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— Don W., Sherman, TX

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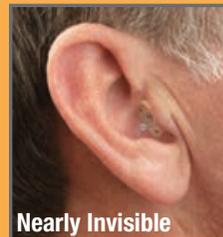
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# July 2023



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## 06 'I Love All the Love Here'

Camp CAMP has fostered community and joy for decades.

*Story and photos by Julia Robinson*

## Sleeping Giants

Henry Trost's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases.

*By Pam LeBlanc*

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Jacob enjoys the big swing at Camp CAMP—Children's Association for Maximum Potential.

*Photo by Julia Robinson*

#### ABOVE

Hotel El Capitan's inviting lobby.

*Photo courtesy Hotel El Capitan*



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**FINISH THIS SENTENCE**  
**Darkness is only scary when ...**

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

Here are some of the responses to our May prompt: **Mom always said ...**

Because I said so!

POLLY HALE  
PEDERNALES EC  
BLANCO

Kill them with kindness.

PHYLLIS SUTTLE  
MIDSOUTH EC  
IOLA

The only teeth you need to floss are the ones you want to keep. (She lived to 102 and had all her own teeth.)

KATHRYN SHELTON  
WISE EC  
PARADISE

Make your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.

GARY L. RAYBON  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO  
WHARTON COUNTY EC

Visit our website to see more responses.

*July 11*  
**Cow Appreciation Day**

Texas has more reasons to celebrate than any other state. With about 12.5 million head of cattle, we have almost twice as many as the next most-populous state, Nebraska.

# Ascending Over Arizona

**ABILENE'S ARIELLE ASH** led the first-ever all-female flyover at the end of the national anthem at the Super Bowl in February.

Ash, a lieutenant in the Navy and a graduate of Texas Tech University, piloted an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

The four-aircraft flyover commemorated 50 years of female pilots in the U.S. Navy. Women were first admitted to Navy flight school in 1973.



## Skeeter Bleeders

Rice University bioengineers have teamed with other experts to study the bloodsucking behavior of mosquitoes using patches of synthetic skin made with a 3D printer, eliminating the need for human volunteers.



MEGAN MYERS

### Berry Burst Pavlova

“Wow! The whole family loved it, which is miraculous. My granddaughter says that’s what she wants for her birthday cake every year—for the rest of her life. She’s 24.”

MARY RILEY  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
COLLEGE STATION

### A Vanishing Tongue

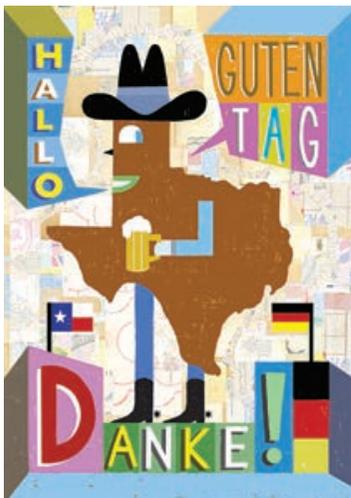
*Auf Wiedersehen* [May 2023] was a bittersweet read. Less than a week earlier, in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, it was reported that upper-level studies in German would no longer be offered at the high school, as only half of the minimum registrants required to offer the classes had signed up. How sad.

The UT project participants certainly have their work cut out for them.

Françoise Wilson  
Central Texas EC  
Gillespie County

I grew up in Fredericksburg hearing Spanish (or Tex-Mex), English and Texas German. Talk about confused. When I moved, someone asked if I was from Fredericksburg. How did you know?, I asked. Your accent.

Julie Ausbrook  
Via Facebook



NOAH WOODS

### In Texas and Beyond

The assertion that if you can learn to surf the sloppy chop in Texas, you can surf just about anywhere is true, as I have been able to surf in California, Mexico, Hawaii and Japan [*Surf Your Turf*, May 2023].

But I must point out that Brad Lomax’s partner in the Texas Surf Museum was Pat Magee (not McGee). If you look at the background in the photo of Brad Lomax, that’s Pat surfing in the blue trunks to Lomax’s right.

Joe Bonorden  
Pedernales EC  
Canyon Lake

### Recalling Kitty Hawk

Although I didn’t serve aboard the Kitty Hawk, I was deployed in its battle group in 1984 while serving aboard the USS Long Beach, and we were there in the Sea of Japan on March 21, 1984, when the collision with the Soviet nuclear submarine occurred [*Breaking Up*, February 2023]. I have a photo of that damaged Soviet sub in my home office. Thank you for the well-deserved remembrance.

Thomas Mueller  
Fayette EC  
Rutersville

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power  
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

**Please include** your electric co-op and town. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Texas Co-op Power

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‘I  
Love  
All  
the  
Love  
Here’



# A treasured Hill Country summer camp fosters community and joy



It was 44 years ago when Dr. Chris Plauche wrote a letter clearing one of her pediatric patients to take part in summer camp. The child wanted to ride a horse that summer.

But Plauche was devastated to learn that her patient was denied entry anyway. So she, along with other doctors and health care professionals, took 32 children with disabilities for a weekend camp experience themselves.

“It was 1979, so it was before the Americans with Disabilities Act and nothing was accessible and it rained all weekend,” Brandon Briery says. “But they pushed wheelchairs through the mud and rode horses and canoed in the rain and had the time of their lives.”

The physicians knew that couldn’t be a one-time experience.

More than four decades later, participants are still having the time of their lives at Camp CAMP—Children’s Association for Maximum Potential—nestled along the Guadalupe River in Center Point. It’s a special kind of summer camp that changes lives. Located on a sprawling property about 55 miles northwest of San Antonio, Camp CAMP is a haven for visitors of all abilities, offering them the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, gain independence and have fun. Last year it served more than 1,400 children and adults with weeklong summer camp sessions, respite weekends for caregivers and family retreats.

## Nobody Is Invisible

It’s a warm cloudless morning, and parents are dropping off their kids for a CAMP weekend. After the COVID tests and medical briefings, each camper is paired with a counselor and assigned a cabin.

Hugs and high-fives abound because many campers and counselors know each other already. One camper-counselor pair plays basketball; others bring out coloring books. Over in the “swing-zebo,” several campers sway in the circle of porch swings, a popular spot for those with autism or other sensory processing disorders for whom swinging is a soothing activity.

Camp CAMP was designed to be fully accessible, with wheelchair ramps, accommodating bathrooms and specialized equipment that allow campers with physical disabilities to fully participate. During the summer, more than 70 counselors, many of whom are college students or recent graduates, receive extensive training to work with the campers. More than 100 health care staff are on-site to administer medications, provide overnight care and ensure the safety of participants. Dedicated volunteers return year after year to help as well.

Gia Barrera, a 16-year-old assistant cabin counselor, started out as one of those volunteers and made the transition to full-time staff last summer. She is sitting with Erin, a camper in her early 20s who is nonverbal but communicates with smiles, vocalizations and touch. Erin rocks back and forth as they eat lunch and plan out the afternoon.

“Camp is for the camper,” Barrera says. “They have complete autonomy over any decision they want to make.” For some, that means no formal activities at all, if that’s what they desire.

One of Barrera’s campers last summer wanted to make friendship bracelets all day. Another camper who loves machines spent hours with her in the laundry room, watching the spin cycle. “Working here gives you a greater understanding of everything,” she says. “It puts a lot of things into perspective for you. I love all the love here.”

CAMP’s mission is simple: to strengthen and inspire individuals with disabilities and those who care for them through recreation education. Campers are 5–55 years old with mild to severe medical conditions, including physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some campers require breathing assistance, others have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism spectrum disorder. But at CAMP, everyone is simply a camper.

OPPOSITE At Camp CAMP in Center Point, campers and counselors bond over activities that include archery, field sports, outdoor cooking and canoeing. ABOVE Savannah, left, and Audrey share a moment on a swing.



Every activity, including swimming and horseback riding, is adaptable to each person's needs so they all can have fun. Crafts, field sports, canoeing, outdoor cooking, an evening dance party and the big swing, which suspends campers in a harness attached to utility poles, offer a variety of adventures.

First up today is archery, where Michael Maffei, assistant camp director, greets campers as they line wooden bleachers. Maffei first attended as a camper back in 2003, so he knows how special the place can be.

He spent his early working life in the private sector but felt something was missing when he rejoined CAMP as an employee. "In the second hour of being in a full-time role here, I helped a young man named Soren shoot a bullseye," Maffei says. "He was so excited he just vibrated like a teakettle that was about to erupt. In that moment, I had more fulfillment and job satisfaction in my second hour at camp than in the four previous years."

Down at the canoe launch, staff members gently place Cassie into a supportive chair cradled by one of her counselors. She is unable to use her limbs and is nonverbal, but it's clear she loves being on the water.

As the boat is launched into the Guadalupe River, a relaxed smile spreads across her face. Two counselors paddle her downstream and back again—a simple journey that most people would take for granted.

"There are so many times out there in the cold, cruel world that the disabled either get overlooked, purposefully left out, unintentionally left out or they're just invisible," says Briery, CAMP's chief program officer. "CAMP isn't about the buildings, it's not even about the activities. It's about building relationships, building community and bringing people together."

FROM LEFT Kristi takes her turn on the big swing. Caleb readies his archery shot with help from Michael Maffei and Samika Iyer.

## Dignity in a Safe Place

For many campers, CAMP is a life-changing experience where they develop a sense of independence. For parents, CAMP provides peace of mind knowing their child is in a safe and supportive environment being cared for by trained professionals. Kristen Reid says sending her son was an easy decision.

"As soon as you drive in and you get out, everyone's so friendly, everyone's so welcoming," Reid says. "They know what they're doing, and they love these children."

At a fall retreat, she got to spend a weekend at Camp CAMP with her whole family. She shared a cabin with Payton, 9; her husband; and 6-year-old daughter.

Reid rode a horse with Payton, who is nonverbal. They share a passion for the animals, and the experience was unforgettable.

"Not only could I see it with his hand movements, I could hear it with the sound that he was making ... I could feel he was shaking with excitement," Reid says. "For me to be there and actually see and feel it for myself was a really, really touching moment for me."

The retreat also connected the Reids to other families with similar needs. "And then you can kind of bounce ideas off each other or sometimes just vent to each other when you're having a bad day and you've spent three hours on the phone with insurance," Reid says.

That community and that belonging are exactly what Briery hopes CAMP provides.

"Some days are super long and hard in different ways, helping to manage what can be challenging behaviors," he says. "It's all worth it in the end because we create this safe space where people are treated with dignity, and they're respected, and they know that they belong." ■



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# SLEEPING GIANTS

HENRY TROST's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases

BY PAM LEBLANC



SIT ON A ROCKING CHAIR on the front porch of the Gage Hotel in Marathon, and time slips away.

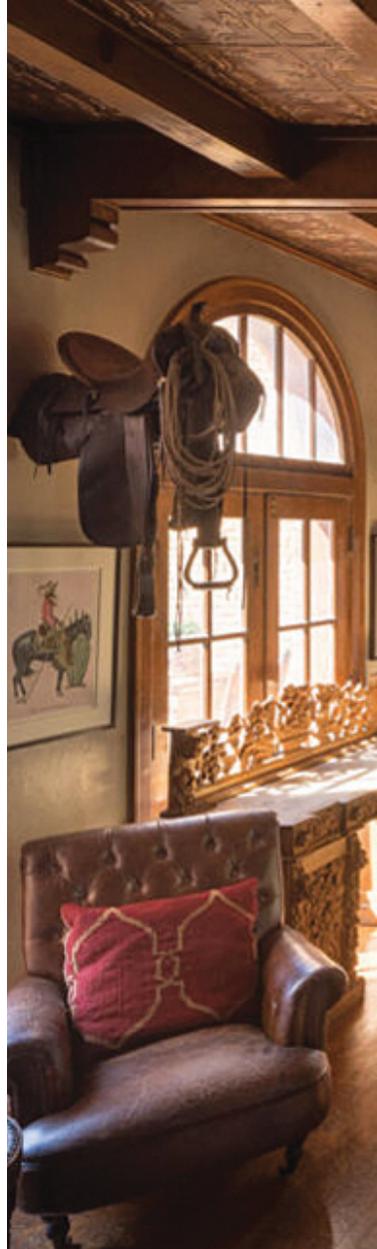
In the lobby behind you, a worn leather saddle hangs from the wall. Across the street, a train rumbles past. In the distance, a gray-green carpet of cactus and brush ripples into the distance like a prickly runway.

The view probably hasn't changed much since architect Henry C. Trost designed this hotel nearly a century ago.

The two-story brick structure, with its arched entryway and wrought-iron door, is just one of hundreds of buildings—fire stations, city halls, high schools, banks and courthouses—that Trost designed across Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

But it's the four hotels scattered throughout far West Texas that many know best. They're full of character, thoroughly Texan and located in a region of the state known for its dramatic landscapes and independent-minded residents. There was almost a fifth hotel here, too—architectural documents found at the El Paso Public Library indicate plans for a hotel in the small town of Valentine, also in the Big Bend.

"I would encourage people to get off the interstate, drive down into town to visit the hotels and take a step back in time," says Margaret Smith, great-niece of Henry Trost and secretary of the board of the Trost Society, which works to preserve the architect's work. "Learn the history that was made in the hotels and the history of the area."



PHOTOS COURTESY GAGE HOTEL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Marathon's Gage Hotel, which opened in 1927, features a grand lobby and rooms that are at once modern and rustic.



Born in 1860, Trost was the son of German immigrants. He moved from Toledo, Ohio, to El Paso in 1903 and co-founded Trost & Trost, an architectural firm, with brother Gustavus (Smith's grandfather). A third brother, Adolphus, a structural engineer, joined later.

The company built its well-appointed West Texas hotels near railroad stations and designed them with spacious lobbies and large dining rooms to accommodate business dealings. Later, the hotels also became popular among families. The firm was also known for its artistic touches and for using reinforced concrete for fireproofing.

"The buildings look like a piece of art and not just a building," Smith says. "That makes them stand out."

---

## GAGE HOTEL Marathon

Trost "was considered *the* architect of the Southwest in those years," says Carol Peterson, general manager. "If you were going to hire the best architect in those days, you would hire Henry Trost if you could."

That's what Alfred S. Gage did. The cattleman, who moved from Vermont to Texas in 1878 to seek his fortune, accumulated more than a half-million acres. He commissioned Trost to build a hotel that could double as a base to oversee his empire.

The hotel opened in 1927, but Gage died just a year later. A series of owners took over after his death, including one who tried to "spruce up" the hotel with dropped ceilings and linoleum floors.

"[Trost] had a very wide-ranging style," Peterson says. "The Gage is a bit more Mission style, as opposed to the Holland and Paisano."

J.P. and Mary Jon Bryan of Houston bought and renovated the Gage in 1978, and they still own it today. In addition to 14 rooms in the original building, with its delightfully creaky wooden floors and ranch décor (including a stuffed mountain lion), guests can book more modern rooms in the Los Portales annex.

"It's really become a very beloved, iconic Texas property," Peterson says. "It's not commercial, it's not cookie cutter. Everything about it has a hand-touched feel."

## HOLLAND HOTEL Alpine

Trost wasn't involved in designing the original Holland Hotel, which opened in 1912. But he designed the "new" larger building, which opened next door in 1928 and was later connected to the first.

Sink into a comfy couch in front of the fireplace in the grand lobby, and you'll see the same arched windows and decorative tiles of some of Trost's other properties.

"The thing that makes the Holland special is the position it occupies in the town of Alpine—not geographically but in people's minds," says Alicia Fernbaugh, who manages the 27-room hotel and lives in what once served as the ballroom. "It's very much the heart of the town."

The building stood vacant in the 1960s and '70s, and for a time in the '80s, part of it was converted into offices. Over time, some of the old furnishings were sold off. Now and then, an old bedframe or chandelier discovered in an attic finds its way back home to the hotel.

The Century Bar and Grill, with its shady patio, is known for its margaritas and chicken-fried steak.

"It's very welcoming and warm," Fernbaugh says. "People feel very at home here."



LESLEY VILLARREAL | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL



MICHAEL HOWARD | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL

FROM ABOVE Holland Hotel décor and the Century Bar and Grill in Alpine.

## HOTEL EL CAPITAN Van Horn

Just two blocks off Interstate 10 in Van Horn, the red neon sign of Hotel El Capitan invites travelers to pull off and enjoy a quiet respite in a mostly forgotten town.

The 50-room hotel, named for the rocky peak at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, an hour away, looks much like it did when it opened in 1930, as part of the Gateway chain of hotels operated by Charles Bassett in El Paso. Back then, ranchers gathered in the lobby to sell cattle, make land deals and sip coffee.

The Pueblo Revival-style concrete structure attracted cross-country travelers and tourists exploring nearby national parks.

The hotel closed in the late 1960s, and a bank took over the space. Then in 2007, Lanna and Joe Duncan of Fort Davis, who also own the Paisano, bought it from the bank.

"Although we are sister properties to the Paisano, and the layout inside is almost identical, the exterior is 100% different," says Starvanna Cottrell, general manager. "El Capitan was made to look more like adobe, although it's concrete. The Paisano's exterior is much more European looking."

A fountain bubbles in the courtyard. In the lobby, colorful tiles, exposed wooden beams and wrought iron banisters add character. A sign salvaged from the old coffee shop hangs opposite the fireplace.

"And you can still get a 5-cent cup of coffee, no matter how you want it," Cottrell says.

COURTESY HOTEL EL CAPITAN



COURTESY HOTEL PAISANO

FROM ABOVE The Hotel Paisano's pool was added in 1960. Outside, an inviting courtyard, and inside, a 5-cent cup of coffee.

## HOTEL PAISANO Marfa

Another hotel in the Gateway chain, the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, also opened in 1930. “Hotels were built different years ago,” says Vicki Barge, general manager. “They were built with more of a sense of community.”

Step inside its lobby and you’ll find ornate tilework hand selected by Trost, leather chairs and a stuffed buffalo head.

Like the Gage, the Paisano had close ties to the cattle industry. When it opened, trains regularly stopped in Marfa to load and unload cattle. Several ranches kept offices at the hotel.

“He wanted his buildings to look like they belonged to the landscape, and he did a great job of that,” Barge says. “They do look like they should be just where they are.”

Many guests know the Paisano for its connection to the 1956 film *Giant*, starring James Dean. Photographs of Dean hang on walls, and the movie plays nonstop in the lobby.

Dean, along with co-stars Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and Dennis Hopper, stayed at the Paisano for about two weeks during filming. Today, guests can book one of the hotel’s 42 rooms or suites and swim in a pool that was added in 1960.

“I find it warm and friendly,” Barge says. “It’s kind of a look back at bygone days but still extremely viable now.” ■



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To art nouveau jewelers at the turn of the last century, nothing was more beautiful than the dragonfly. In the dragonfly's long body and outstretched wings, jewelers found the perfect setting for valuable stones. These jewelers' dragonfly designs have become timeless statements of style; a dragonfly pendant designed by French jeweler René Lalique recently sold at auction for \$226,000. Inspired by his stunning artistry, we've crafted our Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection, an elegant jewelry set for **JUST \$29!**

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This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

**But we don't stop there.** While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the *Huntsman Blade*.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

**Limited Reserves.** A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 *Huntsman Blades* for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

**Huntsman Blade \$249\***

**Offer Code Price Only \$79 + S&P Save \$170**

**1-800-333-2045**

**Your Insider Offer Code: HBK190-01**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price. **Rating of A+**

**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HBK190-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

\*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

**California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.**

• 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade • Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters • Includes genuine leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars  
-a \$99 value-  
with purchase of  
Huntsman Blade



**BONUS!** Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

## What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

★★★★★

*"This knife is beautiful!"*

— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

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

— H., Arvada, CO



**Rating of A+**





CEO  
HERBERT "TREY"  
GREBE III

## Working All Year To Keep the Lights On

**PROVIDING RELIABLE POWER** is and always will be Medina Electric Cooperative's top priority. Power reliability seems to be making news more than ever these days; Medina EC is doing everything in our realm to ensure that when you go to flip that switch, the lights turn on.

As the energy industry continues to change and more sectors of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, more and more strain is being placed on the electric grid.

With the ever-growing need for electricity, I thought it would be a good time to share a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the stable supply of power you depend on and deserve.

Locally, we work to maintain our distribution system for the added growth in population and increased electricity demand. Although it may seem counterintuitive, we maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages to perform system upgrades such as transformer voltage conversions, pole replacements and line improvements. When we plan for this type of work, we notify members who will be impacted. It's important to make sure your account has updated contact information on file so we can inform you prior to planned outages.

Planned forced outages can also be used to balance energy demand but only in rare circumstances, which can happen quickly. We work with our generation and transmission cooperative, South Texas Electric Cooperative, to closely monitor supply and demand on our system and the state grid managed through the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. In May, ERCOT released its summer Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy report, which anticipated sufficient supply to meet the energy demand this summer. However, in the rare extreme risk scenarios with low wind production combined with extreme unplanned thermal generator outages, demand could exceed the dispatchable supply, resulting in an energy emergency for the state.

ERCOT recently released a communications tool that delivers clear and reliable information on ERCOT grid conditions. The Texas Advisory and

Notification System will serve as a resource to the public to follow ERCOT grid conditions, introduce the ERCOT Weather Watch, inform the public on grid condition levels and of any public action needed, and strive to keep all Texans informed through various communications channels. You can learn more and sign up for TXANS at [www.ercot.com/txans](http://www.ercot.com/txans).

Medina EC also has a resource page related to ERCOT notifications at [www.medinaec.org/ercot](http://www.medinaec.org/ercot).

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released a draft of rules for cutting carbon emissions impacting both new and existing coal and natural gas power plants. These rules could place strain on all power grids at state and national levels. These rules could also force critical, always available power plants into early retirement and make new natural gas plants exceedingly difficult to permit, site and build.

As I write this in early June, the Legislature passed House Bill 1500 that addressed many electric market issues but was designed to incentivize generators to build more plants or extend the lives of existing ones. The Legislature also passed Senate Bill 2627, which creates a state-funded low-interest loan program for companies that want to build gas-fueled power plants and pays a bonus for those connected to the grid by 2029.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we are closely monitoring the politics surrounding power reliability. We know maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources is critical to reliably meet the growing demand for electricity with considerations to which fuel sources are the most reliable in our always-on world.

Until next time,  
Trey

# Medina EC Exceeds Members' Expectations

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE completed two surveys to receive an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) score of 88, on a scale of 0-100, for the first and second quarters of 2023. By comparison, cooperative energy utilities on average scored a 76 on the 2023 ACSI Utility Sector Report for the first quarter. Investor-owned and municipal energy utilities both averaged a 74 for the first quarter ACSI results.

Medina EC's ACSI score dipped in 2022, but the most recent score shows a 3-point growth from our lowest score in November 2022.

"We are pleased with our performance's progress," CEO Trey Grebe said. "And we look forward to continuing to meet and exceed our members' expectations and furthering the co-op difference."

The American Customer Satisfaction Index is the only national cross-industry measure of customer satisfaction in the United States. Each year, the ACSI uses data from interviews with roughly 500,000 customers as inputs to an econometric model for analyzing customer satisfaction with more than 400 companies in 40+ industries and 10 economic sectors. ACSI data has proven to be strongly related to several essential indicators of micro- and macroeconomic performance.

Medina EC's ACSI survey quantifies overall member satisfaction, the likelihood of choosing Medina EC, comparison to the ideal utility and meeting our members' expectations. The survey also gathers information on operations, member services and communications, rates and fees, outage response, community support, and more.

The information gathered in the survey is used to help the cooperative identify processes that are working but also helps the co-op learn about areas for improvement. Medina EC would like to thank members who have participated in any of the ACSI surveys. The next ACSI survey is scheduled for August. As always, Medina EC values any feedback at anytime. Please reach out to MyCoop@MedinaEC.org with any comments, concerns or general questions.



TABITAZN: BILLIONPHOTOS.COM | ADOBESTOCK

Medina Electric  
Cooperative



## CONTACT US

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

**Email** Info@MedinaEC.org

**Web** MedinaEC.org - Chat Feature Available

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Voting District 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651

Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

### Voting District 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Kenneth White, (830) 232-6541

### Voting District 3

Annette Sorrells, (361) 231-0173

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

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

## CEO

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

## Call us.

### TOLL-FREE

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

Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

**Bruni** 1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

**Dilley** 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

**Hondo** 237 Highway 173 N., Hondo 78861

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

**Uvalde** 2604 Highway 90 E., Uvalde 78801

**Corporate Office** 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

## VISIT US ONLINE

MedinaEC.org



This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

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

# Team Members Reach Service Milestones

**MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CELEBRATED** several special work anniversaries for employees between January and June.

Medina EC celebrates work anniversaries in five-year increments and honors each employee with an award for their years of service. For each service award, the cooperative donates \$100 to an organization of the employee's choosing. In 2023, Medina EC employees are on track to donate \$3,100 to various local organizations.

Please join us in celebrating these Medina EC employees!



**PAULA POHLER**  
GIS Tech  
Corporate office  
January | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
City Kids Adventures



**PATRICIO GARZA**  
Journeyman  
Rio Grande City office  
January | 20 years

**DONATION TO**  
American Cancer Society



**MARIO LOPEZ**  
Working Foreman  
Bruni office  
January | 15 years

**DONATION TO**  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital



**LAURIE VAN DAMME**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Corporate office  
February | 15 years

**DONATION TO**  
Bluebonnet Children's  
Hospital



**SUSIE ZERR**  
System Operator  
Corporate office  
February | 25 years

**DONATION TO**  
Alzheimer's Association



**EDUARDO CHAPA**  
Engineering Equip. Tech  
Rio Grande City office  
March | 30 years

**DONATION TO**  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital



**JOSUE PEREZ**  
Journeyman  
Bruni office  
March | 10 years

**DONATION TO**  
Laredo Animal  
Protective Society



**JOE STONE**  
Journeyman  
Hondo and Dilley offices  
March | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Pearsall VFD



**EMILY TANKERSLEY**  
General Acct. Supervisor  
Corporate office  
March | 15 years

**DONATION TO**  
Hondo Education  
Foundation



**KATIE HABY**  
Manager of Key Accounts and  
Business Development  
Corporate office  
March | 10 years

**DONATION TO**  
Flights to Forever



**YVETTE GARZA**  
Member Services Rep.  
Rio Grande City office  
April | 10 years

**DONATION TO**  
RGC Happy Paws Rescue  
and Adoptions



**BRIAN BELL**  
Business Development  
Coordinator  
Corporate office  
April | 15 years

**DONATION TO**  
Petunia's Rescued Friends



**SYLVIA RANGEL**  
Member Services Rep.  
Dilley office  
April | 10 years

**DONATION TO**  
Southwest Family  
Life Centers



**CYNTHIA FEW**  
Member Services Rep.  
Dilley office  
May | 35 years

**DONATION TO**  
Operation Round Up



**MELISSA NIETENHOEFER**  
Records and HR Supervisor  
Corporate office  
June | 20 years

**DONATION TO**  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital



**JOE FLORES**  
Journeyman  
Uvalde office  
June | 30 years

**DONATION TO**  
Flights to Forever



**CHRIS GROFF**  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Corporate office  
June | 40 years

**DONATION TO**  
American Cancer Society

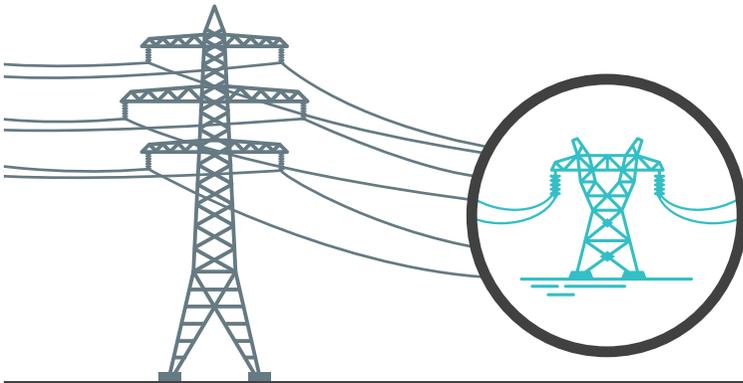


**ALEXANDRA STALLWORTH**  
Member Services Rep.  
Hondo office  
June | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Alzheimer's Association

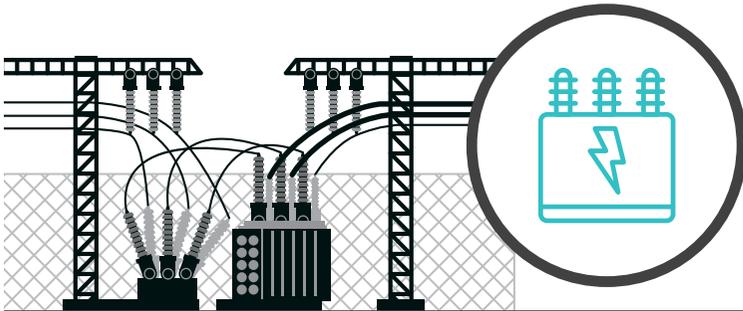
# The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible—until everyone has power.



## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



## 2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



## 3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



## 4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

# Common Causes of Outages

IT IS A UNIVERSAL TRUTH that power outages happen at the least convenient times, like the fourth of July or just before the Yellowstone season finale, but many people don't know the causes of outages.

**Weather.** Weather is one of the most common causes of power outages for our members. From lightning to wind or ice, weather impacts Medina EC's equipment. When the weather involves high winds, lightning or flooding, it can also impact our crew's response times.

**Trees.** An overgrowth of vegetation can cause outages by coming into contact with power lines. Medina EC performs right-of-way work, including cutting brush and trees, within 40 feet of power lines while being respectful of the landscape. With more than 9,000 miles of line, we manage rights-of-way on a rotation basis and address other areas as needed. If you notice trees or branches that might interfere with power lines or pose a serious threat, please call 1-866-632-3532.

**Vehicles.** Car accidents and vehicles colliding with power poles have been known to cause outages, as has farm equipment that comes into contact with power lines. In 2022, 56 of Medina EC's outages were related to motor vehicles.

**Animals.** Due to the rural nature of the cooperative's service area, wildlife and domestic animals cause power outages. These animals range in size from insects and squirrels to deer and cows. Cows like

to use poles and lower hanging wires to scratch, and birds like to perch on lines and poles—all of which could cause an outage if the lines involved are energized or broken as a result. Animals also impact our members in the fall around dove season due to the increase in doves perching on the lines. When a large group of doves fly off the wires, it can cause the wires to jump and hit each other, resulting in blinks. In 2022, 214 of Medina EC's outages were caused by animals.

**Balloons.** While Mylar balloons make parties more festive, when released these balloons can cause big problems for power lines and substations. Not only will these metallic beauties leave you without power, but they have also been known to start large fires. In 2013, Mylar balloons came into contact with a power line, causing a fire in California known as the Deer Fire, which burned more than 11,000 acres. In April, an electric provider in Lubbock had an outage affecting 3,300 customers caused by Mylar balloons. States have also passed laws phasing out Mylar balloons due to excessive outages.

**Planned Maintenance.** Sometimes outages are necessary to upgrade or maintain equipment, such as replacing poles, restringing wire or changing out meters. Depending on the situation, crews sometimes plan a power outage so that the work can be performed in the safest possible environment. In those cases, members are

notified in advance. You can learn more about planned outages and work in Medina EC's service area at [MedinaEC.org/Work-Locations](https://MedinaEC.org/Work-Locations).

**Equipment Failure.** We strive to update our equipment before it can cause outages, but failure does occur with equipment on more than 9,000 miles of line.

No matter the reason, time of day or weather, Medina EC's crews are dedicated to restoring our members' power as fast as possible during all outages.

DILLEY CREW MEMBERS RESPONDING TO AN OUTAGE CAUSED BY A CAR ACCIDENT IN JANUARY.



We hope to see you at our  
**84<sup>TH</sup>**  
Annual Membership Meeting!  
Morning of Saturday, September 23 | Graff 7A Ranch | Hondo  
[MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2023](https://MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2023)  #WellBeeThere



# Meet Medina EC's Interns

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL INTERN DAY on July 27, Medina Electric Cooperative would like to feature our 2023 interns so members can learn more about them and their internship goals for the summer.

Medina EC's internship program started in 2022 in an effort to expose students to electric cooperatives, the utility industry and the benefits of working in smaller, rural communities.

## CADE THAYER

### COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

"I am really looking forward to the dynamic of working on multiple events and projects with a group of individuals. I believe the skill sets that are required for this position are vital for my future career... I hope to progress further with my interpersonal communication skills as well as media communications skills."



Hometown: Mico, TX  
University: Texas Tech

## ALEXANDRA SCHOTT

### ENGINEERING INTERN

"I am really looking forward to exploring a whole different side of Medina EC that I didn't get to see much of last year. While I enjoyed my electric vehicle research from last summer, I feel like this summer I am really getting to know the Medina EC system as a whole and gaining a broader understanding of the actual engineering work done here. Working with the system operators is also something I really look forward to; they are all great people and I find their work particularly interesting. At the end of the day, I am most excited about the contribution I am making to Medina EC this summer. I feel that the work I am doing is important and will go into directly helping the Medina EC system operators and linemen, which makes coming to work exciting."



Hometown: Castroville, TX  
University: Schreiner

Visit our careers page at [MedinaEC.org/Careers](https://MedinaEC.org/Careers) to join our team and learn about future internships.

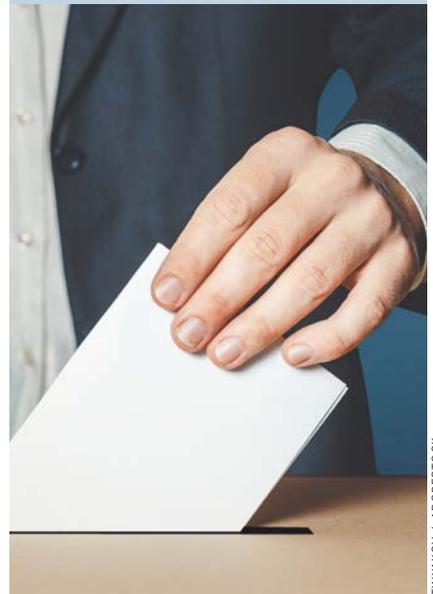
# Assign a Voter Designee for Your Organization

## IF YOUR MEDINA ELECTRIC

Cooperative membership is in the name of an entity instead of an individual, you should have a voter designee on file. The voter designee is the person who is authorized to vote on behalf of the entity, per Section 3.10 of Medina EC's bylaws. The entity must have a completed Voter Designation Form on file, and it must be signed by the owner of the entity. Voter designees will need to be on file by the record date approved by the board of directors when an election takes place.

If you have made any changes to your entity, or you just want to update/change the person chosen as voter designee on your account, complete the form at [MedinaEC.org/Designee](https://MedinaEC.org/Designee) or contact us to get a form.

Contact us at:  
**1-866-632-3532**  
OR  
**Info@MedinaEC.org**



TINAVKOV | ADOBESTOCK



TONY BANDA, AREA LINE FOREMAN IN THE DILLEY OFFICE, DISPLAYS AN ELECTRICAL ARC DURING A SAFETY DEMONSTRATION WITH THE LIVE LINE TRAILER.

JASON SAMARRIPA, LINEMAN IN THE UVALDE OFFICE, IMPRESSES STUDENTS FROM DALTON ELEMENTARY DURING A CAREER DAY PRESENTATION.

## Medina EC Presentations Keeping Our Communities Safe

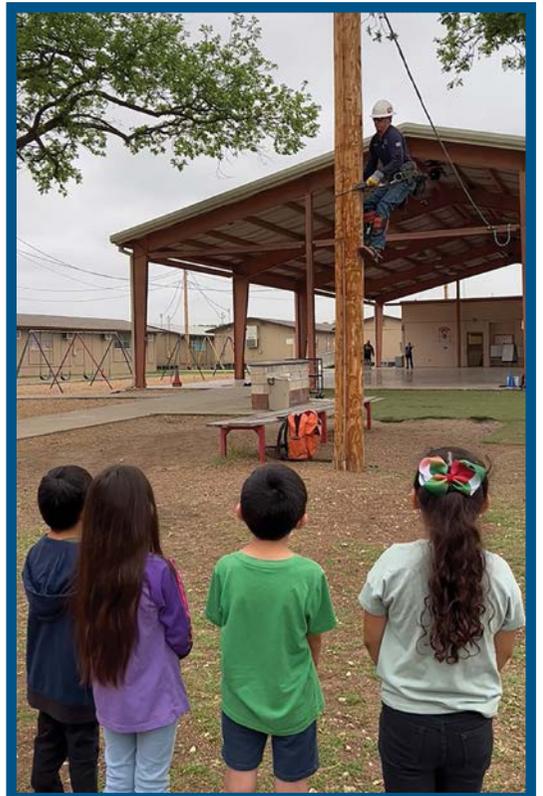
**MEDINA EC KNOWS ELECTRICITY** is both dangerous and fascinating and wants to help keep people safe. To do this, we offer safety presentations for schools, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, members and first responders in our service area.

Our most popular presentation is our high-voltage live line demonstration, in which Medina EC linemen use a smaller version of working power lines and transformers to show the results of various situations. It demonstrates what happens if someone touches a power line with their finger, if a Mylar balloon gets caught on a power line, teaches what to do if you are in a car accident near a power line and much more.

We also have a high-tech safety tabletop display that uses a 3D model to show how to safely use electricity. It gives examples of real-life scenarios including vehicle accidents with power lines, ladders coming into contact with power lines, the dangers of playing near substations and much more.

We offer presentations on energy efficiency, participate in career days and create customized events for specific audiences. We also offer supplemental materials for in-class use.

Learn more about the presentations Medina EC offers at [MedinaEC.org/Presentations](https://www.MedinaEC.org/Presentations), and email [MyCoop@MedinaEC.org](mailto:MyCoop@MedinaEC.org) if you are interested in scheduling a presentation. Shortened video versions of the presentations are also available for teachers to show in their classrooms.



Learn more at

**[MedinaEC.org/  
Presentations](https://www.MedinaEC.org/Presentations)**

# Operation Round Up

If you or someone you know needs financial help, apply for a donation from ORU.\* The remaining 2023 deadlines are August 4 and November 3. Apply at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU).



*\*Applicants must live in one of the 17 counties served by Medina EC. ORU funds cannot be used for electric bills, solar panels, or anything related to the purchase of power.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. As always, crews will be on call.

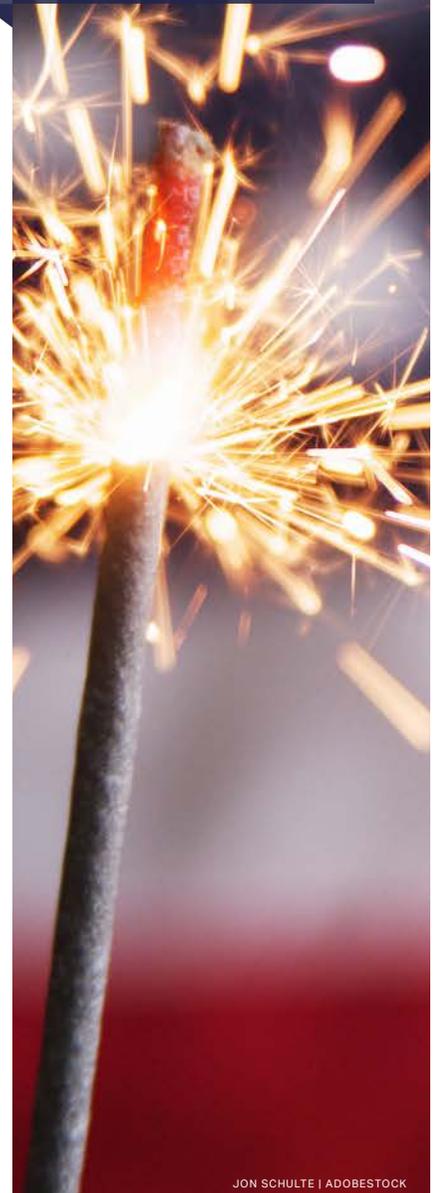
### National Intern Day

Thursday, July 27

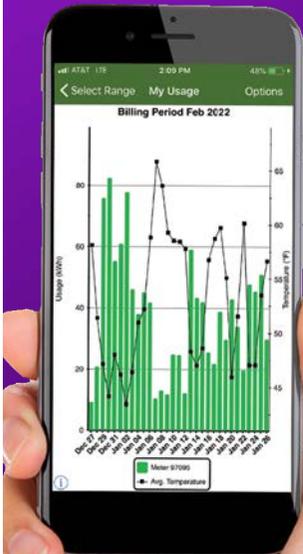
### Operation Round Up Applications Due

Friday, August 4

Learn more about ORU and apply at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU).



Use the SmartHub app to report outages and monitor energy use this summer!



Download the app:



**RIDICULOUSLY**

**GREAT  
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by ANDERSEN**

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

**WINDOWS & DOORS**



**Sale ends July 31**

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every window<sup>1</sup>



**\$727  
OFF**

every door<sup>1</sup>



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additional  
**10%  
OFF**

your ENTIRE  
order<sup>1</sup>

**Pay nothing for a year<sup>2</sup>**



**We have  
appointments  
7 days a week**

Scan to  
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appointment



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512-298-1858**

**West Texas  
432-257-3640**

**San Antonio  
210-961-9990**

**Dallas/Fort Worth  
469-606-5229**



**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

**TopWindowSolution.com**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 7/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 8/10/23. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



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



then swung north of the most traveled roads, bushwhacking his way through mesquite and mottes of trees.

When the Texians put up the white flag, they asked to return to their homes. Woll told them that “if they did not surrender at discretion, they would be exterminated without exception.”

Woll took 62 prisoners, among them several high-value civilians: seven lawyers, a judge, two doctors, a surgeon and prominent business leaders. He told them they would return with him to the border, where they would be released. Instead, they were marched all the way to Mexico’s infamous Perote Prison, where many were held for two years, subjected to hard labor and chains. A few died en route, and some died in captivity.

Woll didn’t occupy San Antonio long. His goal was to be a disruptive force, preventing Texians from feeling secure and also to inhibit migration from the U.S. Woll’s other objective was to determine if there were credible military buildups for a Texas invasion of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Texians sounded the alarm that San Antonio had fallen. Volunteers grabbed their guns and saddled their horses. They gathered in Seguin, pushed on to Salado Creek and tempted Woll to pursue them. Woll took the bait, and the Texians, from the cover of the woods, killed and wounded more than 60 Mexican soldiers while the Texians lost only one. Sadly, on another portion of the creek, three dozen Texians were killed.

Santa Anna had once again underestimated Texas. He wanted to unsettle the new republic with fear and chaos and keep them isolated. Instead, he drove the Texians toward a collective desire to join the U.S., which they did six years later. ■

# Second Sacking

Six years after the Alamo, Mexican troops twice stormed San Antonio

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

**MOST TEXANS BELIEVE** the Battle of San Jacinto settled everything. Once Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna was decisively defeated, he signed a treaty guaranteeing Texas independence. So Mexican troops would never again set foot on Texas soil nor darken our door—right?

Not quite. Just six years after Santa Anna’s Pyrrhic victory at the Alamo, Mexican forces twice tramped to San Antonio. First Gen. Rafael Vásquez showed up with 700 men to a mostly evacuated city in March 1842. They headed back across the Rio Grande after just two days, having set off a panic in Texas.

Then six months later, Santa Anna sent another army to sack San Antonio

and occupy the Alamo. Gen. Adrián Woll led a force of about 1,400 troops who awakened the town with the heart-stopping boom of a cannon blast at dawn, followed by military trumpeters playing reveille. They quickly pacified minor resistance on their way to the central plaza. This was the 19th-century version of shock and awe.

Near the plaza, Texas patriots quickly put up fierce resistance, shooting through rifle loopholes in the walls, but it was fruitless. They were surrounded by a Mexican force of many hundreds.

How did such a large army make it all the way to San Antonio without anybody noticing? Woll, a French mercenary, was quite wily. He crossed the Rio Grande about 20 miles south of Eagle Pass and

# Garden Bounty

Harvest time takes on a new twist with these timely treats

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Why not shake things up with a new seasonal take on sangria? A splash of mezcal over fresh peaches, sugar, lemon juice and mint gives this sangria a Mexican twist. It's a refreshing way to beat the Texas heat.



## Peach Mezcal Sangria

- 1 pound fresh peaches, sliced
- ¼ cup sugar
- 6 fresh mint leaves, finely chopped
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¾ cup mezcal
- 1 bottle white wine (750 milliliters), chilled
- 2 cups sparkling water, chilled
- Fresh mint leaves, for garnish
- Lemon slices, for garnish

**COOK'S TIP** Make it a mocktail by using white grape juice instead of wine and zero-proof mezcal, like that made by Houston-based Cut Above.

1. In a bowl, combine sliced peaches, sugar, chopped mint, lemon juice and mezcal and stir to combine. Refrigerate 1 hour.
2. Add refrigerated fruit and wine to a large pitcher. Stir to combine and top with sparkling water.
3. Serve over ice. Garnish with mint and lemon slices.

SERVES 6

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Fresh Peach Tart.



## Italian Turkey Zucchini Meatballs

LORI BEGGS  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

After a bumper crop of zucchini, Beggs incorporated it into her meatball recipe, knowing her son wasn't a fan and hoping he wouldn't notice. The result: meatballs that are tender, flavorful and taste just like your favorites.

- 1 cup shredded zucchini**
- 1 pound ground turkey**
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- ½ onion, grated with juices**
- ½ cup breadcrumbs**
- 1 egg**
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic**
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning mix**
- ½ teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 2 teaspoons olive oil**

1. Spread shredded zucchini out onto a paper towel. Add another paper towel on top and press to absorb moisture from the zucchini.
2. In a bowl, mix all ingredients except for the olive oil. Form the mixture into meatballs by hand.
3. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs to skillet, brown on all sides and cook through, about 15 minutes.
4. Serve with your favorite pasta and sauce.

SERVES 4

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Fresh Corn Loaf

CATHY TOWER  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

Perfect for brunch or Sunday dinner, Tower's fresh corn loaf is bursting with garden flavors. A hint of cayenne pepper makes the fresh vegetables pop. Serve warm with butter or honey. This loaf is even tastier the next day.

SERVES 8-10

- 2 cups fresh corn kernels**
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes**
- ½ cup chopped onion**
- ¾ cup chopped green bell pepper**
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal**
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese**
- 2 eggs**
- ½ cup evaporated milk**
- ½ cup water**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Apply cooking spray to a 2-quart baking dish.
2. In a bowl, combine corn, tomatoes, onion, bell pepper, cayenne pepper, salt, cornmeal and cheese.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, evaporated milk and water. Add to corn mixture and mix well.
4. Spoon into baking dish. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**SLOW COOKER** DUE JULY 10  
We want your best set-and-forget recipes. Submit yours online by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.



## Candied Jalapeños

JILEEN PLATT  
BOWIE-CASS EC

Platt gifts her East Texas pepper bounty by cooking up candied jalapeños. These tasty gems are delicious on sandwiches, burgers, eggs and tacos. The recipe can easily be doubled.

- ½ pound jalapeño peppers**
- 1 cup sugar**
- ½ cup cider vinegar**
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric**
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger**
- ⅛ teaspoon ground allspice**

1. Prepare a water bath canner or a large pot and heat to boiling, adding half-pint jars and lids to sterilize.
2. Slice jalapeños into ¼-inch round slices.
3. In a saucepan combine sugar, vinegar, turmeric, ginger and allspice. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook until syrup has reduced and thickened.



4. Carefully add jalapeños to warm jars, gently pushing down, filling up to leave ½-inch headspace.
5. Ladle hot syrup over jalapeños, leaving ¼-inch headspace and removing air bubbles. Wipe rims, top with canning lid and screw on bands. Continue until all jalapeños are canned.
6. Return jars to canner and return to a boil. Boil for 10 minutes. Remove jars, allow to cool. Store in a cool, dark place.

**MAKES 4 HALF-PINT JARS**

## Essential Canning Tools

BY MEGAN MYERS

**Canning doesn't have to be complicated, but you'll want to have these basics before you start.**

**Large pot:** You don't need a special water bath canning pot; any pot large enough to hold jars covered with water will do. Make sure to keep jars from touching the bottom of the pot.

**Jar lifter:** These special tongs help you transfer hot jars into and out of the water bath.

**Wooden dowel or chopstick:** Use either of these implements instead of a knife to remove air bubbles to prevent scratching the inside of the jar.

**Fresh canning lids:** Wax seal lids cannot be reused, so be sure to have enough on hand. Rings can be reused until they start to rust.



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## One Weird Wonder

Austin's Cathedral of Junk is an unfolding work of ... art?

BY CHET GARNER

**THEY SAY ONE MAN'S** trash is another man's treasure. If that's true, I was standing atop one of the most valuable treasure heaps in all of Texas. But rather than a pile of gold bullion or Fabergé eggs, this treasure trove consisted of busted TVs, at least one prosthetic leg and about 60 tons of accumulated stuff. It's definitely not the sort of "treasure" that sells at fancy auctions. But for artist Vince Hannemann, this is indeed a priceless work of art.

I was in Hannemann's South Austin backyard, atop his infamous Cathedral of Junk, a 30-foot tower consisting of multiple rooms and countless layers of—for lack of a better word—junk. License plates, wheelchairs and action figures formed into one massive structure that Hannemann started building in the late 1980s using pieces of his own trash.

As it took shape, neighbors started bringing him boxes of refuse that he puzzled and wired into the ever-expanding mass. Over three decades, the pile of trash became something more. It became a cathedral.

As he gave me a tour, Hannemann pointed out some of his favorite items that came with their own mysterious origin stories. One was a dented and burned timecard punch clock. "Did somebody get fired, smash the clock and then set the building on fire?" he wonders.

At first, the cathedral's haphazard form seemed like chaos, but as I walked the grounds, I slowly noticed that every room, wall and panel had a theme. Sometimes the junk was organized by color, other times by its decade of creation. Before long, the junk transformed into a work of art before my eyes. It's a creation too glorious for any gallery and more appropriately exhibited in an Austin backyard. ■

ABOVE Appointments are required to pay homage at the backyard Cathedral of Junk.

**TCP** See more of the clutter that makes Chet's heart flutter in the video on our website. And see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

JULY

01

**Cuero [1–August 26] Black Cowboys: An American Story**, (361) 277-2866, [chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://chisholmtrailmuseum.org)

07

**Kerrville [7–8] Open Pro Rodeo**, (830) 997-1864, [kerrvilletexascvb.com](http://kerrvilletexascvb.com)

08

**Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival**, (817) 596-3801, [parkercountypeachfestival.org](http://parkercountypeachfestival.org)

13

**Fort Stockton [13–15] Water Carnival**, [fswatercarnival.org](http://fswatercarnival.org)

14

**Hempstead [14–15] Watermelon Festival**, (979) 921-5095, [hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com](http://hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com)

**Laredo [14–16] International Sister Cities Festival**, (956) 794-2200, [visitlaredo.com](http://visitlaredo.com)

**Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] The Last Round-up of the Guacamole Queens**, (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

15

**Brownwood Dino Day**, (325) 641-1926, [browncountymuseum.org](http://browncountymuseum.org)

**Burnet 100-Year Boat-a-Thon**, (830) 798-7632, [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)

**Friona Cheeseburger Festival**, (806) 250-2761, [friona-chamber.com](http://friona-chamber.com)

19

**Amarillo [19–22] Iron Horse Shoot Out**, (806) 353-2911, [ironhorseshootout.com](http://ironhorseshootout.com)

21

**Fredericksburg Historic Wrede School Open House**, (830) 685-3321, [historicschools.org](http://historicschools.org)

**Palestine [21-23, 28-30] Matilda the Musical**, [thetexasstheater.com](http://thetexasstheater.com)

28

**Naples [28-29] Watermelon Festival and Rodeo**, (903) 458-0425, [facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch](https://facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch)

29

**Boerne Hot Summer Night Antique Tractor Pull**, (210) 445-1080, [theagricultural.org](http://theagricultural.org)

**Giddings Sip and Shop: Christmas in July**, (979) 542-3455, [giddingstx.com](http://giddingstx.com)

**Kingsville Back to School Festival**, (361) 500-5892, [cbabbq.com](http://cbabbq.com)

**Stephenville Elks Lodge BBQ Cookoff**, (254) 979-5019, [facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq](https://facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq)

## AUGUST

04

**Huntsville [4-5] Genealogy Weekend**, (936) 291-5471, [huntsvillex.gov](http://huntsvillex.gov)

**Olton [4-5] Sandhills Celebration**, (806) 285-2292, [oltonchamber.org](http://oltonchamber.org)

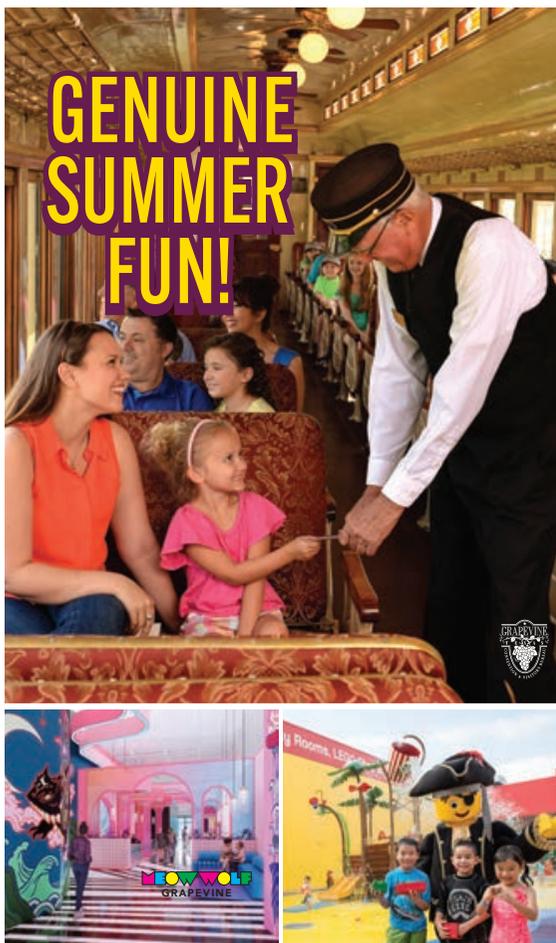
**Kerrville [4-5, 11-13, 18-20] A Murder is Announced**, (830) 896-9393, [caillouxperformingarts.com](http://caillouxperformingarts.com)

05

**Camp Wood Old Settlers Reunion**, (830) 597-6241, [nuecescanyonchamber.org](http://nuecescanyonchamber.org)

### TCP *Submit Your Event*

We pick events for the magazine directly from [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com). Submit your October event by August 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



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# Waterfalls

"Just a winding stream where I can drift and dream  
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 By a waterfall I'm calling you  
 We can share it all beneath a ceiling of blue."  
 —From the song *By a Waterfall* by Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal

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1

**1 RANDY DULL**  
 COSERV  
 Gooseberry Falls in Minnesota.

**2 DEANNE BROWN**  
 PEDERNALES EC  
 "Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park offers hikers a reminder of the power of nature."

**3 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO**  
 BARTLETT EC  
 Rainbow falls.

**4 SABRENA ST. CLERGY**  
 JASPER-NEWTON EC  
 "Colorado Bend State Park—a hidden gem."



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUL 10** Golden Hour
- DUE AUG 10** Mailboxes
- DUE SEP 10** Local Landmarks



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

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



## Honest-to-Goodness Veggies

In the country, a trusted type of commerce still works

BY MIKE LEGGETT  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
ANNA GODEASSI

**FOLKS DO THINGS** differently out in the country, whether it's putting in a garden, processing their own hogs or raising beef to market.

Larry Westphal does a little of everything on his land along County Road 202 in Burnet County. Westphal, 70, has some cows and 200 head of sheep to keep him busy most of the year, but he's taken his garden to a whole new level.

He plants and harvests vegetables and tomatoes in a plot near his house that's about 40 feet square. With his wife, Judy, he picks, eats and cans what he is able to, but he still has a surplus almost every summer.

So Westphal decided to test his entrepreneurial skills and sell some of his annual harvest at local farmers markets. He also built himself a display stand several

years back and sells squash and tomatoes and sometimes peppers to anyone who wants them.

But Westphal doesn't sit by the stand, near the gate to his property. Rather, he hand-letters signs for each vegetable and sells them individually on the honor system.

The money goes into a small box that hangs off the stand, which could present a temptation for some, but this system works for Westphal. "Everybody around here is pretty honest," he says. "Unless it's a cat or one of the neighbor's chickens, I don't lose anything to somebody stealing it."

The little bit of money the stand generates doesn't go very far. "It pays for the seed," says Westphal, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member. "That's about all it does."

Most of his business is local, too. "I think most of it is just our neighbors," Westphal says. "Everybody has been pretty honest. I figure if they're that hungry, they're welcome to it."

When we're driving past during the week, my wife and I debate how we'd eat our squash, if we bought some. I'm a sliced-and-fried guy, but Rana prefers stewed with onions—each the way our mothers made it.

Westphal comes by his gardening and farming instincts naturally. His grandfather, who emigrated to the U.S. from Germany, ran a dairy in Minnesota for years. "My dad left that place as fast as he could," Westphal says, remarking on what a tough business it was.

His maternal grandfather was a sharecropper in Oklahoma, where Westphal spent some of his early days walking along behind a tractor. "I was 4 or 5 years old, and you can't make a living off a place like that anymore."

There's not much money selling surplus vegetables for a dollar apiece either, but there's more satisfaction. And that's why he does it. ■

To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory...

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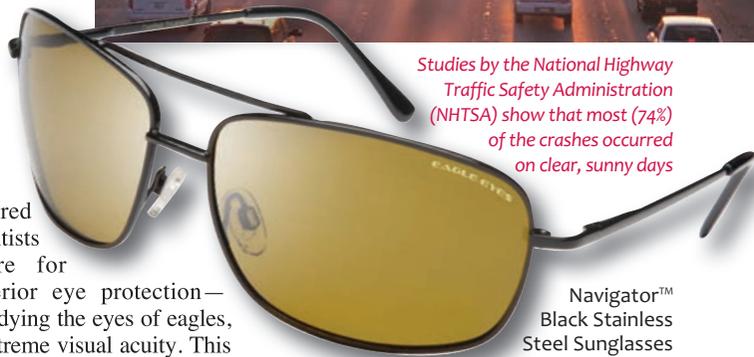
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