

The 2023 Annual Report, 2024 Annual Membership Meeting Notice and election information are in this issue of

**Texas Coop Power**



**It's Been Another  
Year for the Books!**

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

***Annual Membership Meeting***

**We hope to see you there! Details inside.**

**Herby Ham Activity Center • Saturday, September 28**

**Registration and breakfast begin at 9 a.m. • Meeting begins at 10 a.m.**

**248 FM 3447 • Uvalde • 78801**

## Official Notice of Membership Meeting to All Members:

The Annual Membership Meeting of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Herby Ham Activity Center in Uvalde on Saturday, September 28, at 10 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. Introduce and hear reports of officers and directors.
2. Election results of directors.
3. All other matters that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

## Aviso Oficial de la Junta Anual de la Membresia Para Todos Los Miembros:

La Junta Anual de la Membresia de la Cooperativa Medina Electric, Inc., se llevara acabo en el Centro de Actividades Herby Ham en Uvalde el sabado 28 de septiembre, a las 10 a.m. para tomar accion sobre los siguientes asuntos:

1. Introducir y oír los informes de oficiales y directores.
2. Elección de directores.
3. Todas otros asuntos que se presenten antes o despues de la junta.

## Translation Services Available Upon Request

Let Medina EC know if you need an American Sign Language or Spanish translator during the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting on September 28. Call 1-866-632-3532 (ext. 1008) before Wednesday, September 11, to request the service.

Este seguro dejar a Medina EC saber si usted necesita a un traductor de espanol durante la 85<sup>th</sup> Junta Anual de Miembro el 28 de septiembre. Llame 1-866-632-3532 (ext. 1008) antes del miércoles, 11 de septiembre para solicitar el servicio.

## JOIN US FOR A BOOK DRIVE!

In honor of everything local libraries provide to the communities they serve, Medina Electric Cooperative is hosting a book drive at our 85th Annual Membership Meeting. Members who bring books, new or used, to the meeting will be entered in a separate prize drawing. Some of the prizes will include a new Amazon Kindle, gift cards and more!

Bring the book drive tickets (located on the inside back cover) with you to be entered in the book drive drawing. The collected books will be split up and donated to libraries in Medina EC's service area.

### Details:

- Book drive tickets are only eligible to win prizes related to the book drive.
- Book drive tickets are not eligible for the \$1,000 grand prize or any prizes related to the Annual Membership Meeting.
- Members must be present to win prizes.
- One entry/ticket per book donated.
- The collected books will be split up and donated to libraries in Medina EC's service area.

# 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 28 • Herby Ham Activity Center  
248 FM 3447 • Uvalde • 78801

## Meeting Schedule

- **9 a.m.—Registration & Breakfast**  
Visit informational booths, meet local library representatives to learn about library services, and visit with Medina EC employees before grabbing your breakfast.
- **10 a.m.—Business Meeting & Election Results**
- **10:30 a.m.—Must be Registered for Prizes**  
*Prizes will be drawn and announced following the business meeting. You must be present to win.*
- **After Meeting—Live Line Safety Demonstration**

# 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting

**DO NOT MAIL THIS CARD.** If you are attending, bring this portion of the card with you to the meeting for registration and to be entered in the grand prize drawing. You must be present at the meeting to win prizes. If you mail this card to the cooperative, you will not be eligible for the drawing.



**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

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Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

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Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK DRIVE TICKET**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for the Co-op?

Do you have a question for the cooperative or something you would like to know more about? Send your questions in and we will have someone reach out to you. Popular questions may be answered at the Annual Membership Meeting!

Your Question or Topic:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you prefer to be contacted?:

Email or  Phone

Email Address or Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Card / Grand-Prize Entry**  
for



Bring this card with you to the meeting. See instructions on other side.

## RSVP Card

You can also RSVP at [MedinaEC.org/RSVP](http://MedinaEC.org/RSVP).

**MAIL THIS PORTION** in the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code below by September 13 so we have enough food and gifts for you and other guests! Do not include any bill payments or other documents.



Count me in for food and fun on

Saturday, September 28, in Uvalde.

There will be \_\_\_\_\_ adults from my  
Number

household at the meeting and \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

children.

**Scan me  
to RSVP!**



IMPROVING LIVES  
ONE RAMP AT A TIME

THE SCREAMING SUCCESS  
OF THE BEATLES

A TRACTOR'S  
FINAL RESTING PLACE

# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2024

## Quiet Storm

Texas School for  
the Deaf upholds  
a winning tradition





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# September 2024



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Texas School for the Deaf fights preconceptions and a pandemic with gridiron grit.

*By Mark Wangrin  
Photos by Scott Van Osdol*

## The Ramp Champs

Volunteers and wood corralled by the Texas Ramp Project lift neighbors statewide.

*By Bob McCullough*

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#### ON THE COVER

Texas School for the Deaf players burst onto the field through smoke and confetti.  
*Photo by Scott Van Osdol*

#### ABOVE

Cooperative volunteers from CoServ help build a ramp for a North Texas resident with mobility limitations.  
*Photo by CoServ*

# Boosting Rural Texas

A STATEWIDE NONPROFIT wants to make sure rural communities don't miss out on their share of the billions in federal dollars available for broadband, water and energy upgrades; transportation infrastructure; and other projects.

Texas Rural Funders works to connect communities with grant opportunities and grant writers to work through a process that is often overwhelming.

Our state is expected to receive about \$2.5 billion for water infrastructure. As the state with the largest rural population, it also will receive billions in federal dollars in broadband infrastructure grants. In more than half of Texas counties, a majority of residents lacks access to high-speed internet.

To see if TRF can help your town or organization, visit [texasruralfunders.org](http://texasruralfunders.org).



**365** The length, in feet, of an aircraft in development called the WindRunner, which is intended to deliver wind turbine blades too large for transport on public roads. Its proposed record-breaking length would be three times the distance of the Wright brothers' first powered flight, in 1903.



## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

### My first job was ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our July prompt: **I'd like to be famous for ...**

Designing a health care system for all.

DORIS REDMAN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
BRENHAM

A little while.

VERA FIELDS  
VIA FACEBOOK

Being a quiet listener instead of a loud talker.

JOE BABIN  
BLUEBONNET EC  
BASTROP

Making sweet potato pie.

ELENORA RICKETTS  
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.

### TCP Contests and More

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



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Easy Breads

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Parks

**RECOMMENDED READING**  
National Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day is September 13. We have the perfect recipes. Check out *Kids Cooking* from August 2021.





JULY 2024 Vegan Panhandlers

“Here in Kerr County we enjoy calling ourselves Center Pointers, Kerrvillians, Ingramites, Hunters and Mountain Homies.”

LYNETTE WALDREP  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC  
MOUNTAIN HOME



SHAW NIELSEN

**One Town's Social Glue**

What are folks in my town called [*Vegan Panhandlers*, July 2024]? Little Elmites? Little Elmians? A quick search lends the most validity to Little Elmers. Whimsical and a bit silly. I think Mr. Strong would approve.

Carrie Binns  
CoServ  
Little Elm

I live in Fischer and my name is Peter, so I like to call myself a Fischerman.

Peter Locke  
Pedernales EC  
Fischer

You omitted one obvious city that doesn't fit your demonym paradigm: Mesquite. People from Mesquite are referred to as Skeeters.

Ed Girard  
HILCO EC  
Hillsboro

One night during dinner when I lived in Oklahoma, the local weatherman referred to the people of Moore as Morons. I'll never forget it. I choked and spit food everywhere.

We never saw that young man on TV again.

Donna Allon  
Bluebonnet EC  
"A Bastropian"

**Literary Menu**

We stumbled across the Cactus Book Shop while looking for a restaurant 20 years ago [*Texas Book Man*, July 2024]. We found books by Paul Patterson, John Erickson, Elmer Kelton and others. Forgot about lunch and bought a first edition of *Crazy Women in the Rafters*, which I loaned to a friend and never saw again.

Now I'm going to call Felton Cochran and see if I can get another copy of that lost masterpiece.

J. Phil Dering  
Pedernales EC  
San Marcos

**TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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DAVE SHAFER

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
[letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto: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



# Calling an Audible

Texas School for the Deaf fights preconceptions and a pandemic with gridiron grit

BY MARK WANGRIN • PHOTOS BY SCOTT VAN OSDOL

**ENERGIZED AND RAUCOUS**, it was largely a pep rally like any other. Teams introduced. Cheerleaders cheering. Students screaming. The sound was deafening, even if in fact nearly all the attendees were already deaf.

The differences in the packed Austin gym on the Thursday before the Texas School for the Deaf's homecoming game were subtle but noticeable. No band. No chanting.

Sign language more than made up for that.

That's the rule at TSD, the only Deaf high school in Texas. Although there's a wide range of hearing loss among the students and staff, American Sign Language is the only allowed means of communication.

Except on the football field. There, anything goes.

Pad-popping hits are a universal language. Players who can talk, talk loudly and emphatically—the Rangers even got flagged in a recent season for “cussing.” Music blares in the weight room, the more bass the better. But communication is mostly by sign language, the intense looks on coach's faces and the use of other senses sharpened by hearing loss.

Players can't watch their opponent and coaches simultaneously, so signing from the sidelines isn't an option on the field. They can't hear opponents changing plays to better counter or attack, or teammates shouting adjustments. Paul Hubbard, a player at Gallaudet College, a Deaf school in Washington, D.C., invented the football huddle in the early 1890s to prevent opponents from stealing signs.

TSD's Kenneth Montanez, who shared head coaching duties with Archie Savannah Jr. in 2023, played multiple sports growing up but always loved football. He played five years at what is now Gallaudet University and kept feeding his passion by playing semipro football and rugby.

“It's more than physical for them,” writes Montanez, who lost his hearing as a baby in New York City. “It teaches self-discipline and how to achieve things as a community.”

The Rangers' annual 10-game schedule includes at least two games against other Deaf state schools, one home and one away. The host school puts on a dinner and dance for the visitors, with the idea of forming a nationwide network of peers who face similar obstacles.

Ursa Rewolinski's network was closer to home. Her godfather is former TSD head coach Andy Bonheyo, and she grew up in Austin as a fan of the football team. By age 3, she could identify NFL teams playing on TV by their helmets. After



OPPOSITE AND TOP: Quarterback Xiovan Tomlinson is aware of preconceptions in the hearing world. “They think that we have low IQs or we can't drive,” he says. “But really, deaf people can do anything.” ABOVE: Ball carrier Daniel Sweet looks for an opening during a scrimmage.

graduating from the Maryland School for the Deaf, she returned to teach at TSD in 2019, her football passion evident but unfulfilled.

“Everybody’s like, ‘Why are you not a coach?’ You know what, the door hadn’t really opened up for me,” she says through an ASL interpreter. “And so, long story short, I came back here, became a teacher and the door opened, and now I’m here.”

She became the team’s first female coach last season.

## Great and Small

TSD began playing sports with a baseball team in 1887. Since then its teams have won 69 national championships in 12 sports, including 16 in football. And while those titles were meaningful, they weren’t statement-making the way a 2020 championship was. All it took was a pandemic and remarkable adaptability.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in spring 2020, it hit TSD hard. Some 40% of the 500 students live on campus—they come from all over the state—and many concerned parents kept their children home. Other players fell ill.

Football is a physical sport that requires numbers—11 players per team on the field at any one time. It began looking like the Rangers might not have the numbers to field a team, much less compete, as the pandemic tore through its roster.

TSD belongs to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, which also sponsors six-man football, with smaller teams that play on shortened fields. To keep playing, the Rangers downsized.

“To continue to have a football program, it was the best decision that we ever made,” says athletic director Chris Hamilton, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative. “However, we had to deal with some very upset community



“It’s more than physical for them. It teaches self-discipline and how to achieve things as a community.”



OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT: Family members escort Lev Shayman, a member of the homecoming court, onto the field. Jermiah Garcia played most of his life in the hearing world but didn't feel he got the proper support, academically or socially. He transferred to TSD in 2022. ABOVE: Cheerleaders keep school spirit front and center for the fans.

members and explain to people that we just couldn't make it as a full team.

"So it took time. The community kind of went through a grieving process."

And the team went through, well, a shrinking process. An 80-yard field was marked at their on-campus stadium, even as the goalposts remained in place for a 100-yard field. Illness and injury occasionally limited the 20-person roster to seven players.

But they won. And kept winning, through a 63-32 state championship victory over crosstown power Veritas Academy, which had routed them in a preseason scrimmage.

"Winning the state title as a Deaf school is way more challenging than winning the national title," writes Kylar Sicoli, a senior wide receiver on that team, in an email. "A Deaf school will always win the [Deaf] national title. We never won a football state title, so we made history."

## Sound of Success

Winning the state title was another step in dismissing preconceptions hearing people might have.

"They think that we have low IQs or we can't drive. Things like that," says quarterback Xiovan Tomlinson, a third-generation deaf player at TSD. "But really, deaf people can

## Sign of Their Times

**American Sign Language has thousands of signs, from "aah" to "zucchini," but sometimes they just don't seem to be enough.**

For example, there are two signs for Ranger, the TSD mascot. One is for park ranger. One is for forest ranger. Phil Mauro, a former TSD athletic director, didn't think either evoked the courage, resourcefulness and independence of the name-sake legendary Texas lawmen.

"Texas A&M had Gig 'Em, Miami had the 'U,'" recalls Mauro, 79, who is still coaching football in Ohio. "The biggest thing was to make the kids feel they were on the same level as everyone else."

Mauro borrowed the Hook 'em Horns sign from that school 3 miles up Congress Avenue in Austin, the University of Texas, and customized it by wrapping the middle finger over the index finger—the ASL sign for "R."

Almost 40 years later, it still represents what it means to be a Ranger.

"I'm really glad they still use it," Mauro says. "It was and is our Rangers No. 1 sign."



ABOVE: Players come together after a pregame pep talk. RIGHT: Theo Savannah with his father, Archie, who shared head coaching duties last season.

do anything.”

Montanez points out that he’s seen studies that deaf drivers are safer because they aren’t easily distracted and “have a lifetime’s learning on using their peripheral vision. It’s the same in football.”

AD Hamilton, who joined the school in 2001, says this is nothing new.

“Historically, Deaf teams have been oppressed just as deaf people have been oppressed, but hey, we’re here,” he says. “We’re doing this. We can do it. We’re just like you, and we’re better than you in some cases.”

Jermiah Garcia played most of his life in the hearing world and was a budding standout as a freshman at Shoemaker High School in Killeen, but he didn’t feel he got the proper support, academically or socially. So, encouraged by his interpreter, a TSD alumnus, Garcia transferred to TSD for his sophomore season in 2022.

“I was really lost trying to communicate with my teammates. I couldn’t have my interpreter on the field,” Garcia says. “My interpreter would tell me, some of the students are saying that you can’t do this, you can’t do that, you can’t play.”

Teammate Niven Zhang is more succinct. “I just feel like going to a public school would be really a waste of time because there’s a lot of logistical things that we have to work



“When coaches like me are able to communicate clearly, in depth and spatially, I can see the ‘aha’ moment in their eyes and faces.”



Ursa Rewolinski grew up with strong connections to the TSD football team. She became a teacher at the school in 2019 and last season became an assistant coach, the first woman to do so in the team’s history.



out with interpreters,” he says. “Here at Texas School for the Deaf, everything works just like it should.”

Montanez knows his players are in the right place for success.

“Too often, when they’re being coached by someone who doesn’t understand them (tends to be hearing), things fly over their head,” he writes. “When coaches like me are able to communicate clearly, in depth and spatially, I can see the ‘aha’ moment in their eyes and faces.

“I love seeing that.”

## Help Ahead

One of the main challenges of a football player not being able to hear is, not surprisingly, communication.

Whistles. Audibles. Referee warnings. In-game coaching. Fans. Trash talk.

“Oh yeah, every opponent we go against has a lot of trash talk,” junior Theo Savannah says. “Then we show them we can play.”

Midway through the 2023 season, AT&T introduced a field-leveling technology, equipping helmets with 5G-augmented reality lenses that can display text.

NCAA rules, which many high school associations, including TAPPS, follow, prohibit electronic devices in hel-

metts, but Gallaudet was granted a one-game waiver to use the technology. The Bison promptly ended a four-game losing streak.

Sicoli, one of several TSD alums playing for the Bison, writes that the technology could help them avoid late hit penalties caused by not being able to hear the ref’s whistle.

“That could be a game changer for some deaf players,” Sicoli writes. “Also the helmet would help the coach and players communicate during the game. The coach always has difficulty getting the player’s attention.”

David Goodnight, a referee from Somerville who is a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, doesn’t know ASL—few who officiate TSD games do—but officiating deaf teams’ games is an ongoing education.

“I just learned two words last week,” he says. He points just above his temple for “heads” and puts the palm of his right hand over the top of left hand and wags his left index finger for “tails.”

Goodnight says deaf players do a good job avoiding late hits. “Coaches say you play to the whistle,” he says. “Deaf players understand you play till the end of the play.” ■



# THE RAMP CHAMPS

**Volunteers and wood corralled by the Texas Ramp Project lift neighbors statewide**

BY BOB MCCULLOUGH

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Patsy Beasley with her late husband, ramp recipient Oral Beasley. Cooperative volunteers from CoServ with a ramp they built in Denton, and Wood County EC volunteers with one of their finished projects. OPPOSITE: CoServ volunteers have built dozens of ramps, and the CoServ Charitable Foundation has awarded more than \$70,000 to the Texas Ramp Project.

Texans love the ability to go and do as they desire—freedom that a lot of folks can take for granted. For some, leaving home is a struggle.

But Texans also care about their neighbors, so it's not surprising that a statewide army of 3,500 volunteers works year-round to give life-changing mobility to those dependent on wheelchairs.

The nonprofit Texas Ramp Project has coordinated the construction of more than 27,500 ramps that, if placed end to end, would stretch 142 miles. Recipients of the simple but durable wooden ramps are low-income older adults and others with disabilities identified by health care providers.

“Ramps change lives,” says Keith R. Henderson, TRP president. “They bring safety, independence and improved quality of life. They also ease the burden on family and caregivers. With safe access, older adults can age in place at home in their own environment. Where else can you show up on a Saturday morning and go home four hours later having transformed a person’s life?”

Such transformations originated in 1985, when members of the Richardson Kiwanis Club built a wheelchair ramp. One build after another led to the creation of the Dallas Ramp Project, which led to the construction of 1,400 ramps and showed a clear statewide need.

In 2006, TRP was incorporated to build ramps on a much



*"Where else can you show up on a Saturday morning and go home four hours later having transformed a person's life?"*

broader scale. John Laine, who had served as volunteer director of the Dallas Ramp Project, founded TRP and became its executive director. He continued in that capacity until late last year.

"Personally, I believe God gave each of us skills, and our job is to learn what those skills are and to use them to help others," Laine says. "I was given certain skills that seem to have blended well with TRP. It has been a blessing for me to have had this work put into my path."

TRP doesn't accept direct requests from clients or families seeking ramps. Referrals must come from a third-party health care provider via the TRP website, [texasramps.org](http://texasramps.org). That's also the web address for volunteering and making donations.

After an eligible ramp request is processed, TRP directs a trained surveyor to visit the prospective ramp recipient and design a structure that meets the client's needs. A volunteer construction crew then implements the design, typically in a few hours, with the help of precut wood delivered by TRP.

"Two hours of preparation probably saves three hours at the build site," says Tom Canfield of Fredericksburg, a surveyor and construction coordinator. Canfield has had a hand in more than 100 ramps.

**Shortly after daybreak** in July 2023, he and four friends converged on the rural home of Oral Beasley, who used a motorized wheelchair because of a stroke. Thanks to Canfield's prep work and his team's carpentry skills, Beasley was cruising smoothly on his new ramp by midday.

Beasley died just three months after the build, but his wife, Patsy, says the ramp drastically improved his well-being. She praises Canfield and his crew "for doing such a beautiful thing, the first time anyone helped us like that. It took away my husband's fear about tumbling over."

Regaining freedom and no longer feeling trapped at home are common experiences relayed by ramp recipients.

To make mobility miracles happen, TRP partners with churches, civic clubs, businesses, military units, youth groups and other organizations, says Sandy Knutson, TRP executive director. Among the most active are electric cooperatives, which are guided by the co-op principle of Concern for Community.

Co-op employees live up to that principle by performing community service for members who are also their neighbors and friends.

CoServ, an electric co-op based in Denton, became actively involved in TRP in 2016, and since then CoServ employees have built more than three dozen ramps. The CoServ Charitable Foundation has awarded \$71,000 in grants to the nonprofit.

"For people facing surgery or who have other mobility issues, traversing even a few steps can be dangerous," says Conan Tearney, CoServ client services manager. "It's a great feeling knowing you helped build something with your hands that means so much to a co-op member."

Another ardent TRP supporter, Wood County Electric Cooperative, has donated \$25,000 through its member-funded charitable foundation that helps nonprofits in its nine-county service area in northeast Texas. Employee volunteers are also involved in builds.

"Our mission statement is: Providing safe and reliable electric service while improving our communities where we live and serve," says Paige Eaton, communications director. "Caring for the communities we serve is embedded in what we do every day. Our members are our neighbors, and in Co-op Country, you look out for one another. TRP is just one of the ways we can do that." ■







# AFFORDABLE LIFE INSURANCE

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## NON-TOBACCO RATES

### MONTHLY RATES

### MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000*		\$1,000,000*		Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000*		\$1,000,000*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
30	9.06	7.88	9.79	8.66	14	11	18	16	58	29.07	21.98	50.58	36.96	91	65	172	119
36	9.21	8.31	10.35	9.51	15	13	22	18	59	31.60	23.51	55.57	39.88	101	71	190	129
37	9.21	8.58	10.54	9.93	15	14	22	20	60	34.14	24.28	61.26	42.99	113	76	209	140
38	9.21	8.71	11.69	10.25	17	14	24	21	61	37.60	25.65	66.80	47.11	126	86	238	157
39	9.46	8.86	12.35	10.66	18	15	25	22	62	41.49	27.91	74.28	51.33	141	95	267	172
40	9.63	9.10	12.94	11.08	18	16	27	24	63	44.70	34.39	85.55	59.60	157	104	288	190
41	10.05	9.22	13.66	11.83	20	17	30	27	64	48.23	38.53	93.16	64.38	173	114	327	212
42	10.48	9.26	14.21	12.67	22	19	33	29	65	53.18	41.15	101.79	70.36	191	127	361	234
43	10.98	9.50	14.74	13.52	25	20	39	31	66	59.15	44.62	115.13	75.41	213	139	398	258
44	11.58	9.84	15.80	14.36	27	22	43	34	67	65.66	49.09	130.13	83.65	235	152	443	284
45	12.25	10.17	17.07	15.20	29	24	48	38	68	74.33	59.65	145.11	112.92	262	174	491	322
46	12.84	10.65	18.09	16.18	31	25	51	40	69	82.98	65.91	161.68	129.33	293	188	548	352
47	13.43	11.16	19.18	17.07	33	27	56	44	70	93.20	73.30	181.25	148.72	330	204	615	387
48	13.48	11.88	20.44	17.76	35	29	58	48	71	102.45	82.71	204.38	159.34	374	235	702	443
49	13.71	12.33	21.77	18.77	38	31	63	52	72	113.68	94.13	232.46	172.23	427	272	807	512
50	14.46	12.99	23.41	20.00	40	34	69	57	73	127.55	108.24	267.15	188.15	493	319	937	596
51	15.38	13.75	25.38	21.18	45	35	78	62	74	142.08	123.01	303.50	204.84	562	367	1074	685
52	16.37	14.87	28.02	22.76	50	38	88	67	75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	644	424	1235	789
53	17.46	15.88	31.30	24.81	55	44	101	79	76	200.03	174.92	418.29	276.67	785	530	1489	982
54	18.69	16.72	34.39	26.21	61	47	114	85	77	249.54	216.74	505.52	339.94	956	658	1797	1215
55	20.70	17.51	37.60	27.86	67	50	127	92	78	310.70	268.40	613.27	418.11	1167	817	2179	1504
56	22.69	19.48	42.17	31.37	74	56	140	101	79	374.78	322.52	726.16	500.00	1389	983	2578	1807
57	24.69	20.63	46.07	33.65	82	60	156	110	80	450.51	386.48	859.57	596.77	1651	1180	3050	2164

\* \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 monthly rates are rounded up to the nearest dollar. Therefore, actual monthly rates at \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 may be slightly less.

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**Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm EST**

Premiums illustrated represent 10 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 10 years. \$100,000 - \$1,000,000 rates are Select-A-Term [policy form no. 07007] Preferred Plus Non-tobacco. This coverage features a level death benefit with fully guaranteed level premiums for the first 10 years with coverage to expire at age 95. The policy may be continued on Annual Renewable Term at the end of the level premium period without evidence of insurability until the anniversary nearest the insured's 95th birthday. The underwriting risks, financial and contractual obligations and support functions associated with products issued by **American General Life Insurance Company (AGL)** Houston, TX are its responsibility. **AGL** does not solicit business in the state of New York. All terms, conditions and limitations of any policy issued shall govern. American General Life Companies is the marketing name for a group of domestic life insurers including American General Life Insurance Company and The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York. Policies and riders not available in all states. Premium rates current as of July 2024; rates may vary by state. Premiums available for other rate classes, ages and payment plans. Premium charges depend on evidence of insurability. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Death benefit remains level. The policy may be contested for two years from the date of issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit is limited to return of premium paid in the event of suicide within first two years. Rates subject to change. Standard Marketing Services represents AGL and other fine insurance companies.

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MESSAGE  
FROM BOARD  
PRESIDENT

**KENNETH  
WHITE**

## A Farewell Message: Retiring from the Board of Directors

**AS I PREPARE TO STEP DOWN** from my role as president of the Medina Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, I look back on a journey that began in 2009 when I was first elected by our members. Serving first as vice president from 2011 to 2019, and then as president since 2019, my tenure has been filled with significant milestones and transformative changes. I was also proud to represent Medina EC as a director on the board of San Miguel Electric Cooperative for 12 years, serving as president since 2020.

Throughout my years of service, we've undertaken numerous initiatives and projects that have greatly benefited our cooperative and its members. Early in my tenure, we implemented the TEC Mutual Agreement in 2010 for warehouse stock and supplies, a pivotal decision that enhanced our operational efficiency. There has also been ongoing growth resulting in the construction of new buildings in Dilley and Rio Grande City, as well as the establishment of our Laredo Service Center. We also rolled out our 24/7 system operations dispatching center in 2023 and have begun work on the Hondo office expansion.

During the 2020 pandemic, our cooperative faced unprecedented challenges, but we adapted swiftly to ensure the safety of our employees and the continued reliability of our services. More recently, we welcomed Trey Grebe as our new CEO following the retirement of former CEO Mark Rollans. These efforts and changes have positioned Medina EC for continued growth and success, ensuring we remain a strong and reliable resource for our members.

The financial growth of Medina EC has been substantial over the years. In 2009, our total revenue was \$59,878,824, which has grown to an impressive \$147,681,289 in 2023. Our total active services increased from 28,301 meters in 2009 to 36,770 meters in 2023, and the total kilowatt-hours sold rose from 535 million to 1.5 billion during the same period. Our equity ratio in 2009 was 31.88% and rose to 42.74% in 2023. These numbers demonstrate our commitment to sustainable growth and efficient service delivery to our members.

Safety and engagement have always been top priorities. We've fostered a culture that prioritizes the well-being of our employees and the satisfaction of our members. Our workforce has grown and evolved, becoming more adept at meeting the needs of our community. Member engagement has also seen a boost, with initiatives aimed at increasing involvement and awareness about cooperative matters.

Our cooperative's impact extends beyond the provision of electric services. We've been active participants in storm restoration efforts, including mutual aid after Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Hurricane Beryl this summer. In 2023, we proudly participated in the NRECA International project, demonstrating our commitment to global community service. In 2015, we approved the volunteer fire department truck giveaway program to support local VFDs with retired cooperative fleet vehicles.

Furthermore, our ongoing involvement in state and national legislative conferences allows us to address key issues impacting utilities and cooperatives, such as power reliability and employee pension plans. Keeping up with policy issues that impact reliable and affordable energy will continue to be critical for Medina EC, and all power providers.

This journey has been an incredible experience and I'm a firm believer in the cooperative model. From growing up on the family farm to serving for over thirty-three years as a county extension agent, I've learned that success is not about the efforts of a single individual. It's about a team—our board of directors, CEOs, and Medina EC employees—working together to achieve common goals. This spirit of cooperation was evident in 1938 when a group of determined individuals came together to form Medina Electric Cooperative, aiming to improve life for their fellow community members.

Looking ahead, I envision Medina EC continuing its strategic initiatives with a focus on our members. Our cooperative will maintain its commitment to engaging and safeguarding our employees while supporting our communities. The path forward is bright, and I am confident that the cooperative will thrive under new leadership.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the team at Medina EC—the board members and everyone I've had the pleasure of working with over the years. I will miss collaborating with such a dedicated group of individuals, but I know the cooperative remains in good hands. To our members, I encourage you to stay involved—vote in cooperative elections, attend meetings, read our magazine, and keep up with legislative initiatives that impact our power.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your board president. It has been an honor and a privilege. Together, we have achieved great things, and I am excited to see what the future holds for Medina Electric Cooperative.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth G. White



MESSAGE  
FROM CEO

**HERBERT  
"TREY" GREBE**

# Another Year in the Books

I'M EXCITED TO SHARE THE HIGHLIGHTS of our 2023 Annual Report. Last year, we introduced five strategic initiatives during a strategic planning session with our board of directors, focusing on financial strength, long-term growth, safety, member engagement, and workforce development. These initiatives have guided us throughout the year, and I'm proud to report on our progress and achievements.

## FINANCIAL STRENGTH

I encourage you to review our 2023 financial report and operating statistics on page 19. It'll show that Medina Electric Cooperative is financially stable. Some highlights of the report show a 9.98% increase in our total assets, bringing our total utility plant to over \$328.3 million. We have over 36,000 active meters and sold more than 1.5 billion kWh which generated \$147.7 million in revenue. Our expenses totaled \$146.4 million, with 73.8% spent on purchased power. We received \$9.5 million from our power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative, \$3 million from other entities, and \$400,000 from other non-operating margins. All of this contributes to our total margins, which reached \$14.2 million.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, these margins are allocated as capital credits to our members. Over the past five years, we have retired \$10 million in capital credits, including \$2.05 million in 2023.

## INDUSTRY CHALLENGES AND ADVOCACY

We face significant challenges from new Environmental Protection Agency regulations, especially the Clean Power Plan 2.0, which imposes stringent emission limits on coal and natural gas plants. These regulations could lead to plant closures or expensive upgrades, impacting reliability and costs. However, the Texas Legislature's Texas Energy Fund provides some relief with low-interest loans for new dispatchable power plants. We continue to advocate for our members, working closely with industry associations and stakeholders.

## LONG-TERM GROWTH

Ensuring long-term growth is crucial for serving our community effectively. With substantial development in our Medina County service area, we identified the need for additional facilities. After careful consideration, we began expanding our Hondo office, which includes our supply yard and member services building. We expect to complete Phase 1 by mid-2025 and Phase 2 by 2026. We also continue to collaborate with economic development groups to attract new businesses, emphasizing the importance of a reliable power supply.

## SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

In 2023, our system operations team began to handle outage

management and crew dispatching in-house. Earlier this year, our team transitioned to 24/7 coverage, enhancing grid monitoring, improving outage response times, and boosting safety and reliability for our members.

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We strive to keep our members at the forefront of all we do. We constantly research programs and services that could enhance member experience. In 2023, we began working on a project to improve the data members have about their energy use. This feature is now available and provides our residential members advanced consumer analytics accessible through SmartHub which offers personalized energy insights, helping members manage their bills more effectively.

We have many programs available for our members. I'm proud of our Youth Tour and scholarship programs which provides educational opportunities for our young members.

Programs like the Community Empowerment Program and Operation Round Up help fund local projects and support families in need. In 2023, we awarded significant funds to various community initiatives.

I'm excited to also announce that we received a Customer Satisfaction Award from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our member survey results. Thanks to our members' feedback, we achieved one of the top five scores in the nation. This award reflects our dedication to providing the best possible member experience.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Our success relies on attracting, retaining, and developing a skilled workforce. This year, we will have celebrated 23 employees who reached milestone anniversaries, highlighting our commitment to service. Our team, from interns to long-term employees, is dedicated to maintaining high standards and ensuring seamless knowledge transfer to the next generation.

Looking back on 2023, I am incredibly proud of our cooperative's achievements. We have strengthened our financial stability, implemented tools and resources for long-term growth, maintained a focus on safety, and cultivated a strong workforce, all while striving to exceed member expectations.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Medina Electric Cooperative. I hope to see y'all at this year's Annual Membership Meeting on September 28 at the Herby Ham Activity Center in Uvalde.

Sincerely,  
Trey Grebe

# Our Service Area

**MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** may be our name, but we serve more than just Medina County. Medina EC actually provides service in 17 counties across South Texas.

We have five offices that members can visit for business, located in Bruni, Dilley, Hondo, Rio Grande City and Uvalde, and two additional offices where internal staff operate, the corporate office in Hondo and a Laredo facility that houses materials and vehicles for staff in that area.

Medina EC's service area is broken into three voting districts, and represented by three directors per district.



**KENNETH WHITE**  
(PRESIDENT)

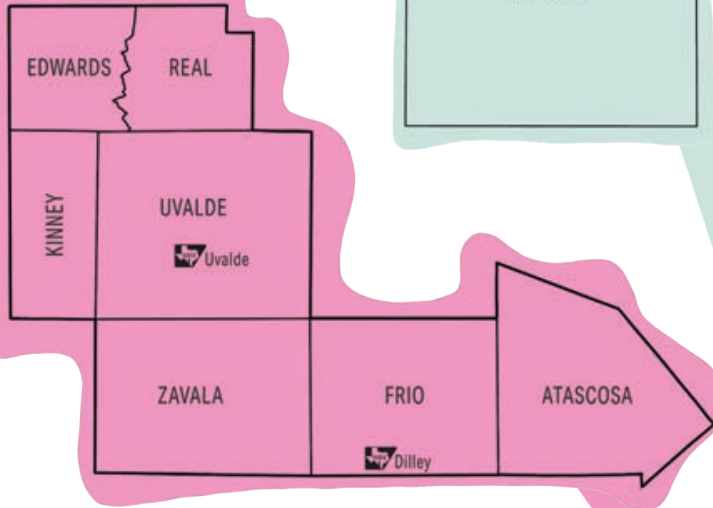


**JOE FOLEY**

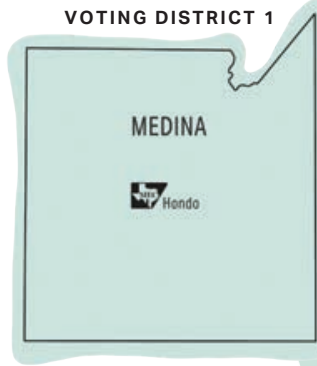


**JIMMIE RAINES**

## VOTING DISTRICT 2



## VOTING DISTRICT 1



**LARRY HUESSE**  
(VICE PRESIDENT)

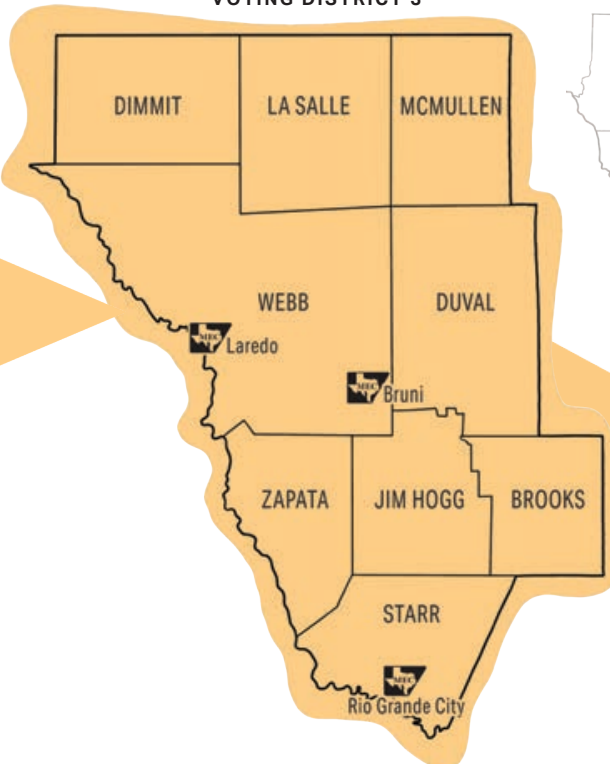



**WAYNE SCHOLTZ**




**KEN WEYNAND**


## VOTING DISTRICT 3

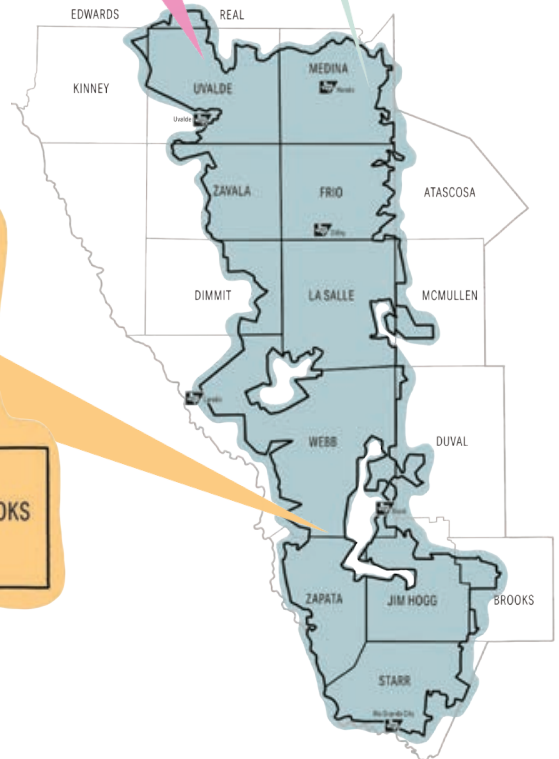
**ANNETTE SORRELLS**  
(SECRETARY/TREASURER)



**J.L. GONZALEZ**



**R.H. RODRIGUEZ**



# Operating Statistics

## ASSETS

	2023	2022
Total Utility Plant	\$274,275,630	\$254,851,823
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(37,768,428)	(37,326,061)
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>236,507,202</b>	<b>217,525,762</b>
Cash and Temporary Investments	1,755,733	2,006,702
Investments in Associated Organizations	79,615,883	68,004,113
Accounts Receivable	10,282,066	10,311,250
Materials	77,786	49,467
Deferred Charges & Other Assets	110,641	654,147
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$328,349,311</b>	<b>\$298,551,441</b>

## EQUITIES AND MARGINS

	2023	2022
Memberships	\$105,030	\$103,145
Patronage Capital	121,825,493	120,118,042
Other Equities and Income	18,413,330	7,772,294
<b>Total Equities and Margins</b>	<b>\$140,343,853</b>	<b>\$127,993,481</b>

## LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
Long-Term Debt	\$121,574,488	\$126,176,147
Accumulated Provision for Pensions and Benefits	3,341,397	3,607,656
Accounts Payable	18,554,487	20,150,400
Consumer Deposits	2,816,148	3,012,068
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	3,134,424	1,182,903
Deferred Credits	38,584,514	16,428,786
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$188,005,458</b>	<b>\$170,557,960</b>
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$328,349,311</b>	<b>\$298,551,441</b>

## REVENUE

	2023	2022
Sales of Electric Power	\$147,051,504	\$154,509,483
Miscellaneous Electric Revenue	629,784	1,890,956
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$147,681,289</b>	<b>\$156,400,439</b>

## EXPENSES

	2023	2022
Purchased Power	\$104,079,272	113,497,390
Maintenance and Operations	17,927,226	15,931,787
Consumer Accounts and Member Services	3,835,124	3,478,777
Administration / General	7,518,096	6,886,857
Depreciation	7,691,308	8,794,001
Interest and Other Deductions	5,306,194	5,119,355
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$146,357,220</b>	<b>\$153,708,167</b>

## MARGINS

	2023	2022
Operating Margins	\$1,324,069	\$2,692,272
Generation and Transmission / Other Capital Credits	12,506,611	4,307,263
Nonoperating Margins	408,504	(3,055,249)
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>\$14,239,184</b>	<b>\$3,944,286</b>

## DOLLAR BREAKDOWN

Medina EC is a not-for-profit business, so each dollar you send the cooperative covers business costs. Here is how your dollar was spent in 2023.

### POWER COST

71.11%

### MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

12.25%

### DEPRECIATION

5.25%

### ADMINISTRATION

5.14%

### INTEREST

3.63%

### CONSUMER ACCOUNTS & MEMBER SERVICES

2.62%

## ANNUAL AUDIT

Medina EC is audited annually. The audit of the 2023 financials was performed by Certified Public Accountants Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. of Lubbock.

The audit covered the period from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

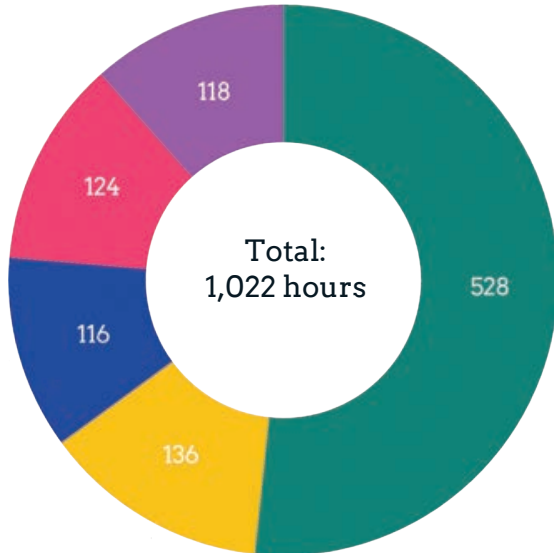
Per the auditor's March 31, 2024, report, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

# 2023 Impact Statement

## By Service Area Office

■ Hondo 
 ■ Dilley 
 ■ Rio Grande City 
 ■ Uvalde 
 ■ Bruni/Laredo

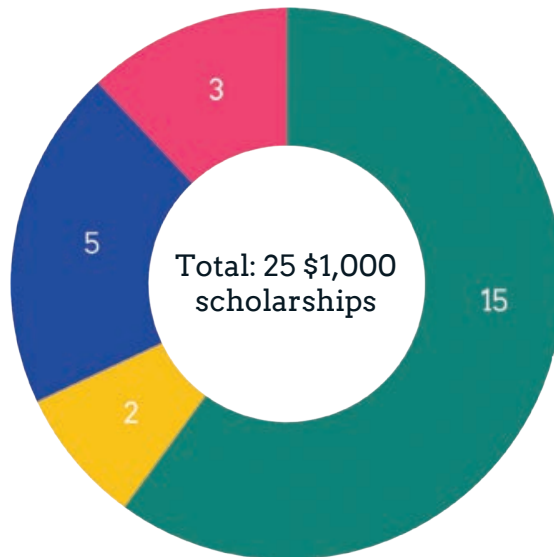
### Volunteer Time Off (in Hours)



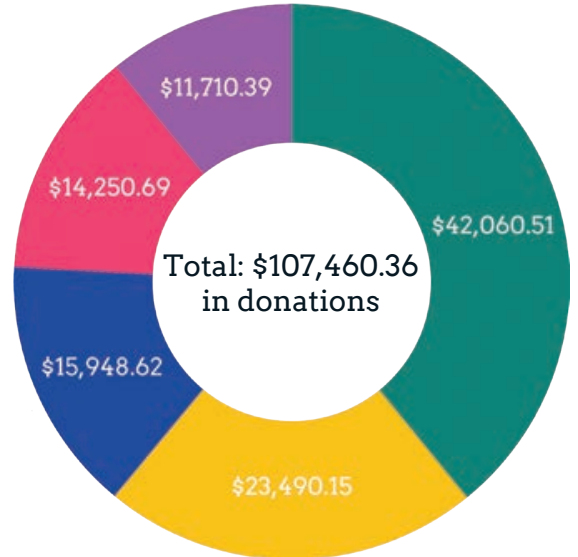
Medina Electric Cooperative knows how important the communities in our service area are. Cooperative Principle No. 7 is Concern for Community, highlighting the importance to stay involved in the communities we are a part of. In an ongoing effort to help our communities grow and our members to be successful, Medina EC gives back with donations of employee time, financial contributions and donations of goods. Additionally, Cooperative Principle No. 5 is Education, Training and Information. Medina EC supports this mission by helping high school graduates and adults pursuing higher education with educational scholarships.

Learn more about Medina EC's donations and sponsorships at [MedinaEC.org/Donation](https://MedinaEC.org/Donation) and learn more about Medina EC's scholarship program and eligibility at [MedinaEC.org/Scholarships](https://MedinaEC.org/Scholarships).

### Scholarships



### Donations

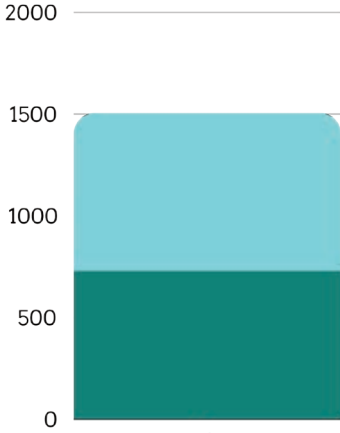




# 2023 Service Statement

## kWh Sold (in Millions)

2013: 729    2023: 1,507

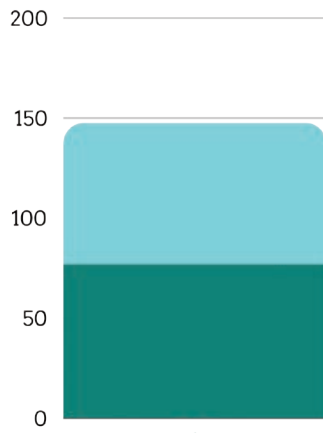


**106.7%**

Growth Rate

## Revenue (in Millions)

2013: \$77.2    2023: \$147.7

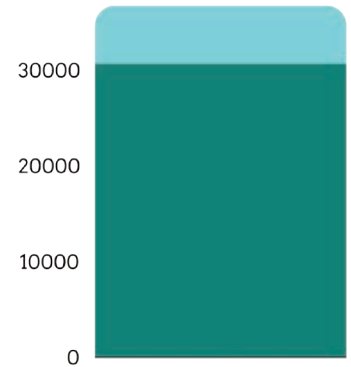


**91.3%**

Growth Rate

## Active Services (Meters & Security Lights)

2013: 30,703    2023: 36,770

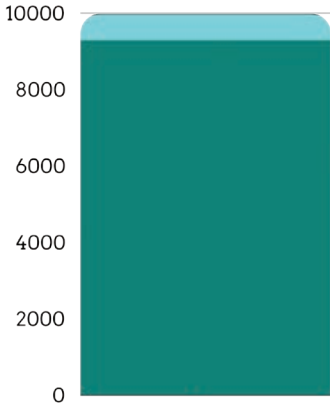


**19.8%**

Growth Rate

## Miles of Line

2013: 9,293    2023: 9,984

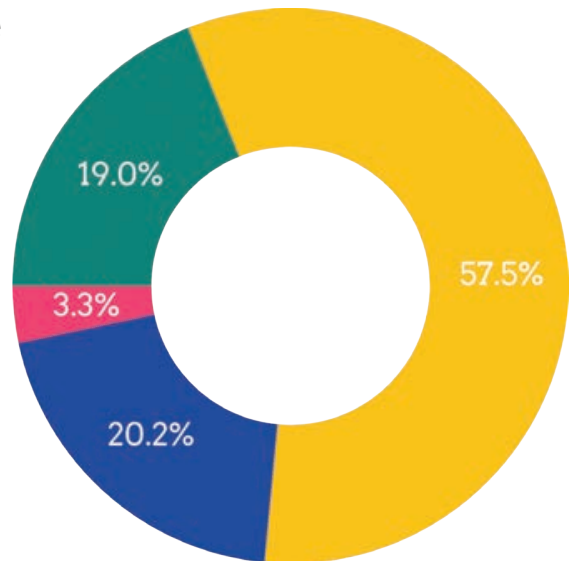


**7.4%**

Growth Rate

## Fuel Mix

- Texas lignite
- Natural gas
- Renewables
- Nuclear



# Voting in the Board Election

Election ballots were mailed to Medina EC members on August 20. Voting closes on September 20 at 5 p.m. For specific instructions on voting by mail or online, please see the ballot you were mailed or login to your SmartHub account. Every member's vote is important. If you didn't receive your ballot for the election, please contact Medina EC at 1-866-632-3532 or MyCoop@MedinaEC.org.

A brief biography for each candidate in Medina EC's contested races is listed. The content is written in the candidates' words and has not been edited by Medina EC staff. Acknowledgment of the campaign policy and disclosure reports, if applicable, are available for each candidate upon request.

Only Voting District 1 has a contested race this year. Candidate profiles for uncontested positions in Voting Districts 2 and 3 are available at MedinaEC.org/BoardElection, and on page 23.

All Medina EC members are eligible to vote for a candidate in any of Medina EC's contested races even if the member does not have a meter in those voting districts.

Medina EC is a democratic organization controlled by its members. Members elect representatives, called directors, who participate in setting policy and making decisions. Directors are accountable to the membership through the annual election process.

Nominees for board candidates were accepted by petition in March.

Election results will be announced at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting in Uvalde on September 28 and posted at MedinaEC.org.

During the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting, one item on the business meeting agenda will include a vote on approval of minutes from the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting, held in 2023.

Find the meeting minutes by scanning the QR code or visiting MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2024.



## Contested Race Candidates: Voting District 1

The content is written in the candidates' words and has not been edited by Medina EC staff.



### Welquis R. Lopez, Sr.

**Medina EC Member (# of Years):** 7

**Occupation (Former if retired):** Retired - Former Business Owner

**Work Experience:** Former Government Official and business Owner, Special Advisor to the President and Majority Leader of the Republican Senate, Member of the Reapportionment Committee of the State of New York for the Republican Senate .Travel throughout New York State meeting government officials and Community Leaders concerning Reapportion. Fundraising and Budgeting for Non- profits organizations. Liaison to the Hispanic Community in the State Senate; was Responsible in Creating The Unidad Latina Conference in the State for the Republican Senate which brought Together Hispanic business Leaders and Hispanic Agencies that service the Community. Unidad Latina created a Scholarship Fund for High School Students to attend College and we Raised over \$500.000. I held that position for 8 years. I was a Commissioner for two different Departments for the largest Town in the Country (Town of Hempstead population 765,000); Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development Dept. As commissioner I helped to provide Handicapped accessibility improvements to over 25 public and quasi -public building ,construction of hundreds of units of senior citizens housing and 200 affordable single family homes. This also included Rehab single family home for seniors and Handicapped persons. During my time as commissioner I managed a budget of \$8 Million and a staff of over 30 (16 years ). Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Town of Hempstead Highway Department: Review and Report Highway activities and future plans, Inspect Streets, Roads, and Highways. I was responsible to oversee 1200 miles of Roadways of the Town and over 135 Commuter parking lots (Snow removal for the entire Town , sweep all the Roads of the Town and pick up all the debris. This role as commissioner I was responsible for Supervising 300 personnel and a Budget of \$65 Million(8 years ). Entrepreneur; former owner of Newspaper, Restaurants and Taxi company.

**I would be a good director because:** I know both the public & private sector working for the Government and managing my own businesses. I also have prior experience as a member of the Board of Trustees for Molloy University (Catholic institutions ) for 7 yrs and was a Member of the Board of Trustees for South Nassau Community Hospital (now call Mount Sinai South Nassau) for 7 yrs. This experience provides me with a strong foundation to serve on the board. My proven track record in governance, budgeting, strategic planning, management, and fiscal responsibility demonstrates my ability to make sound decisions the prioritize the well being of the organization and community. My experience with diverse community interests and navigating those environments will allow me to address both challenges and opportunities. I have a commitment to transparency, accountability and fostering community engagement to ensure that Medina Electric continues to meet the needs of it's members and clients while upholding its mission of providing reliable and affordable energy services.

**Please Contact Me At: Phone:** 210-984-4193 **Email:** daliquid15@aol.com



### Michael "Mickey" Allen Holzhaus

**Medina EC Member (# of Years):** 17

**Occupation (Former if retired):** Beeville ISD - Science Teacher, Northeast ISD - Math/Science Teacher/Coach, Alamo Iron Works -Vice President Steel Divisions, Triple - S Steel Supply-Sales/General Manager (Retired January 2022).

**Work Experience:** I graduated from Texas State University in December 1979, earning a B.S. in Education, and taught Public School for 1-1/2 years. The next 41 Years were spent in the Industrial Supply/Structural Steel Business, occupying various positions in Sales, Supply Management (earned my C.P.M. in 1995), Operations, and Executive Management.

**I would be a good director because:** I have over 42 years of experience working with people of various skill sets across many occupations and professions in a multitude of businesses. Additionally, I have served on numerous boards in various capacities. My resume includes member and then Chairman of the Castroville Planning and Zoning Board, President of the Institute of Supply Management San Antonio Chapter, Director of the Metal Service Center Institute Texas Chapter, and Treasurer/Trustee of the St. Louis Catholic Men's Society. These experiences have contributed to my knowledge of how to plan and work strategically for the benefit of the customer. Most importantly, I consider myself a people person who listens, asks questions, approaches issues in a logical straightforward manner, and I have the time to devote to the responsibility of serving on the Medina Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

**Please Contact Me At: Phone:** 210-422-3310 **Email:** m.holzhaus@sbcglobal.net

# Uncontested Candidates

During the nomination period of the 2024 election, Medina EC's incumbent director from Voting District 3—J.L. Gonzalez of Laredo—ran unopposed. In Voting District 2, only one member ran for the open seat—James Crawford of Uvalde.

Per bylaw 4.4.C, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Crawford were automatically reelected and elected, respectively, by the certification committee at the April board meeting. Mr. Crawford will begin serving as director in October, following Medina EC's Annual Membership Meeting in September. Below is a brief biography for each director. The content is written in the candidates' words and has not been edited by Medina EC staff.

If you are interested in learning more about the election process or want to run in 2025, visit [MedinaEC.com/Nominee](http://MedinaEC.com/Nominee).

## Voting District 2



### James "Jimmy" Crawford

**Medina EC Member (# of Years):** 36  
**Occupation (Former if retired):** Farmer

**Work Experience:** Born and raised in Crystal City, Texas. Have been farming grain, cotton, and vegetables in Uvalde and Zavala county for over 45 years. Experienced in many aspects of agriculture from equipment and implement design to partnering ownership of equipment franchise in three counties. Have traveled

throughout the US and abroad to farm shows and worldwide meetings to stay up-to-date on current Agricultural practices. Currently, in partnerships with son Brad and wife Kathy, headquartered in Uvalde, Texas, and with Espinaca Farms in La Pryor Texas.

**I would be a good director because:** I have years of board experience in Uvalde and of Zavala County, including Winter Garden Coop, Uvalde County Coop, Wintergarden Spinach Producers Board, Uvalde Youth Baseball Board, and Zavala County Bank. I am a hard worker, always in learning mode, and I have a commitment to excellence in everything I undertake. I am also a first-hand Medina Electric consumer in our forming operation and I want to do what I can for the benefit of other consumers.

**Please Contact Me At: Phone:** 830-591-3477

**Email:** [jcrawfordfarms@gmail.com](mailto:jcrawfordfarms@gmail.com)

## Voting District 3



### J.L. Gonzalez

**Medina EC Member (# of Years):** 20  
**Occupation (Former if retired):** Chief CBP Officer

**Work Experience:** I have been a South Texas rancher all my entire life; on land being owned by my family since the mid 1700's. Additionally I worked for the federal government 40+ years; having retired as a Dept. of Homeland Security CBP CHIEF Officer.

I spend the last 8 years of my career as a Security Advisor in Central Asia; Afghanistan and neighboring countries. My work with the Federal government has taken me from the halls of various offices in Washington D. C. to countries in the Middle East, SE Asia, Russia, Europe, Ex-USSR, South and Central America; and many others. All these experiences have served to prepare me to give back to my community and serve my fellow citizens in a giving way. I am a firm believer in "SERVICE before SELF".

**I would be a good director because:** I have educated myself in all facets of the Cooperative way, attaining the highest level of certification. I have always maintained that one must give back to the communities we live in. As I have proudly served my country, I will continue to proudly serve community.

**Please Contact Me At: Phone:** 956-286-1863

**Email:** [joe.l.gonzalez.aguanueva@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.l.gonzalez.aguanueva@hotmail.com)

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Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

#### Voting District 2

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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

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Rio Grande City 78582

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The Beatles perform at Dallas Memorial Auditorium in September 1964.

# Invading Dallas

Frenzied fans saw—but barely heard—music history when the Beatles came to Texas

BY LORI GROSSMAN

IT HAS BEEN MORE than 60 years since what some people call the world's first boy band appeared on a Sunday night TV show and changed everything. And this month marks exactly 60 years since the Beatles first came to Texas.

The British pop band's first U.S. tour brought them to Dallas Memorial Auditorium on September 18, 1964. The band touched down at Love Field just after midnight that day, greeted by thousands of screaming fans. North Texas was abuzz with anticipation, including 10-year-old Pud (short for Puddin') Kearns of suburban Greenville.

In early 1964, Kearns was a fourth grader when word spread that the Beatles would be on the *Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9. That night, she was watching.

"I was just blown away," she remem-

bers. "I'd never heard anything like that before. And I immediately fell in love."

Kearns and her friends acquired the band's records and read about them in fan magazines. Later that year, North Texas Beatles fans got some thrilling news: John, Paul, George and Ringo were coming to Dallas for one of 32 shows in 25 cities over 33 days.

"There was a lot of excitement when it was announced," Kearns says. "At that time, I didn't think there was any possibility that I would get to go."

But Eliza, the 10-year-old granddaughter of a family friend, had tickets and invited Kearns.

"I couldn't believe my luck!" Kearns says. The girls had no idea that a big surprise awaited them before the concert. They showed up early to have a

picnic behind the auditorium (now part of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center).

"All of a sudden, an ambulance drives down the ramp past us towards the auditorium. This was an old-fashioned station wagon," Kearns says. "The Beatles were in it! They looked out of the window and waved, and then they were gone. I remember seeing Paul and Ringo. They were only 20 or 30 feet from us."

A sellout crowd of 10,000 fans packed the venue and waited through three opening acts—Clarence "Frogman" Henry, the Exciters and Jackie DeShannon, all backed by Bill Black's Combo. Pud and Eliza's \$5.50 tickets earned them balcony seats, where they eagerly waited for Dallas DJ Irving Harrigan (aka Ron Chapman) to introduce the main act.

"All the girls were screaming. Eliza and I did, too," Kearns says with a laugh. "George was my favorite. I remember *All My Loving* and the first chord of *A Hard Day's Night*. You could hear opening notes but not much more because of the screaming."

The Beatles' 30-minute set list included 12 songs. The band returned to Texas in August 1965 for two sold-out shows at Houston's Sam Houston Coliseum.

An editorial in *The Dallas Times Herald* that day in Dallas took a dim view of the band: "While some others may be able to recall who or what they were in ... five years, most people will not."

Kearns knew better.

"I was a rock star in fifth grade for a while before and after the concert. I knew that I had seen something very, very special," she says. "And 60 years later, it's still a big deal." ■

# Football Favorites

We've recruited proven winners for your game day lineup

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

I first made my slow cooker bean dip for a Super Bowl fiesta, and boy was it a hit. It was soon requested for every family gathering and was one of the first recipes added to my slow cooker cookbook. This elevates canned beans to a whole new tasty level.

## Slow Cooker Bean Dip

1 teaspoon olive oil  
 ½ onion, diced  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 2 cans pinto beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
 2 cans red beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
 2 cans black beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
 2 cans kidney beans (15 ounces each), drained and rinsed  
 2 cans Mexican-style diced tomatoes (15 ounces each), undrained  
 ½ cup chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish (optional)  
 2 teaspoons cumin  
 2 teaspoons chili powder  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1 teaspoon ground black pepper  
 Shredded cheddar cheese, for garnish  
 Mexican crema or sour cream, for garnish

1. Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and sauté 3 minutes, or until light and translucent. Add garlic and cook, stirring often, for 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

2. Combine sautéed onion and garlic, beans, diced tomatoes, ½ cup cilantro, cumin, chili powder, salt and pepper in a slow cooker. Stir until combined. Cover and cook on low 2 hours.

3. Serve warm, topped with more cilantro, shredded cheese, and Mexican crema or sour cream.

SERVES 12

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in *Cocina Gris* at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Tex-Mex Onion Dip.





## Dry Rub Baked Chicken Wings

JACKIE MCEATHRON  
PEDERNALES EC

These tender, juicy baked chicken wings coated in a mouthwatering homemade dry rub will have football fans raving! And they're so good, you won't miss the deep fryer. Serve with your favorite dipping sauce.

- 2 pounds chicken wings**
- 2 tablespoons baking powder**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 3 teaspoons paprika**
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil or parchment paper. Coat a baking rack with cooking spray and place on the baking sheet.
2. Dry chicken wings with paper towels. In a medium bowl, combine baking powder, salt, paprika and garlic powder. Add chicken wings to bowl and toss to coat evenly. Shake off each wing and place on the baking rack.
3. Bake 30 minutes, then turn and bake until golden and crispy, about 10–15 minutes longer. Serve warm.

**SERVES 4**

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

## Texas Chili

GWEN JONES  
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This brisket chili is a surefire crowd pleaser—hearty, a little spicy and packed with flavor. Garnish with your favorite toppings to make the perfect meal-in-a-bowl. Double the recipe to ensure tasty lunch leftovers.

**SERVES 6–8**

- ¼ cup canola oil**
- 1 small red onion, diced**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 red bell peppers, diced**
- ½ tablespoon kosher salt**
- 2 tablespoons chili powder**
- 1 tablespoon chipotle powder**
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika**
- 1 pound smoked lean beef brisket, diced**
- 2 cans diced fire roasted tomatoes (14.5 ounces each)**
- 4 cups beef broth**
- 1 small bunch cilantro, chopped**
- Sour cream, for garnish**
- Shredded cheddar cheese, for garnish**

1. Heat oil in an 8-quart pot over medium-high heat. Sauté onion, garlic and peppers until tender.
2. Add salt, spices, brisket, tomatoes and beef broth. Reduce heat to simmer, cover and let cook 2 hours. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro.
3. Serve topped with sour cream and shredded cheese.

## \$500 Recipe Contest

**EASY BREADS** DUE SEPTEMBER 10

If you make bread that skips the kneading and hours of rising, we want to know. Send those recipes in for a shot at \$500. Don't loaf around; enter by September 10.





## Jalapeño Wontons

SUZANNE HAWKINS  
CENTRAL TEXAS EC

The crispy wonton cups and filling can be made pregame. When it's time to nibble, fill the wontons, pop them in the oven and bake until golden.

**12 wonton or eggroll wrappers**  
**Kosher salt**  
**8 slices fully cooked bacon, diced**

**1 package cream cheese (8 ounces), room temperature**  
**1 cup shredded cheddar cheese**  
**½ cup sour cream**  
**¼ cup mayonnaise**  
**1 jalapeño pepper, finely diced, seeds removed for less heat**  
**3 green onions, chopped**  
**¼ cup chopped cilantro, for garnish**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a muffin pan with cooking spray.
2. Slice wonton or egg roll wrappers in half and place two strips crisscross in each muffin cup. Sprinkle wontons with kosher salt. Bake wontons 5–8 minutes or until lightly golden brown.
3. In a large bowl, combine bacon, cream cheese, cheddar cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, jalapeño and green onions. Mix well. Spoon filling into wontons.
4. Bake 10–15 minutes, until bubbly. Serve warm, garnished with cilantro.

MAKES 12

## Kick Things Off Right

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

**Team spirit:** Add a few drops of food coloring in your team colors to frosting for cupcakes or cake. Sneak team colors into popcorn by stirring in colored candy.

**Drinks:** Keep plenty of beverages on hand to balance out all the salty snacks you're serving. Include options for those who don't drink alcohol, like sparkling water or soda. Don't forget the ice!

**Stay fresh:** Keep food at the ideal temperature in a slow cooker or chafing dishes. Cover food with lids or foil if hosting outdoors, and place dips and guacamole over a bowl of ice to keep them chilled.

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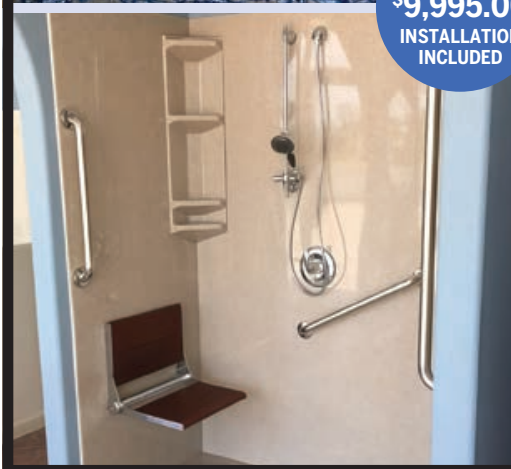
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## Creeping Back in Time

The Munster Mansion in Waxahachie brings 1960s Hollywood to life

BY CHET GARNER

**IN MOST CIRCLES**, asking someone if they prefer *The Munsters* or *The Addams Family* can make for fun dinner conversation. But in Waxahachie, there's only one right answer. Because even though *The Munsters'* beloved sitcom wrapped in 1966, the family's iconic mansion on 1313 Mockingbird Lane lives on in this growing town south of Dallas.

Pulling up to the house felt like the opening scene to a scary movie, with overgrown trees obscuring the mansion's dark facade. However when I knocked on the door, I was greeted with a kind Texas smile from owner Sandra McKee, who grew up watching the show and dreaming of someday living in the kooky mansion.

When she had a chance to make her dream a reality, she and her husband, Charles, obsessed over all 70 episodes of the show to recreate the exact layout and dimensions of the haunted abode, which, ironically, never existed in real life but was just a collection of soundstages on a Hollywood backlot. But this home feels as real as Spot, the pet dragon under the stairs. The McKees host paid private tours by appointment only.

Not only has Sandra collected a number of authentic props, such as a complete dining room set, she's also found life-size mannequins of all the characters, including a towering Herman Munster and his beautiful bride, Lily. Upstairs I found Eddie holding his famous bat and Grandpa tinkering in his lab. I couldn't believe the details and the true-to-screen secret passages.

Each cobweb-filled room tapped into the dusty vaults of my brain and brought back memories of watching the show from my grandparents' floor.

Sandra proudly shared the story of the time actor Al Lewis (aka Grandpa) visited, and his eyes filled with tears of joy and disbelief. It seems this spooky reality is better than fiction. ■

ABOVE Chet cozies up to a likeness of Grandpa from *The Munsters*.

**TCP** If you dare, join Chet as he checks in on the Munsters. Watch the video 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.

## SEPTEMBER

7

**Fredericksburg Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library Book Sale**, (830) 997-6513, [pmlfbg.com](http://pmlfbg.com)

**Levelland Cotton and Crude Concert**, (806) 894-3157, [facebook.com/cottonandcrudefest](https://facebook.com/cottonandcrudefest)

**Palestine Dogwood Jamboree: All About Classic Country**, (903) 724-2556, [visitpalestine.com](http://visitpalestine.com)

10

**Corsicana [10, 12-15] A Wrinkle in Time**, (903) 872-5421, [thewlac.com](http://thewlac.com)

12

**Grapevine [12-15] GrapeFest**, (817) 410-3185, [grapevinetexasusa.com](http://grapevinetexasusa.com)

13

**Kerrville [13-14] Arts & Crafts Show**, (830) 895-0100, [tbck.org](http://tbck.org)

**Brenham [13-21] Washington County Fair**, (979) 836-4112, [washingtoncofair.com](http://washingtoncofair.com)

14

**Chappell Hill Airing of the Quilts**, (979) 337-9910, [chappellhilltx.com](http://chappellhilltx.com)

**Rosenburg Ride to Rosenberg Car Show**, (713) 502-3168, [rosenbergartsalliance.com](http://rosenbergartsalliance.com)

**San Marcos Treasure Sale**, (512) 392-4295, [heritagesanmarcos.org](http://heritagesanmarcos.org)



### Pick of the Month

#### **Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**

Lake Jackson, September 14, 21  
(979) 480-0999, gcbo.org

Get a close-up look at ruby-throated hummingbirds as they make their yearly migration. Professionals will band the tiny birds, and you can symbolically adopt a hummingbird to support conservation efforts. The event includes educational booths, activities for kids, a plant sale and nature store.

21

**Azle Lord's Acre Harvest Festival & Car Show**, (817) 444-1382, facebook.com/silvercreekmc

**Blanco Classic Car Show**, (512) 632-0648, blancoclassiccarshow.com

22

**Giddings Wendish Fest**, (979) 366-2441, facebook.com/texaswendish

25

**New Braunfels [25-29] Comal County Fair & Rodeo**, (830) 625-1505, comalcountyfair.org

MORE EVENTS >

### **TCP** Submit Your Event

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

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[www.oktoberfestinfbg.com](http://www.oktoberfestinfbg.com)



## Cast-Iron Skillet Giveaway Contest

To celebrate 80 years of *Texas Co-op Power*, we're giving away 80 handcrafted, heirloom-quality No. 12 skillets from Fredericksburg Cast Iron Co.

**TCP** Enter Today  
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### Restoring and Preserving Our History

*The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools*

**Schools**

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

A Driving Tour map and an Open House schedule are available on our website.

[WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG)

All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of Country School Association of America.



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**COME TO WHERE THE REAL  
LONESOME DOVE HAPPENED**

**HORSEHEAD CROSSING, ON  
THE PECOS RIVER**

**OCTOBER  
25-26**

**WINDS ACROSS  
THE PECOS**

**LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATION**

Chuck Wagon Meals &  
Cooking Contests

Re-enactors

Live Cannon Fire

Historians & Presenters

Trail Rides

Cowboy Poetry

Exhibitors

CONTACT BETTY DAMRON

BETTYDAMRON986@YAHOO.COM

OR DELANE CAGLE

DELANEC@GMAIL.COM

\*\*\*\*\*



SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

27

**Giddings [27-28]**  
Texas Word Wrangler Book  
Festival, (979) 542-2716,  
giddingspubliclibrary.org

**Mason Old Yeller Day**, (325)  
347-5446, mason.ploud.net

**Harper [27-28]**  
Frontier Days, harper  
communitypark@gmail.com,  
harpercommunitypark.com

**Lewisville [27-28] Western  
Days**, (972) 219-3401,  
lewisvillewesterndays.com

**Winnsboro [27-28]**  
Cowboy Music and  
Poetry Gathering,  
(903) 342-0686,  
winnsborocenterforthearts  
.com

28

**Lakehills Medina Lake  
Cajun Festival**,  
(830) 460-0600,  
cajunfestival-medinalake.com

OCTOBER

4

**Dripping Springs [4-5]**  
Lone Star Gourd Festival,  
texasgourdsociety@hotmail  
.com, texasgourdsociety.org

5

**Huntington Catfish  
Festival**, (936) 635-3306,  
shophuntingontx.com

**New Braunfels Das Fest**,  
(830) 629-2943,  
newbraunfelsconservation  
.org

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tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire

# Parenthood

It's the toughest, most rewarding job there is. From the moment a child is born, parenthood is an exercise in nurturing, teaching and letting go. And when the time comes for our offspring to experience the world on their own, they remain in our hearts and are never far from our thoughts.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

1 CHARLES BAXTER  
COSERV

"Mother mallard and nine ducklings."

2 SANDRA DRAKE  
BLUEBONNET EC

"My daughter, the youngest of four, has waited a long time for her turn at parenting. The joy her newborn baby boy brings can be seen in every fiber of her being."

3 LINDSAY HUMPHREYS  
SOUTH PLAINS EC

"Learning to fly fish the rivers of New Mexico with Dad."

4 HELEN FOWLER  
PEDERNALES EC

A father's love on his daughter's wedding day.



2



3



4

## Upcoming Contests

DUE SEP 10 Parks

DUE OCT 10 I Love

DUE NOV 10 Small Spaces



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

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



## The Farmer's Regret

A farm tractor will get you far—  
if you look after it

BY JOHN TERRY WENDE  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
DAVID MOORE

**THIS WAS SUPPOSED** to be a really good deal. Smart too.

We had bought a 15-acre farm south of Austin in 1974 and now, 10 years later, our (new to us) 1940s Farmall B tractor was the perfect choice for our small operation.

Living on an educator's salary and applying my knowledge as a high school economics teacher, I was proud of myself for taking extra-close care of my tractor. I even built a small shed to keep it protected and dry.

I remember that no matter what happened or what the problem was, I always found a way to keep that Farmall in good running condition.

Over the years, I have seen a number of tractors—and pictures of tractors—silently keeping vigil in their temporary-turned-final resting places.

An old Ford tractor, for years on end, sits under the canopy of a large live oak tree, proudly displaying a “for sale” sign. Then there's the tractor sitting near the corner of a fence row with an assortment of brush and vines winding their way through it. I had often wondered: How could a person abandon their machine and leave it out there all by itself?

I would never do that—would I?

Then I started having battery and generator issues and struggled to get the parts I needed to fix my Farmall. The longer that tractor sat outside in the very same spot, the less I thought about hauling it back to the shed, so I could at least get it out of the weather.

Suddenly I had become that farmer who let his machine down.

It's not just the weather you have to watch out for either. A friend told me about his family trying to raise cattle in Arkansas in the 1950s, and when that didn't work, they moved back to Texas and settled in Taylor County. They brought back all their farm equipment, including a Minneapolis-Moline tractor, which they parked between the house and the county road.

He said that, over the years, people would sneak onto his property and help themselves to various tractor parts. It made him really mad because, he said, all they had to do was ask.

Farm tractors are nearly indestructible—if you take care of them. For what I bought it for, my Farmall B gladly did everything I asked it to do. My responsibility was to take good care of it and keep it running.

I didn't hold up my side of the deal, and my Farmall fell victim to the mystic landscape of abandoned tractors, forever stuck in the mud a few feet from my tractor shed. ■

# ATTO SPORT THE MOST ADVANCED PORTABLE 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!



CRUISES



ROAD TRIPS



FLIGHTS

## 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.

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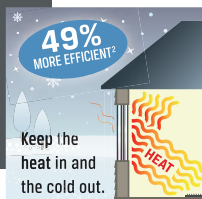
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