

CO-OPS COUNT:
BY THE NUMBERS

1918 PANDEMIC
HIT OIL FIELDS

FINDING PORTRAITS
IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2020

If the Shoe Fits

Farriers help build
horse health from
the ground up





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October 2020



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08 By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas.

Story by Tom Widlowski
Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart.

Story by Brenda Kissko
Photos by Kristin Tyler

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ON THE COVER

Farrier Jim Crawford
at McManus Ranch
in Irion County.

ABOVE

Crawford shapes
a horseshoe.

Photos by Kristin Tyler



Howdy, Pandowdy

OUR RECIPES THEME this month (Page 30) is Cobblers, Crisps, Buckles and Betties. Seems like a lot of names for a dish that is essentially fruit baked with batter, biscuits, dough or crumble.

Turns out those dishes, which have been around since colonists arrived in this country with their recipes from England, go by many other names, including crumbles, grunts, slumps, bird's nest pudding, sonkers and pandowdies.



Lights Out

General Electric, co-founded by Thomas Edison, inventor of the modern lightbulb, recently sold its 129-year-old lighting business.

The New York Times compared this move to Kellogg abandoning cornflakes or Ford getting out of the auto industry.

Worms in Space?

Absolutely.

NASA's red, sleek and wavy typographical logo from the 1980s returned to the heavens May 30, adorning the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched two American astronauts aboard the Crew Dragon.

When the logo debuted in 1975, it became known as the worm, and the original NASA logo, which debuted in 1959 with the agency, was coined the meatball. The worm was NASA's official logo 1975–1992, then the agency went back to the meatball.

The minimalist worm was popular in the marketing industry but scorned by NASA insiders, who favored the round blue meatball with its white type, planets, stars and orbital path enhanced with a red chevron.



\$30

That's the average weekly allowance, which about two-thirds of parents fork over to kids.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT I EVER GOT WAS ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our August prompt:
When I think of Texas, I think of ...

Mermaids in San Marcos, Big Tex in Dallas and Prada in Marfa.

WHITNEY OLDFATHER
PEDERNALES EC
SAN MARCOS

Blue skies, bluebonnets and Willie.

PJAE STANLEY
COSERV
LITTLE ELM

Home.

PAM SHORT ALFRED
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
KENNARD

Big sky and endless horizon.

AUTUMN VOGEL
TRINITY VALLEY EC
ELMO

Beaches, forests, mountains, two time zones, and taking two days to go north to south or east to west.

DEBBIE MOBLEY
HEART OF TEXAS EC
VALLEY MILLS

Windmills, sunsets, dirt roads, and cornbread and beans.

DONNA GENTRY WEEDEN
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



Now This Is a Selfie

WE KNOW YOU LOVE your selfies, our Focus on Texas theme this month (Page 37).

The selfie above might be the coolest of all—because it was the first.

Robert Cornelius, an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast in Philadelphia, made a daguerreotype of himself in 1839. He removed the camera's lens cap; ran into the frame, where he sat for several minutes; then covered the lens again.



TCP Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST
Saddles

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Tacos

FROM OUR ARCHIVE

More Than Electricity, October 2018, tells how co-ops are "the fabric of the community."



My TX

“My family told about bad luck superstitions. One was putting a hat on a bed, as was wearing more than one hat at a time.”

JANICE MARTIN
CENTRAL TEXAS EC
KINGSLAND

My TX Moment

My personal My TX [August 2020] moment was 30 years ago and half a world away. I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Saudi Arabia. Near our camp was a group of Mujahideen fighters, and they always left a grizzled old man to guard their camp.

One day he flagged us down. He started talking and pointing up and to the rear of my vehicle. I asked my interpreter what he wanted, and he said, “Texas.” The man recognized the small Texas flag on my radio aerial.

Alfred W. Evans
Hamilton County EC
Gatesville



The canyon is so beautiful [Palo Duro Love Letters, July 2020]. Very cool to have this famous artist's work and letters reflecting that beauty.

CINDI RAK MULCAHEY
VIA FACEBOOK

Their TX

Congratulations, Pam LeBlanc, for declaring yourself a Texan [No Longer a Yankee, July 2020].

Without saying it, you seemed to echo Jay B Saucedo's comment that Texas mystique is not built on small stuff or mediocrity or even above-average stuff but on the overwhelming.

J.K. Goode
Fayette EC
Weimar

Fixin' To Learn

I didn't realize the word fixin' was Texan—as I've used it all my life having been born in Shreveport and raised in south Louisiana [Finish This Sentence, August 2020]. My husband has always asked me where I got it. Now I know how to answer him.

Paula Bonin
Trinity Valley EC
Gun Barrel City



COURTESY JACK CHASE

I am fortunate enough to own an SRV flat-top hat from Texas Hatters. I was a regional VP for Epic Records and helped launch Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. I bought several of these hats from the Texas Hatters shop when the album *Texas Flood* was released in 1983.

Jack Chase
CoServ
Carrollton

TCP WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

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Bad to the Bone

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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.

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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.

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— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

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

— H., Arvada, CO



Rating of A+

BY TOM WIDLOWSKI
ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

By the Numbers

The countless ways
electric co-ops
make a difference
across Texas

IN SOME WAYS, the less you think about your electric cooperative, the better. That means your power has stayed on almost without fail, outages are quickly remedied, and your monthly bills are fair and reasonable.

But a lot of thought goes into electric co-ops because they are so much more than power providers. They are united by a business model that values community over profits. They are locally owned and democratically controlled by their customers, called members. They work together to achieve goals and solve problems. Your cooperative is one of more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

The co-op business model is used by a wide variety of organizations—not just electric utilities. Ace Hardware; REI, which specializes in outdoor clothing and gear; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; and Land O'Lakes operate as co-ops. In fact, there are more than 40,000 co-op businesses in the U.S., with 350 million members, according to a University of Wisconsin study.

October is National Cooperative Month, a good opportunity to show the reach, scope and numbers behind Texas' electric co-ops that, when added up, reveal the significant impact they have on rural and suburban communities. ■



30–35
pounds of gear

weighs down lineworkers
when climbing a pole—
hooks, a belt, tools and more.

9,300
people
work at the
69
electric co-ops
in the state.



3.7
million
readers

of Texas Co-op
Power, which has
been landing in
mailboxes since
1944. That's like
everybody in
Houston and Dallas
having the same
favorite magazine
as you.

85
years

of co-ops in Texas.
Bartlett EC, formed in 1935
as the first co-op in the
country to receive a Rural
Electrification Administration
loan, turned on its first
light March 7, 1936,
at a farmhouse
outside Bartlett.

3

million Texans

enjoy co-op electric
service, mostly in rural
and suburban areas.



325,000

miles of co-op power lines in Texas, enough to encircle Earth more than 13 times.

1,338,828

hours worked

without a lost-time incident
at Bandera EC, which was
honored in March for that long
stretch of safety—remarkable
considering the high voltage
within arm's length of its
lineworkers every day.

241

of Texas' 254 counties are served by electric co-ops.



\$1.6

million

in scholarships
awarded annually
to college students
by co-ops. A stack
of 1.6 million
\$1 bills would reach
573 feet high—or nearly
twice the height of
the Texas Capitol.



47

million lightning bolts

struck Texas
in 2019—the most
of any state by far.
Not all of them
knocked out power,
but you can bet
many of them
put workers on edge.

5.5

million poles hold up power lines in Co-op Country in Texas.



Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart

It's another sunny December day in West Texas, and Jim Crawford crosses the fifth and final cattle guard on his two-hour drive to the McManus Ranch from his home near Ballinger. Crawford is there to shoe horses, as he has been doing on this ranch since the early 1970s. He pulls his trailer to a convenient spot near the barn.

He wears denim, lace-up boots, suspenders and his signature red-and-white polka-dot welding cap. Last he ties on the leather farrier apron he stitched himself. Crawford is wearing the same outfit I remember him always wearing when he visited as I grew up on this ranch. My dad, Beaver McManus, a member of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, says it's the same uniform young Crawford wore the day he met him as a junior high boy when he came out to the ranch with his great-uncle Houston Crawford.

When you live this far out, you look forward to visitors. The days that Crawford comes to the ranch to shoe horses are days filled with storytelling. More often than not, farriers become lifelong friends with horse owners. "I couldn't have gotten along without him the last 30 years," Dad says. "He's more than someone who just came out to shoe our horses. He's part of our extended family."

Farrier, derived from the Latin word *ferrarius*, meaning blacksmith, is the professional name given to horseshoers. Many prefer to be called farriers, but others, like Crawford, prefer the simpler term "horseshoer." No matter what they're called, they're necessary to the state's equine industry.

Crawford recalls first getting the horseshoeing gig at the ranch. Houston asked him to meet at the mailbox before dawn, and the young shoer beat him there. "I think that impressed him, that he didn't have to wait on me," says Crawford, a member of Coleman County Electric Coopera-

tive. Houston welcomed him to the house and made his signature extra-strong coffee. "It was boiling in the cup," Crawford laughs. "I thought, jeez, how does his system handle that? Must be cast iron." Nearly 50 years later, he still remembers the gray horse he shod that day.

Crawford loves his work, but he originally dreamed of becoming a calf roper.

"I had a lot of try, but I didn't have the talent," he jokes. "I could win fifth if they were paying four." The first horse Crawford shod was his own calf roping horse, Wimp, named after the horse's grandfather, Wimpy P-1, born on the King Ranch and the first horse registered with the American



OPPOSITE Farrier Jim Crawford has been fitting shoes onto horses for decades. ABOVE Crawford rasps one of Peanut's hooves for a final fit at McManus Ranch in Irion County.



Originally, nearly 100% of his clients were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Quarter Horse Association. Crawford hoped a regular horseshoeing clientele would enable him to stay at the roping gig longer.

In the spring of 1972, Crawford used his GI Bill benefits to go to horseshoeing school. An outbreak of screwworms in the summer of '72 forced ranchers to ride their land daily to monitor their livestock. This created high demand for farriers. Crawford was getting calls to book his services before he'd completed the 10-week course. When he finished, he had a satisfying work schedule and a long list of clients. He became so busy shoeing horses he never returned to roping.

Crawford's customers come to him through word-of-mouth recommendations. A stack of spiral notebooks tell the stories and names of most horses he's shod through the decades.

"Showing up and having the shoe stay on made my career," Crawford says. "When I first started, guys used their horses hard." Originally, nearly 100% of his clients

were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for its inventory of horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Though there's been a transition in the horse's function from work to pleasure, horses are still big business in Texas and create a constant demand for farriers.

Why do horses need shoes? There's an old saying, "no foot, no horse," which speaks to the importance of a horse's feet to its overall health. Each horse's foot includes a mechanism that pumps blood back up to the heart, so each foot is like an auxiliary heart for the



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Crawford shapes a horse-shoe at his anvil. The tools and nails he uses. Crawford explains how he gives horses a proper fit. A homemade tool used to nail shoes to hooves. Crawford shows up for jobs with racks of horse-shoes in the bed of his pickup.

edgeable in the treatment of many hoof diseases, such as laminitis, navicular disease and thrush.

It's believed that the horse was domesticated around 3000 B.C., and Egyptians and Persians are credited with creating the first horseshoes from woven reeds and grass. The horseshoe has evolved through the ages, though the steel shoe has not changed much since the mid-1800s, when Henry Burden patented a machine that could mass-produce horseshoes. Although many synthetic shoes have come on the market in recent years, the majority of farriers still put on a steel shoe that's either hand-forged or ready-made and shaped either cold or hot and fitted to the animal.

animal. A horse's hoof is a living, growing part of that anatomy. Most components of a horse's hoof are elastic, so they also act as shock absorbers.

When the growth of the hoof is balanced by equal wear and no disease or abnormalities are present, horseshoes are not necessary. Horseshoes are used for protection, traction and correction. Whether it is racing, ranching or rodeoing, a horse's work is rough on its feet. That's when shoes are necessary. Shoes also correct some problems with gait and lameness.

Horseshoeing is both art and science, and skilled farriers pride themselves on helping to keep horses sound. Farriers study the anatomy of a horse's entire leg and are knowl-

Before a shoe is placed, the farrier will clean and trim the hoof to ensure a level and balanced foot. Even hooves that go without shoes likely need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The farrier will then customize the shoe to mimic the shape of that horse's hoof wall. The shoe is nailed outside of the wall from the bottom, so the nails penetrate the portion of the hoof that has no feeling.

The Texas Professional Farriers Association comprises about 200 members that meet regularly for continuing education. Texas does not require farriers to have a license to practice, but the TPFA helps members achieve certification through the American Farrier's Association. Certification exams include a written and a practical

Crawford, who once dreamed of becoming a calf roper, found his calling in 1972.

TCP WEB EXTRA Learn more about alternative shoes and how to find or become a farrier, and read a proverb that puts a fine point on the value of horseshoes.

component. The TPFA also hosts clinics and competitions throughout the year.

“A shoe should be a complement to the horse, not an interruption,” says Danny Anderson, TPFA president. Anderson owns Indian Creek Forge in Whitesboro and is a member of PenTex Energy. He says the organization is growing, and there is an up-and-coming generation of farriers.

Veterans in the industry are passing along their knowledge of the trade to new members, and they don’t all look like Crawford. Women have gotten involved.

According to the 2019 Farrier Business Practices Report produced by *American Farriers Journal*, 18% of farriers are women, up from 8% reported three years prior. In 2018 Cornell University admitted its first all-female class to its farrier program.

Nichole Smith co-owns SS Horseshoeing in Wichita Falls with her husband, Stephen, and is leading the way in the growing sector of female farriers. She was the first woman in the world to achieve multiple farrier certifications and has mentored other women.

“I’m really excited that so many young ladies are getting involved and doing so well,” Smith says. “Some ladies are small-statured, and they need to be prepared to use their brain to overcome some of the challenges. I’ve always been welcomed in this industry, like family, and I appreci-

ate that.” Smith forges all the steel and aluminum shoes she sets.

Although technology like 3D printing is quickly advancing this industry, there’s no replacement for the friendly smile and personal care for horses a farrier brings.

Crawford smiles as he looks back at his career: “Having people know that I did a good job and knowing that I was appreciated—that’s the reward.” ■



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When French chemist, Henri Moissan discovered an incredibly rare mineral in a 50,000 year-old meteorite, little did he know the amazing chain of events that would follow. Along with winning a Nobel prize, he gave the world a stone that surpasses even the finest diamond in virtually every aspect that makes a woman go weak in the knees. And, we have this swoon-worthy stone right here for a down to earth price.

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The most brilliant fine stone on earth. According to the GIA (Gemological Institute of America), Moissanite outperforms all jewels in terms of its brilliance, fire, and luster. Brilliance comes from the flashes of white light reflecting from the top and sides of a gemstone. This light show is known as refraction. Moissanite has “double refraction”— which means light goes down into the stone and comes out not once, but twice. No diamond can do this. The way the light dances inside Moissanite is something to behold.

The genius of affordability. Two years ago Moissanite was over \$1,000 a carat. Now, for the first time in history, Stauer gemologists have perfected the science of romance, enabling us to price two carats of moissanite at \$199. It's pure genius. Our Nobel Prize-winning chemist would be proud.

100% Money Back Guarantee. If for any reason she doesn't fall in love with the *Moissanite Solitaire Ring* or Earrings, simply return them within 30 days for a full refund of the item price. But we have a feeling she'll be over the moon.

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	Refractive Index (Brilliance)	Dispersion (Fire)	Luster
Moissanite	2.65-2.69	0.104	20.4%
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WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

GARY RAYBON

**#POWER
ON**

**A time to celebrate
the community
we call home**

Power On: October Is National Co-op Month

AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve. But our mission extends beyond that. As a co-op, we strive to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community—a charge that has been more critical in recent months than ever before.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. To me this principle is central to the DNA of Wharton County Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and as part of this year's celebration, electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On."

Who could have fathomed at the beginning of the year that COVID-19 would test our community and nation? The rapidly changing circumstances caused by the pandemic have created difficulties and opportunities for your co-op. Over the past several months, we've been

challenged to operate differently, and WCEC has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

To ensure the reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain physical separation, and some staff worked remotely. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and valued members. We believe these measures were necessary to protect our community. For our members who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here, too.

While the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I'm heartened to see how our community has pulled together.

More than 80 years ago, WCEC was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do—power on. ■

HOME TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Meet WCEC's Troy Korenek

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.

This month's HOME TEAM SPOTLIGHT features Troy Korenek.

In 2017, Troy began his career as a Network Technician in WCEC's IT/Metering Department.

He was raised locally, living in both El Campo and Nada. He comes from a large family, and is constantly asked how to spell his last name.

"It's K-O-R, Korenek. There are just so many similar last names, I usually have to make it clear," he says.

Troy graduated from El Campo High School and has a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from Texas A&M University.

During college, he worked summers as a farm hand and helping to run a family grain dryer.

"After college, I was looking for a job close to home," Troy says. "My uncle told me about a possible job opening at WCEC, so I applied. It's been a good fit for me. I enjoy the people and the atmosphere at work, and I get to be close to family and my roots."

As a Network Technician, Troy works with many of our members directly, especially those that have Internet services with WCEC.

"Working with technology can be rewarding, but burdensome at times," he says. "It's always worth it, though, when I can make a member happy with the job I've done. There is always something new to tackle or an interesting problem to solve. I enjoy the challenge. I'm always growing and developing new skills."



When asked what advice he would give to a new employee, he says, "At WCEC it's like family so you will be treated as such. Plan on being here for the long run."



Troy now lives in El Campo and enjoys the people and local culture.

"No matter where I go, if I mention that I'm from El Campo, people always seem to remember some interaction here. They usually have great stories about El Campo and the people of our home town," he says.

The best advice he's ever received is, "Don't lie because then you have to remember the lie. Not all things are easy to come by, some of the best things in life require the most work. Be yourself. Be true to you."

In his spare time, he enjoys TV, gaming, fishing, hunting, helping out friends and family, hanging with the boys, being on the water, and most importantly, making memories. He hopes to travel to Europe to see another continent.

"It would be cool to see the wonders there - Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Roman Colosseum, and, of course, the Vatican."

When asked who he would have lunch with out of anyone, alive or dead, he says, "Garth Brooks. Just to say that I did! He is one of the greatest country singers of all time."

Troy describes himself as honest, hardworking and insightful. We couldn't agree more.

We are proud to have Troy on your HOME TEAM. ■



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Cool Off Your Winter Energy Bill

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR BUDGET for holiday gifts, meals or maybe a vacation? Is money getting tight? Even though you may not have room in your budget for home energy efficiency upgrades, you're not powerless to lower your electric bill.

Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips:

Window coverings: Are you using your windows to capture heat? Open drapes and shades to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.

Thermostat: Set your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower if comfortable).

Got tape? Though not as durable as foam, rubber or vinyl, you can use nonporous tape (cloth first-aid tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, in door frames, attic hatches and to seal inoperable windows. Reinforce it with staples if needed.

Move the air: Run ceiling fans on low and reverse the rotation to pull air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.

Free vents: Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and

vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

Garage drain: Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.

Rug relief: Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.

Cool food: Don't make your fridge work too hard. Clean its coils every year, and set the temperature between 34 and 37 degrees; leave the freezer between zero and 5 degrees. Keep the freezer full because frozen food helps your freezer stay cool. When cooking, keep lids on pots, and let hot food cool off before placing it in the refrigerator.

Hot savings: Heating water accounts for 12% of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees. For households with only one or two members, 115 degrees works.

There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off. Lower your home's temperature a bit and wear a sweater to stay warm, or place an extra blanket on the bed at night. Find more ways to save at MyWCEC.coop. ■

#POWERON

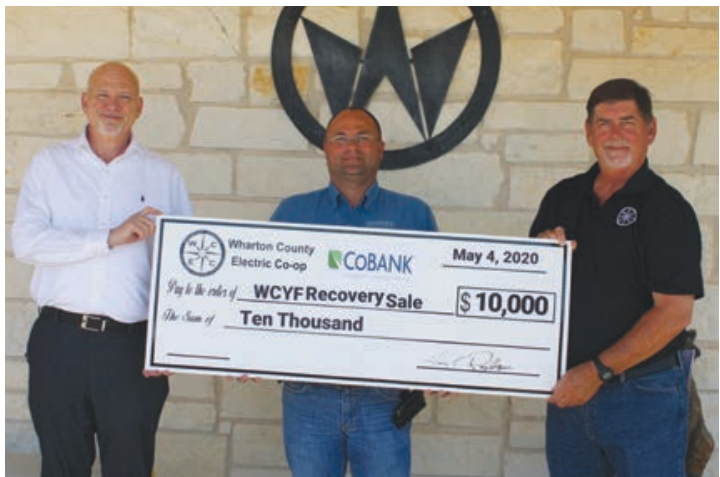


Your Unique Source of Power

YOU HAVE A UNIQUE story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of electric cooperative members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. So here's some help.

About 1 in 10 Americans receive their power the way you do, from an electric co-op. Electric cooperatives belong to the people they serve—that would be you and your neighbors—and were first formed in the 1930s because major utilities, owned by investors wanting to make a profit, ignored rural America. They didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So people in rural communities joined forces and formed locally owned electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month, the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and, more important, the members they serve. This year we're focusing on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community, so let's take a look at what that means for you, the members of the co-op.



Then. Now. Always. We're proud to power your life.

October is National Co-op Month.

Cooperatives
belong to and
are rooted in the
communities
they serve.

Your co-op is here to stay. Since the co-op belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, it's not going to move out of the country or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.

Your co-op knows you. No two cooperatives are alike. Across the country there are more than 900 electric co-ops. Because each of those co-ops belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community it is a part of. Whether it's working with the latest energy efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric co-op can offer solutions that make the most sense in your area.

Your co-op cares about your community. The co-op's top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by faraway, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. We're your friends and neighbors. By investing in the local community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

And these are just a few ways you and your electric cooperative are one of a kind. ■



DIY Energy Efficiency: Keep Hot Water Hot

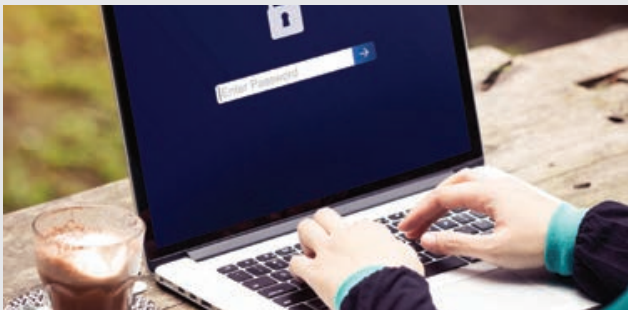
IS YOUR ELECTRIC WATER heater warm to the touch? If it is, then you need to insulate it.

Insulating a water heater can cut standby heat loss by about 25% and save up to 16% on your water heating bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Pre-cut blankets or jackets for water heaters are available for about \$20, and installation can be done in about an hour. Before installing insulation on your water heater, be sure that your system is not leaking. Leaky tanks need to be replaced.

To install insulation on an electric water heater, follow these steps outlined on energy.gov:

- ▶ Turn off the water heater. For electric water heaters, turn off the breaker on the electrical panel. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to length. Leave the top of the water heater exposed, especially on a gas unit for which it is important to leave the vent uncovered.
- ▶ Wrap the insulation around the water heater and secure temporarily with tape. Position the blanket or jacket to where the ends do not come together over the access panels on the sides of the water tank.
- ▶ Use a marker to mark where the controls are so you can cut them out. Electric units usually have two panels on the side of the tank. Also mark the area where the pipe sticks out of the side of the water heater.
- ▶ Install the blanket. Line up the cut-out areas carefully, then install the insulation with tape.
- ▶ Turn the water heater back on. Turn the breaker back on, and be sure to set the thermostat to an energy-efficient 120 degrees. A hotter setting could cause electrical wiring to overheat.
- ▶ Remember, heat loss can also occur from hot water pipes, so insulating those can result in energy savings, too. ■



Protect Yourself Against Cybercrime

Ransomware, credential theft, phishing emails and other attempts at cybercrime are no longer a question of if but of when. It only takes one click on a malicious email, website or attachment to allow access to private information or for a virus to infiltrate a smartphone or computer. October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the best way to arm yourself against cyber threats is knowledge.

Find out more at staysafeonline.org.



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Almond Pumpkins

1½ cups almond butter, smooth or chunky
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon almond extract
4–5 cups powdered sugar
36 whole roasted almonds
2–3 cups white candy chips, or
3–4 squares white bark coating
Red and yellow food coloring

1. Blend almond butter, butter and extracts in a bowl. Add powdered sugar and mix thoroughly until firm. Shape into about 1½-inch balls. Push an almond into the top of each ball to form a “stem.” Cover and place in freezer until firm.

2. Melt candy chips or bark coating. Add food coloring as desired and stir. Dip pumpkins into coating and place on waxed paper to harden. Cool before serving.

MAKES 3 DOZEN COOKIES.

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.



Why Reliable Service Requires Access to Your Property

WHY IT'S GOOD TO SEE CO-OP workers on your property?

Wharton County Electric Cooperative employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. We're working to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors, and that means we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- ▶ Reading meters
- ▶ Making routine repairs
- ▶ Replacing meters
- ▶ Trimming trees and brush
- ▶ Restoring power outages
- ▶ Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- ▶ Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- ▶ Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

All field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 979-543-6271. We appreciate your cooperation. ■

October is National Cooperative Month. There are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members.

STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES.

Co-ops Across The Nation

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EMERGENCY PRODUCTION!



Rush Production of U.S. Silver Dollars Creates 2nd Lowest Mintage in History

One of the most popular ways to buy silver is the Silver Eagle—legal-tender U.S. Silver Dollars struck in one ounce of 99.9% pure silver. When the COVID-19 pandemic began sweeping the world, demand skyrocketed. But there was a problem...

U.S. Mint Halts Production

West Point, the U.S. Mint branch that normally strikes Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) Silver Eagles, went into lockdown. Prices quickly shot up, and freshly struck Silver Eagles became much harder to find at an affordable price. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. Mint knew it had to act—and act fast.

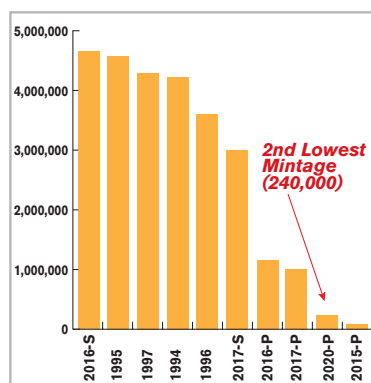
Philadelphia Steps Up

For just 13 days, the U.S. Mint struck an “Emergency Production” run of U.S. Silver Dollars at the Philadelphia Mint. This was great for silver buyers, and *really* great for collectors. Here’s why:

The Mystery of Silver Bullion

A coin’s value is often tied to its rarity. One way to determine a coin’s rarity is by its mint mark—a small letter indicating where a coin was struck. Since Silver Eagles are almost always produced solely in West Point, the coins don’t feature one of these mint marks. But this year’s Silver

Eagles were also produced in Philly—so few (a scant 240,000) that they are now the second smallest mintage of Silver Eagles ever struck! So how do we tell a 2020(W) Silver Eagle from a 2020(P)?



Certified “Struck at” Coins

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) is one of the world’s leading third-party coin grading services. Thanks to some skilled detective work, they have certified these coins as being struck at the Philadelphia Mint during this special Emergency Production run. What’s more, a number of these coins have been graded as near-flawless Mint State-69 (MS69) condition—just one point away from absolute perfection!

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Diameter:	40.6 mm
Mintage:	240,000
Condition:	Mint State-69 (MS69)
Certified:	Emergency Production

2020(P) Emergency Production American Eagle Silver Dollar

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Main Street in Desdemona at the height of the oil boom in 1918, which was also when the flu pandemic struck.

Boomtown Pandemic

The deadly flu outbreak of 1918 hit oil fields hard

BY GENE FOWLER

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has drawn comparisons to the influenza outbreak of 1918, what became known as the Spanish flu, which was the 20th century's deadliest pandemic. The Spanish flu infected about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Tens of millions died worldwide, including approximately 675,000 Americans.

Of the 5,000 Texans killed in World War I, a third are believed to have died from influenza. While the battlefield, with soldiers crowded in makeshift ramparts, provided a natural incubator for the virus, social conditions during

Texas' early 20th-century oil boom also allowed the disease to spread unchecked. The lack of suitable housing and access to fresh water, and poor sanitation in towns besieged by thousands of boomers—as Ranger, Burkburnett and Desdemona were in 1918—created an environment in which infection flourished.

Researcher Ben Wright found evidence of the boomtown epidemic in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Industry, an archive of recordings held by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. “Part of my job is to work out ways the center’s collections inform current issues,” said Wright. “The past is never lacking in its

warnings, lessons and reassurances.”

The interviews and other materials in the archive were gathered in the 1950s and include direct testimony about the 1918 flu pandemic.

Interviewee Walter Cline, who later became mayor of Burkburnett, served as field director for the Red Cross at Call Field near Wichita Falls when the flu hit. Cline headed into the Burkburnett oil field with doctors and nurses as well as food, clothing, medicine and other donated resources. His team found people “suffering from flu and exposed in covered wagons and under these tarpaulins,” he said. “In one place, you’d find a mother dead, with a little 6- or 8-months-old baby crawling around over her breast, trying to open her dress. ... I think on our first trip west of Burkburnett, we gathered up some six or eight dead men, women and children, and they continued to die until we found temporary shelter for them.”

Fred Jennings, a rig manager at Goose Creek Oil Field near Baytown, recalled, “The people died, and they just died so fast here till they didn’t have no undertakers. You’d just have to put them in pickup trucks and haul them to Houston. Just put them in a pine box and bury them any way you could. ... I saw one man working and walk home and was dead in 30 minutes.”

Don Carleton, Briscoe Center executive director, says we don’t know the full impact of the 1918 pandemic, but the disease reached Texas’ highest office. Researching his forthcoming biography of Gov. William P. Hobby, Carleton learned that Hobby fought the deadly contagion just as desperately as the roughnecks of the oil fields.

“I was quite surprised to learn that even our state’s governor was afflicted with the disease,” Carleton said. ■

Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps

Lots of names for turning fruit and a crunchy topping into irresistible treats

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Buckles and betties and cobblers and crisps—whatever you call them—are the essence of comforting, down-home cooking. Everyone has their favorite recipe in their back pocket, no matter the season. Our family is partial to crisps. That buttery, crunchy topping is tempting enough to eat on its own, and pairing it with juicy fruits (and a scoop of ice cream) makes it difficult to resist. Another bonus: These dishes are easy to make, so dessert can happen any night of the week.



Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for greasing the dish
4 cups frozen mixed berries
1 tablespoon lemon juice
¼ cup sugar
4 tablespoons flour, divided use
1 cup rolled oats
¼ cup chopped pistachios
⅓ cup brown sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon cinnamon

COOK'S TIP To make this recipe gluten free, use oat flour, almond flour or your favorite gluten-free blend.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.
2. In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.
3. In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.
4. Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

SERVES 6

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



Cherry Blueberry Buckle

BECKEY BROWN
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

BUCKLE

½ cup (1 stick) salted butter, softened,
plus more for greasing the dish
½ cup sour cream
½ cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Zest and juice of 1 orange
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup heavy whipping cream
2 cups pancake and waffle mix
1¼ cups frozen pitted cherries
¾ cup frozen blueberries
2 tablespoons brown sugar

TOPPING

1¼ cups heavy whipping cream
¼ cup powdered sugar
Zest and juice of 1 orange
Mint leaves, for garnish

- 1. BUCKLE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.
- Using a stand mixer, cream butter, sour cream and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, orange zest and juice, salt, and whipping cream, mixing on low to combine.
- Slowly add pancake and waffle mix, scraping down sides as needed while mixing.
- Spread batter into prepared pan and top with cherries and blueberries. Sprinkle top with brown sugar.
- Bake 30–35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and buckle is puffed and brown. Let cool slightly before serving.
- 6. TOPPING** While the buckle bakes, whip the cream, powdered sugar, zest and juice

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

PB&J Peach Cobbler

CHUCK BURGESS
HEART OF TEXAS EC



½ cup (1 stick) butter, plus more
for greasing the dish
¾ cup crunchy peanut butter
¾ cup milk
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches
in juice, drained
¾ cup peach preserves
½ cup brown sugar

The unexpected addition of peanut butter makes this cobbler a dish reminiscent of your favorite childhood lunch. To make the mixing easier, warm the peanut butter and preserves in the microwave for 10–15 seconds.

SERVES 12

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish with butter.
- Melt remaining butter in a medium bowl. Whisk in peanut butter then milk until blended.
- In another bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Add the butter mixture and stir until blended. Pour into baking dish and spread evenly.
- In a medium bowl, mix peaches, preserves and brown sugar. Then spoon evenly over batter. Bake 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbly.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TACOS DUE OCT 10

Whether you love them soft, crunchy or puffy, tell us what makes your tacos the best. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by October 10.

RECIPES CONTINUED

together until soft peaks are formed. Chill until ready to serve. Serve buckle with a dollop of whipped cream and a mint leaf.

SERVES 12



Spiced Apple Cobbler

C. PAIGE YOUNG-CANNON
PEDERNALES EC

You don't need to peel the apples, making the prep easy enough for kids like Sylvia Cannon, who submitted this recipe with the help of her mom.

FILLING

1 tablespoon butter, melted, plus more to grease baking dish
5 small sweet apples, cut into chunks
¼ cup sugar
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
Pinch of salt

TOPPING

½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
¾ cup plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided use
1½ cups self-rising flour
5 teaspoons cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
¾ cup milk

COOK'S TIP If you don't have self-rising flour, you can make your own. For each cup of all-purpose flour, add in 1½ teaspoons baking powder and ½ teaspoon salt.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch ceramic baking dish with butter and set aside.

2. FILLING In a large bowl, pour melted butter over cut apples. Add sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, vanilla and salt. Stir and set aside.

3. TOPPING In a separate bowl, cream butter and ¾ cup sugar until pale and fluffy. Add flour and toss to coat the butter, then cut coated butter into the flour using a pastry blender or two forks. The mixture should resemble sandy crumbs.

4. Add remaining sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and milk. Mix until smooth; it will be very thick.

5. Pour filling into prepared dish, making sure to include any accumulated juices. Dollop the topping evenly over the apples.

6. Bake until topping is golden and puffed, and filling is bubbling, about 45 minutes.

SERVES 8

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Matagorda Island Lighthouse

Ancient tower once guided ships to Indianola

BY CHET GARNER

IF THE HEAT DIDN'T TAKE ME, the mosquitoes would, so I pedaled as fast as I could through the grass and sand, hoping I was rolling in the right direction. I was committed to seeing the Matagorda Island lighthouse, and the price of admission is a 2.5-mile trek across this desolate island.

The barrier island is 38 miles long and uninhabited, save for a small outpost used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD ran a daily ferry to the island until 2003, when a fire destroyed the state's boat, and the ferry service was lost in the flames. If you want to visit Matagorda Island now, you either float your own boat across Espiritu Santo Bay or enlist a fishing guide in Port O'Connor. I reached the island with the help of guide Mike Bohac, who delivered me to Matagorda, pointed toward the lighthouse and said, "Head that way."

After an hour of pedaling, I could see the lighthouse. It was built in 1852 to guide ships through Pass Cavallo on their way to Indianola. Numerous renovations and a relocation raised the structure to where it now sits, 91 feet above sea level. The Confederate States army tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from falling into Union hands, but the cast-iron structure survived.

I peered into a small glass window at the bottom of the lighthouse and wondered what the view was like from the top. Volunteers open it up on special occasions, but my trip was not one of those. Near the lighthouse, I inspected the foundation for the lightkeeper's home and a small cemetery where deceased keepers lie in rest, still guarding the tower.

It was easy to imagine the isolation they must have felt here on the edge of Texas. ■

ABOVE Chet takes a selfie with the 1852 Matagorda Island lighthouse.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from the Matagorda lighthouse and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

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

OCTOBER

03

Alvarado [3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31] **Sunset Hill Tree Farm Pumpkin Patch**, (817) 713-6114, sunsethilltreefarm.com

08

Tyler [8-11] **Fall Fun—Hunter/Jumper Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

09

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

10

Jacksonville **Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair**, (903) 268-1598

Kerrville **Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet**, (830) 459-6198, kerrmarketdays.org

Brenham [10, 16-17, 24] **Hot Nights, Cool Tunes**, (979) 337-7580, downtownbrenham.com

11

Dallas **Prism Health North Texas Virtual LifeWalk 2020**, (214) 521-5191, lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk

16

Austin [16-19] **American Institute of Architects Austin Homes Tour**, (512) 452-4332, aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020

Terlingua [16-17] **Ride 4 Trails**, (432) 371-3382, ride4trails.com

17

Tyler [17-18] **North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Fall Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

20

Edinburg [20-24] Virtual Los Muertos Bailan, (956) 383-6246, edinburgarts.com/losmuertosbailan

22

Canton [22-24] Classic Country & Honky Tonk Halloween Party, (903) 245-6300, visitcantontx.com

24

Grand Saline Goody Trail & Trunk or Treat on Main, (903) 962-5631, grandsalinemainstreet.com

New Braunfels Simpson Texas Car and Bike Show, (830) 625-1774, playinnewbraunfels.com

Kerrville [24-25] Haunted Ghoul Pool, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Rusk [24-25] Pumpkin Patch Train Ride, (855) 632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

Buffalo Gap [24-Nov. 7] Scarecrow Festival, (325) 572-3365, taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/scarecrow-festival

26

Jacksonville Trunk or Treat, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com

28

Rosanky Christmas in October Toy Drive, (512) 360-3968, rosankybaptistchurch.com

30

Tyler [30-Nov. 1] Texas Rose Autumn Breed Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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

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COURTESY CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM



Pick of the Month

Two Women Look West

Cuero, Oct. 8–Nov. 1

(361) 277-2866,

chisholmtrailmuseum.org

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum features photographs of the King Ranch by Helen C. Kleberg and Toni Frissell. Kleberg was a self-taught photographer and wife of the longtime CEO of the King Ranch. Frissell was a New York fashion photographer. They photographed the King Ranch from the 1930s to the 1950s.

OCTOBER EVENTS CONTINUED

31

Kerrville Family Fright

Night, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

Kerrville Pumpkin

Run/Walk and Harvest Festival, (830) 315-5762, kerrvillekroc.org

Austin [Oct. 31–Nov. 15]

Virtual Texas Book Festival, (512) 477-4055, texasbookfestival.org

NOVEMBER

01

Houston Rockin' Resiliency

Virtual Luncheon, (713) 623-6543, thewomensfund.org/events

Lubbock West Texas

Latino Artist Día De Los Muertos Celebración, (806) 792-1212, loshermanosfamilia.org

07

George West A Day of

Stories, (361) 436-1098, dobie-westtheatre.com



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Selfies

The modern self-portrait, a selfie captures Texas life in a personal way. Now, thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to put ourselves in someone else's boots.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

GAIL WISE
TRI-COUNTY EC

This little fella "came over any time we worked the cows."

VIRGINIA GARCIA
KARNES EC

Cinnamon, a new chick on the farm, loves taking selfies.

DOUGLAS RATCHFORD
BLUEBONNET EC

"An early morning flight in a good friend's 1930 Waco biplane."

DOLLY HOLLINGSWORTH
SAN PATRICIO EC

"I said smile for the camera, and she sure did."



Upcoming Contests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles

DUE NOV 10 Diners

DUE DEC 10 Storms

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

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



Francisco "Panchito" Flores of San Antonio is a third-generation *charro*—Spanish for cowboy—learning the Mexican rodeo tradition of *charreada*.

Memorable Moment

Look for striking portraits in your everyday life

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JULIA ROBINSON

WHEN I BECAME a photojournalist, portraits were a dreaded assignment. I wanted to document real people living real lives, not direct them like a studio photographer.

Initially I hid behind my documentarian role to avoid the hard work of corralling light. But as I learned more about portraiture, I wanted to get better—so I consumed the lavish sets of Annie Leibovitz; the sculpted light of Martin Schoeller; the whimsical, dark vision of Dan Winters; the dynamism of Robert Seale.

Making an emotional connection with a subject to tell a story with an image is a skill I find more valuable than slick lighting, perfect hair and teeth, or a celebrity face. The portraits made by Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Walker Evans and Sally Mann

have helped me tell the story of a person, a place or a moment in history.

I've gotten better at lighting and directing people who begin a photo session with, "I hate photos of myself." The most meaningful portraits I have made are not those for a newspaper or a business client. They've been grandparents at someone's wedding, my nieces as they grow, my family at ease. The portraits I value the most are the environmental and the informal.

Looking back through my family photos, it's the candid portraits that stand out. A moment of connection between family members, the peak action of a laugh, the details of a bedroom or a set of toys that add to the nostalgia. Portraits don't always need to be taken in a studio or in our best clothes. They can be "found" in our everyday lives.

The class photo on the mantel has an official purpose—to pause the march of time from grade to grade. The same is true for the annual family Christmas card and the child in bluebonnets. The images that stop me in my tracks, however, are the laughter, the quiet connection, the unaware expressions of self.

The only secret is practice. Try bringing your camera everywhere for a day. If you make picture-taking a seamless part of everyday life, the people you photograph won't think twice when you point the lens in their direction.

Hunt the good light in your house, your backyard or on the walk to the park. If you want to make a noncandid portrait, the window light from a north- or south-facing window will be the most flattering, along with the golden hours just before dusk and just after dawn.

Observe the moments that spark your connection and joy. Think about what makes a person light up, and see if you can capture it. One fleeting and hard-won image like this is worth a thousand studio sessions. ■

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