

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Magic Valley  
**MVEC**  
Electric Cooperative



# HARLINGEN MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

SEE INSIDE COVER FOR DETAILS!  
¡MÁS DETALLES EN LA CUBIERTA INTERIOR!

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Each year, Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. in advance of its Annual Meeting, publishes a summary of its bylaws pertaining to membership, annual meeting, board representation, and nomination and election procedures. This complies with a requirement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assure nondiscrimination among participants of the RUS loan program.

Any person, firm, etc; is eligible for membership in Magic Valley Electric Cooperative upon a written application for membership, receipt of electric service, payment of membership fees and agreement to comply with the rules and regulations as adopted by the Cooperative's Board of Directors.

The Cooperative holds its Annual Meeting during the third week of April each year where directors are elected for three year staggered terms.

A nominating committee, consisting of 21 members, is appointed by the Board of Directors each year for the purpose of recommending nominees to be presented to the full membership at the meeting.

The committee meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. February 8, 2018 at Arturo's Restaurant, 2303 W. Exp 83, Weslaco, TX 78596. Copies of the Cooperative's bylaws are available at the Co-op's office in Mercedes for all members.

For this year, the Nominating Committee members selected by the Board are listed on Page 19.

## YOU COULD WIN THIS VEHICLE! IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All members sending in their proxy cards, as well as those present at the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2018 will be eligible for a drawing of a 2007 Ford F-150. The proxy card is found on the back cover of this magazine.



## AVISO A LOS MIEMBROS

Cada año, antes de la reunión anual de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. por ley, se publica un resumen de las leyes respectivas a la membresía, reunión anual, representación de la mesa directiva y el proceso de nominación y elección a la mesa directiva. Esto cumple con el requisito de la ley del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos, mejor conocido como el programa de RUS Loan ( por sus siglas en inglés) el cual se encarga de que no exista discriminación entre los participantes del programa.

Cualquier persona o negocio que solicite servicio eléctrico de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative califica para ser miembro de la cooperativa, siempre y cuando llene la solicitud de membresía por escrito, pague la cuota de membresía y cumpla con los reglamentos establecidos por la mesa directiva de la cooperativa.

La cooperativa tiene su reunión anual la tercera semana del mes de abril de cada año, en la cual los directores de la mesa directiva son electos para presentar sus servicios en periodos escalonados de tres años.

El comité de nominaciones consiste de 21 miembros, los cuales son designados cada año por la mesa directiva para proponer nuevos miembros a la mesa directiva, los cuales son presentados en reunión anual.

La reunión del comité de nominaciones se llevó a cabo el día 8 de febrero a las 6:30 p.m. en el restaurant Arturo's, 2303 W. Exp 83, Weslaco, Texas 78596. Para su comodidad, tenemos copias de los estatutos de la cooperativa en las oficinas de Mercedes. Las copias están a la disposición de todos los miembros.

En la página 19, encontrará la lista de los nominados por la mesa directiva al comité de nominaciones de este año.

## ¡GANE ESTA CAMIONETA! ¡NOTICIA IMPORTANTE!

Todos aquellos miembros que envíen la carta poder, así como miembros que estén presentes en la junta anual de este año, que se efectuará el día 16 de abril del 2018 Podrán participar en el sorteo de la camioneta 2007 Ford F-150. La carta poder se encuentra en la contraportada de esta revista.



# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

*what the*  
**DEVIL?**

**Prickly plants,  
creepy critters  
and other thorny  
things Texans  
love to hate**



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The inhospitable, bedeviling landscape in Big Bend Ranch State Park

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BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK: CHASE A. FOUNTAIN | TPWD. PAIL: MATT BENOIT | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

**ON THE COVER** *Ocotillo, a desert plant with spiny stems, is also called devil's walking stick.* Photo by James H. Evans

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## Other Musical Poets

Slaid Cleaves must be included [*Musical Frontier*, January 2018]. For y'all not convinced, see this on YouTube to get you started: *Slaid Cleaves Texas Love Song*. You should hear his yodeling these days. He sat at the feet of Don Walsler.

S.K. MEYER | CANYON LAKE PEDERNALES EC

How can you not mention Mac Davis? He is one of the most successful singer/songwriters in the country.

SALLY MACHOST | LIVINGSTON SAM HOUSTON EC

## Roosevelt's Flight

*Before Air Force One* [Currents, January 2018] jogged my memory. My dad, Woodrow D.

Nichols, was a young soldier in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. I remember him telling me that he saw President Franklin D. Roosevelt when the president landed in Morocco in 1943. He said that as the motorcade passed, President Roosevelt looked and made eye contact with him. It really made the day for my dad.

Then in April 1943 in North Africa, he received word that he had just had a son born in March. That happened to be me!

LARRY NICHOLS | MIDLOTHIAN HILCO EC

## Pop's Story

Ellen Stader, this made me cry [*Pop and Spike*, December 2017]. Y'all are such beautiful humans.

NICOLE POULIOT VIA FACEBOOK BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

What a stunningly beautiful, inspiring and uplifting tribute.

## Not a Crazy Idea

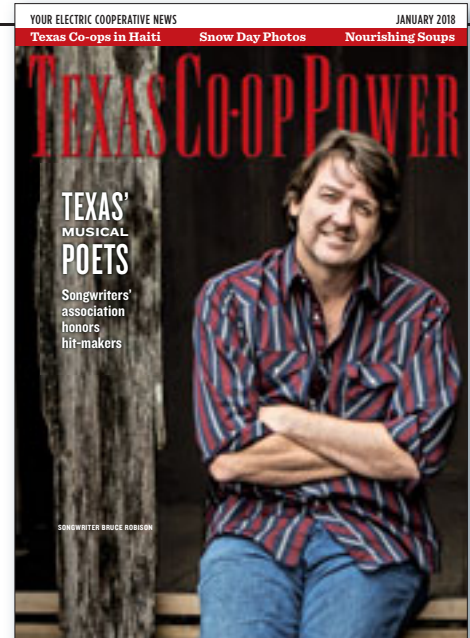
I've read *Musical Frontier* [January 2018] three times and still can't find a mention of Steven Fromholz.

You know, the musician who was the poet laureate of Texas for 2007.

"I'd Have To Be Crazy" to think Gene Fowler omitted Mr. Fromholz on purpose.

THOMAS MILYO | KELLER | TRI-COUNTY EC

**Editor's note:** Fowler did omit Fromholz on purpose but only because Fowler's story centered on the Texas Heritage Songwriters' Association Hall of Fame, and Fromholz is not a member.



You write with such heart about what our generation is currently going through and what every generation will experience: caring for our beloved seniors. Don't they make the best subject matter? Say hey to your pop from the Cannons.

PAUL LEE CANNON VIA FACEBOOK OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

**Editor's note:** Pop, Bob Stader, died January 7 in Austin. He lived in Texas 14 months.



## Game of the Century

When Houston and UCLA played the Game of the Century in 1968 [*A Hoops Home Run*, Currents, January 2018], the longest winning streak in basketball belonged to a Texas college: Tarleton Junior College in Stephenville. The team won 86 consecutive games between 1934 and 1938. Then, after losing one game, it won 25 more in a row.

JERRY HAMRICK | GLEN ROSE UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Coach Guy Lewis from Arp and Elvin Hayes from Rayville, Louisiana, played a large role in the Houston Cougars knocking the wind out of the Bruins. Matter of fact, we Texans of old will never forget the look on the faces of UCLA player Lew Alcindor [now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar] and coach John Wooden.

How about next time naming and quoting Texans—not the other guys.

VARDY VINCENT | KINGSBURY BLUEBONNET EC

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

   Texas Co-op Power

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## HAPPENINGS

# Hit the Trail

The Chisholm Trail, the path followed by millions of cattle from Texas to Kansas, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2017, prompting cowboy entertainer K.R. Wood to create a Western variety show in its honor.

The next staging of the **OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL WESTERN VARIETY SHOW** is **MARCH 17** in **FREDERICKSBURG** as part of Celebrate Texas! at the Texas Rangers Heritage Center.

Wood, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, and his troupe tell the story of the Chisholm Trail through songs, poems and action. “I call it historical and hysterical,” Wood says. The show includes a trick roper, pistol twirler, bull whipper and wrangler.

Wood is enthusiastic about the Chisholm Trail’s place in history. “It helped elevate Texas out of the post-Civil War depression,” he says. “It established the legend of the cowboy.”

Wood’s album, *Songs and Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail*, won the 2017 President’s Award from the Western Music Association.

**INFO** ▶ (512) 203-7921, [krwoodproductions.com](http://krwoodproductions.com)

**WEB EXTRAS**  
▶ Find more happenings online.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**That’s the annual value of agricultural production in Texas, which ranks third among U.S. states, behind California and Iowa. Hug your favorite farmer March 20, National Ag Day.**

## CO-OP PEOPLE

# WOMEN AT WORK

**International Women’s Day**, March 8, is a fine time to celebrate electric cooperative lineworkers. That’s because Texas women are climbing the ladder—er, utility pole—in the field of electric line work. In 2017, women lineworkers distinguished themselves in training programs and competitions as well as in the field.

**The first known female** to compete in the Texas Lineman’s Rodeo joined the field last year. And the Power Line Worker program, offered at Victoria College in conjunction with Victoria Electric Cooperative, produced its first female graduate.

**Both women now work** as apprentice lineworkers at their respective co-ops—and both downplay their groundbreaking status, preferring to focus instead on doing their jobs well.



## Congress Makes Time

One hundred years ago, Congress authorized time zones and approved daylight saving time. The Standard Time Act was passed March 19, 1918. Daylight saving time, which goes into effect March 11 this year, was repealed in 1919 but re-established during World War II.

### Did you know?



**IDAHO** was accidentally included in the central time zone, an error that wasn't corrected until 2007.



### HISTORY LESSON

## Happy Birthday to a Song

**THE SONG MOST FREQUENTLY SUNG** in the English language came into being 125 years ago. Kentucky sisters Patty and Mildred Hill composed *Good Morning to All* in 1893. Patty sang it daily to her kindergarten class. For birthdays, the lyrics were changed to the *Happy Birthday* song that we know today.



#### THE ORIGINAL LYRICS:

*Good morning to you  
Good morning to you  
Good morning dear teacher  
Good morning to all*

**IN 2015, A U.S. DISTRICT COURT RULED** that the copyright to the lyrics was no longer valid, placing it in the public domain, meaning anybody can sing the song anywhere without having to pay royalties.

### WORTH REPEATING

“I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president.”

—**PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON**, announcing to the nation 50 years ago, March 31, 1968, that he would not seek re-election

### HONORS



## A TEXAS STAR

**Texans celebrate** Independence Day on March 2, the date in 1836 when the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. George C. Childress is widely credited with writing the document, with which Texas broke free from Mexican rule. Ten days later, he offered a resolution providing that “a single star of five points, either of gold or silver, be adopted as the peculiar emblem of this republic.”



# WHAT THE DEVIL?

**EXPLORING LUCIFER'S  
POINTED INFLUENCE  
ON NAMING TEXAS PLACES,  
CRITTERS AND PLANTS**

**T**he Devils River snakes through 94 miles of scenic yet hostile terrain southwest of Sonora. Before the mid-19th century, the river was reportedly called the San Pedro or Saint Peter. In 1848, Jack Hays led a scouting expedition of Texas Rangers and Delaware Native Americans in the region.

**BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS**

A story goes that when Hays came upon a forbidding gorge bottomed with water, he asked a native what the river was named. When told, Hays sputtered, “Saint Peter, hell! It looks like the devil’s river to me.”

The name stuck. But did Hays name the river?

Read another account of that conversation, and the details could differ. Or, if you’re like Midland author Patrick Dearen, you may dig deeper and discover little-known information. While writing *Devils River: Treacherous Twin to the Pecos, 1535–1900*, Dearen studied the 1848 journal of rancher Samuel Maverick,

who accompanied the Hays expedition. Upon reaching the waterway, Maverick recorded in his notebook, “Mouth of Devil’s River.”

The earlier date of Maverick’s entry, Dearen believes, challenges the Hays version, later reported in a newspaper. Quite possibly, the men “may have only reaffirmed the name ‘Devil’s’ rather than coined it,” the author theorizes.

Such uncertainty bedevils those seeking to learn how or why the horned hellion came to be a namesake for so many places, plants and points of interest in Texas. Few names can be referenced to a specific source, except perhaps for mentions by folklorists. No matter the origin, the devilish names in nearly all cases hint at a trait or demeanor so unpleasant or vile that only the devil himself must have inspired their creation.

No doubt, topographic features in West Texas were often named after the devil because the land can be so inhospitable, says Dearen, who grew up in dusty Sterling City in West Texas.

“I’m reminded of Ann Kelton, the wife of the late author



COULD YOU, WOULD YOU CANOE THE DEVILS RIVER?

AWW, BUT THEY'RE SO CUTE...



DEVIL'S HORSE (PRAYING MANTIS)



DEVIL'S DARNING NEEDLE (DRAGONFLY)



DEVIL BIRD (BLUE JAY)

Elmer Kelton," he recalls. "A native of Austria, where forests and streams abound, she was shocked when Elmer first brought her to his home near Crane. As she once told me, as they got closer and closer to Crane, she thought she had reached the 'jumping-off place to hell.' "

Hot and dry describe the Trans-Pecos region, where the devil and his Spanish counterpart, *el diablo*, lurk amid fearsome canyons and rugged mountains.

For a short time, the Diablo Dam and Reservoir existed only in name. That's because officials of the time deemed the evil connotation inappropriate for a future international lake to be fed by the Devils and Rio Grande rivers. In 1959, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower and Mexican President Lopez Mateos agreed on *amistad*, Spanish for "friendship." Amistad Dam was dedicated in September 1969.

Archaeology buffs may know of the Devil's Mouth Site in Val

Verde County. From 1959 to 1967, archaeologists worked to examine the prehistoric remains of a campsite near the mouth of the Devils River before the new Amistad International Reservoir flooded the site. The stratified excavations produced ancient pollen records and stone projectile points called Golondrina.

Ghost stories galore haunt the Devil's Backbone, a ridge of rolling hills in Comal County. Along a scenic stretch of Ranch Road 32 once promoted as Devil's Backbone Skyline Drive, a roadside park offers stunning views. In Montague County, another ridge called Devil's Backbone served as a lookout for Comanches and Kiowas.

Near Rocksprings, Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area protects a gaping cavern that hosts a huge Mexican free-tailed bat colony from late spring through early fall. No one is certain who initially discovered the hole, but a firsthand account credits some pioneer women with naming it in May 1876.

While searching the area for Indians, rancher Ammon Billings



## DEVIL'S SINKHOLE

and his posse came upon the dark chasm. They invited their wives to see “a helluva hole in the ground.” His wife, Lucinda Billings, later recalled, in a story printed in the *Kerrville Mountain Sun* in August 1949, that the women, who agreed the hole was impressive, suggested that the less profane name of Devil’s Sinkhole “would do just as well.”

**D**evilish names once stigmatized a few fauna. Native Americans and hunters called blue jays “devil birds” because their raucous cries alert other animals of danger. According to Texas folklore, the devil’s horse (praying mantis) was poisonous. Thus, a man would go blind if one spit in his eye, and a cow would die if she swallowed one. Another devil’s horse was the scary-looking but harmless walking stick, also once called the devil’s darning needle.

According to *A Dazzle of Dragonflies*, old-time believers feared another devil’s darning needle, the dragonfly.

Co-author James Lasswell’s grandmother was certain that “devil’s darning needles” were poisonous (they are not) and “told us that if they stung us we would be sick for a long time and might even die.”

In the plant kingdom, the devil also appears frequently. *Historical Common Names of Great Plains Plants* lists more than 50 species besmirched with diabolical names. Devilwood, also called American olive, is hard to split. Elephant’s-foot, a perennial herb, also goes by the name of devil’s grandmother. Three plants share the name devil’s shoestring. One, commonly known as trumpet vine, spreads aggressively. Another is also called goat’s rue, a silvery plant with stringy roots that contain a toxic substance called rotenone. And one is a grasslike agave that’s also called beargrass.

Devil’s head cactus, also called devil’s pincushion and horse crippler, grows wide but low to the ground, making it hard to spot. On the frontier, cowboys sometimes would slice off a devil’s head and use the level surface to play mumblety-peg, a game typically played with pocket knives that required the loser to remove a peg driven

### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to read the poem *Hell in Texas*.



in the ground (or cactus) with his teeth.

Devil cholla grows in a small region of Presidio County. Ocotillo, a spiny-stemmed, woody shrub of the desert, is also called devil’s walking stick.

Treacherous thorns and prickly leaves arm another devil’s walking stick, a native tree also known as Hercules club and prickly ash. Its creamy yellow flowers attract honeybees and other pollinators. Birds and other wildlife relish its purplish-black berries, which may be toxic to humans.

Devil’s claw refers to the bizarre seedpods of *Proboscidea louisianica*, a low-spreading, bushy annual with pastel-colored flowers. Its tender, edible seedpods resemble okra. When dried, they split lengthwise into two curved, sharp claws that latch onto furry animals and scatter the black seeds inside.

Devil’s claws serve other purposes. In a December 1888 issue



HANG ON! AREN'T THOSE DEVIL'S CLAWS?

DEVIL'S SINKHOLE & DEVIL'S BACKBONE: LAURENCE PARENT. DEVIL'S CLAWS: W.P. ARMSTRONG



DEVIL'S BACKBONE

of the *Stephenville Empire*, a columnist advised young boys to collect and bundle the “common, hooked nuisances” to make Christmas gifts “fit for a king.” Used as toothpicks, devil’s claws “are very tough, do not splinter off, and curve to suit the mouth,” she wrote. Modern hobbyists fashion the claws into sculptures, dream catchers and wreaths.

**T**he town of McLean in the Panhandle hosts an ominous place called the Devil’s Rope Barbed Wire Museum. Inside the brick building, you’ll find a huge collection of barbed wire strands, not to mention posthole diggers, barbed-wire sculptures and antique fencing tools. “When barbed wire began to be used in the 1870s, livestock were not used to it,” explains Delbert Trew, former museum curator. “Because many animals were injured by it, religious people considered barbed wire to be the work of the devil. Hence, the name devil’s rope.”

Blistering heat likely inspired *Hell in Texas*, a lyrical poem that humorously tells how the devil negotiated with God for a plot of land, where he could torment men. As folklore will do, *Hell in Texas* (also titled *The Devil Made Texas*) evolved to describe various locales in the Southwest, such as Arizona and New Mexico.



ANY WONDER WHY THIS CACTUS IS CALLED DEVIL'S PINCUSHION?



### HE'S BEEN HERE, TOO ...

- Devil's Ridge (Hudspeth County)
- Sierra Diablo (Hudspeth/Culberson)
- Diablo Plateau (Hudspeth)
- Devils Draw/Devils River Canyon (Val Verde)
- Devil's Pocket (Newton)
- Devil's Den (Big Bend)
- Devil's Hall Trail (Guadalupe Mountains)
- Devil's Waterhole (Burnet County)
- Devil's Water Hole Spring (McMullen)
- Devil's Hill (Comal)
- Devil's Ford Creek (Sabine)
- Devil's Toenail (Llano)
- Devil's Creek (Childress and Cottle)
- Devil's Courthouse Peak (Tom Green)



*The Best Loved Poems of the American People*, published in 1936, reprinted a longer version of *Hell in Texas* attributed to an “unknown” writer. According to a 1944 Texas Folklore Society publication, attorney E.U. Cook of Iowa, who managed a land and cattle company in Frio County, probably penned the original text after witnessing the effects of a severe drought that lasted from 1885 to 1887. He later returned to Texas during a greener year, which inspired another poem that omitted any mention of the devil.

Its title? *Texas a Paradise*. But that’s another story.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, a member of Pedernales EC, lives in Blanco.





**LEGENDARY  
CHISHOLM  
TRAIL  
CELEBRATED**

**(WHEREVER IT WAS)**

After all, the Lone Star State just about has more things named for the Chisholm Trail than it does cattle. From skateparks to quilt guilds and dental clinics—if it’s a thing, somebody in Texas has named it for the Chisholm Trail. Still, Ludwig reported finding scant evidence that the term was used in Texas before the days of singing cowboys and Western movies.

Symposium speaker Tom B. Saunders IV, a rancher and historian whom I would honor with the title of old-timer, provided a living link to the cattle-drive era. Saunders’ great-great-uncle, George W. Saunders, went up the trail with several herds in the 1870s and later founded the Trail Drivers Association. In 1931, the association adopted a formal resolution declaring that “the Chisholm Trail proper crossed the Red River at the community known as Red River Station and extended north to Abilene” in Kansas and that “the herds originating at all points in Texas drove north over the western or eastern Texas-Kansas cattle trails.”

I’m not sure that Shakespeare’s dog-eared maxim, “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet,” would apply to a cattle trail. Though most folks in Saint Jo, about 11 miles from the Red River, agree with the Trail Drivers Association, there’s no need to chisel “Chisholm” off trail markers and other signage that has acquired the name through a century of regional tradition. The association offered its resolution “merely in the interest that Texas history may be properly preserved to posterity.”

Or as Ludwig expressed it in his talk, quoting a proverb from the film, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, “This is the West, sir. When the legend becomes fact, print the legend.”

Nomenclature aside, everyone agrees that the main cattle-drive era started after the Civil War and lasted a couple of decades, and that Texas cowboys and cowgirls escorted millions of cattle

**F**ew place names evoke the spirit of Texas and the Old West more than the storied Chisholm Trail. The very words make me hear spurs a-jingle-janglin’ and yippie-ti-yi-yos a-yodelin’. Last year, folks up and down the trail celebrated its 150th anniversary.

What most Texans might not know is that the Chisholm Trail never existed in Texas. The story made its best-documented appearance at the Real Chisholm Trail Symposium, held last May in Saint Jo. That’s when Wayne Ludwig, founder of the Facebook-only Texas Cattle Trails History Group, who confessed to being a little nervous at the time, officially broke the story.

Hold your horses! That’s pretty much like forgetting the Alamo. Trying to buy tickets to a Cowboys home game in Dallas, Georgia. Asking the band to play Ernest Tubb’s timeless tune, *Waltz Across Rhode Island*.

to shipping points in Kansas. Most histories say that the trail north of the Red River was named for the Indian trader Jesse Chisholm. Others have speculated it was named for Denton County cowman John Chisum. Some say it should be called the Black Beaver Trail, for a Delaware scout who led Union soldiers out of the Indian Territory during the Civil War and showed the trail to Chisholm.

It's almost easier to name a spot through the middle of Texas that isn't associated with the Chisholm Trail than to cite all the spots that celebrate their role in the trail's legacy. We'll mosey

## ⇒⇓ **NOMENCLATURE ASIDE**, everyone agrees that the main cattle-drive era started after the Civil War and lasted a couple of decades, and that Texas cowboys and cowgirls escorted millions of cattle to shipping points in Kansas.

'round a few sites along the trail and its feeder routes—with apologies to any we might miss.

Down in the Rio Grande Valley, the Donna Hooks Fletcher Historical Museum in Donna has exhibits about the town's role as "an early pass-through on the Chisholm Trail," according to the Texas Historical Commission. A historical marker commemorates Chisholm booster P.P. Ackley, who cowboied up the trail in 1878. In the 1930s, as a winter Texan based in Donna, he placed cast-iron and granite markers from Kansas to the Rio Grande. Historians say Ackley had many of his facts wrong, but you can't fault his style and enthusiasm. A sign outside his Donna home read "End of the Chisholm Trail," and neighbors long recalled his handlebar mustache, chaps and the longhorns mounted on his Chrysler coupe.

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero makes a good case for the 150th birthday falling a year earlier, in 2016, and for a local cowpoke providing the trail's name. Trail boss Thornton Chisholm headed north from Cardwell Flats, a DeWitt County trading post and stagecoach stop, April 1, 1866, with 30 cowboys and 1,800 rangy longhorns. It took the drovers seven months to reach the railhead at St. Joseph, Missouri.

Some accounts have the Chisholm Trail starting in San Antonio, where the Witte Museum features the George West Trail Drivers Gallery and the courtyard Trail Drivers Monument. Others point to Lockhart, where the Caldwell County Museum exhibits a gallery of Chisholm Trail cowboys. Descendants of Lockhart cattleman John Jacob Myers have passed down oral testimony from other trail drivers that the Texas leg of the Chisholm maybe should be called the Myers Trail.

Learn about Lizzie Johnson Williams, who took her own herd up the Chisholm, at the Hays County Museum in San Marcos'

1909 Hays County Courthouse. At Round Rock, a bronze sculpture in Chisholm Trail Crossing Park titled *The Pioneer Woman* pays tribute to trail driver Hattie Cluck. Seventeen storytelling bronze panels make up the Chisholm Trail Monument at the Bell County Museum in Belton.

Drovers herding 25 longhorns in the bronze sculpture park at the Brazos River in Waco include a Mexican vaquero and an African-American cowboy. You can walk out on the 1870 Waco Suspension Bridge and imagine the herds clattering across, a nickel per head. The famous cowboy song collector John Lomax

grew up near the trail in Meridian, and some of his papers are archived at the Bosque County Collection.

The Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum in Cleburne brings pioneer days to life on a 10-acre site where drovers camped. An immense Chisholm Trail Mural at Sundance Square in downtown Fort Worth prepares visitors for the "real thing" in the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District, where cowboys "drive" cattle on East Exchange Avenue twice daily.

In 2015, the Denton County Trail Marking Committee concluded that the trail ran through the western part of the county. Jack Waide of Bolivar said, "My grandfather, Joe Dillon Waide, told me that he watched cattle drives pass by that were sometimes over a mile wide and took all day to pass by while he was sitting on the front porch."

Steel sculptures of cowboys and longhorns recall the drives at Chisholm Trail Memorial Park in Bowie. The 1873 Stonewall Saloon in Saint Jo served rye whiskey to many a trailhand. Cowboys also could cut loose in Spanish Fort, now somewhat of a ghost town, before crossing to Indian Territory at Red River Station. Drovers could order a new pair of boots from H.J. Justin in Spanish Fort from 1879 to 1889, when he moved to Nocona.

### **WEB EXTRAS**

► [Read this story on our website to learn about songs of the Chisholm Trail and listen to one of them.](#)

They needed good boots. They weren't just sashaying up and down a cow path, pilgrim; they were on the Chisholm Trail. "Most of those boys didn't make but one trip," Saunders said. "And once they got home alive, they were so tickled to be back that they didn't want to risk it again."

**Gene Fowler** is an Austin writer who specializes in history.



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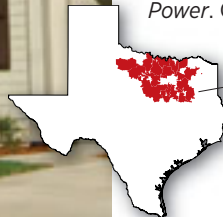
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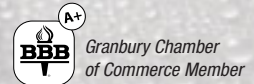
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# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER JOIN US FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

Here's why you should attend

— John W. Herrera



On behalf of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, we'd like to personally invite you to join us at 7:00 pm on April 16, at the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, located at 1204 Fair Park Blvd, Harlingen, TX 78550.

Each year, we look forward to getting together with our co-op community to hear what you have to say, enjoy fellowship among friends and family, and give everyone the chance to win prizes.

Magic Valley's annual meeting is not only a chance to visit with loved ones, though. It's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by the cooperative and get to know our staff. For us, the annual meeting provides an important forum for gathering feedback about how we can better serve you and your family.

It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest rights of electric co-op membership: voting for your board of directors.

Your cooperative is not owned by faraway investors nor run by a board of directors appointed by such investors. It's owned by you, the members, and run by a democratically elected board of directors—made up of fellow members afforded the privilege to serve because of your votes.

A democratic and open election is one of many elements that sets our electric cooperative apart from other kinds of utilities. Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

Our directors are members of the community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. We encourage you to take part in deciding how we deliver that service. So circle April 16 on your calendar and make sure to join us at the annual meeting. We'll save you a seat!

John W. Herrera  
General Manager

## Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 267  
1 3/4 Mi. W. Hwy 83  
Mercedes, TX 78570

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**John W. Herrera**

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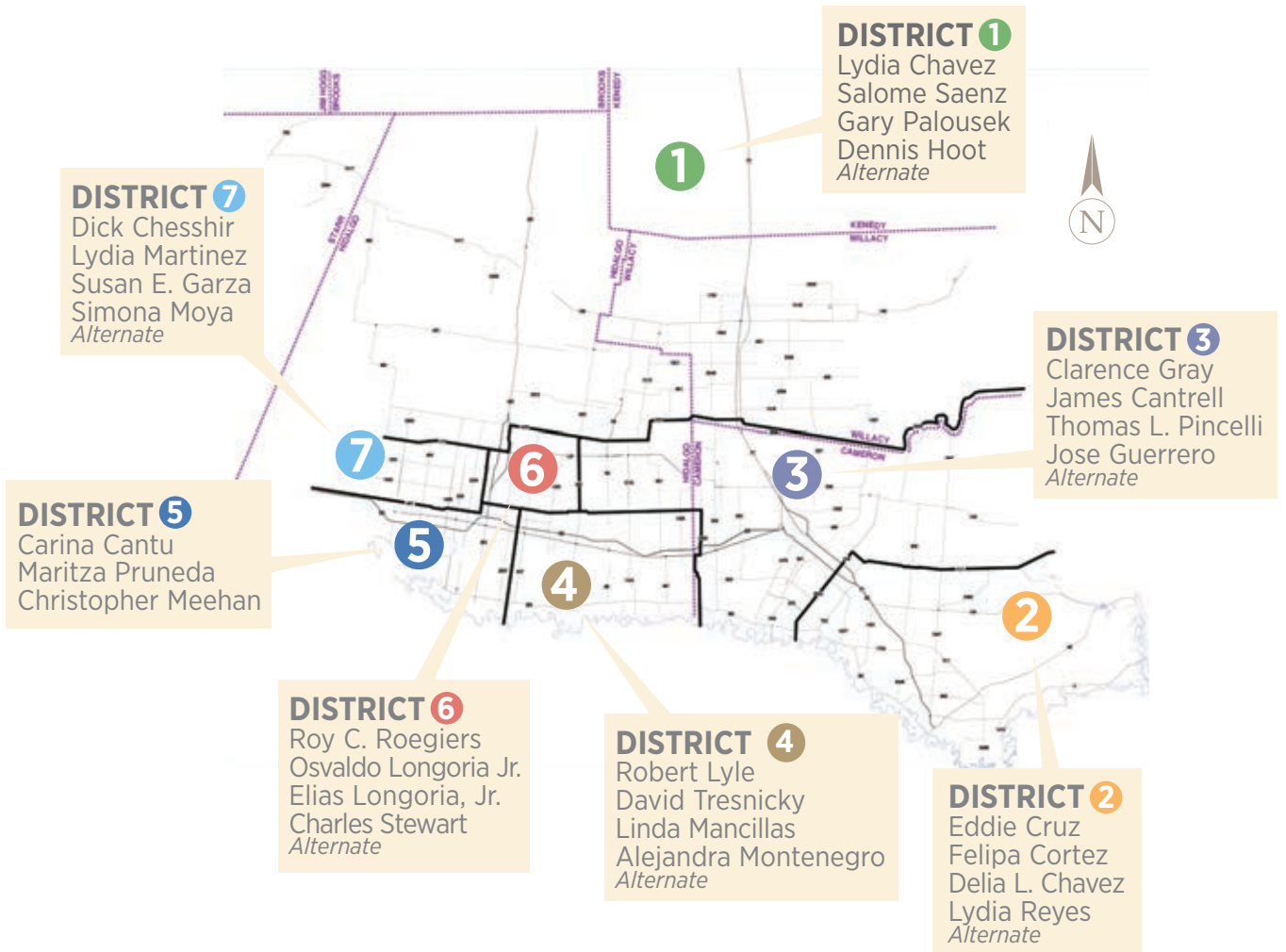
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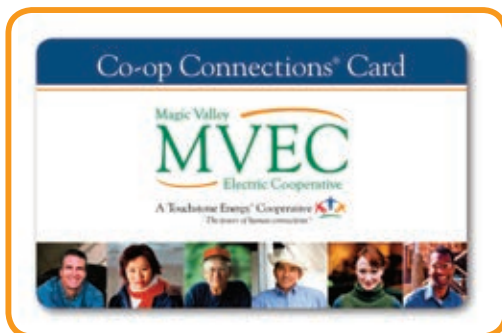


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# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

## SWEET SAVORY BRUSSELS SPROUTS



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### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup finely diced pancetta
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 package(10ounces) shredded Brussels sprouts
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup slivered almonds
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons water
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cook the pancetta in a medium, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until it's almost crisp, then transfer to a plate. Discard all but 1 teaspoon of the drippings.
2. Add butter, Brussels sprouts, cranberries and almonds, and cook, stirring, until heated through.
3. Add the pancetta, brown sugar, maple syrup and water, and toss until well-coated. Adjust seasonings to taste and serve warm.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



# BECOMING A MASTER GARDENER

Story by: Eileen Mattei

“I have a little bitty garden now, but I anticipate having more space and more plants,” says Deborah Ashley, a Master Gardener intern. After completing 50 intense hours of Master Gardener training last October, she is working toward certification by volunteering 50 hours at farmers markets and the vegetable garden at Rio Grande Valley Food Bank in Pharr.

“I love that there is so much to learn as a Master Gardener. It’s a wide open adventure,” says the UTRGV instructor.

Becoming one of Texas’ 7,000 Master Gardeners appeals to those who love gardening and want to learn more and then share their knowledge. Whether growing vegetables, flowers, palms, wildflowers or all of the above, approximately 90 Master Gardeners in Cameron and Hidalgo counties practice good gardening principles and help educate others. They operate as volunteer, unpaid employees of county AgriLife Extension offices, giving presentations on topics like using rain barrels or growing tomatoes and helping at AgriLife events.

Jennifer Herrera, Cameron County AgriLife Extension horticulture specialist, says most people taking the practical course are novices. “We also get individuals from out of state who are experienced gardeners but not in our climate.” With the classes running a full day, once a week for over two months, the average trainee is 60 and retired.

Trainees experience hands-on sessions doing grafting, seed preparation and propagation, plant identification. They learn to build a raised-bed garden and make a rain barrel. They hear lectures from local experts at lawn companies, soil labs and nurseries. They tour the USDA research center in Weslaco and visit fruit tree and native plant nurseries. “Every year is a little different. I like to change it up a little,” Herrera says.

Chuck Malloy became a Master Gardener on retirement five years ago, urged on by his wife and inspired by a grandfather who was a state forester. “We get into the science-- botany, a little chemistry, soil analysis, USDA zones and all the plants that will grow here. I wanted to learn more about plants in this area, but I didn’t realize how much I would be exposed to. The program is tailored to our county. Becoming a Master Gardener opens your mind to plants. Do you know plants have immune systems like people do?”

Malloy discovered a passion for palms and for ‘zone pushing’ -- growing things like coconut palms that take a lot of attention to survive here. He gives presentations cautioning people about overpruning palms. Other Master Gardeners become compost specialists or experts on growing vegetables or exotics like orchids.

Malloy identifies himself as a minor gardener because, “There is way too much to learn. But if you give me a problem, I know how to research it.”

*In the Master Gardener program, trainees learn about plant propagation. AgriLife Extension photo (courtesy).*





A Cameron County Master Gardener talks about dragon fruit with a visitor to the Master Gardener Expo and Plant Sale. Photo: Anita Westervelt

Ashley Gregory, Hidalgo County's AgriLife horticulture specialist, explains that the Master Gardener's role is to go out into the community. "They pick their own areas of interest and volunteer there. We have specialists in greenhouse management, water efficiency, and plant health." The county held 32 workshops last year, some at its one-acre San Juan demonstration garden which has plots devoted to herbs, butterflies, wildflowers, vegetables and fruit trees.

Several Master Gardeners volunteer with schools in the Junior Master Gardener program. Others work in community and church gardens or at the AgriLife demonstration gardens. They give presentations to community organizations on everything from beekeeping and citrus greening to herb growing. Some answer gardening questions that come into the extension offices.

Master Gardeners do not get volunteer hours for working in their own yard, but they certainly apply what they've learned in their own gardens.

Deborah Ashley adds that the benefits of the program go beyond the garden. "You meet people from different backgrounds. It broadens your horizons. You have mutual interests and make lifelong friends."

Call AgriLife Extension in Cameron County (956-361-8236) and Hidalgo County (956-383-1026) for more information and to be placed on the mailing list for the next Master Gardener training. Orientation starts in August.



Master Gardener trainees listen to Ed Pacheck talk about exotic fruit trees at Rivers End Nursery. AgriLife Extension photo (courtesy).

# STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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# MENSAJE DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL ACOMPÁÑANOS A TU JUNTA ANUAL

¿POR QUÉ DEBES ASISTIR?

— John W. Herrera



A nombre de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, queremos invitarte personalmente a que nos acompañes a las 7:00 pm, el 16 de abril, en el Auditorio Municipal de Harlingen, situado en 1204 Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen, TX 78550.

Cada año, contamos los días para reunirnos con miembros de la cooperativa, para escuchar lo que tienen que decir, disfrutar de la convivencia entre amigos y familiares darles a todas y todos la oportunidad de ganar premios.

La Junta Anual de Magic Valley no es sólo una ocasión para platicar con estimados conocidos. También es una gran oportunidad para enterarse de los programas que ofrece la cooperativa y conocer al personal. Para nosotros, la Junta Anual es un evento importante para recaudar información y comentarios sobre cómo podemos servirte mejor a ti y a tu familia.

También es una oportunidad para que puedas ejercer uno de los mayores derechos de ser miembro: votar por la junta directiva.

La cooperativa no le pertenece a inversionistas distantes, ni tampoco es dirigida por una junta de directores nombrada por inversionistas. La cooperativa te pertenece a ti, así como a todos y todas los miembros, y es dirigida por una junta directiva que es electa democráticamente y está compuesta de directores y directoras que tienen el privilegio de servir, gracias a los votos.

Una elección democrática y abierta es uno de los muchos elementos que nos diferencia de otras empresas de servicios públicos. Tener voz y voto para decidir quiénes toman las decisiones importantes que afectan directamente tu vida y tu familia es un derecho que todos compartimos como estadounidenses. Todos votamos por nuestros representantes en el congreso federal y estatal, pero no todos los estadounidenses tienen el derecho de votar para aquellos que representan los intereses de la comunidad dentro de su empresa eléctrica. Tú tienes ese derecho, así que ¿por qué no ejercerlo?

Nuestros directores son miembros de la comunidad. Ellos también se preocupan por los mismos problemas a los que nos enfrentamos cada día, porque ellos también los enfrentan.

Nuestro compromiso siempre seguirá siendo el ofrecerte energía confiable, segura y accesible. Te invito a que nos digas cómo podemos ofrecerte un mejor servicio. Reserva el 16 de abril en tu calendario y acompáñanos a la junta anual.

¡Te guardaremos un lugar!

**John W. Herrera**  
Director General

## Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 267  
1 3/4 Mi. W. Hwy 83  
Mercedes, TX 78570

### DIRECTOR GENERAL

**John W. Herrera**

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Presidente

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**Doug Martin,**

Director

**Nila T. Wipf,**

Director

**Adrienne Peña-Garza,**

Director

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# CONOCE A LOS DIRECTORES

LOS DIRECTORES ACTUALES DE LOS RESPECTIVOS DISTRITOS SON:



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DISTRITO

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REYNALDO L. LOPEZ  
DISTRITO

2



NILA T. WIPF  
DISTRITO

3



BARBARA S. MILLER  
DISTRITO

4



ADRIENNE PEÑA-GARZA  
DISTRITO

5



DOUG MARTIN  
DISTRITO

6



ROLANDO ALANIZ  
DISTRITO

7

## COMITÉ DE NOMINACIONES 2018

**DISTRITO 7**  
Dick Chesshir  
Lydia Martinez  
Susan E. Garza  
Simona Moya  
*Suplente*

**DISTRICT 5**  
Carina Cantu  
Maritza Pruneda  
Christopher Meehan

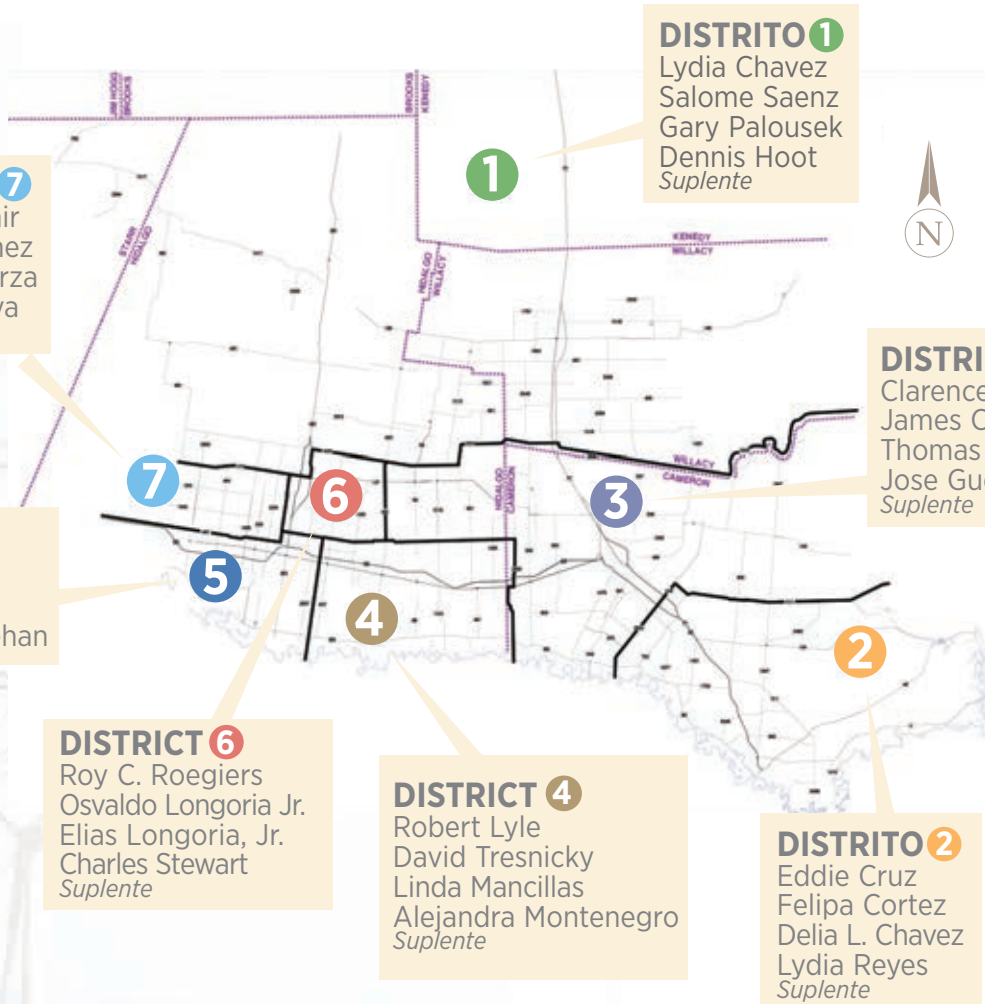
**DISTRICT 6**  
Roy C. Roegiers  
Osvaldo Longoria Jr.  
Elias Longoria, Jr.  
Charles Stewart  
*Suplente*

**DISTRICT 4**  
Robert Lyle  
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Thomas L. Pincelli  
Jose Guerrero  
*Suplente*



# RECETA DEL MES

## DULCES Y SABROSAS COLES DE BRUSELAS



OLGAKR | ISTOCK.COM

### INGREDIENTES:

- 1 taza de “pancetta” (tocino italiano) cortado finamente
- 1 cucharada de mantequilla
- 1 paquete (10 onzas) coles de Bruselas desmenuzados
- 1/3 de taza de arándanos secos
- 1/3 taza almendras rebanadas (silvered almonds)
- 1 cucharada de azúcar morena
- 1 cucharada de miel de maple
- 2 cucharadas de agua
- Sal y pimienta al gusto

### INSTRUCCIONES:

1. Cocina la pancetta en un sartén antiadherente mediano a calor medio-alto hasta que esté casi crujiente; después ponlo en un plato. Desecha todo menos 1 cucharadita de la grasa derretida.
2. Agrega la mantequilla, las coles de Bruselas, arándanos y almendras y cocina, mesclando, hasta que se caliente.
3. Agregar la pancetta, azúcar morena, miel de maple y agua y mezcla hasta que estén bien cubiertos.

Condíméntalo al gusto y sírvelo caliente

Encuentra esta receta y muchas más en línea en:

[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)

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## CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS



## HORARIO DE VERANO

Empieza a las 2 a.m. el domingo 11 de Marzo; recuerda adelantar tus relojes una hora.

AMANDA ROHDE | ISTOCK.COM



## FELIZ DÍA DE SAN PATRICIO

Te desea Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

Sábado 17 de marzo

ANITA STIZOZI | ISTOCK.COM



## FELICES PASCUAS ABRIL 1

Las oficinas de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative estará ceradas el 30 de marzo en conmemoración del Viernes Santo

MONIELOG | ISTOCK.COM

# CÓMO CONVERTIRSE EN UN MAESTRO JARDINERO

Historia por: Eileen Mattei

"Hoy en día, tengo un jardín muy pequeño, pero espero tener más espacio y más plantas," dice Deborah Ashley, una maestra jardinera que está haciendo su internado. Después de completar 50 horas intensas para su formación como maestra jardinera en octubre del año pasado, ella está trabajando para completar su certificación con 50 horas de voluntaria en los mercados de frutas y verduras (farmers markets) en el Rio Grande Valley Food Bank (banco de comida) en Pharr. "Me encanta que hay mucho que aprender de ser una maestra o maestro jardinero. Es una aventura totalmente abierta", dice la instructora de la universidad de UTRGV.

Convertirse en uno de los 7,000 maestros jardineros en Texas atrae a los amantes de la jardinería que quieren aprender y compartir sus conocimientos con los demás. Ya sea cultivando hortalizas, flores, palmeras, flores silvestres o todo lo mencionado anteriormente, aproximadamente 90 maestras y maestros jardineros en los condados de Cameron e Hidalgo ejercen los principios de jardinería y ayudan a educar a otras personas. Ejercen como voluntarios y trabajan sin recibir pago en las oficinas de extensión AgriLife del condado; facilitan presentaciones sobre temas como el uso de agua de lluvia o el cultivo de tomates y ayudan en eventos de AgriLife.

Jennifer Herrera, especialista de agricultura de la oficina de extensión de AgriLife del Condado Cameron, dice que la mayoría de las personas que

toman el curso básico son principiantes. "También tenemos personas de fuera del estado que son jardineros expertos, pero no en nuestro clima." Como las clases son un día completo una vez por semana durante dos meses, la edad promedio de quienes participan es de 60 años y son personas jubiladas.

El curso es práctico y los estudiantes realizan injertos, preparan semillas, y experimentan con la propagación e identificación de plantas. También aprenden cómo construir macizos elevados de flores y a recolectar agua de lluvia. Además asisten a conferencias por expertos locales que cuentan con empresas de jardinería, laboratorios de suelos y viveros. Incluso visitan el centro de investigación del USDA en Weslaco y examinan viveros de árboles frutales y de plantas nativas. "Cada año es un poco diferente. Me gusta cambiarlo un poco," dice Herrera.

Chuck Malloy se convirtió en maestro jardinero después de su jubilación hace cinco años, incitado por su esposa e inspirado por uno de sus abuelos, que fue un guardabosque estatal. "Nos enseñan ciencias – botánica, un poco de química, análisis de suelos, zonas del USDA, y de las plantas que crecen aquí. Yo quería aprender más sobre las plantas de esta zona, pero no sabía cuánto iban a aprender. El programa está adaptado a nuestra región. Convertirte en un maestro jardinero abre tu mente a las plantas. ¿Sabías que las plantas tienen sistema inmunológico, como las personas?"

*En el programa de maestro jardinero, las y los estudiantes aprenden sobre la propagación de plantas. Foto cortesía de AgriLife Extension*



Un maestro jardinero del Condado Cameron habla sobre la fruta de dragón con un visitante a la Expo de maestros jardineros y venta de plantas.

Foto: Anita Westervelt

Malloy descubrió su pasión por las palmas y “ampliación de zonas,” por ejemplo, cultivar las palmas de coco que requieren grandes cuidados para sobrevivir en esta región. Malloy también hace presentaciones donde advierte a la gente sobre el riesgo de podar las palmas de más. Otros maestros jardineros se convierten en especialistas en composta o expertos en el cultivo de hortalizas o plantas exóticas, como las orquídeas.

Malloy se identifica como como jardinero menor, “hay mucho que aprender, pero si me das un problema, sé cómo investigar la respuesta.”

Ashley Gregory, especialista en horticultura de AgriLife del Condado de Hidalgo, explica que el papel del maestro jardinero es acercarse a la comunidad. “Escogen sus propias áreas de interés y se convierten en voluntarios.

Contamos con especialistas en invernaderos, eficiencia del agua y salud de las plantas.” El condado ofreció 32 talleres de estudio el año pasado; algunos se realizaron en el jardín muestra en San Juan, que cuenta con parcelas dedicadas a las hierbas, mariposas, flores, hortalizas y árboles frutales.

Varias de las y los maestros jardineros son voluntarios en las escuelas del programa maestro jardinero junior. Otros trabajan en la comunidad y en los jardines de iglesias o en los jardines muestra de AgriLife. Dan presentaciones a organizaciones comunitarias, particularmente sobre apicultura y el “enverdecimiento de los cítricos” (una enfermedad destructiva de los cítricos). Algunos voluntarios responden las preguntas sobre jardinería que llegan a nuestras oficinas.

Las y los maestros jardineros no pueden anotar como horas de voluntariado las que trabajan en su propio jardín, pero sí pueden aplicar ahí los conocimientos aprendidos.

Deborah Ashley añade que los beneficios del programa van más allá del jardín. “Conoces gente de diferentes orígenes. Puedes ampliar tus horizontes. Compartes intereses mutuos y estableces amistades de por vida.”

Puedes llamar a la oficina de extensión de AgriLife del condado Cameron al (956-361-8236) y al Condado Hidalgo (956-383-1026) para obtener más información y para que te incluyan en la lista de correo para el próximo curso de maestro jardinero. La orientación empieza el mes de agosto.



Estudiantes de jardinería escuchan a Ed Pacheck hablar sobre árboles frutales exóticos en Rivers End Nursery. Foto cortesía de AgriLife Extension

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### CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

**3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**A. HOT DOG**  
ITEM 69269/97080 shown

**B. PANCAKE**  
ITEM 60637/61615  
95275 shown

**YOUR CHOICE**  
**\$399**

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE **\$98.62** **SAVE 53%** **\$56.99**

Model: PCF50203

86330977

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH

**#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA**

**RAPID PUMP® 3 TON LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

• Weighs 73 lbs.

COMPARE TO HUSKY **\$149.98** **SAVE \$69** **NOW \$79.99**

Model: HD00120

ITEM 62326/61282/61253 shown

86333137

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### FREE SUPER COUPON

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**3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT**

• 9 LED  
• Compact, Lightweight

ITEM 69111  
63599/62522/62573  
63875/63884/63886  
63888/69052 shown

COMPARE TO RAYOVAC **\$1.50** **MODEL: BR3LED-9**

86312941

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### FREE SUPER COUPON

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM\*

86314829

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discounts. Coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Scheduled Service Plan, gift card, open box items, chests or carts, trailers, compressors, floor jacks, strollers, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, benches, welders, AirMaster, Ames, Bostitch, Craftsman, DeWalt, Earthmate, Fastener, Hercules, Icon, Jupiter, Lyric, Poulan, Predator, Taligator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/7/18.

### PREDATOR

**4000 MAX. STARTING/3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATOR**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$289.99**

Wheel kit sold separately. **\$339.99**

COMPARE TO HONDA **\$1,999** **SAVE \$1,709**

Model: EM0005X

ITEM 69676/69729/63080/63079 shown  
ITEM 69675/69728/63090/63089, CALIFORNIA ONLY

86336720

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH

**1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE**

• Boom extends from 36-1/4" to 50-1/4"  
• Crane height adjusts from 82" to 94"

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$99.99**

COMPARE TO KOBALT **\$299** **SAVE \$80** **NOW \$179.99**

Model: SM305SLW

ITEM 69512/61858/69445 shown

86341800

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### CHICAGO

**12" SLIDING COMPOUND DOUBLE-BEVEL MITER SAW**

• Laser guide

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$129.99**

Blade sold separately. **\$194.99**

COMPARE TO KOBALT **\$299** **SAVE \$169** **NOW \$129.99**

Model: SM305SLW

ITEM 61969/61970  
69684 shown

86355523

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### BADLAND

**2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL**

• Weighs 14.3 lbs.  
• 11-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$499.99**

COMPARE TO SUPERWINCH **\$1,799.99** **SAVE \$130** **NOW \$499.99**

Model: 1123220

ITEM 61840/61297/63476/61258 shown

86356695

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### SUPER COUPON

**SOLAR ROPE LIGHT**

• Great outdoor accent lighting  
• Super bright light

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$9.99**

COMPARE TO HAMPTON BAY **\$29.97** **SAVE 66%** **\$13.99**

Model: 62936-0558R

ITEM 62533/63941/68353 shown

86361888

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### drillmaster

**4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$9.99**

COMPARE TO PERFORMAX **\$25.80** **SAVE 61%** **NOW \$9.99**

Model: 2411-1

ITEM 69645/60625 shown

86362368

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### PITTSBURGH

**ATV/LAWN MOWER LIFT**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

• 300 lb. capacity  
• Weighs 72.5 lbs.

**NOW \$79.99**

COMPARE TO PRO LIFT **\$179.99** **SAVE \$100** **NOW \$79.99**

Model: T-5508B

ITEM 60395  
62325/62493  
61523 shown

86362413

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### COVER PRO

**10 FT. x 20 FT. PORTABLE CAR CANOPY**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$999.99**

COMPARE TO SHELTER LOGIC **\$2,059.99** **SAVE \$106** **NOW \$999.99**

Model: 23522

ITEM 63054/62858 shown

86380403

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### KRAUSE & BECKER

**AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$169.99**

COMPARE TO GRACO **\$299** **SAVE \$129** **NOW \$169.99**

Model: 262800

ITEM 62915/60600 shown

86383406

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### CENTECH

**2/10/50 AMP, 12 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER/ENGINE STARTER**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$299.99**

COMPARE TO SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC **\$69.99** **SAVE 57%** **NOW \$299.99**

Model: 66-1259

ITEM 60581/60653 shown

86386784

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### HaulMaster

**12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$99.99**

COMPARE TO OPTRONICS **\$335.99** **SAVE 70%** **NOW \$99.99**

Model: TL216K

ITEM 63100  
62325/62493  
61523 shown

86406643

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### WARRIOR

**29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$99.99**

COMPARE TO DEWALT **\$60** **SAVE 83%** **NOW \$99.99**

Model: DW1969

ITEM 62281/61637 shown

86410061

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### drillmaster

**1500 WATT DUAL TEMPERATURE HEAT GUN (572°/1112°)**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$8.99**

COMPARE TO BLACK & DECKER **\$28.06** **SAVE 67%** **NOW \$8.99**

Model: HG1390

ITEM 62340/62546  
63104/96289 shown

86420716

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### Bunker Hill Security

**WIRELESS SECURITY ALERT SYSTEM**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$9.99**

COMPARE TO SWANN **\$23.99** **SAVE 58%** **NOW \$9.99**

Model: SWH004-BURVEA

ITEM 69590/61910  
62447/93068 shown

86434445

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### PORTLAND

**7 AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW 9.5" BAR**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

**NOW \$59.99**

COMPARE TO WORX **\$99.98** **SAVE \$39** **NOW \$59.99**

Model: WG509

ITEM 68862/63190/62896 shown

86438494

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

### SUPER COUPON

**FULL-MOTION TV WALL MOUNT**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

• Fits most 37" to 80"

**NOW \$399.99**

COMPARE TO ROCKETFISH **\$149.99** **SAVE \$110** **NOW \$399.99**

Model: RF-RTVMM170C

ITEM 64037  
63155 shown

86442103

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*



**CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**2.5 HP, 10" INDUSTRIAL TILE/BRICK SAW** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

Blade sold separately.

**SAVE \$279** **COMPARE TO \$499** **NOV \$219.99** ~~\$289.99~~

ITEM 62391/69275 shown

86447601

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HARDY** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**MECHANIC'S GLOVES** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 73%** **COMPARE TO \$14.99** **NOV \$3.99** ~~\$5.99~~

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 62428 shown

86449041

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**Bauer** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 450 in. lbs. of torque  
• 1.5 amp hour battery  
• Weighs 3.4 lbs.

**SAVE \$34** **COMPARE TO \$99** **NOV \$64.99** ~~\$74.99~~

ITEM 63531

86450229

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**3-POINT QUICK HITCH** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 2000 lb. capacity  
• 27-3/16" Clearance

**NOV \$199.99** ~~\$99.99~~

**SAVE \$120** **COMPARE TO \$199.99**

ITEM 97214

86450523

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**1000 LB. CAPACITY SWING-BACK TRAILER JACK** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• Height range: 12-1/2" to 24"

**NOV \$179.99** ~~\$259.99~~

**SAVE 60%** **COMPARE TO \$44.99**

ITEM 69780 41005 shown

86460012

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**Apache** Model 1800 **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**ULTRA-LIGHT, CRUSH PROOF WEATHER-RESISTANT LOCKABLE CASE** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOV \$9.99** ~~\$14.99~~

• 9-3/16" L  
• 7-1/2" W  
• 4-1/2" H

**SAVE 76%** **COMPARE TO \$42.95**

ITEM 63518

86465696

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**PORTLAND** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 1.3 GPM  
• Adjustable spray nozzle

**NOV \$199.99** ~~\$99.99~~

**SAVE \$99** **COMPARE TO \$179.99**

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

86483491

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**STEP STOOL/WORKING PLATFORM** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 350 lb. capacity

**NOV \$199.99** ~~\$299.99~~

**SAVE 65%** **COMPARE TO \$57.55**

ITEM 62515 66911 shown

86490233

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**TRI-FOLD ALUMINUM LOADING RAMP** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 1500 lb. capacity

**NOV \$149.99** ~~\$199.99~~

**SAVE \$74** **COMPARE TO \$49.99**

ITEM 69595/60334/90018 shown

86491463

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOV \$199.99** ~~\$339.99~~

**SAVE 60%** **COMPARE TO \$49.99**

ITEM 61914

86492655

LIMIT 6 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOV \$5.99** ~~\$8.99~~

**SAVE 70%** **COMPARE TO \$19.99**

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown

86498703

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**PREDATOR** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOV \$99.99** ~~\$119.99~~

**SAVE \$230** **COMPARE TO \$329.99**

ITEM 60363/69730 CALIFORNIA ONLY

86499200

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**NOV \$59.99** ~~\$79.99~~

**SAVE \$39** **COMPARE TO \$99**

ITEM 69265/62344/93897 shown

86516540

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**HaulMaster** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 1000 lb. capacity

**NOV \$7.99** ~~\$10.99~~

**SAVE 51%** **COMPARE TO \$16.43**

ITEM 61899/63095/63096/63098/63097/93888 shown

86516920

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**UNION SAFE COMPANY** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**1.51 CUBIC FT. SOLID STEEL ELECTRONIC DIGITAL FLOOR SAFE** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

22-3/4"

**NOV \$89.99** ~~\$119.99~~

**SAVE \$85** **COMPARE TO \$175**

ITEM 91006/62678/62977 shown

86532950

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**10" PNEUMATIC TIRE** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• 300 lb. working load

**NOV \$3.99** ~~\$5.99~~

**SAVE \$5.99** **COMPARE TO \$10**

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

86534765

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**Grant's GARAGE** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

**SHOP TOWELS PACK OF 50** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• Mechanic's Choice

**NOV \$9.99** ~~\$12.99~~

**SAVE 44%** **COMPARE TO \$17.98**

ITEM 63365/63360 shown

86538540

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**8" HUNTING KNIFE WITH SURVIVAL KIT** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

• Includes compass, sewing kit, safety pins, fishing line, matches, fire starting paper, lanyard & sheath

**NOV \$7.99** ~~\$9.99~~

**SAVE 59%** **COMPARE TO \$19.97**

ITEM 61733 90714 shown

86544750

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 7/7/18\*

**CENTECH** **SCISSOR** SUPER COUPON

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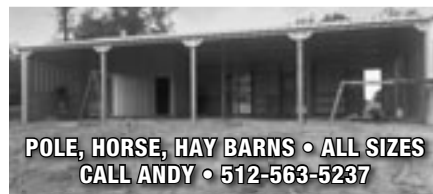
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# A Texan Saves French Wines

Viticulturist Thomas Volney Munson's living legacy is on display in Denison

BY DAWN COBB

PLUMP, PURPLE GRAPES, GROWN FROM rootstock developed by a Denison viticulturist more than a century ago, dangle from a vine near Valley View.

That viticulturist, Thomas Volney Munson, discovered a wild species of mustang grape along the banks of the Red River and ultimately developed more than 300 varieties. He also is credited with saving the French wine industry in the 19th century.

Today, a new generation of winemakers learns the skills required to successfully cultivate vineyards with information preserved through the Grayson College Viticulture and Enology program. Viticulture covers the cultivation of grapes, and enology is the study of wine.

To have that connection with that history is incredible, says Meredith Eaton, a 2014 Grayson College graduate. She planted her own vineyard in southern Cooke County near the banks of Ray Roberts Lake, where the microclimate and sandy loam soil create conditions ideal for growing grapes. She joined an industry that brings more than \$2.27 billion in economic value to Texas.

In 1887, Munson rode horseback with French scientist Pierre Viala along the Red River during Viala's search for a hearty species resistant to phylloxera. The small aphid had wreaked havoc throughout France, destroying an estimated 80 percent of the country's vines.

Munson, an expert in grape botany and plant grafting, was Viala's last hope for a solution to the problem. Munson directed Viala to western Bell County, where the limestone soil approximated that of the French countryside. Viala found three native species thriving in poor soil conditions and, through grafting European vines to the phylloxera-resistant Texas rootstock, replenished French vineyards wiped out by the epidemic.



## WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to learn more about Denison and Texas wine.

A year later, France recognized Munson as *Chevalier du Mérite Agricole* in the French Legion of Honor.

On a hill west of U.S. 75 in Denison, Grayson College students learn the art and science of cultivating grapes from 65 varieties grown in the T.V. Munson Memorial Vineyard and the nearby T.V. Munson Center, which houses the viticulturist's research, a classroom and tools of the trade.

Roy Renfro started the Grayson College program in 1974 and transformed Munson's family home into the Vinita House museum. He also co-wrote *Grape Man of Texas*, a biography of Munson published in 2004.

The college works with the Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service, which has confirmed viticulture as a prospering industry in the state. Texas has eight American Viticultural Areas, with Denison covering 3,650 square miles in the Texoma viticultural area.

Nestled in a neighborhood within the city of 23,000 is the two-story Vinita House, where Munson raised his family. Upon his arrival in Denison, Munson is said to have announced, "I have found my grape paradise." His home still suggests his activity. Sketches of machines he envisioned lie atop one desk. Photos of past vineyards and

a nursery line the walls beside family portraits.

Dinnerware and place settings fill a formal dining table, as if awaiting guests.

A grand piano in the living room and a tiny wooden cradle in the master bedroom add to the sense of a 19th-century home.

Munson's legacy continues to bear fruit. Eaton recalls her studies in Denison, working in the hilltop vineyard, learning in the nearby classroom, reviewing Munson's research and visiting the Vinita House.

Turning their hobby into a business, Eaton and her husband, George, planted cabernet sauvignon, merlot, tempranillo, roussanne and chambourcin, a French-American hybrid, among other varieties on three acres in CoServ's service territory.

One summer morning, Eaton carefully holds a grape cluster. The slight dimpling signals time for harvest. A blaring radio keeps deer at bay day and night. Her vision is now reality: She is ready for a lifelong pursuit in viticulture and enology.

And it's all thanks to T.V. Munson.

**Dawn Cobb** is the PR communication specialist at CoServ, the electric co-op in Corinth.

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## Luck of the Irish: Potatoes

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR: CORNED beef, cabbage, new potatoes and Irish beer dominate the supermarket aisles. Even if you're not Irish, it's hard to resist the St. Patrick's Day appeal of a pint and some hearty cuisine—especially if you're a potato lover. Potatoes were introduced to Ireland in the 16th century, and because they grew vigorously in Irish soil, became a staple food. Today, potatoes still promise a dish that's comforting, filling and easy to love.

### Pommes Anna With Sage and Oregano

This classic French dish transforms humble spuds into an elegant side dish of crispy, golden rounds. The fresh herbs are not traditional, but I love how they infuse the potatoes with fragrance—and they're pretty, especially when you use small, individual leaves.

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, divided use
- Olive oil as needed
- 3 large russet potatoes, washed but not peeled
- Kosher salt
- 2-3 tablespoons fresh sage, thyme and oregano leaves

1. Heat 2 tablespoons butter with a generous drizzle of olive oil in a cast-iron skillet over medium-low heat until butter melts and just starts to foam, then shut off heat.
2. Using a mandoline slicer, slice the potatoes into very thin (but not paper-thin) slices.
3. Arrange the slices tightly, carefully shingling the rounds around the pan in concentric circles, starting at the outer edge of the pan and working your way into the center. Season the first layer with a little salt and a scattering of the fresh herbs. Repeat with each potato and remaining herbs until you achieve three tight layers.
4. Turn the heat back on at medium under the pan. Drizzle the potatoes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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# Recipes

## Luck of the Irish: Potatoes



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

MIKE DWYER | FARMERS EC

With a zippy dressing (kicked up with red wine vinegar and whole-grain mustard) and a whiff of smoke, Dwyer's green onion-flecked potato salad will steal the show at potlucks and complement steaks, chicken thighs, ribs—anything off the grill.

### Smoked Potato Salad

- 12 medium red potatoes, scrubbed and pierced
- ¼ cup thinly sliced green onions
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
- ¼ cup mayonnaise, or more if desired
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees, then bake unpeeled potatoes 45 minutes. While the potatoes bake, prepare your smoker.
2. Smoke potatoes 1 hour in low heat (250 degrees or less). When finished, remove from smoker and dice into

1-inch chunks, or larger as desired.

3. Combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Fold in the potatoes (mixing gently so they hold their shape). Adjust seasonings as desired and serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 3–4 days. For the best texture and flavor, take the salad out of the fridge 30 minutes before serving. ▶ Serves 6–8.

**COOK'S TIP** To rev up the smokiness, smoke the potatoes in chunks (instead of whole) 30 minutes, with a bowl of water in the smoker. You also can parboil the potatoes before smoking: Simmer in generously salted water until just tender, 18–20 minutes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

with another generous pour of olive oil and dot pats of the remaining butter around the pan. Season with salt.

5. When the ingredients begin to sizzle, place a lid on the pan and seal tightly for a couple minutes (this will steam the potatoes and help them soften). Remove the lid and swirl the pan to see if the potatoes are binding together as their starch begins to heat up. If they slip loosely and lose their shape, tuck the slices back into the tight circle using a heat-proof rubber spatula and allow to cook longer uncovered. (You should hear the potatoes sizzling.)
6. When the potatoes start to turn golden and crisp, swirl the pan again to confirm that the potato layers have formed a cake, and then flip the entire cake and cook the other side until golden and crispy.
7. Slide onto serving plate or cutting board, season with salt and cut into wedges. ▶ Serves 4–6.

**COOK'S TIP** Don't be tempted to soak the slices in water before assembly; you'll wash off the necessary starch that binds them together. The only tricky part is flipping the cake. For best results, use a slope-sided skillet, or place a large serving plate over the pan and use two hand towels to invert the skillet—then slide the cake back into the skillet.

### Shrimp Potato Boats

KATHY MILLS | DEEP EAST TEXAS EC

"When we lived down on the Gulf Coast, we would always have a seafood dinner for Easter," Mills says. "These potato boats were always the star of the show! We ate them as a side to all the other seafood we prepared, but they could certainly stand alone as an entrée with just a salad."

- 4 large baking potatoes
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ½ cup half-and-half
- ¼ cup finely chopped green onions
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 pound peeled, deveined and cooked Texas Gulf shrimp, coarsely chopped

Paprika  
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish



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### \$100 Recipe Contest

August's recipe contest topic is **The Secret of Salsa**. With temperatures sweltering, we raise the bar with another kind of heat (tomatillo? habanero? a blistering pico?). Send us yours. The deadline is **March 10**.

ENTER ONLINE at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/contests); MAIL to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; FAX to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Scrub potatoes, then bake 45 minutes, until tender and cooked through.
2. When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, remove the top third of each and scoop out the pulp, leaving about 1/4 inch of the shell. Combine the potato pulp, butter, half-and-half, green onions, cheese and salt in a large bowl and whip at medium-high speed until smooth. Use a rubber spatula to fold in the shrimp.
3. Stuff potato shells with the shrimp mixture, sprinkle with paprika and bake 10 minutes.
4. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley, if desired, and serve warm. ▶ Serves 4 as an entrée, 6–8 as a side dish.

**COOK'S TIP** To cook thawed shrimp, plunge them into a pot of generously salted boiling water. The minute the water returns to a boil (1–2 minutes), the shrimp should be cooked. Avoid overcooking the shrimp, since they'll be heated again in the oven. To kick up the spice level, cook the shrimp in water that's been flavored with shrimp boil.

## Twice-Baked Potato Poppers

JOHN PORTERFIELD | BANDERA EC

Warm and crispy from the oven, these potato rounds are fun to eat—and hard to stop eating—especially when they're dosed with hot sauce. They can be made in advance and refrigerated up to two days.

- 2 pounds russet potatoes, baked, skins removed
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion tops
- 3 tablespoons minced jalapeño or serrano pepper, or more as desired for heat
- 4 strips bacon, fried crisp and crumbled
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 4 ounces butter cracker crumbs

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Mash skinned potatoes into pulp, then combine with butter, grated cheese, onion tops, minced pepper and crumbled bacon. Season conservatively with salt and pepper to taste. Form into golf ball-sized spheres and set aside.
3. In a shallow bowl, whisk together flour, Cajun seasoning and salt. In a separate shallow bowl, whisk the egg and milk together. Place the cracker crumbs in a third bowl.
4. Roll potato balls in flour mixture, then egg mixture; repeat. After second round of flour-then-egg coating, roll balls in cracker crumbs, making sure they're well-covered.
5. Place on a cookie sheet and bake 35–40 minutes until brown and crispy, carefully flipping the spheres once after 15 minutes. ▶ Makes 20–24 poppers.

**COOK'S TIP** If the potato rounds are not chilled before baking, they'll be soft and somewhat malleable; a vented fish spatula is helpful for flipping them.



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**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.

◀ **RON HASTY**, CoServ: “Denton has a great music scene. You will often see an artist playing on the square in the evening.”

▼ **RICK ROBERSON**, United Cooperative Services: “It is not unusual to hear someone tickling the ivories while strolling the streets of downtown Corsicana.”



▲ **DAVID LARGENT**, HILCO EC: Inside the general store at Dallas Heritage Village

▶ **JAMES EATON**, CoServ: The McKinney square under cover of snow



▲ **JAMES DOZIER**, Trinity Valley EC: The center arch of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge and the Ronald Kirk Bridge for pedestrians over the Trinity River in Dallas



## UPCOMING CONTESTS

JULY	OPPOSITES	DUE MARCH 10
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## Pick of the Month Chili Cook-Off

**Sutherland Springs** March 17-18  
(830) 446-1292

The cook-off, in its 10th year, offers a fun diversion and a bit of healing for the small town in Wilson County. "As you know, Sutherland Springs recently suffered an unimaginable tragedy, but we're slowly bouncing back," says Donna King, cook-off chairman and a member of Guadalupe Valley EC. Sutherland Springs is the site of Texas' worst mass shooting, when 26 were killed during Sunday morning services at First Baptist Church on November 5, 2017.

## March

7

**Frisco** [7-10] Conference USA Basketball Championships, (214) 774-1375, conferenceusa.com

8

**Columbus** Chamber of Commerce Casino Night, (979) 732-8385, columbus-texas.org

9

**New Braunfels** Spring Gardening Seminar: Secrets in the Garden, (830) 620-3440, txmg.org/comal/events/seminar

**Ingram** [9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24] *Love Letters*, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

**Beeville** [15-17] Brush Country Photo Safari, (361) 834-0000, brushcountryphotosafari.com

16

**Mansfield** [16-17] St. Paddy's Pickle Parade and Palooza, (817) 239-0481, pickleparade.org

**Round Top** [16-17] Herbal Forum at Round Top, (979) 249-3129, festivalhill.org/calendar

17

**Alto** Gentle Yoga and Foraging, (936) 858-3218, visitcaddomounds.com

**Burton** Texas Ranger Day, (979) 836-3696, visitbrenhamtexas.com

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**San Patricio [17-18] World Championship  
Rattlesnake Races,** (361) 877-5037,  
[wcrattlesnakeraces.com](http://wcrattlesnakeraces.com)

## 22

**Beaumont [22-April 1] YMBL South Texas  
State Fair,** (409) 832-9991, [beaumontcvb.com](http://beaumontcvb.com)

## 23

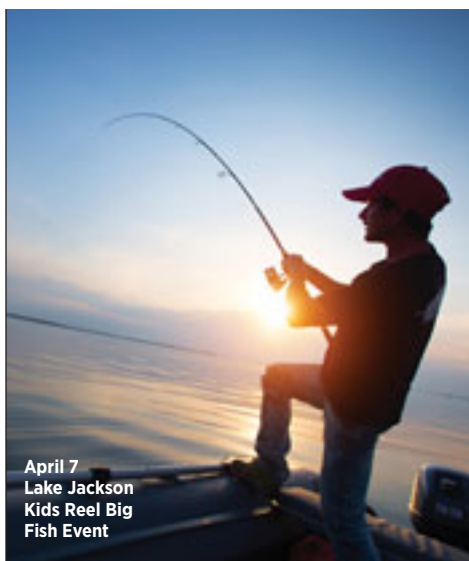
**Marshall [23-24] East Texas Square and  
Round Dance Association Festival,**  
(903) 393-3214, [etsrda.com](http://etsrda.com)

**Tyler [23-24] Quilters' Guild of East Texas  
Quilt Show,** (561) 251-7722, [qgetx.org](http://qgetx.org)

**Hallettsville [23-25] South Texas Polka  
& Sausage Fest,** (361) 798-2311, [kchall.com](http://kchall.com)

## 24

**Huntsville Herb Festival at the Wynne  
Home,** (936) 891-5024, [texasthymeunit.org](http://texasthymeunit.org)



April 7  
Lake Jackson  
Kids Reel Big  
Fish Event

**Palmer Chili Cook Off & Cruise In,**  
(972) 895-2876, [coffeewithcharacter.com](http://coffeewithcharacter.com)

**West Columbia Governor Hogg's  
Birthday Party,** (979) 345-4656,  
[visitvarnerhoggplantation.com](http://visitvarnerhoggplantation.com)

## 30

**Kerrville [30-April 1] Easter Hill Country  
Bike Tour,** (281) 782-8743, [ehct.com](http://ehct.com)

## April

### 7

**Grand Prairie Farmers Market Opening  
Day & Get Fit 5K,** (972) 237-8115,  
[grandfungp.com](http://grandfungp.com)

**Jonestown Cajun Cook-Off,** (512) 267-7952,  
[lagovista.org](http://lagovista.org)

**Lake Jackson Kids Reel Big Fish Event,**  
(979) 297-4533, [brazosport.org](http://brazosport.org)

**Little Elm Spiked on the Beach,**  
(972) 731-1466, [lakefrontlittleelm.com](http://lakefrontlittleelm.com)

**New Ulm Volunteer Fire Department Fish  
Fry,** (979) 992-3487

**Texarkana Ark-La-Tex Challenge Bike  
Tour,** (870) 774-9675, [arklatexchallenge.com](http://arklatexchallenge.com)

**Woodville Dogwood Festival,**  
(409) 283-2632,  
[tylercountydogwoodfestival.org](http://tylercountydogwoodfestival.org)

## Submit Your Event!

We pick events for the magazine directly from [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Submit your event for May by March 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

**Scarborough  
Renaissance Festival**

ENTER TO WIN  
10 SINGLE-DAY PASSES

GET DETAILS AND ENTER ONLINE AT  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

Visit [srfestival.com](http://srfestival.com) for information about the Scarborough Renaissance Festival.

Win a  
*Galveston  
Getaway*

**GALVESTON ISLAND**  
Where the Texas Coast Begins

**SAND & SEA PROPERTIES**

GET DETAILS AND ENTER ONLINE AT  
**TexasCoopPower.com**

Visit [Galveston.com](http://Galveston.com) for visitor information.

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All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of Country School Association of America.

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# Ancient Watering Hole

Lubbock Lake Landmark is an archaeological preserve on the High Plains

BY EILEEN MATTEI

DOMINATING THE ENTRANCE TO LUBBOCK Lake Landmark historic site, a Columbian mammoth sculpture poses as a life-sized rendering of the 8-ton animal that died here 11,500 years ago. Researchers at this archaeological preserve have uncovered mammoth bones as well as the stone tools used to kill and butcher mammoths and other animals at the end of the most recent ice age. The site is unique in North America because layers of sediment in its ancient stream bed reveal that nomadic people and their prey stopped at this water source for more than 10,000 years.

Journey through that history inside the Nash Interpretive Center, where you learn how spear and knife points were created. “We have evidence of people here for every culture through millennia: from Clovis people with stone-point spears hunting mammoths and bison to the hunters and early ranchers of the Comancheria in the 1800s. We are the latest in a long line of civilizations to live here,” says Deborah Bigness, Lubbock Lake Landmark operations manager. “Because of the *Ice Age* movies, kids think we’re really cool.”

The geological formation known as Yellow House Draw can be read like a book. If you know the language, you can “read” details about the plants, animals, cultures, geology and environment in each layer of the watercourse. “We learn as much, if not more, from what is around the artifact,” Bigness says. “Man first lived here at the end of the ice age, when the plant material shows the climate was much cooler and wetter.” Displays present shell beads and obsidian blades that suggest trade with distant tribes.

At different times, Lubbock Lake was a large lake, stream, ponds and marsh.



Archaeological digs continue at Lubbock Lake Landmark.

Along the way, giant short-faced bears, camels and mammoths disappeared from the area. Archaeologists can’t tell whether hunting or an inability to adapt to a changing climate triggered the extinctions.

Analyses of ancient bones have revealed that Folsom hunter-gatherers, who occupied central North America about 10,000 years ago, focused on hunting a now-extinct bison. Thanks to the Lubbock Lake Landmark’s 3-D replicas, you can feel the sharp edges of Folsom projectile points and the heft of bison bones.

Outside, past the giant short-faced bear sculpture and across the pedestrian bridge, you’ll find the 1-mile, self-guided archaeological trail that circles the ancient lake.

The archaeological site was discovered in 1936 when a steam shovel digging out the lake to rejuvenate the springs dumped a projectile point on a waste pile. Boys brought their find to West Texas University (now Texas Tech) professor Curry Holden. Today’s raised trail, built on the old dredge island, bisects the lake near its horseshoe bend and, initially, makes it difficult to picture the lake that was. But ample, lucid interpretive signs explain how archaeological digs unveil the mysteries of the past. Year-round, you can

schedule a guided tour for a more in-depth view of the site’s past and present.

“We think we’ve excavated about 5 percent of the material here,” Bigness says. The 335-acre landmark, part of the Museum of Texas Tech University and a national historic site, has held digs every year since 1972. Although the lake’s horseshoe bend was bone-dry in 2009, by 2016, rising water began flooding that year’s archaeological excavation. Orange sandbags higher up on the bank mark the 2017–2018 dig. Visitors can observe archaeology in action every July.

The landmark doubles as a natural history reserve, its landscape brimming with American basket flowers, buffalo gourds, prickly poppies and interpretive signs. Sightings of cottontails and the elusive Texas horned lizard reward visitors on the half-mile, ADA-accessible Llano Estacado Wildflower Trail boardwalk. The 3.5-mile trail across the restored shortgrass prairie circles back to the entrance, so you will never get lost—in time or space.

Eileen Mattei, a member of Nueces and Magic Valley ECs, lives in Harlingen.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ See this story on our website to view a slideshow.

# SAVE When You Grow A Zoysia Lawn From Living Plugs!

From Plugs...

...To A Fabulous Lawn



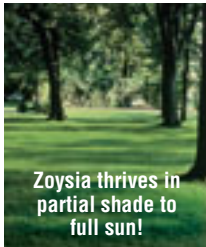
Zoysia Lawns are thick, dense and lush!

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### Zoysia Grows Where Other Grass Doesn't!

Plant a genuine Amazoy™ Zoysia lawn from living plugs once and never plant a new lawn again. Zoysia is the perfect choice for hard-to-cover spots, areas that are play-worn or have partial shade, and for stopping erosion on slopes. North, South, East, West – Zoysia grows in any soil, no ifs, ands or buts!



Zoysia thrives in partial shade to full sun!

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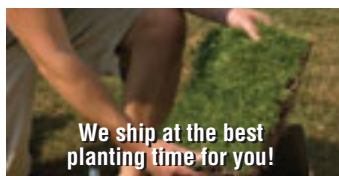
Guaranteed to grow new green shoots within 45-60 days or we'll replace it FREE – for up to 1 year – just call us. We ONLY ship you living genuine Amazoy Zoysia grass harvested direct from our farms. Easy planting and watering instructions are included with each order. Every Reorder assumes success of previous orders (plantings), voiding any previous guarantees, but initiating a new one-year guarantee.

### Eliminates Endless Weeds And Weeding!

No more pulling out weeds by hand or weeds sprouting up all over your lawn. Zoysia Plugs spread into a dense, plush, deep-rooted, established lawn that drives out unwanted growth and stops crabgrass and most summer weeds from germinating.

### Environmentally Friendly, No Chemicals Needed!

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Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by the U.S. Gov't, released in cooperation with the U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

[www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag](http://www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag)

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### Stays Green In Summer Through Heat & Drought!

When ordinary lawns brown up in summer heat and drought, your Zoysia lawn stays green and beautiful. The hotter it gets, the better it grows. Zoysia thrives in blistering heat (120°), yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It only goes off its green color after killing frosts, but color returns with consistent spring warmth. Zoysia is the perfect choice for water restrictions and drought areas!

### Now 3 Ways to Start Your Zoysia Lawn!

- 1) Freestyle Plugs** come in uncut sheets containing a maximum of 150-1" plugs. Freestyle Plugs allow you to make each plug bigger if you want-you decide. Min. size 1" sq.
- 2) New Super Plugs** are ready to plant-precut into individual 3 x 3 inch plugs. They arrive in easy to handle trays of 15 Super Plugs.
- 3) Amazoy Approved Seed-As** The Zoysia Specialists for 60+ years, we finally have a Zoysia seed available that meets our standards and homeowners expectations. Learn why at [zoysiafarms.com](http://zoysiafarms.com) or by phone at 410-756-2311.

**Order Your ZOYSIA Plugs Now — Harvested Daily From Our Farms And Shipped To You Direct!**

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Freestyle Plugs You decide how big to cut the plugs. Each grass sheet can produce up to 150-1 in. plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per sq. ft.						Super Plugs Precut plugs 3 inches by 3 inches READY TO PLANT Packed in trays of 15 Super Plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per 4 sq. ft.					
Max Plugs*	Free Plugs	Grass Sheets*	Your PRICE	+ Shipping	SAVINGS	Super Plugs	Free Plugs	Trays	Your PRICE	+ Shipping	SAVINGS
150	—	1	\$15.95	\$8.50	—	15	—	1	\$24.95	\$8.50	—
500	100	4	\$50.00	\$15.00	33%	60	15	5	\$90.00	\$20.00	34%
750	150	6	\$66.00	\$19.00	41%	95	25	8	\$110.00	\$30.00	47%
1100	400	10	\$95.00	\$30.00	48%	120	30	10	\$125.00	\$35.00	50%
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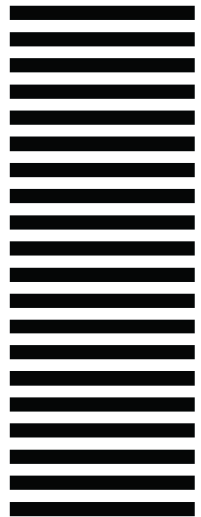
[godish.com/bundle](http://godish.com/bundle)



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for April 16, 2018, at the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, 1204 Fair Park Blvd, Harlingen, TX 78550, at 7 p.m. The official Annual Meeting notice will appear in the next issue of this magazine in the month of April.

## NO OLVIDE MARCAR SU CALENDARIO

La junta anual de miembros de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative será el día 16 de abril del 2018 a las 7 de la noche en el Harlingen Municipal Auditorium, 1204 Fair Park Blvd, Harlingen, TX 78550.

La invitación oficial de la junta anual aparecerá en la siguiente publicación de esta revista, en el mes de abril

## PROXY

### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:

That I, the undersigned member of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc; do hereby constitute and instruct the duly appointed Proxy Committee, the same being the cooperative secretary and assistant secretaries, to act in my name, place and stead and to vote as my proxy at the membership meeting of Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held on the 16th day of April, 2018 with full power and authority as I myself would have at said meeting upon all of the business before the meeting, thereby ratifying all that they may do by virtue there-of. I understand that if personally present for voting, any proxy or proxies heretofore given would be revoked.

---

#### Signature of Member and Date

(Please sign as name appears in our records.)

**Please sign, date and return this proxy card prior to April 9, 2018.  
Invalid if postmarked after April 9, 2018**

## CARTA PODER

### POR MEDIO DE LA PRESENTE CERTIFICO:

Que yo, el firmante miembro de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc; mediante este medio constituyo e instruyo al comité de apoderados, quienes son, el secretario y asistente de secretario de la cooperativa, para que éstos actúen, decidan y voten en mi nombre en la junta anual de miembros de Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc; que se llevará a cabo el día 16 de abril del 2018. Les otorgo amplio y completo poder de las decisiones que se tomen en la junta. De tal modo reafirmo que todo se tome en cuenta según a esa decisión. Entiendo que si llego según a estar presente en esta junta para votar, la carta poder o el apoderado de asignados serán anulados.

---

#### Firma del Miembro y Fecha

(Favor de firmar su nombre como aparece en nuestros libros.)

**Favor de firmar y regresar esta tarjeta antes del día 9 de abril del 2018.  
Inválido con sello día postal posterior al 9 de abril del 2018**

---

Fill out form, tear on perforated line above and mail before April 9, 2018. No postage required.  
Llene la forma, corte en línea perforada que se muestra arriba y envíe por correo antes del 9 de abril de 2018.  
No require estampilla postal.

## PLEASE NOTE

The proxy notice on this page should be returned no later than April 9, 2018, in order to be eligible for the drawing for the vehicle printed on the front cover.

## AVISO

La Carta poder que se encuentra en esta página deberá ser enviada antes del 9 de abril del año 2018 para poder participar en el sorteo del vehículo que aparece en la portada.

## Early Bird Drawing Notice

Members mailing their proxy cards before March 21, 2018, will also be eligible for 10 drawings of \$50 in credit to their electric bills.

## Segundo Sorteo

Los miembros que envíen la carta poder antes del 21 de marzo del 2018, podrán también participar en el sorteo de 10 vales con un valor de \$50 dólares acreditables a su recibo de luz.