



Volleyball Camp! Lady Longhorn Volleyball Camp was held Monday, June 7, and Tuesday, June 8. The campers worked hard on their volleyball skills and had fun too.



Natural Resources Conservation Service hiring in Texas

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently hiring several different field positions across Texas. Positions include soil conservationists, rangeland management specialists, soil scientists, and

engineers.

The USDA NRCS works in close partnership with farmers, ranchers, forest managers, non-governmental organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to create and maintain healthy and

productive working landscapes.

As part of USDA's new Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission Area, NRCS has 3,000 locations and covers every county in the United States. NRCS employees help stewards of agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands plan and implement proven conservation systems through technical and financial

assistance designed to enhance productivity, improve soil and water health, and restore wetlands and wildlife habitat.

"We need people who are committed to action through public service and will ensure that all of us enjoy the benefits that come from a healthy environment and productive agriculture," said Kristy Oates, NRCS state conservationist for Texas. "If you have a background in agriculture or a

love of the land, consider joining us and make a difference for generations to come."

Direct hire positions open in Texas can be found on USAJobs at www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?l=Texas&k=NRCS offsite link image. Applications will be accepted until July 15, 2021. For more information, contact Tony Townsend at 254-742-9935 or tony.townsend@usda.gov.

Balmorhea State Park Pool to reopen

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is excited to announce that the spring-fed swimming pool and day use area at Balmorhea State Park will reopen to the public on June 26. The pool and day use areas only will be open from 8 am to 7:30 pm or sunset, whichever comes first. Light construction is still ongoing in the pool area, so the public is asked to remain vigilant.

Day passes are now available for purchase on the Texas State Parks Online Reservations Center but are limited. Day passes can be purchased up to 30 days in advance. Guests are strongly encouraged to purchase passes in advance online before driving to the park. Upon entering the park, visitors will present their reservation receipts at the park headquarters and receive wrist

bands to wear when entering the pool and day-use areas.

Light construction is still ongoing in the pool area and the San Solomon Courts, campground, and cienegas remain closed to the visiting public. Once a completion date for these projects has been determined, an announcement will be made on the TPWD website.

For more information about Balmorhea State Park, visit the park page on the TPWD website.

That's what Co-ops are for

By Chris Burrows

It wasn't the 16-hour days or the searing heat. It wasn't the meager accommodations - a 100-man tent - or the fact that he'd had only five days off in seven weeks. Speaking from a mud-caked work truck in southwest Louisiana, James Warden didn't bring up any of those things.

"The hardest part is being away from home," Warden said. He had just missed his youngest son's eighth birthday. "When I'm working at home, I still get

to see my kids and wife when I come in late at night. I at least get to kiss 'em good night, but here it's just a phone call."

The construction foreman for Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative was five days into his second trip in about a month

to DeRidder, Louisiana, where he was helping an electric co-op severely damaged by hurricanes Laura and Delta. It was mid-October 2020, and Warden's crew, based out of San Augustine in East Texas, was setting poles and hanging lines, some of which they'd already reset and rehung weeks before,

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