



LUNASTAR | ADOBESTOCK

Medina Electric Cooperative 87th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Medina EC's Hondo Office

237 State Highway 173 N., Hondo, TX 78861

Registration, breakfast and MEC's Member Marketplace begin at 8 a.m. • Meeting begins at 9 a.m.
\$1,000 grand-prize drawing • Must be present to win

See back cover for the agenda and your registration card for this year's annual meeting.



Medina Electric Cooperative Board Elections

During the nomination period for the 2026 election, Medina EC's incumbent directors Larry Huesser, Voting District 1; Jimmie Raines, Voting District 2; and R.H. Rodriguez, Voting District 3, ran unopposed. Per bylaw 4.4.C. the incumbent directors were automatically reelected by the certification committee at the April board meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about the election process or want to run in 2027, put the election dates below on your calendar and visit MedinaEC.org/Nominee.



Voting District 1
Larry Huesser



Voting District 2
Jimmie Raines



Voting District 3
R.H. Rodriguez

Previous Membership Meeting Minutes

During this year's Annual Membership Meeting, one item on the business meeting agenda will include a vote for approval of the minutes from the 85th and 86th Annual Membership Meetings, held in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

Find the meeting minutes by scanning the QR codes or visiting MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2026.

85th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes



86th Annual Membership Meeting Minutes



PROJECTED 2027 ELECTION TIMELINE*



*This is a projected timeline. Exact dates will be posted in December at MedinaEC.org/Nominee.

FOOD FESTS
ARE EVERYWHERE

WHERE EXACTLY
IS WEST TEXAS?

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A TODDLER

Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Oh, My Heavens

Check out the dazzling
displays at planetariums
around the state



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Folding mobility scooters offer a lightweight, compact design that fits in car trunks, on planes, and cruises. They are easy to store and perfect for travel and everyday use. Whether exploring new places or handling errands, folding scooters provide convenience, independence, and the freedom to go anywhere.

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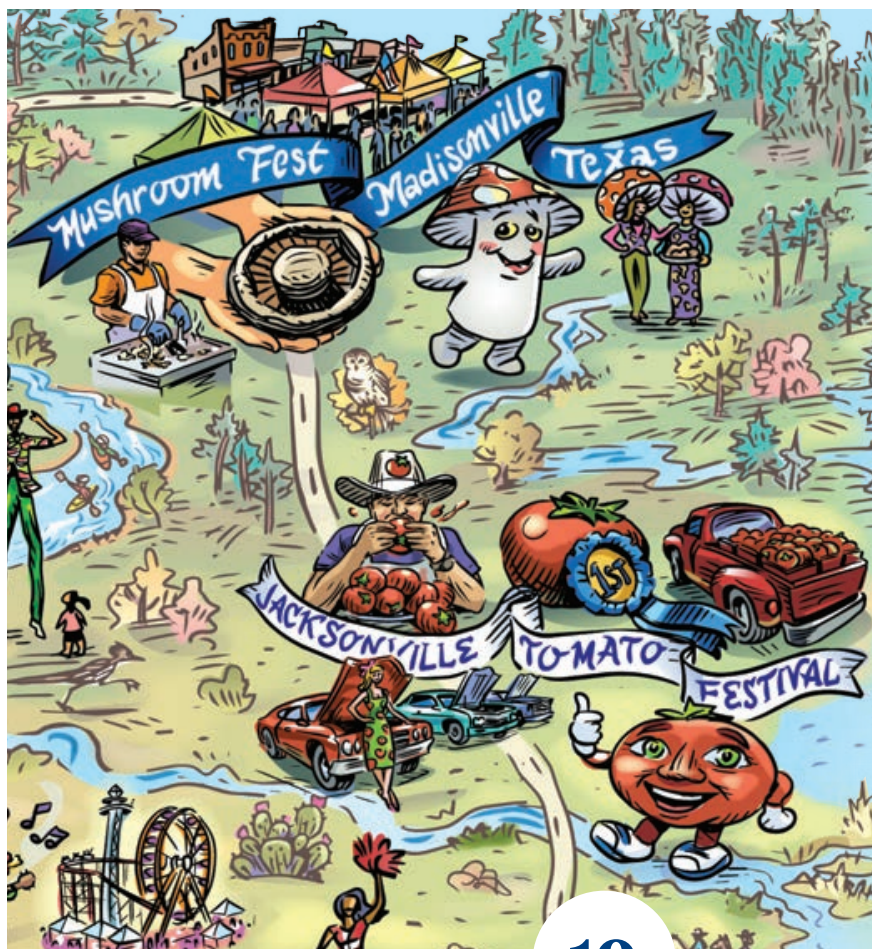
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September 2026



10

06 Making Space for Everyone

Light pollution blotting out the stars? Head to your local planetarium.

By Melissa Gaskill
Photos by Tiffany Hofeldt

The Fungus Among Us

The good times just mushroom when small-town festivals celebrate local produce.

By Pam LeBlanc
Illustrations by Jim Starr

ON THE COVER

Visitors enjoy a show at the Burke Baker Planetarium in Houston.
Photo by Tiffany Hofeldt

ABOVE

Mushrooms and tomatoes are among the dozens of locally grown products celebrated at street festivals.
Illustration by Jim Starr

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By Erica Flocke

Among the Trees



Big Jake, the mascot of the Texas State Forest Festival, demonstrates ax throwing.

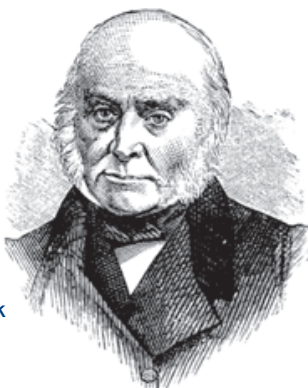
WHEN THE FOUR-DAY Texas State Forest Festival kicks off September 17 in Lufkin, it continues a tradition that began in 1938. The event, in the heart of the Pineywoods, features a variety of activities, including a carnival, barbecue competition, music and chain saw carving.

In 2022, Texas sawmills produced enough lumber to make two-by-fours that could reach the moon and back.

Did you know? Texas has 59 million acres of forestland, more than any other state except Alaska. About 93% of that is privately owned.

Hair Apparent

Only five elected American Presidents—John Adams; John Quincy Adams, right; Martin Van Buren; James Garfield; and Dwight Eisenhower—were bald or balding. Considering that 85% of men suffer hair loss by age 50, that's perhaps an astonishing record. Something to think about on **National Bald is Beautiful Day, September 13.**



TCP Contests and More

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Lemony Delights

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Barns

RECOMMENDED READING

Learn about William Johnson McDonald, the eccentric banker who funded the McDonald Observatory in West Texas against his family's wishes. Find our story from December 2020 on our website.



ENTER ONLINE

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

When I was a kid ...

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

Here are some responses to our July prompt: **Need a hobby? Learn to ...**

Volunteer in your community.

DEEDEE SIMPSON
CECA
CISCO

Appreciate and utilize all that the state parks have to offer.

KIT VAUGHN
PEDERNALES EC
LIBERTY HILL

Do tai chi. It will make you want to be a better person.

MARY BUSEMAN
COSERV
LEWISVILLE

Sign language—or any language.

CRISTI SWINNEY
TAYLOR EC
TRENT

Letterboxing: a secretive treasure hunt activity that combines hiking, puzzle solving and stamp carving.

STEVE YATES
PEDERNALES EC
WIMBERLEY

Visit our website to see more responses.

JULY 2026 A Big Leap From Doodles

“I probably have the only one of Jeffie Brewer’s works in San Angelo. It survived a wildfire while being relocated from Alto, New Mexico, to Lubbock.”

ROBIN LONG
CONCHO VALLEY EC
SAN ANGELO



Spotting His Critters

My mom and I recently visited a friend in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I think we ran into Jeffie Brewer’s Orange Cat on an art walk [A Big Leap From Doodles, July 2026]. Now I know the artist’s story. How fun!

Lisa King
Pedernales EC
Austin

Our regional bike trail network in east-central Illinois has commissioned several sculptures to place alongside the trails. People love them and even set their routes by the distance between critters. There are designated “critter loops” riders enjoy.

Thanks, Jeffie, for making our rides more fun and whimsical.

Betsy Carlson-Ward
Via Facebook

Historic Washout

I remember that Houston Astros rainout because I was at home waiting for my dad to come home from work while listening to what was supposed to be the start of the game on the radio [Currents, Under the Weather, June 2026]. They announced the game was called, noted the historic nature of the event and Dad didn’t get home until about 11 p.m.

Michael Knight
Via Facebook

Artifact No-No’s

As an archaeology steward for the Texas Historical Commission, I feel it important to remind readers that in the state of Texas, it’s illegal to search for and recover artifacts—be they projectile points or stone tools—on private property without permission and on public lands at all, ever [He Kept Digging, May 2026].

The penalties can be severe, including imprisonment. Readers can research this topic on THC’s website.

Françoise Wilson
Central Texas EC
Gillespie County

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power
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Austin, TX 78701

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

 Texas Co-op Power

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MAKING **SPACE** FOR EVERYONE

BY MELISSA GASKILL • PHOTOS BY TIFFANY HOFELDT

THIS PAGE The wonders of the night sky are always accessible at the Burke Baker Planetarium in Houston.

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP With more than a dozen planetariums around the state, visitors have access to celestial sites that can stir the imagination. Burke Baker was one of the first planetariums in Texas when it opened in 1964.

Light pollution blotting out the stars? Head to your local planetarium

In the 1950s, Harlingen Air Force Base used a domed planetarium building to teach pilots navigation by the stars. When the base closed in 1962, the building was donated to what is now the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and it eventually fell into disrepair.

But in 2008, H-E-B funded renovations that added a digital projector system and, in 2012, a new dome. Now regular folks of all ages can visit and get a front-row seat to the stars in Edinburg.

“H-E-B asked that it be free and open to the public,” says Christian Hernandez, program specialist at the UTRGV planetarium. “They wanted to inspire a new generation, and I think they made good on that desire.”

The Milky Way shines high above in September, with the constellation Pegasus rising in the east. Venus will be bright in early evening, with Jupiter most visible at dawn. But if it’s cloudy or you live near a big city or industry, you won’t be able to see any of it.

At a planetarium, you can enjoy these constellations and planets as well as other astronomical wonders from a comfy chair with no worries about light pollution from cities or satellites, cloudy skies, heat or cold, bugs, or the hard ground. And in Texas—with at least 15 permanent planetariums



across the state—chances are good that there’s one just down the road from you and with technological advances you might not expect.

Space Over Time

The first modern planetarium opened in Munich, Germany, in 1925, displaying 4,500 stars and the planets of our solar system. Five years later, the first facility in the U.S., the Adler Planetarium, opened in Chicago. More quickly followed in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and New York City. Texas got its first, Fort Worth’s 40-foot-diameter Noble Planetarium, in 1955, and soon Houston and Abilene had their own.

Planetarium popularity soared after the Soviet Union’s Sputnik 1 satellite launched in 1957 and during the 1960s race to the moon. These days, as artificial light drowns out more of the night sky, folks flock to planetariums to see what they’re missing outside.

Those early planetariums used mechanical star projectors that beamed light through slides patterned with tiny holes to depict celestial bodies on a domed ceiling. Gears and motors simulated the movements of stars and planets, creating astonishingly realistic night skies.

Such machines, made by Zeiss, a German company that produced the original Munich projector, and Pennsylvania-based Spitz Laboratories, which developed its first system in the 1940s, remain in use at many planetariums.

But now most facilities have digital projector systems that





Sunset at the Burke Baker Planetarium, where, indoors, it can always be nighttime.

“Under the dome, phenomena that can seem abstract or distant become tangible and awe-inspiring. It’s like a time machine, looking back at how the universe was.”

blend multiple high-resolution images into an uninterrupted scene covering the entire dome. These systems can produce the likenesses of millions of stars and extremely detailed 3D objects and events in deep space. Advances in sound and control systems and improved dome surfaces help make planetarium experiences even more immersive and realistic.

For example, the Stephen F. Austin State University Planetarium in Nacogdoches, which opened in 2018, features a state-of-the-art 4K Digistar system, says Director Dan Bruton.

Abilene’s Morgan Jones Planetarium upgraded in 2004 from its original Spitz Star Projector to a digital projector, says Jason Barber, planetarium director, and in 2019, it installed a laser system.

“With modern projectors, you can go into the stars, you can model the entire Milky Way,” Barber explains. “It’s kind of like a video game, but the shape of a dome creates a 3D effect, so you feel like you’re there. It’s like being in a spaceship.”

Beyond Space

Nowadays, planetarium experiences go well beyond tours of the night sky, popular as those are. You can fly visually through space and time and view immersive films about the Great Barrier Reef, dinosaurs or Mars. Experience a laser light show set to music from artists like Pink Floyd, Queen and Taylor Swift.

The H-E-B Planetarium in South Texas shows educational films about space, Hernandez says, and others just for entertainment.

Bruton says SFASU designed its planetarium to connect the university with its East Texas community and make science accessible and engaging for all ages. Astronomy students at the university keep track of what’s currently visible in the sky—perhaps a constellation, planet or comet—and program the Digistar system to show it. Immersive shows include *Dark Universe*, which explores dark matter, dark

energy and the structure of the universe, and *Antarctica*, a dive into one of the most extreme environments on Earth.

Abilene presents monthly public shows, and Barber’s favorite is one produced by the European Southern Observatory in Chile, called *Unveiling the Invisible Universe*. It uses actual time-lapse imagery of stars, not a computer model, he says. Another, *Messengers of Time and Space*, shows how astronomers use land-based telescopes along with space-based facilities like NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope, currently orbiting the sun 1 million miles away from Earth, and Hubble, circling 300 miles above Earth since 1990.

“Planetariums give people a sense of perspective,” Hernandez says. “It’s one thing to talk about the scale of the universe, but that 360-degree dome screen does an amazing job of letting you feel it. Watching a film about searching for the edge of the solar system, it really hits you how big the solar system is.”

“Films that go into the universe, dark holes and cosmic matter really put into perspective that we are a blue dot in a grand tapestry of planets and stars. It’s an important and humbling experience.”

Bruton agrees. “Under the dome, phenomena that can seem abstract or distant become tangible and awe-inspiring. It’s like a time machine, looking back at how the universe was.”

So grab one of those comfy chairs at your local planetarium. You’re bound to have a stellar experience. ■



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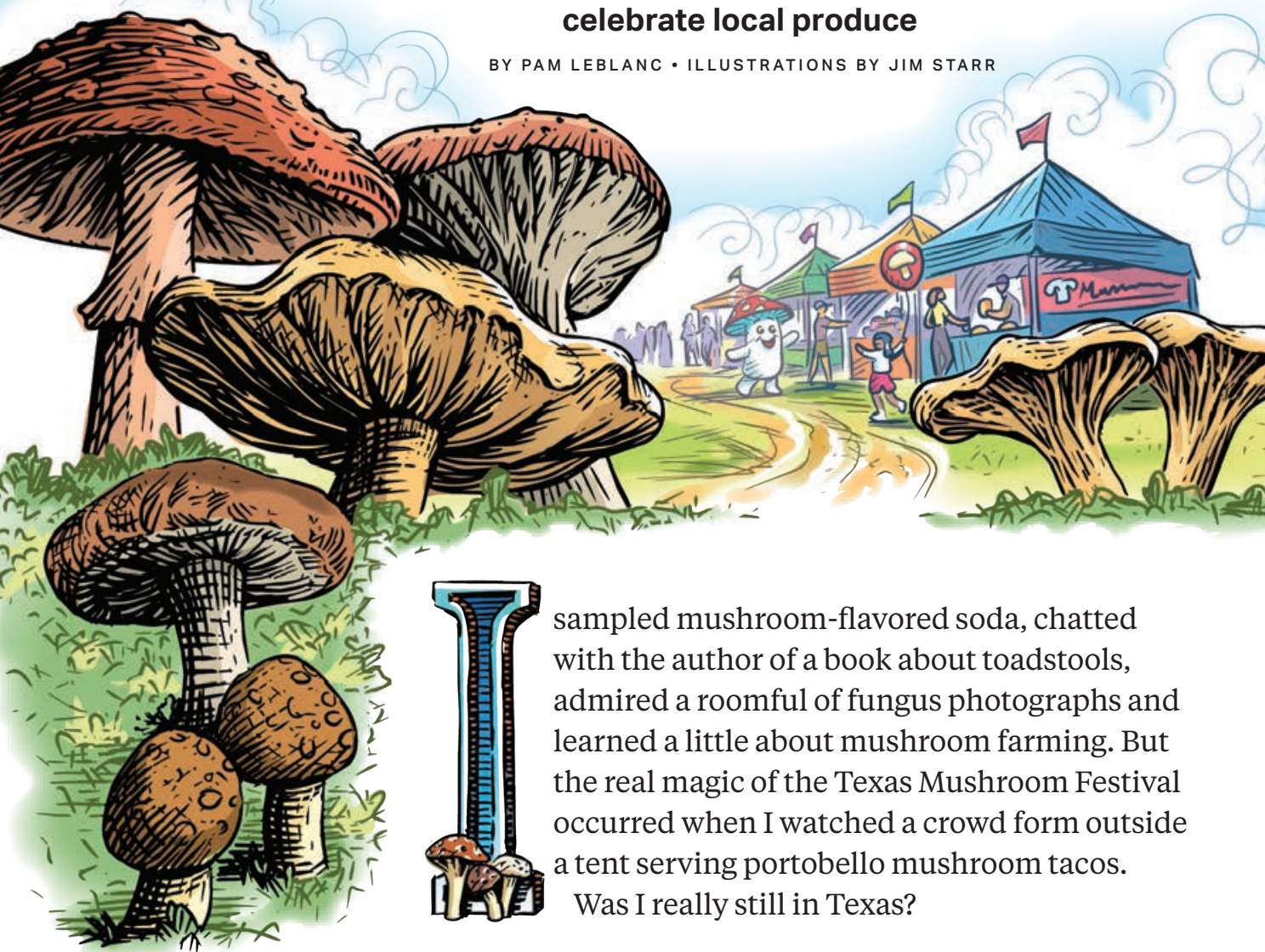
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THE FUNGUS AMONG US

The good times just mushroom
when small-town festivals
celebrate local produce

BY PAM LEBLANC • ILLUSTRATIONS BY JIM STARR



I sampled mushroom-flavored soda, chatted with the author of a book about toadstools, admired a roomful of fungus photographs and learned a little about mushroom farming. But the real magic of the Texas Mushroom Festival occurred when I watched a crowd form outside a tent serving portobello mushroom tacos. Was I really still in Texas?



A quick glance at the boots- and hat-wearing folks surrounding me as I strolled the courthouse square in Madisonville assured me I hadn't wandered off course. This city of 4,400, located 40 miles northeast of Bryan, is home to one of several farms operated by California-based Monterey Mushrooms, and in 2005, the Texas Legislature named it the official Mushroom Capital of the Lone Star State.

Madisonville clearly loves fungus, and its annual celebration draws mobs of mycophiles.

The Texas Mushroom Festival is one of dozens of street festivals around the state that celebrate local produce and growers. You can toast tomatoes in Jacksonville, salute strawberries in Poteet and Pasadena, honor onions in Weslaco, praise peaches in Stonewall and Weatherford, recognize rice in Winnie—and a whole lot more.

Many of the events have deep roots in Texas, which is known as a leading producer of specialty crops such as pecans, sweet potatoes, blueberries, watermelons and citrus. Each has its own quirky traditions.

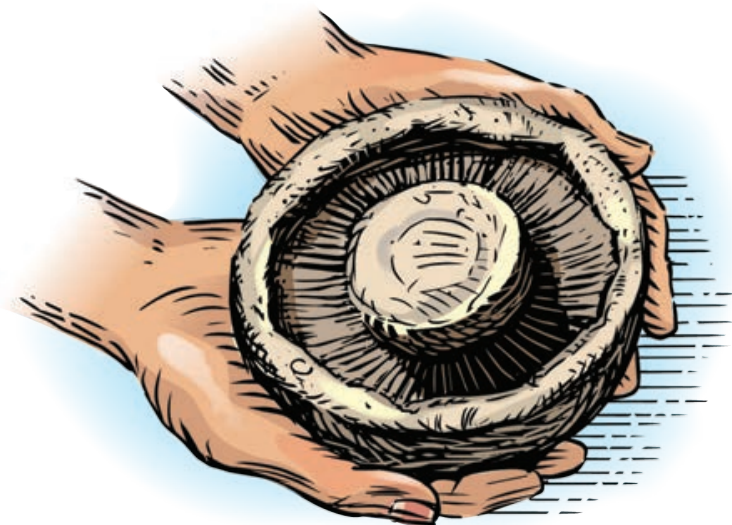
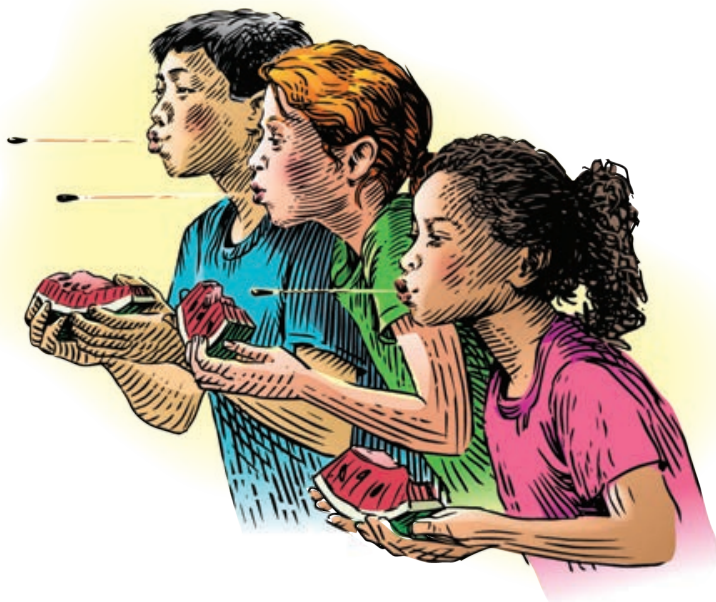
The Texas Citrus Fiesta in Mission, which started in 1932 as a nod to the Rio Grande Valley's winter harvest of grapefruit and oranges, has long included a style show featuring elaborate gowns made from citrus leaves, stems, fruit and peels that have been pulverized, dehydrated, blended and microwaved.

Visitors race to see how many tomatoes they can peel—using only their teeth—at the Jacksonville Tomato Fest. Growers compete to see who can bring the best price for their harvest during the auction at the Poteet Strawberry Festival. The Texas Onion Fest in Weslaco draws more than 25,000 attendees, all who come to celebrate the sweet Texas 1015 onion, the state vegetable of Texas, named for its suggested planting date of October 15.

Washer pitching, mutton bustin' and a full-blown rodeo are part of the action at the Stonewall Peach JAMboree, which also features peach pit spitting and peach eating contests. And at the Luling Watermelon Thump, which dates to 1954, visitors can pucker up for the watermelon seed spitting contest or square off in an (impressively messy) watermelon eating competition.

With all that to choose from, I couldn't resist the idea of spending a fall day in a small town, focusing on something that grows from a microscopic spore into one of nature's most perfect pizza toppings.

The Texas Mushroom Festival officially began in 2001 under a single tent, with a few vendors, a sole musician and about a dozen fungus-themed T-shirts. This year's event, set for October 17, is expected to draw between 10,000 and 15,000 visitors and 150 vendors. The day starts with the Shiitake 5K Run and includes such attractions as a quilt show, an automobile showcase, beer and wine tasting, live music, a kids' zone, silent auction, and mushroom picking contest.



"It just kind of sparked into this monster," says festival director (and confirmed mushroom lover) Dennon Hudson, who was watching the action at last year's event from a sidewalk at the edge of the square, where she waxed poetic about edible fungus. "I love mushrooms any way—fried, grilled, sautéed, raw. And we have lots of pickled mushrooms here as well."

But mushrooms are an acquired taste for some. A few minutes after arriving at the festival on a muggy October afternoon, I spotted Miss Mushroom, Allie Brewer of

Centerville. The 20-year-old pageant winner, wearing a bedazzled silver crown, a rose-colored shirt, gold sandals and a red sash, confessed she doesn't much like them.

"But I'd be up for trying some of them for sure," she added quickly. Then she showed me her finds from a few laps through the festival's mushroom market—a pair of earrings, a shirt and a lavender lemonade snow cone.

Next, I wandered over to the Monterey Mushroom tent, where white, thumb-shaped shrooms sprouted from a mound of soft, dark soil. The farm's growing manager, Armando Juarez, told me that the company's local facility, located about 5 miles south of town, grows white, portobello and specialty mushrooms such as shiitake and oyster. It also makes dried mushrooms. In all, the facility produces more than a half-million pounds of the fleshy, spore-bearing fruits of fungus each week.

"They're extremely healthy," he told me, noting that mushrooms contain vitamin D and potassium. They're also low in calories and rich in fiber.

I learned a few other facts about mushrooms at the festival. Besides coming in handy for cooking—and dang, those portobello tacos were tasty—they're used for medicinal purposes and have been for thousands of years.

At its booth, Viking Farms, based in nearby Normangee, was selling an array of tinctures that purport to ease symptoms of menopause, improve mental clarity and boost recovery from injury. It also was selling a colorful lineup of gourmet mushrooms used for cooking, including pink and blue oysters, black pearl kings, shiitakes, and lion's manes, which look more like softball-sized pompoms than something you'd toss in a sauté pan.

I also learned that unless you're making soup or a liquid-based one-pot meal, you don't have to wash mushrooms. That just makes the caps slimy. Instead, brush off any dirt and wipe them with a damp paper towel.

At another booth I sampled mushroom coffee, which I can only describe as "earthy." (I'll stick to hot tea, thanks.) I perused a display of mushroom honey, a rack of mushroom jerky and bottles of mushroom kombucha. One vendor peddled energy shots made with a root-like fungal structure called mycelium, which looks like a wad of unspooled thread.

I chatted with Alisha Gabriel, author of the picture book *Fungi Are ... More Than Mushrooms*, and spent a few minutes listening to singer Wade Phillips belt out a few numbers next to the courthouse steps.

That's a lot of mushroom madness.

I ended my day at the Texas Mushroom Festival with a full belly and a newfound respect for the funky fungus. Who knew a *lowly* mushroom could do so many things?

The experience reminded me of the importance of Texas agriculture. Food doesn't magically appear in the grocery store; it comes from farms. And Texas farmers work hard to bring their crops to market.

Get out and celebrate them. If you're not into mushrooms, get fired up for Hill Country peaches or East Texas yams. And as a bonus, you'll get a side of small-town Texas, delivered with pride. ■

Best of the Fests

Across Texas, communities celebrate their annual harvests with old-fashioned festivals. Here are some of the better known.

Texas Citrus Fiesta
Mission, January

Texas Onion Fest
Weslaco, March

Poteet Strawberry Festival
Poteet, April

Pasadena Strawberry Festival
Pasadena, May

Jacksonville Tomato Fest
Jacksonville, June

Texas Blueberry Festival
Nacogdoches, June

Stonewall Peach JAMBoree & Rodeo
Stonewall, June

Watermelon Jubilee
Stockdale, June

Luling Watermelon Thump
Luling, June

Holland Corn Festival
Holland, June

Parker County Peach Festival
Weatherford, July

Gorman Peanut Festival
Gorman, September 12

Grapefest
Grapevine, September 17–20

Texas Rice Festival
Winnie, September 30–October 3

Floresville Peanut Festival
Floresville, October 6–10

Groves Pecan Festival
Groves, October 8–11

Avocado Festival
Pharr, October 10

East Texas Yamboree
Gilmer, October 14–17

Texas Mushroom Festival
Madisonville, October 17

Golden Sweet Potato Festival
Golden, October 24





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- ▶ **ROBUST WARRANTY COVERAGE** for residential and commercial use

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- ▶ **SHREDS MATERIAL** to collect up to 50lbs in a single standard paper leaf bag
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PRO MAX450



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MESSAGE
FROM BOARD
PRESIDENT

**KENNETH
WEYNAND**

A Message From Your Board President and CEO: Powering Our Shared Future

WHEN YOU FLIPPED A SWITCH THIS MORNING, brewed a cup of coffee, or kept your home cool against the South Texas heat, you were experiencing your cooperative at work behind the scenes.

Being a member of Medina Electric Cooperative means owning a piece of a local enterprise built on shared purpose and a deep commitment to the place we all call home.

Each year, our annual report allows us to reflect on the hard work of the past year and connect those milestones directly to the momentum driving us forward today. Everything we do—from defending our infrastructure against summer storms to protecting your wallet—is rooted in one simple promise: prioritizing safe, reliable and affordable power for you.

Power Affordability

It's no secret that inflation is impacting pocketbooks. Medina EC is no different. In 2025, we completed a cost-of-service study to fully understand where our pricing stood. Across our industry, the essential equipment needed to build, repair, and protect your electric system saw price increases unlike anything we've seen in decades:

- Utility poles rose by 39%
- Service wire surged by 126%
- Transformers skyrocketed by 247%

To ensure our line crews always have the equipment needed to keep your lights on without compromising safety, we implemented a \$3 adjustment applied to the flat monthly Customer Charge for our general service, seasonal and small commercial rate classes.

Every dollar you invest in your cooperative is managed with careful stewardship. Rather than earning a profit for distant investors, those funds stay right here in South Texas—reinvesting directly into the lines, poles, and technology that serve your home or business, while continuing our proud tradition of returning capital credits back to our members.

Power Reliability

If living in South Texas teaches us anything, it's that Mother Nature always has the final word.

When severe storm fronts swept through our territory last June, high winds and lightning pushed our total outage minutes higher than average. Yet, even with those storm-driven outages, we saw our local Distribution SAIDI—the metric tracking the performance of our local equipment alone—drop to a four-year low.

That historic low is the result of intentional, year-round planning, teamwork and grid maintenance. We worked closely with our generation and transmission partner, South Texas Electric Cooperative to form a Reliability Committee. By analyzing the root cause of every outage, we found that nearly 40% of outage time was weather-driven, while 26% was linked to the transmission of power and substation outages.

This data provided us with clear opportunities to strategically plan where to prioritize our infrastructure investments and project coordination. Rather than applying a one-size-fits all approach, we zeroed in on nine high-priority substations heavily impacted by lightning by equipping them with advanced lightning arrestors. We also modified relaying schemes to isolate faults faster.

At the same time, we prioritized vegetation management across our service territory to further reduce tree-related outages. Guided by two certified arborists, our tree-trimming and right-of-way teams cleared 529 miles and sprayed 606 miles of overgrown lines last year. That intentional, hands-on work paid off, reducing tree outages from over 120 to just 80—a trend of steady improvement we continue to build on today.

Power for the Future

Medina EC, in partnership with STEC and San Miguel Electric Cooperative, continuously work to protect the affordable and reliable power supplied right here in South Texas. Through our board representation with our generation partners, two landmark moves were set into motion that protect your power supply and your budget for years to come:

- 1. Quick-Start Reliability:** We supported STEC's \$768 million acquisition of two natural gas-fired power plants, adding 768 megawatts of quick-start, on-demand power to meet the state's soaring electricity needs during peak hot and cold snaps.
- 2. Long-Term Financial Protection:** At SMEC, we helped secure a historic \$1.4 billion USDA "New ERA" grant and loan. As this funding finalizes, the plant will transition into a 400-MW solar and 200-MW battery storage facility—a strategic move projected to save Medina EC approximately \$191.6 million over the next nine years, buffering our members against volatile market price swings.



Powering Members

Protecting your membership also means advocating for you beyond our local lines. Last year, we joined forces with Texas Electric Cooperatives to defeat House Bill 5604, a piece of legislation that would have allowed commercial telecom companies to access cooperative utility poles at deeply discounted rates. While we strongly support broadband expansion across South Texas, we firmly believe commercial entities should pay their fair share—not shift those costs onto your electric bill.

We bring that same member-first mindset to managing regional growth across South Texas, particularly in Medina County, where we are seeing an unprecedented influx of commercial developments, data centers and industrial facilities. Our policy on growth is simple and nonnegotiable: growth pays for growth, and it always has. Through our Advanced Contribution of Aid to Construction policy—the same standard applied to any new member building a line—large commercial entities are required to pay upfront for engineering, design, staff time and system upgrades needed to connect them. Existing members will never subsidize the infrastructure required to power new neighbors.

Powering Communities

While poles, wires and digital infrastructure keep the lights on, our heart belongs to the communities we serve. Being a cooperative means measuring our performance not just in kilowatt-hours, but in the lives we touch and the local strength we build together.

Over the past year, we were honored to reinvest in our region through:

- Over \$108,000 in economic development and charitable donations to local nonprofits through programs like Sharing Success, our Community Empowerment Program and other donations.
- \$60,000 in academic scholarships to support students across our service territory pursuing secondary education.

As we look toward the months and years ahead, our commitment remains to ***Exceed Member Expectations in Everything We Do.*** We are building a smarter infrastructure, a stronger team and a cooperative that is ready for whatever the future brings.

Thank you for your voice, your continued support and above all, your trust. It is a privilege to serve as your cooperative leadership.

Until next time,
Kenneth Weynand and Trey Grebe

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

Mickey Holzhaus, (210) 422-3310

Larry Huesser, (830) 426-1539

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

Voting District 2

Joe Foley, (830) 261-1304

Larry Neal, (210) 218-2367

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Voting District 3

Dennis Gonzalez, (956) 218-8325

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

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

CEO

Trey Grebe, 1-866-632-3532, ext. 1046

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

Dilley 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

Hondo 237 Hwy. 173 N., Hondo 78861

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

Uvalde 2604 Hwy. 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.

Our Service Area

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

We have five offices that members can visit for business, located in Bruni (by appointment only), 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 divided into three voting districts and represented by three directors per district.



JOE FOLEY

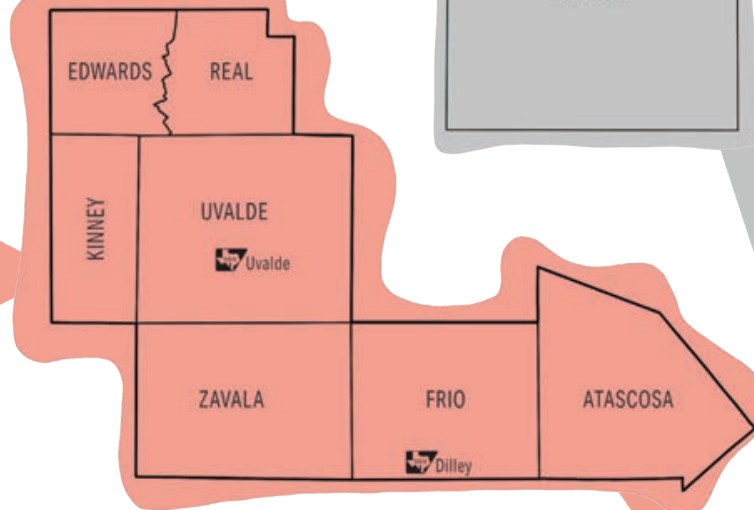


LARRY NEAL

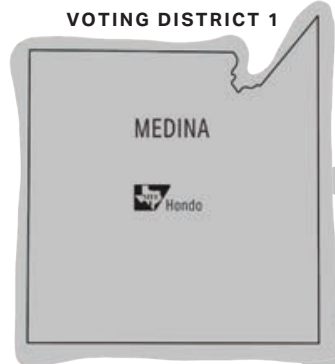


JIMMIE RAINES

VOTING DISTRICT 2



VOTING DISTRICT 1



KENNETH WEYNAND
(PRESIDENT)

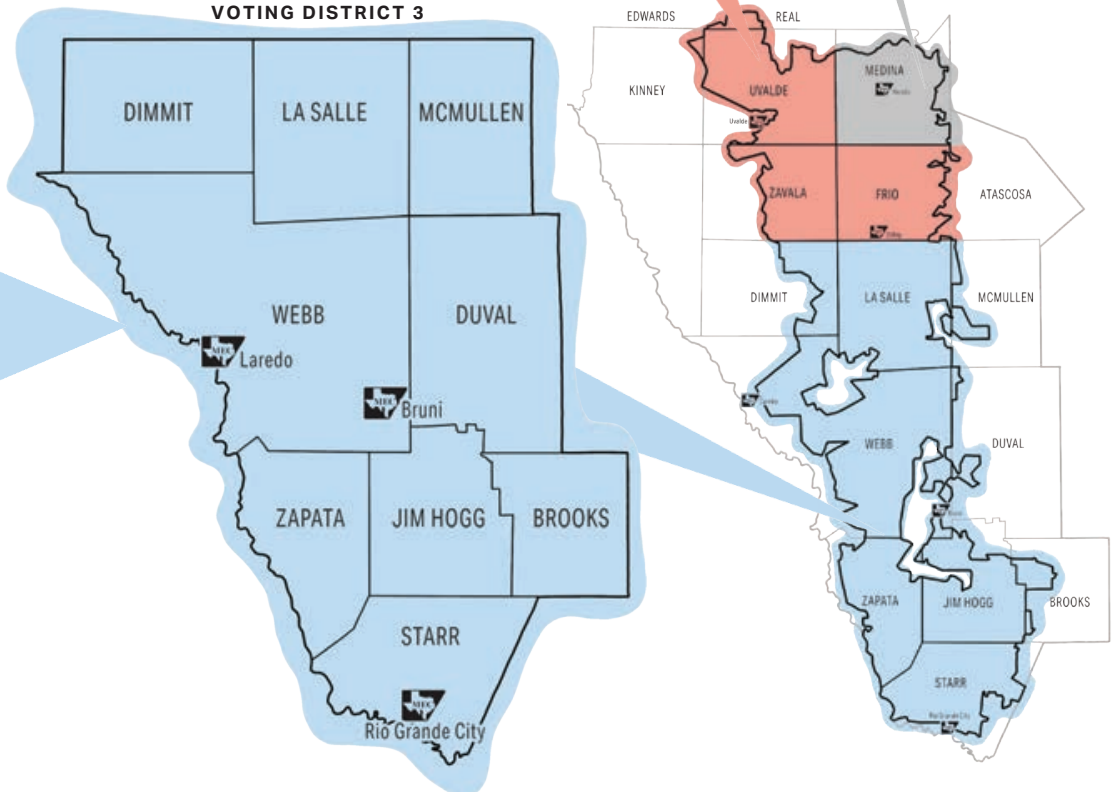


LARRY HUESSER
(VICE PRESIDENT)



MICKY HOLZHAUS
(SECRETARY/TREASURER)

VOTING DISTRICT 3




DENNIS GONZALEZ



J.L. GONZALEZ



R.H. RODRIGUEZ

Operating Statistics

ASSETS

	2025	2024
Total Utility Plant	\$302,603,158	\$296,557,760
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(45,718,029)	(41,892,308)
Net Utility Plant	256,885,129	254,665,452
Cash and Temporary Investments	1,066,229	5,043,675
Investments in Associated Organizations	96,726,322	88,011,413
Accounts Receivable	12,898,303	10,686,994
Materials	36,981	38,808
Deferred Charges & Other Assets	1,657,988	203,842
Total Assets	\$369,270,952	\$358,650,184

EQUITIES AND MARGINS

	2025	2024
Memberships	\$109,255	\$107,220
Patronage Capital	143,518,729	133,814,788
Other Equities and Income	17,383,100	16,375,986
Total Equities and Margins	\$161,011,084	\$150,297,994

LIABILITIES

	2025	2024
Long-Term Debt	\$124,557,554	\$129,421,134
Accumulated Provision for Pensions and Benefits	3,449,719	3,149,096
Accounts Payable	19,420,144	14,453,863
Consumer Deposits	3,453,879	3,173,568
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	2,555,827	2,856,121
Deferred Credits	54,772,745	55,298,408
Total Liabilities	\$208,259,868	\$208,352,190
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$369,270,952	\$358,650,184

REVENUE

	2025	2024
Sales of Electric Power	\$163,612,853	\$145,969,162
Miscellaneous Electric Revenue	2,274,411	2,149,082
Total Revenue	\$165,887,264	\$148,118,244

EXPENSES

	2025	2024
Purchased Power	\$116,117,633	\$101,560,924
Maintenance and Operations	20,178,616	19,519,964
Consumer Accounts and Member Services	3,948,007	3,458,073
Administration / General	8,779,250	7,347,109
Depreciation	8,595,386	8,124,658
Interest and Other Deductions	5,507,933	5,621,531
Total Expenses	\$163,126,825	\$145,632,259

MARGINS

	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$2,760,439	\$2,485,985
Generation and Transmission / Other Capital Credits	9,736,365	9,047,499
Nonoperating Margins	597,319	379,598
Total Margins	\$13,094,123	\$11,913,082

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 2025.

POWER COST
71.18%

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
12.37%

DEPRECIATION
5.27%

ADMINISTRATION
5.38%

INTEREST
3.38%

CONSUMER ACCOUNTS & MEMBER SERVICES
2.42%

ANNUAL AUDIT

Medina EC is audited annually. The audit of the 2025 financials was performed by Certified Public Accountants Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. of Lubbock.

The audit covered the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Per the auditor's March 10, 2026, 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, 2025, and 2024, 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."

2025 Impact Statement

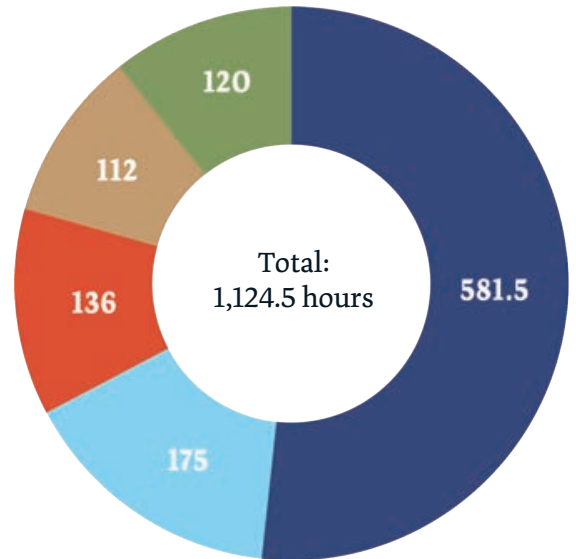
By Service Area Office

● Hondo/Corporate Office
 ● Dilley
 ● Rio Grande City
 ● Uvalde
 ● Bruni/Laredo

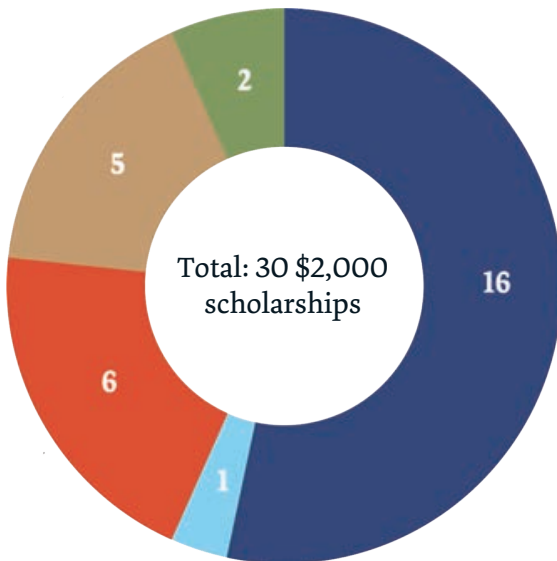
Medina Electric Cooperative knows how important the communities in our service area are. Cooperative Principle No. 7 is Concern for Community, highlighting the importance to stay involved in the communities we are a part of. In an ongoing effort to help our communities grow and our members to be successful, 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 and learn more about Medina EC's scholarship program and eligibility at MedinaEC.org/Scholarships.

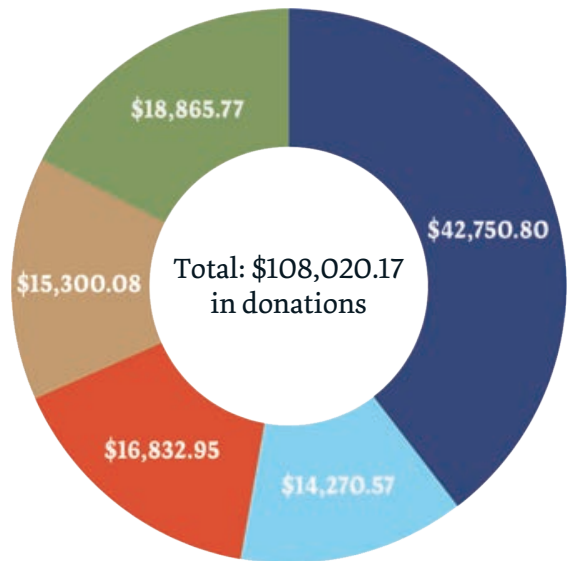
Volunteer Time Off (in Hours)



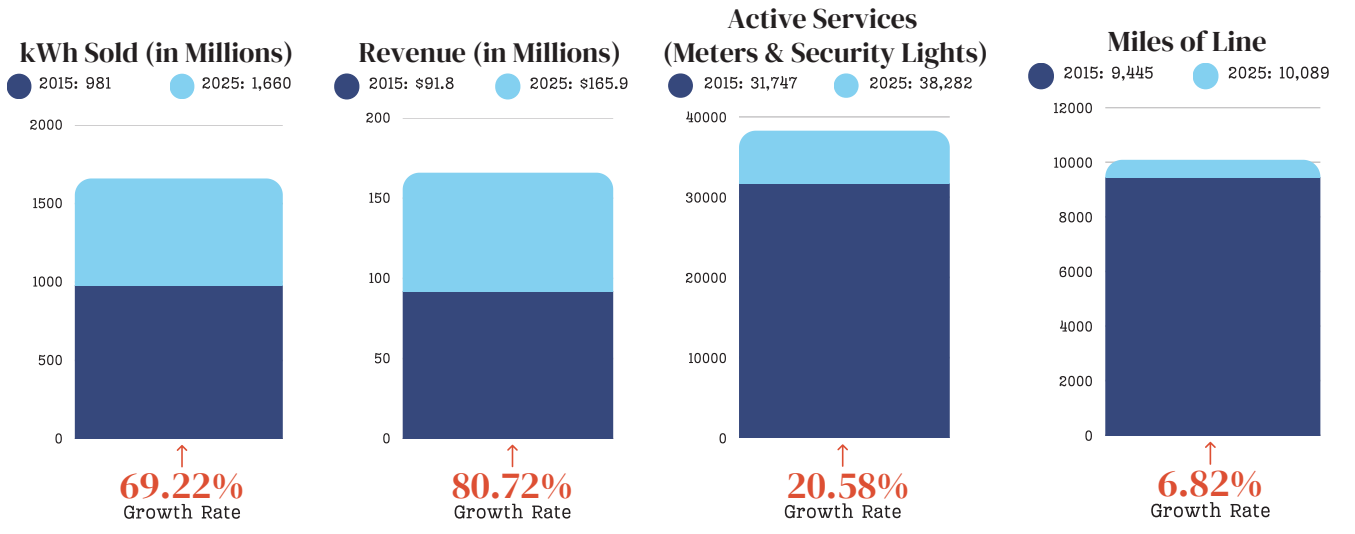
Scholarships



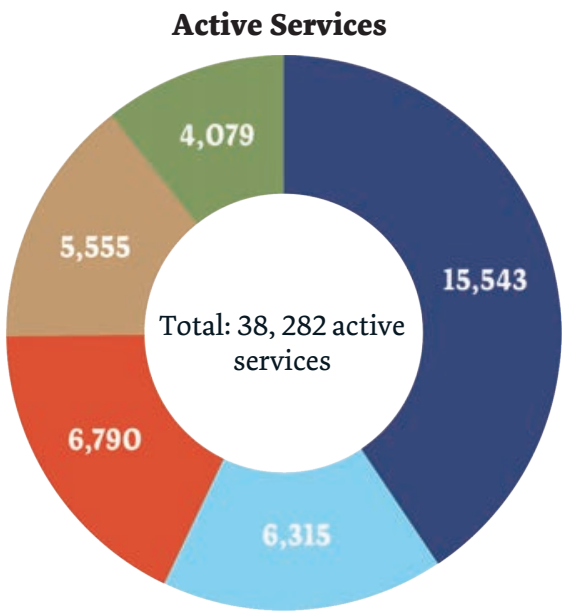
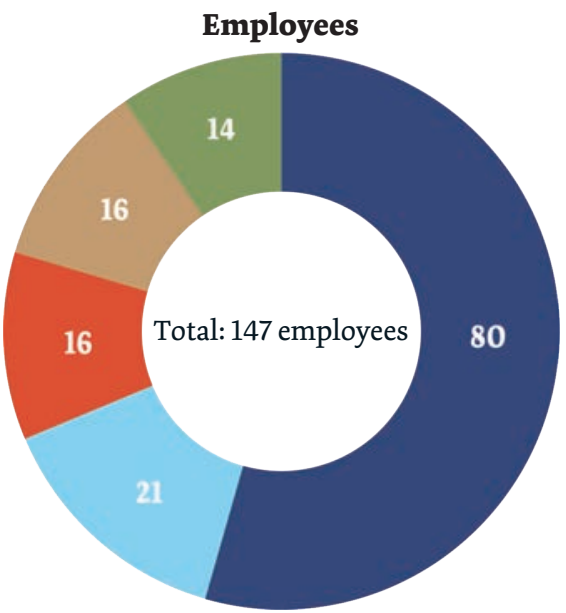
Donations



2025 Service Statement



● Hondo/Corporate Office ● Dilley ● Rio Grande City ● Uvalde ● Bruni/Laredo





Medina EC Celebrates The Minds Behind the Network

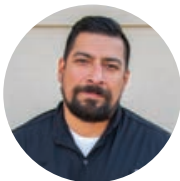
IN HONOR OF NATIONAL IT PROFESSIONALS DAY, recognized September 15, Medina Electric Cooperative is recognizing our information and technology department. The IT team works hard to protect Medina EC's data and systems by keeping all of the cooperative's technology up to date, scanning countless emails and implementing needed updates and firewalls. They also do a great job answering computer and technology questions and helping employees and members whenever needed. Medina EC's information technology team is always busy, helpful and doing everything to keep us at the forefront of technological advancements. We would like to give our IT department a shoutout for all the work they do—in front of us and behind the screens.

LEADERSHIP



Doug Kindred
Chief Information Officer

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS



Jose Montalvo



Ariel Valverde

IT TECHNICIANS



Richard Green



Oliver Stone



Ryan Tondre

Medina EC is Powered by People

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S human resources team works tirelessly to ensure we have the best employees to serve our members, managing everything from employee onboarding and retention to benefits, resources and records retention.

Their responsibilities extend far beyond these tasks, including policy development, supporting board projects, handling legal matters, managing workers' compensation, paid family and medical leave, employee development and more.

The HR team is essential in shaping a positive work culture and ensuring that our employees and the cooperative are set up for success.

National HR Professionals Day is September 26, and we would like to recognize our HR team for the work they do for all Medina EC employees.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM



Melissa Nietenhoefer
Human Resources and
Records Supervisor



Theresa Rivera
HR Specialist

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Labor Day

Monday, September 7
Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. As always, crews will be on call.

87th Annual Membership Meeting at 9 a.m.

Saturday, October 3
Learn more about Medina EC's 87th Annual Membership Meeting and RSVP at [MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2026](https://www.MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2026).

Offices Closed

Monday, October 12
Our offices will be closed for employee training. As always, crews will be on call.

From Blueprint to Power Line:

Celebrating the Trades that Build and Protect Our System

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL TRADESPERSON DAY on Friday, September 18, it's time to shine a spotlight on the behind-the-scenes teams within Medina Electric Cooperative who keep the lights on and our community powered. From monitoring the co-op's system and dispatching linemen in system operations to the precise art of line design and managing our electric meters, these individuals embody the skills, dedication and resilience that define the trades.

System Operators: These are the individuals working behind the scenes at Medina EC's in-house control center monitoring the flow of electricity across the co-op's grid. They are quick thinkers who coordinate outage responses and reroute power to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Their expertise in managing complex electrical networks, utilizing supervisory control and data acquisition technology and making critical decisions under pressure is important to ensuring reliable power for every member.

Engineering Equipment and Meter Technicians: At the interface between Medina EC and its members are the technicians who are responsible for deploying and maintaining the engineering equipment that delivers and measures electricity consumption. These experts go beyond simple installation; they're adept at configuring, calibrating and troubleshooting a range of devices, from traditional meters to advanced smart meters. Using specialized instruments and software, they diagnose issues, perform maintenance and ensure compliance with industry standards. Their work creates a reliable infrastructure for the co-op.

Line Designers: Before a single pole is set or a wire strung, there's the thorough work of Medina EC's line design team. These tradespeople are the architects of the co-op's electrical infrastructure—surveying terrain, calculating precise measurements and designing the most efficient routes for new lines and equipment. Their knowledge of engineering principles, regulatory codes and environmental considerations ensures that every new extension or upgrade to our system is planned with the utmost care and foresight. Designing is more than lines on a map. This team is laying the groundwork for reliable power delivery for decades to come.

This National Tradesperson Day, we would like to thank the cooperative's skilled tradespeople for their hard work, problem-solving and dedication to our members, ensuring the power keeps flowing reliably every single day.

SYSTEM OPERATIONS



Zachary
Lyle



Dylan
Carroll



Deborah
DeLeon



Ory Garner



Matthew
Gregor



Monte
Tschirhart



Susie Zerr

ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT



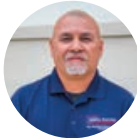
Ricky
Cerna



Eduardo
Chapa



Marcos
Munoz

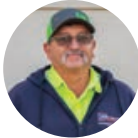


Fernando
Rangel

METERING AND COMMUNICATIONS



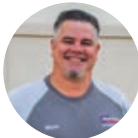
Philip Crow



Marty
DeLeon



Matthew
Stinson



Bryce
Thayer



Greg
Zapata

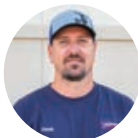
LINE DESIGN



Anthony
Aranda



Roger
Besares



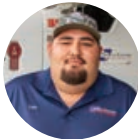
Derek
Boehle



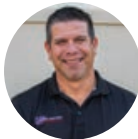
Joe
Carroll



Janet
French



Leonel
Garcia



Isaac
Solis

3 COUNTRIES
3 SILVER COINS



2026 American Silver Eagle
Actual size is 40.6 mm



2026 Canada Silver Maple Leaf
Actual size is 37.97 mm



2026 British Silver Britannia
Actual size is 38.61 mm

YOUR SILVER PASSPORT TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

The 3 Most Popular Pure Silver Coins in One Set

Travel the globe without leaving home with the world's three most popular pure silver coins. Newly struck for 2026 in one ounce of fine silver, each comes in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. Your trip includes stops in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain with the option of adding other destinations to extend your sojourn abroad.

We've Done the Work for You

with this 3-piece world silver coin set. Each of these coins is recognized for its breathtaking beauty, and for its stability even in unstable times, since each is backed by its government for weight, purity, and legal-tender value.

2026 American Silver Eagle: The American Silver Eagle is the most popular silver coin in the world—and in 2026, it celebrates its historic 40th anniversary. Featuring Adolph Weinman's Walking Liberty obverse and backed by Emily Damstra's Eagle Landing reverse, each is struck in 99.9% fine silver at the U.S. Mint.



Reverse

2026 Canada Silver Maple Leaf:

A highly sought-after bullion coin since 1988, this 2026 issue was struck in highly pure 99.99% silver at the Royal Canadian Mint.



Reverse

2026 British Silver Britannia:

One of The Royal Mint's flagship coins, this 2026 issue features Lady Britannia, defender of Britain, struck in 99.9% fine silver.



Reverse

Be Your Own Travel Agent

and plan your itinerary with different silver coins from around the world. Your journey doesn't end with just three legendary silver coins. Inside your Silver Passport are two open spaces waiting to be filled with treasures from across the world. Continue your worldwide adventure by adding your own hand-selected silver coins from the world's most celebrated mints, creating a truly personalized collection that reflects the beauty, history, and artistry of destinations around the world.

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For Only \$319

Presentation case includes two open slots to complete your collection!



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\$30 Value

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The Line in the Sand

Where does West Texas begin? The 100th meridian, more or less

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY THE BRAVE UNION

IF YOU EXAMINE any good map of Texas, you'll notice a natural division of East and West Texas that runs from the eastern edge of the Panhandle down to Abilene and San Angelo and on past Uvalde to Carrizo Springs and Laredo.

On the west side of that line is arid land, and on the east side, it's wetter and greener. It becomes increasingly dry as you go west and wet and humid as you go east.

This line is better known as the 100th meridian, and it maintains this calculus of wet and dry lands all the way up into Canada.

John Wesley Powell, famous for exploring and mapping the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon over 150 years ago, was one of the first conservationists to see that the 100th meridian served as a demarcation.

"Passing from east to west across this belt a wonderful transformation is observed," he wrote. "On the east a luxuriant growth of grass is seen, and the gaudy flowers ... make the prairie landscape beautiful.

"Passing westward, species after species of luxuriant grass and brilliant flowering plants disappear; the ground

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



gradually becomes naked, with bunch grasses here and there; now and then a thorny cactus is seen, and the yucca plant thrusts out its sharp bayonets."

Powell, for whom Lake Powell in Arizona and Utah is named, would become the head of the U.S. Geological Survey in 1881. He used his knowledge of the West to create a prescriptive map for water management.

Powell took his map to a Senate committee in 1890 and suggested dividing the Western U.S. into water districts that would be managed by the people living along the rivers rather than the states. He advocated for need over greed.

The senators practically rioted, as this flew in the face of the fever dream of Darwinian development that had dominated the Western states. The gold must be mined, the forests harvested, the rivers dammed and the railroads built.

Powell argued for sustainability and good stewardship of the Earth. Powell was against big dams—ironic, given that his namesake lake was created by Glen Canyon Dam. He preferred smaller, more democratic irrigation systems that he believed would be more efficient for the land and serve more people more equitably.

As we know, the arid West was not developed as Powell envisioned, but it's interesting to consider what might have been if Powell had had his way.

What's more interesting to me are the facts on the ground these days. The geological truths that defined the 100th meridian in Texas a century and a half ago are now truer for the 98th meridian, running just west of Fort Worth, east of San Antonio and west of Corpus Christi. This tells us that the Texas water challenges of the future will be far greater than any our ancestors faced. ■

Pancakes and Waffles

Breakfast will never be the same after tasting these morning staples

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Growing up, there was always a jar of applesauce in our fridge. One morning we were greeted with apple pancakes, and I haven't looked at applesauce the same since. These are thicker and cakier than your typical pancake, but isn't cake for breakfast simply sweeter?

Apple Pancakes

TOPPING

4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter,
plus more for serving
2 medium apples, cored and diced
¼ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt

PANCAKES

1½ cups complete buttermilk
pancake mix
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup cinnamon applesauce
¼ cup water, plus more as needed

- 1. TOPPING** In a skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add apples, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the apples start to soften and the sugar is dissolved and syrupy, 3–5 minutes. Remove from heat until ready to serve pancakes.
- 2. PANCAKES** Preheat oven to 200 degrees. In a bowl, combine pancake mix and cinnamon. Stir in applesauce and water until just moistened. If batter is too thick to pour, add water. Preheat and lightly grease a nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat.
- 3.** Pour ¼ cup batter onto skillet or griddle, repeating as allowed for pan size. Cook each pancake until bubbles form on the surface. Flip and cook until the second side is golden brown, 1–3 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low if the pancakes are cooking too quickly.
- 4.** Keep cooked pancakes warm in preheated oven, and repeat with remaining batter. Serve warm with butter and reheated apple topping.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Poblano Breakfast Scramble.





Oatmeal Waffles

BEVERLY ANTHES
FANNIN EC

Anthes' easy waffles are a delicious breakfast. They're crisp on the outside and fluffy inside. Serve warm, topped with fresh fruit or maple syrup.

- 1½ cups flour
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1½ cups milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- ⅛ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, stir together flour, oats, baking powder and cinnamon.
2. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, vanilla, butter and brown sugar.
3. Add wet ingredients to flour mixture and stir to combine.
4. Preheat and lightly grease waffle iron. Pour batter into waffle iron, close and cook according to manufacturer's directions. Keep cooked waffles warm in preheated oven, and repeat with remaining batter.

SERVES 6



\$500 WINNER

Sweet Potato Waffles

TRACEY STEWART
SAM HOUSTON EC



This is the most delicious way to transform dinner leftovers into brunch. Hearty, crispy and lightly spiced, I was blown away by these waffles. After testing this recipe, you can surely find me cooking up an extra batch of mashed sweet potatoes to whip up these waffles on the weekend.

- 2½ cups flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1 cup mashed sweet potatoes
- 1½ cups buttermilk
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup (1 stick) melted butter, cooled
- Maple syrup, for serving

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon.
2. In another large bowl, whisk together sweet potatoes, buttermilk, eggs, vanilla and butter.
3. Add the flour mixture to the sweet potato mixture and stir to combine, being careful not to overmix. If the batter is too thick, gradually add 2–4 tablespoons water.
4. Preheat and lightly grease waffle iron. Ladle batter onto waffle iron, being careful not to overfill, close and cook according to manufacturer's directions.
5. Keep cooked waffles warm in preheated oven, and repeat with remaining batter.
6. Serve warm with maple syrup.

SERVES 4

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

LEMONY DELIGHTS DUE SEP 10

When life gives you lemons, what do you make? Submit your delicious citrus treats for a chance at an easy-peasy \$500. Watch for the recipes in February 2027.

UPCOMING: WINNER, WINNER CHICKEN DINNER DUE OCT 10



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

Pineapple Upside Down Pancake With Pineapple Cream Syrup

JAN BOX
TRINITY VALLEY EC

Dessert for breakfast? Sign me up! I loved the presentation of these pancakes. They do take a little patience when flipping, but once you get the hang of it, these pancakes are so much fun to make—and even better to eat.

1 can pineapple slices (16 ounces) in syrup
1 cup sugar
4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter
6 tablespoons heavy cream
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups prepared pancake batter
Maraschino cherries, for topping
Whipped cream, for topping

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Drain pineapple slices, reserving syrup. To a



saucepan, add reserved syrup and sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, at a soft boil about 25 minutes or until syrup turns golden. Remove from heat and stir in butter, heavy cream, salt and cinnamon.

2. Preheat and lightly grease skillet over medium-high heat. Pour about ⅓ cup pancake batter onto skillet.

Don't Overdo It

Take care to mix pancake or waffle ingredients just until combined. A few lumps in the batter are OK. But overmixing overworks the gluten, which results in a dense pancake. Go easy and enjoy tender, fluffier pancakes and waffles.

—Vianney Rodriguez

3. Cook until bubbles form on the surface of the pancake. Place a pineapple ring into batter and press slightly. Flip pancake and press into skillet and finish cooking. Keep cooked pancakes warm in preheated oven, and repeat with remaining batter.

4. Serve warm with a cherry, pineapple syrup and a dollop of whipped cream on each pancake.

SERVES 6

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SEPTEMBER 2026 TEXAS CO-OP POWER 29



COURTESY CHET GARNER

The Mother of All State Parks

Explore history amid peace and quiet along the Leon River

BY CHET GARNER

EVERYONE WHO VISITS Texas' first official state park feels like they've been let in on a quiet secret. This 400-acre hideaway between Temple and Waco doesn't get the attention (or crowds) of Hill Country destinations like Enchanted Rock State Natural Area or Garner State Park.

But from its quiet perch along the Leon River, Mother Neff State Park waits patiently, like a front porch swing, inviting you to slow down and breathe in some fresh air—and maybe put your phone away for a little while.

The story of this park—and really our entire state park system—goes back to Isabella “Mother” Neff and her son, Gov. Pat Neff. The family owned this stretch of riverfront land that became a local hot spot for picnicking, swimming and fishing long before a “state park” was even a thing. When Mother Neff died in 1921, she made a very Texas-sized decision to leave the land to the state so everyone else could enjoy it too. Not a bad legacy.

I started my visit by hitting the limestone trails, winding beneath a canopy of oaks before dropping into a shady ravine. That's where I found one of the park's rock shelters—massive stone overhangs that Native American tribes used for thousands of years. Turns out, good real estate along the Leon River has always been in demand.

From there, I made my way to the park's iconic stone water tower, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The climb to the observation deck on top isn't exactly Mount Everest, but it's enough to earn a view of the sprawling valley below—and justify a solid snack afterward.

Mother Neff State Park may not be the biggest or flashiest, but it just might be the most meaningful—a place where history, nature and a mother's generosity quietly collide. ■

ABOVE Chet at Mother Neff State Park, which used to be the property of Gov. Pat Neff's family. Neff held office in the 1920s.

TCP Watch the video on our website and see all of 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.

SEPTEMBER

6

New Berlin Sausage Festival, (210) 343-9570, facebook.com/nbtksausagefest

10

Abilene [10–19] West Texas Fair and Rodeo, (325) 677-4376, westtexasfairrodeo.com

Corsicana [10–13, 17–20] The Guys, (903) 872-5421, thewllac.com

11

Brenham [11–19] Washington County Fair, (979) 836-4112, washingtoncofair.com

12

Chappell Hill Airing of the Quilts, (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

Fairfield Show of Wheels, (903) 389-5792, fairfieldtexaschamber.com

Luling Luling Foundation Youth Grill-Off, (830) 875-2438, lulingfoundation.org

Stephenville Morgan Mill Arts and Crafts Fair, (972) 467-8646, bit.ly/mmartsandcrafts

18

Royse City [18–19] North Texas Antique Tractor & Engine Club Show & Pull, (214) 934-2414, north-texas-antique-tractor-and-engine-club.net

19

Azle Silver Creek Lord's Acre, (817) 607-8039, facebook.com/silvercreekmc

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



Pick of the Month

Salt Festival

Grand Saline, September 24–26

gssaltfestival@gmail.com

facebook.com/gssaltfest

Celebrate the heritage, community and spirit that define this corner of East Texas. The festival includes street dances, cornhole and horseshoe tournaments, yoga, a parade, petting zoo, classic car show, 5K race, and three nights of live music. Country music artist Tracy Byrd, above, headlines Saturday night.

Fredericksburg Classic Car & Truck Show, (830) 990-4433, pecangrovestore.com

Fort Worth [19–20] Bluey's Big Play, (817) 212-4280, basshall.com

25

Giddings [25–26] Texas Word Wrangler Book Festival, (979) 542-2716, www.giddingspubliclibrary.org

26

Bertram Oatmeal Festival, (512) 882-2992, oatmealfestival.org

Bryan Brazos Valley Beekeepers Association Bee School, (979) 218-3070, bvbeeks.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.



Experience Texas Wine Month in Grapevine!

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Event Calendar

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

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG 

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

Fairfield Breakfast With Santa, (903) 389-5792, fairfieldtexaschamber.com

Lakehills Medina Lake Cajun Festival, (830) 460-0600, cajunfestival-medina-lake.com

Kerrville [26-27] Supertri Kerrville, kerrvilletri.com

27

Giddings Texas Wendish Fest, (979) 366-2441, texaswends.org

Luling Quilts & Cars, (512) 567-5091, facebook.com/quiltsandcars

Meyersville Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Fall Festival, (361) 275-3868, stspeterpaulalloysius.org

OCTOBER

1

Smithville [1-Nov. 15] Airing of the Quilts, (979) 540-9222, bit.ly/airingofthequilts

2

Stephenville [2-3] Town N Country Quilt Guild Quilt Show, (817) 676-5165, bit.ly/townncountryquiltguild

3

Granbury Romancing the Monarch, (817) 579-3280, lakegranburymastergardeners.org

5

Corsicana [5-29] Piece-makers' Quilt Guild of Corsicana Quilt Show, corsicanaquiltguild.com

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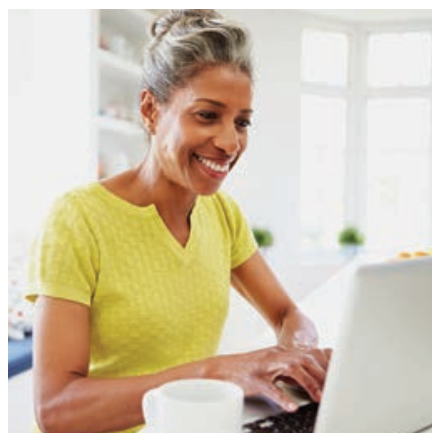
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Rodeo

Texans young and old love a rodeo. Despite the pain, the mud and the blood, competition and camaraderie keep us coming back for more. Everyone to the main arena; these fearless competitors are ready to ride.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1

1 MIKE ZARELLA
PEDERNALES EC

"Youngsters gather on the arena railings for a better view of the opening ceremonies of the Blanco County Fair & Rodeo."

2 HOLLY BUFKIN
BIG COUNTRY EC

"Unwavering grit as this paint bronc shows the untamed heart that defines rodeo."

3 BOB NORRIS
PEDERNALES EC

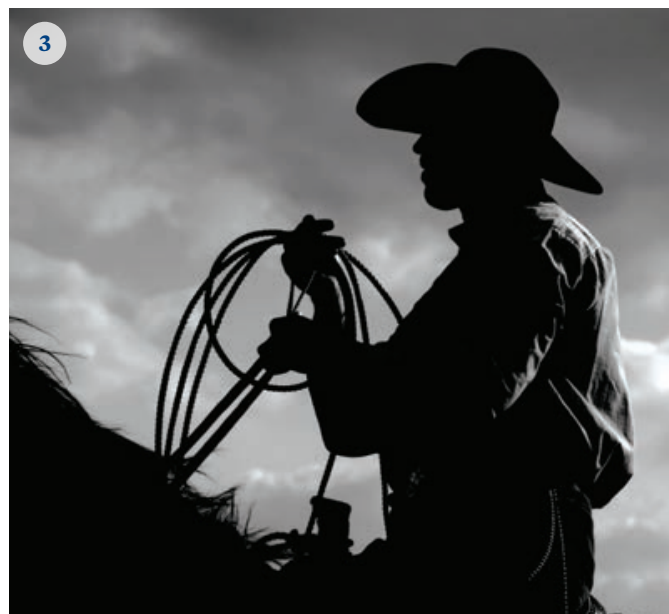
A silhouette of a cowboy at a rodeo.

4 LAURA BREWER
COSERV

North Texas Fair & Rodeo cowboys wait their turn to ride.



2



3



4

Upcoming Contests

BARNs DUE SEP 10

SWAMPs DUE OCT 10

IN THE GARDEN DUE NOV 10



ENTER
ONLINE

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



Speaking of Long Commutes

Finding silver linings—and snacks—when it's hard to find childcare

BY ERICA FLOCKE

ILLUSTRATION BY
GWEN KERAVAL

"HOW WAS YOUR day today?"

No response. "Did you have fun?" Still nothing.

At the stoplight on Ranch Road 12 and Hunter Road in San Marcos, I laughed to myself and thought about how silly this one-sided conversation must sound. I glanced in the mirror clipped to the backseat headrest and caught my 13-month-old daughter's grin. She can't talk yet, but I can't wait for the day she finally answers back.

I live and work in Wimberley, a town that prides itself on being family friendly. And it is—except when it comes to daycare. There's only one option in town for babies her age, and I've been on the waitlist for more than a year. So every weekday we make the 30-minute drive to San Marcos, where she goes to daycare. That

adds up to two hours of commuting each day: one hour with my daughter, one hour solo.

We've learned to make the most of it. Together we listen to audiobooks and albums I think she should know. While some babies get *The Wheels on the Bus*, mine gets Turnpike Troubadours. I like to tell myself it's making her smarter, or at least building character. Only time will tell.

I narrate the drive like a tour guide: "Look at that bird!" or "We're going over the river." She probably understands none of it, yet she looks at me and smiles like she's clued in anyway.

Some days, traffic crawls along so slowly that I have to break out the emergency snack stash I keep in the car. Fruit bars or a lone teething cookie. By the time we reach the next stoplight, she's happily munching or asleep.

I notice the same cars each morning and afternoon, their drivers as familiar to me as neighbors at this point. I wonder about the people inside. Do they have a baby in the backseat listening to a Lyle Lovett album for the very first time too?

I imagine a tiny community of parents and children, each of us on our own little journey, connected by the same roads, the same traffic lights, the same shared struggle of making it work.

Sometimes I think about it more broadly. In a state as rural as Texas, countless parents are on even longer drives for childcare, and I can't help but wonder how they fill those hours.

I know this is just a phase. We won't be commuting forever, and one day I know I'm going to miss these drives and how my baby smiled at me from the backseat. But for now, I think my daughter knows every curve of Ranch Road 12 better than most grown-ups. When she does learn to talk, she'll probably have plenty to say about it. ■



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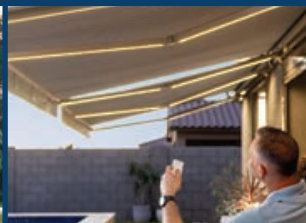
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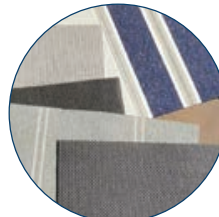
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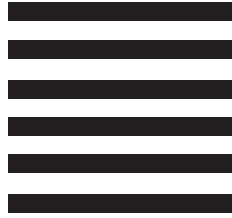
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87th Annual Membership Meeting

DO NOT MAIL THIS PORTION.

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 portion of the card to the cooperative, you will not be eligible for the drawing.



Official Notice of Membership Meeting to All Members:

The Annual Membership Meeting of Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the office of Medina Electric Cooperative in Hondo on Saturday, October 3, at 9 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 la oficina de Medina Electric Cooperative en Hondo el Sábado 3 de Octubre a las 9 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 87th Annual Membership Meeting on October 3. Call 1-866-632-3532 (ext. 1008) before Friday, September 11, to request the service.

Servicios de Traducción Disponibles a Solicitud

Por favor, informe a Medina EC si necesita un intérprete de lenguaje de señas o un traductor de español durante nuestra 87^a Reunión Anual de Membresía el 3 de Octubre. Llame al 1-866-632-3532 (ext. 1008) antes del Viernes 11 de Septiembre para solicitar este servicio.

**RSVP by September 11 by mailing in the postcard
above or by scanning the QR code on the back.**

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

RSVP Card

You can also RSVP at MedinaEC.org/RSVP.

SCAN ME
TO RSVP!



MAIL THIS PORTION in or scan the QR code by September 11 so we have enough food and gifts for you and other guests!

☐

Count me in for food and fun on Saturday, October 3, in Hondo. There will be

_____ adults from my household at the meeting and _____ children.
Number Number

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: _____

Join us for the 87th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Medina EC's Hondo Office

237 State Highway 173 N., Hondo, TX 78861

Meeting Schedule

- **8 a.m.—Registration, Breakfast and MEC's Member Marketplace**
Visit our Member Marketplace vendors and informational booths before grabbing your breakfast.
- **9 a.m.—Business Meeting and Election Results**
- **9:45 a.m.—Must Be Registered for Prizes**
\$1,000 grand-prize and other prizes will be drawn and announced following the business meeting. You must be present to win.
- **After Meeting—Hondo Office Open House**

MEC's Member Marketplace

In lieu of the regular registration gift, this year Medina EC members will get to choose their own gifts from the local vendors participating in our Member Marketplace!

A few participating vendors include:

- A&Z Blissful Creations
- Geyer Honey
- and more!
- Backroads Magnets
- Tallow Honey Balm

Learn more and RSVP at MedinaEC.org/AnnualMeeting2026.