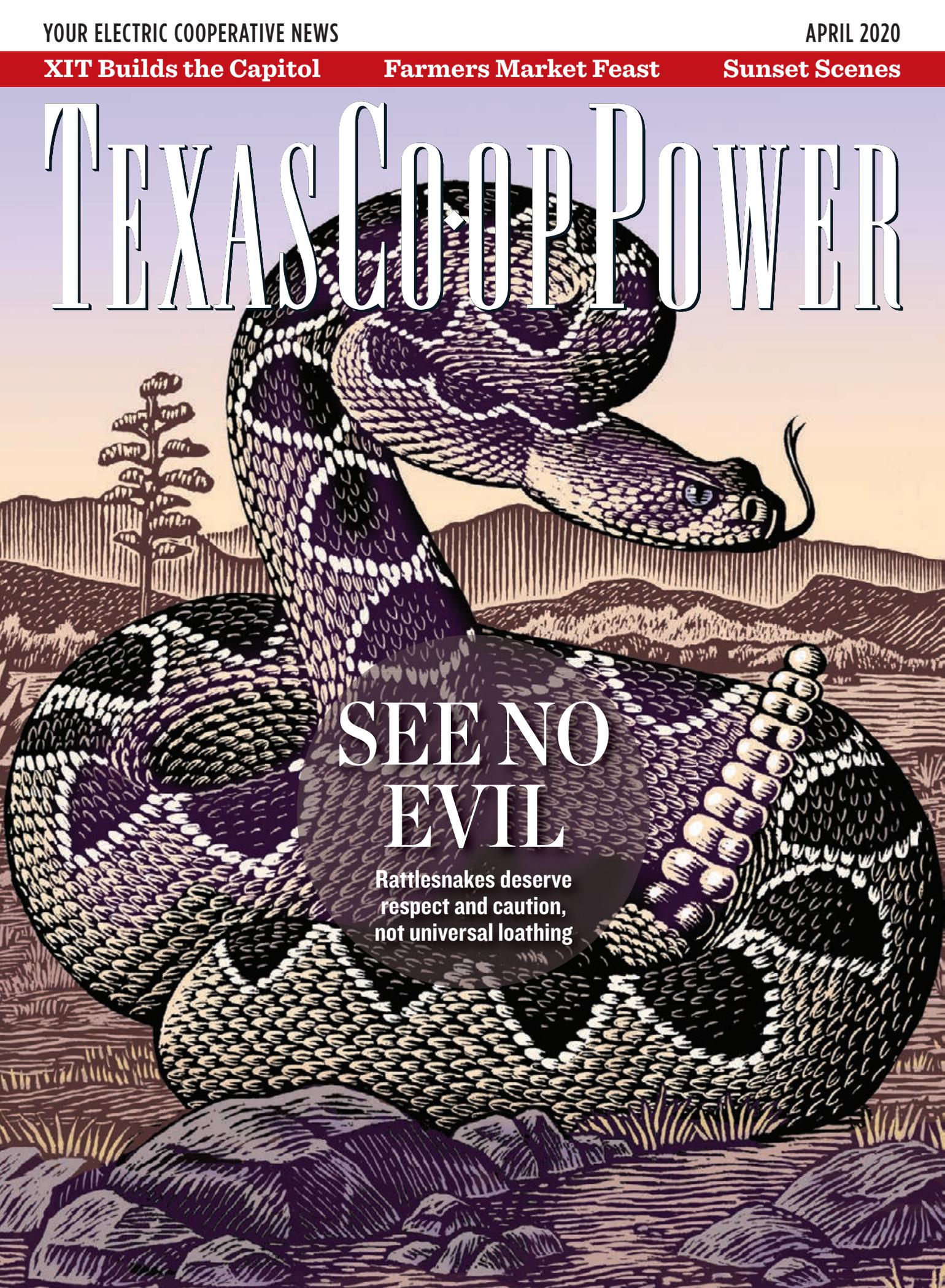


TEXAS CO-OP POWER



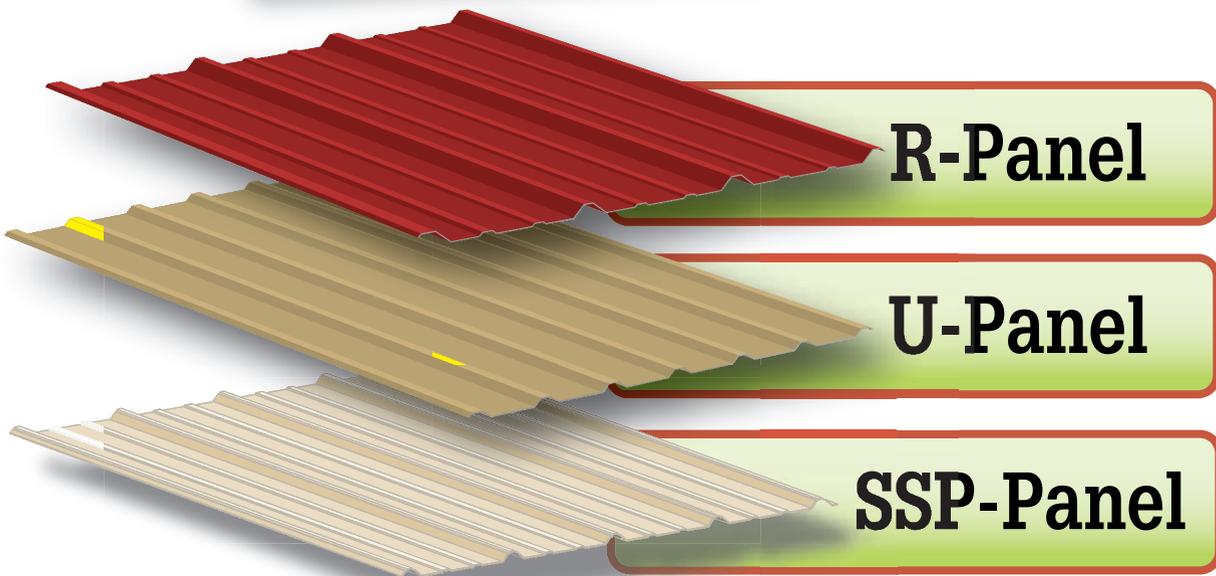
SEE NO EVIL

Rattlesnakes deserve
respect and caution,
not universal loathing

INVENTORY CLEARANCE

STARTING
AT **\$2¹⁰ LF** (**\$65⁰⁰_{SQ}**)

**Contact Us Today
for Availability**



- Limited Time Only!
- 26-Gauge/3' Coverage
- Multiple colors available
- No Warranty

Call or stop by, today!


MUELLER, INC.
Metal Buildings, Roofing and Components

Limited Availability.
Prices subject to change without notice.

877-2-Mueller (268-3553) • www.MuellerInc.com



Cowboys brand cattle at the XIT Ranch.

FEATURES

8 A Snake To Love Outdoorsman comes to admire rattlesnakes, which are not the evil beings of legend and myth.
By Mike Leggett

12 XIT: The Ranch That Built the Capitol Immense territory is as legendary as the building it funded.
By Gene Fowler



29



31



35



38

ON THE COVER Rattlesnakes are among the most commonly encountered snakes in the state. Illustration by David Danz

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Alan Lesley, Chair, Comanche; Robert Loth III, Vice Chair, Fredericksburg; Gary Raybon, Secretary-Treasurer, El Campo; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Jones, Corsicana; David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Marty Haught, Burleson; Bill Hetherington, Bandera; Ron Hughes, Sinton; Boyd McCamish, Littlefield; Mark McClain, Roby; John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham; Robert Walker, Gilmer; Brandon Young, McGregor • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejtek, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Grace Fultz, Print Production Specialist; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Gasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Megan Myers, Food Editor; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Chris Salazar, Digital Field Editor; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Kristin Wise, Digital Media Intern; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader

FAVORITES

- 5 Letters
- 6 Currents
- 18 **Co-op News**
Get the latest information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative.
- 29 **Texas History**
Death on Tiny Wings
By Martha Deeringer
- 31 **Recipes**
Farmers Market
- 35 **Focus on Texas**
Photo Contest: Sunsets
- 36 **Around Texas**
List of Local Events
- 38 **Hit the Road**
Dark Landmark
By Chet Garner

ONLINE

TexasCoopPower.com
Find these stories online if they don't appear in your edition of the magazine.

Texas Places

Lost, Texas
Excerpts by Bronson Dorsey

Observations

The Sneed-Boyce Feud
By Gene Fowler

NEXT MONTH

Firmly Rooted The Stark family lumber empire in Orange forged cultural destinations that offer nature, art and history.



Introducing the future of personal transportation.



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

It's not a Wheelchair...

It's not a Power Chair...

It's a Zinger Chair!

More and more Americans are reaching the age where mobility is an everyday concern. Whether from an injury or from the aches and pains that come from getting older—getting around isn't as easy as it used to be. You may have tried a power chair or a scooter. The **Zinger** is NOT a power chair or a scooter! The **Zinger** is quick and nimble, yet it is not prone to tipping like many scooters. Best of all, it weighs only 47.2 pounds and folds and unfolds with ease. You can take it almost anywhere, providing you with independence and freedom.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a personal electric vehicle that's truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The **Zinger** features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the steering lever so it's simple

to operate, and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **Zinger** is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk— you can even gate-check it at the airport like a stroller. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 275 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 miles on a single charge.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your independence and quality of life

Zinger Chair®

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

1-888-802-0192

Please mention code 112724 when ordering.



- Just think of the places you can go:*
- Shopping • Air Travel • Bus Tours
 - Restaurants— ride right up to the table! • Around town or just around your house

The Zinger Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair. Zinger is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid.

© 2020 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.



A Tree's Trials

I'm a crape murderer—but not because I'm trying to restrict the height of them [*Crape Murder*, February 2020]. My crape myrtles border our driveway. They bloom beautifully and look great during the warm months.

However, once the first freeze occurs, they turn brown and become a bit of an eyesore. Even worse, left untrimmed, they drop dead leaves and seed pods onto my driveway throughout the winter, much of which is then blown into the garage. Foot traffic then brings them inside.

TOM MILLHOLLON | GRANBURY
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

I enjoyed Sheryl Smith-Rodgers' article, but it should have been titled Crape Assault and Battery because it's almost impossible to kill the average crape. Three years ago, I cut off a 6-inch diameter volunteer crape just above the ground (that was too close to the house), and it came roaring back.

I repeatedly cut it back and finally was able to kill it by pouring a thick layer of concrete over the stump. There's nothing delicate about a crape!

DUDLEY DOBIE | AUSTIN
FAYETTE EC

For all of my 50-year career in Texas horticulture, I have yet to hear even one valid reason for this practice. When author Sheryl Smith-Rodgers quoted Greg Grant, she went to one of Texas' finest resources. Indeed, we must "stop the madness."

NEIL SPERRY | MCKINNEY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

True Confession

I had never seen a crape myrtle before I moved to Texas [*Crape Murder*, February 2020]. There was a row of them along the property line of my lot in a mobile home park. My neighbor told me to cut them back. Soon afterward, I found out that was wrong. I've felt bad ever since. They were fairly tall.

LISA CULBERTSON | VIA FACEBOOK

Not a Flicker of Doubt

In Focus on Texas in February, you identified a bird as a woodpecker. The bird is a flicker.

MARYLIN DOW | SCROGGINS
WOOD COUNTY EC

Editor's Note: We checked with Clifford Shackelford, an ornithologist at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "It's a male red-bellied woodpecker," he said. "The flicker would never have that much red on the head."

Crawfish Crazy

I am crawfish crazy [*A Tale of Texas Crawfish*, February 2020]. It's a pastime, like baseball or fishing. Conversations over mudbugs and beer—can't beat it.

RYAN WAGNER | VIA FACEBOOK

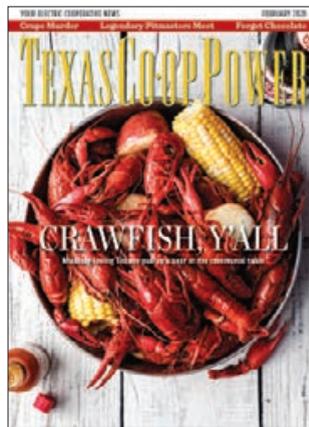
You left out the best place along the coast in Calhoun County.

Bubba's Cajun Seafood has been serving up its own special seasoning on heaps of steaming crawfish for almost 10 years.

BECKEY BOYD GOODEN | SEADRIFT
VICTORIA EC

I call 'em what they are, crawfish, and the very best come out the Atchafalaya spillway, not farm raised.

DARYL RODRIGUEZ | VIA FACEBOOK



You can call them whatever you want. I call them good.

MICHEAL WOODARD | VIA FACEBOOK

I grew up in West Texas, and we called them crawdads. I never knew people ate them.

MARCIA HERALD | VIA FACEBOOK

GET MORE TCP AT TexasCoopPower.com

Sign up for our e-newsletter for monthly updates, prize drawings and more!

We want to hear from you!

ONLINE: TexasCoopPower.com/share

EMAIL: letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

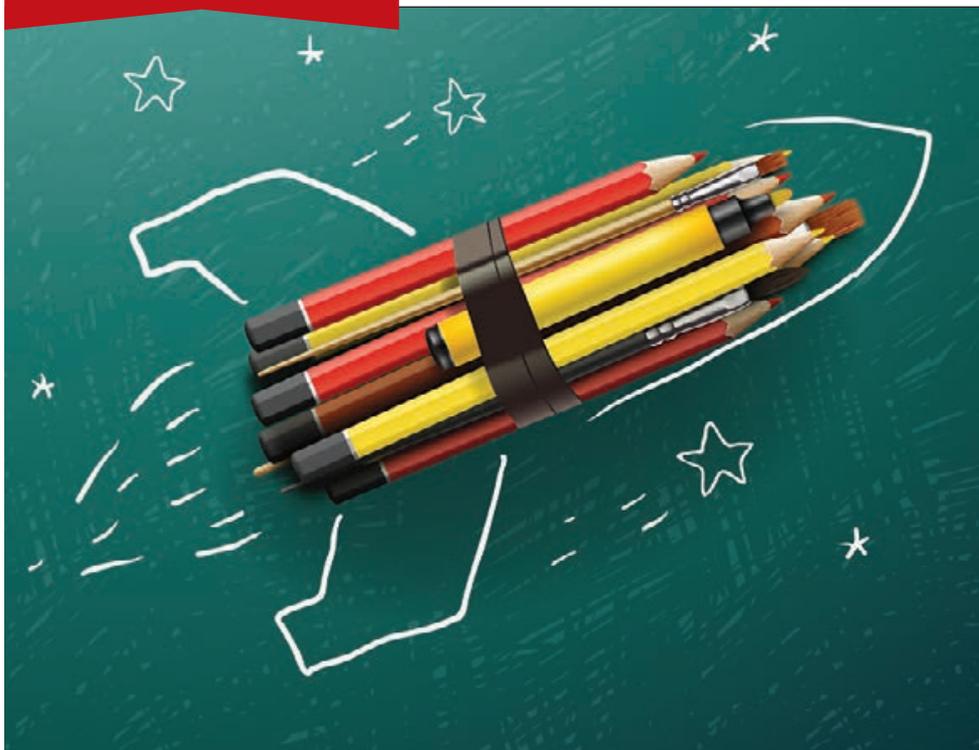
Please include your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS CO-OP POWER VOLUME 76, NUMBER 10 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE** is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser.

© Copyright 2020 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2020 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.





BY THE NUMBERS

20 MILLION

That's how many Americans demonstrated on behalf of the environment on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. Gaylord Nelson, a Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator, started the movement 50 years ago.

HAPPENINGS

School Launch Program

Brett Williams' push for a STEM-based curriculum at Fredericksburg High School in 1996 certainly took off. Williams found a fun way to teach students lessons in science, technology, engineering and math while building a model rocket, which they then launched.

He called his program SystemsGo, and it spread to other schools. Students design rockets to meet specific criteria, such as sending a 1-pound payload 1 mile high or exceeding the sound barrier.

This year, more than 80 high schools in four states will participate in **ROCKETS 2020** launches. The first event in Texas is **APRIL 24-25** in **JACKSBORO**. Launches in Stonewall and Anahuac will follow later in the spring, and Jal, New Mexico, will host an event.

Rockets will launch throughout the events, which are open to the public and free.

INFO ▶ (830) 997-3567, systemsgo.org

WEB EXTRAS
▶ Find more happenings online.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE



I never should have told my parents . . .

▶ **Tell us how** you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or post them on our Facebook page. Please include your city and co-op.

Below are some of the responses to our February prompt: **My most unforgettable first date was ...**

With two different boys. They both showed up at the same time. Awkward.

BARBARA TALIAFERRO | SPRINGTOWN TRI-COUNTY EC

With a girl who had to stop and go to the bathroom in the woods on the way home.

JIM MORROW | HIGHLAND VILLAGE | COSERV

The one that resulted in my lunch date and I being inseparable from that day forward.

CONNIE THOMAS | VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents on our website.

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Sharing Veterans' Voices

WHEN JAPAN'S ENVOYS signed the documents surrendering to the Allies on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay, they could not know they were being watched by a sailor from Fayette County. Charlie Ripper, a shell man for the 16-inch guns on the USS Colorado, had an eye on the ceremony. "I was on lookout duty," Ripper said, "and from the lookout tower I could see them sign the papers."

Ripper and 62 other World War II veterans—men and women—some who remained stateside to support the war effort and others who slogged through muddy battlefields, told their stories to Fayette County Electric Cooperative member Elaine Thomas, who included each narrative in her book, *Veterans' Voices and Home Front Memories*.

"I have been a regular columnist for the *Fayette County Record* for more than a decade," Thomas said. "I was talking to Charlie Ripper and asked him if I could interview him for an article."

Ripper agreed on the condition that he not be called a hero. "The only heroes are the ones who didn't come home," Ripper said.

Thomas' stories about Ripper and others in the *Fayette County Record* drew raves from the community. They led to a special section in the paper and then the book.

Four hundred people turned out for the *Veterans' Voices* book signing in November 2018, and 17 veterans and three female civilians whose stories appear in the book were able to accept appreciation from the community for their service. Proceeds from the book, available on Amazon, support a scholarship at Blinn College's Schulenberg campus.



Elaine Thomas with World War II veteran Charlie Ripper of La Grange.

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE recognizes co-op members who improve their community's quality of life. Nominate someone by emailing people@texascooppower.com.

LIFESTYLE

MAKING CENTS

April 1 is National One Cent Day.

That's not an April Fool's Day joke. It's true.

A penny used to be worth something—enough to prompt the centuries-old saying, "A penny saved is a penny earned." In fact, some readers remember penny candy and corner stores, where, for just 1 cent, you could actually get something sweet.

The U.S. first issued a 1-cent coin in 1792. Because of inflation, what used to cost 1 cent then costs 27 cents today.



Though easily disregarded, the penny is the most abundant coin in the country, with about 7.8 billion produced by the U.S. Mint in 2018. But because pennies cost 2.06 cents each to produce, American taxpayers lost more than \$82 million that year minting them.

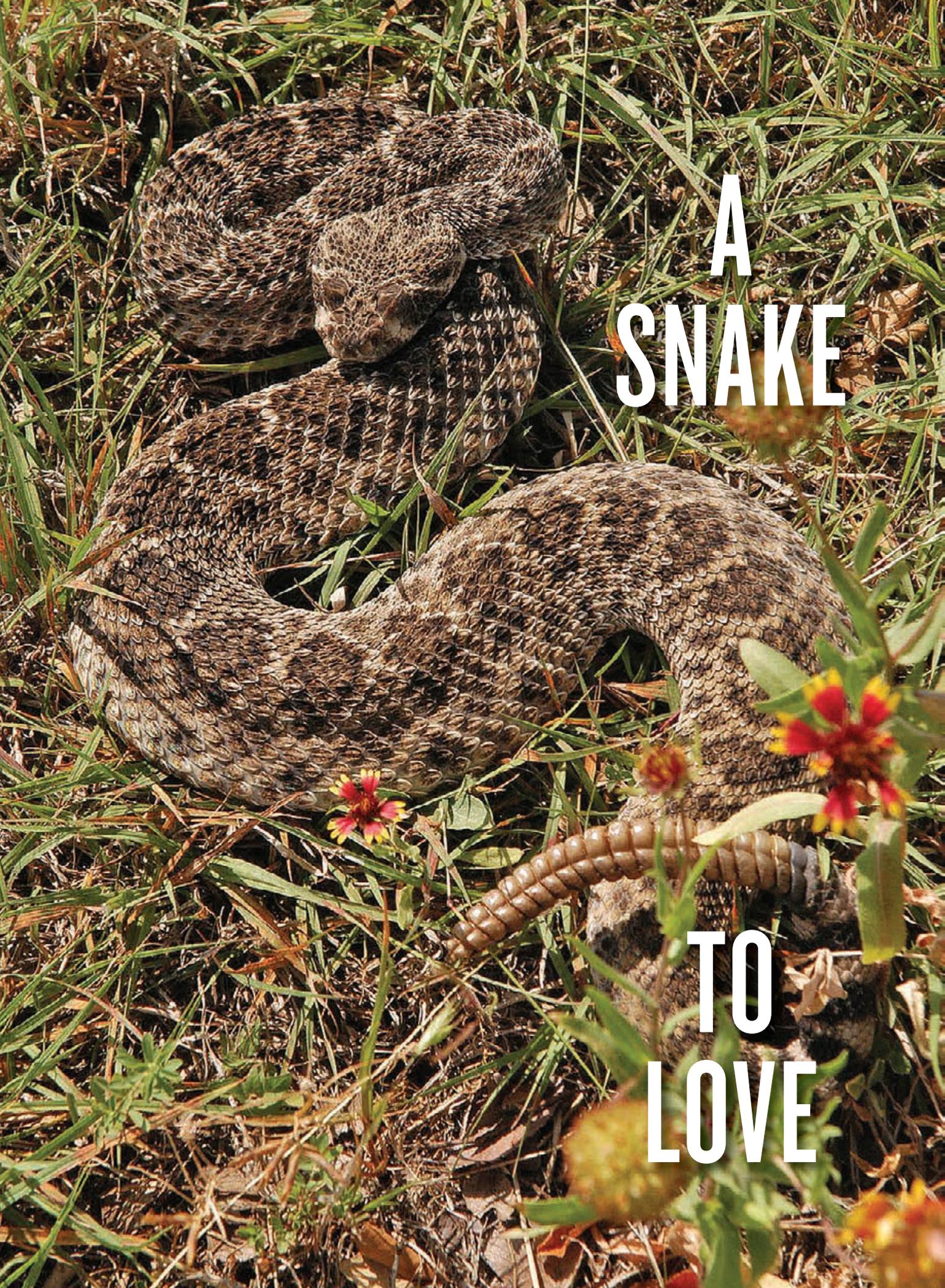
That's not a joke, either.

WORTH REPEATING

"What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin."

—MARK TWAIN

(With that, we remind you the tax collector comes calling April 15.)

A close-up photograph of a snake with a brown and tan speckled pattern, coiled in a field of tall green grass and small red and yellow flowers. The snake's head is visible in the upper left, and its body forms several loops. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**A
SNAKE**

**TO
LOVE**

BY MIKE LEGGETT

FRIEND OR FOE?

What is your experience with rattlesnakes? Tell us at letters@texascooppower.com.

OUTDOORS JOURNALIST COMES TO ADMIRE RATTLESNAKES, WHICH ARE NOT THE EVIL BEINGS OF LEGEND AND MYTH IN TEXAS

I can trace my love affair with rattlesnakes back more than 60 years to a cool, misty October Saturday morning in the mid-1950s when somebody showed up at the little general store in DeBerry with a very large canebrake rattler in the back of a pickup.

I would have been 6 or 7 years old then, and there was no threatened status as there is now for these shy, somewhat gentle reptiles. In those days, when anybody encountered one, the snake invariably lost a war with a load of No. 6 squirrel shot. This one had succumbed to just such a blast, but it wasn't his missing head that fascinated me. It was the full-grown fox squirrel that lay in the slit-open belly of the snake. His last meal.

That rattlesnake was absolutely beautiful to me and kicked off a quest that has kept me fascinated for more than six decades. I loved that snake and hated that it had to die.

I wouldn't see another rattler for at least 30 years. By then I was the outdoors editor at the *Austin American-Statesman*. I

was looking for someone who kept rattlesnakes to allow me to check the efficacy of wading leggings designed to blunt the attacks of stingrays and rattlesnakes. A Texas Parks and

A western diamondback rattlesnake, found in the western two-thirds of the state and one of eight species of rattlesnakes native to Texas.

Wildlife Department employee offered a 3-footer, and I placed my right boot down next to the snake. The strike was surprisingly fast, not even registering as a blow against my calf. There were golden droplets of venom hanging off the ballistic cloth of the leggings.

I went several more years without crossing paths with another rattlesnake, but once I hit my stride, I began to see them and hear them more often. I would catch them when I could and pose them for photos in the wild.

I've seen them during spring turkey season especially, usually crossing a road or *sendero* and trying to go on about their business. I've literally stepped on rattlers, stepped over them and walked within inches of them as they hid in the brush, usually under a guayacan or other shrubby kind of South Texas bush. Only one of those tried to bite me, a big snake—more than 5 feet long—that fired off from under a bush in South Texas one day. I killed it with a deer rifle, something I've always regretted.

Most of the time, rattlesnakes try to stay hidden or move to a hiding place and avoid any contact with humans. In the course of daily life in Central Texas, if you encounter a snake, odds are it will be a western diamondback rattlesnake or a Texas rat snake. But rattlesnakes are not the evil beings of legend and myth in Texas.

RESPECT THEIR LETHAL POWERS

We are too big for rattlers to eat, and they know that. But they will bite if pressured or frightened, and anyone who suffers a bite from a rattler is in for a tough time.

On average, one to two people per year die from snakebites in Texas, according to the Department of State Health Services, and often, those individuals were handling the snake in some way, either by trying to pick it up or fool with it. Most snakebites in Texas are by western diamondbacks, the most common venomous snake in the state.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE

Here are some steps that could help lessen the nasty effects of the snake's venom.

Don't panic. Head straight for a doctor or hospital. Doctors will have access to anti-venom drugs that can help save lives and limbs.

Throw out those old tales about cutting an X above the fang mark or sucking out the venom. You'll probably do more harm than good.

Remain still. Movements help distribute the venom throughout the body.

Remove jewelry or tight clothing around the bite.

Keep the bite area below the level of the heart to keep the venom from spreading.

DO NOT apply a tourniquet or ice to the bite. And no steroids should be used in treatment.

There is a vaccine for dogs and cats that, with an annual injection, can help reduce the effects of rattlesnake bites. Veterinarians typically keep it in stock.

Except for the big timber areas of East Texas, western diamondbacks are the most widespread of venomous snakes, with a range covering the area along either side of Interstate 35 and on into the mountains of West Texas. The South Texas desert and the coastal plains are home to very large diamondbacks, 6–7 feet long. Prairie rattlers show up in the grasslands and scrub brush of the Texas Panhandle.

There are no regional differences in aggressiveness or venomous status of the local snakes, which all have the equipment to bite and injure or kill humans.

University of Texas herpetologist Travis Laduc has spent lots of time studying rattlesnakes and the way they bite. Capturing many hours of footage with ultrahigh-speed cameras, he's learned that the bite itself, from coiled position to contact and back to coiled position, takes but half a second. In that half-second, the rattlesnake can deliver a load of hemotoxic venom that works through the bloodstream.

THEIR ROLE IN THE ECOSYSTEM

Rattlesnakes are abundant in most of their natural range, and they are there for a reason. Rats and mice might be stacked a foot deep without rattlesnakes around to eat a few from time to time.

However, I'm not saying you should ignore a rattler in your yard or close to your house where kids or pets might be in danger. I've lost two Labs to rattlesnakes over the years myself.

My wife and I came home one night. As we walked up onto the front porch in the dark and I was trying to get the key into the lock, we were shaken by the loudest buzzing I've ever heard—so loud up under the porch I thought it had to be cicadas. However, Rana wasn't fooled. She was back in the truck in seconds and yelling for me to get in as well.

I climbed into the cab and turned the lights on to illuminate a large rattlesnake lying on the doormat, just inches from where I had been standing moments before. We had cats then, and as outdoor cats tend to do, they had choused that snake until he couldn't get away and was cornered against the front door.

I had no choice but to do away with the snake. That's one rule I don't break: No snakes around the house.

In Central Texas, where I live and where a generous portion of Texas rattlesnakes live, that is kind of a classic encounter. Maybe you find one hiding in your flower bed one morning or crawling through your corral. We should be thankful for them and for what they do to keep vermin under control.

Here's a challenge for anyone who comes across a rattlesnake: Let it stay in its hiding place or just crawl away into the brush. If it's hiding, rattle or not, it's just hoping you'll go on by and leave it to hunt in peace.

Mike Leggett was outdoors editor for the *Austin American-Statesman* from 1985 to 2013. He has a lifelong fascination with rattlesnakes and is currently writing a book about rattlers, due out in 2021. He lives in Burnet and is a member of Pedernales EC.

WEB EXTRAS

► [Read this story on our website to learn more rattlesnake facts.](#)

COMMON SNAKES OF TEXAS



COTTONMOUTH



COPPERHEAD



CORAL SNAKE



TEXAS RAT SNAKE

VENOMOUS

Rattlesnakes are not the only venomous snakes in Texas, though they are by far the most common and tend to strike the most fear in Texans' hearts.

Next on the list of most feared snakes is the **cottonmouth**, or **water moccasin**. Ranging in color from a splotchy gray to nearly black, it is commonly found around swampy, slow-water terrain and habitat.

The **copperhead** is a small, beautifully colored and patterned snake found mostly in yards and wooded areas of East Texas but also Central Texas. It is common in cities and towns and is known to deliver bites to children playing outside or adults walking on the lawn.

Coral snakes, which deliver neurotoxic venom, are found throughout the eastern half of the state, including Central Texas. They are small, slender snakes and must literally chew on a person to get their venom into the bite.

NONVENOMOUS

Texas rat snake Maybe the most common snake in Texas, this acrobatic climber feeds on rats and mice, birds and birds' eggs. It can grow to be quite large but is not dangerous to humans. It will bite, though, and protect itself with an obnoxious musk.

Coachwhip A slender, mostly light brown to tan snake that will kill and eat rattlesnakes, it doesn't attack people by whipping their legs, as folklore suggests. It eats birds, small reptiles and almost anything else it can catch and swallow. The Central Texas whipsnake, a member of this family, has a black head and a black-and-white pattern on the rest of its body.

Hog-nosed snake Most common in East Texas, this little snake has an upturned nose and feeds on insects. It will play dead if threatened. It has a brownish to gray body with broken patterns of brown and black on its back.

Diamondback water snake A brownish snake with yellowish belly, it is common in lakes and ponds through much of Texas, especially the damper eastern half of the state. It eats fish, frogs and other aquatic fauna. It is often mistaken for a water moccasin and killed.

Speckled king snake A large snake, it's commonly known as a chicken snake for its habit of sneaking into hen houses and devouring eggs and baby chicks—though the rat snake is more likely the culprit in those raids.

MIKE LEGGETT



COACHWHIP



HOG-NOSED SNAKE



DIAMONDBACK WATER SNAKE

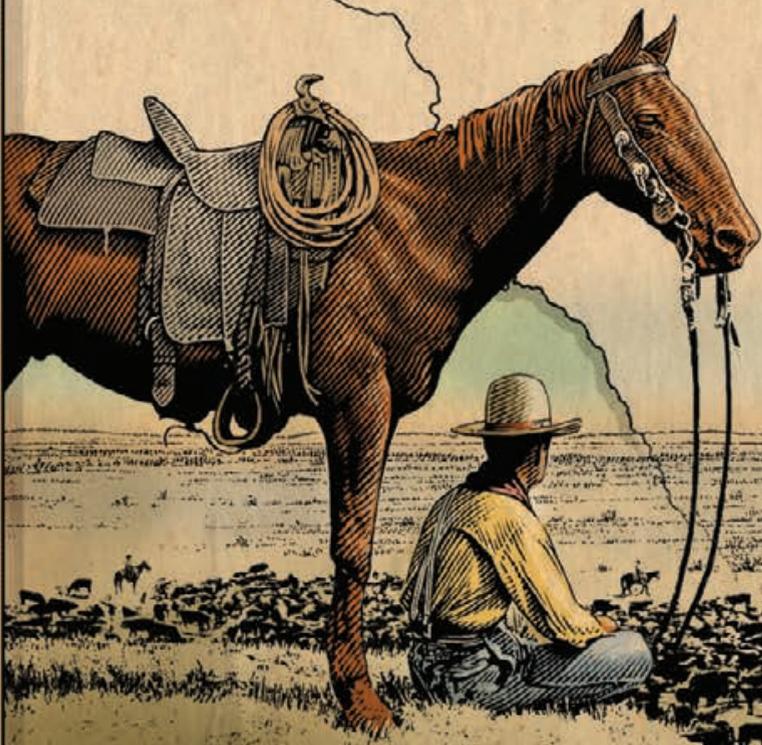


SPECKLED KING SNAKE



XIT

THE RANCH
THAT BUILT THE CAPITOL



JOHN A. WILSON

THE SHORT-LIVED XIT RANCH, THE WORLD'S LARGEST, LEFT BEHIND MYTHS AS LASTING AS THE EDIFICE IT FUNDED

WHEN SAM HOUSTON'S youngest son, Temple, spoke at the state Capitol dedication in 1888, he waxed eloquent about the grand building. "Texas stands peerless amid the mighty, and her brow is crowned with bewildering magnificence!" he said. "This building fires the heart and excites reflection in the minds of all."

Houston also commented on the logistics required to manifest this structure, which started with the creation of the 3 million-acre XIT Ranch and included the construction of the Austin and Northwestern Railroad to deliver red granite for the Capitol from Marble Falls to Austin.

"The XIT looms large in Texas mythology and ranching history because it was the largest fenced ranch in the world during its heyday," says Nick Olson, director of the XIT Museum in Dalhart, which preserves images, stories, saddles and artifacts associated with the XIT. "And it's the ranch that built the largest state Capitol in the country." At the time of its dedication, the Texas Capitol was the seventh-largest building in the world.

Neither the XIT Ranch nor the special, narrow-gauge railroad tracks exist today. The XIT lives on as a carefully tended legend, and the reality of the ranch is difficult to separate from the myths. Capitol and XIT historian Bill Green says the ranch's legacy can be seen as a branding tool because businesses in Dalhart and around the Panhandle adopt the name: XIT Roofing, XIT Real Estate, XIT Feeders, and XIT car dealerships and communications companies. Thousands of area residents own small patches of the fabled ranch. Cattle outfits operate on lands purchased from the original XIT acreage.

Moreover, the XIT legacy looms globally. "I was curator of history at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum for 17 years," Green explains, "and we had visitors from all over the world. They all knew two things about Texas: the Alamo and the XIT."

BUILDING THE CAPITOL

STATE LEGISLATORS realized they needed to plan for a new Capitol in the 1870s, and the Texas Constitution of 1876 set aside 3 million acres of land along the western border of the Panhandle to fund its construction. Even though they allocated the land, they did not articulate a procedure for how to survey the land and execute the legal agreements required to construct the building itself. In 1879, the Legislature approved a process for surveying the land and moving forward with a working plan. Not long after the existing Capitol burned in 1881, the newly appointed Capitol Board, including the governor, treasurer, attorney general and land commissioner, solicited bids.

In 1882, the contract to construct the edifice went to four Illinoisans: brothers John and Charles Farwell, Amos C. Babcock and Abner Taylor, who formed the Capitol Syndicate. Taylor

then hired a 27-year-old German immigrant named Gustav Wilke to serve as contractor. In 1885, the syndicate made an agreement by which it could occupy and ranch on the XIT land even though it did not yet have the title to it. Once the Capitol was complete, the legal title would be conveyed from the state to the syndicate.

To finance the cattle ranching, John Farwell formed the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company of London. He and his partners raised about \$5 million to keep the ranch running until it could be broken up and sold to individual ranchers and homesteaders. Back in Austin, construction started on the Capitol, with the Farwells paying for the initial stages from their own funds.

As Green points out, Europeans of the time had a rather romantic view of Texas ranching, and British investors had bankrolled several large Texas ranches, including Charles Goodnight's JA Ranch. The British Empire enjoyed global reach, and there was little opportunity to pursue the promise of such lucrative investments at home.

OPERATING THE RANCH

THE FIRST LONGHORNS arrived on the XIT range in 1885, delivered by a team of drovers led by Ab Blocker. J. Frank Dobie wrote that Blocker was “the most original-natured trail boss I have known.” At the third XIT Reunion in 1938, where aging cowpokes gathered to swap tall tales and reminisce, Blocker told Lewis Nordyke, author of the 1949 XIT volume, *Cattle Empire*, that he sketched the XIT brand in the sod with his boot heel for the ranch’s manager at the time, B. H. “Barbecue” Campbell. Blocker demonstrated for Campbell that the brand could be accomplished with five applications of a straight-line branding iron and would be nearly impossible for rustlers to alter. XIT it was.

In his 1929 book, *The XIT Ranch of Texas*, J. Evetts Haley explained that managing the sprawling ranch posed huge challenges for Campbell. “Barbecue exercised slight control over his men and allowed the ranch to become a rendezvous for rustlers, outlaws, and hard cases of all kinds,” Haley wrote.

Ranch operations improved when Albert G. Boyce, described by Haley as “a frontier cowman of commanding presence and vast experience,” became manager of the XIT in 1888. When Boyce took over, he fired and replaced most of the ranch’s 150 cowboys. At the same time, John Farwell improved profitability by replacing the ranch’s longhorn herds with Hereford, Angus and other purebred stock.

To further streamline the XIT’s business, Boyce divided the massive ranch into eight sections, each with a separate function, and established ranch headquarters in the town of Channing, where he built a house. The northernmost section was named Buffalo Springs. The others included Middle Water, Ojo Bravo, Alamasitas, Rita Blanca, Escarbada and Spring Lake. The southernmost division was Yellow Houses, named for nearby limestone formations called *las casas amarillas*.

Cowpunchers, well drillers, windmill toilers



Above: Bronco busting at the Yellow Houses division of the XIT Ranch in 1904. Below: The Capitol in Austin in the late 19th century.



and freighters—who kept the ranch’s remote outposts equipped with necessities—came from all walks of life. One cowpoke was even said to have a special love for the poetry of John Keats. When Boyce’s daughter Bessie opened a letter from a farm boy in Maryland who professed to love horses, she hired him by return mail. A hand named Blue Stevens later recalled that he gathered cow chips—used as fuel—for 21 days straight, picking up enough chips “to heat branding irons for every cow in the U.S.A.”

Noted ranching photographer Ray Rector cowboied on the XIT as a youth. According to the 1995 volume *The Papers of Will Rogers*, the cowboy philosopher worked on the XIT around 1901. A photograph of Yellow Houses’ chuck wagon dining includes an hombre identified as Rogers, who later recalled the Plains as “the prettiest country I ever saw in my life.”

Operating under threat of receivership by British investors for most of its existence, the XIT began selling off its acreage in 1901. The last cattle left the ranch in 1912. In 1936, the first XIT Reunion drew a crowd to Dalhart, and the annual event is now known internationally as “the world’s largest free barbecue.”

The Escarbada division headquarters building—deconstructed, moved, reconstructed and restored—can be seen today at the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock. The XIT general office and manager’s residence still stand in Channing, where an annual Christmas in July event began in 2018. (The 2020 event will be July 25.) The Capitol Visitors Center in Austin features a display on the XIT story.

Was the XIT too sprawling and massive to be a successful ranching operation? Manager Boyce thought so. But Andy Wilkinson, playwright of *Charlie Goodnight’s Last Night*, takes a longer view. “When you let all the big windies about the fabled ranch drift off into the sunset,” muses Wilkinson, “what still remains is a spread of 3 million acres, 1,500 miles of barbed wire, tens of thousands of cattle, and enough outlaws and heroes and honest-to-goodness cowhands to populate all the rangeland myths of the American West.”

Writer and author **Gene Fowler** specializes in art and history.

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Read this story on our website to see a slideshow.

WE MAKE WINDOW REPLACEMENT EASY & AFFORDABLE

60% OFF LABOR

plus

\$100 OFF
EACH WINDOW*

and

0

MONEY DOWN
PAYMENTS
INTEREST
For 12 Months*

Please ask about our other amazing finance options.

Minimum purchase required.

HURRY! SALE ENDS 4/30

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE IN-HOME DESIGN CONSULTATION.



WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT ALL

Renewal by Andersen owns the entire process, streamlining your window replacement project and backing both the windows and the installation with the nation's best warranty coverage.

Renewal
by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company



CALL (469) 606-5229
rbaofdfw.com

Get An **ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT**
— When You Replace 10+ Windows —

*Offer not available in all areas and ends 4/30/20 and appointment must occur within 10 days of the initial contact. Discount applies to minimum required purchase. \$0 payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Financing is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or familial status. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

THERAPEUTIC ACUPRESSURE WITH EVERY STEP



Massaging
Comfort Slides

was ~~\$16.99~~
SAVE \$7.00

Now Only **\$9.99**

FREE
Shipping
when buying 2 or more

Ladies'

Acupressure Massage



Sure Grip Soles

Helps Promote:

- Circulation
- Relaxation
- Overall Health



Men's

**INSOLES
MESSAGE &
INVIGORATE
YOUR FEET**

Connect With

DreamProducts.com

*We may be required to collect sales tax. Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if you need more information.

website offers
may vary

1-800-530-2689

Order Now Toll-Free

M-F 6am-1am CST, S-S 6am-9pm CST

Receive A Free Surprise Gift
with every order!

Source Code 78808 © Dream Products (Prices valid for 1yr.)

Massaging Comfort Slides **Indicate Qty Under Size**

Ladies' (5)1190 (6)503 (7)505 (8)507 (9)509 (10)255

#370017

Men's (7)505 (8)507 (9)509 (10)255 (11)513 (12)515 (13)1715

#370018

___ Pr(s) Massaging Comfort Slides @ \$9.99 pr. \$

*Add Applicable State/Local Sales Tax \$

Regular Shipping Add \$5.95 1st pair
FREE Regular Shipping when buying 2 or more pairs \$

Add \$4.00 Handling (no matter how many ordered) \$ 4.00

Please Print Clearly **TOTAL** \$

Send check/money order payable to Dream Products
412 Dream Lane, P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690

VISA MasterCard Discover®/NOVUSSMCards

Card# _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Source Code **78808** Email _____

All Day Comfort

Feather-light acupressure massaging sandals have strategically placed nodules that massage and stimulate pressure points with every step. Acupressure is believed to help overall health by increasing circulation. Easy slip on/slip off style with sure-grip soles. Waterproof sole and upper makes it the perfect shoe indoors or out! Fashion import of man-made materials are available for both men and women. Buy two pair and your shipping is FREE!

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

OWN A LEGEND

The White Buffalo stone is as rare as its namesake, and we've given it an even rarer price.

To Native Americans, the buffalo was a symbol of sacred life and abundance, inspiring a legend of a white buffalo calf appearing during difficult times to usher in a new age of hope and peace. So sacred is this prophecy, that the Lakota tribe has named a rare and beautiful stone after the white buffalo calf.

To say this stone is as rare as a white buffalo is an understatement. There are a lot of imitations in the market, but don't be fooled. You want the real thing. And, we have it. White Buffalo is found in only one mine worldwide, the Otteson Mine located in Tonopah, Nevada. Which is where we went. The family-owned and operated mine is located near the Yomba Shoshone Tribe of the Yomba Reservation and is roughly 200 miles from Battle Mountain.

We were able to secure these authentic desert gems for a remarkable price. You could easily spend as much as \$900 for a White Buffalo pendant in sterling silver. But, our philosophy is to pass our good fortune on to our customers, which is why you can own a piece of Native American history for under \$100.

The **White Buffalo Collection** celebrates the unique and rare beauty of this legendary stone. Generous cabochons of White Buffalo are set in filigreed sterling silver settings with an antiqued finish that beautifully complements this stone's distinctive white background and black matrix.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed. Experience the bold and captivating beauty of the White Buffalo. If you aren't completely happy, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

LIMITED RESERVES. This collection is so much more than beautiful jewelry. Each piece is a Native American artifact steeped in meaning and history. It's time you owned a legend.

• Authentic White Buffalo • Antiqued-finish .925 sterling silver settings • Ring: whole sizes 5-10

White Buffalo Collection

A. Ring (20 carats)	\$395	\$99*	Save \$296
B. Pendant (35 carats)	\$395	\$99*	Save \$296
C. 18" Bali Naga Woven Silver Chain		\$149	
D. Earrings (30 ctw)	\$395	\$129*	Save \$266
Pendant, Chain & Earrings	\$939	\$299	Save \$640 BEST BUY

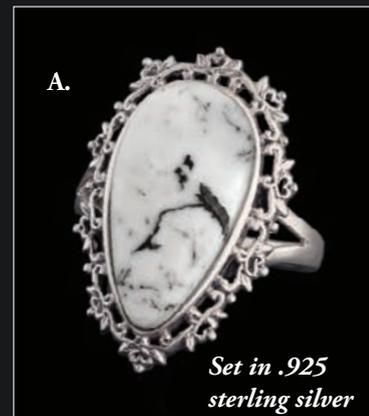
You must use the insider offer code to get our special prices.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **WBC139-01**

Please use this code when you order to receive your discounts.

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



Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. TCR139-01, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.®



Rating of A+

DREAMING OF A COUNTRY HOME OF YOUR OWN?

STAY CONNECTED WITH WIREHAND WIRELESS



WWW.WIREHAND.NET

RURAL BROADBAND PROVIDED BY WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
GARY RAYBON

LINE CREWS KEEP THE LIGHTS ON



ELECTRICITY TRAVELS ALONG AN INTRICATE NETWORK OF WIRES AND POLES TO POWER our homes and businesses. Most of the time, it's a seamless journey, but occasionally, the path of electricity is disrupted by obstacles like fallen tree branches, animals or car accidents. When that happens, Wharton County Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are ready to restore that connection no matter the weather or time of day.

We couldn't carry out our mission without the daily dedication of our line crews. It's a demanding job on the front line of our co-op that often requires working around the clock in challenging conditions to serve our members and communities. They are first responders who get us through some of our darkest hours. We count on them to power our lives, day in and day out.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association officially acknowledged the tireless efforts of this talented group with this 2014 resolution:

Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's electric cooperatives.

We proudly join with NRECA and cooperatives across the country to honor lineworkers and show our appreciation and respect for the service they provide for our members.

WCEC's lineworkers, as well as those from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition. We invite our members to take a moment to thank a lineworker for the work they do. Leave a message for them on our Facebook page and use the hashtag #ThankALineman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.



2020 Youth Tour Delegates Named

WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC

Cooperative is pleased to announce that our 2020 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Delegates are Elizabeth Jeffery and Isabel Lilie. Elizabeth is a senior at Boling High School and is the daughter of Jennifer and David Jeffery of Garwood (District 1).

Isabel is a senior at Louise High School and is the daughter of Melissa and Mark Lilie of Louise (District 4).

Both Elizabeth and Isabel are members of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, POWER-SET, and Workforce Industry Training. They both are actively involved in band and compete in UIL Academics.

Elizabeth also runs track and cross country and is a member of the Library Club. In her free time, she says, "I very much enjoy playing flute and piccolo. I am also very interested in Korea's culture and history. For the past four years, I have been teaching myself Korean and am now able to read short stories and write complex sentences."

Isabel is also a member of the FFA, the Duke Talent Identification Program, and is Louise High School's Announcer. In her free time, she enjoys playing musical instruments, baking, drawing, and oil painting. She says, "I enjoy researching experimental science trials and innovations in technology and science."

"We are fortunate to have had an increased interest in the Youth Tour program over the last few years, WCEC's CEO/GM Gary Raybon says. "I'm pleased that WCEC is able to send two delegates this summer."

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is a youth leadership program sponsored by Wharton County Electric Cooperative and organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The trip allows young adults the opportunity to tour national historic sites, experience cultural diversity, visit U.S. congressional offices, and learn about electric cooperatives and the energy industry. The trip has been called a "Trip of a Lifetime" by many who have participated.

Elizabeth and Isabel will join over 1,500 youth delegates from electric cooperatives across the nation for the trip in June.

Each year, WCEC sponsors at least one high school student from our membership for the trip. For more information about Youth Tour, please contact Brenda Silva at (979) 543-6271 or visit www.mywcec.coop/youthtour.



ELIZABETH JEFFERY



ISABEL LILIE

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



MARY PAT WALDRON

Windy Hill North Spring Salad

SALAD

Mixed spicy greens (mustard, mesclun, arugula or red leaf lettuce)
 Radishes, thinly sliced
 Green onions, thinly sliced
 Young asparagus, trimmed
 Crumbled goat cheese
 Fresh chopped dill
 Hard-boiled eggs, sliced
 Sea salt and fresh cracked pepper, to taste

DRESSING

4 tablespoons olive oil
 2 tablespoons white wine or apple cider vinegar
 1 teaspoon spicy mustard (such as Dijon or Creole)
 1 teaspoon honey
 ½ teaspoon ground turmeric

1. Combine the salad ingredients in a bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients (or combine them in a jar and shake).
3. Drizzle the dressing over the salad and toss to combine. Taste for seasonings, adding salt or pepper as desired, and serve immediately.

► Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP Plan on a handful of greens per person and add other ingredients as desired. A sprinkling of flaky sea salt on top makes the vegetables' flavors pop.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



POWERING OUR LIVES DAY IN, DAY OUT

#THANKALINEWORKER

On April 13, 2020, Wharton County Electric Cooperative will celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day. Our linemen maintain 1,277 miles of line in our service area and often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. They are the first responders of our electric distribution system. They often work in dangerous conditions on high-voltage lines, but they power through to ensure reliable service for our members. With over 222 years of combined experience and knowledge WCEC is proud to salute our linemen. Please take a moment to thank a lineworker this month.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF C

THE TYPICAL DAY AS AN WCEC LINEMAN ACTUALLY STARTS THE night before. While getting ready for bed, a member reports her power is out. It's our lineman's weekly rotation to be on call over night, so the co-op truck is already in his driveway. He drives it to the woman's house, identifies a problem in the base of the meter, installs a temporary fix until an electrician can get out the next day and returns home two hours later. He'll report for work by 7:30 the next morning.

Our lineworkers like hunting down problems because they know our members depend on them. The job of an electric utility lineworker takes specific skills, intestinal fortitude and a "get it done" personality.

FOLLOWING PROCEDURE

WCEC line crews start each day gathered together, leafing through stacks of paper—checklists, maps, work orders—planning the day's work. They compare notes and find out who is familiar with the area they're headed to.

In addition to taking time to coordinate the plans and paperwork, the lineworkers need to keep track of a lot of equipment. Neatly organized shelves in the warehouse hold saws, drills, climbing hooks, insulated work poles, trash cans and binoculars. They always wear safety gear or have it close at hand—hard hats, safety glasses, fire-retardant uniforms, steel-toe shoes, regular work gloves and hot-line safety gloves.

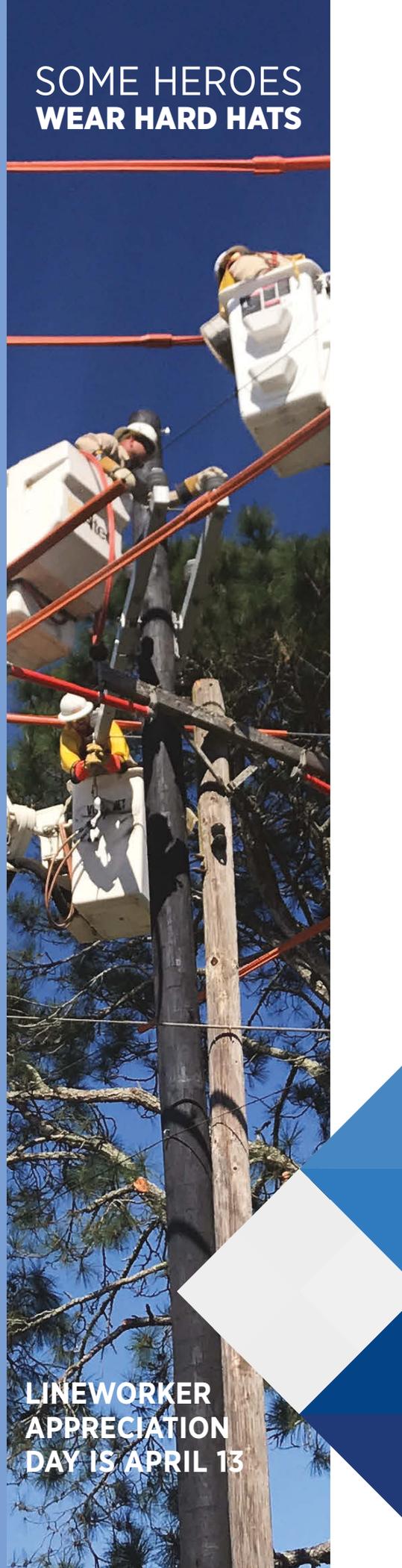
One more task keeps the crews from driving off to their first jobs, and it's probably the most important of all: the weekly safety meeting.

While catastrophic contact with electric current is always the top concern, training is also provided on a variety of safety topics. Our crews know the job is hazardous and unforgiving, but also that it doesn't have to be dangerous if the right procedures are followed. Lineworkers have the tools, the rules and the knowledge to keep their work from being dangerous.

Once the prep work is done, the convoy is ready. Three trucks leave the office: a service truck, a bucket truck pulling



SOME HEROES
WEAR HARD HATS



OUR LINE CREW

a trailer with a large spool of wire, and a digger truck with a huge auger on top. They head across the county for the day's job.

WE DON'T SAY 'HURRY UP'

When the caravan arrives at the work site, the lineworkers gather near the front of one of the trucks for what a lot of co-ops call a "tailgate meeting." They read through forms, noting the address, cross street, job and account number. All three men sign the form.

They break their huddle and de-energize the lines they're working on, complete the task at hand and reenergize the line.

Back at the co-op, they check the paperwork for the next day's jobs and then stock the trucks with the equipment they will need for an early start. Tomorrow, they will be heading to a local school to help elementary students understand the importance of being safe around electricity.

To an outsider, taking time to follow all the procedures of a lineworker's workday may seem tedious or even unnecessary, but WCEC lineworkers disagree. They know how the work should be done and do it—never rushing through or skipping steps. They look out for each other and WCEC's members. It's the co-op way.

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION
DAY IS APRIL 13**



SPOTLIGHTING YOUR HOME TEAM

Meet WCEC'S Ricky Garza Jr.

AT WCEC, WE PRIDE ourselves on outstanding member service and make every effort to play a key role in our community.

As our employees interact with you, our members, we want you to get to know them beyond their job title. Each month, we feature a **TEAM** member here.

Our commitment to you and our community is why WCEC is your **HOME TEAM** provider.

This month's HOME TEAM SPOTLIGHT features Ricky Garza Jr.

Ricky has been a member of the WCEC HOME TEAM since 2016. He is an Apprentice Lineman in the final phase of WCEC's Apprentice Lineman Training Program.

WCEC's lineman training is a four-year regimen designed to teach an individual the skills to safely and efficiently perform all type of electrical overhead and underground line work. It includes on-the-job training as well as off-premise classroom and hands-on training through Texas Electric Cooperatives.

If all goes according to plan, Ricky will be promoted to Journeyman Lineman later this year.

Ricky grew up in Wharton and is a graduate of Wharton High School. He and his family still live in Wharton.

"My family is my biggest support system," he says of his girlfriend of three years, their daughter and his stepson. "They are my rock, and I love them more than anything."

The couple enjoys Wharton because of the people. "Wharton has good people and good food," he says.

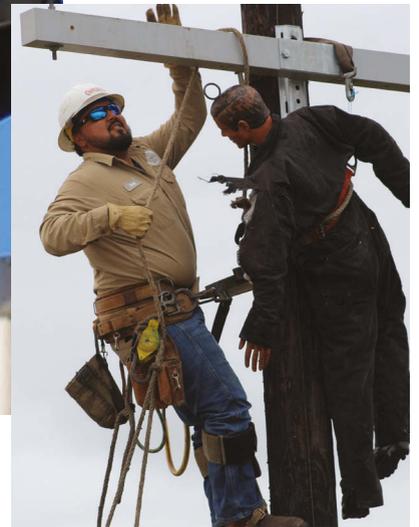
Ricky was looking for a career change when he saw an ad for linemen trainees in the Wharton paper. "I wanted to be challenged, so I applied.



"It has been challenging, but I enjoy the work. I especially enjoy being able to help our members by getting the power back on during or after storms."

The best advice he's ever received is to learn something new everyday. "I definitely follow this advice during my training here. Every day there is something different to do and to learn."

The advice he gives to others? Never give up. "The training can be tough, but sticking it out is worth it."



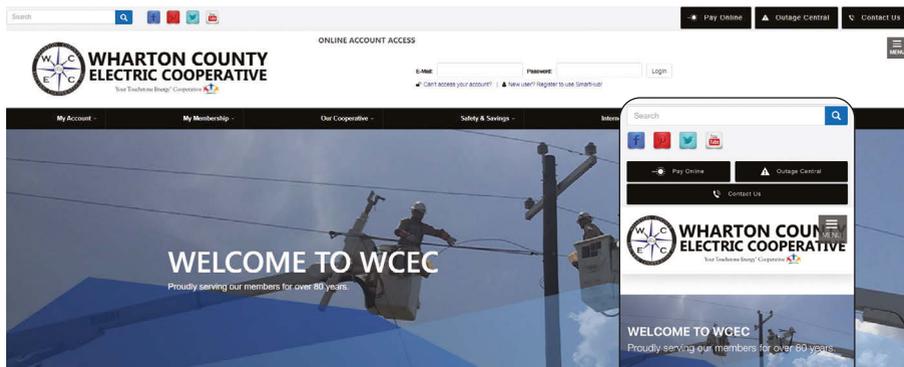
In his free time, Ricky enjoys fishing, hunting, barbecuing, and spending time with family. He would love to get to go to Jamaica to see the beautiful beaches and do some fishing.

When asked who he would have lunch with out of anyone, alive or dead, he says, "George Strait because he's the King!"

In ten years, Ricky sees himself right here at WCEC as a Journeyman Lineman.

He describes himself as a family man, hardworking, and dedicated. All qualities that help him serve our members to the best of his ability every day.

We are proud to have Ricky on your HOME TEAM.



WCEC WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

If you haven't visited MyWCEC.coop lately, you are in for a surprise!

WCEC's website has been redesigned and updated using the latest version of Touchstone Energy's Co-op Web Builder.

"Co-op Web Builder is the hosting platform that is provided to us through our Touchstone Energy Cooperative membership. It offers us a quick and easy way to manage our website as well as making sure our site is safe and secure," says WCEC GM/CEO Gary Raybon.

"The new website design is meant to make finding information easier for our members. Most importantly, it is now completely mobile. All pages of the website are available on your smartphone or tablet with an almost identical design."

In addition to the mobile-friendly design, the website offers:

- Direct access to SmartHub from the desktop home page
- Easy to follow menu links in multiple locations throughout the site
- New "Outage Central" - a page dedicated to outage information including prevention, preparation, and restoration efforts after major outages
- New "Electricity 101" and "Kids Korner" pages
- New "Use Less; Save More" page for energy efficiency tips

"Keeping our members informed and up-to-date on what is happening with at co-op is important to us," Raybon says. "Along with the new website, we are expanding our social media presence to Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube. We want to reach our members where they are whether that be here in the magazine or online."



Happy Easter

WCEC will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

RIKE... | ISTOCK.COM



Wharton County Electric Cooperative

1815 E. Jackson St. • P.O. Box 31
El Campo, TX 77437

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Gary Raybon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- DISTRICT 1: Paul Phillips Jr., Asst. Sec.-Treas.
- DISTRICT 2: Leroy Kaspar, President
- DISTRICT 3: Frankie Peter
- DISTRICT 4: Rick Graff
- DISTRICT 5: A.J. Kresta, Secretary-Treasurer
- DISTRICT 6: Gus Wessels Jr.
- DISTRICT 7: John Roach
- DISTRICT 8: Jim W. Harton
- DISTRICT 9: Peggy Glaze, Vice-President



Contact Us

OUTAGES: 24/7

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday | 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CALL US

(979) 543-6271 local or
1-800-460-6271 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

mywcec.coop

FIND US ON SOCIAL



MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online Billing
- Energy Audits
- Electric Grills
- Water Heaters
- Wireless Internet

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online @ mywcec.coop
- By Phone @ 1-877-833-3326
- Automatic Bank Draft
- SmartHub App
- By Mail / In Person
- Payment Drop Box

Bad to the Bone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntsman Blade \$249*

Offer Code Price Only **\$79** + S&P **Save \$170**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **HUK152-01**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.



Rating of **A+**

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK152-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

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

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO



MARKETPLACE

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ACROSS TOWN • ACROSS TEXAS



Get the Muck OUT!

Marble size AquaClear™ Pellets clear your lake or pond bottom.

Beneficial microorganisms. Restore balance in natural and man made surface waters. Increase water clarity. Improve water quality. Eliminate black organic muck.

A **10 lb. bag** treats 0.50 to 1.00 acres **\$97.00**
 A **50 lb. bag** treats 2.50 to 5.00 acres **\$356.00**

Apply weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly to maintain. No water use restrictions! **FREE SHIPPING!**

800-328-9350

KillLakeWeeds.com

Order online today, or request free information.

AQUACIDE CO.  
 PO Box 10748, DEPT 45HX
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748

Our 65th year

WALK IN TUBS FROM \$7995 INSTALLED!





WE INSTALL ACROSS TEXAS!

RHINO®

STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
 Engineered Stamp Blueprints



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINO.BUILDERS/TX 940-304-8068
 INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS

FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

★ CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ★

CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Our products have been made in Texas since 2006. We customize, so why pay for something you don't want? Get exactly what you want at an affordable price. So stop struggling and start enjoying your bath again. Call us for an in-home no-pressure presentation. What do you have to lose?

Visit our showroom at 3411 E. Hwy. 377 in Granbury.

888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com

PERMA-ROOF®

from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill? Roof rumble? Leaks?

Since 1983

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

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



Leaders in the Land Business

Selling your ranch or land?
 Hire us for top-shelf service and marketing!

(855) 968-1200
CapitolRanch.com

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

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

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

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4286.

WE BUY MINERALS



We pay cash for **producing** or **non-producing** mineral interests.

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
 All sizes—installation available.

 **ELLISON MARINE • FRANKLIN, TX.** 
 45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Call for Free Information • (979) 820-3000
www.ellisonmarine.com • ellisonmarine@yahoo.com

Scarborough Renaissance Festival

Full Combat Jousting

25+ Stages

Birds of Prey Exhibitions

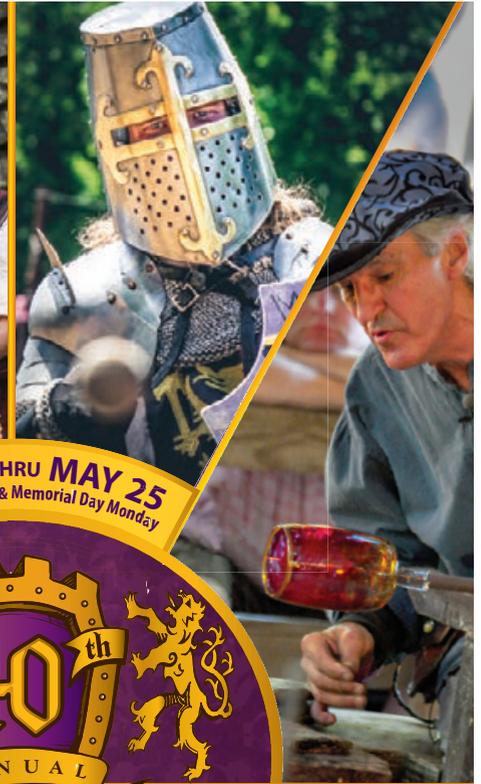
200+ Shoppes

Artisan Demonstrations

Themed Weekends

Fun for Kids & More!

Just 30 minutes south of Downtown
Dallas/Fort Worth in Waxahachie

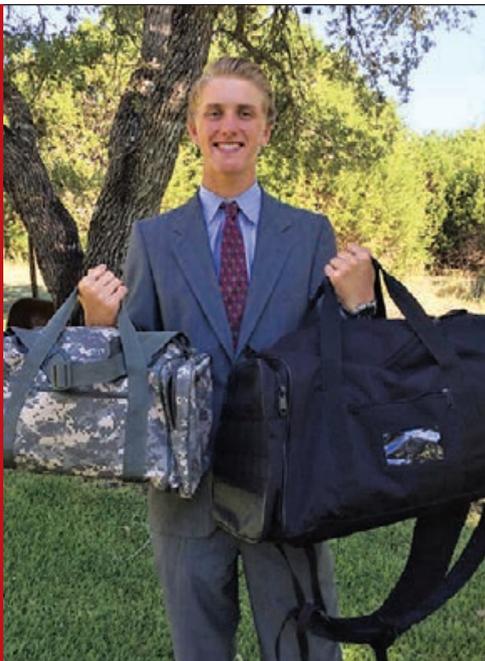


APRIL 4 THRU MAY 25
Saturdays, Sundays & Memorial Day Monday



STEP BACK IN TIME FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Get Discount Tickets at SRFestival.com Today!



HUNTER BEATON DAY | BAGS

provide foster children with duffel bags filled with supplies for their move to a new home.
POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | APRIL 2019

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

TEXAS COOP POWER

\$100 WINNER

Nominate someone today!

Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST

Every month, Focus on Texas features Texas photos submitted by our readers. Send us your best photos for a chance to see your entry in the magazine!

Upcoming Contests

AUGUST ISSUE

On the Water

Deadline: April 10

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Shapes

Deadline: May 10

ENTER TODAY AT

TexasCoopPower.com

Death on Tiny Wings

Mosquito-borne yellow fever terrorized Texas multiple times in the 1800s

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

IT BEGAN WITH A HEADACHE, FOLLOWED by chills, fever, muscle and bone pain, and dizziness. “After a few hours, the eyes are bloodshot, and have a peculiar shining, drunken appearance,” wrote Dr. Ashbel Smith, who treated patients on Galveston Island during the yellow fever epidemic of 1839. “A diminution of the pains and febrile excitement very generally takes place, from eight or 10 to 20 hours.”

At this point, the patient either began to recover or progressed to the critical stage. The yellow tinge of jaundice that gave the disease its name appeared, followed by the dreaded “black vomit,” which signaled the approach of death.

From 1668 to 1893, port cities along the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean and Mississippi River basin were stricken by 135 major yellow fever epidemics, according to a 1986 article in *Texas Medicine*. At least nine times between 1839 and 1867, Galveston suffered outbreaks that killed a total of 6,000–8,000.

Yellow fever, also called yellow death or yellow jack (after the yellow flags ships were required to fly when passengers showed signs of illness), terrified early Texans. Once stricken, a healthy person could be dead within three days, and doctors were at a loss to explain the fever’s rapid spread. Smith was correct to believe that it was not contagious. But he and other physicians wrongly believed garbage heaps and unsanitary conditions produced particles called miasmata that infected



those who breathed the contaminants. That theory was questioned during the epidemic of 1853, as increased sanitation and quarantines did not stop the disease and 60% of Galvestonians got sick.

The virus that causes yellow fever likely originated in Africa and was transmitted to the Americas by slave ships as early as the 1600s. Major outbreaks occur in populated areas where breeding mosquitoes transmit the virus from person to person. Frightened residents of Galveston and other cities hit by large outbreaks burned barrels of tar in the streets and sprayed sulfur and lime in the homes of infected patients—believing the substances served as disinfectants. Even so, the agony subsided only after a hard freeze, often resurfacing when spring arrived.

During the 1839 epidemic, a cabin just east of 18th Street in Galveston, built on raised blocks with two windows and a door in the middle, served as the general hospital. It was erected away from town to isolate the sick. Shallow burials nearby revealed bones exposed by the sea washing over them.

A Cherokee woman named Sarah Ridge Paschal successfully treated yellow fever patients in her home with traditional Cherokee herbal medicine, including tea from orange tree leaves. All of her patients survived, and neither she nor any of her three children caught the fever.

Texas doctors were unable to recognize the mosquito vector. Pathologist Walter Reed, experimenting on humans in Cuba in 1900, confirmed Carlos Finlay’s hypothesis of 1881 that mosquitoes transmitted the disease. The experiments proved that mosquitoes flourished in fresh water and transmitted the disease after a viral incubation period of at least 12 days. This essential information spread, and mosquito control improved.

Smith went on to become the driving force behind the establishment of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Today, yellow fever can be prevented by a single dose of vaccine.

Martha Deeringer, a Heart of Texas EC member, lives in McGregor. Read more of her work at marthadeeringer.com.

WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2020 SEASON

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

Call **TODAY** to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!



**PRE-APPROVED
FINANCING
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER
ANYTHING
ON TRADE!**

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM



STAYcation at Home in 2020!

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

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

12TH ANNUAL

Helping Hand Project

Mueller strongly believes in giving back to organizations that always give to others. For the 12th year in a row, we are extending a helping hand to a Texas non-profit in need of a new facility. One deserving organization will receive a FREE Mueller steel building through our Helping Hand Project.

We will be accepting applications April 4 - May 18, 2020,
at www.muellerinc.com/about-us/helping-hand

www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER
(877-268-3553)



Farmers Market

IN MY VIEW, FARMERS MARKETS ARE ONE of the best ways to see Texas on display. From rows of stacked peppers to bowls of the sweetest berries to the friendly faces behind the tables, a farmers market is a conduit to all that grows around us—and inspires me to get into the kitchen.

We're coming into the best time to experience these local markets. As the growing seasons converge, you might see collards alongside early tomatoes or strawberries along with the last of the winter citrus. Now is the time to experiment!

This dish is a favorite in my house, and it's a great way to get kids to eat vegetables. Instead of chicken, you can use ground beef—or cooked lentils for a meatless option.

MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Zucchini Taco Boats With Chicken

- 4 medium zucchini
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts or thighs
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- ½ cup diced onion
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup tomato sauce or salsa
- ½ cup shredded cheese

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick spray.
2. Slice zucchini in half lengthwise and scoop out centers, reserving the flesh in a bowl. Place zucchini hollow-side up into baking dish.
3. Cut chicken into small pieces, about half-inch cubes. Warm olive oil in a sauté pan over medium-high heat, then add chicken and cook until cooked through and starting to brown, about 8 minutes. Add onion and reserved zucchini flesh and continue to cook 1 minute.
4. Mix together chili powder, cumin, oregano, paprika and salt and sprinkle over chicken. Stir to coat and cook 2 min-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Recipes

Farmers Market



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

BLAIR SHELTON-TONGSON | LAMAR ELECTRIC

Fresh sweet corn is the star of this dip that is ideal for entertaining. Reminiscent of esquites—Mexican street corn salad—it also features cumin, chili powder and jalapeño. “For an extra kick,” says Shelton-Tongson, “add a dash or two of ground cayenne pepper.” If fresh corn isn't available, use thawed frozen corn.

Baked Street Corn Dip

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon chili powder, plus more for garnish

Salt and pepper, to taste

- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter or vegetable oil
- 3 cups sweet corn kernels (about 4 ears)
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 clove garlic, pressed or minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish
- ¼ cup shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, mix together cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, cumin, chili powder, and salt and pepper. Stir until creamy, then set aside.
3. Melt butter or heat oil in a large skillet over low heat. Add corn, tomatoes, jalapeño and garlic. Sauté gently 8–10 minutes.
4. Remove corn mixture from heat and stir into cream cheese mixture. Add cilantro and shredded cheese, stirring until well blended.
5. Pour into a medium baking dish and bake 12–15 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool 5 minutes. Garnish with chili powder and cilantro and serve warm with tortillas or corn chips. ▶ Serves 12.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

- utes. Stir in tomato sauce or salsa and simmer 5–10 minutes, until thickened.
5. Divide chicken mixture into zucchini and top with cheese.
 6. Cover with foil and bake 35 minutes. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP A melon baller works wonderfully to scoop out the insides of the zucchini, but if you don't have one, a spoon will do.

Follow along with **Megan Myers** and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Carrot Fritters.

Chopped Spring Veggie Pasta Salad

MARIAN EVONIUK | PEDERNALES EC

Pasta salad is an easy, versatile way to enjoy everything the farmers market has to offer. If you like, you can skip the step of roasting the peppers and asparagus—just make sure you select thin, tender asparagus stalks at the market.

- ¼ pound asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 6 cups plus ¼ cup water, divided use
- 2 cups uncooked tricolor rotini
- ½ pound green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 cups peas
- ½ cup chopped red onion
- ½ cup chopped cucumber
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup loosely packed cilantro, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup Italian salad dressing

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Spread asparagus and pepper evenly over a large, parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Roast uncovered 20 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside to cool.
3. Bring 6 cups water to a boil in a 2½-quart heavy saucepan, then add pasta. Cook until pasta is al dente, about 8 minutes.
4. Drain pasta in a colander, rinsing with cold water, and pour into a large mixing bowl.
5. Using same saucepan, add the



New
\$500
prize!

\$500 Recipe Contest

You'll want the best **Game Day Snacks**, our September recipe contest, when football season kicks off. Send us your favorites. The deadline is **April 10**. Readers whose recipes are featured will receive a special *Texas Co-op Power* apron.

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.

remaining 1/4 cup water and the green beans. Cover and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook 3–4 minutes. Add the peas and continue cooking an additional 3–4 minutes, until veggies are tender but still have some bite. Drain and rinse with cold water to stop the cooking process.

6. Into the large bowl containing the pasta, add the asparagus, peppers, green beans, peas, red onion, cucumber, tomatoes, cilantro, garlic, salt, pepper and Italian dressing. Mix well, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. ▶ Serves 6–8 as a side dish.

Zucchini Nut Bread

SILVIA ARNOLD | RUSK COUNTY EC

Zucchini bread is a classic way to use summer squash—and with good reason. “This has been a favorite of the family for years,” says Arnold. Make sure to use quick-cooking oats, which are chopped rolled oats, for this recipe. The oats will help absorb some of the moisture from the zucchini while also keeping the bread tender and delicious.

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 8-by-4-inch loaf pans and set aside.
- 2.** In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla until well combined.
- 3.** In a separate bowl, stir together flour, oats, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and baking powder. Stir into wet ingredients until no dry bits remain.
- 4.** Stir in zucchini and walnuts, then divide batter between prepared pans.
- 5.** Bake 1 hour, until a toothpick inserted into the center of each pan comes out clean. ▶ Makes 2 loaves.



Know Before You Go

New to farmers markets or need a refresher? Here are some tips for making the most of your trip.

SHOP EARLY for the biggest selection. During peak seasons, items like strawberries, asparagus and even eggs can sell out quickly.

BRING CASH and pay in exact amounts, if possible. Farmers appreciate not having to make change.

PUT A COOLER in your car. Along with a reusable tote, it will help keep items cool and organized for the trip home.

MEGAN MYERS

TEXAS COOP POWER

NEXT MONTH

FIRMLY ROOTED The Stark family lumber empire in Orange forged cultural destinations that offer nature, art and history.

LEDGER ART Native American drawings from the 19th century offer unique historic perspective.

Look for additional content online
TexasCoopPower.com



Experience the
freshest fruits and
vegetables at your local
farmers market!

Find a TDA certified farmers market
near you at www.gotexan.org.

Email GOTEXAN@TexasAgriculture.gov for a
copy of our “Texas Produce Availability Chart.”



GO TEXAN.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



What Kind of Hearing Aids Do Doctors Use?

The same ones they recommend to their patients!

Advanced Digital Hearing Aid Technology

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE Reg: ~~\$399.98~~
Only \$199⁹⁹
 Each When You Buy a Pair – **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

Doctors love MDHearingAids® for the same reasons patients do. These FDA-registered, medical-grade hearing aids have the same high-tech features found in more expensive hearing aids at a fraction of the cost.

"MDHearingAids are better than expensive clinic hearing aids, which cost thousands more," says retired physician Dr. Robert A.

"I have had five pairs of expensive hearing aids and MDHearingAids are just as good," adds retired neurosurgeon Dr. Brian L.

Doctors Are Tired of Watching Their Patients Waste Money on Over-Priced Clinic Hearing Aids
 MDHearingAids are the best value on the market, says Dr. Clarke:

"I'm a physician, and I know how much people spend on health care. They should get the best value, and this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional overly-priced hearing aids. I will be recommending MDHearingAids to my hearing-impaired patients."

Nearly invisible!



SAVE 90% COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL HEARING AIDS

CRISP, CLEAR SOUND	STATE-OF-THE-ART FEATURES	NO AUDIOLOGIST NEEDED
MDHearingAids were created by a board-certified otolaryngologist frustrated that patients couldn't afford the high price of hearing aids. So, he did the only logical thing...he created a low-cost, feature-packed hearing aid that costs 90% less than a comparable hearing aid.	Behind-the-ear hearing aid with thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile. 3 programs for customized listening environments. Amplifies the critical frequencies of the human voice, without amplifying background sounds, so you can enjoy crisp, clear conversations.	Save time and money, cancel those audiologist appointments! Advanced hearing aid technology lets you easily program and adjust your MDHearingAid at home. Set-up is fast and easy, too, going from box to ear in just five minutes.

Try it RISK FREE for 45 Days

Try MDHearingAids risk-free with a 100% money-back guarantee for 45 days. Just call toll-free or visit the website shown below. Call now and get **free shipping** plus a **free, one-year supply of batteries**.

Call Toll-Free 1-800-808-6563



Visit www.MDBOGO.com
 Free 1-Year Supply of Batteries with Offer Code JX71

MDHearingAid® 
 The Doctor's Choice for Affordable Hearing Aids

Sunsets

“SUNSETS, LIKE CHILDHOOD, are viewed with wonder not just because they are beautiful but because they are fleeting.” **RICHARD PAUL EVANS**, American author

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

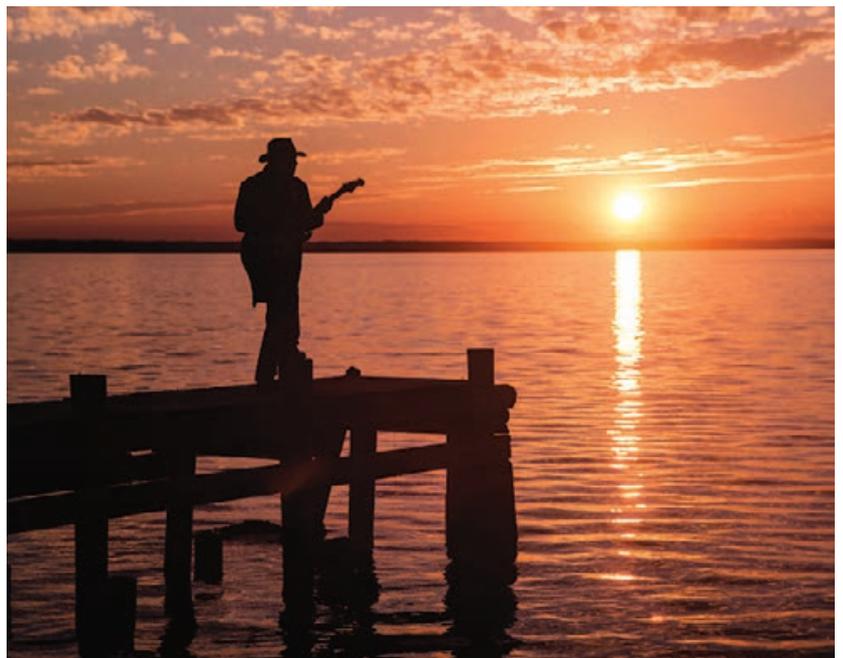


▲ **ALTA COCKRELL**, Deaf Smith EC: “My son William the night I took his senior pictures outside of Hereford.”

▶ **CHARLES CARLSON**, Bandera EC: This sunset photo of mammatus clouds was taken on the Frio River near Garner State Park.



▲ **JIMMIE HEIMAN**, Guadalupe Valley EC: “Spring flowers and sunset in rural Lavaca County.”



▲ **TIFFANY ROGERS**, MidSouth EC: A musician stands at the end of a pier on Lake Livingston to play out a tune on his guitar late one August evening.

◀ **LAURA BREWER**, CoServ: “The perfect setting for reflection on the pond.”

UPCOMING CONTESTS

AUGUST ON THE WATER	DUE APRIL 10
SEPTEMBER SHAPES	DUE MAY 10
OCTOBER SELFIES	DUE JUNE 10

Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.



Pick of the Month Master Artwork Show

Boerne April 17-18
(210) 775-6314, masterartworkshow.com

Works by Texas artists featuring oils, digital art, encaustics, mixed media, abstract impressionism and sculpture will be showcased at the Bevy Hotel in Boerne. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Ballet San Antonio.

April 11

Onalaska Lew Vail Memorial Easter Parade and Egg Hunt, (936) 646-5000, cityofonalaska.us

Elgin [11-12] Hip Hop Shop, (512) 229-3227, elgintx.com

16

San Saba [16-17] Creative Quilting Event, (325) 372-5141, sansabachamber.com

17

Beaumont Rend Collective Revival Anthem Tour, (409) 838-3435, beaumontcvb.com

Paducah [17-18] Cottle-King Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo, (806) 492-2143, facebook.com/cottlekingoldsettlers

Terrell [17-18] Kaufman Quilt Guild Show, (972) 979-9152, kaufmanquiltguild.org

18

Burton Cotton Gin Festival, (979) 289-3378, texascottonginmuseum.org

Mason Mason County Republican Women's Home Tour, (325) 347-5516, masontxcoc.com

McQueeney McQueeney Baptist Church Open Car Show, (210) 265-9200

Southlake Bobbyfest, (817) 999-8332, bobbyfest.com



April 23-25
Avinger, Hughes Springs and Linden
50th Annual Wildflower Trails of Texas

PAINTING: MARIA BO | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. BLUEBONNETS: LEEROBIN | DREAMSTIME.COM. PIE: MYPOINTOFVIEW | DREAMSTIME.COM

Retreat... Relax in Kerrville

The Capital of the Texas Hill Country!

 <p>May 23 - July 6 Southwest Gourd Fine Art Show KaccKerrville.com</p>	 <p>May 21-June 7 Kerrville Folk Festival KerrvilleFolkFestival.org</p>	 <p>May 23 - 24 Kerrville Festival of the Arts KvartFest.com</p>
 <p>Coming King Foundation & Sculpture Garden TheComingKingFoundation.org</p>	 <p>April 23 "Beethoven & Other Olympians" SymphonyoftheHills.org</p>	 <p>Museum of Western Art museumofwesternart.com</p>

KerrvilleTexasCVB.com • 830-792-3535

AROUND TEXAS

EVENT CALENDAR

Gas Up and Go!

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! It's all listed under the Events tab on our website.

Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Chappell Hill [18-19] Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas, (979) 836-6033, facebook.com/bluebonnetfestival

Cypress Mill [18-19, 25-26] Bunkhouse Gallery Art Show and Sale, (512) 517-3453, bunkhousegallery.com

23

Avinger, Hughes Springs, Linden [23-25] 50th Annual Wildflower Trails of Texas, (903) 756-7502, wildflowertrailsoftexas.org

Waxahachie [23-25] Crossroads of Texas Film & Music Festival, (469) 309-4045, facebook.com/crossroadsoftx

Hallettsville [23-26] Fiddlers' Frolics, (361) 798-2311, fiddlersfrolics.com

24

Granbury [24-25] Wine Walk, (817) 964-7993, granburywinewalk.com

Gun Barrel City [24-25] Quilt Guild Annual Quilt Show, (903) 340-6547, gunbarrelquiltersguild.org

Clute [24-26, May 1-3] *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, (979) 265-7661, bcfas.org

25

Cisco Folklife Festival, (254) 631-6501



April 25
Tatum
Pecan Pie Festival

Conroe Relay For Life of Conroe & Walker County, (713) 706-5686, relayforlife.org/conroeandwalkercotx

Jacksonville North Cherokee VFD Fish Fry, (903) 571-5854

Karnack Earth Day Flotilla, (903) 736-3063

Rising Star Rising Star VFD Crawfish Boil, (254) 433-3285, risingstarfd.org

Tatum Pecan Pie Festival, (903) 947-6403, facebook.com/tatumpecanpiefestival

Brazoria [25-26] Migration Celebration, (844) 842-4737, migrationcelebration.org

May

2

Georgetown Preservation Georgetown Home Tour, (512) 869-8597, preservationgeorgetown.org

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

3

Wylie Wylie 500 Pedal Car Race, (972) 516-6016, wylietexas.gov

Submit Your Event!

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

RECIPE CONTEST

WIN \$500



Submit your best recipes for a chance to win \$500 and a *Texas Co-op Power* apron!

Upcoming Contests

SEPTEMBER ISSUE
Game Day Snacks
Deadline: April 10

OCTOBER ISSUE
Cobblers, Crisps, Betties and Buckles
Deadline: May 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Yard Cleanup is EASY with a DR® Chipper Shredder!

CHIP...



...and SHRED!







Towable and PTO models too!

* Assembled in the USA using domestic and foreign parts.

FREE SHIPPING

6 MONTH TRIAL

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
Go online or call for details.

Go Online or Call for FREE Info Kit!

DRchipper.com

TOLL FREE **877-201-5551**





Dark Landmark

Dead Man's Hole near Marble Falls remains as a grim reminder of Civil War brutality

MY FASCINATION WITH TEXAS HISTORY inspired me to visit Marble Falls and Dead Man's Hole, the dark landmark south of town.

I started my visit at the Falls on the Colorado Museum, housed in a 129-year-old school building. My education began by peering at the bones of Rockie, a 700-year-old bison whose remains were found on a nearby ranch.

Remnants of the town's pioneer days include artifacts ranging from saddles to railroad ties. I visited the town's namesake falls beneath nearby Lake Marble Falls, and I was fascinated by tales of the town's grim Civil War experience as it relates to Dead Man's Hole.

Of course, I couldn't go exploring on an empty stomach, so I stopped by the legendary Blue Bonnet Cafe, which has been feeding hungry travelers since 1929. My chicken-fried steak was made even better by the towering wedge of coconut meringue pie that followed.

After lunch, I drove 4 miles and found the historical marker for Dead Man's Hole. A few hundred feet away, I saw the hole in the limestone. The 7-foot-wide Dead Man's Hole earned its grisly name during the Civil War, when locals disposed of the bodies of at least 17 Union sympathizers in the cave.

In those days, after Texas seceded, many Hill Country German communities remained loyal to the Union. Burnet County voted overwhelmingly against



Chet Garner at Dead Man's Hole outside Marble Falls.

secession, but local Confederate zealots, called fire eaters, killed some of those who favored the North. Dead Man's Hole became both courtroom and cemetery as hasty trials resulted in slaughter.

After Burnet County Judge John R. Scott was deemed a Union loyalist, he attempted to flee to Mexico but was gunned down, his body tossed into Dead Man's Hole. Even though the historical marker puts the number at 17, legend suggests as many as 36 bodies were thrown into the pit.

Whatever the actual number, it troubled me just to stand nearby, even in the middle of the afternoon more than a century later. The cavity is now covered by a steel panel to keep anyone from slipping in. I hopped down onto the metal and felt an unnerving thump as my weight hit the steel and sent reverberations into the

depths below. I bent down and attempted to peek through. I dropped a pebble down and listened to it bounce off rocks until it faded away. From the sound of it, the hole went on forever.

The cave was not fully explored until 1951, when a group of Austin spelunkers pulled out multiple sets of bones. Local lore suggests that the last skeleton was brought to the courthouse, and while it was awaiting a proper burial, it disappeared.

I stepped away from the hole and made certain I was the only person present that afternoon. As the hair on my neck began to stand up, I decided I didn't want to find out if anyone was nearby. I began to briskly walk (OK, run) back to my truck.

Chet Garner shares his Texplorations as the host of *The Daytripper* on PBS.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video of his visit to Dead Man's Hole.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

30", 4 DRAWER TECH CARTS

- 12,600 cu. in. of storage
- 580 lb. capacity

Customer Rating



SAVE \$740

YOUR CHOICE OF 6 COLORS
\$139⁹⁹

COMPARE TO Snap-on BLUE-POINT \$880

MODEL: KRBC107BPC

14050372



Side tray sold separately.

Item 56387, 64096, 56386, 56392, 56393, 56394

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

FREE SUPER COUPON

WITH ANY PURCHASE

SUPER BRIGHT LED/SMD WORK LIGHT/FLASHLIGHT

- Magnetic Base & 360° Swivel Hook for Hands-Free Operation
- 3-AAA Batteries (Included)
- 144 Lumens



COMPARE TO PERFORMANCE TOOL \$1352

MODEL: W2364

ITEM 63878/63991

64005/60566/63601/67227 shown

14045497

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/20 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

20% OFF SUPER COUPON

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

14049868

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, you need open box item, 2 day Parking Lot Sale Item, compressors, floor jacks, safes, storage cabinets, chests of drawers, trailers, welders, Admiral, Ames, Atlas, Bauer, Central Machinery, Cobra, CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fisher, Hercules, Ikon, Jolly, Lysol, Poulton, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/20.

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE/WEATHER RESISTANT TARP



Customer Rating

NOW \$299

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$878

MODEL: BG6X10-Y

ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown

14058004

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

5000 LUMEN 4 FT. LED HANGING SHOP LIGHT



Customer Rating

NOW \$1999

COMPARE TO \$2999

MODEL: 64410

ITEM 64410

14060386

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

100 WATT SOLAR PANEL KIT



Customer Rating

NOW \$14999

COMPARE TO WINDYATION \$29244

MODEL: SDK-100WP-PSOL

ITEM 64335/63585 shown

14065031

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR



Customer Rating

NOW \$44999

COMPARE TO HONDA \$1,009

MODEL: EU2000I

ITEM 62523

14069668

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY FLOOR JACK



Customer Rating

NOW \$8999

COMPARE TO POWERBUILT \$13527

MODEL: 647993

ITEM 56621/56622/56623/56624 shown

14072527

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

4 PIECE ANTI-FATIGUE FOAM MAT SET



Customer Rating

NOW \$699

COMPARE TO NORSK \$1999

MODEL: 001119346

ITEM 40187/61607/62389

94635 shown

14089589

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER



Customer Rating

NOW \$9999

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON \$17444

MODEL: 20600

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

14089997

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET



Customer Rating

NOW \$1099

COMPARE TO DEWALT \$6814

MODEL: 0011369

ITEM 5889/62281/61637 shown

14096046

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE



Customer Rating

NOW \$399

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH \$809

MODEL: FR1065

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

14109036

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS



Customer Rating

NOW \$9862

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$9862

MODEL: PCFP2083

ITEM 69269

14109263

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

MECHANICS GLOVES



Customer Rating

NOW \$499

COMPARE TO VALED \$1499

MODEL: 25521

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 64178, 64179, 62428 shown

14113450

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL



Customer Rating

NOW \$1999

COMPARE TO NEOCRAFT \$3999

MODEL: 60635

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

14124601

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE



Customer Rating

NOW \$2999

COMPARE TO ANVIL \$6639

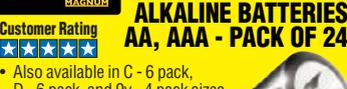
MODEL: A137HOS

ITEM 68998/63248/64080/64263/63091 shown

14153635

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

ALKALINE BATTERIES AA, AAA - PACK OF 24



Customer Rating

NOW \$499

COMPARE TO ENERGIZER \$1494

MODEL: 55143526

ITEM 92404 shown

14154318

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

18v, 3/8" CORDLESS DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT



Customer Rating

NOW \$1999

COMPARE TO RYOBI \$79

MODEL: P1611

ITEM 69652/62872/62869 shown

14154499

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE



Customer Rating

NOW \$16999

COMPARE TO SHELTER LOGIC \$29075

MODEL: 76377

ITEM 62859/63055/62860 shown

14155657

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 6/1/20

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 6/1/20.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!

dish

2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

\$59.99
month for TV

+

Add Internet!
Blazing-Fast Internet
~~\$59.99~~
month for Internet

Starts At \$40
month for Internet
Save up to \$20/mo.*

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.



FREE Premium Channels After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo unless you call to cancel.

NETFLIX | **- Fully Integrated -**
Just Change The Channel And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

Save up to \$20/month!*

*Unlimited data refers to no hard data caps. \$ off discount offers vary by service address. Go to godish.com/internet to verify your discount. TV service not required for Internet.

\$200
Get TV. Get \$100. Add Internet. Get \$200.

Visa® Prepaid Card

1234 5678 9012 3456
4000
Gift Card
Expires 01/25
Valid only in U.S.

Courtesy of GoDISH.com.
Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card200 when you order both TV and Internet services.

1-866-290-7151
Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

godish.com/pricelock 🔍

iSe Habla Español!

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:
Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 7/15/20. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2020 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.