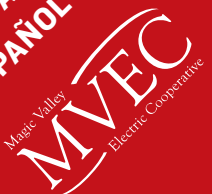


TEXAS CO-OP POWER

TEXAN *by* NATURE

Laura Bush and
Texan by Nature
inspire conservation

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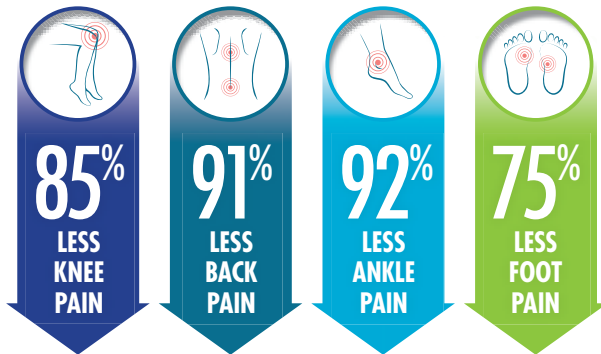
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On the Round Rock campus of Dell, a Texan By Nature Corporate Monarch Wrangler

FEATURES

8 Naturally Protective Laura Bush and conservation-minded Texan by Nature aim to “keep Texas, Texas.”
By Melissa Gaskill

12 East Texas Mojo Writer Joe R. Lansdale’s gritty Pineywoods fiction captivates Hollywood and international fans.
Story by E.R. Bills | Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

NEXT MONTH

The Winters of Their Lives They come from colder climes, and while they’re here, winter Texans volunteer and spread warmth.



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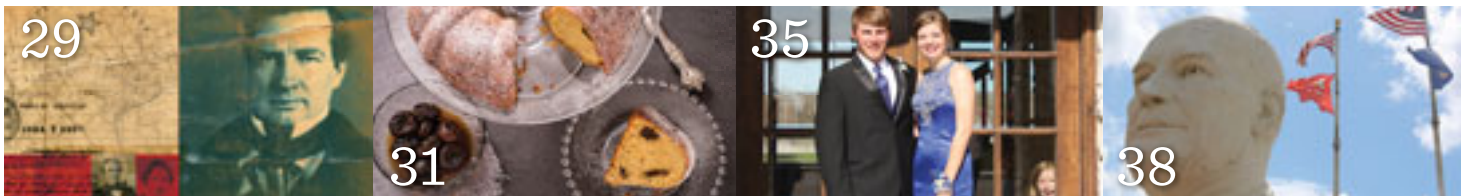
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Observations

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By Michael Pate

Texas USA

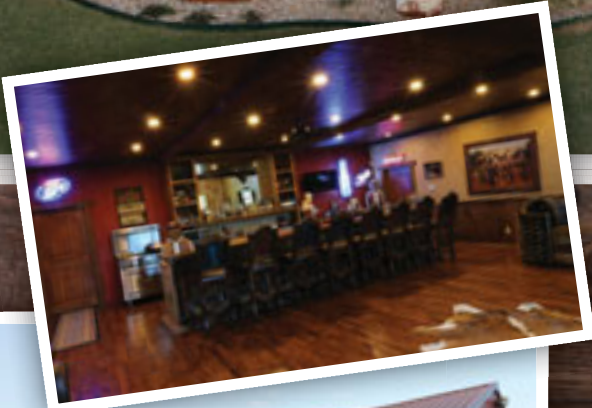
Back on Texas Soil
By LaDawn Fletcher



DELL CAMPUS: COURTESY TEXAN BY NATURE. CAMPER: VADIM GEORGIEV | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

ON THE COVER *Allen Williams and Laura Bush speak to schoolchildren about native plants in Pharr.* Photo by Grant Miller | Courtesy Texan By Nature

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Nasty Trees: A Lesson

The devil's walking stick and Hercules club are not the same tree [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. Both are nasty if one grabs hold of them. The Hercules club can be found along many fences, as the birds excrete the seeds while sitting on the fence. The devil's walking stick can be found in wet areas and has super nasty spines if grabbed.

RALPH RIGGS | DENSON SPRINGS
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Thursday Night Legend

In the fall of 1971, I began my 40-year teaching career at John H. Reagan High School in Austin. W.E. Pigford, who was associate principal, became my mentor. He was truly a great, gentle man who had previously been coach and principal at the old black L.C. Anderson High School. He told me about coaching Dick "Night Train" Lane [*Thursday Night Lights*, February 2018] back in the mid-'40s and was honored to introduce Lane in 1974 when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mr. Pigford shared with me some of the challenges and struggles that black players faced during the years of segregation. However, he always seemed to dwell on the positives—emphasizing the rich and rewarding experiences he and his players had.

JOHN T. WENDE | DALE
PEDERNALES EC

This took me back to my teenage years in Abilene, where my dad and I would go to Fair Park on Thursday nights and

Devil History

I enjoyed this story a lot [*What the Devil?*, March 2018]. There seems to be some devil history missing, however. Before Amistad Reservoir, there was a Devils Lake on the Devils River. There was also Lake Walk. Both were covered by Amistad.

There was also a large area on maps in the 1940s and 1950s that was labeled Hell's Half Acre. The area was southeast of Marathon and was rumored to be where the devil lived.

KENNETH HOLMES | DRIPPING SPRINGS | PEDERNALES EC



watch Woodson High play football. We would walk up and sit with the local supporters and revel in some of the comments. So long ago, and so many fond memories. Thanks for the trip back to my younger days.

EUGENE BEYER | JOHNSON CITY
PEDERNALES EC

Winning Recipe

I made Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce, below, [*Holiday Recipe Contest*, December 2017] today and it was delicious—moist and complemented by



the sauce and whipped cream. I left off apple compote but think it would be a great addition.

MARY DUNN VIA FACEBOOK | BOERNE
BANDERA EC

Wow-Worthy Borscht

This recipe [*Celery Borscht With Rye Croutons, Radish and Sour Cream*; Recipes; January 2018] is insanely delicious! I'd never even tasted borscht before. My husband found the recipe in the co-op magazine, and I decided to make it. Wows

all around the table—second and even third helpings.

MICHELLE FRANCO | AUSTIN
PEDERNALES EC

Vintage Look

I really like the vintage look to many of the illustrations

and pictures used in your magazine. My husband and I look forward to every monthly issue. Even better, I can review these again on your website.

D. MCBRIDE | GORDONVILLE
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

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   Texas Co-op Power

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WEB EXTRAS
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HAPPENINGS

Leighton's Gift for Newborns

Chris and Amy Skaggs are determined to ease the stress and helplessness parents experience when they can't constantly be present with their newborns who must spend time in neonatal intensive care units.

In 2011, Amy gave birth to premature twins, Leighton and Jaxon, who remained hospitalized in the NICU for specialized medical care. But three weeks after she was born, Leighton died from a serious infection.

To memorialize Leighton, the Skaggses, members of Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative, started **LEIGHTON'S RIDE**, an annual motorcycle ride to raise money to purchase web cameras for NICU beds so parents can see and speak to their babies any time. Leighton's Ride is **MAY 19** in **CELINA**, north of Dallas. The 75-mile ride includes an after-party with a car show, music, raffle and food.

Since 2013, Leighton's Ride has purchased 45 webcams for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, where the twins were born. Leighton's brother, Jaxon, is 6 and doing fine as he finishes kindergarten.

INFO ► (972) 977-8156, leightonsgift.com

SPORTS SECTION

SUPER SCHOOL

Nick Foles, a 2007 graduate of Westlake High School in Austin, became the second Chaparral quarterback to be named Super Bowl MVP, joining 1997 Westlake grad Drew Brees. Foles (below), who plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, threw for three touchdowns and caught one from his own tight end in a 41-33 upset of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LII in February. Brees won a championship with the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

The only other high school to produce two Super Bowl quarterback MVPs is Isadore Newman School in New Orleans, a private school that produced brothers Peyton and Eli Manning.



Did you know?



25 YEARS AGO: The Alamodome in San Antonio, built for an NFL team that never came, opened May 15, 1993. The arena was home to the San Antonio Spurs from 1993–2002.

Historic Election



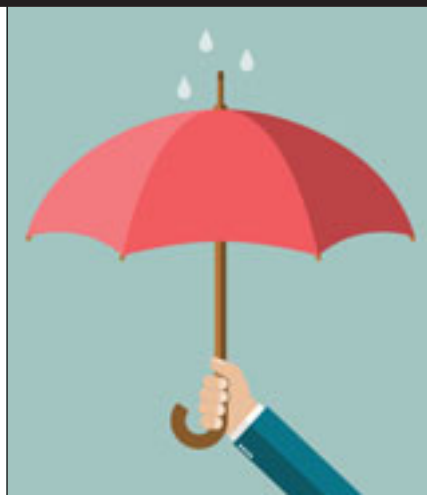
Wilhelmina Delco was elected to the Austin school board 50 years ago, in 1968, making her the first African-American elected to public office in Austin. In 1974, she won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives, making her the first black official elected at-large in Travis County. In 1991, she was appointed speaker pro tem, becoming the first woman and the second African-American to hold the second-highest position in the Texas House.

Darkness in Big Bend

AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF AMERICANS have never seen the Milky Way. If that includes you, Big Bend Ranch State Park can help you change that.

THE PARK HAS BEEN DESIGNATED an International Dark Sky Park, joining Copper Breaks, South Llano River and Enchanted Rock state parks with this designation. Night skies are fading, and natural darkness is disappearing because of the growing glow of artificial lights.

THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION works to preserve the darkness as the authoritative voice on light pollution, educating lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees and the public about controlling light pollution.



Farewell to a Pioneer

Weatherman John Coleman might not have been a household name when he died in January, but he dramatically changed how TV viewers get their weather news.

The Alpine native was working at a Chicago station in 1972 when he developed the first green-screen weather map ever used. The innovation not only enlivened forecasts, it allowed him to become the first weatherman to display weather satellite information on-screen for viewers to see.

In 1975, he became the original meteorologist on *Good Morning America*.

Then, in 1981, in the early days of cable TV, he co-founded the Weather Channel, where today millions of Americans turn for news about hurricanes, blizzards and wildfires.



INFANT WEGAN & DARK SKY: SHAW NIELSEN, SUPER BOWL: PATRICK SMITH | GETTY IMAGES, DELCO: ERIC MORALES, UMBRELLA: HVOSTIK | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Naturally Protective

by Melissa Gaskill

When Sue Stutzman added native plants on part of her 2 acres in Magnolia in 2016, she immediately began

seeing more butterflies. Early on, she counted 35 species, then a few months later, 53.

Stutzman is an official member of the Monarch Wrangler program, launched to encourage people to create habitat for the iconic butterfly, whose numbers have dropped as much as 90 percent in the past 20 years mainly due to loss of habitat. Much of Texas lies on the route that millions of the butterflies follow on their spring and fall migrations.

The program comes from Texan by Nature, an organization founded in 2011 by former Texas and U.S. first lady Laura Bush, Katharine Armstrong and Regan Gammon. The three friends share a mutual interest in the natural resources of Texas and some serious conservation chops: Bush served as honorary chair

of the National Park Foundation; Armstrong previously chaired the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission; and Gammon had been on advisory boards for the National Park Foundation and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Right away, the women decided not to reinvent the wheel but to find successful conservation work and encourage more of the same. The organization's official mission became "to spur Texan-led conservation that produces tangible benefits for people, prosperity and natural resources." Or, as Bush says, "to keep Texas, Texas, for the benefit of Texans and wildlife."

In one of its first projects, Texan by Nature partnered with Goldthwaite, a Central Texas city, to create the Texas Botanical Gardens, a native landscape and education program.

The organization hosted a symposium on nature and human health at the Houston Methodist Research Institute and one on monarch butterflies at Austin's Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. That event drew more than 80 organizations.

"Part of the purpose of the monarch symposium was bringing



Texan by Nature—Laura Bush’s conservation-minded organization—aims to “keep Texas, Texas”

all those groups together,” says Joni Carswell, Texan by Nature executive director. At the event, 15 partners agreed to conduct research, create habitat and offer educational workshops. Texan by Nature decided to focus on education, including encouraging landowners to plant native milkweed. Monarchs lay their eggs solely on this plant, so it is critical to their survival—as is the survival of other native plants that provide food for adult butterflies.



To further encourage monarch habitat across the state, Texan by Nature then partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the National

Clockwise from top left: Laura Bush stands among the native grasses on her ranch in Crawford. A monarch butterfly on lantana. Native milkweed is an important food resource for monarch caterpillars.

Wildlife Federation to create the Monarch Wrangler program. Landowners like Stutzman as well as civic organizations and corporations can apply for the designation.

Monarchs particularly appeal to Bush, Armstrong says, because the butterflies need prairie habitat. “Laura did extensive work developing a native prairie on the Central Texas ranch she and George [former President Bush] own. She’s not just talking about this stuff, she’s actually done it. She is an example of the kind of things she wants other people to do, what Texan by Nature is charged to do.”

While the program focuses on a single species, improving habitat for monarchs benefits many other species as well. Quail, for example, prefer the same habitat.

To date, Monarch Wranglers representing 65 residences, 14 landowners and 16 civic organizations have established



To date, Monarch Wranglers have established more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

Fields with milkweed abound on the BAE Systems campus in Austin, above. Laura Bush visits with representatives from George W. Bush Elementary at Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, right.

more than 850 acres of new monarch habitat.

“The idea of acres and acres can discourage some people, but a dedicated plot with nectar flowers doesn’t have to be huge to attract an amazing number of butterflies,” Stutzman says. “Overall, trees, shrubs and grasses provide shelter and can be larval host plants.” Natives, she adds, don’t require a lot of maintenance.

Corporate Monarch Wranglers include Dell and BAE Systems, representing a combined 124 acres. Stephen Ford, program director at BAE’s Austin Business Center, notes that changes inspired by the program on that campus led to long-term savings on mowing, fertilizing and watering.

Dell removed invasive species, planted milkweed and native plant plots, and reduced mowing on its 38-acre Round Rock campus. The company’s efforts also include an employee engagement program and interpretive signage that informs employees and visitors about conservation of native habitat. Physical changes to a landscape that benefit butterflies also improve the quality of work



life for employees. “When companies involve employees in their outdoor workplace environment and educate them about conservation, they can apply these ethics to their life, for example by practicing conservation at home,” Carswell says. “Research shows that it all ties back to the benefits nature has on both physical and mental health.”

Another Texan by Nature initiative, Conservation Wrangler, goes beyond monarchs, recognizing conservation projects of all types, so long as they

provide tangible returns, reach new and diverse audiences, and are science-based with measurable conservation outcomes.

According to Carswell, the organization recently decided to focus mainly on this program. “Monarchs are beautiful and we all identify them with freedom and nature itself,” she says. “But Conservation Wrangler is more general and has a broader reach. It highlights all the best conservation initiatives in Texas that are true to our mission and make an impact on our natural resources and economy.”

Taylor Keys, conservation associate for Texan by Nature, points out that the Conservation Wrangler program also reaches people in areas of Texas not on the monarch’s migration pathway.

Current Conservation Wranglers include the Texas Botanical



Gardens in Goldthwaite and Bracken Cave near San Antonio, home to the largest bat colony in the world. Texan by Nature helped generate support for the private purchase of 1,500 acres adjoining the cave that were slated for a major residential development.

For another Conservation Wrangler project, students at York Junior High School in Spring use GPS technology to help track the state bison herd in Caprock Canyons State Park, some 500 miles away. That partnership teaches students skills such as fundraising, research and use of technology; saves the park much-needed funds while increasing public awareness of the herd; and improves management of park habitat for the bison.

Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs, which recently became a Conservation Wrangler, works to restore and protect natural habitat in and around the 85,000-acre lake. A multigenerational group of volunteers, including high school students and inmate horticulturists from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ellis Unit in Huntsville, has planted more than 10,000 American water-willows at 18 sites.

Another Conservation Wrangler, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Learning Landscapes Collaborative, plans to incorporate native gardens throughout school districts in the area. Five school districts in the Valley already have committed to planting native butterfly gardens on their campuses, creating the potential for more than 150 gardens and 7,550 native plants. The wildlife these attract will benefit local ecosystems, and the gardens also will be used to promote outdoor education.

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to find more information from Texan by Nature about monarch habitats.

Electric cooperatives can participate easily, Carswell says, by using native plant species and water conservation practices in landscaping at offices and other facilities.

The organization provides step-by-step instructions for corporate entities to become recognized as Texan by Nature businesses.

"Many of these projects need additional partnership, funding and volunteers," Carswell says, "and Texan by Nature works to pair interested businesses with vetted, science-based projects."

Texan by Nature supports its Wranglers with 12–18 months of tailored support, connecting participants with industry expertise and sharing their efforts through blogging, social media, and newspaper and magazine articles.

"Electric utilities, including co-ops, have done a lot," says Armstrong. "We want to encourage them to keep doing it and to do more. You can always do more."

"If you're a Conservation Wrangler, you are among the best stewards in Texas," she adds. "The business community in Texas wants to do the right thing but for various reasons is sometimes tentative. One focus of the organization has been to help them see what they can do. Laura is a positive force for good and viewed as an honest broker. She brings out the best in people."

For Texan by Nature, it all goes back to a love for the special nature of Texas. "Our lives are enriched by the land beyond our back doors," Bush said in a presentation about the monarch conservation plan, "and each of us has a stake in its future."

As she documents butterfly species fluttering across her yard, Stutzman couldn't agree more.

See more of **Melissa Gaskill's** work at melissagaskill.blogspot.com.

Local high school students plant American water-willows at Lake Livingston during a Conservation Wrangler event.



EAST
TEXAS
MOJO

WRITER JOE R. LANSDALE'S GRITTY PINEYWOODS FICTION

CAPTIVATES HOLLYWOOD AND INTERNATIONAL FANS

FLORENCE, ITALY, is possibly the last place you'd expect to find a bookshop named after a novel by a small-town Texas author. Florence is known for Basilica di Santa Croce, the resting place of Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli, and home of a statue and funerary monument to Dante. The city's Accademia Gallery is home to Michelangelo's *David*, and its Uffizi Gallery houses Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*.

But not far from the heart of Florence, across the Arno River at Ponte San Nicolò and a few blocks east on Via Giampaolo Orsini, sits a slice of Lone Star literary culture known as Libreria Mucho Mojo, a bookstore dedicated to the work of East Texas writer Joe R. Lansdale.

Mucho Mojo is the second book in Lansdale's Hap and Leonard series of crime novels. It's also the title of the second season of *Hap and Leonard*, a series on SundanceTV. Lansdale's writing has become significant in Italy perhaps because he garners Italian fascination with jolting horror and bare-knuckled crime fiction conveyed in a down-home East Texas drawl.

Lansdale's characters ply the muddy waters of the Sabine River and the backcountry roads that crisscross the Pineywoods.

They talk like Texans and navigate the world like Texans. If they haven't been in a tornado, they've seen one, and they're as comfortable in the 107-degree summer heat as they are facing a norther bearing down after it crosses the Red River. They don't all wear 10-gallon hats or swill Lone Star beer, but, at one point or another, every one of them has stepped over William Barrett Travis' line in the sand and is willing to fight for what they think is right, regardless of the odds.

So it's no wonder Hollywood came calling.

Lansdale's *Cold in July*, the story of an unassuming Texas everyman turned accidental hero, received film treatment in 2014, and Sundance recently aired a third season of *Hap and Leonard*. Meanwhile, several of Lansdale's other works, including *The Bottoms*, *A Fine Dark Line*, *The Thicket* and *Freezer Burn* have been optioned for the big screen. In an upcoming independent film project, *The Projectionist*, Lansdale will assume the director's chair and try his hand at translating his writing to film. And all this comes after the 2002 cult classic B-movie, *Bubba Ho-Tep*. Based on Lansdale's book of the same name, it features an elderly, spotlight-dodging Elvis and an African-American JFK (played

STORY BY E.R. BILLS | PHOTO BY WYATT MCSPADEN

"I WAS
BORN
RURAL
AND
STILL
LIVE
RURAL."

by Ossie Davis) battling a misplaced ancient Egyptian mummy in an East Texas nursing home.

"He's so incredibly prolific," says Steven L. Davis, curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State University in San Marcos. "It's like you're in this river that's at flood stage and all these logs are floating by and each one is a Lansdale book. And you grab one and it's the ride of your life and your favorite for a while—but then there's another and another. He's a wholly original literary voice that's created masterpieces that really explore and play with what it means to be Texan."

Even though Lansdale can boast more than 44 books, 400 short stories, and numerous articles and essays, most of his neighbors in the Lone Star State might not be familiar with his writing. He enjoys the respect of noted authors such as Stephen King and James Patterson, and counts *Game of Thrones* creator George R.R. Martin a close friend, and yet he can remain unnoticed on many main streets in Texas.

Lansdale, 66, grew up in a family of modest means in Glade-water. "I've plowed with mules, raised my own food and worked as a truck cropper," says Lansdale, currently a resident of the Nacogdoches area and a member of Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative. "I was born rural and still live rural."

Lansdale's father was hardworking but illiterate; his mother had creative leanings and encouraged him to read. At a very early age, he knew he wanted to write. "I got interested in writing through comic books first," Lansdale says. "I enjoyed the stories. As I got older, I became more interested in characters and began to read more widely. I realized that a writer could create his or her own mythology. That excited me when I was young and it still excites me today. I still like telling stories and exploring new ideas."

Lansdale dabbled at college in Tyler, Austin and Nacogdoches and worked several blue-collar jobs. He never stayed away from East Texas very long. His first novel, *Act of Love*, went to press in 1981. In *The Bottoms*, which came out in 2000, Lansdale chronicles

a series of murders in Jim Crow Texas as seen through the eyes of a constable's children. In *A Fine Dark Line* (2002), Lansdale examines life in a small Texas town from the perspective of a teenager who discovers a box of forgotten love letters. And the narrative of *Lost Echoes* (2006) details the experiences of a grimly gifted young Texan bent on getting his life back on track. The list of Lansdale's offerings goes on and on, and it's distinguished by originality, suspense and a keen eye for the darkly humorous.

Lansdale is not the first East Texas writer to attract attention at the national or international level. Trinity native William Goyen (1915–1983) published several critically acclaimed novels—the most successful of which was *The House of Breath*—and short story collections in the 1950s and, like Lansdale, was highly regarded in Europe. Dubbed "The Voice of the Pines" by *Texas Monthly* in 2015, Goyen garnered the MacMurray Award for the best first novel by a Texan for *The House of Breath* and received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1951 and 1952.

Clarksville native William Humphreys' (1924–1997) first book, *Home From the Hill*, was well-received by critics in 1958 and made into a film starring Robert Mitchum and Eleanor Parker in 1960. His second novel, *The Ordways*, also enjoyed critical success and inspired comparisons to William Faulkner.

Goyen and Humphreys left East Texas to pursue their writing careers. Lansdale stayed put, and the region informs every page of his work. "I instantly recognize the characters," says Dale Lafleur, whose Port Neches bookshop, Fleur Fine Books, houses the largest collection of Lansdale titles for sale in the state. "I grew up with those guys and have been around them all my life. They remind me of family members, neighbors and friends."

And Lafleur can attest to the popularity of Lansdale's Pineywoods noir. "Joe's stuff is always in demand," Lafleur says. "He has a huge, loyal following, and the *Hap and Leonard* series has really boosted his visibility."

"The hardest thing for a writer to do is translate the feel of a good story onto the page," Davis says. "And then it's a matter of keeping the audience on the edge of its seat. Lansdale does both. He's earthy and eloquent at the same time. He's written some of the most important fiction ever to come out of the state, stuff that puts him in the top rank of Texas writers."

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story online to see a clip from Joe Lansdale's SundanceTV series, *Hap and Leonard*.

Mark Sanders, chairman of the English department at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, where Lansdale is a writer-in-residence, suggests that Lansdale is to East Texas what William Faulkner was to northern Mississippi. "He understands the culture of the characters," Sanders says. "The language, the folklore and the superstitions. He recreates the local color masterfully, and that's why he's probably the greatest active writer in Texas letters."

Literally and figuratively, East Texas may be a long way from Florence, Italy, but Joe Lansdale is a giant of letters in both, delivering unique universal characters in an East Texas drawl.

E.R. Bills is a writer from Aledo.



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Deadline: May 10

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Quick and Easy
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Deadline: June 10

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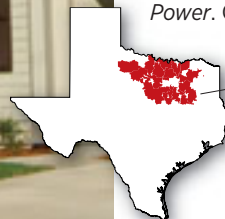
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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER EMPOWERING YOU TO STAY SAFE

— John W. Herrera

At Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, we take seriously our duty to provide reliable electricity to our members in the safest, most affordable manner possible. Though we work hard to fulfill that promise year-round, perhaps there is no better time to reiterate our commitment than during National Electrical Safety Month.

Over these next few weeks, as our lineworkers and behind-the-scenes staff go about their vital work as steadfastly as ever, we ask you, our members, to consider your role as our partners in ensuring your comfort and safety. Amid the drumbeat of daily routines, balancing work and family, we all can sometimes grow complacent about seemingly innocuous habits or practices that could bear tragic consequences.

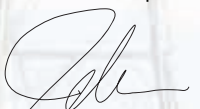
One critically important example of this, during swimming and boating season, involves the risk of electric shock drowning. Docks and marinas carry electricity sources, which faulty wiring or damaged cords can release into water invisibly. As few as 10 milliamps can cause paralysis and drowning. That is one-fiftieth the amount used by a 60-watt lightbulb. You should not swim near a dock or marina unless you know its wiring is in good repair.

If you see an electric shock drowning taking place, never enter the water. You could become a victim, too. Turn the power off if possible, call 911 and throw a life preserver to the victim or reach out with a fiberglass hook to help the victim get out of the water.

We recommend hiring a licensed electrician to inspect home pools, spas and hot tubs and make any repairs or upgrades necessary to keep the wiring up to date and safe. Here are a few additional tips for enjoying a day at the pool without risking your well-being or anyone else's:

- Outdoor electrical outlets (including pools and spas) should be covered and kept dry when not in use.
- Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter for electrical devices used outdoors. Portable GFCIs are available for \$12-\$30 and don't require tools for installation.
- Make sure all electrical equipment used for swimming pools, including cleaning equipment, is grounded and working properly. If you notice pool lights flickering, stay out of the water until a licensed electrician has resolved the issue.
- Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from pools and spas. Whenever possible, use battery-powered devices outdoors instead.
- Never handle electrical devices while you are wet, either from swimming or perspiration.
- Make sure there are no power lines over a swimming pool, and never swim during a thunderstorm. Thunder means lightning is close enough to put you at risk of electrocution.

Our intent in relaying this information is not to frighten, but to illustrate how we all must keep a watchful eye toward safety whenever and wherever electricity is present, and remain especially vigilant in settings where its presence may not be obvious.


John W. Herrera
General Manager

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

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Mercedes, TX 78570

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John W. Herrera

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TEACH FOR AMERICA

HUMBERTO ALANIS

While a student at the University of Texas at Austin, RGV native Humberto Alanis realized for the first time that he was not as academically prepared as many of his peers from more affluent communities. “I saw this was a common occurrence among students from low-income communities and thought it unfair,” he shares. Humberto grew up in Pharr and graduated from Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School. “As a hard worker in school, it never occurred to me that my education was different or less robust from that of other kids across the country. When I saw the disparity in college, I wanted to make a change, and this is what led me to apply to Teach for America.”

Driven to create opportunities for low-income students, Alanis applied to Teach for America and was accepted into the 2016 Rio Grande Valley corps, where he was hired to teach World History at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Memorial Early College HS. For Alanis, the choice to return home was an intentional one, and he believes the background he shares with his students makes a difference. “This commonality has helped tremendously,” he said. “Because I grew up here, I know of the wealth our community has, but I am also aware of some of the difficulties my students face. Being aware of both of these aspects has allowed me to have a great connection with those in my classroom.”

Determined to level the playing field for his students, Alanis works hard in the classroom and outside. “One of the greatest joys has been to see firsthand my students learning concepts that will help them not just in school, but also in life. The light bulb moments I witness when I teach them about their culture and background through our World History Class are truly special.” Alanis also spends time outside the classroom coaching freshman football, boys’ basketball, and girls’ track. “Coaching allows for me to impact young people through another avenue,” he said. “Sports give coaches a chance to help athletes navigate hard experiences that are similar to those found down the road in life. Spending time with my kids in this arena has allowed me to get to know more students and be better connected to the community.”

They say you can’t come home, but for Humberto Alanis, that has not been the case. “Being a corps member for Teach for America has been one of the biggest blessings of my life,” he said, “I never thought I’d have the opportunity to come back home and impact my community in this way. TFA has been a great challenge

but has also molded me into a person that works to overcome hardships. And it’s this lesson of perseverance that I want to impart each day to the kids I teach.”

MVEC has been a supporter of the Teach for America program since 2003. During that time, MVEC has sponsored numerous local educators who have expanded opportunities for students in our region’s most high-need schools. Past teachers that MVEC has sponsored include teachers of the year, teachers who brought new advanced placement courses to a school and educators who have gone on to become administrators and impact thousands of children in their career. Teach for America helps promote the annual Magic Valley Electric Coop scholarship among teachers and encourage students to take advantage of this educational opportunity.



1918: 100 YEARS AGO

Story by: Eileen Mattei
Photos: Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum

Let's go back to 100 years ago in the Rio Grande Valley. Many of the 111,000 Army and National Guard soldiers who had trained here in 1916 are fighting in France during World War I.

Come September, one million American soldiers take part in World War I's largest battle at Meuse-Argonne. The Armistice ending the bloody "war to end all wars" is signed November 11, 1918, now observed as Veterans Day.

Another international story with major local impact involves the Great Influenza Epidemic. More than 25 percent of Americans catch the lethal version of the flu, and over 500,000 of them die in the global epidemic that kills over 50 million.

Harlingen sets up a quarantine shelter on the Arroyo Colorado, where influenza patients are nursed by their families. Deaths are highest among young adults, surprisingly, although others such as Dr. Murdoch Cameron, who had headed the Public Health Department at the Hidalgo international crossing, also die of flu.

By October, so many employees at the Southwest Telephone and Telegraph Company have been stricken with the flu, that service is limited. Many businesses close down temporarily. In December

1918, Valley newspapers report that "Spanish Influenza is raging throughout the Valley. At San Benito, a call has been made for any able-bodied men to assist in burying the dead. At this time, there are 14 caskets at the cemetery awaiting burial, and others coming in every hour."

Meanwhile, as bandit troubles and border unrest fade, land seekers and land sellers again flood into the Valley. Citrus orchards sell for \$1,000 to \$1,200 per acre. Broom corn, a ten-foot tall sorghum variety used to make brooms, greatly boosts the income of farmers and the hotels that host broom corn buyers.

The D. Guerra & Sons store in McAllen sells more than 500,000 bricks in a week. That city installs its first water system and sewer system, signaling the end of backyard windmills that pumped water and outdoor privies and septic tanks. Harlingen has a contract with a wagon owner to collect city trash.

The Casa de Palmas with twin towers and red tile roof opens and is hailed as the most elegant hotel south of San Antonio. In an early example of crowd funding, residents contribute \$15,000 to the hotel construction project which is headed by banker Ernest Horn and entrepreneur/mayor O. P. Archer. In March, the first Daylight Savings Time goes into

effect (and 100 years later, people still grumble about the time change.) Four national time zones are adopted. Nationally the middle-class household income is \$1,500. Only 19 percent of youngsters attend high school.

On the medical front, Valley doctors still make house calls and sometimes accept vegetables and eggs in payment. No public hospitals have been built. Half the deaths in the region are due to infectious diseases. A century later, thanks to the introduction of antibiotics, vaccinations and improved sanitation, less than three percent of deaths are due to diseases such as measles, cholera, typhus, diphtheria and whooping cough.

The McAllen Music Club hires and pays the salary of a music teacher for city schools in 1918. The McAllen American Legion hosts its annual Fourth of July parade. Irving Berlin writes the soldiers' tune "Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning" and "God Bless America."

In Harlingen, lecturers and entertainers traveling the nation as part of Lyceum and Chautauqua tours give presentations at Central Ward School. The Town Band plays Saturday afternoons in the bandstand. Naked Boys Beach, near the railroad bridge on the Arroyo Colorado in



Farmers and their families flocked into downtown Harlingen on Saturday afternoons in 1918. The streets were first paved in 1920.

Harlingen, is a popular boys-only swimming area. Baseball is the national past-time with Babe Ruth helping the Boston Red Sox win the World Series.

The nation is on the verge of Prohibition and giving women the right to vote. Recent inventions include zippers and toasters. New nations declare independence: Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Iceland and Latvia.



Tons of cabbage were harvested from the hundreds of small family farms that were known as one-or two mule farms

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM A HOME ENERGY AUDIT

If you are worried about upcoming summer electric bills or still feeling the sting from last winter's, a home energy audit may be just what you need. Spending a few hundred dollars now to make efficiency improvements can save you thousands of dollars over time.

A home energy audit is a detailed assessment of your home, which can give you a road map for future energy-related investments. An energy audit can provide guidance for a variety of issues:

- What efficiency investments will be most effective in reducing your energy bills?
- Are areas of your home sometimes too hot or too cold? An energy audit can identify problem areas and determine solutions.
- Are you considering a new furnace, air conditioner or rooftop solar system? An energy audit will help you "right-size" these systems and identify complementary measures that will help these large investments work most efficiently.

Online audit tools can give you a basic understanding of how your home compares to similar ones. However, an on-site audit by a qualified, experienced home energy auditor using high-tech tools will provide a much more thorough report of your home's challenges and opportunities. A professional energy audit can range from a quick, visual walk-through of the home to a comprehensive and more informative—but possibly more expensive—assessment. Energy audits require an examination of the building envelope (attic, floor and exterior walls) and the energy systems in the home, such as the water heater, air conditioner and furnace.

Follow the auditor during the inspection and ask questions so you can understand where problems are, what you can address yourself and where you may need to enlist a professional. The auditor may analyze your recent energy bills to determine what your energy is used for and if use has recently changed.

Finally, the auditor will ask about the energy-use behaviors of those who live in the home. For example, is someone home all day, or does everyone leave for work and school? Residents' habits can make a big impact on energy bills and can be

challenging to change. An auditor may do some or all of the following tests:

- **Blower door test:** This test measures how airtight your home is and identifies where the air leaks are.
- **Duct blaster:** Ducts move the warm and cool air around your home; duct testing can measure whether your ducts leak.
- **Thermographic imaging:** Identifying where more insulation is needed is a key component of energy audits. Too little insulation will make a homeowner use more energy than needed, while adding more can provide a quick return on investment. Thermographic imaging can tell you where more insulation is needed.

Following the assessment of your home, the auditor will analyze the information and recommend which systems upgrades or behavior changes you can make to reduce energy use and improve comfort. If you take action based on the recommendations, you could lower your energy bill by 5%–30%, and perhaps even more. Check with Magic Valley Electric Cooperative for available resources and be sure whoever you hire is willing to answer questions. Plan to be home during the audit—it's a great opportunity to learn what makes your home tick and how you can make it function even better.



Mark Your Calendar for Savings

NEED A NEW, MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT

dishwasher or refrigerator? If you time it right, you can enjoy a tax-free purchase on qualifying appliances soon. The statewide Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday takes place Memorial Day weekend. This year, it begins Saturday, May 26, at 12:01 a.m. and concludes Monday, May 28, at 11:59 p.m.

Eligible tax-free appliances include:

- Air conditioners (models priced at \$6,000 or less)
- Refrigerators (models priced at \$2,000 or less)
- Ceiling fans
- Incandescent and fluorescent lightbulbs
- Clothes washers
- Dishwashers
- Dehumidifiers
- Programmable thermostats

Keep in mind that appliances purchased for just a few dollars over the allowable amounts will be fully taxed. For example, a refrigerator that costs \$2,050 will be taxed on the entire purchase price, not just the \$50 in excess of the limit. Similarly, if an item's sale price is within the price cap but an additional delivery fee pushes it over the limit, the entire purchase is taxable.

Start researching now so you can take advantage of savings on items that will likely lower your energy bills.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

DR PEPPER PULLED PORK SANDWICHES



BARTOSZ LUCZAK | ISTOCK.COM

INGREDIENTS:

- 3-4 pounds pork loin
- Pork seasonings (seasoned salt, cracked black pepper, garlic powder, mustard powder or cayenne)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 sweet onions, thinly sliced
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup barbecue sauce
- 12-20 ounces Dr Pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

For this recipe, you can season the pork loin simply, with salt and pepper, or use your favorite seasoning salt or mix of spices and herbs.

1. Coat a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray or brush with oil.
2. Season the pork loin generously (can be done the night before), coat with garlic and place it in the slow cooker.
3. Top the pork with onion slices and barbecue sauce, then pour in enough Dr Pepper to cover.
4. Cook on low heat about 8 hours or on high 4 hours.
5. Shred the meat with two forks, allowing the mixture to soak up the sauce. Serve on buns with extra sauce, sliced onions and pickles.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



M-IMAGEPHOTOGRAPHY | ISTOCK.COM

Happy Mother's Day Sunday, May 13

"All that I am, or hope to be,
I owe to my angel mother."

—Abraham Lincoln



MOUSSABI | ISTOCK.COM

Memorial Day Monday, May 28

MVEC Offices will be closed



MENSAJE DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL TE DAMOS LA ENERGÍA PARA MANTENERTE SEGURO

— John W. Herrera

En Magic Valley Electric Cooperative, nos tomamos muy en serio nuestro compromiso de proveer electricidad confiable, segura y accesible a nuestros miembros. Aunque trabajamos vigorosamente para cumplir con esa promesa durante todo el año, quizás no hay mejor momento para reiterar nuestro compromiso que durante el mes nacional de seguridad eléctrica.

A lo largo de las próximas semanas, mientras nuestros linieros y el personal que trabaja tras bambalinas cumplen su labor vital, les pedimos a nuestros miembros, que consideren su papel como socios nuestros para garantizar su comodidad y seguridad. En medio del ritmo acelerado de nuestra vida diaria para equilibrar trabajo y familia, todos podemos bajar la guardia o caer en prácticas aparentemente inocentes que podrían tener consecuencias trágicas.


Un ejemplo importante y crítico durante la temporada de natación y paseos en lanchas implica el riesgo de ahogo por choques eléctricos. Los muelles y embarcaderos cuentan con fuentes de energía que, si tienen cables defectuosos o dañados que entren en contacto con el agua, la pueden electrizar. Tan solo 10 miliamperios pueden causar parálisis y ahogo (una 1/50 parte de la energía que utiliza un foco de 60 vatios). No debes nadar cerca de un muelle, embarcadero o marina a menos que sepas que los cables están en buenas condiciones.

Si ves a alguien ahogándose por un choque eléctrico, no entres al agua. Tú también podrías convertirte en una víctima. Si es posible, apaga la fuente de energía, llama al 911 y lanza una salvavidas a la víctima o extiende un gancho de fibra de vidrio para ayudar a la víctima a salir del agua.

Recomendamos que contrates a un electricista autorizado para inspeccionar piscinas, spas y jacuzzis y que haga las reparaciones o renovaciones necesarias para que el cableado esté actualizado y seguro. Aquí están algunas sugerencias adicionales para disfrutar de un día en la piscina, sin arriesgar tu vida o la de alguna otra persona.

- Las tomas eléctricas (incluyendo piscinas y spas) deben estar cubiertas y mantenerse secas cuando no estén en uso.
- Utilizar un interruptor de circuito de falla de tierra (GFCI) para dispositivos eléctricos en el exterior. Existen GFCI portátiles disponibles desde \$12 - \$30 y no requieren herramientas para su instalación.
- Asegurarte de que todos los equipos eléctricos utilizados para piscinas, incluyendo la limpieza de equipos, estén conectados a tierra y funcionen correctamente. Si ves que hay un parpadeo de luces en la piscina, permanece fuera del agua hasta que un electricista autorizado resuelva el problema.
- Los dispositivos eléctricos y los cables eléctricos deben mantenerse al menos a 10 pies de distancia de piscinas y spas. Si es posible, utiliza en su lugar dispositivos con pilas.
- Nunca utilices aparatos eléctricos si estás mojado, ya sea por el agua o la transpiración.
- Asegúrate de que no haya líneas eléctricas sobre una piscina y nunca nades durante una tormenta eléctrica. Los truenos significan que hay relámpagos lo suficientemente cerca para un riesgo de electrocución.

El propósito de esta información no es asustarte, sino mostrarte la forma en que todas y todos debemos mantenernos informados sobre la importancia de la seguridad siempre que haya electricidad presente, y ser especialmente cautelosos en lugares donde la presencia de electricidad no sea tan obvia.


John W. Herrera
Director General

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative

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TEACH FOR AMERICA

HUMBERTO ALANIS

Cuando estudiaba en la Universidad de Texas en Austin, Humberto Alanís, nativo del Valle del Río Grande, se dio cuenta por primera vez que no estaba tan preparado académicamente como muchos de sus compañeros de otras comunidades más prósperas. "Yo vi esto como algo común entre las y los estudiantes que venían de comunidades de bajos ingresos y pensé que era injusto," dijo Humberto que creció en Pharr y se graduó de Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School.

"Como buen estudiante en la escuela, nunca se me ocurrió que mi educación fuera diferente o de menor calidad que la de otros estudiantes del resto del país. Cuando vi el contraste en la universidad, quise motivar un cambio y esto fue lo que me llevó a Teach for America."

Decidido a crear oportunidades para estudiantes de bajos ingresos, Alanís solicitó su entrada a Teach for America y fue aceptado en la clase del 2016 en el Valle del Río Grande, donde fue contratado para dar clases de Historia Universal en la escuela Memorial Early College High School del distrito escolar de Pharr-San Juan-Alamo. Para Alanís, la decisión de volver a casa fue algo intencional y cree que compartir su historia puede hacer la diferencia en la vida de sus alumnos. "Esta semejanza me ha ayudado enormemente," dijo Alanís. "Porque crecí aquí, sé de la riqueza de nuestra comunidad, pero también soy consciente de algunas de las dificultades que enfrentan mis estudiantes. Ser consciente de ambos aspectos me ha permitido conectarme con los estudiantes de mi clase."

Decidido a nivelar el campo de juego para sus estudiantes, Alanís trabaja duro en el aula y fuera de ella. "Una de las mayores alegrías ha sido ver personalmente a mis alumnos aprender conceptos que les ayudarán no solo en la escuela, sino también en la vida. Ser testigo de los momentos de descubrimiento cuando les enseño acerca de su cultura y sus raíces a través de nuestra clase de Historia Universal son verdaderamente especiales." Alanís también dedica tiempo fuera del aula como entrenador de fútbol americano del grupo de estudiantes de primero, baloncesto (basquetbol) varonil y atletismo femenino. "Para mí, ser entrenador me permite tener un impacto en las y los jóvenes de otras maneras," dijo Alanís. "Los entrenadores de deportes tienen la oportunidad de ayudar a los atletas a navegar por experiencias difíciles, similares a las que podríamos encontrar en el camino de nuestras vidas. Pasar tiempo con mis estudiantes de esta manera me ha permitido conocer a más estudiantes y conectarme más con la comunidad."

Se dice que no se puede regresar a casa, pero para Humberto Alanís, ese no ha sido el caso. "Ser miembro del

grupo de Teach for America ha sido una de las mayores bendiciones de mi vida; nunca pensé que tendría la oportunidad de volver a casa y poder tener un impacto en mi comunidad de esta manera. TFA ha sido un gran reto, pero también me ha convertido en una persona que trabaja para superar dificultades. Y es esta lección de perseverancia la que quiero impartir cada día a mis estudiantes."

Magic Valley Electric Cooperative ha sido patrocinador del programa Teach for America desde 2003. Durante este tiempo, MVEC ha patrocinado a numerosos educadores locales que han aumentado las oportunidades para las y los estudiantes de nuestra región. Maestros y maestras que han sido patrocinados por MVEC incluyen maestros del año, maestros que han empezado cursos nuevos avanzados en una escuela y educadores que se han convertido en administradores y a lo largo de su carrera han tenido impacto sobre miles de estudiantes. Teach for America ayuda a promover el programa de becas anuales de Magic Valley Electric Coop y anima a estudiantes a aprovechar esta oportunidad educativa.



1918: HACE 100 AÑOS

Historia por: Eileen Mattei
Fotografías por: Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum

Regresemos el tiempo 100 años en el Valle del Río Grande. Muchos de los 111,000 soldados del Ejército y de la Guardia Nacional que habían entrenado aquí en 1916 están peleando en Francia durante la 1ª Guerra Mundial.

En septiembre, un millón de soldados americanos toman parte en la mayor batalla de la 1ª Guerra Mundial en Meuse-Argonne. El Armisticio, que puso fin a la sangrienta "guerra para acabar con todas las guerras," se firmó el 11 de noviembre de 1918, que hoy en día se celebra como el Día de los Veteranos.

Otra historia internacional con gran repercusión local implica la gran epidemia de Influenza Española. Más del 25 por ciento de los estadounidenses se contagian de la versión letal de la influenza y más de 500,000 de ellos mueren en la epidemia mundial que mató a más de 50 millones de personas.

Harlingen establece un refugio de cuarentena en el Arroyo Colorado, donde los pacientes de influenza son atendidos por sus familias. Sorprendentemente, el número de muertes es más alto entre las y los adultos jóvenes, aunque otros, como el Dr. Murdoch Cameron, quien había dirigido el Departamento de Salud Pública del puente internacional de Hidalgo, también mueren de la influenza.

Para octubre, tantos empleados de la compañía de teléfonos y telégrafos Southwest han contraído la influenza, que el servicio es limitado. Muchas

empresas cierran temporalmente. En diciembre de 1918, los periódicos del Valle informan que "la Influenza Española está arrasando por todo el Valle. En San Benito se hizo un llamado a todos los hombres aptos para ayudar a enterrar a los muertos. En ese momento, hay 14 ataúdes en el cementerio esperando sepultura y otros que llegan cada hora."

Mientras tanto, mientras disminuyen los problemas de bandidaje y el desorden fronterizo, los buscadores y vendedores de tierras nuevamente inundan el Valle. Los huertos de cítricos se venden de \$1,000 hasta \$1,200 por acre. El "maíz de escoba," un sorgo de 10 pies de altura que se utiliza para la fabricación de escobas, aumenta considerablemente los ingresos de los agricultores y los hoteles que alojan a los compradores de ese "maíz."

La tienda D. Guerra & Sons en McAllen vende más de 500,000 ladrillos en una semana. Esa ciudad instala su primer sistema de abastecimiento de agua y alcantarillado, señalando el fin de los papalotes (molinos de viento) para bombear agua en los patios traseros, excusados de pozo y las fosas sépticas al aire libre. La ciudad de Harlingen hace un contrato con un propietario de carretones para recoger la basura de la ciudad.

El Hotel Casa de Palmas con sus torres gemelas y el techo de teja roja se inaugura y es considerado el hotel más elegante al sur de San Antonio. Esto fue gracias al modelo adelantado de lo que

conocemos hoy como “financiamiento multitudinario,” los residentes locales contribuyen con \$15,000 para el proyecto de construcción del hotel, que fue encabezada por el banquero Ernest Horn y el empresario/alcalde O. P. Archer.

En marzo, el horario de verano entra en vigor por primera vez (y 100 años después, la gente todavía se queja del cambio de hora.) Se adoptan cuatro zonas diferentes de horario a nivel nacional. En todo el país, el ingreso familiar de clase media es de \$1,500. Solo el 19% de las personas jóvenes asisten a la escuela secundaria.

En el sector salud, los médicos del Valle aún hacen visitas a domicilio y en ocasiones, todavía aceptan verduras y huevos como pago. Aún no se han construido hospitales públicos. La mitad de las muertes en la región se debe a enfermedades contagiosas. Un siglo más tarde, gracias a la introducción de los antibióticos, vacunas y servicios sanitarios mejorados, menos del 3% de las muertes se deben a enfermedades como el sarampión, el cólera, la fiebre tifoidea, la difteria y la tos ferina.

El Club de Música de McAllen contrata y paga el sueldo de un profesor de música para las escuelas de la ciudad en 1918. El McAllen, la American Legion hace su desfile anual del 4 de julio. Irving Berlin escribe la melodía de los soldados “Oh, how I hate to get up in the morning” (como odio levantarme por la mañana) y “God Bless America” (Dios bendiga a América).



Los agricultores y sus familias acudían al centro de Harlingen los sábados por la tarde en 1918. Las calles fueron pavimentadas por primera vez en 1920.

En Harlingen, artistas y oradores que viajan por la nación como parte del grupo “Lyceum y Chautauqua” dan presentaciones en el centro de la ciudad. La banda local toca los sábados por la tarde en el quiosco. La playa llamada “Naked Boys Beach,” cerca del puente del ferrocarril sobre el Arroyo Colorado en Harlingen, es una zona nudista de baño solo para hombres. El beisbol es el deporte nacional, con Babe Ruth que ayuda a que los Boston Red Sox a ganar la Serie Mundial.

La nación está al borde de la Prohibición y de darles a las mujeres el derecho al voto. Las invenciones recientes incluyen el zipper y tostadora. Nuevas naciones declaran su independencia: Hungría, Polonia, Yugoslavia, Checoslovaquia, Islandia y Letonia.



Toneladas de repollo se cocchaban en los cientos de pequeñas granjas familiares que eran conocidas como granjas de una o dos mulas.

¿QUÉ SE PUEDE APRENDER DE UNA AUDITORÍA DE ENERGÍA EN EL HOGAR?

Si estás preocupado por las próximas facturas eléctricas de verano o si todavía te duelen las facturas del invierno pasado, una auditoría de energía en tu casa puede ser justo lo que necesitas. Gastar algunos dólares hoy para mejorar la eficiencia de tu hogar puede ahorrarte miles de dólares a largo plazo.

Una auditoría de energía en el hogar es una evaluación detallada de la casa, que te puede dar la pauta para tus futuras inversiones relacionadas con la energía. Una auditoría energética puede proporcionar orientación para una variedad de problemas:

- ¿Qué inversiones en eficiencia serán más prácticas para reducir la factura de electricidad?
- ¿Hay zonas de tu casa a veces demasiado frías o calientes? Una auditoría energética puede identificar las áreas problemáticas y darte soluciones.
- ¿Estás considerando comprar un nuevo horno, aire acondicionado o instalar un sistema solar en el techo de tu casa? Una auditoría de energía te ayudará a determinar el tamaño adecuado para estos sistemas e identificar medidas complementarias que permitan que estas grandes inversiones funcionen más efectivamente.

Hay herramientas de auditoría en línea que pueden darte una comprensión básica de cómo tu casa se compara con otras similares. Sin embargo, una auditoría física en tu casa por un auditor profesional de energía, con herramientas de alta tecnología, te dará un informe más completo sobre tu casa y lo que necesitas hacer. Una auditoría energética profesional puede variar desde un vistazo rápido a toda tu casa, hasta una inspección más amplia y con mayor información, pero posiblemente más costosa. Las auditorías energéticas requieren un examen visual de toda la envoltura de la construcción (ático, piso y paredes exteriores) y de los sistemas de energía en el hogar, tales como el calentador de agua, aire acondicionado y horno.

Acompaña al auditor o auditora durante la inspección y haz preguntas para entender dónde hay problemas, cuáles puedes resolver tú mismo y dónde es necesario contratar a un profesional. El auditor podrá analizar tus últimas facturas de energía para determinar en qué se utiliza la energía y si ha habido cambios recientes en el consumo. Por último, el auditor te hará preguntas acerca de las conductas en el uso de energía de quienes que viven en la casa. Por ejemplo: ¿Hay alguien en casa todo el día o

todos salen para ir al trabajo o a la escuela? Los hábitos de las personas puede tener un gran impacto en las facturas de energía y pueden ser difíciles de cambiar. Un auditor puede hacer todas o algunas de las siguientes pruebas:

- **Prueba de la puerta con ventilador:** Esta prueba mide qué tan hermética es tu casa e identifica dónde están las fugas de aire.
- **Ductos con ráfaga de aire:** Los ductos mueven el aire caliente y frío dentro de la casa; esta prueba puede detectar y medir si tus ductos tienen fugas.
- **Imagen termográfica:** Identificar dónde se necesita más aislante es un componente clave de las auditorías de energía. Poco aislante hará que la casa utilice más energía de la necesaria y si añades más, puedes tener un rápido retorno de inversión. Las imágenes termográficas pueden indicarte dónde se necesita más aislante.

Después de la evaluación de tu casa o departamento, el auditor analizará la información y te dará recomendaciones sobre qué actualizaciones de sistemas o cambios puedes realizar para reducir tu consumo de energía y mejorar la comodidad en tu hogar. Si tomas medidas basadas en las recomendaciones, podrías reducir tu factura de energía de un 5% a un 30% y quizás aún más. Verifica con Magic Valley Electric Cooperative sobre los recursos disponibles y asegúrate de que la persona que contrates esté dispuesta a contestar todas tus preguntas. Planea estar en casa durante la auditoría, esta es una gran oportunidad para aprender lo que tu hogar necesita y qué puedes hacer para que funcione aún mejor.



Marca tu calendario para el ahorro

Necesitas un refrigerador o lavavajillas que sea más eficiente? Si lo planeas con anticipación, puedes disfrutar de una compra libre de impuestos en aparatos que califican muy pronto. Los días libres de impuestos estatales de ventas de Energy Star se llevan a cabo el fin de semana de Memorial Day. Este año, iniciará el sábado 26 de mayo a las 12:01 a.m. y terminará el lunes 28 de mayo, a las 11:59 p.m.

Los electrodomésticos que califican como libres de impuestos incluyen:

- Aparatos de aire acondicionado (modelos a un precio de \$ 6,000 dólares o menos)
- Refrigeradores (modelos a un precio de \$2,000 o menos)
- Ventiladores de techo
- Focos incandescentes y fluorescentes
- Lavadoras de ropa
- Lavavajillas
- Deshumidificadores
- Termostatos programables

Toma en cuenta que si compras aparatos un poco más caros que las cantidades mencionadas, tendrás que pagar por los impuestos de la cantidad completa. Por ejemplo: por un refrigerador que cuesta \$2,050 tendrías que pagar los impuestos de todo el precio de compra, no solo los \$ 50 dólares en exceso del límite.

Asimismo, si un electrodoméstico tiene un descuento y está dentro del precio límite, pero el cargo por entrega a domicilio lleva el precio total por encima del límite, toda la compra pagará impuestos. Puedes comenzar a investigar ahora, para que tomes ventaja de los ahorros en los electrodomésticos que te puedan ayudar ahorrar en tu factura de energía.

RECETA DEL MES

SÁNDWICHES DE CARNE DE CERDO DESHEBRADA AL DR PEPPER



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INGREDIENTES:

- 3 a 4 libras de lomo de cerdo
- Condimentos para el puerco (salazonada, pimienta negra molida, ajo en polvo, mostaza en polvo o cayena)
- 3 dientes de ajo, finamente picado
- 2 cebollas dulces, cortada en trozos finos
- ¾ taza de salsa barbecue
- 12-20 onzas de refresco Dr Pepper

INSTRUCCIONES:

Para esta receta, puedes sazonar el lomo de cerdo simplemente con sal y pimienta o utiliza tus condimentos favoritos sal o mezclas de especias y hierbas.

1. Ponerle una capa de aceite o spray antiadherente a una olla de cocción lenta (slow cooker)
2. Sazonar generosamente el lomo de cerdo (se puede hacer la noche anterior), untarlo con ajo y ponerlo en la olla
3. Poner los trozos de cebolla y la salsa barbecue sobre la carne; después cubrir con suficiente refresco Dr Pepper.
4. Cocinar a fuego lento aproximadamente 8 horas o en fuego alto por 4 horas.
5. Desmenuzar la carne con dos tenedores para que absorba toda la salsa.

Servirlo en panes con salsa extra, cebolla en trocitos y pepinillos.

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS



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Feliz Día de las Madres, 13 de mayo

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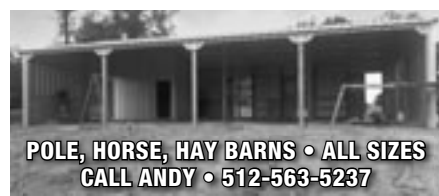
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‘He Was About the Work’

Thomas Jefferson Rusk wore many hats in Texas’ early days

BY ROBERT SPRINGER

THE EARLY TEXAS REPUBLIC WAS RIFE with partisanship, and to make it function effectively, the mercurial Sam Houston needed a get-the-job-done counterweight. Fortunately, Thomas Jefferson Rusk came forward.

“Houston was flamboyant. He was larger than life,” says Scott Sosebee, associate professor of history at Stephen F. Austin State University. “Rusk was your typical genteel Southerner.”

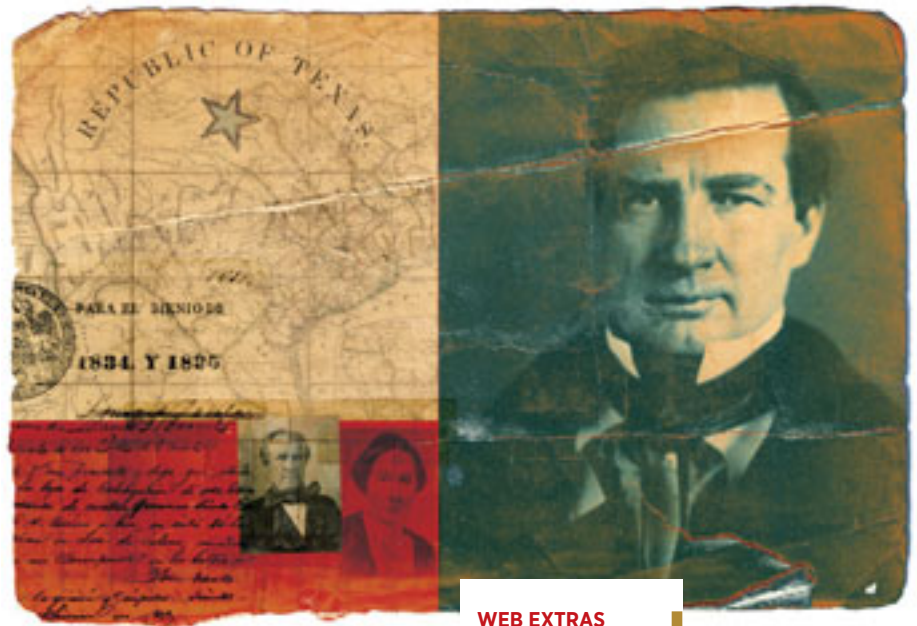
Rusk adapted his skills to a range of challenges. He served as secretary of war for the Texas Republic, inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District, chief justice of the Supreme Court for the Texas Republic and U.S. senator from the state of Texas. Rusk was mentioned as a presidential candidate in 1856, putting him on the national stage.

Though a gifted politician, he was also a “moody man and prone to bouts of despair,” says Sosebee.

In 1834, Rusk came from Georgia to the Mexican territory of Texas to recover money embezzled by his business partners. He caught one of the men, who informed Rusk that all of the money had been lost in a card game, according to Charles Swanlund, professor of history at Blinn College in Bryan. Ruined back home, Rusk learned he could get a couple thousand acres for staying in Texas, so he remained in Nacogdoches.

Rusk sensed opportunity in Texas. “There was a chance for him to advance, particularly if the Texas revolution was successful,” says Swanlund. “There was plenty of work for a man like Rusk to do in Texas at that time.”

After organizing recruits to help Stephen F. Austin, Rusk was quickly promoted to inspector general for the army for the Nacogdoches District then to sec-



retary of war for the Texas Republic.

Rusk then joined Houston to help defeat Santa Ana at the Battle of San Jacinto. Swanlund says Rusk wasn’t as volatile as Houston, and this served him well in dealing with his more famous colleague. “They’re both drinking men, and that certainly gave them common ground,” he says. “Rusk was just kind of a middle-of-the-road, down-to-earth guy, and he tried to not really get involved in the personal politics. He was about the work.”

Given the opportunity to become the first president of the Republic of Texas, Rusk declined. He had arrived in Texas to rebuild his personal fortune and had been too busy fighting the war to achieve his goal, so he opened a law practice to support his family. “He always seems to be more comfortable in the background,” says Swanlund.

Rusk played so many roles in Texas history that it’s difficult to choose a defining one. Sosebee believes that Rusk himself would choose secretary of war, an important role that he enjoyed despite his lack of military training. “He liked that military bearing, and being the secretary of war allowed that,” Sosebee says.

Swanlund and Sosebee agree that Rusk’s

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to learn more about Thomas Jefferson Rusk.

legacy-defining contribution was as one of the two first senators from the new state of Texas (Houston was the other). True to

his get-the-work-done nature, Rusk was instrumental in the Compromise of 1850, according to Swanlund. As part of the accord, Texas was persuaded to give up territory north of the Missouri Compromise parallel and any claims on New Mexican lands. In return, the federal government would assume Texas’ war debt of \$10 million. Rusk was such an effective senator that his term was renewed before it expired, according to Swanlund.

In 1856, while Rusk was in Washington, D.C., he received word his wife had died. Later, still deeply saddened by the loss, Rusk committed suicide at his ranch in Nacogdoches.

Rusk managed to thrive in hyper-partisan times with the volatile and contradictory Houston as a contemporary. Among the Republic of Texas’ unsung founders, Rusk has a notable standing.

Robert Springer is a freelance writer who loves Tex-Mex and armadillos.

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Cake Walk

SPRING USHERS IN CELEBRATIONS—graduations, baby and bridal showers, and special confections made just for mom. What better way to celebrate your loved ones than with a luscious, beautiful homemade cake? This month's winning recipes range from a three-tiered masterpiece perfumed with lemon and rosemary to a pretty pink cake flavored (and colored) with cherry juice. Moist and fragrant from brandy-plumped prunes and citrus zest, the following pound cake is one of my favorites. With a dusting of powdered sugar, it's pretty enough to serve at brunch or a backyard barbecue. I like it best for breakfast (is that wrong?) with a cup of strong coffee. Note that the brandy-plumped prunes should be prepared a day in advance, and feel free to substitute dried cherries or cranberries.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Drunken Prune Pound Cake

BRANDY-PLUMPED PRUNES

16 ounces prunes
Brandy to cover

POUND CAKE

3 cups flour
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
2 cups sugar
1 cup dark brown sugar
4 eggs
1 cup buttermilk, well-shaken
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon almond extract
Grated zest of 1 medium orange
Grated zest of 1 lemon
½ cup chopped brandy-plumped prunes

1. PRUNES: Place prunes in a clean, sealable glass jar and pour brandy over the top until it covers them by about an inch.

2. CAKE: Preheat oven to 325 degrees and position the rack in the lower third

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Recipes

Cake Walk



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

ALI WHITEHEAD | TRINITY VALLEY EC

Eleven-year-old Ali Whitehead enjoys the unique combination of flavors in this three-tiered show-stealer, including rosemary from her grandmother's herb garden. "I like to bake this cake around the holidays and any time my parents or grandparents will let me make a mess in the kitchen," she says.

Lemon Rosemary Cake With Cream Cheese Frosting

BATTER

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (2¼ sticks) butter, softened
- 2½ cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅜ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

FROSTING

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 8 cups powdered sugar
- 2¼ teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest

1. BATTER: Preheat oven to 350 degrees; grease and flour three 9-inch round baking pans.

2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the

eggs and yolk, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

3. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Alternating with the sour cream, add dry ingredients to butter mixture, beating well after each addition. Mix in lemon juice, zest and rosemary.

4. Divide the batter evenly between the three pans and bake 25–30 minutes, or until edges begin to brown. (For even baking, rotate the pans after 15 minutes.) Cool the cakes for 10 minutes in pans before inverting onto a wire rack to cool completely.

5. FROSTING: Beat together cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar, 2–3 cups at a time, along with lemon juice and zest and mix until smooth. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake, and garnish with lemon and rosemary. ▶ Serves 16.



IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,
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\$100 Recipe Contest

October's recipe contest theme is **The Great Pumpkin**. Pumpkin appears in just about everything, from quick breads to creamy soups—even lattes! Send us your favorite recipe that makes the most of this versatile ingredient. The deadline is **May 10**.

ENTER ONLINE at 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.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

of oven. Apply cooking spray to a tube or Bundt pan, or coat generously with butter and flour (tapping out excess).

3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt and baking soda. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream butter and sugars at medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add the flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Mix in extracts and zests and fold in the chopped prunes.

4. Pour in tube or Bundt pan and bake for 1 hour, until the cake pulls away from the pan and a toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. ▶ Serves 8–10.

COOK'S TIP Plumping dried fruit in brandy or another spirit is an old-fashioned way of preserving them. I keep a container of these in my pantry—for this cake and as a fast topping on vanilla or coffee ice cream. Kept in a cool, dark place, the prunes will keep for months. Wrapped in plastic, this cake keeps well (actually improving in flavor) for about five days.

Cherry Almond Cake With White Chocolate Custard Filling

LARKANN STEFFENS | VICTORIA EC

Maraschino cherry juice imparts a pale pink hue to this elegant cake. Chopped cherries and almonds lend an appealing texture, while the whipped topping adds a festive element. For best results, prepare the white chocolate custard a day in advance so it has plenty of time to chill before assembly.

CUSTARD

- 1¼ cups sugar
- 1½ tablespoons cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups whole milk
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ⅔ cup white chocolate morsels
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter, cut into slices

BATTER

- ½ cup coarsely chopped sliced almonds
- 16 maraschino cherries, cut into eighths
- 16 whole maraschino cherries, drained
- ¾ cup whole milk



- ¼ cup maraschino cherry juice
- 3 cups cake flour, sifted
- 2½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup (about ⅔ stick) butter, softened
- ⅓ cup vegetable shortening
- 1½ cups sugar
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract
- 5 egg whites

TOPPING

- ¾ cup heavy cream
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract

1. **CUSTARD:** Whisk sugar, cornstarch and salt together in a small saucepan. Turn heat to medium-high and whisk in milk and egg yolks. Stir constantly, until mixture is thickened and bubbly, about 10–15 minutes.
2. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and white chocolate morsels, and whisk in butter slices one at a time. Place the custard in a bowl, covering with plastic

- wrap to prevent a skin, and refrigerate until cold.
3. **BATTER:** Combine almonds and cut cherries in a small bowl; set aside. Place whole cherries on paper towels to drain. Combine milk and cherry juice in a measuring cup and set aside.
 4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans, or line with parchment.
 5. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter, shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the flour mixture alternately with the cherry milk mixture, beginning and ending with dry ingredients, blending well after each addition. Add almond extract.
 6. Using a clean bowl and beaters, whip egg whites until stiff.
 7. Fold almonds and cherries into batter, then fold in egg whites. Divide batter between the two pans and bake 30–35 minutes or until springy to touch.
 8. Cool cakes in pans for 5 minutes, then invert onto wire racks to cool completely

- (carefully peel away parchment, if using).
9. **TOPPING:** Using beaters or a standing mixer, whip the heavy cream, powdered sugar and extracts to a thick whipped cream for piping, or slightly smoother consistency for spreading. Refrigerate the whipped cream until you're ready to use it.
 10. To assemble cake, gently spread 1 cup of cold custard over the first layer of cooled cake, allowing some to drip down sides. Place the second layer on the cake and gently spread another cup of custard over the top. Pipe or spread whipped cream onto the cake, and garnish with the whole cherries. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. ▶ Serves 10–12.

COOK'S TIP Store any leftovers in the refrigerator for up to three days.

WEB EXTRAS ▶ Read this story online to see a recipe for Chile Chocolate Cake With Cherry Chipotle sauce. Plus you'll find dozens more cakes in our archive of more than 700 recipes.



2017 GRAND PRIZEWINNER
Warm Gingerbread With Lemon Basil Sauce
 Rebekah Stewart | San Bernard EC
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Send us your best ORIGINAL holiday recipes—ones you've developed, not copied from a friend or found in a book or magazine. Winners will be featured in our November 2018 issue. Enter by June 8 at TexasCoopPower.com.

Go to TexasCoopPower.com for details and official rules.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com. Each entry MUST include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your Texas electric cooperative, or it will be disqualified. Specify which category you are entering, Sweet or Savory, on each recipe. Mail entries to: Texas Co-op Power/Holiday Recipe Contest, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. You can also fax entries to (512) 763-3401. Up to three total entries are allowed per co-op membership. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper if mailed or faxed. Mailed entries all can be sent in one envelope. No email entries will be accepted. For official rules, visit TexasCoopPower.com. **Entry deadline: June 8, 2018.**



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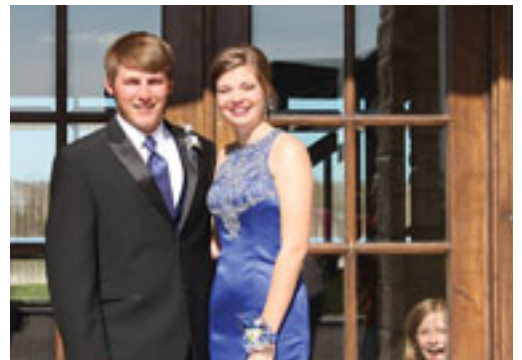
◀ **CAROLYN SCHLINKE**, Karnes EC: "My granddaughter, Caryn Smart, 17, took her favorite show bull, Zeus, to the Runge High School prom so she could take pictures with him."

▼ **KARA KLEIMANN**, San Bernard EC: "A little rain did not keep this group from having fun at their high school prom in Columbus."



▲ **BONNI WILSON**, Wise EC: Prada pre-prom in Valentine

▶ **SUSAN O'BRIEN**, Lyntegar EC: "My granddaughter, Jayli, and her date, Corbin, posing before the 2017 Spearman prom are surprisingly joined by Jayli's little sister, Brooklyn."



▲ **LOIS JACKSON**, Cherokee County EC: "When brothers Tate and Cade Duncan headed to the prom, they decided to go in true redneck style!"

UPCOMING CONTESTS

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| OCTOBER | CLOCKS | DUE JUNE 10 |
| NOVEMBER | ABANDONED BUILDINGS | DUE JULY 10 |

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Music in the Park

Comfort May 8–Oct. 9
(830) 285-9345, gaddischurch.org/events

Music in the Park starts its third season with the Almost Patsy Cline Band. The concerts, at the gazebo in Comfort Park, are held every second Tuesday and feature a different artist each month. They are sponsored by Gaddis United Methodist Church. Bring lawn or camp chairs and enjoy the music.

May 9

Kerrville Circle of Service Dinner,
(830) 315-5762, kerrvillekroc.org

Marble Falls [9–12] MayFest,
(830) 693-2815, marblefalls.org/mayfest

10

Grapevine Education Express,
(817) 431-3340, educationexpresstx.com

Crockett [10–12] Lions Club PRCA
Rodeo, (936) 544-5641,
facebook.com/crockettnoonlions

11

Decatur [11–13] Texas Scottish Festival
& Highland Games, (469) 424-1930,
texasscots.com

12

Edinburg Music Festival, (956) 383-6246

Greenville Audie Murphy Day,
(903) 450-4502, amacmuseum.com

Kyle Squeeze Me on the Square,
(512) 262-3939, cityofkyle.com/recreation

Ladonia Spring 20 Mile Garage Sale,
(214) 226-2046, cocladonia.org

Round Top A Night With the Tribute
to George Strait, (979) 249-3390,
stonecellarwines.com

Wimberley Garden Club Garden Tour,
(512) 842-3142, wimberleygardenclub.org

Beaumont [12–26] *Young Frankenstein*,
(409) 833-4664, beaumontcvb.com

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Palestine Throw Mama on the Train, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

16

Vernon [16-19] Santa Rosa Roundup 74th Rodeo and Parade, (940) 552-6868, santarosaroundup.com

18

Seguin Hotshot's Reunion and Fish Fry, (830) 379-6382, seguinchamber.com

Clifton [18-19] Syttende Mai Parade and Celebration, (254) 652-3499, bosquecountynst.org

Columbus [18-19] Magnolia Days Festival, (979) 732-8385, columbus-texas.org

Star [18-20] Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, (325) 437-1852, cowpokesforkids.com

19

Navasota First Responders Day, (936) 870-4700, firstrespondersdaytx.com

San Marcos [19-20] Dirt Dauber Clay Festival, (512) 558-1723, eyeofthedog.com

20

Bleiberville VFD Fish Fry, (979) 249-6382, bellville.com



25

West Tawakoni [25-26] VFD Hand Fishing Tournament, (972) 670-1715, facebook.com/laketawakonihandfishing

26

Cuero Main Street Farmers Market, (361) 275-2112, cuero.org

Lewisville Fiesta Charra, (972) 219-3401, cityoflewisville.com

Hubbard [26-28] Memorial Day Weekend Trade Days, (254) 576-2521, hubbardcity.com

31

Tyler [31-June 3] Texas State Federation Square and Round Dance Festival, (972) 822-3533, squaredancetx.com

June

1

Amarillo [1-2] Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo, (806) 376-7767, coorsranchrodeo.com

Bonham [1-2] Highway 82 Yard Sale, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

2

Little Elm Craft Brew & Que, (214) 618-1401, lakefrontlittleelm.com

McKinney Date Night at the Heard, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

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

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Presidential Aspirations

Denison invites visitors to tour Eisenhower's birthplace

BY DAWN COBB

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER CASTS A LONG presidential shadow over the North Texas town of Denison, but he's not the only famous former resident. For a contrast of historic characters with local ties, consider that gunfighter and gambler John Henry "Doc" Holliday once practiced dentistry here.

Denison's Eisenhower monument, at 16 feet tall, offers the first and most visible clue from Interstate 75 that Denison relishes its role as birthplace to the 34th president.

Denison also is known as Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's childhood home. The airline pilot achieved international fame in January 2009 when he successfully landed the disabled Flight 1549 in the Hudson River, saving all 155 people on board.

Even though Eisenhower's connection to Denison is tenuous because his family moved back to Abilene, Kansas, when the future president was only a year old, the family's history is on display in a white two-story house where he was born in 1890. The house joins several historic buildings, including a general store at 609 S. Lamar Ave., in the **Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site**. Guided tours of the home, which features period furniture, relate the story of the Eisenhower family's stay in Denison.

The historic park's perennial plant gardens attract monarch butterflies in the area as they follow their seasonal migration. A bronze of Eisenhower is surrounded by benches, convenient for a moment of reflection.

For a more vigorous experience, explore **Eisenhower State Park's** 420 acres, where wooded areas invite hiking or camping and the nearby lake allows access for boaters.

A 15-minute drive south and east from the state park delivers you to **Grayson County Frontier Village**, where more than a



The President Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Monument in Denison

dozen buildings dating to the 19th century were relocated to the property by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to create a historic town on a 17-acre park.

The village includes a log cabin, a jail and a school. Just outside the school's door is a bell affixed to a pole with a rope attached to ring the children in for lessons. Nearby Loy Lake is open for fishing, kayaking and picnicking.

Back in Denison, you'll find a green and yellow Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad train parked on tracks behind the brick **Katy Depot** on Main Street, once the center of a regional transportation hub. **The Red River Railroad Museum**, on the back side of the Katy Depot, preserves pieces of history from when the building reigned as a Union Passenger Depot (i.e., a train station used by more than one railroad company or line).

The MKT Railroad established the rail-

head in Denison in 1872, and the town grew up around the station. In 1901, Denison established an interurban railway that ran from Denison to Sherman. The town itself is named for MKT Vice President George Denison.

The depot continued as a bustling business until the late 1980s, when a merger shuttered the station for good. The building, with landscaped grounds punctuated by historical markers, now serves as an events center.

"Doc" Holliday opened a dentist's office in downtown Denison after leaving Dallas under a cloud, but the exact location is neither known nor marked—befitting, in some ways, his status as an Old West legend.

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

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