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FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

MARCH 2024

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A Midday Matinee for Millions

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By Pam LeBlanc

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Haru, an Australian shepherd, works on his leaping skills.
Photo by Tom Hussey

ABOVE
The ring of fire during the annular solar eclipse October 14, 2023, as seen near Bandera.
Photo by Erich Schlegel

Channeling Safety

WHEN DANNY WILLIAMS, below left, started his career as a lineworker at McCulloch Electric Cooperative—which no longer exists—in 1965, color TVs were the latest technology coming into homes.

Williams and his co-workers in Brady made sure the power always stayed on for those TVs. “I loved linework,” he says. “I loved climbing.”

Williams later became an instructor, teaching work skills and safety to utility employees. And in 2007 he became manager of Texas Electric Cooperatives’ Loss Control program, where he changed (and likely saved) lives at co-ops across the state.

Williams, 80, will retire this month after more than 38 years of teaching generations of lineworkers, in a career that spanned seven decades.

“Oh, my God, how many people has he touched?” says TEC’s Curtis Whitt, a co-worker for 21 of those years. “Countless. To do it as well as he’s done it for as long as he’s done it is a pretty incredible feat.”

TCP Visit our website to read more about Danny Williams.



A Power Trip?

Four electric school buses in South Burlington, Vermont, deliver more than students. When sitting idle during school hours, their batteries store excess renewable energy that can be pumped back onto the grid.

TCP Contests and More

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Shells and Scales

RECOMMENDED READING

Learn how Hoover Alexander, a fifth-generation Texan, came to run Hoover’s Cooking, a beloved Austin diner. See *A Full Plate* from March 2009 on our website.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Music makes me ...

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 January prompt: **If I could turn back the clock ...**

It would mean that I finally figured out how to work the buttons.

GEORGE GRAHAM
PEDERNALES EC
WIMBERLEY

I would look at the clock less.

ROSIE PEÑA
NUECES EC
CORPUS CHRISTI

I would talk to my mom and dad for days on end—just to hear their voices again.

LISA STANLEY
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
JOSHUA

Visit our website to see more responses.

JANUARY 2024 Moment's Notice

"There's an expression around Laredo: 'Six flags over Texas; seven flags over Laredo!'"

SHERI ULAN-SWEET
BLUEBONNET EC AND CENTRAL TEXAS EC
LEXINGTON AND FREDERICKSBURG



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Required Reading

We love *Texas Co-op Power*. We home-school and use a lot of the recipes and articles in our lessons.

Karly Woods
Via Facebook

Shamrock Memories

My wife and I stayed at the old Shamrock Hilton on the last weekend it was open [*The Green Carpet*, January 2024].

The place was still amazing, but it clearly had a lot of deferred maintenance, making it look a little threadbare—a remnant of a time gone by.

In the lounge, if you ordered one drink, they would keep bringing you more of the same—I guess figuring that everything they gave away was one less thing they'd have to pack up or throw away.

Mike Blanche
United Cooperative Services
Morgan



COURTESY HOUSTON HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER | HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

What Desert?

When I flew from my Southern California hometown into San Antonio in May 1968 for U.S. Army basic training at Fort Sam Houston, I was surprised by a lush, green landscape (plus millions of crickets) instead of a barren desert [*How Texas Became a Desert*, December 2023].

Even more shocking was finding that the Alamo had been moved to downtown from the countryside where John Wayne defended it from Santa Anna's forces.

Steve Mallery
Heart of Texas EC
Robinson

On Second Thought

I enjoyed Frederick Law Olmsted's assessment of Austin and New Braunfels [*Appraising the Texas Landscape*, November 2023]. I believe he would be appalled at the destruction of the natural beauty and wildlife he witnessed in the 1850s.

Harvey H. Wetz
GVEC
New Braunfels

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power
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Austin, TX 78701

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

Texas Co-op Power

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A Midday Matinee for Millions

Where will you be when a once-in-a-lifetime
total solar eclipse darkens Texas next month?



BY PAM LEBLANC

Back in October

when the moon passed between the Earth and the sun in a celestial display known as an annular eclipse, I headed to Lost Maples State Natural Area in the Hill Country, donned a pair of goofy cardboard glasses and gazed skyward.

The field around me bristled with telescopes and tripods, all directed at the slow-moving phenomenon, which looked to my untrained eye like a frying pan slowly moving in front of a bed of glowing coals. Just as the moon lined up with the face of the sun, creating a halo of yellow, a cheer arose, and someone cranked up Johnny Cash's *Ring of Fire*.

As fun as that was, it was just the warmup for what's coming April 8, when Texans will get front-row seats at an even more impressive spectacle—a total solar eclipse.

The last total solar eclipse viewable from the U.S. occurred August 21, 2017—but Texas wasn't in the path of totality. Those who peered at it (through special safety glasses, of course) from here saw the moon's shadow creep across the sun but never fully blot it out. Other parts of the country experienced totality.

"A really good total solar eclipse is an emotional experience," says astronomer Phil Kelton, former assistant director and superintendent of the McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis. "They're awe-inspiring events, like nothing else in nature. The annular eclipse was a poor second."

In April, the eclipse's path of totality will cross Mexico, enter Texas near Eagle Pass, and slowly crawl northeast across the state. Kerrville, Bandera and Waco are all near the centerline, so watchers there will get a good show. Much of the Metroplex will experience totality, as will parts of Austin and San Antonio.

After crossing into Oklahoma and Arkansas, the eclipse will pass through 10 more states before moving out of Maine and into Canada.

The whole event—from the time the moon first bites into the sun—will last roughly 3 hours in Texas. But the duration of totality will vary by location. In Vanderpool and Ingram,

OPPOSITE Maxine Margolis Smith experiences the thrill of the October 14, 2023, annular solar eclipse from near Bandera. ABOVE The eclipse is projected onto a "screen" that Jeri Evans rigged from a bucket attached to a telescope in Vanderpool.



for example, it will last 4 minutes and 26 seconds; in Austin, farther from the centerline, it will last less than two minutes. The start of totality will also vary, occurring between 1:27 p.m. and 1:40 p.m. depending on where you're viewing.

During those few minutes, skies will grow significantly darker. It'll feel cooler, and some animals may exhibit twilight behaviors. If skies are clear—and chances of a clear sky are historically higher in Texas than they are farther north and east across the U.S. at that time of the year—bright stars will become visible.

"It's one of the great events of nature," Kelton says. "There's an element of majesty and awe that occurs during a total solar eclipse. Only in the last few hundred years has man understood enough about the cosmos to appreciate what was causing it."

Total solar eclipses occur every few years at different locations around the globe. After this year's event, an eclipse in 2033 will impact a small part of Alaska, and one in 2044 will affect Montana and the Dakotas. The next total eclipse to carve a broad swath across the country, though, won't take place until August 12, 2045.

Now's the time to plan. People are traveling to Texas from all over the world for the April eclipse, and many lodges and campgrounds in the path of totality are already booked.

Don't panic.

"The path is huge. You don't have to be in a special place," says Shaun Tarpley, an architect from League City who chases eclipses to photograph them. He and his wife, Ashley, an aeronautical engineer who works at NASA, traveled to Lost Maples with their son for the annular eclipse and plan to return to the Hill Country in April.



“There’s an element of majesty and awe that occurs during a total solar eclipse.”



LEFT Irene Ramos participates in a spiritual drum circle near Bandera.

“As long as you’re in the path, you can get out on the side of a road,” he says. “If you’re in the area, you’ll be able to experience it.”

When I drove to Bandera County for the annular eclipse, I spotted fields with hand-painted “camp here” signs planted among the ash junipers and oaks.

Eclipse watchers had gathered for a celebration at Stonehenge II, a scaled-down version of the British original on the lawn outside the Hill Country Arts Foundation in Ingram. (Festivities are planned next month, too.) And at Lost Maples, campgrounds and day-use areas were packed.

Among those I met was Frederic Allegrini, an astrophysicist and amateur astrophotographer from San Antonio who drove 2,500 miles in four days to see the 2017 eclipse in Tennessee. He and his wife wanted to be in the path of totality because, as he told her, doing anything else is like being 95% in love. “It has to be 100% or nothing,” he says.

And then there was Laura Hermann of Spring, who stood

at a table loaded with snacks and used a Moon Pie and a bag of Sun Chips to demonstrate how the eclipse would unfold.

For those with deep pockets, touring companies like Smithsonian Journeys offer luxurious guided tours through the Hill Country, with eclipse watching at Becker Vineyards near Stonewall and stops at other Central Texas sites.

For a less expensive experience, reserve a day pass at one of the Texas state parks in the path of totality. Enchanted Rock and Lost Maples will be popular destinations, but spots will fill up quickly. Reservations at Enchanted Rock open 8 a.m. March 11, and reservations for all other state parks open 8 a.m. March 8. Lower Colorado River Authority parks are another option, with special activities at some locations, including Black Rock Park on Lake Buchanan.

If your favorite park is booked, check out Campspot’s regularly updated guide of sites in the path that still have availability. At RVshare, you can book an RV directly from the owner.

BELOW Frederic Allegrini sets up his camera gear at Lost Maples State Natural Area. RIGHT Liam Tarpley uses eclipse-safe sunglasses to watch the annular eclipse.



Stare Safely

Never look directly at the sun through a camera, binoculars or a telescope without proper solar filters.

Only use glasses made specifically for eclipse viewing; they're about 100,000 times darker than ordinary sunglasses.

View the eclipse indirectly with a pin-hole projector or see what it does to shadows by holding up a colander from your kitchen.

Plan ahead: Folks from all over the U.S. are already booking rooms in the Hill Country, and traffic could be tricky.

If you want a side of music with your eclipse, consider the family-friendly Eclipse Utopia at Four Sisters Ranch in Utopia. Camping is available, and the event includes workshops, disc golf, hiking, biking, yoga and two days of live music. Closer to Bandera, the Ground Zero MusicFest includes everything from live music and a classic car show to a cornhole tournament and space alien costume contest.

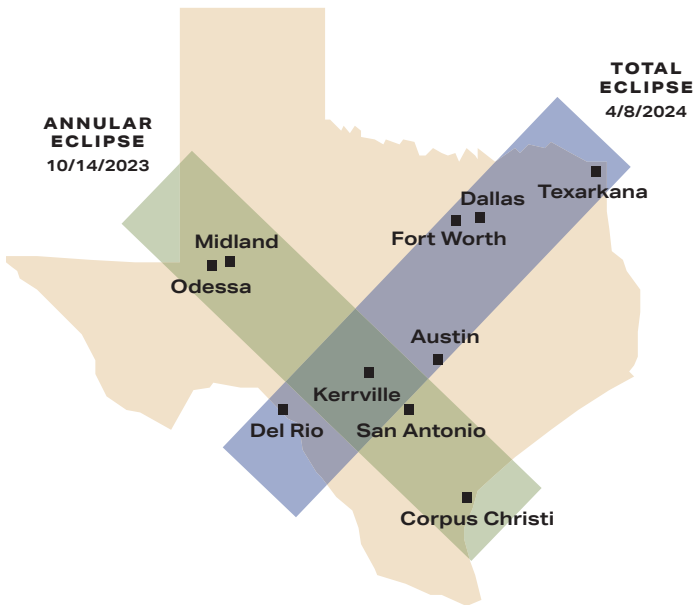
Wherever you go, arrive early, protect your eyes and embrace the experience.

That's what Emma Ransome and Pavol Klacansky, both from Austin, did during the October eclipse. I found them stretched out in the grass at the campground at Lost Maples, listening to a special playlist they had compiled, grinning behind their eclipse glasses.

"We've been able to slowly watch it evolve," Ransome says. "It's very relaxing."

And the opening act only got them more excited about the April main event. ■

TCP For more guidance about viewing safety and making your eclipse experience memorable, visit our website. And for a deeper dive into the wonders of the eclipse, check out nationaleclipse.com.







BY MARGARET BURANEN • PHOTOS BY TOM HUSSEY

Coaches help canine competitors reach new heights—and grow closer to their humans

Growing up in South Korea while her dad served in the U.S. military, Abby McMillin had two dreams. First, like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, she wanted to return home to Kansas.

When her family did finally move back to Kansas, McMillin started working on her other dream: becoming a veterinarian. In high school she started working at a veterinary clinic. There she met a dog that would change her life and her career path.

Taz was a large German shepherd. He was scared and aggressive. Nobody could get near the snarling animal. McMillin decided to try to reach him anyway.

She tossed kibble into his kennel, not even making eye contact with him. She also sometimes sat with her back to the outside of the kennel door. “I just wanted Taz to know that I was there,” McMillin says.

Gradually Taz calmed down and began to trust McMillin. He allowed her to pet him and put a leash on him. Later he accepted affection from other people. Eventually he was adopted by a woman who gave him the loving home he deserved.

The clinic’s veterinarians were amazed at McMillin’s success with Taz. They sent her to work with a professional trainer to learn more about dog behavior.

“He became my mentor,” McMillin says. She realized that communicating with dogs and other animals, trying to figure out what they needed and why they behaved in certain ways, interested her much more than animal health.

Today McMillin is the owner of Triple H Dog Training, where she teaches classes of humans and canines how to work together at her facility in Mineola, northwest of Tyler.

In short, she coaches dog athletes.

Every year, the American Kennel Club and other organizations host thousands of dog sporting events across the U.S. that draw more than 1 million competitors.

But 35 years ago, in 1988, when the United States Dog Agility Association organized the first major sporting competition for dogs—the Grand Prix of Dog Agility World Championships—just 79 competitors from across the U.S. came to Houston for the three-day event. Today, more than 100 events nationwide qualify dogs and their humans—representing more than 20 countries—for regional championships and, ultimately, the world finals.

Abby McMillin guides Apollo, her golden retriever, over an agility training ramp.

The sports encompass a range of competitions for dogs, including agility and herding, racing and jumping, obedience, and tracking and hunting trials. The growth of dog sports has become big business as trainers like McMillin build careers out of teaching people how to compete alongside their pets.

McMillin, a Wood County Electric Cooperative member, lives in Mineola with her husband, Nick; their 2-year-old son, Levi; and seven dogs. One dog, a Great Pyrenees mix, prefers couch lounging to dog sports. The other six, including three golden retrievers, compete.

Border collies, Australian shepherds and Shetland sheepdogs are among the most popular breeds to produce athletes, but there's something out there for just about every dog.

If one canine sport isn't suitable for a dog and its owner, McMillin urges the owner to try something else. Many dogs enjoy agility training, but their owners may realize they aren't fit enough for this fast-paced sport. Rally, which involves only walking, may be a better choice.

Besides, it's "more about relationship building, so the dog owner and dog develop a lifetime friendship," McMillin says. "I want people to enjoy their dogs."



OPPOSITE McMillin with six of her dogs, which learn balance and control on a seesaw at her training facility. RIGHT Apollo goes airborne to catch a flying disc.

For training at home, McMillin advises dog owners to “keep it short. Keep it fun. Keep it simple. Don’t do 30 minutes once a week. Do five minutes every day. For the first week or so, the owner has to get in the habit of training, too. Remember dogs don’t work for nothing. They’re motivated by treats or toys.”

McMillin uses a hand-held clicker to reinforce behaviors. With this method, she has also trained horses and cats, even an otter. Training allows the dog and owner to become a team and have a closer relationship. “It’s not about the ribbons,” she says. “It’s about going home with the best dog ever.”

Another trainer, Debi Krakar, started the Dog Alliance in Cedar Park, outside Austin, in 2006. There she trains therapy dogs and offers classes in various dog sport disciplines.

Krakar, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, says that the raft of dog sports offers an excellent outlet for pups. “When they’ve been mentally stimulated and exercised, they won’t eat your shoes,” she says. “Dog sports build a bond between human and dog. They understand each other better.”

Krakar got into dog training after taking her own dog to schools for children to read to. “Teachers kept calling me,” she says. “The demand for these therapy dogs is constant.”

For owners who aren’t sure which dog sport might be best for them and their pups, she offers a dog sports foundation class that covers the basics. Because when it comes to man’s best friend, it’s really about building relationships.

“Have fun and be positive with your dog,” Krakar says. “In the long run you’ll have a much stronger bond with your dog.” ■



Games That Aren’t Far-etched

AGILITY Dogs run through an obstacle course that includes tunnels, blocks to jump on and vertical poles to weave through.

BARN HUNT Popular in rural areas, dogs run into barns and signal where rats are hiding.

DISC DOG This is a variation of the basic game of fetch. The dog’s owner throws a flying disc that the dog catches (usually by jumping up in the air) and retrieves quickly.

DOCK DIVING Dogs race down a ramp and leap out into a pool of water to retrieve a toy thrown by the owner.

FAST CAT No felines are involved! Short for coursing ability test, dogs of any breed are timed as they race around a 100-yard track, chasing an artificial lure.

LURE COURSING Sight hounds race around an oval or rectangular course that measures 650–800 yards, chasing an artificial lure.

RALLY Dogs walk to various stations and follow various commands from their owners at each one.

SHED HUNT Pups retrieve shed deer antlers from a field within a set time period.

TRACKING Dogs follow the scent of a lure that was earlier dragged through a course.

TRICKS Beyond the basic commands of sit, stay, come and lie down, dogs learn to perform more advanced commands or follow hand signals.

1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. Never ones to miss an opportunity, we climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch.

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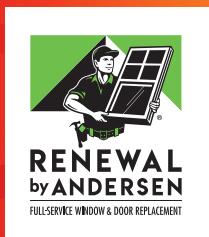
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Seat at the Board Table



**MAX
WADDELL**

CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT 9

March 2024 is a time for thankful reflection of our 85-year history as well as a time to celebrate the launch of future member benefits.

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

This year, Tri-County Electric Co-op will celebrate its 85th anniversary! We trace our history all the way back to a Halloween night meeting in 1938, where rural leaders came together and envisioned bringing electricity to their local schools, churches and communities. By the time Tri-County Electric Co-op was chartered in March 1939, 375 members had signed up for service in Parker, Tarrant, Wise and Hood counties.

From humble beginnings in a rented rock building in Azle, TX to 5 offices spanning 16 counties, powering 10,000+ miles of line and more than 135,000 meters, our co-op has come a long way over the last 85 years. Building on our rich heritage, co-op employees remain passionate about providing an essential service to our members and the communities we serve. On behalf of our board of directors and employees, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you and we look forward to continuing that commitment for many generations to come. 259500235

NEW SOFTWARE CONVERSION BRINGS MEMBER SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

Throughout our rich history, the co-op has evolved by investing in new technology and services that improve and enhance reliability and member service. Since 2022, staff across the cooperative have been working together to plan

for and implement a new software solution. Parts of the conversion have already taken place which have brought about operational efficiencies and improved financial reporting. We are excited to announce that the portion of the conversion that affects our member-facing platforms officially launches Monday, March 4. With the new platform, you'll be able to monitor your usage trends, manage multiple accounts, customize your notifications, and view your billing history.

Additionally, one of the most significant changes is a new and improved look of your monthly billing statements. Because new information will be available to you, every member will receive a paper statement in March with an insert explaining these new changes. In the following pages of this publication, you will find important details and a call to action for all of you. Every member will need to register for our new MyTriCountyTX portal to take advantage of the improved offerings and elect your preferences, including paperless billing and payment options. Please remember, if you have any questions at all, our member service team stands ready to answer any questions and assist you with your needs. 7000039501

CEO SEARCH UPDATE

The board continues to work with our executive search consultant to find the next leader for the co-op. We are encouraged by the quality of applicants we have received and look forward to putting the right leader in place to drive the co-op's future and best serve our growing membership.

MyTriCountyTX: Your Co-op, Your Way

Starting March 4, 2024, registration opens for the new MyTriCountyTX portal for 24/7 easy online account management.



Credit Card Auto Pay Re-enrollment

If you are currently signed up for autodraft with a credit card, you will need to re-enroll through MyTriCountyTX to continue automatic payments. If you are enrolled in autodraft with your checking or savings account, you will not be impacted and payments will continue to process automatically.



Web & Mobile Instructions

Starting March 4, you can find detailed instructions on how to register at tcectexas.com/MyTriCountyTX.



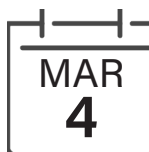
Need Assistance?

If you have questions or issues with the registration process, our member service team is available at 817-444-3201.

***YOU CANNOT REGISTER BEFORE
MARCH 4, 2024.**

Dates and Information

Tri-County Electric Co-op is excited about an upgrade heading your way on March 4, 2024! Mark the following date on your calendar:



March 4, 2024

Visit our site to find links and instructions on how to register your account.

Starting March 4, create your MyTriCountyTX account to take advantage of new features including detailed usage, account management, account and billing history and more! All members currently enrolled in paperless billing or credit card autodraft will need to re-enroll in these services through MyTriCountyTX.

Visit tcectexas.com/MyTriCountyTX for more information.



HOW TO READ YOUR BILL

BACK

1 Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Phone: (817) 444-3201
Website Address: www.tcectexas.com

2 **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**
\$129.28
Due Date 02/07/2024

3 Account #: 99999999
Member Name: ANY MEMBER
Billing Date: 01/18/2024
This bill does not reflect payments after 01/18/2024
Charge detail found on the back of this page.

4 Please log into MyTriCountyTX to view bill.

5 **Monthly Energy Use Comparison**

Total Energy Use This Month 30 days	Total Energy Use Last Month 34 days	Total Energy Use This Month Last Year 34 days
790 kWh	517 kWh	709 kWh

6 **Your Average Daily Use**

26 kWh	AVERAGE DAILY USE
\$4.31	AVERAGE DAILY COST

7 **IMPORTANT MEMBER INFORMATION**
Thank you for being a valued Member-Owner.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT - WHEN PAYING IN PERSON BRING ENTIRE STATEMENT

KEEP THIS STATEMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
200 Bailey Ranch Rd
Aledo TX 76008-3222

Account # 99999999
Total Amount Due 02/07/24 \$129.28
Amount Due After 02/07/24 \$135.74

362 1 ANY 0.507
ANY MEMBER
123 ANYPLACE ST
ANYWHERE TX 99999-9999

5 382
C-1

0118202

8 Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Phone: (817) 444-3201
Website Address: www.tcectexas.com

9 **Meter #** 1234567 **Days** 30 **Reading Dates** From 12/06/2023 To 01/05/2024 **Previous** 37192 **Present** 37982 **Meter Multiplier** 1 **kWh Usage** 790 **Demand Reading** 6254

10 **Account Information**
Account Number: 999999999
Phone Number: (123) 456-7890
Service Address: 123 ANYPLACE ST ANYWHERE TX 76020
Service Description: HOUSE
District: 5
Rate: RESIDENTIAL-SINGLE PH

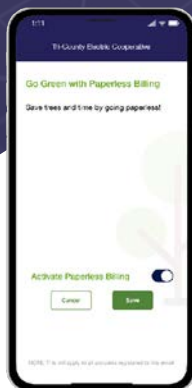
11 **Kilowatt Hours**
Monthly High Temp Monthly Low Temp Temp

12 **Previous Account Activity**
Previous Bill on 12/13/2023 \$91.11
Payment Received 12/16/2023 -\$91.11
Balance Forward \$0.00
Current Activity
Customer Charge \$18.00
Energy Charge 790 kWh @ 0.14425 \$113.96
PCRF 790 kWh @ -0.02250 -\$17.76
Brazos Financing Rider 790 kWh @ 0.01200 \$9.48
Reno Franchise Fee 3.00% \$3.71
Reno Sales Tax 1.50% \$1.91
Current Charges \$129.28

Total Amount Due \$129.28
Due Date 02/07/2024

Interested in paperless billing?

Reduce waste and receive your bill as soon as it's posted



Visit tcectexas.com/MyTriCountyTX for more information

13

Other Ways to Pay Your Bill

Online
Pay your bill at tcectexas.com

Phone
Call XXX-XXX-XXXX for automated payment line

Mobile App
Download the MyTriCountyTX app on iTunes or Google Play Store

In-Person
Find the list of pay stations at tcectexas.com

Now offering cash bill-pay service at participating retail stores. Barcode below can be scanned at the register, allowing you monthly payment. There is a \$1.50 convenience fee to use. To find a location near you, visit pay.vanilladirect.com/pay



799366433650004610109999999999

By accepting or using this barcode to make a payment, you agree to the full terms and conditions, available at vanilladirect.com/pay/terms. After successful payment using this barcode, you may retrieve your full detailed e-receipt at vanilladirect.com/pay/ereceipt.

The majority of participating locations will accept cash payments up to a maximum amount of \$500.00.

14



FRONT

1. Contact Information: Tri-County Electric Cooperative phone number and website.

2. Total Amount Due: Summarizes the total amount due on this statement including the due date. AutoPay will be indicated if you participate in automatic debit/ credit card or bank draft.

3. Your Account Information: Your account number and bill date for the current bill.

4. Account Message Center: Important messages about capital credit allocations, credit card expiration dates, or past due amounts

5. Monthly Usage Comparison: A quick snapshot of your current billing period usage and how it compares to past usage.

6. Daily Usage: Average energy used per day for the current billing period, along with average daily cost.

7. Tri-County Message Center: Read important messages about services, notices and events.

8. Payment Stub: Detach and include this portion of the bill if you're paying by mail, in-person, or using one of our drop-boxes.

BACK

9. Meter Information: Meter number, days of service, reading dates, meter readings, and total energy used in the current billing period.

10. Account Information: Account number, main phone number, service description, board district and rate.

11. Energy Comparison Graph: See your usage trends for the past 12 months, along with the average monthly high and low temperatures.

12. Account Activity: A detailed breakdown of previous balance, payments, current charges and current total amount due.

13. Ways to Pay: Your co-op, your way. We have many ways to pay your bill so you can do what works best for you.

14. Cash Bill-Pay: Use this bar-code to pay your bill at participating retail stores.

15. Bill Messages: More space to keep you updated on news and information from your co-op.

2024 Director Nominations

Applications are open for Director Districts 3, 6 and 8

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is owned and governed by local members of the co-op. The nine-member board of directors serves as the governing and regulatory body and is composed of members from throughout the service territory. The nine director seats represent each area of our diverse membership, including four urban districts, four suburban districts and one rural district. 800597975

Each year, one-third of the board seats are elected by the entire membership, approximately 108,000 members strong. This year, director districts 3, 6 and 8 will be on the ballot in September. District maps are available at tctexas.com/director-elections.

- District 3, suburban district
- District 6, suburban district
- District 8, urban district

Members who reside in these districts, are interested in serving their co-op and meet the director qualifications outlined in the cooperative's bylaws may submit a director nomination application packet. Tri-County Electric Co-op offers two paths to the ballot: through the Committee on Nominations & Qualifications or through member petition. Members are encouraged to review the following documents to understand the cooperative's director nomination process, director election process, and director qualifications:

- The director election webpage, tctexas.com/director-elections
- Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Bylaws, specifically Article 4
- Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Election Policy & Procedures

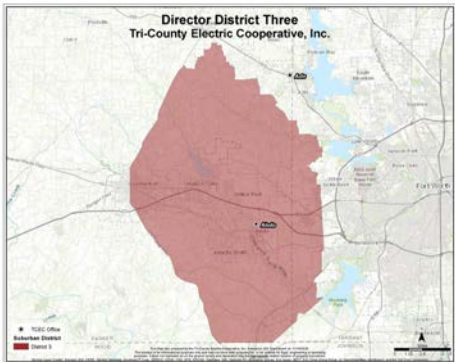
NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE - FINAL CALL

Members interested in seeking nomination through the Committee on Nominations & Qualifications must submit a complete nomination application packet by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. A complete director nomination application packet must include all items listed on the application checklist. The Committee on Nominations & Qualifications will accept and review all applications for nomination by committee and recommend a slate of candidates to the board of directors. 310687001

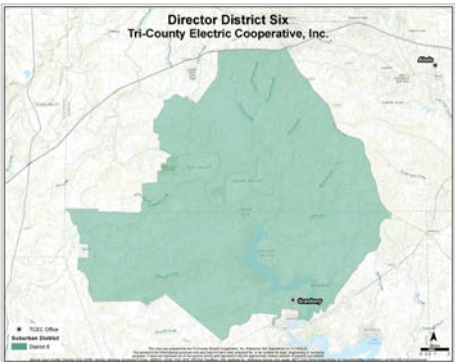
NOMINATION BY PETITION - DUE APRIL 10

Members interested in seeking nomination through member petition must submit a complete nomination application packet by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. A complete director nomination application packet must include all items listed on the application checklist. The co-op's attorney will accept and review all applications for nomination by petition and recommend a slate of candidates to the board of directors.

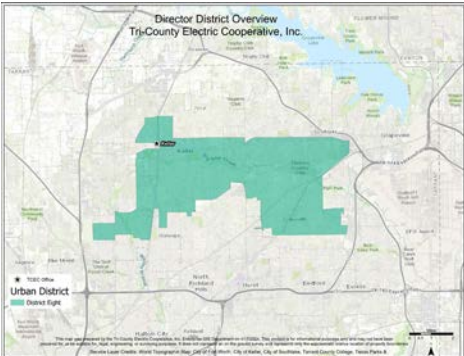
Members can find all director nomination and election details, the director nomination application packets, the co-op's bylaws and the co-op's Election Policy & Procedures online at tctexas.com/director-elections.



DISTRICT 3



DISTRICT 6



DISTRICT 8



NEW!

SOLAR PROGRAM

Tri-County Electric Co-op is rolling out a new solar program. As part of this process, we thoroughly re-evaluated our solar program last year by gathering members' feedback from online surveys and in-person town hall meetings, as well as conducting an independent cost-of-service study that specifically analyzed solar member accounts. In January, we held a town hall to announce and present the program details. If you missed the town hall, information is available on our website at tcectexas.com/solar.

Contact our team of trusted energy advisors to see if our solar program is right for you.

Call 817.752.8119 or email distributedgeneration@tcectexas.com

New Solar Rate Structure and Program Details

Members interested in installing solar and apply after March 1, 2024, will adopt the following new program terms.

- Members will receive credit for all exported energy at avoided cost, which will be calculated monthly.
- Members will pay for all purchased kWh at retail rate.
- Members will pay the Brazos Financing Rider on all purchased kWh.
- Minimum monthly bill: \$30 (includes a \$18 Customer Service Charge and \$12 Distributed Generation Charge).
- Members can bank unused credits from month to month with no cap on dollars.
 - Unused credits will be processed in the form of payment to the member each year by March 31.
- Array capped at 50 kW AC.

THINKING ABOUT SOLAR?

Follow these steps before you invest in solar and contact our solar team at any time:

Step 1: Research

Contact our team of trusted energy advisors to answer questions and work with you on which program may work best for your household. Additionally, we will provide detailed information on how the solar rate works to ensure all your questions are answered up front.

Step 2: Analysis

Look at various solar companies and installers, including recent reviews. We recommend getting quotes from at least three installers before signing a contract. Our energy experts can help ensure you ask the right questions. 800973313

Step 3: Decision

Once you review the energy analysis and vet installers, it is time to decide if solar is right for your household.

Step 4: Choose an Installer

Using your data, choose an installer that works best for you. During the process, please direct your installer to our solar webpage for all information and resources to help you have a smooth installation process. Visit tcectexas.com/solar.

Step 5: Complete DG Application

The Distributed Generation (DG) application can be submitted by your installer and includes all information the solar team needs to ensure the solar system is designed and installed according to electrical standards. A \$500 application fee applies and must be paid before we can review your application. Learn more about the steps included in the application process on our website.

Step 6: Permission to Operate

Once the system is installed and all necessary information and documents are submitted, Tri-County Electric Co-op will provide Permission to Operate, or PTO.

GET YOUR HOUSE READY FOR SPRING

It may be time to open the windows and start enjoying fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are seven items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

1. Call a qualified service technician to **inspect and maintain your air conditioning system**. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your equipment. Plus, maintaining your AC improves your energy efficiency. 529000001
2. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, **trim all the bushes and pull all the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit**. Remove any fallen tree limbs, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit could prevent air from circulating around and make it perform less efficiently.
3. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider **planting shade trees** on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they'll filter the sun rays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your AC work harder. Just be sure to plant away from any overhead power lines, and call 811 to have underground lines located before digging.
4. **Use shades, blinds and curtains** to help limit heat gain in your home, or use plastic window film to mimic the function of double-pane windows. The films are easy to install, affordable and effective. 800643496
5. Speaking of windows, **clean your windows, inside and out**. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight in, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.
6. **Caulk and seal air ducts and leaks** to prevent your energy from going out the door. Openings and cracks cause your AC to work that much harder to cool your home. Leaks in

air ducts also drive up energy costs. Insulating and sealing ducts will make your home more energy efficient.

7. **Re-program your thermostat** so you aren't heating or cooling an empty home, and you don't have to remember to change the settings when you're away or asleep. If you haven't already invested in a programmable or smart thermostat, now is a great time to install one. It'll typically pay for itself in less than two years with energy savings and, when used correctly, they make your whole home a little more comfortable.

INTERESTED IN A HOME AUDIT?



- 1
Home
Evaluation
- 2
Metrics
&
Reports
- 3
Identify
Energy
Solutions

[TCECTEXAS.COM/AUDIT](https://tcectexas.com/audit)

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Know what's below. Cables, gas pipes, sewer lines, water pipes and electric lines may only be two to three feet underground, and can be damaged when digging. Failing to call before you dig could result in fines up to \$3,500 or even jail time. Additionally, hitting a high-pressure gas line could cost you your life. 800866721



Green
Sewer & Drain Lines



Orange
Communications, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit



Yellow
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials



Blue
Potable Water



Red
Electrical Power Lines, Cables Conduit & Lighting Cables



Purple
Irrigation & Slurry Lines, Reclaimed Water



White
Proposed Excavation



Pink
Temporary Survey Markings

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, TX 76008
Phone 817-444-3201
Web tcectexas.com

Board of Directors

Max Waddell, District 9 - Chairman
John Killough, District 6 - Vice Chairman
Margaret Koprek, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Ingle, District 1
VACANT, District 3
David Miller, 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: MyTriCountyTX
Phone: 817-444-3201
Text: OUTAGE to 25069

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 10,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 106,000 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)

MAKE EVERY DAY AN OMAHA STEAKS DAY.

- ✓ World-famous steaks hand-cut by master butchers.
- ✓ Flash-frozen at their peak for perfect quality anytime.
- ✓ Extra-aged for maximum tenderness and flavor.



The Gourmet Steakhouse Selection

- 4 Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignons (6 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (6 oz.)
- 4 Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 1 Fully Cooked Beef Meatballs (18 oz. pkg.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 4 FREE Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)**
- 4 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

74727ZYN separately \$353.9+ **\$129⁹⁹**
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Ask for your FREE chicken breasts and burgers with offer 74727ZYN

THE BEST STEAKS OF YOUR LIFE OR YOUR MONEY BACK

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2. 4 free 4 oz. chicken breasts and 4 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74727. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI. Expires 05/31/24. | SRC0715

Scan Now



OmahaSteaks.com/Gourmet4507



A Revere of Our Own

Young Katy Jennings raced bareback to alert her fellow Texians about the advancing Mexican army

BY MARTHA DEERING • ILLUSTRATION BY KATE GLEYZER

PAUL REVERE wasn't the only patriot who made a courageous ride to warn of approaching danger. In 1836, Katy Jennings rode west from her home in Bastrop to the tiny town of Waterloo (known today as Austin) to alert Texians that the Mexican army was coming and they should run for their lives.

Katy was 10 years old.

Her father, Gordon C. Jennings, was a farmer who moved his family from Missouri to Bastrop in 1833. Gordon enlisted in the Texas militia, encouraged by the promise of a land grant as compensation. He served at the Alamo as a cannoneer, probably manning artillery positions on the north wall. When the

Alamo fell to Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna's army on March 6, 1836, Gordon, 53, was the oldest Alamo defender to die.

Author Mary Jean Kelso, a direct descendent of Katy's brother Samuel—Kelso's great-grandfather—wrote a book about her family, *A Visual History Record of Alamo Defender Gordon Cartwright Jennings' Family*. (Kelso spells her name Katy, but a newspaper obituary called her Katie.)

When word of the Alamo reached Bastrop, most families fled east in a panicked exodus known as the Runaway Scrape. But Gordon's wife, Catherine, and a few of her neighbors stood their ground until

a division of the Mexican army reached the Colorado River at Bastrop.

With no choice but to flee, Catherine, her three children and two stepsons threw their most valuable possessions into a wagon. Then Catherine boosted daughter Katy onto a horse bareback and sent her west to warn others that Mexican soldiers were nipping at their heels. She told Katy not to return to Bastrop because the family would be gone.

Katy was instructed to join another family when she arrived in Waterloo, and the Jennings clan would meet again in a refugee camp along the Trinity River in East Texas.

Clinging to her horse's mane, Kelso writes, Katy rode west at "great speed" for 40 miles, warning settlers along the way. Somehow she found her way back to her family after the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, and was with them when they returned to Bastrop.

"According to family stories," Kelso says, "after the Texas Revolution, Katy married Casper Whistler, but the marriage was short lived. Whistler was scalped by Indians while Katy, who had gone to fetch water, hid in a creek bed."

Katy later married a second time, to Sylvester Lockwood, a Texas pioneer. The couple lived near Manor in Travis County for 65 years. According to her 1911 obituary, Katy had eight children, 42 grandchildren, 100 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren when she died at the age of 85.

She's still remembered for her famous bareback ride.

"Some people may have called 10-year-old Katy Jennings brave or foolhardy," Kelso says. "Texas calls her a hero." ■

Best Brunch

Savory or sweet, don't oversleep this weekend meal

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Nothing makes this gal happier than brunch. Good friends, amazing food and music in the background is my forever Sunday mood. Breakfast tostadas are so easy to prepare, and a mini version of anything is always greeted with a "wow!"

Mini Breakfast Tostadas

12 mini or street taco corn tortillas
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided use
6 eggs
4 teaspoons milk
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups refried beans, warmed
Pico de gallo or salsa

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place tortillas on a baking sheet and lightly brush tortillas with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Bake until crisp, about 10 minutes.
- 2.** In a bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, salt and pepper.
- 3.** Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil (or you can use 1 tablespoon butter) to a skillet over medium-high heat. Pour in eggs and cook until scrambled. Remove from heat.
- 4.** Spread beans over tostadas, spoon eggs over beans and top with pico de gallo or salsa.

MAKES 12 TOSTADAS

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Honey Flan.





Sausage in Puff Pastry

PENNY SENGLER
GVEC

Ready in under 30 minutes, this recipe is hands-down the ultimate addition to your brunch spread, and it might be even better the next morning for a go-to breakfast.

- 1 package frozen puff pastry (17.3 ounces), thawed**
- ¼ cup spicy brown, Dijon or whole grain mustard**
- 1 pound ground breakfast sausage**
- 1 egg, lightly beaten**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- 2.** On a cutting board, unfold the two pastry sheets. Slice pastry into thirds along the folds. Slice each third in half to make 12 rectangles. Spread a thin layer of mustard onto each pastry section.
- 3.** Divide breakfast sausage into 12 small balls, then roll each ball into a finger-size log. Place sausage log onto end of pastry rectangle and roll it up into pastry.
- 4.** Place sausage rolls onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Slice two small slits across the top of each roll. Brush with egg.
- 5.** Bake 20–25 minutes or until golden brown. Allow sausage rolls to rest 7–10 minutes before serving.

MAKES 12

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

\$500 WINNER

Blueberry French Toast With Blueberry Syrup

RUTH FILZ
NUECES EC



Planning on a crowd for brunch? This heavenly French toast has you covered. No need to individually cook slice after slice—this deliciousness bakes in the oven. It can be assembled the night before and refrigerated overnight so the bread can absorb the flavorful eggy mixture. The lightly sweet, perfectly creamy goodness is worth every calorie.

SERVES 10



- 12 slices day-old bread**
- 1 package cream cheese (8 ounces)**
- 2 cups blueberries, divided use**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 cups milk**
- ½ cup maple syrup or honey**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch**
- 1 cup water**
- 1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter**

- 1.** Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes and place half of them into pan.
- 2.** Cut cream cheese into ½-inch cubes and place on top of cubed bread. Top with 1 cup blueberries and then remaining half of bread cubes.
- 3.** In a large bowl, beat together eggs, milk, and maple syrup or honey. Pour over bread mixture. Cover and chill in fridge 8 hours or overnight. Remove from fridge 30 minutes before baking.
- 4.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake covered for 30 minutes, then uncover and bake an additional 30 minutes, or until center of French toast is set.
- 5.** In a saucepan combine sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil, then stir constantly for 3 minutes. Stir in remaining 1 cup blueberries.
- 6.** Reduce heat. Simmer 8–10 minutes, or until berries burst. Remove from heat and stir in butter. Serve warm over blueberry French toast.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

PARTY DRINKS DUE MARCH 10

Summer soirees call for a festive frosty drink. Send us your best punch, mocktail and cocktail recipes for a shot at \$500. Go online and submit your favorite by March 10.





Breakfast Strata

DIANE HUNLEY
PEDERNALES EC

A strata is my idea of the perfect brunch. This is prepped the night before so it's ready for the oven the next day.

1 pound spicy breakfast sausage
½ pound diced bacon
4 eggs
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
½ teaspoon dry mustard

½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 cups milk
6 slices wheat or white bread, cubed
8 ounces grated cheddar cheese

1. Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook sausage, breaking it up with a spoon until fully done. Remove sausage from skillet, add diced bacon and cook until crispy. Remove from skillet.
3. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, salt, pepper, mustard, Worcestershire sauce and milk.
4. Layer bread, sausage, bacon and cheese in the pan. Pour the egg mixture over the entire casserole. Using a spoon, press down to ensure that all ingredients are submerged. Cover and place in fridge overnight.
5. Remove dish from fridge. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake, covered, 1 hour or until firm in center. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before serving.

SERVES 8

Make Brunch a Breeze

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

A small, intimate group is the way to go. Plan accordingly for your space.

Make the morning about mingling. Assemble dishes the night before. Casseroles, quiches, stratas and fruit salads are perfect for this.

While you're at it, set the table, arrange glasses, and lay out serving platters and utensils.

Pick up pastries: less fuss while supporting local bakeries.

Offer a DIY bar with self-serve drinks—coffee, mimosas, mocktails. While guests help themselves, you can finish up preparations or greet guests.

Heirloom Seed Kits

100% NON-GMO • VEGETABLES, FRUITS, & HERBS

Start A Home Garden Or Store Seed Vaults For Years To Come!

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(50) VARIETY SEED KIT

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for the 2024 Growing Season!



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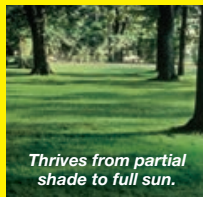
No weeding means no costly chemicals. Amazoy Zoysia lawns naturally resist insects, so you'll save money, while helping to protect the environment. Never expose your family and pets to weed killers and pesticide poison.

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Plant it from
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2) **Precut Super Plugs** come precut into individual 3"x3" plugs ready-to-plant (minimum 1 per 4 sq. ft.). They arrive in easy to handle trays of 15 Super Plugs. Save time and get your new lawn faster!

3) **Amazoy Approved Seed** – As The Zoysia Specialists for 70 years, we now have a Zoysia seed that meets our standards and homeowners expectations.

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1100	+400	10	\$110.00	\$47.50	36%
2000	+1000	20	\$185.00	\$75.00	47%
3000	+1500	30	\$245.00	\$90.00	55%

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Doing Time

Brown County's history museum lets visitors lock into law and order

BY CHET GARNER

ONCE WAS in Europe and wondered, "Why don't we build more castles in Texas?"

But I was oblivious to the fact that there are already castles all around us in the form of historic courthouses and jails. That's especially true in Brown County, where the old jail looks more like a medieval fortress than a place to dive into history.

I started my time-traveling adventure across the street from the jail at the Brown County Museum of History. From woolly mammoth bones to frontier homes, this collection covers every era of this corner of Texas between Abilene and Austin. I sat around the (fake) campfire inside a full-sized Comanche dwelling. I learned that Gilligan (aka Bob Denver) was raised in Brownwood. I also got hands-on lessons because this museum actually encourages visitors to touch the artifacts.

Most amazing was the story of Camp Bowie, which was one of the largest army training camps in the U.S. during World War II, bringing more than a quarter-million troops to Brownwood.

Things got especially interesting, and spooky, when I crossed the street and stepped inside the old jail. This lockup opened in 1903 and served Brown County until the 1980s. The smell of stone and rusted metal permeates every room. The ground floor, which was once the sheriff's private residence, is now an incredible museum about Texas rule of law and includes stories of famous outlaws and jailbreaks.

Upstairs is where things got even creepier as I explored three floors of metal cells with heavy iron doors. I unknowingly stepped across the drop floor for the old gallows, which luckily didn't spring open. If I was plotting a crime 100 years ago in Brown County, this simple tour would have quickly cured me of any ill intent. ■

ABOVE The old county jail in Brownwood doesn't escape Chet's attention.

TCP Join Chet's captivating visit to Brownwood 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.

MARCH

07

Austin Lakeway Garden Club Spring Mixer, (512) 263-2885, lakewaygardenclub.com

Denton [7-10] Texas Storytelling Festival, (940) 380-9320, tejasstorytelling.com

Irving [7-10] Texas Steel Guitar Jamboree, (817) 558-3481, texassteelguitar.org

08

Corsicana An Evening with Amy Grant, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

09

Luling Rajun' Cajun Throwdown and Gumbo Cookoff, (830) 875-3214, lulingmainstreet.com

McKinney [9-10] Heard Museum Family Campout, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

14

Dublin [14-16] St. Patrick's Day, (254) 300-6263, dublintxchamber.com

15

Round Top [15-16] Pioneer Unit of Herb Society of America Plant and Gift Sale, (713) 503-9981, herbsocietypioneer.org

Tolar [15-16] Ceramic Expo and Handcrafted Items, (254) 716-5227, westceramicshow.com

22

Georgetown [22-23] Star Struck: Georgetown Quilt Show, (512) 869-1812, handcraftsunlimited.com

Burton [22-30] La Bahia Antique Show, (979) 289-2684, labahiaantiques.com

23

Brenham Mark Lowry with the Sound and Endless Highway, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Huntsville Herb Festival at the Wynne Home, (936) 891-5024, texasthymeunit.org

25

Johnson City [25–April 19] Wine and Wildflower Journey, (872) 216-9463, texashillcountrywineries.org

30

Burnet Hill Country Lawn & Garden Show, (512) 756-3059, burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org

Sabinal [30–31] Wild Hog Festival and Craft Fair, (830) 486-8549, sabinalwildhogfestival.com

APRIL

02

Corsicana [2–4] Janet's Planet, (903) 872-5411, navarrocouncilofhearts.com

05

Dimmitt [5–6] Ogallala Quilters' Society Quilt Festival, ogallalaquilters.org

Luling [5–6] Roughneck Chili and BBQ Cook-Off, (830) 875-1922, lulingoilmuseum.org

Kerrville [5–7] Texas Lions Camp Eclipse Celebration, (830) 896-8500, kerrvilletexasclubb.com

06

Quitman [6–8] Northeast Texas Eclipsefest, netxeclipsefest.com

TCP Submit Your Event

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



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Architecture

From modest to magnificent, architecture old and new is used for housing, education, entertainment and more. These structures surround, engage and inspire Texans to even greater heights. This month we appreciate designs found right here in the Lone Star state.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 SUMMER EVERILL
PEDERNALES EC

A new installation at the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin.

2 CAROLYN WILLIAMS
COSERV

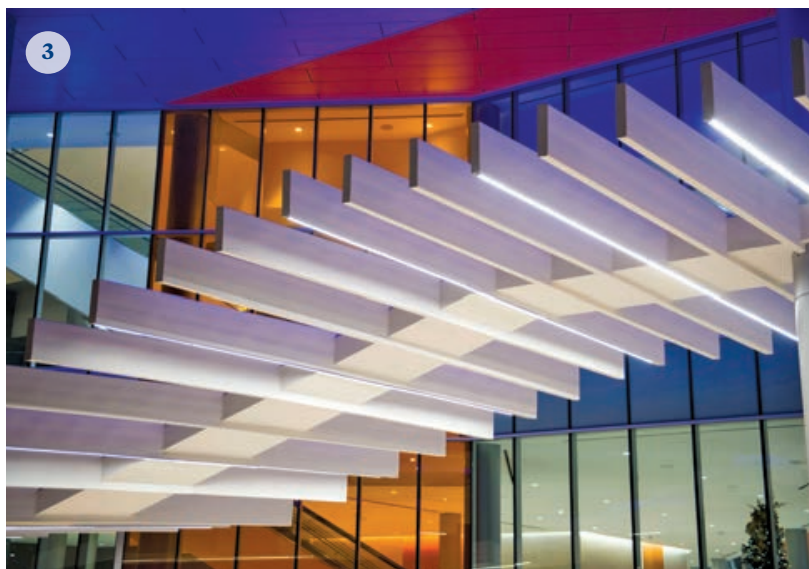
"While exploring senior photo locations, I had heard that this University of North Texas pedestrian bridge was a wonder. As I got up to the edge, the sun and clouds created these amazing shadows."

3 MARK MCCLENDON
BANDERA EC

The Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio.

4 TOM BRENTS
FAYETTE EC

The Ashbel Smith Building, also known as Old Red, is a Romanesque Revival-style structure in Galveston. Built in 1890 with red brick and sandstone, it survived the great 1900 hurricane and 2008's Hurricane Ike.



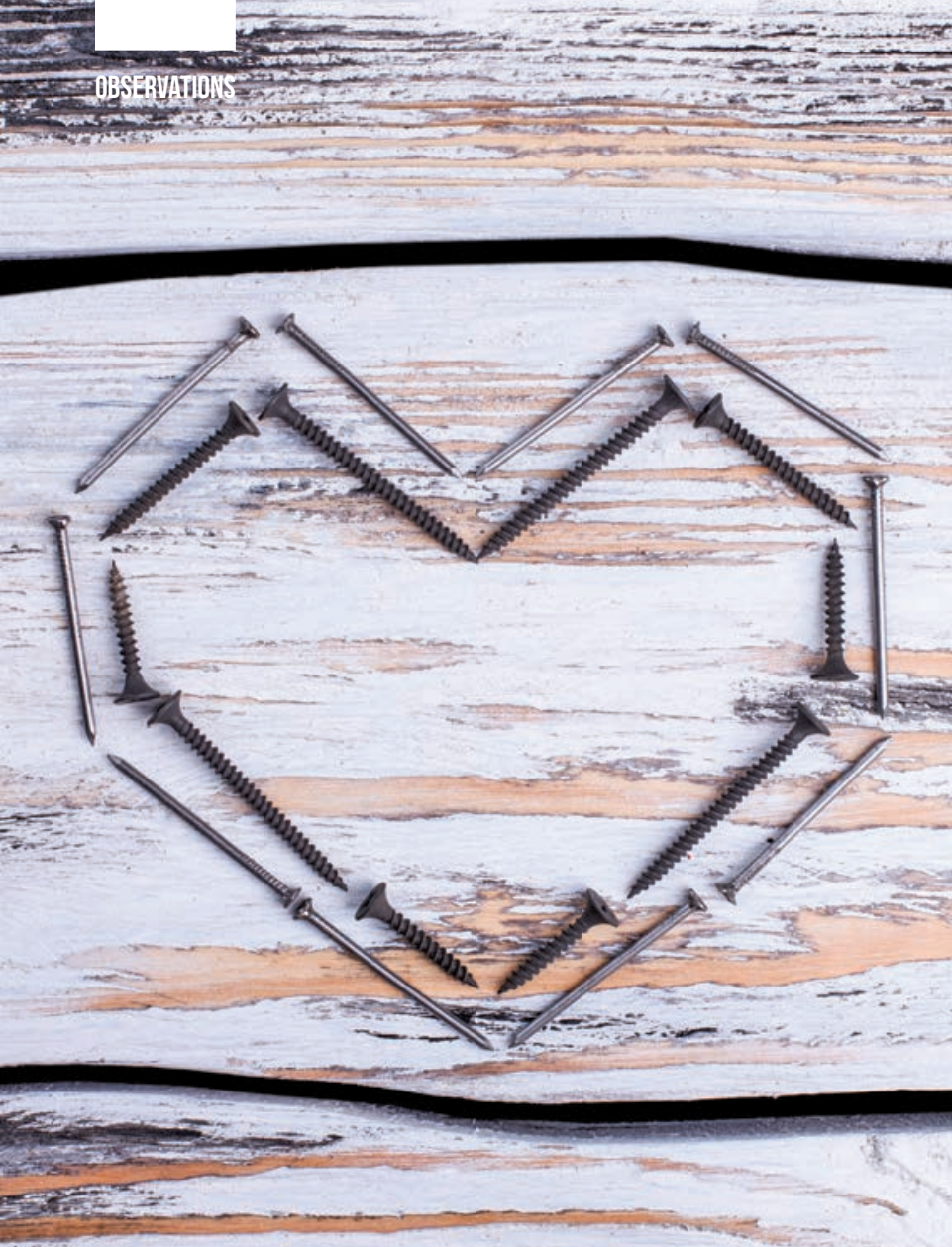
Upcoming Contests

- DUE MAR 10** Shells and Scales
- DUE APR 10** Textures
- DUE MAY 10** Parenthood



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



It Takes a Family

When all seems lost,
loved ones rebuild a life

BY DALE ROBERSON

SOMETIMES IT TAKES a tragedy to bring a family and friends together. I know. It happened to me.

My children were scattered to the four winds. Kathy in New Braunfels, Pat and Vicki in Denton; Shannon had settled in Richmond, Virginia. Kalli and Tony were in Little Elm. We weren't estranged, just widely spread.

Since retirement, I hadn't kept up with several friends.

The tragedy occurred in the middle of the night November 18, 2018, when my house outside Driftwood caught fire. I escaped with one night in the hospital. My wife, Joyce, died in the blaze.

Not only did I lose my wife of 41 years, I was left with only the pajamas I had on. I didn't even have shoes.

That was when family and friends re-

grouped to help put my life back together.

Kathy took me to her house to stay until I devised a plan.

Tim McKenzie, whose late father had been a friend, called to offer an unoccupied apartment he owned.

Everyone came together to solve my problems.

As a newspaper editor, I had written about businessman Tracey Dean, then president of the Wimberley school board. When Tracey heard about my misfortune, he appeared with a sizeable check from members of his church. Then he arranged a line of credit for building materials at McCoy's and hired a carpenter to help me rebuild.

My granddaughter, Bethany Kraft, set up a GoFundMe to raise money. Friends I hadn't seen in some time mailed personal checks with condolences.

Granddaughters Melissa Niland and Rachel Nielsen helped set up the apartment as friends contributed furniture and clothing. Tim and grandson-in-law Brian Nielsen cleared cedar and built a pad for a foundation.

We purchased an unfinished 16-by-40-foot building as my future home. With much help and my building skills, we finished the inside to my design. Grandchildren as young as 5-year-old McKinley, 12-year-old Ned and teen Chase contributed. Grandson Cliff Roberson, a professional electrician, provided lights and power. Pat hung a storm door and installed cabinet shelves while Vicki, my daughter-in-law, joined the girls.

My former wife Vicki and her friend Joe nailed down the oak flooring furnished by Tracey from a remodeling job he'd done.

Now—thanks to all their love and efforts—I'm settled and happy in my new home. It's been said that it takes a village. A tragedy can prove what it really takes is family and friends. ■



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