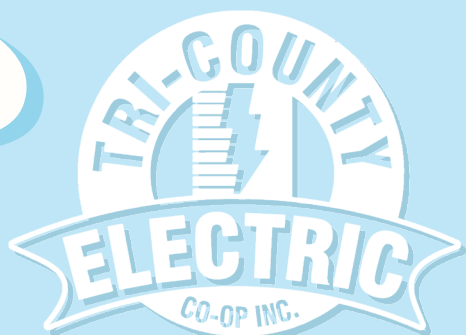


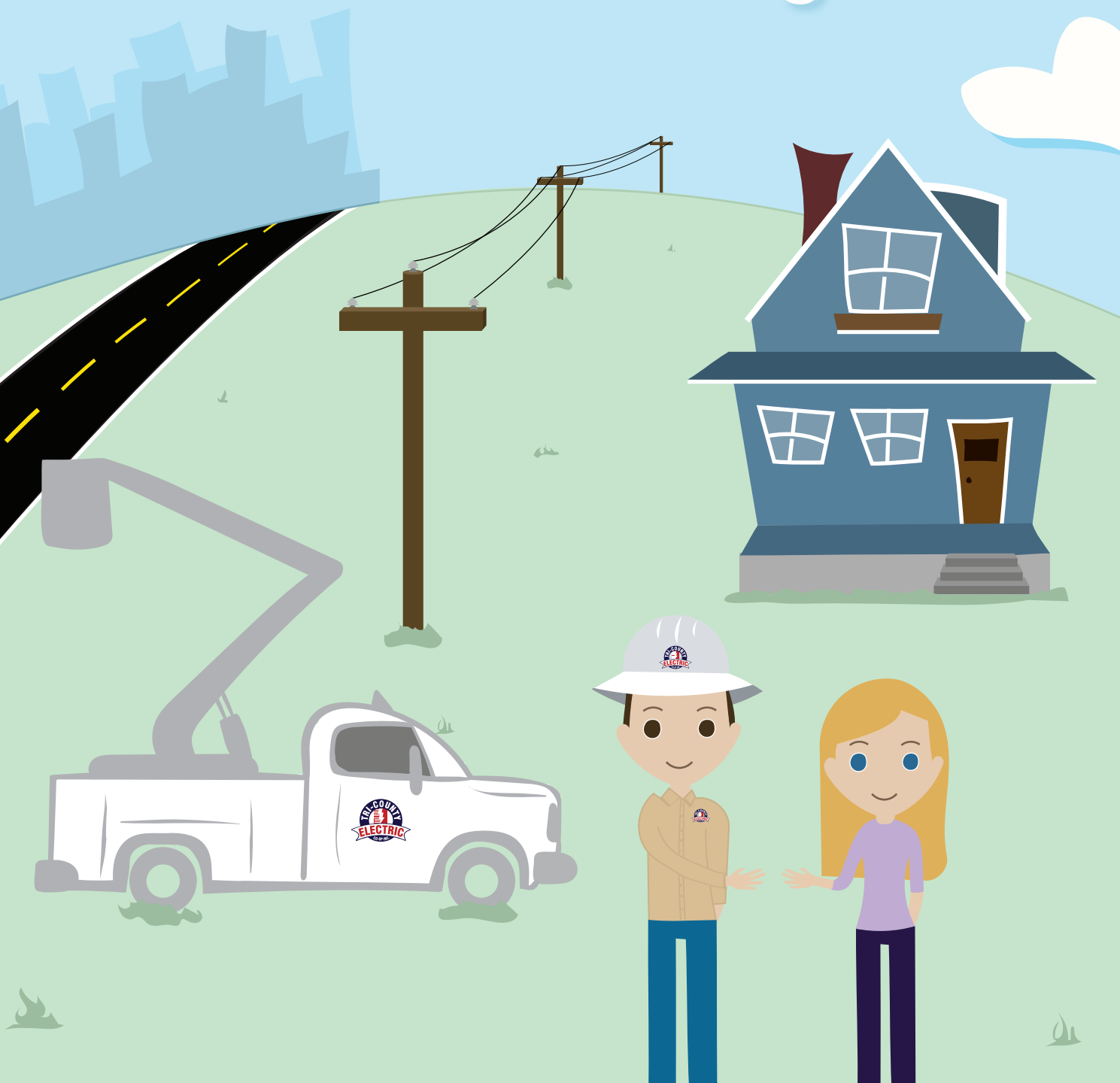
Election Ballot • Annual Meeting Notice • Financials



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Annual Report

We're all in this together.



# 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members

## INVITATION AND OFFICIAL NOTICE

Tri-County Electric Cooperative invites you to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members. Please join us **virtually** on Tuesday, October 4, at 7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect members to the board of directors, approve reports for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, and transact any other business related to the co-op.

Please make plans to join us for the Annual Meeting **online** or by **phone**. Register online at [tcectexas.com/annual-meeting](https://tcectexas.com/annual-meeting) to receive a call prior to the meeting connecting you by phone.

Member-owners are strongly encouraged to vote in the 2022 election. Every member is eligible to vote in the election, regardless of the district in which you reside. This year's ballot includes the director election for districts 5, 7 and 9. Please vote by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, either online, through email or by mail. Full voting details and ballot instructions are located on the inside back cover of this magazine. All member-owners who vote in the election by the deadline will receive a **\$25 bill credit** and will be entered into the door prize drawing held during the virtual Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Koprek*

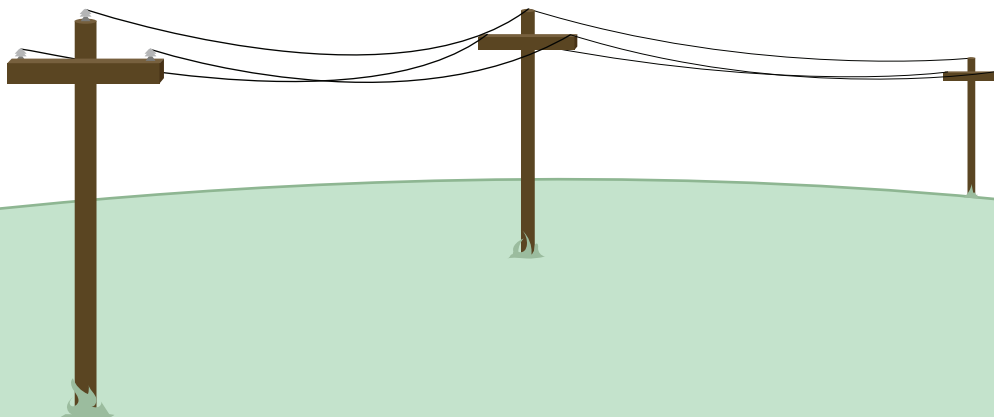
**Margaret Koprek**  
Board Secretary/Treasurer

### STREAM ONLINE

[tcectexas.com/annual-meeting](https://tcectexas.com/annual-meeting)

### LISTEN BY PHONE

855-710-6229





THE THRILL OF  
RACING IN BIG BEND

SOUTHWEST'S  
PAPER AIRPLANES

ISN'T EVERY NIGHT  
PIZZA NIGHT?

# Texas Coop Power

FOR TRI-COUNTY EC MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Roots Revival

Rural entrepreneurs  
are following in their  
families' footsteps

**TRI-COUNTY  
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18





## HARBOR HOPPING

### *New England Cruises*

#### ABOARD THE NEW AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

Explore picturesque seaport towns and quaint island villages on this 11-day Boston round-trip cruise. Discover the best of New England, while visiting Newport, Provincetown, Martha's Vineyard, Bar Harbor, and more.

*Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly®*



Call

**800-459-2596**

to request a

★ FREE ★

Cruise Guide

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



# September 2022



12

## 08 Connecting With the Land

A new generation of Menard County entrepreneurs discovers their rural roots run deep.

By Addie Broyles  
Photos by Scott Van Osdol

## Going Nowhere Fast

The Big Bend Open Road Race brings drivers together for legal high-speed thrills.

By Pam LeBlanc  
Photos by Erich Schlegel

### ON THE COVER

Logan Bell and Geer Gillespie feed goats grass freshly picked from their fields at Low Gear Farmstead.  
Photo by Scott Van Osdol

### ABOVE

Mike Black of Garland tears through the desert in his 2022 Corvette en route to victory.  
Photo by Erich Schlegel

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

Good on Paper  
By W.F. Strong

30

### TCP Kitchen

Pizza Night  
By Megan Myers

34

### Hit the Road

Gulf Boast  
By Chet Garner

37

### Focus on Texas

Photo Contest: Light and Shadow

38

### Observations

Roll Call  
By Cynthia L. Matlock

# Guadalupe Mountains Landmark

**ONE HUNDRED YEARS** after Yellowstone became America's first national park, the National Park Service established Guadalupe Mountains National Park on September 30, 1972.

The park, on the New Mexico border and about 100 miles east of El Paso, includes Texas' four highest peaks and El Capitan, a 1,000-foot-high limestone cliff.

Most of the park's 76,293 acres were used to ranch Angora goats in the production of mohair a century ago.

“That’s the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.”

— JHUMPA LAHIRI



## Being Prepared

Your electric cooperative is part of your community and wants you to stay safe during severe weather, which can strike with little notice. This month—National Preparedness Month—build an emergency kit to stay ready. Make sure your kit includes:

Enough food and water to last several days.

Medication, face masks and disinfectant for everyone in your household.

Pet supplies.

To learn more and bolster your family's preparedness, visit [ready.gov/kit](https://ready.gov/kit).

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE RURAL LIFE IS ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our July prompt: **I feel patriotic when ...**

A new American tells me how happy she is to be here.

RYAN REED  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
VAN ALSTYNE

I walk into any VA clinic or hospital. Patriotic and humbled.

TERRI ALLEN  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
PALO PINTO COUNTY

My 91-year-old mom tells how her father kissed the ground as soon as he got off the boat at Ellis Island in 1907.

STELLA JOSEPHINE  
BANDERA EC  
BANDERA

To see more responses, read Currents online.



September 1

## National No Rhyme (Nor Reason) Day

You might ponder these words  
generally considered unrhymable:  
month, ninth, orange, silver  
and woman.



## Boomtowns

Texas' rural population grew 2.4% between 2010 and 2020, and the state's urban population grew 18.4% over that period, according to census data compiled by the Pew Research Center. The second-fastest-growing metro area in the country was Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, which grew by 33% to nearly 2.3 million people. The Villages in Florida was No. 1.



# Hold on to Your Hat

**WIND GENERATION** in the U.S. hit a milestone March 29, when wind turbines produced more electricity than coal and nuclear plants. Natural gas is still the largest source of electricity generation in the country.

### **Contests and More**

**ENTER CONTESTS AT**  
[TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](https://www.texascooppower.com)



**\$500 RECIPE CONTEST**  
Cupcakes

**FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS**  
Nature's Colors

**RECOMMENDED READING**  
September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, a good time to revisit *Literary Fortunes*, from January 2021, which recounts the early 20th-century proliferation of Carnegie libraries in Texas.



## Prized Fibers

“Picking cotton was the hardest job I’ve ever done. I did get to ride with my dad to the cotton gin, though—a real treat.”

JUDITH FONTENOT  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC  
NEW BRAUNFELS

## Bridge Gaps

Please note that some of the information is erroneous [*Colorado’s Texas Bridge*, July 2022]. Mike Bandera has not been the general manager since 2016. Also, the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park has been owned by Cañon City since 1906, when the federal government deeded the land to the city. The city has leased out the management of the bridge and park to a concessionaire, which just so happens to be based in Dallas.

Dona Webb  
Cañon City, Colorado

You have such a talent for bringing history alive [*Doctor’s Orders*, June 2022]. Love your amazing ability to find such interesting subjects and your writing.

JO DAY COYLE  
VIA FACEBOOK

## On Top of the World

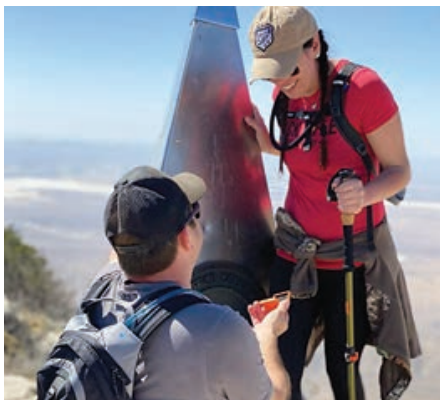
Our son and his girlfriend climbed to the top of Guadalupe Peak a couple of years ago [*Can’t Top This*, July 2022]. While at the top, our son dropped to one knee and asked his girlfriend to be his wife. She stated later, “I went up a girlfriend and came down a fiancé.”

Karen Morley  
MidSouth EC  
Huntsville

## Juneteenth Coverage

I look forward to receiving my *Texas Co-op Power* each month. I was particularly anticipating the June issue because I knew there would be wonderfully educational articles about Juneteenth. I was extremely disappointed to see not even one article focused on this important occurrence in our Texas history.

Merelyn Johnson  
Navasota Valley EC  
Centerville



COURTESY KAREN MORLEY

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube Texas Co-op Power

## TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair** Kelly Lankford, San Angelo • **Vice Chair** Neil Hesse, Muenster  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Avan Irani, Robstown • **Board Members** Dale Ancell, Lubbock  
Julie Parsley, Johnson City • Doug Turk, Livingston • Brandon Young, McGregor

**PRESIDENT/CEO** Mike Williams, Austin

## COMMUNICATIONS &amp; MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

## MAGAZINE STAFF

**Vice President, Communications & Member Services** Martin Bevins  
**Editor** Chris Burrows • **Associate Editor** Tom Widlowski  
**Production Manager** Karen Nejtek • **Creative Manager** Andy Doughty  
**Advertising Manager** Elaine Sproull  
**Communications Specialist** Alex Dal Santo • **Print Production Specialist** Grace Fultz  
**Communications Specialist** Travis Hill • **Food Editor** Megan Myers • **Digital Media Specialist** Caytlyn Phillips • **Communications Specialist** Jessica Ridge • **Senior Designer** Jane Sharpe • **Proofreader** Shannon Oelrich

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER** Volume 79, Number 3 (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 \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues for the previous 12 months 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 2022 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Texas Electric Cooperatives  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



American Handprint  
Publications





# LIVE LIFE PAIN-FREE



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE  
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM**



**85%**

**LESS  
KNEE  
PAIN**



**91%**

**LESS  
BACK  
PAIN**



**92%**

**LESS  
ANKLE  
PAIN**



**75%**

**LESS  
FOOT  
PAIN**

In a double-blind study conducted at Olive View UCLA Medical Center, published by JAPMA in March 2022.



**FREE (\$50 Value)  
Corrective Fit Orthotics**  
with every shoe purchase  
Excludes sandals.

## Enjoy the benefits of exercise with GDEFY

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improved Posture

## gdefy MIGHTY WALK \$145

This product is not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease.

**Men Sizes 7.5-15 M/W/XW**

- TB9024MGS Gray
- TB9024MLU Blue/Black
- TB9024MBL Black

**Women Sizes 6-11 M/W/XW**

- TB9024FGS Gray
- TB9024FGP Salmon/Gray
- TB9024FLP Black

**X-WIDE  
WIDTH  
AVAILABLE**



# \$20 OFF YOUR ORDER

**Promo Code MQ8JPS4**

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

**Expires December 31, 2022**

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns**

**60-Day Try Defy Guarantee**

**Call 1(800) 429-0039**

Gravity Defyer Medical Technology Corp.  
10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S Patent #US8,555,526 B2. May be eligible for Medicare reimbursement. \$20 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for a limited time. Cannot be combined with other offers. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.





# Connecting With the Land

A new generation  
of entrepreneurs  
in Menard County  
learns their rural  
roots run deep







Sarah Johanson's youngest daughter, June, feeds goats at Johanson Farm, which produces seasonal produce, baked goods and roasted coffee.

farmhouse, the couple stopped for a meal at the Lazy Ladle Cafe in downtown Menard, where Sarah Johanson's mom worked. "She told us we had to meet Sarah and Luke," Bell says.

Bell looked up Sarah Johanson on Facebook, and they started chatting, but it wasn't until Johanson started digging through old photo albums that she discovered that she and Bell shared more than a budding friendship.

**W**hen Sarah and Luke Johanson inherited her family's homestead outside Menard about five years ago, they had no idea how they were going to fit in.

The couple met in Los Angeles while pursuing acting careers, and they were living in Massachusetts when they started the process of moving to rural Texas.

"We thought, 'We're moving back there, but how are we going to survive there?'" Sarah Johanson says. Menard—a town of about 1,500—is an hour southeast of San Angelo.

Johanson's grandfather had been the football announcer for Menard High School for 30 years, but, she says, "we're not the normal type of folks who live here."

Logan Bell had a similar thought. Bell's family roots go way back in Menard, but the Odessa native lived on farms in Italy and England after college before settling in Fort Worth.

During Bell's childhood, the Bell family would visit Menard a few times a year to shear sheep that roamed the family land. When Bell's mom inherited the property in the mid-2010s, Bell and partner Geer Gillespie decided to turn their dream of becoming homesteaders into a reality.

"Before we moved here, we thought we would be the only people like this out here," Bell says. "We were prepared to be the isolated weirdos."

But Menard is a small town with a long memory. And these transplants and others came to discover their roots are more intertwined than they expected.

Not long after Bell and Gillespie moved into a dilapidated

The subjects in one photo were a group of close-knit friends in Menard who called themselves the Angels. Among them were Zella Williamson and Winnie Lois Wilkerson, Johanson's grandmother and Bell's great-aunt.

"Sarah sent me that photo and said, 'Is that person related to you?' I was like, 'oh, oh, *oh*,'" Bell says. "We knew we had a connection, but then we realized we were sort of related."

As it turns out, Johanson and Bell aren't the only descendants of the Angels who have returned home to Menard.

Hannah Beall's grandmother, Betto, was also part of the group that lived in Menard when it was a bustling livestock town in the 1940s and '50s.

Beall was born in Austin and moved back to her mother's hometown while she was in elementary school. She made friends but never quite lost that outsider-looking-in perspective. Now she works for an Austin nonprofit and runs her own preserved foods business called Han Can.

Beall makes big batches of the preserves and delivers them to customers in Menard, a place she remembers didn't have much fresh produce when she was a kid.

"I always feel closely connected to my ancestors when I'm in Menard," she says. "But it's more of a longing to have known them more or better."

One of the first products Beall sold was her great-great-grandmother's chowchow, a savory mix of green tomatoes, peppers and cabbage. "Canning is a lost art these days," Beall says. "We don't have a lot of family traditions and passed-down recipes, so Oma's chowchow felt like such gold."

For Beall and others in Menard, it's not about recreating what once was. It's about imagining something new that is connected to what came before.

"Instead of moping that I don't have any culture, I get to start new traditions and fill in these gaps in the history where I can, even if I have to make it up," Beall says.

OPPOSITE From left, Menard farmers Sarah Johanson, Logan Bell and Amie Prest gather in the pecan grove at Bell's Low Gear Farmstead. INSET Close-knit friends who called themselves the Angels have descendants who have returned to Menard and formed friendships of their own.



"You go out into the world and gather seeds of knowledge from all over and then you get to decide where to plant them."

**M**enard County's current generation of food producers used to gather on Saturdays for a small farmers market in Menard, but since the pandemic started, most of the local vendors have been selling at the year-round farmers market in Junction, about 30 minutes south.

One of the biggest hits at the market is Texas Scratch Kitchen, the Prest family's cottage baking business. Amie and Joe Prest and their five children have lived in Menard for nearly a decade after starting their family in Germany and England, where Joe is from. Amie grew up in Menard—her ancestors were among the founding families—and, like Bell and Johanson, didn't have plans on returning, but that changed after visiting her grandmother in 2011.

"When a piece of heritage has been in your family for that long, it's both a blessing and a curse," says Amie, a member of Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative. "There comes a time when you have to commit: Are you going to come back, or are you going to stay away?"

They settled on a piece of land along the San Saba River, and their passion for European-style baking continued after they moved to Texas. A few years ago, they decided to turn it into a family business, making macarons, tarts and tiramisu to sell at the market.

"You go out into the world and gather seeds of knowledge from all over and then you get to decide where to plant them," Amie says.

Menard County, with its persistent drought and extreme temperature swings, isn't ideal for vegetable farming, but each of the not-so-newcomers has found their own way to make it.

At Low Gear Farmstead, Bell and Gillespie have focused on raising goats, chickens, ducks and turkeys, mostly for their own use, but their biggest source of revenue has come from a high-tech solution to a rural issue: Hipcamp, a website that connects landowners with people who want to camp.

Since 2017 the couple has hosted hundreds of campers in the pecan grove along the San Saba River that cuts along the back of their property, taking care to be inclusive of people of color and members of the LGBTQ community.

After five years of hosting visitors on their land, Bell says they realized they offer something that can't be measured by the pound.

"What we can offer more easily than anything else is a social ecosystem," Bell says. "Yeah, we're trying to grow food, but that social ecosystem that we can create is perhaps more important and more readily available."

What's happening in Menard reflects similar changes happening across Texas, as farm and ranch land changes hands and a new generation of homesteaders plants roots.

Sarah Johanson, who had a small recurring role on the TV show *Mad Men* years ago, says that as a girl growing up in Menard, she didn't see anyone who was living a life that she wanted to live—namely, anyone making a living as an artist. "People said, 'You're not going to be able to survive at this,'" she says. "A big part of moving back was to show young people here that football isn't the only thing. Art is absolutely something you can make money in."

Now that they've been back for a few years, Johanson has spent time in the local archives researching the history of the area. One particular detail stood out.

"The Native Americans who lived here called it 'Summerland,'" she says. "They said that once you taste the waters of the San Saba, you will always come back." ■

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The Prest kids plant seedlings for Texas Scratch Kitchen, the family's baking business. Sarah Johanson and daughter Juliet make bread in the family home where Sarah's grandmother taught her to bake bread. Bell and Geer Gillespie visit their Galiceño horses, a breed that originated in Spain and arrived in the Americas in the 1500s.









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Some 160 race cars line up on U.S. Highway 285 before the start in Fort Stockton. Inspector Joe Henderson helps Bob Bowser with his seat belt. Fans check out the cars at James Rooney Memorial Park. Navigator Colt Whetstone, left, and driver Gene Lehman plot their strategy; they won the 150 mph target speed class.



# GOING NOWHERE FAST

## *The BIG BEND OPEN ROAD RACE brings drivers together for legal high-speed thrills*

BY PAM LEBLANC • PHOTOS BY ERICH SCHLEGEL



**T**he April edition of the 2022 Big Bend Open Road Race starts with a warning to drivers: Buzzards are perched on a bridge along the twisty course.

The big carrion-eating birds—along with blown tires, overheated engines, assorted roadkill and the occasional wandering wildlife—pose a real threat during the race, which unfolds down a 59-mile stretch of mostly two-lane asphalt that slices through the desert between Fort Stockton and Sanderson in far West Texas.

Old-timers will tell you about the time a buzzard exploded through the windshield of a car (no one was hurt, but the bird didn't fare well) or when wayward javelinas strolled onto the road. There have been blowouts and skid-offs but, so far, no serious wrecks.

The buzzard warning ripples through the line of about 160 vehicles along U.S. Highway 285 awaiting the race start. In a few minutes, the first car screeches away.

The Big Bend Open Road Race is the common man's Indy 500. Anybody with a driver's license and a properly equipped vehicle can pay the entry fee (which ranges from \$650 to \$1,050, depending on class) and compete. Most teams will tell you they come because they like to go fast. Officials shut down the highway for 12 hours, and the rubber burns.

This year's field features a stable of sleek Corvettes, a few Teslas, a herd of Mustangs, some Camaros, Porsches, Miatas and a Mini Cooper—plus a 1962 Chevrolet pickup truck and a 1970 Chevelle. In years past, junkers and rentals have also lined up at the start.

Competitors pick a class based on the speed they think they can average over two runs, a tricky feat to pull off. The fastest car doesn't necessarily win, except in the "unlimited" division, in which the flat-out fastest driver gets the trophy. In other classes, drivers who come closest to their target average speed take top honors. And drivers can't slow more than 30 mph below their target speed on straightaways, which prevents them from racing along and then coasting into the finish. The rule is enforced by radar.

The best teams come within a few hundredths of a second of their goal.

"If I don't giggle and laugh when I drive that fast, something's wrong," says Tracy Alexander, who is zipped into a pink and black fire suit as she leans against her 2015 Corvette Stingray, waiting her turn. Participants are required to wear a fire suit, helmet and gloves.

***"I just drive as fast as I can, and I turn off the air conditioning so I can go faster."***

Australians John Binns and Kelli-Ann Robinson fly by in their 2010 Dodge Challenger.



**T**he vehicles take off one at a time, and it takes about three hours to launch the whole field. Then they do it again for the return trip. "I've just always been a speedster," Alexander says. "My dad had Corvettes when we were growing up, and when you're behind the wheel of a Corvette, it seems like you should push it a little bit. It's the thrill of it, really, and the adrenaline rush. Some people jump out of airplanes; I drive fast."

She and her husband, Fort Stockton Mayor Joe Chris Alexander, used to help behind the scenes at the race, which began in 1998. But when a friend's partner bowed out a few years ago, she jumped in.

"I always thought it would be fun to race because I like to drive fast, and that would be a legal way to do it," Alexander says.

That first year, she drove the first leg of the race and navigated the second alongside teammate Arno Pitzen of Kingsland. They finished second in their class.

"I'll never forget that first time," Alexander says. "You hold your breath, and I said a prayer—'Lord, let me cross at the right time.' It's the biggest adrenaline rush. You're not racing anyone but yourself. You're racing your own ability."

This year she navigates and Pitzen drives. They finish third in their class, just six-tenths of a second off their target time.

Once an annual spring event, an October race was added last fall (October 15 this year). The race is the only one of its kind in Texas, although similar events are staged in Nebraska and Nevada. Registration typically fills up within 15 minutes, and a waitlist 40 deep forms, said race coordinator Crystal Lopez.

"It's an opportunity for these guys to come out and push close to their limits," says race director Randy Dustin.

In the week leading up to the race, school kids in Fort Stockton fashion race cars out of cardboard boxes, and drivers parade through downtown in their vehicles. This year organizers added a screening of *Cannonball Run*, the 1981 comedy starring Burt Reynolds, Farrah Fawcett and Roger Moore.

That very movie once inspired John Binns to get into the sport. The former Texan who lives in Sydney, Australia, stores several cars in nearby Alpine specifically for the event. He brought Kelli-Ann Robinson with him from Australia

to serve as navigator this year while he drives his purple 2010 Dodge Challenger. He's only here to have fun.

"I just drive as fast as I can, and I turn off the air conditioning so I can go faster," Binns says.

Some drivers scout the course ahead of time, using old-fashioned tools. Others rely on high-tech gadgets and GPS to hit their targets.

"Everybody has their secrets," says Travis McRae of Kerrville, a Central Texas Electric Cooperative member. "I like the technical part of it. I can drive anywhere fast, but out here you have to be spot on."

Charlie Friend, 82, of Pahrump, Nevada, a former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot who has raced in every class and won the unlimited category one year, also does everything manually—punching a stopwatch and scrolling through a paper route chart as he drives the course. "More and more people now use magic stuff, like computer systems," Friend said.

After this year's race, teams gather in Fort Stockton to swap stories. A father-daughter duo from San Antonio dances a jig by their car. Sweaty racers eat barbecue from a food truck. Brothers Mike Smith from Blanco and Mark Smith of Longview crack cans of cold beer and hash over their performance.

"We know we were too fast," Mike Smith says, and race results later confirm they crossed the finish line nearly 22 seconds too soon in the 150-mph class, completing the 118-mile sprint in just over 47 minutes. That doesn't matter much to him. "All the guys out here have a common interest. We all enjoy tinkering with cars, and this is kind of like a reunion."

And those buzzards? Friend, the former pilot driving a Cadillac CTS-V, spots some along the course. They don't cause any problems.

"I just flashed my light and tooted the horn, and they moved," he says. ■





## Our Customers Have Some **REALLY NICE** Things To Say About Us!

"...The Design Consultant from Zintex came in on 5/25/2022 and helped me decide what I needed. He was prepared, and knew what questions I would be asking. He gave us support and understanding. I felt confident I was making the right decision to let them do the work..."

- Manuela H.

”



**SAVE \$799** OR **NO INTEREST FOR 18 MONTHS\***  
**ON YOUR NEW BATH OR SHOWER\***  
**PLUS RECEIVE A \$200 GAS CARD WITH PURCHASE\***

**UPGRADE YOUR OUTDATED BATHROOM IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY**



**Locally owned and Family  
 Operated for over 20 Years.  
 Born, Bred and Based in Texas.**

Master Plumber • Mark Williams • License # 37134

- Low Maintenance
- Easy to Clean
- Replacement Showers
- Replacement Tubs
- Tub to Shower Conversions

- Tub & Shower Combos
- Walk-in Tubs
- Accessibility Systems
- Factory Trained & Certified Installers
- Made in the USA

**CALL NOW 800.364.2498**



**MILITARY DISCOUNT  
 SENIOR DISCOUNT  
 FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT  
 HEALTHCARE WORKER DISCOUNT**

\*Valid only for new product replacement customers who purchase products and have them installed through Zintex Remodeling. Not valid with any other offer or promotion. Repairs to existing products including parts and service excluded. Prior sales excluded. Other restrictions may apply. See local exclusive dealer for details. ^84 payments. Up to 6 month purchase window. At the earlier of purchase window expiration date or job completion, an 18 month promotional (promo) period begins with 18 payments of 2.10120%-2.53052% (based on creditworthiness) of aggregate purchases, not to exceed principal balance required. Promo period followed by 66 amortized payments based on the balance at the end of promo. Your fixed 17.99%-24.99% interest rate is based on creditworthiness and is disclosed in your loan agreement. Interest is billed during the promo period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid in full before the end of the promo period. Making initial minimum monthly payments will not pay off your loan before the end of the promo period. ~\$200 Shell gift cards with purchase paperwork verification. ©2022 Zintex Remodeling. Expires 9/30/2022.





**LEARN  
MORE**

[TXGULFSEAFOOD.COM](http://TXGULFSEAFOOD.COM)



Texas Department of Agriculture | Commissioner Sid Miller | [TexasAgriculture.gov](http://TexasAgriculture.gov)



# WE ALWAYS — PUT OUR BEST — FIN FORWARD

Down in the Gulf, dedicated fishermen play a Texas-sized part in getting the best quality seafood to your plate. So sauté that snapper. Grill that grouper.

Blacken that drum. Your favorite finfish is harvested with pride  
from the tides of the Lone Star State.



FRESH OUTTA TEXAS



**DARRYL  
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/  
CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER

## We are in this Together

**EVERY SEPTEMBER**, as we head into fall, we take the time to look back on the co-op's past year. I have been at Tri-County Electric Cooperative for five years now and have enjoyed taking the tradition to the next level. This year's theme – *We're in this Together* – resonates with me personally, especially as we take on challenges together. I take our vision to heart and do everything in my ability to take care of you, our member-owners, even through these difficult times.

Last year's theme was *A Year of Tidal Waves*, and quite frankly, I feel the waves are continuing. This past year has not been easy, but your co-op has been right by your side through every wave. We are truly in this together.

Transparency is one of our top priorities. In this magazine, you will find:

► **Annual Meeting Notice.** As a cooperative organization, we are required to notice the members of membership meetings. Your invitation and official notice for the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members is located on the front inside cover. The Annual Meeting is virtual to accommodate our growing membership and provides members the opportunity to participate by streaming online or listening by phone.

► **Annual Report.** The Annual Report covers events from the past year and includes financials from the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022. This serves as an open book into your cooperative. 800762931

► **2022 Election Ballot.** Your member-specific ballot is located on the back of this magazine. Three director seats are up for election and candidate biographies are on pages AR 12 – AR 14. Members who vote by the deadline will receive a \$25 bill credit and will be entered into the door prize drawing. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

I encourage you to take the time to review the information and to vote in the election. This cooperative is your cooperative. You are not just a customer or consumer; you are a member and an owner. Staying up-to-date on the operations and financials is just a small time commitment, but multiplies in benefits.

### Power Costs

Electricity is ingrained in our daily lives. When your co-op was formed 83 years ago, electricity was a commodity that helped improve lives of rural Americans. Now, electricity is a necessity. Here at Tri-County Electric Co-op, we understand that in today's world electricity is beyond a convenience and we do everything we can to ensure the flow of safe, reliable power to member homes and businesses.

Beyond that, we do everything in our power to keep costs low and electric rates manageable. This summer, members have seen higher electric bills due to higher wholesale power costs and increased kWh consumption to beat the triple-digit heat. Power costs across the state have increased due to the dramatic increase in natural gas prices. As you may know, natural gas is the predominant fuel used to generate power in the ERCOT grid. This summer has been one of the hottest, and driest, on record. According to the National Weather Service we had more than 40 days of triple-digit heat this summer. Electric use for Texans is extremely high, and this July ERCOT hit a new all-time summer peak.

I understand how increased electric use and high power costs are impacting members. At my own home, we used more than double the power this summer than one year ago. We track our electric use on TCEC Connect to help control our consumption, but when we opened the recent bill it was a high bill to foot. As a member myself, I am right there with you. 257106021

Please know your co-op is here to take care of you during these times. Our member service team is here to help, all you have to do is reach out to us.

We are in this together. ■

**Earn a \$25 bill  
credit by voting  
in this year's  
director election!**





**MAX  
WADDELL**  
CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT 9

# A Seat at the Board Table

**AS WE HEAD INTO FALL** it is hard to not look forward to the possibility of cooler weather, a start to a new school year and Friday night lights. Each fall, we also look forward to celebrating the cooperative business model and reflect on the value of cooperative membership.

## Capital Credits Retirements

Your board of directors approved a \$4.996 million patronage capital retirement. Members who received electric service in 2002 and/or 2003 will receive a portion of this retirement. We are currently on a 19-year rotation, which is ahead of most co-ops. Learn more about capital credits on page 21.

## Director Election

The 2022 official election is open, and your official ballot is located on the back of this September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine. All members are eligible to vote in the election regardless of the district in which you reside. Members who vote by the deadline – 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 – will receive a \$25 bill credit and will be entered into the door prize drawing at Annual Meeting. Members can vote online, through email, or by mail. 800875324

The ballot includes three director seats – districts 5, 7 and 9. The Committee on Nominations and Qualifications approved five candidates to be placed on the ballot. Incumbents are Steve Harris (district 5), Larry Miller (district 7) and Max Waddell (district 9). These candidates currently sit on the board of directors and are seeking reelection. Mike Hall (district 5) and Sommer Portwood (district 7) are nomination candidates. Candidate biographies are included in the Annual Report, on pages AR 12 - 14.

The \$25 bill credit is to show our appreciation for participating in the election and in your co-op. Democratic member control, Cooperative Principle No. 2, means that this cooperative organization is run by you, our member-owners.

## Annual Meeting

Join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4 for the Tri-County Electric Co-op 83rd Annual Meeting of the Members. Members can stream online or listen by phone. The meeting will be recorded and available on our website one week after the event. The Annual Meeting will include a financial update, results from the director election, a co-op update and door prizes.

The 2022 Annual Report is located in this magazine and includes a year in review, financial reports, and director candidate biographies. As a member-owned electric cooperative, we strive to keep you informed and encourage you to take a few minutes to review the status of your co-op.

The election and Annual Meeting is designed with you in mind. With three ways to vote and two ways to join the meeting, you have the flexibility to participate in the ways that work best for you. We hope you take the time to vote in this year's election and join us virtually on October 4. ■

## Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, October 4 | 7:00 p.m.**

Join us virtually for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members.

**STREAM ONLINE**  
[tcectexas.com/annual-meeting](https://tcectexas.com/annual-meeting)

**LISTEN BY PHONE**  
Register online at  
[tcectexas.com/annual-meeting](https://tcectexas.com/annual-meeting)  
*Members who register will receive a phone call prior to the meeting connecting you to the Annual Meeting.*

## Don't forget to vote!

Members who vote in the election will receive a \$25 bill credit and will be entered into the door prize drawing.

Your official ballot is located on the **back** of this magazine.



# Co-op Financials Speak for Themselves

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

**IF YOU OWN SOMETHING** – a home, a car, a mutual fund, a bank account or a business – naturally, you want to keep up with it. Whether you're the sole stockholder or a minor investor, you want to know how it's doing. Is it profitable? Is it falling apart? Is it paying its own way, printing cash or circling the drain?

When your electricity comes from Tri-County Electric Cooperative, you're an owner, with a vote and a voice in the management of your electric utility. And every September, when the Annual Report comes out, you have a chance to see exactly how your co-op is doing.

The audited financial statements on page AR 8-9 are the product of hundreds of hours of work by the team of professionals who make up the accounting department at Tri-County Electric Co-op. Led by Chief Financial Officer/Vice President of Finance Melissa Watts, they make sure every transaction is documented, procedures are followed, and every dollar is accounted for.

The co-op's fiscal year ends March 31. An independent accounting firm sends people to the office in February or March for a preliminary look, then returns in May or June with a full team, led by a partner, and sets up shop. That team stays until the job is done – until they have a full picture of the co-op's operations and finances.

"The list is 70 items," controller Dustin Tidball said. "It takes us three weeks to a month to get all this put together."

While the auditors are here, the books are open, and the accounting staff is ready to respond to every question. When they're done, the auditors return to their office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, crunch the numbers, issue an opinion and print a report.

"What you're wanting is an 'unqualified' opinion," Tidball said. "That means everything appears to be materially stated and there's no big issues. 'Unqualified' is a clean opinion." 30699001

That avalanche of numbers is presented in summary form in the Annual Report: a balance sheet, an income statement, a review of assets and liabilities, cash-flow, patronage capital, the whole works – with the auditors' vote of confidence that after a thorough examination, the financial statements accurately represent the co-op's true financial condition.

While that's important for you once a year, it's a priority every day for the co-op's management.

Tidball said the Form 7 signed by Watts and President/CEO Darryl Schriver is included monthly in the board report.

"It's a one-page executive summary of income, actual revenue versus budget, cost of power versus budget," he said. It's year-to-date, last year to-date and month-to-date."

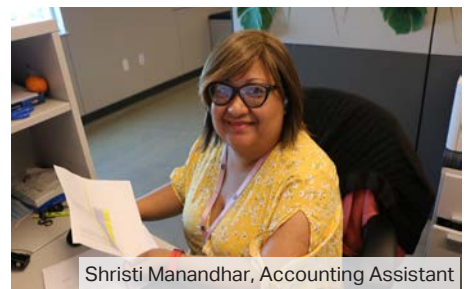
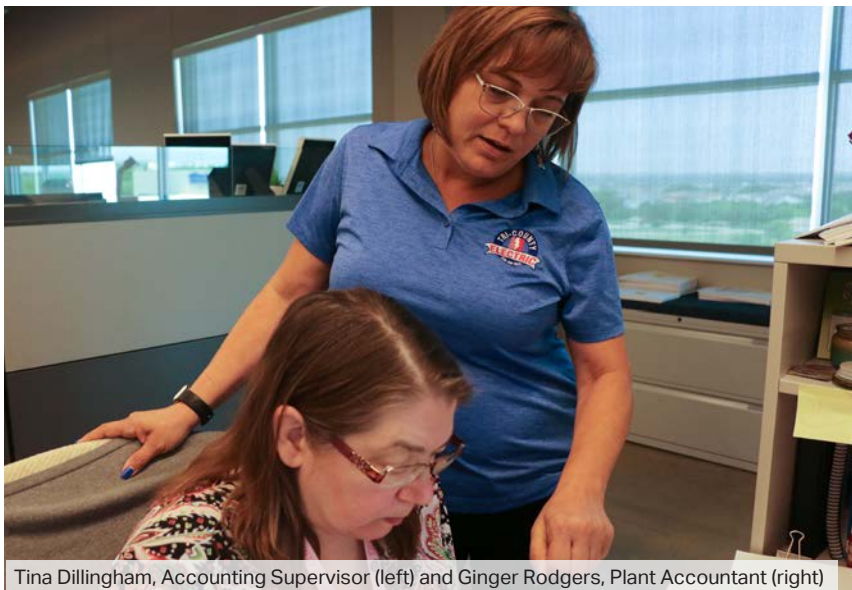
Even with a clean audit – which the co-op has achieved every year since Schriver arrived – the accounting firm still usually makes a few recommendations, things that could be done differently to improve operations.

"If the auditors bring it up, we address it," Tidball said. "That's one of my goals. We've cleaned up a lot of stuff, done a lot more monthly and quarterly account reconciliations, and put a lot of internal controls in place to just look at things that weren't being looked at."

Watts said management's job is to let the numbers speak for themselves.

"If the numbers show we're failing, then we need to do something different," she said. "That's why transparency is so important."

That's how you – the member-owners – get a true picture of how things are going. ■





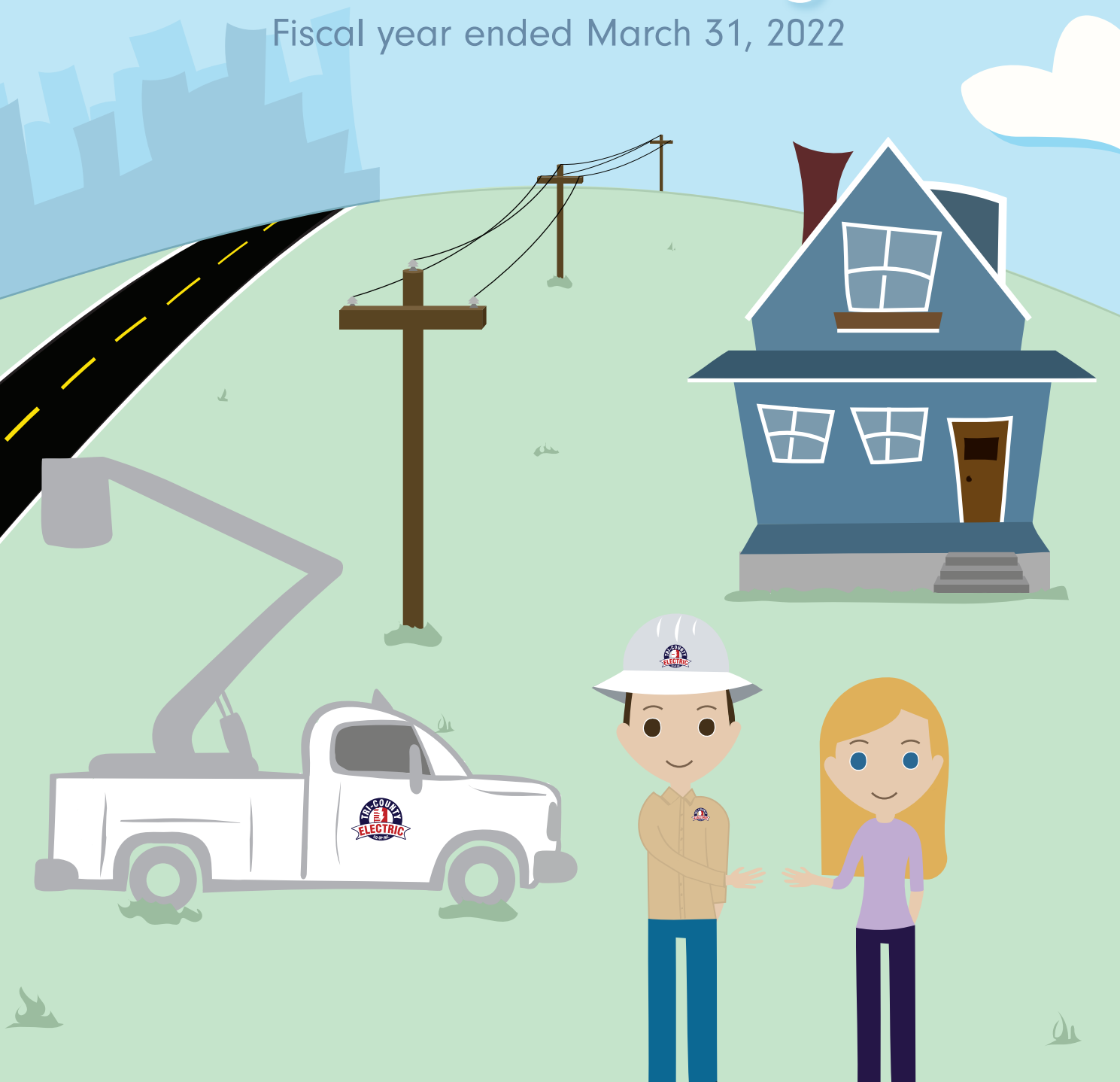


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Annual Report

We're all in this together.

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2022



# WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT/CEO & BOARD CHAIRMAN



**DARRYL  
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/  
CEO

As a member-owned electric cooperative, we take on each day putting your best interest at the forefront. We think of the member every day, every decision. This past year has been full of challenges, but we have persevered. Looking back, I think we encountered some of the toughest challenges in the co-op's history, including the fallout from the historic Winter Storm Uri, continued impacts of the coronavirus, and unprecedented power costs due to high natural gas prices.

We continue to work through the bankruptcy of our wholesale power supplier, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative. If you did not know, Brazos filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on March 1, 2021. This put Tri-County Electric Co-op, and the other 15 member-cooperatives, in a difficult situation that is far from over. We are 18 months into this predicament, and the entire time have held true to our promise: to take care of you, our members, and leave no stone unturned to make the best decision for the entire membership.



**MAX  
WADDELL**

BOARD  
CHAIRMAN

Growth remains as a challenge for the co-op, and our communities. More and more people are moving to the north Texas region, including businesses, and we must work to meet the needs of current and future members. Tri-County Electric Co-op's territory is seeing this growth. Over the past year, our system has grown by 5,231 meters, or 4.28% growth.

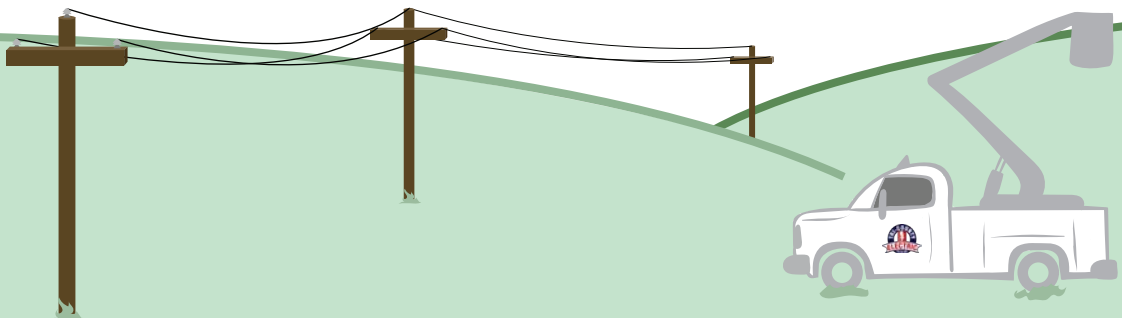
Maintaining a member-focused mind-set through every challenge is what helps us meet your needs. We continue to search for ways to connect with you and hear your feedback. In April, our engineering team hosted the My Energy survey to understand how our members are using grid technologies and how you wish to use these devices. Our 2021 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey data showed you give us an 85% satisfaction rating. While this is up four points over the 2019 score, we still want to improve. We are listening to your wishes, questions and concerns and we are working on it. Though we are not perfect, we are doing everything in our power to take care of

you, our member-owners.

We are proud of the 240 employees who work day-in and day-out to take care of you. Together we navigated these difficult challenges, and we will continue to be by your side through future trials. We are truly in this together.

This Annual Report is designed to give you a look at your co-op, including its financial health, milestones and highlights. Pages AR 8 - AR 9 are an open book of the financial statements. You will notice negative operating margins. We have tightened the belt this past year and cut costs in areas. Still, your co-op remains financially sound. In fact, the board of directors approved a \$4.996 million capital credits retirement. Members who received electric service in 2002 and/or 2003 can expect a bill credit or check this month. The remaining pages include information on reliability and community involvement, all things that your co-op holds near and dear.

Tri-County Electric Co-op was formed in 1939 by local residents. Our 83-year history is important because it makes us who we are today. However, it is not our focal point. We remember the past, but look forward to the future. In the future, we look forward to many more years of taking care of you, our member-owners, and finding creative, innovative solutions to bring safe, reliable power to our communities while watching the bottom line.





# GIVING BACK WITH CARES

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE RESPONSE BY EMPLOYEES WHO SERVE

Tri-County CARES is our employee-run and employee-funded benevolent committee. The fund was created in 2010 when Donyea Walley, Executive Assistant, saw a need. She rounded up employee volunteers who helped gather canned food, hygiene products and basic necessities. Over the past 12 years, the committee has transformed, but the original intent – helping members – still is at the heart of the organization.

The organization officially branded as Tri-County CARES - We're Wired to Serve, in October 2020. Since then, Tri-County Electric Co-op employees have raised more than \$29,000 to help members in need. Employees nominate co-op members, other employees and community members who are going through hard times. From October 2020 through July 2022, the committee has awarded more than \$24,500 to help members keep the lights on. We all go through hard times. It is not a matter of *if*, but a matter of *when*. Whenever it may be, CARES is here to help.



# A YEAR BY THE

AMERICAN CUSTOMER  
SATISFACTION INDEX

**85**

ACSI SCORE

GROWTH

**4.28%**

EMPLOYEES

**238**

PEAK DEMAND

**752.7**

MEGAWATTS

**127,333**  
ACTIVE METERS



**5,231**  
NEW METERS



**26,360**  
SERVICE ORDERS  
COMPLETE



**8,264**  
WORK ORDERS  
COMPLETE

**9,695**  
MILES OF LINE



**234**  
NEW MILES OF LINE

**102,390**  
ACTIVE MEMBERS



**4,470**  
NEW MEMBERS



SYSTEM  
AVERAGE  
RETAIL COST  
**9.7¢**  
cents/kWh



kWh sold  
**2.9**  
million



# NUMBERS

2022

## CAPITAL CREDITS RETURNED



2021

**\$5 MILLION**

2022

**\$4.996 MILLION**

ALL TIME

**\$66 MILLION**

MILES OF  
VEGETATION  
TRIMMED

**285.85**  
miles



AVERAGE  
RESIDENTIAL  
COST

**\$4.72**  
per day



**\$215,795**  
SUPPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY



**\$71,800**  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
&  
YOUTH TOUR

SAIDI

**161.046**

MINUTES

CAIDI

**111.449**

MINUTES

SAIFI

**1.445**

TIMES

AVAILABILITY

**98.16%**

# IMPROVING RELIABILITY

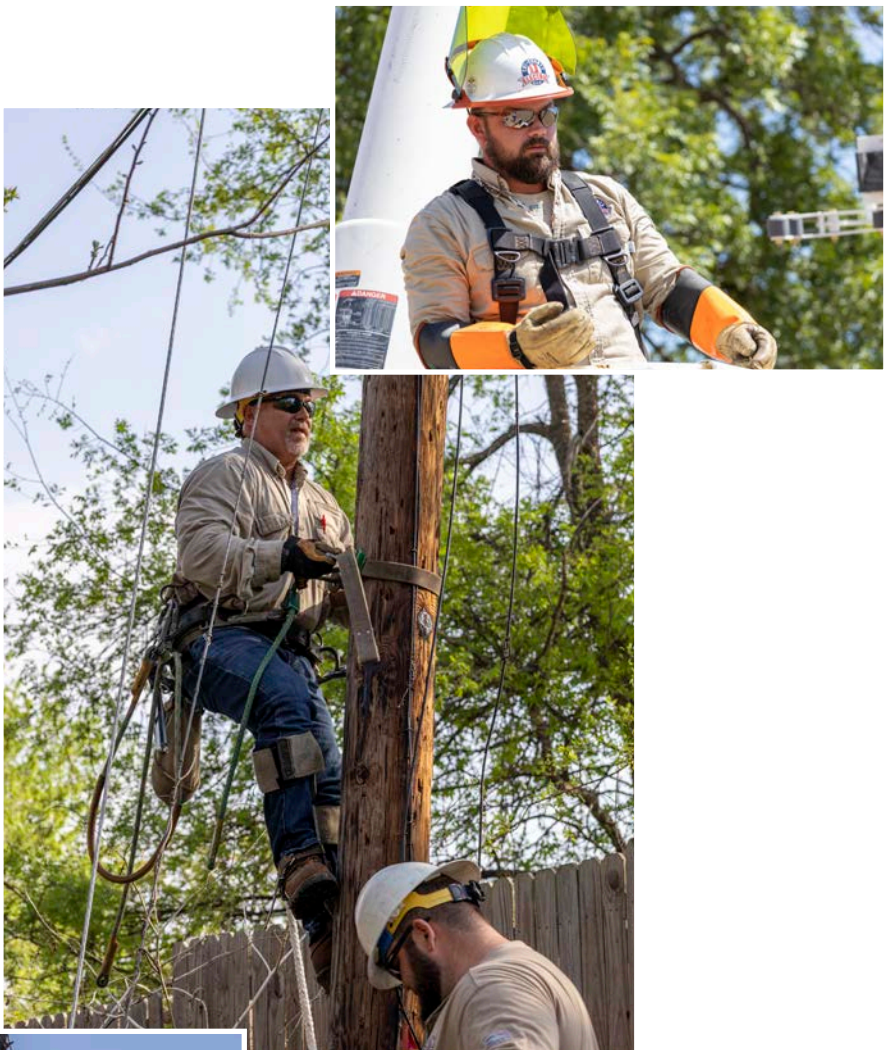
## Re•li•a•bil•i•ty (noun)

The quality of being trustworthy or performing consistently well

Our System Average Interruption Index (SAIDI) – how long the average Tri-County Electric Co-op member is out of power – was 161.05 minutes. Our System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) – how often a member experiences an outage – was 1.45. And our Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) – how long a member who experiences an outage is out of power – was 111.15 minutes.

Basically, the average member experienced one outage, and members who did experience an outage were out for less than two hours. Overall, members had power 98.16% of the time.

Main outage causes were weather, equipment failure, animals and vegetation.



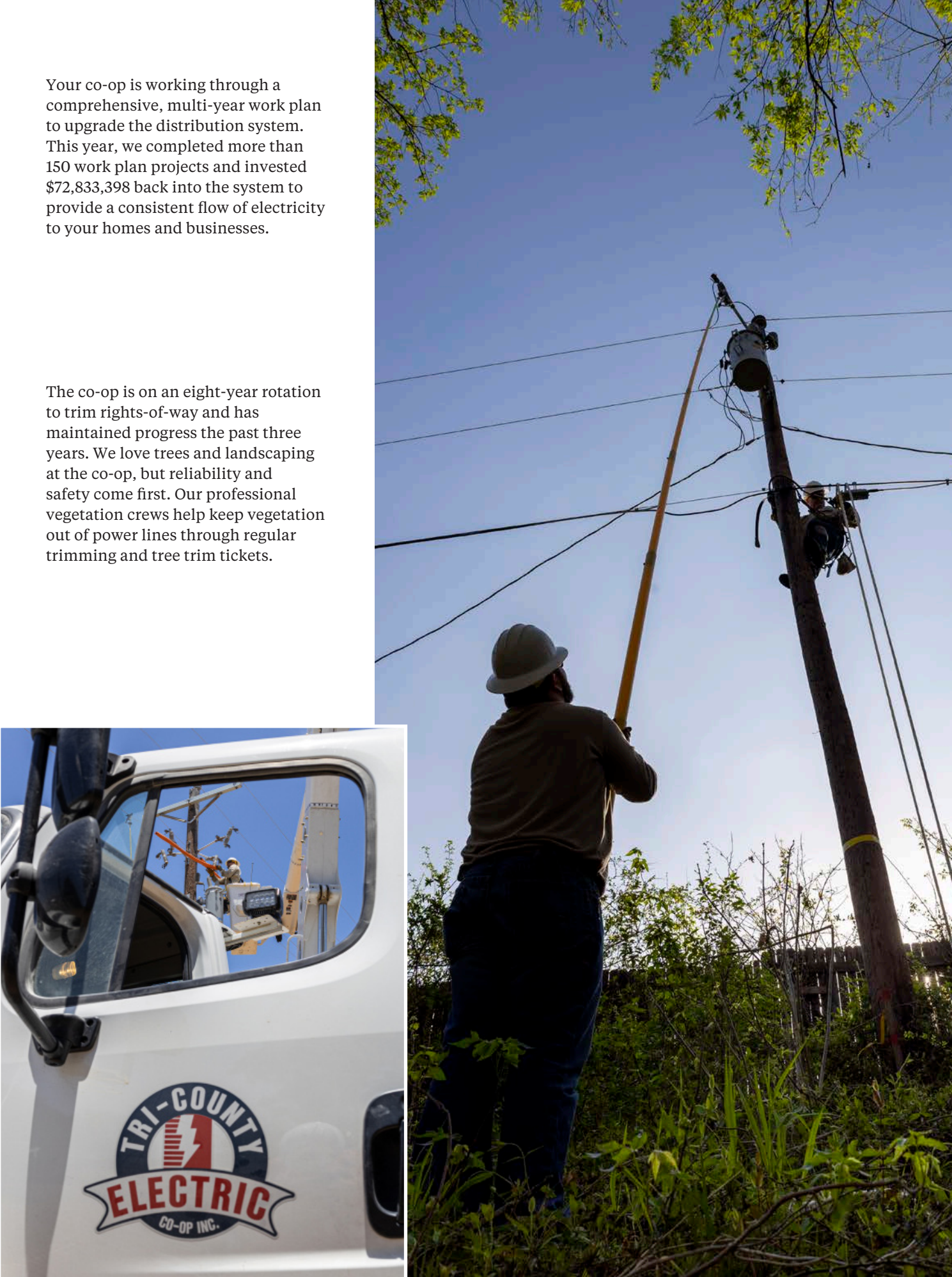
Departments throughout the co-op identify and prioritize maintenance work to reduce frequent outages and outage duration through regular system maintenance and upgrades. We look at the outage causes and create maintenance plans to cut down on future outages. Over the past year, operations completed more than 34,600 service orders and work orders to improve system health.





Your co-op is working through a comprehensive, multi-year work plan to upgrade the distribution system. This year, we completed more than 150 work plan projects and invested \$72,833,398 back into the system to provide a consistent flow of electricity to your homes and businesses.

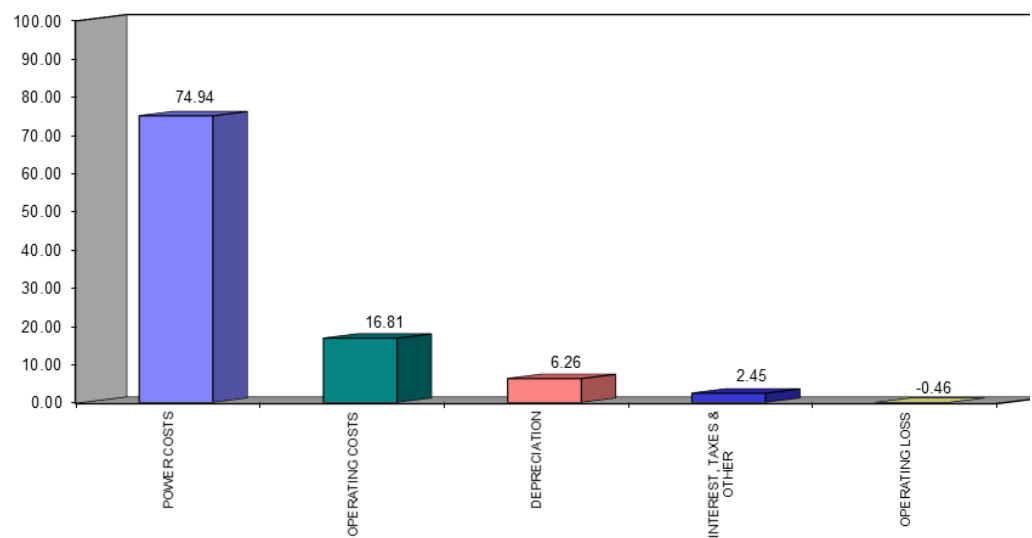
The co-op is on an eight-year rotation to trim rights-of-way and has maintained progress the past three years. We love trees and landscaping at the co-op, but reliability and safety come first. Our professional vegetation crews help keep vegetation out of power lines through regular trimming and tree trim tickets.



# Statement of Income and Expenses

12 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

OPERATING INCOME		
Electric Energy Revenue .....	\$319,564,360	100.0%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$319,564,360</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Electric Power Cost .....	\$239,479,388	74.9%
Electric Operating Expense .....	\$53,705,448	16.8%
Electric System Depreciation .....	\$20,018,458	6.3%
Interest Expense .....	\$7,014,330	2.2%
Taxes and Other .....	\$809,223	0.3%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>\$321,026,847</b>	<b>100.5%</b>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS .....</b>	<b>(\$1,462,487)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
NON-OPERATING INCOME		
Interest Income .....	\$806,296	
Non-Operating Income .....	\$3,343,816	
G&T and Other Capital Credits Allocations .....	\$19,176,908	
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING INCOME .....</b>	<b>\$23,327,020</b>	
<b>NET MARGINS .....</b>	<b>\$21,864,533</b>	<b>6.8%</b>



MARGARET  
KOPREK

BOARD  
SECRETARY/  
TREASURER

## A Message from your Board Secretary/Treasurer

Independent auditing firm Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby LLP of Tulsa, Oklahoma, performed an audit of our financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022. We received a clean, unqualified opinion on the audit. A full audit report is on file at Tri-County Electric Cooperative's headquarters located at 200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, Texas.

Learn more about the audit process on page 20.



# Condensed Balance Sheets

AS OF MARCH 31

ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash .....	\$6,320,293	\$26,940,319
Accounts Receivable .....	\$12,324,578	\$12,265,283
Equity in Associated Organizations .....	\$164,494,912	\$147,380,303
Investment in Subsidiary .....	\$4,600,434	\$4,949,308
Utility and Non-Utility Plant, Net of Depreciation .....	\$565,162,150	\$492,328,752
Accrued Revenues .....	\$23,770,000	\$14,940,000
Other Assets .....	\$2,098,290	\$2,537,332
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$778,770,657</b>	<b>\$701,341,297</b>
LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt .....	\$207,459,337	\$160,040,999
Accounts Payable and Other Current Liabilities .....	\$96,936,604	\$65,277,506
Accrued Power Cost, Advanced Payments .....	\$15,274,481	\$35,312,926
Accumulated Provisions .....	\$20,029,725	\$21,374,616
Consumer Deposits .....	\$5,317,026	\$5,642,191
Accrued Taxes, Interest and Other .....	\$14,639,035	\$13,250,635
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES .....</b>	<b>\$359,656,208</b>	<b>\$300,898,873</b>
EQUITIES		
Membership Fees .....	\$2,489,618	\$2,362,984
Patronage Capital .....	\$416,624,831	\$398,079,440
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES .....</b>	<b>\$419,114,449</b>	<b>\$400,442,424</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES .....</b>	<b>\$778,770,657</b>	<b>\$701,341,297</b>

# Operating Highlights

12 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31

	2022	2021
Total Revenue .....	\$319,564,360	\$257,913,975
Total Expenses .....	\$321,026,847	\$253,916,935
Plant Additions (Net of Accumulated Depreciation) .....	\$72,833,398	\$105,194,572
Utility Plant - Gross .....	\$765,449,784	\$682,375,641
Total Active Meters .....	127,333	122,102
Plant Investment Per Member-Owner .....	\$6,011	\$5,589
Peak Demand (kW) .....	752,762	866,378
Electric Energy Sales (kWh) .....	2,931,340,165	2,933,527,005
Residential Average Annual Use (kWh) .....	17,785	19,116
Commercial/Industrial Average Annual Use (kWh) .....	53,868	54,519
System Average Retail Cost per kWh .....	\$0.097	\$0.089
Net Operating Margins .....	<b>(\$1,462,487)</b>	\$3,997,040
Total Miles of Line .....	9,695	9,461

# Board of Directors

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 16-county service area is divided into nine districts – four urban, four suburban and one rural. A member from each district sits on the board of directors. The board oversees the co-op and serves as the regulatory and governing body.

Directors meet monthly to provide guidance and direction, as well as look out for the best interest of all members.



**MAX  
WADDELL**

CHAIRMAN

*DISTRICT 9*



**JOHN  
KILLOUGH**

VICE CHAIRMAN

*DISTRICT 6*



**MARGARET  
KOPREK**

SECRETARY/TREASURER

*DISTRICT 2*



**KEVIN  
INGLE**

*DISTRICT 1*



**JORDEN  
WOOD**

*DISTRICT 3*



**JERRY  
WALDEN**

*DISTRICT 4*



**STEVE  
HARRIS**

*DISTRICT 5*



**LARRY  
MILLER**

*DISTRICT 7*



**MICHAEL  
SIVERTSEN**

*DISTRICT 8*



# Minutes from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021 | 7 PM

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held virtually at 200 Bailey Ranch Rd. in Aledo, Texas on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Annie McGinnis, Director of Communications, along with Janet Rehberg, VP of Engineering/CSO opened the meeting with the introduction of Greg Hood who gave the invocation. This was followed by the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Rehberg then introduced the TCEC Board of Directors and CEO/President, Mr. Darryl Schriver.

Mrs. Rehberg and Mr. Schriver announced door prize winners throughout the meeting.

Mrs. Rehberg then turned the meeting over to the President of the Board of Directors, Jorden Wood, who named Mr. Schriver as the Chairman of the 82nd Annual Meeting.

The notice of the Annual Meeting and proof of mailing statement was then read by Ms. McGinnis. In accordance with the bylaws 97,723 copies were mailed to the membership on August 27, 2021.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative partnered with Survey and Ballot Systems to conduct the election. Members were able to vote by mail or electronically. According to the Cooperative bylaws, a minimum of 3-percent of the total membership is required to conduct business. The minimum quorum requirement was 2,931. Survey and Ballot Systems reported a total of 3,506 ballots submitted by mail, and 4,363 were submitted electronically for a total of 7,869 ballots for the election. Quorum was met and qualified the election for the 82nd Annual Meeting of the membership.

Mr. Schriver then called for the approval of the minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting. The Membership

voted virtually and confirmed the approval of the minutes for the Tri-County Electric Cooperative 81st Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

Mr. Schriver then called for the approval of the Committee on Nominations and Qualifications and explained according to the Cooperative bylaws, each year the Board shall nominate and the Membership shall confirm Cooperative Members to serve on the Committee on Nominations and Qualifications. One Member from each district shall serve on the Committee to qualify the candidates for the board elections and set the ballot. According to Section 4.4 of the bylaws, the Committee is comprised of Members in good standing, who are not currently a director or employee and who are not closely related to a director, a director candidate or an employee. With a vacancy holding for District 1 and District 2 the following were nominated to serve: District 3 Steve Bartley to end of 2021, District 4 Randy Marshall to the end of 2023, District 5 Ramey Keeth to the end of 2022, District 6 Danny Tuggle to the end of 2021, District 7 Ranell Scott to the end of 2022, District 8 Lesley Boone to the end of 2021 and District 9 Robert Gotcher, Committee Chairman, serving to the end of 2022. Mr. Schriver called for the Members to confirm the Committee members. The membership voted and confirmed the Committee on Nominations and Qualifications.

Mr. John Killough, Secretary-Treasurer then gave the Treasurer's report to the membership.

Mr. Schriver then presented the 2021 Director Committee on Nominations and Qualifications report. This Annual Meeting the Members voted to elect three Directors to the board in Districts 3, 6 and 8. The Committee on Nominations and Qualifications set the ballot as follows: District 3 Jorden Wood, incumbent, District 6 John Killough, incumbent, District

8 Jarrett Armstrong, incumbent and Mike Sivertsen, nomination candidate. Survey and Ballot Systems, the third-party election partner, provided the election results as follows: District 3 incumbent Jorden Wood ran unopposed and therefore received 100% of the votes. District 6 incumbent John Killough ran unopposed and therefore received 100% of the votes. For District 8 incumbent Jarrett Armstrong and nomination candidate Michael Sivertsen were on the ballot. Mr. Sivertsen received 4,003 votes and Mr. Armstrong received 3,570 votes. Mr. Sivertsen received 52.9% of the votes and therefore was elected as the Director of District 8. Mr. Wood, Mr. Killough and Mr. Sivertsen were elected Board of Directors to serve 3-year terms. This concluded the business portion of the agenda items.

Additional announcement of door prize winners continued.

Mr. Schriver and Senior Staff then gave a report on the state of the Cooperative, a Winter Storm Uri report and the effects of the Brazos Electric Cooperative bankruptcy upon Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A video by the employees was also presented to the membership.

Mr. Schriver then responded to member questions.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



# District 5 Candidates



**STEVE  
HARRIS**

*INCUMBENT*

I have served on the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board of directors since February 1998, including nine years as board chairman.

The co-op's national trade association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), offers training and classes to provide knowledge and resources to electric cooperative

directors across the nation. I earned my Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate and am working toward my Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

I am a life-long resident of the Agnes community in northwest Parker County. As a fourth generation northwestern Parker County resident, I am proud to say that I have lived in the same area for the past 60 years. After graduating from Poolville High School, I started my hay and cattle operation that I continue today.

Professionally, I operated a construction business for 35 years building bridges throughout many counties. For the past seven years, I have served as General Manager of Walnut Creek Special Utility District.

My community is very important to me. I serve on the Bridgeport Municipal Airport Board, Parker County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Agnes

Community Association. Additionally, I previously served on the Parker County Appraisal District Board.

As a Tri-County Electric Co-op director, I have seen exponential growth. When I started, our co-op had 38,250 meters. Now, we have more than 126,500 meters. Also, I have seen numerous changes and played a hand in making decisions that have made things better, as well as some difficult and challenging times.

Our co-op continues to face some big challenges and opportunities, and I believe I am the right person to represent you in the board room and help the co-op find solutions. Thank you for allowing me to represent you, and I hope to serve you for another three years.



**MIKE  
HALL**

*NOMINATION  
CANDIDATE*

Mike Hall is a fourth-generation citizen of Parker County and has been a Tri-County consumer most of his life. As a local farmer and business owner, Mike has been involved in the Springtown and Azle communities for many years. He is a graduate of Abilene Christian University with a degree in General Agriculture and a Master's in Education Administration. Mike worked as a special education teacher, a teacher of the gifted and talented, as well as an intermediate and middle school principal before starting Strong Fathers-Strong Families.

As the Founder and President of Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC he

has trained schools and early childhood education programs in over 40 states and several different countries. He has written book chapters, magazine articles and several curricula on the importance of fathers being involved in the lives and education of their children. He was honored as a White House Champion of Change for his work in the fatherhood field in 2012.

Mike has spent the last 23 years working in schools and Head Start programs with very diverse populations and has presented and taught families in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. He has worked in inner-city programs as well as very rural programs from Northern New York State, through the Midwest, and as far as Northern California, Oregon, and Washington.

As owners of short-term rentals, Mike and his wife Sabra have welcomed countless guests to the country life and hosted many soon-to-be residents to the area at their Homestead AirBnB properties. Mike's sons Jake and Josh both graduated from Springtown High School and his wife Sabra taught for SISD for over 20 years.

Mike has been an elder and leader in his local church and presently serves as Board President for VOH-Ghana, a non-profit

that raises almost a million dollars per year for the Village of Hope, an orphanage, school, and hospital in Ghana, West Africa.

Mike is a fourth-generation farmer and runs beef cattle on the family farm and surrounding lease properties. As a steward of the land and a longtime resident he is concerned about the rights of property owners as well as dealing with the continued growth in the area.

As a board member of TCEC Mike would hope to bring the generational experience as a longtime resident and member of the Co-op with an understanding of the growth that has and will continue to come to the District Five area. There will be many important decisions to be made in the coming years by the board as growth continues to be a factor in providing service to present members. Board leaders should remember the present members and their long-standing membership with the opportunities and responsibilities that come with being a part of a rapidly growing area of the state. TCEC should provide top-notch service with the most up-to-date technology while preserving the incredible value of a member-owned entity like TCEC.



# District 7 Candidates



**LARRY  
MILLER**

*INCUMBENT*

I have served on the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board of directors since August 2005. I completed training requirements for his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate, obtained my Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and every year I complete the training to maintain the Director Gold Credential through the National

Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

I attended Texas Tech University and graduated in 1971 with a B.S. in Range Science. After graduation, I went to work for Case-Tenneco in Dallas before returning home to help out on the farm that has been in my family since 1902. As a fourth-generation family farmer in the Seymour area, I run stocker cattle and grow small grains including wheat, oats and sesame. In 1999 I was presented the Conservation Farmer of the Year award.

I retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 2005 after more than 30 years of service. I served on the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department from 1982-1997, attended fire school at Texas A&M University, and was on the crops and forage committee for the Texas Agrilife Extension Service. I have also served as a director on the Baylor County Agriculture

Appraisal Board, Baylor County Farmers Co-op Association and on Capital Farm Credit Cooperative Board for more than 10 years.

My wife, Annette, and I have been married for more than 50 years. We have a daughter, Chelsi, a son, Ryan, two granddaughters and a grandson.



**SOMMER  
PORTWOOD**

*NOMINATION  
CANDIDATE*

Growing up in a small, rural community, 4-H tends to play a large role in one's life; it certainly did in mine. The organization's motto has stuck with me all these years: "To Make the Best Better." That is exactly what I will strive to do if I am elected to serve as the Tri-County Electric Cooperative District 7 Board member.

I was born and raised outside of Seymour, Texas, on my family's ranch that was established by my great-grandfather in 1901. I graduated from Seymour High School in 1999 and left home to attend college at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. There

I earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management degree and a Master of Business Administration degree. After graduation, I worked in Central and South Texas for ten years as a pharmaceutical sales representative with Schering-Plough Corporation and numerous other companies. In 2010, I made the decision to return to Seymour so that I could be closer to my family, as well as to have the opportunity to give back to the community that gave so much to me. Over the next 10 years, I purchased existing businesses and opened two new ones in an effort to make Seymour the ultimate small town to call home. Today, I own and operate two of those small businesses: a brand-new specialty beverage store and a thriving steakhouse.

I have 20 years of experience of putting the customer first, creating effective business plans and budgets, and problem solving to find solutions that not only work for my customers, but also for my employees. All of these are skills that will prove worthy when the time comes to take a stance on matters of importance to TCEC and its members.

I continuously keep an eye out for opportunities that will improve the lives of citizens in and around Seymour,

and I proudly serve our community as a member of the Seymour Community Development Corporation board. In 2019, I was recognized by the Seymour Chamber of Commerce with the Entrepreneur of the Year award.

The electric cooperative business model is one that looks out for its members and always has their best interests in mind in order to empower them; it is an honest model that America is fortunate to have. I would be honored to serve as a director within such a business model. Thank you for your vote to serve as your District 7 Board member. Together, we can work hard "to make the best better."



# District 9 Candidate



**MAX  
WADDELL**

**INCUMBENT  
UNOPPOSED**

I have been a director of Tri-County Electric Cooperative since June 2010. During that time, I have served two terms as vice-chairman, and I'm currently chairman of the board.

Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) training program, I've completed more

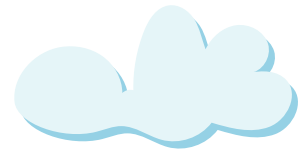
than 300 classroom hours of courses in financial decision-making, directors' duties and responsibilities, board roles and relationships, capital credits, new and emerging technologies, ethics, transparency, communication, risk management, emergency response and other areas of co-op governance. I have completed training requirements for the Credentialed Co-op Director (CCD) certificate, Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and I attend yearly training to maintain the Director Gold Credential.

I grew up in Bowie and graduated from high school there. I became a licensed paramedic and worked as a first responder in Gainesville and The Colony Fire Department for years before attending Parker University in Dallas, where I graduated in 1993. I have owned and operated Waddell Chiropractic in Keller since 1994.

Shelly and I have been married since

1985, and we have four children. We've lived in Keller since 1994 and remain actively involved in our church and community. I am a past president of the Keller Rotary Club and have served on the boards of the Keller Chamber of Commerce and the YMCA. Shelly works in the insurance industry and has also been active in the community through the Chamber of Commerce and the Keller Women's Club.

During my time on the Tri-County Electric Co-op board, I've helped guide the co-op through a change in leadership, the transition to AMI metering, an extensive revision of the bylaws and a period of unprecedented growth. It has been an honor serving you on the board and I look forward to taking care of you.



*According to Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Election Policy and Procedures, each director candidate must write and submit a biography with their nomination packet. These biographies are published to the membership during the election period so member-owners can get to know each candidate seeking election to the board.*

*The Election Policy and Procedures document complements cooperative bylaws and outline the process for all co-op elections.*

## Meet the Candidates

A virtual candidate forum was held on Thursday, August 18. Each director candidate was asked a series of questions by co-op staff, and took questions from members watching online and listening by phone.

A recording of the forum is available at [tcctexas.com/director-elections](https://tcctexas.com/director-elections).



# Nominations & Qualifications Committee

## 2022 DIRECTOR NOMINATION REPORT

THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS is responsible for reviewing and accepting applications from members interested in running for a seat on the board of directors. The committee carefully reviews application packets from candidates for the director seats up for election each year.

Nomination through a committee composed of fellow members is one of the most transparent methods a cooperative can use for director nominations. The committee was formed after the board of directors approved a new set of bylaws that went into effect November 2020. In order to serve on the committee, members must be in good standing with the cooperative, not serving as a cooperative board member, not employed by the co-op, not a director candidate or closely related to a co-op director or director candidate.

The committee met at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022, to accept and review applications from members seeking nomination to the board of directors. Director Nomination Application packets were due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2022. The committee accepted and reviewed five applications and deemed all candidates met the qualifications outlined in the cooperative bylaws.

Committee members are Jeffrey Bass, District 1; Christin Bugaj, District 2; Steve Bartley - chairman, District 3; Randy Marshall, District 4; Ramey Keeth, District 5; Danny Tuggle, District 6; Ranell Scott, District 7; Paula Baron, District 8; Robert Gotcher, District 9.

The Committee on Nominations and Qualifications approved five candidates and set the ballot as follows:

**District 5**

Steve Harris (Incumbent)  
Mike Hall (Nomination Candidate)

**District 7**

Larry Miller (Incumbent)  
Sommer Portwood (Nomination Candidate)

**District 9**

Max Waddell (Incumbent)

2022 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

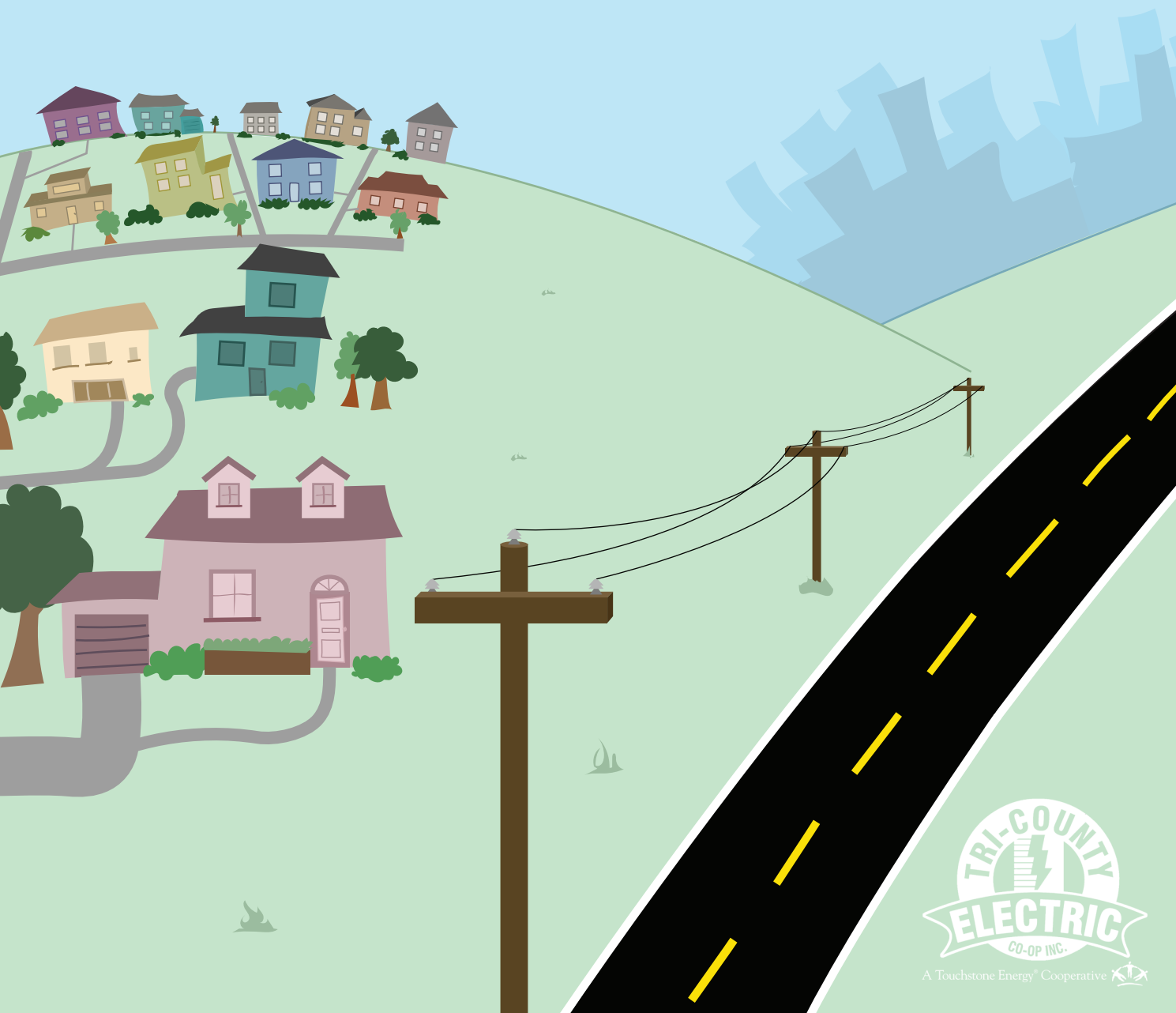
**Jeffrey Bass**, District 1 | **Christin Bugaj**, District 2 | **J. Steven Bartley**, District 3, Chairman | **Randy Marshall**, District 4 | **Ramey Keeth**, District 5 | **Danny Tuggle**, District 6 | **Ranell Scott**, District 7 | **Paula Baron**, District 8

Not Pictured: Robert Gotcher, District 9





"Taking Care of our Member-Owners!"



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





## CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENT

Tri-County Electric Co-op's Board of Directors approved the retirement of \$4.996 million in capital credits to members who received electric service in 2002 and/or 2003.

# Capital Credits Retirements

AS A TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE member-owner, you invest and share in the ownership of the co-op. Each member also receives dividends, or capital credits, from the year's margins.

### Here's how capital credits work:

#### Establish Membership

When you establish service at your home or business, you become a member of Tri-County Electric Co-op. When you become a member, a separate capital credits account is established in your name to track your investment in the co-op.

#### Allocations

Each year the board of directors allocates any funds remaining after expenses have been paid to the membership. Funds are allocated to each member's capital credits account based on the amount of electricity purchased. Allocations may vary from year to year.

#### Retirements

Each year the board of directors evaluates the financial status of the cooperative. Capital that is not retired will be used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance. When capital credits are retired, the board will retire allocated funds from a previous fiscal year. The amount of capital retired to members as capital credits may change from year to year.

Capital credits are returned to members in the form of a bill credit or check. If the amount is \$150 or less, a member will receive a credit on their electric account. If the amount is more than \$150, the member will receive a check through the mail. Inactive members will receive a check mailed to their last known address. 800681390

Capital credits are just one perk of being a Tri-County Electric Co-op member-owner.

Right now Tri-County Electric Co-op is about 19 years out on returning capital credits. That's well above average for co-ops, but we'd still like to cut that to about 15 years so members see those credits in a more reasonable time and see a quicker return on their investment.

Tri-County Electric Co-op's vision is to take care of our member-owners. Returning capital is just one way we look out for our membership. ■

## 2022 Retirement

This year the board of directors authorized the retirement of \$4.996 million to members who received electric service in 2002 and/or 2003. This retirement will include the remaining \$1,243,309.38 from 2002, and \$3,753,422.92 from 2023, or 22.5% of margins.

Members can expect to receive those funds this month through a bill credit or check.

- ▶ Current members with capital credits retirements of \$150 or less will receive a bill credit.
- ▶ Current members with capital credits retirements of \$150.01 or more will receive a check.
- ▶ Previous members with capital credits retirements will receive a check.

**Capital credits retirements is just one more benefit of being a cooperative member!**



# Son Shine Ministries

## Time, and a pandemic, have changed its methods but not its heart

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

**SON SHINE MINISTRIES** was founded in Alabama in 1977 by two retiring U.S. Air Force officers. In 1981, when they were looking for a base for the ministry, one criteria was that they wanted it to be near D/FW Airport. After shopping around, they settled on a 22-acre site off Flat Rock Road near Azle and named their new home “Sonrise.”

It is a faith-based organization, but Son Shine Ministries is not a church, nor is it affiliated with any particular church. It’s a “para-church” ministry that applies Biblical principles to strengthen marriages, train parents and help enhance communication in family relationships. Its leaders, and those they have trained, have taken that message all over the world.

For more than 40 years, they’ve been plugged in to Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

“We are really thrilled with Tri-County,” director David Shaffer said. “They are so receptive when we call, and they are very reliable.” 800838698

The campus was designed as a retreat center where church groups could come and have weekend events. A home at the front was converted to offices, and a detached three-car garage was remodeled to serve as a chapel. Along with outdoor gathering venues, a collection of small homes and mobile homes are scattered across the property.

Shaffer notes that even with 29 accounts, he has never spotted one of their meter numbers in Texas Co-op Power and won that discount. But he stresses, that’s not a complaint.

“I guarantee you the one month we didn’t look...” he laughs. “But all joking aside, we love Tri-County. We’re very grateful to be co-op members.”

In February 2021, when Texas froze and millions of people were without electricity for days, Shaffer said Sonrise was able to offer folks a place to keep warm.

“We had power,” he said. “We had people moving in with us. It was amazing.”

### Shifting the focus

Through the network of Air Force chaplains, Son Shine’s founders Ted and Barbara Platt and David’s parents, Lew and Sandy Shaffer, started out presenting programs in military chapels and churches in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, Africa and Israel.

“My father, when he became a Christian, he got pretty excited about that,” David said. “He poured into it and studied, and developed a thing called the ‘Christian Home Seminar.’ He started doing that mainly through military bases.”

Seminars were also held at the campus, and the ministry had offices at various times in California, Hawaii, Tennessee, Australia, England, Guam and Germany. Ted and Lew retired in 2002 and David, who had joined the ministry in 1985, became the director.

The Platts moved to Florida, and Lew, a beloved, inspirational figure in the Azle community, passed away in July 2018. Sandy still lives at Sonrise.

Although the ministry was busy and things were going well, David began to question the lasting impact of its outreach. He sought feedback on the programs’ effectiveness and noticed they were seeing the same people, year after year.

“Surveys showed that we had great enthusiasm for about a





month after our weekends, but then people kind of went back to their same old patterns,” he said. “The programs were a good catalyst – if you had a follow-up program.”

Shaffer proposed some major changes, and his board prayerfully approved.

“The whole thing kind of shifted about four years ago,” he said. “We are deepening our methodologies, changing from a program-basis to a process-basis. This way our program serves as a catalyst for the church to launch a small-group based, weekly discipleship series that can last from six weeks to as long as 18 weeks.”

### **Walking with people**

“Discipleship is where you really work with people over time,” Shaffer noted. “It’s a focus on their relationship with God. Through that you can talk about marriage relationships, family relationships, parent-child, and all of that.”

Shaffer and his wife, Daniele, and co-workers Paul and Amy Collins spend their time not only conducting seminars, but training and coaching others, while continuing to be active in their families, their churches and their communities.

The community component is important to the Shaffers, whose two sons were both born in Germany but went all the way through school at Azle. David recently completed a year as president of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce, and Son Shine is a longtime, active member of the Azle Ministerial Alliance and other local service organizations.

“When you go out the door, no matter what you do, you’re representing Christ,” he said. “You don’t have to lead with the label – people know you work for Son Shine Ministries. It’s a more holistic, lifestyle approach.”

The modest campus reflects the ministry’s core values that put people first, but the board recently approved a few renovation projects, including roofs, remodeling the chapel and redoing the patio behind the offices. They’re also converting an office for use as a studio so they can do a better job of producing instructional videos – something that became increasingly important when the COVID-19 pandemic forced people to gather virtually instead of in-person.

But while programs and processes change, the ministry’s heart remains committed to the same mission Lew and Ted set out on in 1977: “Sharing Jesus. Equipping families.”

“We love this community, and we love being a part of it,” David said – using the term “plugged in” to describe that part of the mission. 8001588301

Tri-County Electric Co-op is proud to be where Son Shine Ministries “plugs in” for its electric power – even as it continues to serve a higher one. ■

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: A 40-foot cross towers over the campus, rising above the trees that surround it.

Daniele Shaffer is a native of Germany, but she met David in Azle while she was here on a visit. Later, the family spent four years in Germany doing mission work, and both of their sons were born there.

Son Shine Ministries was founded in 1977 by (l-r) Ted and Barbara Platt and Sandy and Lew Shaffer.

Paul and Amy Collins are partners in the ministry, conducting programs and teaching.

RIGHT: David Shaffer’s office at Son Shine Ministries is filled with books, family photos, and mementos from travels all over the world.





SOLOVYOVA | ISTOCK.COM

# Tips to Prevent Wildfires

BY ANNIE WATSON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

**THROUGH JUNE OF THIS YEAR**, wildfires burned more than 400,000 acres in Texas. That's more than twice as many acres as in all of 2021. The Eastland Complex fire burned more than 54,000 acres, making it Texas' largest wildfire to date.

Wildfires can destroy homes, barns, businesses and livestock and endanger residents and firefighters.

Most wildfires are preventable. Although some wildfires are caused by lightning, nearly 85% are human-caused, according to the National Park Service. Many times, wildfires occur when campfires are left unattended, debris is burned improperly or cigarettes are carelessly discarded.

By taking a few extra precautions, we can do our part to prevent wildfires:

- ▶ Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure you completely extinguish the fire when you're done. Drench the fire with water and stir the ashes until they're cold.
- ▶ Play it safe when using fueled lanterns, heaters and stoves. Lighting and heating devices should be cool before refueling. Keep flammable liquids and fuel away from appliances.
- ▶ Never discard cigarettes, matches or smoking materials from moving vehicles or anywhere except into a fire-safe receptacle. Completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.
- ▶ Follow local ordinances when burning yard waste, and don't burn anything if there is a burn ban. Always avoid burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check. 800893854
- ▶ Keep dry brush and grass cleared around your home and outbuildings.

If you find yourself in the path of a wildfire, evacuate immediately. Listen to local emergency notifications for the most up-to-date information. Better yet, make a wildfire plan for you and your family before a fire occurs.

Visit [ready.gov/wildfires](https://ready.gov/wildfires) for more information about wildfire safety and prevention. ■

## Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road

Aledo, TX 76008

Phone 817-444-3201

Email [customer\\_service@tcectexas.com](mailto:customer_service@tcectexas.com)

Web [tcectexas.com](https://tcectexas.com)

### President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

### Board of Directors

**Max Waddell**, District 9 - Chairman

**John Killough**, District 6 - Vice Chairman

**Margaret Koprek**, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

**Kevin Ingle**, District 1

**Jorden Wood**, District 3

**Jerry A. Walden**, District 4

**Steve V. Harris**, District 5

**Larry Miller**, District 7

**Michael Sivertsen**, District 8

**24/7**

## Outage Reporting

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

Online: [oms.tcectexas.com](https://oms.tcectexas.com)

App: TCEC Connect

Phone: 817-444-3201

Text: OUTAGE to 25069

### ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,600 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 102,000 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

### OFFICE LOCATIONS

#### Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

#### Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

#### Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

#### Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

#### Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

### IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Find your account number in pages 18-25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

### VISIT US ONLINE

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

[Facebook.com/TCECTexas](https://Facebook.com/TCECTexas)



# Rice Mistress

BY LINDA WRIGHT  
SPRINGTOWN

- 3 cups sour cream
- 2 cans chopped green chilies (1 3/4 cups)
- 3/4 lb. grated Monterey Jack Cheese
- 3 cups cooked brown rice
- Grated cheddar cheese

1. Butter 2-qt casserole dish.
2. In a bowl, mix sour cream, chilies, jack cheese and rice. Pour into casserole dish and top with grated cheddar cheese.
3. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes, or until hot through.
4. Enjoy!

**COOK'S TIP:** This dish can be frozen and cooked later.

**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RICE MONTH.** The average American consumes 26 pounds of rice a year!

## Don't miss your chance to earn bill credits!

Members who vote in the 2022 election by the deadline will receive a \$25 bill credit and will be entered into the door prize drawing.

**Your official ballot is on the back of this Texas Co-op Power magazine.**

**This year, there are three ways to vote:**

- ▶ Online
- ▶ Email
- ▶ Mail

*Learn more on the reverse side of the ballot, located in the back inside cover.*



PIERRE BAMIN | UNSPLASH

### Tri-County Electric Co-op Member Recipe Submission Form

MEMBER

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

**SUBMITTING YOUR RECIPE:**

**EMAIL:** Please include the above information with your recipe and send to [pr@tcectexas.com](mailto:pr@tcectexas.com)

**ONLINE:** [tcectexas.com/recipe-submission](https://tcectexas.com/recipe-submission)

**MAIL:** Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Recipe Submission  
200 Bailey Ranch Road  
Aledo, Texas 76008



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# RECHARGEABLE Digital Hearing Aid



BUY 1  
GET 1 **FREE**

**NEW LOW  
PRICE**

REG ~~\$299.98~~  
**ONLY  
\$149<sup>99</sup>**

Each When You Buy a Pair

**PLUS FREE SHIPPING**  
*Limited Time Only!*

**How can a rechargeable hearing aid that costs only \$149<sup>99</sup> be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,400 or more?**

**The answer:** Although tremendous strides have been made in Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

**The MDHearing™ VOLT** uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price. Over 800,000 satisfied MDHearing customers agree: High-quality, digital, FDA-registered **rechargeable** hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. The MDHearing VOLT is a medical-grade, digital, 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?

*"Wow, I didn't realize what I was missing!"* — Tina R., Atlanta

**CHARGE** AT NIGHT **AND GO** ALL DAY

**NEVER  
CHANGE  
A BATTERY  
AGAIN!**



Carrying case is also the charger

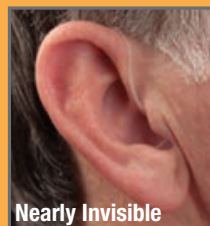
**45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!**

If you are not completely satisfied with your hearing aids, return them within 45 days for a **FULL REFUND!**

**For the Lowest Price Call**

**1-800-653-1084**

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



Nearly Invisible

Use Code **QY50**  
and get **FREE Shipping**

 **MDHearing™**

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED



Proudly assembled  
in America!





# FALL SAVINGS



## Bolt Together Steel Building Kits

Customer Service  
Second to None

**DDM Brenham Office**  
979-251-9503  
301 Salem Road • Brenham

**DDM Bastrop Office**  
512-321-0336  
1083 Hwy 71 W. • Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

\*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



### All Metal Structures



### Made in Texas



### Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses

Affordable • Low Maintenance • Energy Efficient



### 40'x15'x12'



### 30'x40'x12'



**Call today for our best pricing!**

**\$11,450-30x40x12**

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

**\$17,950-40x50x12**

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

**www.ddmbuildings.com**

**PERMA-ROOF**  
from Southern Builders

## 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**

## WD Metal Buildings



- Turnkey Metal Buildings
- Continuous Roof Design
- 5" Reinforced Concrete Slabs
- Experienced Erection Crews
- Heavy Duty Overhead Doors

**Instant Prices @ WDMB.com**

**ARK-LA-TEX**  
SHOP BUILDERS

"WE GOTCHA COVERED"  
SHOPS • BARNs • CABINS • [WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM](http://WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM)  
**830-730-0515**  
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



## BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barndominiums

**WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!**

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10'x10' heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric slab \*10'x10' may be extra)

## TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now

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

**Low Cost Pole Barns**  
26' x 48' x 10'  
3 Sides Enclosed

**Call now for our best pricing!**

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

**Call Ron: 512-367-0428**

**TCP Marketplace**  
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace  
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251  
[advertising@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:advertising@TexasCoopPower.com)

*“I haven’t been this excited since I got my first bicycle!”*

Introducing **ZOOMER!**

The portable, folding, battery-powered chair that offers easy one-handed operation

Remember when you were a child and got your first bicycle? I do. It gave me a sense of independence . . . I felt like I could go anywhere, and it was so much easier and more enjoyable than walking. Well, at my age, that bike wouldn’t do me much good. Fortunately, there’s a new invention that gives me the freedom and independence to go wherever I want . . . safely and easily. It’s called the **Zoomer**, and it’s changed my life.

*My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.*

*Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA*

After just one trip around your home in the **Zoomer**, you’ll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It’s not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk- there’s no need to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour



and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it’s not in use.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own **Zoomer**.



Now available with sporty two-arm lever steering (Zinger Chair)

journey **zoomer**

Call now toll free and order one today!

**1-888-688-0135**

Please mention code 601300 when ordering.

mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™



The Zoomer and Zinger Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle







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



# Good on Paper

Fueled by booze and a legendary cocktail napkin, Southwest Airlines took off and never looked back

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH FERONE

**THIS LEGENDARY STORY** starts off like many good stories do: Two men walked into a bar.

They were in San Antonio, and this was more than 55 years ago. And, OK, it was actually a restaurant with a bar. They ordered drinks and perhaps hors d'oeuvres. As the story goes, one of the men grabbed a cocktail napkin, took out his pen and said to the other, "Here's the plan."

He then drew a simple triangle on the napkin. At the apex of the triangle he wrote "Dallas." The bottom left he labeled "San Antonio." And on the remaining corner: "Houston."

"There—that's the business plan," he said. "Fly between these cities several times a day, every day." And that is the

tale of how Southwest Airlines began, on a simple napkin in a bar in San Antonio in 1966. The two men were Rollin King and Herb Kelleher.

King was a pilot and businessman and Kelleher a lawyer. King would become a managing director of the company that he and Kelleher co-founded in March 1967 and that first took to the sky in June 1971. Kelleher would go on to serve as CEO from 1981 to 2001. At the Southwest headquarters at Dallas Love Field, there's a bronze replica of the original napkin and a plaque with this exchange: "Herb, let's start an airline." "Rollin, you're crazy. Let's do it!"

Beyond the sizzle, there was genuine business genius in Southwest's efficiencies: peanut fares and the 10-minute

turnaround, which had never been achieved before. To date, Southwest has flown more than 2 billion passengers without a crash and now serves more than 100 destinations in the U.S. and 10 countries.

Perhaps the coolest story in Southwest Airlines' history, and relatively unknown, was its fare war with now-defunct Braniff Airlines in early 1973—only a year after a struggling Southwest had just \$143 in its bank account. Braniff offered \$13 fares for its Houston-Dallas route as a means of "breaking" the upstart airline.

Southwest responded by offering passengers a \$13 fare or a \$26 fare that included a free bottle of Chivas scotch, Crown Royal whiskey or Smirnoff vodka. According to airline lore, for the two months before Braniff surrendered, Southwest was Texas' biggest distributor of premium liquor as business travelers expensed the \$26 tickets and kept the booze for themselves.

Not long before he died in June 2014, King confessed that the napkin story wasn't entirely true but that it was a "hell of a good story."

It was too late: The myth had become more powerful than the reality.

As the saying goes, when the legend becomes fact, print the legend. ■



# Pizza Night

We hold the anchovies but offer these slices of inspired pies

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

We instituted Friday night pizzas when my kids were small, and it's been a great way to get creative in the kitchen. Whether you are sticking with reliable classics like pepperoni and mushroom or branching out to new toppings, it's hard to resist pizza. This take was inspired by my love of Mexican street corn.

## Chorizo Corn Pizza

**½ cup sour cream**  
**2 tablespoons mayonnaise**  
**2 tablespoons lime juice, plus more to taste**  
**1 teaspoon chili powder**  
**½ teaspoon salt**  
**1 ball pizza dough or premade crust**  
**Olive oil**  
**1 cup shredded mozzarella**  
**½ pound Mexican chorizo, cooked and drained**  
**¾ cup corn kernels**  
**¼ cup pickled jalapeño peppers**  
**½ cup crumbled cotija cheese**  
**Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish**

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. In a bowl, mix sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice, chili powder and salt until well combined. Taste and adjust seasonings, adding more lime juice or water to thin if desired.
3. Lightly grease a pizza pan and roll out pizza dough on top. Brush olive oil on top of dough, then spread sour cream mixture on top. Layer on the mozzarella, chorizo, corn and jalapeños. Sprinkle cotija over the top.
4. Bake pizza 10–15 minutes, until crust is browned and mozzarella is melted. Garnish with fresh cilantro.

**SERVES 4**

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Brussels Sprouts Pizza With Bacon and Pear.







## Low-Carb Sausage, Mushroom and Jalapeño Pizza

DIANE MUDD  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This pizza is a great option for those who are looking for a low-carb alternative. Mudd recommends making your own low-carb pizza sauce. These mini pizzas are also delicious cold the next day.

### CRUST

- 1½ cups almond flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- ⅓ cup (¼ stick) butter

### TOPPING

- 1 pound ground pork
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon fennel seed, crushed
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup chopped white button mushrooms
- ¼ cup pickled jalapeño peppers, chopped
- ¼ cup chopped olives
- 1 cup low-carb pizza sauce
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1. **CRUST** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line an extra-large baking sheet or two standard baking sheets with parchment. In a medium bowl, combine almond flour, baking powder, garlic powder and eggs. Set aside.
2. In a large microwave-safe bowl, combine mozzarella, sour cream and butter. Microwave 1–2 minutes, stirring every

\$500 WINNER

## Williams Family Best Marmalade Bacon Pizza

SHAWN WILLIAMS  
LYNTEGAR EC



The Williams family began a weekly cooking challenge during the pandemic while their children lived in different cities. A prompt of marmalade led to the creation of this unique pizza featuring fig, bacon and asparagus.

SERVES 4



- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large red or yellow onion, sliced
- ½ teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, divided use
- ⅓ cup (¼ stick) butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¾ cup milk
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons fig jam or marmalade
- 1 package unbaked pizza dough
- 7 slices bacon, cooked crisp and chopped
- 8 ounces asparagus, cooked and cut into small pieces
- 6 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 2 ounces Parmesan cheese, shredded

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a sauté pan over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onions and sprinkle with salt. Sauté 10 minutes, then add sugar and continue to sauté until onions begin to caramelize, about 5–10 minutes. Add a tablespoon or two of water as needed during cooking to keep the onions from drying. Stir in 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar and set the onion topping aside.
3. In a small saucepan, to make sauce, melt butter over medium heat. Add flour and garlic and cook, whisking constantly, for 1 minute. While whisking, slowly pour in milk. Bring to a boil, whisking constantly, for about a minute until thickened, then remove from heat. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. In a small bowl, combine fig jam and remaining tablespoon of balsamic vinegar. Heat in microwave 15 seconds and set aside.
5. Roll out pizza dough onto pan and bake 4 minutes. Remove from oven and spread sauce evenly over the top. Layer on toppings and drizzle on warmed balsamic jam. Return pizza to the oven for 7–10 minutes, until crust is golden and cheese is melted.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

CUPCAKES DUE SEPTEMBER 10

Whether you stick with classic flavors or go wild, do you make the best cupcakes around? Show us. Submit your recipes on our website by September 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

## RECIPES CONTINUED

30 seconds, until melted. While the cheese is still hot, add the almond flour mixture and stir or knead with your hands until a uniform dough forms. Form dough into a ball and divide it into 8 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, place on prepared baking sheet and flatten to about ¼-inch thick. Bake for about 10 minutes, then remove and pop any bubbles with a fork. Return to oven for 2 minutes, until golden-brown.

**3. TOPPING** Heat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Season ground pork generously with salt and pepper, fennel seed, and Italian seasoning. Brown the resulting sausage, breaking it into small pieces. Add mushrooms, jalapeños and olives, stirring and continuing to cook until mushrooms are soft.

**4.** To prepare, divide sauce equally among pizza crusts. Sprinkle on mozzarella, then arrange meat mixture on top (you might have extra remaining). Bake 5–8 minutes, until cheese has melted.

**SERVES 8**



### Jump-Start Breakfast Pizza

DALA BURK  
WISE EC

Pizza for breakfast? Why not! Burk takes all your favorite breakfast ingredients and combines them for one fantastic pizza. Watch the crust carefully to prevent it from overbrowning.

**8 ounces (1 package) refrigerated crescent rolls, separated**  
**2 cups frozen hash browns with peppers and onions (about half a**

**28-ounce package), slightly thawed**  
**1 pound ground sausage, cooked and drained**  
**4 slices Canadian bacon, diced (optional)**  
**4 ounces diced green chiles, drained**  
**4 ounces sliced mushrooms**  
**1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese**  
**5 eggs, beaten**

**1.** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Arrange crescent rolls to cover the bottom of an ungreased pizza pan, pressing seams together and pinching edges to form a slight rim.

**2.** Spread hash browns evenly over crust, then sprinkle on sausage, Canadian bacon, chiles and mushrooms. Evenly top with shredded cheese, then carefully pour eggs over the whole pizza.

**3.** Bake 30–40 minutes, until crust is browned and cheese is melted.

**SERVES 4–6**

**TCP** Not enough pizza night options? Check our website for dozens more pleasing pies.

## HELPING YOU PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST



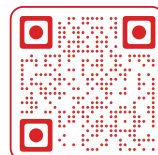
**TEXAS FARM BUREAU®  
HEALTH PLANS**

New, Affordable Health Care Coverage Options for Texans!


- ✓ Individual and Family Plans
- ✓ Dental and Vision Options
- ✓ Better Coverage
- ✓ Better Rates
- ✓ Better Service

For more information and to get a quote, click or call today!

**tfbhp.com**  
**877.500.0140**







**MOO-LA'S**

**Back to the 70's**

**BIRTHDAY BASH**

**1972-2022**

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MOO-LA**

**GO TEXAN.**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2022**


**5:00PM - 9:00PM**

**DOWNTOWN STEPHENVILLE**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**FOOD TRUCKS**

**& MUCH MORE**



# WANTED: DEMO HOMESITES FOR 2022 SEASON

**Display This Maintenance-Free Pool And \$AVE \$\$!**

*Call **TODAY** to Qualify for this Limited-Time Opportunity!*





**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.SWIMTEXSUN.COM**

**STAYcation at Home in 2022!**  
**1-800-SWIMTEX** (1-800-794-6839)  
*A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.*

**PRE-APPROVED FINANCING AVAILABLE!**  
**WE CONSIDER ANYTHING ON TRADE!**





COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Gulf Boast

Port Arthur museum shows off the region's global influence

BY CHET GARNER

**GROWING UP** in Southeast Texas, it was hard to appreciate the unique culture and people of the Gulf Coast. It wasn't until I moved to Austin and tried to order barbecued crabs at a restaurant and play zydeco music on the jukebox that I realized my upbringing was a bit different.

A recent trip to the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur not only reaffirmed that belief but helped me realize that without the people of the Coastal Bend, Texas and even the U.S. wouldn't be the same.

When I stepped into this massive downtown museum, I felt like I had stepped into a life-size textbook. From Karankawa artifacts to the Spindletop oil boom, the museum captures the unique history of the Gulf Coast. There's a 125-foot mural depicting moments like the shipwreck of Álgar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca right next to a record-setting race car. Everybody can find something interesting here.

Upstairs are four rooms dedicated to the staggering crowd of people born in this region who have gone on to influence the world—governors and artists, actresses and war heroes, all hailing from this crescent of swamp and coastal prairie. The sports room was especially awesome, with tributes to famous coaches like Bum and Wade Phillips, along with Cowboys legend Jimmy Johnson.

The music room flooded my mind with great tunes from artists like the Big Bopper, ZZ Top and George Jones. However, no artist draws more visitors than the "Pearl"—Janis Joplin—who was born in Port Arthur in 1943. Folks come to see a replica of her classic Porsche Cabriolet and many of her gold records.

It just goes to show: Folks from small towns can go on to have a big influence on the world. I left inspired—and hungry for Cajun food. ■

ABOVE Chet channels some of Janis Joplin's cosmic blues at the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur.

**TCP** Chet finds a piece of his heart and his roots at the museum. See his latest video on our website, and watch all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## SEPTEMBER

08

**San Angelo [8–11] Arthur Stillwell's Dream of Steam**, (325) 486-2140, [sanangelorailway.org](http://sanangelorailway.org)

09

**Caldwell [9–10] Creative Memories Quilt Guild's Quilt Show**, (512) 924-8716, [englemann@suddenlink.net](mailto:englemann@suddenlink.net)

**Ennis [9–10] Patriot Day BBQ Bash**, (972) 878-2625, [ennis-chamber.com](http://ennis-chamber.com)

**Fairfield [9–10] Big T Memorial State Championship BBQ Cookoff**, [bigtmemorial.com](http://bigtmemorial.com)

**Brownwood [9–11, 16–18] Noises Off**, (325) 998-2801, [brownwoodlyrictheatre.com](http://brownwoodlyrictheatre.com)

10

**Bartlett Metaphysical Night Gallery and Paranormal Tour**, (512) 203-5561, [austinghosttours.com](http://austinghosttours.com)

**Caldwell Kolache Festival**, (979) 567-0000, [burlesoncountytexas.com](http://burlesoncountytexas.com)

**Plano Twenty Hounds: Downtown Sessions**, (972) 941-5600, [visitplano.com](http://visitplano.com)

**Brenham [10–17] Washington County Fair**, (979) 836-4112, [washingtoncofair.com](http://washingtoncofair.com)

11

**Yorktown Holy Cross Festival**, (361) 564-2893, [holycrossyorktown.net](http://holycrossyorktown.net)

15

**Lufkin [15–18] Texas State Forest Festival**, (936) 634-6644, [texasforestfestival.com](http://texasforestfestival.com)



16

**Nacogdoches [16-17]**

**Old Town Rig Down,**  
(936) 615-0580,  
oldtownrigdown.com

**Amarillo [16-24] Tri-State  
Fair & Rodeo,** (806) 376-7767,  
tristatefair.com

**Kerrville [16-17, 23-25,  
30-Oct. 2] Leading  
Ladies,** (830) 896-9393,  
caillouxperformingarts.com

17

**Anson Party in the  
Park,** (325) 823-3259,  
ansonchamberofcommerce.com

**Conroe Montgomery County  
Master Gardeners Fall Plant  
Sale,** (936) 539-7824,  
mcmga.com

**Plano North Texas Pride  
Festival,** (469) 694-4834,  
visitplano.com

**San Angelo Concho  
Valley Archeology Fair,**  
(325) 657-4444,  
fortconcho.com

**Taylor Texas Mamma  
Jamma Ride,** (512) 297-7740,  
mammajammaride.org

**Gladewater [17-18] Arts  
and Crafts,** (903) 845-5501,  
gladewaterartsandcrafts.com

18

**Kyle Doggie Dip,**  
(512) 262-3939,  
cityofkyle.com

**Stonewall Seed Stomp,**  
(830) 644-2252,  
tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/  
lyndon-b-johnson

19

**Kerrville [19-25] Paint  
Kerrville!,** (830) 895-2911,  
kackckerrville.com

MORE EVENTS &gt;

**TCP Submit Your Event**

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

# Retreat... Relax in Kerrville

## Capital of the Texas Hill Country!




**Paint Kerrville!**  
Outdoor Painters Event  
September 19th - 25th, 2022  
[www.kackckerrville.com](http://www.kackckerrville.com)

**Texas State Arts & Crafts Fair**  
September 24th - 25th, 2022  
[www.txartsandcraftsfair.com/](http://www.txartsandcraftsfair.com/)



**KERRVILLE**  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

[www.KerrvilleTexasCVB.com](http://www.KerrvilleTexasCVB.com) • 830-792-3535

**FALL SPECIAL****DON'T WAIT—CALL NOW!****WALK-IN TUBS FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED****ONYX SHOWERS FROM \$9,995 INSTALLED**

Don't let Mom or Dad spend \$20K on a walk-in tub. Call us today to find the perfect custom solution for you. We service all of Texas.

Visit our showroom at 311 Kings Plaza in Granbury.



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

★ CELEBRATING 17 YEARS ★

**888-825-2362**

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

## SPEEDWASH™ Pressure Washing System

**ULTRA-FAST. EASY to USE. BUILT to LAST.**

A complete pressure washing system with ALL the tools you need for every application.



**Up to 3200 PSI** for FAST, thorough cleaning!

**POWERDIAL™ GUN** puts pressure control at your fingertips!

**CLEANING TOOLS** make washing anything FAST and EASY!



Free Cleaning Tools Included!

**POWER BROOM** cleans decks and driveways up to 4X faster!

**LIMITED-TIME OFFER!\***

GET THE COMPLETE SYSTEM  
with **FREE** Cleaning Tools & **FREE** Shipping!

\*Visit online for offer details.

Order Today

**GeneracSpeedWash.com**  
Toll Free 877-389-1880

**GENERAC**



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

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

**BLAKE MATTSO, 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.



**TCP E-news**

**TCP Sign up now**

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



ELISA BISTOCCHI | DREAMSTIME.COM

## Pick of the Month

### Balloon and Music Festival

Paris, September 9–12  
(903) 517-2830  
[parisballoonandmusicfestival.com](http://parisballoonandmusicfestival.com)

The skies over North Texas are filled with hot air balloon flights and the evenings with food trucks, music, a kids zone, vendors and a live painting competition at this visually stunning festival.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

22

**Plano [22–25] Balloon Festival**, (972) 867-7566,  
[planoballoonfest.org](http://planoballoonfest.org)

**Kerrville [22–Oct. 29] Roundup Exhibition and Sale**, (830) 896-2553,  
[museumofwesternart.com](http://museumofwesternart.com)

24

**Brenham Suzy Bogguss**, (979) 337-7240,  
[thebarnhillcenter.com](http://thebarnhillcenter.com)

**DeKalb Saturday in the Park**, (903) 277-3519,  
[dekaltexasoktoberfest.org](http://dekaltexasoktoberfest.org)

**Fredericksburg Back to the Basics**, (830) 997-3224,  
[backtothebasicsfestival.com](http://backtothebasicsfestival.com)

**George West Mariachi Las Alteñas**, (361) 436-1098,  
[dobie-westtheatre.com](http://dobie-westtheatre.com)

**Lakehills Medina Lake Cajun Festival**, (830) 460-0600,  
[cajunfestival-medinalake.com](http://cajunfestival-medinalake.com)

**Mason Old Yeller Day**, (325) 347-5446,  
[mason.ploud.net](http://mason.ploud.net)

**San Marcos Downtown Mermaid Promenade**, (512) 825-2819,  
[visitsanmarcos.com](http://visitsanmarcos.com)

**Comanche [24–25] Pow Wow**, (325) 356-3233,  
[comanchechamber.org](http://comanchechamber.org)

**Granbury [24–25] Spooky Spectacle**, (817) 559-0849,  
[visitgranbury.com](http://visitgranbury.com)

**Ingram [24–25] Texas Arts and Crafts Fair**, (830) 367-5121,  
[txartsandcraftsfair.com](http://txartsandcraftsfair.com)

25

**Serbin Wendish Fest**, (979) 366-2441,  
[texaswendish.org](http://texaswendish.org)

30

**Graford [30–Oct. 1] Possum Fest BBQ and Chili Cook-Off**, (940) 779-2424,  
[possumkingdomlake.com](http://possumkingdomlake.com)

**Fredericksburg [30–Oct. 2] Lone Star Gourd Festival**,  
[texasgourdsociety.org](http://texasgourdsociety.org)

OCTOBER

01

**Bowie Chicken and Bread Days Heritage Festival**, (940) 872-6246,  
[cityofbowietx.com](http://cityofbowietx.com)

**La Grange Oktoberfest on the Square**, (979) 968-3017,  
[visitlagrangetx.com](http://visitlagrangetx.com)

**Lubbock [1–2] Miniaturists of Lubbock Show and Sale**, (806) 885-4306,  
[miniaturistsoflubbock.org](http://miniaturistsoflubbock.org)

**Plano [1–2] Fall Plano Train Show**, (972) 941-5840,  
[visitplano.com](http://visitplano.com)

07

**Kerrville [7–16] Welcome Home Fest**, (830) 257-3600,  
[kerrvillefolkfestival.org](http://kerrvillefolkfestival.org)

**Ingram [7–8, 14–16, 21–23] The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**, (830) 367-5121,  
[hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)



# Light and Shadow

Out of the shadows and ready to shine, these photos are downright illuminating. Don't get left in the dark—join us as we cast a spotlight on Texas beauty.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



**1 FAITH CAUGHNOR**  
TRINITY VALLEY EC

The East Texas Stampede equestrian drill team at the rodeo in Mesquite.

**2 JOHN HOBBS**  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

Yuccas at White Sands National Park.

**3 CAMERON FOX**  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

"You can't take the country out of a Texas girl raising her livestock."

**4 PAUL GARCIA**  
MEDINA EC

The Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio features historic reenactors in full period dress.



## Upcoming Contests

**DUE SEP 10** Nature's Color  
**DUE OCT 10** First Responders  
**DUE NOV 10** Land, Sea or Sky



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

**TCP** See Focus on Texas on our website for more Light and Shadow photos from readers.



## Roll Call

Hail to the bus drivers, who help students get ahead

BY CYNTHIA L. MATLOCK  
ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR CALLERY

WHEN I WAS A KID in the 1970s, the frame of a small school bus sat rusting in our neighbor's pasture. I asked my mother about it, and she told me that in the late 1930s, the neighbor, John Christian, had bought the bus.

So it was his. My mouth dropped in awe that an African American man in our rural Cherokee County community had bought a school bus.

That triggered my interest in school bus history as I watched bright yellow buses, large and small, coming and going, picking up and dropping off children as the school year began. They were headed home, to school or to their extracurricular activities.

I found out that in the second half of the 19th century, students who lived beyond walking distance of their school

were typically driven in the family wagon or a horse-drawn repurposed farm wagon with a tarpaulin stretched above the passenger seating.

It wasn't until the 1950s that buses operated by private drivers were widely replaced by district-owned fleets.

During the 1940s, many rural schools only went through the eighth grade. Beyond that, students often had to travel longer distances to their nearest high school. Very few families in rural communities had cars at that time. People like Christian—who made sure the school-age children in their farming areas had transportation to school—were so important.

"Oh yeah, Mr. John Christian bought a school bus, and he hired my father, Matthew Allen, to drive the bus to pick up the kids in the Green Chapel area," Evelyn Allen, a former resident of the community, told me. "They all knew Mr. Christian."

While the buses themselves have improved over the years, the experience is much the same. Schoolchildren—then and now—wait and anticipate the rumbling bus coming to their stop during the early dawn hours.

The bus rides to and from team sports, competitions and performances are the source of many friendships, laughs and arguments among the riders. Most riders can recall favorite drivers who stand out in their memories of their school days—like those who made them feel special or let them have safe fun.

Even the strictest drivers can be fondly remembered. Like one of my favorite drivers, J.C. Jones. My cousins and I knew he did not play. He'd look up in that wide rearview mirror and yell back to us in a commanding tone: "Y'all better set down back there." And we'd immediately flop down in our seats.

Much gratitude is due to those bus owners, faithful drivers, mechanics and all who keep the buses rolling. Your work is important. ■



# MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING



## READY TO BUILD YOUR **DREAM?**

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at [muellerinc.com](http://muellerinc.com), then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



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



## Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!

Same Bill. Same Price. **\$69<sup>99</sup>** month for TV  
Every Month. For 2 Years.



## It's ALL Included with DISH!

- ✓ Includes 2 Year Price Lock
- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR
- ✓ Includes Home Service + Streaming
- ✓ Includes Free Installation
- ✓ Includes FREE Premium Channels
- ✓ Includes HD Programming

Requires internet connected Hopper.

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

Watch on  
up to five  
devices!



**ADD BLAZING-FAST  
INTERNET!**  
No Matter Where You Live!

~~\$59<sup>99</sup>~~ **\$40**  
Now Just... month for Internet

- ✓ Now with Unlimited Data!
- ✓ Speeds from 25Mbps - 1 Gbps
- ✓ Available Nationwide!

**Save up to  
\$20/mo.\***

\*\$ 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](http://godish.com/internet).



### FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/ling or Hopper 3 and compatible mobile device. On Hopper Duo, there is no live TV streaming for DISH Anywhere.

### Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant



Requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google is a trademark of Google LLC.



### Your Favorite Apps in One Place!



Netflix and Amazon Prime Video streaming memberships required. YouTube is a trademark of Google LLC. Amazon Prime only available on Hopper 3.

**iSe Habla Español!**

[godish.com/pricelock](http://godish.com/pricelock)

**1-866-290-7151**

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

**dish**  
Authorized Retailer

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

Advertised price requires credit qualification, 24-month commitment, and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 11/9/22. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 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 \$10.99/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. ©2021 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 means 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.



# 2022 Election and Director Candidates

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's 16-county service area is divided into nine director districts. Each year, one-third of the directors are up for election and elected to three-year terms. This year, members will elect director candidates in districts 5, 7 and 9. Your official 2022 election ballot is located on the back of this magazine. Members who vote by Wednesday, September 28, 2022 will receive a **\$25 bill credit** and be entered into the door prize drawing.

This year's election includes two types of candidates: incumbent and nomination candidates. All candidates listed on the ballot were approved by the Committee on Nominations and Qualifications. Please turn to page AR 15 in the Annual Report for a nomination report from the committee.

**Director candidate biographies are located in the Annual Report on pages AR 12 - AR 14.**

## Official Ballot Instructions

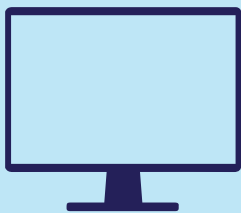
**Your official election ballot is located on the back of this *Texas Co-op Power* magazine.**

### Voting Information

Every member is eligible to vote in the election, regardless of the district in which you reside. Only one ballot may be cast per membership. *Absolutely no ballots will be accepted at our offices.*

**All members who vote prior to the deadlines below will receive a **\$25 credit** on your electric account, and will be entered to win door prizes announced during the virtual Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 4.**

#### ONLINE



Go to **directvote.net/TCECTX** and enter your ballot ID and election passcode printed on the back of this *Texas Co-op Power* magazine.

CLOSES AT 5 P.M.  
ON WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28

#### EMAIL



Members with valid email addresses will receive an email on September 1 with member-specific voting credentials and a link to vote online.

CLOSES AT 5 P.M.  
ON WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28

#### MAIL-IN



Complete the ballot located on the back of this magazine and mail to Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS), in the postage-paid envelope provided.

MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28

# VOTE TO RECEIVE A \$25 BILL CREDIT!

**Voting will close at 5 p.m. on  
Wednesday, September 28, 2022.**

*All members are eligible to vote regardless of the Director District in which you reside.*


Mail your completed ballot to Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS) in the envelope provided, or vote online at **[directvote.net/TCECTX](https://directvote.net/TCECTX)** using your ballot ID and passcode below.

**Director candidate photos and biographies are located inside the magazine in the Annual Report on pages AR 12 - AR 14.**

**Full voting instructions are located on the reverse side of the ballot.**

VOTE ONLINE  
**SCAN ME!**



Please use blue or black ink. Preferred marking method: 

..... Please detach and mail ballot. ....

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

## 2022 ELECTION BALLOT

### District 5 Director Election

- ☐ **Steve Harris**  
*Incumbent*
- ☐ **Mike Hall**  
*Nomination Candidate*

### District 7 Director Election

- ☐ **Larry Miller**  
*Incumbent*
- ☐ **Sommer Portwood**  
*Nomination Candidate*

### District 9 Director Election

- ☐ **Max Waddell**  
*Incumbent*  
*Unopposed*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Member Signature*

***Absolutely no ballots will be accepted at our offices.***