


TEXAS CO-OP POWER  
JULY 2026



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**FEC**  
FAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



# OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

**Dear Fayette Electric Cooperative Member:**

Pursuant to the cooperative's bylaws, notice is hereby given that the annual membership meeting of Fayette Electric Cooperative will be held Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at the KC Community Center in La Grange.

Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude at 7 p.m., at which time the business meeting will commence. All business brought before the meeting will be conducted by members present in person.

Two director positions will be up for election, representing District 6 and District 7. The incumbents, Clayton Wessels (District 6) and David A. Stancik (District 7), were nominated at their respective district meetings held in May. In accordance with Section 4.02 of the cooperative's bylaws, each incumbent will be elected by general consent.

Any other business that may properly come before the membership will also be considered at this meeting.

**James A. Anderle**  
Secretary-Treasurer

Join Us at The

**ANNUAL MEETING 2026**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15  
190 S. BROWN STREET, LA GRANGE



DISASTER CITY  
TO THE RESCUE

DON'T SKIMP  
ON SHRIMP

THE THRILL OF  
PAINTED ROCKS

# Texas Coop Power

FOR FAYETTE EC MEMBERS

JULY 2026

## Down the Rabbit Hole

Jeffie Brewer's  
sculptures steal glances  
from their many admirers





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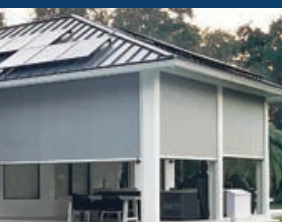
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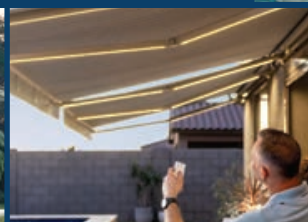
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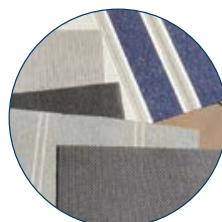
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# July 2026



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### Crash Course

In this town—population zero—first responders from across the globe hone lifesaving skills.

*By Bob McCullough*

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Colorful, whimsical animal sculptures across Texas escape from Jeffie Brewer’s workshop.

*Story and photos by Anna Mazurek*

#### ON THE COVER

Jeffie Brewer found success after getting “dipped into the art world and wrung out.”

*Photo by Anna Mazurek*

#### ABOVE

Disaster City offers a variety of large-scale disaster simulations that prepare first responders for the real thing.

*Courtesy Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service*

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# Patriots in Texas



**BAILEY ANDERSON WAS** a young man when he fought in the American Revolution as a private with troops from South Carolina. He was in his 80s when he fought in the Texas Revolution. When he died in 1840, he was buried in Harrison County, in East Texas.

Anderson is one of 69 veterans of the American Revolution confirmed to be buried in Texas. Clovis H. Brakebill wrote about most of them in an ambitiously researched book published in 1998. You can find the full list and the book at the Texas Sons of the American War Revolution website.



## TCP Contests and More

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## Simple Dimples

A New York woman applied for a patent in 1921 for a spring-loaded device that pressed rubber tips into users' cheeks to create faux dimples. Something to think about **July 9, National Dimples Day**.

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

### Need a hobby? Learn to ...

**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 responses to our May prompt: **Moms are ...**

Doing a million little things no one sees and all the big things everyone feels.

HILARY GRAHMANN  
FAYETTE EC  
FLATONIA

The only human being who can open a car door while carrying a child, a bag of groceries and a purse and be talking on her cell at the same time.

BJ MAYO  
CONCHO VALLEY EC  
MILES

The thread that holds everything together.

CLADY PAUL PAGE  
JASPER-NEWTON EC  
KIRBYVILLE

The ones you still reach for without thinking.

JAMES VOYLES  
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC  
TYLER

Visit our website to see more responses.

MAY 2026 Wet Texas

“What excellent photos by Erich Schlegel. It was a delight to enjoy the vistas of the western part of our state and share its beauty.”

MARTHA EVERMAN JONES  
VICTORIA EC  
VICTORIA



ERICH SCHLEGEL

**Hooked These Readers**

There was perfect timing with the photo of Blue Hole (above) capturing a large catfish resting on a ledge [*Wet Texas*, May 2026].

Kathy Smith  
Trinity Valley EC  
Kaufman

There appears to be a large flathead catfish swimming. As an avid fisherman, this caught my attention.

Drew Douglas  
Trinity Valley EC  
Athens

**Finding Fossils**

I have all my life had fun searching for arrowheads and fossils in Texas [*He Kept Digging*, May 2026].

Glenn Snyder  
Fannin EC  
Blue Ridge



COURTESY KENNETH GARRETT

**We Wuz Informed**

The winner of your *My favorite Texas saying* ... Finish This Sentence feature was a bit too cleaned up from the original [May 2026]. I can still, after 80-some years, hear my father saying, “The sun has riz, the sun has set, and we ain’t left Texas yet.”

Jim Evans  
Victoria EC  
Schertz

**A Red Flag?**

There is a picture of a lady refilling her hummingbird feeders with red-colored water [*Fast and Curious*, April 2026]. I have always been told to never use red dye in the water.

Deborah Earnest  
Sam Houston EC  
Dayton

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Author Sheryl Smith-Rodgers explains, “It’s highly recommended that you don’t use red dye. The Browns say they add only a drop or two to each gallon of sugar water mixture, and that’s so they can see the water levels in their feeders.”

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

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1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

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

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A BIG

D



# LEAP FROM

# OODLES

Colorful, whimsical animal sculptures across Texas escape from Jeffie Brewer's workshop



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANNA MAZUREK

Sometimes success looks like a 10-foot-tall teal bunny.

That was the case for Jeffie Brewer: “You struggle as an artist for a long time to get a footing and get a break, and then you get the break.”

His break was that bunny design.

The whimsical, minimalist metalwork changed the course of his career—and ultimately his life—nearly 20 years ago. And so today, a version of the bunny stands guard outside Brewer's studio on the outskirts of Nacogdoches, where the artist's creations are dreamed up, brought to life and shipped all over the world with the help of a small team.

Decades before any of that, Brewer's path to finding his artistic voice took a long and winding path that began in his father's junkyard in Palestine. “I had always been the kid who drew and made stuff,” he says.

But after a failed attempt at “making it big”—maybe as a comedian—in Los Angeles at 18, he moved back home and studied at a few different colleges before earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Sam Houston State University, where a final-semester class sparked his interest in sculpture.

He completed two master's degrees in art at Stephen F. Austin State University while searching for his artistic voice. After graduation, Brewer stayed in Nacogdoches to teach at his alma mater in the late 1990s. He taught a variety of courses, including art appreciation, painting and 3D design.

His artistic style bounced “all over the place,” he says, including painting, drawing and using a plasma cutter to cut shapes out of steel.

Jeffie Brewer in his Nacogdoches studio with his colorful critters—all descendants of an oversized teal bunny he sculpted 20 years ago.



“The real shift happened when I stopped making art for other people and just made what interested me.”

“At my core, I’m a redneck kid who got dipped into the art world and wrung out,” he says. “The real shift happened when I stopped making art for other people and just made what interested me.”

In 2004, he raised his nephew for a year while the child’s parents were stationed overseas in the military.

“His parents were both in Afghanistan and Iraq. Having this kid around changed my philosophy of how I made and worked in art,” Brewer says. “I made a little bit more of a jump toward figurative, representational sorts of things.”

Birds were a common theme during this period, but he later started doodling bunnies while working at his wife’s advertising agency.

When Brewer returned to working in steel after a two-year hiatus, the first thing he made was a bird, inspired by his drawings, to put in the arboretum beside his office in the SFA art department. It was stolen a week later, inspiring Brewer to make a new sculpture that was “too big to steal.” His next design—that giant 3D bunny—was inspired by his mindless doodling.

“The bird had been just a cut-plate steel piece, but with the bunny, I saw a chance to try something different, something with more dimension and presence,” Brewer says.

The bunny was an instant hit—a “eureka moment” for him. “I got to see how people interacted with it, and it revolutionized the way that I thought about art,” says Brewer, who wants people of all ages to walk away from his work feeling something.

On a whim, Brewer entered the bunny in a South Carolina public art show. He won, and that got him mentioned in *The New York Times*. The bunny made an appearance in New Orleans, putting him on the radar of the world-renowned Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas, which included his work in a later show.

“After that, it’s been chaos,” Brewer says. He kept his foot on the gas, leading to increased exposure, commissions and new animal designs, including armadillos, giraffes, cats and crocodiles.

He made the leap to full-time artist in 2019 and has a team of four full-time assistants, including two SFA grads. At any

OPPOSITE Brewer grinds the edges of a steel sculpture at his rural workshop across from a cow pasture.

BELOW Larger pieces, like the robot along Brewer's driveway, are usually made from steel for durability. He uses aluminum for the smaller ones.

given time, his team is working on four to eight projects—among them an 8-foot-tall purple kitty or an 8-foot hot pink wiener dog. His three real dogs, Olive, Odie and Vinnie, are always on hand to provide emotional support.

Brewer's work is evenly split between commercial and university clients, galleries (his work is in a dozen across the country), and personal commissions from

individuals. His large pieces sell for tens of thousands of dollars, and smaller pieces available on his website go for about \$200.

In 2024, Brewer and his wife, Angie, self-published a colorful soft-cover photo book, *Joy Machine*, that showcases his sculptures.

Every piece is made at his rural workshop across from a cow pasture. A rusted steel gate with the silhouette of five of his famous bunny designs leads to a tree-lined driveway, a sculpture trail really, with an 8-foot purple robot and other artwork scattered in the nearby woods.

One of his most notable permanent public works in Texas is the 12-foot-tall purple bull that stands in front of a water tower on State Highway 46 in Boerne. Others include 58 sculptures at the Bark Yard dog park in Allen—where his 30-foot dog collar is used as a shade structure—and the yellow armadillo outside Covenant Children's Hospital in Lubbock.

"Lubbock loves Jeffie," says Elizabeth Grigsby, the executive director of the Lubbock Arts Alliance.

She first discovered Brewer's work more than a decade ago while serving on a committee to select art to display along highways. Since then, his work has appeared in the Lubbock Arts Festival and twice along intersections. One piece was a 13-foot-tall pink flamingo designed to celebrate an art donor's 100th birthday (Brewer also made a smaller version for her assisted living facility that she decorates for each season).

"What I find most interesting about Jeffie's artwork is that when you look at it, you immediately know what it's meant to represent—there's no confusion about the subject," Grigsby says. "Yet it's presented in such a unique, colorful and stylistic manner that it captures your imagination. He blends clarity with imagination so that the work feels both playful and sophisticated."

Constructing a 500-pound metal bunny is no easy feat. While Brewer, a member of Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, initially drew his animal designs by hand, he now creates them digitally. The files are sent to a local laser cutter, which trims the figures out of metal. The larger pieces are usually

made from steel for durability, while the smaller ones are aluminum.

"We have to build an inside structure and then wrap it and then we have to meticulously weld it all out," Brewer explains about the multiweek process. "And then go back and grind all the welds off so it looks seamless."

The final step is powder coating the pieces to add his signature bright colors. Brewer initially hand-painted all his sculptures with a waterborne enamel before switching to powder coating for its longevity. He still hand-paints pieces upon request. "I'm a big fan of the teal," says Brewer, noting that blue shades are the most requested, followed by red.

As he continually ships pieces to clients across the country with the help of his staff, he says he still can't wrap his head around his success. He's just glad to be able to do this work.

"I don't have a master plan or some big vision board. I just want to keep working, keep building and see where it takes me," he says. "As long as I'm able to make things that connect with people and keep the lights on, I'm happy." ■





# CRASH COURSE

BY BOB MCCULLOUGH

**In this town—population zero—first responders from across the globe hone lifesaving skills**

**WHAT KEVIN PRICE SAW** in July 2025 cannot be re-created: trees ripped from the ground and entire structures effortlessly swept away by the Guadalupe River as it rose 34 feet, devastating communities in the Hill Country and killing more than 135.

What came next he had seen before: a carefully coordinated search-and-rescue effort. Those skills and strategies are carefully replicated and reinforced on a continual basis at a training complex unlike any other in the world on the outskirts of College Station.

Welcome to Disaster City, part of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, called TEEEX. Price is a training manager there. The city's "mayor"—Scott Salter, rescue program director—says it's dedicated to preparing first responders, rescue technicians and emergency management professionals in the most challenging and chaotic environments imaginable.

"Disaster City provides realistic, high-fidelity disaster simulations so responders can develop the skills, confidence and teamwork needed to protect communities when they're in need," Salter says. "It's one-of-a-kind in scale, complexity and realism. While other states operate regional training

centers or individual rescue props, no other facility combines the size, diversity of environments and multidisciplinary training elements found at Disaster City."

The facility is widely recognized as the premier urban search-and-rescue training site in the U.S. and one of the most advanced in the world, Salter says.

TEEX built Disaster City in the late 1990s to meet a growing need. It was an outgrowth of the intense training program for firefighters that dates back to 1929, when the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas chose Texas A&M University as the site for a permanent school for firefighters.

Salter says two events proved to be the tipping point for the establishment of Disaster City: the 1993 New York World Trade Center below-ground parking lot bombing and the 1995 federal building bombing in downtown Oklahoma City. Such large-scale emergencies required better planning and better strategies than had been available.

"Texas has also faced many major disasters," Salter says. "The most prominent in recent years include the widespread 2011 wildfires, the 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in West, Hurricane Harvey flooding in 2017, and multiple oil refinery and chemical plant incidents along the Gulf Coast."



OPPOSITE Technical training at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's Disaster City prepares crews to safely perform high-angle rescues, rappelling and patient recovery using specialized rope systems and protective equipment.

THIS PAGE Campus exercises simulate real-world emergencies such as vehicle recovery and victim extraction, helping teams build readiness for complex crises.

Disaster City's Building 137, or the Rescue Building, is the hub of the 52-acre complex. This "city hall" houses classrooms, offices and support facilities. It's also the gateway to the disaster response training complex.

Dotting the landscape are multiple collapsed buildings that simulate damage from earthquakes and bombings. There's a passenger train derailment, complete with a locomotive and a heap of train cars. There's a crashed aircraft fuselage. There are underground tunnels, rubble piles, and structures used for breaching-and-breaking training. And that's just a sampling of the chaotic conditions that confront trainees.

"The true strength of Disaster City lies in the diverse training props available to instructors," says Kevin Farmer, a 20-year firefighter, paramedic and instructor with the nearby Bryan Fire Department. "Disaster City allows us to simulate some of the most complex and challenging rescue scenarios imaginable and to test our team to its full capability."

Basic to the rescue of disaster victims in all sorts of circumstances is expertise in the use of ropes. Trainees must master knot-tying and rigging and even understand the physics involved in the successful use of ropes to save lives. Grasping these fundamental principles leads to almost 100 specialized courses in technical rescue and disaster response.

The school offers a Federal Emergency Management Agency canine course that trains dogs and handlers. There's also a spokesperson training course that teaches how to communicate with an anxious public in the aftermath of a disaster.

"Among the rescue courses we offer, the structural collapse, rope/confined space and swift water/floodwater consistently attract the largest number of participants," Salter says. "Each year, more than 22,000 responders—representing Texas, the broader United States and international partners—participate in hands-on and computer-based training with TEEX and Disaster City. This diverse group includes firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency managers, military personnel and international rescue teams preparing for deployment."

Disaster City has helped Texas lead the way in standardizing urban search-and-rescue training; improving communication through joint exercises involving fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement and public works; and enhancing flood and wide-area search protocols.

"After the July 4 Hill Country flooding, Disaster City played a major support role by providing highly trained wide-area search personnel," Salter says. "They assisted local authorities with searching in inaccessible flood zones, documentation of damaged infrastructure and debris field analysis, to name a few of their many contributions."

OPPOSITE First responders remove a mock victim from a train car.

RIGHT Disaster City, built more than 25 years ago, allows students to practice shoring operations, breaching collapsed structures and locating survivors under rubble.

## THINK THROUGH THE UNTHINKABLE

The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service encourages all Texans to take important preparedness steps before disaster strikes. Small actions today can significantly improve survival odds and resilience during a disaster.

- **Have a 72-hour emergency kit with water, medications, flashlights and essential documents.**
- **Create a family communications plan that includes meeting points and emergency contacts.**
- **Be aware of potential hazards—whether flooding, wildfires, severe storms or industrial risks—and sign up for local alerts.**
- **Map basic evacuation routes, whether the threat is a hurricane or a wildfire.**
- **Never assume you'll have time to prepare during an emergency. Start now!**





“Those responders that deployed to the Hill Country had been trained by TEEEX at Disaster City, allowing agencies to work together seamlessly under extreme conditions.”

Kevin Price was one of those responders. The TEEEX instructor spent a week amid the devastation and came away amazed by the immensity of what he saw: nature’s forces and the power of teamwork that came next.

Salter, an El Paso native who spent the early part of his career fighting fires in North Carolina, was among an international contingent of hundreds of responders who witnessed firsthand the pain and misery caused by the swollen Guadalupe and its tributaries a year ago.

Yet the disaster that remains foremost in his mind and the one that truly motivates him to help others is Hurricane Matthew, which struck North Carolina in 2016. The Category 1 storm caused catastrophic flooding that submerged neighborhoods, cut off highways and overwhelmed infrastructure.

“Working in that environment—swift water, debris-filled currents, compromised structures—was a stark reminder that disaster conditions don’t have to be extreme on paper to be devastating,” he says. “It also reinforced the importance of training responders in wide-area search, flood rescue and interagency coordination.”

Year-round Salter and his team help students respond to known disasters. But they’re also preparing for the disasters we haven’t seen yet. “As threats evolve, our training must evolve with them,” he says. “Thus, we are actively exploring several next-generation rescue and disaster scenarios.”

These include subterranean rescues in transportation tunnels and utility conduits; wind turbine rescues; accidents involving lithium batteries; and advanced industrial rescues focused on petrochemical, rail and energy industry emergencies.

“Our goal is to remain ahead of emerging risks and to ensure Disaster City continues to be the nation’s premier training environment,” Salter says.

He believes Disaster City’s greatest accomplishment is its role in transforming how responders train for large-scale, complex emergencies. They’ve also helped create a common language and operational standards for search-and-rescue teams, enabling agencies that had never trained together to operate seamlessly during real disasters.

But his greatest satisfaction still comes from seeing people arrive at Disaster City as students and leave as confident, highly skilled rescuers.

“Watching them push through difficult, exhausting training and then applying those skills in a real disaster is incredibly rewarding,” Salter says. “But there’s even deeper satisfaction knowing that our work strengthens the entire community. When a responder leaves Disaster City better prepared, that capability extends to every person they may someday help—neighbors, co-workers, total strangers.

“Being part of that chain of impact is what drives me every day.” ■

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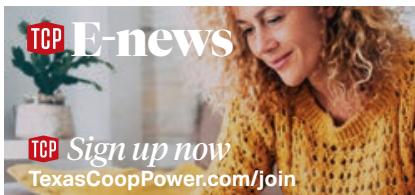


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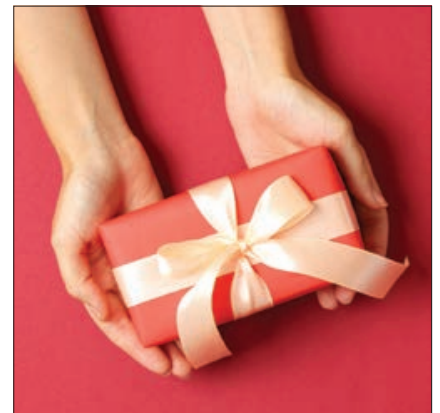
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MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

DOUG LAMBERT

AT FAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, every decision is guided by a simple mission: to serve our members reliably today while preparing our system and our communities for the future.

Over the past year, your cooperative has navigated rising costs, growing demand and increasing expectations for electric reliability across Texas.

Rather than reacting to these challenges, Fayette EC took a proactive and disciplined approach—aligning strategy around long-term financial stability, operational excellence and responsible investment in our electric system.

### Focus on Financial Strength

Recent years have brought significant investments in infrastructure and facilities designed to support growth, efficiency and employee retention. While necessary, those investments added short-term pressure to financial metrics. In response, Fayette EC implemented a comprehensive financial planning and recovery strategy, including a cost-of-service study, detailed rate analysis and tighter controls on operating expenses.

These actions were not short-term fixes. They were deliberate steps to protect the cooperative's creditworthiness, maintain access to low-cost capital, and ensure compliance with lender and power supply requirements—all while remaining true to the cooperative business model of members serving members. As a result, FEC has made progress in stabilizing key financial indicators while continuing to fund critical investments in reliability.

### Reliability, Safety and Resilience

Strong finances support strong operations. Across the system, Fayette EC continues to invest in reliability, safety and resilience—especially in the face of extreme weather.

Vegetation remains one of the leading causes of outages year-round. To address this risk, the cooperative has expanded its vegetation management efforts, using advanced tools and data-driven





technology to identify high-risk areas and prioritize trimming where it makes the greatest impact. This proactive approach helps reduce outages before they occur and minimizes the “blinking lights” members sometimes experience.

In addition, FEC conducts regular pole and equipment inspections to identify potential hazards early. Poles are inspected on a scheduled cycle to ensure structural integrity and safety for both the public and line crews. Equipment mounted on poles is also tested regularly, allowing replacements and upgrades to be planned rather than made during emergencies. This work improves reliability, reduces longer outages and enhances overall system safety.

Recent events, including winter storms and wildfire conditions, reinforced the value of these investments. Cleared rights-of-way and inspected infrastructure helped limit damage and maintain service in challenging conditions. While the co-op can't control the weather, it can prepare—and that preparation continues to make a difference.

### Investing in People, Technology

Behind every mile of line and every reliability improvement is a skilled, dedicated workforce.

Throughout the year, Fayette EC continued to invest in employee training, technology and tools that allow our teams to work safely, efficiently and responsively. From enhanced outage management systems to expanded use of remote access and data analytics, these investments support faster decision-making, improved coordination during emergencies and better service for our members.

By equipping our employees with the resources they need, we're strengthening our operational performance and the safety culture that underpins everything we do.

### Beyond the Meter

Being a member-owned cooperative means Fayette EC exists to do more than deliver electricity. It exists to strengthen the communities it serves.

That commitment is reflected in programs like the Power of Change, Fayette EC's local version of Operation Round Up. Members who participate in this new program will voluntarily allow their monthly bill to be rounded up to the next dollar, with the extra change combined to support neighbors in need, local causes and community assistance efforts. Small contributions together create big impact—demonstrating the cooperative principle of members helping members.

In addition, the board of directors approved an expansion in the use of unclaimed capital credits. While the cooperative will continue awarding scholarships to support local students graduating from high school, these funds may now also be used to support economic development grants within the service area. This reinvestment helps promote jobs, opportunity and long-term community vitality—ensuring unclaimed capital credits remain at work locally.

### Looking Ahead

Sound finances, reliable operations and community investment are not separate efforts—they're interconnected. Together, they position Fayette EC to remain strong, local and member-owned for generations to come.

Your cooperative remains committed to transparency, accountability and responsible stewardship as we continue to serve our members and the communities we proudly call home. ■



# Financial Statements

## Condensed Balance Sheet

DECEMBER 31,

ASSETS—What We Own	2025	2024
Net utility	\$ 106,762,679	\$ 104,715,040
Investments	4,189,951	3,984,939
Cash	1,232,856	1,213,448
Temporary Cash Investments		
Notes and Accounts Receivable	4,230,349	3,918,555
Materials and Supplies	2,617,261	2,688,319
Other Current and Accrued Assets	1,272,444	1,584,589
Deferred Charges	61,268	120,771
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>120,366,808</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>118,225,661</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES—What We Owe</b>		
Short-Term Debt	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,850,000
Long-Term Debt	71,072,850	68,236,572
Accounts Payable	3,893,305	3,363,631
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	4,752,015	4,349,852
Deferred Credits	6,719,785	5,243,712
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ <u>87,537,955</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>83,043,767</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Memberships	\$ 263,760	\$ 255,855
Patronage Capital and Margins	32,565,093	34,926,039
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ <u>32,828,853</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>35,181,694</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ <u>120,366,808</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>118,225,661</u></b>

## Income Statement

DECEMBER 31,

REVENUES	2025	2024
Electric Energy Sold	\$ 40,423,432	\$ 39,116,444
<b>Total Electric Revenue</b>	<b>\$ <u>40,423,432</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>39,116,444</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Electric Power Cost	\$ 23,619,028	\$ 23,643,683
Operating Expenses and Taxes	12,431,266	10,398,850
Estimated System Depreciation	4,163,078	3,646,177
Interest on Long-Term Debt	3,866,079	3,573,629
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ <u>44,079,451</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>41,262,339</u></b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (3,656,019)</b>	<b>\$ (2,145,895)</b>
Capital Credits	608,976	482,837
Nonoperating Income	973,330	120,286
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$ <u>(2,073,713)</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>(1,542,772)</u></b>

## Fayette Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

2111 N. Von Minden Rd.

P.O. Box 490

La Grange, TX 78945

Local (979) 968-3181

Toll-Free 1-866-968-3181

Email [electric@fayette.coop](mailto:electric@fayette.coop)

Web [fayette.coop](http://fayette.coop)

### Your Board of Directors

Joseph D. Kruppa, President

Gale Lincke, Vice President

James A. Anderle, Secretary-Treasurer

David A. Stancik

Clayton Wessels

Scott Schultz

Jonathan Treptow

### Your General Manager

Doug Lambert

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

**24/7**

**Outage Hotline Numbers**

### LOCAL

(979) 968-3181

### TOLL-FREE

1-866-968-3181

### TEXT "OUT"

1-844-971-1048

### ABOUT FAYETTE EC

FEC serves Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington counties.

### CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay by Bank Draft
- Pay Online Using SmartHub
- Pay by Phone at 844-971-1048
- Pay in Person
- Pay by Credit Card Draft
- Pay by Mail

### TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Fayette EC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

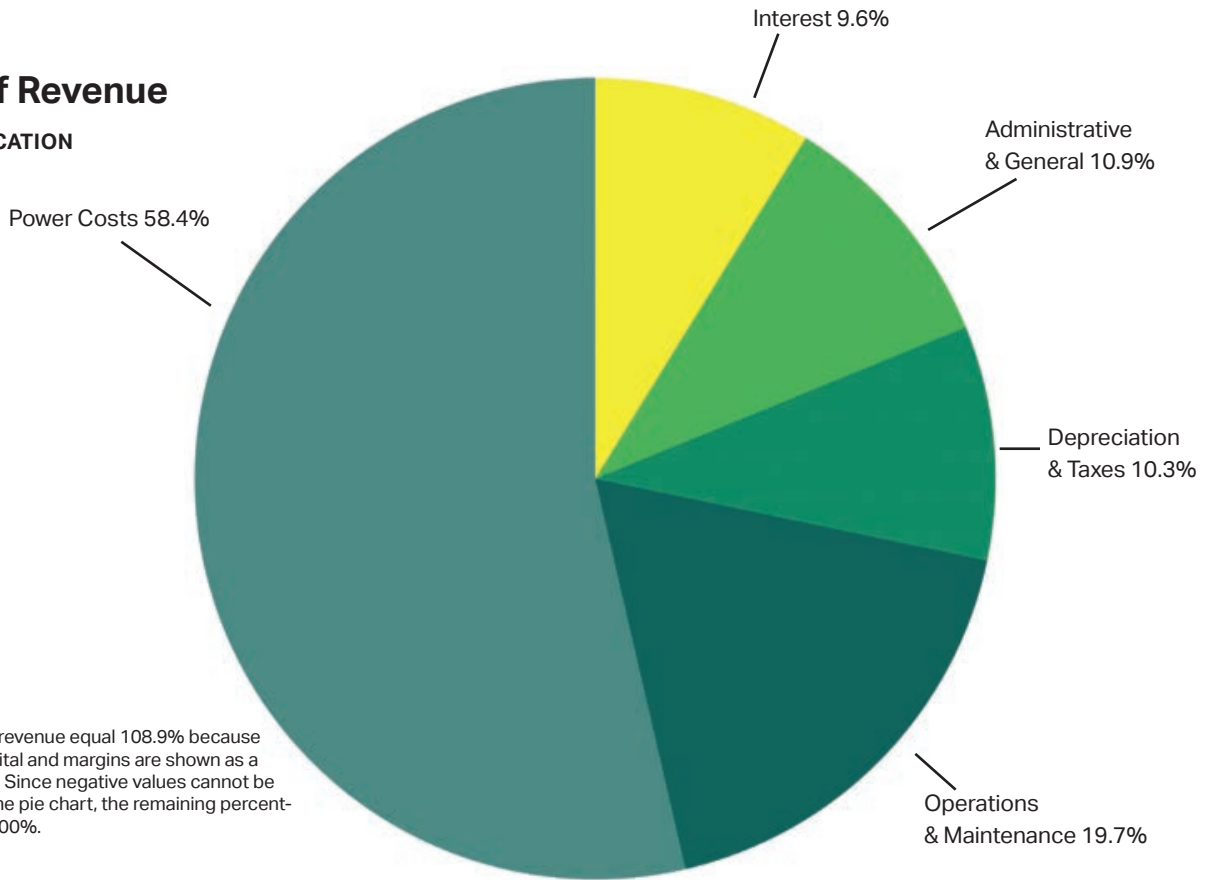
[fayette.coop](http://fayette.coop)



# Operational Information

## Uses of Revenue

2025 ALLOCATION



\* Total uses of revenue equal 108.9% because patronage capital and margins are shown as a negative 8.9%. Since negative values cannot be displayed on the pie chart, the remaining percentages exceed 100%.



## LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors who were not selected for an FEC scholarship in May will have the opportunity to win a \$1,500 Luck of the Draw scholarship at our annual meeting.

The student must be present to win and meet eligibility requirements.

Only one lucky name will be drawn.



## 2026 Youth Tour Winners



FEC Board President Joseph Kruppa, left, and Tracy Denton, right, Youth Tour coordinator, congratulate the winners of FEC's 2026 Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest: Laney Bludau from Hallettsville High School and Gretchen Sacks from Round Top-Carmine High School.

## 2026 Scholarship Winners



**Troy Cantwell**  
Weimar High School  
*Son of Lanna and Ryan Cantwell. He plans to attend Texas State Technical College and study welding.*



**Eleanor Carey**  
La Grange High School  
*Daughter of Sarah and Richard Carey. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and study business.*



**Landon Chaloupka**  
Moulton High School  
*Son of Nicole and Chad Chaloupka. He plans to attend Texas State Technical College and study instrumentation technology.*



**Reagan Dusek**  
Schulenburg High School  
*Daughter of Renee and Michael Dusek. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in public health (prenursing).*



**Nathan Henke**  
Hallettsville High School  
*Son of Sheila and Christopher Henke. He plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in engineering.*



**Elena Supak**  
La Grange High School  
*Daughter of Cheryl and Jody Supak. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and study nursing.*

# Board Members Seeking Reelection



**Clayton Wessels (Incumbent)**  
**Director, District 6**

**EDUCATION:**

Graduate of Texas A&M University, College Station

**OCCUPATION:**

CEMEX, vice president of cement sales for Texas and Colorado; Leyco Real Estate, licensed realtor

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**

Construction materials industry professional with CEMEX; roles in ready-mix sales and aggregate sales

**PAST MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**

Katy Area Economic Development Council; Sigma Lambda Chi, National Honor Society of Texas A&M University; Associated General Contractors of America; Houston Contractors Association

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**

Fayette Electric Cooperative, director since 2025; St. Michael Catholic Church, active member; St. Michael Catholic School, supporter and fundraiser leader; Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association Governmental Affairs Committee, active member



**David Stancik (Incumbent)**  
**Director, District 7**

**EDUCATION:**

Graduate of Columbus High School and attended Blinn College, Brenham

**OCCUPATION:**

Retired

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**

Conductor at Santa Fe Railroad and independent insurance agent

**HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**

Fayette EC, secretary-treasurer; Colorado River Wildlife Co-op, director; St. Paul Evangelical Church Stewardship, board chairman; St. Paul Evangelical Church, council member; Fayette County Junior Livestock Show, beef committee co-chairman; La Grange Evening Lions Club, president; and La Grange Little League, secretary-treasurer

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**

Fayette EC, director since 1996;  
**NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATIONS:** Credentialed Cooperative Director, 2007

## Don't Miss These Booths at the Annual Meeting!

**Plinko**  
**Putt-Putt Golf**  
**Wheel of Fortune**

Try your luck at these games to test your skills and win some great prizes!

### Enjoy Refreshments

Be sure to stop by the refreshment booth to enjoy the delicious cookies, coffee and lemonade provided and served by our local 4-H clubs.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Independence Day

Saturday, July 4  
Our office will be closed Friday, July 3, for the holiday.

#### National Day of the Cowboy

Saturday, July 25

#### National Disability Independence Day

Sunday, July 26

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# FEC Board of Directors



**JOSEPH D. KRUPPA**  
Board President, Dir. of Dist. 2



**GALE LINCKE**  
Board Vice President, Dir. of Dist. 3



**JAMES A. ANDERLE**  
Secretary-Treas., Dir. of Dist. 5



**DAVID A. STANCIK**  
Director, District 7



**CLAYTON WESSELS**  
Director, District 6



**SCOTT SCHULTZ**  
Director, District 1



**JONATHAN TREPTOW**  
Director, District 4

## Your FEC Employees

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE	NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Larry Sulak	Safety Compliance Director	41	Joseph Jasek	Journeyman Lineman	7
Leonard Malota Jr.	Warehouse Supervisor	39	Brian Zbrank	Staking Technician I	8
Robert Thomas	Dir. of Construction and Maintenance	38	Justin Neiser	Journeyman Lineman	6
Christine Roensch	Director of Member Services	32	Daniel Storm	Lineman	3
Melissa Sommer	Director of Procurement	31	Angie Bayless	Senior Accountant	2
Leo J. Wick	Dir. of Engineering and Line Extension	29	Jaison Braun	Lineman Apprentice	2
Greg Noak	Asst. Dir. of Construction & Maint.	28	Tyler Dockery	Manager of Information Technology	2
Brandon Pieper	Assistant General Manager/COO	28	Doug Lambert	General Manager/CEO	2
Charles Srubar	Crew Foreman	26	Amanda Wood	Member Services Specialist	2
Tracy Denton	Dir. of Marketing, Comm. & Training	22	Rachel Barten	Executive Assistant	1
Bradley Malota	Staking Technician II	21	Byron Citzler	Staking Technician II	1
Jared Surman	Technical Services Specialist	21	James KIELTY	Accounting and Finance Manager/CFO	2
Tiger Hall	Right of Way Maint. Coordinator	18	Craig Lawson	Staking Technician I	1
Diane Krenek	Director of System Operations	16	Emily Purdy	Member Services Representative	2
Justin Whited	Journeyman Lineman	12	Ryan Rosenbaum	Lineman Apprentice	1
Lara Perez	Engineering Coordinator	11	Mason Saleman	Lineman Apprentice	1
Macy Scott	Lineman Apprentice	11	Jake Lauer	Special Projects Manager	0
Diana Torres	Member Services Representative	11	Deric Weyand	Warehouse Specialist	0
Shane Drosche	Lineman Apprentice	9			
Aaron Tonn	Lineman	8			

# Service Awards

Fayette Electric Cooperative proudly recognizes the dedication and long-standing commitment of the employees and directors who faithfully support our mission of providing reliable electric service. From team members with decades of experience to those develop-

ing new skills and beginning their careers, each play an important role in the success of the cooperative. This year's service award recipients collectively represent 212 years of service, reflecting the strength, stability and continuity that define FEC.



**Jessica Montez**  
5 Years of Service



**Clayton Brossmann**  
5 Years of Service



**Corey Brown**  
6 Years of Service



**Amy Rackley**  
10 Years of Service



**Lezli Thomas**  
10 Years of Service



**Mike Proske**  
10 Years of Service



**Director James A. Anderle**  
10 Years of Service



**TC Muniz**  
15 Years of Service



**Director Gale Lincke**  
20 Years of Service



**Steven Kallus**  
20 Years of Service



**Dana Janca**  
21 Years of Service



**Daniel Kovar**  
Retired on March 9 after  
24 years of service



**Director Joseph D. Kruppa**  
25 Years of Service



**Director David A. Stancik**  
31 Years of Service





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# Meet the Beauty in the Beast

Discover this spectacular 6½-carat green treasure from Mount St. Helens!

For almost a hundred years it lay dormant. Silently building strength. At 10,000 feet high, it was truly a sleeping giant. Until May 18, 1980, when the beast awoke with violent force and revealed its greatest secret. Mount St. Helens erupted, sending up an 80,000-foot column of ash and smoke. From that chaos, something beautiful emerged... our spectacular *Helenite Necklace*.

**EXCLUSIVE FREE**  
**Helenite Earrings**  
 -a \$99 value-  
 with purchase of  
**Helenite Necklace**



Helenite is produced from the heated volcanic rock of Mount St. Helens and the brilliant green creation has captured the eye of jewelry designers worldwide. Today you can wear this massive 6½-carat stunner for *only \$99!*

**Make your emeralds jealous.** Our *Helenite Necklace* puts the green stone center stage, with a faceted pear-cut in a luxurious gold-finished setting. The explosive origins of the stone are echoed in the flashes of light that radiate as the piece swings gracefully from its 18" luxurious gold-finished chain. Today the volcano sits quiet, but this unique piece of American natural history continues to erupt with gorgeous green fire.

**Your satisfaction is guaranteed.** Bring home the *Helenite Necklace* and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the rare beauty of this exceptional stone, simply return the necklace within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.

**JEWELRY SPECS:**

- 6 ½ ctw Helenite in gold-finished setting
- 18" gold-finished chain

**Limited to the first 600 orders from this ad only**

- Helenite Necklace (6 ½ ctw)..... Only \$99 +S&P
- Helenite Stud Earrings (1 ctw) ..... \$99 +S&P
- Helenite Set ~~\$198~~..... Call-in price only \$99 +S&P**  
 (Set includes necklace and earrings)

Call now to take advantage of this extremely limited offer.

**1-800-333-2045**

**Promotional Code HNN260-07**  
 Please mention this code when you call.



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 Was \$299, Now  
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Necklace enlarged to show luxurious color.

**"My wife received more compliments on this stone on the first day she wore it than any other piece of jewelry I've ever given her."**

- J. from Orlando, FL  
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**TCP** Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



Signed editions of *Blood Meridian*, Cormac McCarthy's apocalyptic, anti-Western opus written during the 20-some years that he lived in Texas, are worth much more because he didn't sign books much at all: up to \$10,000.

Elmer Kelton's critically acclaimed *The Time It Never Rained* could bring \$600. What about Edna Ferber's *Giant*? A signed first edition with a perfect dust jacket: \$800.

*Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne? The 2011 chronicle of the rise and fall of Quanah Parker and the Comanches has been a mega bestseller for years. There are many, many copies out there, but a signed first-edition hardback might fetch \$300–\$500.

As always, these are estimates. The market may be willing to pay a bit more or less, depending on many factors.

And then there are the rare older books, less known by the general public but still wonderful because they captured snapshots of life on the frontier.

For instance, *The Trail Drivers of Texas* by J. Marvin Hunter is worth perhaps \$1,000–\$2,000. And *The Adventures of Big-Foot Wallace*, published in 1870 by John Crittenden Duval, could fetch \$5,000 or more.

If you have Charles Siringo's *A Texas Cow Boy*, published in 1885, you could have a little gold mine on your shelf. In 2022, that book sold at auction for \$94,500.

Gannon and Johnson figure the most valuable Texas artifact is William B. Travis' victory or death letter written at the Alamo. It's housed at the Texas State Library and Archives, but if it were for sale, they estimate it would go for at least \$10 million and probably much, much more. ■

# Page Earners

Rare books can mean wealth on your shelf

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY SHAW NIELSEN

**LARRY MCMURTRY ONCE** claimed that he was mostly a book hunter who used his side hustle—being a writer—to finance his love of books and reading. He proved that with his 8,500-square-foot bookstore in tiny Archer City, near Wichita Falls.

My knowledge of that market, by comparison, amounts to about 5 square feet. So I stopped to see friends James Gannon and Blake Johnson. They operate a fine antiquarian bookstore called InkQ Rare Books in Addison.

Gannon and Johnson have a great deal of McMurtry's personal library on their shelves and a good deal of Bill Wittliff's, too, among many others of all genres. It's a magical place to browse (by appointment only).

I wanted their insights on the value of Texas collectibles—wealth that might be sitting on your own shelf. They told me that there are many, many caveats to determining the value of a collectible book—things like first or limited editions, signed copies, and condition among them.

They hesitate to say what a book is worth without taking a close look because there are so many variables. But they were able to give me some general guidance on retail values, which is the price you might get if a collector very much wanted your unique volume.

McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*, in hardback, first edition, signed by the author, is worth a good deal: \$500–\$1,000, depending on provenance.

# Don't Skimp on Shrimp

This seafood is swimming in flavor—plus there's firecrackers

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

My mami worked as a teacher's aide, and during her summer break she worked at the local shrimp factory. She sorted and packed shrimp alongside her friend Yolanda. They would walk home together, laughing, chatting and loaded with shrimp. This month seemed like the perfect opportunity to share her ceviche recipe.

## Shrimp Ceviche

**1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined**  
**1 cup fresh lime juice**  
**1 serrano pepper, minced**  
**⅓ cup finely diced red onion**  
**¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish**  
**½ cucumber, seeds removed, finely diced**  
**2 Roma tomatoes, diced**  
**2 tablespoons Valentina hot sauce**  
**½ teaspoon dried oregano**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**1 teaspoon ground black pepper**  
**1 avocado, diced**  
**Tostadas or tortilla chips, for serving**

1. Dice shrimp, cutting each into 3–4 pieces, and place in a large glass bowl.
2. Add lime juice and serrano and stir to combine. Cover bowl and refrigerate 1 hour.
3. Stir in onion, cilantro, cucumber, tomatoes, hot sauce, oregano, salt and pepper. Taste and adjust seasoning, adding additional hot sauce or salt if desired.
4. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.
5. Before serving, gently stir in avocado. Serve with tostadas or tortilla chips and cilantro to garnish.

SERVES 4

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Creamy Chipotle Lime Shrimp.





## Shrimp Oliver

CHRISTIE PARTEE  
TRINITY VALLEY EC

The simplicity of this recipe caught my eye, but the flavor kept me coming back. Shrimp spiced up with Tabasco, cayenne and wine makes a great date night dish ... swoon.

- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter**
- 2 tablespoons minced onion**
- 3 cloves garlic, minced**
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined**
- 1 teaspoon paprika**
- ¼ teaspoon Tabasco sauce**
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 1 tablespoon flour**
- 1 tablespoon water**
- ¼ cup white wine**
- 1½ teaspoons salt**
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley**
- Cooked rice or pasta, for serving**

- 1.** In a skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add onion and garlic and cook 2 minutes, stirring frequently.
- 2.** Stir in shrimp, paprika, Tabasco and cayenne. Cover and reduce heat. Cook 7 minutes or until shrimp are fully cooked.
- 3.** Stir in flour, water, wine and salt. Increase heat to high and cook, stirring constantly, 2 minutes, until sauce has thickened.
- 4.** Stir in parsley. Serve warm, over rice or pasta.

SERVES 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >

\$500 WINNER

## Texas Two-Step Firecracker Shrimp Scampi

BARBARA SAVAGE  
COSERV



Plump shrimp swimming in a spicy and buttery garlic lemon sauce is my idea of a good time. The Firecracker Cocktail Sauce brings the heat, which I couldn't get enough of. I served this with plenty of bread to sop up the delicious scampi sauce.



### FIRECRACKER COCKTAIL SAUCE

- ¼ cup ketchup**
- 1–2 tablespoons prepared white horseradish**
- 2 tablespoons chunky salsa**
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice**
- Dash Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- Diced jalapeño peppers (optional)**

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**HOLIDAY TRADITIONS** DUE JUL 10

Food and family are hallmarks of the holidays. What recipe brings your household together? We'll print our favorites in the December issue, wrapping up \$500 for the winner.

**UPCOMING: SMOOTHIES** DUE AUG 10

### SHRIMP SCAMPI

- 1½ pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) butter**
- 5 cloves garlic, minced**
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)**
- Zest of 1 lemon**
- Juice of ½ lemon**
- ½–1 teaspoon finely minced jalapeño pepper, seeds removed**
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**

**COOK'S TIP:** The Firecracker Cocktail Sauce can be easily adjusted for your spice level preference. The amount of horseradish, spice level of your salsa and whether you include jalapeño all will affect the heat of the sauce.

### 1. FIRECRACKER COCKTAIL SAUCE

In a small bowl, mix ketchup, 1 tablespoon horseradish, salsa, lime juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt and jalapeño, if desired, until well combined. Taste and add additional horseradish if desired. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

**2. SHRIMP SCAMPI** Pat shrimp dry and season with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat olive oil and butter over medium heat until butter is melted and foamy.

**3.** Add garlic and red pepper flakes, if desired, cooking just until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add shrimp in a single layer and cook 1½–2 minutes per side, just until pink and opaque.

**4.** Remove skillet from heat and stir in lemon zest, lemon juice and jalapeño. Sprinkle with fresh parsley.

**5.** To serve, arrange shrimp on a platter and spoon garlic-lemon butter over the top. Serve warm with the cocktail sauce on the side for dipping or drizzling.

SERVES 4



ENTER ONLINE

## Cajun Shrimp and Andouille Pasta

MARK MCNIEL  
PEDERNALES EC

McNiel has been whipping up this pasta since his college days at Texas Tech University. I can see why it would be a go-to after a day of classes and studying—it's pure comfort.

**12 ounces uncooked rigatoni**  
**1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined**  
**2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning**  
**1 teaspoon smoked paprika**  
**1 teaspoon dried rosemary**  
**1 teaspoon celery salt**  
**8 ounces andouille sausage, sliced diagonally into thin rounds**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**1 tablespoon (½ stick) butter**  
**1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced**  
**5 cloves garlic, minced**  
**½ shallot, finely diced**  
**¼ cup white cooking wine or dry white wine**



**2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice**  
**1 cup heavy cream**  
**1 teaspoon ground black pepper**  
**½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, divided use**

**1.** Cook rigatoni according to package directions, reserving ½ cup pasta water.  
**2.** In a bowl, combine shrimp, Cajun seasoning, smoked paprika, rosemary and celery salt. Stir to fully coat shrimp in seasoning.

**3.** In a large skillet over medium-high heat, lightly brown the sausage. Remove from pan and set aside.

**4.** To the same skillet, add oil and butter. Add seasoned shrimp and cook 1–2 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Remove shrimp and set aside.

**5.** Add bell pepper to the skillet and cook until softened, about 4–5 minutes. Add garlic and shallot and cook an additional minute, stirring constantly.

**6.** Add wine and lemon juice to the skillet. Deglaze the skillet by vigorously scraping the browned bits from bottom of pan. Reduce heat and simmer 3 minutes. Whisk in heavy cream, pepper and Parmesan until smooth.

**7.** Remove skillet from heat. Stir in cooked pasta, sausage, shrimp and 1 tablespoon parsley. Stir in pasta water, as needed, if the sauce is thick. Serve with the remaining 1 tablespoon parsley and Parmesan cheese to garnish.

**SERVES 4**

# Not just another Hunger Game.



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



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Policy Form #SRTC/SRTC R13 or R17, or #SRTC/V90MA in MA

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Waiting on the Wings

The world's largest bat colony emerges from a cave outside San Antonio

BY CHET GARNER

**THERE ARE TEXAS SUNSETS**—and then there's the sunset I saw on the outskirts of San Antonio one evening: 15 million bats blotting out the sun. Evenings like this can only be witnessed at the Bracken Cave Preserve, home to the world's largest colony of bats and one of the largest concentrations of mammals on the planet.

After buying a required advance ticket online, I arrived just before dusk on the private property of Bat Conservation International as the summer heat began to fade and the air thickened with anticipation. I joined a group of batty tourists (like me) as we stood by and stared into a relatively small, eye-shaped hole in the ground. I couldn't wrap my head around the fact that there were millions of Mexican free-tailed bats hiding inside.

At first, it was subtle. A flicker. A ripple. Then the cave mouth began to churn like a living cloud. Suddenly, an endless ribbon of wings spiraled into the sky.

It wasn't a swarm but more of an organized cyclone twisting upward and over our heads. I felt bad for the first few bats that met the talons of hungry hawks waiting for their nightly meal. As the bat-nado grew, its fluttering sound turned into thunderous applause. I've seen bat colonies take flight before, but this was bigger and closer. And louder.

These bats fan out across Central Texas, devouring more than 100 tons of insects before returning by dawn. Farmers love them, scientists study them and visitors like me just stand there, grinning like we've stumbled into one of nature's best-kept secrets.

The whole evening reminded me that some of the most extraordinary experiences in Texas don't come with neon signs or funnel cakes but can still leave an impression that lasts a lifetime. ■

ABOVE Millions of bats race past Chet in search of their nightly meal.

**TCP** Watch the video on our website and see all of Chet's Explorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

### JULY

9

**Claude [9–11] Caprock Roundup**, (806) 310-9044, [claudetexas.com](http://claudetexas.com)

10

**Kemp Aley Picnic**, (903) 880-3186, [facebook.com/groups/aleypicnic](https://facebook.com/groups/aleypicnic)

11

**Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival**, (817) 596-3801, [peachfestivaltx.com](http://peachfestivaltx.com)

**Kerrville [11–12] Summer Market**, 1-800-392-9904, [texasmarketguide.com](http://texasmarketguide.com)

12

**Plano '70s Pop Up Market**, (469) 422-3885, [bit.ly/70spopupmarket](https://bit.ly/70spopupmarket)

15

**Childress [15–17] Junior Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo**, (806) 290-2848, [jrcarodeo.com](http://jrcarodeo.com)

**Fort Worth [15–19, 21–26] Hamilton**, (817) 212-4280, [basshall.com](http://basshall.com)

17

**Fairfield [17–18] Fuzzy Peach Festival**, (903) 389-5792, [fairfieldtexaschamber.com](http://fairfieldtexaschamber.com)

**Huntsville [17–18] Texas Thimble Trail**, (936) 329-1376, [texasthimbletrail.com](http://texasthimbletrail.com)

18

**Bonham Margarita Rodeo**, (903) 583-4811, [bonhamchamber.com](http://bonhamchamber.com)

**Fredericksburg Wrede School Open House**, (830) 685-3321, [historicschools.org](http://historicschools.org)

23

**Round Rock [23-26] Brick Rodeo,** brickrodeo.com

24

**Driftwood [24-25] Hill Country Rally for Kids Barbecue Cook-Off,** info@hcrally.com, hcrally.com

**Victoria [24-26, 30-August 2] Singin' in the Rain,** (361) 576-6277, theatrevictoria.org

25

**Bandera National Day of the American Cowboy,** (210) 920-5180, banderabusiness.com

**Buffalo Gap Tour de Gap,** (325) 829-0617, tourdegap.com

**Giddings Sip & Shop Christmas in July,** (979) 542-3455, business.giddingsstx.com

28

**San Angelo Buffalo Soldier Anniversary Day,** (325) 657-4444, bit.ly/fortconcho

31

**Schertz Cibolo Creek Ducks Unlimited Banquet,** (303) 915-5371, bit.ly/cibolocreekdu

## AUGUST

4

**Fort Worth [4-9] Suff's,** (817) 212-4280, basshall.com

6

**Corsicana [6-9, 13-16] Finding Nemo Jr.,** (903) 872-5421, thewllac.com

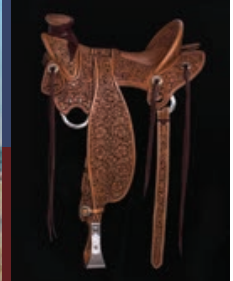
### TCP Submit Your Event

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

## 40th Annual TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Opening Weekend: September 17-19

Celebrate the 40th annual exhibit and sale of contemporary Western art and custom cowboy gear at Trappings of Texas. The show continues through October 31, 2026, at the Museum of the Big Bend on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine, Texas.



Scan the QR code to win 3 nights in a Hotel Parker casita and tickets for the Trappings of Texas Opening Weekend



Images from 2025 Trappings of Texas (L to R): Eagle and Flower Spurs by Jerry Galloway, Pease River Rebel by K.W. Whitley, Saddle by Troy West



MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND  
museumofthebigbend.com



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## Hit the Road

### Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

TCP Plan now  
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## Restoring and Preserving Our History

*The Friends of Gillespie County Country*



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

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

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG

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



24K Gold



24K Gold Field/  
Silver Liberty



Silver Field/  
24K Gold Liberty



Black Ruthenium/  
24K Gold



Black Ruthenium/  
Rose Gold

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24K Gold or  
Rose Gold!

Actual size  
is 40.6 mm

# 250 YEARS OF AMERICA. 40 YEARS OF THE SILVER EAGLE. Limited to 1,000 Silver Dollars— Don't Miss Out.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, Americans are honoring the enduring spirit of freedom first declared on July 4, 1776. This milestone year also marks four decades of the Silver Eagle, struck in one ounce of 99.9% fine American silver. Enhanced here with breathtaking finishes of 24-karat Gold, Black Ruthenium, or Rose Gold, America's most collected silver coin has been elevated into a true masterpiece. Together, these commemorative 2026 Silver Eagles pay tribute to a nation built on determination, self-rule, and pride in its ongoing journey.

## One of the Most Popular Silver Coins on the Planet.

First struck in 1986, the Silver Eagle is one of the most popular silver coins on the planet. The official silver bullion coin of the U.S., it's revered for its classic Walking Liberty obverse design created by Adolph A. Weinman back in 1916 and impressive Eagle Landing reverse design created by artist Emily Damstra. These special 40th Anniversary coins are still official U.S. legal tender, struck in one ounce of 99.9% fine silver, but thanks to unique gilding they boast remarkable eye appeal that makes them stand out in a big way.

## 99.9% U.S. Fine Silver Coins Guaranteed.

The beautiful, unique gilded appearance of these coins makes them a valued addition to your collection that is sure to impress. Each is Brilliant Uncirculated, struck in 99.9% Fine Silver—lavishly layered (gilded) in 24-karat Gold, 24-karat Gold with a Silver Liberty or a Silver Field, or in Black Ruthenium with a 24-karat Gold or Rose Gold Liberty. Quantities are limited! Only 1000 of each variety of the Gilded Silver Eagles are available, so hurry!



Reverse side features  
Emily S. Damstra's  
beautiful landing eagle

## Order More and SAVE!

SAVE nearly \$50.00—when you order all five of these stunning Silver Eagles today.

### 2026 American Eagle One-Ounce Silver Dollar Coin

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457209	Silver Field/24K Gold Liberty	\$139 + FREE S/H
457213	Black Ruthenium w/24K Gold	\$139 + FREE S/H
457212	Black Ruthenium w/Rose Gold	\$139 + FREE S/H
457214	Complete 5-Pc Set	\$645 <b>SAVE \$50</b>

\*Coin prices are not based on the precious metal content of the gold or ruthenium

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# Seasoned Snaps

Having learned a few things along the way, these readers choose their subjects wisely. All we know is, with this many years of experience behind the camera, you're bound to have a few big shots.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



**1 PAUL GARCIA**  
MEDINA EC

"Taking in the beauty of the smallest things in nature."

**2 TOM SLOTT**  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

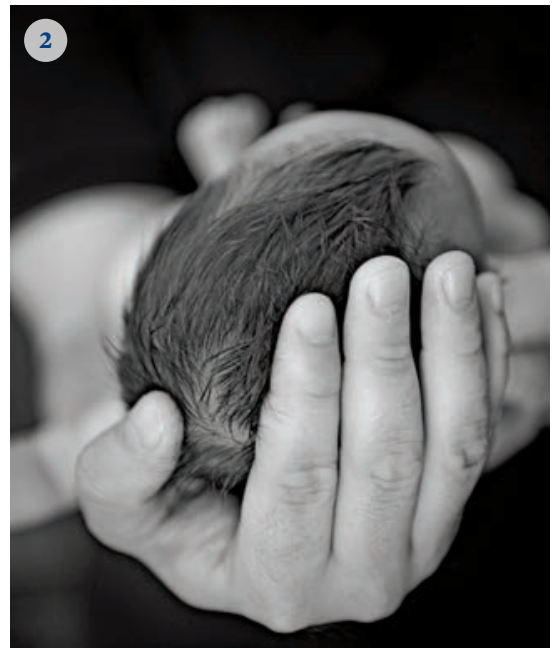
"A different perspective on what really matters."

**3 MICHELE BENNETT**  
GVEC

"Wild turkeys in DeWitt County stay off the dinner table."

**4 LAURA BREWER**  
COSERV

"Vibrant gazania flowers—almost a flush!"



## Upcoming Contests

**RIDE THE RAILS** DUE JUL 10

**CHRISTMAS FAILS** DUE AUG 10

**BARNs** DUE SEP 10



**ENTER ONLINE**

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



Children look at the rocks at Parr Park Rock Art Trail in Grapevine. The park claims to have the biggest collection of painted rocks in the world.

I began painting rocks and hiding them in plain sight so that people in my area of rural North Texas would find them. They were colorful yet simple, with words like smile, joy and sing.

And they were a big hit. Many of my neighbors still display their finds on their mailbox posts. One started a mini painted rock garden, and others use them as paper weights or mantel displays.

Megan Murphy of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is credited with starting the trend of hiding painted rocks. One day in 2015, she went to a beach seeking inspiration and wondered if others might also be there for that reason. So she began painting messages on rocks and leaving them for others to find. From that emerged the Kindness Rocks Project.

The trend spread worldwide. While many painted rocks continue to include words or messages, they increasingly include more artwork. But the overall objective hasn't changed: to spread kindness. The hope is that finding a rock will brighten the finder's day.

One of the most well-known locations in Texas is Parr Park Rock Art Trail in Grapevine. During the pandemic, resident Ron Olsen and his family painted 10 rocks and scattered them along the trail. The artwork began multiplying as other hikers added more. Thousands of rocks now line the path.

I visited the trail for my birthday, and it was worth the drive. The sheer number of painted rocks was almost unfathomable. One stone indicated the park had 24,459 painted rocks—a world record. Among rocks with Einstein's face, the Beatles, realistic dogs and landscape scenes was a collection, each with a letter, arranged to spell out, "Will you marry me?"

International Drop a Rock Day is July 3. So get painting—and watch where you're walking. ■

## Heart of Stone

You too can deliver a dose of unexpected joy with a simple rock

BY JOBETH PILCHER

A SMALL ROCK with the shape of Texas painted on it was recently found in the Netherlands. A message on the bottom directed the finder to "Keep or Hide" and included the name of a website. The finder posted a picture and indicated that the rock would be hidden again.

How cool is that?

I first became aware of this trend during the pandemic when I was reading about ways people were sending positive vibes during social isolation.

About the same time, I ran across the Facebook page for Fort Worth Rocks!! and found that many people were painting messages and pictures on rocks and hiding them for others to find. When someone found a rock, they posted a picture of it and often included a comment about how finding it had brightened their day.



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## Door Prize Ticket

Bring this ticket to your annual meeting



## Registration Card

Fayette Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting  
**July 15, 2026,**  
at the KC Community Center in La Grange.  
Member Registration Begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Business Meeting Begins at 7 p.m.

This is to certify that I am an active member of Fayette Electric Cooperative, Inc. in attendance at the annual membership meeting July 15, 2026.

To help keep our records up to date, please complete the following information:

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**↑ TEAR OUT AND BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU ↑**

**Attend and register at the July 15 meeting to be eligible for attendance gifts and door prize drawings.**

## Voting Eligibility

- ▶ Members must be present to vote at the meeting.
- ▶ Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting.
- ▶ At all membership meetings, the spouse of a member will be allowed to vote the membership, whether single or joint.
- ▶ If a husband and wife or two persons hold a joint membership, they shall jointly be entitled to one vote.
- ▶ In the event of the death of a person holding a joint membership, the surviving member alone may vote.
- ▶ A membership held by a school, community hall or similar public body shall be voted by the president or chairman of the board or, if so authorized in writing, by any one member of the board.
- ▶ The pastor or, if so authorized in writing, any one member of the governing body of a church holding membership in the cooperative shall cast the vote of the church.
- ▶ A membership held by any corporation, partnership, firm, government agency or political subdivision shall be voted by any person submitting proof of their authority to vote the membership.
- ▶ Every cooperative member is allowed to vote for one director in each district, regardless of which district the member lives in.

**Door Prize  
Ticket**

**Bring to  
Your  
Annual Meeting**

## IMPORTANT

Please complete the reverse side of this card and bring it with you to registration to help speed up the process.

**↑ TEAR OUT AND BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU ↑**

## Meeting Location

### KC Community Center

190 S. Brown St., La Grange

