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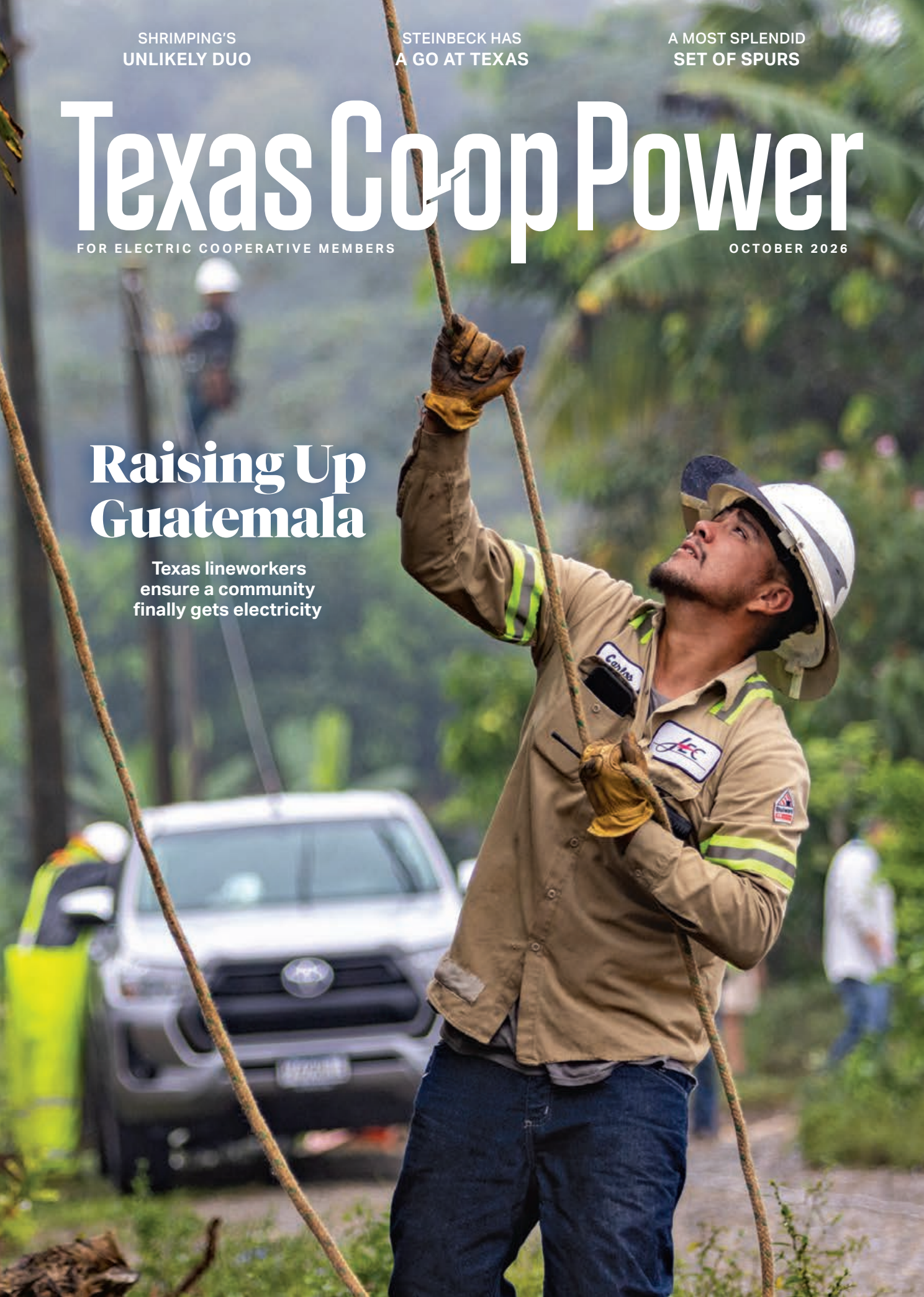
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OCTOBER 2026



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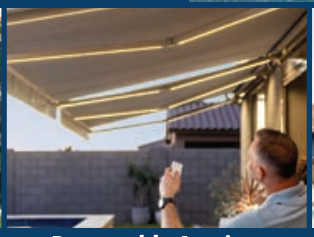
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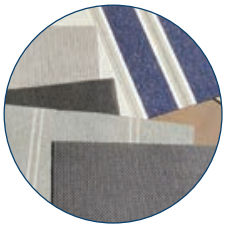
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October 2026



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Texas lineworkers bring life-changing light to a grateful community in Guatemala.

Story and photos by Chris Burrows

An Old Salt and a Seafaring Diva

As the Gulf shrimping industry dwindles, this 93-year-old—with his savvy first mate—still works the nets.

By Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Erich Schlegel

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ON THE COVER
Lineworker Carlos Rubio works in Yalicar, Guatemala, about a thousand miles from home.
Photo by Chris Burrows
ABOVE
Nikki Johnson-Kunz works alongside her husband, Jason Kunz, on the shrimper St. Vincent.
Photo by Erich Schlegel



Before electricity, a kerosene lamp was about the only reprieve from total darkness.

Bartlett Lit the Way

YOU'RE HOLDING THIS magazine because you're a member of an electric cooperative.

You're a member of an electric cooperative because you live in what used to be one of the darkest spots in the country—where utility companies refused to build infrastructure for rural Texans.

You're benefiting today from one of the earliest examples of crowdfunding, starting in 1935, when farmers and ranchers put up seed money and then secured loans from the Rural Electrification Administration to create their own power companies. Grassroots efforts like this took hold all across rural America.

But the first one was in Bartlett, a little Central Texas town.

And this month, Bartlett Electric Cooperative will hold its 90th annual meeting. The timing is perfect: October is National Cooperative Month.

> "I want my people out of the mud, and I want my people out of the dark."
>
> —U.S. REP. SAM RAYBURN, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PIONEER

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

My favorite Halloween costume was . . .

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 August prompt: **The headline for my life, in five words, is . . .**

It keeps getting better, friends.
GINA MARIE
BANDERA EC
BANDERA

Still becoming my best self.
MI-HYUN PARK
COSERV
FRISCO

Keep trying and keep smiling.
JOYCE GRISHAM
PEDERNALES EC
BLANCO

I am superwoman after all.
JANE PATTERSON
BOWIE-CASS EC
TEXARKANA

Uno mas cerveza, por favor.
BARNEY BASDEN
NAVARRO COUNTY EC
CORSICANA

Visit our website to see more responses.



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Swamps

RECOMMENDED READING
With Cooperatives, You've Got a Friend, a feature story from 2009, sheds some light on a business model that shines brightly across Texas. Find it on our website.

ENTER ONLINE



JASON DAVID PAGE

AUGUST 2026 TCP Kitchen

"Grammie's Rice Krispies Squares took me back to my childhood in Ohio. I have a 1971 booklet in which I wrote 'very, very good' by the scotcheroos recipe."

RAE ANN ELDER
SOUTH PLAINS EC
LUBBOCK

Yahoo for Scotcheroos

Scotcheroos [TCP Kitchen, August 2026] originated on Rice Krispies cereal boxes in the 1960s. And, yes, they remain popular in the Midwest. My family continues to enjoy them at nearly every gathering 60 years later.

Alice Darland
GVEC
Schertz

Cool Song Details

Cool Water [Currents, August 2026] was made famous by the Sons of the Pioneers, of which Roy Rogers was the original leader. Dale Evans was not.

The songwriter, Bob Nolan, was one of the group's original members. He penned it in 1936, and Rogers' band recorded it in 1941.

Chris Jones
Bowie-Cass EC
Linden

That Sonorous Voice

It's About Time [August 2026] is classic W.F. Strong writing. Without looking at the author's name, I knew who wrote the lazy, quiet story after the first paragraph. I heard him read it in my head.

Mr. Strong is a Texas treasure like Terlingua or J. Frank Dobie. Thanks for including the QR code so we can hear that sonorous voice read about cowboy time on a quiet Sunday morning. It touched my Texas soul.

Cela Clay
Bluebonnet EC
Austin

Rewarding All Month

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy the magazine. I try to limit my reading to make it last an entire month. It has made me laugh, smile and cry on occasion.

Mona Mather
GVEC
New Braunfels



BRYAN PETERSON

WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

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Texans work to deliver electricity to a remote Guatemalan village. "It's a lot more than turning wrenches," says co-op worker Oscar Medrano. "It's changing lives."



Texas lineworkers bring life-changing light to a grateful community in Guatemala

‘That’s What We Do’

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRIS BURROWS

An unexpected sound interrupts the morning routine in the remote small town of Yalicar, Guatemala, on November 6, 2025. Between the usual rooster crows, the guttural calls of howler monkeys and rumbling motorbikes, someone shouts “Headache!” in plain English.

Then, around a corner, another warning: “Headache!” as bits of wire clatter to the ground at the feet of electrical lineworkers and onlookers gathered around a power pole along a dirt road.

This is the sound of history.

More than 115 families live in Yalicar, about a mile from Mexico, along the Río Chixoy in northern Guatemala. Twenty-five years ago, this patch of rolling tropical lowlands was a rubber farm. After the farm shut down, around the year 2000, many workers stayed behind. They built homes, churches, a school—a community—without electricity. Until last November.

That’s when a group of 22 lineworkers from 10 electric cooperatives in South Texas traveled hundreds of miles, by air and treacherous roads, to this remote corner of Central America, where they rendezvoused with more than $270,000 worth of donated materials for a life-changing construction project. With the help of the local electric utility and engineers from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Texans built a power grid and wired 135 homes in 20 days.

As a man named Santiago watches workers wire the home where he lives with his wife and five kids, he says, “*Pienso que lo cambia todo* (I think it changes everything).”

Making Connections

On the first day of work in Yalicar, the Texans split into groups: construction and house wiring. The construction team climbs poles, mounts hardware, and raises lines and transformers. The other crew goes house by house, installing light bulbs, switches and power outlets.

They are welcomed into small, ramshackle homes where families sleep in hammocks and small beds in one or two rooms.

“I’ve never been somewhere where the people have dirt floors and thatched roofs and no insulation in their houses,” lineworker Greg Seiler says. “It puts a lot of things in perspective.”





LEFT Lineworkers Cipriano Amaro, below, and Robert Holloway wire a home.

ABOVE "It will benefit the children because they have the chance to study at night. In the past that was impossible," says a pastor named Alberto, whose last name can't be written in English.

OPPOSITE Locals watched the Texas crew's progress over the three weeks they worked in Yalicar.

Residents, who have little means, show their gratitude however they can.

"We were wiring a house, and this older gentlemen brought all of us a cup of Coke," Seiler says. "It wasn't cold, but we drank it. And I thought, this is pretty neat. He doesn't have much to give, but he's trying to be hospitable and show us his appreciation."

The lineworkers support local businesses, buying and munching on sweet, fresh rambutan, a fruit grown in Guatemala, and sourcing fresh socks. Saul Leyva needs a pair after he succumbs to a hidden stream. Unbowed by his wet pants and boots as he drives to the next pole, he says, "I still can't believe I'm actually here."

In addition to lineworkers from the local utility, Empresa Municipal Rural de Electricidad, the Texans are helped along by men in the village and eager and curious kids.

"I was up on the pole, and somebody was handing me up material that I asked for," Taylor McGaugh says. "I look down, and there's about five kids working the handline, which I was not expecting."

The Co-op Way

While the South Texans may feel at home in these warm surrounds, where cattle graze, pigs and chickens run wild, a Texas flag is raised alongside those of EMRE and Guatemala, and the chorus to *Take Me Home, Country Roads* is belted out from pole tops—they are hundreds of miles away and 90 years in the past.

In 1930s Texas, when investor-owned utilities refused to build lines to rural areas, farmers, ranchers and their families banded together and, with help from the newly formed federal Rural Electrification Administration, created electric cooperatives that now serve millions of Texans connected by more than 340,000 miles of power lines. This project in Central America came about because of a similar kind of cooperation.

"It's really an eye-opener to know that literally a mile from this village, people have had electricity for years and years," says Paul Bourland, a line superintendent, "and it's just because that's a private investor that refuses to build because there's no money out there.

"It's kind of like the reason co-ops exist."

For a lot of the lineworkers, it's a hard reality.

"Your emotions kind of got to you when you realized what you're actually doing for these people. Everything that they had in their house, I could put in the back of my pickup truck," Jeff Bilski says. "You see these people every day. The language barrier was difficult, but you could tell they were happy to see you. It was incredible.

"Sometimes at night, laying in bed, it would bring tears to my eyes."

Some of the families used jury-rigged solar systems or batteries to power small electronics or even charge cellphones, but for the most part, when the sun set, schoolwork, soccer and life stopped. Food was prepared over fires.

A man named Marcelino, whose native last name cannot be spelled out in English, is the elected leader for Yalicar. Like most natives of the area, he speaks Q'eqchi', a Mayan language.

"We never thought something like this could happen," he says through a translator. "But now I see the people working on the poles, I see the people working around us, and I'm really grateful and I'm really excited."

He has a message for the Texans in his town.

"From the bottom of my heart, I would like to say 'Thank you,' " he says. "Unfortunately we don't speak the same language, so we can't have a conversation, but I would like to thank them.

"They left their families, and they are giving their time to help us."

A New Era

Jesse Rivera isn't sure what to think one morning when he pulls up to a jobsite adjacent to the village's soccer field.

The Texan is used to being greeted by a gaggle of curious kids. But this morning, one of the older children, named Randy, is sweaty and wiped out.

"In Spanish, I'm like, '*¿Qué pasó que tienes?* (What's wrong?),' " Rivera says. "And he's like, '*Jugué fútbol toda la noche.*' They played soccer all night long. He gave me a hug, and he thanked me for it."

In ways big and small, life is changing in Yalicar.

"Most linemen never get an opportunity like this," Rivera says as he suits up to climb a pole in a marshy field far from modern comforts but perilously close to venomous pit vipers and tarantulas. "This is what we live for."

Texas is one of 19 states that have sent co-op crews to Guatemala and Bolivia since 2012 through NRECA International. All told, over the course of the past 14 years, more than 600 American lineworkers have built 155 miles of line in 40 communities as part of a commitment to the co-op principle of Concern for Community.

All told, this Texas crew outfits 87 poles, strings 5 miles of power lines and hangs six transformers—working sunup to sunset without bucket trucks or many of their usual tools—to bring power to 135 homes, a school, and a handful of churches and stores across the villages of Yalicar and neighboring Entre Ríos.

Toward the end of the trip, as they prepare to connect the newly built lines to the existing grid, lineworkers scatter around the village to watch for signs of trouble. EMRE workers insert a fuse, and popping noises ring out.

A frantic search confirms: It's just fireworks—the start of festivities.

"Every house was a celebration," Rivera says. "They were full of joy."

A new age has dawned in Yalicar, and hundreds of grateful Guatemalans enter the 21st century.

"I look over, and there's an iPhone plugged in, charging," lineworker Glenn Kelley says. "And then the very next neighbor, I go over there, and there's a kid sitting there, and a man's giving him a haircut with a pair of clippers plugged in."

The work has been grueling, but this moment is uniquely gratifying.

"Anytime you get the chance to help somebody out—that's kind of what we do in this industry," lineworker Matt Trenck says. "It's kind of a calling—overseas or next door, that's what we do."

Before the lineworkers leave town for the two-day trek back to Texas, they are invited to play in a village-wide soccer tournament. Ringing out when a rogue pass sails toward onlookers: "Headache!" ■

TCP Watch the video on our website to get to know the lineworkers and the folks they helped.

2025 Guatemala Delegation

Jackson EC: Paul Bourland, Martín Flores Jr., Carlos Rubio
Karnes EC: Glenn Kelley, Paul Rodriguez
Magic Valley EC: Felix Gauna, Manny Yanez
Medina EC: Edward Varnador
Nueces EC: Robert Holloway, Oscar Medrano, Manny Pina
Rio Grande EC: Cipriano Amaro, Saul Leyva
San Bernard EC: Jeff Bilski, Kevin Dvorak
San Patricio EC: Jesse Rivera, Martin Villarreal
South Texas EC: Taylor McGaugh, Greg Seiler
Victoria EC: Laddy Brown, Matt Trenck, Zeke Ybarra



An OLD SALT and a SEAFARING DIVA

As the Gulf shrimping industry dwindles, this 93-year-old—with his savvy first mate—still works the nets

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL



The sky looks as thick and gray as dryer lint when the St. Vincent glides away from Pier 19 and into the Galveston Ship Channel with Capt. Jerome Kunz at the helm early on a Sunday morning.

Pops, as Kunz is called, knows this channel well. He's been shrimping here since he was 10, and at 93 he's still dragging the nets twice a week.

I've come to Galveston in mid-May to join Pops and his daughter-in-law Nikki Johnson-Kunz, known as the Texas Shrimp Diva, on the St. Vincent and learn more about the shrimping business in Texas. Jason Kunz, Nikki's husband and the youngest of Pops' 10 children, is here too.

But this is no glamour tour. I'm warned that I'm likely to get wet, that the back-and-forth between shrimpers on the radio will get raunchy, and that the bathroom, if I need it, is a bucket. I have planned accordingly.

When we meet at the dock at 5:45 a.m., Pops nearly crushes my hand in his welcoming grip. Nikki, wearing a pink skirt and a pink-and-black checked cap that says "Texas Shrimp Diva," leads me on board and shows me where I can stand without getting in the way.

It's welcome advice. Moving around a working shrimp boat feels a little like jumping into a rumbling engine, with heavy moving parts that could tear off a finger or flatten a toe. But it's peaceful, too, with dolphins surfacing in the boat's wake and pelicans flapping overhead.

Pops, wearing faded jeans held up by suspenders, steers the 53-foot St. Vincent past a cruise ship roughly 20 times its length. As we approach the historic tall ship Elissa, docked in the harbor, he tells me how he got his start in the shrimping business.

When Pops was a boy, his father bought a small boat and, with no firsthand experience, rigged it as a shrimping vessel.

ABOVE The St. Vincent drags its nets near the cruise ship port in Galveston.

OPPOSITE Jerome Kunz, best known as Pops, embraces daughter-in-law Nikki Johnson-Kunz.


KATIE'S
SEAFOOD MARKET
SHRIMP
Diva
HH
HaliiCare

When Pops was 10, he quit school to help his dad provide for the family. At 15, he was patching and making his own nets, something he still does today.

"When I was just a little guy, I'd go out with him," Pops tells me. "I thought I was pretty good at it, and I guess I was because I'm still doing it."

Eventually, he bought his own boat. But the work has taken its toll. Pops walks with a stoop earned from decades of bending over the sorting box. He extends a finger to show me where the tip was cut off in an accident. He's suffered too many cuts and bruises to count. The work was hard, but after Pops married, it supported his growing family.

For years, he worked alone, getting up before dawn and driving 18 miles from his home in Hitchcock to the pier seven days a week. Now that he's older, he only heads out on weekends. Nikki, a 56-year-old retired property manager, started joining him in 2018, when she noticed her father-in-law's injuries.

"I'm only out here for him," she says. "His mentality is 'I can either hurt at home or hurt while I'm working.' He's the most honest and dedicated man I've met in my life—but he does wear me out."

It took about a year to learn the ropes, but now Nikki's at home working the winch, raising and lowering nets, and culling and sorting the catch. She's taken on a new mission, too—raising awareness about wild-caught Gulf shrimp. Her Texas Shrimp Diva page on Facebook has attracted 89,000 followers who tune in to watch videos of her and Pops on the job.





After half an hour, the boat slows. Nikki ducks into the cabin to yank on a pair of waterproof coveralls and boots. Her makeup is perfect; her nails are manicured.

"You ready?" Pops says.

Nikki nods and the pair head out on deck, where Pops cranks the winch that lowers a pair of 1,200-pound metal trawl doors into the water. The net spreads out between the doors, and Pops returns to the cabin to steer the boat forward. Fifteen minutes later, he raises the nets from the water while Nikki and Jason maneuver the load over a live well and guide a stream of shrimp in.

Suddenly, everyone's moving at once. Nikki scoops up batches of the catch and spreads them onto a table. She and Jason use metal blades the size of license plates to quickly cull out small fish, squid and crabs, which they carefully return alive to the Gulf. Larger shrimp are separated out for table use; smaller shrimp will be sold as live bait or to buyers who dry it for snacks. Everything will be sold off the boat back at the pier.

Three times the nets go into the water, and three times the shrimpers sort and cull, their arms moving so quickly they're a blur. Just after 8 a.m., Nikki gets a call.

"Woo-hoo!" she hollers, throwing her arms in the air. "Donny wants live bait!"

An hour later, as Pops turns the boat around to head back to the pier, he tells me that shrimping is a lot like gambling.

"It's just like going to Las Vegas and rolling the dice," he says. "One day you'll get 1,000 pounds, the next day 10 pounds. You don't know what's coming up. I still get a charge out of that."

Back at the pier, Donny Stanfield, the owner of Bait Daddys on the west end of Galveston Island, meets the boat. Nikki, Pops and Jason are ready with 40 pounds of live shrimp. Stanfield pays them $5 a pound; he'll sell it at his shop for $13 a pint or $23 a quart. Business is just gearing up now, but during the summer, Stanfield will sell 700 pounds or more of live bait on a busy weekend.

"She's done an amazing job of getting attention to an industry that needs it," Stanfield says of Nikki. "The markets have changed. It's just not the way it was, and there are no young ones coming up to take the place of the people doing it now."



OPPOSITE, FROM TOP Johnson-Kunz talks to a pelican, which the Shrimp Diva's 89,000 Facebook followers know she has dubbed Jasmine. Sorting shrimp fresh from the Gulf.

ABOVE The St. Vincent in its berth at Pier 19 in Galveston.

> "We're just asking you to buy a product of the United States. That's what keeps us on the water."

For Pops, it's a different world than when he started. Gulf shrimp populations have remained stable, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but declining profits have pushed out most shrimpers. Gulf-harvested shrimp accounted for 28.7% of the U.S. market in 1984 but just 4.5% in 2023. Shrimp imported from Ecuador, Indonesia and India has flooded the market, and American shrimpers can't compete with their prices, especially as diesel costs have climbed.

With profits down and the number of independent shrimpers down, jobs in welding, seafood processing and boat repair also have declined.

Exacerbating the problem, some restaurants, either inadvertently or knowingly, advertise Gulf shrimp when they're selling imported shrimp. (A December 2025 study by Houston-based SeaD Consulting, which developed a genetic test that can determine the source of shrimp, found that eight of 22 area restaurants it tested were selling imported shrimp advertised as Gulf shrimp.)

Last September, a state law requiring sellers to accurately label shrimp as wild caught, farm raised or imported went into effect. Look for the Wild Caught Texas Shrimp logo.

"It's simple. When you're at the grocery store, flip over that bag of shrimp and see if it reads product of Ecuador, Indonesia or China," Nikki says. "We're just asking you to buy a product of the United States. That's what keeps us on the water." ■

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(Offer may vary, $100,000 coverage not available in all states.)

CHOOSE $5,000, $10,000, $20,000, $30,000 OR UP TO $100,000 COVERAGE



Genuine Eisenhower Dollar FREE!

- ★ Minted from 1971-1978
- ★ America's last large-dollar coin
- ★ Honors WWII Hero, 5-Star General & 2-Term U.S. President

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

Mail Coupon Today!

For Faster Service Visit:

LittletonCoin.com/Respond

Offer Code: 55Z201

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FOR NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY AGES 18+

YES Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	Eisenhower Dollar *(limit 1)*	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	TOTAL	FREE!

REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 7 DAYS

Name _____

Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to: Littleton Coin Company

Offer Code: 55Z201

1309 Mt. Eustis Rd

Littleton NH 03561-3737



CEO

HERBERT "TREY" GREBE III

What It Means To Be a Member

WHETHER YOU REALIZE it or not, you're a member and an owner of Medina Electric Cooperative.

When you receive capital credits, that's a payment owed to you as an owner. When you cast a ballot in our board of directors elections, that's a chance to participate in the democracy of the cooperative model.

When you gather with family and neighbors each year at Medina EC's annual meeting, that's another perk of membership and an opportunity to engage directly with your co-op's leaders.

October is National Cooperative Month, when we celebrate the benefits of co-op membership.

You can be a member of many institutions—a gym, 4-H club, food-of-the-month club, the list goes on and on. But being a member of a cooperative is different. When you're a member of a co-op, you're also an owner.

When you signed up to get electric service from Medina EC, you "bought" a stake in our business; and just like any stakeholder, you're offered the benefits of membership.

That means we're not turning a profit on your need for electricity. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, which demands that we think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business. But when we have money left over at the end of the year, we send it back to you and all your fellow members.

Returning capital credits to you is a major benefit of co-op membership.

As your local electric co-op, we have the privilege of being a vital part of the community we serve. When we think about membership, we think about all the ways we can give back to you, our members.

This October, I want to thank you for being a member—because without you, there is no co-op. Thank you for taking an interest and being an active member in the co-op that you own.

Until next time,
Trey Grebe



MIKE BARNS

How To Identify a Co-op Employee

SCAMMERS WILL SOMETIMES pose as utility employees, trying to get you to give them payment on a supposedly overdue bill or hand over your credit card information. Medina Electric Cooperative will never call and demand an immediate payment.

If you get a call and it seems fishy, hang up and call us at 1-866-632-3532.

Here's how to know you're dealing with an actual Medina EC employee.

Our crews carry identification, and you'll recognize our logo on our trucks when you see us out in the field. If you have questions about someone claiming to be affiliated with the co-op, give us a call and we'll be happy to confirm whether they're an employee or hired contractor.

Our crews may need to access your property, but they will very rarely, if ever, need to access the inside of your home. If a worker is requesting to enter your house, don't hesitate to contact the co-op to verify they are who they say they are.

Medina EC employees are members of the community, and we don't want to see our neighbors get scammed. If you suspect you've fallen victim to a scam, please contact the cooperative and local authorities.

Have Your Say as a Co-op Member

Support your co-op by knowing the issues and getting involved.

AT MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we believe in the power of our members' voices. Your participation in making your voice heard is essential to ensuring our community's needs are met and carried out by state and federal legislators. When you speak up, you help shape energy policies that directly impact our community's access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

Here are a few ways you, as a Medina EC member, can make your voice heard:

Voices for Cooperative Power
United for Stronger Communities

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

Scan this code or visit voicesforcooperativepower.com to get involved.

RURAL FRIENDS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives is a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to protecting the interests of Texas electric cooperatives and their members. Founded in 1976, Rural Friends supports candidates who champion and safeguard those interests.

Scan this code or visit texas-ec.org/about/coop-advocacy to make a donation.

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
Report an outage.
Pay your bill.
Get account balance.
Speak to a representative.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Dilley 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

Hondo 237 Highway 173 N., Hondo 78861

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

Uvalde 2604 Highway 90 E., Uvalde 78801

Corporate Office 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

VISIT US ONLINE
MedinaEC.org

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Para mas 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.

Medina EC Celebrates Member Service Representative Team

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK October 5–9, Medina Electric Cooperative would like to recognize our dedicated team of member service representatives. Often the first point of contact for our members, these representatives serve as the friendly face and voice of Medina EC. They are committed to assisting members with a wide range of needs from answering billing questions and managing account inquiries to guiding them through new service requests and providing information about energy-saving programs. Our member service representatives do everything they can to exceed member expectations in every interaction.



Raegan Mazurek
Manager of Member Services

HONDO OFFICE



Alexandra Stallworth
Office Supervisor



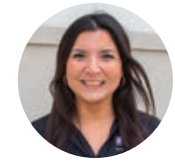
Jennifer DeLeon



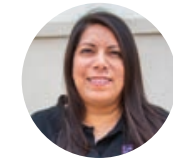
Lisa Pedroza



Toba Perez Wright



Amanda Wren



Terry Ybarra

DILLEY OFFICE



Juanita Molina
Office Supervisor



Bobby Contreras



Tracy Gonzales



Sylvia Rangel

UVALDE OFFICE



Chasity Martinez



Valerie Victorino

RIO GRANDE CITY OFFICE



Gabriel Perez
Office Supervisor



Yvette Garza



Daniela Hinojosa



Sandra Hinojosa

Spare Change Adds Up to Make a Difference

Operation Round Up helps families and non-profit organizations with the help of Medina Electric Cooperative members and employees who round up their monthly bills to the next dollar.

Recent awards have supported:

Individuals and Families:
>> Support after house fires
>> Medical costs and related travel costs
>> Children's therapies and service animals

Non-profit organizations:
>> Regional food banks
>> Transportation services for cancer clinics
>> Children's centers

VIEW QUARTERLY DEADLINES AND APPLY ONLINE AT MEDINAEC.ORG/ORU.

Applicants must live in one of the 17 counties served by Medina EC to be eligible. Operation Round Up funds cannot be used to pay for electric bills, solar panels or anything related to the purchase of electricity.

Stay Connected. Get Rewarded.

Complete these member-benefit steps for a chance to win a $100 bill credit.

As a Medina Electric Cooperative member, you have access to valuable tools, services and programs designed to help you manage your account and stay informed. Complete the steps below to earn entries for a chance to receive a $100 bill credit.

Entry 1: Register for SmartHub

Create your SmartHub account at MedinaEC.SmartHub.coop or download the SmartHub app. SmartHub allows you to report outages, view your electric use and manage your account.

Entry 2: Verify Your Mobile Number

Make sure your mobile phone number is up to date and verified in SmartHub. Go to Settings > Contact Methods to add or update your number. This helps ensure you receive important account alerts and notifications by text message. You can customize notification preferences under Settings > Manage Notifications.

Entry 3: Enroll in Automatic Payments

Save time and avoid missed payments by enrolling in Auto Pay. Payments can be automatically drafted from your bank account or charged to your credit or debit card each month. Sign up through SmartHub or call 1-866-632-3532.

Entry 4: Go Paperless

Choose paperless billing and receive your bill electronically instead of by mail. Update your billing preferences in SmartHub or call 1-866-632-3532 for assistance.

Entry 5: Join Operation Round Up

Support local communities through Operation Round Up. By rounding your monthly bill up to the next whole dollar, your spare change helps fund grants for families, individuals and nonprofit organizations throughout Medina EC's service area. Learn more or enroll at MedinaEC.org/ORU.

Complete more steps; earn more entries. Members enrolled for each option by December 1 will be entered. This includes members who have already signed up for these options and any new sign-ups by the deadline.

There will be five separate drawings, and five $100 bill credits will be awarded and automatically issued.

Winners in each category will be randomly selected and announced in the February issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Assign a Voter Designee for Your Organization

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

If you have made any changes to your entity, or you just want to update the voter designee on your account, complete the form at MedinaEC.org/Designee or contact us to get a form.

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



TINYAKOV | ADOBESTOCK



TWEESAK | ADOBESTOCK

Funding Opportunity Announced for Texas Backup Power Systems

WHEN GRID EMERGENCIES or severe weather events strike, our communities rely on critical facilities to remain operational. From keeping life-saving medical equipment running to ensuring clean water flows, these essential services form the backbone of local resilience.

To help protect community health and safety during severe outages, the Public Utility Commission of Texas launched the Texas Backup Power Package Program. This state funding initiative is designed to help local critical facilities procure and install advanced, multiday backup power systems.

At Medina EC, we are excited about the potential this program brings to strengthen the infrastructure in our local service area.

What Is the Texas Backup Power Package Program?

TBPP funds backup power solutions capable of operating at least 48 continuous hours without disruption or refueling. The systems must include a combination of natural gas or propane generation, battery storage, and solar generation designed to provide reliable power during prolonged outages and emergency conditions.

These hybrid setups deliver resilient, independent power designed to keep crucial services running through prolonged blackout conditions.

Who Should Apply?

The program specifically targets entities that provide vital services essential to community safety, emergency response, and public well-being.

Qualifying facilities include:

- **Healthcare Services:** Hospitals, healthcare systems, and nursing homes
- **Water Infrastructure:** Water and wastewater treatment providers
- **Public Safety Outposts:** Fire stations, police departments, and 911 dispatch centers
- **Educational & Emergency Hubs:** Public schools designated for use as emergency community shelters
- **Essential Community Sites:** Other local facilities necessary for maintaining public health and welfare

How To Get Started

If your facility qualifies and you want to strengthen your emergency power readiness, we encourage you to explore the application guidelines and program details on the Texas Energy Fund website.

SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB

SmartHub is a great tool to manage your account and here are a few of the reasons why!

ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS

Members enrolled in SmartHub with a verified mobile number on their account receive text messages notifying them when their meter is out of power and when power is restored. You can also sign up for other notifications like bill alerts and more.

24/7 ACCESS

Through SmartHub, all Medina EC members have access to their online account, manage their use, pay their bill or report an outage at any time, day or night.

ENERGY USE ANALYTICS

Residential members have access to advanced analytics detailing their energy use by appliance. As a result, Medina EC members can gain a deeper understanding of their energy usage, specifically pinpointing which appliances are driving up electric bills and by approximately how much.

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

Using SmartHub, members can update their contact information including mailing address, mobile phone numbers and emails. Updated information is important for the co-op to communicate with members.

Haven't Set Yours Up?

Scan this QR code or visit MedinaEC.SmartHub.Coop

Questions or Need Help?

Learn more at MedinaEC.org/SH or call us at 1-866-632-3532.



MEDINA EC BOARD PRESIDENT KEN WEYNAND (RIGHT) AND MEDINA EC CEO TREY GREBE (LEFT) PRESENT DIRECTOR DENNIS GONZALEZ WITH HIS CCD CERTIFICATE.

Director Gonzalez Achieves CCD Certification

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE board member Dennis Gonzalez recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid grasp of the cooperative principles and business model for the benefit of Medina EC members.

The NRECA CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses, including director duties and liabilities; understanding the electric business; board operations and process; strategic planning; and financial decision making.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which includes Medina EC.



JUNE 15–23 2027

150 TEXAS TEENS
7 DAYS IN D.C.
$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP

High school students: Get ready to pack your bags! You can join 2,000 teens from across the U.S. to make new friends and share experiences in Washington, D.C., all paid for by your electric co-op.

Museums. Memorials. Monuments. Memories. Friends. History. There's something for everyone on this trip of a lifetime!

The Youth Tour program is available for high school sophomores and juniors whose parents/guardians are Medina EC members. Three winners selected for the trip will also receive a $2,000 scholarship upon high school graduation.

MEC
MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

LEARN MORE & APPLY AT MEDINAEC.ORG/YOUTHTOUR

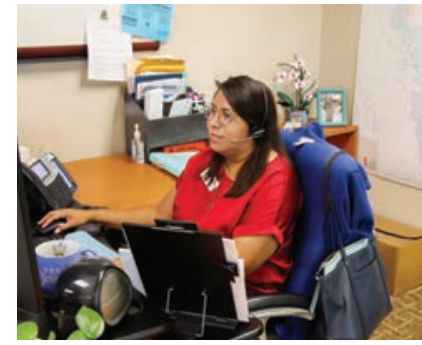
DEADLINE TO APPLY: JANUARY 15, 2027

SEE THE VIDEO

EXPERIENCE THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!









Local Voices Shape Local Solutions

October is National Co-op Month

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD COOPERATIVE, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Medina Electric Cooperative.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like Medina EC—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes Medina EC different.

Our story began in 1938 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Medina EC works to help better our communities through providing educational opportunities and scholarships; supporting economic development through various grants, sponsorships and donations; and by making our communities better through our Volunteer Time Off program.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call—our member service representative team on page 18. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. We also invite you to celebrate the co-op employees, shown on the next pages, who work hard every day to help provide safe, reliable and affordable power and exceeding our members' expectations in everything they do.

Whether it's Medina EC, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.





Meet the team behind your power!

MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Rights as a Member

Applies to residential accounts

Rate And Service Information | You may, either by phone, mail, or personal visit to the Cooperative's business offices, request copies of any portion of the Cooperative's rate and service tariffs and rules. Bill payments can be made at office locations or by calling 1-866-632-3532. All offices are open Monday through Friday, except holidays. The following offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: 237 Hwy 173 North, P.O. Box 69, Hondo, TX 78861; 1718 West FM 117, P.O. Box 49, Dilley, TX 78017; 2604 Hwy 90 East, P.O. Box 1810, Uvalde, TX 78802; 601 North FM 3167, P.O. Box 496, Rio Grande City, TX 78582. The following office is open 9:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: 1300 FM 2050 North, P.O. Box 88, Bruni, TX 78344.

Meter Testing | As provided by the rules of the Medina Electric Cooperative Tariff, you may request a test of your electric meter if you believe that the meter is not accurately reflecting your actual electric consumption. The test will be made at no charge to you provided you did not request the meter to be tested during the previous four years. In the event that you request another test within the four years and the meter is not defective, you will be required to pay a fee of $75.00 for the test.

Due Date | Under the tariff of this Cooperative, bills are due upon receipt and delinquent 16 days from billing date. A bill for utility service is delinquent if not received at the Cooperative or at the Cooperative's authorized payment agency by the Cooperative's close of business on the date indicated on the bill. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes shall be the next workday after the due date. If payment is not made by the due date a notice of termination may be issued.

Termination Of Service | With proper notice you may be disconnected for the following reasons (proper notice will consist of a separate mailing at least ten (10) days prior to a stated date of disconnection, or the next working day if that date falls on a holiday or weekend): 1) Failure to pay a delinquent account or failure to comply with the terms of a deferred payment agreement; 2) Violation of the Cooperative's rules pertaining to the use of service in a manner which interferes with the service of others or the operation of nonstandard equipment, if a reasonable attempt has been made to notify the customer and the customer is provided with a reasonable opportunity to remedy the situation; 3) Failure to comply with deposit or guarantee arrangements where required; 4) Failure to grant unrestricted access to Cooperative facilities; 5) Failure to pay for damages to Cooperative facilities by customer. You may be disconnected without notice for the following reasons: 1) A known hazardous or unsafe condition exists; 2) When tampering with the Cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing the same; 3) When service has been connected or reconnected without authority: 4) Other instances of diversion as defined in the Tariff.

Billing Disputes | If you disagree with the Cooperative regarding the amount of your electric bill, you will not be required to pay more than your monthly average bill until such time as the dispute is resolved, not to exceed 60 days. You will not have service terminated during the resolution of this dispute so long as you pay the required average bill and future monthly bills.

Alternate Payment Plan | **Deferred Payment:** The Cooperative may offer, upon request, a Deferred Payment Plan to any residential customer who has expressed an inability to pay all of his or her bill. If that customer: (1) has not been issued more than two disconnection notices at any time during the preceding 12 months, or (2) has not been issued a Deferred Payment Plan in the preceding 12 months, said customer may qualify for the plan. This plan may include a five percent (5%) penalty for late payment. Service may be disconnected with proper notice if you do not fulfill the terms of the plan. **Budget Payment Options:** The Cooperative offers Levelized and Average Billing Plans. Contact the cooperative for information concerning these billing options.

Service Reconnection | If your service is interrupted for any of the reasons listed above, you may reestablish service when all outstanding and delinquent bills are paid, a deposit or other evidence of payment guarantee is provided to the Cooperative, when the unsafe condition is corrected, or when you enter into a deferred payment agreement. A disconnect and reconnect fee may be assessed before reconnection.

Service Complaints | If you have a complaint about the service of the Cooperative you have the right to contact the Cooperative office by letter, by telephone, or by internet. You also have the right to contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326; (512) 936-7120 or in Texas (toll-free) 1-888-782-8477; fax (512) 936-7003; email address: customer@puc.texas.gov; puc.texas.gov; TTY (512) 936-7136 and Relay Texas 1-800-735-2989. In the event you are dissatisfied with the Cooperative's investigation of complaint, you have the right to request a supervisory review. Electric service will not be disconnected pending completion of a review; however, service may be disconnected with proper notice under standard disconnect procedures if you do not participate in the review or make other arrangements within five (5) days after the review is requested.

Outages | Call 1-866-632-3532 or visit MedinaEC.org to report an outage or service problems.

Establishing Credit | You may be required to establish credit by furnishing a letter of credit from a like utility, a satisfactory written guarantee to secure payment, demonstrate a satisfactory credit rating, or a deposit. The total of all deposits will not exceed an amount equivalent to one-fourth of the actual annual billing. Where actual annual billing information is not available, the following deposit amounts will be required for General Service rate applicants: Occupied Residence-$400.00, Hunting Camp-$300.00, Water Well-$200.00 and other General Service-$200.00. Deposit amounts for all other rate schedules will be determined based on load requirements and estimated usage. Medina Electric Cooperative will pay interest, compounded annually from date of deposit until date deposit is returned, at an annual rate set by Medina Electric Board of Directors in December of the subsequent year and will return your deposit plus interest upon disconnection of service or after you have paid bills for twelve (12) consecutive billings without having service disconnected for nonpayment and without having more than two occasions in which a bill was delinquent and when the current bill is not delinquent. An additional deposit may be required if: (1) the amount of deposit collected is less than 25% of customer's actual annual billings; and (2) a Delinquent notice has been issued more than twice for the account within the previous 12 months. No cash deposit is required of permanent residential service applicants who are 65 years of age or older who do not have an outstanding account balance with Medina Electric Cooperative or another electric utility within the last two years.

Financial Assistance | You may be eligible for financial assistance to help pay your utility bill. To inquire you may call one or all of the following: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Energy Assistance Section, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941, 1-877-399-8939 or (512) 475-1099; Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Ave., P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, (toll free) 1-888-782-8477; or contact the Cooperative and we will provide you a list of agencies that may assist you.

Ill And/Or Handicapped | If you are ill and/or have a disability, you are encouraged to identify yourself; special action will be taken to explain the process and requirements for your account to be set up as a "Critical Load Account." Critical Load Account shall be defined as a residential customer who has a critical need for electric service because a resident on the premises requires electric service to maintain life. The Texas Public Utility Commission's TTY number for the deaf and hard of hearing is (512) 936-7147.

Nondiscrimination | Medina Electric Cooperative provides all available services without regard to race, nationality, color, religion, sex, or marital status. Credit history is applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who has shared Medina Electric Cooperative's services.

MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc

Sus Derechos Como Miembro

Lo siguiente se applica a las cuentas residenciales solamente

Información De Precio Y Servicio | Usted puede, ya sea por teléfono, correo o visitar personalmente las oficinas de la cooperativa, solicitar copias de cualquier parte de nuestros precios y tarifas del servicio y las reglas de la cooperativa. Los pagos de facturas se pueden hacer en las oficinas o llamando al 1-866-632-3532. Todas las oficinas están abiertas Lunes a Viernes, excepto vacaciones. Las siguientes oficinas están abiertas de 8 am a 5 pm: 237 Hwy 173 North, P.O. Box 69, Hondo, TX 78861; 1718 West FM 117, P.O. Box 49, Dilley, TX 78017; 2604 Hwy 90 East, P.O. Box 1810, Uvalde, TX 78802; 601 North FM 3167, P.O. Box 496, Rio Grande City, TX 78582. La siguiente oficina está abierta de 9:30 a.m. a 11 a.m. y 12 p.m. a 3:30 p.m. o por cita de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.: 1300 FM 2050 North, P.O. Box 88, Bruni, TX 78344.

Prueba De Medidor De Electricidad | Conforme a las reglas de la Tarifa de Medina Electric Cooperative, puede solicitar una prueba de su medidor eléctrico si usted cree que su medidor no refleja exactamente su consumo eléctrico. La prueba se hará sin cargo, a condición de que usted no haya solicitado una prueba del medidor durante los cuatro años anteriores. En caso de que usted solicite otra prueba dentro de los cuatro años, y el medidor no está defectuoso, se le requerirá que pague una cuota de $75.00 para la prueba.

Fecha De Vencimiento | En la tarifa de esta cooperativa, las cuentas se vencen al recibir y delincuentes 16 días después de la fecha de facturación. La factura de servicio de utilidad es delincuente si no se recibe en la cooperativa o en agencia de pago autorizado, por cierre de las operaciones de la cooperativa en la fecha indicada en la factura. Si la fecha de vencimiento cae en días festivos o fin de semana, el vencimiento del pago será el próximo día laborable después de la fecha de vencimiento. Si el pago no es hecho por la fecha de vencimiento puede concederse una notificación de terminación.

Terminación De Servicio | Con la notificación apropiada puede ser desconectado por las siguientes razones (aviso apropiado consistirá por el correo al menos diez (10) días antes de la fecha determinada de desconexión, o el siguiente día laborable si la fecha cae en días festivos o fin de semana): 1) Falta de pago de una cuenta delincuente o no cumplir con los términos de un acuerdo de pago diferido; 2) La violación de las reglas de la Cooperativa que pertenecen al uso de servicio en una manera que interfiere con el servicio de otros o la operación del equipo, si se ha hecho un intento razonable de notificar al cliente y al cliente se le proporciona una oportunidad razonable para remediar la situación; 3) Incapacidad para cumplir con el depósito o garantizar acuerdos donde se requiera; 4) Fracaso de conceder el acceso sin restricciones a la propiedad de la Cooperativa; 5) Falta de pago por daños a la propiedad de la Cooperativa por el cliente. Usted puede ser desconectado sin previo aviso por las siguientes razones: 1) Una condición peligrosa o insegura conocida existe; 2) Manipulando el medidor o equipo de la Cooperativa, evitando lo mismo; 3) Cuando el servicio se ha conectado o reconectado sin autoridad; 4) Otros casos de desviación como definido en la Tarifa.

Disputas De Facturación | Si no está de acuerdo con la Cooperativa con respecto a la cantidad de cobro de la factura de electricidad, usted no será obligado a pagar más de su factura mensual promedio hasta que la disputa se resuelva, no debe exceder de 60 días. Su servicio no será cancelado durante la resolución de esta disputa mientras que usted pague la factura promedio requerida y facturas futuras mensuales.

Plan De Pago Alternativo | **Pago Diferido:** La Cooperativa puede ofrecer, a solicitud, un plan de pago diferido a cualquier cliente residencial que haya expresado una inhabilidad de pagar toda su factura. Si al cliente: (1) No se le han dado más de dos avisos de desconexión en cualquier momento durante los 12 meses anteriores, o (2) No se ha dado un plan de pago diferido en los 12 meses anteriores, Este plan puede incluir una multa de cinco por ciento (5%) por pago retrasado. Su servicio puede ser desconectado con aviso apropiado si no cumple con los términos del plan. **Opciones De Pago Del Presupuesto:** La Cooperativa ofrece planes de facturación promedio y nivelados. Póngase en contacto con la cooperative para obtener información sobre estas opciones de facturación.

Reconexión De Servicio | Si su servicio es interrumpido por cualquiera de las razones mencionadas anteriormente, se puede restablecer su servicio cuando se paguen todas las facturas pendientes y delincuentes cuando un depósito u otra evidencia de la garantía de pago es proporcionada a la cooperativa, Cuando se corrige la condición insegura, o cuando usted se comprometa en un acuerdo de pago diferido. Un cobro adicional por la desconexión y conexión de servicio será agregada a su cuenta antes de que su servicio de electricidad sea reestablecido.

Quejas Del Servicio | Si usted tiene alguna queja sobre el servicio de la cooperativa, tiene el derecho de ponerse en contacto con la oficina de la Cooperativa por carta, por teléfono o por internet. Usted también tiene el derecho a comunicarse con Public Utility Commission of Texas a la siguiente dirección: P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, (512) 936-7120 o en el estado de Texas (gratis) al 1-888 -782-8477, fax (512) 936-7003, dirección de correo electrónico: customer@puc.texas.gov, dirección de internet: puc.texas.gov, TTY (512) 936-7136 y Relay Texas 1-800 -735-2989. En caso de que usted no esté satisfecho con la investigación de la Cooperativa de su queja, usted tiene el derecho de solicitar una revisión y supervisar su caso. Su servicio eléctrico no se desconectará pendiente la conclusión de la revisión; sin embargo el servicio puede ser desconectado con el aviso apropiado, bajo las normas de procedimientos de desconexión, si usted no participa en la revisión o hace otros preparativos dentro de cinco (5) días después de que se solicite la revisión.

Cortes De Luz | Hable al 1-866-632-3532 o visite MedinaEC.org para reporter algun apagon de luz o un problema de servicio.

Establecimiento De Crédito | Usted puede ser requerido establecer crédito, proporcionando una carta de crédito de una utilidad similar, una garantía satisfactoria por escrito para obtener el pago, demuestra una buen historial crediticio, o dar un depósito. El total de todos los depósitos, no excederá una cantidad equivalente a una cuarta parte de la facturación anual. Cuando no está disponible información de facturación anual las siguientes cantidades de depósito será requeridas para los solicitantes de servicios generales: Residencia Ocupada - $400.00, Campamento de Cacería - $300.00, Noria de agua -$200.00 y otro Servicios Generales - $200.00. Cantidades de depósito para todos otros servicios se determinarán basadas en requisitos de la carga y uso estimado. Medina Electric Cooperative pagará interés compuesto anualmente a partir de la fecha de depósito hasta la fecha que se devuelva el depósito, a una tasa anual fijada por Medina Electric Board of Directors en diciembre del año subsecuente y se devolverá su depósito más los intereses tras su desconexión del servicio, o después de haber pagado las facturas de doce (12) facturas consecutivas sin tener servicio desconectado por falta de pago y sin tener más de dos ocasiones en que un pago sea delincuente y cuando la factura corriente no es delincuente. Un depósito adicional puede ser necesario si: (1) la cantidad de depósito coleccionado es menos del 25% de la facturación anual del cliente; y (2) un aviso de delincuente se ha dado más de dos veces para la cuenta dentro de los 12 meses anteriores. Ningún depósito en efectivo se requiere a solicitantes de servicio residencial permanente que sean mayores de 65 años de edad o que no tengan una cuenta pendiente con Medina Electric Cooperative u otra utilidad eléctrica dentro de los últimos dos años.

Asistencia Financiera | Usted puede ser elegible para asistencia financiera para ayudar a pagar su factura de servicios. Para solicitar información, puede llamar a uno o todos los siguientes: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Energy Assistance Section, P. O. Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941, 1-877-399-8939 o (512) 475-1099; Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Ave., P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326, (gratis) al 1-888-782-8477; o comuniquese con la cooperative y le proporcionaremos una lista de agencias que pueden ayudario.

Enfermo Y/O Discapacitado | Si está usted enfermo y/o discapacitado se le recomienda a identificarse como tal y se tomarán medidas especiales para explicar el proceso y los requisitos para su cuenta y configurarse como una "cuenta de carga crítica". La Cuenta de Carga Crítica se define como un cliente residencial que tiene una necesidad crítica de servicio eléctrico debido a que un residente en el hogar requiere servicio eléctrico para sustentar la vida. El número TTY de Public Utility Commission of Texas para las personas sordas o con problemas de audición es 512-936-7147.

Ley De No Discriminacion | Medina Electric Cooperative ofrece todos los servicios disponibles sin importar la raza, nacionalidad, color, religión, sexo o estado civil. El historial de crédito se aplica igualmente para un período de tiempo razonable a un esposo(a) o ex-esposo(a) que ha compartido los servicios de Medina Electric Cooperative.

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

Steinbeck's Texas

The acclaimed author traced our roads in 1960 and couldn't outrun our pride

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN JAY CABUAY

I'M RATHER CERTAIN that most Texans have heard these words: "Texas is a state of mind, but I think it is more than that. It is a mystique closely approximating a religion."

John Steinbeck wrote that in *Travels With Charley: In Search of America*. Charley was a standard poodle and Steinbeck's traveling companion in 1960, when together they cruised America's highways and back roads in a GMC pickup truck with a makeshift camper that Steinbeck called Rocinante (named after Don Quixote's horse).

What may be news to many is that Steinbeck's comments about Texas went well beyond this sentence—10 pages beyond. The Pulitzer- and Nobel-winning novelist from California (and later New York) had a lot to say about our state in this nonfiction work, but, as people on the border say, he wrote it *con cariño* (with affection).

"When I started this narrative I knew that sooner or later I would have to have a go at Texas, and I dreaded it," Steinbeck wrote. "I could have bypassed Texas about as easily as a space traveler can avoid the Milky Way. Once you are in Texas it seems to take forever to get out, and some people never do."

Steinbeck's third wife, Elaine Anderson Steinbeck, was from Austin. "Even if I wanted to avoid Texas, I could not, for I am wived in Texas and mother-in-lawed and uncled and aunted and cousined within an inch of my life," he wrote.

"Staying away from Texas geographically is no help whatsoever, for Texas moves through our house in New York, and our fishing cottage at Sag Harbor. ... It permeates the world to a ridiculous degree."

Steinbeck lamented the struggles all writers have in trying to define Texas and Texans. He said they all end up "floundering" and lose themselves in "generalizations" that have little meaning. He said that he was no exception to this rule, but he tried anyway.

"Texas," he wrote, "is a state of mind. Texas is an obsession. Above all, Texas is a nation in every sense of the word."

But, Steinbeck noted, "A Texan outside of Texas is a foreigner." He said his wife claimed to be a "Texan that got away."

But he didn't buy it. He wrote, "She has virtually no accent until she talks to a Texan, when she instantly reverts. Soon she is saying yes, air, hair and guess with two syllables: yayus, ayer, hayer and gayus."

Texans claim "the right to secede at will," he wrote. "They want to be able to secede, but they don't want anyone to want them to."

And he learned about the serious business of football. "Sectional football games have the glory and despair of war," he wrote, "and when a Texas team takes the field against a foreign state, it is an army with banners."

Above all, Steinbeck knew well that Texans are tight. If you attack one Texan, you attack them all. They circle the wagons. There may be no "geographical unity in Texas," he wrote. "Its unity lies in the mind. And this is not only in Texas. The word Texas becomes a symbol to everyone in the world." ■

Campfire Favorites

Gather 'round the blaze, and we'll bring the treats

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

It's not a camping trip without s'mores! The 1927 recipe for s'mores, as written in a Girl Scouts guidebook, says to toast marshmallows over a fire "to a crisp gooey state." Today I'm sharing a skillet version that you can easily whip up in your trusty cast iron.

Skillet S'mores Dip

4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter
1 bag semisweet chocolate chips (12 ounces)
4 cups mini marshmallows
Chocolate graham crackers, for serving

1. Preheat a charcoal or gas grill for indirect cooking over medium-high heat.

2. Place a 10-inch cast-iron skillet on grill for 5 minutes.

3. Remove skillet from the heat and melt butter, covering the entire cooking surface evenly.

4. Add chocolate chips to evenly cover the bottom of skillet. Top with marshmallows.

5. Place skillet over indirect heat. Close grill or cover skillet with a lid. Grill 10–12 minutes or until marshmallows are slightly melted and lightly toasted.

6. Serve warm with chocolate graham crackers.

SERVES 6

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Dulce de Leche S'mores.



Cowboy Soup

CAROLYN CRUMP
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC

After a day of camping, a hearty bowl of Cowboy Soup would really hit the spot. Budget-friendly to feed a hungry crowd, this soup has all the flavors of something that simmered all day.

1½ pounds ground chuck
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 small onion, chopped
1 can ranch-style beans (15 ounces)
1 can tomatoes with green chiles (10 ounces)
3 cans minestrone soup (15 ounces each)
Salt, to taste
Ground black pepper, to taste

1. Place a grill-safe medium pot on a preheated grill grate or coals. Add ground chuck, garlic and onion. Brown chuck, breaking up with a spoon, until fully cooked. Remove from heat, drain and discard drippings.

2. Return to heat and add beans, tomatoes and minestrone. Bring to a boil, then move pot to area of indirect heat on grill. Simmer 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Serve warm.

SERVES 6–8

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

RECIPE PHOTOS: JASON DAVID PAGE. WINNER PHOTO: COURTESY DANIEL BATES



$500 WINNER

Fireside Banana Boats

DANIEL BATES
COSERV



I want to sit around sharing campfire stories and enjoying these banana boats every weekend. Warm banana, melted chocolate and ooey gooey marshmallows: the taste of a fun camping trip.

5 bananas, peel on
¼ cup chocolate chips
¼ cup mini marshmallows
Optional toppings: peanut butter chips, crushed graham crackers, nuts, caramel drizzle

1. With the peel still on, slice bananas lengthwise, cutting about halfway through so they open like a pocket.

2. Stuff each pocket with chocolate chips and marshmallows. Wrap each banana loosely in aluminum foil.

3. Place foil packets on hot coals or a grill grate 5–10 minutes, turning once or twice.

4. Carefully unwrap, add optional toppings and eat with a spoon.

SERVES 5

TCP *$500 Recipe Contest*

WINNER, WINNER CHICKEN DINNER DUE OCT 10
Here's a staple protein you can cook in countless ways. Scratch out your recipe, and you could fly home with $500. Watch for them in March. Best of cluck!
UPCOMING: MAC AND CHEESE DUE NOV 10

ENTER ONLINE



Dad's Dutch Oven Peach Cobbler

EMILY TEMPLETON
BANDERA EC

Like all good camp recipes, the ingredient list for this one is short, though the taste is anything but. This cobbler is a warm delight after a day outdoors. Add everything to the Dutch oven and sit back to enjoy the fire while your dessert bakes.

2 cans sliced peaches (15 ounces each)
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 box vanilla cake mix (13.25 ounces)
4–8 tablespoons (½–1 stick) butter, sliced
Whipped cream or ice cream, for serving

1. Lightly grease a seasoned Dutch oven and add sliced peaches, spreading to cover the bottom.

2. Sprinkle peaches with cinnamon and brown sugar. Stir to combine. Sprinkle cake mix over the peaches to evenly coat, breaking up clumps if needed. Place slices of butter, spaced evenly, on dry cake mix.

3. Cover and place directly on bed of coals, then carefully place 10 coals on lid. Bake 30–45 minutes, rotating every 15 minutes to evenly bake.

4. Serve warm with a heaping spoonful of whipped cream or scoop of ice cream.

SERVES 10

Before That Fire Goes Out

Why not go ahead and grill dessert too? When fruit is exposed to heat, the flavor intensifies, the fruit becomes sweeter and its natural sugars caramelize.

My favorite fruits to grill: pineapples, peaches, nectarines, plums, pears and bananas.

Select fruit that is ripe but still firm to the touch. Slice it in half or make the slices thick to prevent them from falling through grates.

Brush with a little oil to prevent sticking to the grill. Grill 2–3 minutes on each side, until slightly charred.

—Vianney Rodriguez



HOLIDAY GIFT TCP GUIDE

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Horror in the Court

Some say a ghost still haunts the scene of a grisly courthouse attack

BY CHET GARNER

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT historic Texas courthouses that makes them seem haunted even before anyone starts telling ghost stories. Maybe it's the ominous architecture, the creaking staircases, or the fact that generations of drama, heartbreak and attempts at justice have unfolded inside their walls.

In Gatesville, west of Waco, the Coryell County Courthouse doesn't just *feel* haunted. According to the folks who work in the building, it absolutely is.

The building is undeniably beautiful with its ornate statues and domed clock tower standing like a limestone castle in the center of town since 1898. Stepping inside feels like entering another century as sunlight spills into the marble rotunda and portraits of long-forgotten judges stare down from the walls.

But ask the courthouse employees, law officers and late-night visitors, and they'll tell you there's much to this building that can't be seen. Many claim they've heard footsteps echoing through the empty rooms while some describe cold spots drifting down the halls. Objects move without explanation, and some even claim to have seen figures and faces. Mysterious things were happening so frequently that the workers decided to name (and blame) a ghost from 1909.

Folks believe the spirit goes back to a shooting that took place in the 52nd District courtroom, where a man named John Hanes was killed by his alleged victim, 16-year-old Verna Ware, through a courtroom window. The hailstorm of bullets also killed two bystanders. There are still bullet holes in the door behind the witness stand.

Standing in that courtroom, I couldn't help but glance over my shoulder more than once. The old wooden floor and benches groaned, and the silence carried a strange weight as if the building was watching me. Or maybe that was just the ghost. ■

ABOVE Chet outside the Coryell County Courthouse in Gatesville. Inside, an eerie presence remains from 1909.

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

OCTOBER

6

Floresville [6, 8–10] Peanut Festival, (210) 317-7094, floresvillepeanutfestival.org

8

Groves [8–11] Pecan Festival, (409) 962-3631, grovescofc.com

9

Grapevine Barn Dance at Nash Farm, (817) 410-3185, grapevinetexasusa.com

Fredericksburg [9–11] Texas Mesquite & Fine Art Spectacular, (830) 481-9601, texasspectacular.com

Muenster [9–11] Oktoberfest, (940) 759-2227, muensterchamber.com

10

Burnet Texas State Button Society Fall Workshop and Sale, (903) 815-4771, texasstatebuttonsociety.com

Eagle Lake Scarecrow Stroll, (979) 234-2640, coeltx.net

Luling Night in Old Luling, (830) 875-0123, lulingcc.org

Tehuacana College Hill Festival, (512) 667-6500, savetexashall.org

Chappell Hill [10–11] Scarecrow Music Festival, (979) 530-7582, scarecrowmusicfestival.com

Edom [10–11] Art Festival, (903) 258-5192, edomarts.com

16

Brenham [16–18] Texas Arts & Music Festival, (979) 337-7580, texasartsandmusicfestival.com

17

China Spring Fall Festival, (254) 836-1825, facebook.com/stphilipchinaspring

Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival, (903) 396-2665, kerenscottonharvestfestival.com

Huntsville [17–18] Fall Festival, (936) 295-8159, saintthomashuntsville.org

Slaton [17–18] St. Joseph Sausage Festival and Oktoberfest, (806) 828-3944, slatonsausage.com

18

Fredericksburg Alias Brass, fredericksburgmusicclub.com

22

Corsicana Boo on the Block, (903) 654-4850, visitcorsicana.com

30

Burton Wine & Wander, (979) 289-3378, bit.ly/wineandwander

Grapevine Bewitched by the Barn, (817) 410-3185, grapevinetexasusa.com

Kerrville [30–Nov. 1] Texas Fleece & Fiber Festival, (361) 537-0503, texasfleeceandfiber.com

31

Garland Spooky Sprint, (760) 669-6471, runsignup.com

NOVEMBER

7

Prosper Out of the Darkness Denton & Collin Counties Walk, (972) 837-3322, afsp.org

Submit Your Event

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









War Between Financiers Creates First $11 Million Watch



★★★★

"It is a beautiful timepiece that calls back to a time when craftsmanship was appreciated."

— F.A., Edina, MN

Inspired by the legendary $11 million Graves watch of 1933

In 1933, millionaire Henry Graves commissioned what many consider to be the most important watch ever built — a mechanical masterpiece that later sold at auction for more than **$11 million** before disappearing into a private vault. Today, few collectors will ever see the original again.

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Fine automatics of this caliber often sell for thousands, but the Graves '33 can still be yours for under $150. **Supplies are limited,** and once this special offering disappears, it might never return.

Watch Specifications:

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Tailgating

Taking a break from a hard day's work, attending a parade and celebrating the big game are all good excuses for a tailgate party. These readers show us how it's done.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ





1 KORO CURRIE
SAN BERNARD EC
A patriotic pup.

2 JANVIER WERNER
COSERV
"Our little bottle-baby goat, Chloe, loves to join in any activity, especially if it involves friends and food."

3 LINDA STEINHEBEL
COSERV
"Grandpa and grandson take a break after working on the lawn mower."

4 ALMA GARZA
MEDINA EC
"Back when tailgating meant blankets in the back of a pickup truck bed, folding chairs and family making memories the South Texas way."



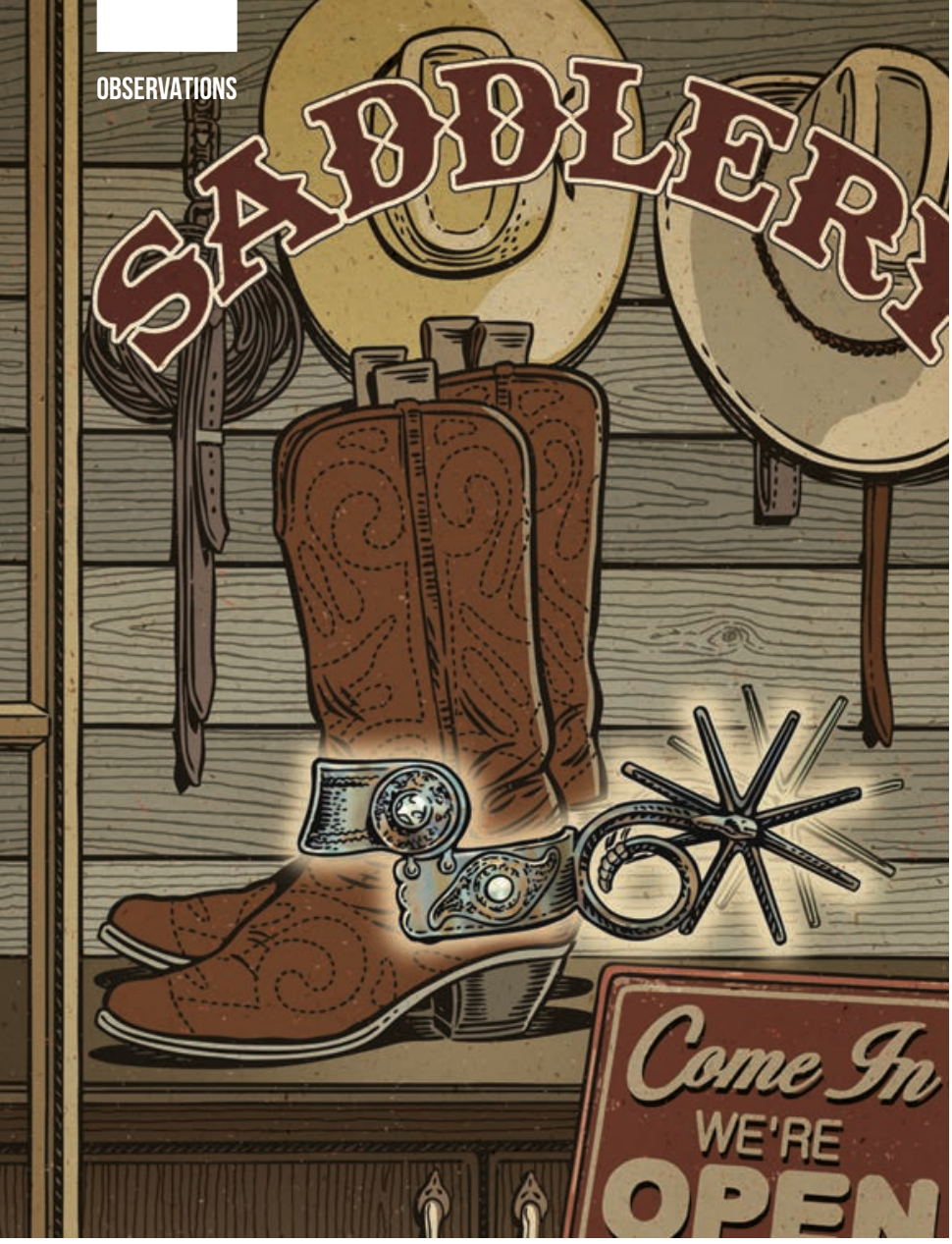


Upcoming Contests

SWAMPS DUE OCT 10
IN THE GARDEN DUE NOV 10
COUNTRY CHURCHES DUE DEC 10

ENTER ONLINE

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



A Most Splendid Set of Spurs

Cowpunchers couldn't buy La Espuela Grandes No. 222, nor can this collector

BY HUGH EDMONDSON

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KACHIK

WHEN MY FATHER found a single old spur on our ranch along the Goodnight-Loving Trail outside San Angelo more than 60 years ago, that sparked in me a lifelong fascination and a collection of hundreds of spurs representing dozens of craftsmen and more than 120 years of history.

But one eludes me, and it's a marvel.

Anyone with an interest in Kelly spurs has seen the cover of P.M. Kelly's Catalog No. 20 from 1927, with a picture of La Espuela Grandes No. 222. They were showy, oversized and, apparently, rare. They carried a hefty $100 price tag while most spurs in the catalog were $15 or less. Diamond Dicks, for example, were $10.

That cover image has little or no similarity to the first spurs crafted by Kelly, starting in the Panhandle in 1903 and later in El Paso. All this begs the question: Why did he make this elaborate, rather unpractical spur? He was a businessman focused on efficiency, productivity and output.

I suspect it was a marketing ploy. Of course, this is just speculation. But placed in a storefront window, a pair of extravagant La Espuela Grandes would loudly announce: We sell spurs!

That was the case at the R. E. Donaho Saddles & Cowhand Saddlery in San Angelo when Gov. Allan Shivers visited, according to a recorded interview between historian and writer Jane Pattie and Dr. Tom Reagan of Beeville, who was a knowledgeable resource on the topic of spurs and bits. The Donaho shop had La Espuela Grandes in the front window, and Shivers, governor from 1949 to 1957, borrowed them to wear to a special event.

Reagan says he tried unsuccessfully to purchase the spurs a few times, but they remained in the shop, on display, until one spur disappeared under suspicious circumstances. The remaining Kelly spur was copied by spur-maker Wallie Boone, creating a new pair—one marked "Kelly," the other "Boone"—and remained on display, until the "disappeared" spur was returned after a saddle shop employee died.

The employee's embarrassed wife returned the original. These three spurs a Kelly pair and Boone copy—now reside in the collection of Jay C. Lyndes in Montana.

There have been copies of La Espuela Grandes over the years, by Randy Butters and Jerry Wallace. They're exceptional in workmanship and fit the catalog description, and Gatesville collector Lloyd Mitchell included the Butters reproduction in his collection.

But I've never seen a genuine Kelly pair No. 222. I called Lyndes and offered $20,000 for his. "Well," he said, "I gave over $50,000 for them."

So, as I've done for decades, I'll just own them in my dreams. ■



Actual size is 40.6 mm

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