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NOVEMBER 2023

Happy Tales

Cowboy poets gather
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and make music



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November 2023



08

'Its Own Sweet Sound'

Cowboy poetry devotees ensure a Western tradition continues to find reverent audiences.

*Story by Jessica Ridge
Photos by Dave Shafer*

ON THE COVER

Burleson singer-songwriter
Kristyn Harris at the Lone Star
Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

ABOVE

An ensemble of artists
performs the finale, a tribute
to Charles Goodnight.

Photos by Dave Shafer

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By Kathleen Cox Richardson

World Renown

WILEY POST, pictured below, famous for his around-the-world flights in the 1930s, was born 125 years ago this month near Grand Saline, east of Dallas.

Post, credited with discovering the jet stream, twice set speed records for circling the globe. The celebrated adventurer, born November 22, 1898, perished with close friend Will Rogers in a plane crash in Alaska in 1935.



Glorious Overtones

Pamela Dawson, choir director at DeSoto High School, south of Dallas, won a Grammy Music Educator Award in February—a lofty honor for a teacher whose students have performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City and have landed on Broadway.

“I am this lady from Detroit, Michigan, who just loves music and wants to impart that into my students,” says Dawson, who began at DeSoto in 2006.



“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.”

—GEORGE BURNS

TCP Contests and More

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FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Why doesn't somebody invent ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our September prompt: **My favorite swimming hole is ...**

As a teen it was Menard Creek, but at 83 it is my bathtub.

PAUL PAGE
JASPER-NEWTON EC
KIRBYVILLE

The creek in my backyard.

RAY WOLBRECHT
PEDERNALES EC
BLANCO

The next one. I have always been a sucker for swimming holes, ever since childhood. They always have a "Huck Finn" feel to me—very nostalgic—so if I see one, and I have shorts nearby, I jump in.

DAVE BOHN
PEDERNALES EC
CANYON LAKE

Balmorea State Park pool—nothing better.

LISA HOLLOWAY FITZSIMMONS
VIA FACEBOOK

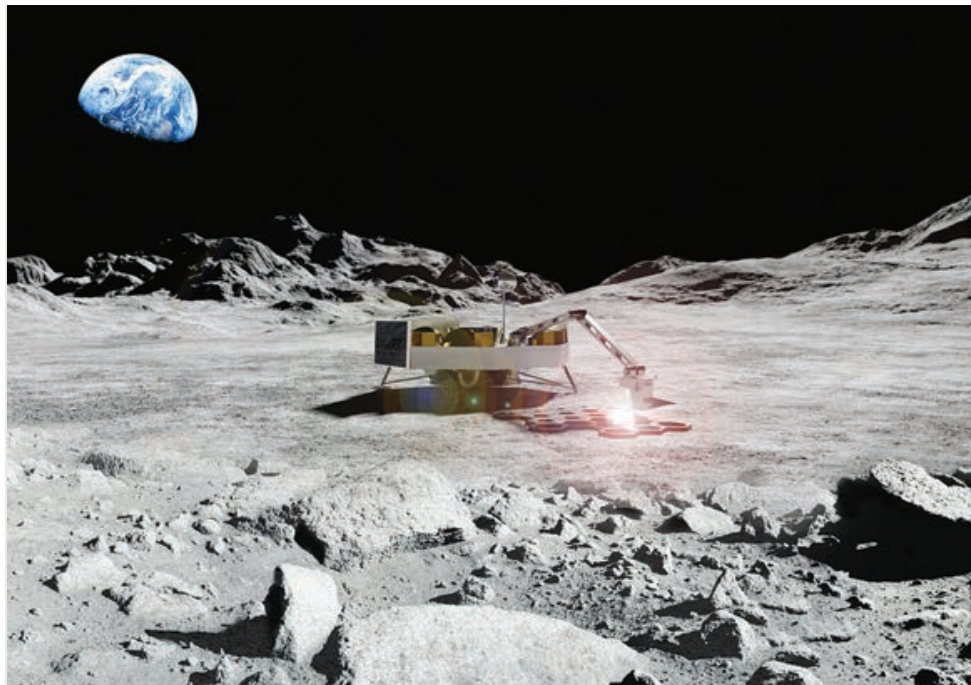
Hamilton Pool.

ALAN ARROWOOD
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.

In Favor of Heat Pumps

Heat pumps are gaining popularity in the U.S, outselling gas furnaces by a wide margin in 2022. They're more energy-efficient, using much less electricity than traditional heating and air conditioning units.



There Goes the Neighborhood

TEXAS' STRONG TIES to the moon are indisputable. After all, the world listened in as Neil Armstrong uttered these words during the Apollo 11 mission July 20, 1969: "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

Now, as NASA prepares to send astronauts back to the moon and establish a long-term presence there, the agency has contracted Austin 3D printing firm Icon to launch construction technologies for lunar landing pads, habitats and roads.

Closer to home, Icon has been creating 3D-printed houses and military barracks using gigantic robotic printers that layer the company's proprietary concrete mix.



ERICH SCHLEGEL

SEPTEMBER 2023 Dance Hall Darlings

“The Triumphs played at our Somerville High School prom, and we went to most of the dance halls mentioned. Brought back many great memories.”

JULIE PAZDRAL FULLER
COSERV
FRISCO

Labyrinth Love

My son built a labyrinth in Denton for his Eagle Scout project in 2006 [*Circles of Life*, August 2023]. It's at First Christian Church, 1203 Fulton St., in the grassy area adjacent to the parking lot.

Betsy Deiterman
Sam Houston EC
Livingston

It was always a good day when the Triumphs came to town.

BRUCE GOODWYN
VIA FACEBOOK

Prize of the Pasture

About the only time my mom would submit to bouncing around the pasture in the pickup with my dad and me on our ranch at Big Lake was when she was on her annual quest for agarita berries [*Make Your Shelf Useful*, August 2023].

We would find the plants here and there and pick off the little berries. When she had enough, Mom would make the most succulent pale red agarita jelly that would complement our breakfast table for months.

Jim McCoy
Southwest Texas EC
Big Lake



WYATT MCGSPADDEN

Massive Mums

I attended San Marcos High School 1968–71. We had Texas-sized mums back then—real mums [*Bigger and Better—Together*, September 2023]. Most had masses of ribbons, buttons, charms and bells attached. It was a big deal to have one.

Paula T. Phillips
Pedernales EC
San Marcos

Literary Great

Lonesome Dove may be the best book I've ever read [*A Page of the Past*, August 2023]. Since I'm 92, I've read a lot of books.

If he had never written anything other than *Lonesome Dove*, Larry McMurtry would still be known among any of the prior great writers.

Jerry Pentecost
Jackson EC
Port Lavaca

WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

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TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 80, Number 5 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. **Co-op members:** Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.

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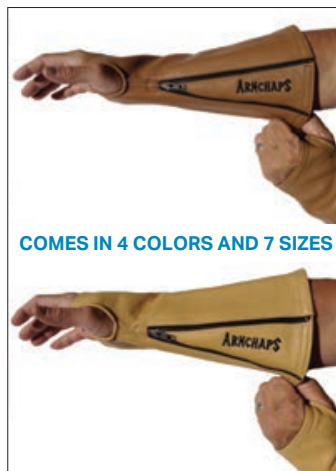
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COWBOY POETRY devotees ensure a Western tradition continues to find rapt audiences

A pint-size poet steps up to a microphone stand that towers over her. It's a February morning in far West Texas as Bethia Baize, 5, recites *The Well-Used Cayuse*, inspired by her horse. Emcee Karen McGuire holds the mic at the kindergartener's height. Bethia speaks softly, from memory, to a rapt audience in a Sul Ross State University lecture hall, her voice and words kicking off a youth poetry contest. When she's finished, the

room thunders with applause, and Bethia claims the first-place plaque for her age group.

For the rest of the session, which is one of dozens at the annual Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, the energy in the room is electric. Parents, grandparents and other supporters fill every seat and line the walls as 16 young poets recite their award-winning works about cattle and coyotes, cowboys and cowgirls, and the rhythms of



Montana brother-sister duo Brigid and Johnny Reedy rehearse before one of their sessions at the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine. Their stirring vocal harmonies left audiences spellbound that weekend in February.

'Its Own Sweet, Sound'

BY JESSICA RIDGE • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

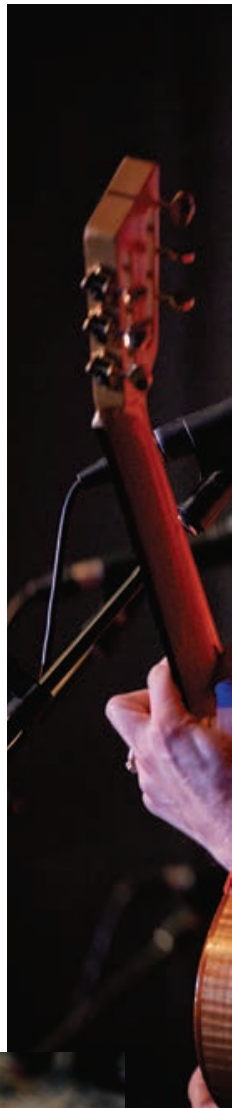
ranch life. The room pulses with pride, love and nerves—like a spelling bee, but giddier and more exuberant.

Bethia's aunt, Elizabeth Baize, a member of the poetry gathering's board of directors, co-hosted the youth poetry contest with McGuire, also a board member. In the weeks before the event, Baize visits area schools to spur students to enter. She encourages them to talk with older relatives who might have ranch life experience and to look at photographs or paintings that might inspire them to write a story in the form of a poem.



“Poetry is a language of the heart. It’s a language of emotion. Prose is language, but poetry is what sears it into our being.”

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
Andy Wilkinson of Lubbock reviews his notes backstage. Kristyn Harris calls the gathering a place for “sharing your art, sharing yourself.” Mornings begin outside with cowboy coffee over a fire.



It’s no mean feat winnowing down the annual crop of entries to the winners. As the judges read the entries, “there are giggles and good belly laughs, tears and sniffles, and ‘Oh my, listen to this!’” McGuire says.

The future of cowboy poetry is in good hands.

McGuire and Baize—and scores of organizers and volunteers—work hard to ensure that future. They helped stage this year’s gathering, which drew north of 2,200 attendees and featured 40-plus performers of cowboy poetry, which encompasses music, spoken-word poetry and storytelling by ranch hands, cowboys and cowgirls and has been enshrined as an oral tradition by Library of Congress folklorists.

In North America, the Texas gathering is second in size only to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, according to Bob Saul, the gathering’s volunteer event producer. This year’s event delivered at least five times as many free performances and sessions as ticketed





ones. That's by design, Saul says.

"We want people to come. Some of the cowboy poetry gatherings have gone to all paid; there's nothing free you can go to," Saul, 79, says. "But our board has decided that we're going to carry on the tradition and the mission, that we will do our best to provide cowboy poetry, as much of it as possible, free of charge.

"In other words, it's for ranching families."

In 2019, Saul was in the audience at the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering (the original iteration of the event in Alpine) when it was announced that that year's gathering would be the last. Saul immediately began canvassing for volunteers to keep the event, or some semblance of it, alive.

"I just started talking to people and asking if they would be willing to help, if we could get it restarted, would they volunteer," Saul says. "And I came back to Fort Worth after two days with 142 email addresses in my pocket."

Over several months, Bob and his wife, Nancy Saul, a graphic designer who creates the gathering's annual programs, made more than a dozen 15-hour round trips

between their North Texas home and Alpine to help the new gathering find its footing. Those pilgrimages were rooted in a deep affinity.

"Poetry is a language of the heart," Saul says. "It's a language of emotion. Prose is language, but poetry is what sears it into our being. And today poetry is mostly academic. You don't hear, like you used to, people going to hear people quote poetry; except when you go hear the fishermen and the miners and the loggers and the cowboys.

"Those kinds of industries, where people are working long hours and they are more alone, they've got time to think. And they've got time to sing. And they've got time to recite to themselves."

That reverence reverberates across the gathering, which takes place the third weekend in February. At sessions with names like Western Harmony, Ranch Women and Working Ranch Families, audiences are focused and present, bearers of a quietude

punctuated only by bursts of applause or laughter. Almost every cellphone is out of sight, every eye on the performers. Those wearing cowboy hats are kindly asked to remove them so as not to obstruct the view for others.

Kay Nowell, co-chair of the gathering, describes the genre as a celebration of a tradition and a way of life. “What cowboy poetry is is real,” she says. “People get taken into rural people’s life, and they get to experience it through their poems and their songs. It’s a culture that adheres to a code.”



The Mellard brothers from outside Marfa found success during the youth poetry contest. From left, Travis and Thomas earned honorable mentions, and Aiden claimed second place in his age group.

Nowell has conformed to that code for decades. She was a featured poet at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 1989, which led to an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, where she recited her poem *A What?!!!*

A chuck wagon breakfast kicks off each day of the Alpine gathering. This year temperatures stay below freezing as Alpine Lions Club members serve scrambled eggs and biscuits and gravy in the peaceful Poet’s Grove at Kokernot Park. Cups of coffee skate across iced-over tables as the sun crests a hill, and a blazing firepit and easy conversation counter the chill.

The spirit of camaraderie and mindful attention extends to the gathering’s open mic sessions, another free daily offering open to the public. Musicians and spoken-word performers sign up in advance, wait for their names to be called and then amble down to speak, sing or play their piece. Jan Hartman is up first Friday and plays *Amazing Grace* and taps on her fife.

The instrument “has its own sweet sound, I think,” Hartman says. “It has more of a country sound than an orchestra sound.” Hartman, who lives in Alpine and has participated in the open mic for the past five years, says she still gets nervous before she plays. It’s worth it, though.

“It makes you stand out a little bit, just to be able to play before some people, and be able to tell a testimony or a story or, there again, a poem that you’ve heard,” Hartman says. “So it just makes you feel a little special.”

One of the musicians Hartman most looks forward to each year is Kristyn Harris, who first appeared at the gathering’s open mic more than a decade ago. The singer and yodeler, songwriter, swing rhythm guitarist, and winner of multiple International Western Music Association awards performed in several sessions at this year’s event.

“The audiences here are really here to soak it up, and you really connect with them,” says Harris, a Burleson resident and member of United Cooperative Services, an electric cooperative in the Metroplex. “Rather than just performing for people, it’s like sharing your art, sharing yourself

PLAN FOR
Poetry

The next Lone Star
Cowboy Poetry
Gathering is set
for February 15–17,
2024, in Alpine.



Nevada rancher Waddie Mitchell has been a performing poet for decades.

of Juni Fisher's spare, moving rendition of Simon and Garfunkel's folk classic *The Boxer*. The talent on display is dizzying, the audience enraptured, and the trio onstage—with poet Amy Hale emceeding—exude a sisterhood in their banter and backing of each other.

"I've played festivals that are *festivals*, and then the gathering is different," Harris says. "There are performers here that I really look up to, that I could see as celebrities, but here no one is a big celebrity."

Loren Schooley, a musician from Marfa who works in information technology and performs at Friday's open mic, echoes that sentiment. "Usually you go to a gig, and then you see the band or two, and then that's it," Schooley says. "But here it's almost like a conference. You never know what you're going to step into if you go into some of these rooms. And when you find the sweet spot—I've shed more tears here and laughter. You just can't get that anywhere else."

The gathering's performers are similarly compelled. "The best way I can describe it is it's family," Harris says.

and sharing your history."

In a Saturday afternoon show, Harris covers the jazz standard *All of Me* in a Western Swing style on the heels

"There's a big, big, big Texas spirit about this gathering that's also different from some other poetry gatherings that are in other parts of the country. Everyone is just so Texan: friendly, wants to give you a big hug and just gives you that warm feeling."

The sweet spots and Texas spirit alchemize into what Nowell calls magic sessions. "They're intoxicating," she says. "A lot of times when I've been in one you just throw away your setlist and feed off the last guy's stuff. And it's all one piece. A lot's going on up there on that stage, and the audience feels it, and they're taken along on the ride. But the performers are having a blast."

Community investment helps sustain that improvisation. "Volunteers are critical to this," Nowell says. "We can't put this on without support from members and support from sponsors."

Tradition and fortitude are woven into the gathering's rough-hewn fabric. "The Lone Star is bound and determined to keep it cowboy," Nowell says. "Weather, government, markets; it's a hard life. But it's something people want to raise their children in." ■

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HERBERT "TREY"
GREBE III

Exercising Your Right to Vote

AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we know the importance of democratic control and exercising your right to vote. On election day this year—November 7—there are many constitutional amendments proposed that will impact Texans and, more specifically, members of Medina Electric Cooperative.

Medina EC is urging members to vote in favor of Proposition 7 which is “the constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

As Texas electric consumer demand grows, readily dispatchable generation—primarily natural gas fired power plants—is not growing, which is resulting in an undersupply of reliable, dispatchable generation to power the Texas population and economy. Although renewable resources like solar and wind provide a supplemental amount of energy to aid in our power resources, they cannot be relied on when the sun does not shine or when the wind does not blow.

Overall, Texas’ generation fleet is aging with approximately 72% of the fleet surpassing 20 years in age and nearly 30% of the fleet surpassing 40 years in age. There is an expected useful life for a power plant—generally 30 years—and therefore we can expect retirements of these power plants in the coming years. In addition, dispatchable generation investment has slowed significantly over the last 20 years for a variety of reasons; all of which have led to lower wholesale market prices that have not provided the necessary incentive for new dispatchable generation to be built in Texas.

Fortunately, our state leaders have recognized the need to build more electric generation facilities to meet the growing demand. The Texas legislature passed, and the governor signed Senate Bill 2627 earlier this year, which provides additional economic incentives for new dispatchable generation that is built in the power grid region for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Those incentives include low interest loans to build new generation facilities, but also includes a completion bonus to those generators that can quickly complete construction by 2029.

Texas will continue to grow—not only are we seeing it across the state, but it is happening right here in the 17 counties served by Medina EC. We also see the importance of having more reliable dispatchable generation built to meet the growing demand, but incentives and programs must be created to encourage and promote quick development of these power plants.

In order to create the programs necessary to incentivize these power plants to be built, Texas voters must vote FOR Proposition 7 to amend the Texas Constitution to authorize the creation of the Texas energy fund.

We’ll see you at the polls on November 7.

Until next time,
Trey Grebe



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Don't Let a Full House Send Energy Bills Through the Roof

PREPARING A THANKSGIVING feast means you'll be using more energy than usual. Here's how to keep it under control:

Lower the thermostat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.

Consider alternative versions of your Thanksgiving favorites for a fresh, healthy spin on tradition that doesn't require as much energy to cook. A bean salad could replace green bean casserole. Try a green salad with dried cranberries and feta cheese. Smoke or fry a turkey outside instead of in the oven. Or make mashed potatoes in the slow cooker or electric pressure cooker instead of on the stove. Fresh fruit for dessert could replace apple pie and provide a refreshing, light option.

Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are snugly closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.

Wait until leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.

Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. The lids keep heat in, so food cooks quicker.

Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or in the oven. Microwaves use about half as much energy as your oven.

Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.

Resist the temptation to open the oven door and peek at dinner's progress. Every time you open the oven door, the appliance loses heat and sets back the cooking time.

Don't buy a bigger turkey than you need. A smaller turkey takes less time to cook. If you're roasting your turkey for several hours, then it isn't necessary to preheat the oven. Just make sure the meat reaches an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees.

Medina Electric Cooperative



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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

Joe Foley, (830) 261-1304

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

1-866-632-3532

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.

ERCOT and Load Shedding

THE ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF TEXAS is responsible for monitoring the majority of the state's power grid and ensuring there is adequate power supply to meet consumer demand. In the event of an energy emergency, ERCOT may issue conservation alerts. Declaring an emergency allows the grid operator to take advantage of additional resources. Alerts help consumers, including Medina Electric Cooperative members, know that conservation is needed. If grid conditions continue to worsen, the grid operator can implement forced outages (load shed) across the state.

Critical Care Accounts and Life Support Registry

If someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, sign up for Medina EC's Life Support Registry online at MedinaEC.org/Registry. A physician's directive prescription is required. Please note, Medina EC's Life Support Registry does not guarantee there will be no power interruptions. Power outages happen for many reasons that may be out of the cooperative's control. It is recommended for members on the Life Support Registry to ensure they have an alternative power source or a backup plan in the event of prolonged outages.

If you believe your account meets the requirements for nonresidential critical load status (critical load public safety, critical load industrial or critical load natural gas supply) please email us at BusinessDevelopment@MedinaEC.org.

Notifications

As always, Medina EC will monitor ERCOT grid conditions and conservation requests or energy emergencies. If emergency requests that involve forced outages for consumers are made by ERCOT, Medina EC will comply with those as required and will send notifications as quickly as humanly possible. Please ensure the contact information on your account is correct. You can do that through SmartHub or by calling us at 1-866-632-3532.

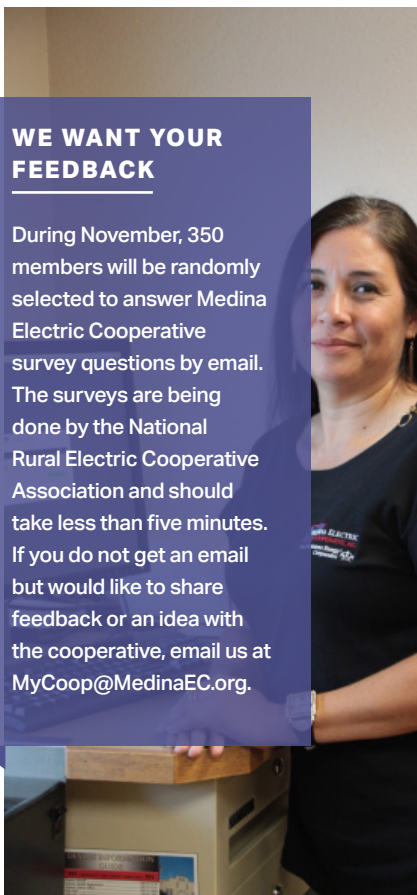
You are encouraged to sign up to receive push notifications directly from ERCOT. You can do this by downloading the ERCOT app and enabling push notifications for alerts. In addition, ERCOT has established the Texas Advisory Notification System to provide early notifications ahead of periods of higher demand. Learn more about that at ERCOT.com/TXANS.

Medina EC also has a resource page for ERCOT, load shed events, notifications and what to do during an event at MedinaEC.org/ERCOT.

Please know that our staff is always working hard behind the scenes; we know members expect the lights to come on when they flip the switch, and our staff wants the same. We will always do our best to restore power as quickly as safely possible.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

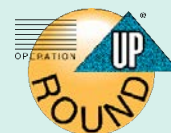
During November, 350 members will be randomly selected to answer Medina Electric Cooperative survey questions by email. The surveys are being done by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and should take less than five minutes. If you do not get an email but would like to share feedback or an idea with the cooperative, email us at MyCoop@MedinaEC.org.



Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up is funded by Medina Electric Cooperative members who choose to round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar.

If you or someone you know needs financial help, apply for a donation from ORU. Applicants do not need to be Medina EC members but must live in one of the 17 counties served by Medina EC. ORU funds cannot be used to pay electric bills, solar panels or anything related to electricity. The 2024 application deadlines are February 2, May 3, August 2 and November 1.



**Learn more and apply at
MedinaEC.org/ORU.**

Medina EC Sharing Success Program Announces Donations

THROUGH COBANK'S SHARING SUCCESS PROGRAM, Medina Electric Cooperative was able to award \$19,999 to three local organizations and support an international program.

Half of that was a donation from Medina EC, and the other half was from CoBank, one of the cooperative's financial partners. In the 12 years the cooperative has participated in Sharing Success, \$144,949 has been distributed to organizations across our area. This year's donations helped organizations focused on helping families and children in our area.

Kinetic Kids Inc. (Castroville) | \$3,333

Kinetic Kids Inc. of Castroville received \$3,333. Kinetic Kids is a new child-based organization that will use the donation to support adaptive sports, fine arts and education programs for special needs children and their families.

Restoring Hope Family Resource Center (Pearsall) | \$3,333

Restoring Hope Family Resource Center received \$3,333. The donation will go towards the organization's goal of providing resources and assistance to those experiencing issues related to unplanned pregnancy, crisis pregnancy, sexual abuse/assault, miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion trauma.

Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo and Starr Counties | \$3,333

The Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo and Starr Counties received \$3,333. The donation will help support the center that focus on victims of child abuse and their non-offending family members. These programs include forensic interviews, providing therapy to the children and families, victim family services, and sexual assault exams.

NRECA International | \$10,000

NRECA International received \$10,000 to support local efforts to power rural Guatemala. Learn more about NRECA International and the two Medina EC linemen being sent abroad on Page 20.



2023 COBANK SHARING SUCCESS RECIPIENTS. PHOTOS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: KINETIC KIDS, RESTORING HOPE, AND CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO AND STARR COUNTIES.

Team Members Reach Important Milestones

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CELEBRATED several special work anniversaries for employees between July and September.

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 also 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!



ISAAC SOLIS
Line Designer
Corporate office
July | 5 years

DONATION TO
St. Jude



PAMELA MCFADIN
Consumer Acct. Assistant
Corporate office
July | 5 years

DONATION TO
D'Hanis Lions Club



SCOTT SCHULTE
Area Line Foreman
Hondo office
August | 30 years

DONATION TO
D'Hanis VFD



NORBERTO SALAZAR
Manager of Northern
Region Operations
Dilley office
August | 30 years

DONATION TO
Dilley VFD

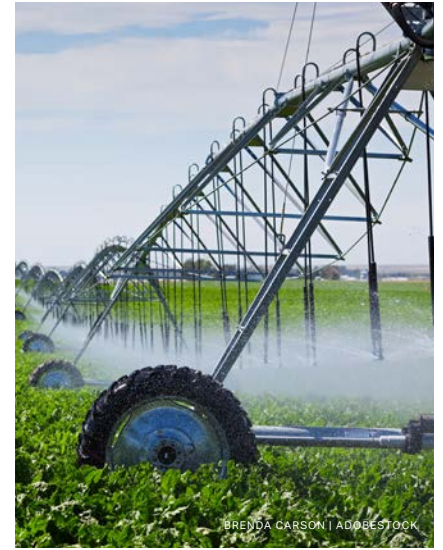


DARRELL RITCHIE
Master Electrician
Corporate office
September | 5 years

DONATION TO
Semper Fi & America's Fund



FROM LEFT: MEDINA EC JOURNEYMEN DAVID HERNANDEZ AND EDWARD VARNADOR WITH CEO TREY GREBE AT AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR NRECA INTERNATIONAL TRIP.



Wired for Good

Local linemen leave for journey in Guatemala

THIS MONTH, TWO MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LINEMEN will join other linemen representing cooperatives and communities across Texas to electrify the village of Matasanos, Zacapa, in the Republic of Guatemala. In this mountainous area, villagers still live heavily following traditional Mayan practices—without electricity. This means that cooking is done by wood fire, schoolwork is completed by candlelight and many modern conveniences that rely on electricity are nonexistent.

This project is coordinated through NRECA International, which has helped developing countries access safe, reliable and affordable electricity for over 60 years. NRECA International has taken the same cooperative approach for low-cost rural electrification to developing countries that still, in 2023, live without the benefit and convenience of electricity.

The success of NRECA International projects relies on the U.S. electric cooperatives and other organizations that support its efforts to foster economic development in these developing countries with monetary donations as well as boots on the ground to donate time and materials.

Cooperative Principle No. 6 is Cooperation Among Cooperatives—which is why 20 linemen from other regional cooperatives agreed to partner for this project to empower a rural village in the same way many of our cooperatives began more than 80 years ago. Representing Medina EC are Dilley linemen Edward Varnador and David Hernandez. They will take their knowledge and experience as a lineman to assist in building enough powerlines spanning across approximately 85 power poles with four transformers. This effort is expected to support 55–65 huts or homes with four bulbs to light up the home and four outlets to provide additional power opportunities.

This project is supported by 10 cooperatives, including Medina EC; many business partners such as CoBank, Schneider Engineering, LineTec, Texas Electric Cooperatives and many more sponsors raising more than \$250,000 to financially support this project.

“I’m proud of our linemen, Edward and David, for agreeing to travel internationally to a rural village to help the community grow and thrive,” said Trey Grebe, Medina EC CEO. “I acknowledge that it’s a personal sacrifice of them and their family to be away, embark on conditions that are unfamiliar, and face new challenges in a different culture. However, the opportunity to support this village is going to make a real difference in the lives of the local people helping them reach the first steps to improving their standard of living for generations to come.”

The opportunities that come after the village is electrified will include positive economic impact, increase in work production, growth in local businesses, making life easier, and increasing educational opportunities and health benefits. The experience the linemen will have will be more than just the poles and wires; it’ll be about the people and community.

RENEWAL REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURAL SALES TAX EXEMPTION

If you are claiming a sales tax exemption on electricity used in the production of agricultural goods, you must renew your exemption by December 31 through the office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

All members for whom Medina Electric Cooperative have or should have an exemption form on file received an email or letter requesting an updated certificate. If we do not receive it, the co-op will be required to charge sales tax beginning in January.

How to Renew Exemption Certificates

You can renew your exemption certificate online or by mail using the form that you get from the cooperative through email or mail.

One certificate is required for each customer number.

You can submit your new exemption form by:

Email: Info@MedinaEC.org

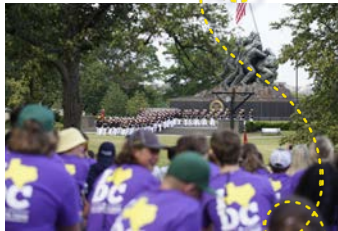
Mail: Medina Electric Cooperative
Attn: Ag Exemption Renewal
PO Box 370
Hondo, TX 78861

In Person: At any one of our offices.

You can find more information at Comptroller.Texas.gov/Taxes/Ag-Timber.



Would your teen enjoy a **FREE** trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2024? The Government-in-Action Youth Tour may be for them. **Apply now!**



Deadline to apply is January 5.

BONUS: Winners will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship!

Scan here to apply and learn more!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Operation Round Up Applications Due
Friday, November 3
Learn more and apply at MedinaEC.org/ORU.

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 5
Set clocks back one hour.

Election Day
Tuesday, November 7

Veterans Day
Saturday, November 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 23
Our office will be closed November 23–24 for the holiday. As always, crews will be on call.

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TOYS DUE DECEMBER 8



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Medina EC 84th Annual Meeting Draws a Buzz



HUNDREDS OF MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS and their guests made a beeline for Graff 7A Ranch in Hondo on Saturday, September 23, for the co-op's 84th annual meeting. Friends, family and neighbors caught up beside the venue's colorful field of blooming zinnias and inside its big red barn, some showing up hours before the business meeting's 9 a.m. start for a free breakfast and information booths and activities run by the co-op's employees.

The honeybee-themed event (with locally produced honey as part of the member attendance gift) showed that co-ops like Medina EC depend on the input and participation of their many members just like hives and their bees.

"Democratic Member Control and member involvement is so important to Medina," board President Kenneth White said. "We appreciate you spending the morning with us."

The three board members whose terms were set to expire in 2023 faced no challengers, and so Larry Huesser, Voting District 1; Jimmie Raines, Voting District 2; and R.H. Rodriguez, Voting District 3, each were reelected in the board meeting in April. But there was still plenty of news to share at the annual meeting.

CEO Trey Grebe said Medina EC is making upgrades to adapt to continuing growth, especially in Medina County; continually monitoring news out of Austin and Washington, D.C., as it relates to grid reliability and affordability; and planning for the future.

"A lot has changed since the cooperative was founded in November 1938, but the commitment to members has not," he said. "Even in my more than 35 years of service in the electric industry, I've seen a lot of change. I'm happy to be a part of a team that embraces opportunities when they make sense for our cooperative."

One change came from the board, which this year adopted a new vision statement for the co-op: "Medina Electric Cooperative strives to be the provider of energy services that are safe, reliable and equitably priced to enhance the lives of our members."

"While the vision statement might be new, the objective of it is not," White said. "We have just put into writing what we've sought to do for the past 84 years, and I'm confident that Medina Electric will continue to do just that."

In a prerecorded video, Leonard Geyer, the co-op's chief operations division officer, reported that Medina EC is on track to add 700 meters in 2023 to its system of more than 36,000 meters spread across 17 counties. The co-op completed 11 voltage conversions in 2022 and 2023, increasing the capacity of power lines, and earlier this year moved into a newly constructed hardened system operations facility in Hondo.



Shirley Holzhaus celebrated winning the \$1,000 grand prize.



2023 Youth Tour students Breanna Slaughter and Abby Arnett answered member questions about the trip.



Geyer Honey Bees, one of the gift vendors of this year, answered member questions.



Safety coordinator Derly Carrizales and Medina EC linemen taught members about electrical safety during a live line safety demonstration after the meeting.



Members approved the minutes from the 83rd Annual Membership Meeting and enjoyed Medina EC's Year-in-Review video.



Board President Kenneth White spoke to members about upcoming legislation and the importance of voting.

The next stage of reliability upgrades will bring communications capabilities to more than 750 devices on the co-op's 10,000 miles of lines to detect faults, abnormalities or deviations from the operating conditions and improve outage restoration times and communications.

"When a fault occurs, such as a power outage or equipment malfunction, the system can quickly pinpoint the affected area, isolate the problem and provide diagnostic information to aid in troubleshooting or repairs," said Keith Calle, chief engineering division officer.

Just as the co-op keeps its power lines buzzing, it remains committed to keeping its communities humming, as it always has. The co-op gave \$89,000 to a variety of local groups and causes in 2022; awarded \$25,000 in college scholarships; and sent three local students to Washington, D.C., on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

"The Youth Tour trip meant a lot to me," attendee Abby Arnett said. "It was a great opportunity, definitely a trip of a lifetime. We got to make many new friendships and many new memories."

At the end of the meeting, dozens of prizes, including a \$1,000 grand prize were distributed to attendees. But in this co-op hive, each member reaps the reward of co-op membership. Laurie Van Damme, chief financial officer, reported that the co-op recorded \$3.9 million in margins in 2022, all of which was allocated to members' accounts as capital credits.

As the morning's handouts and video said: "We'll bee there."

"Cooperatives are better when members take an active role in them," Grebe said, "and you have done that by attending or logging on this morning, so thank you."



Medina Valley's AFJROTC Color Guard members presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem.



CEO Trey Grebe welcomed members to the meeting.



Scan this QR code to watch Medina EC's year-in-review video and learn more about the happenings of the co-op in the past year!

27
DAYS OF



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Appraising the Texas Landscape

When Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York's Central Park, first laid eyes on a new state

BY W. F. STRONG

SOME SAY TIME TRAVEL will be possible one day, and some say it's the stuff of fairy tales.

For now, books are the next best thing. They can help us understand how people lived, thought and talked long ago, especially when they're written for the express purpose of cataloging such things.

Frederick Law Olmsted did exactly that when he toured Texas in the 1850s.

With his brother, he traveled a couple thousand miles around Texas on horseback, chronicling his experiences for the *New-York Daily Times*, a predecessor of

The New York Times. His book, *A Journey Through Texas: Or a Saddle-Trip on the Southwestern Frontier*, is an absolute treasure—a priceless, time-sensitive ethnography that includes observations about and objections to slavery.

And it's more than a snapshot. It's an intricate mural of Texas around a decade after it became a state and as the U.S. headed toward civil war.

Many know Olmsted as the father of American landscape architecture. He designed New York's Central Park, the U.S. Capitol grounds and some 100 parks

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



and recreation grounds.

But before all that, Olmsted arrived in Nacogdoches in December 1853 and then meandered the state. He explored the Piney Woods, Hill Country, coastal plains, Southwest Texas and even some of northern Mexico.

When he arrived in Austin, population 3,000 back then, Olmsted found his hotel dirty and the food inedible. He was also dismayed that there was not one bookstore in town.

But he loved New Braunfels. The German communities and natural magnificence of the lands along the Guadalupe River were so impressive to Olmsted that he almost stayed. He was enchanted by the springtime wildflowers in the Hill Country, and he affirmed the German saying that “the sky is nearer in Texas.”

Riding out west to Eagle Pass, Olmsted killed an enormous 5½-foot rattlesnake. Olmsted worried in the daytime that his horse would get bitten, and at night he worried that a rattler would snuggle up with him in his bedroll. He also saw his first horny toads and so loved the little creatures that he shipped some back home to New York to be kept as pets.

In San Antonio he fell in love with the river. “We are so struck by its beauty,” he wrote. “It is of a rich blue and pure as crystal, flowing rapidly but noiselessly over pebbles and between reedy banks.”

But Texas was still the Wild West, and gunfights were common in the plaza. “As the actors are under ... excitement, their aim is not apt to be of the most careful and sure, consequently, it is, not seldom, the passers-by who suffer,” he wrote.

Maybe time travel is best done at the library after all. ■

Holiday Desserts

Fruity flavors rise to the occasion during the season of sharing

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

This delicious cake makes for a sweet ending to a holiday meal. Cranberry sauce baked into a vanilla-scented batter balances tart and sweet flavors to please palates that like a bit of both.

Cranberry Cake

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
¾ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter,
room temperature
1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups flour
1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
(14 ounces)
¼ cup powdered sugar
1 cup cranberry jam, optional

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Liberally coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar for 5 minutes, until eggs have increased in volume.

3. Add butter and vanilla and continue beating for an additional 2 minutes. Beat in milk and salt.

4. Stir in flour and then fold in cranberry sauce. Spoon into baking pan.

5. Bake 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

6. Let cool, slice and serve dusted with powdered sugar. Top with cranberry jam, if desired.

SERVES 12

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Cranberry Punch.





Mini Cherry Muffins

ANN BASHARA
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Mini muffins sweetened with maraschino cherries are the tastiest little holiday bites. Bashara's mother made these tiny treats every year for Christmas parties, and they soon became a family tradition.

4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter, room temperature, plus 2 tablespoons for buttering muffin pans

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup sugar

2 eggs, separated

1 cup flour

¼ teaspoon baking powder

1 jar maraschino cherries (10 ounces), drained, juice reserved

½ cup finely chopped pecans

1 cup powdered sugar, for dusting muffins

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease mini muffin pans with butter.
2. In a medium bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and creamy. Slightly beat egg yolks and add to mixture along with flour, baking powder and 3 tablespoons of reserved cherry juice and blend.
3. Beat egg whites until light and fluffy. Gently fold into batter.
4. Sprinkle ¼ teaspoon of pecans into the bottom of each muffin tin. Spoon 1 teaspoon of batter over pecans, then place one cherry in center of batter. Top with an additional teaspoon of batter to cover cherries.
5. Bake 10–12 minutes.
6. Dust with powdered sugar and serve warm.

MAKES 3 DOZEN

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

Mom's Pear Cake

GINGER CLARDY
BANDERA EC



A quick and easy Bundt cake is the perfect dessert for the holiday table or feeding a breakfast crowd. Clardy's creation is studded with pears, cinnamon and pecans and drizzled with a sweet glaze.

SERVES 12

CAKE

3 eggs

2 cups sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 cup vegetable oil

3 cups flour

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

1 cup chopped pecans

4 cups diced pears, plus ½ cup for garnish, if desired

GLAZE

2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter

2 cups powdered sugar

2 tablespoons milk

1. CAKE Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Liberally coat a Bundt pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, vanilla and vegetable oil until smooth.
3. Stir in flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon. Batter will be thick.
4. Fold in pecans and pears.
5. Spoon batter into Bundt pan. Bake 40–50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
6. GLAZE Melt butter over low heat. Add powdered sugar and milk, whisk until smooth. Drizzle over warm cake. Garnish with diced pears, if desired.

\$500 Recipe Contest

PERFECT POTLUCK DUE NOVEMBER 10

Everybody looks forward to your contribution. Share your potluck specialty and you might win \$500. Submit your favorite online by November 10.





Holiday Bark

RITA PAUL
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

If you're searching for a last-minute holiday treat that everyone will love, Paul's holiday bark has you covered. This bark can easily be adapted to include a variety of nuts, dried fruits or candies. It's done in a little over an hour and makes for the ultimate edible gift.

16 ounces chopped white chocolate
1 cup dried cranberries

1 cup shelled, chopped pistachios
1 cup cashew halves

1. Line a baking sheet with parchment.
2. In a double boiler melt white chocolate, stirring occasionally until smooth.
3. Pour melted chocolate onto baking sheet. Using a knife or rubber spatula, spread into a 9-by-12-inch rectangle.
4. Sprinkle chocolate with cranberries, pistachios and cashews.
5. Refrigerate at least 1 hour. Break into pieces before serving.

MAKES ABOUT 1 DOZEN PIECES

TCP Want more dessert options heading into the holidays? We're happy to help with that. With more than 1,000 recipes from Co-op Country in our archives, you're sure to find the perfect sweet treat. You can find them all on our website.

Over the River and Through the Woods

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

Tips for traveling with holiday treats:

Use muffin tins for deviled eggs, cupcakes and cold appetizers.

Frost and decorate cupcakes and cakes after you arrive to avoid smudges.

Add ice to a cooler before adding a cold dessert.

Wrap the entire cookie tray in plastic wrap to keep it secure.

When stacking frosted cookies, place waxed paper between each layer.

Place four toothpicks into your frosted cake then gently drape foil over the cake to protect frosting.

Use canning jars to transport sauces, fudge, cocoa mix and spiced nuts.



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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Kid Stuff

Legend has it that outlaw Billy the Kid lived out his days in Hico

BY CHET GARNER

I REMEMBER sitting around the campfire telling stories about the Wild West. Specifically, the story of how infamous gunslinger Billy the Kid outsmarted everyone and lived to old age in Hico under a fake name. Was it true? I headed to the small town southwest of Fort Worth to find out.

There are a couple things I do every time I'm in Hico. First I eat a chicken-fried steak at Koffee Kup Family Restaurant, and then I buy pecan toffee from Wiseman House Chocolates. After that, I'm ready to investigate.

Hico's historic downtown is booming these days, and the Billy the Kid Museum is right in the middle of it. The museum archives all the stories of Hico's history and its infamous (alleged) resident.

I walked the displays and dug deep into the legend of Henry McCarty, aka William H. Bonney, aka Billy the Kid. It seems even his real name is up for debate. What is certain is that Billy was a notorious outlaw who stole cattle and gunned down many men across the Southwest.

Many say that lawman Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1881. There's even a grave in that town with his name on it. But some say Garrett granted Billy mercy on the condition that he promise to never kill again.

In the 1940s, a reporter with a hot tip tracked down a man named "Brushy Bill" Roberts in Hico. Brushy claimed he was indeed the outlaw, with the scars and stories to prove it. However, before he could receive an official pardon from the governor of New Mexico, he died of a heart attack. Many questions remain, but the folks in Hico believe it was Billy himself.

Take a trip to Hico, conduct your own investigation and decide for yourself. ■

ABOVE Billy the Kid, in sculpted form, maintains a presence in downtown Hico.

TCP See more of Chet's search into the Billy the Kid mystery 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.

NOVEMBER

10

The Colony [10-11] American Heroes: A Salute to Veterans & First Responders, (972) 625-1106, thecolonytx.gov

11

Brenham The Gatlin Brothers, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Fredericksburg St. Martin's Day Celebration, (830) 990-2044, visitfredericksburgtx.com

San Marcos Hangar Dance, (737) 285-0015, hangardance.org

16

Corsicana Holiday Tree Lighting, (903) 654-4850, visitcorsicana.com

Marble Falls Pastel Demo With Dina Gregory, (830) 693-7324, visitmarblefalls.org

18

Bluff Dale Front Porch Christmas Market, (817) 946-0141, facebook.com/thefrontporchbluffdale

Bowie Hanging of the Greens, (940) 872-6246, cityofbowietx.com

Burnet Sip n' Shop, (512) 766-0555, tornalochs.com

Fredericksburg Willow City Quilt Show and Live Auction, (830) 685-3376, willowcityfd.com

Henderson A Very Merry Market, (318) 780-0620, thechurchatlakecherokee.com

Kerrville Holiday Lighted Parade, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

19

Giddings Sip & Shop Christmas Market, (979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

25

Stonewall Deck the Halls, (830) 644-2252, tpwd.texas.gov

Ingram [25-26, Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15-16] A Christmas Carol, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

28

Columbus Christmas on the Colorado Lighted Parade, (979) 732-8385, columbus.texas.org

29

Tyler [29-Dec. 2] Mistletoe & Magic, (903) 595-5426, juniorleagueoftyler.org

DECEMBER

01

Bowie Sweet Gingerbread Sip and Stroll With Me, (940) 872-6246, cityofbowietx.com

Kerrville [1-2, 8-10, 15-17] One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall, (830) 896-9393, caillouxperformingarts.com

02

Lufkin Christmas in the Pines, (936) 633-0359, visitlufkin.com

Post Light Up Post, (806) 495-2811, postcitytexas.com

07

New Braunfels Christmas Market at Historic Old Town, (830) 629-2943, newbraunfelsconservation.org

TCP Submit Your Event

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

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Theirs sold at auction for \$226,000. Ours is JUST \$29!
Curious? Read on!

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!

True artisanship in Austrian crystal and yellow gold. This necklace and earring set features gorgeous multicolored enamel paired with Austrian crystals and a yellow gold finish. Ask any jeweler and they'll tell you it takes true artisanship to properly blend the blues and purples found in this enamel. While art nouveau dragonflies are hard to come by, we're helping to repopulate their numbers with this artfully stylized depiction of some of nature's smallest wonders!

Buy the pendant, get the earrings FREE. If Stauer were a normal company, we'd sell the necklace and earrings for \$199 each, but because we engage the world's best artisans and cut out the middlemen to sell directly to you, we're offering the necklace for JUST \$29! Even better: If you buy within the next few days, we'll throw in the earrings for FREE! That's a nearly \$400 value for JUST \$29!

Act fast! Get this collection now before this offer goes extinct!

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- Earrings: 1 1/4" L, french wire



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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

2. Publication Number
0540-560

3. Filing Date
October 1, 2023

4. Issue Frequency
Monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually
Twelve

6. Annual Subscription Price
\$7.50

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4)
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher
1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Travis, Texas 78701-2167

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
Publisher
Texas Electric Cooperatives, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, Texas 78701-2167
Editor
Chris Burrows, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701
Managing Editor
Karen Nejtek, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Fl, Austin, TX 78701

10. Owner
Full Name Complete Mailing Address
Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., is a nonprofit association of rural ECs organized as a cooperative membership corporation under Article 1528b, Texas Civil Statutes. Its members are: Bailey County ECA, Muleshoe; Bandera EC, Bandera; Bartlett EC, Bartlett; Big Country EC, Roby; Bluebonnet EC, Giddings; Bowie-Cass EC, Douglassville; Brazos EC, Waco; Bryan Texas Utilities, Bryan; Central Texas EC, Fredericksburg; Cherokee County ECA, Rusk; Coleman County EC, Coleman; Comanche County ECA, Comanche; Concho Valley EC, San Angelo; CoServ EC, Corinth; Deaf Smith EC, Hereford; Deep East Texas EC, San Augustine; East Texas EC, Nacogdoches; Fannin County EC, Bonham; Farmers EC, Greenville; Fayette EC, LaGrange; Fort Belknap EC, Olney; Golden Spread EC, Amarillo; Grayson-Collin EC, Van Alstyne; Greenbelt EC, Wellington; Guadalupe Valley EC, Gonzales; Hamilton County ECA, Hamilton; Harmon EA, Hollis, Oklahoma; Heart of Texas EC, McGregor; HILCO EC, Itasca; Houston County EC, Crockett; J-A-C EC, Bluegrove; Jackson EC, Edna; Jasper-Newton EC, Kirbyville; Karnes EC, Karnes City; Lamar County ECA, Paris; Lamb County EC, Littlefield; Lea County EC, Lovington, New Mexico; Lighthouse EC, Floydada; Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin; Lyntegar EC, Tahoka; Magic Valley EC, Mercedes; Medina EC, Hondo; MidSouth EC, Navasota; Navarro County EC, Corsicana; Navasota Valley EC, Franklin; North Plains EC, Perryton; Northeast Texas EC, Longview; Nueces EC, Robstown; Panola-Harrison EC, Marshall; Pedernales EC, Johnson City; PenTex Energy, Muenster; Rayburn County EC, Rockwall; Rio Grande EC, Brackettville; Rita Blanca EC, Dalhart; Rusk County EC, Henderson; Sam Houston EC, Livingston; San Bernard EC, Bellville; San Miguel EC, Jourdanston; San Patricio EC, Sinton; South Plains EC, Lubbock; South Texas EC, Victoria; Southwest Rural EA, Tipton, Oklahoma; Southwest Texas EC, Eldorado; Swisher EC, Tulia; Taylor EC, Merkel; Tex-La EC of Texas, Nacogdoches; Tri-County EC, Azle; Trinity Valley EC, Kaufman; United Cooperative Services, Cleburne; Upshur-Rural EC, Gilmer; Victoria EC, Victoria; Wharton County EC, El Campo; Wise EC, Decatur; Wood County EC, Quitman.

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders None

12. Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

13. Publication Title
Texas Co-op Power

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
October 1, 2023

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	1,897,512	1,922,849
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	1,886,539	1,912,006
<small>(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS 3541 (2-4) In-County, Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Other Classes of Mail through USPS</small>		
c. Total Paid Distribution	1,886,539	1,912,006
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	6,292	6,357
<small>(1) Free Outside-County Included on PS 3541 (2-3) Free In-County/Other Classes</small>		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	3,722	3,868
<small>(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail</small>		
f. Total Distribution	10,014	10,225
g. Total Distribution	1,896,553	1,922,231
h. Total	1,897,512	1,922,849
i. Percent Paid	99.47%	99.47%

16. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	none	none
b. Total Paid Print and Electronic Copies	1,886,539	1,912,006
c. Total Print and Electronic Distribution	1,896,553	1,922,231
d. Percentage Paid	99.40%	99.42%

I certify that 50% of all my distribution copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2023 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner Date
Karen Nejtek, Production Manager October 1, 2023

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CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

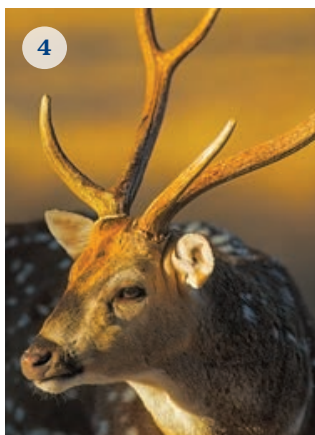
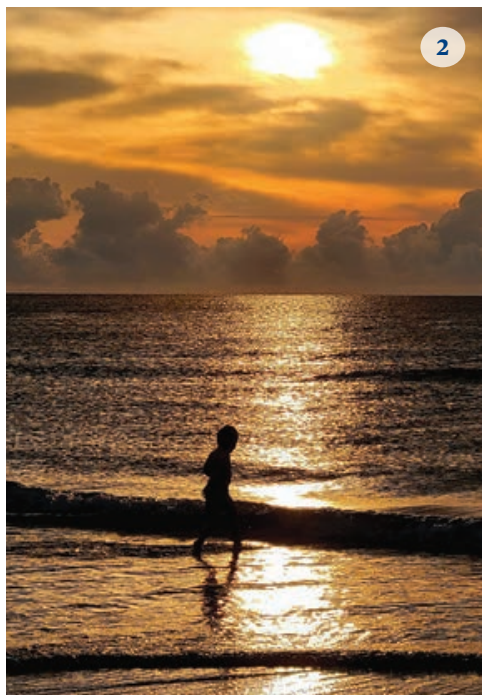


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"Canoeing on a small lake near Anchorage, Alaska, at sunset."

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- DUE NOV 10 Architecture
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Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for more Golden Hour photos from readers.



A School Day Like No Other

60 years ago this month, time stopped for Texans wherever they were

BY KATHLEEN COX RICHARDSON
ILLUSTRATION BY
STEPHANIE SHAFER

ON NOVEMBER 21, 1963, the principal of Dolores School in South Austin told the teachers that President John F. Kennedy and his beautiful wife were coming to visit Austin. We were to take the children downtown from our Catholic school in the old yellow buses, stand along the main drag and wave to them as they drove through the city in an open car.

After lunch the next day, the children lined up in order in the parking lot, first grade up to eighth grade. They stood quietly, but I could sense a wave of controlled excitement rippling through us. This was an opportunity of a lifetime—seeing our hero, our president.

All eyes were on the mother superior, our principal, while we watched for her signal to begin boarding the buses. “Mother, mother!” the school secretary

called as she ran toward us. She whispered to the principal, handing her a transistor radio. Then Mother turned to us and said, “Gov. Connally has been shot. We’re going into the church to pray for him.”

Stunned, we turned around, still in orderly lines, first graders first.

We filed into the pews and knelt, hands clasped, heads bowed. Mother stood in front of us, holding the small radio close to her ear; we heard a muted voice but could not make out the words. Then she moved the radio away from her ear and said to us, her voice steady, “The president has been shot. Pray for the president.”

A universal gasp coursed through the church. The little children squirmed as they knelt. The older girls began crying, softly. The radio continued its secret words. Little candle flames trembled in their blood-red holders, poised for news.

Then we heard the worst: “The president is dead. Pray for our president, John F. Kennedy”—all of this delivered by a calm, tearless woman. Shocked, I mumbled some sort of prayer, tears running down my face.

In orderly lines, we returned to our classrooms. With fearful eyes, my second graders stared at me. They knew something bad had happened but weren’t sure what it was. A few of the girls began crying.

I swiped my face with a tissue and reassured them that I was OK. They returned to their seats. One of the boys raised his hand.

“Miss Cox.”

“Yes, Jimmy.”

“Does this mean we don’t get out of school?”

“Yes, that’s what it means.”

A hushed “aw” came in unison from out of their innocent mouths. What did they know? They were so young; they didn’t comprehend the impact of the horrible news.

Mother stopped by my classroom to tell me the children would be dismissed early.

Thank goodness. I didn’t have to continue the facade. ■

1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

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36	9.04	8.07	10.33	9.43	15	13	22	18	59	30.35	23.38	55.51	38.76	98	68	190	129
37	9.21	8.30	10.52	9.79	15	13	22	20	60	33.50	25.27	59.99	41.71	109	73	207	140
38	9.21	8.42	11.69	10.14	16	14	24	21	61	36.50	27.13	66.44	47.11	122	84	236	155
39	9.39	8.55	12.35	10.48	17	15	25	22	62	40.06	29.18	73.91	51.33	137	92	261	172
40	9.63	8.76	12.94	11.01	18	16	27	24	63	43.47	34.39	84.94	59.61	151	100	284	187
41	10.05	8.97	13.66	11.61	20	17	30	27	64	48.24	38.53	93.16	64.39	168	110	323	206
42	10.44	9.18	14.21	12.41	22	19	33	29	65	52.56	41.15	100.34	69.75	188	122	356	229
43	10.90	9.39	14.73	13.25	24	20	38	31	66	59.15	44.62	115.13	75.41	208	135	392	248
44	11.49	9.73	15.68	14.10	26	22	41	34	67	65.66	49.09	129.28	83.65	231	148	436	272
45	12.17	10.15	16.87	15.16	28	24	46	38	68	74.33	59.65	145.11	112.92	262	174	491	322
46	12.76	10.61	17.85	15.83	30	25	49	41	69	82.98	65.91	161.68	129.33	293	188	548	352
47	13.27	11.09	19.15	16.84	33	27	54	44	70	93.20	73.30	181.25	148.72	330	204	615	387
48	13.39	11.90	20.46	17.78	35	29	58	48	71	102.45	82.71	204.38	159.34	374	235	702	443
49	13.69	12.16	21.78	18.78	38	31	63	52	72	113.68	94.13	232.46	172.23	427	272	807	512
50	14.13	12.83	23.42	20.01	40	34	69	57	73	127.55	108.24	267.15	188.15	493	319	937	596
51	15.38	13.74	25.39	21.19	45	35	78	62	74	142.08	123.01	303.50	204.84	562	367	1074	685
52	16.37	14.89	28.03	22.77	49	38	87	67	75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	644	424	1235	789
53	17.47	15.89	30.97	24.82	55	44	101	77	76	200.03	174.92	418.29	276.67	785	530	1489	982
54	18.69	16.73	34.01	26.22	60	46	112	83	77	249.54	216.74	505.52	339.94	956	658	1797	1215
55	20.64	17.51	37.15	27.87	67	50	122	90	78	310.70	268.40	613.27	418.11	1167	817	2179	1504
56	22.70	19.49	41.68	31.08	74	53	139	97	79	374.78	322.52	726.16	500.00	1389	983	2578	1807
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