

CO-OPS COUNT:  
BY THE NUMBERS

1918 PANDEMIC  
HIT OIL FIELDS

FINDING PORTRAITS  
IN EVERYDAY LIFE

# Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2020

## If the Shoe Fits

Farriers help build  
horse health from  
the ground up







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# October 2020



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## 08 By the Numbers

The countless ways electric co-ops make a difference across Texas.

Story by Tom Widlowski  
Illustration by Shaw Nielsen

## Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart.

Story by Brenda Kissko  
Photos by Kristin Tyler

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### ON THE COVER

Farrier Jim Crawford  
at McManus Ranch  
in Irion County.

### ABOVE

Crawford shapes  
a horseshoe.

Photos by Kristin Tyler





# Howdy, Pandowdy

**OUR RECIPES THEME** this month (Page 30) is Cobblers, Crisps, Buckles and Betties. Seems like a lot of names for a dish that is essentially fruit baked with batter, biscuits, dough or crumble.

Turns out those dishes, which have been around since colonists arrived in this country with their recipes from England, go by many other names, including crumbles, grunts, slumps, bird's nest pudding, sonkers and pandowdies.



## Lights Out

General Electric, co-founded by Thomas Edison, inventor of the modern lightbulb, recently sold its 129-year-old lighting business.

*The New York Times* compared this move to Kellogg abandoning cornflakes or Ford getting out of the auto industry.

## Worms in Space?

Absolutely.

NASA's red, sleek and wavy typographical logo from the 1980s returned to the heavens May 30, adorning the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that launched two American astronauts aboard the Crew Dragon.

When the logo debuted in 1975, it became known as the worm, and the original NASA logo, which debuted in 1959 with the agency, was coined the meatball. The worm was NASA's official logo 1975–1992, then the agency went back to the meatball.

The minimalist worm was popular in the marketing industry but scorned by NASA insiders, who favored the round blue meatball with its white type, planets, stars and orbital path enhanced with a red chevron.





# \$30

That's the average weekly allowance, which about two-thirds of parents fork over to kids.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT I EVER GOT WAS ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our August prompt:  
**When I think of Texas, I think of ...**

Mermaids in San Marcos, Big Tex in Dallas and Prada in Marfa.

WHITNEY OLDFATHER  
PEDERNALES EC  
SAN MARCOS

Blue skies, bluebonnets and Willie.

PJAE STANLEY  
COSERV  
LITTLE ELM

Home.

PAM SHORT ALFRED  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC  
KENNARD

Big sky and endless horizon.

AUTUMN VOGEL  
TRINITY VALLEY EC  
ELMO

Beaches, forests, mountains, two time zones, and taking two days to go north to south or east to west.

DEBBIE MOBLEY  
HEART OF TEXAS EC  
VALLEY MILLS

Windmills, sunsets, dirt roads, and cornbread and beans.

DONNA GENTRY WEEDEN  
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



## Now This Is a Selfie

**WE KNOW YOU LOVE** your selfies, our Focus on Texas theme this month (Page 37).

The selfie above might be the coolest of all—because it was the first.

Robert Cornelius, an amateur chemist and photography enthusiast in Philadelphia, made a daguerreotype of himself in 1839. He removed the camera's lens cap; ran into the frame, where he sat for several minutes; then covered the lens again.



### **TCP** Contests and More

**ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTO CONTEST**  
Saddles

**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Tacos

**FROM OUR ARCHIVE**

*More Than Electricity*, October 2018, tells how co-ops are "the fabric of the community."



WYATT MCSADDEN

## My TX

“My family told about bad luck superstitions. One was putting a hat on a bed, as was wearing more than one hat at a time.”

JANICE MARTIN  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC  
KINGSLAND

## My TX Moment

My personal My TX [August 2020] moment was 30 years ago and half a world away. I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in Saudi Arabia. Near our camp was a group of Mujahideen fighters, and they always left a grizzled old man to guard their camp.

One day he flagged us down. He started talking and pointing up and to the rear of my vehicle. I asked my interpreter what he wanted, and he said, “Texas.” The man recognized the small Texas flag on my radio aerial.

Alfred W. Evans  
Hamilton County EC  
Gatesville



The canyon is so beautiful [Palo Duro Love Letters, July 2020]. Very cool to have this famous artist's work and letters reflecting that beauty.

CINDI RAK MULCAHEY  
VIA FACEBOOK

## Their TX

Congratulations, Pam LeBlanc, for declaring yourself a Texan [No Longer a Yankee, July 2020].

Without saying it, you seemed to echo Jay B Saucedo's comment that Texas mystique is not built on small stuff or mediocrity or even above-average stuff but on the overwhelming.

J.K. Goode  
Fayette EC  
Weimar

## Fixin' To Learn

I didn't realize the word fixin' was Texan—as I've used it all my life having been born in Shreveport and raised in south Louisiana [Finish This Sentence, August 2020]. My husband has always asked me where I got it. Now I know how to answer him.

Paula Bonin  
Trinity Valley EC  
Gun Barrel City



COURTESY JACK CHASE

I am fortunate enough to own an SRV flat-top hat from Texas Hatters. I was a regional VP for Epic Records and helped launch Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble. I bought several of these hats from the Texas Hatters shop when the album *Texas Flood* was released in 1983.

Jack Chase  
CoServ  
Carrollton

## TCP WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power  
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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# Bad to the Bone

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The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

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— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

*"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."*

— H., Arvada, CO



**Rating of A+**

BY TOM WIDLOWSKI  
ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

# By the Numbers

The countless ways  
electric co-ops  
make a difference  
across Texas

**IN SOME WAYS**, the less you think about your electric cooperative, the better. That means your power has stayed on almost without fail, outages are quickly remedied, and your monthly bills are fair and reasonable.

But a lot of thought goes into electric co-ops because they are so much more than power providers. They are united by a business model that values community over profits. They are locally owned and democratically controlled by their customers, called members. They work together to achieve goals and solve problems. Your cooperative is one of more than 900 electric co-ops in the U.S.

The co-op business model is used by a wide variety of organizations—not just electric utilities. Ace Hardware; REI, which specializes in outdoor clothing and gear; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; and Land O'Lakes operate as co-ops. In fact, there are more than 40,000 co-op businesses in the U.S., with 350 million members, according to a University of Wisconsin study.

October is National Cooperative Month, a good opportunity to show the reach, scope and numbers behind Texas' electric co-ops that, when added up, reveal the significant impact they have on rural and suburban communities. ■



**30–35**  
pounds of gear

weighs down lineworkers  
when climbing a pole—  
hooks, a belt, tools and more.

**9,300**  
people  
work at the  
**69**  
electric co-ops  
in the state.



**3.7**  
million  
readers

of Texas Co-op  
Power, which has  
been landing in  
mailboxes since  
1944. That's like  
everybody in  
Houston and Dallas  
having the same  
favorite magazine  
as you.

**85**  
years

of co-ops in Texas.  
Bartlett EC, formed in 1935  
as the first co-op in the  
country to receive a Rural  
Electrification Administration  
loan, turned on its first  
light March 7, 1936,  
at a farmhouse  
outside Bartlett.



# 3

## million Texans

enjoy co-op electric  
service, mostly in rural  
and suburban areas.



# 325,000

## miles of co-op power lines in Texas, enough to encircle Earth more than 13 times.

# 1,338,828

## hours worked

without a lost-time incident  
at Bandera EC, which was  
honored in March for that long  
stretch of safety—remarkable  
considering the high voltage  
within arm's length of its  
lineworkers every day.

# 241

## of Texas' 254 counties are served by electric co-ops.



# \$1.6

## million

in scholarships  
awarded annually  
to college students  
by co-ops. A stack  
of 1.6 million  
\$1 bills would reach  
573 feet high—or nearly  
twice the height of  
the Texas Capitol.



# 47

## million lightning bolts

struck Texas  
in 2019—the most  
of any state by far.  
Not all of them  
knocked out power,  
but you can bet  
many of them  
put workers on edge.

# 5.5

## million poles hold up power lines in Co-op Country in Texas.







# Why Horses Wear Shoes

Texas farriers truly know the way to a horse's heart

It's another sunny December day in West Texas, and Jim Crawford crosses the fifth and final cattle guard on his two-hour drive to the McManus Ranch from his home near Ballinger. Crawford is there to shoe horses, as he has been doing on this ranch since the early 1970s. He pulls his trailer to a convenient spot near the barn.

He wears denim, lace-up boots, suspenders and his signature red-and-white polka-dot welding cap. Last he ties on the leather farrier apron he stitched himself. Crawford is wearing the same outfit I remember him always wearing when he visited as I grew up on this ranch. My dad, Beaver McManus, a member of Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, says it's the same uniform young Crawford wore the day he met him as a junior high boy when he came out to the ranch with his great-uncle Houston Crawford.

When you live this far out, you look forward to visitors. The days that Crawford comes to the ranch to shoe horses are days filled with storytelling. More often than not, farriers become lifelong friends with horse owners. "I couldn't have gotten along without him the last 30 years," Dad says. "He's more than someone who just came out to shoe our horses. He's part of our extended family."

Farrier, derived from the Latin word *ferrarius*, meaning blacksmith, is the professional name given to horseshoers. Many prefer to be called farriers, but others, like Crawford, prefer the simpler term "horseshoer." No matter what they're called, they're necessary to the state's equine industry.

Crawford recalls first getting the horseshoeing gig at the ranch. Houston asked him to meet at the mailbox before dawn, and the young shoer beat him there. "I think that impressed him, that he didn't have to wait on me," says Crawford, a member of Coleman County Electric Coopera-

tive. Houston welcomed him to the house and made his signature extra-strong coffee. "It was boiling in the cup," Crawford laughs. "I thought, jeez, how does his system handle that? Must be cast iron." Nearly 50 years later, he still remembers the gray horse he shod that day.

Crawford loves his work, but he originally dreamed of becoming a calf roper.

"I had a lot of try, but I didn't have the talent," he jokes. "I could win fifth if they were paying four." The first horse Crawford shod was his own calf roping horse, Wimp, named after the horse's grandfather, Wimpy P-1, born on the King Ranch and the first horse registered with the American



OPPOSITE Farrier Jim Crawford has been fitting shoes onto horses for decades. ABOVE Crawford rasps one of Peanut's hooves for a final fit at McManus Ranch in Irion County.



## Originally, nearly 100% of his clients were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Quarter Horse Association. Crawford hoped a regular horseshoeing clientele would enable him to stay at the roping gig longer.

In the spring of 1972, Crawford used his GI Bill benefits to go to horseshoeing school. An outbreak of screwworms in the summer of '72 forced ranchers to ride their land daily to monitor their livestock. This created high demand for farriers. Crawford was getting calls to book his services before he'd completed the 10-week course. When he finished, he had a satisfying work schedule and a long list of clients. He became so busy shoeing horses he never returned to roping.

Crawford's customers come to him through word-of-mouth recommendations. A stack of spiral notebooks tell the stories and names of most horses he's shod through the decades.

"Showing up and having the shoe stay on made my career," Crawford says. "When I first started, guys used their horses hard." Originally, nearly 100% of his clients

were ranchers with working horses. Now more than half are pleasure horses.

Texas ranks No. 1 in the nation for its inventory of horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Though there's been a transition in the horse's function from work to pleasure, horses are still big business in Texas and create a constant demand for farriers.

**W**hy do horses need shoes? There's an old saying, "no foot, no horse," which speaks to the importance of a horse's feet to its overall health. Each horse's foot includes a mechanism that pumps blood back up to the heart, so each foot is like an auxiliary heart for the





CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Crawford shapes a horse-shoe at his anvil. The tools and nails he uses. Crawford explains how he gives horses a proper fit. A homemade tool used to nail shoes to hooves. Crawford shows up for jobs with racks of horse-shoes in the bed of his pickup.

edgeable in the treatment of many hoof diseases, such as laminitis, navicular disease and thrush.

It's believed that the horse was domesticated around 3000 B.C., and Egyptians and Persians are credited with creating the first horseshoes from woven reeds and grass. The horseshoe has evolved through the ages, though the steel shoe has not changed much since the mid-1800s, when Henry Burden patented a machine that could mass-produce horseshoes. Although many synthetic shoes have come on the market in recent years, the majority of farriers still put on a steel shoe that's either hand-forged or ready-made and shaped either cold or hot and fitted to the animal.

animal. A horse's hoof is a living, growing part of that anatomy. Most components of a horse's hoof are elastic, so they also act as shock absorbers.

When the growth of the hoof is balanced by equal wear and no disease or abnormalities are present, horseshoes are not necessary. Horseshoes are used for protection, traction and correction. Whether it is racing, ranching or rodeoing, a horse's work is rough on its feet. That's when shoes are necessary. Shoes also correct some problems with gait and lameness.

Horseshoeing is both art and science, and skilled farriers pride themselves on helping to keep horses sound. Farriers study the anatomy of a horse's entire leg and are knowl-

Before a shoe is placed, the farrier will clean and trim the hoof to ensure a level and balanced foot. Even hooves that go without shoes likely need to be trimmed on a regular basis. The farrier will then customize the shoe to mimic the shape of that horse's hoof wall. The shoe is nailed outside of the wall from the bottom, so the nails penetrate the portion of the hoof that has no feeling.

The Texas Professional Farriers Association comprises about 200 members that meet regularly for continuing education. Texas does not require farriers to have a license to practice, but the TPFA helps members achieve certification through the American Farrier's Association. Certification exams include a written and a practical



Crawford, who once dreamed of becoming a calf roper, found his calling in 1972.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Learn more about alternative shoes and how to find or become a farrier, and read a proverb that puts a fine point on the value of horseshoes.

component. The TPFA also hosts clinics and competitions throughout the year.

“A shoe should be a complement to the horse, not an interruption,” says Danny Anderson, TPFA president. Anderson owns Indian Creek Forge in Whitesboro and is a member of PenTex Energy. He says the organization is growing, and there is an up-and-coming generation of farriers.

Veterans in the industry are passing along their knowledge of the trade to new members, and they don’t all look like Crawford. Women have gotten involved.

According to the 2019 Farrier Business Practices Report produced by *American Farriers Journal*, 18% of farriers are women, up from 8% reported three years prior. In 2018 Cornell University admitted its first all-female class to its farrier program.

Nichole Smith co-owns SS Horseshoeing in Wichita Falls with her husband, Stephen, and is leading the way in the growing sector of female farriers. She was the first woman in the world to achieve multiple farrier certifications and has mentored other women.

“I’m really excited that so many young ladies are getting involved and doing so well,” Smith says. “Some ladies are small-statured, and they need to be prepared to use their brain to overcome some of the challenges. I’ve always been welcomed in this industry, like family, and I appreci-

ate that.” Smith forges all the steel and aluminum shoes she sets.

Although technology like 3D printing is quickly advancing this industry, there’s no replacement for the friendly smile and personal care for horses a farrier brings.

Crawford smiles as he looks back at his career: “Having people know that I did a good job and knowing that I was appreciated—that’s the reward.” ■





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The brain processes signals from both ears for clarity & balanced sound so if you have hearing loss in both ears, your brain has to process two different sound and clarity levels.

**SHOP AT HOME!**  
**Skip the Clinic  
with Remote Care**

**RISK-FREE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE**

**Hear Better Or Your Money Back!**

Try MDHearingAids risk free with a 100% money-back guarantee for 45 days.



**Call 1-800-618-6782 Today!**  
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Be sure to enter offer code **KG28** to receive

**FREE SHIPPING!**



# Moissanite

For your one and only.  
The Moissanite Solitaire Collection



**2 Carat  
Solitaire Ring  
at  
67% OFF**

## IN THE NEWS:

*Moissanite is a game changer...  
A hot trend in big bling—  
an alternative to diamond...”  
— Today Show on NBC*

## To Call It a Diamond Would Be an Insult

*Possessing fire, brilliance, and luster that far surpasses that of a diamond,  
this Nobel Prize winner's discovery sparkles unlike any gemstone on earth.*

When French chemist, Henri Moissan discovered an incredibly rare mineral in a 50,000 year-old meteorite, little did he know the amazing chain of events that would follow. Along with winning a Nobel prize, he gave the world a stone that surpasses even the finest diamond in virtually every aspect that makes a woman go weak in the knees. And, we have this swoon-worthy stone right here for a down to earth price.

The Stauer *Moissanite Solitaire Ring* and Earrings feature 4 total carats of sparkling perfection elegantly prong-set in sterling silver. Four total-carats of diamonds with this color and clarity would cost more than \$40,000. Much rarer than a diamond, Moissanite is the superior choice, both in beauty and in price.

**The most brilliant fine stone on earth.** According to the GIA (Gemological Institute of America), Moissanite outperforms all jewels in terms of its brilliance, fire, and luster. Brilliance comes from the flashes of white light reflecting from the top and sides of a gemstone. This light show is known as refraction. Moissanite has “double refraction”— which means light goes down into the stone and comes out not once, but twice. No diamond can do this. The way the light dances inside Moissanite is something to behold.

**The genius of affordability.** Two years ago Moissanite was over \$1,000 a carat. Now, for the first time in history, Stauer gemologists have perfected the science of romance, enabling us to price two carats of moissanite at \$199. It's pure genius. Our Nobel Prize-winning chemist would be proud.

**100% Money Back Guarantee.** If for any reason she doesn't fall in love with the *Moissanite Solitaire Ring* or Earrings, simply return them within 30 days for a full refund of the item price. But we have a feeling she'll be over the moon.

### UNIQUE PROPERTIES COMPARISON

	Refractive Index (Brilliance)	Dispersion (Fire)	Luster
<b>Moissanite</b>	<b>2.65-2.69</b>	<b>0.104</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
Mined Diamond	2.42	0.044	17.2%

### Moissanite Solitaire Collection

Solitaire Ring (1 carat) ~~\$399~~ **\$99**  
Solitaire Ring (2 carat) ~~\$599~~ **\$199**  
Solitaire Earrings (2 ctw) ~~\$499~~ **\$199**

**2 ct Solitaire Ring & Earrings** ~~\$1,098~~ **\$299**

**Best Deal!**

Available in 14K white gold...call for details

Call now and mention the offer code to receive your discount.

**1-800-333-2045**

**Offer Code MSR134-03**

You must use the offer code to get our special price.

**Stauer®**

14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155,  
Dept. MSR134-03, Burnsville, Minnesota 55337  
[www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

\* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.



Rating of A+

• Exquisite 2 carat Moissanite • .925 sterling silver setting • Whole ring sizes 5-10



MESSAGE  
FROM CEO

MARK  
ROLLANS

## Power On: October is National Co-op Month

A time to celebrate the community we call home

**AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. But our mission extends beyond that.

As a co-op, we strive to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community—a charge that has been more critical in recent months than ever before. October is National Co-op Month, and as part of this year's celebration, electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On."

Who could have fathomed at the beginning of the year that COVID-19 would test our communities and nation? The rapidly changing circumstances caused by the pandemic have created difficulties and opportunities for your co-op. Over the past several months, we've been challenged to operate differently, and Medina Electric Cooperative has stepped up to help our members.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. To me this principle is central to the DNA of Medina EC, and it sets us apart from other utilities.

The cancellation of many events made it more difficult to interact with members, but we have still been supporting communities behind the scenes. We kicked things off with a Camp Co-op giveaway, where members could enter their kids to get a kit in the mail to keep them busy before school began. We donated reusable and disposable water bottles, take-home folders, and even lanyards that keep lunch cards handy for students at area schools.

In September we hosted our first event—a drive-thru coffee mixer—at our corporate office in conjunction with the Hondo Area Chamber of Commerce. It went well and was nice to see some faces, and we hope to have similar events at other offices.

Throughout the summer, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic to make special payment arrangements. In fact, our member service representatives made personal calls to more than 440 members and sent letters and emails to more than 1,270 members. They did an outstanding job working with these members at a very difficult time.

To ensure the reliability of your power, we modified operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules and one to a vehicle, to maintain physical separation, and some staff worked remotely. We also closed lobbies to ensure the health and safety of our employees and valued members. We believe these measures were necessary to protect our community.

I tell you about these efforts to explain how much we care about the communities we serve—because we live here, too. While the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I'm heartened to see how the communities we serve have pulled together.

More than 80 years ago, Medina EC was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do—power on. ■



The Blanks family enjoys their Snap Circuit Camp Co-op kit.

Medina EC and HACC staff hand out items at the drive-thru event.



# SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

All cooperatives operate under seven core principles. Cooperative utilities like Medina Electric are different from other utilities: Our members always come first.

It's a matter of principles.



**MEDINA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Exceeding Member Expectations.**

**Medina Electric  
Cooperative**



## CONTACT US

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

**Email** [Info@MedinaEC.org](mailto:Info@MedinaEC.org)

**Web** [MedinaEC.org](http://MedinaEC.org)

## 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

Mark Rollans, 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](http://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.

# Capital Credit Allocations: What It Means For You

**THIS MONTH**, Medina EC members will see their 2019 capital credits allocation amounts printed on their monthly electric bill. These totals are the 2019 margins that are being assigned to you, and you may be wondering exactly what that means.

At the end of each fiscal year, the funds remaining after expenses have been paid—or net margins—are allocated to members' accounts based on the amount of electricity they used in that year. The allocation totals do not represent cash owed to you at this time. So why can't you have the money that is allocated to your account?

The money allocated to your account is money that the cooperative is using for operating capital: to repay long-term debt; make system

improvements, repairs and maintenance; and for other capital needs. Basically, it's still being used to maintain the electric system that provides members, including you, with reliable power.

The board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative at the end of each year to determine if any portion of capital credits can be retired. That retirement decision is based, in part, on if that money is still needed for operations. If it is not, a portion of the capital credits are retired.

The amount retired changes from year to year based on the financial needs of the cooperative, and the board could determine that no money can be retired, although that has not historically been the case.

Once capital credits are retired, members receive them as a refund; current members see it as a credit on their bill; and former members are mailed a check. Each retirement is a portion of the total allocation that has been assigned to your account.

"Capital credits, allocated and retired, are another part of the cooperative difference," noted CEO Mark Rollans, "and they really set co-ops apart from other business models."

To learn more about capital credits and see a list of unclaimed credits, visit [MedinaEC.org/CapitalCredits](https://MedinaEC.org/CapitalCredits).

It's important to keep your address up to date, even after you're no longer a member, so we can return capital credits to you. In the event of the death of a member, contact us to see if the account is eligible for early retirement. You can update your account by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532) or logging in to your SmartHub account. ■

## NEW CHAT FEATURE ON MEDINAEC.ORG

Members can now easily connect with a member service representative without having to make a call.

In the bottom right corner when you visit MedinaEC.org, you will see a chat bubble. Click there to converse with an MSR between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**"Capital credits, allocated and retired, are another part of the cooperative difference."**

—CEO MARK ROLLANS







## Outages and Text Messages

**OUTAGES HAPPEN FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS**—storms, vehicle accidents, animals and more.

When the power at your home or office is out, you can be assured that our crews are responding to determine the cause. To stay in the know, you can register your account to receive text or email notifications when Medina EC registers an outage at your meter and when power is restored. Signing up is easy.

**Go to SmartHub** from a computer or open the app on your phone and log in using your credentials. If you haven't already registered for SmartHub, click on the New User link and register using your billing account number.

**Manage notifications** once you are logged in. From a computer, it is on the Notifications tab in the blue menu bar. From the app, it is under Settings.

**Select the options** that are best for you. There are notifications for billing, usage, service and miscellaneous. Be sure your contact information, like cell-phone or email, is listed under Manage Contacts.

**Power outage or power restored** notifications, found under service, will keep you updated on outages. Select your preferences and save. ■



Would your teen enjoy a **FREE** trip to Austin and Washington, D.C., in June 2021? The Government-in-Action Youth Tour may be for them. Apply Now!

Deadline is January 8.

Application and eligibility information can be found at [MedinaEC.org/YouthTour](https://MedinaEC.org/YouthTour).

**BONUS:** Winners will receive a \$500 college scholarship!

## **Luck of the Draw**

You have FIVE chances to win a \$100 credit on your electric bill.



### **Chance 1:** Register your account on SmartHub.

Sign up at [MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop](https://MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop) or download the app and register your account there. SmartHub allows you to report outages with one click, view past electric use and see your use before you get your monthly bill.



### **Chance 2:** Sign up for automated payments.

Have your bill automatically charged to your credit card or bank account each month. Set it up online through SmartHub or by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532).



### **Chance 3:** Choose paperless billing.

Opt out of receiving a paper bill every month and have your bill emailed to you instead. Change your account settings in SmartHub or call us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC, and staff will change it for you.



### **Chance 4:** Join Operation Round Up.

Sign up your account for Operation Round Up and have your monthly electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. That spare change is used to make donations to community members and families in need. Sign up at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU) or by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC.



### **Chance 5:** BONUS drawing for all four programs!

If you are signed up for all four programs, you will be entered into an additional drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

All members signed up for each of the programs above as of 5 p.m. on October 31 will be entered. This includes members who are already signed up for these options and any new sign-ups between now and October 31.

There will be five separate drawings, and five \$100 bill credits will be awarded.

Winners in each category will be randomly selected and announced in the December issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. Their accounts will automatically be issued credits.





## Operation Grocery Give

**\$3,000 in H-E-B gift cards are available for those in need**

**THIS PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY OPERATION ROUND UP.**

- ▶ Twenty H-E-B gift cards of \$150 each will be awarded.
- ▶ The ORU committee will review all applications and make award decisions. Recipients will be notified in early December.
- ▶ You can apply for yourself or on behalf of someone else. The applicant does not have to be a member of Medina EC but must live in one of the 17 counties the cooperative serves. Applications are also available in Spanish.
- ▶ General ORU applications are also due on November 6. You can apply for both Operation Grocery Give and Operation Round Up.



**Get all the details on Grocery Give and general ORU donations at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU). Applications for both are due on November 6.**



**THEN. NOW.  
ALWAYS.**

We're proud to power your life. October is National Co-op Month.

[#PowerOn](https://twitter.com/PowerOn)

# Your Rights as a Member

*Applies to residential accounts*

**Rate And Service Information** | You may, either by phone, mail, or personal visit to the Cooperative's business offices, request copies of any portion of the Cooperative's rate and service tariffs and rules. Bill payments can be made at office locations or by calling 1-866-MEC-ELEC (1-866-632-3532). All offices are open Monday through Friday, except holidays. The following offices are open 8 am to 5 pm: 237 Hwy 173 North, P.O. Box 69, Hondo, TX 78861; 1718 West FM 117, P. O. Box 49, Dilley, TX 78017; 2604 Hwy 90 East, P. O. Box 1810, Uvalde, TX 78802; 601 North FM 3167, P. O. Box 496, Rio Grande City, TX 78582. The following office is open 9:30 to 11 am and 12 to 3:30 pm or by appointment from 8 am to 5 pm: 1300 FM 2050 North, P.O. Box 88, Bruni, TX 78344.

**Meter Testing** | As provided by the rules of the Medina Electric Cooperative Tariff, you may request a test of your electric meter if you believe that the meter is not accurately reflecting your actual electric consumption. The test will be made at no charge to you provided you did not request the meter to be tested during the previous four years. In the event that you request another test within the four years and the meter is not defective, you will be required to pay a fee of \$75.00 for the test.

**Due Date** | Under the tariff of this Cooperative, bills are due upon receipt and delinquent 16 days from billing date. A bill for utility service is delinquent if not received at the Cooperative or at the Cooperative's authorized payment agency by the Cooperative's close of business on the date indicated on the bill. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes shall be the next workday after the due date. If payment is not made by the due date a notice of termination may be issued.

**Termination Of Service** | With proper notice you may be disconnected for the following reasons (proper notice will consist of a separate mailing at least ten (10) days prior to a stated date of disconnection, or the next working day if that date falls on a holiday or weekend): 1) Failure to pay a delinquent account or failure to comply with the terms of a deferred payment agreement; 2) Violation of the Cooperative's rules pertaining to the use of service in a manner which interferes with the service of others or the operation of nonstandard equipment, if a reasonable attempt has been made to notify the customer and the customer is provided with a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation; 3) Failure to comply with deposit or guarantee arrangements where required; 4) Failure to grant unrestricted access to Cooperative facilities; 5) Failure to pay for damages to Cooperative facilities by customer. You may be disconnected without notice for the following reasons: 1) A known hazardous or unsafe condition exists; 2) When tampering with the Cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing the same; 3) When service has been connected or reconnected without authority; 4) Other instances of diversion as defined in the Tariff.

**Billing Disputes** | If you disagree with the Cooperative regarding the amount of your electric bill, you will not be required to pay more than your monthly average bill until such time as the dispute is resolved, not to exceed 60 days. You will not have service terminated during the resolution of this dispute so long as you pay the required average bill and future monthly bills.

**Alternate Payment Plan** | **Deferred Payment:** The Cooperative may offer, upon request, a Deferred Payment Plan to any residential customer who has expressed an inability to pay all of his or her bill. If that customer: (1) has not been issued more than two disconnection notices at any time during the preceding 12 months, or (2) has not been issued a Deferred Payment Plan in the preceding 12 months, said customer may qualify for the plan. This plan may include a five percent (5%) penalty for late payment. Service may be disconnected with proper notice if you do not fulfill the terms of the plan. **Budget Payment Options:** The Cooperative offers Levelized and Average Billing Plans. Contact the cooperative for information concerning these billing options.

**Service Reconnection** | If your service is interrupted for any of the reasons listed above, you may reestablish service when all outstanding

and delinquent bills are paid, a deposit or other evidence of payment guarantee is provided to the Cooperative, when the unsafe condition is corrected, or when you enter into a deferred payment agreement. A disconnect and reconnect fee may be assessed before reconnection.

**Service Complaints** | If you have a complaint about the service of the Cooperative you have the right to contact the Cooperative office by letter, by telephone, or by internet. You also have the right to contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, (512) 936-7120 or in Texas (toll-free) 1-888-782-8477, fax (512) 936-7003, e-mail address: customer@puc.texas.gov, internet address: www.puc.texas.gov, TTY (512) 936-7136 and Relay Texas 1-800-735-2989. In the event you are dissatisfied with the Cooperative's investigation of complaint, you have the right to request a supervisory review. Electric service will not be disconnected pending completion of a review; however, service may be disconnected with proper notice under standard disconnect procedures if you do not participate in the review or make other arrangements within five (5) days after the review is requested.

**Outages** | Call 1-866-MEC-ELEC or visit www.MedinaEC.org to report an outage or service problems.

**Establishing Credit** | You may be required to establish credit by furnishing a letter of credit from a like utility, a satisfactory written guarantee to secure payment, demonstrate a satisfactory credit rating, or a deposit. The total of all deposits will not exceed an amount equivalent to one-fourth of the actual annual billing. Where actual annual billing information is not available the following deposit amounts will be required for General Service rate applicants: Occupied Residence-\$400.00, Hunting Camp-\$300.00, Water Well-\$200.00 and other General Service-\$200.00. Deposit amounts for all other rate schedules will be determined based on load requirements and estimated usage. Medina Electric Cooperative will pay interest, compounded annually from date of deposit until date deposit is returned, at an annual rate set by Medina Electric Board of Directors in December of the subsequent year and will return your deposit plus interest upon disconnection of service or after you have paid bills for twelve (12) consecutive billings without having service disconnected for non-payment and without having more than two occasions in which a bill was delinquent and when the current bill is not delinquent. An additional deposit may be required if: (1) the amount of deposit collected is less than 25% of customers actual annual billings; and (2) a Delinquent notice has been issued more than twice for the account within the previous 12 months. No cash deposit is required of permanent residential service applicants who are 65 years of age or older who do not have an outstanding account balance with Medina Electric Cooperative or another electric utility within the last two years.

**Financial Assistance** | You may be eligible for financial assistance to help pay your utility bill. To inquire you may call one or all of the following: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Energy Assistance Section, P. O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941, 1-877-399-8939 or 512-475-1099; Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Ave., P. O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, (toll free) 1-888-782-8477; or contact the Cooperative and we will provide you a list of agencies that may assist you.

**III And/Or Handicapped** | If you are ill and/or handicapped you are encouraged to identify yourself; special action will be taken to explain the process and requirements for your account to be set up as a "Critical Load Account." Critical Load Account shall be defined as a residential customer who has a critical need for electric service because a resident on the premises requires electric service to maintain life. The Texas Public Utility Commission's TTY number for the deaf or hearing impaired is 512-936-7147.

**Non-Discrimination** | Medina Electric Cooperative provides all available services without regard to race, nationality, color, religion, sex, or marital status. Credit history is applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who has shared Medina Electric Cooperative's services.



# Sus Derechos Como Miembro

*Lo siguiente se aplica a las cuentas residenciales solamente*

**Información De Precio Y Servicio** | Usted puede, ya sea por teléfono, correo o visitar personalmente las oficinas de la cooperativa, solicitar copias de cualquier parte de nuestros precios y tarifas del servicio y las reglas de la cooperativa. Los pagos de facturas se pueden hacer en las oficinas o llamando al 1-866-MEC-ELEC (1-866-632-3532). Todas las oficinas están abiertas Lunes a Viernes, excepto vacaciones. Las siguientes oficinas están abiertas de 8 am a 5 pm: 237 Hwy 173 North, P.O. Box 69, Hondo, TX 78861; 1718 West FM 117, P.O. Box 49, Dilley, TX 78017; 2604 Hwy 90 East, P.O. Box 1810, Uvalde, TX 78802; 601 North FM 3167, P.O. Box 496, Rio Grande City, TX 78582. La siguiente oficina está abierta de 9:30 am a 11 am y 12 pm a 3:30 pm o por cita de 8 am a 5 pm: 1300 FM 2050 North, P.O. Box 88, Bruni, TX 78344.

**Prueba De Medidor De Electricidad** | Conforme a las reglas de la Tarifa de Medina Electric Cooperative, puede solicitar una prueba de su medidor eléctrico si usted cree que su medidor no refleja exactamente su consumo eléctrico. La prueba se hará sin cargo, a condición de que usted no haya solicitado una prueba del medidor durante los cuatro años anteriores. En caso de que usted solicite otra prueba dentro de los cuatro años, y el medidor no está defectuoso, se le requerirá que pague una cuota de \$75.00 para la prueba.

**Fecha De Vencimiento** | En la tarifa de esta cooperativa, las cuentas se vencen al recibir y delinquentes 16 días después de la fecha de facturación. La factura de servicio de utilidad es delincente si no se recibe en la cooperativa o en agencia de pago autorizado, por cierre de las operaciones de la cooperativa en la fecha indicada en la factura. Si la fecha de vencimiento cae en días festivos o fin de semana, el vencimiento del pago será el próximo día laborable después de la fecha de vencimiento. Si el pago no es hecho por la fecha de vencimiento puede concederse una notificación de terminación.

**Terminación De Servicio** | Con la notificación apropiada puede ser desconectado por las siguientes razones (aviso apropiado consistirá por el correo al menos diez (10) días antes de la fecha determinada de desconexión, o el siguiente día laborable si la fecha cae en días festivos o fin de semana): 1) Falta de pago de una cuenta delincente o no cumplir con los términos de un acuerdo de pago diferido; 2) La violación de las reglas de la Cooperativa que pertenecen al uso de servicio en una manera que interfiere con el servicio de otros o la operación del equipo, si se ha hecho un intento razonable de notificar al cliente y al cliente se le proporciona una oportunidad razonable para remediar la situación; 3) Incapacidad para cumplir con el depósito o garantizar acuerdos donde se requiera; 4) Fracaso de conceder el acceso sin restricciones a la propiedad de la Cooperativa; 5) Falta de pago por daños a la propiedad de la Cooperativa por el cliente. Usted puede ser desconectado sin previo aviso por las siguientes razones: 1) Una condición peligrosa o insegura conocida existe; 2) Manipulando el medidor o equipo de la Cooperativa, evitando lo mismo; 3) Cuando el servicio se ha conectado o reconectado sin autoridad; 4) Otros casos de desviación como definido en la Tarifa.

**Disputas De Facturación** | Si no está de acuerdo con la Cooperativa con respecto a la cantidad de cobro de la factura de electricidad, usted no será obligado a pagar más de su factura mensual promedio hasta que la disputa se resuelva, no debe exceder de 60 días. Su servicio no será cancelado durante la resolución de esta disputa mientras que usted pague la factura promedio requerida y facturas futuras mensuales.

**Plan De Pago Alternativo** | **Pago Diferido:** La Cooperativa puede ofrecer, a solicitud, un plan de pago diferido a cualquier cliente residencial que haya expresado una inhabilidad de pagar toda su factura. Si al cliente: (1) No se le han dado más de dos avisos de desconexión en cualquier momento durante los 12 meses anteriores, o (2) No se ha dado un plan de pago diferido en los 12 meses anteriores, Este plan puede incluir una multa de cinco por ciento (5%) por pago retrasado. Su servicio puede ser desconectado con aviso apropiado si no cumple con los términos del plan.

**Opciones De Pago Del Presupuesto:** La Cooperativa ofrece planes de facturación promedio y nivelados. Póngase en contacto con la cooperativa para obtener información sobre estas opciones de facturación.

**Reconexión De Servicio** | Si su servicio es interrumpido por cualquiera de las razones mencionadas anteriormente, se puede restablecer su servicio cuando se paguen todas las facturas pendientes y delinquentes cuando un depósito o otra evidencia de la garantía de pago es proporcionada a la

cooperativa. Cuando se corrige la condición insegura, o cuando usted se comprometa en un acuerdo de pago diferido. Un cobro adicional por la desconexión y conexión de servicio será agregada a su cuenta antes de que su servicio de electricidad sea reestablecido.

**Quejas Del Servicio** | Si usted tiene alguna queja sobre el servicio de la cooperativa, tiene el derecho de ponerse en contacto con la oficina de la Cooperativa por carta, por teléfono o por internet. Usted también tiene el derecho a comunicarse con Public Utility Commission of Texas a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, (512) 936-7120 o en el estado de Texas (gratis) al 1-888-782-8477, fax (512) 936-7003, dirección de correo electrónico: customer@puc.texas.gov, dirección de internet: www.puc.texas.gov, TTY (512) 936-7136 y Relay Texas 1-800-735-2989. En caso de que usted no esté satisfecho con la investigación de la Cooperativa de su queja, usted tiene el derecho de solicitar una revisión y supervisar su caso. Su servicio eléctrico no se desconectará pendiente la conclusión de la revisión; sin embargo el servicio puede ser desconectado con el aviso apropiado, bajo las normas de procedimientos de desconexión, si usted no participa en la revisión o hace otros preparativos dentro de cinco (5) días después de que se solicite la revisión.

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### U.S. Mint Halts Production

West Point, the U.S. Mint branch that normally strikes Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) Silver Eagles, went into lockdown. Prices quickly shot up, and freshly struck Silver Eagles became much harder to find at an affordable price. To meet the rising demand, the U.S. Mint knew it had to act—and act fast.

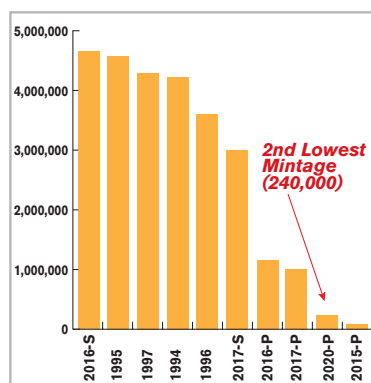
### Philadelphia Steps Up

For just 13 days, the U.S. Mint struck an “Emergency Production” run of U.S. Silver Dollars at the Philadelphia Mint. This was great for silver buyers, and *really* great for collectors. Here’s why:

### The Mystery of Silver Bullion

A coin’s value is often tied to its rarity. One way to determine a coin’s rarity is by its mint mark—a small letter indicating where a coin was struck. Since Silver Eagles are almost always produced solely in West Point, the coins don’t feature one of these mint marks. But this year’s Silver

Eagles were also produced in Philly—so few (a scant 240,000) that they are now the second smallest mintage of Silver Eagles ever struck! So how do we tell a 2020(W) Silver Eagle from a 2020(P)?



### Certified “Struck at” Coins

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) is one of the world’s leading third-party coin grading services. Thanks to some skilled detective work, they have certified these coins as being struck at the Philadelphia Mint during this special Emergency Production run. What’s more, a number of these coins have been graded as near-flawless Mint State-69 (MS69) condition—just one point away from absolute perfection!

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Mintage:	240,000
Condition:	Mint State-69 (MS69)
Certified:	Emergency Production

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Main Street in Desdemona at the height of the oil boom in 1918, which was also when the flu pandemic struck.

# Boomtown Pandemic

The deadly flu outbreak of 1918 hit oil fields hard

BY GENE FOWLER

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has drawn comparisons to the influenza outbreak of 1918, what became known as the Spanish flu, which was the 20th century's deadliest pandemic. The Spanish flu infected about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates. Tens of millions died worldwide, including approximately 675,000 Americans.

Of the 5,000 Texans killed in World War I, a third are believed to have died from influenza. While the battlefield, with soldiers crowded in makeshift ramparts, provided a natural incubator for the virus, social conditions during

Texas' early 20th-century oil boom also allowed the disease to spread unchecked. The lack of suitable housing and access to fresh water, and poor sanitation in towns besieged by thousands of boomers—as Ranger, Burkburnett and Desdemona were in 1918—created an environment in which infection flourished.

Researcher Ben Wright found evidence of the boomtown epidemic in the Oral History of the Texas Oil Industry, an archive of recordings held by the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. "Part of my job is to work out ways the center's collections inform current issues," said Wright. "The past is never lacking in its

warnings, lessons and reassurances."

The interviews and other materials in the archive were gathered in the 1950s and include direct testimony about the 1918 flu pandemic.

Interviewee Walter Cline, who later became mayor of Burkburnett, served as field director for the Red Cross at Call Field near Wichita Falls when the flu hit. Cline headed into the Burkburnett oil field with doctors and nurses as well as food, clothing, medicine and other donated resources. His team found people "suffering from flu and exposed in covered wagons and under these tarpaulins," he said. "In one place, you'd find a mother dead, with a little 6- or 8-months-old baby crawling around over her breast, trying to open her dress. ... I think on our first trip west of Burkburnett, we gathered up some six or eight dead men, women and children, and they continued to die until we found temporary shelter for them."

Fred Jennings, a rig manager at Goose Creek Oil Field near Baytown, recalled, "The people died, and they just died so fast here till they didn't have no undertakers. You'd just have to put them in pickup trucks and haul them to Houston. Just put them in a pine box and bury them any way you could. ... I saw one man working and walk home and was dead in 30 minutes."

Don Carleton, Briscoe Center executive director, says we don't know the full impact of the 1918 pandemic, but the disease reached Texas' highest office. Researching his forthcoming biography of Gov. William P. Hobby, Carleton learned that Hobby fought the deadly contagion just as desperately as the roughnecks of the oil fields.

"I was quite surprised to learn that even our state's governor was afflicted with the disease," Carleton said. ■



# Buckles, Betties, Cobblers and Crisps

Lots of names for turning fruit and a crunchy topping into irresistible treats

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Buckles and betties and cobblers and crisps—whatever you call them—are the essence of comforting, down-home cooking. Everyone has their favorite recipe in their back pocket, no matter the season. Our family is partial to crisps. That buttery, crunchy topping is tempting enough to eat on its own, and pairing it with juicy fruits (and a scoop of ice cream) makes it difficult to resist. Another bonus: These dishes are easy to make, so dessert can happen any night of the week.



## Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

**5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for greasing the dish**  
**4 cups frozen mixed berries**  
**1 tablespoon lemon juice**  
**¼ cup sugar**  
**4 tablespoons flour, divided use**  
**1 cup rolled oats**  
**¼ cup chopped pistachios**  
**⅓ cup brown sugar**  
**¼ teaspoon salt**  
**¼ teaspoon cinnamon**

**COOK'S TIP** To make this recipe gluten free, use oat flour, almond flour or your favorite gluten-free blend.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.
2. In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.
3. In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.
4. Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

**SERVES 6**

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Blackberry Basil Crumble.





# Cherry Blueberry Buckle

BECKEY BROWN  
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

- BUCKLE**
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) salted butter, softened, plus more for greasing the dish
  - 1/2 cup sour cream
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1 egg
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - Zest and juice of 1 orange
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
  - 2 cups pancake and waffle mix
  - 1 1/4 cups frozen pitted cherries
  - 3/4 cup frozen blueberries
  - 2 tablespoons brown sugar

- TOPPING**
- 1 1/4 cups heavy whipping cream
  - 1/4 cup powdered sugar
  - Zest and juice of 1 orange
  - Mint leaves, for garnish

- 1. BUCKLE** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.
- Using a stand mixer, cream butter, sour cream and sugar. Add egg, vanilla, orange zest and juice, salt, and whipping cream, mixing on low to combine.
- Slowly add pancake and waffle mix, scraping down sides as needed while mixing.
- Spread batter into prepared pan and top with cherries and blueberries. Sprinkle top with brown sugar.
- Bake 30–35 minutes, until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean and buckle is puffed and brown. Let cool slightly before serving.
- 6. TOPPING** While the buckle bakes, whip the cream, powdered sugar, zest and juice

CONTINUED >



\$500 WINNER

# PB&J Peach Cobbler

CHUCK BURGESS  
HEART OF TEXAS EC



- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, plus more for greasing the dish
- 3/4 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 can (29 ounces) sliced peaches in juice, drained
- 3/4 cup peach preserves
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

The unexpected addition of peanut butter makes this cobbler a dish reminiscent of your favorite childhood lunch. To make the mixing easier, warm the peanut butter and preserves in the microwave for 10–15 seconds.

SERVES 12

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish with butter.
- Melt remaining butter in a medium bowl. Whisk in peanut butter then milk until blended.
- In another bowl, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Add the butter mixture and stir until blended. Pour into baking dish and spread evenly.
- In a medium bowl, mix peaches, preserves and brown sugar. Then spoon evenly over batter. Bake 40–50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and juices are bubbly.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**TACOS** DUE OCT 10  
Whether you love them soft, crunchy or puffy, tell us what makes your tacos the best. Enter at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests) by October 10.

## RECIPES CONTINUED

together until soft peaks are formed. Chill until ready to serve. Serve buckle with a dollop of whipped cream and a mint leaf.

**SERVES 12**



### Spiced Apple Cobbler

C. PAIGE YOUNG-CANNON  
PEDERNALES EC

You don't need to peel the apples, making the prep easy enough for kids like Sylvia Cannon, who submitted this recipe with the help of her mom.

## FILLING

**1 tablespoon butter, melted, plus more to grease baking dish**  
**5 small sweet apples, cut into chunks**  
**¼ cup sugar**  
**2 teaspoons cornstarch**  
**1 teaspoon cinnamon**  
**½ teaspoon nutmeg**  
**⅛ teaspoon ground ginger**  
**½ teaspoon vanilla extract**  
**Pinch of salt**

## TOPPING

**½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened**  
**¾ cup plus ⅓ cup sugar, divided use**  
**1½ cups self-rising flour**  
**5 teaspoons cinnamon**  
**½ teaspoon nutmeg**  
**⅛ teaspoon ground ginger**  
**¾ cup milk**

**COOK'S TIP** If you don't have self-rising flour, you can make your own. For each cup of all-purpose flour, add in 1½ teaspoons baking powder and ½ teaspoon salt.

**1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-9-inch ceramic baking dish with butter and set aside.

**2. FILLING** In a large bowl, pour melted butter over cut apples. Add sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, vanilla and salt. Stir and set aside.

**3. TOPPING** In a separate bowl, cream butter and ¾ cup sugar until pale and fluffy. Add flour and toss to coat the butter, then cut coated butter into the flour using a pastry blender or two forks. The mixture should resemble sandy crumbs.

**4.** Add remaining sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and milk. Mix until smooth; it will be very thick.

**5.** Pour filling into prepared dish, making sure to include any accumulated juices. Dollop the topping evenly over the apples.

**6.** Bake until topping is golden and puffed, and filling is bubbling, about 45 minutes.

**SERVES 8**

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Matagorda Island Lighthouse

Ancient tower once guided ships to Indianola

BY CHET GARNER

IF THE HEAT DIDN'T TAKE ME, the mosquitoes would, so I pedaled as fast as I could through the grass and sand, hoping I was rolling in the right direction. I was committed to seeing the Matagorda Island lighthouse, and the price of admission is a 2.5-mile trek across this desolate island.

The barrier island is 38 miles long and uninhabited, save for a small outpost used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. TPWD ran a daily ferry to the island until 2003, when a fire destroyed the state's boat, and the ferry service was lost in the flames. If you want to visit Matagorda Island now, you either float your own boat across Espiritu Santo Bay or enlist a fishing guide in Port O'Connor. I reached the island with the help of guide Mike Bohac, who delivered me to Matagorda, pointed toward the lighthouse and said, "Head that way."

After an hour of pedaling, I could see the lighthouse. It was built in 1852 to guide ships through Pass Cavallo on their way to Indianola. Numerous renovations and a relocation raised the structure to where it now sits, 91 feet above sea level. The Confederate States army tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from falling into Union hands, but the cast-iron structure survived.

I peered into a small glass window at the bottom of the lighthouse and wondered what the view was like from the top. Volunteers open it up on special occasions, but my trip was not one of those. Near the lighthouse, I inspected the foundation for the lightkeeper's home and a small cemetery where deceased keepers lie in rest, still guarding the tower.

It was easy to imagine the isolation they must have felt here on the edge of Texas. ■

ABOVE Chet takes a selfie with the 1852 Matagorda Island lighthouse.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from the Matagorda lighthouse and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

## Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## OCTOBER

03

**Alvarado** [3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31] **Sunset Hill Tree Farm Pumpkin Patch**, (817) 713-6114, [sunsethilltreefarm.com](http://sunsethilltreefarm.com)

08

**Tyler** [8-11] **Fall Fun—Hunter/Jumper Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)

09

**Ingram** [9-10, 16-17, 23-24] **Count Dracula**, (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

10

**Jacksonville** **Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair**, (903) 268-1598

**Kerrville** **Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet**, (830) 459-6198, [kerrmarketdays.org](http://kerrmarketdays.org)

**Brenham** [10, 16-17, 24] **Hot Nights, Cool Tunes**, (979) 337-7580, [downtownbrenham.com](http://downtownbrenham.com)

11

**Dallas** **Prism Health North Texas Virtual LifeWalk 2020**, (214) 521-5191, [lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk](http://lifewalk.org/event/lifewalk)

16

**Austin** [16-19] **American Institute of Architects Austin Homes Tour**, (512) 452-4332, [aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020](http://aiaaustin.org/homes-tour/2020)

**Terlingua** [16-17] **Ride 4 Trails**, (432) 371-3382, [ride4trails.com](http://ride4trails.com)

17

**Tyler** [17-18] **North Texas Hunter Jumper Club Fall Horse Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)



20

**Edinburg [20-24] Virtual Los Muertos Bailan**, (956) 383-6246, [edinburgarts.com/losmuertosbailan](http://edinburgarts.com/losmuertosbailan)

22

**Canton [22-24] Classic Country & Honky Tonk Halloween Party**, (903) 245-6300, [visitcantontx.com](http://visitcantontx.com)

24

**Grand Saline Goody Trail & Trunk or Treat on Main**, (903) 962-5631, [grandsalinemainstreet.com](http://grandsalinemainstreet.com)

**New Braunfels Simpson Texas Car and Bike Show**, (830) 625-1774, [playinnewbraunfels.com](http://playinnewbraunfels.com)

**Kerrville [24-25] Haunted Ghoul Pool**, (830) 257-7300, [kerrvilletx.gov](http://kerrvilletx.gov)

**Rusk [24-25] Pumpkin Patch Train Ride**, (855) 632-7729, [texasstaterailroad.net](http://texasstaterailroad.net)

**Buffalo Gap [24-Nov. 7] Scarecrow Festival**, (325) 572-3365, [taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/scarecrow-festival](http://taylorcountyhistorycenter.org/scarecrow-festival)

26

**Jacksonville Trunk or Treat**, (903) 586-2217, [jacksonvilletexas.com](http://jacksonvilletexas.com)

28

**Rosanky Christmas in October Toy Drive**, (512) 360-3968, [rosankybaptistchurch.com](http://rosankybaptistchurch.com)

30

**Tyler [30-Nov. 1] Texas Rose Autumn Breed Show**, (903) 882-8696, [texasrosehorsepark.com](http://texasrosehorsepark.com)

MORE EVENTS >

## TCP Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event online for December by October 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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TRISH RAWLS

## Fredericksburg

### Getaway Contest

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COURTESY CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Pick of the Month**

**Two Women Look West**

Cuero, Oct. 8–Nov. 1

(361) 277-2866,

[chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://chisholmtrailmuseum.org)

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum features photographs of the King Ranch by Helen C. Kleberg and Toni Frissell. Kleberg was a self-taught photographer and wife of the longtime CEO of the King Ranch. Frissell was a New York fashion photographer. They photographed the King Ranch from the 1930s to the 1950s.

**OCTOBER EVENTS CONTINUED**

31

**Kerrville Family Fright**

**Night**, (830) 257-7300, [kerrvilletx.gov](http://kerrvilletx.gov)

**Kerrville Pumpkin**

**Run/Walk and Harvest Festival**, (830) 315-5762, [kerrvillekroc.org](http://kerrvillekroc.org)

**Austin [Oct. 31–Nov. 15]**

**Virtual Texas Book Festival**, (512) 477-4055, [texasbookfestival.org](http://texasbookfestival.org)

**NOVEMBER**

01

**Houston Rockin' Resiliency**

**Virtual Luncheon**, (713) 623-6543, [thewomensfund.org/events](http://thewomensfund.org/events)

**Lubbock West Texas**

**Latino Artist Día De Los Muertos Celebración**, (806) 792-1212, [loshermanosfamilia.org](http://loshermanosfamilia.org)

07

**George West A Day of**

**Stories**, (361) 436-1098, [dobie-westtheatre.com](http://dobie-westtheatre.com)



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# Selfies

The modern self-portrait, a selfie captures Texas life in a personal way. Now, thanks to technology, it's easier than ever to put ourselves in someone else's boots.

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**GAIL WISE**  
TRI-COUNTY EC

This little fella "came over any time we worked the cows."

**VIRGINIA GARCIA**  
KARNES EC

Cinnamon, a new chick on the farm, loves taking selfies.

**DOUGLAS RATCHFORD**  
BLUEBONNET EC

"An early morning flight in a good friend's 1930 Waco biplane."

**DOLLY HOLLINGSWORTH**  
SAN PATRICIO EC

"I said smile for the camera, and she sure did."



## Upcoming Contests

**DUE OCT 10** Saddles

**DUE NOV 10** Diners

**DUE DEC 10** Storms

Enter online and review submission rules at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests).

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



Francisco "Panchito" Flores of San Antonio is a third-generation *charro*—Spanish for cowboy—learning the Mexican rodeo tradition of *charreada*.

## Memorable Moment

Look for striking portraits in your everyday life

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY JULIA ROBINSON

WHEN I BECAME a photojournalist, portraits were a dreaded assignment. I wanted to document real people living real lives, not direct them like a studio photographer.

Initially I hid behind my documentarian role to avoid the hard work of corralling light. But as I learned more about portraiture, I wanted to get better—so I consumed the lavish sets of Annie Leibovitz; the sculpted light of Martin Schoeller; the whimsical, dark vision of Dan Winters; the dynamism of Robert Seale.

Making an emotional connection with a subject to tell a story with an image is a skill I find more valuable than slick lighting, perfect hair and teeth, or a celebrity face. The portraits made by Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Robert Frank, Walker Evans and Sally Mann

have helped me tell the story of a person, a place or a moment in history.

I've gotten better at lighting and directing people who begin a photo session with, "I hate photos of myself." The most meaningful portraits I have made are not those for a newspaper or a business client. They've been grandparents at someone's wedding, my nieces as they grow, my family at ease. The portraits I value the most are the environmental and the informal.

Looking back through my family photos, it's the candid portraits that stand out. A moment of connection between family members, the peak action of a laugh, the details of a bedroom or a set of toys that add to the nostalgia. Portraits don't always need to be taken in a studio or in our best clothes. They can be "found" in our everyday lives.

The class photo on the mantel has an official purpose—to pause the march of time from grade to grade. The same is true for the annual family Christmas card and the child in bluebonnets. The images that stop me in my tracks, however, are the laughter, the quiet connection, the unaware expressions of self.

The only secret is practice. Try bringing your camera everywhere for a day. If you make picture-taking a seamless part of everyday life, the people you photograph won't think twice when you point the lens in their direction.

Hunt the good light in your house, your backyard or on the walk to the park. If you want to make a noncandid portrait, the window light from a north- or south-facing window will be the most flattering, along with the golden hours just before dusk and just after dawn.

Observe the moments that spark your connection and joy. Think about what makes a person light up, and see if you can capture it. One fleeting and hard-won image like this is worth a thousand studio sessions. ■



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34627121 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 11/15/20

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**Two Tier Easy-Store Step Ladder** ★★★★★ (1276)

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**PORTLAND** ★★★★★ (7226)

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34647598 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 11/15/20

**SUPER COUPON**

**PREDATOR** ★★★★★ (3554)

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ITEM 63054/63057/61524 62322/63150/56666/63094 shown

34652627 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 11/15/20

**SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster** ★★★★★ (6548)

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ITEM 63054/63057/61524 62322/63150/56666/63094 shown

34654220 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 11/15/20

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**THUNDERBOLT solar** ★★★★★ (878)

**100w Solar Panel Kit**

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34659110 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 11/15/20

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