lightly dust a sheet of parchment with flour and roll out puff pastry, flattening creases if needed. Set onto a rimmed baking sheet. Spread cream cheese mixture down the middle of the pastry lengthwise, leaving a 1-inch border at the top and bottom. Spoon diced peaches onto the cream cheese mixture.
4. Use kitchen shears or a paring knife to cut an equal number of 1-inch strips diagonally down both sides of the pastry, leaving ½ inch between the filling and the start of each cut. Braid the pastry strips by folding them into the middle, alternating from side to side.
5. In a small bowl, whisk together egg and water and brush over pastry. Sprinkle with coarse sugar. Bake 25–30 minutes or until pastry is golden brown. Let cool to room temperature.
6. **GLAZE** In a small bowl, whisk together powdered sugar and milk until smooth, then drizzle glaze over the pastry and let set or serve immediately.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

FINGER FOODS DUE JULY 10

Bite-size foods are perfect for holiday gatherings, tailgating or just hanging out. Submit your recipes on our website by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.





Easy Cherry Pie

POLLY BELT
COSERV

Instead of a bottom crust, this pie features a buttery crumble topping that bakes into the filling. Make sure to keep the syrup separate from the pie until ready to serve so the topping stays delightfully crisp.

- 1 can (14.5 ounces) sour or tart pitted cherries**
- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon flour, divided**

- use**
- 1½ cups sugar, divided use**
 - ½ cup chopped pecans**
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder**
 - ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon**
 - ¼ teaspoon salt**
 - 1 egg**
 - ¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, melted**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and set a rimmed baking sheet on the lower rack to catch any spilled juices.
2. Drain the juice from the cherries into a small saucepan and reserve. Pour the cherries into the bottom of an ungreased 9-inch pie dish.
3. In a medium bowl, combine 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, pecans, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Using a fork, mix in egg until mixture is evenly moist and crumbly. Spread evenly over the cherries. Pour the melted butter over the crumble topping, coating it completely.
4. Bake 40 minutes, until browned. Let pie cool while you make the sauce.
5. To make the sauce, whisk together

remaining flour and sugar. Place reserved saucepan of juice over medium heat, whisking in sugar mixture. Cook until slightly thickened, then remove from heat (sauce will thicken more as it cools).

6. Serve slices of pie with spoonfuls of warm sauce over the top.

SERVES 6-8

TCP You'll find hundreds more recipes featuring these and other stone fruits on our website. Most of them are from the kitchens of *Texas Co-op Power* readers just like you.

BETTER BY A NAUTICAL MILE

YOU CAN WIN 5 POUNDS OF TEXAS GULF SHRIMP DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

To be eligible, enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

TRIGGER THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Happiness takes flight in shimmering abalone and gleaming sterling silver for just \$49!

They say that something as tiny as the flap of a butterfly's wings can change the course of history. Even the faintest flutter can set off a chain reaction affecting the future. Is it possible that by choosing the perfect gift today, you can positively alter the course of tomorrow?

The *Abalone Butterfly Effect Pendant* blends two of Mother Nature's most magical creations— shimmering abalone and the fanciful butterfly. Nothing on earth creates an iridescent glow quite like abalone. Even the subtlest of movements elicits an ever-changing rainbow of colors. **30-day Satisfaction Guaranteed.** Call today!

Abalone Butterfly Effect Collection

- A. Butterfly Pendant ~~\$199~~ **\$49** Save \$150
- B. 18" sterling silver chain \$59
- Butterfly Pendant & Chain ~~\$258~~ **\$59** Save \$199
- C. Butterfly Earrings ~~\$499~~ **\$59** Save \$140

Butterfly Pendant, Chain & Earrings \$457
\$99 Best Value!

You must mention the offer code to receive your special discounts.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code **BYC213-01**

† Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155,
 Dept. BYC213-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com



Offer limited to the first 1400 orders from this ad only

Pendant enlarged to show luxurious color.



Rating of A+

- Shimmering abalone in .925 sterling silver • 1 1/3" drop & 1 1/4" wide Butterfly Pendant
- Stauer®... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$SAVE \$\$!

Call TODAY to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM

PRE-APPROVED FINANCING AVAILABLE!

WE CONSIDER ANYTHING ON TRADE!

STAYcation at Home in 2022!

1-800-SWIMTEX (1-800-794-6839)

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.





COURTESY CHET GARNER

Creeping Along

I was brave enough to visit the eerie Ghost Road. How about you?

BY CHET GARNER

I VIVIDLY REMEMBER the first time I set out to see the Saratoga lights. My mom loaded up the family van with as many people as it could carry so we could experience a bona fide unsolved mystery.

Generations of locals say the lights are a periodic presence of unexplainable orbs and lights dancing up and down an old Big Thicket dirt road under a dark canopy of piney woods. My mom killed the headlights, and we crept along, holding our breath. My only comfort was that I was inside a locked car.

Bragg Road (aka Ghost Road) is a rite of passage in East Texas, between Beaumont and Livingston. It's only about 8 miles long, originally a railroad spur used during the East Texas oil boom. Legend holds this run through swampy land was full of danger, and crews suffered numerous casualties from accidents, malaria and other perils. Some say those killed never left the work site.

The tracks and ties were removed in the 1930s, leaving a very straight road that anyone with a healthy dose of Lone Star courage can drive to see if the ghostly orbs appear. Some say they change colors. Others say they dart back and forth, even coming toward vehicles at light speed.

Naysayers believe they're simply distant headlights, and scientists explain them as swamp gas. But nobody can explain everything that happens out there in the dark.

It took Mom over an hour to drive the entire length of Bragg Road. Every couple minutes she would yell, "Did you see that?" or "Whoa, that was beautiful." As soon as I looked, the light (or whatever it was) would be gone.

By the end, I didn't see a thing. But I did settle the fact that I was brave enough to travel the infamous Ghost Road. ■

ABOVE Chet discovers that what you don't see can be as frightening as what you do see on the Ghost Road.

TCP A dark lane with a chance of ghosts. What could go wrong? See Chet's video on our website to find out. Watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

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

JULY

08

Canton [8-9] Balloon Fest,
balloonfestcantton.com,
(903) 567-1849

**Lewisville [8-10] Texas
Art and Literary Festival,**
texasartandlitfest.com

09

**Galveston Bill Engvall
Farewell Tour,** thegrand.com,
(409) 765-1894

**Grapevine 1920s Ice
Cream Social at Nash
Farm,** 1-800-457-6338,
nashfarm.org

**Lampasas Toughest 10K
in Texas,** runsignup.com,
toughest10klampasas@
gmail.com

La Porte Cycling Saturday,
(281) 479-2431, thc.texas.gov

**Mason Roundup Festival
and Parade,** (325) 347-5758,
masonxoc.com

**McDade Watermelon
Festival,** (512) 736-4302,
mcdadetexas.com

**Meridian Chisholm Trail
Roundup,** (254) 435-2381,
facebook.com/meridiantx

Palacios Poker in Palacios,
(361) 972-2615,
palacioschamber.com

**Palestine East Texas
Southern Soul Zydeco
and Blues Festival,**
(832) 892-1407, eventbrite.com

**Weatherford Parker
County Peach Festival,**
(817) 596-3801,
parkercountypeachfestival.org

**Kerrville [9-10] Summer
Market,** 1-888-225-3427,
kerrvilletexascvb.com

Palestine [9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6] Farm & Flower Market, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

14

San Angelo [14–Sept. 11] Banjara Textiles From a Private Collection, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

15

Ennis [15–16] Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County Quilt Show, (972) 878-4748, elliscountyquilters.com

Bastrop [15–17] Corvette Invasion, (512) 303-0558, corvetteinvasion.com

Laredo [15–17] International Sister Cities Festival, (956) 795-2200, visitlaredo.com

16

Paris Tour de Paris, (903) 784-2501, tourdeparis.org

Round Rock Colombian Fest ATX, (512) 903-8929, colombianfestatx.com

Fredericksburg [16–17] Night in Old Fredericksburg, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

Waco [16–17] Duel on the Brazos, (830) 385-3106, sdbaracing.com/schedule

19

Lubbock [19–23, 25–30] **Hamilton**, (806) 792-8339, visitlubbock.org

21

Waco [21–24] Deep in the Heart Film Festival, deepintheheartff.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

WALK-IN TUBS
FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED

ONYX SHOWERS
FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.
Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 17 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

World's Finest Eye Cream
a "selections" product in Oprah magazine

AIRBRUSH
Eye Refining Treatment

Airbrush Eye Cream reduces puffiness right away, *especially when cold*. Promotes new collagen which reduces fine lines and wrinkles. Reduces dark circles, is soothing, hydrating and promotes a youthful healthy glow! Hypo-allergenic and natural containing emu oil serum, green tea extract, aloe vera, collagen and elastin. Use am & pm for best results and the jar will last about 3 months!

Reg \$68
Now only \$39.99

Compare to:
La Mer Eye Balm @ \$200
Shiseido Solution LX @ \$130
La Prairie Swiss @ \$240

Use 40% discount code: **TEXPWRA** at
www.dremu.com or call **800-542-0026**
Free Shipping — Open 24/7



Hit the Road

Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events

PERMA-ROOF
 from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
 Roof rumble?
 Leaks!

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

Since 1983

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

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

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

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

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



SERHIY SHULYEV | DREAMSTIME.COM

Pick of the Month

Salt Lime & a Good Time

Comanche, July 23
 (325) 356-3233
comanchechamber.org

Celebrate National Tequila Day at the courthouse square with the spirited beverage and other treats.

JULY EVENTS CONTINUED

22

Kyle Dive-in Movie: Lilo & Stitch, (512) 262-3939,
cityofkyle.com

Lubbock Dwight Yoakam, (806) 792-8339,
visitlubbock.org

Waxahachie [22-23] Metroplex Archaeological Society Indian Artifact Show, (469) 309-4040,
waxahachie.com

Palestine [22-24, 29-31] The Little Mermaid, (903) 724-4385,
visitpalestine.com

Victoria [22-24, 28-31] The Wizard of Oz, (361) 570-8587,
theatrevictoria.org

Lockhart [22-24, 29-31, Aug. 5-6] Annie Get Your Gun, (512) 376-5653,
mygbt.org

23

Bandera National Day of the American Cowboy, (830) 796-3045,
banderacowboycapital.com

San Angelo National Cowboy Day, (325) 657-4444,
fortconcho.com

28

Buffalo Gap [23-24] Tour de Gap, (325) 829-0617,
tourdegap.com

Gonzales [23-24] Float Fest, floatfest.net

Salado [23, 30, Aug. 6], Salado Legends, (254) 308-2200,
tablerock.org

Clute [28-30] Great Texas Mosquito Festival, (979) 265-8392,
mosquitofestival.com

29

Fredericksburg [29-31] Hill Country Auto Swap Meet, (254) 751-7958,
visitfredericksburgtx.com

Junction [29-31] Sizzler Disc Golf Tournament, (361) 549-5507,
junctiontexas.com/disc-golf

San Angelo [29-Aug. 5] Wild West Fest, facebook.com/wildwestfestsanangelo

Stafford [29-31, Aug. 5-7, 12-14] The SpongeBob Musical, (713) 302-5329,
inspirationstage.com

30

Bowie July Jam, (940) 872-6246,
cityofbowietx.com

Lubbock An Evening With Journey, (806) 742-7362,
visitlubbock.org

AUGUST

02

Bandera Cowboy Capital Opry, (830) 796-4969,
banderatex.com

06

Camp Wood Nueces Canyon Old Settlers Reunion, (830) 597-6241,
nuecescanyonchamber.org

Frankston Neches River Wilderness Race, (903) 245-9490,
necheswildernessrace.com

Morning Glory

A new day is dawning in Co-op Country, and members have captured the magnificence, from dewy haze to warm sunshine. So fetch yourself a cup of coffee, and let's greet the sunup.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 DANNY VIVIAN
NUECES EC
"The sun rises over the breakers near Port Aransas."

2 BRIAN FOX
PEDERNALES EC
Sunrise over Caprock Canyons State Park.

3 CASSIE DE LEON
TRI-COUNTY EC
"Breakfast. Need I say more?"

4 MICHAEL HRISCHUK
TRINITY VALLEY EC
"Our backyard on a cool fall morning."



Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUL 10 **Aerials**
- DUE AUG 10 **Winter Wildlife**
- DUE SEP 10 **Nature's Colors**



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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





Can't Top This

Finding more than just a sense of accomplishment on Guadalupe Peak

BY ANDY RHODES
PHOTO BY E. DAN KLEPPER

“HOW FAR AWAY is the peak?”

“Once you get to the really hard part, you're nearly there.”

“Wait ... *this* isn't the really hard part?”

I was approaching the summit of Guadalupe Peak—or at least I thought I was—and glad to catch my breath while giving my rubbery legs a break. After encountering the descending hiker, I was momentarily discouraged but not daunted. My three-hour trek in far West Texas had so far been challenging but not overwhelming, and I wanted to carry my momentum all 8,751 feet up to the tallest natural point in the state.

The last eighth of a mile was indeed tricky—a couple sheer rock faces (I didn't look down) and large boulders to ascend—but it never felt dangerous. Finally, I took one giant step and came face to face

with a metal pyramid atop the peak.

But I also encountered something I hadn't expected: Surrounding the sculpture was a spontaneous community. About a dozen of us smiling hikers shared the rewarding accomplishment of having just summited Guadalupe Peak. Cheers of “You did it!” and “Welcome to the top of Texas!” erupted. We beamed with adrenaline and pride, knowing how much planning, commitment, resolve and stamina it took to conquer such a formidable foe.

I was also rewarded by the most spectacular 360-degree views I've ever seen in Texas. It was a perfect fall day—65 and sunny—so visibility was pristine. The sky was pure blue, a cheerful overstretched canvas. I took in multicolored ridges of mountains stretching for miles and miles beyond Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

I had started the day with a hearty breakfast and hit the trail in the cool shade. The first hour was tough, with tight switchbacks and steep ascents. I reminded myself I wasn't in a race and listened to my body's cues; when I felt weary, I'd stop for water or take a few bites of a protein bar. My trusty trekking poles helped me navigate the rocky trail and pivot up tough spots.

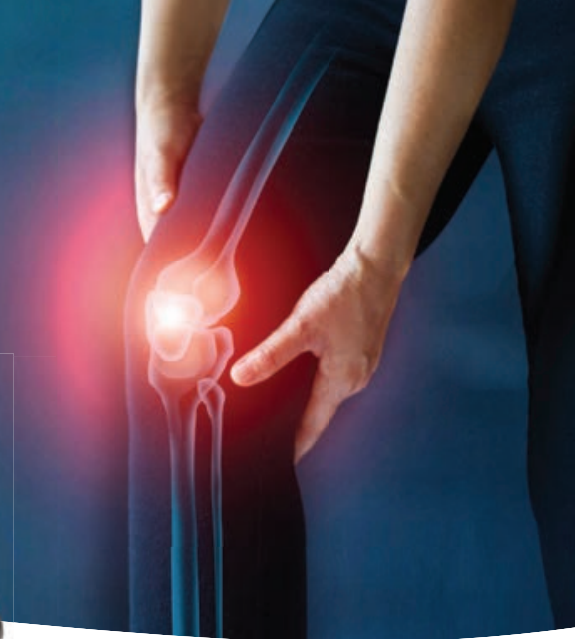
The second hour was easier—a large section of trees provided welcome shade, and I noticed more flora, including jade-colored desert scrub and small waxy succulents. The trail was well maintained and easy to navigate, which helped guide me through the final stretch.

By the end, my legs were fatigued, but that seemed a small price. I was excited about completing the quest. When the shiny obelisk entered my view, the smile on my face reflected the joy I felt in joining my new community.

At that moment, it felt like the top of the world. It just so happened that it actually was. ■



LIVE LIFE PAIN FREE



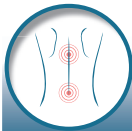
PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM



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



85%
LESS KNEE PAIN



91%
LESS BACK PAIN



92%
LESS ANKLE PAIN



75%
LESS FOOT PAIN

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

Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

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

gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145

X-WIDE WIDTH AVAILABLE

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

Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black

\$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

Promo Code MQ8GPS4

www.gdefy.com

Expires October 31, 2022

Free Exchanges • Free Returns

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call 1(800) 429-0039

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



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



Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!

Same Bill. Same Price. **\$69⁹⁹** month for TV Every Month. For 2 Years.



It's ALL Included with DISH!

- ✓ Includes 2 Year Price Lock
- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
Requires internet connected Hopper.
- ✓ Includes Home Service + Streaming
- ✓ Includes Free Installation
- ✓ Includes FREE Premium Channels
After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.
- ✓ Includes HD Programming



\$300 Get TV. Get \$100. Add Internet. Get \$300.

4000 1234 5678 9012 3456

Gift Card EXPIRES END 01/25

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card300 when you order both TV and internet services. Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation certain conditions apply. Free \$30 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualified service. Premium customer qualification only.

ADD BLAZING-FAST INTERNET! No Matter Where You Live!

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ **\$40** month for Internet
Now Just...

- ✓ Now with Unlimited Data!
- ✓ Speeds from 25Mbps - 1 Gbps
- ✓ Available Nationwide!



Save up to **\$20/mo.***

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 and compatible mobile device. On Hopper Duo, there is no live TV streaming for DISH Anywhere.

Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant



Requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google is a trademark of Google LLC.

Your Favorite Apps in One Place!



Netflix and Amazon Prime Video streaming memberships required. YouTube is a trademark of Google LLC. Amazon Prime only available on Hopper 3.

¡Se Habla Español!

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 11/9/22. **2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost:** Programming package upgrades (\$84.99 for AT120+, \$94.99 for AT200, \$104.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). **Regional Sports:** RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change):** Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. **Premium Channels:** 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. **Remote:** The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. **Other:** Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. – 19-08615. ©2021 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.