



Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2020

EXCEEDING
Member
EXPECTATIONS

2021 – The Road Untraveled

As 2020 comes to a close, Medina EC wants to give our members a preview of what to expect in 2021!

Scholarship applications are due March 5. Apply at MedinaEC.org/Scholarship.



Community Empowerment Grant applications are due April 1. Apply at MedinaEC.org/Grant.



Youth Tour Trip - June 13-22



Youth Tour applications are due January 8. Apply at MedinaEC.org/YouthTour.



Operation Round Up applications are due May 7. Apply at MedinaEC.org/ORU.



Nominating meetings are scheduled for February. Get more information on Page 18 or at MedinaEC.org/NomMtg.

Operation Round Up applications are due February 5. Apply at MedinaEC.org/ORU.

GERMANS TRANSFORM
HILL COUNTRY

GIVING TEXANS
THE HEAVENS

HOLIDAY MEAL
MAIN EVENT

Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2020

Sweet Life

Panaderías serve up
pan dulce and traditions
held dear in Mexican
American culture





LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

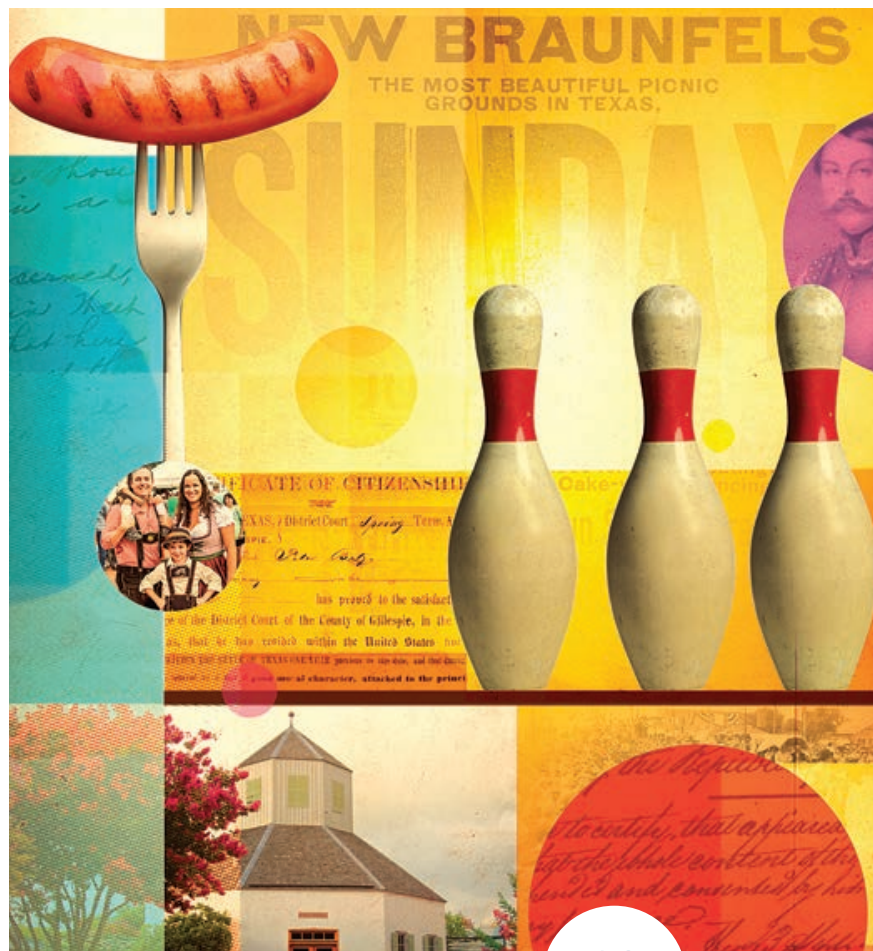
At Mueller, we soar above the rest with our manufacturing capabilities, outstanding quality and long-lasting performance. From workshops and agricultural buildings to complex projects such as airplane hangars, we provide solid building solutions backed by an even stronger warranty. Contact us today to take-off on your dream building.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



December 2020



12

08 Sweet Memories

Visits to panaderías for pan dulce create cherished family bonds for Mexican Americans.

By Vianney Rodriguez
Photos by Eric W. Pohl
Illustration by Tim Carroll

Burgs in a New Land

A wave of German immigrants 175 years ago transformed the Texas Hill Country.

By Dan Oko
Illustration by David Vagin

ON THE COVER

Vianney Rodriguez with her favorite pan dulce selections.
Photo by Jason David Page

ABOVE

Traces of German culture in the Hill Country.
Illustration by David Vagin

04

Currents

The latest buzz

06

TCP Talk

Readers respond

18

Co-op News

Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

29

Footnotes in Texas History

He Gave Us the Stars
By W.F. Strong

30

TCP Kitchen

The Main Event
By Megan Myers

34

Hit the Road

Ghost Town Hangout
By Chet Garner

37

Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: On Wheels

38

Observations

Hooked on Worms
By Tom Widlowski



“Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.”

—CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Park Pride

Texas has two of the best state parks in the country. Palo Duro Canyon State Park, in the Panhandle, and Brazos Bend State Park, about 45 miles southwest of downtown Houston, rank second and third according to a national rating by HomeToGo.

Looking Brighter

SURE, NIGHTS ARE GETTING LONGER as the Northern Hemisphere approaches the winter solstice, December 21—but there’s a bright side.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s, holiday lighting makes American suburbs up to 50% brighter than usual, even after midnight, *The New York Times* reports. Those strings of lights and blinking reindeer, which use enough electricity to power 800,000 homes for a year, can be observed from space.

Start Counting

You’d need 2,683 LED lights on your roof for them to be seen from space, say researchers at England’s University of Leicester.



PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK

The vacation rental website ranked parks based on solitude, activities, wildlife and nearby accommodations.

Letchworth State Park in New York took the top spot.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

I WISH
I COULD ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our October prompt: **The best Christmas gift I ever got was ...**

A Majorette record player that my dad bought for me three days before he died.

BECKY HOLZHAUS
MEDINA EC
CASTROVILLE

When the neurologist removed a tumor from my son's pituitary gland in his brain and found no cancer.

FRAN BACA
COSERV
CROSS ROADS

My brothers coming home from World War II and the Korean War.

DON MASON
HEART OF TEXAS EC
GATESVILLE

My adopted son, born Dec. 22 and received in our arms Dec. 26.

DEE SUSAN MAGELLA AZEREDO
VIA FACEBOOK

My brother, who was born on Christmas Eve 1957.

W. GRANT BRALY
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC
CUERO

A Texas-shaped waffle maker. I was so happy I cried.

SUSAN PROKOSCH
VIA FACEBOOK

To see more responses, read Currents online.



That Frozen Concoction

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1977, Jimmy Buffett's *Margaritaville* peaked at No. 8 on the music charts. The defining song of his career has a place in the Grammy Hall of Fame for its cultural and historic significance. It tells of the first huge wave of tourists to hit Key West, Florida, decades earlier and the laid-back lifestyle they discovered.

And it was written in Austin. Buffett enjoyed the titular refreshing beverage in 1976 at Lung's Cocina del Sur on Anderson Lane, which inspired him to wax lyrical at a friend's house about "that frozen concoction that helps me hang on."



Did You Know?

Oh, and Buffett turns 74 on Christmas Day. Let's all send him shakers of salt.

TCP Contests and More

ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Potluck Dishes

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Storms

WEB EXTRA

How UT's McDonald Observatory grants visitors access to the cosmos.



KRISTIN TYLER

Why Horses Wear Shoes

“I was reminded of my great-grandfather Smith. He was the town’s blacksmith and farrier back in Pennsylvania. His forge was fired with Pennsylvania coal.”

FRANK OTT
CONCHO VALLEY EC
EOLA

Co-ops Count

Who knew our electric employees “are so much more than power providers”? How can so few get so much done in all types of weather year after year, often under treacherous conditions [By the Numbers, October 2020]?

Jane Patterson
Bowie-Cass EC
Texarkana



They wear shoes so they don't hurt their feet when kicking their owners [Why Horses Wear Shoes, October 2020].

BOBBY BARRON
VIA FACEBOOK

Encountering SRV

I was a limo driver in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. One of the approximately 100 celebrities I met was Stevie Ray Vaughan [Letters, October 2020]. I picked him and his mother up in Oak Cliff. This was the same month that he died in the helicopter crash.

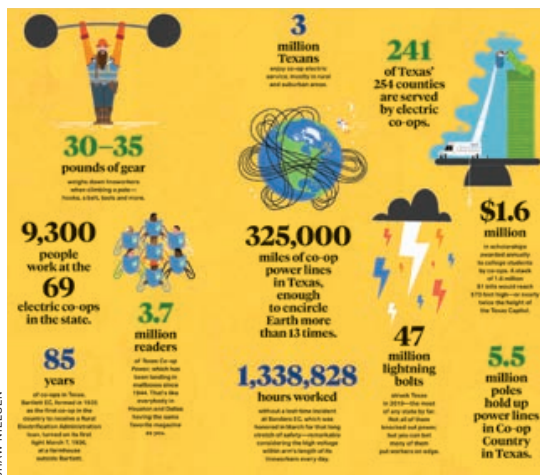
Vance K. Apple
CoServ
Frisco

Bittersweet Keepsake

The best Christmas gift I ever got was a cassette player with a cassette still in it, which my parents had used Christmas Eve while setting out presents [Finish This Sentence, October 2020]. On the cassette they were laughing, joking and talking about us three girls. I never told them about the cassette, nor did I tell my younger sisters. I am the oldest of three girls and was 10 then.

The reason this is so very special is that on March 30, 1975, just three months later, Daddy was murdered, and those were the only words I could hold and continue to have of him. My youngest sister was only 2, and for her these were the only words she would ever hear from her father.

Dedria Tanton
Sam Houston EC
Rye



SHAWN NIELSEN

TCP WRITE TO US

letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Twitter Instagram YouTube Pinterest Texas Co-op Power

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Robert Loth III, Fredericksburg • **Vice Chair** Gary Raybon, El Campo
Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Board Members** Greg Henley, Tahoka
Billy Jones, Corsicana • David McGinnis, Van Alstyne • Doug Turk, Livingston

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Marty Haight, Burleson • Bill Hetherington, Bandera • Ron Hughes, Sinton
Boyd McCamish, Littlefield • John Ed Shinpaugh, Bonham • Robert Walker, Gilmer
Buff Whitten, Eldorado • Brandon Young, McGregor

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications & Member Services Martin Bevins
Editor Charles J. Lohrmann • **Associate Editor** Tom Widowski
Production Manager Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty
Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull • **Senior Communications Specialist** Chris Burrows
Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz • **Communications Specialist** Travis Hill
Food Editor Megan Myers • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge
Digital Content Producer Chris Salazar • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe
Proofreader Shannon Oelrich

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 77, Number 6 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 75 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.20 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

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

ADVERTISING Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. © Copyright 2020 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2020 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Trademark Energy Cooperative



American MainStreet Publications

Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature. If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact, binoculars **and** a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

Huntsman Blade ~~\$249~~*

Offer Code Price Only \$79 + S&P Save \$170

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: HUK353-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HUK353-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

- 12" overall length; 6 1/2" stainless steel full tang blade
- Genuine bone handle with brass hand guard & bolsters
- Includes genuine leather sheath

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars

-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Huntsman Blade



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!



Rating of A+



**What Stauer Clients
Are Saying About
Our Knives**

"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*





BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ • PHOTOS BY ERIC W. POHL
ILLUSTRATION BY TIM CARROLL

Visits to panaderías for pan dulce create cherished family bonds in Mexican American culture

Growing up I spent summers with my *abuelitos* in Brownsville, and our Sunday morning visits to the *panadería* are a cherished memory. My sisters and I would quickly put on our shoes, tighten our ponytails and run to Abuelito Angel's car. At the end of the five-minute drive, my grandfather would park and walk us into the bakery. The aroma was intoxicating.

Like most panaderías, this one was self-serve, so my abuelo would grab a pair of tongs and a silver *charola* (tray) before he set us free. My sister would slowly pace the aisle, studying the colorful displays on each shelf. I, on the other hand, knew exactly what I wanted: two cereal-crusted *galletas* with the jelly center. They were my favorite then, and they still are. I would point to the *galletas*, and my abuelito would smile because he knew they were my favorite. To this day visiting a panadería reminds me of my late grandfather.

Visiting a local panadería to buy *pan dulce* is a tradition we deeply love in our Mexican American culture. We enjoy pan dulce throughout the week with our morning *café* or for *merienda* (afternoon snack), and these special pastries are a major part of our holiday celebrations. Because panaderías are part of our daily lives, the folks at our local bakeries are part of our *familia*. We know them all, and when we stop in, we chat about our day, our children and life in general. Because we are a family, the pan dulce tastes that much sweeter.

Every panadería has its regulars who want to keep the tradition of enjoying pan dulce alive for their children and grandchildren. They have their favorite pan dulce selections and arrive early to fill their bags.

Pan dulce translates literally as sweet bread and includes a vast array of pastries that vary dramatically in size, shape, texture and flavor. My experience suggests there are several hundred varieties.

Canda LePage of Brownsville says pan dulce conjures up fond memories about family time and being a carefree kid for her, too. "It's also a very intergenerational thing," she says, describing her grandmother, who was born in Mexico

and does not speak English. “I have very few things in common with her,” LePage says, “but when I bring out the pan dulce and coffee, she’ll start sharing stories of her youth. It’s my favorite time with her.”

Pan dulce was originally heavily influenced by French baking techniques that Mexican bakers began to experiment with after May 1862, when the French were defeated at the Battle of Puebla. Bakers began incorporating indigenous ingredients such as *canela* (cinnamon), fresh-ground corn flour, Mexican vanilla, *piloncillo* (unrefined brown sugar), chocolate, nuts and native fruits. With shapes like *marranitos* (piggies), *bigotes* (mustaches) and *ojo de buey* (ox eyes), each baker gives a nod to his or her culture. These shapes became the beloved names of the pan dulce we love today.

And while that traditional character will always remain, the bakers of today are continuing to put their own mark on pan dulce culture.

Amanda Nolan, owner of Sweet Craft Vegan in Brownsville, scheduled the opening of her new storefront in early 2020. Though she, too, describes childhood visits to the panadería as an awesome experience and a special memory, her mother was very health-conscious, so she decided to learn how to make a healthier version of her favorite pastries. Vegan pan dulce was not readily available in South Texas, so she decided to teach herself.

Baking became an obsession for Nolan. She honed her baking skills at Linda’s Cakes & Desserts, a Brownsville bakery, and pitched owner Andrea Bernes on the idea of selling vegan pan dulce at the shop. The owner gave her the OK. So Nolan began sharing her creations on social media, and soon her vegan *conchas* (seashells) were scooped up by the dozen. Because they do not use any preservatives, her pastries must be sold each day, so calculating exact ingredients is essential to meeting demand.

Just as enjoying pan dulce is multigenerational, baking the special pastries also is often shared among family. I interviewed one Brownsville baker who worked in his family’s panadería for more than 25 years, learning the skill from his father and uncle.

Another Brownsville baker whose entire family works in the panadería tells me that one of his primary goals for this year has been not just to stay in business but to protect his family and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic—and to protect his customers, too. “We want them to bring their grandchildren into the panadería,” he says.

Throughout my travels in South Texas, I have visited many panaderías that have become near and dear to my heart and have helped me keep my abuelito’s memory alive. I encourage everyone to visit a neighborhood panadería and meet the talented bakers carrying on this beloved tradition. Visit, enjoy the aromas and fill up your tray with these irresistible special pastries. I promise you will not be disappointed.

Les mando amor y pan dulce. (I send them love and pan dulce.) ■



Vianney’s Pan Dulce Favorites

Bisquette This savory and sweet treat is more dense than the typical biscuit—often enjoyed with butter or jam.

Churros Dough squeezed into star-shaped sticks and fried; crisp *churros* are rolled in sugar. Some are filled with *dulce de leche* or *cajeta* (caramelized sugar) and are best dipped in steaming mugs of Mexican hot chocolate.

Concha This sweet bread, named for seashells, is a sugar crust pastry that varies in color and flavor at each panadería.

Cortadillo Also known as *pastel de niños*, this popular yellow cake is topped with pink icing and sprinkles, then sliced into triangles.

Cuernito The flaky “little horn” is brushed with egg and dusted with sugar and sometimes filled with chocolate.

Elote Anise- or cinnamon-scented dough filled with orange cinnamon cream, baked, then rolled in sugar while warm from the oven.

Empanada Always quick to sell out, an *empanada* is a crescent-shaped turnover of flaky dough filled with pineapple, pumpkin, *cajeta* or apples.

Mantecado This is the muffin version of a pound cake and most often found in red wrappers.

Maranito A pig-shaped cookie made from a cakelike dough similar to gingerbread



but actually flavored with *piloncillo* (unrefined brown sugar).

Niño Envuelto This “wrapped child” is similar to a jelly roll made from cake topped with a layer of strawberry jelly, rolled and then topped with more jelly and shredded coconut.

Oreja An “ear” made from flaky dough that is brushed with butter and sprinkled with sugar to look like a French *palmier*. Most often enjoyed with afternoon *café*.

Polvorone or Galleta

This firm, crumbly cookie can be found in an assortment of

colors and flavors. Variations include *tricolores* (three colors), *sandía* (watermelon), *grageas* (with sprinkles), *rosas* (pink) and—my favorite—cereal-crusted *galleta* with jelly.



played a role in good moral character, attached to the princ



Einwanderungs-Vertrag

to certify, that appeared
to the whole content of the
letter and consented by his
presence. —
in Bremen the 12th of July
1840
Wm. F. Sch. m.
Vice -



BURGS IN A NEW LAND

175 years ago, a wave of GERMAN IMMIGRANTS transformed the Texas Hill Country

Each fall Wurstfest in New Braunfels and Oktoberfest in Fredericksburg celebrate German culture with festive costumes, blaring polka music, and plenty of sausage and beer. With creative exploring, you can find a quieter, family-oriented expression of German culture that endures in out-of-the-way corners of the Hill Country.

The Blanco Bowling Club, just east of the town's courthouse square, is one of fewer than a dozen nine-pin bowling clubs in the German communities of Comal, Gillespie, Bexar and Guadalupe counties. Nine-pin bowling harks back to the game played by German immigrants in the mid-19th century and bears little resemblance to the 10-pin version played in most bowling alleys.

Nine-pin bowling is just one lasting cultural import that German immigrants brought with them when they settled in Central Texas towns and villages 175 years ago.

"Think of it as a team sport," says Julie West, who has lived in Blanco all her life and bowls at the Blanco Bowling Club with friends and family. Her roots in the community are deep. "My grandma managed the cafe," she says, "and my aunts all worked there." West, a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, was a pinsetter at the bowling club when she was a teenager.

The pinsetters are one reason this game is so distinctive. "As a pinsetter you're on your hands and knees, and you have to be athletic," West explains. That athleticism helps each pinsetter replace the pins bowlers knock down. "You have to pay attention," she says, "because the pins are flying around."

Nine-pin team bowling requires each bowler in a team of six to bowl in succession. "Knocking down nine pins means nine points," West says. "And the score is calculated cumulatively, not individually. A 12-ringer is when you leave the center pin."

Nine-pin bowling has remained popular over generations in Central Texas—for more than 150 years—because of the area's deep German roots. West explains that the emphasis

on family and the team makes the game uniquely German and attracts children to the game.

The locals know that youth involvement is essential to keeping cultural traditions alive. That's why New Braunfels traditions, such as the annual Kindermasken parade, a costume ball for children usually held in May, have survived since 1856. New Braunfels and Fredericksburg are this year and next marking 175 years of keeping alive the German culture brought here by immigrants, with various celebrations planned for the coming months.

New Braunfels was founded in 1845 by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, who purchased land on the banks of the Comal River to establish a German colony. A year later a group of settlers from New Braunfels headed 60 miles northwest and established Fredericksburg. The earliest Texas settlement formed by Germans was Industry, founded in 1831, and a glance at a Texas atlas shows many other communities that can trace their origins to Germany: Weimar, Boerne, Schulenburg, Luckenbach and Muenster.

Ernie Loeffler was raised in New Braunfels and is now the president of the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau. "The original Germans wanted to create a cultural enclave in Texas," says Loeffler. "They wrote many letters home describing it as a land of milk and honey."

Evelyn Weinheimer, an archivist at Fredericksburg's Pioneer Museum, which documents the German roots of Gillespie County, says that as early as 1842, the Society for the Protection of German Immigrants in Texas, also known as *Adelsverein*, advertised to attract settlers to establish enclaves across the Hill Country and the south-central plains. New Braunfels and Fredericksburg were the first two settlements of the *Adelsverein*.

"Land was the biggest draw," says Weinheimer, whose ancestors arrived in that first wave. "Coming from those little German kingdoms, those settlers surely thought they would find a better way of life to raise their families."

“THE ORIGINAL GERMANS wanted to create a cultural enclave in Texas. They wrote many letters home describing it as a land of milk and honey.”



Those day-to-day concerns about family life determined the enduring aspects of culture. Among the visible reminders of German culture in Fredericksburg are the Sunday houses and their distinctive architecture.

“Coming to church on Sunday wasn’t going to happen in the days of wagons and old dirt roads,” Weinheimer says. Families loaded up the wagon on Saturday morning and made the trip into town, where they would barter at the general store and enjoy a social activity or family gathering on Saturday night. Sunday morning they went to one of the five churches in Fredericksburg.

Weinheimer says the typical weekend house was a one-bedroom frame building with a kitchen and living room and a sleeping loft. One of these “tiny houses,” the Fassel-Roeder House, awaits visitors on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum. William Roeder, a former Gillespie County commissioner, told Weinheimer stories of his family’s trips from the White Oak community, 22 miles west, to stay in the house.

Even though the 20 or so Sunday houses that remain in Fredericksburg are similar, Weinheimer says they do not follow an architectural style but reflect the pragmatism of German farmers and how they organized their lives.

Other enduring German influences, such as education, are more civic-minded. “You had this 3,000-year-old society that came and formed a community on the frontier,” says Judy Young of the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. “But they were not your average frontiersmen.” The settlers laid out the New Braunfels street grid their first month on the ground, she says, and the town created a tax in 1847 to fund the community’s first public schools.

The German culture in Texas that’s still thriving today is more clearly expressed in nine-pin bowling than in jubilant beer festivals.

New Braunfels is home to the oldest bakery in Texas, Naegelin’s Bakery, which opened its doors in 1868. The Naegelin family sold the business, but new owners kept the name and the Old World recipes. Manager Frankie Alvarado explains, “It’s these traditions that have allowed us to stay in business this long.” ■

TCP WEB EXTRA

Read about how John O. Meusebach, founder of Fredericksburg, signed what is believed to be the only unbroken peace treaty between Native Americans and U.S. settlers.

Patio Door Special!



Window Special!

Special ends on December 31st

SAVE 20% on patio doors¹

SAVE 20% on windows¹

SAVE 20% on installation¹

WITH

NO NO NO
Money Down Payments Interest
FOR 1 YEAR¹



- Our patio doors will continue to slide smoothly for years using **Andersen's dual ball-bearing engineering**

- Our composite Fibrex® material is twice as strong as vinyl, so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight

- We handle the entire process —**from selling to installation to the warranty**—on our windows and patio doors, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered

- For peace of mind, know that we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the **safest** way possible

Now offering
virtual
appointments,
too!

Call for your FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis



**CERTIFIED
MASTER
INSTALLER**



Austin: **512-298-1858** San Antonio: **210-961-9990**
Dallas/Fort Worth: **469-606-5229** TopWindowSolution.com

¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to purchase of 3 or more windows and/or patio doors. Cannot be combined with other offers. Initial contact for a free Window and Patio Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 12/31/20, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts. **All sales, marketing and installation of windows is conducted by Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio, and by Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. All are independently owned and operated affiliates operating in TX.**

Special Offer for New Customers Only
YES! Please send me the complete 3-coin set of reprocessed 1943 Steel Cents for **ONLY \$1.25** – regularly \$4.95, plus **FREE Sales Tax** & **FREE** shipping (limit 5 sets). Also send my **FREE** Uncirculated 4-coin set of 2009 Lincoln Anniversary Cents (one per customer, please).

Add Custom Display Folders for 1930-1958 Lincoln Cents and **SAVE 25%** at \$2.95 each (regularly \$3.95).

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

QTY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	3-coin set of 1943 Steel Cents (limit 5 sets)	\$1.25	
	Display Folders – SAVE 25%	\$2.95	
	*Sales Tax	FREE!	
	FREE Shipping!		
	TOTAL \$		

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.
Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

 Name: _____ Please print clearly
 Address: _____ Apt# _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Please send coupon to:
Littleton Coin Company® Dept. 5HL406
 1309 Mt. Eustis Road
 Littleton NH 03561-3737
 Serving Collectors Since 1945

FREE GIFT
 when you order within 30 days
 Complete Uncirculated Four-Coin Set of 2009 Lincoln Anniversary Cents!

©2020 LCC, Inc.

Limited Time! **1950's Price – Only \$1.25**

All 3 Mints

NO SALES TAX!

Complete Set of America's only Steel Cents! (Struck only) in 1943

Get a prized complete set of one-year-only Steel cents, struck only in 1943 to save copper for military materials during World War II. These unique, historic coins issued over 70 years ago are now in great demand among collectors! Your complete 3-coin set will contain one Steel cent from each U.S. Mint that struck them – Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco. Plus, each coin has been expertly reprocessed to restore its original brilliance.

Lincoln Anniversary cents! Plus, with this special offer, we'll pay your state's sales tax on this order!

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. **Order today!**

45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

1943 ALL-MINT SET

Philadelphia (no mint mark) Denver (D mint mark) San Francisco (S mint mark)

Complete Set ONLY \$1.25 plus FREE Shipping!
 Order your complete 3-coin set of historic 1943 Steel cents today for ONLY \$1.25 and **SAVE!**
 You'll enjoy Free Shipping to your home. Order within 30 days and get a **FREE** Uncirculated 4-coin set of 2009

PDS All Mint Set – order by mail or at www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials today!

JERRY REICHERT
HOBBY CRAFTERS makes wooden toys as charity donations for children.
POWER OF OUR PEOPLE | DECEMBER 2019

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Texas Coop Power **\$100 WINNER** **Nominate someone today!**

TCP Tell us about somebody who improves the quality of life in your community. Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com. Include the person's name, co-op affiliation and a short description of his or her work in the community. Featured nominees will receive a \$100 donation for their cause.

Connect With 811

Before Projects Involving Digging.

DPCofTexas.org
info@dpcoftexas.org

TEARS FROM A VOLCANO

Uniquely American stone ignites romance

On May 18, 1980, the once-slumbering Mount St. Helens erupted in the Pacific Northwest. It was the most impressive display of nature's power in North America's recorded history. But even more impressive is what emerged from the chaos... a spectacular new creation born of ancient minerals named Helenite. Its lush, vivid color and amazing story instantly captured the attention of jewelry connoisseurs worldwide. You can now have four carats of the world's newest stone for an absolutely unbelievable price.

Known as America's emerald, Helenite makes it possible to give her a stone that's brighter and has more fire than any emerald without paying the exorbitant price. In fact, this many carats of an emerald that looks this perfect and glows this green would cost you upwards of \$80,000. Your more beautiful and much more affordable option features a perfect teardrop of Helenite set in gold-covered sterling silver suspended from a chain accented with even more verdant Helenite.

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

Helenite Earrings

**-a \$129 value-
with purchase of
Helenite Necklace**



Limited Reserves. As one of the largest gemstone dealers in the world, we buy more carats of Helenite than anyone, which lets us give you a great price. However, this much gorgeous green for this price won't last long. Don't miss out. Helenite is only found in one section of Washington State, so call today!

Romance guaranteed or your money back. Experience the scintillating beauty of the *Helenite Teardrop Necklace* for 30 days and if she isn't completely in love with it send it back for a full refund of the item price. You can even keep the stud earrings as our thank you for giving us a try.

Helenite Teardrop Necklace (4 1/4 ctw) ~~\$299~~* Only \$129 +S&P

Helenite Stud Earrings (1 ctw) \$129 +S&P

Helenite Set (5 1/4 ctw) ~~\$428~~* **Call-in price only \$129** +S&P
(Set includes necklace and stud earrings)

Call now and mention the offer code to receive FREE earrings.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code HEN341-01

You must use the offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HEN341-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com



* Special price only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

- 4 1/4 ctw of American Helenite and the Ultimate Diamond Alternative®, DiamondAura® • Gold-finished .925 sterling silver settings • 16" chain with 2" extender and lobster clasp

**Limited to the first
1600 orders
from this
ad only**

*4 carats of
shimmering
Helenite*

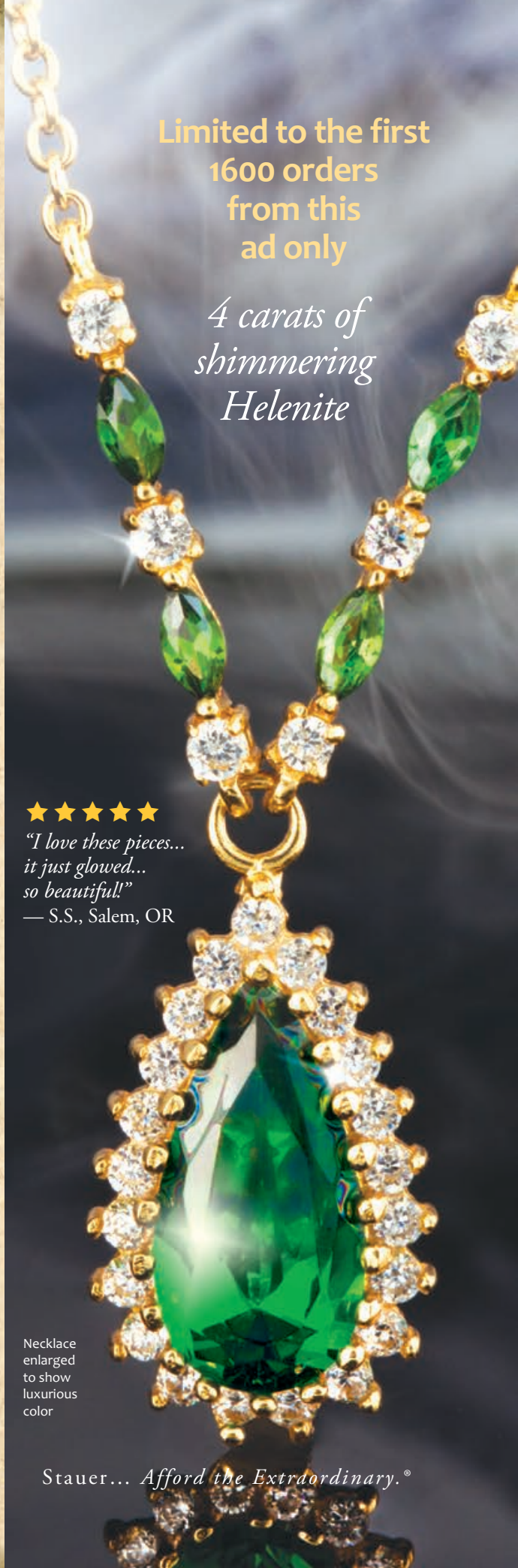


*"I love these pieces...
it just glowed...
so beautiful!"*

— S.S., Salem, OR

Necklace
enlarged
to show
luxurious
color

Stauer... Afford the Extraordinary.®





MESSAGE
FROM CEO

MARK
ROLLANS

The Cooperative Difference

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 80 YEARS since the rural electrification program began. To prosper over that time takes considerable strength and the involvement of members like you.

Electric cooperatives like Medina EC have been offering rural consumers energy from the day our doors first opened. The fact that co-ops have been successful is a testament to our members and to the needs of rural communities.

Under the watchful eye of a locally elected board of directors, Medina EC focuses on delivering high-quality, reliable and affordable service every day to those we serve. Members have a say in who represents them on the board of directors by participating in nominating meetings held in February. If you have ever thought about running for the board, that is your opportunity to learn more about the process and to put your name in the ring.

A director from each voting district is elected each September, and results are announced at the annual membership meeting. The service territory is divided into three voting districts, and three members represent each district on the board. Directors set policies and make decisions for the cooperative. Watch for additional details on these meetings in the January issue of *Texas Co-op Power*, and we hope you will consider joining us.

As we move into a new year, we will continue to focus on providing safe, reliable electric service to our members. How can we serve you better in 2021? We encourage you to let us know—whether it's by answering when you get a survey call, giving us a call or sending us an email. We're always ready to listen.

One last note, as we approach the Christmas season. Many members have chosen to be involved in Medina EC's Operation Round Up program.

If you choose to sign your accounts up for ORU, your monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the next dollar, and that money will go into the ORU fund. Since it began in 2006, ORU has awarded more than \$149,000 to people and organizations in need. Can you imagine the impact the ORU program could have if all members signed up?

We have seen this money make an impact in so many lives. If you aren't already donating to ORU, I urge you to consider signing up at MedinaEC.org/ORU.

Here we are, 80 years later, still involved in the communities and still presenting opportunities for members to be involved in the cooperative. We look forward to seeing what else we can offer members in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Mark Rollans

NOMINATING MEETINGS

Voting District 1 Meeting

Medina County

Wednesday, February 24

6 p.m.

**Medina EC General Office,
2308 18th St., Hondo**

Voting District 2 Meeting

*Edwards, Real, Kinney, Uvalde,
Zavala, Frio and Atascosa
Counties*

Tuesday, February 23

6 p.m.

**Willie de Leon Civic Center
Cactus Room, 300 E. Main
St., Uvalde**

Voting District 3 Meeting

*Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen,
Webb, Duval, Zapata, Jim Hogg,
Brooks and Starr Counties*

Monday, February 22, 6 p.m.

**Medina EC Office, 601 N. FM
3167, Rio Grande City**

*All meetings will be in person
and will follow any directives in
place at the time.*

MedinaEC.org/NomMtg



Life-Support Registry

ELECTRICITY IS IMPORTANT to everyone, but for some people it is a medical necessity. If you or someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, Medina EC can place your account on our Life-Support Registry.

Being on the Life-Support Registry will not keep your account from being disconnected for nonpayment. It also does not guarantee uninterrupted electrical service. Outages can occur for reasons outside of the cooperative's control and are unavoidable.

To learn more and be placed on the Life-Support

Registry, follow the steps at

MedinaEC.org/Registry.

Generators

MEMBERS WHO OWN A GENERATOR may be interested in having a Gener-Link device installed. This safe and easy solution is \$15 per month. Medina EC crews will visit your home and install the device.

Generators that aren't connected correctly create a safety hazard for people in the home and for Medina EC employees working to restore power. Without GenerLink, operating a generator can require installation of transfer switches and subpanels and rewiring work. By having Gener-Link installed, members simply plug their generator in the outlet located at the meter, making it safer for them and for Medina EC crews.

Interested? Call us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC.

To learn more about the GenerLink product visit

MedinaEC.org/Products.

CONTACT US

Toll-Free 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Email Info@MedinaEC.org

Web MedinaEC.org - Chat Feature Available

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voting District 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651

Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

Voting District 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Chris Surlis, (830) 965-5538

Kenneth White, (830) 232-6541

Voting District 3

Annette Sorrells, (361) 231-0173

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

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

CEO

Mark Rollans, 1-866-MEC-ELEC, ext. 1045

Outage? Call us.

TOLL-FREE

1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bruni 1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

Dilley 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

Hondo 237 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.

Informacion sobre todos los programas y servicios que ofrece Medina Electric Cooperative estan disponibles en Espal al llamarnos al 1-866-MEC-ELEC o visitando una de nuestras oficinas.

Monthly Minimum of \$35 for General Service and Seasonal Rate Effective January 1

AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING, the Medina EC board of directors approved changes to the Medina EC tariff that will go into effect January 1, 2021. These changes were originally set to be implemented May 1 of this year, but the board chose to postpone in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These changes will place a \$35 minimum bill on the General Service and Seasonal rate classes. This means that any members within these rate classes who get a bill for less than \$35 will now see their monthly bill rounded up to \$35. Based on members' use in prior years, this change will impact about 4,500 members who generally use 50 kilowatt-hours or less per month.

"As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, our rates are set to continue efficient operation of the cooperative, not to make profits to line the pockets of any investors."

—CEO MARK ROLLANS

This rate change is the result of the 2018 cost-of-service study performed by Guernsey. In cost-of-service studies, which the cooperative has historically undergone every two to three years, an outside firm reviews the cooperative's financials and looks at the costs associated with serving each rate class. They then determine rates for each class based on the cooperative's revenue requirements and financial goals set by the board.

This cost-of-service study revealed that there is an under-recovery of fixed costs for General Service and Seasonal accounts that use less than 50 kWh per month. In other words, accounts with very low kWh use are not being billed enough to cover the fixed costs incurred to serve them.

Our goal in setting rates is to make them as fair as possible for all members. We want to ensure rates are based on the costs to serve our members, and that one group of members is not subsidizing another group of members. This \$35 minimum will help us better manage that goal for the benefit of all our members.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, our rates are set to allow for efficient operation of the cooperative, not to make profits to line the pockets of any investors. Delivering reliable electricity is a capital- and labor-intensive business, with lots of fixed costs involved. It requires employees, equipment and technology to maintain the power lines that serve your location behind the scenes, regardless of whether you use electricity in a given month or not.

This change to the bill minimum does not impact the Member Charge, which is currently set at \$29, or the energy charge, which is applied per kWh used. Both those charges will remain the same.

You can read Medina EC's current tariff and view other important cooperative documents at MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc. Rates for all rate classes can be viewed at MedinaEC.org/Rates. If you have questions about whether these tariff changes could impact you, please contact us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC or Info@MedinaEC.org ■

FREE TRIP TO D.C. FOR YOUR TEEN

Would your teen enjoy a FREE trip to Austin and Washington, D.C., in June 2021? The Government-in-Action Youth Tour may be for them. Apply Now!

Deadline is January 8. Application and eligibility information can be found at MedinaEC.org/YouthTour.

BONUS: Winners will receive a \$500 college scholarship!





Your Holiday Cheer Could Win You \$250

IT'S TIME TO GET in the holiday spirit and show off your best Christmas decorations! Medina EC members are encouraged to submit a photo of their properties decorated in lights, garland, candy canes, wreaths or any other festive decorations.

- ▶ Only Medina EC members are eligible to enter. One entry per membership.
- ▶ Decorations must be done at the property where your Medina EC account is located.
- ▶ Lights may be on your home, Christmas tree, fence line, business, water well or any other creative display on your property.
- ▶ Medina EC encourages energy efficiency—use LED lights and timers to schedule limited lighting use.
- ▶ Medina EC will pick a first- and second-place winner:
First place: \$250 Mastercard or Visa gift card
Second place: \$150 Mastercard or Visa gift card
- ▶ Entries accepted November 27–December 18. Submit your entry at MedinaEC.org/ChristmasLights or send it through email at MyCoop@MedinaEC.org.
- ▶ Entries must include member/account number, account address and mailing address.
- ▶ All photos become property of Medina EC and can be reprinted without payment.

What to Expect on Winter Bills

IT SEEMS INTUITIVE that electricity use increases during winter, when sunlight is limited, days are shorter and temperatures are much lower. You're surely aware of the battle to keep your home a decent temperature during those colder months.

How can you also keep money in your wallet while being comfortable? Use the tips below to conserve energy and save money.

Reduce wasted heat by installing a programmable thermostat. Most importantly, be sure to program it after it is installed so that you won't waste energy and money heating your home when you aren't there.

Turn off lights when not in use. Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Lower the temperature on your water heater. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.

Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.

Get additional tips to help you save money this winter at MedinaEC.org/Cold, or if you have questions on your bill, call our member service representatives at 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532). ■

Get tips on how to avoid high bills during cold weather at MedinaEC.org/Cold.



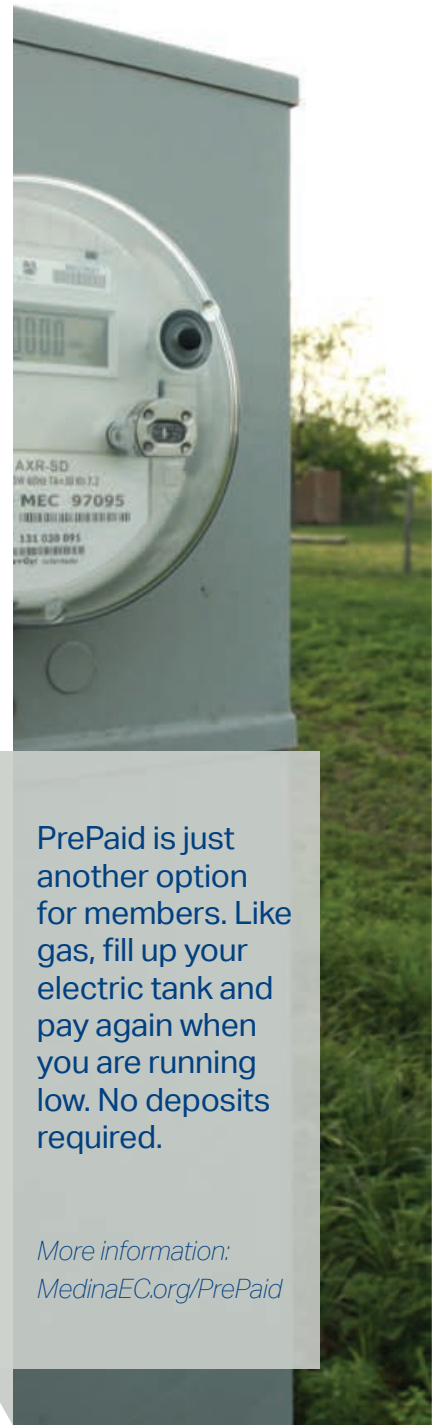
FREEPIK 1 FREEPIK.COM

**PAY THE AMOUNT
YOU WANT WHEN
YOU WANT.**

Co-op Connections Website and Mobile App Get Update

IN OCTOBER, the Co-op Connections website and app got an update making it easier for Medina EC members to find both local and national discounts. Co-op Connections has been helping members save money at local pizza places and on prescriptions, but it has now added a few new additional services, listed below.

- » **Insurance.** Co-op Connections provides members with a no-cost \$5,000 AD&D life insurance policy. It also provides you with a place to request quotes on life, auto, home, health, disability and other types of insurance.
- » **Tickets.** You can now search for discounted event tickets including NFL, NBA, other sports, concerts and theater tickets. Co-op Connections also provides you with an additional 10% discount using the code UBENIF.
- » **Cash Back Shopping.** Co-op Connections previously offered cash-back shopping but has changed vendors to make it easier for Medina EC members to receive the money they earn when shopping. You can now receive up to 20% cash back when you shop online with participating stores and will receive a check in the mail once you earn \$15. A few of the featured stores include Tractor Supply Company, Overstock.com, Advance Auto Parts, Office Depot and more.
- » **Towing Services.** Co-op Connections has teamed up with Nation Safe Drivers to provide you with 24/7 towing assistance that can be accessed through the Co-op Connections app. The benefits include 24-hour emergency towing up to 15 miles, 24-hour emergency fuel and delivery of supplies, 24-hour tire change, lockout service, and jump-start. Simply give them a call at 1-877-811-6002 and help will be on the way for \$79.99.



PrePaid is just another option for members. Like gas, fill up your electric tank and pay again when you are running low. No deposits required.

*More information:
MedinaEC.org/PrePaid*



Learn more about Medina EC's Co-op Connections program and all the benefits at MedinaEC.org/Connections or on the app.

WE WISH YOU A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Medina EC will close at noon on Thursday, December 24, and all day Friday, December 25, for Christmas and all day on Friday, January 1, for New Year's.



Winterize Safely

AS YOU TAKE STEPS to winterize your home, you should also check for electrical hazards. The dry winter air is a perfect environment for electric shock and fire. Use this electrical safety checklist to eliminate hazards.

- ▶ Check outlets and make sure they are not overloaded or warm to the touch.
- ▶ Examine electrical cords for cracks, frays and damaged plugs.
- ▶ Check that lightbulbs are the proper wattage and securely installed in light fixtures so bulbs don't overheat and ignite curtains or nearby furniture.
- ▶ Outlets related to frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses should be inspected by a professional. Dimming lights and shrinking displays on TVs and computer monitors are also electrical warning signs that warrant an inspection.
- ▶ Make sure bathroom, laundry room, kitchen and outdoor outlets have working ground-fault circuit interrupters, and test and reset them monthly. If these outlets don't have GFCIs, have them installed.
- ▶ Test your smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries and replace them every six months.
- ▶ If an electric space heater is used, make sure the wiring is adequate. Don't place a portable heater in high-traffic areas and never use extension cords with electric heaters.



Sharing Success Donations

THROUGH COBANK'S SHARING SUCCESS PROGRAM, Medina EC was able to award \$19,950 to three area organizations.

Half of that was a donation from Medina Electric, and the other half was from CoBank, one of the cooperative's financial partners. In the nine years the cooperative has participated in Sharing Success, \$69,950 has been distributed to organizations across our area.

This year's donations helped medical operations in our area, at a time when those facilities were under immense pressure and had high expectations placed on them.



Uvalde Memorial Hospital | \$6,650

Uvalde Memorial Hospital received **\$6,650**. The hospital will use the grant toward the purchase of an advanced nurse call system. The system will be the same through all nursing units, helping with productivity and consistency, while syncing with electronic patient records. The system will be used in the new facility currently under construction at UMH.



Starr County Memorial Hospital | \$6,650

Starr County Memorial Hospital received **\$6,650**. The hospital is opening a brand-new MRI imaging center. The donation will be used to help purchase new MRI and CT scan equipment for the facility.



Medina Healthcare Fund | \$6,650

The **Medina Healthcare Fund** received **\$6,650**. The donation will help fund and implement a point-of-care testing system at the Medina Healthcare System, including the hospital and clinics. This will allow the lab to process results in-house in minutes, instead of sending them out to other labs for testing. The testing system will be for viruses including, but not limited to, RSV, flu and COVID-19.

LETTER TO SANTA'S ENERGY ELVES



Happy Holidays, Energy Explorers! Santa's Energy Elves are teaming up with our friends at Medina EC to encourage energy-efficiency. We help Santa keep his shop as efficient as possible! That means turning off lights when we leave a room, unplugging tools when we're done and leaving the doors closed. Use this letter to show us how you've been energy-efficient this year.

After you complete the letter, give it to an adult to take a picture and email it to us at mycoop@medinaec.org. You can also fill out our new digital letter online at MedinaEC.org/EnergyElves. Energy Explorers will receive a special Medina EC gift from us.

Dear Energy Elves,

My name is _____ and I am _____ years old.

I live at _____.

Please put your mailing address to receive a special Medina EC ornament.

This year, I have been very good and have tried to be more energy efficient by:

Please tell Santa I would really like _____ for Christmas.

Love,



(sign your name here)

Therapeutic Diabetic Comfort Slippers Help

Make Sore, Swollen, Sensitive Feet Feel Great!



Non-Skid Safety Soles For
Indoors Or Outdoors



Cloud-Soft
Fleece Lining

Diabetic FRIENDLY

Choose
Black Or Tan

Great For
Men &
Women



Source Code: 79296 © Dream Products (Prices valid for 1 yr.)

Was ~~\$19.99~~
SAVE \$7
off original price
Now **Only \$12.99**

- Cushiony Memory Foam
- One Touch Closure
- High Ankle Support



Therapeutic Comfort Slippers are a blessing for diabetic foot problems, swelling and bunions – but they help make all feet feel great the instant you slip them on! Cloud-soft plush fleece lining and cushiony memory foam cradle feet in comfort and provide shock absorption. Hook 'n loop strap closure makes them easy to put on or take off and adjust fit. High ankle cut gives you great support. Plus, non-skid safety soles let you wear them indoors or outdoors. Imported.

FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING
WHEN BUYING 2+ PAIRS

Diabetic Comfort Slippers				
Indicate Qty Under Size and Color				
#369905 Ladies*	S 5-6 (212)	M 6½-7½ (213)	L 8-9 (214)	XL 9½-10½ (215)
Tan 247				
Black 101				
#369906 Men's	S 6-7 (212)	M 7½-8½ (213)	L 9-10 (214)	XL 11-12 (215)
Tan 247				
Black 101				
Pr(s) Diabetic Comfort Slippers @ \$12.99 pr.				\$
*Add applicable State & Local SALES TAX on the Subtotal				\$
Shipping & Handling Add \$5.95 1st pair FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more				\$
Please Print Clearly				Total \$

Send order to Dream Products 412 Dream Lane,
P.O. Box 3690, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3690

<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	Exp. Date
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS SM Cards	/
Card#		
Name		
Address		
City	ST	Zip
Daytime Phone #		
Email		
Source Code	79296	To receive this offer on the web, you MUST input the source code when ordering


Order Now Toll-Free
1-800-530-2689

M-F 6am-1am CST
S-S 6am-9pm CST

Connect With
DreamProducts.com
website offers may vary


***We may be required to collect sales tax. Please visit DreamProducts.com FAQ page if you need more information.**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or
Return For Your Money Back



GIFT GUIDE

Bonus



Prevent Bruises

Soft leather protective sleeves contour to hands and arms. Comfortable and effective with adjustable airflow, making them cooler than long sleeves.

651-492-4830 | www.armchaps.com



GIFT GUIDE

Bonus



Lightweight Easy Flux Welder

This 125-amp welder features advanced DC based technology, safety features, variable control for fine-tuned welding, and weighs 50% less than conventional transformer models.

800-423-2567 | harborfreight.com



TIRED OF SPRAYING?

The Original Root Grubber


- Kills tree by cutting roots 6" to 8" underground
- Effective on mesquite, juniper, cedar, huisach and other brush problems
- 3-point reversible blade for clearing fence rows

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

Blade Width	Cat	HP	WT	Delivered Price
18"	I	20-40	230 lb.	\$1,065
27"	II	40-80	285 lb.	\$1,285
30"	II or III	80-110	380 lb.	\$1,685
36"	II or III	110-180	390 lb.	\$1,750

JONES MACHINE
(800) 919-4949 • Fax: (940) 552-6362
jonesmachineshop1944@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 1577, Vernon, Texas 76385



Hit the Road

Event Calendar

 **Plan now**
TexasCoopPower.com/events



Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

MOBILE HOME ROOF OVER SYSTEMS

Since 1983

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

Bank C.D.'s Due?

CALL US NOW

1-800-359-4940 TEXAS TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

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

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



Gift Shop



 **Shop now**
TexasCoopPower.com/shop



RHINO STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS


25 Year Warranty • Easy Bolt-Together Design
Engineered Stamp Blueprints



Farm • Industrial • Commercial

RHINO.BUILDERS/TX 940-304-8068
INFO@RHINOBLDG.COM

WE BUY MINERALS



We pay cash for **producing** or **non-producing** mineral interests.

CALL US TODAY! 1-888-735-5337

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX
All transactions private, confidential & secure.

830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

**FREE SHIPPING
ON FOUR OR MORE**

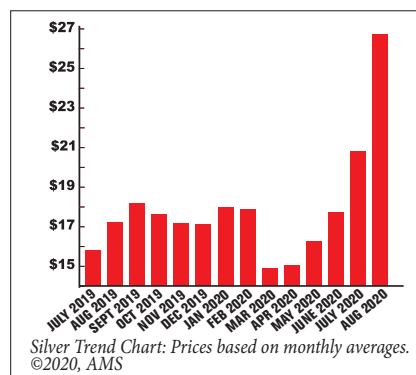


Actual size
is 38.1 mm

Why Are Dealers Hoarding These 100-Year-Old U.S. Silver Dollars?

When it comes to collecting, few coins are as coveted as the first and last of a series. And when big anniversaries for those “firsts” and “lasts” come around, these coins become even more coveted.

Take, for example, the 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars. These 90% pure silver coins were the last of their kind, a special one-year-only resurrection of the classic Wild West Silver Dollar. Three years prior, the Pittman Act authorized the melting of more than 270 million Morgan Silver Dollars so their silver could be sold to our allies in the United Kingdom. Facing our own Silver Dollar shortage, the world’s favorite vintage U.S. Silver Dollar was brought back for one year only while the U.S. Mint worked on its successor, the Peace Silver Dollar.



Dealers Begin Stockpiling Last-Year Morgans

Knowing what we’ve told you about special anniversaries, dealers around the country are preparing for a surge in demand. 2021 will mark the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar—the last-year-of-issue for the most popular vintage U.S. Silver Dollar ever minted. But slow-moving collectors may be disappointed in what they find when they seek out these coins.

Since the days of the Pittman Act, millions *more* U.S. Silver Dollars have been melted or worn down in commerce. It’s been estimated that as few as 15% of all the Morgan Dollars ever minted have survived to the present day. That number grows smaller each year, with private hoards now accounting for virtually all the surviving Morgan Silver Dollars. And that was *before* silver values started to rise...

Interest in Silver Is on the Rise

As you can see from the chart on the left, in 2020, we’ve seen daily silver prices close as low as \$12.01 per ounce and as high as \$28.33 per ounce. That rise in value has led to a sharp increase in buyers’ interest in silver. We’re already seeing a surge of interest from collectors wanting to add vintage Morgan Silver Dollars to their collections. But at what price?

Don’t Wait—Secure Your 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars NOW!

With this special offer, you can secure a last-year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar ahead of the rush in About Uncirculated (AU) condition for just \$39.95! Mint marks vary.

These vintage U.S. Silver Dollars allow you to hold 100 years of American history in the palm of your hand. But only if you secure yours before our limited supply of 1921 Morgan Silver Dollars lasts in our vault.

Don’t wait—call 1-800-973-9208 and use the offer code below to secure your 100-year-old Morgan Silver Dollars NOW!

Weight:	26.73 grams
Purity:	90% silver
Diameter:	38.1 mm
Condition:	AU
Mint Mark:	varies

1921 Morgan Silver Dollar AU - \$39.95 ea. + s/h

FREE SHIPPING on Four or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

**Call today toll-free for fastest service
1-800-973-9208**

Offer Code MCD218-01
Please mention this code when you call



GOVMINT.COM®
THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W., Suite 175, Dept. MCD218-01, Burnsville, MN 55337

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com’s Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com’s Return Policy. © 2020 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Listen to W.F. Strong read this story, then watch our video about the McDonald Observatory.



He Gave Us the Stars

An eccentric banker funded the McDonald Observatory against family wishes

BY W.F. STRONG

IN 1926 A BACHELOR banker died in Paris, Texas—a rich bachelor banker, that is. His estate was worth \$1.2 million. Today that would be about \$17.6 million. In his will the banker left 90% of his money to the University of Texas to buy a telescope and build an observatory.

The banker's name was William Johnson McDonald (no connection to the famous hamburger chain).

McDonald's relatives didn't like him leaving all that money for a telescope. They believed that anyone who would do such a thing must not have all the pickets in his fence, so they sued to keep the money in the family.

Fortunately for UT, McDonald had shared his telescope dream with his barber, telling him that astronomy was a young science. He told the barber he hoped that "one day a telescope would be built that would allow astronomers to see the gold-plated streets of heaven."

McDonald was also known to be an amateur scientist. Consequently, a jury had little trouble believing that his bequest was the product of a sane mind. Upon appeal, his relatives received more than they were given originally, but UT still ended up with about \$800,000—\$11.8 million today.

Once the university had the money, it

had to go shopping for a mountain on which to build an observatory. That must have been fun. Mountain shopping has got to be something you get to do only once or twice in a lifetime. Luckily the university's representatives were able to shop in the Davis Mountains, which harbored some of the finest stargazing potential in North America.

After driving several thousand miles around the region, inspecting numerous sites for altitude, dark skies, cloudless nights and poor prospects for rain, they found what they were looking for. It had no official name, but the locals called it Flat Top Mountain. It was part of a ranch perfectly named for West Texas: The U Up and U Down Ranch.

University of Texas President Harry Benedict wrote a letter to Violet Locke McIvor, owner of that mountain. He told her of McDonald's gift and of the university's great need for a mountain to put an observatory on. Benedict informed McIvor that her mountain was ideally suited for such a facility and that "optical tests already made showed that the Davis Mountains region was the best in Texas, perhaps the best in the United States, for astronomical purposes." He asked her if she might consider giving her mountain to science.

McIvor might have surprised Benedict when she agreed. She wrote back almost immediately and gave UT 200 acres, the entire top of the mountain, which was renamed Mount Locke in honor of McIvor's grandfather, G.S. Locke, who founded the ranch. She also gave the university enough land to build a road to the summit. The resulting highway, Spur 78, is still the highest highway in Texas.

Today UT's McDonald Observatory sits majestically atop Mount Locke. It is one of the world's leading centers for astronomical research. As William McDonald predicted, his gift has given us the heavens themselves. ■

The Main Event

Special touches and flavors make for exceptional holiday meals

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

Because my family lives so far away, we're not always able to get together at the holidays. Even though we might not be gathering around a table laden with turkey and plenty of potatoes, our smaller family holiday meal is no less festive. One dish I love to make that feels fancy but is mostly hands-off is short ribs. They only need a few minutes of browning time before braising in the oven. We like ours with mashed potatoes, but you can also serve them with cheesy polenta, risotto or even pasta.

Red Wine-Braised Short Ribs

3 pounds short ribs
1½ teaspoons salt
1½ teaspoons pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
1 cup chopped onion
½ cup chopped carrot
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 bottle (750 milliliters) cabernet sauvignon
1 cup beef stock
2 bay leaves
4 3-inch sprigs fresh thyme or
1 teaspoon dried thyme

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Season short ribs with salt and pepper and heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Working in batches, sear short ribs on all sides and remove to a plate.

2. Reduce heat to medium and stir in garlic and onion, scraping the bottom of the pot. Cook 2 minutes, then add carrot and continue to cook 5 minutes, until carrot is softened. Stir in tomato paste until well mixed.

3. Add wine, beef stock, bay leaves and thyme and stir well. Arrange short ribs in the pot, making sure as much of the meat is submerged as possible. Cover, place in the oven and cook 3 hours.

4. Carefully remove short ribs from the pot (if you want to serve with the bone intact), place them on a platter and tent with foil.

5. Strain the liquid in the pot to remove solids and simmer until reduced by half, adding salt or pepper if needed. Serve short ribs over mashed potatoes with sauce spooned on top.

SERVES 4

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Easy Steak Roulade.





Prime Rib Au Jus With Yorkshire Pudding

JACQUELINE BOYD
NUECES EC

A meat thermometer is essential when roasting large cuts like this garlicky prime rib. "My family loves this prime rib for Christmas or New Year's," Boyd says. The accompanying Yorkshire pudding is perfect for soaking up the delicious au jus. If you can't find a bone-in cut, boneless will work just as well.

PRIME RIB

- 5-pound bone-in beef rib roast**
- 5 large cloves garlic, minced**
- 1 tablespoon olive oil**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 1 teaspoon pepper**
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme**

YORKSHIRE PUDDING (optional)

- 6 eggs**
- 2 cups milk**
- Pinch salt**
- 2 cups flour**
- ½ cup pan drippings from roast**

AU JUS

- ½ cup white wine**
- 2 cups beef stock**

1. PRIME RIB The night before cooking, unwrap the roast and set it in a casserole dish to dry in a refrigerator. This helps to brown the roast.

2. An hour before cooking, set the roast on a rack, fat side up. In a small bowl, combine garlic, olive oil, salt, pepper and thyme, then apply rub to roast, making sure to cover all sides. Insert meat thermometer and pre-heat oven to 450 degrees.

CONTINUED >

\$500 WINNER

Citrus-Brined Smoked Turkey With Brown Sugar Rub

JILEEN PLATT
BOWIE-CASS EC



Is there anything more Texan than smoking a turkey during the holidays? Platt's recipe features a fruity brine that ensures the bird stays moist and tender during the smoking process. If you don't have a smoker, you can roast the turkey in the oven at 350 degrees for about 3 hours.

SERVES 8



BRINE

- 1 gallon water**
- 1 cup salt**
- 1¾ cups orange juice**
- 1¾ cups cranberry juice**
- ½ cup brown sugar**
- 2 cinnamon sticks**
- 1 lemon, sliced**
- 1 orange, sliced**
- 2 tablespoons dried minced onion**
- 4 bay leaves**
- 1 tablespoon pepper**

TURKEY

- 12- to 13-pound turkey, neck and giblets removed**
- Apple or pecan wood chips, for smoking**

RUB

- ½ cup brown sugar**
- ¼ cup smoked paprika**
- 2 tablespoons onion powder**
- 1 tablespoon pepper**
- 1 tablespoon salt**
- 1 tablespoon chili powder**
- 1 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper**

1. BRINE AND TURKEY In a pot large enough to fit the turkey, mix together the brine ingredients, stirring well. Place whole turkey into the brine, breast-side down. Cover and refrigerate overnight, 12–18 hours.

2. RUB Mix together all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl. Transfer the rub to an airtight container until ready to cook the turkey.

3. The next morning, set smoker to 250 degrees and soak apple or pecan wood chips.

4. Pour ¼ cup of rub into a small bowl. The rest can be stored in a cool, dry place to be used later. Remove turkey from brine, drain excess liquid from cavity, and set on a shallow pan or cookie sheet. Discard the remaining brine. Massage the rub all over the outside of the turkey.

5. When the smoker temperature has reached 250 degrees, place turkey directly on rack with breast side up. Add wood chips to smoker, replacing again after 1 hour. Let turkey cook until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees, maintaining a smoker temperature of 225–250. A 12-pound turkey will take approximately 6 hours. Remove turkey from smoker and let rest 30 minutes before carving.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

POTLUCK DISHES DUE DEC 10

Share your favorite dish to grace the buffet or pass around at family gatherings. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by December 10.



happy holidays

TXTALKINGPIES.COM
512-809-8004



TCP E-news
Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

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

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

RECIPES CONTINUED

3. Roast 20 minutes at 450, then lower temperature to 325 and cook until roast is 120 degrees (130 degrees for medium doneness).

4. YORKSHIRE PUDDING Beat the eggs, milk and salt, then stir in the flour until smooth. Cover and place in the refrigerator while the roast cooks.

5. When the roast is done, remove from pan, cover with foil and let rest while you finish the Yorkshire pudding. Measure ½ cup of drippings from the roast and divide among a 12-cup muffin tin. Pour off the rest of the fat, but keep the roasting pan for the au jus.

6. Place the muffin tin in the oven and turn up the heat to 450 degrees. Let the muffin tin preheat for 10 minutes, then remove and quickly fill each cup ¾ full with the refrigerated batter. Bake 20–25 minutes until golden brown and very puffy.

7. AU JUS Place the roasting pan on the stove over medium-high heat. Stir in wine and bring to a simmer while scraping pan to dissolve drippings. Pour in beef stock, return to a simmer and cook 10 minutes. Carve prime rib and serve with au jus and Yorkshire pudding.

SERVES 6



**Grilled Pork Chops With
Chai Spice Apple Compote**

MARIAN EVONIUK
PEDERNALES EC

Pork and apples are a perfect pairing, and the spices in Evoniuk's compote make this a cozy, comforting dish that's ideal in winter, even while we fire up the grill. Any extra compote is delicious served warm with whipped cream.

CHAI SPICE APPLE COMPOTE

1 tablespoon butter
1 shallot, peeled and chopped
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground allspice
⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
⅛ teaspoon ground cardamom
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
⅛ teaspoon salt
2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and coarsely chopped
2 tablespoons light brown sugar
Zest and juice of 1 large lemon

PORK CHOPS

1½ teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon sugar
¼ teaspoon celery seed
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon dried parsley
3 pounds (about 4) pork center rib chops, bone in, 1¼–1½ inches thick
2 teaspoons garlic powder, divided use

1. COMPOTE Combine butter and shallot in a 10-inch skillet and cook, covered, over medium-low heat until shallot is tender. Add the spices and salt and stir about 30 seconds. Add the apples, brown sugar, lemon zest and juice, and cover, cooking over medium heat until apples are crisp-tender, about 7–10 minutes. Remove skillet from heat, transfer compote to a medium glass serving bowl and set aside.

2. PORK CHOPS Prepare outdoor grill for indirect heat. In a small bowl, mix together the salt, pepper, sugar, celery seed, onion powder and parsley. Place pork chops onto a large platter. Sprinkle each side of the chops with ½ teaspoon of the seasoning and ¼ teaspoon of the garlic powder.

3. Place a 12-by-24-inch sheet of non-stick foil onto the grill grate, nonstick side up. Arrange pork chops on top. Grill pork chops 10 minutes on one side, then flip and grill 10 minutes on the other side. Flip pork chops again, grill 5 minutes, then flip and grill 5 minutes on the other side. Cook pork chops to 160 degrees, continuing to flip every 5 minutes as needed. Remove chops onto a clean platter, tent with foil and let rest 5 minutes. Serve with chai spice apple compote.

SERVES 4



holiday GIFT GUIDE

In the magazine and on [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com), we make it easy to shop for friends and family.



Coffee Makes a Wonderful Gift!

Check our website to find something you'll be proud to give and serve. Home of Texas Pecan and other favorites. Flavored and non-flavored coffees, whole bean or ground, with several organic options. Be a gift-giving hero!

713-222-9800
lolacc.com



Fresh "New Crop" Pecans

New crop pecans, chocolate-covered nuts, specialty gift baskets, fudge, pecan pies. Our very own specialty roasted and salted pecans and gifts galore!

325-356-3616
sorrellsfarms.com



2021 Best of Texas Calendar

Celebrating 35 years of publication. Large 15" x 20" calendar with 12 watercolors by Texas State Artist George Boutwell. \$12.50 plus sales tax and \$3.50 shipping. Quantity price on website.

800-243-4316
gboutwell.com



Texas Red Grapefruit and Avocados

Always a gift in good taste! Orchard-fresh grapefruit and other Texas products are all hand-selected, carefully packed and shipped to be delivered just in time for the holidays.

1-800-580-1900
crockettffarms.com



It's Time To Bake Pecan Treats for the Holidays!

Berdoll's has been family-owned for 40 years. We provide delicious chocolate pecans, honey glazed pecans, pecan pies and more! Visit our squirrel, Ms. Pearl, at our retail store or order online.

512-321-6157
berdoll.com



Holiday Gifting Solved!

Gifting is easy with our coffee and decadent gluten-free, paleo-friendly gift box. Delight your special person and support a local Texas business. Preorder Christmas boxes now, plus get 15% off with coupon code TEXASCOOP.

512-646-1146
treasuredearthfoods.com



Ghost Town Hangout

Terlingua's Starlight Theatre draws a crowd

BY CHET GARNER

I'M SITTING IN the desert at the edge of Texas, enjoying grilled quail amid an assembly that includes artists, dropouts, backpackers and notable ranchers. Over my right shoulder I can see a stuffed goat that once served as the mayor of nearby Lajitas, and in front of me a troubadour sings a lament to the moon. It's Friday night at the Starlight Theatre in the Terlingua ghost town.

This rocky village sits about 10 miles from the Mexico border, but it seems more like another universe, one defined by incongruous elements such as a pirate ship and rough metal folk art. When it was founded more than a century ago, Terlingua was defined by a quicksilver mine, but the village faded after the mine went bust. By the 1960s artists and freethinkers found they could thrive there without society's constraints.

Like many of those gathered here, I'm fresh off the trails of Big Bend National Park. In pursuit of a good meal, I stop at the Starlight for dinner before heading home. The building served as the town's theater into the 1930s but was abandoned. After 30 years its four walls remained, but the roof was gone. The adobe shell became an open-air music venue. With the West Texas stars for a ceiling, the Starlight earned its new name.

After a few more decades, the owner decided to add a roof and create a proper restaurant. Now the Starlight is possibly the best place west of the Pecos for distinctive dining, boasting creative dishes like chicken-fried wild boar, axis burgers and bowls of classic Texas chili.

After dinner I grab a cold beer from the Terlingua Trading Company next door and join the characters on the expansive porch to enjoy the West Texas breeze and listen to yarns that stretch across the Rio Grande. ■

ABOVE Starlight signage on the facade above the front entry.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet's video from Terlingua's Starlight Theatre and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

DECEMBER

04

Granbury [4-13] Away in a Manger Nativity Display, (817) 360-6228, visitgranbury.com/away-in-a-manger-nativity-display

La Grange [4-6, 10-13, 17-23] Trail of Lights at Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Site, (979) 968-5658, friendsofkreischebrewery.org/trailoflights

08

Nederland Lighted Christmas Parade, (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

11

Clute Christmas in the Park, (979) 265-8392

Fredericksburg [11-12] The Christmas Journey, (830) 997-2069, bethanyfredericksburg.com

Levelland [11-12] South Plains Showdown Jackpot Pig Show, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

Fredericksburg [11-20] Nuncrackers, (830) 997-3588, fredericksburgtheater.org

12

Hondo Tour of Vacant Buildings, (830) 426-3037, hondochamber.org/tour-of-vacant-buildings

Jacksonville Cherokee Craft & Trade Fair, (903) 268-1598, jacksonvilletexas.com

Palestine Old Town Vintage Christmas Open House, (903) 221-6233, otvandmore.com

Palestine Wine Swirl, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com

Port Arthur Drive Thru Christmas, (409) 983-8105, visitportarthurtx.com

Reno Christmas in the Park, (903) 785-6581, renotexas.us

Palestine Christmas Carol Sing Along, (903) 723-3014, visitpalestine.com/christmas

Fredericksburg [18-20] Trade Days, (210) 846-4094, fbjtradedays.com

Levelland [18-20] Christmas Cash Classic Show Pig Jackpot, (806) 894-4161, malleteventcenter.com

Fort McKavett Victorian Christmas Fair, (325) 396-2358, facebook.com/visitfortmckavett



VIKI2WIN | DREAMSTIME.COM

Pick of the Month

Main Street Christmas

Darrouzett, December 12
(806) 624-2441
facebook.com/dztttx

This town of 300 mostly farmers and ranchers about as close as you can get to the North Pole and still be in Texas promises two blocks packed with a variety of activities. Children can decorate T-shirts and cookies. Adults can enjoy bingo. All can partake in chili and soup and a Christmas dance. A parade of hay-hauler trucks decorated with antlers is followed by a special guest who rides in a firetruck.

TCP Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event online for February by December 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$7,995 INSTALLED!



ONYX SHOWERS FROM \$8,995 INSTALLED



CALL US, DON'T WAIT ANOTHER DAY.

Enhance your quality of life with a Best Buy Walk-in Tub. As the oldest manufacturer of walk-in tubs in America, we've been setting the industry standard for more than 15 years. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.



888-825-2362 www.bestbuywalkintubs.com



TRISH RAWLS

Fredericksburg

Getaway Contest

Enter online for a chance to win a two-night getaway in picturesque Fredericksburg, including a half-day wine tour, museum passes and gift certificates for great local restaurants.

TCP Enter Today

TexasCoopPower.com/Contests

RECHARGEABLE DIGITAL HEARING AID

Introducing the **VOLT** from **MDHearingAid**...
A digital, rechargeable hearing aid that's every bit as good as the ones you'll find at expensive clinics but at a fraction of the price.

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Reg: ~~\$599.96~~
Only \$299⁹⁹
Each When You Buy a Pair – **LIMITED TIME ONLY!**

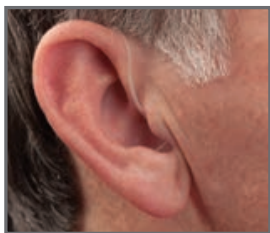


How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$299⁹⁹ be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?

The answer: We include the same high-quality digital processors but eliminate the complex components not needed by 95% of the people with hearing loss. PLUS... we cut out the middleman. This allowed us to create an FDA-Registered, Medical-Grade hearing aid for only \$299⁹⁹ each when you buy a pair.

VOLT Features

- Advanced Digital Technology
- Feedback Cancellation - NO Whistling
- Dual Directional Microphones
- Medical Grade Quality
- No Prescription Needed
- Unparalleled 24/7 Support



Nearly invisible...
No one will know you're wearing it

Doctors Are Tired of Patients Wasting Money at Over-Priced Clinics

Best Value ★★★★★

"...this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional overly-priced hearing aids. I will be recommending MDHearingAid to my hearing-impaired patients." – **Dr. Chang**

Excellent Quality-to-Price Ratio ★★★★★

"Quite impressive in its performance... an excellent quality-to-price ratio, and I would highly recommend it to my patients with hearing loss." – **J. May, MD**

The fact is ... you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. VOLT is a rechargeable hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with **no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments**. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone – even after your purchase at no cost. **No other company provides such extensive support.** Now that you know...why pay more?

Did you know most people who use one hearing aid really need two?

The brain processes signals from both ears for clarity & balanced sound so if you have hearing loss in both ears, your brain has to process two different sound and clarity levels.



Never Change a Battery Again!

RISK-FREE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Hear Better Or Your Money Back!

Try MDHearingAids risk-free with a 100% money-back guarantee for 45 days.



Call 1-800-478-7065 Today!
or visit www.MDVolt.com

Be sure to enter offer code **K184** to receive **FREE SHIPPING!**

MDHearingAid®

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

SHOP AT HOME!

**Skip the Clinic
with Remote Care**



Proudly assembled
in America!



On Wheels

"There are many spokes on the wheel of life. First, we're here to explore new possibilities." —Ray Charles

GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

RICK KIEFFER
BLUEBONNET EC

"My friend Bill Stephens showing his skills at Palo Duro Canyon State Park."

PHOEBE LAKE
BLUEBONNET EC

"We moved a 100-year-old farmhouse from Somerville to Brenham. This is half of it on its way."

GARY CARPENTER
FAYETTE EC

"This bus was used by the Texas swing band that represented Lone Star Beer in the 1950s and 1960s."

NANCY BURRER
SAN BERNARD EC

Bagwell is a certified therapy dog with special needs that brings joy to people with special needs.



Upcoming Contests

DUE DEC 10 Storms

DUE JAN 10 Historic Texas

DUE FEB 10 Manmade vs. Nature

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



Hooked on Worms

Growing up with an unabated work ethic while stooping low in the rain

BY TOM WIDLOWSKI
ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KACHIK

I USED TO have worms.

Even at 13 I knew that wasn't very funny, but it seems to be a crack common to the night crawler business, and I used to be in the night crawler business.

It was 1974 in Joliet, Illinois, and I wanted cash.

We stuck a shingle on the utility pole—shame on us—at the end of our block, where it crossed a busier street. “Worms & Nite-Crawlers, 917.” Our address on Sheila Drive.

It worked. Folks heading out to fish stopped by and rapped on our door to buy their bait. Today it would probably be mistaken for drug deals. Strange cars pulling into the driveway, a dollar handed over in exchange for the goods.

It's not a job for the squeamish. First you must collect the worms. That means

going someplace with lots of grass—a park or a schoolyard. The worms come out of the ground after a good rain, especially at night.

My dad, God bless him, and I and sometimes my younger brother and sister would traipse through the grass in the dark, bent at the waist with a flashlight and old milk jug in one hand. We'd pluck the worms off the ground and drop them into our gallons, which had been cut open at the top to create a larger opening.

We'd be out there for an hour, maybe more—how does a kid measure time hunched over in the total darkness, sometimes in the rain? When we thought we had enough, either worms or of the experience, we'd head home.

There, we dumped them onto newspapers on our basement floor—a writhing mound of slimy, yucky... things. Earthworms produce mucus that keeps their bodies moist to help breathe in oxygen through their skin. In those milk jugs, they seemed to need a lot of mucus. On good nights there'd be more than a thousand of them squirming on the sports section. My bread and butter.

I counted them out by the dozen and put them, with a bit of peat moss, into old oleo, sour cream and similar containers that friends and relatives saved for me. Then into our basement fridge. Chilled, they went dormant but stayed alive.

And so the anglers came to our door, sometimes in the middle of the night, and bought my worms. Fifty cents a dozen. We'd open the container and stir the peat moss a bit with a finger to show the customer they were getting lively bait that couldn't fail. Then we'd wish them luck.

Barely more than a decade later, I was a newspaper designer and editor—still working at night, hovering over sports pages, but no longer knuckle-deep in slime. ■

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

Shop When You Need To Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

3-Ply Disposable Face Masks ★★★★★ (3105)

Pack of 10
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR

\$2.99 ~~\$3.99~~

Save 66%

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Non-medical. Black Blue
ITEM 58045 ITEM 57593

In-Store Only

Compare to
Fecddy
801712X14
\$8.99

38086937 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

SUPER COUPON

McGraw 8 Gallon, 150 PSI Oil-Free Air Compressor ★★★★★ (673)

\$119.99 ~~\$139.99~~

Save \$39

Compare to
Husky
300816
\$159

ITEM 56269/64294 shown

37948400 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

WOW! SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH 4" Magnetic Parts Holder ★★★★★ (7293)

\$2.99 ~~\$63.99~~

WOW! 63¢

LIMIT 3

Hardware sold separately.

Compare to
Titan
11194
\$5.99

ITEM 62535
90566 shown

37949520 Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

Use Online & In-Store

37943598

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift cards, New Item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale, items, compressors, floor jacks, power stations, sales, storage cabinets, chests or bins, trailers, welders, Admiral, Ames, Atlas, Power, Saver, Central Machinery, Corona, CoverPro, Dayton, Diamondback, Hammer, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Iron, Jupiter, Lynx, Poncar, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/15/21.

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH 301 Piece Master Mechanic's Tool Kit ★★★★★ (1365)

\$169.99 ~~\$199.99~~

Save \$170

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Compare to
Klutch 43994
\$338.99

ITEM 63457/63464 shown

37951240 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

BRAUN 5000 Lumen 4 ft. LED Hanging Shop Light ★★★★★ (9445)

\$19.99 ~~\$29.99~~

Save 33%

Compare to
ITEM 64410

37951918 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster 40" x 72" Moving Blanket ★★★★★ (5430)

\$3.99 ~~\$7.99~~

Save 60%

Compare to
Pratt Retail Specialties
HOMOVBLAN
\$9.98

ITEM 69504/62336
47862 shown

37953246 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 Rapid Pump® 3 Ton Steel Heavy Duty Floor Jack ★★★★★ (523)

\$89.99 ~~\$104.99~~

Save \$45

Compare to
Powerbuilt 647593
\$135.27

ITEM 56621/56622
56623/56624 shown

37953589 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

U.S. GENERAL 44" x 22" Double Bank Extra Deep Cabinet ★★★★★ (808)

\$449.99 ~~\$499.99~~

Save \$2,285

YOUR CHOICE OF 6 COLORS

Compare to
Snap-on KRA4813FPB0
\$2,735

ITEM 64446, 64955, 64462, 64954, 64281, 64956

37953887 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster 18" x 12", 1000 lb. Capacity Hardwood Mover's Dolly ★★★★★ (7028)

\$7.99 ~~\$10.99~~

Save 62%

Compare to
Buffalo Tools
HOPDOLLY
\$21.29

ITEM 93888/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown

37956600 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

CENTECH 2/10/50 AMP, 12v Battery Charger and Engine Starter ★★★★★ (3978)

\$34.99 ~~\$54.99~~

Save 38%

Compare to
ITEM 60581/60653 shown

Compare to
Schumacher Electric
SE-1250
\$56.93

ITEM 60581/60653 shown

37957605 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster 18" Working Platform Step Stool ★★★★★ (5248)

\$19.99 ~~\$29.99~~

Save 50%

Compare to
Necraft
60635
\$39.99

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

37958291 LIMIT 3 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

WARRIOR 29 Piece Titanium Drill Bit Set ★★★★★ (5303)

\$10.99 ~~\$18.99~~

Save 81%

Compare to
Dewalt
DW1369
\$60.09

ITEM 5889/62281
61637 shown

37959251 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

COVERPRO 10 ft. x 17 ft. Portable Garage ★★★★★ (2041)

\$169.99 ~~\$199.99~~

Save \$135

Compare to
Shelter Logic 76377
\$305.29

ITEM 62859/63055
62860 shown

37959402 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

drillmaster 4-1/2" Angle Grinder ★★★★★ (6777)

\$9.99 ~~\$14.99~~

Save 56%

Compare to
Ironton 61451
\$22.99

ITEM 69645/60625 shown

37959492 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR 3500w Super Quiet Inverter Generator ★★★★★ (3949)

\$769.99 ~~\$1,329.99~~

Save \$1,329

Compare to
Honda EU3000iS1A
\$2,099

ITEM 56720/63584 shown

37960396 LIMIT 1 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR 6.5 HP (212 cc) OHV Horizontal Shaft Gas Engine ★★★★★ (3849)

\$99.99 ~~\$124.99~~

Save \$230

Compare to
Honda
GX200UT20X2
\$329.99

ITEM 60363/69730 shown

ITEM 69727/68172
CALIFORNIA ONLY

37961438 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

THUNDERBOLT Alkaline Batteries AA, AAA - 24 PACK ★★★★★ (3990)

\$4.99 ~~\$6.99~~

Save 69%

Compare to
Energizer
551413526
\$16.24

ITEM 74904 shown

38087653 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

Also available in C - 6 pack, D - 6 pack, and 9v - 4 pack sizes

SUPER COUPON

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC 3/8" x 50 ft. Retractable Air Hose Reel ★★★★★ (1767)

\$59.99 ~~\$79.99~~

Save \$46

Compare to
Kobalt
SEY-AIR184
\$106

ITEM 64485/93897 shown

37963205 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH 4" Ratcheting Bar Clamp/Spreader ★★★★★ (2062)

99¢ ~~\$1.99~~

Save 84%

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Compare to
Irwin
1964747
\$6.49

ITEM 44805/62242
60974 shown

37963224 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 1/15/21*

Use Online & In-Store

1,100+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 1/15/21.

Pricing, promotions, and availability may vary by location and at www.harborfreight.com and are subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Compare to advertised price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. Although we make every effort to assure that our prices and products are advertised as accurately as possible, we are only human and in the event an error is made, we reserve the right to correct it.

dish

Save a Bundle on TV and Internet!



\$59⁹⁹

month
for TV

+

Add Internet!

Blazing-Fast Internet

2-YEAR TV PRICE LOCK!

It's All Included!

- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes HD Programming
- ✓ Includes One TV, Add More for \$5/ea.
- ✓ Includes Voice Remote Requires internet connected Hopper.



FREE Premium Channels

After 3 mos. you
will be billed
\$30/mo unless
you call to cancel.

NETFLIX

– Fully Integrated –
Just Change The Channel
And Watch!
Netflix subscription required.

~~\$59⁹⁹~~ ^{\$40}

month
for Internet

per month
for Internet

- Speeds from 25Mbps-1 Gbps
- No Matter Where You Live
- Now with Unlimited Data!

Save up to \$20/month!*

*\$ off discount offers vary by service address. TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet/hughesnet

godish.com/pricelock



1-866-290-7151

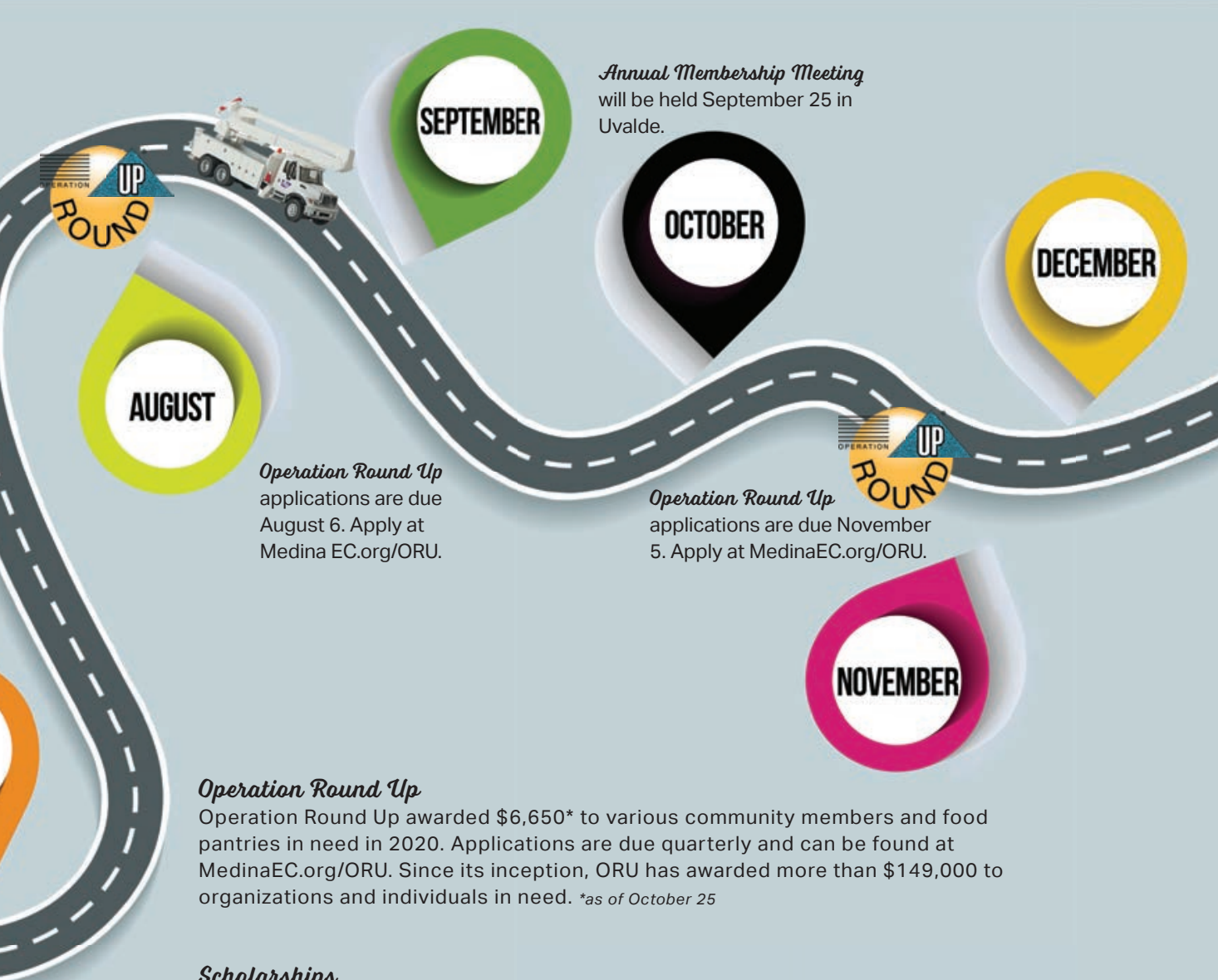
Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

iSe Habla
Español!

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions:

Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 1/13/21. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. – 19-08615. ©2020 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$40 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability of 25 Mbps plan is subject to change without notice. The application of "Unlimited Data with no Hard Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly mean that your access to the internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.



Annual Membership Meeting
will be held September 25 in
Uvalde.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

DECEMBER

AUGUST

Operation Round Up
applications are due
August 6. Apply at
MedinaEC.org/ORU.

Operation Round Up
applications are due November
5. Apply at MedinaEC.org/ORU.

NOVEMBER

Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up awarded \$6,650* to various community members and food pantries in need in 2020. Applications are due quarterly and can be found at MedinaEC.org/ORU. Since its inception, ORU has awarded more than \$149,000 to organizations and individuals in need. **as of October 25*

Scholarships

Medina EC will be awarding 20 \$1,000 scholarships, 15 to high school seniors and five to adult students. High school seniors and adults under 25 must have a parent or legal guardian who is a Medina EC member. Adults 25 and over must be members of Medina EC to be eligible. Learn more at MedinaEC.org/Scholarship. Since the scholarship program began in 2000, more than \$550,000 has been awarded to area students continuing their education.

Youth Tour

Medina EC will be selecting three high school sophomores or juniors to attend a 10-day trip of a lifetime! Students will receive a FREE trip to Austin and Washington, D.C., in June. They will tour museums, visit Capitol Hill and meet with congressional representatives, see Arlington National Cemetery, see a performance at the Kennedy Center, take a Potomac River dinner boat cruise, and so much more! Learn more and apply at MedinaEC.org/YouthTour. Medina EC has sent 53 students on Youth Tour since the cooperative began participating in the program.

Community Empowerment Program Grants

Medina EC's Community Empowerment Program is offering up to \$5,500 in grants to local government and nonprofit groups such as civic organizations, schools, volunteer fire departments, libraries, emergency medical services, museums and historical associations. The Community Empowerment Program has contributed more than \$62,000 to projects in area communities since it began.



Medina EC Gives Back in 2020

