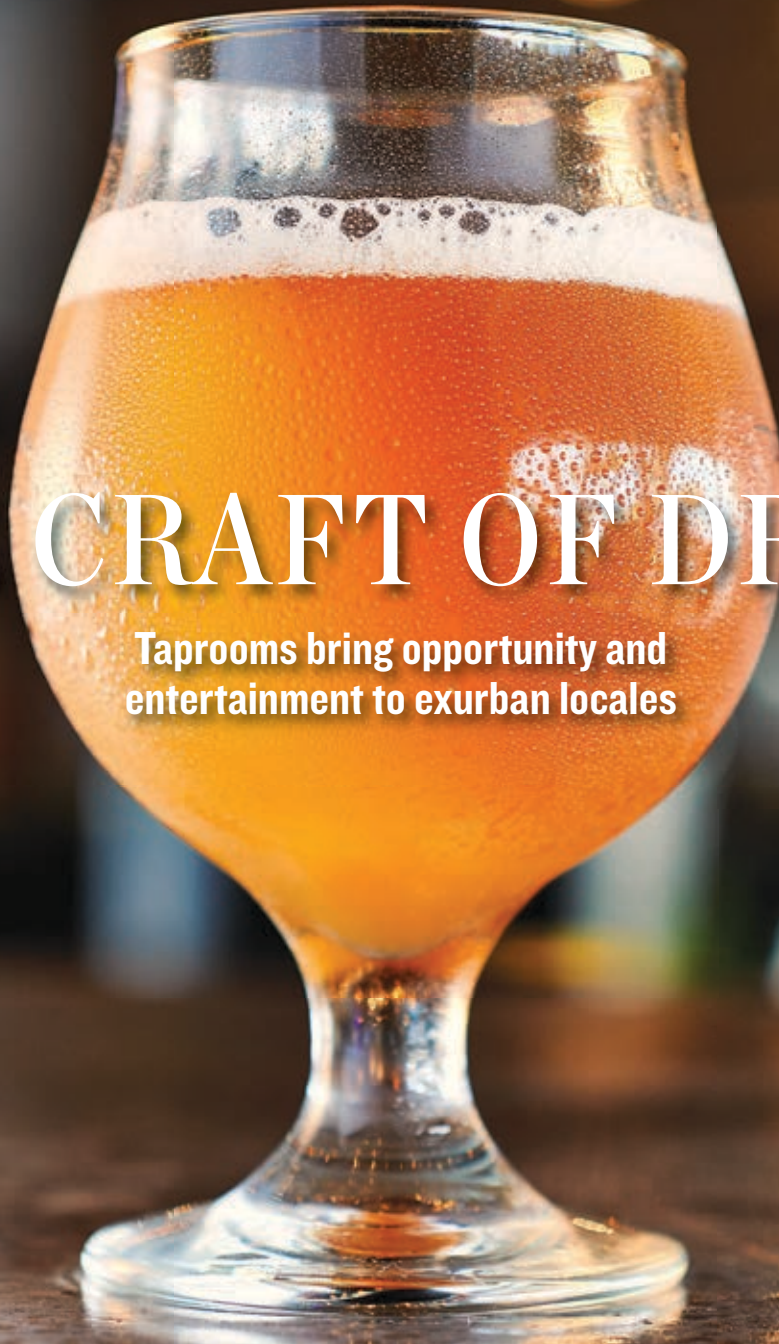


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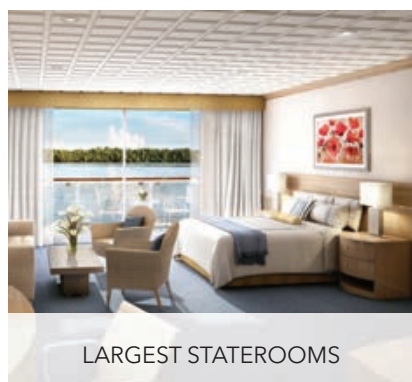


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Liz Cox pours a Mexican lager at Bandera Ale Project.

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**ON THE COVER** Nearly 300 craft breweries operate in Texas, representing a \$5.3 billion industry. Photo by Dave Shafer

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— Sherri H., Granville, NY



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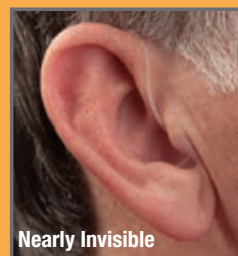
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## Not 10 and 2?

Great nostalgic writing [*Ranch Hands on the Wheel*, October 2019]. I can go further back when there were NO seatbelts and hands on steering wheel position was 3 and 9.

VIVIAN WILLIS | VIA FACEBOOK

## Honor Our Vets

*Wreaths Across America* [November 2018] prompted me to donate wreaths for this nationwide organization. This is a fantastic opportunity to honor our vets, and I will be donating again this year. I am hoping the follow-up article [*Leader of Kind Strangers*, November 2019] about Ellen Fuller, co-chair of this statewide effort in Texas, will encourage more people to donate.

JOYCE HISER | CRANDALL TRINITY VALLEY EC

## Stagecoach Secrets

I was once afforded access to areas off-limits to the general public, including the rooms and attic of the original Stagecoach Inn building [*Stopping by the Stagecoach*, November 2019]. That was neat enough, but the real treat was a hidden cave that was originally used for vegetable storage back in the 1800s. It was where Sam Bass hid out before leaving the next day for Round Rock, where he met his demise.

I treated myself to a scrumptious meal of fried catfish, which included the wonderful cornbread fingers that the inn is still famous for serving. Looks like a trip down Interstate 35 is in order.

BILL PEAKE | FRISCO COSERV

## Fair Is Fair

Not only did my dad teach me how to drive a standard pickup but also to change a flat tire before I took driver's ed [*Ranch Hands on the Wheel*, October 2019]. But when the high school instructor said only us girls had to change one, I stated I knew how and felt the boys should also. I wasn't giving in (it was a requisite to take the written test), so in the end all the boys had to also. Even my cousin was mad at me, but I felt fair was fair.

PAMELA JONES MAASS | VIA FACEBOOK



## Banner Day for Co-ops

Last year, I lost my husband, Bill Casey, and have been learning how to do so many things on my own. We had a strong windstorm last spring, and my flagpole got dislodged from its concrete mooring. Pedernales EC decided to take this on as a public service, and on October 8, workers came out in their trucks and reset and welded the flagpole back into position.

Before they left, we put up the Texas flag, and it was wonderful to see it flying in front of the house again.

KAREN CASEY | CYPRESS MILL PEDERNALES EC

## Value of VFDs

My wife and I own our home and a 5-acre horse farm in rural Collin County. We also own a small cabin in Arkansas. Both houses are served by electric co-ops. Fire protection for both dwellings is provided by volunteer fire departments [*Putting Others First*, October 2019].

Each property owner in Arkansas served by a VFD is a member of the VFD and is assessed dues annually by state law. Payment of the dues is not mandatory, but if not paid by the member and a fire occurs, the member will be billed for the cost of responding to the fire.

I have contacted our state representative about having a similar dues requirement in Texas for VFDs but have not seen or heard of any action being taken on this matter.

JAMES TRUEMPER | FARMERSVILLE FANNIN COUNTY EC

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   Texas Co-op Power

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# Dinner With the Arts

Since 1980, the Greater New Braunfels Arts Council has supported artists in New Braunfels and Comal County with events like last month's Caroling on the Plaza and annual Cinco de Mayo presentations in area schools. Another of the organization's signature events is Dinner With the Arts, which in recent years has become a fundraiser.

**DINNER WITH THE ARTS**, on **JANUARY 18** at the McKenna Events Center in **NEW BRAUNFELS**, will include a live band, visual arts, interactive exhibits and opportunities for patrons to sustain the organization through silent auctions, raffles and art sales.

Lisa Heymann, president of the council, says as many as 400 people attend the dinner each year in support of programs such as the Fall Into Art Festival and art and poetry contests.

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**WEB EXTRAS**  
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*“Courage, after all, is not being unafraid but doing what needs to be done in spite of fear.”*

— **JAMES L. FARMER JR.**, civil rights leader born January 12, 1920, in Marshall

## 2020 VISION



**2020 doesn't look exactly like some people predicted it would many years ago.**

**Prediction:** In 1967, *The Futurist*, then a newsletter, said humans would breed apes to be chauffeurs and perform other household chores.

**Reality:** Apes are struggling just to be apes. Close to 60% of the world's 504 primate species are threatened with extinction, and 75% of those species are in severe population decline, according to [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).

**Prediction:** In 2020, humans arrive on Mars. So said *Wired* magazine in 1997.

**Reality:** NASA says it hopes to send astronauts to Mars, which is an average of 140 million miles from Earth, in the 2030s.

**Prediction:** “There will be no C, X, or Q in our everyday alphabet. They will be abandoned because unnecessary.” That's what engineer John Elfreth Watkins Jr. wrote in *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1900.

**Reality:** An exciting idea but quite incorrect.





## POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

# A Close-Knit Couple

**ALTHEA AND JOHN CONRADO**, Pedernales Electric Cooperative members since 1975, are in their seventh decade of marriage, have seven children and have together explored all seven continents. But Althea's luck seemed less certain in 1944, when the then 11-year-old raised the eyebrows and ire of a Red Cross worker.

The relief agency was at that time distributing yarn to volunteers to knit specialized gloves—with an open trigger finger—for Allied machine gunners overseas. Althea, who began knitting at age 5, wanted to contribute. But the aid worker she encountered pronounced her too young, to Althea's deep disappointment. A phone call from her mother to the agency sorted it, and she returned. "I can still see her face," Althea said. "She was so mad. And I came home with two big bags full of yarn!" She knitted the gloves, turned them in, then got some more yarn and kept knitting.

Though the product of Althea's knitting has today changed to blankets for Austin hospice patients, her pace hasn't slackened. She averages 1½ to two blankets

per week, each taking about 40 hours to make. Again last year, Althea was recognized by Travis County with a Spirit of Service Award, which honors volunteers for 2,000 hours of work—though she racks up more than 3,000 hours knitting annually.

John marvels at his wife's prolific output. "Some days it seems like they crank out of there faster, she's doing pink and next thing you know it's purple. What happened to the pink? It's purple!"

**POWER OF OUR PEOPLE** recognizes co-op members who improve their community's quality of life. Nominate someone by emailing [people@texascooppower.com](mailto:people@texascooppower.com).

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

*I knew I was grown up when . . .*

**We think it will be fun** to show a little bit of our readers' personalities by asking you to finish a sentence that we start. As we collect your thoughts, we'll share them in the magazine and online.

**We tried this ourselves**, and here's what the writers and editors on our staff came up with:

**Chris Burrows:** ...I got socks for Christmas and was glad for it.

**Travis Hill:** ...my student loan servicer told me I'd be 60 before I paid off my debt.

**Jessica Ridge:** ...I couldn't move away from my college apartment without taking the heavily pregnant community cat with me.

**Tom Widlowski:** ...I bought my parents dinner for the first time.



### ► Now it's your turn.

How would you finish that sentence? Post your responses on the *Texas Co-op Power* Facebook page or email them to [letters@texas-ec.org](mailto:letters@texas-ec.org). Please include your city and co-op. We'll share what you send us.

## MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

# Everybody Look What's Going Down

**For what it's worth**, musician Stephen Stills of Buffalo Springfield and Crosby, Stills & Nash turns 75 this month. He wrote three hit songs decades ago that can still get stuck in your head today: *For What It's Worth*, *Suite: Judy Blue Eyes* and *Love the One You're With*.

**He was born** January 3, 1945, in Dallas.



*Texas*  
= FEELS A =  
*Draft*



STORY BY MELISSA GASKILL  
PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

# Craft Breweries

BRING ENTERTAINMENT AND ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNITIES

**O**n a sunny fall afternoon, large overhead fans supplement a light breeze blowing through open doors. Several couples perch at a long bar, dogs sprawled on the concrete floor nearby. People group around tables, deep into spirited board games. Out the back door, others dig into plates of barbecue at shaded picnic tables.

Bandera Ale Project is one of a new breed of community gathering spots. All around Texas, craft breweries have become destinations where folks bring the family and the dog, and play games or listen to music or comedy acts. The adults taste new flavors and types of beers, observe the brewing process and even meet the brewmaster.

Nearly 300 craft breweries now operate in Texas, representing a \$5.3 billion slice of the state's economy. Texas produces more craft beer than all but seven other states but ranks 46th in breweries per capita.

Josh Hare of Hops & Grain Brewing in Austin and chairman of the Texas Craft Brewers Guild board says several challenges have hampered the Texas industry. "When we opened Hops & Grain in 2011, it was not legal to operate a tasting room," he says. "The beer you poured had to be free." Brewers got around that by selling the glasses into which they poured beer. Then legislation passed in 2013 allowed brewers to sell beer on-site.

"From 2013 forward, we went from a dozen or so breweries to more than 70 just in Austin," Hare says.

The 2019 Legislature allowed manufacturing breweries to sell beer to go. Before that, Texas had been the only state that prohibited sales of six-packs or growlers (reusable bottles) for customers to take home. Other limits remain, though, in-

**Opposite: John Oliver, brewmaster at Bandera Ale Project. Above: After a day of preparing their hunting camp, Jezire and Brent Akin treat themselves to Bandera Ale Project beers.**



cluding how much product a brewery can distribute, Hare explains.

The Texas brewing industry comprises three tiers—manufacturing, distribution and retail—with specific rules for each. A manufacturing brewery that produces fewer than 225,000 barrels annually can operate a tasting room and sell on-site only. A brewpub, considered retail, can make and sell beer for

consumption on-site or off-site but only up to 10,000 barrels per year. Hops & Grain is about to reach that size, Hare says. "Do we give up the ability to sell beer to go in order to make more?"

Meanwhile, beer tourism has grown across the state, Hare points out, and that growth means more manufacturing jobs. "This is a manufacturing industry that employs a lot of folks," he says. "The retail components of craft breweries, from live entertainment to food trucks and tour groups, create additional jobs."

Bandera Ale Project, a member of Bandera Electric Cooperative, stages music every Saturday and prefers to hire local artists, says co-owner and brewmaster John Oliver. "We have music, comedy, open mic, karaoke. And we're family friendly," he says. "We cultivate that atmosphere; we're not your typical bar."

The brewery, about 50 miles northwest of San Antonio, offers free Wi-Fi, too, using Bandera EC's high-speed fiber internet. Communication specialist Samantha Gleason says BEC Fiber launched about the time the brewery opened. "Bandera Brewery added more of a community space to the area," she says. "And they contribute to support of local businesses, instead of buying from a bar that gets its product from outside the community."

Some craft breweries also play a role in revitalization efforts by restoring old, abandoned buildings. In downtown Lockhart, Caracara Brewing Company occupies a formerly empty historic building. In the North Texas town of Nocona, Nocona Beer & Brewery took over a former boot factory.





Craft brewing could bring jobs to the agriculture industry in Texas as well. Four basic ingredients go into making beer: hops, barley, water and yeast. Craft brewers use more hops than mass-produced beers, according to Neil Reid, the “beer professor” at the University of Toledo. For example, an imperial India pale ale style of beer uses 4 pounds of hops per keg, while a traditional pilsner uses less than half a pound. Small brewers also use hops to create unique flavors, while mass-produced beers focus on hop varieties that provide consistency of taste.

Even though most barley comes from outside Texas, Quentin Hart of the National Agricultural Statistics Service says that between 2012 and 2017, the number of acres of barley harvested in Texas increased nearly 93%.

Barley used in beer is malted, which involves steeping the grain in water under controlled conditions, allowing it to sprout, then drying it.

#### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see a map of small-town craft breweries in Texas.

Cory Artho is co-owner of Maverick Malt House, 20 miles west of Amarillo, one of several malting houses operating in the state. Price is his biggest challenge. Malt from Canada, which produces millions of tons, sells for 40 or 50 cents a pound. “We have a 5-ton

**Above: The old Nocona Boots factory is now home to Nocona Beer & Brewery. Right: Jody Jones serves conviviality by the pint at Nocona.**







*“We have music, comedy,  
open mic, karaoke.  
And we’re family-friendly.”*

**WE CULTIVATE THAT ATMOSPHERE;  
WE’RE NOT YOUR TYPICAL BAR.”**

machine, and if we ran it year-round, we might make 400,000 pounds,” he says. That smaller volume means Maverick must charge 80 cents a pound.

Still, the idea of local ingredients appeals to Texas brewers. Southerleigh Fine Food and Brewery in San Antonio makes the only all-Texas beer, Artho says. Texas Born and Bred, a pale ale, contains his barley, hops from Hank’s Hops in San Antonio, which grows the flowers hydroponically in a greenhouse, and yeast from Texas Yeast Lab in New Braunfels.

Beyond hops and barley, going local becomes easier. Oliver says that for its honey brown ale, Bandera Ale Project uses Doyle’s Honey, produced by Kent Doyle, a member of Medina Electric Cooperative. Its coffee porter uses coffee beans from Texas.

Jim and Carly Baroffio opened the Bandera brewery in November 2017, and Oliver joined shortly thereafter. “This location was the perfect place to put a brewery because we had access to the property behind for a beer garden,” Oliver says. “You couldn’t find a property big enough for the garden in San Antonio or even on Main Street in Bandera.”

Bandera Ale Project offers barbecue from Busbee’s Bar-B-Que on Main Street. “We wanted someone from Bandera, to make it like a small second location,” Oliver says. “They cook all the food at the main location and bring it here.”

All the fun aside, craft brewing is, bottom line, about the beer. Texas beers snapped up 29—including 11 gold—of the more than 400 medals awarded at the 2019 U.S. Open Beer Championship, where Fredericksburg’s Altstadt Brewery ranked as one of the top 10 breweries overall.

Bandera Ale Project attended its first competition, the Great American Beer Festival, in Denver in October. “Back when we started, we had just two beers on tap, a blonde ale and a honey brown ale, and sometimes we ran out of one because we only had one fermenter,” Oliver says. “After a few months, we got two more fermenters and had four beers on tap, then eight. We bought two more and now have 14 beers on tap. It’s been a learning process. People still come by just for those first two beers, though.”

That hard work has made beer a good reason for people to visit craft brewing establishments across the state. But certainly not the only one.

See more of Melissa Gaskill’s work at [melissagaskill.blogspot.com](http://melissagaskill.blogspot.com).

**From top: Bandera Ale Project’s beer garden. Dave Young, Nocona’s head brewer, keeps a watchful eye on his 6,100-gallon tanks. Cans await beer at Fredonia Brewery in Nogadoches.**



BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

# GORDON'S GOLD

ARCHITECT JAMES RIELY GORDON  
FLOURISHED DURING THE GOLDEN  
AGE OF TEXAS COURTHOUSES



**C**ramped and outdated, the 1892 Victoria County Courthouse faced demolition in 1961 to make way for a new building in downtown Victoria. When historical preservationists got wind of the plan, they rallied support and presented a 13-foot-long petition to county commissioners. Unfurling the scroll, they read aloud the names of 661 county residents who wanted the courthouse's exterior to remain intact. Following this citizens' directive, commissioners voted to make no outside changes to the three-story edifice, adorned with turrets, arched windows and a clock tower.

Today, the former Victoria County Courthouse houses county offices and stands among 12 surviving Texas courthouses designed

and built by James Riely Gordon. From 1889 to 1902, the prolific architect designed 18 "temples of justice"—plus commercial, religious, residential and other civic buildings—across the state.

Ranked among Gordon's outstanding work is the Ellis County Courthouse, heralded as a "masterpiece" by author James Michener. In his 1985 historical novel *Texas*, Michener likens the pink-and-gray granite building in Waxahachie to a "... fairy-tale palace 10 stories high, replete with battlements and turrets and spires and soaring clock towers and miniature castles high in the air. It was a bejeweled treasure,

**Clockwise from above: The Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie and exterior details; the Gonzales County Courthouse in Gonzales; architect James Riely Gordon.**





**ASIDE FROM THEIR RESPLENDENT FACADES, GORDON'S COURTHOUSES HAD ANOTHER MAJOR SELLING POINT: IN BROILING SUMMER MONTHS, THEY FELT COOLER INSIDE.**



structures that he adapted to the specific needs of anyone he could interest,” writes Chris Meister in *James Riely Gordon: His Courthouses and Other Public Architecture*. “A study of the architect’s known work finds most of his early structures in communities along rail lines connecting with San Antonio.”

Gordon’s start as an architect couldn’t have had better timing. In 1881, the 17th Texas Legislature passed a bill that allowed counties to borrow funds to build public buildings. The earliest courthouses in Texas were tents, dugouts or simple log structures, according to *The Courthouses of Texas*, by Mavis P. Kelsey Sr. and Donald H. Dyal. Because these primitive affairs were often unsafe, the 1881 bill empowered county commissioners to build spacious, fireproof buildings that inspired awe and attracted commerce.

The golden age of grandiose Texas courthouses had begun.

In those days, counties often staged competitions to attract designs for courthouse projects. In 1888, Gordon entered an Aransas County contest in Rockport. His exotic Moorish concept, graced with horseshoe arches and onion domes, stood out among plans submitted by other architects, including the esteemed Alfred Giles and Otto Kramer. Gordon’s first courthouse served citizens for 65 years before it was torn down.

For the next decade, Gordon embraced an architectural trend called Richardsonian Romanesque. The massive, masonry style—developed by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson—features short columns; wide, rounded arches; conical or pyramidal towers; and sculpted ornaments. Gordon melded those elements to create customized courthouses for Fayette, Bexar, Erath and Victoria counties.

Gordon’s professional reputation soared in 1893, when his Texas State Building wowed visitors at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. One newspaper writer proclaimed the building as “one of the most attractive at the Fair,” and it would

yet it was also a sturdy, massive court of judgments, one of the finest buildings in Texas.”

Born August 2, 1863, in Winchester, Virginia, Gordon moved with his mother and civil engineer father to San Antonio in the early 1870s. He joined the civil engineer corps of the International-Great Northern Railroad at age 14. In 1881, Gordon worked under architect William K. Dobson and then as a draftsman with J.N. Preston & Son. In late 1884, he opened his own San Antonio office with established architect Frederick Shelton. In the coming years, Gordon would go in and out of partnerships and would also run an office in Dallas.

Gordon traveled the state by train and buggy in search of clients. “On these trips, he carried generic plans for a variety of





#### WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see vintage postcards of Gordon's Texas courthouses.

become the most widely publicized design of Gordon's lifetime. By fall 1896, the fair's buildings had been razed or burned.

Aside from their resplendent facades, Gordon's courthouses had another major selling point: In broiling summer months, they felt cooler inside. To maximize comfort, the architect created a cross-shaped layout with a center atrium, a combined shaft and tower, and corner entrance porches. The plan, which Gordon copyrighted and improved with subsequent projects, worked like a chimney, drawing cool air from the porches while venting hot air upward through the tower. Eleven courthouses followed Gordon's "Signature Plan," according to a list in Meister's book.

After the 1893 fair, Gordon continued his work in Texas, designing 13 more courthouses. Brazoria (demolished), Hopkins, Gon-

**Clockwise from left: The McLennan County Courthouse dome in Waco and window detail; an archive photo of the Bexar County Courthouse in San Antonio.**

zales, San Patricio (demolished), Ellis, Van Zandt (demolished), Wise, Comal and Lee reflect his Richardsonian Romanesque style. With Harrison (now a museum), McLennan and Angelina (demolished), Gordon transitioned to the Beaux-

Arts style that uses grand entrances and towering pillars. A low budget kept Callahan (demolished) sparse in architectural detail.

In June 1902, Gordon moved his practice and family to New York. Shortly before his 1937 death, he designed a building for the 1939 New York World's Fair. The honor ended the 53-year career of the architect who signed his work J. Riely Gordon and got his start in Texas.

**Sheryl Smith-Rodgers** of Blanco blogs about her gardening adventures at [sherylsmithrodders.blogspot.com](http://sherylsmithrodders.blogspot.com).



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\*Offer not available in all areas and ends 1/31/20 and appointment must occur within 10 days of the initial contact. Discount applies to minimum required purchase. \$0 payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Financing is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or familial status. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.



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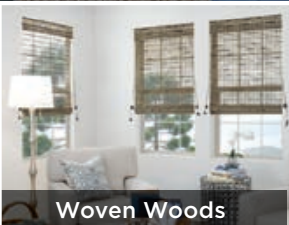
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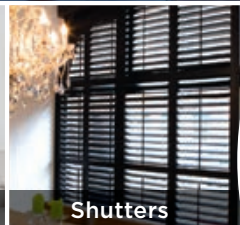
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**Offer Code BGXB. Expires 3/31/20.** 3 Day Blinds LLC has the following licenses: AZ ROC 321056, CA #1005986, CT HIC.0644950, NJ #13VH09390200, OR #209181, PA #PA107656, WA #3DAYBDB842KS, Nassau County, NY Home Improvement License H01073101, Rockland County, NY #H-12401-34-00-00. © 2020 3 Day Blinds LLC.



# Starting 2020 Giving Thanks and Giving Back



## MESSAGE FROM CEO MARK ROLLANS

### AT MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, OUR PRIMARY MISSION

is to provide the electricity that powers your life—it's what we do best.

But Medina EC is more than an electric utility. We're also a part of your community. The directors and employees of this cooperative are your neighbors, friends and family. And just like you, we want to see our communities succeed.

I'd like to start off the new year by expressing my gratitude for your membership and support of Medina EC. And this is no offhand or casual thanks: Because of your connection to Medina EC, we are able to make our communities a better place.

It might sound trite if it weren't so true, but I think it's important to let our members know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As a cooperative, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. Our dedication to that principle is on full display in this issue of the magazine. As I was glancing through the draft, I realized that the bulk of the

pages were promoting programs that are giving back to the communities, giving back to the members or giving energy tips to help you save on your bill. We seek to be a catalyst for good in the communities we serve, and we are purposeful in partnering with local groups who share our commitment to enriching the quality of life.

But none of these community investments would be possible without you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and patronage of these programs.

Together, we strengthen the community by supporting local charities, but the benefits to the community aren't only financial. The scholarship program and Youth Tour open doors for young people. We teach children safety through programs in schools. We help our members save money by offering energy efficiency tips.

So as we usher in a new year, I hope you know how much we appreciate you as a member, and how thankful we are for your support of these programs.

Sincerely,  
Mark Rollans

## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE NOW

### What You Need To Know

Up to **\$5,500** will be awarded in 2020.  
Application deadline: **5 p.m., April 1.**

Emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- Encourage economic diversity.
- Contribute to community health and development.
- Improve the quality or quantity of services essential for the development of viable communities.

Counties where grants can be awarded:

ATASCOSA	FRIO	MEDINA	ZAPATA
BROOKS	JIM HOGG	REAL	ZAVALA
DIMMIT	KINNEY	STARR	
DUVAL	LA SALLE	UVALDE	
EDWARDS	MCMULLEN	WEBB	



**View eligibility information  
and apply online at  
[MedinaEC.org/Grant](https://MedinaEC.org/Grant).**





# \$1.85 Million in Capital Credits Returned to Members

*Members saw credit on their December bill*

As a not-for-profit business, Medina Electric Cooperative allocates margins to members and retires them as the financial position of the cooperative allows.

In one sentence: It literally pays to be a member of Medina EC.

Last month, members reaped the rewards of that payment. If you look on the back of your December bill where current charges are broken down, you will have a line item that shows a **Capital Credit Refund**. That is your share of the \$1.85 million in capital credits retirement that the board of directors approved at their November 2019 meeting.

Each year, typically in November or December, the board of directors reviews the finances of the cooperative and determines what money needs to be reinvested in the system to ensure that we can continue serving members with reliable electricity and what capital credits money can be retired and returned to members.

Since Medina EC was formed, more than \$28 million in capital credits has been returned to members.

Former members who are due capital credits receive a check in the mail, so be sure to always keep your mailing address updated with the cooperative, even after you disconnect service. Members who connected service with the cooperative during the last year may not have a credit on their bill, but they can look forward to one in future years.

There really is a difference in the cooperative business model: You get reliable, affordable electricity—and money back in the form of capital credits.

To learn more, visit  
**MedinaEC.org/CapitalCredits**



## Medina Electric Cooperative

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### VOTING DISTRICT 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651  
Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328  
Ken Weyand, (830) 426-0762

#### VOTING DISTRICT 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437  
Chris Sures, (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

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

#### Headquarters

2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

#### Area Offices

Hondo Office  
237 Hwy. 173 N., Hondo 78861

#### Dilley Office

1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

#### Rio Grande City Office

601 N. FM 3167, Rio Grande City 78582

#### Uvalde Office

2604 Hwy. 90 E., Uvalde 78801

#### Bruni Office

1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

## CONTACT US

### CALL US

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

**Option 2: Report an outage**

**Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance**

**Option 5: Speak to a representative**

### EMAIL

**Info@MedinaEC.org**

### FIND US ONLINE AT

**MedinaEC.org**

**Facebook.com/MedinaEC**

**Twitter.com/MedinaECtalks**

**Instagram: @OurMEC**

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.

# Operation Round Up Gives Back for the Holidays

**AT MEDINA ELECTRIC, WE KNOW HOW SPECIAL THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS.** As stated in our cooperative principles, we are concerned about our communities and realize there are some people in our service area who are struggling with poor health or unfortunate circumstances during this important season.

Our Operation Round Up committee did their part to help our members, offering both general donations and Operation Grocery Give. Donation applications are reviewed every quarter by the ORU committee, and past donations have gone to help families battling cancer, those who have lost their homes in fires, children needing therapy and more. The Operation Grocery Give program is a special program offered during the holiday season, and it allows families to apply for \$150 H-E-B gift cards to assist with buying their holiday meals.



In December, Medina EC's ORU committee awarded applicants \$9,400, including \$2,400 in the form of 16 \$150 H-E-B gift cards.

## Grocery Give Recipients

**Abigail Garibay**, Hebbronville

**Gloria Guerra**, D'Hanis

**Homero & Magdalena Sanchez**, Laredo

**Joanna Soliz**, Laredo

**Mandy Ramirez**, Hondo

**Mary and Jacob Valles**, Hondo

**Michelle & Joe Gomez**, Hondo

**Modesto Morales**, Yancey

**Nathan & Sharon Grissom**, Rio Medina

**Paul Corona**, Hondo

**Ramon Valles**, Hondo

**Rebecca Heyen**, Hondo

**Rose and Jose Chavez**, Yancey

**Stephanie Tolentino**, Hebbronville

**Terry & Antonii Saldana**, Uvalde

**Wendy Jones**, Hondo

## General ORU Recipients

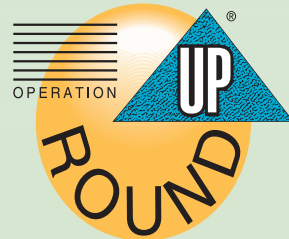
**Luna & Lorenzo Rosana**, Laredo - \$500 to offset both monthly and medical bills due to Luna's disability and Lorenzo's cancer diagnosis.

**Eva & Jason Smith**, Devine - \$500 to help with groceries for their three children while Jason is out of work due to a knee injury.

**Richard Bollman**, Castroville - \$1,000 to help with medical bills from an emergency surgery.

**Logan Elizondo**, Pearsall - \$2,000 to help his parents with hotel and travel costs to and from Houston while he undergoes chemotherapy at Texas Children's Hospital.

**Steve & Victoria Muennink**, Hondo - \$3,000 to help with bills while Victoria is recovering from open-heart surgery. The award will also help with the medical bills for their granddaughter, who has been in the hospital since May 2019.



Next Application  
Deadline for ORU  
Funds: February 7

If you know an individual who could use some financial assistance, encourage them to apply for funds from Medina EC's Operation Round Up program, or submit an application on their behalf. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

[MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU)



## Sharing Success Cooperative Spirit of Giving

**DURING FALL 2019**, Medina EC representatives were able to make \$15,000 in donations to three area organizations through CoBank's Sharing Success program and through the generosity of you, our member-owners.



**Medina County Food Pantry** received **\$5,000**. The center's mission is to provide food and resources for members of Medina County. They recently completed fundraising for a new, badly needed building. These funds will help them purchase shelving and office furniture.



**Frio Regional Hospital** got a **\$6,600** donation to help with expenses to build a new urgent care facility to serve Dilley and Frio County. The center will include a pharmacy, basic radiology services and a full-time provider.



**Santa Teresita Community Center** was presented with **\$3,400** to replace outdated computers and purchase tables and folding chairs for community events. The center serves as a hub of the Colonia of Santa Teresita in Webb County and is the only location for some community members to access a computer.

Half of the \$15,000 was a donation from Medina EC, and the other half was from CoBank, one of the cooperative's financial partners. In the eight years the cooperative has participated in Sharing Success, \$85,000 has been distributed to organizations across our area. Past recipients include Southwest Family Life Center (Frio, Medina and Uvalde Counties), Sabinal Public Library, Casa de Esperanza (Rio Grande City), HANK (Hondo), Starr County Self Help Center, El Progreso Memorial Library (Uvalde), Meals on Wheels (Hondo), La Salle County Athletic Fields, Dimmit Regional Hospital (Carrizo Springs), Revive Fort Ringgold (Rio Grande City), Herby Ham Activity Center (Uvalde), Dilley Public Library and Uvalde Grand Opera House.

February is Food Pantry Month

# Help Us Fill the Bucket Truck!

Drop off canned goods or other nonperishable food items at any of our offices during February. We will take them, along with a co-op donation, to a local food pantry.

Every member who donates items will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 bill credit.

We're collecting items  
until Monday, March 2.

STARTING ANOTHER CHAPTER?  
MAYBE WE CAN HELP!



## TWENTY-FIVE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

are offered to members, including five for adults pursuing higher education and 20 for high school seniors. Applications must be completed online and submitted by 11:59 p.m. March 6.\*

Eligible applications will be entered in a drawing and scholarship winners will be drawn at the April board meeting.

For more information, visit [MedinaEC.org/Scholarships](https://MedinaEC.org/Scholarships), or contact us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532) or [Scholarship@MedinaEC.org](mailto:Scholarship@MedinaEC.org).

[MEDINAEC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://MedinaEC.org/Scholarships)

## Battle Winter Energy Bill Woes

**WE'RE MIDWAY THROUGH WINTER**, and often the colder weather brings higher energy bills. Why is that?

Colder weather means homes generally use more energy to keep warm, even if the setting on the thermostat has not changed.

When you think about it, it makes sense. Your home's heater has to work harder to keep it 68 degrees, the winter setting recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy, when it is 30 degrees outside than it does when it is 58 degrees outside. The larger the difference between the outside temperature and the desired temperature inside your home, the more electricity it is going to take to maintain the internal temperature.

Luckily, there are easy ways to save. Install—and program—a programmable thermostat so that you won't waste energy and money heating your home when you're away. Turn off lights when not in use. Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75% less energy.

Lower the temperature on your water heater. The U.S. DOE recommends the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months. Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out. Wash clothes in cold water.

All of these are little things, but you will find that the little things add up.

Combine these tips with your free SmartHub tool, available at [MedinaEC.org](https://MedinaEC.org) or as an app, and watch the savings add up. SmartHub allows you to see daily electric use, so you will be able to tell which changes make the biggest difference for your family and your wallet.

CAROLINA K. SMITH | ADOBE STOCK

\*Technical support will not be available outside of normal business hours. Encountering technical issues turning in the application on the last day will not be grounds for an extension.



# Interested in Serving on Medina EC's Board of Directors?

Members who wish to run for a position on the Medina Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should plan to attend the district nominating meeting for their voting district.\*

The board of directors represents the interests of the members and governs the cooperative. They set policies under which the cooperative operates.

If you want to run but are unable to attend the meeting, you must be nominated by another member at the meeting or use the petition process. Look for more information on the petition process in the March issue of *Texas Co-op Power* or on [MedinaEC.org/Nominee](http://MedinaEC.org/Nominee).

All qualified nominees, at the meetings and by petition, will be placed on the September ballot to determine board members.

*\*If you have meters in multiple voting districts, you may attend a meeting in any of those voting districts. However, you will only be allowed to participate in one of these meetings. If you are unsure which voting district your meters are in, visit [MedinaEC.org/NomMtg](http://MedinaEC.org/NomMtg) or contact our office.*



Attend your district nominating meeting for a chance to win a cash prize! At each meeting, we will award one \$50 prize.

## DISTRICT NOMINATING MEETINGS

**VOTING DISTRICT 1:** Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 p.m.  
Medina EC corporate office, 2308 18th St., Hondo  
Counties in VD1: Medina

**VOTING DISTRICT 2:** Tuesday, February 18, 5:30 p.m.  
Medina EC Dilley office, 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley  
Counties in VD2: Atascosa, Edwards, Frio, Kinney, Real, Uvalde and Zavala

**VOTING DISTRICT 3:** Monday, February 17, 5:30 p.m.  
Medina EC Dilley office, 601 N. FM 3167, Rio Grande City  
Counties in VD3: Brooks, Dimmit, Duval, Jim Hogg, La Salle, McMullen, Starr, Webb and Zapata

**MORE INFO: [MEDINAEC.ORG/NOMMTG](http://MEDINAEC.ORG/NOMMTG)**

## Bylaws Excerpt: Article 4—Board of Directors

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**, in reference to assurance of nondiscrimination among beneficiaries of Rural Utilities Service programs, the following excerpt from the Medina EC Bylaws pertaining to nomination and election procedures for the election of board members are published below. Complete copies of the bylaws are available at all Medina EC offices and at [MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc](http://MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc).

### ARTICLE 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 4.1 - Director Districts.** Based upon geographic, population, membership, or other equitable considerations determined by the Board, the Board shall divide the area in which the Cooperative Provides Cooperative Service ("Cooperative Service Area") into three (3) districts that equitably represent the Members ("Director Districts"). Each Director District shall be represented by three (3) directors. The Director Districts are described as follows: District No. 1 shall consist of the County of Medina, Texas; District No. 2 shall consist of the counties of Uvalde, Zavala, Frio, Real, Edwards, Kinney and Atascosa, Texas; and District No. 3 shall consist of the counties of LaSalle, Webb, Duval, McMullen, Dimmit, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Starr and Brooks, Texas. Every year ending with a 5 or a 0, the Board shall, not less than ninety (90) days prior to July, review the Director Districts. If the

Board determines that the boundaries or number of Director Districts should be altered, or that one (1) or more Director Districts or at-large directorships should be established, or that the number of district directors should be increased or reduced, so as to correct any substantially inequitable factors regarding representation, based on location of the membership as indicated by the cooperative records, the number or geographic location of districts or the number of directors, then the Board shall amend these Bylaws accordingly and may, after such amendments become effective, appoint any additional directors provided for by such amendments, and may fix their respective initial terms, not to exceed three (3) years. No such amendment shall become effective so as to expand a director's term beyond the time it would otherwise expire or, unless he consents thereto in writing, to cause the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time his term would otherwise expire. The Board shall cause all such amendments and the names, addresses and initial terms of any newly appointed additional directors to be noticed in writing to the members not less than ten (10) days prior to July 1.

**Section 4.2 - Board.** The Cooperative shall have a Board that equitably represents the Members and is composed of nine (9) Members or individuals authorized by Entity Members that are: 1) Reside and Use a Cooperative Service at a Location within a Director District; 2) nominated by the Members who are Using a Cooperative Service at a Location within the same Director District; and 3) elected by the Total Membership. A Director may only be nominated from one Director District and that Director District being the district in which the Director is qualified to serve. Refer to Section 4.3 Director Qualifications. The Cooperative shall endeavor to maintain at least one (1) Member or individual authorized by an Entity Member who has, through education and experience as a public accountant or

auditor or a principal financial officer, comptroller, or principal accounting officer of an Entity, or from a position involving the performance of similar functions gained:

1) an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles and financial statements; 2) experience in the preparation or auditing of financial statements of generally comparable Entities and the application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals, and reserves; 3) experience with internal accounting controls; 4) an understanding of audit committee functions; ("Financial Expert").

The Board may not be composed of more than three (3) individuals authorized by Entity Members. An Entity Member may not authorize more than one (1) Director.

Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation, the business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by its Board of Directors, as follows:

1) Cooperative powers must be exercised by the Board, or under the Board's authority; 2) Cooperative affairs must be managed under the Board's direction; and 3) The Board shall reasonably administer and enforce these Bylaws or shall ensure that these Bylaws are reasonably administered and enforced.

To the extent the Governing Documents authorize a Person to exercise a power that the Board would otherwise exercise, the Person exercising the power has, and is subject to, the same duties, responsibilities, and standards of care of the Board.

**Section 4.3 - Director Qualifications.** A Director or Director Candidate must comply with this Bylaw.

The "Nomination Date" is the date, approved by the Board, upon which the District Nominating Meeting for each Director District will held.

A) General Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, a Person must comply with the following general

## Bylaws Excerpt, Continued

qualifications ("General Director Qualifications"):

- 1) be an individual not less than 18 years old and a citizen of the United States;
- 2) have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- 3) while a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately before the Nomination Date, not:
  - a) be convicted of a felony or a crime of theft involving moral turpitude; or b) plead guilty to a felony or a crime of theft involving moral turpitude; c) have been determined to be of unsound mind, or incompetent to handle his or her own affairs by a court of law;

- 4) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, receive a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, Director's Certificate, or similar Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association within one (1) year of becoming a Director;
- 5) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend (in person or via web or teleconference) at least nine (9) Board Meetings during each twelve (12) month period; and
- 6) be able to read, write and speak the English language.

B) Membership Related Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following membership qualifications ("Membership Director Qualifications"):

- 1) while a Director and during the five (5) years immediately before the Nomination Date:
  - a) be an unsuspended Member;
  - b) be a Member in good standing of the Cooperative. In good standing is defined as a Member that has paid all bills to the Cooperative for which service he/she is legally responsible or liable without having been issued more than three (3) termination notices or issued a disconnect order. Verification criteria are:
    - i. for preceding months one through thirteen (1-13), payment codes on the members account will be used, where a termination notice is indicated by a code "DQ1" and a disconnect order is indicated by a code "CUT".
    - ii. for preceding months fourteen through twenty-four (14-24), members payment history will be used, where a termination notice was issued if payment was received nineteen (19) or more days after billing date, and a disconnect order was issued if payment was received twenty-nine (29) or more days after billing date.
  - c) Maintain Residency and Use a Cooperative Service at, a Location within the Director District from which the Director is nominated or elected; and

- i. A Director or Nominee may declare a Residence by executing a Declaration Form, by the Nomination Date.
  - ii. The residence must be either the location where the Member claims the homestead property tax exemption, or the address indicated on a current valid driver's license.
- 2) while a Director:
  - a) be a Member;
  - b) be authorized by an Entity Member that, while a Director and during the one (1) year immediately before the Nomination Date, is unsuspended, and maintains Residency at a Location within the Director District from which the Director is nominated or elected and within the Director District where the Entity is using a Cooperative service;
  - 3) be designated or appointed by the Board.

C) Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following conflict of interest qualifications ("Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications"):

- 1) annually complete and sign a conflict of interest certification and disclosure form approved by the Board including disclosure of all accounts for which he or she is legally responsible or liable;
- 2) while a Director,
  - a) not be a Close Relative of a Cooperative employee;
  - b) not hold an elected position of a body politic, political office or entity to which remuneration or salary is paid, not including reimbursement of expenses;
  - c) not be in any way employed by or receive more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or retirement income, directly or indirectly from a competing enterprise or business engaged in the generation, marketing or selling of electric energy.
- 3) while a Director and during the one (1) year immediately before the Nomination Date,
  - a) not receive more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or Director compensation or retirement income, directly or indirectly from the

Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

- b) have a Close Relative that receives more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or Director compensation or retirement income, directly or indirectly from the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

- c) not advance or have a Close Relative that advances the individual's pecuniary interest by Providing a good or service similar to a good or service Provided by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

- 4) while a Director and during the five (5) years immediately before the Nomination Date,
  - a) not be an employee of the Cooperative or an employee of an entity controlled by the Cooperative or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");

- b) not be an employee of another Cooperative or an employee of an entity controlled by another Cooperative or in which another Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");
  - c) not be an employee of a company which sells goods or services to the Cooperative, another Cooperative or an entity controlled by the Cooperative or another Cooperative or in which the Cooperative or another Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");
  - d) not be employed by or be a Close Relative of a person who is or has been employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.

- 5) while a Director and during the seven (7) years immediately before the Nomination Date not have filed bankruptcy or been adjudicated to be bankrupt or be affiliated with any business enterprise that has filed bankruptcy or been adjudicated to be bankrupt.

D) Director Disqualification. After being elected, designated, or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all General Director Qualifications, Membership Director Qualifications, and Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications collectively, ("Director Qualifications"), then, except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, the Board may disqualify the Director ("Director Disqualification") and the individual is no longer a Director if:

- 1) the Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for, and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding, the Board's proposed disqualification; and
- 2) within ten (10) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualification.

If a majority of Directors authorized by these Bylaws complies with the Director Qualifications and approves a Board action, then the failure of a Director to comply with the Director Qualifications does not affect the Board action.

**Section 4.4 - Director Nominations.** For each Director position, Members shall nominate individuals to serve as Director as provided in this Bylaw. Incumbent Directors may be nominated as provided in this Section 4.4. Other nominations for Director may be made by:

- 1) Nomination of the Members present at a district nominating committee meeting or
- 2) Submission of a Member petition.

A) District Nominations.

- 1) For purposes of determining if a Member is entitled to participate in a District Nominating Meeting (Nominating Members), the following rules shall apply:

- a) A Member must not be suspended.
  - b) A Member may only participate in the District Nominating Meeting of one (1) District in any calendar year.
  - c) A Member must use a Cooperative service in the Director District for which the District Nominating meeting is being attended.

- d) By participating in a District Nominating Meeting the Member forfeits the right to participate in another District Nominating Meeting.

- e) If a husband and a wife hold a joint membership, only one (1) of them may vote.

Nominating Members may nominate individuals in accordance with the following procedures ("District Nominations"):

- 2) District Nominating Meeting. Not less than two hundred (200) days or more than two hundred and forty (240) days before each annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall convene a separate meeting of Nominating Members of each Director District for which directors are to be elected ("District

Nominating Meeting"). The meeting shall be held at a suitable place to be designated by the Board of Directors for the purpose of nominating a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) individuals to serve as Director for each Director position for which nominations are solicited.

- 3) Notice of Nominating Meeting. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district and shall indicate the Director District within which the Member Uses a Cooperative Service. The notice shall state that nominations for individuals to serve as Director for that district will take place at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

- 4) Nominating Meeting Quorum. Fifteen (15) Nominating Members entitled to vote in the Director District, shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present no business may be officially conducted. In the event a quorum cannot be obtained for any one of the district nominating meetings provided for herein, then and in such event the director serving the directorate district in which a quorum cannot be obtained,
  - a) if otherwise eligible to succeed himself as Director, shall be declared the official nominee from that directorate district.
  - b) if ineligible or unwilling to succeed himself as Director, the Board of Directors shall appoint an official nominee from that directorate district.

The District Nominating Meeting shall be called to order by the Chairman which shall be one (1) of the Directors representing the Director District who is not standing for election, another individual designated as the representative of the Board of Directors, or in his absence, by any other Nominating Member entitled to vote within the Director District. The chairman shall appoint an individual to act as Secretary for the meeting. Members of other Director Districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. If a Director from the district is willing to serve and continues to be eligible to serve, his or her name shall automatically be placed in nomination as a Director for that district. Other nominations for Director shall be made from the floor at the meeting. A Nominating Member shall have the right to nominate one and only one (1) individual to serve as Director. The chairman shall call for nominations for Director. The period to make nominations shall remain open for a reasonable amount of time but not less than one (1) minute. Nominees must be Members Using a Cooperative Service at a Location within a Director District and must possess the qualifications for to serve as a Director.

In order to vote at a District Nominating Meeting, an individual representing an Entity Member must present an authorization executed by either the owner or an officer of the Entity Member. Also, for District Nominating Meeting voting purposes, an individual representing one (1) or more Entity Members shall not be allowed to cast more than three (3) votes, regardless of the number of Entity Members he/she is authorized to represent. The minutes of each District Nominating Meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each individual nominated at the meeting and shall specify the Nominees of the Director District. A copy of the minutes, signed and certified by the Chairman and Secretary of the District Nominating Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within ten (10) days after such District Nominating Meeting. No informality or defect in such minutes or in the proceedings shall void the nominations so made, or affect the validity of the election of the Nominees, or affect the validity of the election of Directors at a meeting of the Members of the Cooperative. A Nominee is a member who has been nominated at a District Nominating Meeting but has not yet been certified by the Board Certification Committee.

B) Member Petition Nominations. In addition to District Nominations, Nominating Members may nominate, through petition, individuals to run for election for a Director position nominated by Nominating Members and scheduled for election by Members at the Member Meeting ("Member Petition Nominations"). For purposes of determining if a Member is entitled to execute a Member Petition (Nominating Members), the following rules shall apply:

- 1) A Member must not be suspended



2) A Member may only sign a petition for one (1) District in any calendar year.

3) Use a Cooperative service in the Director District for which a Member Petition is being signed.

4) By signing a Member Petition the Member forfeits the right to sign a subsequent Petition

5) If a husband and a wife hold a joint membership, only one (1) of them may sign the petition.

Nominating Members make Member Petition Nominations by delivering to the Cooperative at its corporate headquarters no later than 5:00 p.m. on the forty fifth (45th) day after the date of the District Nominating Meeting for which the nomination is made a writing for each Member Petition Nomination ("Member Petition"):

1) listing, on each page of the Member Petition, the name of the Member Petition Nominee;

2) indicating, on each page of the Member Petition, the Director position for which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and

3) containing the printed names, mailing addresses where the members receive the Cooperative's electric bill, and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within forty-five (45) days of the District Nominating Meeting, of at least thirty (30) Nominating Members.

A Nominee is a member who has submitted a Petition but has not yet been certified by the Board Certification Committee.

C) Certification Committee. The Cooperative's Certification Committee shall consist of the Cooperative's Board of Directors, exclusive of any director who is up for election. The Cooperative's Certification Committee shall:

1) determine the validity of all Member Petitions; and  
2) determine if each individual nominated to serve as a Director, whether nominated at the District Nominating Meeting or by Member Petition, is qualified to serve as Director. The Certification Committee shall conduct its review not less than one hundred and fifty (150) days before a meeting of Members at which Directors are to be elected. If the Cooperative's Certification Committee fails to act within the time allowed, a petition shall be deemed to be valid.

3) Certify a Nominee as a Candidate, and

4) certify Candidates as elected without a Member election if a Candidate is unopposed by an:

a) an incumbent Director or,  
b) a Candidate nominated at a District Nominating Meeting or,  
c) a Candidate nominated by a Member Petition.

D) Nominations from the Floor Prohibited. Members, including Nominating Members, may not nominate from the floor of a Member Meeting an individual to run for election to a Director position scheduled for election at the Member Meeting.

E) Notice of Director Nominations. At least ten (10) days before a Member Meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the:

1) Director positions scheduled for election by Members;  
2) names and corresponding Director positions of all District Nominations; and

3) names and corresponding Director positions of all Member Petition Nominations.

**Section 4.5 - Director Elections.** At each Member Meeting at which a Director is to be elected, the Members shall elect the Director from the Candidates approved by the Certification Committee. A Candidate shall become a Director if he or she receives the highest number of votes cast in the election by Members voting by Electronic or Mail Ballot ("Electing Members"). In the event of a tie, the incumbent Director shall be elected; provided, however, if neither of the candidates is an incumbent, the election shall be decided by a coin toss.

The Board may but is not required to allow voting by Members present at the meeting by voice vote or written ballot distributed at the meeting.

**Section 4.6 - Director Terms.** Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a Director's term is three (3) years or until a successor Director is elected, designated, or appointed ("Director Term"). A Director's term begins at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after the Director is elected, designated, or appointed and consents to serve. A Director's term ends at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after a successor Director is elected, designated, or appointed and consents to serve. The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of approximately

equal number. Members must annually elect an approximately equal number of Directors.

**Section 4.7 - Director Resignation.** A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, President, or Secretary receives the written notice of resignation. If a Director's resignation is effective at a later date, and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Director's resignation, then the pending Director vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Director's resignation.

**Section 4.8 - Director Removal.**

A) Removal by the Board. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Board may remove a Director designated or appointed by the Board for any reason.

B) Removal by Members. As provided in this Bylaw, and for taking or omitting a negligent, fraudulent, or criminal act significantly and adversely affecting the Cooperative, the Members may remove a Director.

1) Director Removal Petition - For each Director for whom removal is requested, the Members seeking removal of a Director must deliver to the President or Secretary a dated written petition ("Director Removal Petition"):

a) identifying the Director on each page; b) explaining, on each page, the basis for the Director's removal; and c) as Members existed on the Director Removal Petition date, containing the printed names, printed addresses, and original and dated signatures obtained within sixty (60) days following the Director Removal Petition date, of at least ten percent (10%) of the Members.

Within thirty (30) days after the President or Secretary receives a Director Removal Petition:

a) the Cooperative shall forward a copy of the Director Removal Petition to the involved Director; and b) the Board shall meet to review the Director Removal Petition.

2) Member Meeting - If the Board determines that the Director Removal Petition complies with this Bylaw, then the Cooperative shall notice and hold a Member Meeting within sixty (60) days following the Board's determination. Notice of the Member Meeting must state that:

a) a purpose of the Member Meeting is to consider removing a Director; b) statements may be presented, and a Member vote taken, regarding removing the Director; and c) Members may elect a successor Director.

If a Member Quorum is present in person at the Member Meeting, then for the Director named in a Director Removal Petition:

a) before a Member vote, statements must be presented supporting the basis for removing the Director; b) the Director may be represented by legal counsel, and must have the opportunity to refute, and present statements opposing, the basis for removing the Director; and c) after the Director's presentation and Member discussion, the Members must vote whether to remove the Director.

If a majority of Members entitled to vote at the meeting vote to remove the Director, then the Director is removed effective the time and date of the Member vote. At the Member Meeting, the Members may elect a new Director to succeed the removed Director without complying with the Director Nomination or notice provisions of these Bylaws. A successor Director elected by the ("Removing Members") must comply with the Director Qualifications and serves the unexpired Director Term of the removed Director. A Director Removal Petition or Director removal does not affect a Board action.

Members may not remove a Director for lawfully opposing a Transfer of Cooperative Assets or a Cooperative dissolution. The Board may not remove a Director for lawfully opposing a Transfer of Cooperative Assets or a Cooperative dissolution.

**Section 4.9 - Director Vacancy.** Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws:

1) by an affirmative vote of the majority of remaining Directors, the Board may fill a vacant Director position, or a Director position resulting from increasing the number of Directors;

2) a Director elected, designated, or appointed by the Board to fill a vacant Director position serves until the next regular election of Directors; and

3) a Director elected, designated, or appointed by the Board to fill a Director position resulting from increasing the number of

Directors serves for a three (3) year term or such shorter term as the Board may determine.

If a Director vacancy will occur at a later specified date, then the Board may fill the vacancy before the vacancy occurs and the new Director takes office when the vacancy occurs. An individual elected, designated, or appointed to fill a vacant Director position must comply with the Director Qualifications. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, and as used in this Bylaw, "vacant Director position" and "Director vacancy" do not include Director positions vacated due to an expired Director Term.

**Section 4.10 - Director Compensation.** A Director is not an employee of the Cooperative. As determined or approved by the Board, the Cooperative may pay or reimburse Directors a fixed fee and expenses for attending a:

1) Board Meeting; 2) function, meeting, or event involving or relating to the Cooperative; or 3) function, meeting, or event involving, relating to, or reasonably enhancing the Director's ability to serve in, the role of Director. The Board must determine or approve the manner, method, and amount of any Director fee or expense.

**Section 4.11 - Director Conduct.** In general:

A) Director Standard of Conduct. A Director is not a trustee regarding the Cooperative or property held or administered by the Cooperative, including property potentially subject to restrictions imposed by the property's donor or transferor. A Director shall discharge the Director's duties, including duties as a Board Committee member:

1) in good faith; 2) in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the Cooperative's best interests; 3) when becoming informed in connection with the Director's decision-making function or devoting attention to the Director's oversight function, with the care that an individual in a like position would reasonably believe appropriate under similar circumstances; and 4) in a manner in which the Director discloses or causes to be disclosed to other Directors or Board Committee members information not known by them, but known by the Director to be material to discharging their decision-making or oversight functions, except that disclosure is not required to the extent that the Director reasonably believes that disclosure would violate a duty imposed under law, a legally enforceable obligation of confidentiality, or a professional ethics rule.

B) Director Reliance on Others. Unless a Director has knowledge making reliance unwarranted, then in discharging the Director's duties, including duties as a Board Committee member, the Director may rely:

1) on the performance by any of the following individuals listed in (a) or (c) to whom the Board has formally or informally delegated the authority or duty to perform one or more of the Board's delegable functions; and

2) upon information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, prepared or presented by any of the following individuals:

a) one or more Cooperative Officers or employees whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the functions performed or the information, opinions, reports, or statements provided;

b) legal counsel, public accountants, or other individuals retained by the Cooperative regarding matters involving skills or expertise the Director reasonably believes are matters within the individual's professional or expert competence and as to which the individual merits confidence; and

c) a Board Committee of which the Director is not a member if the Director reasonably believes the Board Committee merits confidence.

**Section 4.12 - Close Relative.** The term "Close Relative" means an individual who:

1) through blood, law, or marriage, is a spouse, child, stepchild, father, stepfather, mother, stepmother, brother, stepbrother, half-brother, sister, stepsister, half-sister, grandparent, grandchild, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law; or

2) resides in the same residence (collectively, "Close Relative").

An individual qualified and elected, designated, or appointed to a position does not become a Close Relative while serving in the position because of a marriage or legal action to which the individual was not a party.

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# Ghost Dogs of Orozimbo

The tale of a trio of dogs ‘guarding’ Santa Anna continues long past turning point in history

BY MARTHA DEERINGER

OROZIMBO PLANTATION, A SPRAWLING cotton farm in west central Brazoria County, was home to Dr. James Aeneas Phelps and his wife, who both arrived in Texas with Stephen F. Austin’s original colonists in 1822. In 1836, their mansion would serve as a prison for Antonio López de Santa Anna.

Phelps had served as a surgeon for the Texian Army at San Jacinto and observed the capture of Santa Anna, whose ruthless executions of Texans at the Alamo and Goliad prompted demands for the Mexican general’s death. But Sam Houston recognized that the notorious prisoner was worth more to Texas alive, so Santa Anna was taken to Orozimbo, where Phelps managed his care after an attempted suicide.

One wintry night, an officer of the Mexican military organized a group of riders to free Santa Anna. Everyone at the plantation was asleep, except the general, who had ostensibly received word of the plan. Just before dawn, as the riders approached the plantation, a frantic baying of hounds disrupted the early morning silence and roused the guards. The riders withdrew, abandoning the rescue.

But Orozimbo Plantation kept no dogs, and for miles around, there were no neighbors who had dogs. A servant had purportedly seen the creatures and described them as strange, wild-looking animals with frightening eyes. There were three of them, all a dingy white. Two had shaggy coats and one appeared hairless.

Months later, a passing traveler was



told the description of the canines and claimed that the dogs had been the much-loved companions of a man who lived near Washington-on-the-Brazos. When the dogs’ owner left to join the fight for independence, his dogs refused to eat or return to the house. When the animals disappeared, neighbors told the story that they were looking for their master, who had been killed at Goliad.

For the next decade, settlers occasionally spotted the dogs in the forest near Orozimbo. Except for the night of Santa Anna’s attempted escape, they were always silent. The legend of the ghost dogs and their desperate search for their master added an aura of mystery to the story of Santa Anna’s imprisonment.

Residents of West Columbia caught

glimpses of the dogs as they wandered silently in the woods near Orozimbo. Three ghostly dogs fitting the same description reportedly were seen by a man and his wife as recently as 1974 near the cemetery and ancient oak tree that are the last remnants of the fabled plantation.

Nearly 150 years after the event, Catherine Munson Foster wrote of the canine apparitions in the spring 1984 edition of *Texas Heritage* magazine. “There are those who believe, or say they believe, that the ghost dogs of Orozimbo are the same animals still standing guard, alert to give the alarm should the specter of a long-dead Santa Anna make another attempt to escape.”

Read more of Martha Deeringer’s writing at [marthadeeringer.com](http://marthadeeringer.com).

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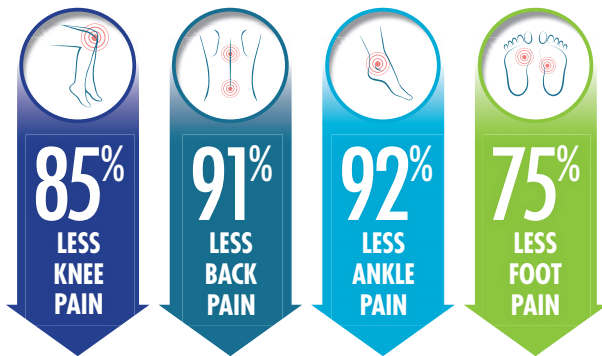
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# New Year's Resolution

A NEW YEAR BRINGS PROMISES FROM most of our lips to make healthier choices. Food is an obvious place to start, and it can be an easy place, too, if you make just a few small changes. One of those can be simply adding more fresh vegetables to every meal.

Megan Myers, a Texas foodie who will take over as *Texas Co-op Power* food editor next month, writes Stetted (stetted.com), a food blog. "I focus on fresh ingredients and uncomplicated flavors, with spins that keep mealtime interesting," Myers says. "Real food is possible, even for busy moms like me."

For her, learning to cook healthier meals "was the evolution of figuring out the best flavors from the ingredients we have here in Texas. I also want to make sure my kids are experiencing a wide range of foods, and cooking healthier at home helps balance out those post-soccer and party meals."

Myers' Roasted Sweet Potato Salad With Chickpeas and Kale, served warm, makes a light, healthy meal or a flavorful side for a lean protein. Her Spicy Glazed Brussels Sprouts are another great way to add more fresh winter vegetables to your diet.

SHANNON OELRICH, FOOD EDITOR

## Roasted Sweet Potato Salad With Chickpeas and Kale

- 2 medium sweet potatoes, diced
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon olive oil, divided use
- ¼ teaspoon salt, divided use
- ⅛ teaspoon paprika
- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas
- 2 cups packed torn kale
- 2 tablespoons minced red onion
- 2 teaspoons Champagne vinegar or white wine vinegar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



# Recipes

## New Year's Resolutions



### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER

HALEY FEUERBACHER | COSERV

Spiralized noodles have been all the rage lately. If you haven't tried them, you can use this month's winning recipe as a great starting point. If you already use them, you can add this recipe to your repertoire. Easy and quick, this veggie noodle bowl is great for a healthy weeknight meal and especially satisfying when topped with your choice of protein.

### Quick & Healthy Garlic-Parmesan Veggie Noodle Bowl

- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided use
- 1 white onion, diced
- 2 packages (10.7 ounces each) spiralized butternut squash noodles
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1-2 teaspoons salt, divided use
- 1½-2 cups chopped kale
- ¼ cup chopped fresh basil
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1. In an extra-large nonstick pan or wok, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Cook the diced onion in oil until it starts to brown.
2. Add noodles, garlic, ½ teaspoon salt

and remainder of olive oil. Cook, stirring occasionally, for approximately 6 minutes or until noodles are thoroughly cooked. The texture should be soft with some crispy browned noodles.

3. In the last 2-3 minutes of cooking, add kale, basil and another ½ teaspoon salt, stirring thoroughly for even cooking. Taste for seasoning and add more salt if desired.

4. Once the noodles are thoroughly sautéed, remove pan from heat and stir in Parmesan.

► Serves 4.

**COOK'S TIP** You can make your own butternut squash noodles by using a spiralizer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon coarse mustard
- 1 teaspoon honey
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Toss diced sweet potatoes in 1 teaspoon olive oil, then spread on a rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle with ⅛ teaspoon salt and paprika. Roast 18 minutes, stirring halfway through.
3. Meanwhile, pour chickpeas into a colander over the sink and let drain. Put the kale into a large bowl and set aside.
4. In a small saucepan, combine red onion, vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, honey, black pepper and remaining ⅛ teaspoon salt, and heat over low. Once warmed, slowly whisk in remaining olive oil until dressing is emulsified. Keep over very low heat until potatoes are done.
5. Pour cooked potatoes on top of kale, then add drained chickpeas. Whisk dressing one more time, then pour over the chickpeas.
6. Stir salad to coat evenly, taking care to not mash the potatoes. Serve once the kale has softened a bit. ► Serves 2-4.

### Spicy Glazed Brussels Sprouts

- 1 pound Brussels sprouts
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons gochujang (red chile paste)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Trim ends from Brussels sprouts and halve or quarter.
  2. Toss Brussels sprouts with olive oil and spread on a baking sheet. Roast 20 minutes, stirring halfway through.
  3. In a small bowl, whisk together gochujang, honey and soy sauce. Pour over roasted sprouts and stir to coat. Return pan to the oven 5 more minutes, until sauce is sticky and caramelized.
- Serves 4.

**COOK'S TIP** You can find gochujang in the Asian foods section of most grocery stores, and it can be easily ordered online.

**IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,  
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### \$100 Recipe Contest

June's recipe contest topic is **Texas Wine Harvest**. Send us your best pairings or dishes cooked with wine. The deadline is **January 10**.

**ENTER ONLINE** at [TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/contests); **MAIL** to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; **FAX** to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.




## My Favorite Carrot Soup

MOIRA CAHILL | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

- 3-4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 pounds carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 7 cups chicken or vegetable stock, divided use
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Greek yogurt (optional)

1. Heat olive oil in a stockpot over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft. Add carrots and cook another 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute.
  2. Add 6 cups of stock and the thyme, salt and pepper and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes or until carrots are soft.
  3. Purée the soup in a blender. Add additional stock for desired consistency. Simmer an additional 30 minutes. Serve hot with a dollop of Greek yogurt.
- Serves 8-10.



### Top Tips for a Healthy New Year

**Resolve to make small changes**, which are easier to maintain than sweeping changes. For example, if you're not already a runner, don't sign up for a marathon, but do resolve to go for a walk three times a week.

**It's easier to add things** than take them away. Want to make your diet healthier? Resolve to have at least two types of vegetables at lunch and dinner.

**Reward yourself for progress.** If you get to the end of January and have kept

your resolution 90% of the time, make your reward something related to it. Healthier diet? Get yourself a cool new piece of cooking equipment. Went on more walks? Buy new athletic shoes.

**Don't beat yourself up if you stumble.** If you break your resolution, try to start it again as soon as you can. If you slip up on a weekend, start again on Monday. If your blunder is midweek, use the weekend as your reset.

SHANNON OELRICH

## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

### NEXT MONTH

#### A TALE OF TEXAS CRAWFISH

Tasty crustaceans create a feasting frenzy every spring.

**CRAPE MURDER** As healthy trees are hacked in the prime of their lives, an expert pleads: Stop the madness.

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A photograph of a woman and a man jogging together on a dirt path. The woman is on the left, wearing a light-colored tank top and dark leggings. The man is on the right, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark shorts. They are both smiling and appear to be in good physical shape.

A man in a dark t-shirt and plaid shorts is captured mid-swing on a golf course. He is wearing a white visor and dark shoes. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

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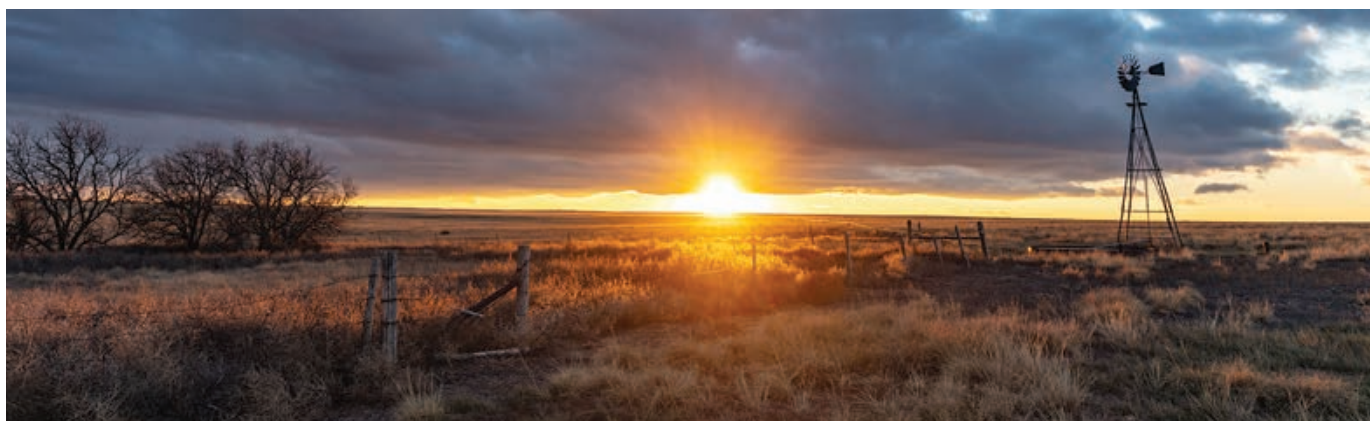
# Fences

WHETHER YOU'RE BUSY SWINGING for the fences or mending them, one thing's for sure—the grass is greener on the Texas side. **GRACE FULTZ**

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.

◀ **JESSIKA MORRIS**, Navasota Valley EC: "This photo was captured while my daughter Dixie was leaning over a barbed wire fence so that she could get to know one of the newest horses on the farm."

▼ **TRAVIS LACOSS**, Peder-nales EC: The Rita Blanca National Grasslands in the Panhandle.



▼ **ASHLEY ZIMMERMAN**, Trinity Valley EC: "I go for many walks on our property and I always take my camera. This bobcat came out to pose for me one lucky afternoon."

▶ **TERRI CARTER**, Rita Blanca EC: "The sunrise colors are really multiplied by the ice that coated this fence. It melted some and slid down a bit, then it froze again."



◀ **RICK ROBERSON**, United Cooperative Services: "The setting summer sun in Big Bend casts its warm glow on this old gate that, in spite of some hard knocks, is still getting the job done."

## UPCOMING CONTESTS

MAY	FAIRS AND CARNIVALS	DUE JANUARY 10
JUNE	STATE PARKS	DUE FEBRUARY 10
JULY	EXPLORATION	DUE MARCH 10

Enter online at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests).





## Pick of the Month

### Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show

**Fredericksburg** January 18-19  
(325) 248-1067, fredericksburgrockhounds.org

This annual show by the Fredericksburg Rockhounds, at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, features dealers, demonstrations, rock cutting and activities for children. The Rockhounds' monthly meetings include rock swaps and field trips for rock hunting and to museums.

## January

11

**Kerrville** Out of This World: Music of the Cosmos, (830) 792-7469, symphonyofthehills.org

**San Angelo** Family Day Mystery at the Museum, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

16

**Corsicana** Reflections of Patsy Cline, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

**Tyler** An Evening With Rita Moreno, Legend of Stage and Screen; (903) 566-7424; cowancenter.org

17

**Lubbock** [17-18] Symphony Masterworks Series: Grieg's Beloved Piano Concerto, (806) 762-1688, visitlubbock.org

18

**Brenham** Uptown Swirl in Downtown Brenham, (979) 337-7582, downtownbrenham.com

**Luckenbach** Blues Festival, (830) 997-3224, luckenbachtexas.com

**Surfside Beach Dunes Day**, (979) 864-1152, brazosport.org

21

**Lufkin** Ladysmith Black Mambazo, (936) 633-5454, angelinaarts.org

23

**Richardson** Todd Mosby and the New Horizons Ensemble, (972) 744-4650, eisemanncenter.com



January 24-25  
Jefferson  
Quilt Show

MINERAL: SEBASTIAN JANICKI | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. QUILT: MPITZER | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM. WINTER CARNIVAL: EVGENY BAKHAREV | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

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Bluebonnet  
Tractor Ride

**NEW**

**OCTOBER 10**  
Fall Foliage  
Tractor Ride

## AROUND TEXAS EVENT CALENDAR

### Gas Up and Go!

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Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event. With hundreds of events throughout Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for everyone.

**PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY AT  
TexasCoopPower.com**



24

**Marshall** Farewell Angelina,  
(903) 934-7992, memorialcityhall.com

**Jefferson** [24-25] Quilt Show,  
(903) 935-2235, jeffersonquiltshow.com

**New Braunfels** [24-25] Patty Griffin,  
(830) 606-1281, gruenehall.thundertix.com

25

**Bandera** Grace Lutheran Church  
Wild Game Dinner, (830) 796-3091,  
gracebandera.weebly.com

**Edna** Brackenridge Winter Carnival  
and Snow Day, (361) 782-5456,  
brackenridgepark.com

**Fredericksburg** Hill Country Indian  
Artifact Show, (830) 626-5561,  
hillcountryindianartifacts.com

**Ozona** Permian Basin Square and  
Round Dance Association Winterfest,  
(432) 685-3266, squaredancetx.com

30

**Boerne** Voctave, (830) 331-9079,  
boerneperformingarts.com

**Galveston** *We the People*, 1-800-821-1894,  
thegrand.com



January 25  
Edna  
Brackenridge Winter  
Carnival and Snow Day

31

**Canton** [31-Feb. 2] Battle on the Mountain,  
(318) 455-4489, facebook.com/9thtexas canton

## February

1

**Crockett** Asleep at the Wheel,  
(936) 544-4276, pwfaa.org

**San Antonio** Asian Festival,  
(210) 458-2224, texancultures.com

4

**College Station** Steep Canyon Rangers,  
(979) 845-1234, mscopas.org

5

**Laredo** [5-8] Birding Festival,  
(956) 718-1063, laredobirdingfestival.org

7

**Grand Prairie** [7-9] *Trolls Live!*,  
(972) 854-5050, theatregp.com

**Ennis** [7-8, 14-15, 21-23] *Forever*,  
(972) 878-5126, theatrerocks.com

### Submit Your Event!

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

## CO-OP NEWS IN YOUR INBOX SIGN UP TODAY

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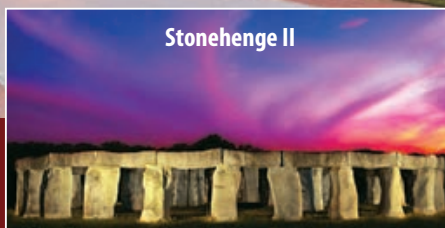
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# Must See Sequel

Hill Country Arts Foundation makes Ingram's Stonehenge II accessible

I'VE FOUND THAT THE SEQUEL IS RARELY better than the original. Movies like *Jaws: The Revenge* support this conclusion. But sometimes a second act surpasses the first, and this happened when two Texans used a truckload of plaster to construct Stonehenge II, a monument that's better than the original because it's here in Texas.

On a sweltering summer day, I tripped out to the Texas Hill Country, 5 miles west of Kerrville, to visit Ingram. Most visitors come to splash in the Guadalupe River or to relax on its cypress-lined banks. But I was on a mission to see a Texas version of one of the world's iconic stone structures.

The original Stonehenge, in Wiltshire, England, was built around 2500 B.C. It fascinates Americans, and there are two dozen Stonehenge replicas in the United States. I wanted to know what separates Stonehenge II from the rest.

I followed the Guadalupe and arrived at the Hill Country Arts Foundation. There, in a crunchy field of dry grass, stood 30 interlocking arches encircling five free-standing ones. All were between 8 and 12 feet tall.

My first question was "Why in the world is this here?" The answer begins with Al Shepperd, who received a large limestone slab from his buddy Doug Hill. Rather than use the stone as landscaping, Shepperd dug a hole and stood the slab upright as a monolith. Every day



**Chet checks out Stonehenge II in Ingram.**

he looked at it and thought, "Wow, that looks like Stonehenge." Hill agreed, and soon they constructed the first arch out of plaster and chicken wire. It looked so good that they didn't want to stop. Within a few years, the men had built Stonehenge II, and visitors came from all over the world. The hit TV show *Friday Night Lights* even filmed an episode on-site.

Standing near the arches, I was amazed by how much work went into building these incredible structures. Even though it's only 90% as wide as the original Stonehenge and 60% as tall, all the arches are intact. And unlike the original Stonehenge, there are no barriers restricting access. Anyone can walk among the behemoth "stones" and imagine the real Stonehenge when its builders established it millennia ago.

Stonehenge II was originally constructed on Shepperd's property in Hunt. After his death, the family decided to sell the property and feared that the new owners might not appreciate this quirky art.

The Hill Country Arts Foundation purchased the entire installation and moved it to its present location on the river. To make the site even more curious, it also moved Shepperd's replicas of the Easter Island stone heads, which now stand like guardians protecting Stonehenge II.

Stonehenge I and II remain shrouded in mystery. With England's Stonehenge, we wonder how and why the ancient people built it. With Ingram's Stonehenge II, we know the how but could still spend hours pondering why a couple of buddies would dedicate endless hours toward this project.

It may seem complicated, but for those of us who've spent enough time in Texas, we know the reason. It's simply the Texas heat, which can make our brains do some mighty crazy things. And that's enough explanation for me.

**Chet Garner** shares his Texplorations as the host of *The Daytripper* on PBS.

**WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to see Chet's video of his visit to Stonehenge II in Ingram.



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