

A BOOKSTORE WITH  
TEXANA GALORE

WHAT WE CALL  
OURSELVES

RANGERS' MORGAN IS  
STILL PITCHING

# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

JULY 2024

## Chill Out!

Frozen desserts  
take the heat out  
of the kitchen





BATH  
REMODEL

# YOUR DREAM BATHROOM IN 1 DAY\*



7am TODAY



4pm TONIGHT



**Waiving All  
Installation Costs\***  
**PLUS**  
**No Interest  
No Payments  
for up to 1 Year†**

If paid in full by end of 12 months.

Fall in love with your bathroom  
without breaking your budget.



Fits existing space



Certified installers



Amazing style selection



Safety features available

\*One day completion of remodel will not be possible in some instances. Offers valid on purchase and installation of qualifying complete bath/shower system from participating third-party licensed Jacuzzi Bath Remodel dealer in your area ("Dealer"). Timing of work, available options, and products will vary by dealer and project. Offers not available everywhere or combinable with other offers. Offers subject to change. †Financing offer available through third-party lenders under terms of applicable loan program. No interest or payment for 12 months if paid in full within 12 months. Interest will be charged to you from purchase date if purchase balance is not paid in full within 12 months. Subject to credit approval - not all buyers will qualify. Terms and conditions apply. See Dealer or call the provided toll-free number for details. Not actual before and after depictions. Expires 8/25/24.

**CALL NOW!**

**888.710.3788**

Or visit us online at

**BathOneDay.com**



# July 2024



10

## 06 Texas Book Man

Felton Cochran's cluttered bookshelves boast the finest collection of Southwest literature you can buy.

*Story by Carlton Stowers  
Photos by Dave Shafer*

## Speaking of the Rangers

It wouldn't be a baseball game in Arlington without Chuck Morgan on the call.

*By Lori Grossman*

ON THE COVER

A stack of Mammaw's Peanut Butter Ice Cream Treats (see Page 27).  
*Photo by Jason David Page*

ABOVE

Chuck Morgan has been the stadium announcer for more than 3,000 Texas Rangers games.  
*Courtesy Texas Rangers*

04

**Currents**

The latest buzz

05

**TCP Talk**

Readers respond

16

**Co-op News**

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

**Footnotes in Texas History**

Vegan Panhandlers  
*By W.F. Strong*

26

**TCP Kitchen**

Frozen Treats  
*By Vianney Rodriguez*

30

**Hit the Road**

Face to Face With History  
*By Chet Garner*

33

**Focus on Texas**

Photo Contest: Shells and Scales

34

**Observations**

Culling Time  
*By Cynthia L. Matlock*



# Co-op Roots



WITH FLOWERY LANGUAGE, *Texas Co-op Power* announced in its debut issue 80 years ago this month that “there will no longer exist that vacant, uncultivated space within the garden of printed and published facts.”

The magazine itself was unflowery in July 1944—just four plain pages of newsprint. But it had strong roots: messaging that informed and unified members of newly formed electric cooperatives.

Here’s what readers learned in that first issue:

In 1936, less than 3% of Texas farms had electricity, compared to 30% in 1944.

A farm in Dublin, Texas, increased its production 70% with the help of electricity.

And, of course, there was a notice of an annual meeting.

By the August issue, with a circulation of 14,000, the publication had grown to eight pages and ran the first of what has become a beloved string of recipes—for fruit-stuffed spareribs.

Those strong roots today sustain a communications platform that includes nearly 1.9 million slick magazines every month and a website, plus social media access that’s just a click away on any device.

Visit our website to see the inaugural issue of *Texas Co-op Power* from 1944. And watch for our upcoming contest to win a commemorative cast-iron skillet.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

### I’d like to be famous for ...

**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: **Summer means ...**

Starlit nights and firefly viewing while listening to the insect night sounds that lull you to sleep.

SANDRA VALDERAZ  
PEDERNALES EC  
LEANDER

The smell of cut grass, sunscreen and chlorine.

BOBBI FLOWERS  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
BRYAN

Garden-fresh tomatoes.

JAMES SELF  
DEAF SMITH EC  
HEREFORD

Visit our website to see more responses.

## TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](http://TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Cookie Exchange

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Mascots

### RECOMMENDED READING

Ten years ago we threw darts at an outline of Texas and headed out to write about the places pinpointed. Read *Darting Around Texas* from July 2014 and see where we ended up.

## Seeking Gold in France

Texas will be well-represented among American athletes when the Summer Olympics kick off July 26 in Paris—as it was the last time the French capital hosted the Games, 100 years ago.

Charley Paddock of Gainesville, a track star in 1924, pictured second from right, was the first person labeled as the “fastest man alive.” That was in 1919, a year before he starred in the 1920 Olympics, winning gold in the 100 meters and silver in the 200.

Paddock again won silver in the 200 in 1924. *Chariots of Fire*, the 1981 Oscar-winning film, captured the religious tensions of members of the British track team at those Games. Paddock was portrayed as a brash American in the movie.



MAY 2024 Overpass Easels

“I have seen two of these and wondered how they originated. Your article answered all my questions, and I now am eager to see the others during my travels.”

CAROL STRICKLAND  
TRI-COUNTY EC  
MILLSAP



COURTESY MICHAEL FORD

Highway Memorials

You have helped to preserve the memory of the jet pilots who trained at Kingsville Naval Air Station [Overpass Easels, May 2024]. Those young men were selfless and courageous. We lived on a cotton farm south of the base and watched as they flew overhead.

My sister married Lt. Ralph Foulks, who went missing after he flew off the USS Oriskany in January 1968 during the Vietnam War. His remains were returned from Vietnam and buried in 1993.

Elizabeth Cumberland  
Bluebonnet EC  
Martindale

Ranch Hand Legacy

My granddad was a hand for the Four Sixes and Triangles ranches, and the Piper tank is named after my great-granddad Jon Piper [Sixes on the Small Screen, May 2024].

Brendan Hill  
Via Facebook



B.J. HINKLE

Perspective on Bowie

It’s easy to judge 19th-century characters and practices by 20th- and 21st-century standards—and Jim Bowie might not have had a sterling reputation [TCP Talk, April 2024]. But it cannot be denied that he (and the other Alamo defenders) did not have to be there, he didn’t have to join the Texian Army in the first place and he didn’t have to be co-commander.

He did those things because of his sense of duty and died for it. He and the others at the Alamo made a down payment on a free Texas with their blood. There certainly is honor in that.

Carl Crisp  
Houston County EC  
Elkhart

Quilters’ Bond

The timing of *The Fabric of Life* was perfect [May 2024]. A lot of quilters in the state had just finished participating in the two-month All Texas Shop Hop, including shops that spread from Odessa north to Amarillo, east to Texarkana and south to Alamo in the Rio Grande Valley.

Sherry Reid Carroll  
Taylor EC  
Flower Mound

**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.

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube LinkedIn Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Neil Hesse, Muenster  
Vice Chair Avan Irani, Robstown  
Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Wood, San Augustine

Board Members Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Mark McClain, Roby • Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop  
Marty Haught, Burleson • Gary Miller, Bryan  
Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma  
John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham  
Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications

& Member Services Martin Bevins

Editor Chris Burrows

Associate Editor Tom Widlowski

Production Manager Karen Nejtek

Creative Manager Andy Doughty

Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull

Communications Specialist Samantha Bryant

Digital Media Specialist Caytlyn Calhoun

Assistant Production Manager Alex Dal Santo

Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz

Food Editor Vianney Rodriguez

Senior Designer Jane Sharpe

Communications Specialist Claire Stevens

Proofreader Louie Bond

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 81, Number 1 (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.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

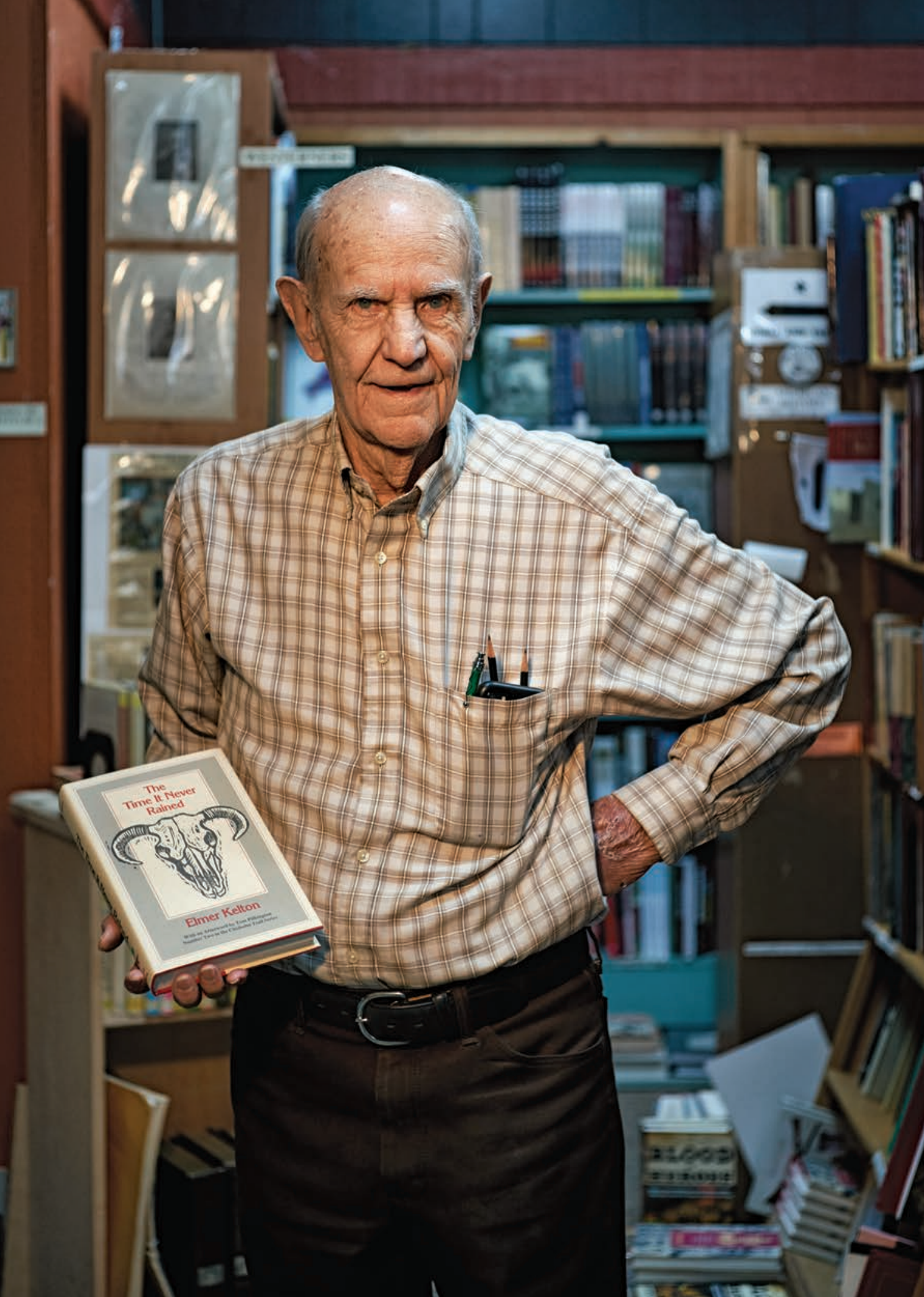
ADVERTISING Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication.

COPYRIGHT All content © 2024 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wired-hand © 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Texas Electric Cooperatives

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

American MainStreet Publications



The Time It Never Rained  
Elmer Kelton  
With an Afterword by Tompkins  
Sensational! True to the Old-Timey Style!

# III

Felton Cochran's cluttered bookshelves—  
the finest collection of Southwest literature  
for sale—endure despite the internet

# TEXAS BOOK MAN

BY CARLTON STOWERS • PHOTOS BY DAVE SHAFER

**F**elton Cochran gave up his rat-race career as a wholesale liquor salesman when, as he recalls, he came to the realization that the rats were winning. Compounding the problem was his concern that he was becoming one of his own best customers.

In the wake of that epiphany, he decided it was time to take leave of such workplaces as Fort Worth, Dallas and Lubbock and return home.

All he took with him on his return to San Angelo was what money he'd saved, his treasured collection of rare books on Texas history and a genuine concern for how to earn a living.

It was 1995, and Cochran's résumé was thin. He'd spent three years as a journalism major at the University of North Texas in the early 1960s before dropping out to sell whiskey. Then there was his self-taught knowledge of Texana and Southwestern literature.

He made the crapshoot decision to see if the latter might somehow pay the bills.

Thus, the little Cactus Book Shop, in the heart of San Angelo, was born of financial necessity and a lifetime fondness for the gentle pace of the community and its people. Here, Cochran likes to say, a traffic jam is a half-dozen pickups waiting for the light to turn green.

Today his store is the go-to destination of researchers, writers, collectors, genealogists and those simply fascinated

by Texas history. Need a hard-to-find, long-out-of-print biography of one of the state's early pioneers, ranchers, oilmen, politicians or infamous scallywags? Want the history of any of the 254 counties in Texas? Autographed first editions of many of the state's legendary novelists? Go see Felton Cochran.

You'll pardon him if it sounds like grade A Texas boasting, but he insists he now oversees the finest collection of Southwestern literature to be found under one roof. Some academics might argue that collections at major universities like the University of Texas, Texas Tech University and the famed Wittliff Collections of 30,000 titles at Texas State University merit strong consideration. But those books aren't for sale.

Steve Davis, curator of the Wittliff's Southwestern Writers Collection, is quick to give Cochran his due, calling the Cactus "a legend among book collectors and a must-stop for any book lover or anyone interested in Texana."

Cochran's East Concho Avenue shop might best be described as clutter comfortable.

Old West memorabilia, like strands of early barbed wire, are on display. Nose around long enough and you see the citation from *True West Magazine*, which in 2020 named the Cactus as the nation's best Western history bookstore, or even the Texas Readers' Club membership certificate that a young Cochran received back in his elementary school days. But it's the musty aroma of old books wafting along the narrow aisles and the wiry, balding man behind the front counter that are the primary lures.

Felton Cochran, owner of the Cactus Book Shop in San Angelo, holds his favorite book, *The Time It Never Rained* by Elmer Kelton, who was a prolific novelist and longtime friend.



### III

Now, after 29 years of bookselling, Cochran says it's not unusual to buy a book from someone whose grandfather he originally sold it to.

had an armload of books, which I assumed were for her mother. Not so. The girl, having recently developed an interest in Texas history, had picked the titles. That did my heart good."

An avid reader since those childhood days when his mother would regularly drive him to visit the public library, Cochran is a man who knows the secrets hidden in the pages of the volumes he sells. Pressed to recommend his favorite book on Texas history, he suggests *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans*, fellow Texan T.R. Fehrenbach's lyrical 800-page history lesson. "Without Texas," the late San Antonian author wrote, "there would be no American West." Cochran, who has done his homework, agrees.

Western author Patrick Dearen has been a regular since Cochran's store opened. "Felton and his store have been an invaluable asset to me over the years," says the winner of a Spur Award, which recognizes distinguished writing about the American West. "I've also done a great deal of research at the Midland Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library, using books their archivist has purchased from Cochran."

All Texas history seems to run through this storefront. "J. Frank Dobie once said that there have been more books written about Texas than any other state in the U.S.," Cochran says. "It is a subject that is so diverse that it offers something for everyone."

The shop owner always has time to talk about books and bygone days.

In an era when many bookstores—independents to nationwide franchises—have lost the battle with the internet and disappeared, the Cactus Book Shop serves a niche that allows it to endure and prosper. Even at 83, Cochran is in touch with today's technology. He maintains a website, and his electronic catalog goes out monthly to customers in 28 states. The phone rings steadily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays with requests from seekers and sellers.

It is, however, the walk-in customers Cochran most enjoys—particularly when they represent a new generation of history lovers.

"Not long ago," he says, "a lady and her 14-year-old home-schooled daughter came in and shopped for quite some time. When they came to the checkout counter, the girl

ABOVE Felton's store is clutter comfortable, with a collection that seems as vast as his beloved state. OPPOSITE Proof that Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan and movie legend Robert Duvall found what they were looking for at the Cactus.



For instance, among his books that customers can't seem to get enough of are those focusing on the Big Bend. "We are a stopping place for those en route to the region," he says.

If a particular book you're seeking is not among the estimated 12,000 volumes crammed along the shop's floor-to-ceiling shelves, Cochran will try to find it. "Today," he says, "the hunt for that rare title is the biggest thrill." For that reason, he remains on high alert for estate sales and is on a first-name basis with numerous rare book collectors who might one day decide the time has come to sell their books.

Sometimes, he says, easy-to-sell treasures come from the most unusual places. He recalls a phone call a few years ago from the sister of Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Larry McMurtry, informing him that she had several valuable books she was interested in selling. Aware that her brother operated a major bookselling business in his hometown, Archer City, Cochran asked why she hadn't offered her books to him. In most colorful language, she explained that she was seriously unhappy with her famous sibling and not inclined to speak to him.

Now, after 29 years of bookselling, Cochran says it's not unusual to buy a book from someone whose grandfather he originally sold it to.

A longtime friendship with another celebrated author has kept Cochran's cash register humming. The late Elmer Kelton, recognized by many as the premier Western fiction writer of all time, also called San Angelo home, and Cochran made sure he stocked the most complete collection of the seven-time Spur Award winner's works.

In-store book signing became a routine event each time a new Kelton Western was published.

"I remember that for the first one we did, I optimistically ordered 100 copies from his publisher," Cochran says. "We sold out in less than an hour and took orders for 200 more."

"Not only was Elmer a wonderful writer, but he was the kindest, most down-to-earth man I've ever known. On several occasions, I would be at his house, having coffee, when a complete stranger would knock on the door, carrying an armload of books he hoped to have autographed. Elmer would invite him in, pour him a cup of coffee and start signing. For all the awards and recognition he received, I don't think he ever fully realized the remarkable impact his writing had on people."

Among Cochran's prized possessions is a first printing of Kelton's 2004 novel, *Texas Vendetta*, which is dedicated to "Felton Cochran, Bookseller Extraordinaire." Of course, it's not for sale.

It wasn't until Kelton's passing in 2009 that his old friend finally put his bygone journalism studies to use. When TCU Press published a book of reflections on the fabled author, it included *My Friend, Elmer Kelton*, a moving essay written by Cochran.

Among the steady stream of ardent collectors of Kelton first editions to visit the Cactus Book Shop have been Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan and movie legend Robert Duvall.

They, like so many others before and since, left as satisfied customers. ■



# Speaking of the Rangers

It wouldn't be a baseball game in Arlington without



# Chuck Morgan on the call

BY LORI GROSSMAN

## If he's said it once, he's said it a thousand times: "It's baseball time in Texas."

And as that mellifluous greeting echoes softly around Globe Life Field, Chuck Morgan begins the soundtrack of a Texas Rangers baseball game. Even as players (and stadiums) have come and gone through the decades in Arlington, Morgan has been perched behind a microphone high in the press box as the stadium voice for the team.

It's a job, but he freely admits he's really just passionate about baseball, as he was as a kid in southern Illinois who dreamed about playing in the big leagues. But like most kids with such dreams, he ended up far off the base paths.

Instead, he found himself in Nashville, hosting an all-night radio show for truckers at country radio giant WSM-AM, home of the Grand Ole Opry, in the late 1970s. He welcomed country artists including Roy Acuff, Bill Monroe and Marty Robbins into the studio. On Saturday nights, he co-hosted the Opry and made a handful of appearances in cornfield sketches with George "Goober" Lindsey on the popular TV show *Hee Haw*.

"On my late-night radio show, I would have a *Hee Haw* week in both June and October," Morgan says. "The producer of the show, Sam Lovullo, would come over with a special guest or two. After a couple years of doing this, Sam said, 'Chuck, we have never had you on. Come over tomorrow. We will get you some overalls and put you in the cornfield with Goober.'"

But Morgan also found a baseball field in Nashville, where he spent three seasons as the public-address announcer for the minor league Sounds, 1978–80.

"While working for the Sounds, I met Larry Schmittou," Chuck recalls. "He left to join the Texas Rangers as vice president of marketing. One day, he called and asked if I wanted to work in the big leagues.

"My love for baseball won."

Chuck Morgan, the stadium voice for the Texas Rangers, during the second game of the 2023 season. Little did he know then how glorious last season would turn out for Rangers Nation.



COURTESY TEXAS RANGERS



That was in 1983. Forty-one years later, many Texas Rangers fans have only ever known Morgan's voice at Arlington's ballparks (all three). There are no official records for major league baseball's announcers, but according to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, it's widely believed Morgan lays claim to the longest streak of games among current announcers, including the 2002 season he spent with the Kansas City Royals.

He has announced the starting lineups for more than 3,250 consecutive games, including one of the Rangers' historic World Series wins last season en route to the franchise's first championship. And he'll add the 2024 MLB All-Star Game to that list when Arlington hosts the Midsummer Classic on July 16 for only the second time in history.

One of Morgan's microphones—the one he used for his 3,000th straight game September 26, 2020—has a home in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

These days, his official job title is executive vice president of game entertainment, promotions and production—a title that barely gets its arms around all that Morgan has brought to Rangers games over more than four decades.

"Basically, everything you see and hear when you come to Globe Life Field, I'm responsible for it," he says.

Many of his ideas have become a cherished part of the ballpark experience, including his welcome at the beginning of each game.

"I've said, 'It's baseball time in Texas' since the late 1990s



to honor former Rangers broadcaster Mark Holtz, who passed away in 1997," Morgan says of continuing Holtz's greeting.

Long-time Rangers employees told Morgan about other team traditions, including the playing of the tune *Cotton-Eyed Joe* during the seventh-inning stretch. It's still played today. His most-often imitated innovation might be the dot mascot races, which happen in the middle of the sixth inning.

"We'd done a simple black-and-white animation in Nashville," Morgan says. "Later, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Morgan at what was originally called the Ballpark in Arlington, the Rangers' second stadium in Texas. In his country music radio days in Nashville, Morgan rubbed shoulders with, from left, stars Bill Monroe, Roy Acuff and Barbara Mandrell. Morgan during the Rangers' World Series victory parade.



## Morgan has announced the starting lineups for more than 3,250 consecutive games, including one of the Rangers' historic World Series wins last season en route to the franchise's first championship.

sportswriter Jim Reeves saw two lights chasing each other on the scoreboard at an Oklahoma City 89ers game. He suggested that I should do something like that. About a month later, in May of 1987, we had our first dot race in Arlington Stadium.”

Now Morgan's voice is as much a part of a home game as any other Rangers tradition. His long-time colleague, Rangers radio play-by-play broadcaster Eric Nadel, thinks he knows why.

“He communicates tremendous passion without screaming at you the way many PA announcers do these days,” Nadel says. “His warmth as a person comes through loud and clear when you hear him, and his voice quality as a former radio star is second to none.”

That warmth likely soothed fans and players alike during the lean years, when the team wasn't close to making the playoffs. That luck began to change in 1996, when they faced the New York Yankees in the franchise's playoffs debut.

They lost that series in '96, but 14 years later, they won their first American League pennant—beating the Yankees. Reaching the 2010 World Series was vindication—and sweet revenge—for the team, the fans and the front office, including Morgan.

“I had to temper my excitement because I had my job to

## Baseball Times in Texas

**APRIL 4, 1983** Chuck Morgan calls his first MLB game, the Rangers' home opener against the Chicago White Sox.

**AUGUST 22, 1989** Nolan Ryan becomes the first pitcher with 5,000 strikeouts when he fans Oakland's Rickey Henderson.

**MAY 1, 1991** Ryan throws his record seventh no-hitter in a 3-0 win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

**JULY 28, 1994** Kenny Rogers pitches a perfect game, 4-0 over the California Angels.

**2001** Morgan is named best PA announcer by *The Sporting News*, an honor he receives again in 2003.

**JULY 30, 2017** Adrián Beltré gets his 3,000th hit.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2020** Morgan's 3,000th straight game behind the mic, a Rangers win against the Houston Astros. The mic he used is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**OCTOBER 2020** Morgan works the National League divisional and championship series and the World Series, all played in Arlington after the postseason format was altered because of the pandemic.

**JULY 16, 2024** Globe Life Field will host the 94th MLB All-Star Game.

do,” he says. “But like the fans, it was very emotional. And the crowd was so loud. It was a great feeling to know that the Rangers had won the AL championship and were going to their first World Series.”

The Rangers lost to the San Francisco Giants that year. They made it back to the World Series in 2011, only to suffer a gut-wrenching loss to the St. Louis Cardinals. That loss wasn't laid to rest until last year. The Rangers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks—51 years after the franchise moved to Arlington from Washington in 1972—and won their first World Series, four games to one.

“I was in Arizona for Game 5, and it was one of the great experiences of my life,” Morgan says. “It doesn't get any better than that.”

While Morgan and Ranger fans celebrated, the players were singing their favorite song from the amazing 2023 season—Creed's *Higher*—in the beer- and champagne-soaked visiting clubhouse. Morgan might want to include it in his Globe Life Field playlist from time to time.

And how about one more song for the winners of the 2023 World Series?

*We Are the Champions.* ■

Special Offer for New Customers Only

**YES!** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	Last-Year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar (Limit 1)	\$29.95
1	Morgan Silver Dollar Booklet	<b>FREE!</b>
	Shipping	<b>FREE!</b>
	Sales Tax	<b>FREE!</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29.95</b>

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.  
 VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please print clearly

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Littleton Coin Company**  
 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd  
 Littleton NH 03561-3737  
 Offer Code: **33T417**  
 Serving Collectors Since 1945

**Yours FREE!**

Order within 30 days and get this special Morgan Silver Dollars booklet **FREE!**



# OWN a Genuine 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar

Over 100 Years old...

Regularly \$87.00...  
**Now Only \$29.95**



**N**ow you can own a 1921 Morgan silver dollar from the last year of the classic series! Big, heavy and handsome - with over 3/4 of an ounce of 90% silver - genuine Morgan dollars like these were struck in silver from old western mines. Once used by rough and ready frontiersmen, today Morgan dollars are a vanishing legacy of America's past - genuine history you can hold in your hand!

*Never to be minted again!*

Although millions of these silver coins were melted in the 1900s, the 1921 Morgan - from the final year of the classic series - survived. Never to be minted again, this historic Morgan dollar can be yours for just \$29.95 (regularly \$87.00) - **SAVE 65%** off regular prices! Order today and get **FREE** shipping to your home!

You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our **No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service**, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance within 15 days - with option to cancel at any time.

*Order now - before they vanish forever!*

**www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials**

**Have U.S. Coins or Paper Money to Sell? Get Top Dollar!**

We Make it Quick and Easy.  
 Littletoncoin.com/CoinsToSell  
 \*Currently purchasing U.S. currency within the U.S. only.

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

**Offer Code: 33T417**

©2024 LCC, Inc.

## POLE BARNs



### D.T. Construction

Free Estimates • Colored Metal Available  
 Variety of Sizes and Options  
 Fully Insured with Workers Comp

**30'x50'x10'** \$15,500  
 FULLY ENCLOSED

**30'x50'x10'** \$18,000  
 WITH 15' SHED

**40'x60'x14'** \$27,000  
 FULLY ENCLOSED

**30'x40'x10'** \$14,000  
 FULLY ENCLOSED

**20'x60'x9'** \$12,500  
 COW SHED

ZACH TINCHER - IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

(918) 527-0117  
**DTConstruction.com**

**J-Co Cattle Hand**  
 WORK CATTLE ANY TIME, ANYWHERE!  
 CATTLE WORKING CHUTE FOR THE SOLO CATTLEMAN  
 REDUCE WORK TIME TO 1-3 MINUTES PER CALF!  
**WWW.J-CO.US**  
 940-260-8949 | contact@j-co.us  
 Convert your trailer into a livestock hauling, on-site vet clinic!

## WD Metal Buildings



Turn Key Metal Buildings Info  
**WDMB.com**



### If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*. Be part of a statewide magazine—without the statewide cost. Call or email today.



**NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE**  
 Circulation 590,500  
 Readership 1,358,150

### TexasCoopPower

Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or advertising@TexasCoopPower.com

## TCP Gift Shop



TCP Shop now  
 TexasCoopPower.com/shop

# 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.

With its remarkable retrograde hour and minute indicators, sunburst guilloché face and precision movement, this design is truly one of a kind. What does retrograde mean? Instead of displaying the hands rotating on an axis like most watches, the hands sweep in a semicircle, then return to their starting point and begin all over again.

Retrograde watches by the big brands can set you back thousands; one recent offering from a big French fashion house is selling for more than \$150,000! But because we've designed the 1920s Retrograde Watch in-house, we can offer it to you for just \$99!

This watch is so wildly popular with our customers that we're actually concerned about running out; we only have 937 729 left for this ad!



JOIN MORE THAN 1 MILLION SMART PEOPLE WHO LOVE STAUER WATCHES

#### Watch Specifications:

- Precision movement
- Stainless steel case, caseback and crown
- Retrograde hour and minute indicators
- Water-resistant to 5 ATM
- Brown genuine leather band
- Fits wrists up to 8"

#### 1920s Retrograde Watch

~~\$399~~ \$99\* + S&P **Save \$300**

*\*Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Insider Offer Code: RGW269-01

*"An elegant and exciting timepiece that every collector will love."*

— George Thomas, internationally renowned watch expert

*"[A] unique and beautiful timepiece."*

— Carlos C., Los Banos, CA

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. RGW269-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 | [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**



CEO

HERBERT "TREY"  
GREBE III

# 10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

**HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A VIDEO OR TV SHOW** where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could jump cut from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As the CEO of Medina Electric Cooperative, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Report your outage by using the SmartHub app or by calling 1-866-632-3532 and choose option 2.
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because Medina EC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.
- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of Medina EC's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing line crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and

critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people first.

- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. It is also important generators are properly installed to prevent backfeed—when a generator feeds electricity back through your electrical system onto the powerlines. To learn more about properly installing a generator, visit [MedinaEC.org/Generators](https://www.MedinaEC.org/Generators)
- 7. Flickering lights can be a normal thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are common because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 8. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take.
- 9. Our employees have to plan, and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.
- 10. Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it. We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

Until next time,  
Trey





ROBERT KNESCHEKE | ADOBESTOCK

## Leave AC on During Vacation

**IF YOU'RE THINKING** about saving a few bucks by shutting off your air conditioner while you escape for summer vacation, consider what you need to keep cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator.

In a kitchen that's too warm, your fridge has to work at least twice as hard to keep cold. It will put in that double duty whether there's food inside it or not, so long as it's plugged in. Purging your fridge of food that might rot while you're gone can prevent yucky odors or surprise science projects when you return.

An overactive refrigerator can counteract any energy savings you might see when you shut down the AC for a week. And it could stress your fridge enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: Nudge up the thermostat 4–5 degrees higher than usual before you leave for vacation. That way, your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is uncomfortable.

Keeping the AC on could prevent other problems that can occur in a home that gets too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, like mold and mildew growth and even damage to sensitive electronics.

A few other things to check before you leave town:

- ▶ Turn off the water to sinks, the washer and toilets to ensure nothing floods while you're away.
- ▶ Close your blinds and shades to keep the hot sun from warming your home. Closing them only partway, however, could give the appearance of someone being at home—detering theft.
- ▶ Put a few lights on timers to make it seem like someone is home without having to leave a light on all the time, wasting energy.

## Medina Electric Cooperative



### CONTACT US

**Toll-Free** 1-866-632-3532

**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

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, 1-866-632-3532, 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 1-866-632-3532 o visitando una de nuestras oficinas.

# Team Members Reach Service Milestones

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CELEBRATED several special employee milestones 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 milestone, the cooperative donates \$100 to an organization of the employee's choosing. In 2024, Medina EC employees are on track to donate \$2,300 to various local organizations.

Please join us in celebrating these Medina EC employees!



**PATTI TAYLOR**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Corporate office  
January | 25 years

**DONATION TO**  
Flights to Forever



**KEITH CALLE**  
Chief Engineering  
Division Officer  
Corporate office  
January | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Kinetic Kids



**JUSTIN CORTEZ**  
Journeyman  
Bruni office  
February | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Hebronville FFA



**JOHNNY ROSA**  
Journeyman  
Rio Grande City office  
April | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Jackson's Brush  
Puppy Rescue



**MICHAEL HARKINS**  
Business Development  
Coordinator  
Corporate office  
April | 15 years

**DONATION TO**  
American Cancer Society



**PHILIP CROW**  
Distribution Automation &  
Metering Supervisor  
Corporate office  
April | 10 years

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



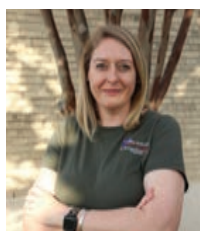
**WESLEY BOHL**  
Vegetation Management  
Coordinator  
Hondo office  
April | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
TSCRA Disaster Relief Fund



**REYNOLD MUNOZ**  
Journeyman  
Hondo office  
April | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Medina County  
Rodeo Association



**BRITTANY MEYERS**  
Administrative Clerk  
Corporate office  
May | 5 years

**DONATION TO**  
Operation Round Up



**RICKY CERNA**  
Engineering Technician  
Dilley office  
June | 35 years

**DONATION TO**  
Dilley VFD

## 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 the voter designee on your account, complete the form at [MedinaEC.org/Designee](http://MedinaEC.org/Designee) or contact us to get a form.

**Contact us at:**  
**1-866-632-3532**  
**OR**  
**[Info@MedinaEC.org](mailto:Info@MedinaEC.org)**



TINAYKOV | ADOBESTOCK

**Thank you for your continued effort to exceed member expectations in everything you do!**



PHIC | ISTOCK.COM

## Why Is My Electric Bill So High?

IF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL seems higher than it used to be, it's time to investigate.

**Check your history.** First, verify that the bill truly is higher. Check SmartHub or call Medina Electric Cooperative to ask for a review of your bills over the past year. You might be surprised to see how much your usage fluctuates depending on the season. Residential members with SmartHub now have access to personalized consumer analytics that provides you with an energy breakdown by appliance type. Learn more about this feature at [MedinaEC.org/ConsumerAnalytics](https://MedinaEC.org/ConsumerAnalytics).

**Check the weather.** Fluctuations in outdoor temperatures can lead your family to crank up the air conditioning on especially hot days. Most people use more electricity during the hottest summer months than at any other time of the year. Winter chill also increases utility bills.

**Check what's plugged in.** If you thought your bill would be lower when your family was on vacation, you might be surprised to realize that many appliances still use electricity when the house is empty. Your refrigerator and well pump, for instance, keep running while you're gone unless you unplugged them. In fact, any appliance plugged into the wall uses electricity, whether anybody is home to use them or not.

**Check your equipment.** As appliances such as refrigerators and water heaters age, they become less efficient. If your AC or a large appliance is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

**Check your lifestyle.** If your college-age child is home for the summer, your electric bill will be a bit higher than it was while he or she was away. If your grandkids are enjoying their vacation at your house, your bill could go up. If you've added a major appliance, like a pool with a pump, a hot tub or even an oversized TV, that will affect your power bill, too.

**Don't check with the neighbors.** No two families use electricity the same way, so if you believe your bill is too high because your neighbor's is lower, you're not making an even comparison. The better comparison is between your use of electricity now compared with the same time last year.

**Contact your cooperative.** If you still think your bill is higher than it should be, reach out to the energy experts at Medina EC.



EVGENIQW | ADOBESTOCK

**The time for hurricane planning should begin well before hurricane season arrives. Follow these tips:**

**Develop** a plan for installing covers for windows.

**Don't waste time** taping windows. When a 100 mph wind blows an object at your window, tape won't stop it.

**Remove** weak and dead trees and tree limbs.

**Know** whether your home is in a zone that could be flooded.

**Have** a "grab and run" bag ready with important papers (like your homeowner's insurance policy) and prescription medicines in the event you have to evacuate.

**Have** a plan for where you will go if you evacuate, the route you will take and how others can contact you.

**Have** a survival kit ready with nonperishable food, water, a first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

**Medina EC encourages you to always practice safety.**



DVOEVNORE | ADOBESTOCK

## Don't Drain Efficiency With the Pool

ON TEXAS' HOT SUMMER DAYS, a swimming pool provides the perfect retreat, but without some planning, your oasis can be an energy and money drain.

Pool pumps can guzzle electricity. The bigger the pump, the higher the power bill. Make sure your pool uses the smallest pump possible for its volume. Products like variable-speed pumps offer a good way to save. A knowledgeable pool supply or service firm can help choose a proper pump for your pool, taking into consideration its size, filter and piping.

Greater savings can come from decreasing pump operation time, no matter the pump size. Keep drains clear of debris, or your pump will work harder than necessary to circulate water.

Also, find a proper balance for backwashing the filter—the process of filtering and disposing of dirty water. Too much backwashing wastes water, while too little strains the pump.

**Here are some common misconceptions that lead to extra pump time (and wasted energy):**

**I need to run my pump to keep chemicals mixed.**

**False.** Circulate while adding chemicals, and they will stay mixed. There is no need to recirculate the water each day to “remix” the chemicals.

**My pool will be dirty if I don't run my pump to constantly clean debris.**

**False.** Try running your pump one hour for every 10 degrees of air temperature, so if it's 90 degrees out, run it for nine hours that day. If the cleanliness is not to your liking, increase filtration time by 30-minute increments until you're satisfied.

To keep debris down without running your pump overtime, use a skimmer to manually clean the water. Also try using a timer to run your filter for several short periods throughout the day rather than allowing debris to pile up after one long, continuous filtration.

**I need my pump to run continuously to keep algae at bay.**

**False.** Keeping a proper chemical balance and regularly brushing down the pool walls are the best algae fighters.

Bookmark the date for our

**85<sup>th</sup>**

Annual  
Membership  
Meeting!

Morning of  
Saturday, September 28  
Herby Ham Activity Center  
#AnotherYearintheBooks

Scan to learn more!

# COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

## WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

## TREES

Trees and vegetation that are not maintained can cause added outage risk to power lines and equipment and cause safety hazards.

## CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.



## Meet Medina EC's Intern

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL INTERN DAY on July 25, Medina Electric Cooperative would like to feature our 2024 summer intern so members can learn more about him and his 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.

### TYLER MANGUM ENGINEERING INTERN

“Through this internship, I am hoping to learn more about how engineers solve real-world problems. To me, there seems to be a big difference between how engineering is taught in school versus how engineers operate in the real world, and I am hoping this internship will give me the practical experience to help bridge that gap.”



Hometown: Castroville, TX  
University: University of Texas at San Antonio

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Independence Day

Thursday, July 4  
Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. As always, crews will be on call.

#### National Intern Day

Thursday, July 25

#### Operation Round Up Applications Due

Friday, August 2  
Learn more about ORU and apply at [MedinaEC.org/ORU](https://MedinaEC.org/ORU).

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

# New EPA Power Plant Rules Threaten Grid Reliability

**ON APRIL 25**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric cooperatives and other utilities nationwide.

“The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable,” said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid.”

The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is not yet reliable or commercially available.

“The new EPA rules ignore our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and are the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” Matheson said.

The power plant rule will force the early closure of electricity generation sources that are available 24/7 and will also impede the construction of new natural gas plants. The timing of these sweeping new rules is particularly troubling as electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity from factors like transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Under the new rule, existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the start of 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will undermine electric reliability.

Medina Electric Cooperative’s power is purchased from South Texas Electric Cooperative, which provides a diverse fuel mix including nuclear power and renewables such as solar and wind power, but the majority is composed of natural gas and Texas lignite. In the last five years, Medina EC’s fuel mix has been made up of an average of 22.7% Texas lignite and 59.2% natural gas.

Electric cooperatives understand the need to keep the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid.

Electric cooperatives like Medina EC deliver power to 42 million Americans. Our top priority is to meet our members’ energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.



## Make Your Voices Heard

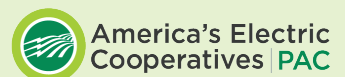
Voices for Cooperative Power or VCP is a grassroots network of co-op members that was created to help elected officials better understand the many ways your electric co-op supports you and your community. By joining the VCP movement, you can receive updates on the issues that matter most and, when needed, information on how to contact your elected officials to voice your opinions.



Scan this code or visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com) to get involved.

### Financial Support

America’s Electric Cooperative PAC is a federal political action committee of the nation’s electric cooperatives. The PAC is funded by grassroots contributions from electric co-op members and employees in 48 states. By giving support to America’s Electric Cooperative PAC, you are financially helping build the collective strength of co-ops’ voices in Washington, D.C.



Scan this code or visit [cooperative.com/pacdonation](https://cooperative.com/pacdonation) to make a donation.

## Medina EC Linemen Climb to Top at Lineman Rodeo

IN APRIL, a team of Medina Electric Cooperative linemen participated in the second Coastal Bend Lineman Rodeo, hosted by Nueces Electric Cooperative. Medina EC's team ranked first overall, showcasing their skills and teamwork.

The competition was divided into two divisions: apprentice and journeyman. Representing the apprentice division were Trey Guerra from Bruni, Eddie Lopez from Uvalde and Jay Rodriguez from Hondo. The journeyman division featured Ben Garcia and Serapio Guzman from Uvalde, and Mario Lopez from Bruni.

The rodeo events included hurtman rescue and speed climbing for both divisions and OCR replacement for journeymen and cutout replacement for apprentices. Each team member's contribution was crucial to Medina EC's overall victory.

"I am so proud of the Medina EC linemen who made up our rodeo team this year," said Trey Grebe, Medina EC CEO. "Not only did they display great speed and talent in the different events, but they practiced each task safely and efficiently."

Serapio Guzman earned the title of top overall journeyman for the second year, placing first in speed climbing with a time of 1:06.02, and securing second place in both OCR replacement



MEDINA EC'S 2024 LINEMAN RODEO TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) SERAPIO GUZMAN, EDDIE LOPEZ, BEN GARCIA, MARIO LOPEZ, TREY GUERRA AND JAY RODRIGUEZ.

and hurtman rescue. First time competitor Trey Guerra placed second overall in the apprentice division and second in cutout replacement.

Congratulations to all the competitors for their excellent performances and for contributing to Medina EC's overall success!

## Medina EC Exceeds Members' Expectations

**MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE COMPLETED** its quarterly member-wide customer satisfaction survey, where over 350 members were asked to participate. The member responses were sent to the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®), a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire United States. For the second quarter of 2024, Medina EC received an ACSI score of 88, on a 100-point scale. Medina EC's score is higher when compared to publicly measured investor-owned utility scores and municipal utility scores reported in the syndicated 2024 ACSI Energy Utility Study and places Medina EC 14 points higher than the average investor-owned utility score of 74, as well as 13 points higher than the municipal utilities score of 75, per the industry ratings. For more information, please visit [www.theacsi.org](http://www.theacsi.org).

The next quarterly surveys for Medina EC will be sent in August and November via email to randomly selected members.

*\*Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Medina Electric Cooperative, collected in May 2024. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit [www.theacsi.org](http://www.theacsi.org).*

### POWER TIP

Never take electric-powered devices near swimming pools, hot tubs or lakes. Use battery-powered devices near water to reduce the risk of shock.



JAHANZAIB | ADOBESTOCK

Grab Your Piece of America's Silver Legacy



99.9% Fine Silver Bars

Actual size is 30.6 x 50.4 mm

# Fill Your Vault with Morgan Silver Bars



Not only are these hefty bars one full Troy ounce of real, .999 precious silver, they're also beautiful, featuring the crisp image of a Morgan Silver Dollar struck onto the surface. That collectible image adds interest and makes these Silver Bars even more desirable. Minted in the U.S.A. from shimmering American silver, these one-ounce 99.9% fine silver bars are a great alternative to one-ounce silver coins or rounds. Plus, they offer great savings compared to other bullion options like one-ounce sovereign silver coins. Take advantage of our special offer for new customers only and save \$10.00 off our regular prices.

No, rather the effect came from tiny flecks of silver glinting in the sun.

## A Special Way for You to Stock Up on Precious Silver

While no one can predict the future value of silver in an uncertain economy, many Americans are rushing to get their hands on as much silver as possible, putting it away for themselves and their loved ones. You'll enjoy owning these Silver Bars. They're tangible. They feel good when you hold them, You'll relish the design and thinking about all it represents. These Morgan Design One-Ounce Bars make appreciated gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations, creating a legacy sure to be cherished for a lifetime.

One-Ounce Silver Morgan Design Bar \$49.95 ea.

Special offer - \$39.95 ea. +s/h **BUY MORE SAVE MORE!**

Limit of 25 bars per customer

Free Morgan Silver Dollar with every order over \$299 (A \$59.95 value!)



**FREE SHIPPING over \$99!**

Limited time only. Product total over \$99 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free

**1-888-201-7144**

Offer Code MSB206-03 Please mention this code when you call.

**SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**



**GOVMINT®**

## Morgan Silver Dollars Are Among the Most Iconic Coins in U.S. History

What makes them iconic? The Morgan Silver Dollar is the legendary coin that built the Wild West. It exemplifies the American spirit like few other coins, and was created using silver mined from the famous Comstock Lode in Nevada. In fact, when travelers approached the mountains around the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada in the 1850s, they were startled to see the hills shining in the sunlight like a mirror. A mirage caused by weary eyes?

## Order More and SAVE

You can save \$10.00 off our regular price when you buy now. There is a limit of 25 Bars per customer, which means with this special offer, you can save up to \$250.

## Hurry. Secure Yours Now!

Call right now to secure your .999 fine silver Morgan Design One-Ounce Silver Bars. You'll be glad you did.

GovMint • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. MSB206-03, Eagan, MN 55121

Asset Marketing Services, LLC d/b/a GovMint is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of AMS's Terms and Conditions (www.amsi-corp.com/terms-conditions); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to our Return Policy (www.amsi-corp.com/product-return-policy). Keeping your purchase means you agree to the Terms and Conditions. © 2024 GovMint. All rights reserved.





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



Corpus Christi is made up of Corpus Christians. No holier demonym than that, I'd suppose.

For places ending in “-o,” just add “-an.” Laredoans, San Angeloans, El Pasoans. Amarillo? Depends on whether you say Amarillo or Amarilla; George Strait sings *Amarillo by Morning*. So I go with him. The demonym, therefore, is Amarilloans.

San Antonio cannot follow this rule. “San Antonioans” is phonetically awkward. So we throw out the rule and just go with what sounds better: San Antonians.

If you have an “-on” ending, then by custom, add “-ian” to create the demonym. Houston becomes Houstonian. Sinton becomes Sintonian. Denton is Dentonian.

People in Austin seem to prefer Austin-ites. Austonian, though, cannot be the demonym. It's the adjective for style. You can say, “I love the Austonian vibe,” for instance.

For places ending in “-burg,” you just add “-er.” Fredericksburgers, Rosenburgers. Seems like we should have a town named Whataburg. Those residents would then be Whataburgers. I might move there just to be one.

Folks in Marfa are Marfans, but if they were Marfalites, it would be good marketing.

People in Paradise are Paradisians. Vega, in the Panhandle, has Vegans. Happy has Happians. Wink has Winkers. And Victoria has Victorians.

No matter what we are by demonym, we're all collectively Texans. And that, to me, is about the best thing in the world a person can be. ■

# Vegan Panhandlers

And other demonyms across Texas bend and break the rules of language

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

LATELY I'VE BEEN on a deep dive into “demonymology.” Sounds ominous, but it's simply the study of what people from certain places call themselves. There are general rules for demonyms, but there's nothing that can't be broken for phonetic aesthetics or preference—or even whimsy.

For instance, adding “-ites” to a place name is a biblical tradition for identifying the people there: Canaanites, Levites, etc. So folks in Dallas are Dallasites, people in Dumas are Dumasites and residents of Paris, Texas, would be known as Parisites—except they've adopted the French custom and call themselves Parisians.

We have many unusual, rather unpredictable demonyms in Texas. Ivanhoe

could be Ivanhoers, but if you say it too fast it sounds indelicate. So Ivanhoans is preferred. Carthage? Carthaginians. Leander? Leanderthals. That one is the result of an important archaeological find near there.

What do you call people in Cactus? Cacti? Could be Cactusians, but that sounds like a cough. What about Cut and Shoot? They are Cut and Shooters. Rough crowd. Commerce is also a challenge. Are they Commercials? Commericians? No, probably Commercites. The demonym for Waco isn't Wackos but Wacoans.

Comfort is interesting. Are they Comforters? Actually, yes. Dime Box has Dime Boxers. Alice has a truly sophisticated demonym. They're Alicians.

# Frozen Treats

Hello, July! Hello, Texas heat! Hello, relief.

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Nothing hits the spot after a hot day better than an icy *paleta* (popsicle). My coconut horchata paletas will keep you cool all summer long. Made from a base of horchata, a popular Mexican drink made by soaking rice in water, my paletas are light and refreshing with a hint of vanilla.

## Coconut Horchata Paletas

**1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut, divided use**  
**½ cup uncooked white rice**  
**2 teaspoons ground cinnamon**  
**4 cups hot water**  
**4 cups room temperature water**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**  
**¼ cup sugar**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place ¼ cup coconut on a baking sheet. Bake, stirring occasionally, until coconut is lightly toasted, about 5 minutes. Set aside.
2. To a blender add rice, the remaining ¾ cup coconut, cinnamon and hot water. Cover and allow to steep for 15 minutes. Blend until smooth. Strain into a pitcher.
3. Stir in room temperature water, vanilla and sugar. Taste for sweetness, and add more sugar if desired.
4. Pour the coconut horchata into a popsicle mold. Freeze overnight. Serve, sprinkled with the toasted coconut.

**SERVES 6**

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in *Cocina Gris* at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Coconut Orange Frozen Bars.





## Frozen Raspberry Squares

CLAUDIA PALACIOS SELLERS  
MIDSOUTH EC

This no-fuss dessert Palacios Sellers has been whipping up since 1998 is always a hit at her home. Berries and chocolate are the ultimate combo. With store-bought cookies and just a few additional ingredients, you can make a delicious berry delight at home.

- 1 cup finely crushed Oreos, about 14 cookies**
- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter, melted**
- ½ cup sugar**
- 1 cup half-and-half**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 12 ounces frozen raspberries**
- Chocolate syrup for serving**

- 1.** Coat an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with cooking spray. In a medium bowl, combine crushed Oreos with butter. Press mixture into the bottom of the baking dish.
- 2.** In another bowl, stir together sugar, half-and-half, and sour cream. Fold in frozen raspberries and spread mixture evenly over cookie crust.
- 3.** Cover and freeze 3–4 hours. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serving. Slice into squares and serve drizzled with chocolate syrup.

SERVES 9

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

## Mammaw's Peanut Butter Ice Cream Treats

KIM NEW  
BIG COUNTRY EC



A sweet mashup of two childhood favorites, this recipe from New's mother-in-law, Betty Sargent, is truly spectacular. From birthday parties to summer potlucks or movie nights, I'll be enjoying these peanut butter treats all year-round.

SERVES 9

- 1 cup peanut butter**
- 1 cup light corn syrup**
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal**
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream**

**COOK'S TIP** Leftover squares can be individually placed in plastic wrap and stored in the freezer for later.

- 1.** Line two 8-by-8-inch metal pans with parchment paper.
- 2.** In a large bowl, stir together peanut butter and corn syrup. Add cereal 1 or 2 cups at a time, stirring to coat with the peanut butter and corn syrup mixture.
- 3.** Divide mixture evenly between the two pans. With damp hands, press mixture evenly into pans. Freeze 1 hour.
- 4.** Scoop and spread ice cream evenly over cereal mixture in one pan. Run knife around edges of frozen cereal mixture in the other pan to release it onto top of ice cream. Press gently and return to freezer for 30 minutes. Slice into squares and serve.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**COOKIE EXCHANGE** DUE JULY 10

Want to trade your best cookies for \$500? Send us the recipe your friends always rave about and that could be your prize money. Enter by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.





## Pistachio Freeze

RUBY COWAN  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

If you're craving a deliciously salty and sweet dessert, Cowan has got you covered. I simply love the lightly salty cracker crust that pairs so well with the pistachio pudding. Bonus: This sweet and salty treat comes together in a snap!

55 butter crackers, divided use  
¾ cup (1½ sticks) butter, melted  
2 cups milk  
2 packages pistachio pudding mix  
(3.4 ounces each)  
1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened  
2 cups frozen whipped topping

1. In a large resealable plastic bag, crush 50 crackers with a rolling pin. Combine with butter and press into a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.
2. In a bowl, stir together milk and pudding. Add ice cream and whipped topping, stir to combine. Pour mixture over the crust. Crush remaining crackers with your hands and sprinkle over mixture.
3. Cover and freeze at least 1 hour. Slice and serve.

SERVES 10

**TCP** Find the August 2014 issue in our online archive and discover the best Co-op Country recipes in that month's Just Chill contest.

## No-Guilt Goodies

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

**How frozen fruit can become a delightful snack:**

Spread yogurt on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and top with diced fresh fruit and nuts. Freeze, slice and serve.

Blend a frozen, peeled banana in a food processor with coconut milk for a delicious ice cream.

Drizzle melted chocolate over diced fruit spread on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, freeze and enjoy.

Slice watermelon wedges, insert a popsicle stick into the rind and freeze for a guilt-free popsicle.

Wash and fully dry fresh grapes. Place in a zip-close bag and freeze overnight for a refreshing snack.

# Not just another Hunger Game.



Enter online at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/contests)  
or scan the QR Code



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



[TXGulfSeafood.com](https://TXGulfSeafood.com)

# WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2024 SEASON

## Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$SAVE \$\$!

Call TODAY to Qualify for This Limited-Time Opportunity!



**PRE-APPROVED  
FINANCING  
AVAILABLE!**

**WE CONSIDER  
ANYTHING  
ON TRADE!**

**SWIMTEXSUN.COM**



**STAYcation at Home in 2024!**

**1-800-SWIMTEX (1-800-794-6839)**

*A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.*



**TCP E-news**

**Fast and Direct**

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

**TCP Sign up now**  
[TexasCoopPower.com/join](https://TexasCoopPower.com/join)



**TUB OR  
SHOWER FROM  
\$9,995.00  
INSTALLATION  
INCLUDED**

**SPECIAL  
SAVINGS!**

**YOUR CHOICE OF A  
WALK-IN SHOWER  
OR WALK-IN TUB**

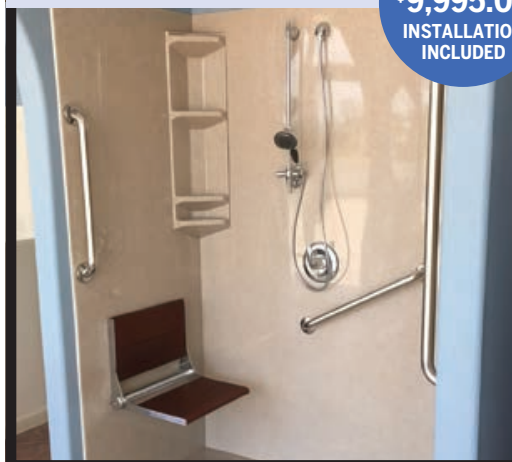
Lifetime Warranty  
Custom Sizes Available  
100% Financing Available  
A+ BBB Rating  
Good Contractors List



**BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS**  
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY

**Trusted by Texans for 19 Years**  
Tubs and Showers  
Made in America  
Visit Our Texas Showroom

**Call for More Info**  
682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362  
[bestbuywalkintubs.com](https://bestbuywalkintubs.com)





COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Face to Face With History

Look into the mystery of the Malakoff Man at the Pearce Museum

BY CHET GARNER

A GROUP OF WORKERS near the East Texas town of Malakoff made an unusual discovery near the Trinity River in 1929. They were digging out a gravel pit when they unearthed a round stone about the size of a basketball lying 20 feet below ground level.

As they looked at its smooth surface, the stone seemed to be looking back at them through two carved eyes. Was this a prehistoric sculpture? And how did it get buried in dirt that at the time was believed to be 100,000 years old—when humans didn't get to Texas until some 20,000 years ago? I had the same questions and set off for the Pearce Museum in Corsicana, southeast of Dallas, to get answers.

I was stunned by the wealth of artifacts inside this little-known museum on the campus of Navarro College. I could have spent hours exploring the immense Civil War collection, but I was on a mission for the mysterious. In a back room, I found three carved heads surrounded by Native American projectile points and an impressive hunter-gatherer display.

It turns out that following the original discovery in the Malakoff quarry, archaeologists found two more heads in the same vicinity. As far as explanations go, it seems science is as stumped as I am.

These unusual heads have as many supporters as they do critics, with some scientists attempting to discredit their integrity. Some believe them to be all-out fakes while others argue that they're authentic, dating them to when Paleo-Indians were known to have been in the Americas, roughly 9,000–15,000 years ago.

Unfortunately the dig site was flooded, halting any further investigations (insert conspiracy theories here). Regardless, it was fun staring down a mystery that can stare right back. ■

ABOVE Malakoff Man confounds Chet, as the stone heads have done for many over the past century.

**TCP** See these Malakoff heads for yourself in the video on our website. And see all Chet's Explorations 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

6

**Fredericksburg [6–7, 20–21] Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing**, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

8

**Lampasas [8–14] Spring Ho**, (512) 556-5301, springho.com

11

**Levelland [11–13] Junior Rodeo Cowboys Association Finals**, (806) 290-2848, jrcarodeo.com

**Mason [11–13] Round Up Weekend**, (325) 347-5758, masontx.org

12

**Midland [12–14] Celebration of the Arts**, (432) 687-1149, acmidland.org

**Ingram [12–Aug. 9] Summer ArtMart**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

13

**Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival**, (817) 596-3801, parkercountypeachfestival.com

**New Braunfels [13–14] Petfest**, (830) 488-7814, hillcountryconferences.com

17

**Kilgore [17–20, 25–27] Tinker Bell**, (903) 983-8601, texasshakespeare.com

19

**Brenham Puppy Pals**, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

20

**Friona Cheeseburger Festival & Cook-Off**, (806) 250-3491, friona-chamber.com

25

**Clute [25-27] The Great Texas Mosquito Festival**, 1-800-371-2971, mosquitofestival.com

26

**Levelland [26-27] Fearless Champions Summer Showcase**, (806) 894-4161, facebook.com/fearlesschampionsfallshowcase

**Fredericksburg [26-28] Hill Country Swap Meet**, (254) 751-7958, earhartproductions.com

27

**Buffalo Gap Tour de Gap**, (325) 829-0617, tourdegap.com

**Giddings Sip & Shop Christmas in July**, (979) 542-3455, giddingstx.com

**McKinney Magical Moth Night**, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

**Bandera [27-28] National Day of the American Cowboy**, (210) 632-4535, banderabusiness.com

28

**San Angelo Buffalo Soldier Anniversary Day**, (325) 657-4444, fortconcho.com

## AUGUST

3

**New Braunfels Already Gone: A Tribute to The Eagles**, (830) 627-0808, brauntex.org

### **Submit Your Event**

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



# SUMMER

in Grapevine

Discover **SEA LIFE's Ocean Tunnel**, one of many amazing activities that make Grapevine, Texas the home of **Summer fun!**

[SummerInGrapevine.com](http://SummerInGrapevine.com)



**PERMA-ROOF**  
from **Southern Builders**

**Steel Mobile Home Roofing**

High energy bill?  
Roof rumble?  
Leaks?

**MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS**

Since 1983

Contact us at **800.633.8969**  
or **roofover.com**

**Bank C.D.'s Due?**  
**CALL US NOW**

**1-800-359-4940** TEXAS TOLL-FREE  
[www.mattsonfinancialservices.com](http://www.mattsonfinancialservices.com)

**BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™**  
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710  
*Serving Customers All Over Texas*

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.

# ★ STILL THE TRACTOR PACKAGE LEADER ★



Pkg. includes 4' Box Blade and Cutter

## New MF 1723E & 1725M Sub Compact Tractor Packages

23HP and 25HP Diesel, 4x4, ROPS, Hydro Auto Transmission, Cruise, R4 Tires, Quick Attach Loaders & Buckets

Option: Backhoe Package

AS LOW AS **\$239 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 84 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 5' Box Blade and Cutter

## New MF 1835E Tractor Package

35HP Diesel, 4x4, Shuttle Transmission, ROPS, Quick Attach Front End Loader & Bucket

Options: 25 HP and 40 HP Models, Hydro Transmission

AS LOW AS **\$339 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 84 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

## New MF 2850E & 2860E Tractor Packages

50HP & 60HP Diesel, 4x4, Shuttle Transmissions, R4 Tires, ROPS, Quick Attach Front End Loaders & Buckets, Rear Hydraulic Remotes

Option: Hydro Transmission

AS LOW AS **\$539 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 72 Months WAC



Pkg. includes 6' Box Blade and Cutter

## New MF 2860M Deluxe Cab Tractor Package

60HP Diesel, 4x4, Hydraulic Power Shuttle Transmission, 1 Set of Hydraulic Remotes, R4 Tires, Quick Attach Front End Loader & Bucket, Front Fenders, AC, Heat & Stereo Ready Cab

AS LOW AS **\$815 Per Month**

0 Down, 0% Interest for 72 Months WAC

### DELIVERY AVAILABLE



## FOSTER'S WORK & PLAY

936-967-0011 • Text 713-899-7976 After Hours • [fostersworknplay.com](http://fostersworknplay.com)

3601 US Hwy 190 W • Livingston, Texas 77351 • [sales@fostersworknplay.com](mailto:sales@fostersworknplay.com)

All horsepower ratings are approximate engine horsepower ratings from manufacturer. Prices and payments approximate with approved credit by AGCO Finance.

0% Interest Rates may be blended slightly because of implements other than MF Brand. All prices and payments may not include freight, set up, insurance or delivery if applicable



MASSEY FERGUSON

ONLY YOU CAN MAKE SMOKEY BEAR'S BIRTHDAY WISH COME TRUE  
 CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF WILDFIRE PREVENTION



[tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire)



## Hit the Road

### Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) has something for you.

**TCP** Plan now

[TexasCoopPower.com/events](http://TexasCoopPower.com/events)



# Shells and Scales

Slithering and silently sneaking their way to the top this month are creatures that use their shells and scales as disguises, protection and even homes. Let's appreciate their photos, even if they might give us pause in real life.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

**1 TRACY COSTELLO**  
PEDERNALES EC

"I found this small garter snake in the oregano plant in the backyard. I had to wait patiently for this little one to trust me enough to make an appearance."

**2 CYRIL FERNANDES**  
PEDERNALES EC

"The green anole is found throughout the eastern third of Texas, and it can change color from brown to green. Males have a pink throat fan called a dewlap that can be puffed up."

**3 RICK KIEFFER**  
BLUEBONNET EC

"Spotted this little guy while camping at Cedar Breaks Park on Lake Georgetown."

**4 TERESA MOULDS**  
BIG COUNTRY EC

"While this eastern hognose poses, a gorgone checkerspot alights on its head. The snake was in display mode, stretching the skin around head and neck in an effort to scare away large predators, me in this case."



## Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUL 10 Mascots**
- DUE AUG 10 Young Photographers**
- DUE SEP 10 Parks**



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

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Shells and Scales photos from readers.



## Culling Time

When tomato farming in Jacksonville meant selling the best and savoring the rest

BY CYNTHIA L. MATLOCK  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
SARAH FERONE

**THE OTHER DAY**, while picking tomatoes from my garden, I remembered how, growing up in the 1970s, we gathered under the large oak tree in my parents' yard and made tough decisions. Which produce would go to town?

Of all the crops we grew, tomatoes were my favorite because someone always brought a saltshaker to the fields. A misshapen or overripe tomato was a prime fruit for eating. Right there in the field, I would stop and enjoy the juicy snack.

After picking the ripe ones—and a few yellow and large green ones, too—we headed home around midmorning, sweaty and tired. The important part was next: culling time.

The prettiest, most perfectly shaped red tomatoes went into one basket,

while the blemished, funny-shaped or otherwise flawed ones filled another basket. Under the shade tree, a breeze kept us cool while we'd chat and separate the produce.

About 55 years prior, around 1917, the farms surrounding Jacksonville, in Cherokee County, south of Tyler, produced 90% of the tomatoes shipped from Texas. The area's sandy soil still grows some of the best tomatoes in the state. And my family learned to take part in that business.

We took our best tomatoes to town. However, have no fear—there were plenty of uses for the culled ones that we kept for ourselves: soup, cobbler, picante sauce and, of course, lots for canning.

Texas' tomato industry once employed thousands of people on the farms, in packing sheds and in the factories that made boxes and baskets. Over time Jacksonville became known as the tomato capital of the world.

Some of the old packing sheds with wide dock doors still stand next to the train tracks. That was where farmers sold their vegetables to be shipped all over. One of the six basket factories in the county still operates in town too. Many of my relatives worked at basket factories, or as we called them, box factories.

Competition and marketing problems caused a collapse in the tomato business in the 1950s. During the '70s we took our tomatoes and other vegetables to the local farmers market. Bulk buyers bought from us and drove to the larger Dallas or Houston farmers markets. There they could make double the profit.

Our father would stubbornly say, "I see no reason to drive that far' to sell a tomato."

Yesterday, examining my ripe tomatoes, I found one with yellow spots and a distorted shape. Oh well, even the imperfect ones have purpose. I grabbed the saltshaker. ■

# ATTO SPORT THE MOST ADVANCED FOLDING MOBILITY SCOOTER IN THE WORLD

Where engineering excellence meets sleek design - a lightweight, safe, customizable, and stylish scooter for UNLIMITED FREEDOM.

## How did Anna start to enjoy life to the fullest?

At the age of 56, a back operation left me dependent on a cane, significantly impacting my daily life. Simple tasks like going to the store or meeting friends became challenging, and I even had to cancel a long-awaited anniversary trip to Italy.

My husband purchased a scooter for me, but it was cumbersome and uncomfortable for everyday use, leaving me feeling more constrained than liberated. However, everything changed when I came across the ATTO SPORT. This remarkable scooter proved to be a game changer. Not only is it robust and reliable, but it also conveniently splits into two pieces, allowing me to effortlessly lift it into my car trunk on my own. I was even able to stow it in the overhead compartment on the plane, enabling us to finally take that trip to Italy! I am now independent once more, able to go wherever I please and do so with a striking sense of style. In fact, I now find that my husband struggles to keep up with me!



## What makes ATTO so unique?

- **Independence and convenience:** Easy to use and conveniently folds into a compact suitcase size for simple storage. It easily separates into two parts in seconds, with the heaviest piece weighing just 37 pounds, making it easier to lift into your car trunk.
- **Go anywhere :** Conquer any terrain with puncture-proof, shock-absorbing tires and a 4-inch ground clearance. Equipped with electronic stability control for added safety on descents and turns, it is also flight-approved, ideal for air travel and cruise ships. With a driving range of up to 12.5 miles (25 miles with the XL battery), a top speed of 6.2 MPH, and a maximum weight capacity of 300 pounds, this durable scooter is designed for longevity.
- **Top-Notch Engineering:** Guaranteeing both comfort and durability, this scooter offers ample legroom and a big comfortable seat. The ATTO is super portable and lightweight, and still rides like a heavy-duty scooter.
- **Unmatched Stylish Design:** You deserve a mobility solution that doesn't just get you from A to B but makes you feel great while doing so. ATTO stands out from the crowd with its stunning design.

**Free home demos & test drives available nationwide.**

**Texas Residents: Call us today and we'll bring an ATTO SPORT scooter to your home for a FREE test drive.**

**movinglife**<sup>®</sup>  
unlimited freedom

MOBILITY EXPERTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Call Now

FREE OFFICE AND HOME DEMOS

**1-888-602-1047** OR

us.movinglife.com/ML07

VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION

**Dallas, TX**

5000 Quorum Drive Suite 155, 75254



**AIRLINE APPROVED.**  
*Spacious legroom, comfortable seat*

*Splits into 2 lightweight parts for easy lifting*

*Folds in 3 seconds, rolls like a trolley suitcase*



**Don't Wait!**  
Call today and get a free front/rear basket and phone holder with your new ATTO SPORT purchase!

Promo code **ML07**  
**\$184 value**





**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Get a **FREE** consultation!  
Call **844-501-2570**

## WINDOW AND DOOR SALES EVENT

Save Big on Replacement Windows and Doors!

Buy One, Get One  
**40% OFF**  
All Windows and Doors<sup>1</sup>

AND

**NO** Money Down  
**NO** Monthly Payments  
**NO** Interest for 12 months<sup>1</sup>

MINIMUM PURCHASE OF 4 - INTEREST ACCRUES FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE BUT IS WAIVED IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS



**TESTED, TRUSTED, AND TOTALLY PROVEN.<sup>2</sup>**

Offer Ends **7/31/2024**

Call for your **FREE** consultation.

**844-501-2570**

**FINDYOURWINDOW.COM**



<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 7/1/2024 and 7/31/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. <sup>2</sup>Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. <sup>3</sup>Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading full service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA13747 \*Using U.S. and imported parts.