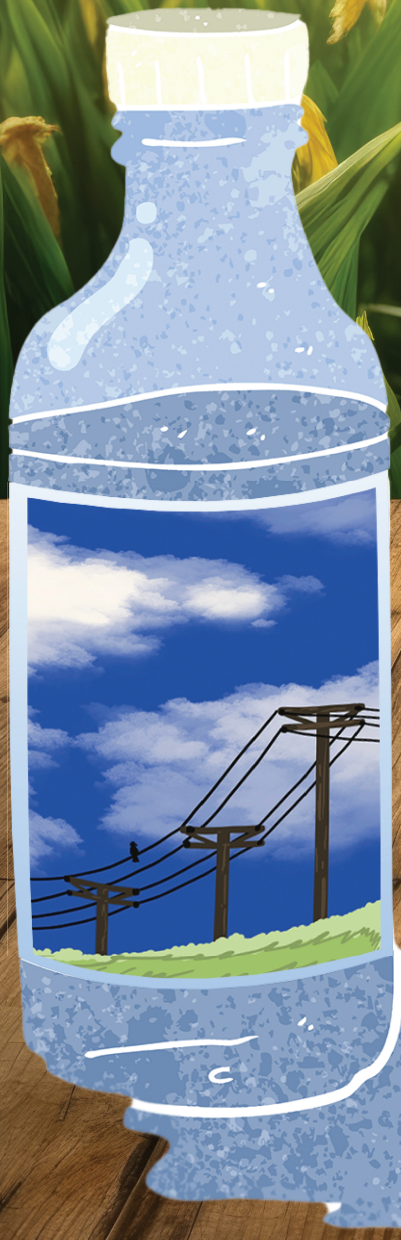


# Texas Co-op Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2023



## Color Your Co-op

A coloring contest for kids!  
Details on back inner cover.



## The Seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community



Medina EC is proud to give back to the communities we serve! Learn more about how we can support your local community at [MedinaEC.org/Donations](https://www.MedinaEC.org/Donations).

THE BIG, BIG BOOK  
ABOUT PLANTS

REAL LIFE MEETS  
'LONESOME DOVE'

SO FAR, SNAKES ARE  
OFF THE HOOK

# Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2023

## Pathways to Peace

Finding healing in  
labyrinths across Texas





# TV•EARS®

A Better Way to hearTV®

*“Now Jack can control the volume on his TV•Ears while I set the TV volume or mute it for complete quiet. Once again, he can understand every word and we can watch our favorite TV shows together.”*

— Darlene & Jack B., CA

## Struggling to hear the TV?

Put on your TV•EARS® and hear every word clearly

**Doctor recommended TV•Ears** has helped millions of people with hearing loss enjoy their favorite television shows, movies and streaming content without disturbing others.

**The Voice Clarifying Technology®** reduces background noise and clarifies hard to hear television dialog making voices and words understandable. 120db of volume makes TV•Ears the most powerful television listening system on the market!

**Quiet TV mode** lets others mute the television or set the volume to their preferred level while you listen as loud as you want on the headset.



Ultra-soft ear tips  
Headset weighs 2 oz.  
Rechargeable Battery  
**((( WIRELESS )))**

No more loud TV!

For fastest service,  
Call toll-free  
1-800-379-7832

### Doctor Recommended TV Headset™

TV dialog is clear and understandable

Over 2.5 million satisfied customers

Top Selling Brand for 25 Years

### TV•Ears Original™

~~\$129.95~~

STARTING AT \$79.95<sup>+s&h</sup>

**AFTER \$50 OFF**

Use promo code 36480

30-day risk free trial

Same day shipping

**www.tvears.com**

# August 2023



06

## Make Your Shelf Useful

Scooter Cheatham has dedicated his life to voluminous books that document uses for Texas' plants.

*By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers*

## 10 Circles of Life

Labyrinths provide 'a profound sense of renewal and peace.'

*Story and photos by Laura Jenkins*

04

### Currents

The latest buzz

05

### TCP Talk

Readers respond

16

### Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

### Footnotes in Texas History

A Page of the Past  
*By W.F. Strong*

26

### TCP Kitchen

Sheet Pan Meals  
*By Vianney Rodriguez*

30

### Hit the Road

Extracurricular Activities  
*By Chet Garner*

33

### Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Hoof and Horn

34

### Observations

Off the Hook?  
*By Patty Moynahan*

#### ON THE COVER

Alison Hannah walks the labyrinth at Unity of Wimberley.

*Photo by Laura Jenkins*

#### ABOVE

Mountain pink is a great plant for rock gardens.

*Photo courtesy Useful Wild Plants*



## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Back to school means ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **Thanks, Dad, for ...**

Never judging us and always giving us your unconditional love and attention.

ELVIRA PULIDO  
MAGIC VALLEY EC  
MISSION

Making me get back on the horse.

LYNNE SINGHOFF  
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC  
HEMPHILL

Teaching me to use your tools, believing in me and forgiving me when I messed up.

ROSE HOLLY  
PEDERNALES EC  
GEORGETOWN

Teaching me when I was 14 to back a trailer load full of cattle through the gate.

SHIRLEY HAMPTON  
PEDERNALES EC  
HORSESHOE BAY

Visit our website to see more responses.



## Talkin' Texan

Not sure what took them so long, but the folks behind the official Scrabble dictionary finally added a few words to the book that have been heard in these parts for generations: guac, queso and yeehaw.

These potentially high-scoring words are among about 500 new words in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, which gets updated every few years.

# Wreck the Record

**CALL 'EM** the first family of Texas Tech.

With 44 alumni in the fold, the Wuensches set a world record for most members of a family to graduate from the same university.

Francis Wuensche, from the small town of Wilson that's about 20 miles south of Lubbock, started the procession with a degree in zoology in 1953. Three generations later, Andrew Simnacher accepted the family's 44th diploma in December 2021.

And the Wuensches, many of whom are members of electric cooperatives around the state, aren't done. Three more members of the extended family enrolled as freshmen last fall.

## **TCP** Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Texas Citrus

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Mailboxes

**TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY**  
Two readers will each win 5 pounds of wild-caught Texas shrimp. Enter now to win. Contest ends August 31.



## August 3 National Watermelon Day

Texas ranks fourth in the U.S. in watermelon production, growing 11% of the 3.4 billion pounds harvested annually. Together, Florida, Georgia, California and Texas produce three-fourths of the refreshing fruit.



JOHN FAULK

**In a Whole New Light**

“My wife and I just visited the Morse Museum in Florida and its large collection of Tiffany works. We can’t wait to visit the Gelman Stained Glass Museum.”

RICHARD SANTAMARIA  
PEDERNALES EC  
DRIPPING SPRINGS

**Tongue-Tied**

My maternal grandparents both immigrated to Texas from Germany and Austria in the decades before World War I [*Auf Wiedersehen*, May 2023]. My mother, born in the early 1920s, was their only child, and her first language was German. Neither my sister nor I were ever taught German.

Much later in life, I oft wondered why we were not given the gift of a second language.

John W. Palm Jr.  
Hamilton County EC  
Lampasas

**Just Dew It**

I have dewberries growing all around my house [*Crawling With Trouble*, May 2023]. I fought them for years trying to get rid of them, but you can’t. Then after harvesting some, I made a cobbler and just decided to cultivate them instead.

Sherrie Taylor  
Via Facebook



CHANELLE NIBBELINK

**Westward Bound**

*Rise Up West* [April 2023] was hauntingly familiar. An ancestor moved to West around the end of the Civil War from an area that became the Czech Republic. An uncle told me they left the old country because it was involved in a civil war of its own. That they left one country due to civil war only to arrive in the U.S. with its own civil war is ironic.

Ken Konvicka  
United Cooperative Services  
Graford

**Mockingbirds Are Mean**

I regret that the mockingbird is our state bird [*Roll Out the Red Carpet*, December 2022]. Whoever put the mockingbird up for this prestigious position obviously knew nothing about the mockingbird.

The mockingbird is very aggressive and mean. On several occasions, I have been fortunate enough to intervene and save the lives of bluebirds and cardinals from mockingbirds.

Roberta McLaughlin  
Heart of Texas EC  
Lorena

**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.

Facebook Instagram Twitter Pinterest Texas Co-op Power

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo  
**Vice Chair** Neil Hesse, Muenster  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Avan Irani, Robstown  
**Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Julie Parsley, Johnson City  
Doug Turk, Livingston  
Brandon Young, McGregor

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

**COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop  
Marty Haught, Burleson • Gary Miller, Bryan  
Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma  
John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham  
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

**MAGAZINE STAFF**

**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevins

**Editor** Chris Burrows

**Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski

**Production Manager** Karen Nejtke

**Creative Manager** Andy Doughty

**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull

**Communications Specialist** Jéden Clark

**Communications Specialist** Alex Dal Santo

**Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz

**Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips

**Senior Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge

**Food Editor** Vianney Rodriguez

**Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe

**Proofreader** Suzanne Featherston

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 80, Number 2 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscription price is \$4.44 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.

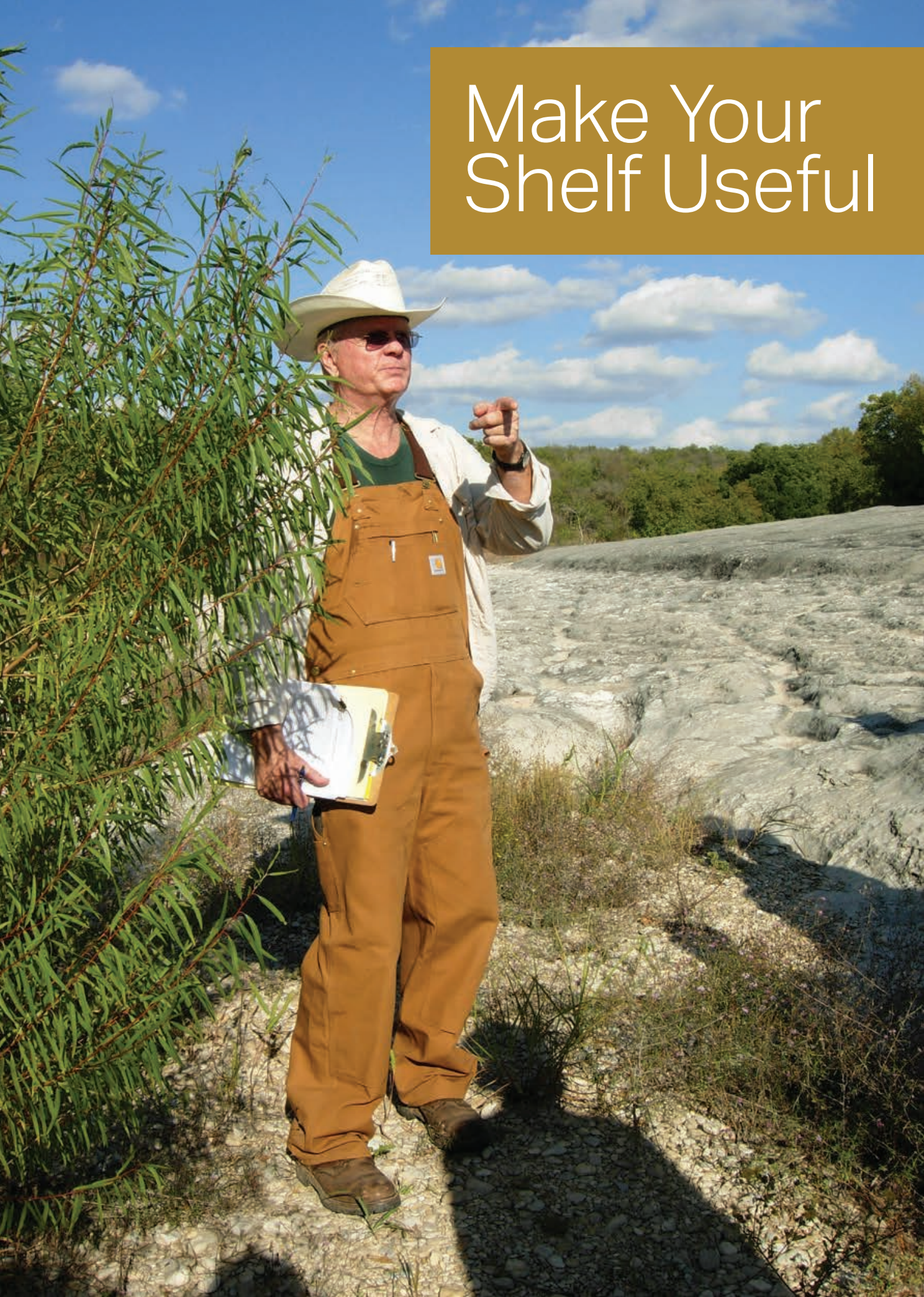
**Co-op members:** Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.  
**POSTMASTER** Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

**ADVERTISING** Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. 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.

**COPYRIGHT** All content © 2023 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © 2023 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



# Make Your Shelf Useful





BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

## Scooter Cheatham has dedicated his life to voluminous books that document uses for Texas' plants



**Y**EARS AGO Scooter Cheatham asked a classroom of high school sophomores to figure out how plants play a role in everything around them. As an example, he challenged them to connect plants to a pair of scissors. The Austin students, hoping for an easy answer, contacted the manufacturer. “There are no plants in our scissors,” a representative emailed back.

The response forced the teens to do their research. Ultimately “they learned that the manufacturing of steel to make scissors requires coal,” Cheatham says. “The orange plastic handles are derived from petrochemicals. The students also realized that the company representative was as ‘plant blind’ as everyone else about the importance of plants in our lives.”

They matter so much, in fact, that Cheatham has made them his lifelong mission. Plants support our food, health and industry—even contributing to the formation of coal and petrochemicals. For more than 50 years, he and his collaborators have worked to compile the ultimate reference encyclopedia: *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico*.

Since 1995, Cheatham’s nonprofit Useful Wild Plants has published four volumes, each counting 600 or more pages and collectively weighing nearly 20 pounds. When completed, the set will include at least 20 volumes and document the economic uses of more than 4,000 plant species, both native and naturalized.

“There’s nothing else like our volumes in the world,” says Cheatham, seated at UWP’s office in East Austin. “They’re the most comprehensive, interdisciplinary treatment of plant species ever done, going back to their prehistoric uses and forward to the most recent chemistry.

“People ask if this is our passion,” adds the self-educated botanist. “I say it’s our obligation to the planet. We’ve got to do this, or we won’t be ready when we run out of oil and gas.

OPPOSITE Scooter Cheatham, 77, has been documenting plants since 1971. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP The sweet, slightly tart berries of an agarita, an evergreen shrub with many medicinal uses, can be made into wine and coffee. A honey-scented agarita in bloom.

COURTESY USEFUL WILD PLANTS



The smallest single plant on our planet has more promise for our future than anything we could study in outer space.”

Whenever his time allows, Cheatham, an architect and community and regional planner by profession, returns to Cuero, where he grew up gardening, milking cows and riding horses. As a boy, he explored and hunted on his grandmother’s nearby ranch along the Guadalupe River, a portion of which he owns today. Back then, he didn’t pay much attention to the live oaks, native grasses and other plants.

That was, until 1971, when he and a pal, both students at the University of Texas, embarked on an “experimental” archaeology project. During spring break, they lived off Cheatham’s family land like Indigenous peoples once did, using tools they’d made themselves. The experience profoundly impacted Cheatham.

“For 10 days, all we ate was a possum and an armadillo,” he recalls. “Out there, we were surrounded by plants. But I knew only a few common ones, like pecans and dewberries. That’s when I realized how much we rely on plants.”

The lightbulb moment inspired a yearning to learn more about the value of flora. Back on campus, Cheatham visited botanist Marshall Johnston, who the year before had co-written and published the 1,881-page *Manual of Vascular Plants of Texas*. Cheatham asked the professor if there was a comprehensive resource on the *usefulness* of plants. “No,” Johnston told the younger man. “You should do it.”

So in 1971, at age 26, Cheatham began what would turn into a monumental, decadeslong undertaking.

Alongside the project, Cheatham, an accomplished artist and photographer, taught architecture and watercolor classes at UT for 10 years. He also led classes that taught students how to forage for wild edibles.

## Plants support our food, health and industry—even contributing to the formation of coal and petrochemicals.

In 1977, a recent UT anthropology graduate named Lynn Marshall signed up for the foraging class and agreed to pay for half her course fees by volunteering with UWP. She never left. Like Cheatham, she has dedicated herself to the endeavor.

At the project’s start, compiling just the species list and project parameters took a year and a half. Then Cheatham and Johnston traveled extensively, photographing plants in various stages of life. Filing cabinets in UWP’s office contain their 350,000 slides. More filing cabinets house thousands of manila folders, each labeled by plant genus and packed with notes, printouts and research.

In 1995, Cheatham; Johnston, who has since retired; and Marshall published their first volume. Subsequent volumes followed in 2000, 2009 and 2015. They may be ordered through the UWP website at [usefulwildplants.org](http://usefulwildplants.org).

The tomes are made to last. “We believe people will need them for several hundred years,” Cheatham says. “So we don’t use cheap paper that would turn yellow in 18 months.”

Altogether, the four volumes published so far document 833 species. Organized alphabetically by genus, Volume 1 begins with *Abronia* (sand verbenas) and ends with *Arundo* (giant cane). Volume 4 covers *Cenchrus* (grassburs) through *Convolvulus* (wild morning glories). Still in progress, Volume 5 will begin with *Conyza* (horseweed).

Each genus section includes species descriptions, range maps and color images. Subheadings enable readers to quickly find specific information, such as “Native American food uses,” “chemical components” and “author dye tests.”

OPPOSITE The drought-hardy damianita boasts aromatic blooms in spring and summer. FROM LEFT Prairie paintbrush blossoms attract hummingbirds and bees. A Texas redbud's young seedpods are edible.



Entries run from less than one page to dozens. For example, *Bowlesia* (Bowles parsley) is a scant page, but *Carex* (sedges)—the largest genus in Texas flora—fills 76 pages.

Most people know about grassburs. When stepped on, their spiny seedheads hurt like the blazes to pull out—hence their reputation as a detestable weed. But surprise: “Some members of the genus *Cenchrus* are highly valued as range grasses that increase the lease value of grazing lands,” according to *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas*. “Native Americans of the Southwest and prehistoric people of Texas used *Cenchrus* for food, therapy and utilitarian purposes.”

With more than a dozen volumes and thousands of entries still to publish, Cheatham hopes to recruit and train more staff.

“Lynn and I are spread extremely thin,” he says. “Right now, we’re in a phase to raise consciousness about the importance of plants and publicize what we’re doing so we can raise the funds necessary to build a team that will finish this project. With a full staff, all the volumes could be completed in seven years.”

“People need to know about Useful Wild Plants so they’ll carry it on after we’re gone,” he says. “This project belongs to the world.” ■



## Putting Plants To Use

Gleaned from the pages of  
*The Useful Wild Plants of Texas*:

**Beebrush** A thornless shrub with fragrant flowers. Add its fresh or dried leaves to dishes as a spice that tastes similar to oregano.

**Hackberry** A widespread deciduous tree that grows 50–80 feet tall. Make a toothbrush from a pencil-sized stem. Peel the bark from one end, then chew (or pound with a hammer) to spread out the fibers.

**Inland sea oats** A grass with drooping, oatlike seedheads. Seeds can be toasted and milled into a coarse meal. For best results, use a batter bread recipe that calls for boiling the grains before baking.

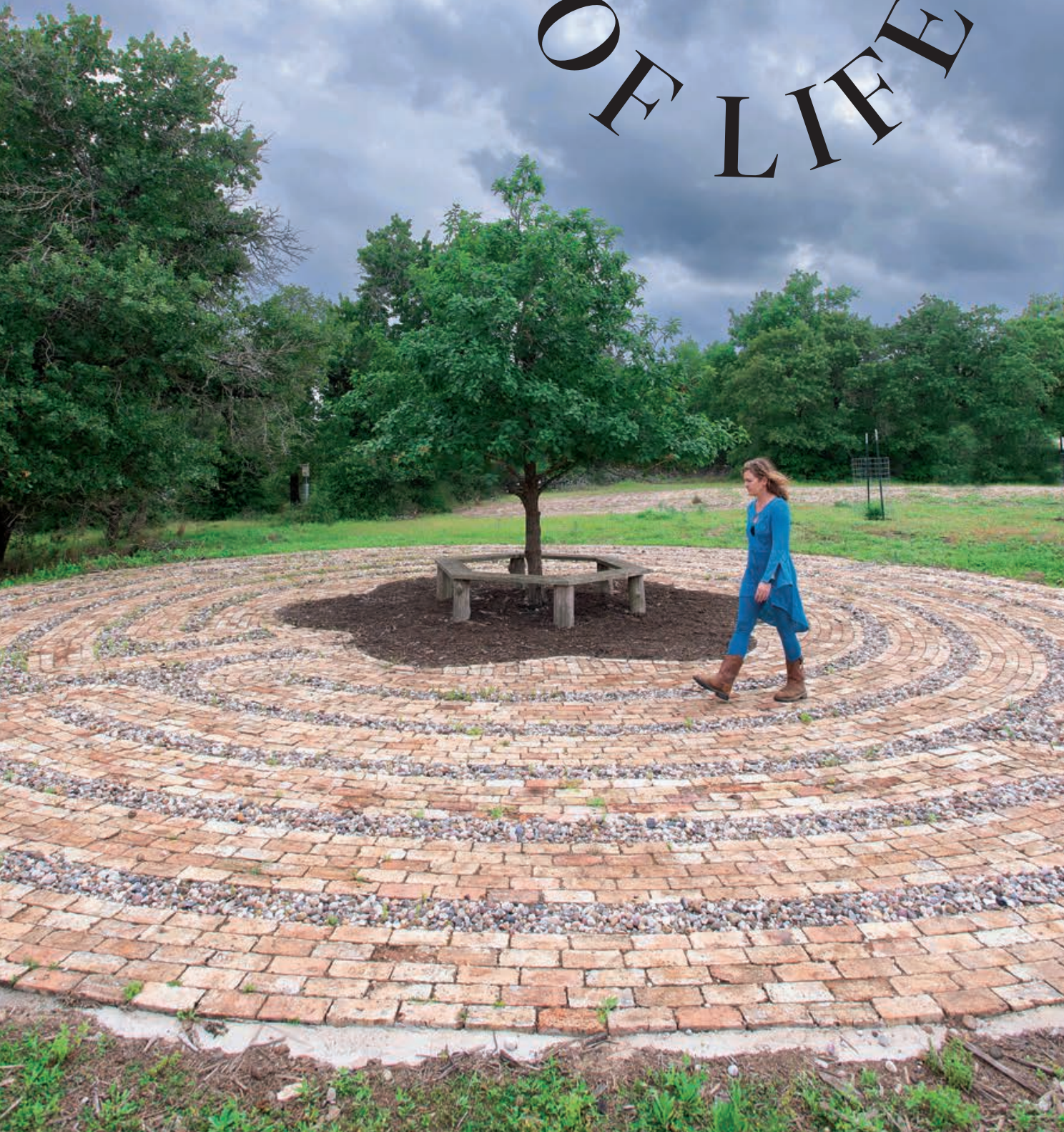
**Ragweed** Flowering plants best known for causing hay fever. A poultice of leaves applied to a poison ivy rash is said to ease the itch.

**Trumpet creeper** A woody vine with reddish-orange flowers. Collect roots to make ropes up to 30 feet long. Peel off the outer layer and boil for two to three hours in lye water, then pound with a wooden mallet to soften. Twist the strands into a half-inch-wide rope.

# CIRCLES

*Labyrinths are providing Texans with 'a profound sense of renewal and peace'*

# OF LIFE



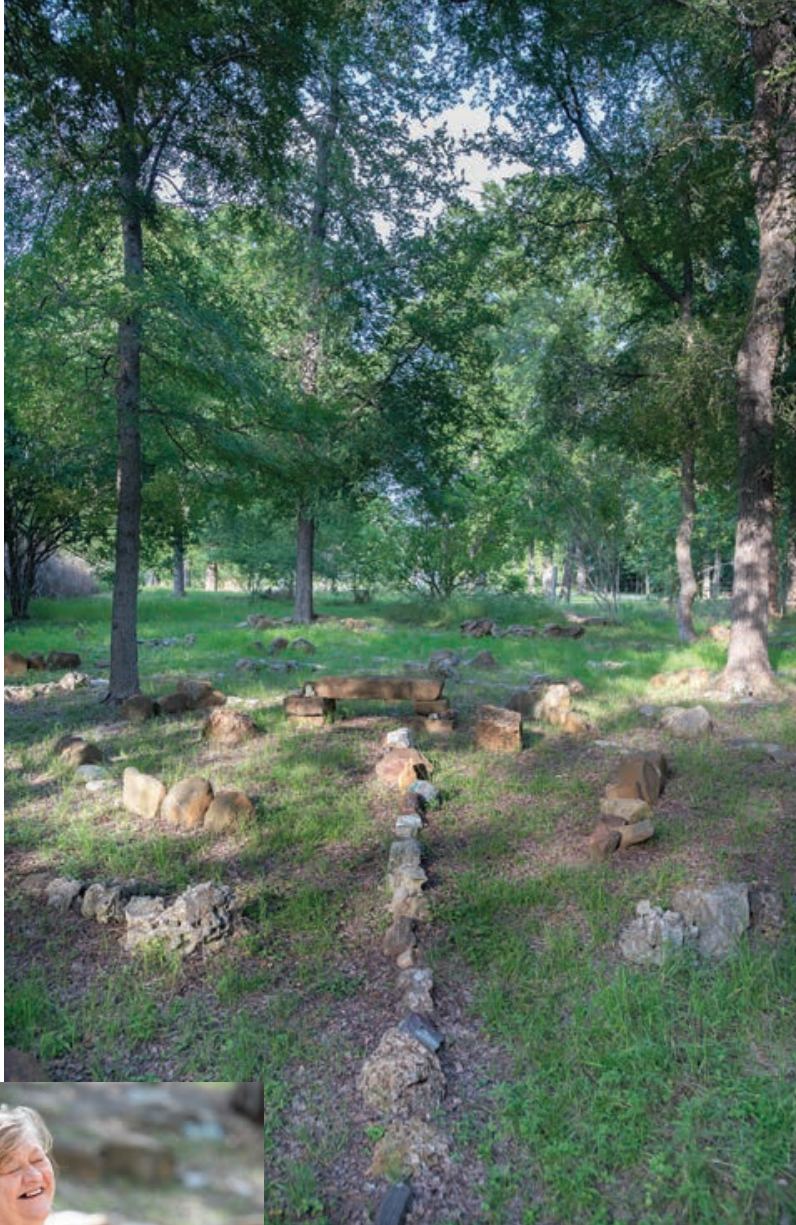
**A**BOUT 20 MINUTES northwest of Bastrop State Park, a labyrinth lies beneath a grove of towering cedar elms. Seven circles of sandstone, Colorado River rock and honeycomb limestone—all native to the area—comprise what’s known as a Cretan, or classical, design at Bastrop Botanical Gardens. A shepherd’s hook, the name of the long, perpendicular row that leads straight to the bench in the center of the labyrinth, is lined with an eclectic array of rocks and stones, gifts that Deena Spellman received for her birthday in 2012.

Each stone has a story. They celebrate friendships, symbolize memories and mark devastating losses. It was loss, in fact, that inspired Spellman to begin constructing the labyrinth she’d been dreaming of building for more than a decade.

“After the Bastrop County Complex Fire destroyed so many of our neighbors’ and customers’ homes in 2011, I wanted to create a space where people could find some peace and maybe a little hope,” says Spellman, the owner of Bastrop Botanical Gardens, a boutique nursery. “Since then, many people who needed a quiet place to heal have walked the labyrinth. The Cretan part gives you time to contemplate what’s on your mind while you’re walking to the center, or source. The shepherd’s hook gives you direct access. Sometimes you just need to get to source.”

Simply put, a labyrinth is a meandering path leading to a center, a geometric framework for walking, meditation and reflection. Many use it as a tool for personal and spiritual transformation. There are more than 4,500 documented labyrinths in the U.S., according to the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator.

OPPOSITE Karen Knight, a certified labyrinth facilitator, walks the labyrinth at her Ardor Wood Farm in Red Rock. ABOVE Deena Spellman created the labyrinth at Bastrop Botanical Gardens so visitors can “find some peace and maybe a little hope.”



At last count, 240 were listed in Texas—most open to the public, though a handful are private.

Many Texas labyrinths are situated at houses of worship or spiritual retreat centers, but they’re not just for religious folks. There’s a labyrinth in the meditation garden at the National Vietnam War Museum in Weatherford. The UTHealth Houston nursing school installed one

for students as a means of reducing stress. You can find labyrinths at parks, schools and retirement centers.

They’re by no means new. The oldest documented labyrinth dates to 1200 B.C. It was found in Pylos, Greece.

Many conflate labyrinths and mazes, but there’s one major difference between the two. Mazes may offer numerous possible routes to the center, some of which are dead ends. But labyrinths feature only one nonbranching route to the center. One way in, and one way out. They’re ancient archetypes—multicultural symbols that have been found on every continent except Antarctica.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT The Rev. Mike Marsh and Brenda Faulkner, director of programs at Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas. The St. Philip's Episcopal Church labyrinth in Uvalde. Labyrinth guru Robert Ferré.



*“Before we begin, I encourage people to start in a place of gratitude and to keep the three Rs in mind: releasing, receiving and returning,” Karen Knight says.*

Robert Ferré, a retired labyrinth builder and author of the book *The Labyrinth Revival: A Personal Account*, says labyrinths went from being archetypal symbols to walkable structures sometime in the Middle Ages.

“Originally labyrinths were small drawings and illustrations in manuscripts,” says Ferré, who lives in San Antonio and has designed more than 1,100 labyrinths worldwide. “At some point somebody decided to build one large enough that they could walk around in. It became a symbol you could embody.

“I think labyrinths reflect a spiritual need in a society that has wandered into living too shallowly, or on the surface of things,” he says. “They signal our need to go deeper.”

Using a labyrinth as a means of self-reflection is something Karen Knight knows a lot about. She’s a certified labyrinth facilitator and co-owner of Ardor Wood Farm in Red Rock. She became interested in labyrinths in 2011 after visiting Chartres Cathedral in France. Her husband, Graham

Pierce, built a labyrinth in the cathedral’s style at their farm for Knight’s 50th birthday, a gift that their camping and retreat guests often utilize.

Knight also offers “labyrinth magic” experiences, wherein she guides people through the labyrinth using the Veriditas method, which she learned from one of the world’s foremost labyrinth authorities, the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress.

“Before we begin, I encourage people to start in a place of gratitude and to keep the three Rs in mind: releasing, receiving and returning,” Knight says. “You’re releasing on the way in during your walk. Perhaps there’s a specific thing you’re letting go of, or maybe you’re just releasing the busy chatter in your head. You’re receiving and staying open while you’re in the middle, and as you return you’re taking your experience home.

“I feel like it’s a moving meditation,” she says. “People need a pause. We’re often busy, depleted or distressed, and labyrinths can bring a profound sense of renewal and peace.”



A suspended sculpture by Lewis deSoto creates a labyrinth in shadow on the University of Texas at San Antonio's downtown campus.

to cope with trauma and grief. They've committed to a presence of at least five years in the small town. Brenda Faulkner, the director of programs, moved to Uvalde to take the job—not only because her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons live there but also because she wanted to help the community heal.

She had used labyrinths as a therapeutic tool for years, so using the one at St. Philip's with some of the children came naturally to her.

"I've found that walking the sacred path, which is what Mike calls their labyrinth, serves a couple of purposes," Faulkner says. "One is that it gets us outdoors. We have a lot of beautiful days in Uvalde. At the beginning of the path I say, 'I'm old, so you're going to have to go slower for me so I can keep up with you.' And as we walk, we talk. It's also great

because it's a very physical thing. As they're moving and we're talking, they're often not even aware that the therapeutic process is going on.

"What's interesting about walking a labyrinth," she says, "is that just about the time you think you're done, you're only a quarter done, which kind of correlates with the grief process."

Marsh has observed the same thing.

"There's a metaphor in the walking," he says. "If you follow the path, you're not going to get lost. You may get disoriented because it looks like you're getting almost to the center and then you're way out on the periphery again. But the discipline is to follow the path. Don't overthink it." ■

**T**HE REV. MIKE MARSH was sold on the benefits of labyrinths long before he became the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde in 2005. Nine years later, he and Ferré designed and built one for the church. It was a gift to the community, and now it's a place of respite in the aftermath of the 2022 Robb Elementary School shooting.

"I've seen many individuals and families linger there over the years," Marsh says.

San Antonio-based Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas uses a church building that is adjacent to the labyrinth to serve children in the community struggling

**Special Offer for New Customers Only**

**YES!** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	Last-Year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar (Limit 1)	\$39.95
1	Morgan Silver Dollar Booklet	<b>FREE!</b>
	Shipping	<b>FREE!</b>
	Sales Tax	<b>FREE!</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39.95</b>

**ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS**

- Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.  
 VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card #:  Exp. Date  /

Name  Please print clearly

Address  Apt#

City  State  Zip

E-Mail

Mail to:  **Littleton Coin Company**  
 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd  
 Littleton NH 03561-3737  
 Serving Collectors Since 1945

Littleton Coin Company  
**Offer Code: 6ZR464**

**Yours FREE!**

Order within 30 days and get this special **Morgan Silver Dollars** booklet **FREE!**



# OWN a Genuine 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar

*Over 100 Years old...*

Regularly \$87.00...  
**Now Only \$39.95**



**N**ow you can own a 1921 Morgan silver dollar from the last year of the classic series! Big, heavy and handsome - with over 7/8 of an ounce of 90% silver - genuine Morgan dollars like these were struck in silver from old western mines. Once used by rough and ready frontiersmen, today Morgan dollars are a vanishing legacy of America's past - genuine history you can hold in your hand!

*Never to be minted again!*

Although millions of these silver coins were melted in the 1900s, the 1921 Morgan - from the final year of the classic series - survived. Never to be minted again, this historic Morgan dollar can be yours for just \$39.95 (regularly \$87.00) - **SAVE OVER 50%** off regular prices! Order today and get FREE shipping

to your home! **You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service**, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance within 15 days - with option to cancel at any time.

*Order now - before they vanish forever!*

**www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials**

**Have U.S. Coins or Paper Money to Sell? Get Top Dollar!**

We Make it Quick and Easy.  
 Littletoncoin.com/CoinsToSell  
 \*Currently purchasing U.S. currency within the U.S. only.

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

**Offer Code: 6ZR464**



**If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.**

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*. Be part of a statewide magazine—without the statewide cost. Call or email today.



**NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE**  
 Circulation 590,500  
 Readership 1,358,150

**TexasCoopPower**

Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or advertising@TexasCoopPower.com



## Hit the Road

### Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

**TCP Plan now**

**TexasCoopPower.com/events**





# AUGUST

is National Replacement Window Month at Renewal by Andersen\*

**Call before August 31!**

**Buy one window or door, get one 40% OFF<sup>1</sup>** *with* **0% Down** **0 Payments** **0% Interest for 1 year<sup>2</sup>**

*plus*

**Take an EXTRA \$400 off your entire order<sup>1</sup>**



**RENEWAL by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Why did we declare August **National Replacement Window Month**? Because even though the summer is hot, that doesn't mean you have to live with the heat inside your home, too. Replacing just a few windows or a door now can help make your home cooler during the summer—and warmer in the winter.

## Why Renewal by Andersen?

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, a 120-year-old family-owned company with a **reputation for excellence in window and door craftsmanship.**
- **Our exclusive composite Fibrex® windows** are not only beautiful, they're remarkably strong, offer superior energy efficiency and require minimal maintenance.<sup>3</sup>
- Our factory-trained **Certified Master Installers have years of experience installing only windows and doors,** and they'll treat you and your home with the utmost respect.



## Call or scan the code to book your FREE Window & Door Diagnosis



**RENEWAL by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Scan to self-schedule your appointment

Austin	512-298-1858	West Texas	432-257-3640
San Antonio	210-961-9990	Dallas/Fort Worth	469-606-5229

[TopWindowSolution.com](http://TopWindowSolution.com)

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. \$400 discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 8/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 9/10/23. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. <sup>3</sup>See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>. \*National Replacement Window Month is not a Congressionally-approved designation. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



**CEO**  
**HERBERT "TREY"**  
**GREBE III**

## Factors of an Electric Bill

I WAS RECENTLY ASKED by a new employee about what generally makes up an electric bill. Just as we onboard new employees, we're constantly adding new members to our lines and figured this would be a good time to address some of the main components in your electric bill.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a customer charge, an energy charge and a power cost adjustment. To understand your total energy costs and what makes up your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a fixed monthly customer charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to each member. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in Medina EC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the infrastructure in place. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, these expenses are shared across the membership through this customer charge.

The next component of your monthly bill is the energy charge, which is dependent on how much energy you consume. The energy charge is calculated by taking your base rate for your account and multiplying it by the kilowatt-hours used. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start to save energy by adjusting the thermostat setting 2-3 degrees higher than you usually do during summer months or lower winter months. Find more energy- and money-saving tips at [MedinaEC.org/EnergySavings](http://MedinaEC.org/EnergySavings).

The last component of your bill is the PCA, which is the power cost adjustment applied to every member's bill each month. Every rate class has an established base rate and the PCA provides a monthly adjustment dependent on any differences

in the base cost of wholesale power. If the cost to purchase power is higher than the base cost of power, the PCA is applied as a charge. If the wholesale power cost is lower, the PCA is applied as a credit on your bill. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, this is a direct pass-through of the cost associated with reliably serving you with the electricity you need.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that make up your monthly bill. Keep in mind that no two member accounts are the same in their energy use, but every bill will have these three elements. Additional components will be dependent on the rate class for the account.

If you have additional questions on your bill, contact us at 1-866-632-3532 or [Info@MedinaEC.org](mailto:Info@MedinaEC.org).

Until next time,  
Trey



ALEX.POTEMKIN | ISTOCK.COM

# Prevent Power Line Problems

**NEARLY EVERYONE KNOWS** not to touch a downed power line, but you might not know that you don't have to touch a power line to be in danger. High-voltage electricity can jump to anyone who gets too close. Here are a few safety tips to remember regarding electricity and downed power lines.

- Anytime you're working or playing outside, stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and their connections. If you come across a downed line, keep these tips in mind.
- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around fallen power lines—up to 35 feet away in all directions—may be energized.
- You cannot tell whether a power line is energized just by looking at it. Assume that all downed lines are live.
- The proper way to move away from a fallen power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who's in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 for help.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with it. Even less conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Be careful not to touch or step in water near a downed power line.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If your vehicle comes into contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the vehicle. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away. Call 911.
- If you must leave your vehicle because it's on fire, jump out of it with both feet together and try not to make contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Then shuffle away from the vehicle.

Medina Electric  
Cooperative



## CONTACT US

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

**Email** Info@MedinaEC.org

**Web** MedinaEC.org - Chat Feature Available

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Voting District 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651

Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

### Voting District 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Kenneth White, (830) 232-6541

Joe Foley, (830) 261-1304

### Voting District 3

Annette Sorrells, (361) 231-0173

J. L. Gonzalez, (956) 286-1863

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

## CEO

Trey Grebe, 1-866-MEC-ELEC, ext. 1045

## Call us.

### TOLL-FREE

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

Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

**Bruni** 1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

**Dilley** 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

**Hondo** 237 Highway 173 N., Hondo 78861

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

**Uvalde** 2604 Highway 90 E., Uvalde 78801

**Corporate Office** 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

## VISIT US ONLINE

MedinaEC.org



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

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

---

## Is Your Contact Information Up To Date?



**MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is asking members to contact the cooperative to update any account information.

This information includes:

- name on the account
- cellphone and landline numbers
- email address
- mailing address
- primary use for electricity
- gate code

It's important to inform Medina EC of any updates to your account so we can continue to provide better service and communication to members.

If at any time you have a change to your account information, please call us at 1-866-632-3532 or email [Info@MedinaEC.org](mailto:Info@MedinaEC.org).

---

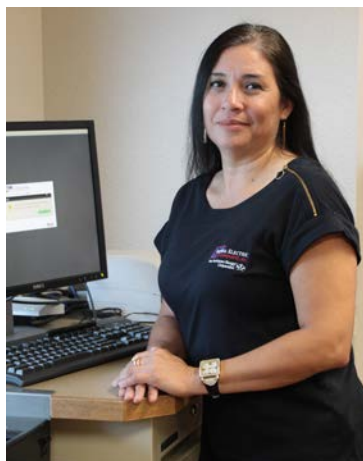
## We Want Your Feedback

**STARTING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7**, 350 members will be randomly selected to take an online survey about Medina Electric Cooperative. Your answers will help the cooperative understand how we can improve service to and better communicate with our members.

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

The surveys are conducted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Emails will show Medina Electric Cooperative in the "From" line.

The cooperative has been conducting these surveys quarterly throughout the year, and the last survey for 2023 will take place in



November.

If you do not receive a survey email but would like to share feedback or an idea with the cooperative, email us at [MyCoop@MedinaEC.org](mailto:MyCoop@MedinaEC.org).

## Sharing Power Poles

**MORE THAN 80 YEARS AGO**, Medina Electric Cooperative began to provide reliable, safe and affordable power for our members. In this time, the cooperative has built and continues to maintain more than 9,990 miles of lines and over 150,000 utility poles. This infrastructure is critical for the almost 21,000 members who rely on Medina EC to provide electricity.

It is not a new phenomenon for electric utilities to work with and allow other service providers, like telephone, cable and internet, to have joint-use access to power poles. Infrastructure installed by electric utilities such as Medina EC essentially provides the backbone for communications companies to provide telephone, cable and internet services—their wires and equipment attach to Medina EC-owned poles.

Medina EC appreciates the value these services hold for people who live in the rural areas the cooperative serves, but also puts the co-op's members and assets first. That's why companies wishing to attach to cooperative infrastructure must go through the proper process to obtain contracts, permits and approvals from the cooperative as well as easements from landowners. To learn more about the cooperative's process, visit [MedinaEC.org/Attachments](http://MedinaEC.org/Attachments).

## Did You Know?

Posting signs to utility poles puts both you and Medina EC linemen at risk. You are potentially exposing yourself to thousands of volts of electricity when you staple a sign to a pole. The signs and staples also clutter poles and compromise linemen's safety gear.



# Luck of the Draw

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



## Chance 1: Register your account on SmartHub.

Sign up at [MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop](https://MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop), or download the app and register your account there. SmartHub allows you to report outages with one click, view past electricity use and see your use before you get your monthly bill.



## Chance 2: Sign up for automated payments.

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



## Chance 3: Choose paperless billing.

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



## Chance 4: Join Operation Round Up.

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



## Chance 5: BONUS drawing for all four programs!

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

All members enrolled for each of the programs above as of 5 p.m. November 1 will be entered. This includes members who are already signed up for these options and any new sign-ups between now and November 1.

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

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

# Fall Is for Farmers Markets

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK, which is celebrated from Aug. 6-12 this year, Medina EC wants to share the local farmers markets that take place in our 17 counties. If you happen to be in one of these areas, stop by and check out the local vendors and all of their products.

## Local Farmers Markets



### Cottle Farmstead Market

- **Where:** 310 Pearsall Road, Uvalde, TX 78801
- **When:** Every other Saturday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- **Offers:** Locally grown produce, baked items, homemade spreads, flowers and gardening classes.



### Devine Farmers Market

- Part of the Devine Markets Association
- **Where:** 200 Hondo Ave., Devine, TX 78016
- **When:** First Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- **Offers:** Locally grown produce, jams, pickles, farm-raised meats and more.



### Hondo Farmers Market

- Part of the Devine Markets Association
- **Where:** Hondo Train Depot on Highway 90, Hondo, TX 78861
- **When:** Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- **Offers:** Locally grown produce, salsas, handmade crafted items, eggs and more.



### Lytle Farmers Market

- Part of the Devine Markets Association
- **Where:** Chaparral Pre-Owned Center, 19317 McDonald St., Lytle, TX 78052
- **When:** Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- **Offers:** Locally grown produce, spreads, baked goods and more.



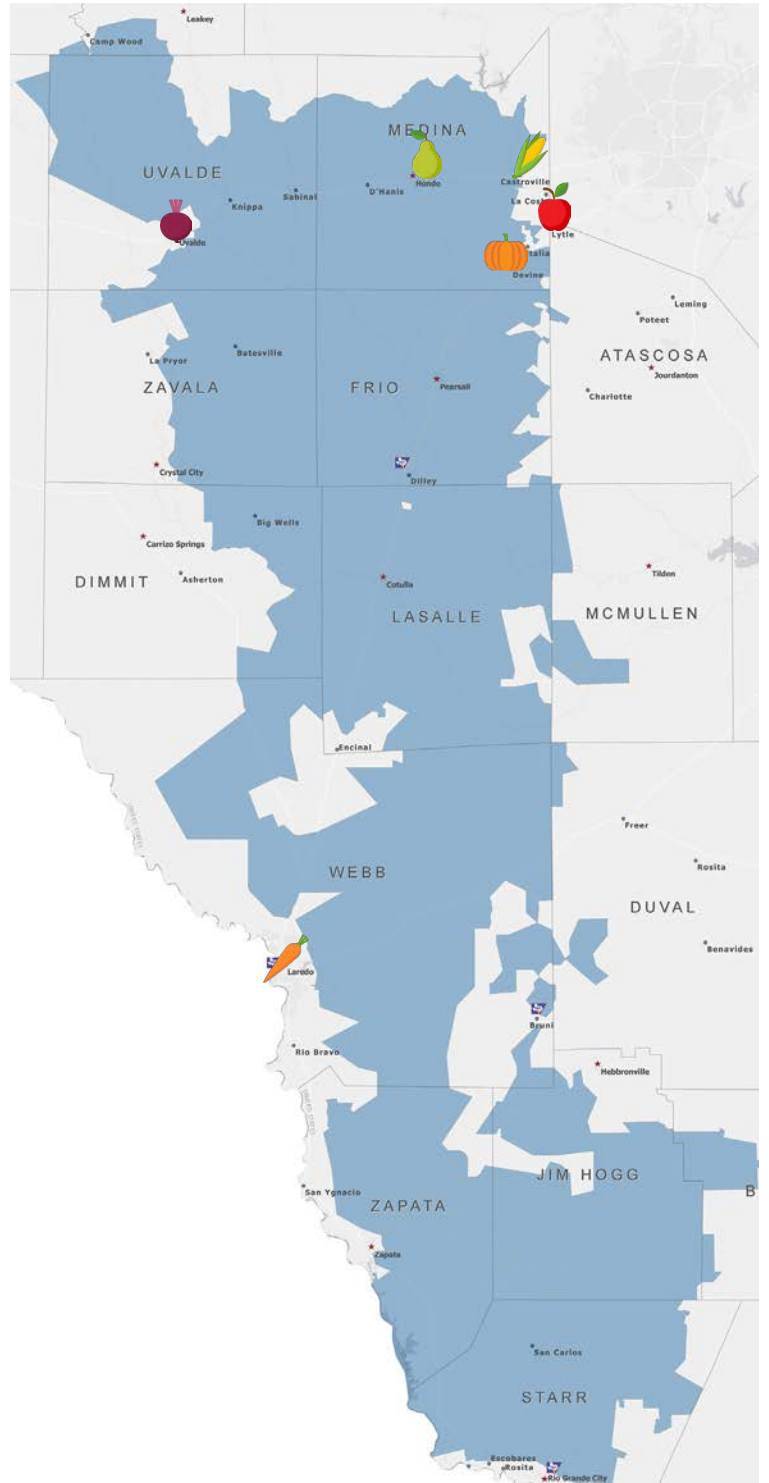
### The Market at DeCock Farm

- **Where:** Schattenbol, 2374 U.S. Highway 90 E., Castroville, TX 78009
- **When:** Third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
- **Offers:** Handmade, homemade and homegrown items from local vendors.



### El Centro de Laredo Farmers Market

- **Where:** The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo, 1600 Water St., Laredo, TX 78040
- **When:** Third Saturday of the month, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
- **Offers:** Locally grown produce, eggs, honey, locally made goods and more.



# We hope to see you at our 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 23 • Graff 7A Ranch • Hondo  
Breakfast at 8 a.m. • Meeting at 9 a.m.

## Join Us in Person To:

- Have a chance to win the \$1,000 grand prize!
- Win door prizes
- Get updates on your cooperative
- Meet with Medina EC staff and directors
- Mingle with other members
- Enjoy breakfast on us

SCAN TO RSVP!



*Can't make it in person?*

*There will be an option for you to join online!*

**More details will be available in the  
September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*  
or visit [MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2023](https://MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2023).**



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

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

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

These organizations will receive grants to further their community impact:

## Alexander Memorial Library (Cotulla) - \$400

The grant is being used to purchase and install security cameras in and outside the library as an extra security measure.

## Castroville Public Library (Castroville) - \$500

The grant is being used to purchase replacement furniture and interactive equipment in the children's room of the library.

## Devine Independent School District (Devine) - \$400

The grant is being used to purchase cell boosters to extend Wi-Fi coverage for improved communication for emergency alerts and situations.

## El Progreso Memorial Library (Uvalde) - \$400

The grant is being used to purchase a replacement large format printer and five rolls of paper for the library's business services program. The printer can print poster-size signs, artwork and blueprints for local businesses.

## El Sacrificio (Pearsall) - \$500

The grant is being used to purchase a security light for the organization's facility.

## Hondo Public Library (Hondo) - \$500

The grant is being used to purchase an OrCam Read Smart device to assist people with disabilities. The device helps people with learning disabilities and visual impairments by converting text into audio for the reader.

## Medina Senior Center (Hondo) - \$400

The grant is being used to help fund phase one of building the new Medina Senior Center/Meals on Wheels facility.

## Real County Public Library (Leakey) - \$500

The grant is being used to help fund the library's summer reading program.

## Restore Reproductive Health (Hondo) - \$500

The grant is being used to fund the rewiring and electrical elements in the western portion of the organization's building.

## Rocksprings Edwards County VFD (Rocksprings) - \$1,000

The grant is being used to upgrade apparatus equipment such as cribbing, transfer pumps, new hoses and to repair other equipment for the volunteer fire department.

## St. Louis Catholic School (Castroville) - \$400

The grant is being used to purchase and install automated external defibrillators at the school.

"Beyond providing safe, reliable electricity, it is important that we help make a difference in our service area," said Trey Grebe, Medina EC CEO. "These organizations promote education, economic growth and are often safe places for our community members, young and old."

Medina EC is proud to include these organizations in the more than \$78,000 in grants awarded to various nonprofits and local governments since the CEP grant program started in 2015.



**COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERMENT  
PROGRAM**

**For more information visit [MedinaEC.org/Grant](https://MedinaEC.org/Grant).**



MEDINA EC'S CADE THAYER (LEFT) AND DIRECTOR R.H. RODRIGUEZ (RIGHT) PRESENT ALEXANDER MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR NORA MARTINEZ (CENTER) WITH \$400 GRANT.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MEDINA EC DIRECTOR KEN WEYNAND PRESENTS DEVINE ISD CFO SHANNON RAMIREZ, TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR JESSE HINOJOSA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT DARYL WENDEL AND SUPERINTENDENT TODD GRANDJEAN WITH A \$400 GRANT.



MEDINA EC'S MAKENNA LANGE (LEFT) AND CAROLINE LEE (RIGHT) PRESENT REAL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT LEE ADAMI AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR BETTY MEYER (CENTER) WITH A \$500 GRANT.



SOLAR *by*



**MEDINA ELECTRIC**  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

**MEDINA EC IS OFFERING  
SOLAR PANELS AND  
INSTALLATIONS!**

**LEARN MORE AT  
MEDINAEC.ORG/  
SOLAR OR SCAN  
THIS QR CODE.**



**Looking for  
a Generator?**

**Medina EC is offering members  
22-kW propane generators with  
installation through our  
Generac program.**

**Learn more at  
MedinaEC.org/  
Generators or scan  
this QR code.**



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**Operation Round Up  
Applications Due**

Friday, August 4  
Learn more about ORU and  
apply at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](http://MedinaEC.org/ORU).

**National 811 Day**

Friday, August 11

**Labor Day**

Monday, September 4  
Our offices will be closed in  
observance of the holiday.  
As always, crews will be on call.



INGO BARTUSSEK | ADOBESTOCK

## Brand New for 2023!

2023 Pure Silver Dollars  
from FIVE Countries

ADDED this Year! 2023  
British Silver Britannia

This 2023 Set Includes  
Two "Firsts" and a "Last"!



5 Countries,  
5 Pure Silver  
Coins!

# Your Silver Passport to Travel the World

*The 5 Most Popular Pure Silver Coins on Earth in One Set*

Travel the globe, without leaving home—with this set of the world's five most popular pure silver coins. Newly struck for 2023 in one ounce of fine silver, each coin will arrive in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. Your excursion includes stops in the United States, Canada, South Africa, China and Great Britain.

## We've Done the Work for You with this Extraordinary 5-Pc. World Silver Coin Set

Each of these coins is recognized for its breathtaking beauty, and for its stability even in unstable times, since each coin is backed by its government for weight, purity and legal-tender value.

**2023 American Silver Eagle:** The Silver Eagle is the most popular coin in the world, with its iconic Adolph Weinman Walking Liberty obverse backed by Emily Damstra's Eagle Landing reverse. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the U.S. Mint.

**2023 Canada Maple Leaf:** A highly sought-after bullion coin since 1988, this 2023 issue includes the **FIRST** and likely only use of a transitional portrait, of the late Queen Elizabeth II. These are also expected to be the **LAST** Maple Leafs to bear Her Majesty's effigy. Struck in high-purity 99.99% fine silver at the Royal Canadian Mint.

**2023 South African Krugerrand:** The Krugerrand continues to be the best-known, most respected numismatic coin brand in the world. 2023 is the Silver Krugerrand's 6th year of issue. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the South African Mint.

**2023 China Silver Panda:** 2023 is the 40th anniversary of the first silver Panda coin, issued in 1983. China Pandas are noted for their heart-warming one-year-only designs. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the China Mint.

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. WRD349-05, Eagan, MN 55121

**2023 British Silver Britannia:** One of the Royal Mint's flagship coins, this 2023 issue is the **FIRST** in the Silver Britannia series to carry the portrait of King Charles III, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Struck in 99.9% fine silver.



## Exquisite Designs Struck in Precious Silver

These coins, with stunningly gorgeous finishes and detailed designs that speak to their country of origin, are sure to hold a treasured place in your collection. Plus, they provide you with a unique way to stock up on precious silver. Here's a legacy you and your family will cherish. Act now!

## SAVE with this World Coin Set

You'll save both time and money on this world coin set with **FREE** shipping and a **BONUS** presentation case, plus a new and informative Silver Passport!



**2023 World Silver 5-Coin Set Regular Price \$229 – \$199**

**SAVE \$30.00 (over 13%) + FREE SHIPPING**

**FREE SHIPPING:** Standard domestic shipping. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free

**1-888-201-7070**

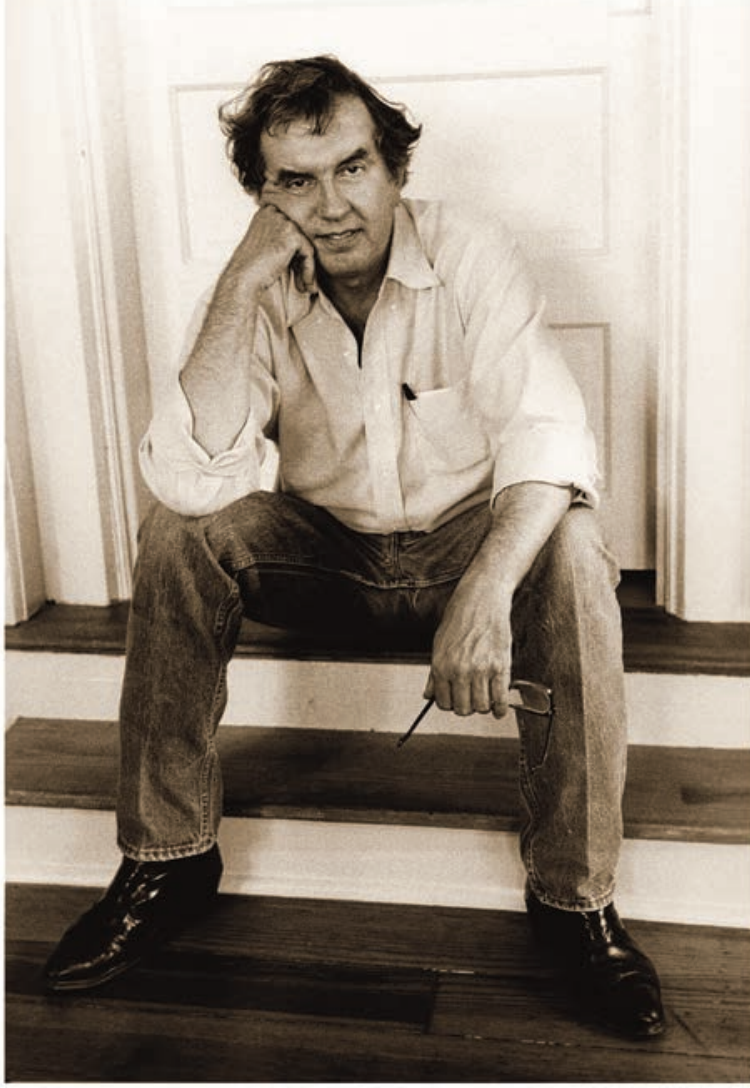
Offer Code **WRD349-05**  
Please mention this code when you call.

**SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

**Not sold yet?** To learn more,  
place your phone camera here >>>  
or visit [govmint.com/WRD](http://govmint.com/WRD)



GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions ([www.govmint.com/terms-conditions](http://www.govmint.com/terms-conditions) or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2023 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



# A Page of the Past

Traces of real-life Texans ride through McMurtry's 'Lonesome Dove'

BY W.F. STRONG

**MILLIONS OF COPIES** of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* have sold since the novel was published in 1985. The miniseries that followed in 1989 was likewise immensely popular. McMurtry himself called it the *Gone With the Wind* of the West, but he never loved the book as much as his fans. "You know most writers come to dislike their most popular books," he once told journalist John Spong. "Henry James hated *Daisy Miller*, which is what he is known by. He's probably written 35 other books. I feel a little that way about *Lonesome Dove*."

McMurtry said he never saw the miniseries. Maybe if he had, he would have better understood how endearingly Robert Duvall, Tommy Lee Jones and

Diane Lane brought their characters to life. I can't help but wonder if those characters were modeled after real-life Texans.

But McMurtry said that that wasn't his aim. Though Woodrow Call has some attributes of Charles Goodnight, and Gus McCrae has some attributes of Oliver Loving, the novel's main characters were not modeled after actual historical figures. McMurtry said the book is not meant to be a faithful history of the era but rather one that has echoes of those times.

In fact, he sought to authentically demythologize the life of the cowboy and show how brutally difficult their lives were. "The whole book is permeated with criticism of the Old West from start to finish," he said.

**TCP** Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



Nonetheless, McMurtry acknowledged that somehow Call and McCrae became celebrated heroes. He said a lot of people "were nostalgic for the culture of the Old West, though it was a terrible culture."

Bits of history did however make it into the book.

One event in the actual lives of Goodnight and Loving that's enlarged within the book is Loving's death. Goodnight returned his body from Fort Sumner, New Mexico, to Weatherford. In the novel, Call takes McCrae's body all the way from Montana to Texas, a much longer journey with far more drama.

Antagonist Blue Duck was a real Native American chief, but McMurtry said that was coincidental. He chose the name without realizing that, and that's where the similarity stops. But the character's death is without question similar to that of the Kiowa Chief Satanta, who killed himself while imprisoned.

The character Joshua Deets was inspired by Bose Ickard, a longtime friend of Goodnight. When Ickard died, Goodnight carved a fervent epitaph for him. McMurtry used quite similar words—and some of the exact ones—when Call carves an epitaph for Deets.

As we read on, we do encounter genuine historical figures, though their biographies are massaged—people like Judge Roy Bean, John Wesley Hardin and the ubiquitous Goodnight, who's never very chatty and always on the move.

Near the end of the book, a reporter exclaims to Call that people are saying he's a man of vision. He responds, "Yes, a hell of a vision." The real Goodnight actually said this line in a similar circumstance, referring to all the tough times and horror he had seen as a Texas Ranger and frontier rancher. ■

# Sheet Pan Meals

All-in-one dishes make serving and cleanup a snap

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

If you're looking for the perfect less-mess sheet pan meal, try this flavorful and balanced steak dinner. This recipe, adapted from our friends at Beef Loving Texans, is so easy you'll want to make it all summer.

## Cumin-Dusted Steak Sheet Pan Dinner

**1¼ teaspoons ground cumin, divided use**  
**1¼ teaspoons salt, divided use**  
**¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**  
**1¼ pounds well-trimmed boneless top sirloin or flat iron steak (cut 1-inch thick)**  
**1 pound unpeeled sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes or wedges (about 3 cups)**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil, divided use**  
**¼ teaspoon chili powder**  
**1 bag trimmed fresh green beans (12 ounces)**  
**1 teaspoon garlic powder**

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. Combine 1 teaspoon cumin,  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt and pepper in a small bowl. Apply the spice rub to both sides of the steak. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, toss sweet potato cubes with  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons olive oil, remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon cumin,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt and chili powder. Spread potatoes across a baking sheet lined with foil or parchment. Bake 15 minutes. Turn potatoes and move them to one side of the baking sheet.
4. Increase oven temperature to high broiler setting. Toss green beans with remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon olive oil, remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt and garlic powder. Place green beans next to potatoes on the baking sheet. Place steak on an uncoated wire rack on top of the sheet pan, positioning the steak so that it's over the green beans.
5. Broil steak on lower rack of oven for about 7 minutes. Turn steak and broil an additional 4–5 minutes for medium-rare to medium doneness (145–160 degrees). Remove steak from wire rack and let it sit for about 3 minutes before slicing and serving. Toss green beans with pan juices.

**SERVES 5**

Reprinted with permission from Beef Loving Texans.

**TCP** Follow along with Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Spicy Sheet Pan Hash Browns.





## No-Mess Shrimp Boil

HELENA WALLACE  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

If you've been craving a shrimp boil without all the hassle, we've got you covered with this delicious no-mess preparation.

- 2 pounds whole, unpeeled small Yukon potatoes**
- 6 ears fresh corn, cut into 2-3 sections**
- 1 large onion, peeled and quartered**
- 2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined**
- 2 packages smoked andouille sausage (12 ounces each), sliced**
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 tablespoons Old Bay seasoning**
- 4 tablespoons Italian seasoning**
- 2 lemons, cut into wedges**

1. Preheat oven 400 degrees. Lightly oil 2 baking sheets.
2. Add potatoes to a large pot of boiling, salted water and cook 10 minutes or until tender. Add corn and onion in the last 5 minutes of the potatoes boiling. Drain.
3. Spread potatoes, corn and onion onto baking sheets. Add the shrimp and sliced sausage.
4. In a small saucepan over low heat, combine the butter, garlic and Old Bay seasoning and heat until melted. Remove from heat and stir in Italian seasoning.
5. Pour butter mixture over prepared baking sheets, turning to coat all ingredients.
6. Bake 12-15 minutes or until shrimp is fully cooked. Serve with lemon wedges.

SERVES 6-8

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Aunt Glo's Brandied Peach Chicken

BARBARA LOYD  
UNITED COOPERATIVE  
SERVICES



A tasty tribute to Loyd's Aunt Glo, this dish takes baked chicken to the next level.

SERVES 8

- ½ cup peach nectar**
- ½ cup brandy**
- ¼ cup olive oil**
- 2 medium shallots, minced**
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 4 pounds chicken breasts, skin on**
- 1 jar peach preserves (12 ounces)**
- 4 plums, sliced**
- 1 cup halved seedless green grapes**

1. In a large bowl, combine nectar, brandy, olive oil, shallots, brown sugar, salt and pepper.
2. Place chicken in mixture and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Reserve marinade.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place chicken in a roasting pan, skin side down. Bake 15 minutes.
4. Turn chicken, baste with reserved marinade and bake 30-40 minutes more or until chicken is cooked through.
5. While the chicken bakes, heat the preserves in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add sliced plums and grapes and simmer until softened. Serve warm chicken topped with the fruit sauce.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TEXAS CITRUS DUE AUGUST 10

How do you incorporate our state's wonderful grapefruit, oranges, lemons and limes in your recipes? Submit your best online by August 10 for a chance to win \$500.





## Apple Sheet Pan Pancakes

CAROLYN BESSELMAN  
PEDERNALES EC

If you're looking to feed a crowd at brunch, these sheet pan pancakes are the ultimate treat. Apples, pecans, applesauce and brown sugar create a sinfully sweet topping.

- 2 apples, cored and diced
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- ¼ cup applesauce
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 2½ cups buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2½ cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a bowl, combine apples, pecans, brown sugar, applesauce and cinnamon and stir to mix. Set aside.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, buttermilk and vanilla. In a large third bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar and baking soda.
4. Pour the egg mixture into the dry ingredients and stir gently until just combined. Do not overmix.

5. Brush the bottom and sides of a 13-by-18-inch rimmed baking sheet with butter.
6. Add the batter to the baking sheet, smoothing it evenly with the back of a spoon.
7. Dollop apple mixture by spoonfuls evenly over the batter. With a spoon, gently swirl the mixture into batter.
8. Bake 20–22 minutes, until golden brown and the top springs back when touched.
9. Remove from oven and serve with butter and syrup.

SERVES 10–14

**TCP** We have more than 1,000 recipes in our online archive. Check out our website to find other options for entrées, breakfasts and desserts.

# Field Dress For Success

The hunt for the perfect outdoorsman knife is over. There's only one tool you need: the Whitetail™ Hunting Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

Our new *Whitetail™ Hunting Knife* will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that's perfect for skinning. You'll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood.

With our limited edition *Whitetail™ Hunting Knife* you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers.

**Whitetail™ Hunting Knife \$79\***

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P **Save \$30**  
**PLUS Free Stauer Compact Binoculars**

**Stauer**® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. WHK411-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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

- 5 ¼" 420HC stainless steel blade • Full-tang design with gut hook
- Pakkawood handle with brass pins • Bonus heavy duty nylon sheath

But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the *Whitetail's* handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

**1-800-333-2045**

**Your Insider Offer Code: WHK411-01**

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

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars  
-a \$99 value-  
with purchase of  
Whitetail™ Hunting  
Knife



Not shown  
actual size.

**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 [roofer.com](http://roofer.com)



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

**1-800-359-4940** TEXAS TOLL-FREE  
[www.mattsonfinancialservices.com](http://www.mattsonfinancialservices.com)

**BLAKE MATTON, 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) 877-4256.



**BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS**  
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY  
SERVING TEXANS FOR 18 YEARS

**Starting at \$129 per month!**

- Lifetime Warranty
- Custom Sizes Available
- 100% Financing Available
- A+ BBB Rating
- Good Contractors List

Tubs and Showers Made in America  
Visit Our Texas Showroom

**bestbuywalkintubs.com • 682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362**

**WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES**

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap  
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps  
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

**TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX**  
*All transactions private, confidential & secure.*

**830-997-6339 • [rzcoins@twc.com](mailto:rzcoins@twc.com)**

**WD Metal Buildings**



Offering 5" reinforced concrete slabs, erected metal buildings, overhead doors and more, all in one Turn Key Metal Building contract!

Visit [www.WDMB2.com](http://www.WDMB2.com)

**ARK-LA-TEX**  
SHOP BUILDERS  
"WE GOTCHA COVERED!"  
SHOPS • BARNs • CABINS • [WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM](http://WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM)  
**830-730-0515**  
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



**BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES**  
Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums  
**WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10"x10" heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric stub. \*Dist. may be extra.

**BRUSH SHARK**



**SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR**

- 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
- Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

**(512) 263-6830 • [www.brushshark.com](http://www.brushshark.com)**

**TCP Gift Shop**



**TCP Shop now**  
[TexasCoopPower.com/shop](http://TexasCoopPower.com/shop)

**Low Cost Pole Barns**

26' x 48' x 10'  
3 Sides Enclosed

**Call now for our best pricing!**

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

**Call Ron: 512-367-0428**

**TCP Marketplace**  
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace  
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251  
[advertising@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:advertising@TexasCoopPower.com)



COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Extracurricular Activities

A small-town schoolhouse is now a community-focused brewhouse

BY CHET GARNER

FOR MOST PEOPLE—including me—the idea of going back to school sends shivers down their spine. But what if the curriculum consisted of craft beer, live music and scratch-made food? That sort of school would have a wait-list the length of the Rio Grande. Lucky for all of us, this sort of continuing education actually exists near San Angelo at Farm Ale Brewing Co., inside an old schoolhouse in Eola. Class is in session!

Eola is a rural community surrounded by cotton fields as far as the eye can see. Its downtown consists of a few blocks, three churches and a single school building that for decades housed every grade in the public system—kindergarten through 12th. The school closed in the 1980s and sat vacant until 2006, when a group of thirsty Texans decided to turn it into a craft brewery. After all, turning grains into beer is a very scientific process.

I stepped inside and was immediately hit with a wave of nostalgia that was even stronger than the smell of fermenting grains. The bones of the old school are still intact. The classrooms are now dining rooms with chalkboards and flags. The wood-floored gymnasium is now full of family-friendly games, and the auditorium houses the entire production process, from brewing to canning. Farm Ale Brewing Co. brews its beer with as many local ingredients as possible and even gives a percentage of profits back to local farmers.

The biggest upgrade came to the school cafeteria, which now serves up incredible pizza, smash burgers and rotating specials such as meat-loaf. Just like in my school days, I polished off my plate in record time and then headed to the schoolyard for recess—with the added bonus of live music. ■

ABOVE Chet does his homework at Farm Ale Brewing Co. in Eola, outside San Angelo.

**TCP** Raise your hand if you want to see a video of Chet's visit to Farm Ale on our website. And see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

## AUGUST

11

**Alpine [11–12] Big Bend Ranch Rodeo,** (432) 837-2326, bigbendranchrodeo.com

**Junction [11–12] Rodeo & Dance,** (254) 212-9160, junctiontexas.com

12

**Chappell Hill Wine and Cheese Stroll,** (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

**Denton North Texas Book Festival,** ntb.org

**Grand Prairie Hatch Chile Fest,** (972) 237-8084, grandfungp.com

**Vanderpool Maples and Meteors Night Sky Fest,** (830) 966-3413, tpwd.texas.gov

16

**Brady [16–19] Heart of Texas Honky Tonk Fest,** (325) 597-1895, heartoftexascountry.com

17

**Corsicana Jimmy Fortune: God and Country,** (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

**Johnson City [17–19] Blanco County Fair and Rodeo,** bcfra.org

18

**Palestine Wine in the Pines,** 1-855-632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

**Bastrop [18–20, 25–26, Sept. 1–3] Steel Magnolias,** (512) 200-3826, bastropoperahouse.org



19

**Bowie Outdoor Expo,**  
(940) 872-6246,  
959theranch.com

**Chappell Hill Farmers Market,** (832) 720-5685,  
chappellhillrv.com

**Castroville [19-20] St. Louis Day Celebration,**  
(830) 931-2826,  
saintlouisday.com

24

**Fredericksburg [24-27] Gillespie County Fair,**  
(830) 997-2359,  
gillespiefair.com

26

**Crosby Kids Kicking Cancer,** (281) 785-4098,  
addisfaithfoundation.org

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

**Lakeway [26-27] Cool Arts Show and Studio Tour,**  
(512) 261-1010,  
lakewayartsdistrict.com

27

**Stonewall LBJ's 115th Birthday,** (830) 644-2252,  
tpwd.texas.gov

## SEPTEMBER

01

**Bandera [1-3] Western Heritage Music Festival,**  
(830) 796-4849,  
banderacowboycapital.com

02

**Brenham Seth James,**  
(979) 337-7240,  
thebarnhillcenter.com

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

### TCP *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your November event by September 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



WILKOMMEN • GEMÜTLICHKEIT • PROST

**Oktoberfest**  
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 2023  
**OCTOBER 6-8 2023**  
Historic Fredericksburg | Marktplatz  
www.OktoberfestInFbg.com

**FESTIVE FAMILY FUN!**

- Excellant music on five stages!
- Oompah at its Best! OKTUBAfest!
- Polka & Waltz contests!
- Many Artisans & Souvenirs
- Hauptstrasse Chicken Dance
- Food & Drink are plentiful!
- Fun in Kinderpark for kids of all ages!



### TCP **E-news** Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

TCP **Sign up now**  
TexasCoopPower.com/join

### Restoring and Preserving Our History

*The Friends of Gillespie County Country*  
**Schools**

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

A Driving Tour map and an Open House schedule are available on our website.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG



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



POWER ANYWHERE USA

# MOBILE SOLAR IS HERE

- ◆ THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE GREEN SOLUTION
- ◆ LATEST TECHNOLOGY & ALL-IN-ONE DESIGN
- ◆ BATTERY STORAGE AND PROPANE BACKUP
- ◆ ELIGIBLE FOR THE 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT



POWER ANYWHERE USA



## It Really Is ... *POWER ANYWHERE!!*

Call us today 833-SOLAR55

[www.poweranywhereusa.com](http://www.poweranywhereusa.com)



**AT LEAST 15% LESS THAN A ROOFTOP INSTALLATION - LET US PROVE IT!!\***

\* Conditions apply, subject to deed restrictions, equivalent power analysis, and quote verification

## SUMMER SAVINGS



### Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service  
Second to None

**DDM Brenham Office**  
979-251-9503

301 Salem Road · Brenham

**DDM Bastrop Office**  
512-321-0336

1083 Hwy 71 W. · Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

\*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



Made in Texas



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses  
Affordable · Low Maintenance · Energy Efficient



40'x15'x12'



30'x40'x12'

Call today for our best pricing!

**\$14,485-30x40x12**

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

**\$22,710-40x50x12**

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

# [www.ddmbuildings.com](http://www.ddmbuildings.com)

# Hoof and Horn

What a barnburner! This month readers answered the cattle call, and these prizewinning beasts moo-ved into first place. Now that the dust has settled, don't be baa-shful. Let's see who's best in show and who's just horsing around.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

**1** JEFFREY BENSON  
PEDERNALES EC

"The big boy from Study Butte down by Big Bend."

**2** NICK GROSSMAN  
PEDERNALES EC

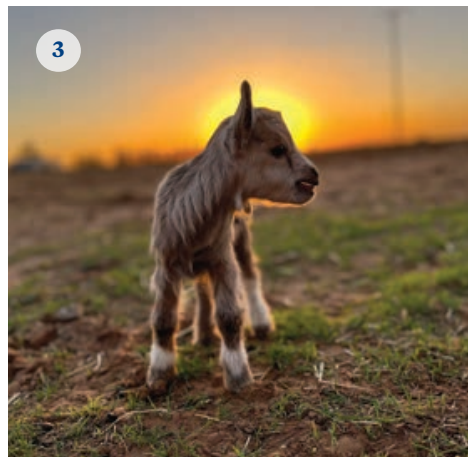
"Two wranglers heel and toe a calf in the arena."

**3** CRYSTAL VALDEZ  
LYNTEGAR EC

"Muffin was born smaller than her two brothers, but she held on to fight against all odds."

**4** MARIA CASTILLO  
COSERV

"This beauty was captured roaming the fields at my daughter's wedding venue in Terrell."



## Upcoming Contests

- DUE AUG 10** Mailboxes
- DUE SEP 10** Local Landmarks
- DUE OCT 10** Vibrant Color



Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests).

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Hoof and Horn photos from readers.



## Off the Hook?

The perfect tool, unused but ready, awaits the arrival of snakes

BY PATTY MOYNAHAN  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
TAYLOR CALLERY

MANY A NATIVE TEXAN, beholding an expanse of ranchland, will sooner or later think: snakes. A few years ago, my husband and I bought a house in southwest Austin. Our backyard abuts a cattle ranch, and the two properties are demarcated by a wrought iron fence. The fence is by no means a shield. Its spires—a hand’s width apart—offer space enough for critters to wriggle or slither through.

Before moving into the house, we’d heard about sightings in the area: rat snakes, ribbon snakes and garter snakes. Also rattlers, coral snakes and copperheads. I wasn’t entirely sanguine about these reports. But I wasn’t terrified either. When I was growing up in Bryan, my family often visited friends on a nearby ranch, where I’d learned to identify and avoid venomous snakes.

Soon after settling into our new house, a tall, narrow box arrived on our doorstep, a birthday present from my husband. As I unwrapped the gift, I saw a rubber grip and metal shaft and thought, ungratefully, that my husband had bought me a golf club. But it proved to be a tool far more useful to me than a 2-iron: a snake hook—a 43-inch stainless steel beauty, elegant in its simplicity.

The term “snake hook” can be misleading. No flesh is pierced. You ease the U-shaped hook under a snake and lift it. The snake dangles at the shaft’s end, out of striking distance, while you figure out what to do next.

For a sublime moment, as I regarded the gift, I was as excited as *A Christmas Story*’s Ralphie with his BB gun. I imagined myself deftly hoisting a 2-pound rattler and ... and what? Flinging it over the fence? Passing it between the spires and dropping it onto the ranchland? The affronted snake could be back in my yard before I was in the house. The phrase “fool’s errand” came to mind.

Alas, in four years, we’ve seen only one snake: a baby rattler, mortally wounded, perhaps dropped from a hawk’s talons.

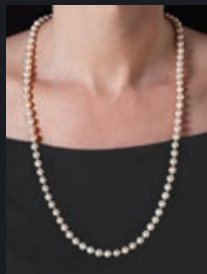
The snakes are out there, I am certain, but they’ve not been in evidence—so far.

My snake hook stands at the ready, on the back porch. I feel both relief and disappointment that I’ve not had to employ it for snake removal.

But we’ve discovered its myriad other uses. Before trimming bottom branches of lantana plants, I wave the hook under the plants to flush out any creatures. My husband uses the hook’s pointy tip to pulverize abandoned mud dauber nests. And a snake hook is the perfect tool for retrieving a grandchild’s stray crayons, puzzle pieces and grapes from beneath the living room sofa. ■

# How Do You Spell Pearl Necklace? F-R-E-E.

Experience the Luxury of Genuine Cultured Pearls ... **FREE!\***



You read that right. If you'd like the Stauer genuine 26" cultured pearl necklace for **FREE\***, all you need to do is call us today. There is no catch. This stunning, romantic necklace never goes out of style. In a world where some cultured pearl necklaces can cost thousands, we're offering ours for **FREE\***.

Stauer has had a very good year and it's time for us to give back. That's

why we're offering this stunning, 26" strand of genuine cultured white pearls for **FREE!** You pay only \$24.95 for shipping & processing, our normal fee for a \$295 necklace ... and we'll even *pay you back with a \$30 Discount Certificate* — that's our **BETTER THAN FREE Shipping!**

**Why would we do this?** Because we are so sure that you will become a loyal Stauer client in the years to come. Recently, we encountered a magnificent cache of cultured freshwater pearls at the best price that I have ever seen. Our pearl dealer was stuck. A large foreign luxury department store cancelled a massive order at the last minute. In their stead we grabbed all of those gorgeous pearls. He sold us an enormous cache of his roundest, whitest, most iridescent cultured 6 ½-7 ½ mm pearls for pennies on the dollar. His loss is your gain.

**Too good to pass up. Too good to last long.** Genuine cultured freshwater pearls are a luxurious statement. Stauer finds a deal this outrageous once every few years. We have sold over 200,000 strands of pearls in the last several years and this is our finest value ever. **There is only a limited quantity left in stock**, so when they're gone, they're GONE! Call to reserve your **FREE Cultured Pearl Necklace** today and experience a brilliant new definition of *price-less* luxury!

## Mitsuko® Cultured Pearl Necklace:

Mitsuko® Cultured Pearl Necklace (26" strand) ~~\$295~~ **FREE\***

*\*Pay only shipping & processing of \$24.95. Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

# 1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: MFP487-05

\* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV, OR, SC, VA, ID and CA. These state residents will be charged one cent (\$.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address. \*\* Free is only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

## CLIENTS LOVE STAUER JEWELRY

*"I couldn't believe it, but decided to call and I've not been disappointed since. I received the necklace and keep coming back for more."*

— Amy, Fairmont, WV



*"Each Mitsuko® cultured pearl is harvested, polished and strung by hand."*

— James T. Fent,  
Stauer GIA Graduate Gemologist

**FREE CULTURED PEARLS  
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 1,900  
RESPONDERS TO THIS AD ONLY!**

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. MFP487-05, Burnsville, MN 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**

THE PERFECT PAIR  
GET THE BEST OF TV + INTERNET

**DIRECTV**

DON'T COMPROMISE ON ENTERTAINMENT.  
**GET DIRECTV.**

**2-YEAR PRICE GUARANTEE – STOP WORRYING**

ABOUT YOUR BILL AND START WATCHING

Taxes/fees apply. Req's 24-mo. agmt.

**LEADER IN SPORTS – NATIONAL, REGIONAL  
AND LOCAL SPORTS 24/7**



Claim based on offering of Nat'l and Regional Sports Networks. RSNs avail. with CHOICE package or higher. Availability of RSNs varies by ZIP code and package.

ACCESS LIVE TV & **THOUSANDS OF STREAMING APPS**

Req's separate subscription/login for Netflix, Max, Prime Video (see amazon.com/amazonprime for details) and other 3rd party apps. Restrictions apply. High speed internet-connected compatible device required. Google login required.

ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE

**75+**  
CHANNELS

**\$64**<sup>99\*</sup>  
MO.  
for 24 months  
+ taxes and fees

w/ 24-mo. agmt. Advanced Receiver Service Fee \$15/mo. and  
Regional Sports Fee up to \$13.99/mo. are extra & apply. Requires AutoPay and Paperless Bill.

IT'S FINALLY HERE.

**RELIABLE 5G  
HOME INTERNET**

- ✓ LIFETIME PRICE LOCK
- ✓ NO DATA LIMITS
- ✓ NO CONTRACT
- ✓ NO UPFRONT COST
- ✓ NO EQUIPMENT FEES
- ✓ NO INSTALLATION

**\$50** FOR INTERNET  
INCLUDES ALL TAXES & FEES!

TV service not required. Speeds and prices vary by provider.

Aloha Satellite

**866.670.2836**



Available only in the U.S. (excludes Puerto Rico and U.S.V.I.). Some offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. Different offers may apply for eligible multi-dwelling units. All offers, packages, programming, promotions, features, terms, restrictions & conditions and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change or discontinuation without notice. Visit [directv.com/legal/](https://directv.com/legal/) or call for details.

**VIA SATELLITE:** Pricing: \$64.99/mo. for two years. After 2 years, then month to month at then-current prevailing prices unless cancelled. Price excludes Advanced Receiver Service Fee of \$15/mo. (which is extra and applies to all packages) and Regional Sports Fee of up to \$13.99/mo. (which is extra & applies to CHOICE pkg or higher) and certain other add'l fees & charges. Additional Fees & Taxes: \$7/mo. for each additional TV connection on your account. Wireless upgrade with HD DVR \$99.00. Applicable use tax expense surcharge on retail value of installation, custom installation charges, equipment upgrades/add-ons, and certain other add'l fees & chrgs. See [directv.com/directv-fees/](https://directv.com/directv-fees/) for additional information. \$10/mo. Autopay and Paperless Bill Discount: Must enroll in autopay & paperless bill within 30 days of TV activation to receive bill credit starting in 1-3 bill cycles (pay \$10 more/mo. until discount begins). Must maintain autopay/paperless bill and valid email address to continue credits. DIRECTV Svc Terms: Subject to Equipment Lease & Customer Agreements. Taxes, surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), protection plan, transactional fees, and Federal Cost Recovery Fee are not included in two-year price guarantee. Visit [directv.com/legal/](https://directv.com/legal/) or call for details. Equipment Non-Return Fees: If you cancel your service, you must return your leased equipment. Failure to return any equipment will result in fees of \$45 for each standard DIRECTV Receiver, each HD DIRECTV Receiver, each Genie Mini and each Gemini receiver and \$135 for each DVR, HD DVR, Genie® HD DVR and/or Genie 2 DIRECTV Receiver. GEMINI DEVICE: To use the Device, you will need an Internet connection, your use of which is subject to the fees, restrictions, terms, and limitations imposed by your Internet service provider. Gemini Device(s) will deactivate after 90 consecutive days without internet connection. If that happens, you will not be able to receive service through that Device until you (re)connect to the internet.

**VIA INTERNET:** Service subject to DIRECTV delivered via internet terms and conditions (see <https://www.directv.com/legal/directv-stream-tos-eula-policy/>). Available only in the U.S. (excludes Puerto Rico and U.S.V.I.). Requires high speed internet. Minimum internet speed of 8Mbps per stream recommended for optimal viewing. Residential customers only. Different offers may apply for eligible multi-dwelling units. Pricing: \$64.99/month. After 2 years, continues month to month at then-current prevailing prices unless cancelled. Additional Fees & Taxes: Price excludes Advanced Receiver Service Fee of \$15/mo. (which is extra and applies to all packages) and Regional Sports Fee of up to \$13.99/mo. (which is extra & applies to CHOICE pkg or higher) and certain other add'l fees & charges. See [directv.com/directv-fees/](https://directv.com/directv-fees/) for additional information. State and local taxes or other governmental fees and charges may apply including any such taxes, fees or charges assessed against discounted fees or service credits. DIRECTV Svc Terms: Subject to Customer Agreement. GEMINI/GEMINI AIR DEVICE: First device included for well-qualified customers, otherwise \$120 for new Gemini/Gemini Air or \$49.99 for Certified Restored Gemini. Applicable taxes due at sale. Additional Gemini/Gemini Air: Additional device for well-qualified customers \$10/mo. for 12 mos., otherwise \$120 each or \$49.99 for each Certified Restored Gemini. Purchased Gemini/Gemini Air may be returned within 14 days of the Ship Date for a full refund however all monthly fees, including additional monthly fees, will continue to apply. Additional Gemini/Gemini Air purchased on installment agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. If you cancel your service in the first 14 days of order, you must return the included Gemini/Gemini Air within 14 days of order to avoid \$120 non-return fee. Once you've canceled, you can access DIRECTV through the remaining monthly period. No refunds or credits for any partial-month periods or unwatched content. Gemini/Gemini Air purchased on installment agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. See cancellation policy at [directv.com/CancellationPolicyStream](https://directv.com/CancellationPolicyStream) for more details. Regional Sports & Local Channels: Regional Sports available with CHOICE and above. Not available in select areas. Channels vary by package & billing region. Device may need to be in billing region in order to view. Limits: Package, Advanced Receiver Service Fee, Regional Sports Fee (varies by zip code) and equipment fees for TV connections are included in two-year price guarantee. Taxes, surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), and transactional fees are not included in two-year price guarantee. Programming subject to blackout restrictions.

All offers, programming, promotions, pricing, terms, restrictions & conditions subject to change & may be modified, discontinued, or terminated at any time without notice. See [directv.com](https://directv.com) for details.

©2023 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

# COLOR YOUR CO-OP

A CONTEST FOR KIDS | [MEDINAEC.ORG/COLORYOURCOOP](http://MEDINAEC.ORG/COLORYOURCOOP)

**CONTEST OVERVIEW:** Children who live in one of the 17 counties served by Medina EC are encouraged to participate in Medina EC's Color Your Co-op contest to design our next water bottle labels.

Two entry categories:

1. **Freestyle:** Use the freestyle format to design your own label. Artwork must not contain any copyrighted material.
2. **Neighborhood Style:** Use the predesigned neighborhood label to creatively color.

Children may only enter one category. A winner for each category will be chosen. Each winner will win a \$50 gift card. The contest begins on August 1, 2023, and ends October 31, 2023. Contest rules and dates may be changed at Medina EC's discretion. For every entry, Medina EC will make a \$1 donation to a local charity.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Children who live in one of the 17 counties served by Medina EC and are 4 to 17 years of age by October 31, 2023, are eligible. Employees and their immediate families are not eligible to participate.

**CONTEST RULES:** Artwork must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Late entries will not be accepted. Freestyle submission must be original work created by applicants. Each child may only submit one design total. Artwork must include the submission form. All submitted artwork is owned by Medina EC and may be shared throughout MEC communication channels including but not limited to website, social media and magazine. Winners and their parents or guardians agree to the use of the winner's name, age, school and/or city to promote the Color Your Co-op program.

**DESIGN RULES:**

- Artwork must be flat (two-dimensional) and may use crayon, markers, paint, pencil, ink, and/or pastels. Artwork may also be digitally designed using digital art software.

- Designs must not include copyrighted material, including but not limited to company logos, product brands, store names, characters, etc.
- Designs must not be folded or damaged.
- Do not include the artist's name on the front of the artwork.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Artwork must be submitted using one of the templates in the August issue of *Texas Co-op Power* or from [MedinaEC.org/ColorYourCoop](http://MedinaEC.org/ColorYourCoop).

**JUDGING:** Entries will be judged by Medina EC staff based on creativity, uniqueness, overall visual appeal, composition and age appropriateness.

**PRIZES:** A minimum of two winners will be chosen; one for each category. Each winner will receive a \$50 gift card. Winners will be announced by December and their work will be featured on future Medina EC water bottles and in other Medina EC communication channels as needed.

For every entry submitted, Medina EC will make a \$1 donation to a local charity. The charity is TBD.

**SUBMISSION:** Include the submission form with entry.

In Person - Drop off your entry at any Medina EC office during normal business hours.

Mail - Mail your entry to:

Medina EC  
ATTN Color Your Co-op  
PO Box 370  
Hondo, TX 78861

**\*\*Do not bend your entry!\*\*** Entries will not be returned.

Digital

Upload a high-resolution version of your artwork at [MedinaEC.org/ColorYourCoop](http://MedinaEC.org/ColorYourCoop) or email [MyCoop@MedinaEC.org](mailto:MyCoop@MedinaEC.org). Please do not use your phone to take a picture of your entry to submit. If you want to submit digitally, please use a high-quality scanner to send a copy of the entry.

ENTRANT'S FIRST & LAST NAME

ENTRANT'S AGE & BIRTHDAY

ENTRANT'S SCHOOL & GRADE

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME

EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER

MAILING ADDRESS

CATEGORY 1: FREESTYLE

ENTRANT'S FIRST & LAST NAME

ENTRANT'S AGE & BIRTHDAY

ENTRANT'S SCHOOL & GRADE

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME

EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER

MAILING ADDRESS

CATEGORY 2: NEIGHBORHOOD

# COLORS OF COOPERATIVES

## THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Voluntary and Open Membership

Democratic Member Control

Members' Economic Participation

Autonomy and Independence

Education, Training and  
Information

Cooperation Among  
Cooperatives

Concern for Community

