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NOVEMBER 2023

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# November 2023



08

## 'Its Own Sweet Sound'

Cowboy poetry devotees ensure a Western tradition continues to find reverent audiences.

Story by Jessica Ridge  
Photos by Dave Shafer

ON THE COVER

Burleson singer-songwriter Kristyn Harris at the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

ABOVE

An ensemble of artists performs the finale, a tribute to Charles Goodnight.

Photos by Dave Shafer

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# World Renown

**WILEY POST**, pictured below, famous for his around-the-world flights in the 1930s, was born 125 years ago this month near Grand Saline, east of Dallas.

Post, credited with discovering the jet stream, twice set speed records for circling the globe. The celebrated adventurer, born November 22, 1898, perished with close friend Will Rogers in a plane crash in Alaska in 1935.



## Glorious Overtones

Pamela Dawson, choir director at DeSoto High School, south of Dallas, won a Grammy Music Educator Award in February—a lofty honor for a teacher whose students have performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and have landed on Broadway.

“I am this lady from Detroit, Michigan, who just loves music and wants to impart that into my students,” says Dawson, who began at DeSoto in 2006.



“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.”

—GEORGE BURNS

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## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

### Why doesn't somebody invent ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our September prompt: **My favorite swimming hole is ...**

As a teen it was Menard Creek, but at 83 it is my bathtub.

PAUL PAGE  
JASPER-NEWTON EC  
KIRBYVILLE

The creek in my backyard.

RAY WOLBRECHT  
PEDERNALES EC  
BLANCO

The next one. I have always been a sucker for swimming holes, ever since childhood. They always have a "Huck Finn" feel to me—very nostalgic—so if I see one, and I have shorts nearby, I jump in.

DAVE BOHN  
PEDERNALES EC  
CANYON LAKE

Balmerhea State Park pool—nothing better.

LISA HOLLOWAY FITZSIMMONS  
VIA FACEBOOK

Hamilton Pool.

ALAN ARROWOOD  
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.

---

## In Favor of Heat Pumps

Heat pumps are gaining popularity in the U.S, outselling gas furnaces by a wide margin in 2022. They're more energy-efficient, using much less electricity than traditional heating and air conditioning units.



# There Goes the Neighborhood

TEXAS' STRONG TIES to the moon are indisputable. After all, the world listened in as Neil Armstrong uttered these words during the Apollo 11 mission July 20, 1969: "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

Now, as NASA prepares to send astronauts back to the moon and establish a long-term presence there, the agency has contracted Austin 3D printing firm Icon to launch construction technologies for lunar landing pads, habitats and roads.

Closer to home, Icon has been creating 3D-printed houses and military barracks using gigantic robotic printers that layer the company's proprietary concrete mix.



ERICH SCHLEGEL

SEPTEMBER 2023 Dance Hall Darlings

“The Triumphs played at our Somerville High School prom, and we went to most of the dance halls mentioned. Brought back many great memories.”

JULIE PAZDRAL FULLER  
COSERV  
FRISCO

**Labyrinth Love**

My son built a labyrinth in Denton for his Eagle Scout project in 2006 [*Circles of Life*, August 2023]. It’s at First Christian Church, 1203 Fulton St., in the grassy area adjacent to the parking lot.

Betsy Deiterman  
Sam Houston EC  
Livingston

It was always a good day when the Triumphs came to town.

BRUCE GOODWYN  
VIA FACEBOOK

**Prize of the Pasture**

About the only time my mom would submit to bouncing around the pasture in the pickup with my dad and me on our ranch at Big Lake was when she was on her annual quest for agarita berries [*Make Your Shelf Useful*, August 2023].

We would find the plants here and there and pick off the little berries. When she had enough, Mom would make the most succulent pale red agarita jelly that would complement our breakfast table for months.

Jim McCoy  
Southwest Texas EC  
Big Lake



WYATT MCGSPADDEN

**Massive Mums**

I attended San Marcos High School 1968–71. We had Texas-sized mums back then—real mums [*Bigger and Better—Together*, September 2023]. Most had masses of ribbons, buttons, charms and bells attached. It was a big deal to have one.

Paula T. Phillips  
Pedernales EC  
San Marcos

**Literary Great**

*Lonesome Dove* may be the best book I’ve ever read [*A Page of the Past*, August 2023]. Since I’m 92, I’ve read a lot of books.

If he had never written anything other than *Lonesome Dove*, Larry McMurtry would still be known among any of the prior great writers.

Jerry Pentecost  
Jackson EC  
Port Lavaca

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letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

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

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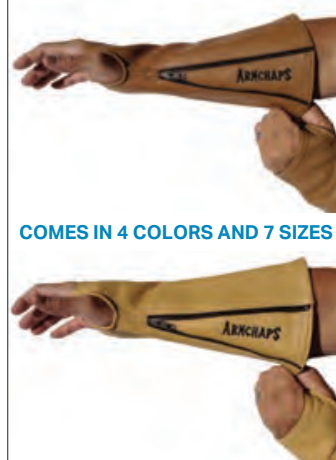
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## **COWBOY POETRY** devotees ensure a Western tradition continues to find rapt audiences

**A** pint-size poet steps up to a microphone stand that towers over her. It's a February morning in far West Texas as Bethia Baize, 5, recites *The Well-Used Cayuse*, inspired by her horse. Emcee Karen McGuire holds the mic at the kindergartener's height. Bethia speaks softly, from memory, to a rapt audience in a Sul Ross State University lecture hall, her voice and words kicking off a youth poetry contest. When she's finished, the

room thunders with applause, and Bethia claims the first-place plaque for her age group.

For the rest of the session, which is one of dozens at the annual Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, the energy in the room is electric. Parents, grandparents and other supporters fill every seat and line the walls as 16 young poets recite their award-winning works about cattle and coyotes, cowboys and cowgirls, and the rhythms of





Montana brother-sister duo Brigid and Johnny Reedy rehearse before one of their sessions at the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine. Their stirring vocal harmonies left audiences spellbound that weekend in February.

# 'Its Own Sweet, Sound'

BY JESSICA RIDGE • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

ranch life. The room pulses with pride, love and nerves—like a spelling bee, but giddier and more exuberant.

Bethia's aunt, Elizabeth Baize, a member of the poetry gathering's board of directors, co-hosted the youth poetry contest with McGuire, also a board member. In the weeks before the event, Baize visits area schools to spur students to enter. She encourages them to talk with older relatives who might have ranch life experience and to look at photographs or paintings that might inspire them to write a story in the form of a poem.



*“Poetry is  
a language  
of the heart.  
It’s a language  
of emotion.  
Prose is language,  
but poetry is  
what sears it  
into our being.”*



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT  
Andy Wilkinson of Lubbock  
reviews his notes back-  
stage. Kristyn Harris calls  
the gathering a place for  
“sharing your art, sharing  
yourself.” Mornings begin  
outside with cowboy coffee  
over a fire.

**I**t’s no mean feat winnowing down the annual crop of entries to the winners. As the judges read the entries, “there are giggles and good belly laughs, tears and sniffles, and ‘Oh my, listen to this!’” McGuire says.

The future of cowboy poetry is in good hands.

McGuire and Baize—and scores of organizers and volunteers—work hard to ensure that future. They helped stage this year’s gathering, which drew north of 2,200 attendees and featured 40-plus performers of cowboy poetry, which encompasses music, spoken-word poetry and storytelling by ranch hands, cowboys and cowgirls and has been enshrined as an oral tradition by Library of Congress folklorists.

In North America, the Texas gathering is second in size only to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, according to Bob Saul, the gathering’s volunteer event producer. This year’s event delivered at least five times as many free performances and sessions as ticketed





ones. That's by design, Saul says.

"We want people to come. Some of the cowboy poetry gatherings have gone to all paid; there's nothing free you can go to," Saul, 79, says. "But our board has decided that we're going to carry on the tradition and the mission, that we will do our best to provide cowboy poetry, as much of it as possible, free of charge.

"In other words, it's for ranching families."

In 2019, Saul was in the audience at the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering (the original iteration of the event in Alpine) when it was announced that that year's gathering would be the last. Saul immediately began canvassing for volunteers to keep the event, or some semblance of it, alive.

"I just started talking to people and asking if they would be willing to help, if we could get it restarted, would they volunteer," Saul says. "And I came back to Fort Worth after two days with 142 email addresses in my pocket."

Over several months, Bob and his wife, Nancy Saul, a graphic designer who creates the gathering's annual programs, made more than a dozen 15-hour round trips

between their North Texas home and Alpine to help the new gathering find its footing. Those pilgrimages were rooted in a deep affinity.

"Poetry is a language of the heart," Saul says. "It's a language of emotion. Prose is language, but poetry is what sears it into our being. And today poetry is mostly academic. You don't hear, like you used to, people going to hear people quote poetry; except when you go hear the fishermen and the miners and the loggers and the cowboys.

"Those kinds of industries, where people are working long hours and they are more alone, they've got time to think. And they've got time to sing. And they've got time to recite to themselves."

**T**hat reverence reverberates across the gathering, which takes place the third weekend in February. At sessions with names like Western Harmony, Ranch Women and Working Ranch Families, audiences are focused and present, bearers of a quietude

punctuated only by bursts of applause or laughter. Almost every cellphone is out of sight, every eye on the performers. Those wearing cowboy hats are kindly asked to remove them so as not to obstruct the view for others.

Kay Nowell, co-chair of the gathering, describes the genre as a celebration of a tradition and a way of life. “What cowboy poetry is is real,” she says. “People get taken into rural people’s life, and they get to experience it through their poems and their songs. It’s a culture that adheres to a code.”



The Mellard brothers from outside Marfa found success during the youth poetry contest. From left, Travis and Thomas earned honorable mentions, and Aiden claimed second place in his age group.

Nowell has conformed to that code for decades. She was a featured poet at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 1989, which led to an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, where she recited her poem *A What?!!!*

A chuck wagon breakfast kicks off each day of the Alpine gathering. This year temperatures stay below freezing as Alpine Lions Club members serve scrambled eggs and biscuits and gravy in the peaceful Poet’s Grove at Kokernot Park. Cups of coffee skate across iced-over tables as the sun crests a hill, and a blazing firepit and easy conversation counter the chill.

The spirit of camaraderie and mindful attention extends to the gathering’s open mic sessions, another free daily offering open to the public. Musicians and spoken-word performers sign up in advance, wait for their names to be called and then amble down to speak, sing or play their piece. Jan Hartman is up first Friday and plays *Amazing Grace* and taps on her fife.

The instrument “has its own sweet sound, I think,” Hartman says. “It has more of a country sound than an orchestra sound.” Hartman, who lives in Alpine and has participated in the open mic for the past five years, says she still gets nervous before she plays. It’s worth it, though.

“It makes you stand out a little bit, just to be able to play before some people, and be able to tell a testimony or a story or, there again, a poem that you’ve heard,” Hartman says. “So it just makes you feel a little special.”

One of the musicians Hartman most looks forward to each year is Kristyn Harris, who first appeared at the gathering’s open mic more than a decade ago. The singer and yodeler, songwriter, swing rhythm guitarist, and winner of multiple International Western Music Association awards performed in several sessions at this year’s event.

“The audiences here are really here to soak it up, and you really connect with them,” says Harris, a Burleson resident and member of United Cooperative Services, an electric cooperative in the Metroplex. “Rather than just performing for people, it’s like sharing your art, sharing yourself

PLAN FOR  
*Poetry*

The next Lone Star  
Cowboy Poetry  
Gathering is set  
for February 15–17,  
2024, in Alpine.



Nevada rancher Waddie Mitchell has been a performing poet for decades.

of Juni Fisher's spare, moving rendition of Simon and Garfunkel's folk classic *The Boxer*. The talent on display is dizzying, the audience enraptured, and the trio onstage—with poet Amy Hale emceeding—exude a sisterhood in their banter and backing of each other.

"I've played festivals that are *festivals*, and then the gathering is different," Harris says. "There are performers here that I really look up to, that I could see as celebrities, but here no one is a big celebrity."

Loren Schooley, a musician from Marfa who works in information technology and performs at Friday's open mic, echoes that sentiment. "Usually you go to a gig, and then you see the band or two, and then that's it," Schooley says. "But here it's almost like a conference. You never know what you're going to step into if you go into some of these rooms. And when you find the sweet spot—I've shed more tears here and laughter. You just can't get that anywhere else."

The gathering's performers are similarly compelled. "The best way I can describe it is it's family," Harris says.

and sharing your history."

In a Saturday afternoon show, Harris covers the jazz standard *All of Me* in a Western Swing style on the heels

"There's a big, big, big Texas spirit about this gathering that's also different from some other poetry gatherings that are in other parts of the country. Everyone is just so Texan: friendly, wants to give you a big hug and just gives you that warm feeling."

The sweet spots and Texas spirit alchemize into what Nowell calls magic sessions. "They're intoxicating," she says. "A lot of times when I've been in one you just throw away your setlist and feed off the last guy's stuff. And it's all one piece. A lot's going on up there on that stage, and the audience feels it, and they're taken along on the ride. But the performers are having a blast."

Community investment helps sustain that improvisation. "Volunteers are critical to this," Nowell says. "We can't put this on without support from members and support from sponsors."

Tradition and fortitude are woven into the gathering's rough-hewn fabric. "The Lone Star is bound and determined to keep it cowboy," Nowell says. "Weather, government, markets; it's a hard life. But it's something people want to raise their children in." ■

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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER GARY DON NIETSCHÉ

## We're Thankful for Your Membership

**AUTHOR WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD** once said, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

In the spirit of those wise words, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our cooperative. Because of your connection to Fayette Electric Cooperative, we're able to make our community a better place.

I typically use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so that our members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges.

However, during this season of giving thanks, I think it's equally important to let you and other members of Fayette EC know the impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.



DEAF SMITH EC

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we take pride in our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

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We work closely with local schools to provide safety demonstrations and award college scholar-

ships. Fayette EC also participates in the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersive experience of democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are humbled and honored to be a part of their leadership development.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, or provide suggestions to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the membership at large.

Because we're locally governed by members of our community, we have a firsthand perspective on community priorities, better enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades.

We're thankful that our board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment of time results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way that our members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness toward our lineworkers and other employees when they're working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we're trying to restore power during challenging situations.

Fayette EC was originally established 86 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The co-op is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place.

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## Don't Let a Full House Send Energy Bills Through the Roof

**PREPARING A THANKSGIVING** feast means you'll be using more energy than usual. Here's how to keep it under control:

Lower the thermostat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.

Consider alternative versions of your Thanksgiving favorites for a fresh, healthy spin on tradition that doesn't require as much energy to cook. A bean salad could replace green bean casserole. Try a green salad with dried cranberries and feta cheese. Smoke or fry a turkey outside instead of in the oven. Or make mashed potatoes in the slow cooker or electric pressure cooker instead of on the stove. Fresh fruit for dessert could replace apple pie and provide a refreshing, light option.

Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are snugly closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.

Wait until leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.

Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. The lids keep heat in, so food cooks quicker.

Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or in the oven. Microwaves use about half as much energy as your oven.

Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.

Resist the temptation to open the oven door and peek at dinner's progress. Every time you open the oven door, the appliance loses heat and sets back the cooking time.

Don't buy a bigger turkey than you need. A smaller turkey takes less time to cook. If you're roasting your turkey for several hours, then it isn't necessary to preheat the oven. Just make sure the meat reaches an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees. ■

## Fayette Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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La Grange, TX 78945  
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Toll-Free 1-866-968-3181  
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### ABOUT FAYETTE EC

FEC serves Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington counties.

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- Pay by Bank Draft
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### TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Fayette EC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

[fayette.coop](http://fayette.coop)





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**Fry the Turkey, Not Yourself**  
**Deep-frying a turkey can result in a juicy, crispy bird. The production can also go very wrong. Here are some tips to consider:**

Don't try to deep-fry a turkey indoors. Use a propane-fired burner and deep pot made for frying.

Set the propane tank upwind away from the burner.

Position the fryer in an open area away from structures, trees and fences. Don't fry in a garage, carport or porch.

Make sure turkey skin is completely dry to prevent spatter burns. Ease the turkey into and out of the hot oil.

Keep a close eye on the oil temperature and turn off the burner if the oil begins to smoke.

If the oil catches fire, call 911 immediately. **DO NOT** try to put out the fire with water, which will only spread the flames.

**Going to Memaw's?**  
**If you're taking a toddler to a home that's not childproof:**

Take medicines off bedside tables and out of unlocked drawers. Store them in a lockbox or on a high shelf. Iron pills or iron-fortified vitamins can pose a poisoning risk.

Bring along safety gates to block off any dangerous areas.

Make sure bathroom doors stay closed or block them off with a gate.

Watch out for small objects like coins or batteries that a curious youngster might swallow. If it can fit through a toilet paper tube, it's a choking hazard.

Traveling by plane? Don't forget the car seat.

## Tips for a Safe and Healthy Thanksgiving

**HERE ARE SOME TIPS** from Fayette Electric Cooperative to help keep your Thanksgiving celebration a little safer, healthier and more energy-efficient.

### Preparing the Feast

**Thawing a turkey? Planning ahead can make a big difference.**

Put the still-wrapped bird on a tray to keep fluids from contaminating food in the refrigerator.

Thaw it in the refrigerator one day for every 4 pounds. That means you'll have to start thawing a 20-pound gobbler the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Clean your stove and oven before you start cooking your holiday meal.

Use the self-cleaning mode on your oven just after you've used it to take advantage of the residual heat.

Make the kitchen off-limits to kids who aren't helping with the meal. This lessens chances of an accident.

Don't wear dangling jewelry or loose long sleeves while cooking. They could catch fire or snag pot handles.

Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.

### Serve Up Energy Savings

**With added holiday expenses, saving a little energy—and money—can be a big help.**

Replace your lightbulbs with LED bulbs. Your guests won't notice a difference in lighting, but you'll see a difference in your bill.

Cook at least one dish from start to finish in the microwave, which uses about one-third of the electricity of a conventional oven. Slow cookers can help trim costs, too, and they don't add as much heat to the room as the oven.

Load the dishwasher completely full. With a mountain of dinner plates, using the dishwasher will be more efficient than handwashing. ■



AVAILABLELIGHT | ISTOCK.COM

## How To Caulk Windows

**CAULKING IS ONE OF** the easiest home improvement tasks, and over the long term, it can save you money on your power bill. Here's a step-by-step guide to getting started.

**A note: Caulk around the windows' molding and stay away from the movable parts that allow you to open and close the windows.**

1. Caulk on a day when your windows are completely dry inside and out and on a day that is not extremely hot or cold.
2. Choose a good caulk. Some can be painted; different kinds are compatible with masonry, vinyl or wood; and some are formulated for use in humid climates. Also, there are different caulks for indoor or outdoor use. Read the label carefully before purchasing.
3. The type of dispenser also is important to do a good job. Some caulk comes in a tube while others come in cartridges that get loaded into a caulk gun.
4. Read the instructions that come with the caulk and the caulk gun; they're detailed and full of tips for successfully completing your project.
5. Collect the caulk, a caulk gun with a trigger, putty knife, sponge or rags, and a wire brush.
6. Use the putty knife to scrape the old caulk off of the windows. If it won't budge, buy caulk softener.
7. Clean the windows with a damp sponge or rag and then dry them. Wait until they are completely dry to apply fresh caulk. For extra protection, you might consider using painters tape to outline the area you're caulking.
8. Fill the caulk gun with caulk and point it to the corner of the window farthest from you. Press the trigger and work your way backward. Get caulk into all of the joints.
9. Smooth out the caulk by applying water to your fingers and working it into the cracks.
10. Let the caulk dry, which can take several hours. ■

## Get Your House Ready for Winter

**EVEN IF IT'S NOT** cold outside yet, it's time to get ready for the day when the temperature falls.

**Here are five fall jobs that will prepare your home for cold weather:**

1. Caulk around windows and doors, even if you did it last fall. Cracks in old caulk can let cold air in and warm air out.
2. Reverse the direction of ceiling fan blades so they circulate clockwise.
3. Get your chimney inspected and cleaned if you plan to burn wood this season. Buildup of creosote can cause a chimney fire.
4. Call an HVAC tech to inspect your central heating system, perform maintenance and do any needed repairs so you don't lose heat once it gets cold.
5. Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors before heating season begins.
6. Replace any damaged weatherstripping around doors and windows to create a better seal. ■



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# APPLY FOR A **TRIP OF A LIFETIME**



## WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Fayette Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums and meeting elected officials.
- Developing life-long friendships with delegates from across the country!

## HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants must be a sophomore, junior or senior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Fayette Electric Cooperative.
- The deadline to apply is January 19, 2024.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.FAYETTE.COOP/YOUTH-TOUR](http://WWW.FAYETTE.COOP/YOUTH-TOUR)  
OR CONTACT TRACY DENTON AT  
[TRACYA@FAYETTE.COOP](mailto:TRACYA@FAYETTE.COOP).



**EMPOWER** 

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM:  
NRECA-YOUTH-TOUR-DC

## Buh-Bye, Incandescent Lightbulbs

IF YOU'VE BEEN HAVING trouble finding replacements for the incandescent bulbs you've always used in your table lamps and overhead fixtures, it's because most have been essentially banned.

As of August 1, stores stopped selling most incandescent bulbs, and U.S. manufacturers stopped making them for most uses, according to rules from the federal government. Exceptions include oven lightbulbs and bug lights, which will still be available but must meet new efficiency standards.

You may continue to use the incandescent bulbs you already own, but you won't be able to replace them with new incandescents.

The ban aims to encourage the use of LED bulbs, which are longer-lasting, far more energy-efficient and cool to the touch.

The new rule is expected to collectively save Americans \$3 billion a year on their utility bills.

If compact fluorescent lightbulbs are what you're after, they're still in stores—for now. ■



IRINA GUTRYAK | ISTOCK.COM



ZHANNA DANILOVA | ISTOCK.COM

## Inspire Hope This Holiday Season

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE A** time for family, friends and giving. If you're looking for ways to bring more meaning to your holidays, these ideas are a great place to start.

**Help out a neighbor.** If you have a neighbor who needs help decorating, shopping or writing holiday cards, offer to lend a hand. This is also a great opportunity to get the whole family involved. Even young kids can pitch in to decorate—and help take the decorations down once the holidays are over.

**Give gifts to teachers.** Teachers work tirelessly all year long, and the holidays are the perfect time to show your thanks. Give a gift card, custom stationery, or a personalized water bottle or tote bag. Don't forget to include a handwritten note from your child expressing why they appreciate their teacher.

**Invite friends to a holiday dinner.** Do you know any friends, acquaintances or co-workers who live far from family? If they aren't traveling home, invite them over for a holiday dinner. If they decline your invitation, consider making a larger portion than you'll need, freezing the leftovers and dropping them by the next day.

**Donate to giving trees.** What's a giving tree? You might find one displayed in a grocery store, library, school or community center. A giving tree is typically decorated with wish lists from kids in the area. Pick a wish list from the tree, purchase the gift and return it to the sponsoring organization.

**Volunteer.** Other holiday-specific volunteer opportunities may include serving meals at a food bank or participating in a local toy drive. If you don't have the time to volunteer in person, you could sponsor a family instead. Many local organizations have holiday "adopt a family" programs, matching you with a family in need of basic necessities and gifts.

The holidays are a time filled with joy, but for some, they can be difficult. We hope that these tips inspire you to go out and make a difference in your neighbors' lives. ■



## Enroll your child for free monthly books!

Inspire your child's love of reading with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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Phone: 979-968-3181 | [tracya@fayette.coop](mailto:tracya@fayette.coop)

## Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

### If you're under a hurricane warning, find safe shelter right away.

#### When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first-aid supplies. Learn how to build an emergency kit at [ready.gov/build-a-kit](https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit).

#### When a hurricane is 18–36 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Bring indoors any loose, lightweight objects that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture and garbage cans); anchor objects that are unsafe to bring in (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on a building.

#### When a hurricane is 6–18 hours from arriving:

- ▶ Turn on your TV or radio or check your city or county website every 30 minutes for the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- ▶ Charge your cellphone so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

#### When a hurricane is six hours from arriving:

- ▶ If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are, and let friends and family know where you are.
- ▶ Close storm shutters and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- ▶ Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when power is restored.

#### To stay safe during a hurricane:

- ▶ If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- ▶ If sheltering during high winds, go to a Federal Emergency Management Agency safe room; International Code Council 500 storm shelter; or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- ▶ If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic; you may become trapped by rising floodwaters.

#### To stay safe after a hurricane:

- ▶ Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- ▶ Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- ▶ Avoid wading in floodwaters, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

## Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

### Cuando un huracán está a 36 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Prenda su televisor o radio para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Reponga su kit de emergencias. Incluya alimentos y agua suficientes para al menos tres días, medicamentos, una linterna, pilas, dinero en efectivo y suministros de primeros auxilios. Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en [ready.gov/build-a-kit](https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit).

### Cuando un huracán está a 18–36 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Marque como favorito el sitio web de su ciudad o condado para el acceso rápido de las actualizaciones de tormentas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Traiga adentro objetos sueltos y ligeros que puedan convertirse en proyectiles con vientos fuertes (por ejemplo, muebles de patio y botes de basura); sujete objetos que no serían seguros para llevar adentro (por ejemplo, tanques de propano); y recorte o retire los árboles que están lo suficientemente cerca como para caer en un edificio.

### Cuando un huracán está a 6–18 horas de llegar:

- ▶ Encienda su televisor o radio, o visite el sitio web de su ciudad o condado cada 30 minutos para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- ▶ Cargue su teléfono celular para que tenga una batería llena en caso de que pierda energía.

### Cuando un huracán está a seis horas de llegar:

- ▶ Si no se encuentra en un área recomendada para la evacuación, planifique quedarse en su casa o donde se encuentra y avise a sus amigos y familiares donde se encuentra.
- ▶ Cierre las contraventanas y aléjese de las ventanas. Los vidrios que vuelan de las ventanas rotas podrían dañarle.
- ▶ Ajuste la temperatura de su refrigerador o congelador a la posición más fría y ábralos solo cuando sea necesario. Si pierde la energía, la comida durará por más tiempo. Mantenga un termómetro en el refrigerador para poder verificar la temperatura de los alimentos cuando se restablezca la energía.

### Para mantenerse a salvo durante un huracán:

- ▶ Si se le indica que evacue, hágalo inmediatamente. No maneje alrededor de las barricadas.
- ▶ Si se refugia durante vientos fuertes, vaya a una habitación segura de la Federal Emergency Management Agency, refugio contra tormentas del International Code Council 500 o una habitación o pasillo pequeña e interior sin ventanas en el piso más bajo que no esté sujeto a inundaciones.
- ▶ Si queda atrapado en un edificio por inundación, vaya al nivel más alto del edificio. No suba a un ático cerrado porque usted puede quedar atrapado por las crecientes inundaciones.

### Para mantenerse a salvo después de un huracán:

- ▶ Escuche a las autoridades para obtener información e instrucciones especiales.
- ▶ No toque el equipo eléctrico si está mojado o si está parado en el agua. Si es seguro hacerlo, apague la electricidad en el interruptor principal o en la caja de fusibles para evitar una descarga eléctrica.
- ▶ Evite vadear en el agua de la inundación, que puede contener desechos peligrosos. Las líneas eléctricas subterráneas o caídas también pueden cargar el agua eléctricamente.

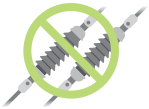


# ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



**Take notice** of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



**Do not** shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



**Know** where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



**Be especially careful** in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



**Do not** place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



**Do not** place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday,  
November 5  
Set clocks back one hour.

### Veterans Day

Saturday,  
November 11

### Thanksgiving

Thursday,  
November 23  
Our office will be closed  
November 23–24 for the  
holiday.

### Giving Tuesday

Tuesday,  
November 28

KATERINASERGEVNA | ISTOCK.COM

**27**  
DAYS OF



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<sup>1</sup>Subject 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 11/27/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 12/7/23. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





# Appraising the Texas Landscape

When Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park, first laid eyes on a new state

BY W. F. STRONG

**SOME SAY TIME TRAVEL** will be possible one day, and some say it's the stuff of fairy tales.

For now, books are the next best thing. They can help us understand how people lived, thought and talked long ago, especially when they're written for the express purpose of cataloging such things.

Frederick Law Olmsted did exactly that when he toured Texas in the 1850s.

With his brother, he traveled a couple thousand miles around Texas on horseback, chronicling his experiences for the *New-York Daily Times*, a predecessor of

*The New York Times*. His book, *A Journey Through Texas: Or a Saddle-Trip on the Southwestern Frontier*, is an absolute treasure—a priceless, time-sensitive ethnography that includes observations about and objections to slavery.

And it's more than a snapshot. It's an intricate mural of Texas around a decade after it became a state and as the U.S. headed toward civil war.

Many know Olmsted as the father of American landscape architecture. He designed New York's Central Park, the U.S. Capitol grounds and some 100 parks

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



and recreation grounds.

But before all that, Olmsted arrived in Nacogdoches in December 1853 and then meandered the state. He explored the Piney Woods, Hill Country, coastal plains, Southwest Texas and even some of northern Mexico.

When he arrived in Austin, population 3,000 back then, Olmsted found his hotel dirty and the food inedible. He was also dismayed that there was not one bookstore in town.

But he loved New Braunfels. The German communities and natural magnificence of the lands along the Guadalupe River were so impressive to Olmsted that he almost stayed. He was enchanted by the springtime wildflowers in the Hill Country, and he affirmed the German saying that “the sky is nearer in Texas.”

Riding out west to Eagle Pass, Olmsted killed an enormous 5½-foot rattlesnake. Olmsted worried in the daytime that his horse would get bitten, and at night he worried that a rattler would snuggle up with him in his bedroll. He also saw his first horny toads and so loved the little creatures that he shipped some back home to New York to be kept as pets.

In San Antonio he fell in love with the river. “We are so struck by its beauty,” he wrote. “It is of a rich blue and pure as crystal, flowing rapidly but noiselessly over pebbles and between reedy banks.”

But Texas was still the Wild West, and gunfights were common in the plaza. “As the actors are under ... excitement, their aim is not apt to be of the most careful and sure, consequently, it is, not seldom, the passers-by who suffer,” he wrote.

Maybe time travel is best done at the library after all. ■

# Holiday Desserts

Fruity flavors rise to the occasion during the season of sharing

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

This delicious cake makes for a sweet ending to a holiday meal. Cranberry sauce baked into a vanilla-scented batter balances tart and sweet flavors to please palates that like a bit of both.

## Cranberry Cake

3 eggs  
2 cups sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter,  
room temperature  
1½ teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons milk  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 cups flour  
1 can whole berry cranberry sauce  
(14 ounces)  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup powdered sugar  
1 cup cranberry jam, optional

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Liberally coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar for 5 minutes, until eggs have increased in volume.
3. Add butter and vanilla and continue beating for an additional 2 minutes. Beat in milk and salt.
4. Stir in flour and then fold in cranberry sauce. Spoon into baking pan.
5. Bake 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
6. Let cool, slice and serve dusted with powdered sugar. Top with cranberry jam, if desired.

SERVES 12

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Cranberry Punch.





## Mini Cherry Muffins

ANN BASHARA  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Mini muffins sweetened with maraschino cherries are the tastiest little holiday bites. Bashara's mother made these tiny treats every year for Christmas parties, and they soon became a family tradition.

**4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter, room temperature, plus 2 tablespoons for buttering muffin pans**

**½ cup brown sugar**

**½ cup sugar**

**2 eggs, separated**

**1 cup flour**

**¼ teaspoon baking powder**

**1 jar maraschino cherries (10 ounces), drained, juice reserved**

**½ cup finely chopped pecans**

**1 cup powdered sugar, for dusting muffins**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease mini muffin pans with butter.
2. In a medium bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and creamy. Slightly beat egg yolks and add to mixture along with flour, baking powder and 3 tablespoons of reserved cherry juice and blend.
3. Beat egg whites until light and fluffy. Gently fold into batter.
4. Sprinkle ¼ teaspoon of pecans into the bottom of each muffin tin. Spoon 1 teaspoon of batter over pecans, then place one cherry in center of batter. Top with an additional teaspoon of batter to cover cherries.
5. Bake 10–12 minutes.
6. Dust with powdered sugar and serve warm.

MAKES 3 DOZEN

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Mom's Pear Cake

GINGER CLARDY  
BANDERA EC



A quick and easy Bundt cake is the perfect dessert for the holiday table or feeding a breakfast crowd. Clardy's creation is studded with pears, cinnamon and pecans and drizzled with a sweet glaze.

SERVES 12

CAKE

**3 eggs**

**2 cups sugar**

**1 tablespoon vanilla extract**

**1 cup vegetable oil**

**3 cups flour**

**½ teaspoon salt**

**1 teaspoon baking soda**

**1 tablespoon ground cinnamon**

**1 cup chopped pecans**

**4 cups diced pears, plus ½ cup for garnish, if desired**

GLAZE

**2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter**

**2 cups powdered sugar**

**2 tablespoons milk**

1. CAKE Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Liberally coat a Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, vanilla and vegetable oil until smooth.
3. Stir in flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon. Batter will be thick.
4. Fold in pecans and pears.
5. Spoon batter into Bundt pan. Bake 40–50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
6. GLAZE Melt butter over low heat. Add powdered sugar and milk, whisk until smooth. Drizzle over warm cake. Garnish with diced pears, if desired.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

PERFECT POTLUCK DUE NOVEMBER 10

Everybody looks forward to your contribution. Share your potluck specialty and you might win \$500. Submit your favorite online by November 10.





## Holiday Bark

RITA PAUL  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

If you're searching for a last-minute holiday treat that everyone will love, Paul's holiday bark has you covered. This bark can easily be adapted to include a variety of nuts, dried fruits or candies. It's done in a little over an hour and makes for the ultimate edible gift.

**16 ounces chopped white chocolate**  
**1 cup dried cranberries**

**1 cup shelled, chopped pistachios**  
**1 cup cashew halves**

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a double boiler melt white chocolate, stirring occasionally until smooth.
3. Pour melted chocolate onto baking sheet. Using a knife or rubber spatula, spread into a 9-by-12-inch rectangle.
4. Sprinkle chocolate with cranberries, pistachios and cashews.
5. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Break into pieces before serving.

**MAKES ABOUT 1 DOZEN PIECES**

**TCP** Want more dessert options heading into the holidays? We're happy to help with that. With more than 1,000 recipes from Co-op Country in our archives, you're sure to find the perfect sweet treat. You can find them all on our website.

## Over the River and Through the Woods

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

**Tips for traveling with holiday treats:**

Use muffin tins for deviled eggs, cupcakes and cold appetizers.

Frost and decorate cupcakes and cakes after you arrive to avoid smudges.

Add ice to a cooler before adding a cold dessert.

Wrap the entire cookie tray in plastic wrap to keep it secure.

When stacking frosted cookies, place waxed paper between each layer.

Place four toothpicks into your frosted cake then gently drape foil over the cake to protect frosting.

Use canning jars to transport sauces, fudge, cocoa mix and spiced nuts.



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Kid Stuff

Legend has it that outlaw Billy the Kid lived out his days in Hico

BY CHET GARNER

I REMEMBER sitting around the campfire telling stories about the Wild West. Specifically, the story of how infamous gunslinger Billy the Kid outsmarted everyone and lived to old age in Hico under a fake name. Was it true? I headed to the small town southwest of Fort Worth to find out.

There are a couple things I do every time I'm in Hico. First I eat a chicken-fried steak at Koffee Kup Family Restaurant, and then I buy pecan toffee from Wiseman House Chocolates. After that, I'm ready to investigate.

Hico's historic downtown is booming these days, and the Billy the Kid Museum is right in the middle of it. The museum archives all the stories of Hico's history and its infamous (alleged) resident.

I walked the displays and dug deep into the legend of Henry McCarty, aka William H. Bonney, aka Billy the Kid. It seems even his real name is up for debate. What is certain is that Billy was a notorious outlaw who stole cattle and gunned down many men across the Southwest.

Many say that lawman Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1881. There's even a grave in that town with his name on it. But some say Garrett granted Billy mercy on the condition that he promise to never kill again.

In the 1940s, a reporter with a hot tip tracked down a man named "Brushy Bill" Roberts in Hico. Brushy claimed he was indeed the outlaw, with the scars and stories to prove it. However, before he could receive an official pardon from the governor of New Mexico, he died of a heart attack. Many questions remain, but the folks in Hico believe it was Billy himself.

Take a trip to Hico, conduct your own investigation and decide for yourself. ■

ABOVE Billy the Kid, in sculpted form, maintains a presence in downtown Hico.

**TCP** See more of Chet's search into the Billy the Kid mystery 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.

## NOVEMBER

10

**The Colony [10-11] American Heroes: A Salute to Veterans & First Responders**, (972) 625-1106, [thecolonytx.gov](http://thecolonytx.gov)

11

**Brenham The Gatlin Brothers**, (979) 337-7240, [thebarnhillcenter.com](http://thebarnhillcenter.com)

**Fredericksburg St. Martin's Day Celebration**, (830) 990-2044, [visitfredericksburgtx.com](http://visitfredericksburgtx.com)

**San Marcos Hangar Dance**, (737) 285-0015, [hangardance.org](http://hangardance.org)

16

**Corsicana Holiday Tree Lighting**, (903) 654-4850, [visitcorsicana.com](http://visitcorsicana.com)

**Marble Falls Pastel Demo With Dina Gregory**, (830) 693-7324, [visitmarblefalls.org](http://visitmarblefalls.org)

18

**Bluff Dale Front Porch Christmas Market**, (817) 946-0141, [facebook.com/thefrontporchbluffdale](https://facebook.com/thefrontporchbluffdale)

**Bowie Hanging of the Greens**, (940) 872-6246, [cityofbowietx.com](http://cityofbowietx.com)

**Burnet Sip n' Shop**, (512) 766-0555, [tornalochs.com](http://tornalochs.com)

**Fredericksburg Willow City Quilt Show and Live Auction**, (830) 685-3376, [willowcityfd.com](http://willowcityfd.com)

**Henderson A Very Merry Market**, (318) 780-0620, [thechurchatlakecherokee.com](http://thechurchatlakecherokee.com)

19

**Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

25

**Giddings Sip & Shop Christmas Market**, (979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

28

**Stonewall Deck the Halls**, (830) 644-2252, tpwd.texas.gov

**Ingram [25-26, Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-16] A Christmas Carol**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

29

**Columbus Christmas on the Colorado Lighted Parade**, (979) 732-8385, columbus.texas.org

**Tyler [29-Dec. 2] Mistletoe & Magic**, (903) 595-5426, juniorleagueoftyler.org

## DECEMBER

01

**Bowie Sweet Gingerbread Sip and Stroll With Me**, (940) 872-6246, cityofbowietx.com

**Kerrville [1-2, 8-10, 15-17] One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall**, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

02

**Lufkin Christmas in the Pines**, (936) 633-0359, visitlufkin.com

**Post Light Up Post**, (806) 495-2811, postcitytexas.com

07

**New Braunfels Christmas Market at Historic Old Town**, (830) 629-2943, newbraunfelsconservation.org

### TCP *Submit Your Event*

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

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# We've Found the Most Beautiful Endangered Species

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Curious? Read on!

To art nouveau jewelers at the turn of the last century, nothing was more beautiful than the dragonfly. In the dragonfly's long body and outstretched wings, jewelers found the perfect setting for valuable stones. These jewelers' dragonfly designs have become timeless statements of style; a dragonfly pendant designed by French jeweler René Lalique recently sold at auction for \$226,000. Inspired by his stunning artistry, we've crafted our Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection, an elegant jewelry set for JUST \$29!

True artisanship in Austrian crystal and yellow gold. This necklace and earring set features gorgeous multicolored enamel paired with Austrian crystals and a yellow gold finish. Ask any jeweler and they'll tell you it takes true artisanship to properly blend the blues and purples found in this enamel. While art nouveau dragonflies are hard to come by, we're helping to repopulate their numbers with this artfully stylized depiction of some of nature's smallest wonders!

Buy the pendant, get the earrings FREE. If Stauer were a normal company, we'd sell the necklace and earrings for \$199 each, but because we engage the world's best artisans and cut out the middlemen to sell directly to you, we're offering the necklace for JUST \$29! Even better: If you buy within the next few days, we'll throw in the earrings for FREE! That's a nearly \$400 value for JUST \$29!

Act fast! Get this collection now before this offer goes extinct!

### Jewelry Specifications:

- Enamel with Austrian crystal. Yellow gold finish
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- Earrings: 1 1/4" L, french wire



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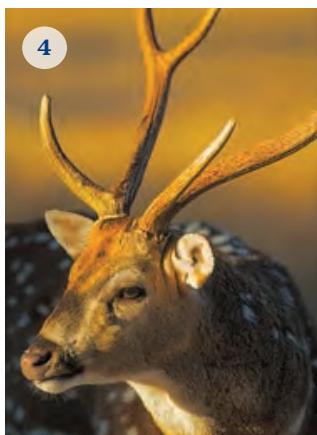


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**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Golden Hour photos from readers.



## A School Day Like No Other

60 years ago this month, time stopped for Texans wherever they were

BY KATHLEEN COX RICHARDSON  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
STEPHANIE SHAFER

ON NOVEMBER 21, 1963, the principal of Dolores School in South Austin told the teachers that President John F. Kennedy and his beautiful wife were coming to visit Austin. We were to take the children downtown from our Catholic school in the old yellow buses, stand along the main drag and wave to them as they drove through the city in an open car.

After lunch the next day, the children lined up in order in the parking lot, first grade up to eighth grade. They stood quietly, but I could sense a wave of controlled excitement rippling through us. This was an opportunity of a lifetime—seeing our hero, our president.

All eyes were on the mother superior, our principal, while we watched for her signal to begin boarding the buses. “Mother, mother!” the school secretary

called as she ran toward us. She whispered to the principal, handing her a transistor radio. Then Mother turned to us and said, “Gov. Connally has been shot. We’re going into the church to pray for him.”

Stunned, we turned around, still in orderly lines, first graders first.

We filed into the pews and knelt, hands clasped, heads bowed. Mother stood in front of us, holding the small radio close to her ear; we heard a muted voice but could not make out the words. Then she moved the radio away from her ear and said to us, her voice steady, “The president has been shot. Pray for the president.”

A universal gasp coursed through the church. The little children squirmed as they knelt. The older girls began crying, softly. The radio continued its secret words. Little candle flames trembled in their blood-red holders, poised for news.

Then we heard the worst: “The president is dead. Pray for our president, John F. Kennedy”—all of this delivered by a calm, tearless woman. Shocked, I mumbled some sort of prayer, tears running down my face.

In orderly lines, we returned to our classrooms. With fearful eyes, my second graders stared at me. They knew something bad had happened but weren’t sure what it was. A few of the girls began crying.

I swiped my face with a tissue and reassured them that I was OK. They returned to their seats. One of the boys raised his hand.

“Miss Cox.”

“Yes, Jimmy.”

“Does this mean we don’t get out of school?”

“Yes, that’s what it means.”

A hushed “aw” came in unison from out of their innocent mouths. What did they know? They were so young; they didn’t comprehend the impact of the horrible news.

Mother stopped by my classroom to tell me the children would be dismissed early.

Thank goodness. I didn’t have to continue the facade. ■

# 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. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and 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, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

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30	8.86	7.69	9.77	8.61	14	11	18	16	58	27.68	21.78	50.44	36.04	89	62	172	117
36	9.04	8.07	10.33	9.43	15	13	22	18	59	30.35	23.38	55.51	38.76	98	68	190	129
37	9.21	8.30	10.52	9.79	15	13	22	20	60	33.50	25.27	59.99	41.71	109	73	207	140
38	9.21	8.42	11.69	10.14	16	14	24	21	61	36.50	27.13	66.44	47.11	122	84	236	155
39	9.39	8.55	12.35	10.48	17	15	25	22	62	40.06	29.18	73.91	51.33	137	92	261	172
40	9.63	8.76	12.94	11.01	18	16	27	24	63	43.47	34.39	84.94	59.61	151	100	284	187
41	10.05	8.97	13.66	11.61	20	17	30	27	64	48.24	38.53	93.16	64.39	168	110	323	206
42	10.44	9.18	14.21	12.41	22	19	33	29	65	52.56	41.15	100.34	69.75	188	122	356	229
43	10.90	9.39	14.73	13.25	24	20	38	31	66	59.15	44.62	115.13	75.41	208	135	392	248
44	11.49	9.73	15.68	14.10	26	22	41	34	67	65.66	49.09	129.28	83.65	231	148	436	272
45	12.17	10.15	16.87	15.16	28	24	46	38	68	74.33	59.65	145.11	112.92	262	174	491	322
46	12.76	10.61	17.85	15.83	30	25	49	41	69	82.98	65.91	161.68	129.33	293	188	548	352
47	13.27	11.09	19.15	16.84	33	27	54	44	70	93.20	73.30	181.25	148.72	330	204	615	387
48	13.39	11.90	20.46	17.78	35	29	58	48	71	102.45	82.71	204.38	159.34	374	235	702	443
49	13.69	12.16	21.78	18.78	38	31	63	52	72	113.68	94.13	232.46	172.23	427	272	807	512
50	14.13	12.83	23.42	20.01	40	34	69	57	73	127.55	108.24	267.15	188.15	493	319	937	596
51	15.38	13.74	25.39	21.19	45	35	78	62	74	142.08	123.01	303.50	204.84	562	367	1074	685
52	16.37	14.89	28.03	22.77	49	38	87	67	75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	644	424	1235	789
53	17.47	15.89	30.97	24.82	55	44	101	77	76	200.03	174.92	418.29	276.67	785	530	1489	982
54	18.69	16.73	34.01	26.22	60	46	112	83	77	249.54	216.74	505.52	339.94	956	658	1797	1215
55	20.64	17.51	37.15	27.87	67	50	122	90	78	310.70	268.40	613.27	418.11	1167	817	2179	1504
56	22.70	19.49	41.68	31.08	74	53	139	97	79	374.78	322.52	726.16	500.00	1389	983	2578	1807
57	24.70	20.64	45.60	33.44	81	58	155	107	80	450.51	386.48	859.57	596.78	1651	1180	3050	2164

\* \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 monthly rates are rounded up to the nearest dollar. Therefore, actual monthly rates at \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 may be slightly less.

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**Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm EST**

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