THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Frisco Family Services helps CoServ Member get life back on track
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June 2017

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If you’re from North Texas or have lived here a few years, you know how important the concept of community is to CoServ. This principle has been embedded in our DNA since 1937, when we began serving the countryside as Denton County Electric Cooperative. Back then, rural residents banded together to create our co-op and ensure the delivery of reliable electricity to farmers and ranchers long ignored by investor-owned utilities.

When a catastrophic illness struck her husband, Darlene Jenkins of Little Elm discovered the true definition of community. She was steered to Frisco Family Services, a longtime CoServ community partner that helps CoServ Members like Darlene receive the support they need when facing adversity. This is just one example of how your Operation Roundup® donations are helping rebuild lives. Please turn to Page 18 to see how your generosity is making a difference.

In addition to reliable electricity, many of you are interested in renewable energy options and have asked us for a way to help. On Page 23, read about the energy solution that Plano Member Allison Boyce discovered on CoServ.com, thanks to the CoServ Solar Station.

This is “crowd sourcing” at its best, and we’ve been doing it for 80 years. So if you’re new to CoServ, welcome. If you’ve been with us awhile, thank you. And let us know how we can help your community.

Direct Lines

CATCH UP ON NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

They live in your communities, shop in your stores and—like you—receive monthly bills from CoServ Electric.

The CoServ Electric Board of Directors represents all CoServ Members, not just those in their districts, but each director is closely tied to his or her community.

So what’s happening in your district?
Download a copy of your Direct Lines at:
CoServ.com/About/Board of Directors

MISSION
To deliver excellent service to our Members and Customers by providing safe and reliable energy solutions.

VISION
To be a respected leader dedicated to implementing innovative ideas that fulfill the needs of those we serve.

ON THE COVER: When adversity struck Darlene Jenkins, Nickie Contreras and Frisco Family Services were ready to help. Read the story on Page 18.

New to CoServ?

We want to hear from you! Write to us to let us know where you’re from, what brings you — great job, great housing or great schools — and what community means to you. Tell us your story at:

communications@coserv.com

CONTACT US
For questions about this edition, email:
communications@coserv.com
or write to:
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7701 South Stemmons
Corinth, TX 76210-1842
Include a telephone number and address. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

Electric Emergency
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Gas Emergency
844-330-0763
Sowing Seeds for Future Scientists

CoServ Employees build planter boxes for Hackberry Elementary students

Students at Hackberry Elementary School in Frisco are getting their hands dirty as they learn about science thanks to CoServ.

CoServ Employees built wood and plexiglass planters for each grade level so that students can watch how plants grow above and below ground as well as see ants build tunnels.

“IT’s going to give every student in this school an opportunity to truly put their hands on science,” said Principal Tom Swartz.

The planters, funded by CoServ’s Adopt-a-School program, create an opportunity to teach STEM-related topics, not to mention let students take a break from indoor studies.

“This outdoor classroom is going to increase our academic vocabulary,” Swartz said. “Going outside each day really refreshes our minds.”

The Little Elm ISD campus is one of six adopted by CoServ this year.

“We want to thank CoServ for their partnership with our school,” Swartz said.

Looking for a fun and visual way to tell students about energy careers? CoServ can bring an electric arcing demo, a gas safety demo and a bucket truck to your school.

Email us at schools@coserv.com or visit CoServ.com/Community for details.
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**INSIDE:** CoServ Member Julie Wesley of Paloma Creek shares her Nest story on Page 20B

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Blue Highway Literature Out-of-the-way bookstores are thriving despite pressure from online sales
Story by Gene Fowler | Photos by Tadd Myers

Home Made Rural upbringing in an austere abode instills long-lasting values
Story by Brenda Kissko | Illustration by David Vogin

Animal Attraction Stock shows demand commitment from students, but the rewards can include scholarships.

Texas USA
When Greenville Beat the Yankees
By Evault Boswell

Observations
Taming the Class Clown
By Clay Coppedge

ON THE COVER Betty DeRieux owns Gladewater Books with her husband, Peter Adams. Photo by Tadd Myers
2016 MF GC1705L

23 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission, Quick Attach DL 95 Front End Loader
$11,998 Cash or $149.00 per month

2016 MF 1526L

25 HP, 4WD, Hydro-Transmission, Quick Attach L 100 Front End Loader
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2016 MF 1734EL

34 HP, 4WD, Gear Drive Transmission, Quick Attach L 105 Front End Loader
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2016 MF 2705EL

50 HP, 4WD, Shuttle-Transmission, Quick Attach L 135 Front End Loader
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Lineman Appreciation
My most thankful appreciation for all the linemen who risk their lives to keep us in power [Much Appreciated, April 2017]. If there is a problem in Llano or Field Creek during a storm, I always tell the person answering to hold off sending our linemen out until the danger (storm) is over.
Of course, the danger is never over. The high voltage is always there.
DOTTIE SIMPSON | LLANO
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

Every month, when I open our magazine, I remember my brother, John Flanagan, a lineman for the Houston County REA [now Houston County EC]. Sonny, as he was known, helped bring power to all parts of rural Houston County. He put a ceramic light fixture with a pull string in each room of the rural homes and a wall plug that brought precious power to homes that had never had electricity before.

When my wife was office manager for Northeast Texas EC in Longview, she decorated their office with pictures and personal equipment belonging to my brother. Thank you for the article Line of Duty [October 2016], as it brought back many memories of lives enhanced by linemen like Sonny Flanagan.

RICK FLANAGAN | FRANKLIN COUNTY
WOOD COUNTY EC

Fasten-ating!
I’m pleased (relieved) to know that others share my addiction to and fascination with buttons [Gluttons for Buttons, March 2017]. While shopping for vintage linens, I started collecting buttons, as well.

GAYE KRIEGL | GEORGETOWN
PEDERNALES EC

Weathered Memories
Until reading Blizzard of 1957 [March 2017], I did not realize I had lived through the top three weather events of the Panhandle.

I was about 4 when I was in a dust storm so bad that we turned the lights on in my house, and Mother put damp towels down to keep fine dust out of the windows.

At 13, standing outside my junior high school after play practice, I watched the tornado go over the school on its way to Higgins and Woodward, Oklahoma.

In 1957, I was married and teaching school in the same town, Pampa, when the snow shut us in for three days.

SUE LYNN HATCHER | VICTORIA
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Familiar Turf
Our families have lived in College Station since the 1950s, and Martin’s Place [pictured] has been a landmark for barbecue since the beginning, when people didn’t go out to eat every day [Postcard From Camp Barbecue, April 2017].

My father, Paul Surovik, worked as a butcher at Texas A&M University at Sbisa Dining Hall for many years and also worked in the Meat Lab, as they called it.

In the summer, he went to Junction to feed the Aggies football team.

LILLIAN BEASLEY | LOOKS POINT | BLUEBONNET EC
OFFICE

CO-OP PEOPLE

Texans Tops in Touchstone Energy Contest

Three Texas electric co-op members placed in the nationwide #WhoPowersYou contest, established by Touchstone Energy in 2016 “to honor inspirational people in co-op communities—the people who power our lives.”

Grand prizewinners John and Debbie Southwell of Medina EC founded Helping Abused and Neglected Kids after volunteering as Court Appointed Special Advocates and discovering that some children’s basic needs were not being met. They won $5,000.

“John and Debbie have done so much work for so many area children,” said Mark Rollans, Medina EC CEO. “Every penny of this prize money will go back into our community.”

Ray Gearing from Sam Houston EC, a top-10 finisher, founded his area’s Habitat for Humanity chapter; founded R.E.A.D. to provide books to children; and helped establish an educational program about the dangers of methamphetamines. He won $150.

Sam Houston EC congratulated Gearing, saying, “Your lifetime of service represents the epitome of what #WhoPowersYou is all about.”

HAPPENINGS

Polski-Palooza

BREMOND WAS A RAILROAD BOOMTOWN when its first Polish settlers, in search of cultural, economic and religious freedoms, arrived in 1875. The town, about 45 miles southeast of Waco, had the largest Polish population in Texas by 1900.

Their descendants established Polski Dzien, POLISH DAY, to celebrate their heritage. Now a two-day festival, the bash celebrates its 30th anniversary JUNE 23–24. Lots of Polish food will be served, including kielbasa (sausage), pierogi (dumplings), golabki (cabbage rolls) and kapusta (stewed cabbage), as will zimne piwo (cold beer).

The festival also features ethnic music and dancers, and a parade, 5K run and beauty pageant.

INFO ► (254) 746-7636, bremondtx.org
SAFETY ALERT

Destructive Distractions

AS YOU HIT THE ROAD THIS SUMMER, CONSIDER THIS:
The Texas Department of Transportation maintains a campaign called #EndTheStreakTX, aimed at stopping a deadly streak that is in its 17th year. Every day since November 7, 2000, at least one fatality has occurred on Texas roads.

The death toll is approaching 60,000 during this streak. TxDOT cites distracted driving, failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed as leading factors for the carnage.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SAFETY: It might seem funny to watch the mayhem as texting pedestrians bump into lampposts or trip over curbs as they walk down sidewalks, but distracted walking is turning into a dangerous problem.

The National Safety Council reports that distracted walking incidents involving cellphones accounted for more than 11,100 injuries between 2000 and 2011. More than half of these injuries happen at home.

Did You Know?

THE TRUTH ABOUT WALKING AND TEXTING:
- 68 percent of those injured are women.
- 54 percent are 40 or younger.
- Nearly 80 percent of the injuries were because of a fall.

June 2017

Texas Co-op Power 7

WORTH REPEATING

“It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation and only one bad one to lose it.”

— BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, who invented the Franklin stove 275 years ago, in 1742

ALMANAC

NIMITZ LEADS MIDWAY CONQUEST

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz led the United States’ first decisive naval victory over Japan, in the Battle of Midway, 75 years ago.

U.S. Navy cryptographers in Hawaii decoded fragments of Japanese communications, and Nimitz, who was born and raised in Fredericksburg, orchestrated an attack on the Japanese fleet in the north-central Pacific Ocean. Nimitz’s namesake National Museum of the Pacific War in his hometown deems Midway, which took place June 4–7, 1942, as “the U.S. Navy’s greatest victory.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Texas consumed more electricity than any other state in 2015—392 billion kilowatt-hours—according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

That’s about 10 percent of total U.S. consumption and about 50 percent more than California and Florida, the next-highest consumers.

Air conditioning accounts for nearly 20 percent of household energy consumption in Texas—three times the national average.

Many attendees bought volumes for their own secondhand bookshops. Some came not knowing they soon would morph into booksellers themselves. Scott and Lisa Krumm trekked to Archer City from Tyler to buy three books but toted home some 300 tomes. “We had to laugh about it,” Lisa says. The purchase also inspired the couple’s used-book business. “Right now, we only sell by mail through our website and through abebooks.com, but we plan to open a brick-and-mortar store in Brick Street Village on Tyler’s Azalea Trail.” Taking a cue from McMurtry, the Krumms named their business The Last Book Store.

That name might give the willies to unrepentant book nuts. Online sales have caused the shuttering of many bookstores—major chains and mom-and-pop shops, but internet shopping will never replace the pleasures of browsing in a store and discovering a new (or old) author. Nor can pixels on a screen replace the tactile sensation of holding a bound volume.

The situation may have seemed dire in the early 2000s. However, since 2009, American readers have witnessed a 30 percent increase in independent bookshops, according to the American Booksellers Association. The gathering at The Last Book Sale in Archer City reflected this resurgence. Now that Booked Up has slimmed down to 150,000 texts, the largest independent seller in Texas is Recycled Books, Records & CDs in Denton.

Housed since 1990 in the circa-1890s three-story Wright Opera House on the Denton courthouse square, Recycled holds some 500,000 books, 20,000 CDs and thousands more LPs, DVDs and Blu-ray Discs. Customers take hundreds of books to sell to Recycled every day, and the store pays good prices. “We look for books that are still in good condition, and we won’t buy records or discs that are scratched,” store owner Don Foster says.

One reviewer rated Recycled as “not to be missed no matter how far you may have to drive to get there.” In addition to the usual sections, including Texana, fiction and nature, the shelves feature smaller sections such as pirates, hot air ballooning and beekeeping. A party of clowns once cleaned out the circus and carnival section.
Gladewater Books, housed in a vintage building with a pressed-tin ceiling on a brick street in downtown Gladewater, features a healthy Texana section with the requisite J. Frank Dobie shelf. One recent sale highlighted the personal touch. “We sold one guy a hard-to-find book on Burnet County history that had his family in it,” co-owner Peter Adams says. “He found it online for $150, but we sold it for $40. We do sell online through alibris.com, but we also get visitors on book-seeking pilgrimages from Dallas and Houston. They’re looking for everything from books on World War II airplanes to antique McGuffey Readers.”

Adams and his business partner, wife Betty DeRieux, bought 5,000 books from McMurtry’s Last Book Sale. “We keep a lot of books in a warehouse in the old Greyhound bus station on Highway 80,” Adams says. In a previous life, the bookseller was a criminal defense attorney in Houston. “I like this a lot better,” he explains. “I enjoy helping people find books they’re looking for, and opening a box of books is always an adventure. Selling books is much easier on the nerves, too. After doing this for eight years, I’m almost respectable.”

Stepping into a vintage bookstore, wrote one customer about
The quest for new discoveries in old places draws shoppers to independently owned stores such as the Book Gallery, this page, and Recycled Books in Denton, opposite page, which also boasts thousands of LPs.

the Book Gallery in McKinney, “brings back memories, like a long-lost friend who has reappeared unexpectedly and pleasantly to fill a void that one didn’t even realize existed.” Owner Jim Parker collected books for 40 years. After he retired from the corporate world 12 years ago, his wife wanted to reclaim a couple of rooms in their home. “So I opened the store,” he says. “We’re on a beautiful town square with 100 stores in historic buildings.”

One of Parker’s local browsers likes her books on the tiny side. “She collects miniature books,” he says. “And because she lives here, the international Miniature Book Society held its annual conclave here last summer.”

Wolfmueller’s Books in Kerrville began about 20 years ago when the book section of Jon and Sandy Wolfmueller’s antique store overtook the antiques. Among the books is an extensive Texana section. “We’ve expanded since then,” Sandy says. “We have about 35,000 books, and 95 percent of them are used books. We have all the popular subjects, but we also have specialties like signed editions of Steinbeck, McMurtry and Cormac McCarthy. Books on American presidents were especially popular last year.”

Though the Book Gallery and Wolfmueller’s also sell online through abebooks.com, Felton Cochran does business the old-school way at Cactus Book Shop in San Angelo. “I send out a hard-copy, printed catalog to an established list of readers,” he says. “My customer base is mostly rural and agricultural.” With an inventory of about 80 percent used books, Cactus has an extensive selection of books about Texana, frontier military, Native American history, archaeology, Texas Rangers, outlaws, Buffalo Soldiers and the Civil War. He also notes that the Texas county and regional history section takes up more than 70 linear feet of shelving.

Cochran also carries an extensive selection of the late, prolific Western author and San Angelo resident Elmer Kelton. “Elmer put San Angelo on the map,” Cochran says. “I just sold some of his books to the actor Robert Duvall, and we have a statue of Elmer here at the public library.”
any bookstores serve the community by hosting events. Before Recycled expanded, Foster screened foreign films downstairs. Recycledpalooza, a 2012 concert event, raised funds for Denton schools. In Buffalo, The Horse’s Mouth Bookstore offers writing workshops and open mic nights. Books & Crannies, housed in Terrell’s former Iris movie theater, packs in guests for signings with noted authors such as Susan Wittig Albert. The Iris still shows an occasional movie, and the Vagabond Players present live theater there. Galveston Bookshop holds monthly meet-and-greets to showcase local authors, and the Brenham Book Nook—housed in a former mattress factory with creaky floors and shiplap walls—also spotlights area writers.

Back in Archer City, the Larry McMurtry Festival on June 30, 2018, will feature readings and a screening of *The Last Picture Show* at the Royal Theater (which the movie made famous), and music by McMurtry’s son and grandson, James and Curtis McMurtry. This summer, Sarah Junek reprises her Young Writers Workshop for area kids ages 13–19 through the Archer City Story Center at the circa-1920s Spur Hotel. Sister Emily Junek helps present live performances at the theater.

McMurtry wants book people to know that rumors that Booked Up has moved or been closed are “pernicious nonsense.” The shop remains open on Main Street, carrying everything from African-American studies to Western pulp fiction. There’s a generous helping of McMurtry and even a section on mycotopia. “Customers come to us,” says the august author, “from wherever the four winds blow.”

*Gene Fowler* is an Austin writer who specializes in history.
I grew up in a simpler time. A time before central air and heat, cable TV and paved roads. I guess others had those things in the 1980s, but not me. I grew up on my family’s Texas ranch, one that’s been ours for more than 100 years, in a tiny house built in the 1920s. With two bedrooms, one bath and a kitchen that also served as the laundry room, pantry and gathering place—I guess you could say “the heart”—its footprint was just under 1,000 square feet.

It was a modest house—but a grand home. It spoke to us through the creaking floorboards, the rumbling water heater in the kitchen and the moths fluttering against the lighted windows at night. Horseflies and dirt daubers clung to the screen doors, thirsting to be let into the room chilled by a swamp cooler. This house was not built with modern amenities. There was no foyer, formal dining room, guest bedroom or office. For that matter, there wasn’t even a door to the bedroom that my sister and I shared.

But what it lacked in luster, it made up for in love.

Each night, we’d gather around the small table in the center of the kitchen and the moths fluttering against the lighted windows at night. Horseflies and dirt daubers clung to the screen doors, thirsting to be let into the room chilled by a swamp cooler. This house was not built with modern amenities. There was no foyer, formal dining room, guest bedroom or office. For that matter, there wasn’t even a door to the bedroom that my sister and I shared.

But what it lacked in luster, it made up for in love.

Scenes from the author’s childhood form a patchwork of memories.
In those days, I took growing up on a ranch in Texas for granted. When my parents made the decision to buy the ranch from the rest of the family, I begged them to buy a house in town instead. I wanted a house like my friends had. One that was walking distance from stores, where we could have pizza delivered, with a pool in the backyard. But they told me I would be grateful someday.

Now I am.

My ancestors traveled from Sparta, Tennessee, and homesteaded the ranch in Irion County, west of San Angelo. I can’t imagine the grit they had to settle in that wide-open land. My great-great-grandfather James and his brother, Hosea, were among the very first to live on the ranch. Hosea and his nephew, Houston, James’ son, built our ranch house and lived there as bachelors in the beginning. Dad said they actually stored hay in one of the bedrooms.

It was a box-and-strip house, a popular method of construction in West Texas at the turn of the 20th century. They laid a box frame on the ground, and then 1-by-12-inch boards were nailed side by side vertically to the frame with thin, 1-by-4-inch strips nailed over the gaps. There were no 2-bys anywhere in the house. Nor was there any insulation in the 1-inch-thick walls. Single sheets of newspaper were added as insulation later in the ’40s, when the house was sheathed with plasterboard.

It takes a tough soul to survive the long winters and blistering summers in a house like that. But I wasn’t the first to do it. The first woman to live in that house was Great-Aunt Lorene, who married Houston. She was from green and lush Seattle, Washington, and she must have fallen head-over-heels in love to leave the Emerald City and move out among the mesquites and prickly pear. She lived in the house before it had electricity and was instead powered by a wind-charged battery system and lit by kerosene lamps. In the mid-1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt started the Rural Electrification Administration, which brought co-op electricity to rural farms and ranches, and I’m sure made Aunt Lorene’s life a lot easier.

My granddad described her as “prim and proper;” always donning a nice dress and gloves when she went into town. She was known as a great cook, famous for her chocolate pie and strawberry cake. She is the one who planted the two spartan juniper trees that flanked the house and the pecan trees in the yard that my sister and I played under.

Granddad planted an oak tree in front of the house and later added more around the barn. I think about how the generations before us gave to the land rather than took. They simply built what they needed, nothing more. There is now an oil lease on the land, and I watch as it is populated with wells. My mom passed away the year after I moved out of that house for college. To me, the house never was the same after that.

My dad remarried. So over the years, he found two amazing and tenacious women who loved him enough to move out to the ranch. He is one lucky man.

Our growing family created more demands than that tiny ranch house could meet. It is now gone, replaced by a larger one, fit for entertaining and big holiday gatherings, but it served its purpose while it was here.

Ironically, as I write this memoir, our air conditioner has gone out, but it’s not so bad to me. I say to my husband as we lie in bed with the fan on and the windows open, “It’s like the good old days.” The bugs and birds outside sing us to sleep.

Growing up in that old ranch house taught me many lessons. I think about how the generations before us gave to the land rather than took. They simply built what they needed, nothing more.

I think about how the generations before us gave to the land rather than took. They simply built what they needed, nothing more.
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Limited to the first 2100 responders to this ad only!
When her husband was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer, Darlene Jenkins found herself in an unfamiliar position: in need.

“It could not have happened at a better place. Frisco was more of a community state of mind place to live. It was oriented towards family.”
—Darlene Jenkins

reconstructing a life

by Dawn Cobb/dcobb@coserv.com
Through Frisco Family Services, newly widowed Darlene Jenkins charted a new course for the next chapter of her life. When her husband was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer in 2012, Darlene, who’d spent her life serving as a minister’s wife, found herself in an unfamiliar position: in need.

The couple had retired to Little Elm to be near one of their five grown children. After Berlin Jenkins’ diagnosis, Darlene liquidated assets to pay medical bills and care for him. A nurse recommended they seek assistance from Frisco Family Services (FFS), a social services agency that has helped Frisco-area residents get back on their feet since 1994.

Nickie Contreras, lead case manager at the agency, remembered the Jenkins’ first visit. “They didn’t want to come in and ask for help because they had been able to make ends meet on their own,” she said. “But with his current medical situation, they just couldn’t do it anymore.”

Frisco Family Services helped Darlene keep her husband in their Little Elm home as long as she could. “I wanted to maintain him in a certain lifestyle that he was accustomed to,” she said.

The couple received funds to pay for utilities and food, as well as gas vouchers. Darlene also received life skills training and learned how to cook on a budget with foods her husband could eat.

continued on next page

Darlene was shopping at the Frisco Food Pantry for her husband one day when a volunteer asked her: “Do you ever get anything for yourself?” She replied, “No.” The volunteer told her: “This is for both of you.” What did she choose first? A chocolate bar. “That particular day when she told me I could get something for myself, I was outdone because I’m addicted to chocolate. It made me feel like I was a real person.”

WHAT: Frisco Family Services (FFS) assists Frisco and Frisco ISD residents who are facing hunger, homelessness and other urgent needs to help improve their quality of life and become self-sufficient.

HOW: FFS works with individuals to achieve or maintain self-sufficiency through adult education classes on such areas as job readiness, parenting and nutrition. Emergency financial assistance helps qualified clients with rent or mortgage payments, utilities, medication and gasoline.

FOOD PANTRY: Set up like a grocery store, Frisco’s only community food pantry allows for the selection of foods families prefer. Food is donated by area residents, churches, civic groups and businesses.

SHOP: Frisco Resale carries a wide selection of upscale resale furniture, clothing, household goods, accessories, shoes, framed artwork, books and jewelry. Furniture, Décor and More offers toys, sporting equipment and furniture.

FOR EXAMPLE: In assisting more than 3,700 individuals during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, FFS:

• Provided more than $301,660 in Emergency Financial Assistance
• Distributed more than 567,800 pounds of food through Frisco’s only community food pantry
• Issued $27,720 in vouchers for clothing and household goods at Frisco Resale

UPCOMING: Summer Lunch Program to provide school-aged children with lunches and snack packs, and a place to participate in activities when school is out.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS: Individual serving sizes of juice boxes, oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, chips, wrapped snacks, fruit cups/pouches

Frisco Family Services
8780 Third St., Frisco, TX 75034
Email: info@friscofamilyservices.org
Web: FriscoFamilyServices.org

FFS Food Pantry
9085 Dogwood St. (972) 335-9495
Frisco Resale
9125 Dogwood St. (972) 712-7833
Darlene vividly recalled shopping at the FFS food pantry to pick up groceries for her husband. One day, a volunteer asked her if she was getting anything to eat. That was when Darlene learned she could choose something for herself.

“It made me feel like I was still a person,” she said. “For the volunteers to care that much for the people who come in there, that said a lot to me.”

After Berlin’s passing in May 2013, Darlene felt lost and alone.

“After my husband died, I thought the services terminated,” Darlene said. She went to Nickie, who told her, “No Mrs. Jenkins. You are still in a crisis situation. And we’ll help you until you’re able to help yourself.”

FFS guided her to set new goals. Darlene worked as a home health aide and found a part-time job at an insurance company. She took computer classes to catch up with technology. She sold her home, relocated to an apartment and then moved in with her daughter—all with the intent to operate within an affordable budget.

Almost two years ago, she interviewed for a position at Ethan Allen in Frisco. When she was hired as a customer service specialist, Darlene rushed to share the news with the volunteers at FFS.

“I didn’t have anyone else to tell,” she said. “Frisco Family Services was my family.”

In October 2016, Darlene set a goal to wean herself from FFS resources.

“I came off the program in December, and I’ve maintained my independence,” she said. “I’ve had some ruffles, but I’m still standing.”

At age 60, Darlene is persevering, but she also credits her case manager, Nickie.

“She made me see the road map to recovery,” Darlene said. “They help you reconstruct your life behind a crisis.”

Like many middle-class couples, Darlene said that she and her husband never anticipated the challenges they ended up facing.

“The struggle is real,” she said. “I have a different perspective now of real-life struggles. We read about it, but until you’re actually in the midst of a crisis like that, I don’t think people really understand — how it can either destroy you or make you a really tough cookie.”

“When I received the fans and heaters that are a part of that philanthropic program on behalf of CoServ. It may not seem like a lot but it’s major in the eyesight of myself and others who receive those items from Frisco Family Services.”

—Darlene Jenkins
groceries

Shoppers can peruse the aisles for their favorite canned goods, breakfast cereals, fresh foods and even toiletries—almost everything that would be available in any neighborhood grocery store.

necessities

While writing your grocery list this week, consider adding individual serving sizes of juice boxes, granola bars, fruit cups and other kid-friendly snacks to help feed Frisco children over the summer.

furnishings

At Furniture, Décor and More, you can buy art for the wall or a comfortable couch for the living room. An offshoot of Frisco Resale, the shop’s wide selection helps residents refurnish their lives.
CoServ Members save energy and money with RUSH HOUR REWARDS

When Julie Wesley of Paloma Creek learned that CoServ was offering $100 to Members who enrolled their Nest Learning Thermostat in Rush Hour Rewards, she went shopping. “I’m interested in doing anything for conservation that I can,” Julie said. “The program was reason enough to purchase a wireless thermostat.”

Rush Hour Rewards is a demand response program aimed at reducing power costs. Once enrolled, the Nest helps cut electricity use during summer’s energy “rush hours,” which typically occur between 4 and 7 p.m. Throughout the four months of summer, there are no more than 16 rush hour events.

Since launching the program in April 2016, CoServ has enrolled more than 10,400 thermostats and is one of Nest’s top four largest partners in the United States.

Julie likes that she keeps control of her thermostat. In fact, she frequently adjusts the temperature of her home from her workplace using Nest’s app on her smartphone. “By the time I get home, it’s a little cooler.”

And she said the Nest has saved her money: “You’re going to very quickly recoup your initial investment.” Plus, with the $40 account credit for each year she participates, she will earn even more. But despite the convenience and cost savings, Julie is mostly driven by her desire to reduce power and power costs worldwide.

“This is a long-term solution for a big problem that just keeps getting bigger.”
Supporting Education is a Team Effort

When a Service-Driven Energy Company Partners with A High-Energy Sports Organization, Kids Win!

CoServ and FC Dallas are recognizing a Teacher of the Month throughout the 2017 season to receive the VIP treatment, including four tickets to a match, $100 food and beverage park cash, a customized FC Dallas jersey and a donation to their school presented in their name.

Go to coserv.com/fcdallas
nominate your favorite teacher

Enter your name for a chance to Win 4 Tickets
to an FC Dallas game at Toyota Stadium in Frisco

Join us at these upcoming games at Toyota Stadium!

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td>Real Salt Lake</td>
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<td>Toronto FC</td>
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<td>DC United + Military Appreciation Night &amp; Fireworks Show</td>
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CoServ

Congratulations These Teachers of the Month

March
Vicki Baughman
Trent Middle School, Frisco

April
Ben Ewald
Frisco ISD Career & Technology Center

May
Taylor Davis
Pioneer Heritage Middle School, Frisco

CoServ.com | Texas Co-op Power
Summer is the perfect time for home improvement projects.

But before you dig 16 inches or deeper, the law requires you to call 811 at least two business days prior to starting.

Why? Operators will dispatch a utility-location company to find underground lines free of charge in two business days.

You will know the type of buried utilities by the color of the paint, flags or stakes used to mark their location. Red is for electric lines and yellow is for gas lines.

Calling 811 ensures the safety of everyone near the digging location.

Excavation damage calls increase almost annually for CoServ Gas.

Last year, 181 lines were cut while digging. As of March 2017, CoServ responded to 37 reports of excavators hitting gas lines — before the busier construction season begins.

As North Texas grows, so do the number of gas lines and meters installed by CoServ — about 7 percent in five years — and construction of new homes and businesses is expected to continue across our region.

SO, BEFORE YOU DIG, CALL 811

For more safety tips, visit CoServ.com/Safety.
section of line is protected by a fuse or a recloser. Fuses melt out or “blow,” resulting in a sustained outage, which requires dispatching a service crew to restore power.

Many faults, like most lightning strikes, are temporary in nature, and may not result in permanent damage to the system. In those cases, if the line is protected by a recloser, that device will open for approximately 2-3 seconds to give the fault an opportunity to clear itself, and then the device will automatically restore power.

This accounts for the clear majority of interruptions experienced by our Members. Many people mistakenly interpret these brief interruptions as “surges” since they happen so quickly; however, it is actually the system working as designed to stop power for a few seconds before automatically restoring service.

If this happens during a storm in the middle of the night, you may wake up to flashing digital clocks. This is often the only indication that anything has happened. If, however, the fault causes permanent damage to the system, rest assured that our highly skilled linemen are on the job and maintain one of the quickest average restoration times in the industry.

CoServ consistently maintains one of the highest ratings for service reliability in the country. In our increasingly digital lives, this level of service can make our Members more aware than ever when even the briefest of interruptions occur. But make no mistake—most of these interruptions are no accident.

Designed into our electric distribution system are protective devices to increase public safety, protect expensive equipment and enhance reliability. This equipment acts essentially the same as the fuses and circuit breakers that protect appliances and electronics in your home.

Our planning engineers design a protective scheme on the lines all the way from the substation to your home or business. They use a combination of fuses and specialized circuit breakers called “reclosers,” both of which are designed to stop the flow of power in the event of a fault on the system.

A fault can be anything from a squirrel on a transformer, to a lightning strike, a tree on the line or a vehicle hitting a pole. When a fault event like this happens, the closest protective device operates, stopping the flow of power to that portion of the system.

The length of the outage, and the number of people affected depends on where the fault occurred and whether that

Installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on sensitive electronics such as computers, televisions and home theater equipment will help these devices ride through a brief power interruption caused by the operation of a recloser.
Want renewable energy but not the fees, contracts or hassle involved with installing solar panels?

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CoServ Members who purchase blocks of solar energy from our 2 MW Solar Station enjoy:

NO upfront costs  NO maintenance
NO long-term leases  NO termination fees
NO contracts  100% PURE Texas sun

Visit CoServ.com/Solar for more details.
How CoServ helped one Plano family find a solar solution

She wanted solar panels on the roof of her Plano home. Her husband did not.

The CoServ Solar Station helped them find common ground.

Allison Boyce had lived in California, where renewable energy options are common. She wanted to invest in solar panels here but her husband, a sixth-generation Texan, wasn’t keen on the idea or expense involved.

Then she remembered CoServ.com and researched her options. The couple purchased blocks of electricity generated by the CoServ Solar Station.

“If I didn’t have a company like CoServ with its progressive programs, we wouldn’t be able to do that,” she said.

Buying solar energy through CoServ allows the Boyce family to use renewable energy resources without the expense or hassle of installing roof panels or dealing with HOA regulations.

“I like that CoServ is my option,” the Plano Member said. “It’s definitely a positive.”

Want renewable energy but not the fees, contracts or hassle involved with installing solar panels?

Sign up for the CoServ Solar Rate, which allows you to purchase blocks of solar energy generated by the CoServ Solar Station, our community solar farm located on the site of a former peanut farm.

Sign up for this renewable energy solution at CoServ.com/Solar.
A rgyle Member Barbara Coughran has the yellow funnel she received as a gift for attending an Annual Meeting back in the days when CoServ was still known as Denton County Electric Cooperative.

“Having a house in the country was very exciting to begin with,” she said. “but it was also nice to have electricity.”

On CoServ.com: Click the “80 for 80” category of our blog to see and hear the rest of Barbara’s story.
3 good REASONS!
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“Working at CoServ, you’re contributing to the bigger picture and to the service for our Members and our Customers.”

—Bina Titus
Application Development Manager

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TEXAS COOP POWER

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Texas’ first female governor, Miriam “Ma” Ferguson, rode into office in 1925 on the coattails of her husband, former Gov. Jim Ferguson, who had been impeached by the state Senate in 1917.

Impeachment made him “ineligible to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under the state of Texas.” To Jim Ferguson, this edict was a serious inconvenience. He had unfinished business, and the biggest issue was the Ku Klux Klan.

While Texans slowly adopted the cultural changes that swept the country after World War I, many embraced the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan gained a significant foothold in Texas politics during the early 1920s.

Originally formed to foster white supremacy, the Klan of the 1920s claimed to have a new focus. Along with racial purity, its leaders preached patriotism, fundamentalism and strict morality. Although the majority of Klan members came from the ranks of the poor and uneducated, a few powerful citizens joined. Voting as a bloc, the Klan elected sheriffs, district attorneys, legislators and judges as it launched acts of terrorism.

The Dallas KKK administered vigilante justice in a secluded spot along the Trinity River. One woman suspected of marrying a second time without seeking a divorce from her first husband was beaten with a wet rope, tarred and feathered, and warned to get out of town. A black elevator operator was whipped and branded on the forehead with the KKK emblem. October 23, 1923, was Ku Klux Klan Day at the State Fair of Texas, and the event drew hordes of white-robed and hooded members of the Invisible Empire. More than 5,000 new recruits took part in initiation ceremonies at the fairgrounds the next day.

In 1924, four years after women won the right to vote, Jim Ferguson announced the candidacy of his wife, Miriam Amanda, for governor of Texas. Early in the campaign, a reporter combined her initials and dubbed her “Ma.” Pitted against Klan-backed candidate Felix D. Robertson, Ma Ferguson won the support of voters who were sick of the violence and intimidation of the KKK. Although she was photographed feeding chickens and wearing a sunbonnet, Ferguson was far from the country girl Jim Ferguson described. Born in Bell County in 1875, she attended Salado College and Baylor Female College. Her campaign slogan promised “two governors for the price of one.”

George Dealey, the editor of The Dallas Morning News, said on August 17, 1924: “Miriam Ferguson’s election will sound the death knell of the Klan as a political power base in the state.”

After defeating her KKK-backed opponent, Ma Ferguson followed through on her campaign promise to pass a law forbidding anyone to participate in public activity while wearing a mask. Although the courts eventually overturned the anti-mask law, it did accomplish Ferguson’s goal.

Historian L. Patrick Hughes explains, “Klan membership dropped from a high of 97,000 in the summer of 1924 to about 18,000 at the beginning of 1926. In the summer of 1927, Gov. Dan Moody declared, ‘The Klan in Texas is as dead as the proverbial doornail.’ The Klan had, by the end of the decade, dwindled to a negligible force in Texas politics and social life.”

Everyone knew that Ferguson was a mouthpiece for her husband. In her office, two swivel chairs stood behind two desks. Like her husband before her, Ma Ferguson’s term in office was marred by scandal. Her administration awarded Highway Department contracts to firms that advertised in the Ferguson Forum, a weekly newspaper that presented the family’s views to the public. Pardons for criminals flew from beneath her pen; she granted more than 2,000 during her first two years in office. Disgruntled law officers suspected that Jim Ferguson was getting kickbacks from the pardons.

Ma Ferguson lost the primary in 1926 but was elected again by a narrow margin in 1932. Years later, Time magazine, which referred to her as “the governess,” described Ferguson as “a college educated, devoutly religious, well-bred woman who was about as political as peach cobbler.”

Martha Deeringer, a member of Heart of Texas EC, lives near McGregor.
Give dad the Best of Texas.

The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook features more than 700 best-loved recipes (with more than 300 desserts) from two of our most popular cookbooks.

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Recipes

Spectacular Sandwiches

From Mexican tortas to bratwurst and kraut in a bun, cultures around the globe have their own claim-to-fame sandwiches. I dream of the Vietnamese bánh mi, a sandwich that delivers a riot of flavor and a perfect mix of textures and tastes: crackly bread, fresh pickled vegetables and herbs, a savory meat and a substantial kick of spice. The sandwiches are increasingly easy to find in restaurants and food trailers and are easy to make at home.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Vietnamese Bánh Mi

PICKLED VEGETABLES

1 cup distilled white vinegar
1 tablespoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon sugar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
½ cup water
1 hothouse cucumber, julienned
4–6 ounces radishes (daikon, watermelon or mixed varieties), peeled and julienned
4–6 ounces carrots, peeled and julienned

SANDWICH FIXIN’S

Baguette or French roll
Mayonnaise
Soy sauce
Cooked and sliced steak, chicken, pork, sliced ham or tofu
Thinly sliced jalapeño peppers and cilantro sprigs, for garnish
Sriracha, for garnish

1. PICKLED VEGETABLES: In a medium bowl, combine vinegar, salt, sugar, garlic and water, and whisk until the salt is dissolved. Add vegetables and mix well. Let stand 30 minutes, tossing occasionally. To add to a sandwich, remove your desired portion of vegetables from the marinade and drain.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32
Cook rice in 2 cups of boiling, salted water 20–25 minutes, or until done. Add butter while the rice is still hot.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour and eggs to make a light batter. Add the rice, green onions and jalapeños, and mix well.

Add shrimp, crawfish, crabmeat, lemon juice and seasonings. Combine until incorporated but do not overmix, keeping the crabmeat pieces intact. Refrigerate the seafood mixture 30 minutes–2 hours.

When you’re ready to cook, shape the mixture into patties the size of buns and about ½- to ¾-inch thick, and coat with cracker crumbs.

Heat ½ inch oil in a 10-inch iron skillet over medium to medium-high heat until bubbles come up from the bottom of a wooden spoon when inserted (oil should be hot but not smoking). Fry the croquettes until golden brown on both sides, about 8–9 minutes total. Drain on paper towels and season with a sprinkle of salt.

Grill halved rolls over medium heat until toasted. Spread Garlic Aioli on each half. Place 1 croquette on bottom half of roll and squeeze a little lemon juice over the top, then top with a slice of cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles and/or jalapeños. Top with remaining half of roll and repeat with other portions. Serve with your favorite spicy potato chips. Makes 8 sandwiches.

Ultimate Seafood Croquette Burgers

Jarrott’s recipe was chosen for the Food Network’s Ultimate Recipe Showdown: Burgers competition. It was inspired by her Spicy Shrimp and Crab Croquettes, another award winner that appeared on Emeril Live: Emeril’s Football Contest. Jarrott serves hers with homemade Garlic Aioli and Shiner Bock Bread (recipes available at TexasCoopPower.com).

1 cup long-grain rice
4 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
½ cup flour
4 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup finely chopped green onions
½ cup finely chopped and seeded jalapeño peppers
1 pound fresh shrimp, peeled, deveined and chopped
8 ounces crawfish tail meat, chopped
8 ounces crabmeat
4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
Saltine cracker crumbs

Vegetable oil, for frying
Shiner Bock Bread or 8 French bread rolls
Garlic Aioli or mayonnaise
8 slices pepper jack cheese
Shredded iceberg lettuce
Sliced tomatoes
Sliced red onion
Sliced pickles and/or pickled jalapeño peppers, for garnish

Cook's Tip
The pickled vegetables will keep up to two weeks in the fridge. Sriracha is a popular hot sauce in Thailand and Vietnam made from chile peppers, distilled vinegar, garlic, sugar and salt.

Cheesesteak Sandwiches

6 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter, divided use
6 deli rolls, sliced in half
1 ½ pounds thinly shaved roast beef
1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 green bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced
6 ounces whole white mushrooms, washed and sliced lengthwise
1 teaspoon salt

Cook's Tip
The seafood mixture freezes well for later use, so it can be made ahead of time. A ½-cup ice cream scoop helps ensure even portions when creating the patties.

Spectacular Sandwiches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31
2. SANDWICH FIXIN’S: Slice baguette or roll in half lengthwise, and use your fingers to hollow out the middle of each half, making troughs. Toast the bread if desired, then allow to cool. Spread a generous amount of mayonnaise on bottom half of bread, then drizzle with soy sauce. Top with a desired protein and pickled vegetables, and garnish with jalapeños, cilantro and Sriracha, as desired. Close the sandwich and serve.

COOK’S TIP
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8 ounces crabmeat
4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
Saltine cracker crumbs

Vegetable oil, for frying
Shiner Bock Bread or 8 French bread rolls
Garlic Aioli or mayonnaise
8 slices pepper jack cheese
Shredded iceberg lettuce
Sliced tomatoes
Sliced red onion
Sliced pickles and/or pickled jalapeño peppers, for garnish

1. Cook rice in 2 cups of boiling, salted water 20–25 minutes, or until done. Add butter while the rice is still hot.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour and eggs to make a light batter. Add the rice, green onions and jalapeños, and mix well.
3. Add shrimp, crawfish, crabmeat, lemon juice and seasonings. Combine until incorporated but do not overmix, keeping the crabmeat pieces intact. Refrigerate the seafood mixture 30 minutes–2 hours.
4. When you’re ready to cook, shape the mixture into patties the size of buns and about ½- to ¾-inch thick, and coat with cracker crumbs.
5. Heat ½ inch oil in a 10-inch iron skillet over medium to medium-high heat until bubbles come up from the bottom of a wooden spoon when inserted (oil should be hot but not smoking). Fry the croquettes until golden brown on both sides, about 8–9 minutes total. Drain on paper towels and season with a sprinkle of salt.
6. Grill halved rolls over medium heat until toasted. Spread Garlic Aioli on each half. Place 1 croquette on bottom half of roll and squeeze a little lemon juice over the top, then top with a slice of cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles and/or jalapeños. Top with remaining half of roll and repeat with other portions. Serve with your favorite spicy potato chips. Makes 8 sandwiches.

COOK’S TIP
The seafood mixture freezes well for later use, so it can be made ahead of time. A ½-cup ice cream scoop helps ensure even portions when creating the patties.

Cheesesteak Sandwiches

D’ANN HART | PEDERNALES EC

6 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter, divided use
6 deli rolls, sliced in half
1 ½ pounds thinly shaved roast beef
1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 green bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced
6 ounces whole white mushrooms, washed and sliced lengthwise
1 teaspoon salt
1. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Place the deli roll halves face-down on the skillet and heat until golden brown and crisp. Set aside.

2. Heat 2 more tablespoons butter in the skillet over medium heat. Add beef and cook 1 minute, then remove and set aside. Melt remaining butter and add onion, peppers and mushrooms. Stir in the salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce, and cook until the vegetables soften.

3. To assemble sandwiches, divide the beef among the bottom halves of the browned deli rolls, top with sautéed vegetable mixture, and place two slices of provolone cheese on top of each.

4. Top with remaining half of roll, place the sandwiches on a parchment paper-lined baking pan, and toast under the broiler until the cheese melts. Serve warm. Serves 6.

Turkey Club With Kale-Basil Pesto

Kim Bates-Wallace | Bartlett EC

You won’t use all the pesto for this savory riff on a classic club. Serve leftovers on toasted slices of baguette or toss with pasta. Bates-Wallace suggests adding mashed avocado to the sandwich. (It will stay on better mashed than sliced.)

PESTO
2 cups chopped kale
2 cups fresh basil
3 tablespoons pine nuts
2 cloves garlic
1 teaspoon coarse salt
Juice of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon coarse salt
1 cup olive oil
1 cup grated Parmesan
1 tablespoon butter, at room temperature, plus more for spreading on bread

SANDWICH
8 slices sourdough bread
1 pound thinly sliced smoked turkey
4 slices smoked Gouda cheese
2 Roma tomatoes, thinly sliced
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
Fresh mixed greens
4 slices thick-cut smoked bacon, cooked (optional)

1. PESTO: In a blender, combine kale, basil, pine nuts, garlic, lemon juice and salt, and purée until combined. With the blender running, pour in the olive oil in a slow, steady stream. Add Parmesan and butter, and process until smooth.

2. SANDWICH: Butter the bread and place the slices butter-side down on a grill or frying pan over medium heat. Place 2–3 slices of turkey on each of 4 slices of bread, and 1 slice of cheese on each of the remaining 4 slices. Smear about 1 tablespoon of Pesto on the turkey.

3. When the bread is golden brown, remove from pan. Add tomato and red onion slices, then mixed greens and bacon, if using. Close sandwiches, slice on the diagonal and enjoy. Makes 4 sandwiches.
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Road Trip

Life is a highway. Coasting down roads to reach their travel destinations, people can’t help but capture the sights they see along the way. Check out these views.

RACHEL O’BRIEN, LEANDER ROUSE HIGH SCHOOL

This month’s photo entries were curated by Leander Rouse High School student Jaci Chavera. O’Brien and Chavera participated in Leander Independent School District’s Career Opportunities on Location Week at Texas Co-op Power.

WEB EXTRAS ➤ See more photos online.

SHEILA ANDREWS, Pedernales EC: “Our family would log many miles traveling to basketball tournaments. Here are our boys goofing off as we head back home after a long trek to West Texas.”

DEBORAH WILLIAMS, Bartlett EC: Williams road-tripped from Salado to Lost Maples to Big Bend and back to Salado via Mason and Llano. “Because of all the rain, El Camino del Rio was in rare form, lush and green—the greenest I’ve ever seen it.”

BARBIE AND JIM PERKINS, Pedernales EC: “One of the many vistas in Monument Valley”

MARK HOLLY, Bandera EC: Just off Main Street in Bandera, the Cowboy Capital of the World

SHANNON BUSHONG, CoServ: Seagulls on a Galveston beach

UPCOMING CONTESTS

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All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. MAIL: Focus on Texas, 922 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.
### Around Texas

#### Event Calendar

**June**

8
- **Abilene** [8–10] Children’s Art & Literacy Festival, (325) 677-1161, abilenecac.org/calf
- **Cisco** [9–10] Pie Fest, (254) 442-2537, ciscotxpiefest.com
- **Cross Plains** [9–10] Robert E. Howard Days, (254) 725-4993, howarreddays.com
- **Windthorst** [9–11] St. Mary’s 125th Birthday Celebration, (940) 423-6542, facebook.com/windhorstcelebrates

9
- **Cisco** [9–10] Pie Fest, (254) 442-2537, ciscotxpiefest.com
- **Cross Plains** [9–10] Robert E. Howard Days, (254) 725-4993, howarreddays.com
- **Windthorst** [9–11] St. Mary’s 125th Birthday Celebration, (940) 423-6542, facebook.com/windhorstcelebrates

10
- **Dublin** Tour de Agua, (254) 445-3712, rideforthechange.com
- **East Bernard** Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 335-7907, kkfest.com
- **Jacksonville** Tomato Fest, (903) 586-2217, jacksonvilletexas.com
- **New Braunfels** Food Truck Cook-Off & Craft Fair, (830) 303-4376, ccsct.org

### Pick of the Month

**Marble Falls Soapbox Classic**

**Marble Falls** June 16–18
(830) 385-9289, adultsoapboxderby.com

The motto for this adult racing event is: “Build it. Bring it. Race it.” It’s all downhill from there. In addition to races in multiple divisions, this Father’s Day weekend event includes a hat contest and street dance.

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### Groove

A place to

Get into the groove with one of Waxahachie’s upcoming festivals featuring music – Crape Myrtle Festival, Oddfest, Texas Country Reporter Festival and more.

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### Summer Break Fun

- **Museums**
- **Art & Culture**
- **Parks & Recreation**
- **Historic Downtown**
- **Antiques**
- **Fairs & Festivals**

**For more information and overnight accommodations:**

www.huntsvilletexas.com

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Submit Your Event!
We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event for August by June 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

17
La Grange Aztec Dance Extravaganza, (979) 968-3017, visitlagrangetx.com

Port Aransas Woody’s Sports Center Ladies Powder Puff Fishing Tournament, (361) 749-5252

19
Port Arthur Juneteenth Celebration, (409) 332-1709, portarthurjuneteenth.weebly.com

22
Levelland Sip & Swirl, (806) 894-9079

24
Brenham Summer Sip Wine Walk, (979) 836-3696, visitbrenhamtexas.com
Crowell Dark Sky Public Star Party, (940) 684-1670, 3rf.org
Freeport Schuster Home Open House, (979) 297-0868

25

July 1

Jasper Independence Day Celebration, (409) 384-2762, jaspercoc.org

Wimberley Big Scoop, (512) 921-7043, newbloomz.com/big-scoop

Wylie Bluegrass on Ballard, (972) 516-6000, wylietexas.gov

3
Tyler Independence Day Celebration, (903) 561-0445, phbctyler.com


4
Fredericksburg 4th of July Community Parade & Fireworks, (830) 997-6523, visitfredericksburgtx.com

Lake Jackson Rubber Duck Regatta, (979) 297-4533, brazosport.org

Tivoli Austwell-Tivoli Lions Club Upper Crust Pie-Baking Contest, (361) 286-3762

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TexasCoopPower.com June 2017 Texas Co-op Power 37
I came across my first Comanche historical marker outside the McCrary House, a circa-1879 structure that now serves as the tasting room for Brennan Vineyards. The marker reports that James Madison McCrary arrived in Comanche about 1872 and used limestone quarried near Austin to build the home.

In 2000, Fort Worth doctor Pat Brennan and his wife, Trellise, bought the house and soon purchased an adjacent 33 acres. “We had no idea what to do with it and thought of a hundred things,” Pat Brennan recalls. After consulting with fellow doctor Richard Becker, who operates Becker Vineyards near Fredericksburg, and analyzing the soil and water, he decided to plant grapes then open a winery.

Brennan Vineyards now makes 16 wines. At the prestigious San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, Brennan’s 2015 Reserve Viognier won Best of Class 2017, the latest on a long list of awards.

Tastings include a choice of six wines for $10 or are complimentary with the purchase of two bottles. Lingerling is encouraged. I sampled the viognier as well as a rousanne and a tempranillo. Between sips, I nibbled on Texas Star cheese from Veldhuizen Cheese Shoppe in nearby Dublin.

Historical markers sprout like wildflowers around Comanche’s square, referencing a hand-dug well from 1859; an enormous oak tree that sheltered a local boy in 1854; geologist Robert Thomas Hill, who named the Balcones Escarpment; and noted American quarter horse Royal King. Three courthouses have graced the square. The current one is a three-story limestone building in the art deco style, dedicated in 1941.

Shops scatter around the square, some of them in buildings with their own markers. A recent addition, Harvest Restaurant, serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Owner and chef Todd Sanders incorporates local, seasonal ingredients into the menu. My grilled Texas quail, served with stone fruit honey barbecue sauce, was tender with just a hint of sweetness. Other choices include prime rib, pork tenderloin and flounder.

For breakfast, locals flock to Rockin’ J’s Restaurant, in an old (but not historic) gas station convenience store east of downtown, where cowhides, deer heads and antlers cover the wood-paneled walls. My Hungry Women breakfast of coffee, two eggs, two slices of bacon, a pancake and country potatoes set me back about $7. Just a few blocks closer to the square, Miguel’s Restaurant serves lunch and dinner salads, enchiladas, burgers and specials such as tamales wrapped in tortillas then deep-fried, and chicken-fried steak topped with queso.

Even though markers provide tastes of local history, the Comanche County Historical Museum serves the whole enchilada. The grounds house remnants of a one-room schoolhouse, dinosaur tracks, petrified tree trunks and old tombstones. Inside, rooms bulge with historic memorabilia—clothes, photos, furniture, wagons, fossils and books. There are several fully furnished schoolrooms, cases full of arrowheads and, of course, historical markers.

Northeast of town, Proctor Lake touches four parks maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Promontory Park and Copperas Creek Park are accessible from State Highway 16. Promontory Park offers a fishing pier and picnic areas among its wooded hills, and Copperas Creek sports a boat ramp and opportunities to fish from the shore. The attendant at the gate reported folks were “catching crappie like crazy” on the day of my visit.

The road to Promontory winds through pecan groves. Sorrells Farms operates a store in town, selling flavored pecans, candies and fudge—as well as a variety of casseroles including King Ranch chicken. Pair one of those casseroles with a bottle of Brennan’s Buffalo Roam, a smooth, smoky red wine, for a meal worthy of its own historical marker.

Read more of Melissa Gaskill’s writing at melissagaskill.blogspot.com.

WEB EXTRAS ➤ Previous stories have taken readers to Brownwood and from Hico to Dublin.
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