

The 2021 Annual Report, 2022 Annual Membership Meeting Notice and election information in this issue of

Texas Coop Power



**MEDINA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

83rd Annual Membership Meeting

*We hope to see you there!
Details inside.*

Fill out the information below and return this card in the enclosed envelope by September 15 so that we have enough food and gifts for you and other guests!

☐

Count me in for food and fun on Saturday, September 24, in Laredo.

There will be adults from my household at the meeting and children.
Number Number

☐

I will attend the meeting virtually on Zoom.

(Be sure to register by September 15 at MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2022.)

DO NOT MAIL the Registration Card / Grand Prize Entry on the front of the magazine with this RSVP card. Bring the Registration Card with you to the in-person meeting for registration.

Texas A&M International University | Saturday, September 24
Registration and breakfast begin at 9 a.m. | Meeting begins at 10 a.m.
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for

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RSVP Card

You can also RSVP at MedinaEC.org/RSVP.

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Rural entrepreneurs
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families' footsteps





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September 2022



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A new generation of Menard County entrepreneurs discovers their rural roots run deep.

By Addie Broyles
Photos by Scott Van Osdol

Going Nowhere Fast

The Big Bend Open Road Race brings drivers together for legal high-speed thrills.

By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Erich Schlegel

ON THE COVER

Logan Bell and Geer Gillespie feed goats grass freshly picked from their fields at Low Gear Farmstead.
Photo by Scott Van Osdol

ABOVE

Mike Black of Garland tears through the desert in his 2022 Corvette en route to victory.
Photo by Erich Schlegel

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By Cynthia L. Matlock

Guadalupe Mountains Landmark

ONE HUNDRED YEARS after Yellowstone became America's first national park, the National Park Service established Guadalupe Mountains National Park on September 30, 1972.

The park, on the New Mexico border and about 100 miles east of El Paso, includes Texas' four highest peaks and El Capitan, a 1,000-foot-high limestone cliff.

Most of the park's 76,293 acres were used to ranch Angora goats in the production of mohair a century ago.

“That’s the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.”

— JHUMPA LAHIRI



Being Prepared

Your electric cooperative is part of your community and wants you to stay safe during severe weather, which can strike with little notice. This month—National Preparedness Month—build an emergency kit to stay ready. Make sure your kit includes:

Enough food and water to last several days.

Medication, face masks and disinfectant for everyone in your household.

Pet supplies.

To learn more and bolster your family's preparedness, visit ready.gov/kit.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE RURAL LIFE IS ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our July prompt: **I feel patriotic when ...**

A new American tells me how happy she is to be here.

RYAN REED
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
VAN ALSTYNE

I walk into any VA clinic or hospital. Patriotic and humbled.

TERRI ALLEN
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
PALO PINTO COUNTY

My 91-year-old mom tells how her father kissed the ground as soon as he got off the boat at Ellis Island in 1907.

STELLA JOSEPHINE
BANDERA EC
BANDERA

To see more responses, read Currents online.

September 1
**National No Rhyme
(Nor Reason) Day**

You might ponder these words
generally considered unrhymable:
month, ninth, orange, silver
and woman.



Boomtowns

Texas' rural population grew 2.4% between 2010 and 2020, and the state's urban population grew 18.4% over that period, according to census data compiled by the Pew Research Center. The second-fastest-growing metro area in the country was Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, which grew by 33% to nearly 2.3 million people. The Villages in Florida was No. 1.



Hold on to Your Hat

WIND GENERATION in the U.S. hit a milestone March 29, when wind turbines produced more electricity than coal and nuclear plants. Natural gas is still the largest source of electricity generation in the country.

TCP Contests and More

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Nature's Colors

RECOMMENDED READING
September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, a good time to revisit *Literary Fortunes*, from January 2021, which recounts the early 20th-century proliferation of Carnegie libraries in Texas.



JULIA ROBINSON

Prized Fibers

“Picking cotton was the hardest job I’ve ever done. I did get to ride with my dad to the cotton gin, though—a real treat.”

JUDITH FONTENOT
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC
NEW BRAUNFELS

Bridge Gaps

Please note that some of the information is erroneous [*Colorado’s Texas Bridge*, July 2022]. Mike Bandera has not been the general manager since 2016. Also, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park has been owned by Cañon City since 1906, when the federal government deeded the land to the city. The city has leased out the management of the bridge and park to a concessionaire, which just so happens to be based in Dallas.

Dona Webb
Cañon City, Colorado

You have such a talent for bringing history alive [*Doctor’s Orders*, June 2022]. Love your amazing ability to find such interesting subjects and your writing.

JO DAY COYLE
VIA FACEBOOK

On Top of the World

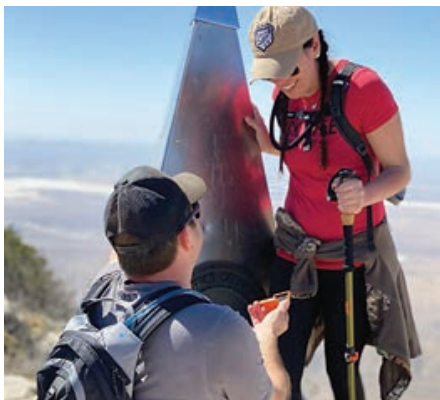
Our son and his girlfriend climbed to the top of Guadalupe Peak a couple of years ago [*Can’t Top This*, July 2022]. While at the top, our son dropped to one knee and asked his girlfriend to be his wife. She stated later, “I went up a girlfriend and came down a fiancé.”

Karen Morley
MidSouth EC
Huntsville

Juneteenth Coverage

I look forward to receiving my *Texas Co-op Power* each month. I was particularly anticipating the June issue because I knew there would be wonderfully educational articles about Juneteenth. I was extremely disappointed to see not even one article focused on this important occurrence in our Texas history.

Merelyn Johnson
Navasota Valley EC
Centerville



COURTESY KAREN MORLEY

TCP WRITE TO US
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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Connecting With the Land

A new generation
of entrepreneurs
in Menard County
learns their rural
roots run deep





Sarah Johanson's youngest daughter, June, feeds goats at Johanson Farm, which produces seasonal produce, baked goods and roasted coffee.

farmhouse, the couple stopped for a meal at the Lazy Ladle Cafe in downtown Menard, where Sarah Johanson's mom worked. "She told us we had to meet Sarah and Luke," Bell says.

Bell looked up Sarah Johanson on Facebook, and they started chatting, but it wasn't until Johanson started digging through old photo albums that she discovered that she and Bell shared more than a budding friendship.

When Sarah and Luke Johanson inherited her family's homestead outside Menard about five years ago, they had no idea how they were going to fit in.

The couple met in Los Angeles while pursuing acting careers, and they were living in Massachusetts when they started the process of moving to rural Texas.

"We thought, 'We're moving back there, but how are we going to survive there?'" Sarah Johanson says. Menard—a town of about 1,500—is an hour southeast of San Angelo.

Johanson's grandfather had been the football announcer for Menard High School for 30 years, but, she says, "we're not the normal type of folks who live here."

Logan Bell had a similar thought. Bell's family roots go way back in Menard, but the Odessa native lived on farms in Italy and England after college before settling in Fort Worth.

During Bell's childhood, the Bell family would visit Menard a few times a year to shear sheep that roamed the family land. When Bell's mom inherited the property in the mid-2010s, Bell and partner Geer Gillespie decided to turn their dream of becoming homesteaders into a reality.

"Before we moved here, we thought we would be the only people like this out here," Bell says. "We were prepared to be the isolated weirdos."

But Menard is a small town with a long memory. And these transplants and others came to discover their roots are more intertwined than they expected.

Not long after Bell and Gillespie moved into a dilapidated

The subjects in one photo were a group of close-knit friends in Menard who called themselves the Angels. Among them were Zella Williamson and Winnie Lois Wilkerson, Johanson's grandmother and Bell's great-aunt.

"Sarah sent me that photo and said, 'Is that person related to you?' I was like, 'oh, oh, *oh*,'" Bell says. "We knew we had a connection, but then we realized we were sort of related."

As it turns out, Johanson and Bell aren't the only descendants of the Angels who have returned home to Menard.

Hannah Beall's grandmother, Betto, was also part of the group that lived in Menard when it was a bustling livestock town in the 1940s and '50s.

Beall was born in Austin and moved back to her mother's hometown while she was in elementary school. She made friends but never quite lost that outsider-looking-in perspective. Now she works for an Austin nonprofit and runs her own preserved foods business called Han Can.

Beall makes big batches of the preserves and delivers them to customers in Menard, a place she remembers didn't have much fresh produce when she was a kid.

"I always feel closely connected to my ancestors when I'm in Menard," she says. "But it's more of a longing to have known them more or better."

One of the first products Beall sold was her great-great-grandmother's chowchow, a savory mix of green tomatoes, peppers and cabbage. "Canning is a lost art these days," Beall says. "We don't have a lot of family traditions and passed-down recipes, so Oma's chowchow felt like such gold."

For Beall and others in Menard, it's not about recreating what once was. It's about imagining something new that is connected to what came before.

"Instead of moping that I don't have any culture, I get to start new traditions and fill in these gaps in the history where I can, even if I have to make it up," Beall says.

OPPOSITE From left, Menard farmers Sarah Johanson, Logan Bell and Amie Prest gather in the pecan grove at Bell's Low Gear Farmstead. INSET Close-knit friends who called themselves the Angels have descendants who have returned to Menard and formed friendships of their own.



"You go out into the world and gather seeds of knowledge from all over and then you get to decide where to plant them."

Menard County's current generation of food producers used to gather on Saturdays for a small farmers market in Menard, but since the pandemic started, most of the local vendors have been selling at the year-round farmers market in Junction, about 30 minutes south.

One of the biggest hits at the market is Texas Scratch Kitchen, the Prest family's cottage baking business. Amie and Joe Prest and their five children have lived in Menard for nearly a decade after starting their family in Germany and England, where Joe is from. Amie grew up in Menard—her ancestors were among the founding families—and, like Bell and Johanson, didn't have plans on returning, but that changed after visiting her grandmother in 2011.

"When a piece of heritage has been in your family for that long, it's both a blessing and a curse," says Amie, a member of Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative. "There comes a time when you have to commit: Are you going to come back, or are you going to stay away?"

They settled on a piece of land along the San Saba River, and their passion for European-style baking continued after they moved to Texas. A few years ago, they decided to turn it into a family business, making macarons, tarts and tiramisu to sell at the market.

"You go out into the world and gather seeds of knowledge from all over and then you get to decide where to plant them," Amie says.

Menard County, with its persistent drought and extreme temperature swings, isn't ideal for vegetable farming, but each of the not-so-newcomers has found their own way to make it.

At Low Gear Farmstead, Bell and Gillespie have focused on raising goats, chickens, ducks and turkeys, mostly for their own use, but their biggest source of revenue has come from a high-tech solution to a rural issue: Hipcamp, a website that connects landowners with people who want to camp.

Since 2017 the couple has hosted hundreds of campers in the pecan grove along the San Saba River that cuts along the back of their property, taking care to be inclusive of people of color and members of the LGBTQ community.

After five years of hosting visitors on their land, Bell says they realized they offer something that can't be measured by the pound.

"What we can offer more easily than anything else is a social ecosystem," Bell says. "Yeah, we're trying to grow food, but that social ecosystem that we can create is perhaps more important and more readily available."

What's happening in Menard reflects similar changes happening across Texas, as farm and ranch land changes hands and a new generation of homesteaders plants roots.

Sarah Johanson, who had a small recurring role on the TV show *Mad Men* years ago, says that as a girl growing up in Menard, she didn't see anyone who was living a life that she wanted to live—namely, anyone making a living as an artist. "People said, 'You're not going to be able to survive at this,'" she says. "A big part of moving back was to show young people here that football isn't the only thing. Art is absolutely something you can make money in."

Now that they've been back for a few years, Johanson has spent time in the local archives researching the history of the area. One particular detail stood out.

"The Native Americans who lived here called it 'Summerland,'" she says. "They said that once you taste the waters of the San Saba, you will always come back." ■

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The Prest kids plant seedlings for Texas Scratch Kitchen, the family's baking business. Sarah Johanson and daughter Juliet make bread in the family home where Sarah's grandmother taught her to bake bread. Bell and Geer Gillespie visit their Galiceño horses, a breed that originated in Spain and arrived in the Americas in the 1500s.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Some 160 race cars line up on U.S. Highway 285 before the start in Fort Stockton. Inspector Joe Henderson helps Bob Bowser with his seat belt. Fans check out the cars at James Rooney Memorial Park. Navigator Colt Whetstone, left, and driver Gene Lehman plot their strategy; they won the 150 mph target speed class.

GOING NOWHERE FAST

The BIG BEND OPEN ROAD RACE brings drivers together for legal high-speed thrills

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL



The April edition of the 2022 Big Bend Open Road Race starts with a warning to drivers: Buzzards are perched on a bridge along the twisty course.

The big carrion-eating birds—along with blown tires, overheated engines, assorted roadkill and the occasional wandering wildlife—pose a real threat during the race, which unfolds down a 59-mile stretch of mostly two-lane asphalt that slices through the desert between Fort Stockton and Sanderson in far West Texas.

Old-timers will tell you about the time a buzzard exploded through the windshield of a car (no one was hurt, but the bird didn't fare well) or when wayward javelinas strolled onto the road. There have been blowouts and skid-offs but, so far, no serious wrecks.

The buzzard warning ripples through the line of about 160 vehicles along U.S. Highway 285 awaiting the race start. In a few minutes, the first car screeches away.

The Big Bend Open Road Race is the common man's Indy 500. Anybody with a driver's license and a properly equipped vehicle can pay the entry fee (which ranges from \$650 to \$1,050, depending on class) and compete. Most teams will tell you they come because they like to go fast. Officials shut down the highway for 12 hours, and the rubber burns.

This year's field features a stable of sleek Corvettes, a few Teslas, a herd of Mustangs, some Camaros, Porsches, Miatas and a Mini Cooper—plus a 1962 Chevrolet pickup truck and a 1970 Chevelle. In years past, junkers and rentals have also lined up at the start.

Competitors pick a class based on the speed they think they can average over two runs, a tricky feat to pull off. The fastest car doesn't necessarily win, except in the "unlimited" division, in which the flat-out fastest driver gets the trophy. In other classes, drivers who come closest to their target average speed take top honors. And drivers can't slow more than 30 mph below their target speed on straightaways, which prevents them from racing along and then coasting into the finish. The rule is enforced by radar.

The best teams come within a few hundredths of a second of their goal.

"If I don't giggle and laugh when I drive that fast, something's wrong," says Tracy Alexander, who is zipped into a pink and black fire suit as she leans against her 2015 Corvette Stingray, waiting her turn. Participants are required to wear a fire suit, helmet and gloves.

"I just drive as fast as I can, and I turn off the air conditioning so I can go faster."

Australians John Binns and Kelli-Ann Robinson fly by in their 2010 Dodge Challenger.



The vehicles take off one at a time, and it takes about three hours to launch the whole field. Then they do it again for the return trip. "I've just always been a speedster," Alexander says. "My dad had Corvettes when we were growing up, and when you're behind the wheel of a Corvette, it seems like you should push it a little bit. It's the thrill of it, really, and the adrenaline rush. Some people jump out of airplanes; I drive fast."

She and her husband, Fort Stockton Mayor Joe Chris Alexander, used to help behind the scenes at the race, which began in 1998. But when a friend's partner bowed out a few years ago, she jumped in.

"I always thought it would be fun to race because I like to drive fast, and that would be a legal way to do it," Alexander says.

That first year, she drove the first leg of the race and navigated the second alongside teammate Arno Pitzen of Kingsland. They finished second in their class.

"I'll never forget that first time," Alexander says. "You hold your breath, and I said a prayer—'Lord, let me cross at the right time.' It's the biggest adrenaline rush. You're not racing anyone but yourself. You're racing your own ability."

This year she navigates and Pitzen drives. They finish third in their class, just six-tenths of a second off their target time.

Once an annual spring event, an October race was added last fall (October 15 this year). The race is the only one of its kind in Texas, although similar events are staged in Nebraska and Nevada. Registration typically fills up within 15 minutes, and a waitlist 40 deep forms, said race coordinator Crystal Lopez.

"It's an opportunity for these guys to come out and push close to their limits," says race director Randy Dustin.

In the week leading up to the race, school kids in Fort Stockton fashion race cars out of cardboard boxes, and drivers parade through downtown in their vehicles. This year organizers added a screening of *Cannonball Run*, the 1981 comedy starring Burt Reynolds, Farrah Fawcett and Roger Moore.

That very movie once inspired John Binns to get into the sport. The former Texan who lives in Sydney, Australia, stores several cars in nearby Alpine specifically for the event. He brought Kelli-Ann Robinson with him from Australia

to serve as navigator this year while he drives his purple 2010 Dodge Challenger. He's only here to have fun.

"I just drive as fast as I can, and I turn off the air conditioning so I can go faster," Binns says.

Some drivers scout the course ahead of time, using old-fashioned tools. Others rely on high-tech gadgets and GPS to hit their targets.

"Everybody has their secrets," says Travis McRae of Kerrville, a Central Texas Electric Cooperative member. "I like the technical part of it. I can drive anywhere fast, but out here you have to be spot on."

Charlie Friend, 82, of Pahrump, Nevada, a former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot who has raced in every class and won the unlimited category one year, also does everything manually—punching a stopwatch and scrolling through a paper route chart as he drives the course. "More and more people now use magic stuff, like computer systems," Friend said.

After this year's race, teams gather in Fort Stockton to swap stories. A father-daughter duo from San Antonio dances a jig by their car. Sweaty racers eat barbecue from a food truck. Brothers Mike Smith from Blanco and Mark Smith of Longview crack cans of cold beer and hash over their performance.

"We know we were too fast," Mike Smith says, and race results later confirm they crossed the finish line nearly 22 seconds too soon in the 150-mph class, completing the 118-mile sprint in just over 47 minutes. That doesn't matter much to him. "All the guys out here have a common interest. We all enjoy tinkering with cars, and this is kind of like a reunion."

And those buzzards? Friend, the former pilot driving a Cadillac CTS-V, spots some along the course. They don't cause any problems.

"I just flashed my light and tooted the horn, and they moved," he says. ■



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FRESH OUTTA TEXAS



MESSAGE
FROM BOARD
PRESIDENT

**KENNETH
WHITE**

Your Co-op Remains Strong

WE'RE ADJUSTING TO NEW NORMALS, as are most companies amidst the ongoing pandemic. We know that normal for any thriving company means addressing challenges, embracing change, and making improvements where needed. For almost 84 years, Medina Electric Cooperative has worked to provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable power.

We serve more than 20,000 members across the 17 counties in South Texas and that number is growing. In 2021, we added 658 new meters and expect to add 1,000 more by the end of 2022. With that in mind, Medina EC has been preparing for this growth for some time now. We have seen the western part of the greater San Antonio area boom, and it is quickly developing into our territory. With the increase in population and new service—including irrigation and commercial accounts—our crews are busy building new lines to serve these members as well as upgrading existing equipment to reliably serve the increase in electric load. This year, we have upgraded 43 miles of line as a result of three voltage conversions, which will double our capacity to serve this growth.

We know that our members want accurate and timely information and, for the past three years, we have been updating all 34,000 meters on our system. We're hopeful for this project to be complete by the end of 2022. The new meter technology sends real-time data to our system, so we can provide members with updates and information more efficiently. Once completed, the upgraded equipment and new meters will support more reliable reads for the system.

Last year, we began the process to transition to a 24/7 in-house system operations. In July, we broke ground at our general office and began construction of our new system operations center. While we've always handled our dispatching in-house during business hours, an outside firm took over after hours. As the department grows and develops, our personnel will eventually cover all outage dispatching and restoration activities. We are working hard to create a smooth transition by improving workflow processes so that we can reduce the frequency and duration of outages experienced by our members.

An important element to the cooperative busi-

ness model is our commitment to community. In 2021 we supported many organizations, community events, and various other projects across our communities through donations totaling \$82,000. We also awarded \$24,500 in scholarships through our Scholarship and Youth Your programs and \$5,500 in grants through the Community Empowerment Program. We support our communities through various other avenues such as water donations and employee volunteerism. When asked why we give money to organizations in the area, I remind folks that we've been in these communities for more than 80 years. It's important to us at Medina EC to see these communities continue to prosper, and we believe that investment and support from businesses help make that possible.

At the end of 2021, we said goodbye to 10 employees who retired from the cooperative, including former CEO Mark Rollans. Medina EC's team remains equipped to continue to serve our members. Trey Grebe joined Medina EC in January 2022 as the new CEO and brings with him 35 years of utility experience. Other roles were filled with internal promotions and new staff ready to continue the mission to exceed members' expectations.

You should know that your cooperative continues to be a financially strong and viable organization. In 2021, we were able to return \$2.15 million in capital credits to members, adding to the more than 36 million returned since inception. Capital credits is just one benefit of being a cooperative member.

When the board meets each month, we do so with all of the members in mind. We focus on projects that will continue to serve our members with reliable electricity at the most reasonable costs. We also understand that politics can play a critical role in the utility industry, and we will continue to monitor state and national policies that may impact our members.

It's been an honor to serve as the president of the board of directors for Medina EC, and I look forward to continuing to serve the members.



MESSAGE
FROM CEO
**HERBERT
"TREY" GREBE**

See You at the Annual Meeting

MOST OF US LEAD BUSY LIVES. We often find ourselves multitasking—constantly checking our phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect what little spare time is left.

Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether the time and effort to attend is worthwhile. The answer to the question “what’s in it for me?” often must be compelling for an invitation to earn your consideration.

That’s why I’d understand if you initially dismissed Medina Electric Cooperative’s annual meeting without knowing how it can benefit you. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Medina EC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its members—you. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a valuable perspective, and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, you will hear about the organization’s priorities, challenges, financial health and goals for the coming years. The meeting is also the time to hear the results of the board of director election. Board members are local consumers, just like you, and represent the membership.

Medina EC is one of the few local organizations that’s uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community, across 17 counties in South Texas. The health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there’s no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every electricity bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of energy, and Medina EC encourages you to participate to better know your co-op as we plan for the future.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. It will be my first as CEO for Medina EC, and our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, fun, door prizes, and a chance at the \$1,000 grand prize, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting, Saturday, September 24, at Texas A&M International in Laredo. ■

**Medina Electric
Cooperative**



CONTACT US

Toll-Free 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Email Info@MedinaEC.org

Web MedinaEC.org - Chat Feature Available

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voting District 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651

Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

Voting District 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Chris Surles, (830) 965-5538

Kenneth White, (830) 232-6541

Voting District 3

Annette Sorrells, (361) 231-0173

J. L. Gonzalez, (956) 286-1863

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

CEO

Trey Grebe, 1-866-MEC-ELEC, ext. 1045

Outage? Call us.

TOLL-FREE

1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bruni 1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

Dilley 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

Hondo 237 Hwy. 173 N., Hondo 78861

Rio Grande City 601 N. FM 3167,
Rio Grande City 78582

Uvalde 2604 Hwy. 90 E., Uvalde 78801

Corporate Office 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

VISIT US ONLINE

MedinaEC.org



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Información sobre todos los programas y servicios que ofrece Medina Electric Cooperative están disponibles en Español al llamarnos al 1-866-MEC-ELEC o visitando una de nuestras oficinas.

Operating Statistics

ASSETS	2021	2020
Total Utility Plant	\$239,001,293	\$225,688,243
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(38,600,452)	(34,955,828)
Net Utility Plant	200,400,841	190,732,415
Cash and Temporary Investments	907,511	1,292,687
Investments in Associated Organizations	64,228,791	60,236,376
Accounts Receivable	9,342,652	10,892,392
Materials	69,132	0
Deferred Charges & Other Assets	656,650	1,129,511
Total Assets	\$275,605,576	\$264,283,380

EQUITIES AND MARGINS	2021	2020
Memberships	\$100,700	\$98,130
Patronage Capital	115,085,140	107,419,096
Other Equities and Income	11,503,692	13,885,068
Total Equities and Margins	\$126,689,532	\$121,402,294

LIABILITIES	2021	2020
Long-Term Debt	\$124,853,673	\$118,198,040
Accumulated Provision for Pensions and Benefits	3,082,862	3,330,336
Accounts Payable	10,895,263	10,592,183
Consumer Deposits	2,763,482	2,757,751
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	2,797,814	1,545,140
Deferred Credits	4,522,951	6,457,637
Total Liabilities	\$148,916,044	\$142,881,086
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$275,605,576	\$264,283,380

REVENUE	2021	2020
Sales of Electric Power	\$124,870,755	\$123,846,487
Miscellaneous Electric Revenue	835,169	443,774
Total Revenue	\$125,705,924	\$124,290,261

EXPENSES	2021	2020
Purchased Power	84,047,371	83,785,357
Maintenance and Operations	15,441,390	14,897,069
Consumer Accounts and Member Services	3,123,345	3,158,651
Administration / General	7,692,401	6,367,464
Depreciation	8,282,854	7,453,623
Interest and Other Deductions	4,863,075	4,680,106
Total Expenses	\$123,450,437	\$120,342,271

MARGINS	2021	2020
Operating Margins	\$2,255,487	\$3,947,990
Generation and Transmission / Other Capital Credits	4,763,740	5,716,955
Nonoperating Margins	276,642	279,464
Total Margins	\$7,295,869	\$9,944,409

ANNUAL AUDIT

Medina EC is audited annually. The audit of the 2021 financials was performed by Certified Public Accountants Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. of Lubbock.

The audit covered the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Per the auditor's March 15, 2022, report, "in our opinion, the financial statements ... present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. as of December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Dollar Breakdown

Medina EC is a **not-for-profit** business, so each dollar you send the cooperative covers **business costs**. Here is how your dollar was spent in 2021.

POWER COST

68.08%

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

12.51%

DEPRECIATION

6.71%

ADMINISTRATION

6.23%

INTEREST

3.94%

CONSUMER ACCOUNTS & MEMBER SERVICES

2.53%

Where Your Electricity Came From

THERE ARE MANY STEPS involved in getting electricity to your home. The first step is procuring the fuel used to produce it.

As a cooperative, we purchase our power from our wholesale power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative. With all fuel sources for energy production, there are advantages and disadvantages. The goal, very much like with a financial portfolio, is to take a balanced approach and to adjust as the market changes.

Here are the resources that made up the fuel for the power the cooperative provided to members during 2021.

Natural Gas—54.8%

Texas Lignite—27.2%

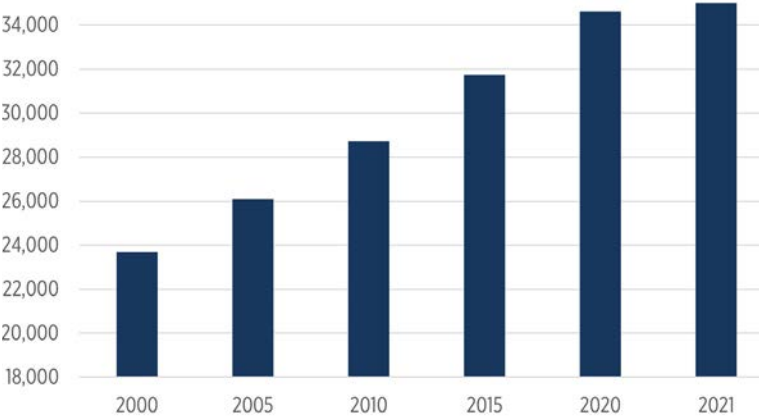
Renewables—15.3%

Nuclear —2.7%



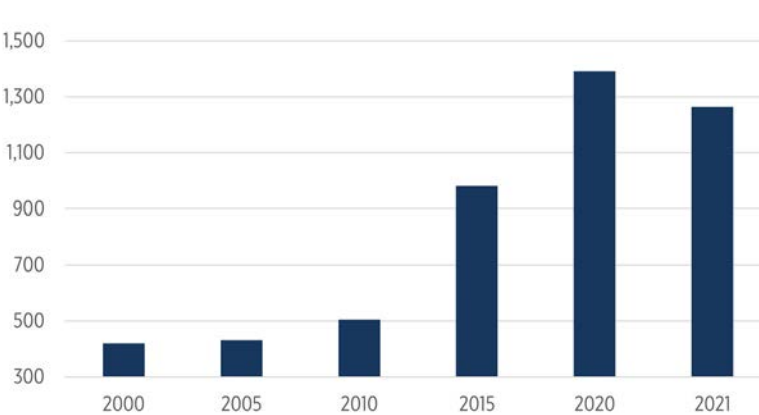
Active Services (Meters & Security Lights)

2000: 23,702 2021: 35,353



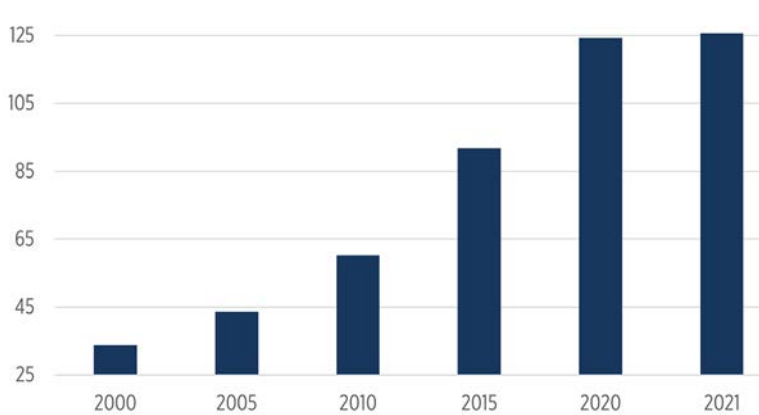
kWh Sold (in millions)

2000: 420M kWh 2021: 1,265M kWh



Revenue (in millions)

2000: \$33.8M 2021: \$125.7M



ALL NUMBERS AS OF 12/31/2021

MILES OF LINE

With 9,839 miles of line, Medina EC has enough to stretch along the driving route from our Rio Grande City office to Anchorage, Alaska, and back—and still have more than 1,000 miles of line left over. Our power lines stretch across the 17 South Texas counties we serve. At 10,750 square miles, Medina EC's service area is 1,000 square miles larger than the land area of Maryland as well as eight other states.

For comparison:

Year-end 2010—9,043 miles

Year-end 2000—8,824 miles

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

WEBSITE:

MedinaEC.org

RATES:

MedinaEC.org/Rates

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS:

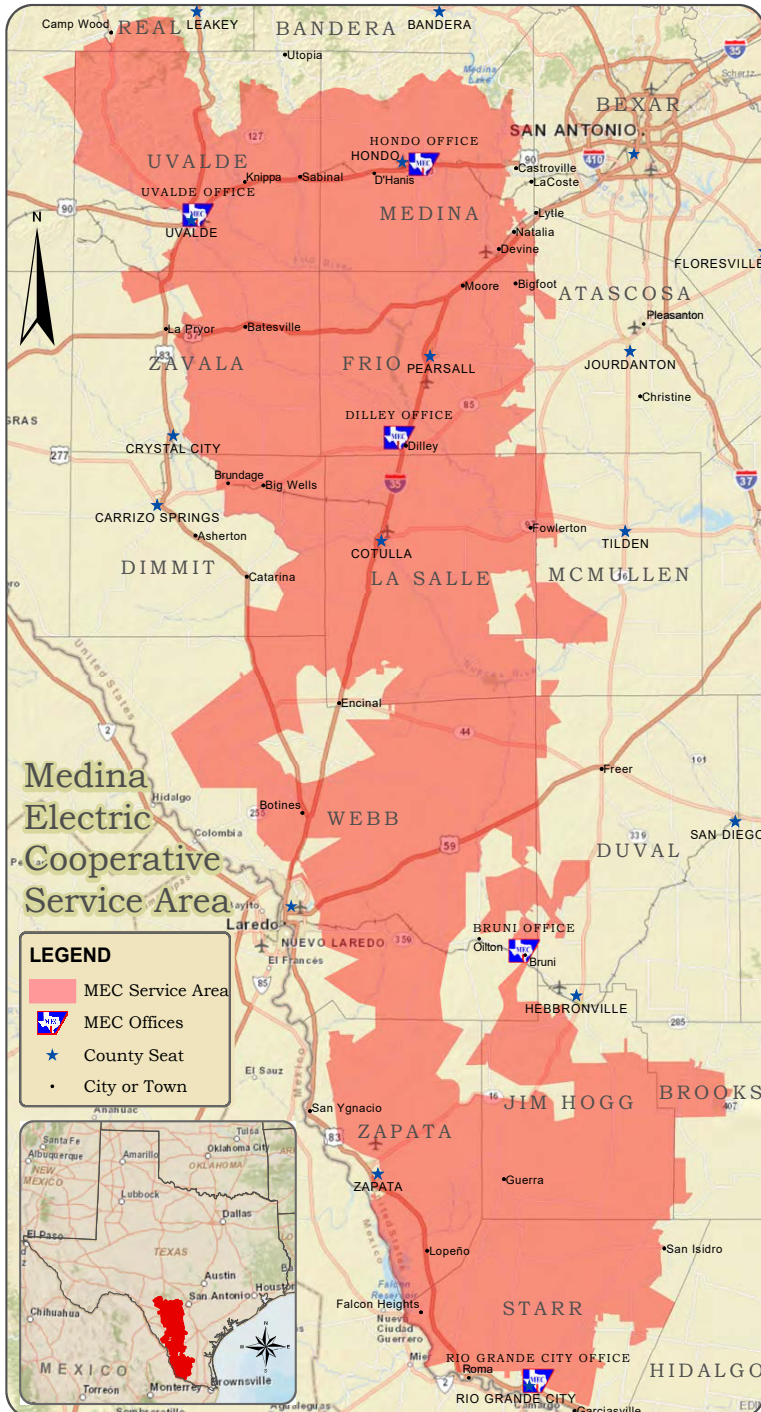
MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc

Includes Tariff, Bylaws and Your Rights as a Member

Our Service Area

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE may be our name, but we serve more than just Medina County. Medina EC actually serves all or parts of 17 counties across South Texas.

We have five offices that members can visit for business, located in Bruni, Dilley, Hondo, Rio Grande City and Uvalde, and two additional offices where internal staff operate, the corporate office in Hondo and a Laredo facility that houses materials and vehicles for staff in that area.



Benefits of Membership

SOLAR

You can now purchase a ground-mount solar panel system with installation from your cooperative. Learn more at MedinaEC.org/Solar.

GENERATORS

You can now purchase a 22kW propane generator with installation from Medina EC. Learn more about purchasing one or properly installing your own generator at MedinaEC.org/Generators.

SMARTHUB

Have your account information at your fingertips with this free tool. Available at MedinaEC.org or as an app for Android and Apple devices. Pay your bill, review past use, report outages and more.

REBATES

You can take advantage of rebates for multiple energy efficiency upgrades. Get all the details and information at MedinaEC.org/Rebates.

PREPAID ELECTRICITY

PrePaid Electricity is a great option if you want to pay for your electricity as you use it. Learn more about the program at MedinaEC.org/PrePaid.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

We offer many payment options. See details at MedinaEC.org/BillPay.

LIFE-SUPPORT REGISTRY

If someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, they need to be on the life-support registry. The form and details are at MedinaEC.org/Registry.

Board Election

Election ballots were mailed to Medina EC members on August 17. Voting closes at 5 p.m. on September 16. For specific instructions on voting by mail or online, please see the ballot you were mailed. Every member's vote is important. If you didn't receive your ballot for the election, please contact Medina EC at 1-866-MEC-ELEC or MyCoop@MedinaEC.org.

A brief biography for each candidate in Medina EC's contested races is listed. The content is written in the candidates' words and has not been edited by Medina EC staff. Acknowledgment of the campaign policy and disclosure reports, if applicable, are available for each candidate upon request.

Only Voting District 2 has a contested race this year. Candidate profiles for uncontested positions in Voting Districts 1 and 3 are available at MedinaEC.org/BoardElection.

All Medina EC members are eligible to vote for a candidate in any of Medina EC's contested races even if the member does not have a meter in those voting districts.

Medina EC is a democratic organization controlled by its members. Members elect representatives, called directors, who participate in setting policy and making decisions. Directors are accountable to the membership through the annual election process.

Nominees for board candidates were accepted at nominating meetings held in February and by petition.

Election results will be announced at the 83rd Annual Membership Meeting in Laredo on September 24 and posted at MedinaEC.org.



Jim L. Gates
Voting District 2 Candidate

Medina EC Member (# of Years): 28
Occupation (Former if retired): Banker

Work Experience: 2017 to Present - President / CEO Stockmens National Bank in Cotulla
1999 to 2014 - Sr. Vice President & Pearsall Branch Manager Jourdan State Bank
1997 to 1999 - Vice President Security State Bank Pearsall
1988 to 1996 - President, Pearsall Banking Center Camino Real Bancshares
1987 to 1988 - Vice President Stockmens National Bank in Cotulla
1983 to 1986 - Loan Officer WinterGarden Production Credit Association

I Would be a Good Director Because: I look forward in becoming a director of the Medina Electric Coop because with my extensive experience in finance and my conservative nature I agree with the Coop's mission of providing safe, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost to the members. I am a graduate of Texas A & M University '83 and have a long history of public service, 24 years as a director of the Frio Regional Hospital, 14 years as a director of the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association along with many years as a member of local clubs and organizations. My 35+ years of work history in the banking industry has me well prepared to review financial reports and work with people. I am a rancher and owner of commercial & residential rental property, all of which has me vested in the community. I know what the costs are and the value of your dollars. If there is a way to hold any of these costs down, I am willing to work to make that happen.

Please Contact Me At: Phone: 830-334-7170 Email: jimlgates@yahoo.com



Chris C. Surles
Voting District 2 Candidate

Medina EC Member (# of Years): 41
Occupation (Former if retired): Businessman

Work Experience: In 1976 I graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in business management. I soon went to work for the United States Department of Agriculture in Pearsall Texas and raised commercial hogs in my spare time. In 1980 I was employed by an agri-business in Dilley Texas selling fertilizer, seed, and chemicals to farmers and ranchers in the south Texas area. Eventually I became the general manager of this business which included buying and selling feed grains and processing farmer stock peanuts. In 2000 I took the opportunity to work in the Oil & Gas business as a registered broker for investments and from 2010 to the present I have been self employed managing commercial properties owned by my wife and me in Dilley.

I Would be a Good Director Because: For the past eleven years I have served as a director on the board of Medina Electric Cooperative. This experience along with my business involvement of the last 45 years makes me an excellent choice for re-election to the board where I currently serve. I consider myself a man of good character with reasonable understanding of the cooperative business model which is the foundation of Medina Electric Cooperative. It is my goal to continue to serve as a director with fairness and integrity to all of our membership, all of our employees, and to my fellow directors.

Please Contact Me At: Phone: 830-965-5538 Email: surco@granderiver.net

CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR UNOPPOSED RACES CAN BE FOUND AT MEDINAE.C.ORG/BOARDELECTION

Seven Cooperative Principles

As an electric distribution cooperative, Medina EC operates under the Seven Cooperative Principles. These principles guide all decisions made at the co-op.

VOLUNTARY & OPEN MEMBERSHIP

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

During the 83rd Annual Membership Meeting, one item on the business meeting agenda will include a vote on approval of minutes from the 82nd Annual Membership Meeting, held in 2021. Below are minutes from that meeting for members to review.

Annual Membership Meeting: September 25, 2021

The Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. 82nd Annual Membership Meeting was held at the SSGT Willie de Leon Civic Center in Uvalde, TX beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

The welcome and opening comments were delivered by Board President Kenneth White who noted that this Annual Meeting celebrates 82 years of serving electricity to South Texas. Mayor Don McLaughlin was invited to the stage to welcome members to the City of Uvalde.

1. The invocation was given by CEO Rollans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.
2. CEO Rollans then recognized veterans, current service members, and first responders in attendance. Further, he introduced special guests in attendance at the meeting. CEO Rollans then introduced the Board of Directors and the Medina Electric employees who have reached service milestones, asking them to stand and be recognized.
3. Board President Kenneth White called the meeting to order, asking Board Secretary Annette Sorrells to address the next order of business including:
 - a. The notice of the meeting: Secretary Sorrells reported this notice was provided in the September Texas Co-op Power magazine.
 - b. Registrar's Report: Secretary Sorrells read the following Registrar's Report: As of Wednesday, September 22, 2021 when voting closed, Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS), who handles all election business, reported that 1,918 ballots were ruled valid. Based on cooperative bylaws, a quorum was met and the meeting could proceed.
 - c. Reading of the Membership Roll and 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Secretary Sorrells stated that she could hold the roll call of the members and read the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes, noting that the minutes were included in the September Texas Co-op Power magazine.

At this time, President White stated he would entertain one motion to:

1) Accept the Registrar's Report, 2) Dispense of the Reading of the Membership Roll, and 3) Approve the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented in the September issue of the Texas Co-op Power magazine.

Motion was made and seconded to 1) Accept the Registrar's Report, 2) Dispense of the Reading of the Membership Roll, and 3) Approve the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented in the September issue of the Texas Co-op Power magazine. Motion carried.

4. CEO Rollans then presented his annual report.
5. CEO Rollans read the names of the 2021 director nominees as well as the dates and places of the Voting District Nominating Meetings. The nominees were asked to stand and were thanked for their support and for taking an active interest in their cooperative.
6. The results of the 2021 director election were announced. It was noted that Medina utilized Survey and Ballot Systems to coordinate the election. This third-party company collects and tallies all votes made by members online and through mail-in ballot, ensuring that the election is secure and confidential. CEO Rollans called upon Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin who reported the following results:

Director Election
District 1: Wayne Scholtz - 1,352
Levi McKenzie - 566
7. CEO Rollans announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2021 and thanked his family, staff, and the board as well as the membership for allowing him to be a part of the cooperative for the past 30 years. President White presented CEO Rollans with a plaque commemorating his years of service.
8. President White asked whether there remained any new or unfinished business. None was indicated by the membership.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.



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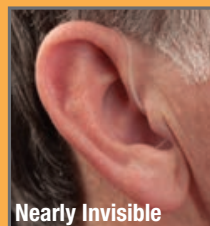
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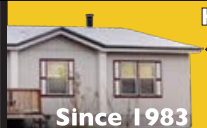
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“I haven’t been this excited since I got my first bicycle!”

Introducing **ZOOMER!**

The portable, folding, battery-powered chair that offers easy one-handed operation

Remember when you were a child and got your first bicycle? I do. It gave me a sense of independence . . . I felt like I could go anywhere, and it was so much easier and more enjoyable than walking. Well, at my age, that bike wouldn’t do me much good. Fortunately, there’s a new invention that gives me the freedom and independence to go wherever I want . . . safely and easily. It’s called the **Zoomer**, and it’s changed my life.

My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.

Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

After just one trip around your home in the **Zoomer**, you’ll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It’s not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk- there’s no need to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour



and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it’s not in use.

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



Good on Paper

Fueled by booze and a legendary cocktail napkin, Southwest Airlines took off and never looked back

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH FERONE

THIS LEGENDARY STORY starts off like many good stories do: Two men walked into a bar.

They were in San Antonio, and this was more than 55 years ago. And, OK, it was actually a restaurant with a bar. They ordered drinks and perhaps hors d'oeuvres. As the story goes, one of the men grabbed a cocktail napkin, took out his pen and said to the other, "Here's the plan."

He then drew a simple triangle on the napkin. At the apex of the triangle he wrote "Dallas." The bottom left he labeled "San Antonio." And on the remaining corner: "Houston."

"There—that's the business plan," he said. "Fly between these cities several times a day, every day." And that is the

tale of how Southwest Airlines began, on a simple napkin in a bar in San Antonio in 1966. The two men were Rollin King and Herb Kelleher.

King was a pilot and businessman and Kelleher a lawyer. King would become a managing director of the company that he and Kelleher co-founded in March 1967 and that first took to the sky in June 1971. Kelleher would go on to serve as CEO from 1981 to 2001. At the Southwest headquarters at Dallas Love Field, there's a bronze replica of the original napkin and a plaque with this exchange: "Herb, let's start an airline." "Rollin, you're crazy. Let's do it!"

Beyond the sizzle, there was genuine business genius in Southwest's efficiencies: peanut fares and the 10-minute

turnaround, which had never been achieved before. To date, Southwest has flown more than 2 billion passengers without a crash and now serves more than 100 destinations in the U.S. and 10 countries.

Perhaps the coolest story in Southwest Airlines' history, and relatively unknown, was its fare war with now-defunct Braniff Airlines in early 1973—only a year after a struggling Southwest had just \$143 in its bank account. Braniff offered \$13 fares for its Houston-Dallas route as a means of "breaking" the upstart airline.

Southwest responded by offering passengers a \$13 fare or a \$26 fare that included a free bottle of Chivas scotch, Crown Royal whiskey or Smirnoff vodka. According to airline lore, for the two months before Braniff surrendered, Southwest was Texas' biggest distributor of premium liquor as business travelers expensed the \$26 tickets and kept the booze for themselves.

Not long before he died in June 2014, King confessed that the napkin story wasn't entirely true but that it was a "hell of a good story."

It was too late: The myth had become more powerful than the reality.

As the saying goes, when the legend becomes fact, print the legend. ■

Pizza Night

We hold the anchovies but offer these slices of inspired pies

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

We instituted Friday night pizzas when my kids were small, and it's been a great way to get creative in the kitchen. Whether you are sticking with reliable classics like pepperoni and mushroom or branching out to new toppings, it's hard to resist pizza. This take was inspired by my love of Mexican street corn.

Chorizo Corn Pizza

½ cup sour cream
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 tablespoons lime juice, plus more to taste
1 teaspoon chili powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 ball pizza dough or premade crust
Olive oil
1 cup shredded mozzarella
½ pound Mexican chorizo, cooked and drained
¾ cup corn kernels
¼ cup pickled jalapeño peppers
½ cup crumbled cotija cheese
Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. In a bowl, mix sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice, chili powder and salt until well combined. Taste and adjust seasonings, adding more lime juice or water to thin if desired.
3. Lightly grease a pizza pan and roll out pizza dough on top. Brush olive oil on top of dough, then spread sour cream mixture on top. Layer on the mozzarella, chorizo, corn and jalapeños. Sprinkle cotija over the top.
4. Bake pizza 10–15 minutes, until crust is browned and mozzarella is melted. Garnish with fresh cilantro.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Brussels Sprouts Pizza With Bacon and Pear.





Low-Carb Sausage, Mushroom and Jalapeño Pizza

DIANE MUDD
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This pizza is a great option for those who are looking for a low-carb alternative. Mudd recommends making your own low-carb pizza sauce. These mini pizzas are also delicious cold the next day.

CRUST

- 1½ cups almond flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- ⅓ cup (¼ stick) butter

TOPPING

- 1 pound ground pork
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup chopped white button mushrooms
- ¼ cup pickled jalapeño peppers, chopped
- ¼ cup chopped olives
- 1 cup low-carb pizza sauce
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1. **CRUST** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line an extra-large baking sheet or two standard baking sheets with parchment. In a medium bowl, combine almond flour, baking powder, garlic powder and eggs. Set aside.
2. In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine mozzarella, sour cream and butter. Microwave 1–2 minutes, stirring every

\$500 WINNER

Williams Family Best Marmalade Bacon Pizza

SHAWN WILLIAMS
LYNTEGAR EC



The Williams family began a weekly cooking challenge during the pandemic while their children lived in different cities. A prompt of marmalade led to the creation of this unique pizza featuring fig, bacon and asparagus.

SERVES 4



- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large red or yellow onion, sliced
- ½ teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, divided use
- ⅓ cup (¼ stick) butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¾ cup milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons fig jam or marmalade
- 1 package unbaked pizza dough
- 7 slices bacon, cooked crisp and chopped
- 8 ounces asparagus, cooked and cut into small pieces
- 6 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 2 ounces Parmesan cheese, shredded

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a sauté pan over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onions and sprinkle with salt. Sauté 10 minutes, then add sugar and continue to sauté until onions begin to caramelize, about 5–10 minutes. Add a tablespoon or two of water as needed during cooking to keep the onions from drying. Stir in 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar and set the onion topping aside.
3. In a small saucepan, to make sauce, melt butter over medium heat. Add flour and garlic and cook, whisking constantly, for 1 minute. While whisking, slowly pour in milk. Bring to a boil, whisking constantly, for about a minute until thickened, then remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. In a small bowl, combine fig jam and remaining tablespoon of balsamic vinegar. Heat in microwave 15 seconds and set aside.
5. Roll out pizza dough onto pan and bake 4 minutes. Remove from oven and spread sauce evenly over the top. Layer on toppings and drizzle on warmed balsamic jam. Return pizza to the oven for 7–10 minutes, until crust is golden and cheese is melted.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

CUPCAKES DUE SEPTEMBER 10

Whether you stick with classic flavors or go wild, do you make the best cupcakes around? Show us. Submit your recipes on our website by September 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

RECIPES CONTINUED

30 seconds, until melted. While the cheese is still hot, add the almond flour mixture and stir or knead with your hands until a uniform dough forms. Form dough into a ball and divide it into 8 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, place on prepared baking sheet and flatten to about ¼-inch thick. Bake for about 10 minutes, then remove and pop any bubbles with a fork. Return to oven for 2 minutes, until golden-brown.

3. TOPPING Heat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Season ground pork generously with salt and pepper, fennel seed, and Italian seasoning. Brown the resulting sausage, breaking it into small pieces. Add mushrooms, jalapeños and olives, stirring and continuing to cook until mushrooms are soft.

4. To prepare, divide sauce equally among pizza crusts. Sprinkle on mozzarella, then arrange meat mixture on top (you might have extra remaining). Bake 5–8 minutes, until cheese has melted.

SERVES 8



Jump-Start Breakfast Pizza

DALA BURK
WISE EC

Pizza for breakfast? Why not! Burk takes all your favorite breakfast ingredients and combines them for one fantastic pizza. Watch the crust carefully to prevent it from overbrowning.

8 ounces (1 package) refrigerated crescent rolls, separated
2 cups frozen hash browns with peppers and onions (about half a

28-ounce package), slightly thawed
1 pound ground sausage, cooked and drained
4 slices Canadian bacon, diced (optional)
4 ounces diced green chiles, drained
4 ounces sliced mushrooms
1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
5 eggs, beaten

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Arrange crescent rolls to cover the bottom of an ungreased pizza pan, pressing seams together and pinching edges to form a slight rim.

2. Spread hash browns evenly over crust, then sprinkle on sausage, Canadian bacon, chiles and mushrooms. Evenly top with shredded cheese, then carefully pour eggs over the whole pizza.

3. Bake 30–40 minutes, until crust is browned and cheese is melted.

SERVES 4–6

TCP Not enough pizza night options? Check our website for dozens more pleasing pies.

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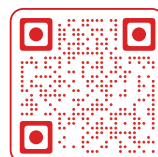
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Gulf Boast

Port Arthur museum shows off the region's global influence

BY CHET GARNER

GROWING UP in Southeast Texas, it was hard to appreciate the unique culture and people of the Gulf Coast. It wasn't until I moved to Austin and tried to order barbecued crabs at a restaurant and play zydeco music on the jukebox that I realized my upbringing was a bit different.

A recent trip to the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur not only reaffirmed that belief but helped me realize that without the people of the Coastal Bend, Texas and even the U.S. wouldn't be the same.

When I stepped into this massive downtown museum, I felt like I had stepped into a life-size textbook. From Karankawa artifacts to the Spindletop oil boom, the museum captures the unique history of the Gulf Coast. There's a 125-foot mural depicting moments like the shipwreck of Álgar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca right next to a record-setting race car. Everybody can find something interesting here.

Upstairs are four rooms dedicated to the staggering crowd of people born in this region who have gone on to influence the world—governors and artists, actresses and war heroes, all hailing from this crescent of swamp and coastal prairie. The sports room was especially awesome, with tributes to famous coaches like Bum and Wade Phillips, along with Cowboys legend Jimmy Johnson.

The music room flooded my mind with great tunes from artists like the Big Bopper, ZZ Top and George Jones. However, no artist draws more visitors than the “Pearl”—Janis Joplin—who was born in Port Arthur in 1943. Folks come to see a replica of her classic Porsche Cabriolet and many of her gold records.

It just goes to show: Folks from small towns can go on to have a big influence on the world. I left inspired—and hungry for Cajun food. ■

ABOVE Chet channels some of Janis Joplin's cosmic blues at the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur.

TCP Chet finds a piece of his heart and his roots at the museum. See his latest video on our website, and watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details.

SEPTEMBER

08

San Angelo [8–11] Arthur Stillwell's Dream of Steam, (325) 486-2140, sanangelorailway.org

09

Caldwell [9–10] Creative Memories Quilt Guild's Quilt Show, (512) 924-8716, englemann@suddenlink.net

Ennis [9–10] Patriot Day BBQ Bash, (972) 878-2625, ennis-chamber.com

Fairfield [9–10] Big T Memorial State Championship BBQ Cookoff, bigtmemorial.com

Brownwood [9–11, 16–18] Noises Off, (325) 998-2801, brownwoodlyrictheatre.com

10

Bartlett Metaphysical Night Gallery and Paranormal Tour, (512) 203-5561, austinghosttours.com

Caldwell Kolache Festival, (979) 567-0000, burlesoncountytexas.com

Plano Twenty Hounds: Downtown Sessions, (972) 941-5600, visitplano.com

Brenham [10–17] Washington County Fair, (979) 836-4112, washingtoncofair.com

11

Yorktown Holy Cross Festival, (361) 564-2893, holycrossyorktown.net

15

Lufkin [15–18] Texas State Forest Festival, (936) 634-6644, texasforestfestival.com

16

Nacogdoches [16-17]
Old Town Rig Down,
 (936) 615-0580,
oldtownrigdown.com

Amarillo [16-24] Tri-State
Fair & Rodeo, (806) 376-7767,
tristatefair.com

Kerrville [16-17, 23-25,
30-Oct. 2] *Leading*
Ladies, (830) 896-9393,
caillouxperformingarts.com

17

Anson Party in the
Park, (325) 823-3259,
ansonchamberofcommerce.com

Conroe Montgomery County
Master Gardeners Fall Plant
Sale, (936) 539-7824,
mcmga.com

Plano North Texas Pride
Festival, (469) 694-4834,
visitplano.com

San Angelo Concho
Valley Archeology Fair,
 (325) 657-4444,
fortconcho.com

Taylor Texas Mamma
Jamma Ride, (512) 297-7740,
mammajammaride.org

Gladewater [17-18] Arts
and Crafts, (903) 845-5501,
gladewaterartsandcrafts.com

18

Kyle Doggie Dip,
 (512) 262-3939,
cityofkyle.com

Stonewall Seed Stomp,
 (830) 644-2252,
tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson

19

Kerrville [19-25] Paint
Kerrville!, (830) 895-2911,
kackckerrville.com

MORE EVENTS >

TCP Submit Your Event

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



Paint Kerrville!
Outdoor Painters Event
 September 19th - 25th, 2022
www.kackckerrville.com



Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair
 September 24th - 25th, 2022
www.txartsandcraftsfair.com/



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TCP E-news

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Pick of the Month

Balloon and Music Festival

Paris, September 9–12
(903) 517-2830
parisballoonandmusicfestival.com

The skies over North Texas are filled with hot air balloon flights and the evenings with food trucks, music, a kids zone, vendors and a live painting competition at this visually stunning festival.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

22

Plano [22–25] Balloon Festival, (972) 867-7566,
planoballoonfest.org

Kerrville [22–Oct. 29] Roundup Exhibition and Sale, (830) 896-2553,
museumofwesternart.com

24

Brenham Suzy Bogguss, (979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com

DeKalb Saturday in the Park, (903) 277-3519,
dekaltexasoktoberfest.org

Fredericksburg Back to the Basics, (830) 997-3224,
backtothebasicsfestival.com

George West Mariachi Las Alteñas, (361) 436-1098,
dobie-westtheatre.com

Lakehills Medina Lake Cajun Festival, (830) 460-0600,
cajunfestival-medinalake.com

Mason Old Yeller Day, (325) 347-5446,
mason.ploud.net

San Marcos Downtown Mermaid Promenade, (512) 825-2819,
visitsanmarcos.com

Comanche [24–25] Pow Wow, (325) 356-3233,
comanchechamber.org

Granbury [24–25] Spooky Spectacle, (817) 559-0849,
visitgranbury.com

Ingram [24–25] Texas Arts and Crafts Fair, (830) 367-5121,
txartsandcraftsfair.com

25

Serbin Wendish Fest, (979) 366-2441,
texaswendish.org

30

Graford [30–Oct. 1] Possum Fest BBQ and Chili Cook-Off, (940) 779-2424,
possumkingdomlake.com

Fredericksburg [30–Oct. 2] Lone Star Gourd Festival,
texasgourdsociety.org

OCTOBER

01

Bowie Chicken and Bread Days Heritage Festival, (940) 872-6246,
cityofbowietx.com

La Grange Oktoberfest on the Square, (979) 968-3017,
visitlagrangetx.com

Lubbock [1–2] Miniaturists of Lubbock Show and Sale, (806) 885-4306,
miniaturistsoflubbock.org

Plano [1–2] Fall Plano Train Show, (972) 941-5840,
visitplano.com

07

Kerrville [7–16] Welcome Home Fest, (830) 257-3600,
kerrvillefolkfestival.org

Ingram [7–8, 14–16, 21–23] The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, (830) 367-5121,
hcaf.com

Light and Shadow

Out of the shadows and ready to shine, these photos are downright illuminating. Don't get left in the dark—join us as we cast a spotlight on Texas beauty.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 FAITH CAUGHNOR
TRINITY VALLEY EC

The East Texas Stampede equestrian drill team at the rodeo in Mesquite.

2 JOHN HOBBS
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

Yuccas at White Sands National Park.

3 CAMERON FOX
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

"You can't take the country out of a Texas girl raising her livestock."

4 PAUL GARCIA
MEDINA EC

The Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio features historic reenactors in full period dress.



Upcoming Contests

DUE SEP 10 Nature's Color
DUE OCT 10 First Responders
DUE NOV 10 Land, Sea or Sky



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for more Light and Shadow photos from readers.



Roll Call

Hail to the bus drivers, who help students get ahead

BY CYNTHIA L. MATLOCK
ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR CALLERY

WHEN I WAS A KID in the 1970s, the frame of a small school bus sat rusting in our neighbor's pasture. I asked my mother about it, and she told me that in the late 1930s, the neighbor, John Christian, had bought the bus.

So it was his. My mouth dropped in awe that an African American man in our rural Cherokee County community had bought a school bus.

That triggered my interest in school bus history as I watched bright yellow buses, large and small, coming and going, picking up and dropping off children as the school year began. They were headed home, to school or to their extracurricular activities.

I found out that in the second half of the 19th century, students who lived beyond walking distance of their school

were typically driven in the family wagon or a horse-drawn repurposed farm wagon with a tarpaulin stretched above the passenger seating.

It wasn't until the 1950s that buses operated by private drivers were widely replaced by district-owned fleets.

During the 1940s, many rural schools only went through the eighth grade. Beyond that, students often had to travel longer distances to their nearest high school. Very few families in rural communities had cars at that time. People like Christian—who made sure the school-age children in their farming areas had transportation to school—were so important.

"Oh yeah, Mr. John Christian bought a school bus, and he hired my father, Matthew Allen, to drive the bus to pick up the kids in the Green Chapel area," Evelyn Allen, a former resident of the community, told me. "They all knew Mr. Christian."

While the buses themselves have improved over the years, the experience is much the same. Schoolchildren—then and now—wait and anticipate the rumbling bus coming to their stop during the early dawn hours.

The bus rides to and from team sports, competitions and performances are the source of many friendships, laughs and arguments among the riders. Most riders can recall favorite drivers who stand out in their memories of their school days—like those who made them feel special or let them have safe fun.

Even the strictest drivers can be fondly remembered. Like one of my favorite drivers, J.C. Jones. My cousins and I knew he did not play. He'd look up in that wide rearview mirror and yell back to us in a commanding tone: "Y'all better set down back there." And we'd immediately flop down in our seats.

Much gratitude is due to those bus owners, faithful drivers, mechanics and all who keep the buses rolling. Your work is important. ■

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83rd Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 24 | Texas A&M International University
5201 University Blvd. | Laredo | 78041

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE

Registration and breakfast begin at 9 a.m.

Meeting begins at 10 a.m. | Registration ends at 10:30 a.m.

Must be present to win prizes.

Must register by 10:30 a.m. to be entered in the \$1,000 grand prize drawing.

TO JOIN US VIRTUALLY:

If you want to join the meeting from the comfort of home, you can do so live via Zoom!

Register at MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2022. Once your membership information has been confirmed, you will receive a link to attend virtually. You must register by September 15.

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting begins at 10 a.m. Must be online by 10:30 a.m. to be considered registered and entered to win prizes. Prize winners will be drawn on October 3 and notified by October 17.

Official Notice of Membership Meeting To All Members:

The Annual Membership Meeting of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at Texas A&M International University in Laredo on Saturday, September 24, at 10 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. Introduce and hear reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. Election Results of Directors.
3. All other matters that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Aviso Oficial de la Junta Anual de la Membresia Para Todos Los Miembros:

La Junta Anual de la Membresia de la Cooperativa Medina Electric, Inc., se llevara acabo en la Universidad Internacional de Texas A&M in Laredo el sabado 24 de septiembre, a las 10 a.m. para tomar accion sobre los siguientes asuntos:

1. Introducir y oír los informes de oficiales, directores y comités.
2. Elección de directores.
3. Todas otros asuntos que se presenten antes o despues de la junta.

Translation Services Available Upon Request

Let Medina EC know if you need an American Sign Language or Spanish translator during the 83rd Annual Membership Meeting on September 24. Call 1-866-MEC-ELEC (ext. 1008) before Friday, September 2, to request the service.

Este seguro dejar a Medina EC saber si usted necesita a un traductor de espanol durante la 83rd Junta Anual de Miembro el 24 de septiembre. Llame 1-866-MEC-ELEC (ext. 1008) antes de el viernes, 2 de septiembre para solicitar el servicio.

83rd Annual Membership Meeting

DO NOT MAIL THIS CARD. If you are attending in person, bring this card with you to the meeting for registration and to be entered in the grand prize* drawing. You must be present at the meeting or participate virtually to win prizes. If you mail this card to the cooperative, you will not be eligible for the drawing.

If you are attending the meeting virtually, don't forget to register at MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2022 by September 15. You will be entered in a separate prize drawing once you log in using your meeting link the morning of the meeting. You must log in by 10:30 a.m. to be entered in the prize drawing.



*Only in-person attendees will be eligible for the \$1,000 grand prize drawing. Virtual attendees will be entered for separate door prizes.

Verify / Update Your Contact Information

Please fill in your contact information below to update your email and phone number. We will verify your account to be sure we have your most current information. Account names and addresses can only be updated by calling us at 1-866-632-3532.

Full Name: _____

Member Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____

Is the number above a mobile? Yes No

Check what you are interested in learning more about or seeing offered by the cooperative.

____ Standby Generators

____ ERCOT Notifications

____ Electric Vehicles

____ Online Account Access

____ Residential Solar Generation

____ Outage Text Messaging

Other: _____