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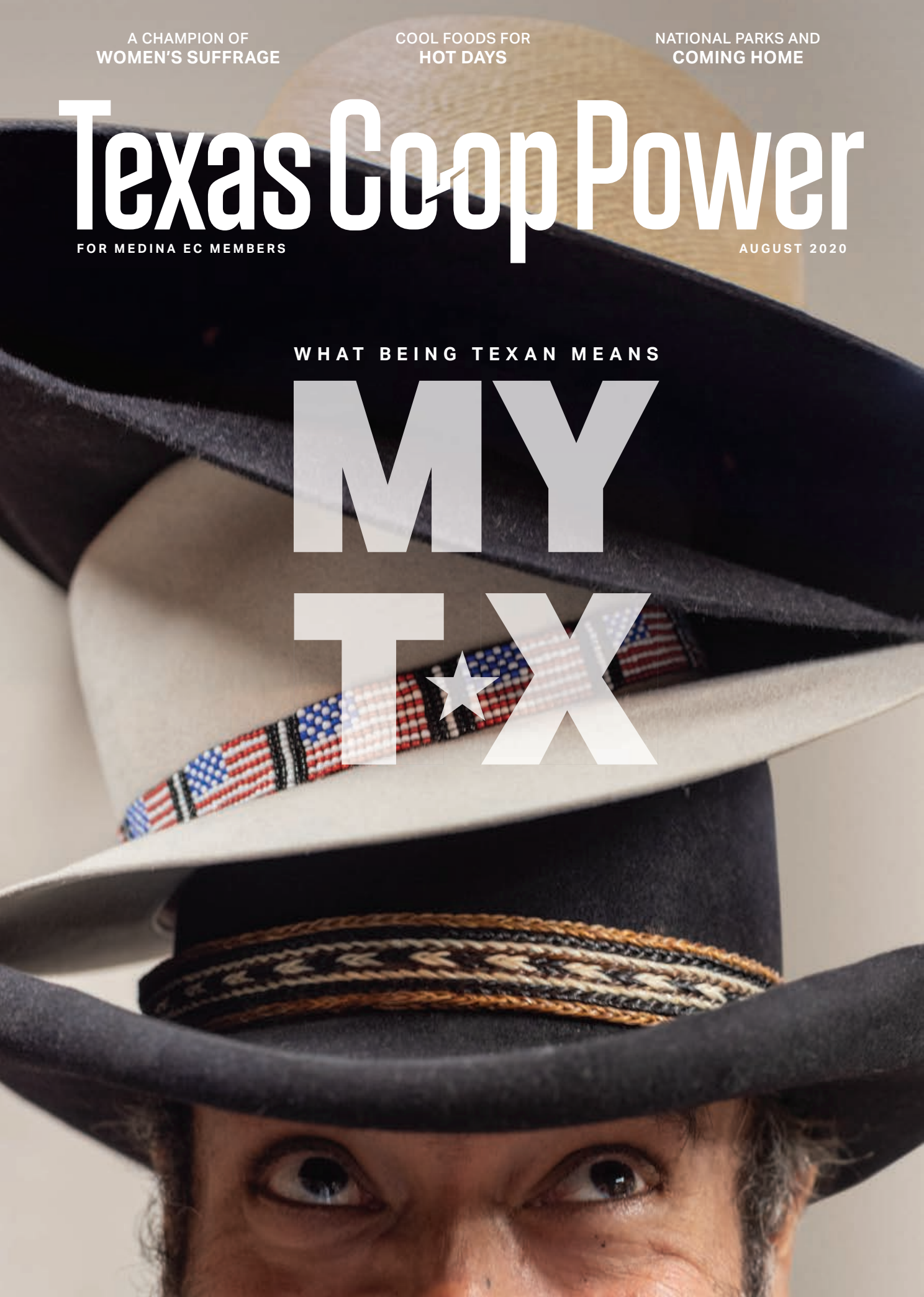
Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2020

WHAT BEING TEXAN MEANS

MY
TX



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August 2020



08

MY TX

What does being a Texan mean? A variety of folks with special connections to the state share their thoughts.

Introduction by Joe Holley

ON THE COVER
David Torres
of Texas Hatters.
*Photo by Wyatt
McSpadden*

ABOVE
One reason
we love Texas?
Bluebonnets!
Photo by Eric W. Pohl

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Observations

Coming Home
*Story and photo by
karla k. morton
and Alan
Birkelbach*

Bee Aware

FLOW HIVE, an Australian company that markets a structure to harvest honey without disturbing the bees, reminds us as we recognize World Honey Bee Day on August 15 how essential bees are to life on Earth. The more than 19,000 species of bees are responsible for pollinating 30% of the world's food crops and 90% of wild plants.

For the past 15 years, bee populations have been declining at an alarming rate largely due to climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

Worker bees, which are female, produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their five- to six-week life span. These are the only bees most people ever see.



What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.

“Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has ever blessed my vision.”

—SAM HOUSTON

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

WHEN I THINK OF TEXAS, I THINK OF ...

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 city. Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **To me, being a Texan means ...**

It's already 90 degrees by 9 a.m. and saying, "Oh, what a beautiful day."

MIKE WHITLEY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
MCKINNEY

Being the salt of the earth and having a salty story or two to prove it.

MARK BROWNING
SAM HOUSTON EC
GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

DALENE MASDEN
MEDINA EC
MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'.

CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.





TCP'S NEW LOOK

From cover to cover, *Texas Co-op Power* is a new magazine. Read, enjoy and share your ideas about every section. We want to hear from all 3.7 million of you, by email or on Facebook.

127.36
feet

Ashrita Furman caught an intact water balloon thrown 127.36 feet by Bipin Larkin—a world record—on August 8, 2012, in New York. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day.



Acclaimed Clipper

HENRY MILLER MORGAN opened the first college for African American barbers in 1933 in downtown Tyler. The school had only five chairs, but it thrived, and within 20 years Morgan had opened schools in Houston, Dallas, New York, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Morgan was born 125 years ago—August 25, 1895, in Tyler.



TCP Contests and More

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

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Enter to win copies of three books mentioned in this issue.

FROM OUR ARCHIVE
Want more about cowboy hats?
Check out *Cowboy Hatters* from April 2016.



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Rare Treat

The last time I saw a horny toad was 15-plus years ago, and that was the first time I had seen one in probably 25 years [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. I caught the little guy to show my boys; they had never seen one before. We looked him over. I didn't want to let him go, but I knew we had to.

Tammie Frenzel
Heart of Texas EC
Westphalia



I grew up playing with these prehistoric lizards just a mile from where I currently live [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. These fellas are still breeding strong out here.

ALICEA LOGAN-
MASTERS
VIA FACEBOOK



An Alternate Reality

"I read *Black Like Me* in 1967 in high school. Eye-opening and inspiring, which led me to choose *I Have a Dream* for a class presentation."

JOYCE BATTARBEE
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC
JEWETT

Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?

I am aghast you did not include Mi Tierra in the heart of El Mercado [*We Brake for Queso*, June 2020]. Opened in 1941, sitting 500 patrons at a time and slinging enchiladas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Noble Dunson
Central Texas EC
Kingsland

We don't want to forget Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. I've been eating there for 24 years and have not had one bad meal.

Patricia Martin
Cherokee County EC
Starrville

Dear Dairy

I love the photo on telling us Texas Tech University will have a vet school [*More Critter Care*, Currents, June 2020]. Texas A&M is a fabulous institution, but they discontinued their dairy science program several years ago. (Your photo showed a Holstein dairy calf.) Texas Tech will, I hope, bring dairy science back to our veterinary programs.

Gabrielle Gordon
Tri-County EC
Tarrant County

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

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MY T★X

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

DURING MY TIME as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* some years ago, I also taught a journalism course every semester at George Washington University. One morning in class, I happened to mention that I had crafted something of an unofficial beat I called “eccentric Texans.”

A young woman remarked, “Gee, Mr. Holley, you sure must be busy!”

I suppose I was.

There was something about my native state that seemed to lend itself to individuality, if not necessarily eccentricity, whether I was writing about big-time politicians, athletes, show people, even a renowned lady wrestler from Amarillo. If they were Texans, chances are there was a particularity about them that defied predictability.

Living in D.C. and working at *The Post*, I was still a Texan. The place where I was born and where I had lived most of my life was in my bones, in my blood. I couldn’t shake my Texas identity any more easily than I could smooth out my Central Texas twang. It gradually dawned on me that when I wrote about Texas, I wrote with more authority, more concreteness, more feeling for the place and its people. I decided to come home—home to Texas.

My return meant coming home to family, literally and figuratively. Once again covering the immense expanse of Texas as a journalist, I rediscovered not only the rich diversity of this place but also the shared sense of identity that transcends difference. Whether I’m talking to a Panhandle rancher near Lipscomb or an East Texas teacher in Kirbyville, a Gulf Coast shrimper out of Port Isabel or a West Texas nurse in McCamey, I know—and they know—that we both are Texans. This place has shaped us.

Black, brown or white; man or woman; old or young—we’re family. Like your kinfolks and mine, we don’t always get along, but as Texans we share an identity and an abiding respect for what we have in common. We know each other well. **JOE HOLLEY**





“THE MOMENT I KNEW what it meant to be Texan was the evening my wife and I were invited to watch George Strait play a private show at Gruene Hall a few years back. There were all kinds of people in the room—professional wrestlers, songwriters, regular folks, you name it. The random group of people came from all walks of life to see and hear King George. It was the epitome of ‘Texanness.’”

JAY B SAUCEDA is an entrepreneur and photographer whose book *A Mile Above Texas* features 150 photos of Texas taken from a Cessna 182T. Saucedo was raised in La Porte.



HE HAS MADE MUSIC for decades, though you've probably never heard Mark Erlewine play. He's a luthier—a repairer and creator of guitars at his shop in Austin. A badly mangled instrument affirmed his karma as a Texan, though it's not the threadbare acoustic guitar for which he is legendary.

"I was in my shop about 20 years ago, when a man and woman, decked out in full Texas attire—jeans, cowboy boots and hats—came in with a large black garbage bag holding the pieces of a Martin guitar," Erlewine says. "The man explained that she had put the guitar over his head during one of their arguments, but since then they had started counseling to mend their relationship. They told me part of the process of putting their relationship back together was to have the guitar put back together.

"I was able to mend the guitar and can only hope their relationship has fared as well."

There's no question about the love story of the other guitar—Willie Nelson's Trigger. Willie's pick and fingernails have carved a gaping hole in the spruce wood of his Martin N-20 classical guitar.

The strains of that relationship fall to Erlewine to mend, and as he has since 1976, he lovingly and tenderly nurses Trigger. Reunited with Willie, they continue a love story that has enraptured a state and changed its musical history.

MARK ERLEWINE first fell in love with Texas when he visited with friends from high school in 1967. He moved his guitar shop to Austin from Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1974.





"STOPPING THE CAR immediately to place down kids and puppies in a field of bluebonnets for pictures. Could there be a snake in there? Sure. But the pictures are worth it."

TIFFANY CHEN, who, with husband Leon, started Tiff's Treats in 1999 in an Austin apartment while they were students at the University of Texas. Today the cookie and brownie delivery company has 46 locations in Texas and operates in Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte.



"STEVIE USED TO SIT THERE and play for tips to pay for getting his hat blocked," David Torres says, gesturing toward the two-seat shoeshine stand by the front door of Texas Hatters in Lockhart. "We modified the flat top and named it the SRV."

Not every celebrity gets a Texas Hatters style named for them. There is no Prince Charles or Pierce Brosnan or George W. Bush. Stevie Ray Vaughan did get the SRV.

Torres apprenticed at Texas Hatters when he met the owner's daughter, Joella, who later became his wife. She represents the third generation to operate the celebrated business, which moved to Lockhart from Buda in 2006.

"I grew up in the shop," Joella says, "and making a hat is like making a sculpture."

DAVID TORRES and **JOELLA GAMMAGE-TORRES** operate Texas Hatters in Lockhart. Many Texans will remember the original Austin location on South Lamar Boulevard.





"I HAVE LOGGED more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. No matter where I traveled and lived, I have always returned to Texas."

BERNARD A. HARRIS JR., a physician, former astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. The Temple native is CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in Dallas.



"WE'RE PROUD TO BE TEXANS," says Tom Perini, who with his wife, Lisa, owns Perini Ranch Steakhouse. "We're out here in the real Texas, surrounded by wheat and cattle."

They share the story of the day four men in suits came in. "They were looking around and made me nervous. I thought they might be insurance inspectors or something," Tom says, "so I went over and sat down." It turns out the four were developing a steakhouse concept for a restaurant chain.

"What do you do to make this place so Texas?" one asked.

"We don't," Tom answered. "It is."

TOM and LISA PERINI own the legendary Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap.

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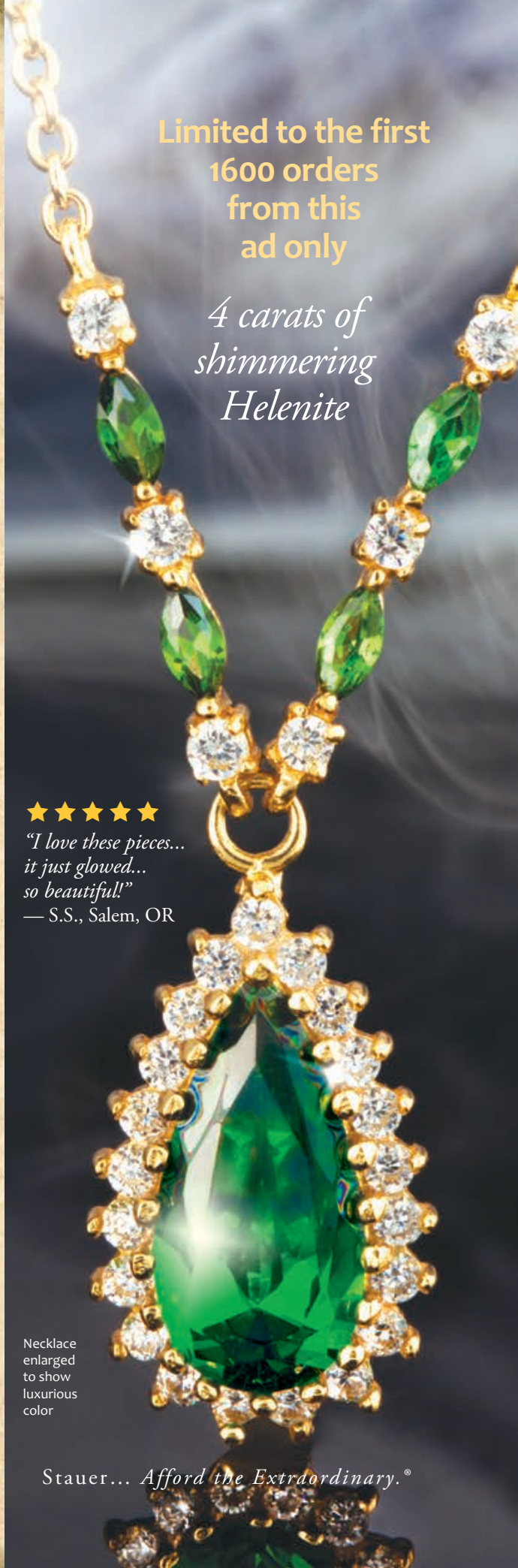
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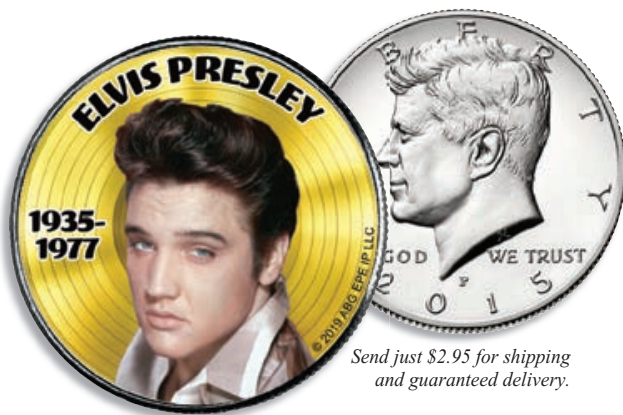
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MESSAGE
FROM CEO

MARK
ROLLANS

'Texas Co-op Power' Gets a New Look

But all your favorite content is here to stay

YOU MIGHT HAVE noticed something was different when you pulled this magazine out of your mailbox. Perhaps you thought the cover looked a little different.

Well, you're right, but the changes go deeper than that. Much like the Medina EC bill you got in July, *Texas Co-op Power* has undergone a complete redesign. Even though it has a new look, it's the same magazine you know and love.

Every month, *Texas Co-op Power* is delivered to entertain, enlighten and educate you and your family. The magazine is a warm and friendly source for all things Texan, and like a well-informed neighbor, offers the secrets to making fabulous, family-pleasing meals; reveals hidden gems of the Texas landscape; and recounts the humorous, quirky, solemn and often untold stories of our state's history. Also like a good neighbor, it reminds you how to save on your electric bill.

Most importantly, *Texas Co-op Power* is one of the ways which Medina EC communicates directly with you, our members, and is a critical component in our efforts to fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 5—

Education, Training and Information.

Through these pages, we report on matters important to the co-op, such as director elections and changes to our bylaws; share tips to help you maximize the energy efficiency of your home; and offer safety information that could save your life. We also use this magazine to help you understand how new technologies—which continue

to advance at a sometimes overwhelming pace—fit into your daily life.

As with everything in life, tastes change—and magazine design is no exception. While Medina EC is not one to jump on the bandwagon for the latest craze, we do realize when one of our products or services is in need of an overhaul. That's why we're

excited to share this redesign with you.

For more than a year, the team behind *Texas Co-op Power* has worked diligently to update the look of the magazine without sacrificing any of the content or character that inspires our members, month after month, to crack open these pages for some uniquely Texan stories—and a healthy dose of the cooperative spirit.

One of the major changes you may have noticed is the new *Texas Co-op Power* logo. The last time the logo was updated was in the mid-1990s. The new logo incorporates a modern feel that's in line with the magazine's evolution but sticks to its roots.

As you flip through this month's issue, you'll also see new colors and fonts, and more visually striking page layouts. Despite these changes, all of your favorite content is still here.

Texas Co-op Power remains dedicated to telling the stories of Texas' unique people, history, mythology, culture and geography—the Texan way of life—as seen through the equally unique co-op lens. Readers will still enjoy all the best the magazine has to offer, from recipes, contests and event listings to travel narratives and other features, as well as local news concerning Medina EC and the communities we serve. Readers can also still enjoy expanded content, contests and other special treats at TexasCoopPower.com and on our Facebook page and by subscribing to our e-newsletters.

The magazine has evolved with an eye toward the future, but it retains all the hallmarks that generations of rural electric cooperative members have cherished since the first issue in 1944. Just like Medina EC, it's here to stay and better than ever. ■



Linemen train to climb utility poles NOT BULLETIN BOARDS

Help us keep our linemen safe.

Utility poles are there to support the equipment and lines that bring electricity to communities. They aren't there to advertise what is happening in the community or to serve as a community hot spot. Yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, lights and birdhouses are all no-nos.

These obstructions are dangerous for our crews. Unwelcome clutter on utility poles compromises our linemen's safety equipment, leaving them vulnerable to electrocution or injuries.

Anyone posting items on utility poles is also at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines.

Think before you post that sign!



Always practice safety.

Medina Electric Cooperative



CONTACT US

Toll-Free 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Email Info@MedinaEC.org

Web MedinaEC.org

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Outage? Call us.

TOLL-FREE

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Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

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Rio Grande City 601 N. FM 3167,
Rio Grande City 78582

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Corporate Office 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

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MedinaEC.org



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Información sobre todos los programas y servicios que ofrece Medina Electric Cooperative están disponibles en Español al llamarnos al 1-866-MEC-ELEC o visitando una de nuestras oficinas.



Web Extra: Visit MedinaEC.org/EnergySavings for a Flipping the Switch word scramble your kids can complete for a prize.

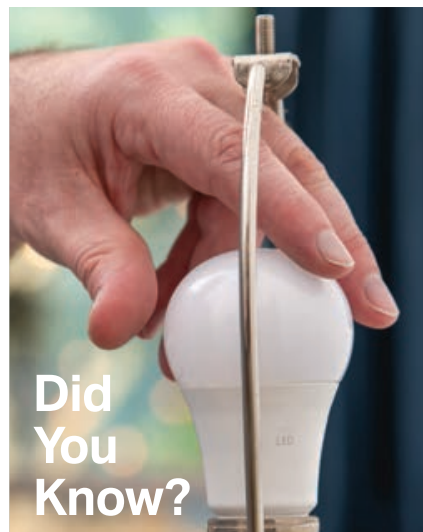
Make Energy Savings Fun for Kids

WANT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN to use energy more efficiently? Make it a fun, interactive learning experience.

Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Give your kids a penny or even a quarter every time you see them turning off the lights or TV when they leave a room. Take a coin back if they leave their video games running or leave lights on in an empty room.
- ▶ Reward older kids with a small bonus on their allowance each month that they help lower the household energy bill.
- ▶ Educate your children about how they might be wasting energy by holding the refrigerator door open or leaving the front door ajar when they run outside. Put them on the lookout for energy wasters like phone chargers that are plugged into the wall without a phone on the other end or TVs that are on when nobody's watching.
- ▶ Spend an afternoon decorating badges that put your children in charge of your home's Operation: Save Energy. Then take them on a "raid" of the house, looking for ways your family is wasting energy.
- ▶ Set up an energy efficiency obstacle course. Send your kids on a race through the house to find other family members or friends acting out energy-wasting activities. Tell your kids they have to find culprits in each room and correct the energy wasters before they can move on.
- ▶ Time them as they race through the house and award points each time they correct an action.
- ▶ Each week, post a chart on the refrigerator and keep a tally of each time a family member gets caught wasting energy. The person with the fewest tallies by Friday night gets to pick the movie.

In addition to making saving energy a game rather than a chore, explain the "why" of energy conservation. Why should kids care? Saving money on the electric bill could mean more money for fun activities. ■



Did You Know?

The terms energy efficiency and energy conservation have distinct meanings. Energy efficiency uses technology to reduce consumption while performing the same function. Energy conservation is behavior that results in the use of less energy.

SCOTT VAN OSDOL | COOPERATIVE.COM



POWER TIP

Save electricity and money on laundry day by washing clothes in cold water, doing full loads and air-drying clothes instead of using a clothes dryer.

RACCOL STUDIO | FREEPIK.COM

Raise Your Thermostat, Lower Your Bill

Conserve electricity in hot weather and help reduce high energy bills.

Setting your thermostat to 78 (and a few degrees higher when you're away) will make a difference. Each degree you increase can save 3% to 5%.

Save even more!

Turn off and unplug unused lights and appliances.

Close shades and blinds during the day to reduce heat loss.

Change air conditioning filters.

A full freezer costs less to run than an empty one.

Medina EC encourages you to always use energy efficiently.

No Average Cooperatives

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE not alone in the co-op world. The cooperative model of doing business is effective for a variety of operations. Here are four basic types of cooperatives.

Producer Cooperatives

Members of producer cooperatives have separate ventures, such as farms or art studios, but they come together for marketing, insurance, supplies and more. Land O'Lakes is a producer co-operative.

Worker Cooperatives

Worker cooperatives are owned, governed and self-managed by their workers, who also earn money from the profits of their labor. Black Star Co-op brewpub in Austin is a worker-owned cooperative.

Consumer Cooperatives

The people who buy from the co-op are the owners of consumer cooperatives. Consumer cooperatives provide everything from electricity to groceries to health care. Medina Electric Cooperative is a consumer co-op.

Credit Unions

Any account holder at a credit union is a member-owner of this alternative to a for-profit bank. ■



MEC Wants to Help Pay It Forward

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who you have wanted to help due to COVID-19 or other life circumstances but haven't had the resources? Medina EC wants to help you pay it forward to help others, while also helping you!

Nominate a friend in need by completing the form found at MedinaEC.org/TCP by September 15. Explain the circumstances your friend is currently experiencing and what the gift card would be used for. The nominee will be entered to win a \$50 Mastercard gift card, and if your nominee wins, you in turn will win a \$25 Mastercard gift card. The winner will be randomly selected. The winners will be featured in our November issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.



The nominator must be a current Medina EC member and is limited to one nomination. Multiple nominations will result in disqualification.

If you have any questions about the contest, please contact us at MyCoop@MedinaEC.org.

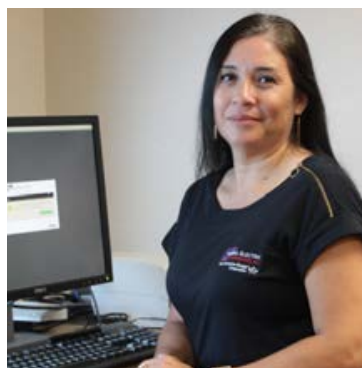
We Want Your Feedback

STARTING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4, 350 members will be randomly selected to get a call or email to answer some survey questions about Medina Electric. Your answers will help the cooperative to see how we can improve service to and better communicate with our members.

The survey, email or phone call should take less than 5 minutes. This feedback is important to the cooperative, and we appreciate members taking time out of their busy schedules to provide it to us.

The surveys are being done by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Phone calls will either come from an 844 or 507 area code. Emails will show Medina Electric in the "From" line.

The cooperative has been having



these surveys quarterly throughout the year, so the last survey in 2020 will take place in November.

If you do not get a phone call or email to do a survey but would like to share feedback or an idea with the cooperative, email us at MyCoop@MedinaEC.org. ■

Don't Fall Victim to Scam Artists

SCAMMERS AREN'T NEW and neither are reports of Medina EC members being contacted by scam artists. We don't like to hear about our members being targeted, but are happy that they call and report them because it lets us know members aren't falling victim.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of Medina EC or another local utility. Scammers use threatening language in order to get you to share credit card or bank information or to convince you to purchase prepaid cards. Stay alert to these types of scams:

SCAM: Someone calls you and demands payment with threats of disconnecting your electricity.

Reality: Medina EC will never call and demand payment. If you are late on your bill, you will receive an email or letter from us with instructions on how to pay. We only call before disconnecting as a courtesy and will not ask for payment. You must pay using SmartHub, the automated phone payment system or by coming to the drive-through at our office. For security purposes, our employees cannot take credit card information over the phone.

SCAM: You're told to pay with a prepaid debit card.

Reality: Medina EC offers many payment options for members, but we won't force you to pay through a certain method, like prepaid debit cards. If your payment is late, you can pay using the same methods available if you paid on time. You can find our variety of payment options at MedinaEC.org/PaymentOptions.

Medina EC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have questions about your account, call us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532). ■



Some area food pantries also received donations last quarter.

Operation Round Up Winners

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S OPERATION ROUND UP PROGRAM has been making a difference in the lives of community members since 2006. The ORU committee, made up of cooperative members, meets quarterly to review applications and carefully make donation decisions. They participated in a virtual meeting in early June to look over applications submitted by May 1.

The committee made decisions to provide each of the following families with \$500 H-E-B gift cards for food and other household necessities.

Greg and Griselda Guerra (San Antonio) – The family is faced with medical bills due to their son's blood cancer. The H-E-B gift card will help the family allocate more funds to their medical bills.

Noe and Elmira Diaz (Roma) – The Diazes are on limited funds, and the pandemic has made it impossible for them to hold their usual yard sales, which is how they afforded food.

Eloy and Lorena Canales (Roma) – The Canales' finances have been impacted since Eloy Canales is unable to work as normal because of COVID-19. The H-E-B gift card will help make sure food is on the table for their two sons.

The ORU committee also made \$500 donations to the [Medina County Food Pantry](#) and [Devine Food Pantry](#). Both organizations have seen an increased need for food as a direct impact of COVID-19.

Operation Round Up is funded by Medina EC members who choose to have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar. The spare change is then added to the ORU fund to help community members in need. ORU has helped families pay medical bills, attend therapy, repair homes after fires and more.

If you or someone you know needs financial help, apply for a donation from Operation Round Up. Applicants do not need to be Medina EC members, but must live in one of the 17 counties served by the cooperative. The next deadline is August 7. The application and information are available at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](#). ■



**SAVE THE DATE:
82ND ANNUAL
MEETING**

Saturday, Oct. 10

Medina EC will hold its
82nd Annual Meeting!

Check your September
Texas Co-op Power for
details.

PHOTO CREDIT: ADOBE STOCK

Luck of the Draw

You have FIVE chances to win a \$100 credit on your electric bill.



Chance 1: Register your account on SmartHub.

Sign up at MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop or download the app and register your account there. SmartHub allows you to report outages with one click, view past electric use and see your use before you get your monthly bill.



Chance 2: Sign up for automated payments.

Have your bill automatically charged to your credit card or bank account each month. Set it up online through SmartHub or by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532).



Chance 3: Choose paperless billing.

Opt out of receiving a paper bill every month and have your bill emailed to you instead. Change your account settings in SmartHub, or call us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532) and staff will change it for you.



Chance 4: Join Operation Round Up.

Sign up your account for Operation Round Up and have your monthly electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. That spare change is used to make donations to community members and families in need. Sign up at MedinaEC.org/ORU or by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532).



Chance 5: BONUS drawing for all four programs!

If you are signed up for all four programs, you will be entered into an additional drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

All members signed up for each of the programs above as of 5 p.m. on October 31 will be entered. This includes members who are already signed up for these options and any new sign-ups between now and October 31.

There will be five separate drawings, and five \$100 bill credits will be awarded and automatically issued as bill credits.

Winners in each category will be randomly selected and announced in the December issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Community Empowerment Grants: \$5,500 Awarded to Area Organizations



From left: Norma Herrera, Dilley Public Library director; Mary Ann Obregon, Dilley mayor; and Juan Estrada, city administrator.

In June, Medina EC awarded \$5,500 in grants to area organizations through the Community Empowerment Program to encourage community and economic development throughout the 17 counties served by the cooperative.

The program focuses on projects that encourage economic diversity, contribute to community health and development, and improve the quality or quantity of services essential for the development of viable communities.

The CEP committee decided on the following awards:

El Progreso Memorial Library - \$1,250

Uvalde | The grant will be used to purchase a professional grade laminator as part of the library's Business Services Program and will be available to teachers, students, library patrons and other nonprofits and civic organizations.

Dilley Public Library - \$1,250

Dilley | The grant will be used to purchase STEM-related kits and tablets to help teach children in the community about robotics, coding and programing through experiential learning.

Saint Louis Catholic School - \$1,250

Castroville | The school will use the grant to purchase a filtered water bottle filling station to educate its students on being both health- and environmentally-conscience.

Boys and Girls Club - \$1,250

Laredo | The grant will be used to ensure improvements to the three club gyms, including new rims and backboards that are needed to replace old ones. The gyms are used year-round by thousands of children throughout the city of Laredo

Little Lady Mavs - \$500

Pearsall | The award will help fund the team's participation in the Showcase Softball Tournament. The team hopes that by partaking in the opportunity, it will earn some of its players the opportunity to play softball at the college level.

Medina EC CEO Mark Rollans said, "Beyond providing safe, reliable electricity, it's important as a cooperative to make a difference in our service area. These organizations play a vital role in helping to educate the communities we serve so that they grow and prosper."

Medina EC is proud to include these organizations in the more than \$62,400 in grants awarded to nonprofits and local governments since the CEP program was started in 2015.

**For more information visit
MedinaEC.org/Grant.**

Bad to the Bone

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

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature. If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Released to the Public: Bags of Vintage Buffalo Nickels

One of the most beloved coins in history is a true American Classic: The Buffalo Nickel. Although they have not been issued for over 75 years, GovMint.com is releasing to the public bags of original U.S. government Buffalo Nickels. Now they can be acquired for a limited time only—not as individual collector coins, but by weight—just \$49 for a full Quarter-Pound Bag.

100% Valuable Collector Coins—GUARANTEED!

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- Mint Marks (P,D, and S)
- ALL Collector Grade Very Good Condition
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Every vintage Buffalo Nickel you receive will be a coveted collector coin—GUARANTEED! Plus, order a gigantic full Pound bag and you'll also receive a vintage Liberty Head Nickel (1883-1912), a valuable collector classic!

Long-Vanished Buffalos Highly Coveted by Collectors

Millions of these vintage Buffalo Nickels have worn out in circulation or been recalled and destroyed by the government. Today, significant quantities can often only be found in private hoards and estate collections. As a result, these coins are becoming more sought-after each day.

Supplies Limited— Order Now!

Supplies of vintage Buffalo Nickels are limited as the availability of these classic American coins continues to shrink each and every year. They make a precious gift for your children, family and friends—a gift that will be appreciated for a lifetime.

NOTICE: Due to recent changes in the demand for vintage U.S. coins, this advertised price may change without notice. Call today to avoid disappointment.

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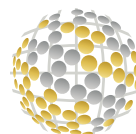
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THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™



Empowering Every Vote

Activist Jessie Daniel Ames took on women's suffrage and lynching

BY TANYA ESTES

DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN fought for the right to vote, a widowed mother of three mobilized thousands of women to vote in just 17 days. In a race against the clock, Jessie Daniel Ames employed an unexpected resource to register voters before a critical election that changed the course of Texas history by diminishing the political influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ames family moved from Palestine to Georgetown when Jessie was a child. She led a quiet and dutiful life, graduating from Southwestern University in 1902, a rare accomplish-

ment for a woman at the time.

Ames married a few years after college, but her husband died in Guatemala of malaria in 1914, leaving her a pregnant widow with two children. To support her young family, Ames went to work for her family's telephone company in Georgetown. Managing a communications business taught her how to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and this success further paved the way for her equal rights activism.

Ames founded the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League in 1916 and wrote *Weekly Suffrage Notes*, a column in *The*

Williamson County Sun. By 1918 she became treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

In 1918 the Legislature passed a bill that gave Texas women the right to vote in a primary but gave them only 17 days to register before the election. Using the telephone company to contact voters, Ames and her fellow suffragists registered more than 3,500 women to vote in Williamson County. In just two weeks, they provided voting instructions and staged mock elections to prepare these women for their historic first vote.

This voter registration campaign helped secure the election of anti-klan candidate Dan Moody as Williamson County attorney, and Moody actively prosecuted many klan members. This election victory gave Moody the momentum to get elected Texas attorney general and go on to become governor. Ames continued to register voters by founding the Texas League of Women Voters.

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote and was ratified August 18, 1920.

Though proud of her suffrage efforts, Ames felt such organizations did not do enough for African American civil rights. She led campaigns against lynching as an atrocious act of racism and set about ending it through work with the Texas Interracial Commission and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. She also founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which excluded Black women under the belief that only white women could influence other white women.

After more than 30 years working for social justice, Ames retired quietly. She is buried in Georgetown, a few blocks from the courthouse where she mobilized thousands of women in a movement that confirmed the power of every vote. ■

Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

At the height of summer, the last thing my husband and I want to do is turn on the stove. We do plenty of grilling, of course, but when the temperatures soar, we seek out chilled recipes that help our family cool down at the end of the day. This recipe uses juicy summer tomatoes to create a quick and easy chilled soup that goes with just about any meal. If you have fresh herbs in your garden, feel free to add those. Basil is the perfect accompaniment, but thyme or oregano also works well.

Easy Gazpacho

4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds

1 cucumber

¼ cup chopped red onion

1 clove garlic

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Core and quarter tomatoes and remove seeds, then add tomatoes to a blender or food processor.

2. Peel and quarter cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Add cucumber, onion, garlic, vinegar and olive oil to blender.

3. Blend mixture until completely smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and chill soup until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh herbs, as desired.

SERVES 4

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Cucumber Tomato Salad With Pesto.





Baja Black Bean Salad

DEBI MARION
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Black bean salad is a versatile dish that can serve as a meatless main, side or scrumptious topper for tacos. Making it ahead of time ensures that the flavors intermingle and keeps you out of the kitchen during the heat of the day.

- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 lime, zested and juiced

1. In a medium bowl, combine beans, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, cheese, cilantro and jalapeño.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and lime zest and juice. Pour over bean mixture and stir to coat.
3. Cover and refrigerate 2–4 hours to let flavors meld.

SERVES 4



\$500 WINNER

Mama's Chilled Sauerkraut Corn Relish

LORY VON STADEN
HEART OF TEXAS EC



Summer's hot dogs and sausages get a boost from this lively sauerkraut topping. It's an excellent side dish for other grilled fare, too. Von Staden recommends using it to add a peppery zing to steaks.

SERVES 12

- 1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon celery seeds
- 1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained
- 1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper
- 1 jar (4 ounces) pimientos, drained
- Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Pour sauerkraut into a colander set over the sink. Press with the back of a spoon or use your hands to drain excess liquid from the sauerkraut.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together sugar, oil, vinegar and celery seeds. Stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is well blended.
3. Add the drained sauerkraut, corn, bell pepper and pimientos to the dressing and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Cover and chill at least 8 hours before serving, to let the flavors meld.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

VEGETARIAN DUE AUG 10

A new year is the perfect time to add more vegetables and legumes to your diet. We're looking for your go-to Vegetarian recipe. Enter our January 2021 contest online by August 10.

MORE RECIPES >

Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Serve this vibrant salad as soon as it's prepared to keep the watermelon crisp and the greens from wilting.

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

Salt and pepper, to taste

½ medium watermelon, diced

1½ cups baby greens

1 cup diced cucumber

½ cup chopped mint leaves

¼ cup crumbled feta cheese

¼ red onion, sliced very thin

1. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper. Set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine watermelon, greens, cucumber, mint, feta and onion. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and toss gently to coat evenly.

SERVES 6



Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This chilled salad is wonderful on a hot day. Make it ahead of time to let the dressing flavors meld, but be sure not to add the peanuts until just before serving so they retain their crunch.

DRESSING

½ cup mayonnaise

½ cup prepared French onion dip

1 tablespoon rice vinegar

2 tablespoons toasted sesame seed oil

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon celery salt

1 teaspoon sugar

SALAD

5 cups finely chopped green cabbage

¾ cup finely chopped carrot

¾ cup chopped celery

¾ cup chopped red bell pepper

½ cup finely chopped red onion

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

3 cups shredded cooked chicken

1 cup coarsely chopped dry roasted peanuts

1. **DRESSING** Combine all of the dressing ingredients in a small bowl and set aside or refrigerate until ready to make the salad.

2. **SALAD** In a large bowl combine cabbage, carrot, celery, bell pepper, onion, parsley and chicken.

3. Add the dressing to the salad and stir to combine thoroughly.

4. Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in the peanuts.

SERVES 6

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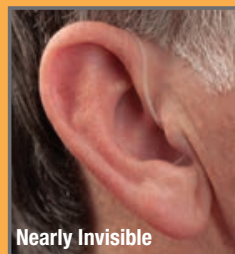
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Mysterious Message

Prehistoric rock art at White Shaman Preserve seems to tell a story

BY CHET GARNER

WHO IS THE WHITE SHAMAN? It's a mystery that has intrigued archaeologists ever since the discovery of this rock art mural decades ago. I made the trip to Comstock for my opportunity to ponder the mystery for myself.

You'll find the White Shaman Preserve, owned by San Antonio's Witte Museum, on U.S. Highway 90, less than 2 miles from Seminole Canyon State Park, about halfway between Comstock and Langtry. The surrounding landscape, the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, holds hundreds of drawings and murals dating back 2,000–4,000 years.

After a short hike led by Bryan Bayles, curator of anthropology and health at the Witte Museum, we climbed a treacherous path to a rock shelter approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet deep and perched along a cliff near the Pecos River. A mural, a complicated composition covering the shelter's entire wall, includes figures, animals, squiggly lines and dots. In the middle stands the White Shaman, an ominous figure with tiny arms and legs. Without an interpreter I could not have understood this cryptic scene.

As Bayles began to explain, the complexity of the mural came to life. Figures I didn't see at first suddenly became clear. Colors that I had missed became vibrant. And I realized that there was much more to this mural than my untrained eye could have noticed. According to tradition, a shaman is a Native American healer and a conduit to the spirit world. And so it's believed that this mural tells a spiritual story—perhaps even the story of creation.

The most amazing aspect is that it was all painted at one time to tell one story. Deciphering that story's mystery is something every Texan should try.

ABOVE Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from White Shaman Preserve and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS. Enter online to win the book *The White Shaman Mural* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

Know Before You Go

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

AUGUST

07

New Braunfels [7–8] Whiskey Myers, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

Kerrville [7–Sept. 19] Texas: The Land & the Legacy, the Art of Robert Pummill, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

Kerrville [7–8, 14–16, 21–22] Little Shop of Horrors, (830) 896-2553, caillouxtheater.com

13

Edinburg [13–15] Edinburg UFO Festival, (956) 383-6246, edinburgufo.com

14

Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] No Body Like Jimmy, (830) 367-5121, hcac.com

Ingram [14–Sept. 18] Point of View—Hill Country Arts Foundation Annual Juried Show, (830) 367-5121, hcac.com

15

Kerrville Kids' Triathlon, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Lake Jackson Bird Banding, (979) 480-0999, visitbrazosport.com

17

Dallas Inks & Skyline, (214) 712-7040, reuniontower.com/hours-events/

21

Tyler [21–23] Texas Rose Breed Show, (817) 683-8284, texasrosehorsepark.com

22

Lakeway Cool Arts Sales & Studio Tour, (512) 261-1010, lakeway-tx.gov

23

Castroville St. Louis Day Celebration, (830) 931-2826, saintlouisday.com

Tyler Western Dressage Lite, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

28

Kerrville Blackwood Singers, (830) 896-9393, caillouxtheater.com

29

College Station Dancing for the Health of It! Back to the '80s, (979) 774-4176

Kerrville River Roadster Show, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

SEPTEMBER

02

Tyler [2-6] Texas Rose Sporthorse Cup, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

03

La Grange [3-6] Fayette County Fair, (979) 702-2426, fayettecountyfair.org

05

Doss VFD Benefit Fish Fry, (830) 669-2352, dossvfd.org

Fort McKavett New Exhibit Debut and Movie Screening, (325) 396-2358

Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala, (713) 503-0470

McKinney [5-Feb. 15] Dinosaurs Live!, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

Submit Your Event

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

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On the Water

This month, our readers blew us out of the water with terrific catches that flowed in from around the state. Texas photographers of all ages take amazing nature shots like a duck takes to water. You'll be in hot water if you miss out, so let's get quackin'!

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

STEVEN CHERNOSKY
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

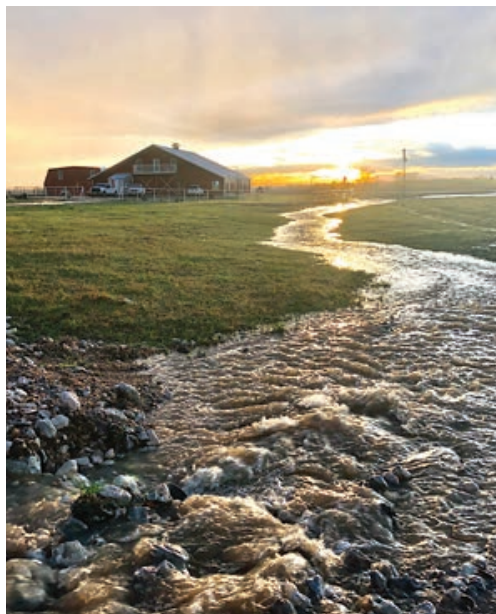
"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

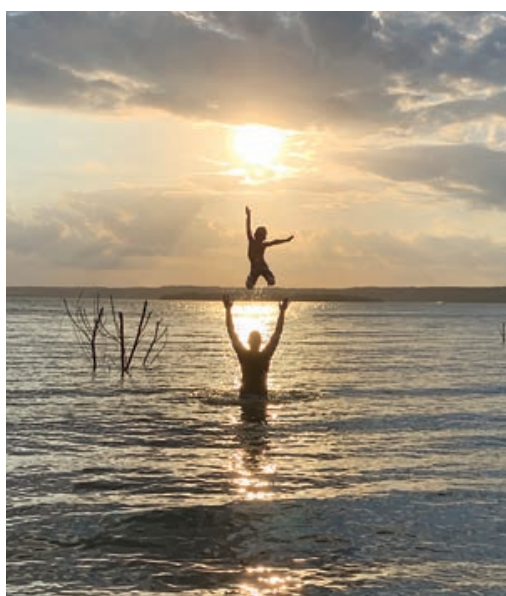
KAREN FULGHUM
BANDERA EC

"My husband, Mike Fulghum, skiing on beautiful Medina Lake years ago."

MARIA FRIESEN
LAMAR ELECTRIC
A stream rushes by after a March rain in Brookston.

JAMIE B. WAGNER
PEDERNALES EC
Tricolored heron wading in the salt marsh on South Padre Island.





Upcoming Contests

DUE AUG 10 On Wheels

DUE SEP 10 Forests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles

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

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

YEISHA CULP
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

"My 10-year-old daughter, Jacque, took this while playing in the backyard."

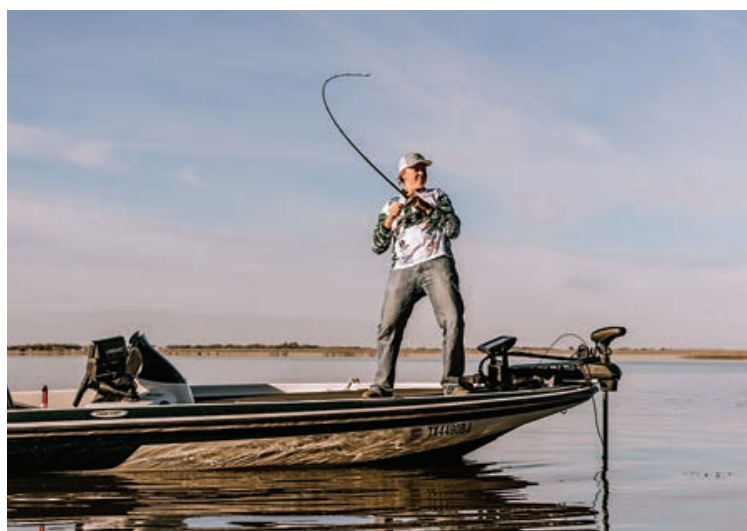
ANNE LEHNICK
BLUEBONNET EC

"Skyler at 2½ feeding the seagulls in Rockport with her dad."

TINA WEBB
BLUEBONNET EC

"My son, Colin, is an avid fisherman. One of his favorite spots, as seen here, is Lake Somerville."

JASMINE CHANDLER
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
Chandler's son, Beau, and husband, Kai, play in Lake Bridgeport.





Coming Home

The wonders of Texas prepared distinguished poets to appreciate America's national parks

STORY AND PHOTO
BY KARLA K. MORTON
AND ALAN BIRKELBACH

THE NATIONAL PARKS are America's priceless treasures. These lands still need those who are willing to give their time and hearts to make sure the parks continue to be protected.

As poets laureate, this was our calling: to visit all 62 national parks and write poems and take photos for each, with a percentage of our book sales going back to the national parks.

We, however, are *Texas* poets laureate. There are new meanings of grand. Even by national park standards, Texas stands up: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, ocean, plains, Big Thicket. Because our eyes were already widened by Texas, we had the capacity to appreciate all the wonders the national parks had to offer.

Certain things should never fall out of

karla k. morton's suitcase at White Sands National Park.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Enter online to win morton and Birkelbach's book, *The National Parks: A Century of Grace*.

social consciousness. In this digital age, there is no replacement for nature at its most profound. Wonder cannot be exported or imported but can be captured with words—and those words can travel unlimited miles.

The parks are a gift, a legacy, something uniquely American. What better way to instill inspiration in our fellow humans than by bringing these beauties, in the form of books, into their homes. We believe poetry is every person's art, just as the national parks are every person's inheritance.

Texas was built on big dreams and big quests. Had we lived in a lesser state—another state—we would not have had that in our blood. It prepared us culturally to think beyond borders, to think past the horizon.

Travel doesn't make San Antonio or Fort Worth less iconic. Texas prepares you for wide-accepting visions and makes you appreciate home even more.

A lot of the early parks were created under monumentalism. Consider the Alamo, the Chisholm Trail and Willie Nelson—is there anything more monumental than Texas?

This is what we came home to, and still come home to—every time.

Texas has a rich and deep literary history. We were spoon-fed this from our youth. Like Homer recounting the journey of Odysseus, we longed to be the eyes and ears for the homebound, to bring our tales back to the hearth.

We're certainly not the first artists who believe inspiration could come through great natural beauty, who have fallen in love with the grandeur of our national parks, but we wanted to take it one step further and try to do something incredible: to infuse that beauty into the written word—the eternal language of poetry. ■

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