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**TRI-COUNTY
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SEE PAGE 16



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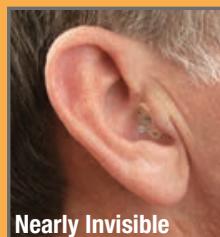
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July 2023



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06 ‘I Love All the Love Here’

Camp CAMP has fostered community and joy for decades.

Story and photos by Julia Robinson

Sleeping Giants

Henry Trost’s handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases.

By Pam LeBlanc

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ON THE COVER
Jacob enjoys the big swing at Camp CAMP—Children’s Association for Maximum Potential.
Photo by Julia Robinson
ABOVE
Hotel El Capitan’s inviting lobby.
Photo courtesy Hotel El Capitan



Ascending Over Arizona

ABILENE'S ARIELLE ASH led the first-ever all-female flyover at the end of the national anthem at the Super Bowl in February.

Ash, a lieutenant in the Navy and a graduate of Texas Tech University, piloted an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

The four-aircraft flyover commemorated 50 years of female pilots in the U.S. Navy. Women were first admitted to Navy flight school in 1973.



Skeeter Bleeders

Rice University bioengineers have teamed with other experts to study the bloodsucking behavior of mosquitoes using patches of synthetic skin made with a 3D printer, eliminating the need for human volunteers.

TCP Contests and More

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FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Darkness is only scary when ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our May prompt: **Mom always said ...**

Because I said so!

POLLY HALE
PEDERNALES EC
BLANCO

Kill them with kindness.

PHYLLIS SUTTLE
MIDSOUTH EC
IOLA

The only teeth you need to floss are the ones you want to keep. (She lived to 102 and had all her own teeth.)

KATHRYN SHELTON
WISE EC
PARADISE

Make your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.

GARY L. RAYBON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
WHARTON COUNTY EC

Visit our website to see more responses.

July 11

Cow Appreciation Day

Texas has more reasons to celebrate than any other state. With about 12.5 million head of cattle, we have almost twice as many as the next most-populous state, Nebraska.

Berry Burst Pavlova

“Wow! The whole family loved it, which is miraculous. My granddaughter says that’s what she wants for her birthday cake every year—for the rest of her life. She’s 24.”

MARY RILEY
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES
COLLEGE STATION



MEGAN MYERS

A Vanishing Tongue

Auf Wiedersehen [May 2023] was a bittersweet read. Less than a week earlier, in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, it was reported that upper-level studies in German would no longer be offered at the high school, as only half of the minimum registrants required to offer the classes had signed up. How sad.

The UT project participants certainly have their work cut out for them.

Françoise Wilson
Central Texas EC
Gillespie County

I grew up in Fredericksburg hearing Spanish (or Tex-Mex), English and Texas German. Talk about confused. When I moved, someone asked if I was from Fredericksburg. How did you know?, I asked. Your accent.

Julie Ausbrook
Via Facebook



NOAH WOODS

In Texas and Beyond

The assertion that if you can learn to surf the sloppy chop in Texas, you can surf just about anywhere is true, as I have been able to surf in California, Mexico, Hawaii and Japan [*Surf Your Turf*, May 2023].

But I must point out that Brad Lomax’s partner in the Texas Surf Museum was Pat Magee (not McGee). If you look at the background in the photo of Brad Lomax, that’s Pat surfing in the blue trunks to Lomax’s right.

Joe Bonorden
Pedernales EC
Canyon Lake

Recalling Kitty Hawk

Although I didn’t serve aboard the Kitty Hawk, I was deployed in its battle group in 1984 while serving aboard the USS Long Beach, and we were there in the Sea of Japan on March 21, 1984, when the collision with the Soviet nuclear submarine occurred [*Breaking Up*, February 2023]. I have a photo of that damaged Soviet sub in my home office. Thank you for the well-deserved remembrance.

Thomas Mueller
Fayette EC
Rutersville

TCP WRITE TO US
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Austin, TX 78701

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

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‘I
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the
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A treasured Hill Country summer camp fosters community and joy



It was 44 years ago when Dr. Chris Plauche wrote a letter clearing one of her pediatric patients to take part in summer camp. The child wanted to ride a horse that summer.

But Plauche was devastated to learn that her patient was denied entry anyway. So she, along with other doctors and health care professionals, took 32 children with disabilities for a weekend camp experience themselves.

"It was 1979, so it was before the Americans with Disabilities Act and nothing was accessible and it rained all weekend," Brandon Briery says. "But they pushed wheelchairs through the mud and rode horses and canoed in the rain and had the time of their lives."

The physicians knew that couldn't be a one-time experience.

More than four decades later, participants are still having the time of their lives at Camp CAMP—Children's Association for Maximum Potential—nestled along the Guadalupe River in Center Point. It's a special kind of summer camp that changes lives. Located on a sprawling property about 55 miles northwest of San Antonio, Camp CAMP is a haven for visitors of all abilities, offering them the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, gain independence and have fun. Last year it served more than 1,400 children and adults with weeklong summer camp sessions, respite weekends for caregivers and family retreats.

Nobody Is Invisible

It's a warm cloudless morning, and parents are dropping off their kids for a CAMP weekend. After the COVID tests and medical briefings, each camper is paired with a counselor and assigned a cabin.

Hugs and high-fives abound because many campers and counselors know each other already. One camper-counselor pair plays basketball; others bring out coloring books. Over in the "swing-zebo," several campers sway in the circle of porch swings, a popular spot for those with autism or other sensory processing disorders for whom swinging is a soothing activity.

Camp CAMP was designed to be fully accessible, with wheelchair ramps, accommodating bathrooms and specialized equipment that allow campers with physical disabilities to fully participate. During the summer, more than 70 counselors, many of whom are college students or recent graduates, receive extensive training to work with the campers. More than 100 health care staff are on-site to administer medications, provide overnight care and ensure the safety of participants. Dedicated volunteers return year after year to help as well.

Gia Barrera, a 16-year-old assistant cabin counselor, started out as one of those volunteers and made the transition to full-time staff last summer. She is sitting with Erin, a camper in her early 20s who is nonverbal but communicates with smiles, vocalizations and touch. Erin rocks back and forth as they eat lunch and plan out the afternoon.

"Camp is for the camper," Barrera says. "They have complete autonomy over any decision they want to make." For some, that means no formal activities at all, if that's what they desire.

One of Barrera's campers last summer wanted to make friendship bracelets all day. Another camper who loves machines spent hours with her in the laundry room, watching the spin cycle. "Working here gives you a greater understanding of everything," she says. "It puts a lot of things into perspective for you. I love all the love here."

CAMP's mission is simple: to strengthen and inspire individuals with disabilities and those who care for them through recreation education. Campers are 5–55 years old with mild to severe medical conditions, including physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some campers require breathing assistance, others have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism spectrum disorder. But at CAMP, everyone is simply a camper.

OPPOSITE At Camp CAMP in Center Point, campers and counselors bond over activities that include archery, field sports, outdoor cooking and canoeing. ABOVE Savannah, left, and Audrey share a moment on a swing.



Every activity, including swimming and horseback riding, is adaptable to each person's needs so they all can have fun. Crafts, field sports, canoeing, outdoor cooking, an evening dance party and the big swing, which suspends campers in a harness attached to utility poles, offer a variety of adventures.

First up today is archery, where Michael Maffei, assistant camp director, greets campers as they line wooden bleachers. Maffei first attended as a camper back in 2003, so he knows how special the place can be.

He spent his early working life in the private sector but felt something was missing when he rejoined CAMP as an employee. "In the second hour of being in a full-time role here, I helped a young man named Soren shoot a bullseye," Maffei says. "He was so excited he just vibrated like a teakettle that was about to erupt. In that moment, I had more fulfillment and job satisfaction in my second hour at camp than in the four previous years."

Down at the canoe launch, staff members gently place Cassie into a supportive chair cradled by one of her counselors. She is unable to use her limbs and is nonverbal, but it's clear she loves being on the water.

As the boat is launched into the Guadalupe River, a relaxed smile spreads across her face. Two counselors paddle her downstream and back again—a simple journey that most people would take for granted.

"There are so many times out there in the cold, cruel world that the disabled either get overlooked, purposefully left out, unintentionally left out or they're just invisible," says Briery, CAMP's chief program officer. "CAMP isn't about the buildings, it's not even about the activities. It's about building relationships, building community and bringing people together."

FROM LEFT Kristi takes her turn on the big swing. Caleb readies his archery shot with help from Michael Maffei and Samika Iyer.

Dignity in a Safe Place

For many campers, CAMP is a life-changing experience where they develop a sense of independence. For parents, CAMP provides peace of mind knowing their child is in a safe and supportive environment being cared for by trained professionals. Kristen Reid says sending her son was an easy decision.

"As soon as you drive in and you get out, everyone's so friendly, everyone's so welcoming," Reid says. "They know what they're doing, and they love these children."

At a fall retreat, she got to spend a weekend at Camp CAMP with her whole family. She shared a cabin with Payton, 9; her husband; and 6-year-old daughter.

Reid rode a horse with Payton, who is nonverbal. They share a passion for the animals, and the experience was unforgettable.

"Not only could I see it with his hand movements, I could hear it with the sound that he was making ... I could feel he was shaking with excitement," Reid says. "For me to be there and actually see and feel it for myself was a really, really touching moment for me."

The retreat also connected the Reids to other families with similar needs. "And then you can kind of bounce ideas off each other or sometimes just vent to each other when you're having a bad day and you've spent three hours on the phone with insurance," Reid says.

That community and that belonging are exactly what Briery hopes CAMP provides.

"Some days are super long and hard in different ways, helping to manage what can be challenging behaviors," he says. "It's all worth it in the end because we create this safe space where people are treated with dignity, and they're respected, and they know that they belong." ■



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SLEEPING GIANTS

HENRY TROST's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases

BY PAM LEBLANC



SIT ON A ROCKING CHAIR on the front porch of the Gage Hotel in Marathon, and time slips away.

In the lobby behind you, a worn leather saddle hangs from the wall. Across the street, a train rumbles past. In the distance, a gray-green carpet of cactus and brush ripples into the distance like a prickly runway.

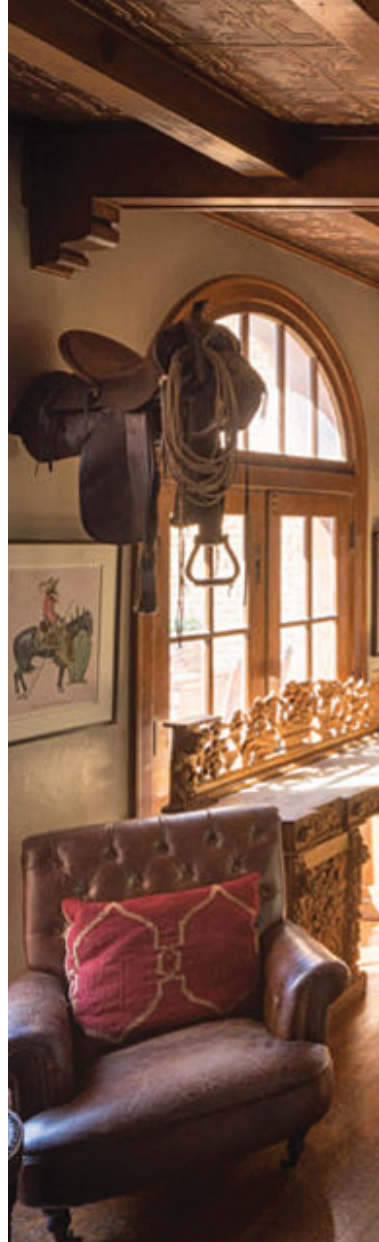
The view probably hasn't changed much since architect Henry C. Trost designed this hotel nearly a century ago.

The two-story brick structure, with its arched entryway and wrought-iron door, is just one of hundreds of buildings—fire stations, city halls, high schools, banks and courthouses—that Trost designed across Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

But it's the four hotels scattered throughout far West Texas that many know best. They're full of character, thoroughly Texan and located in a region of the state known for its dramatic landscapes and independent-minded residents. There was almost a fifth hotel here, too—architectural documents found at the El Paso Public Library indicate plans for a hotel in the small town of Valentine, also in the Big Bend.

"I would encourage people to get off the interstate, drive down into town to visit the hotels and take a step back in time," says Margaret Smith, great-niece of Henry Trost and secretary of the board of the Trost Society, which works to preserve the architect's work. "Learn the history that was made in the hotels and the history of the area."

PHOTOS COURTESY GAGE HOTEL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Marathon's Gage Hotel, which opened in 1927, features a grand lobby and rooms that are at once modern and rustic.



Born in 1860, Trost was the son of German immigrants. He moved from Toledo, Ohio, to El Paso in 1903 and co-founded Trost & Trost, an architectural firm, with brother Gustavus (Smith's grandfather). A third brother, Adolphus, a structural engineer, joined later.

The company built its well-appointed West Texas hotels near railroad stations and designed them with spacious lobbies and large dining rooms to accommodate business dealings. Later, the hotels also became popular among families. The firm was also known for its artistic touches and for using reinforced concrete for fireproofing.

"The buildings look like a piece of art and not just a building," Smith says. "That makes them stand out."

GAGE HOTEL Marathon

Trost "was considered *the* architect of the Southwest in those years," says Carol Peterson, general manager. "If you were going to hire the best architect in those days, you would hire Henry Trost if you could."

That's what Alfred S. Gage did. The cattleman, who moved from Vermont to Texas in 1878 to seek his fortune, accumulated more than a half-million acres. He commissioned Trost to build a hotel that could double as a base to oversee his empire.

The hotel opened in 1927, but Gage died just a year later. A series of owners took over after his death, including one who tried to "spruce up" the hotel with dropped ceilings and linoleum floors.

"[Trost] had a very wide-ranging style," Peterson says. "The Gage is a bit more Mission style, as opposed to the Holland and Paisano."

J.P. and Mary Jon Bryan of Houston bought and renovated the Gage in 1978, and they still own it today. In addition to 14 rooms in the original building, with its delightfully creaky wooden floors and ranch décor (including a stuffed mountain lion), guests can book more modern rooms in the Los Portales annex.

"It's really become a very beloved, iconic Texas property," Peterson says. "It's not commercial, it's not cookie cutter. Everything about it has a hand-touched feel."

HOLLAND HOTEL Alpine

Trost wasn't involved in designing the original Holland Hotel, which opened in 1912. But he designed the "new" larger building, which opened next door in 1928 and was later connected to the first.

Sink into a comfy couch in front of the fireplace in the grand lobby, and you'll see the same arched windows and decorative tiles of some of Trost's other properties.

"The thing that makes the Holland special is the position it occupies in the town of Alpine—not geographically but in people's minds," says Alicia Fernbaugh, who manages the 27-room hotel and lives in what once served as the ballroom. "It's very much the heart of the town."

The building stood vacant in the 1960s and '70s, and for a time in the '80s, part of it was converted into offices. Over time, some of the old furnishings were sold off. Now and then, an old bedframe or chandelier discovered in an attic finds its way back home to the hotel.

The Century Bar and Grill, with its shady patio, is known for its margaritas and chicken-fried steak.

"It's very welcoming and warm," Fernbaugh says. "People feel very at home here."



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MICHAEL HOWARD | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL

FROM ABOVE Holland Hotel décor and the Century Bar and Grill in Alpine.

HOTEL EL CAPITAN Van Horn

Just two blocks off Interstate 10 in Van Horn, the red neon sign of Hotel El Capitan invites travelers to pull off and enjoy a quiet respite in a mostly forgotten town.

The 50-room hotel, named for the rocky peak at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, an hour away, looks much like it did when it opened in 1930, as part of the Gateway chain of hotels operated by Charles Bassett in El Paso. Back then, ranchers gathered in the lobby to sell cattle, make land deals and sip coffee.

The Pueblo Revival-style concrete structure attracted cross-country travelers and tourists exploring nearby national parks.

The hotel closed in the late 1960s, and a bank took over the space. Then in 2007, Lanna and Joe Duncan of Fort Davis, who also own the Paisano, bought it from the bank.

"Although we are sister properties to the Paisano, and the layout inside is almost identical, the exterior is 100% different," says Starvanna Cottrell, general manager. "El Capitan was made to look more like adobe, although it's concrete. The Paisano's exterior is much more European looking."

A fountain bubbles in the courtyard. In the lobby, colorful tiles, exposed wooden beams and wrought iron banisters add character. A sign salvaged from the old coffee shop hangs opposite the fireplace.

"And you can still get a 5-cent cup of coffee, no matter how you want it," Cottrell says.

COURTESY HOTEL EL CAPITAN



COURTESY HOTEL PAISANO

FROM ABOVE The Hotel Paisano's pool was added in 1960. Outside, an inviting courtyard, and inside, a 5-cent cup of coffee.

HOTEL PAISANO Marfa

Another hotel in the Gateway chain, the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, also opened in 1930. "Hotels were built different years ago," says Vicki Barge, general manager. "They were built with more of a sense of community."

Step inside its lobby and you'll find ornate tilework hand selected by Trost, leather chairs and a stuffed buffalo head.

Like the Gage, the Paisano had close ties to the cattle industry. When it opened, trains regularly stopped in Marfa to load and unload cattle. Several ranches kept offices at the hotel.

"He wanted his buildings to look like they belonged to the landscape, and he did a great job of that," Barge says. "They do look like they should be just where they are."

Many guests know the Paisano for its connection to the 1956 film *Giant*, starring James Dean. Photographs of Dean hang on walls, and the movie plays nonstop in the lobby.

Dean, along with co-stars Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and Dennis Hopper, stayed at the Paisano for about two weeks during filming. Today, guests can book one of the hotel's 42 rooms or suites and swim in a pool that was added in 1960.

"I find it warm and friendly," Barge says. "It's kind of a look back at bygone days but still extremely viable now." ■



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"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

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

— H., Arvada, CO



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





**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/
CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

LOOKING FORWARD

HERE AT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we value member satisfaction and constantly work to improve our service. We look at the level of service we provide across the co-op, including the electric distribution service, our customer service across every touch-point, our level of communications, and our accessibility to our members. Evaluations and member feedback help to drive our business practices to bring the best possible service to our membership as a whole. 7000019901

As you may know, we are coming away from the Brazos bankruptcy. We fought long and hard over the 25-month process to ensure your best interests were considered, and you came away with minimal impact, especially on the financial side. One of the things we fought for, and received, was financial freedom from Brazos as our all-requirements wholesale power provider. This freedom allows us to be flexible, not only when making power supply purchases, but also on the member programs front.

For the past few years, members with distributed generation, like solar, have provided feedback on our current solar program. Unfortunately, under Brazos we were restricted in rate design and could not consider some of the items our solar members were asking for. We heard and read your comments and opinions over the past few years, and now we can fully listen.

Last month, we launched a survey soliciting member feedback on our current solar program, and what members want to see in a future program. This data will help us make an informed decision on our distributed generation program. If you have not completed the survey and you would like us to consider your opinion, please participate by Wednesday, July 19. The survey is available online at surveymonkey.com/r/TCECSolar.

Once the survey closes we will review all responses. In August we will hold two membership town hall meetings on solar and the future of the program. Members who are interested in the re-evaluation of the program are encouraged to attend.

- Monday, August 7 at 6 p.m. - Willow Park Baptist Church
- Tuesday, August 8 at 6 p.m. - Heritage Church of Christ

We want to take the time to thoroughly look at options during this re-evaluation time. We want to have a solar plan that is good for members who want solar, but it also must be good for the entire co-op membership. Tri-County Electric Co-op is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric provider. Therefore, we cannot develop rates for one class of members that could cause other members to pay more. 8019900001

If you are thinking about solar, please give our team a call. The energy solutions team in our engineering department is staffed with educated employees who want to help you make an educated decision before you invest. Please keep in mind solar has to work for all of us.





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Tri-County Electric Cooperative will be attending community events in our service territory in an effort to reach more of our membership. This will provide you with one-on-one access with employees across departments in your co-op. Win bill credits and take home freebies when you visit our bright red tent and register. Bring the event ticket below to our booth and you will take home an exclusive gift.

Check out the upcoming events below and find an event near you!

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 1-4

200 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas

PARKER COUNTY
PEACH FESTIVAL

July 8

Historic Downtown
Weatherford, Texas



Sept. 9

Main Street
Azle, Texas

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES

MEMBERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to vote on three director seats this year – districts 1, 2, and 4. Six candidates met the qualifications in the director election and will be on the ballot this September.



DISTRICT 1

**KEVIN
INGLE**
INCUMBENT

Kevin Ingle was appointed to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in February 2021 to fill the vacant urban position.

Ingle completed training requirements for his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Ingle works at GM Financial as the Vice President of Servicing Analytics, where he leads a team of professional data analysts, serves on several committees, and is active in the employee mentoring program. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ingle maintains an active role in his community. Currently, he serves as an industry advisor to the Master's of Business Analytics and Data Science program at Oklahoma State University and volunteers for the Salvation Army Angel Tree project as well as with Junior Achievement. He previously served as the president of his community homeowners association and previously served as the president of the Azle Municipal Development District.



DISTRICT 2

**MARGARET
KOPREK**
INCUMBENT

Margaret Koprek has served on the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since March 2021. Currently, she serves as the board secretary/treasurer.

Koprek completed training requirements for her Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Koprek works at BNSF Railway as director of Learning & Development. She began her career at BNSF Railway in 2007 with various positions in Operations and Data Analytics and holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Texas A&M University, and a master's in industrial engineering from St. Mary's University. Professionally, she serves on BNSF's Women's Network Executive Board.

Koprek actively participates in her community, including support of the church and school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller and the Diocese of Fort Worth.

**MONDAY
AUG. 21
AT 6PM**

Director Candidate Forum

The director forum will be virtual for all members. Take this time to get to know your director candidates and ask them questions before the voting period begins.

For more details regarding this year's director forum, please visit tcectexas.com/director-elections.

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES



DISTRICT 4

**JERRY
WALDEN**

INCUMBENT

I am proud and grateful to be a 5th generation farmer and rancher of Parker County. I was raised in the small community of Authon on my family's farm where we produced peanuts, hay, and ran a cow-calf operation. Growing up on the farm taught me early on the values of hard work, problem solving, and conservation, just to name a few. Professionally, I have owned several construction-related businesses ranging from property improvement to custom home building.

I have been a TCEC member since 1974 and began serving as a director on the board in September of 1999. At that time our co-op had approximately 30,000 meters and today we have over 131,000. One of my goals as director has been to preserve the small business charm of TCEC, while providing the guidance necessary to allow it to grow to our ever-increasing needs. I obtained my Credential Cooperative Director certification through our national association, NRECA, and served in leadership positions within our broader cooperative network. Throughout my time as a director, I have served as the vice president and secretary/treasurer, as well as chair of board committees.

With the continuing growth of TCEC, as well as the state of Texas, we must make strategic decisions today to ensure sustainable and reliable electricity for the future. During my years as a director, many challenges and opportunities have faced TCEC. I addressed each with honesty and integrity, striving to make the best decisions for the benefit of the member-owners. I possess the years of knowledge that only experience can provide and, equally important, the ability to adapt to present and future needs.

In the community, I served on the Garner ISD school board for 10 years, including three as board president. Additionally, I have served on local advisory committees and community boards.

My wife Ronda and I have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson. With our future generations in mind, I have a strong desire to be a good steward of our natural resources and environment. Natural gas is currently the most economical and reliable source of electricity generation, yet I am committed to the continued exploration, development, and use of alternative natural sources of energy production, like wind, solar, and other technologies yet to be discovered. In my opinion, whatever the future holds for electricity generation, it must be reliable, sustainable, and economical.

I have a broad knowledge of the electricity industry, from generation through transmission to your home. As your director I will continue to use common sense in providing leadership to TCEC. I am confident I am the best candidate to serve you as District 4 director. Thank you for bestowing your trust in me to represent you in the past. It would be an honor and privilege to serve you for the next three years.



DISTRICT 4

**DAVID
MILLER**

NOMINATION
CANDIDATE

David Miller is a lifelong resident of North Texas who carries tenured experience in municipal government and with non-profit organizations.

David started his career in law enforcement in the mid-1980s as a patrol officer for the Keller Police Department. Since that time, he has held the positions of Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety, Deputy City Manager, and City Administrator for the cities of Trophy Club, Kennedale, Forest Hill, Bedford, and Springtown. David is currently the City Administrator and Director of Public Safety for the City of Springtown where he has served since November 2017. In addition to his work in municipal government, David serves on the board of the United Way of Parker County, serves on the Equine Advisory Board for Weatherford College, and is the Chair of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's advisory board for Parker County. These posts are in addition to numerous other leadership roles for a myriad of local, state, and national professional organizations related to city management and law enforcement. David has done extensive work with state legislators throughout his tenure through the Texas Municipal League and other professional organizations. He is well versed in the legislative processes including but not limited to testifying in front of state subcommittees.

Outside of these efforts, David, along with his wife, Teresa, operates a therapeutic equine facility for children and adults with physical, intellectual, education and emotional disabilities, as well as for veterans, and those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Stars and Strides Stables is located in Peaster and utilizes therapeutic riding to aid in physical therapy, emotional growth and learning. Many riders experience a connection to the horse that few sports can create. Not only does this help raise their self-esteem but it also teaches them essential skills. It improves balance, creates trust and creates a friendship between rider and horse. The Millers established Stars and Strides in 2012 after being inspired by their daughter, Courtney, who experienced immense growth using equine-assisted therapy to overcome the challenges of her disability, Kabuki syndrome.

David is a longtime member of Northside Baptist Church where he continues to serve as a Bible teacher. David has been a resident of Parker County for more than 18 years and resides with his wife Teresa and their youngest daughter Courtney in Peaster.

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES



DISTRICT

**JULIE
WALDEN**

PETITION
CANDIDATE

4

Julie Smith Walden believes in giving back to her community by being involved in various organizations including the Millsap Heritage Society, Millsap Ex-students Organization, Millsap Neighborhood Home and Garden Club and Millsap Alumni Foundation Board of Directors. Julie is a retired educator, after teaching Technology and coaching for 34 years. During her tenure as an educator, she was proud to establish the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Peaster Middle School, she founded the Pee Wee Cheerleaders at Millsap, was Director and coach of Millsap Little Dribblers, Directed the Dance Team, and served as a PTO Officer.

Julie is an honor graduate of Millsap High School where she was involved in sports, cheerleading as well as several academic organizations. After High School, she attended Tarleton State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude and was inducted into the Alpha Chi Honor Society; all while working part-time and raising her two children. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a major in Exercise and Sport Studies and a minor in Business. Julie holds a Real Estate License and has worked as a Realtor and office manager for a Real Estate firm. She is a member of Texas Association of Sports Officials and officiates Middle and High School Volleyball.

Walden attends Greenwood Baptist Church and is a member of the Women's Bible Study Group. She founded Dedicated Divas, a Bible group of approximately 500 women. Julie shares the word of God in a daily Bible verse with each of the members.

Julie is extremely proud of her children, Michael Barnes and Brandee Pemberton. Michael is Coordinator of Girls Athletics, Coach and Educator at Miles ISD. His wife Nicole is an educator and coach as well. They have three children. Brandee Pemberton, M.D., practices medicine at Star Family Medicine in Weatherford. Her husband Brian is an airline pilot based at DFW Airport. They have one son.

In her free time, Julie enjoys watching her grandchildren participate in sports and spends as much time with family as possible. Julie and her husband participate in Parker County Sheriff's Posse activities as well as other equine events. She and her husband enjoy ranch life and preserving our western heritage. They raise cattle in western Parker County. She is blessed with having the opportunity to be the caregiver of her 87 year young mother.



DISTRICT

**STAN
MICKLE**

PETITION
CANDIDATE

4

Stan Mickle is seeking a Board of Director position for District 4 at Tri-County Electric. Mickle aspires to bring new vision, fresh ideas, and quality leadership to the Tri-County Electric Board of Directors. He looks forward to the available training and conference networking to expand our local opportunities.

Mickle (57) is a Co-Founder and Partner of RXSoil Inc. RXSoil is a specialty chemical company providing sustainable remediation solutions to the oil & gas industry. Prior to RXSoil, Mickle spent 19 years in real estate and golf course development by designing, building, and operating Canyon West Golf Club.

Through his early years Stan was heavily involved in the equine reproductive industry. Mickle earned his Bachelor of Science from Tarleton State University with emphasis on Equine Reproductive Physiology. The Mickle family handled many of the famous legacy race, cutting and pleasure horses for almost four decades.

Mickle has lived in Parker County and has been a Tri-County user since 1974. He has been involved in many community efforts and fundraisers over the years.

Celebrating Safely

To ensure you have the best holiday possible, we'd like to remind you about a few important safety tips from the American Red Cross.

Fireworks With Forethought

Nothing says Fourth of July like a spectacular fireworks display. The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show presented by professionals. But if you must put on your own display, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure to wear protective eye-wear when lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a dud.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

Guarding the Grill

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you're grilling in your backyard or in a community space, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun topped off with safety. We recommend the following safety tips:

- Supervise lit grills at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid once the coals have been ignited. 8003797201

Safe Sun Exposure

Fireworks and cookouts aren't complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather—and if we do, make sure you enjoy the sun safely:

- Use a broad-spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water. 8004391906
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing).

Tri-County Electric Co-op members are eligible to receive discounts on air medical transport through AirMedCare Network. Protect your household for just \$65 per year.

However you choose to celebrate, Tri-County Electric Cooperative wishes you a safe and happy Fourth of July.



**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
AND YOUR FINANCES**



Tri-County Electric Cooperative has partnered with AirMedCare Network (AMCN) to offer you the opportunity to join our membership program at a special rate of just \$65 per year!

Expenses for emergency air medical transport can put stress on your finances. With an AMCN membership—America's largest air medical membership network—you will have no out-of-pocket expenses if flown by an AMCN provider.

Secure financial peace of mind for your family today!

ENROLL TODAY!

Rhonda Dean
Membership Sales Manager
940.327.7767
rhonda.dean@gmr.net
amcnrep.com/rhonda-dean



 **AirMedCare**
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Wendy Moyer

I work for you

“We really do care about our members.”

Wendy Moyer likes helping members understand and manage their power usage.

“It’s like a bank account,” she said. “You’re spending money out of it every day because every day you’re using kilowatts. You need to be watching it.” 800863081

Wendy came to Tri-County Electric Co-op seven years ago as a member service representative. Before that, she worked as a legal secretary, then as a long-term substitute in Azle’s elementary schools.

Now, because of smart meters, Member Service Representatives have more information at their disposal – more tools in their toolboxes. They’re better prepared than ever to deal with whatever comes up.

“We have daily ‘tailgate meetings’ with our lead,” Wendy said. “Those keep us on the same page. We’re all a team – more like a family. We want everybody to succeed.”

Wendy and Brian, her husband of 32 years, have two sons, Logan and Bowen. They’re all Azle High School graduates. Brian is a service advisor at an auto repair company. 40589002

They also have a Chinese pug named Hazel, and three cats. In her spare time, Wendy likes to crochet and do woodwork – anything crafty.

The caring comes naturally.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road

Aledo, TX 76008

Phone 817-444-3201

Web tcectexas.com

President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Max Waddell, District 9 - Chairman

John Killough, District 6 - Vice Chairman

Margaret Koprek, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Ingle, District 1

Jorden Wood, District 3

Jerry A. Walden, District 4

Steve V. Harris, District 5

Sommer Portwood, District 7

Michael Sivertsen, District 8

24/7

Outage Reporting

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

Online: oms.tcectexas.com

App: TCEC Connect

Phone: 817-444-3201

Text: OUTAGE to 25069

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,900 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 105,000 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Find your account number in pages 16-23 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

VISIT US ONLINE

tcectexas.com

[Facebook.com/TCECTexas](https://www.facebook.com/TCECTexas)

Check your eligibility and apply for financial assistance regarding the Brazos Financing Rider by visiting brazoshardshipfund.com or calling 844.770.8549.

SUMMER SAVINGS



In the heat of a Texas summer, we all want to keep cool in the air conditioning and grab a cold drink from the fridge. But remember that summer is the peak demand season for electricity, and the appliances that help make the season's searing heat bearable can also drive up your electric bill.

KEEP YOUR FRIDGE COOL

With summer's high temperatures, you're more likely to open the door frequently for cool drinks. Here are some tips to keep refrigerator energy use to a minimum:

- Locate the refrigerator away from heat sources—the oven, the dish-washer and direct sunlight.
- Allow at least a 1-inch space around the outside of the fridge to enable air circulation.
- Clean the condenser coils at least once a year.
- Check the tightness of the door seals.
- Use a thermometer to check the inside temperatures: The fridge should be 36–38 degrees and the freezer zero to 5 degrees.

MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR FREEZER

- Keep the freezer as full as possible. 800785515
- Mark items for quicker identification to reduce open-door time.

GIVE YOUR AC AN ASSIST

Your air conditioner works hard all summer long. Follow these tips to keep it from heating up your electric bill too much:

- You save 3%–5% for each degree you raise the thermostat. Try setting it at 78 degrees.
- Use ceiling fans in conjunction with the AC to feel cooler.
- Keep humidity levels as low as possible by always using an exhaust fan, if you have one, when taking a shower.
- Maintenance is important. Clean or change AC filters regularly, and have units professionally cleaned, inspected, and tuned every season to keep them running at peak efficiency. 800925175

RIDICULOUSLY

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¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 7/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 8/10/23. ²No 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. 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. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



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



then swung north of the most traveled roads, bushwhacking his way through mesquite and mottes of trees.

When the Texians put up the white flag, they asked to return to their homes. Woll told them that “if they did not surrender at discretion, they would be exterminated without exception.”

Woll took 62 prisoners, among them several high-value civilians: seven lawyers, a judge, two doctors, a surgeon and prominent business leaders. He told them they would return with him to the border, where they would be released. Instead, they were marched all the way to Mexico’s infamous Perote Prison, where many were held for two years, subjected to hard labor and chains. A few died en route, and some died in captivity.

Woll didn’t occupy San Antonio long. His goal was to be a disruptive force, preventing Texians from feeling secure and also to inhibit migration from the U.S. Woll’s other objective was to determine if there were credible military buildups for a Texas invasion of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Texians sounded the alarm that San Antonio had fallen. Volunteers grabbed their guns and saddled their horses. They gathered in Seguin, pushed on to Salado Creek and tempted Woll to pursue them. Woll took the bait, and the Texians, from the cover of the woods, killed and wounded more than 60 Mexican soldiers while the Texians lost only one. Sadly, on another portion of the creek, three dozen Texians were killed.

Santa Anna had once again underestimated Texas. He wanted to unsettle the new republic with fear and chaos and keep them isolated. Instead, he drove the Texians toward a collective desire to join the U.S., which they did six years later. ■

Second Sacking

Six years after the Alamo, Mexican troops twice stormed San Antonio

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

MOST TEXANS BELIEVE the Battle of San Jacinto settled everything. Once Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna was decisively defeated, he signed a treaty guaranteeing Texas independence. So Mexican troops would never again set foot on Texas soil nor darken our door—right?

Not quite. Just six years after Santa Anna’s Pyrrhic victory at the Alamo, Mexican forces twice tramped to San Antonio. First Gen. Rafael Vásquez showed up with 700 men to a mostly evacuated city in March 1842. They headed back across the Rio Grande after just two days, having set off a panic in Texas.

Then six months later, Santa Anna sent another army to sack San Antonio

and occupy the Alamo. Gen. Adrián Woll led a force of about 1,400 troops who awakened the town with the heart-stopping boom of a cannon blast at dawn, followed by military trumpeters playing reveille. They quickly pacified minor resistance on their way to the central plaza. This was the 19th-century version of shock and awe.

Near the plaza, Texas patriots quickly put up fierce resistance, shooting through rifle loopholes in the walls, but it was fruitless. They were surrounded by a Mexican force of many hundreds.

How did such a large army make it all the way to San Antonio without anybody noticing? Woll, a French mercenary, was quite wily. He crossed the Rio Grande about 20 miles south of Eagle Pass and

Garden Bounty

Harvest time takes on a new twist with these timely treats

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Why not shake things up with a new seasonal take on sangria? A splash of mezcal over fresh peaches, sugar, lemon juice and mint gives this sangria a Mexican twist. It's a refreshing way to beat the Texas heat.



Peach Mezcal Sangria

1 pound fresh peaches, sliced

¼ cup sugar

6 fresh mint leaves, finely chopped

¼ cup lemon juice

¾ cup mezcal

1 bottle white wine (750 milliliters), chilled

2 cups sparkling water, chilled

Fresh mint leaves, for garnish

Lemon slices, for garnish

COOK'S TIP Make it a mocktail by using white grape juice instead of wine and zero-proof mezcal, like that made by Houston-based Cut Above.

1. In a bowl, combine sliced peaches, sugar, chopped mint, lemon juice and mezcal and stir to combine. Refrigerate 1 hour.

2. Add refrigerated fruit and wine to a large pitcher. Stir to combine and top with sparkling water.

3. Serve over ice. Garnish with mint and lemon slices.

SERVES 6

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Fresh Peach Tart.



Italian Turkey Zucchini Meatballs

LORI BEGGS
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

After a bumper crop of zucchini, Beggs incorporated it into her meatball recipe, knowing her son wasn't a fan and hoping he wouldn't notice. The result: meatballs that are tender, flavorful and taste just like your favorites.

- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 1 pound ground turkey
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ onion, grated with juices
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning mix
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons olive oil

1. Spread shredded zucchini out onto a paper towel. Add another paper towel on top and press to absorb moisture from the zucchini.
2. In a bowl, mix all ingredients except for the olive oil. Form the mixture into meatballs by hand.
3. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs to skillet, brown on all sides and cook through, about 15 minutes.
4. Serve with your favorite pasta and sauce.

SERVES 4

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

Fresh Corn Loaf

CATHY TOWER
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

Perfect for brunch or Sunday dinner, Tower's fresh corn loaf is bursting with garden flavors. A hint of cayenne pepper makes the fresh vegetables pop. Serve warm with butter or honey. This loaf is even tastier the next day.

SERVES 8-10

- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup chopped green bell pepper
- ⅓ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup water

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Apply cooking spray to a 2-quart baking dish.
2. In a bowl, combine corn, tomatoes, onion, bell pepper, cayenne pepper, salt, cornmeal and cheese.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, evaporated milk and water. Add to corn mixture and mix well.
4. Spoon into baking dish. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

SLOW COOKER DUE JULY 10
We want your best set-and-forget recipes. Submit yours online by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.



Candied Jalapeños

JILEEN PLATT
BOWIE-CASS EC

Platt gifts her East Texas pepper bounty by cooking up candied jalapeños. These tasty gems are delicious on sandwiches, burgers, eggs and tacos. The recipe can easily be doubled.

½ pound jalapeño peppers

1 cup sugar

½ cup cider vinegar

½ teaspoon ground turmeric

½ teaspoon ground ginger

⅛ teaspoon ground allspice

1. Prepare a water bath canner or a large pot and heat to boiling, adding half-pint jars and lids to sterilize.

2. Slice jalapeños into ¼-inch round slices.

3. In a saucepan combine sugar, vinegar, turmeric, ginger and allspice. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook until syrup has reduced and thickened.



4. Carefully add jalapeños to warm jars, gently pushing down, filling up to leave ½-inch headspace.

5. Ladle hot syrup over jalapeños, leaving ¼-inch headspace and removing air bubbles. Wipe rims, top with canning lid and screw on bands. Continue until all jalapeños are canned.

6. Return jars to canner and return to a boil. Boil for 10 minutes. Remove jars, allow to cool. Store in a cool, dark place.

MAKES 4 HALF-PINT JARS

Essential Canning Tools

BY MEGAN MYERS

Canning doesn't have to be complicated, but you'll want to have these basics before you start.

Large pot: You don't need a special water bath canning pot; any pot large enough to hold jars covered with water will do. Make sure to keep jars from touching the bottom of the pot.

Jar lifter: These special tongs help you transfer hot jars into and out of the water bath.

Wooden dowel or chopstick: Use either of these implements instead of a knife to remove air bubbles to prevent scratching the inside of the jar.

Fresh canning lids: Wax seal lids cannot be reused, so be sure to have enough on hand. Rings can be reused until they start to rust.



BETTER BY A NAUTICAL MILE

**ENTER TO WIN 5 POUNDS OF
TEXAS GULF SHRIMP
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!**

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

TCP Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests



SUMMER SAVINGS



Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

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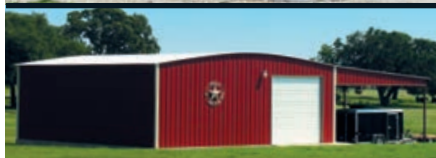
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

One Weird Wonder

Austin's Cathedral of Junk is an unfolding work of ... art?

BY CHET GARNER

THEY SAY ONE MAN'S trash is another man's treasure. If that's true, I was standing atop one of the most valuable treasure heaps in all of Texas. But rather than a pile of gold bullion or Fabergé eggs, this treasure trove consisted of busted TVs, at least one prosthetic leg and about 60 tons of accumulated stuff. It's definitely not the sort of "treasure" that sells at fancy auctions. But for artist Vince Hannemann, this is indeed a priceless work of art.

I was in Hannemann's South Austin backyard, atop his infamous Cathedral of Junk, a 30-foot tower consisting of multiple rooms and countless layers of—for lack of a better word—junk. License plates, wheelchairs and action figures formed into one massive structure that Hannemann started building in the late 1980s using pieces of his own trash.

As it took shape, neighbors started bringing him boxes of refuse that he puzzled and wired into the ever-expanding mass. Over three decades, the pile of trash became something more. It became a cathedral.

As he gave me a tour, Hannemann pointed out some of his favorite items that came with their own mysterious origin stories. One was a dented and burned timecard punch clock. "Did somebody get fired, smash the clock and then set the building on fire?" he wonders.

At first, the cathedral's haphazard form seemed like chaos, but as I walked the grounds, I slowly noticed that every room, wall and panel had a theme. Sometimes the junk was organized by color, other times by its decade of creation. Before long, the junk transformed into a work of art before my eyes. It's a creation too glorious for any gallery and more appropriately exhibited in an Austin backyard. ■

ABOVE Appointments are required to pay homage at the backyard Cathedral of Junk.

TCP See more of the clutter that makes Chet's heart flutter in the video 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.

JULY
01

Cuero [1–August 26] Black Cowboys: An American Story, (361) 277-2866, chisholmtrailmuseum.org

07

Kerrville [7–8] Open Pro Rodeo, (830) 997-1864, kerrvilletexascvb.com

08

Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival, (817) 596-3801, parkercountypeachfestival.org

13

Fort Stockton [13–15] Water Carnival, fswatercarnival.org

14

Hempstead [14–15] Watermelon Festival, (979) 921-5095, hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com

Laredo [14–16] International Sister Cities Festival, (956) 794-2200, visitlaredo.com

Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] The Last Round-up of the Guacamole Queens, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

Brownwood Dino Day, (325) 641-1926, browncountymuseum.org

Burnet 100-Year Boat-a-Thon, (830) 798-7632, tpwd.texas.gov

Friona Cheeseburger Festival, (806) 250-2761, friona-chamber.com

19

Amarillo [19–22] Iron Horse Shoot Out, (806) 353-2911, ironhorseshootout.com

21

Fredericksburg Historic Wrede School Open House, (830) 685-3321, historicschools.org

Palestine [21-23, 28-30] Matilda the Musical, thetexasstheater.com

28

Naples [28-29] Watermelon Festival and Rodeo, (903) 458-0425, facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch

29

Boerne Hot Summer Night Antique Tractor Pull, (210) 445-1080, theagricultural.org

Giddings Sip and Shop: Christmas in July, (979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

Kingsville Back to School Festival, (361) 500-5892, cbabbq.com

Stephenville Elks Lodge BBQ Cookoff, (254) 979-5019, facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq

AUGUST

04

Huntsville [4-5] Genealogy Weekend, (936) 291-5471, huntsvilletx.gov

Olton [4-5] Sandhills Celebration, (806) 285-2292, oltonchamber.org

Kerrville [4-5, 11-13, 18-20] A Murder is Announced, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

05

Camp Wood Old Settlers Reunion, (830) 597-6241, nuecescanyonchamber.org

TCP Submit Your Event

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



Grapevine, Texas is your destination for family fun this summer! Conveniently located between Dallas and Fort Worth, Grapevine is perfectly placed for a summer staycation or day trip. Enjoy family favorites like Grapevine Vintage Railroad, Great Wolf Lodge and LEGOLAND® Discovery Center or make a splash at Gaylord Texan's Paradise Springs Water Park. You definitely won't want to miss the all-new Meow Wolf Grapevine bringing its never-before-seen immersive art experience to Grapevine Mills beginning Summer 2023!

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1 RANDY DULL
COSERV
Gooseberry Falls in Minnesota.

2 DEANNE BROWN
PEDERNALES EC
"Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park offers hikers a reminder of the power of nature."

3 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO
BARTLETT EC
Rainbow falls.

4 SABRENA ST. CLERGY
JASPER-NEWTON EC
"Colorado Bend State Park—a hidden gem."



Upcoming Contests

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DUE AUG 10 Mailboxes
DUE SEP 10 Local Landmarks



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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





Honest-to-Goodness Veggies

In the country, a trusted type of commerce still works

BY MIKE LEGGETT
ILLUSTRATION BY
ANNA GODEASSI

FOLKS DO THINGS differently out in the country, whether it's putting in a garden, processing their own hogs or raising beef to market.

Larry Westphal does a little of everything on his land along County Road 202 in Burnet County. Westphal, 70, has some cows and 200 head of sheep to keep him busy most of the year, but he's taken his garden to a whole new level.

He plants and harvests vegetables and tomatoes in a plot near his house that's about 40 feet square. With his wife, Judy, he picks, eats and cans what he is able to, but he still has a surplus almost every summer.

So Westphal decided to test his entrepreneurial skills and sell some of his annual harvest at local farmers markets. He also built himself a display stand several

years back and sells squash and tomatoes and sometimes peppers to anyone who wants them.

But Westphal doesn't sit by the stand, near the gate to his property. Rather, he hand-letters signs for each vegetable and sells them individually on the honor system.

The money goes into a small box that hangs off the stand, which could present a temptation for some, but this system works for Westphal. "Everybody around here is pretty honest," he says. "Unless it's a cat or one of the neighbor's chickens, I don't lose anything to somebody stealing it."

The little bit of money the stand generates doesn't go very far. "It pays for the seed," says Westphal, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member. "That's about all it does."

Most of his business is local, too. "I think most of it is just our neighbors," Westphal says. "Everybody has been pretty honest. I figure if they're that hungry, they're welcome to it."

When we're driving past during the week, my wife and I debate how we'd eat our squash, if we bought some. I'm a sliced-and-fried guy, but Rana prefers stewed with onions—each the way our mothers made it.

Westphal comes by his gardening and farming instincts naturally. His grandfather, who emigrated to the U.S. from Germany, ran a dairy in Minnesota for years. "My dad left that place as fast as he could," Westphal says, remarking on what a tough business it was.

His maternal grandfather was a sharecropper in Oklahoma, where Westphal spent some of his early days walking along behind a tractor. "I was 4 or 5 years old, and you can't make a living off a place like that anymore."

There's not much money selling surplus vegetables for a dollar apiece either, but there's more satisfaction. And that's why he does it. ■

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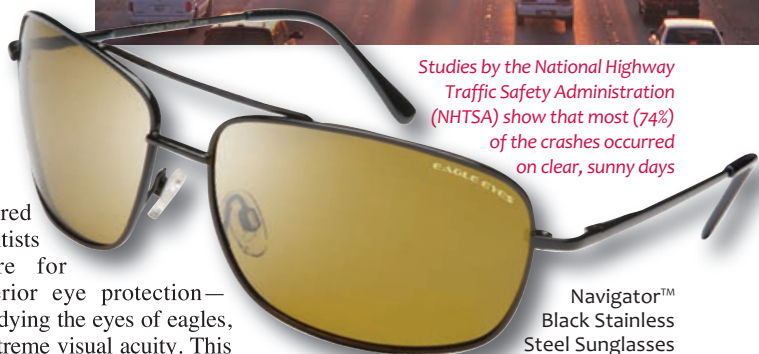
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