



Notice of CECA 2021 District Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2021 • 6 p.m.

CECA Headquarters

349 Industrial Blvd. • Comanche 76442

To: All Members in District 1

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 1.

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 1.

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

Handicapped-accessible facilities will be provided upon request.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



To: All Members in District 1
From: Alan Lesley, General Manager
Subject: Nomination of Directors

I have a board of directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your district 1 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 a variety of 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 non-profit 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 1 Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2021 • 6 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone 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.

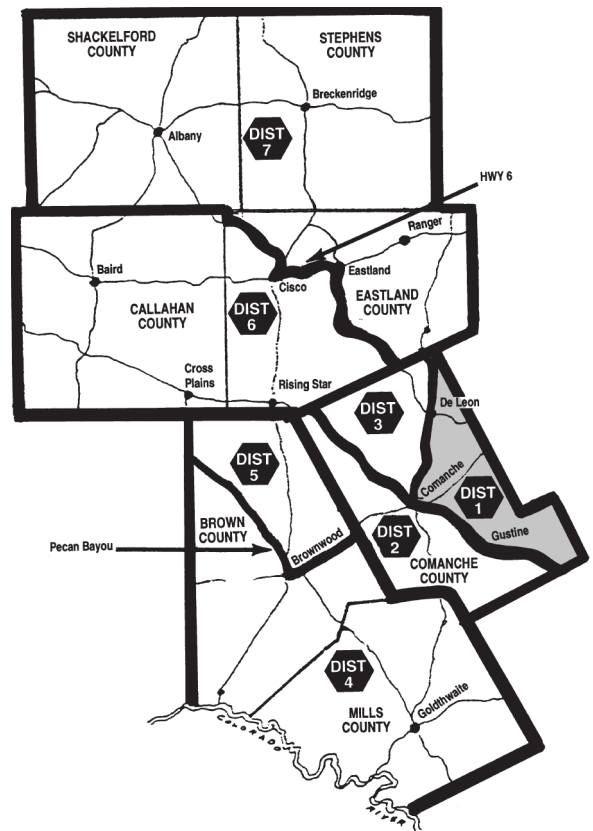
DIRECTOR RESIGNATION. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board,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

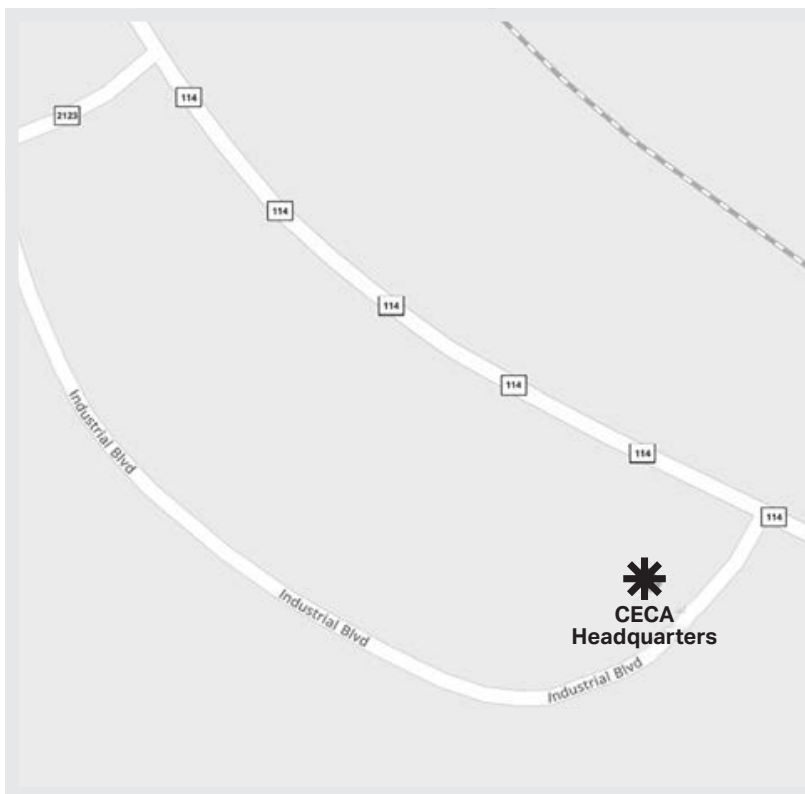


event a quorum is not present at such meeting, the Director then serving such District shall be the official nominee for such District. In addition, the Board shall establish deadlines and appropriate forums in order to allow any qualified Member of such Districts to obtain petitions bearing the signatures 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.



District 1 Member Meeting

Monday, July 19 • 6 p.m.
CECA Headquarters
349 Industrial Blvd.
Comanche 76442



CECA District 1 Meeting

We hope to
see you there!

LYSENKOALEXANDER | ISTOCK.COM

You Get More Power From an Electric Co-op

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.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We Get Our Power From You—
Our Member-Owners.*



Notice of CECA 2021 District Meeting

Thursday, July 22, 2021 • 6 p.m.

Gunsight Baptist Church

10674 U.S. Highway 183 • Breckenridge 76424

To: All Members in District 7

Stephens and Shackelford counties plus that portion of Eastland County east or north of Highway 6

This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 7.

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 7.

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

Handicapped-accessible facilities will be provided upon request.



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



To: All Members in District 7
From: Alan Lesley, General Manager
Subject: Nomination of Directors

I have a board of directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your district 7 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 a variety of 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 non-profit 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 7 Meeting

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Name _____

address _____

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- (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:
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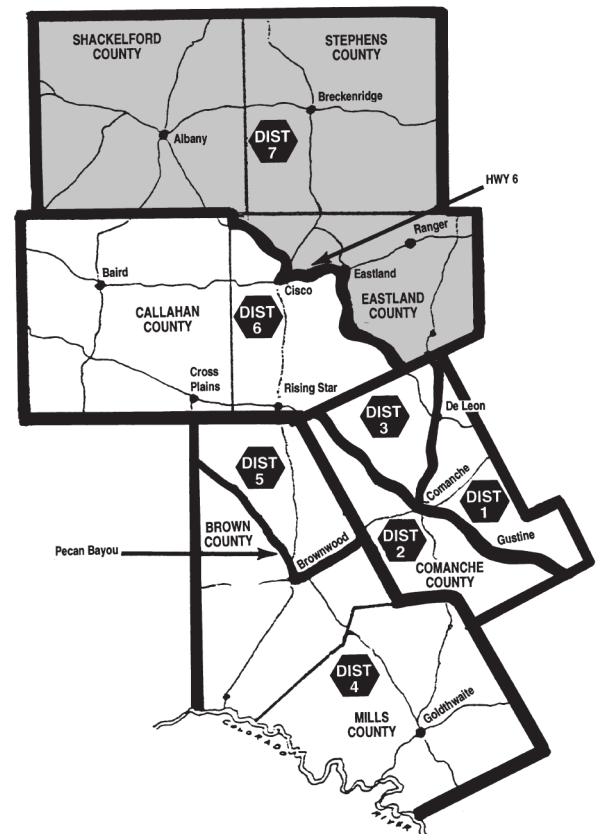
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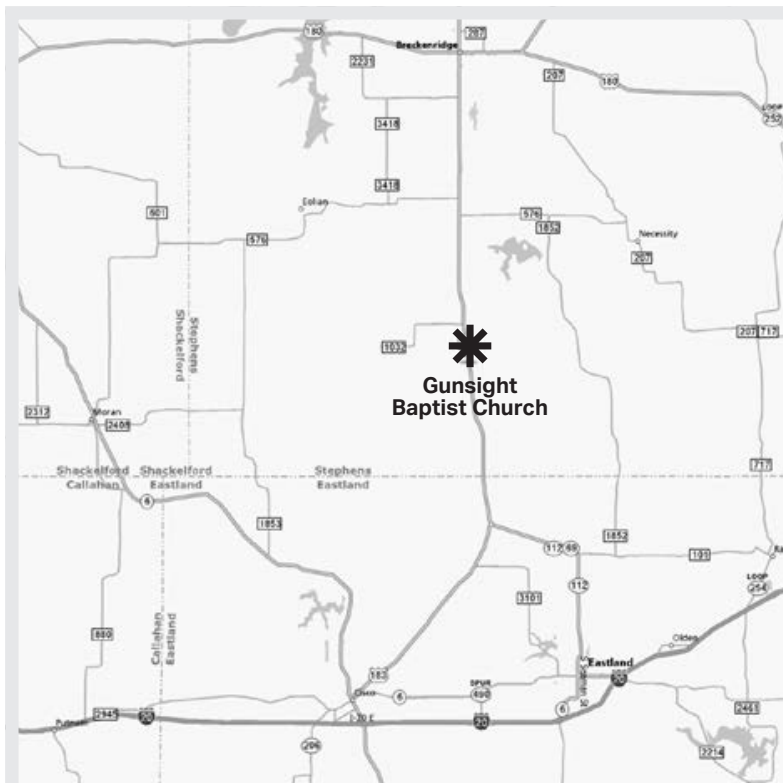


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We hope to
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You Get More Power From an Electric Co-op

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.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We Get Our Power From You—
Our Member-Owners.*

JOHN S. CHASE CHANGED
TEXAS ARCHITECTURE

CHILL OUT WITH
ICE CREAM AND SORBETS

CHET PAYS HIS RESPECTS
AT THE FUNERAL MUSEUM

Texas Coop Power

FOR CECA MEMBERS

JULY 2021

Painting the Town

Mural artist
Matt Tumlinson
turns Rankin
into his canvas



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July 2021



12

08 Rankin as a Canvas

Artist Matt Tumlinson interprets the state's culture in murals around a West Texas town.

*By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Erich Schlegel*

An Unlikely Blueprint

John S. Chase charted a unique course to become Texas' first Black licensed architect.

By Michael Hurd

ON THE COVER

Thanks to Matt Tumlinson, Willie Nelson has a permanent residency in Rankin.

Photo by Erich Schlegel

ABOVE

John S. Chase and his sons in front of his signature Houston home, circa 1959.

Photo courtesy African American Library at the Gregory School | Houston Public Library

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Common Ground
By Rhonda Reinhardt

Groundbreaking Cougar

WARREN MCVEA was a high school football phenom—arguably the best running back in the country—at San Antonio’s Brackenridge High School in 1964, when he turned down more than 70 other scholarship offers and elected to play for the University of Houston.

The decision was historic, making McVea, who turns 75 this month, the first Black player to receive a scholarship to play football at any of the major college programs in Texas. He was a two-time All-American for the Cougars and later played six seasons in the NFL.

McVea was born July 30, 1946.



July 5

National Bikini Day

This year’s celebration takes on special meaning as it marks the 75th anniversary of the skimpy swimsuit.

Dancer Micheline Bernardini debuted the bikini, designed by Louis Réard, at a poolside photo shoot July 5, 1946, in Paris. A world just emerging from World War II considered the suit scandalous because it showed a woman’s navel.

Réard named the swimsuit, which used about a napkin’s worth of fabric, after the Bikini Atoll, the Pacific Ocean coral island where the U.S. tested nuclear weapons for more than a decade starting in 1946.



That’s
roughly
the number
of times
a person
breathes
in a day.



FERTILE FELINE

No cat on record has given birth more than a tabby born in 1935 in Bonham, in North Texas. Dusty produced 420 kittens during her life, according to Guinness World Records, giving birth to her last litter, a single kitten, in 1952.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION ...

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. Below are some of the responses to our May prompt:

This Memorial Day I remember ...

All the fallen. War is hell, and we better remember too few come back from it.

SALLY WOLFE
VIA FACEBOOK

Not only those who fought and died in battle for this country but also those front-line heroes who fought and died in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

W. GRANT BRALY
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC
CUERO

Maj. Marie T. Rossi, the first female aviation combat commander to fly into battle. She was killed in action March 1, 1991.

TAMMY DUPLECHIN
TRINITY VALLEY EC
NEW YORK, TEXAS

Too many to list.

STEVE AND LISA BOSTON
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Best Foot Forward

SOME PEOPLE in this country have two feet, and it's causing all kinds of problems. That's about to change, however.

Wait. What?

One foot is the old U.S. survey measuring foot from 1893, according to *The New York Times*, that takes Earth's curvature into account. The other is the shorter and slightly more exact international foot from 1959, used by nearly everybody in the U.S. except surveyors in some states. The two feet differ by about one-hundredth of a foot per mile, or 2 feet for every 1 million feet.

But come January 1, 2023, the old foot gets the boot when the National Institute of Standards and Technology adopts the international foot as the official standard in the U.S.



TCP Contests and More

[ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](https://www.texascooppower.com)

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Recipes for Gifting

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Funny Signs

TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY

Two readers will each win 5 pounds of Gulf shrimp. Enter now to win.



The Hero of Cinco de Mayo

“You have made me feel very proud of being a Tejano. Thank you for your great story on Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin.”

ANTHONY BARRON
TRINITY VALLEY EC
TERRELL

San Jacinto Stands Alone

While I enjoyed the article about the Battle of Puebla and admire Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin's part in it, I take exception to calling it “Mexico's San Jacinto moment” [*The Hero of Cinco de Mayo*, May 2021].

San Jacinto was a victory that ended the war with Mexico and gave Texas independence, whereas the Battle of Puebla was just a lone victory in a war Mexico eventually lost to France the next year. Cinco de Mayo is not nearly as important as San Jacinto Day.

Steve Yates
Pedernales EC
Wimberley



I love any and all yarns [*Serendipity Spinners*, May 2021].

WENDY L. VERA
VIA FACEBOOK

Dear Texas

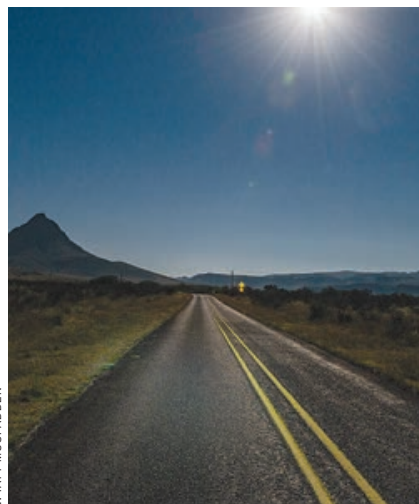
The writing and great photo of Eli Winter's piece [*Few and Far*, March 2021] were so beautiful. It was a poignant, personal and perfect love letter to the entire state of Texas.

Suzanne Howalt
Pedernales EC
Austin

Falfurrias Beef

At one time the Lasater ranch encompassed 350,000 South Texas acres, and in 1912, somewhere on that huge spread, my mother was born [*A Name That Sticks*, February 2021]. The Lasaters were not only famous for their butter, but they were also known for developing the Beefmaster cattle breed in 1931.

Jerry Klumpp
Central Texas EC
Kingsland



WYATT MCSPADEN

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

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Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

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Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor

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TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 78, 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 \$4.20 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 are available for \$3 each.

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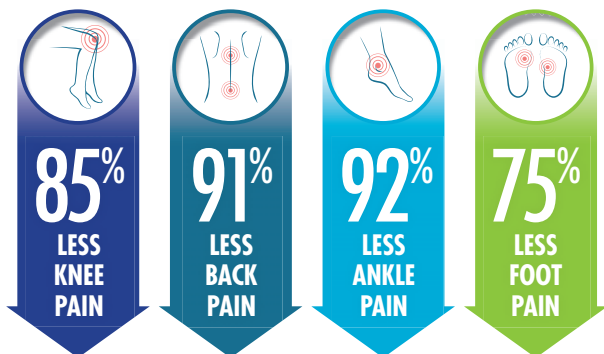


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Rankin as a Canvas

Artist Matt Tumlinson interprets the state's culture in murals around a West Texas town

ABOVE Life imitates art as Matt Tumlinson grabs a selfie in front of his modern take on a *Lonesome Dove* scene. RIGHT A palette of spray paint.

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL



Matt Tumlinson wanted to create a painting that stretched across an entire building, so when the opportunity arose to splash one on the side of a restaurant in tiny Rankin, he headed west, paintbrushes in tow.

"I was thinking if it turns out bad, very few people will see it in Rankin," the San Antonio-based artist said.

The 8-foot letters that spell out the town's name, in a style reminiscent of what you'd find on a cowboy's belt buckle, turned out pretty good, in fact. And since that 60-foot mural went up in 2015, Tumlinson has painted seven more in the West Texas oil town, population about 850.

"With murals, it's really tough to get permission or access to a wall and even tougher to get access without stipulations on it," Tumlinson said. "I only wanted to do one if I could paint something I wanted to paint, and Rankin's been really good about 'I've got a wall you can paint.'"

Tumlinson grew up in Early. After graduating from Texas Tech University, he worked briefly as a history teacher

but disliked it. When he and his wife, Allison, moved to Nantucket, Massachusetts, he sold his first painting—a watercolor map. In 2013 they moved back to Texas, where he worked as a guide on the San Antonio Riverwalk while trying to kickstart his art career.

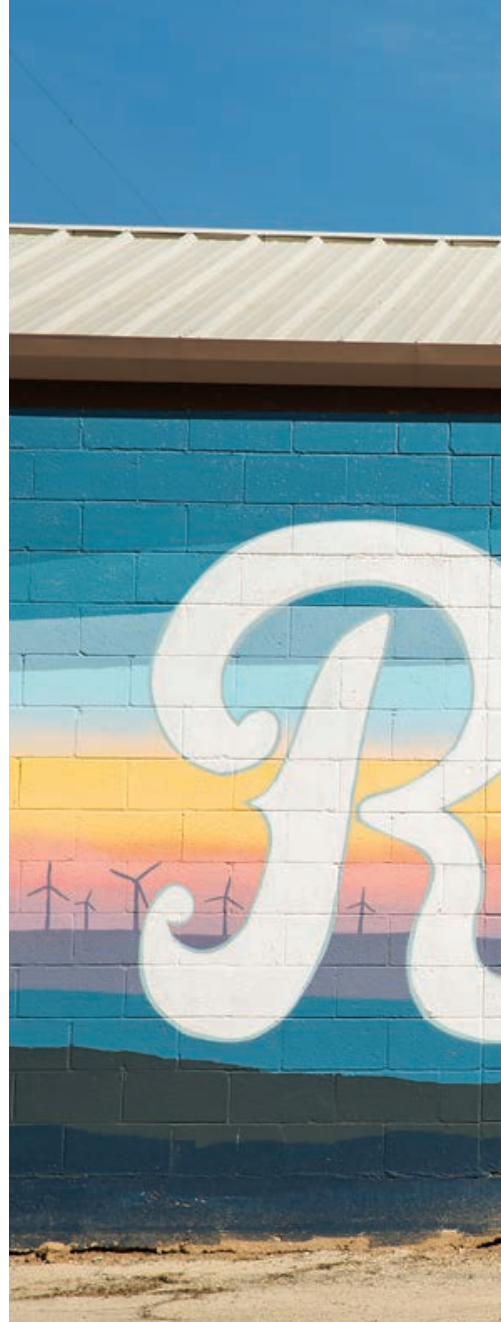
Tumlinson's main business is in "brass canvas" paintings, made on groups of spent bullet casings collected from his uncle's gun range. He also works in oil, painting his view of Texas' quickly changing rural landscapes and drawing influence from Texas singer-songwriters.

"People have this idea that Texas is all boots and cowboys and open range," Tumlinson said. "I just feel like being an eighth-generation Texan, if somebody's going to tell the accurate story of what Texas is today, why not me?"

Rankin, 55 miles south of Midland, didn't offer up its downtown as a canvas randomly. Tumlinson's sister teaches at Rankin High School; his brother-in-law coaches the Red Devils, the school's six-man football team. A local restaurant



ABOVE Tumlinson says the mural of Matthew McConaughey is about being confident in yourself. RIGHT Spray-painting in windblown West Texas can be tricky. OPPOSITE Rankin City Hall.



owner thought a mural would liven things up (which it did). Tumlinson's sister mentioned that her brother was an artist looking for a place to paint a mural, and an invitation was extended. The mural was Tumlinson's first.

Soon, locals suggested he paint the side of the city's water tower. The structure looked rickety to Tumlinson, so instead he painted a scene from Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* on the side of a building owned by the mayor. The mural shows characters Gus and Woodrow riding into San Antonio, marveling at how the city has changed. "It's all grown up," Gus says in the TV miniseries.

In Tumlinson's version of the scene, the cowboys are holding a selfie stick. He painted it in a single night, using his pickup truck's headlights to illuminate the wall.

"In a world where all the spaces are filled in on a map, I wonder what happened to the guys like that," Tumlinson says of the image. "I'm trying to put that concept of what it is to be Texan into a modern context."

Another mural sprouted on the wall of an abandoned gas station along U.S. 67 a few blocks away. Tumlinson checked tax records to find out who owned the building and then contacted the company to get permission. The CEO granted approval, and Tumlinson illustrated a saintly looking Willie

Nelson, halo overhead and joint in hand. Within a week, Tumlinson got a call. He'd received permission from the wrong building owner, and the true owner wanted the artwork removed. Tumlinson suggested a compromise—he'd erase the joint if the rest could stay.

It did.

A John Wayne mural adorns the other side of that gas station, alongside a graph marked "stupidity" on one axis and "difficulty in life" on the other, a nod to a quote often incorrectly attributed to Wayne: "Life is hard; it's even harder when you're stupid."

Tumlinson painted other murals, too: a pair of oil field workers on one wall, another Rankin sign on another and a state trooper ticketing a kid riding a Big Wheel on a pink cinder block building. (That one was modeled after his uncle but coincidentally looked like a local trooper at the



time. The trooper took it in stride, according to Tumlinson.)

The artist's most popular work decorates a metal tank near the railroad tracks. In it, actor Matthew McConaughey holds a can of spray paint next to the words, "You'd be a lot cooler if more people thought so," a twist on the actor's quote from the Richard Linklater movie *Dazed and Confused*: "It'd be a lot cooler if you did."

Tumlinson tried but never located the tank's owner to get permission to paint it. He decided to put up the artwork—painted in his studio in downtown San Antonio, then applied to the metal structure—anyway. As he worked in broad daylight, a state trooper stopped to inquire. He asked if Tumlinson had painted the city's murals, told him McConaughey looked great, then drove away.

Since painting the Rankin murals, Tumlinson has expanded his reach—part of a long-term goal to paint his way across the state. In San Antonio his *Puro San Antonio* mural is filled with nods to the local culture. One dubbed *King George* depicts country music singer George Strait in

royal garb, and a third features a woman dressed as Davy Crockett swinging a gun.

Tumlinson likes painting murals because anybody can see them. "It's the closest thing an artist gets to being on a stage," he said. "It's more communal."

The Rankin community, apparently, approves. None have been vandalized.

"You see people all the time taking pictures," said Brandon Brown, the mayor. "I don't think we're a destination yet, but I think the murals have sparked a little bit of new life in Rankin." ■

TCP WEB EXTRA See a slideshow of Tumlinson's Rankin murals.



An Unlikely Blueprint

John S. Chase charted a unique course to become Texas' first Black licensed architect



BY MICHAEL HURD

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
John S. Chase with his
sons in front of the fam-
ily's Houston residence,
circa 1959. A rendering
of the home's courtyard.
A street view of the
home from 2019.



FAMILY: AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARY AT THE GREGORY SCHOOL | HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY. HOME: HESTER + HARDWAY

JOHN SAUNDERS CHASE didn't want Texas, and the state certainly wanted nothing to do with him. It was 1948, and race relations in the rigidly segregated South were heavily tilted toward nonexistent.

Yet as Chase pursued an education and started his career as an architect, he and the Lone Star State struck up a historic relationship despite an epic perfunctory legal battle, menacing stares, media glares, hate mail and death threats.

Because of this unlikely alliance, it was in Texas where the Annapolis, Maryland, native would, in 1950, become



Chase in a University of Texas classroom in 1950.

One of his most noted residential designs is the Phillips House in Austin—with its distinctive green, diamond-shaped roof; large expanses of windows; and long lines—built for Della Phillips, co-owner of East Austin's Phillips-Upshaw Funeral Home.

In Houston several buildings on the Texas Southern University campus, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanities Center and Thurgood Marshall School of Law building, are Chase designs. He also collaborated on construction of Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center and the Astrodome renovation and was commissioned to design the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia. In 1980, Chase became the first Black man to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

As a young man, Chase could not have imagined doing any of that while based below the Mason-Dixon Line, but in retrospect his iconic, trailblazing career in Texas was fated. Chase had just received his architectural engineering degree from Virginia's all-Black Hampton College in 1948 when the school's placement officer presented Chase with several job possibilities. Chase told him, "You can strike Texas off the list." However, when the job he took in Philadelphia didn't work out, Chase wrote the officer to ask if he had other prospective employers and added a surprising stipulation.

"I underlined the Deep South, and I never did think I'd do something like that," he said in the HistoryMakers interview. "I just figured that in Philly, they got everything they need, but down in the Deep South, the opportunity to build would be greater, and I was right."

the first African American student admitted to a graduate program at a major university in the South—the University of Texas. Chase followed that victory in 1952, when he became the university's second Black graduate and, the same year, the state's first Black licensed architect.

"For the most part, they treated me with respect, and I treated them with respect," Chase recalled in a 2004 interview with the HistoryMakers, a research institution that archives African American oral history. "I got to know some very, very important architects and some very important people because of the work and relationships that I had at UT."

Chase went on to design an estimated 300 Black churches, primarily in Houston and throughout East Texas but also in Austin, where the angular roofs of Olivet Baptist Church and David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, with their minimalist approaches, are indicative of Chase's style. They blend contemporary design with natural materials—wood and stone—and an abundance of open spaces and natural light. Inside David Chapel the amount of natural light increases as you approach the pulpit and a simple wooden cross on the wall, intentional symbolism Chase designed into the building.

DRAWING: DAVID HEYMANN, BROOKE BURNSIDE, SARAH SPIELMAN AND WEI ZHOU. CLASSROOM: THE DOLPH BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in East Austin.

Chase started his own business, and his first clients were the congregants of African American churches.

Outside the classroom, heads turned when Chase passed. He was shadowed around campus by reporters and federal marshals and received stacks of explicit hate mail that varied on the theme “You are less than a dog to force your way into someplace that you’re not wanted.”

Yet Chase persevered and completed the program, even making some lifelong friends. He and his wife, Drucie, moved to Houston, where Chase took a teaching position at Texas Southern University. No architecture firms would hire him because of his color.

Chase started his own business, and his first clients were the congregants of African American churches.

“To me, selling architecture is no different than selling insurance—you got to know somebody,” Chase said of his Sunday pilgrimages with Drucie and their three children in tow. “I figured it was the best way to know people—join church. We got so much work out of that.”

However, it is the home he built for himself in Houston’s Third Ward that is the focus of *John S. Chase—The Chase Residence*, a new book by David Heymann and Stephen Fox.

“It was designed around a completely open-air courtyard and exemplified the type of house that was very popular with Houston modern architects in the 1950s—flat-roof, courtyard houses, often with interior walls of glass that opened to the courtyard,” explained Fox, an architectural historian at Rice University. “When he added a second story, it reflected his great admiration for the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, so it kind of changed the tone of the house from an austere modern house to one that had a mixture of materials, a very exuberant interior.”

Chase died in 2012, leaving an inspiring legacy that continues to impact Black architects. He co-founded the National Organization of Minority Architects in 1971.

“He was one person against all odds,” said William Batson, an associate professor at the Prairie View A&M University School of Architecture, the country’s top producer of African American undergraduate architects. “Those people hated him, didn’t want him to succeed, but he did, no matter what. He didn’t have any crutches, he didn’t have any pampering. He didn’t go around protesting, whining and complaining. He set the example and dropped the mic 70 years ago.” ■

TCP WEB EXTRA Enter online to win a copy of *John S. Chase—The Chase Residence*.

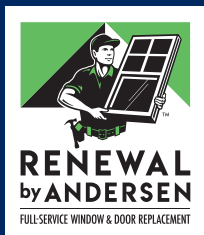
N MOVING TO TEXAS, Chase worked for the Black-owned Lott Lumber Co., a homebuilder in East Austin, but he knew he needed more formal education in architecture, and that meant studying at the state’s segregated flagship university just across East Avenue, now Interstate 35.

Chase got two breaks: first, a friendly face in Hugh McMath, dean of the UT School of Architecture, and then the Sweatt v. Painter Supreme Court decision prompted by Chase’s friend Heman Sweatt, who gained admittance to the UT law school after the high court ruled in his favor in the case that outlawed the separate-but-equal doctrine and opened the door for school desegregation.

“I talked with Dean McMath,” Chase remembered. “He asked if I was familiar with the case in front of the Supreme Court. He said, ‘Well, give it just a little more time, and if that thing comes through, I think your prayers are answered.’”

The decision was handed down June 5, 1950, and two days later Chase registered for UT’s summer session. Chaos ensued.

“All the media made it difficult,” he said, “but you could pick the friends out right away; you could pick out the foes. The ones that thought you were OK would do things like if you’d been drawing and studying, they’d come in, saw you’d been working long enough and say, ‘Let’s go to the Union and get a soda or a sandwich or something; come on, go with us.’”



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MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

**ALAN
LESLEY**

Co-ops Helped America Grow

AS THE UNITED STATES celebrates its 245th birthday July 4, CECA is observing its 83rd year. That's just a fraction of the age of our nation, but over time, I think we and the 900-plus other electric co-ops across the country have greatly enhanced the quality of life of Americans of all stripes.

When rural electrification took hold, fledgling co-ops powered the American dream for farmers and townsfolk, helping them achieve the prosperity that their urban countrymen had enjoyed for years.

And the origins of our co-op and the hundreds of others like it across the nation have their roots in American democracy. The Rural Electrification Administration was created in 1935 by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and it quickly became a permanent institution with a stamp of approval from Congress.

The REA harnessed the power of the federal government to help rural residents organize cooperatives to provide electricity to their neighbors in places that for-profit companies would not serve. The loans that made it possible to start these democratically governed nonprofits would eventually be paid back, and the program was so successful



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CURRENT NEWS

CECA Vehicles To Be Auctioned

CECA HAS THREE retired vehicles that will be auctioned through a closed-bid process. These vehicles have a few battle scars and are well broken in, as you would expect from a work vehicle.

You may come by the shop yard at 201 W. Wrights Ave. in Comanche to inspect the vehicles in person.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442.

Bids can also be dropped off in person at the office at 9 Industrial Blvd.

In all correspondence, please include a phone number where you can be reached. Questions can be directed to Dale Ogle at 1-800-915-2533. The deadline for bids is noon July 19. Bid winners will be notified by July 26. CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board.

Mileage for all vehicles is current as of June 1, 2021, but is subject to change as vehicles could still be used. ■



Truck 13: 2013 Chevrolet Silverado,
1/2 ton, 4x4, extended cab
(bad transmission)
VIN: 1GCRKPEA8DZ249420
Mileage: 167,577
Minimum bid: \$3,000



Truck 4: 2013 Chevrolet Silverado,
1/2 ton, 4x4, extended cab
VIN: 1GCRKPEA5Z2249469
Mileage: 169,416
Minimum bid: \$3,000



Truck 1299: 2008 Ford F-150 XL, 4x4
VIN: 1FTRX14W58FA87040
Mileage: 140,855
Minimum bid: \$3,000

that within a generation, virtually all rural areas in the U.S. had access to reliable electricity.

Electricity changed life not only in those small towns but also across the country as a whole. The availability of electricity opened up a whole new market because people in rural areas could finally take advantage of its labor-saving power.

Electricity increased productivity on farms by replacing back-breaking labor with machines. The demand for electric appliances created wealth with increased manufacturing and sales, which created jobs for electricians and plumbers. Cooperatives themselves provided good careers in the office and the field. CECA is still a major employer in our community.

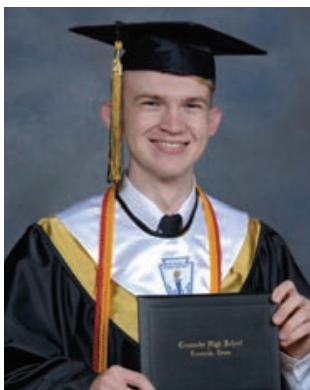
Electric co-ops haven't forgotten that our roots are planted in democracy. Our very structure depends on governing boards

of members elected to make decisions for everyone's benefit. And we work with our statewide and national organizations to represent the interests of rural Americans in the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Capitol.

And this Independence Day, as we celebrate our nation's founders, we also would like to salute those who founded this and other rural electric cooperatives. They helped transform the U.S. into the prosperous nation that it is today. ■

CECA Awards \$14,000 to Area Students

CECA recently awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to area students. Reade Lanier Barber, Suren Samir Bhakta, Hanna Pittman, Grace A. Price and Bradley Robinson each received a \$2,000 scholarship for excellence, funded by unclaimed capital credits funds. Hallie Hagan and Joshua Johnson were awarded \$2,000 scholarships funded by Operation Round-Up. Congratulations to all of the recipients.



READE LANIER BARBER

is a senior at Comanche High School and the son of Victor and Leslie Barber. He will attend George Fox University to pursue a premedical degree in biology.



SUREN SAMIR BHAKTA

is a senior at Comanche High School and the son of Samir and Nita Bhakta. He will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in computer science.



HALLIE HAGAN

is a senior at Eastland High School. She will attend McMurry University and major in art.



JOSHUA JOHNSON

is a senior at Comanche High School. He will attend Tarleton State University and major in kinesiology.



HANNA PITTMAN

is a senior at Early High School. She will be attending Ranger College to pursue a nursing degree.



GRACE A. PRICE

is a senior at De Leon High School and is the daughter of Gabe and Shiloh Price. She will be attending Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in agribusiness.



BRADLEY ROBINSON

is a senior at Brownwood High School and the son of John and Christy Robinson. He will be attending Abilene Christian University, where he will major in kinesiology.



Grilled Jalapeño and Tomato Salsa

**6 jalapeño peppers,
seeded and stemmed**

3 tomatoes

**1 tablespoon chopped
fresh rosemary**

2 cloves garlic, chopped

**½ teaspoon olive oil,
plus more as desired**

Salt, to taste

1. Prepare a grill for direct heat cooking and build a medium-high fire.

2. Grill the jalapeños and tomatoes until blistered, turning as needed for even cooking, then place in a paper sack to steam.

3. Combine the rosemary, garlic and olive oil in a food processor and pulse into a coarse purée, then allow the mixture to macerate for a few minutes. Add jalapeños and pulse until the peppers are chopped. Remove to serving dish.

4. Place the grilled tomatoes in the food processor, add a pinch of salt and pulse 4–5 times, then fold into the pepper mixture. Taste for seasonings and adjust salt as desired.

MAKES 1½ CUPS

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Independence Day

Sunday, July 4

Our offices will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of the holiday.

National Chili Dog Day

Thursday, July 29

International Day of Friendship

Friday, July 30



Solar Scammers Are in Your Area

They are here, and they are active, so be on the lookout. CECA members are being approached by solar companies, some good and some not so good. How can you tell which is which?

SOLAR ENERGY has become a booming business, and for some consumers a very lucrative alternative to traditional power. But with the increasing popularity of solar power, some businesses are taking advantage of CECA members who are interested in generating their own energy. While some of the solar power system stories we hear have very happy endings, we at CECA have also heard our share of horror stories.

CECA knows how scammers work. Too often, the cooperative is contacted by members who have spent their hard-earned dollars on solar panels and are disappointed that they are not saving significant money on their electric bills. Although solar technology continues to improve and the price of panels and installation have decreased, it is still a hefty investment. The initial cost for a solar photovoltaic system is sizable compared to the savings on a member's monthly electric bill.

When contemplating the purchase of a solar power system, there is much to consider. What works for one person may not work for another. Your location may or may not be conducive to solar energy production. Don't let a scammer's one-size-fits-all approach convince you to make a hasty decision.

Solar Tips

CECA has seen a lot when it comes to solar companies and their sales tactics. We urge you to be aware of the following when shopping for solar:

- ▶ **Aggressive sales tactics:** A huge red flag is when a salesperson pressures a homeowner to sign a solar power contract or financing agreement they don't fully understand.
- ▶ **Oversizing systems:** A larger system does not always mean a larger payback. Do your research and know what you need before signing any agreement. CECA will be happy to assist you in that research.
- ▶ **Overpriced systems:** Shop around before purchasing anything. Know what's out there and be sure you know the average price of a system before purchasing.
- ▶ **Sketchy financing:** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Read the fine print and know your options before signing anything.
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Before Signing

Before signing anything, consider the following:

- ▶ Insist the salesperson provide paper copies of contracts and documents. Do not sign a computer-generated document based on what the salesperson tells you it says.
- ▶ Read every document that requires your signature or initials.
- ▶ Do not sign anything until all your questions are answered and you have the salesperson's promise in writing.
- ▶ Seek advice from a trusted adviser, preferably your utility provider, to ensure the system will interconnect properly.

At CECA we want to protect our members. We urge you to call and speak with our experts before making a solar energy purchase. Do not get roped into a long-term contract without understanding how CECA buys excess energy from you and can help ensure you are getting a good deal from a reputable company. Solar power can be a great option for many cooperative members, but the benefits are dependent on your usage profile and ability to take advantage of federal tax subsidies. Please consult with CECA's energy experts at 1-800-915-2533 before signing or purchasing anything.

If you are interested in solar panels for your home, CECA does have a solar program and can help you with decision-making. Historically our prices have been considerably better than some of the fly-by-night companies that have approached

our members. However, our goal is not to sell you a solar power system but to be sure you are making a sound solar power investment that will interconnect with CECA's system. Either way, our solar experts are here for you, and we advise you to consult with them.

For more information or a price comparison before you purchase, contact Riley Hilliard at rhilliard@ceca.coop or 1-800-915-2533. He can walk you through the process of a solar power system installation. ■



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Bat's Assorted Adventures

Roving gunslinger Bat Masterson made memorable stops in Texas

BY JOE HOLLEY

ON AN AUTUMN MORNING in 1921, a stocky, balding man in his late 60s sat at his desk in the newsroom of New York's *The Morning Telegraph*. He was putting the finishing touches on one of his columns, just as he had done three times a week for 18 years. As he typed the last word, he slumped over his desk and died, felled by a heart attack. A copy boy found him.

Although his name and sports column were well-known around the city, particularly among boxing enthusiasts, there was nothing in the man's appearance to suggest that he had been a living legend, no hint that his colorful life came close to matching the myth of the dime novels written about him decades earlier. Before becoming the proverbial ink-stained wretch—an observer rather than a doer—he had been a scout for the U.S. Army, a buffalo hunter, gambler, Dodge City sheriff, and friend of Wyatt Earp and later of President Theodore Roosevelt.

He was said to have been “the best known man between the Mississippi and the Pacific Coast,” *The New York Times* noted in the article reporting his death. The *Times* also called him “the last of the old time gun fighters.”

Joel McCrea played Bat Masterson in the 1959 film *The Gunfight at Dodge City*.

His name was Bartholemew William Barclay Masterson. Most people called him Bat.

It's hard to fathom how one man could have packed so many disparate adventures into one life. His was a life that inspired not only those dime novels but also serious biographies and historical accounts, a movie, a TV series, and a classic Broadway musical that features a thinly veiled Bat Masterson.

Several of Masterson's more memorable adventures took place in Texas. On a June morning in 1874, the 20-year-old Canadian-born Kansas farm boy was holed up with a party of buffalo hunters, 28 men and one woman, inside the ruins of an old trading post near the Canadian River and present-day Stinnett. An estimated 700 warriors led by Comanche chief Quanah Parker had the hunters under siege. At times they "descended on us like a storm," buffalo hunter Billy Dixon recalled years later, "taunting us in every imaginable way."

In the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, as it would come to be called, Masterson was the youngest of the hunters. He "was a chunk of steel," Dixon recalled, "and anything that struck him in those days always drew fire."

Masterson "should be remembered for the valor that marked his conduct," Dixon said. A year later, he was living in Mobeetie, a scruffy and lawless Panhandle settlement favored by buffalo hunters and soldiers from nearby Fort Elliott. Temple Lee Houston, a Panhandle attorney and Sam Houston's youngest son, described Mobeetie as "a baldheaded whiskey town." Rancher Charles Goodnight once said that Mobeetie may have been "the hardest place I ever saw on the frontier except Cheyenne, Wyoming."

Masterson was working as a faro dealer in a saloon called the Lady Gay. He hadn't been there long when he and a tough ex-cavalry sergeant named Melvin King got cross-ways over the affections of a dance-hall beauty named Mollie Brennan.

Near midnight on January 25, 1876, Brennan and Masterson were sitting at a table inside the dance hall where she worked. King burst in with a drawn revolver. His first shot hit Masterson, shattering his hip; the second tore through Brennan, killing her instantly. Masterson managed to rise off the floor and fire a shot, mortally wounding King.

Masterson left town. The young woman is buried in Old Mobeetie Cemetery.

The 21-year-old Masterson wandered into the Black Hills of South Dakota and then to Cheyenne before settling in Dodge City, Kansas. In that notorious cattle town, he made his living as a gambler and a county sheriff, working alongside Earp and his brothers.

Legend has it that Masterson killed 28 men during his years in the West, although three is more likely, including the man who shot and killed his brother, Ed Masterson, on a Dodge City street. Three is the number he claimed in court during a libel suit he filed against a New York newspaper.

Masterson left Dodge City in the early 1880s and spent most of the next 20 years in Denver, where he gambled, dealt faro and promoted prize fights. He also wrote for a Denver paper. In 1893 he married Emma Moulton, a young woman who ran races for money against her first husband, a world-class sprinter named Ed "the Gopher Boy" Moulton. She also was a juggler of bowling pins.

Masterson returned to Texas in 1896 for a heavyweight championship bout arranged by Judge Roy Bean, the self-proclaimed "Law West of the Pecos." Prize fighting had been outlawed in the U.S., so the fight took place in a ring hastily erected on a sandbar on the Mexico side of the Rio Grande. Masterson served as master of ceremonies and head of security. British boxer Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out Peter Maher, an Irishman, less than two minutes into the first round.

In 1902, Masterson and his wife moved to New York City, where he caught on with *The Morning Telegraph*. "The last of the old time gun fighters" loved city life, loved strolling around town wearing a dapper bowler hat and carrying a cane. In *Guys and Dolls*, the stage play and movie based on short stories by Masterson's friend Damon Runyon, one character, a Colorado gambler willing to bet on anything—the Marlon Brando character in the movie—is called Sky Masterson.

As a columnist, Masterson had a way with aphorisms, including the one he wrote on deadline, literally. Appearing two days after his death, Masterson's final column concluded with this observation: "There are those who argue that everything breaks even in this old dump of a world of ours. I suppose these ginks who argue that way hold that, because the rich man gets ice in the summer and the poor man gets it in winter, things are breaking even for both. Maybe so, but I'll swear I can't see it that way."

Bat Masterson was 67 when he died. His fingers weren't wrapped around a six-shooter on a dusty Western street; they rested near a typewriter in a New York City newsroom. The "best known man between the Mississippi and the Pacific Coast" lies buried in a Bronx cemetery. ■

Beachcombing at home.

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

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



Dear
Darryl

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

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

Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX

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

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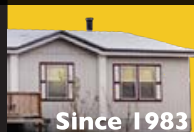
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Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

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TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong
read this story.



An Early RGV Mover

Col. Sam Robertson envisioned Boca Chica as the place
to launch his highway on the beach

BY W.F. STRONG

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, Col. Sam Robertson stood on the same Boca Chica Beach that Elon Musk owns today and dreamed a different dream. Instead of Musk's spaceport, Robertson dreamed of seaports and an oceanside highway.

Robertson owned 800 acres at Boca Chica, and it was likely some of the same 1,000 acres now managed by Musk's companies. Back then Robertson built the railroad that connected the Rio Grande Valley to the wider world. He had founded the town of San Benito, serving as sheriff and helping to run the Ku Klux Klan out of the region.

He had repurposed the old resacas to irrigate the lower Valley. In 1926 he gathered RGV leaders in Brownsville's El Jardin Hotel to make his pitch for an

oceanside highway that would run from Boca Chica to Corpus Christi and become, in his words, "the most beautiful 150 miles of highway in the world."

Robertson laid out his vision before the Rio Grande Valley Commercial Club. "I have traveled somewhat extensively in this world," he said, "and have never seen any scenery wilder or more beautiful than this stretch of beach."

Robertson was not only an entrepreneur; he was a decorated soldier and noted engineer. In 1916 he served as a scout for Gen. Jack Pershing in the pursuit of Pancho Villa in Mexico. During World War I, he served in Europe as a commander of the 22nd Engineers, building railroads and bridges for Allied troops in France. He was awarded the

Distinguished Service Medal for bravery under fire.

The business leaders of the Valley trusted his vision because they believed his claims. He wasn't pitching a black-top road.

"The beach is as smooth as a billiard table," Robertson said. "No road can be constructed by man as good for autoing as the beach, and the Gulf of Mexico maintains it." All you would need is maintenance crews to move driftwood out of the way, he said, telling those assembled that he had explored the beach from Corpus Christi to the mouth of the Rio Grande River and that a highway was quite possible and would bring in enormous numbers of tourists.

Robertson advocated the laying in of water lines for irrigation because then the beachscapes could be enhanced with "bermuda grass, live oak trees, palms and other beautiful trees along the sand hills of the beaches."

Such a development would be good for the Rio Grande Valley, too, he argued. With good roads to Boca Chica Beach, Valleyites could have a Sunday lunch at home, then drive to the beach for a Sunday afternoon swim at the beach and still be home by 10 p.m.

Robertson's oceanside highway was never developed. But looking at South Padre and North Padre today, with their causeway bridges, carefully maintained beaches, opulent hotels and verdant landscaping, you can see that his dream for the island has been partially realized.

Robertson opened his Del Mar Resort on Boca Chica Beach in 1931, but the resort was virtually wiped out by a hurricane in 1933. He rebuilt within six months and constructed an asphalt road from Brownsville to Boca Chica Beach because his personal mantra was "Civilization follows transportation."

Musk would like that, too. ■

Ice Cream and Sorbets

Churn out flavorful treats sure to take the edge off a Texas summer

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

One blessing of the Texas heat is that we rarely need an excuse to indulge in a cool, creamy bowl of ice cream. When I make ice cream, I tend to opt for Philadelphia-style, which does not use eggs. After chilling the liquid, you can let your machine churn it while you're eating dinner and have fresh soft serve for dessert. Amaretto helps keep this ice cream soft enough to scoop, but if you prefer, you can substitute ½ teaspoon of almond extract.

Cherry Amaretto Ice Cream

1 jar (11 ounces) maraschino cherries, without stems, divided use
1½ cups heavy cream
1½ cups whole milk
½ cup sugar
2 tablespoons amaretto liqueur

1. Strain cherries over a bowl, reserving liquid. Slice half the cherries into quarters and set aside.
2. Purée remaining cherries with the reserved juice, then pour into a medium bowl. Whisk in cream, milk and sugar. Cover and chill 2 hours.
3. When ready to make the ice cream, add amaretto and mix well. Pour the mixture into an ice cream maker and freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. In the last few minutes of churning, mix in the reserved sliced cherries. Scoop ice cream into freezer containers and chill completely, until ready to serve.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

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





Texas Wildflower Honey Ice Cream

MELISSA TURLEY
BANDERA EC

This ice cream is sure to be a hit for honey lovers. Turley re-created the recipe after tasting a similar version at a local restaurant. Note that the honey makes this a very soft ice cream, so be sure to keep it frozen right up until serving.

1 cup whole milk
¾ cup raw honey
2 cups heavy cream
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1. In a bowl, whisk together milk and honey until well blended. Add cream and vanilla and mix well. Cover and refrigerate 1–2 hours or overnight.
2. When ready to make the ice cream, stir mixture and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

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\$500 WINNER

Pecan Caramel Pear Ice Cream

KRYSABELLE GILBERT
WOOD COUNTY EC



Don't be daunted by the extra steps for the mix-ins in this ice cream—the results are well worth the effort. "It tastes just like eating a pear upside-down cake a la mode," says Gilbert, who came up with the recipe after a neighbor shared a harvest bounty. If you can't find Asian pears, Bosc pears make a suitable substitute.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS

ICE CREAM
2 eggs
½ cup sugar
1½ cups heavy cream
1½ cups whole milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

CARAMEL PEARS
2 Asian pears
¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter
½ cup sugar

PECANS
1 egg white
1 tablespoon water
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups pecans, chopped
¼ cup sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ cup diced crystallized ginger

COOK'S TIP Crystallized ginger can be found in the spice section, but you can also leave it out.

1. ICE CREAM In a small bowl, whisk eggs and ½ cup sugar together until thickened and pale.

2. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, bring cream and milk to a simmer. Slowly whisk half the heated liquid into the egg mixture to temper, then pour tempered egg mixture back into saucepan.

3. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick and coats the back of a wooden spoon.

4. Strain into a large bowl and let cool to room temperature, then stir in vanilla and cinnamon. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

5. CARAMEL PEARS About an hour before churning, make the mix-ins. Peel pears and chop into ½-inch chunks.

6. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add ½ cup sugar and cook until it starts to turn golden. Add pears, stirring to coat, and cook 10–15 minutes, or until golden brown and caramel has thickened.

7. Pour pears onto a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet to cool.

8. PECANS Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together egg white, water and vanilla. Add chopped pecans and toss to coat.

9. In a large plastic bag, combine sugar, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, cloves and ground ginger. Add pecans and shake to completely coat nuts.

10. Spread nuts on a rimmed baking sheet and bake 20 minutes, stirring once halfway through. Stir again and let cool completely.

11. When ready to make the ice cream, stir the ice cream base and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. Add pears, pecans and crystallized ginger in the last few minutes of freezing. Scoop ice cream into freezer containers and let chill completely before serving.





Strawberry Perfection

LAMONT PETERSEN
NAVARRO COUNTY EC
BANDERA EC

Ideal for summer, when strawberries are at their peak, strawberry ice cream is a hit for all ages. The fruit is macerated before blending to soften and release juices, which allows the berry flavor to pop.

1 pound strawberries, hulled and sliced
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt

Which Ice Cream Maker Is Right for You?

BY MEGAN MYERS

When it comes to making ice cream at home, there are two main types of machines: electric and traditional.

Electric

Countertop electric ice cream machines are widely available and make churning at home a breeze. Their smaller size makes them ideal for those who like to make ice cream often or enjoy experimenting with flavors. Keep in mind, however, that the mixing bowl needs to be pre-chilled, so you'll need to plan ahead.

Traditional

If you grew up with hand-churned ice cream makers, you'll be familiar with this style, which uses rock salt and ice packed around a center compartment. While hand cranks are still available, these now have an electric motor option as well. The standard size makes 4 quarts of ice cream, so make room in your freezer.

2 cups heavy cream
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1. In a bowl, combine sliced strawberries, sugar and salt. Cover and refrigerate 1–2 hours to release juices.
2. Stir mixture well and purée berries with the accumulated juices.

3. Whisk together purée, cream and vanilla. Cover and chill in the refrigerator 2 hours.

4. When ready to make the ice cream, stir mixture and pour into an ice cream maker. Freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions.

MAKES 1.5 QUARTS



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The reverse of the 2021 release displays a scene from the famous Battle of the Alamo. It depicts two Texian soldiers including the American icon, Davy Crockett, attempting to fend off Mexican soldiers attempting to breach the walls of the Alamo.



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second in the series ● ● ● ●

The events of this famous battle took place on the days of February 23rd - March 6th, 1836. At the end of a 13-day siege, President General Antonio López de Santa Anna and his Mexican troops reclaimed the Alamo Mission, killing the Texian and immigrant occupiers.

The Texas Silver Round can be purchased in a monster box produced exclusively for the Texas Mint. Packaged in 20 protective tubes of 25 rounds each, the monster box holds 500 1-ounce Texas Silver Rounds. Built from durable cold-rolled steel and finished with a matte black powder coat, the monster box lid features an orange cutout of the state of Texas. Each sealed monster box is secured with a unique serial number and a holographic seal to ensure maximum product protection.

The Texas Silver Round is also available to purchase in a similarly designed and secured mini-monster box, which contains 10 protective tubes of 25 rounds each for a total of 250 silver rounds.



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A Serious Undertaking

Houston funeral museum pays its respects to the inevitable

BY CHET GARNER

AN OVERCAST SKY painted the North Houston landscape with a somber shade of gray, which seemed appropriate as I approached the National Museum of Funeral History. Based on the institution's name, I expected an experience akin to a carnival sideshow or a roadside attraction full of plastic corpses and otherworldly burial stories. Instead of a tribute to the bizarre, I found a museum staffed by funeral directors who take their profession—and its history—very seriously.

Starting with a narrative of Egyptian mummies and mummification, I followed a serpentine path through the cavernous building, learning about funerary topics such as custom casket-making and the embalming techniques of the Civil War. Each lesson was communicated through detailed displays or life-size dioramas. Most impressive was the collection of classic hearses, one of which served in the funerals of presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. Also fascinating was the step-by-step description of how a pope is laid to rest. This sequence chronicled the death and burial of Pope John Paul III, whose funeral was one of the largest in history.

As expected, I saw displays to satisfy the morbidly curious, such as a three-person casket and the ghost stories that accompany one of the horse-drawn hearses. I found one entire room with memorabilia from the funerals of celebrities such as Michael Jackson, Neil Armstrong and Gene Wilder. That room seemed like a funeral home version of Planet Hollywood.

I could have spent hours learning more about every detail of how we humans mourn and pay tribute to those we've lost. It turns out that honoring the dead is a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of humans. This strange yet compelling museum can help us become a little more comfortable with our own inevitable conclusion. ■

ABOVE Even at a funeral museum, Chet's mug is half full.

TCP WEB EXTRA Chet ponders life's grave consequences in his latest video. See all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

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

JULY 03

Bandera [3, 10, 17, 31]
Cowboys on Main,
 (830) 796-3781,
banderacowboycapital.com

Bulverde [3, 10, 17, 24, 31]
Saturday Night Rodeo,
 (830) 980-2226,
tejasrodeo.com

05

Salado [5–Aug. 26] Women, Aviation and WWII,
 (254) 947-5232,
saladomuseum.org

07

Goliad [7, 14, 21, 28]
Wayback Wednesdays,
 (361) 645-3752,
presidiolabahia.org

08

Palestine [8, 10, 15–17, 22–24, 29–31] Diesel Round Trip,
 1-855-632-7729,
texasstaterailroad.net

09

Palestine Wines in the Pines, 1-855-632-7729,
texasstaterailroad.net

Gladewater [9–10] East Texas Gusher Days,
 (903) 845-5501,
gusher-days.com

10

Arlington Micky and the Motorcars, (817) 543-4301,
levittpavilionarlington.org

Corpus Christi Plumeria Passions, (361) 852-2100,
stxbot.org

11

Arlington Courtney Patton,
 (817) 543-4301,
levittpavilionarlington.org

15

Fredericksburg [15-18]
Beauty and the Beast Jr.,
 1-888-669-7114,
fredericksburgtheater.org

16

Taylor [16-17] Taylor
 Rodeo, (512) 238-2101,
wilcoexpo.com

Temple [16-17] Wildflower
 Quilt Guild Quilt Show,
 (254) 220-5597,
wildflowerquiltguild.com

Fredericksburg [16-18]
 Trade Days, (210) 846-4094,
fbgtradedays.com

17

**Fredericksburg Night in
 Old Fredericksburg**, (830)
 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

**Howe Hotter 'N Howe Sum-
 mer Bash**, (903) 532-6080,
howechamber.com

Lockney Christmas in July,
 (806) 983-6228

23

Fredericksburg [23-25]
 Hill Country Swap Meet,
 (254) 751-7958, [earhart
 productions.com/
 hill-country-swap-meet](http://earhartproductions.com/hill-country-swap-meet)

24

Arlington Green Day,
Fall Out Boy and Weezer,
 (817) 533-1972,
hellamegatour.com

**Bandera National Day of
 the Cowboy**, (210) 215-1995,
[nationaldayofthecowboy
 bandera.com](http://nationaldayofthecowboybandera.com)

**Bandera Ridin' the River
 Cowboy Fellowship Ranch
 Rodeo**, (830) 460-0710,
ridintheriver.com

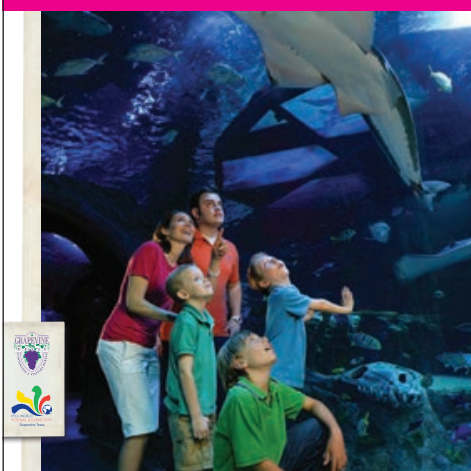
**Waxahachie Indian Artifact
 Show**, (979) 574-6501

MORE EVENTS >

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

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Event Calendar

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TexasCoopPower.com/events

24

Buffalo Gap [24-25] Tour de Gap, (325) 829-0617, tourdegap.com

29

Clute [29-31] Great Texas Mosquito Festival, (979) 265-8392, mosquitofestival.com

Brenham [29-Aug. 1] The Wizard of Oz, (979) 830-8358, unitybrenham.org

Fredericksburg [29-Aug. 1] Hill Country Film Festival, 1-866-224-7714, hillcountryff.com

30

Bonham [30-31] Quilt Hop, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

31

Columbus Country Market, (979) 732-8385, columbusfmtx.org

AUGUST

06

Kerrville [6-7, 13-15, 20-22] Murder on the Orient Express, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

07

Bellville Farmers Market, (979) 865-3407, discoverbellville.com

Fredericksburg Texas Ranger Day History Symposium, (830) 990-1192, trhc.org

Freeport KidFest, (979) 233-0066, freeport.tx.us

Palestine Saturdays on Main, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

South Padre Island [7-8] Pro-Am Beach Soccer Tournament, (415) 308-0603, sopadre.com

Bulverde [7, 14, 21, 28] Saturday Night Rodeo, (830) 980-2226, tejasrodeo.com



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Night Life

No, it isn't hot in Texas; and the cool night dew's are falling,
And the katydids are chirping in the grass beside the pool;
And from out the moonlit distances the mockingbirds are calling,
And I know the days are hazy and the nights perfumed and cool.

From *Longing for Texas* by Judd Mortimer Lewis

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

MICHELE TECH
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Honky-tonk nights at Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth.

CHARLES BAXTER
COSERV

The Fort Davis Drug Store and Hotel.

KYLEIGH HOLLE
HILCO EC

The Dallas skyline at night with car light trails.

ELYSE KANA
BLUEBONNET EC

The other side of nowhere, Big Bend Ranch State Park.



Upcoming Contests

DUE JUL 10 Funny Signs

DUE AUG 10 Bridges

DUE SEP 10 Fired Up!

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Common Ground

Whether many acres or a pint-size lot, there's pride and joy in land ownership

BY RHONDA REINHART
ILLUSTRATION BY LINDA BLECK

IN THE BLACK-AND-WHITE Westerns that my dad used to watch when I was a kid, a cowboy hat-clad rancher might head out on horseback to survey his domain, a vast expanse of dusty terrain spanning thousands of acres. My father wasn't a rancher by any means, but he did own a 10-acre spread in deep East Texas where he raised all manner of animals, including guinea fowl, hogs and cows.

He loved "going to the land," as we called it back then, and he spent countless hours building pens, planting vegetable gardens, clearing sections of the property and walking mile after mile through the seemingly endless stretch of pines.

I did not share my father's affinity for going to the land, and even though I spent plenty of time out there with

him over the years, I would have much preferred to be back in Houston, reading a book, hanging out with friends or sitting in a cool, dark theater watching a movie—definitely not a Western. In fact after I left home, I spent two decades living in apartments, townhouses and condos—surrounded by land covered in concrete instead of pine needles and serenaded by the sounds of traffic instead of livestock.

About five years ago, however, I reached my limit on sharing walls with nosy neighbors and knowing that I was spending my hard-earned money to live atop ground that would never be mine. So I decided to purchase my own tiny patch of land.

At my little homestead in northwest Dallas, unlike the sprawling ranches in those old Westerns—or even my father's modest parcel in the Piney Woods—I merely have to peek out the back door to take in the full 7,976 square feet of North Texas soil that belongs to me. After 20 years of having little more than a balcony or patio at my disposal, the 0.18 acre on which my 1952 cottage sits feels enormous to me. I've even dubbed the small section of yard behind the garage "the back forty."

My dad died years ago, and his land was sold. While I don't have his knack for animal husbandry or even one-tenth of the acreage he owned in Sam Houston Electric Cooperative's service area, I do have a dog who loves to roll in the grass, sunbathe in the driveway and patrol the grounds for squirrels and opossums. I've also been thinking about starting a garden where I can grow my own tomatoes and cucumbers, some of my dad's favorite crops.

I can't be certain, but I'm betting that if he were still around, those things alone would earn me his signature grin and a nod. ■



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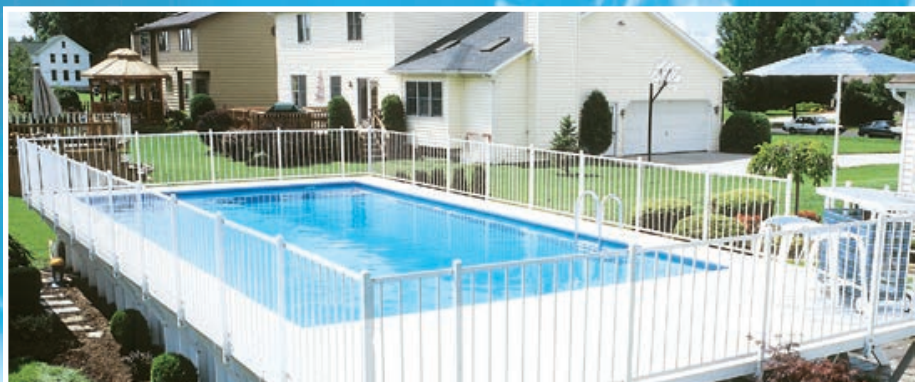


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