

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



### Fayette Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, July 19, 2023**

**Knights of Columbus Community Center  
190 S. Brown Street, La Grange, TX 78945  
Registration: 5:30 p.m. | Business Meeting: 7 p.m.**



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## OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

**When: Wednesday, July 19, 2023**

**What: Registration at 5:30 p.m. — Business meeting at 7 p.m.**

**Where: Knights of Columbus Community Center, La Grange**

Fayette Electric will conduct its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Directors for Districts 6 and 7 will be elected; reports and updates regarding the co-op's business will be presented to members; and any other business as may come before the meeting will be transacted.

### VOTE

The following candidates have been nominated for these positions in accordance with Section 4.02 of Fayette Electric's bylaws:

#### District 6

Bill Briscoe

#### District 7

David A. Stancik

Please read the candidates' profiles on page 22 and then cast your vote during the annual meeting. All registered Fayette Electric members can vote at the annual meeting. Directors are nominated from the district in which they reside, but they serve members in all districts. This means you don't have to live in Districts 6 or 7 to vote.

### ATTEND

Fayette Electric will conduct its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at the Knights of Columbus Community Center in La Grange.

### SNACK

4-H members will be serving cookies, lemonade and coffee.

### LISTEN

The business meeting starts at 7 p.m. with reports from Fayette Electric's general manager and staff, the board of directors' election and additional matters that may come before the meeting.

### ASK

You'll also have the opportunity before, during and after the meeting to speak with Fayette Electric's staff and board members, get energy-related tips from our member services team and ask any questions you might have.

### WIN!!

► \$10 energy credits will be awarded to all registered member-owners who attend the annual meeting (one per membership).

► Energy credits from \$50 to \$250 will be awarded throughout the meeting, along with other great door prizes donated by Fayette Electric's generous vendors.

### WHAT TO BRING

► The registration card on the back cover of this magazine will be collected at registration and used to draw door prize winners, who must be present to win.

► The door prize ticket, also on the back cover of this magazine, is what you will present to collect your prize if your number and name are called.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting.

Bill Briscoe  
Secretary/Treasurer



HENRY TROST'S  
HANDSOME HOTELS

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JULY 2023

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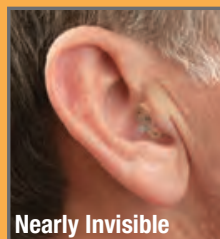
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# July 2023



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## 06 ‘I Love All the Love Here’

Camp CAMP has fostered community and joy for decades.

*Story and photos by Julia Robinson*

## Sleeping Giants

Henry Trost’s handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases.

*By Pam LeBlanc*

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ON THE COVER  
Jacob enjoys the big swing at Camp CAMP—Children’s Association for Maximum Potential.  
*Photo by Julia Robinson*  
ABOVE  
Hotel El Capitan’s inviting lobby.  
*Photo courtesy Hotel El Capitan*



# Ascending Over Arizona

**ABILENE'S ARIELLE ASH** led the first-ever all-female flyover at the end of the national anthem at the Super Bowl in February.

Ash, a lieutenant in the Navy and a graduate of Texas Tech University, piloted an F/A-18F Super Hornet.

The four-aircraft flyover commemorated 50 years of female pilots in the U.S. Navy. Women were first admitted to Navy flight school in 1973.



## Skeeter Bleeders

Rice University bioengineers have teamed with other experts to study the bloodsucking behavior of mosquitoes using patches of synthetic skin made with a 3D printer, eliminating the need for human volunteers.

## TCP Contests and More

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## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

**Darkness is only scary when ...**

**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 May prompt: **Mom always said ...**

Because I said so!

POLLY HALE  
PEDERNALES EC  
BLANCO

Kill them with kindness.

PHYLLIS SUTTLE  
MIDSOUTH EC  
IOLA

The only teeth you need to floss are the ones you want to keep. (She lived to 102 and had all her own teeth.)

KATHRYN SHELTON  
WISE EC  
PARADISE

Make your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.

GARY L. RAYBON  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO  
WHARTON COUNTY EC

Visit our website to see more responses.

*July 11*

## Cow Appreciation Day

Texas has more reasons to celebrate than any other state. With about 12.5 million head of cattle, we have almost twice as many as the next most-populous state, Nebraska.

Berry Burst Pavlova

“Wow! The whole family loved it, which is miraculous. My granddaughter says that’s what she wants for her birthday cake every year—for the rest of her life. She’s 24.”

MARY RILEY  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
COLLEGE STATION



MEGAN MYERS

### A Vanishing Tongue

*Auf Wiedersehen* [May 2023] was a bittersweet read. Less than a week earlier, in the *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*, it was reported that upper-level studies in German would no longer be offered at the high school, as only half of the minimum registrants required to offer the classes had signed up. How sad.

The UT project participants certainly have their work cut out for them.

Françoise Wilson  
Central Texas EC  
Gillespie County

I grew up in Fredericksburg hearing Spanish (or Tex-Mex), English and Texas German. Talk about confused. When I moved, someone asked if I was from Fredericksburg. How did you know?, I asked. Your accent.

Julie Ausbrook  
Via Facebook



NOAH WOODS

### In Texas and Beyond

The assertion that if you can learn to surf the sloppy chop in Texas, you can surf just about anywhere is true, as I have been able to surf in California, Mexico, Hawaii and Japan [*Surf Your Turf*, May 2023].

But I must point out that Brad Lomax’s partner in the Texas Surf Museum was Pat Magee (not McGee). If you look at the background in the photo of Brad Lomax, that’s Pat surfing in the blue trunks to Lomax’s right.

Joe Bonorden  
Pedernales EC  
Canyon Lake

### Recalling Kitty Hawk

Although I didn’t serve aboard the Kitty Hawk, I was deployed in its battle group in 1984 while serving aboard the USS Long Beach, and we were there in the Sea of Japan on March 21, 1984, when the collision with the Soviet nuclear submarine occurred [*Breaking Up*, February 2023]. I have a photo of that damaged Soviet sub in my home office. Thank you for the well-deserved remembrance.

Thomas Mueller  
Fayette EC  
Rutersville

**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.

Texas Co-op Power

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# A treasured Hill Country summer camp fosters community and joy



It was 44 years ago when Dr. Chris Plauche wrote a letter clearing one of her pediatric patients to take part in summer camp. The child wanted to ride a horse that summer.

But Plauche was devastated to learn that her patient was denied entry anyway. So she, along with other doctors and health care professionals, took 32 children with disabilities for a weekend camp experience themselves.

"It was 1979, so it was before the Americans with Disabilities Act and nothing was accessible and it rained all weekend," Brandon Briery says. "But they pushed wheelchairs through the mud and rode horses and canoed in the rain and had the time of their lives."

The physicians knew that couldn't be a one-time experience.

More than four decades later, participants are still having the time of their lives at Camp CAMP—Children's Association for Maximum Potential—nestled along the Guadalupe River in Center Point. It's a special kind of summer camp that changes lives. Located on a sprawling property about 55 miles northwest of San Antonio, Camp CAMP is a haven for visitors of all abilities, offering them the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, gain independence and have fun. Last year it served more than 1,400 children and adults with weeklong summer camp sessions, respite weekends for caregivers and family retreats.

## Nobody Is Invisible

It's a warm cloudless morning, and parents are dropping off their kids for a CAMP weekend. After the COVID tests and medical briefings, each camper is paired with a counselor and assigned a cabin.

Hugs and high-fives abound because many campers and counselors know each other already. One camper-counselor pair plays basketball; others bring out coloring books. Over in the "swing-zebo," several campers sway in the circle of porch swings, a popular spot for those with autism or other sensory processing disorders for whom swinging is a soothing activity.

Camp CAMP was designed to be fully accessible, with wheelchair ramps, accommodating bathrooms and specialized equipment that allow campers with physical disabilities to fully participate. During the summer, more than 70 counselors, many of whom are college students or recent graduates, receive extensive training to work with the campers. More than 100 health care staff are on-site to administer medications, provide overnight care and ensure the safety of participants. Dedicated volunteers return year after year to help as well.

Gia Barrera, a 16-year-old assistant cabin counselor, started out as one of those volunteers and made the transition to full-time staff last summer. She is sitting with Erin, a camper in her early 20s who is nonverbal but communicates with smiles, vocalizations and touch. Erin rocks back and forth as they eat lunch and plan out the afternoon.

"Camp is for the camper," Barrera says. "They have complete autonomy over any decision they want to make." For some, that means no formal activities at all, if that's what they desire.

One of Barrera's campers last summer wanted to make friendship bracelets all day. Another camper who loves machines spent hours with her in the laundry room, watching the spin cycle. "Working here gives you a greater understanding of everything," she says. "It puts a lot of things into perspective for you. I love all the love here."

CAMP's mission is simple: to strengthen and inspire individuals with disabilities and those who care for them through recreation education. Campers are 5–55 years old with mild to severe medical conditions, including physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some campers require breathing assistance, others have Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism spectrum disorder. But at CAMP, everyone is simply a camper.

OPPOSITE At Camp CAMP in Center Point, campers and counselors bond over activities that include archery, field sports, outdoor cooking and canoeing. ABOVE Savannah, left, and Audrey share a moment on a swing.



Every activity, including swimming and horseback riding, is adaptable to each person's needs so they all can have fun. Crafts, field sports, canoeing, outdoor cooking, an evening dance party and the big swing, which suspends campers in a harness attached to utility poles, offer a variety of adventures.

First up today is archery, where Michael Maffei, assistant camp director, greets campers as they line wooden bleachers. Maffei first attended as a camper back in 2003, so he knows how special the place can be.

He spent his early working life in the private sector but felt something was missing when he rejoined CAMP as an employee. "In the second hour of being in a full-time role here, I helped a young man named Soren shoot a bullseye," Maffei says. "He was so excited he just vibrated like a teakettle that was about to erupt. In that moment, I had more fulfillment and job satisfaction in my second hour at camp than in the four previous years."

Down at the canoe launch, staff members gently place Cassie into a supportive chair cradled by one of her counselors. She is unable to use her limbs and is nonverbal, but it's clear she loves being on the water.

As the boat is launched into the Guadalupe River, a relaxed smile spreads across her face. Two counselors paddle her downstream and back again—a simple journey that most people would take for granted.

"There are so many times out there in the cold, cruel world that the disabled either get overlooked, purposefully left out, unintentionally left out or they're just invisible," says Briery, CAMP's chief program officer. "CAMP isn't about the buildings, it's not even about the activities. It's about building relationships, building community and bringing people together."

FROM LEFT Kristi takes her turn on the big swing. Caleb readies his archery shot with help from Michael Maffei and Samika Iyer.

## Dignity in a Safe Place

For many campers, CAMP is a life-changing experience where they develop a sense of independence. For parents, CAMP provides peace of mind knowing their child is in a safe and supportive environment being cared for by trained professionals. Kristen Reid says sending her son was an easy decision.

"As soon as you drive in and you get out, everyone's so friendly, everyone's so welcoming," Reid says. "They know what they're doing, and they love these children."

At a fall retreat, she got to spend a weekend at Camp CAMP with her whole family. She shared a cabin with Payton, 9; her husband; and 6-year-old daughter.

Reid rode a horse with Payton, who is nonverbal. They share a passion for the animals, and the experience was unforgettable.

"Not only could I see it with his hand movements, I could hear it with the sound that he was making ... I could feel he was shaking with excitement," Reid says. "For me to be there and actually see and feel it for myself was a really, really touching moment for me."

The retreat also connected the Reids to other families with similar needs. "And then you can kind of bounce ideas off each other or sometimes just vent to each other when you're having a bad day and you've spent three hours on the phone with insurance," Reid says.

That community and that belonging are exactly what Briery hopes CAMP provides.

"Some days are super long and hard in different ways, helping to manage what can be challenging behaviors," he says. "It's all worth it in the end because we create this safe space where people are treated with dignity, and they're respected, and they know that they belong." ■





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# SLEEPING GIANTS

HENRY TROST's handsome and historic hotels remain welcome West Texas oases

BY PAM LEBLANC



**SIT ON A ROCKING CHAIR** on the front porch of the Gage Hotel in Marathon, and time slips away.

In the lobby behind you, a worn leather saddle hangs from the wall. Across the street, a train rumbles past. In the distance, a gray-green carpet of cactus and brush ripples into the distance like a prickly runway.

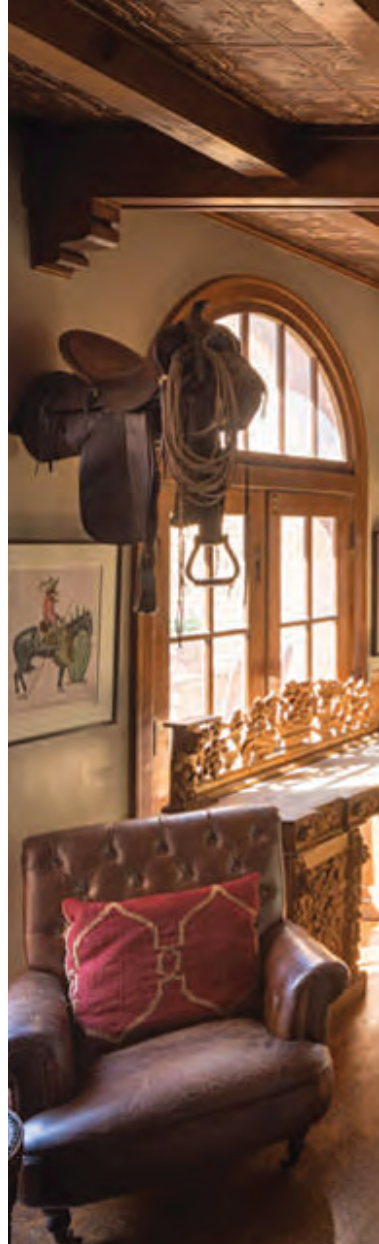
The view probably hasn't changed much since architect Henry C. Trost designed this hotel nearly a century ago.

The two-story brick structure, with its arched entryway and wrought-iron door, is just one of hundreds of buildings—fire stations, city halls, high schools, banks and courthouses—that Trost designed across Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

But it's the four hotels scattered throughout far West Texas that many know best. They're full of character, thoroughly Texan and located in a region of the state known for its dramatic landscapes and independent-minded residents. There was almost a fifth hotel here, too—architectural documents found at the El Paso Public Library indicate plans for a hotel in the small town of Valentine, also in the Big Bend.

"I would encourage people to get off the interstate, drive down into town to visit the hotels and take a step back in time," says Margaret Smith, great-niece of Henry Trost and secretary of the board of the Trost Society, which works to preserve the architect's work. "Learn the history that was made in the hotels and the history of the area."

PHOTOS COURTESY GAGE HOTEL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Marathon's Gage Hotel, which opened in 1927, features a grand lobby and rooms that are at once modern and rustic.





Born in 1860, Trost was the son of German immigrants. He moved from Toledo, Ohio, to El Paso in 1903 and co-founded Trost & Trost, an architectural firm, with brother Gustavus (Smith's grandfather). A third brother, Adolphus, a structural engineer, joined later.

The company built its well-appointed West Texas hotels near railroad stations and designed them with spacious lobbies and large dining rooms to accommodate business dealings. Later, the hotels also became popular among families. The firm was also known for its artistic touches and for using reinforced concrete for fireproofing.

"The buildings look like a piece of art and not just a building," Smith says. "That makes them stand out."

---

## GAGE HOTEL Marathon

Trost "was considered *the* architect of the Southwest in those years," says Carol Peterson, general manager. "If you were going to hire the best architect in those days, you would hire Henry Trost if you could."

That's what Alfred S. Gage did. The cattleman, who moved from Vermont to Texas in 1878 to seek his fortune, accumulated more than a half-million acres. He commissioned Trost to build a hotel that could double as a base to oversee his empire.

The hotel opened in 1927, but Gage died just a year later. A series of owners took over after his death, including one who tried to "spruce up" the hotel with dropped ceilings and linoleum floors.

"[Trost] had a very wide-ranging style," Peterson says. "The Gage is a bit more Mission style, as opposed to the Holland and Paisano."

J.P. and Mary Jon Bryan of Houston bought and renovated the Gage in 1978, and they still own it today. In addition to 14 rooms in the original building, with its delightfully creaky wooden floors and ranch décor (including a stuffed mountain lion), guests can book more modern rooms in the Los Portales annex.

"It's really become a very beloved, iconic Texas property," Peterson says. "It's not commercial, it's not cookie cutter. Everything about it has a hand-touched feel."



## HOLLAND HOTEL Alpine

Trost wasn't involved in designing the original Holland Hotel, which opened in 1912. But he designed the "new" larger building, which opened next door in 1928 and was later connected to the first.

Sink into a comfy couch in front of the fireplace in the grand lobby, and you'll see the same arched windows and decorative tiles of some of Trost's other properties.

"The thing that makes the Holland special is the position it occupies in the town of Alpine—not geographically but in people's minds," says Alicia Fernbaugh, who manages the 27-room hotel and lives in what once served as the ballroom. "It's very much the heart of the town."

The building stood vacant in the 1960s and '70s, and for a time in the '80s, part of it was converted into offices. Over time, some of the old furnishings were sold off. Now and then, an old bedframe or chandelier discovered in an attic finds its way back home to the hotel.

The Century Bar and Grill, with its shady patio, is known for its margaritas and chicken-fried steak.

"It's very welcoming and warm," Fernbaugh says. "People feel very at home here."



LESLEY VILLARREAL | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL



MICHAEL HOWARD | COURTESY HOLLAND HOTEL

FROM ABOVE Holland Hotel décor and the Century Bar and Grill in Alpine.

## HOTEL EL CAPITAN Van Horn

Just two blocks off Interstate 10 in Van Horn, the red neon sign of Hotel El Capitan invites travelers to pull off and enjoy a quiet respite in a mostly forgotten town.

The 50-room hotel, named for the rocky peak at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, an hour away, looks much like it did when it opened in 1930, as part of the Gateway chain of hotels operated by Charles Bassett in El Paso. Back then, ranchers gathered in the lobby to sell cattle, make land deals and sip coffee.

The Pueblo Revival-style concrete structure attracted cross-country travelers and tourists exploring nearby national parks.

The hotel closed in the late 1960s, and a bank took over the space. Then in 2007, Lanna and Joe Duncan of Fort Davis, who also own the Paisano, bought it from the bank.

"Although we are sister properties to the Paisano, and the layout inside is almost identical, the exterior is 100% different," says Starvanna Cottrell, general manager. "El Capitan was made to look more like adobe, although it's concrete. The Paisano's exterior is much more European looking."

A fountain bubbles in the courtyard. In the lobby, colorful tiles, exposed wooden beams and wrought iron banisters add character. A sign salvaged from the old coffee shop hangs opposite the fireplace.

"And you can still get a 5-cent cup of coffee, no matter how you want it," Cottrell says.

COURTESY HOTEL EL CAPITAN





COURTESY HOTEL PAISANO

FROM ABOVE The Hotel Paisano's pool was added in 1960. Outside, an inviting courtyard, and inside, a 5-cent cup of coffee.

## HOTEL PAISANO Marfa

Another hotel in the Gateway chain, the Hotel Paisano in Marfa, also opened in 1930. "Hotels were built different years ago," says Vicki Barge, general manager. "They were built with more of a sense of community."

Step inside its lobby and you'll find ornate tilework hand selected by Trost, leather chairs and a stuffed buffalo head.

Like the Gage, the Paisano had close ties to the cattle industry. When it opened, trains regularly stopped in Marfa to load and unload cattle. Several ranches kept offices at the hotel.

"He wanted his buildings to look like they belonged to the landscape, and he did a great job of that," Barge says. "They do look like they should be just where they are."

Many guests know the Paisano for its connection to the 1956 film *Giant*, starring James Dean. Photographs of Dean hang on walls, and the movie plays nonstop in the lobby.

Dean, along with co-stars Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and Dennis Hopper, stayed at the Paisano for about two weeks during filming. Today, guests can book one of the hotel's 42 rooms or suites and swim in a pool that was added in 1960.

"I find it warm and friendly," Barge says. "It's kind of a look back at bygone days but still extremely viable now." ■



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**True artisanship in Austrian crystal and yellow gold.** This necklace and earring set features gorgeous multicolored enamel paired with Austrian crystals and a yellow gold finish. Ask any jeweler and they'll tell you it takes true artisanship to properly blend the blues and purples found in this enamel. While art nouveau dragonflies are hard to come by, we're helping to repopulate their numbers with this artfully stylized depiction of some of nature's smallest wonders!

**A NEARLY \$400 VALUE FOR JUST \$29!**

**Buy the pendant, get the earrings FREE.** If Stauer were a normal company, we'd sell the necklace and earrings for \$199 each, but because we engage the world's best artisans and cut out the middlemen to sell directly to you, we're offering the necklace for **JUST \$29!** Even better: If you buy within the next few days, we'll throw in the earrings for **FREE!** That's a nearly \$400 value for **JUST \$29!**

**Act fast!** The first time we ran this jewelry in our catalog, it sold out in a matter of days. Get this collection now before this offer goes extinct!

#### Jewelry Specifications:

- Enamel with Austrian crystal. Yellow gold finish
- Pendant: 1 1/2" W x 1 1/4" H.  
Chain: 18" + 2", lobster clasp.  
Earrings: 1 1/4" L, french wire

#### Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection

A. Necklace ~~-\$199~~ \$29\* + S&P **Save \$170**

B. Earrings ~~-\$199~~ **FREE** with purchase of Dragonfly Nouvelle Necklace

*\*Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

**1-800-333-2045**

**Your Insider Offer Code: DFC141-01**



Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DFC141-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**



# Throw Yourself a Bone

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

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Huntsman Blade \$249\***

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

**1-800-333-2045**

**Your Insider Offer Code: HBK190-01**

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



**Rating of A+**

**Stauer®** 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. HBK190-01  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

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

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

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

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.®*

**EXCLUSIVE  
FREE**

Stauer® 8x21  
Compact  
Binoculars

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



## What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

★★★★★

*"This knife is beautiful!"*

— J., La Crescent, MN

★★★★★

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

— H., Arvada, CO



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





MESSAGE  
FROM  
BOARD  
PRESIDENT

DAVID  
LEHMANN



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER

GARY DON  
NIETSCHKE

IN 2022, Fayette Electric Cooperative celebrated 85 years of service to its members. We highlighted many co-op employees, past and present, who served the cooperative in many different capacities over the years. Articles in *Texas Co-op Power* and interviews included in our annual meeting video showcased the dedication these employees have had to the cooperative and to our members.

In November, Fayette EC was presented with a proclamation by the Fayette County Commissioners Court to commemorate the co-op's anniversary and its decades of service to members. We also held a member appreciation day that included refreshments, prizes and a special door prize drawing. These festivities were a celebration of the history of the cooperative and the members it serves. Through the years, your co-op has stayed the course, continuing to grow and push forward to meet the needs of our membership and our employees. We look forward to serving you now and for many years to come.

#### System Reliability and Improvements

Looking back on the past year and our accomplishments, two things remain top of mind—keeping the lights on and doing what's right for our members. In 2022, we improved system reliability by upgrading services in the Nechanitz, Plum, Oldenburg, Kirtley, Shelby, Dubina and Ruttersville areas, as well as west of Ellinger and north of Schulenburg. These improvements also served to meet the growing demand for electricity.

Fayette EC added 483 new meters and built 27

miles of line. We were also able to clear 73.59 miles of right-of-way and spent more than \$2.6 million on an aggressive approach to vegetation management.

#### Community Engagement

Fayette EC takes pride in giving back to the communities it serves. We demonstrated the Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, by supporting many community events through monetary donations and wearing specially colored shirts to raise awareness for specific causes. Co-op employees also decorated FEC office doors in support of the Red Door Fund for Mental Health.

FEC employees participated in other events, too, such as presenting arcing demonstrations at Progressive Ag Safety Day, making electric safety presentations at Schulenburg Elementary School, providing first responder safety presentations for volunteer fire departments in Fayette County, and assisting with La Grange Elementary School's Trunk or Treat.

In addition, we sent two students to Washington, D.C., on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. We also awarded six scholarships to further graduating high school seniors' education, and for the first time, two of those scholarships were given to students who will attend a trade or technical school.

For the 10th year in a row, we awarded grants to four local nonprofits through our partnership with CoBank's Sharing Success program.

We demonstrated the Fifth Cooperative Principle of Education, Training and Information by

*continued on next page*





The Fayette County Commissioners Court presented a proclamation to Marketing and Training Coordinator Tracy Denton, back left, and General Manager Gary Don Nietzsche, back right, to commemorate Fayette EC's 85th anniversary.

beginning a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to send books to young children to prepare them for school. Finally, we demonstrated the Sixth Cooperative Principle, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, through our fifth annual Co-op Customer Shred Day with Colorado Valley Communications in October. Funds raised at the event were donated to the Holy Rosary Church building fund and the Gardenia E. Janssen Animal Shelter.

### Taking Steps To Secure Future Needs

In December, the Fayette EC Board of Directors approved a rate increase of 2.95% for the cooperative. This increase was necessary to ensure the co-op's financial stability and its ability to deliver affordable and reliable power to its members. The co-op's rates have generally worked well, and the cooperative has not had to increase its base rates since 2017. Since then, prices for materials, equipment, fuel, labor, insurance and other operating costs have increased.

New members who are building homes and opening businesses in the co-op's service territory continue to expand the co-op's membership. As a result, the cooperative faces increases in capital improvement expenditures to extend service to new members as well as maintain and improve its system for all members.

The cooperative periodically reviews rates every few years to assess if a change is needed to avoid a later but larger increase. The recent increase affected only one portion of members' bills that relates to the costs for the cooperative to deliver energy to each member—the wires charge per kilowatt-hour. Keeping rate increases small is the cooperative's way of looking out for its members and avoiding a greater financial impact for them in the future.

Fayette EC has succeeded in keeping rates low, and this is reflected in our members' energy bills. In an example from the May bills, assuming a 1,000 kWh monthly usage for a small general

service member, the monthly total bill after the rate increase still appears to make the cooperative one of the lowest-cost electric providers in our area. Compared to at least one retail electric provider in the investor-owned utility service area, bills for the cooperative's SGS members under the new rates are also very favorable.

### New Cooperative Headquarters

The increase in capital expenditures includes the cost to finance and construct a new headquarters facility. Moving from the decades-old current building, which was built in 1964, into a modern one will improve operational and organizational efficiencies within the cooperative, including better customer service for members and enhanced retention, recruitment and training of cooperative

employees. The new location will be on Von Minden Road, adjacent to our existing pole yard.

A planned move-in date of June 2024 is expected.

### Moving Forward

In 2023, some of our projects include relocating poles for the widening of Highway 77 north of La Grange, upgrading service from West Point to Kirtley.

We continue to improve upon the technology we use to streamline efficiency in the workplace and reduce the time it takes to find and restore power outages. Our electronic mapping data has been incorporated into our outage mapping system with outage graphics that crews can see on their iPads to assist with power restoration. We've also made upgrades to our network to provide better cybersecurity for our members and employees.

Please consider attending Fayette Electric Cooperative's annual meeting July 19. Members will have the chance to play games, enjoy refreshments made by local 4-H clubs and win door prizes donated by our generous sponsors. At the meeting, you'll enjoy fellowship with your neighbors and take part in the annual business of your co-op. We hope to see you there. ■



The new headquarters for Fayette Electric Cooperative will be located on Von Minden Road in La Grange and is expected to be completed by June 2024.

# Board Members Seeking Reelection



**BILL BRISCOE (INCUMBENT)**  
**DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 6**

**EDUCATION:**  
Bachelor's degree in accounting from Texas A&M University, Kingsville

**OCCUPATION:**  
Poultry business

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**  
Exploration and Production Division, Shell Oil Co., retired

**PAST MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**  
Past grand knight, St. Michael's Knights of Columbus; adult leader for over 23 years, Boy Scouts

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**  
Fayette Electric Cooperative director since 2005 and board secretary since 2006; Weimar Scouting Committee; member, Weimar Noon Lions Club; member, St. Michael's KC Council

**NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATIONS:**  
Credentialed Cooperative Director, 2007



**DAVID STANCIK (INCUMBENT)**  
**DIRECTOR, DISTRICT 7**

**EDUCATION:**  
Graduate of Columbus High School; attended Blinn College, Brenham

**OCCUPATION:**  
Retired

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:**  
Conductor, Santa Fe Railroad; independent insurance agent

**PAST MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES HELD IN ORGANIZATIONS:**  
Past secretary-treasurer, Fayette Electric Cooperative; past director, Colorado River Wildlife Co-op; past chairman, St. Paul Evangelical Church Stewardship board; past council member, St. Paul Evangelical Church; past co-chairman, Fayette County Junior Livestock Show beef committee; past president, La Grange Evening Lions Club; past secretary-treasurer, La Grange Little League

**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**  
**Lineworker game**

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

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



## Thank You!

A big thank-you to Ewald Kubota of La Grange and Kleiber Tractor and Equipment for providing the use of their utility vehicles to transport our members from the parking lot to the front steps of the Knights of Columbus Community Center. Be sure to support these two great local businesses!

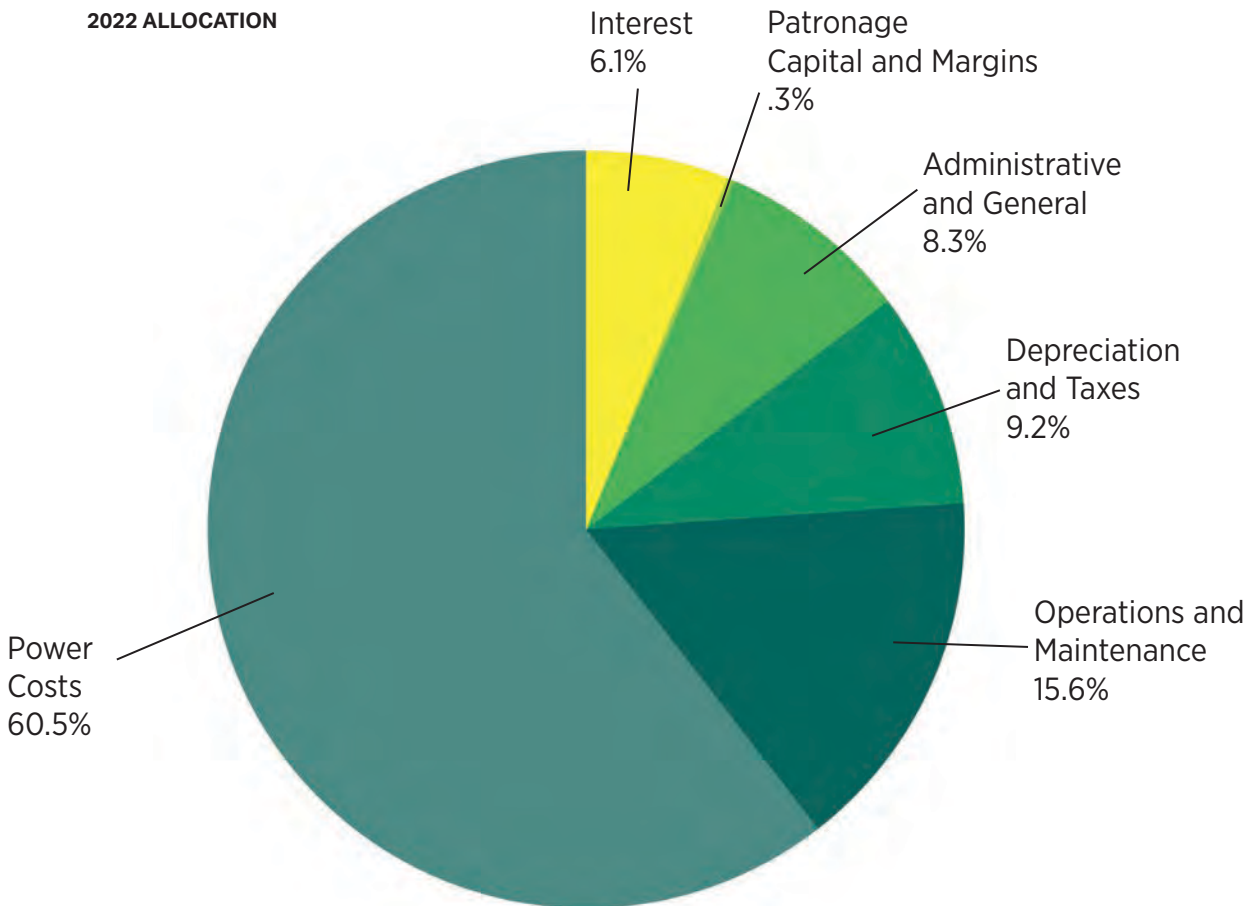




# OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

## Uses of Revenue

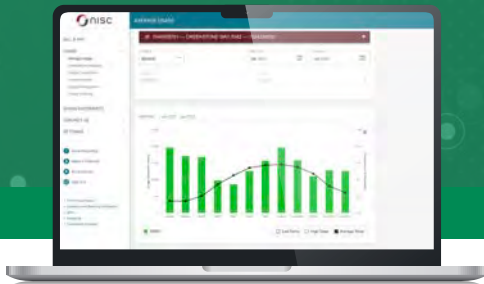
2022 ALLOCATION



## UPGRADE UNLOCKED

New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access, and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze. Keep an eye out for more details soon!



[fayette.coop/smarthub](https://fayette.coop/smarthub)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Condensed Balance Sheet

December 31,

<b>ASSETS—What We Own</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Net utility	\$ 81,647,562	\$ 77,314,300
Investments	3,464,534	3,289,916
Cash	182,338	2,648,824
Temporary Cash Investments		
Notes and Accounts Receivable	2,950,401	4,196,947
Materials and Supplies	3,271,136	2,014,247
Other Current and Accrued Assets	3,506,812	2,894,882
Deferred Charges	888,497	1,579,929
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 95,911,280</b>	<b>\$ 93,939,045</b>
<b>LIABILITIES—What We Owe</b>		
Short-Term Debt	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 4,500,000
Long-Term Debt	45,574,981	43,497,449
Accounts Payable	3,789,962	2,900,488
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,290,045	1,029,241
Deferred Credits	5,208,016	4,361,943
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 57,563,004</b>	<b>\$ 56,289,121</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Memberships	\$ 237,450	\$ 226,225
Patronage Capital and Margins	36,351,619	37,295,920
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 36,589,069</b>	<b>\$ 37,522,145</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 95,911,280</b>	<b>\$ 93,939,045</b>

## Income Statement

December 31,

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Electric Energy Sold	\$ 34,770,545	\$ 41,145,781
<b>Total Electric Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 34,770,545</b>	<b>\$ 41,145,781</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Electric Power Cost	\$ 21,019,068	\$ 27,893,485
Operating Expenses and Taxes	8,343,874	7,892,710
Estimated System Depreciation	3,201,540	3,049,903
Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,114,073	2,134,939
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 34,678,555</b>	<b>\$ 40,971,037</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ 91,990</b>	<b>\$ 174,744</b>
Capital Credits	486,404	496,086
Nonoperating Income	\$ 127,375	\$ 70,943
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$ 705,769</b>	<b>\$ 741,773</b>

## Fayette Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### CONTACT US

357 N. Washington St.

P.O. Box 490

La Grange, TX 78945

**Local** (979) 968-3181

**Toll-Free** 1-866-968-3181

**Email** electric@fayette.coop

**Web** fayette.coop

### Your Board of Directors

David Lehmann, President

Joseph D. Kruppa, Vice President

Bill Briscoe, Secretary-Treasurer

David A. Stancik

Leo C. Henke

Gale Lincke

James A. Anderle

### Your General Manager

Gary Don Nietsche

**24/7**

**Outage  
Hotline  
Numbers**

For information and  
to report outages,  
please contact us.

### LOCAL

(979) 968-3181

### TOLL-FREE

1-866-968-3181

### 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 (979) 968-4220 or 1-866-968-4220
- 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 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





## 2023 Youth Tour Winner



Delaney Turlington, center, was selected as the winner of the 2023 Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest to represent Fayette EC in Washington, D.C., June 11-19. Congratulating her are board Vice President Joseph Kruppa, left, and General Manager Gary Don Nietsche.

## 2023 Scholarship Winners



**TADAN ALVARADO**  
FLATONIA  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Son of  
Tabatha and  
Michael Alvarado.  
He plans to attend  
Texas State  
Technical College  
and study diesel  
equipment  
technology.*



**KANNYN GOEHRING**  
ROUND TOP-  
CARMINE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Son of Christie  
and Blake  
Goehring.  
He plans to attend  
Texas A&M  
University and  
major in  
kinesiology.*



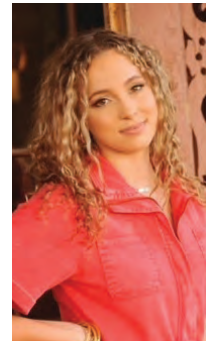
**KYLEE KELLEY**  
LA GRANGE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Daughter of  
Dawn and Dan  
Kelley.  
She plans to  
attend the  
University of Texas  
at Austin and  
major in English.*



**TAMARA OTTO**  
SCHULENBURG  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Daughter of  
Stacy and Keith  
Otto.  
She plans to  
attend Texas A&M  
University and  
major in  
kinesiology.*



**JACOB POLASEK**  
ROUND TOP-  
CARMINE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Son of  
Dana Polasek.  
He plans to attend  
Texas State  
Technical College  
and study plumb-  
ing and pipefitting  
technology.*



**CAMPBELL YOUNS**  
LA GRANGE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Daughter of  
Kiesha and Mark  
Youens.  
She plans to  
attend the  
University of Texas  
at Austin and  
major in business.*

# FEC Board of Directors



**David Lehmann**  
District 1  
President



**Joseph D. Kruppa**  
District 2  
Vice President



**Gale Lincke**  
District 3  
Director



**Leo C. Henke**  
District 4  
Director



**James A. Anderle**  
District 5  
Director



**Bill Briscoe**  
District 6  
Secretary/Treasurer

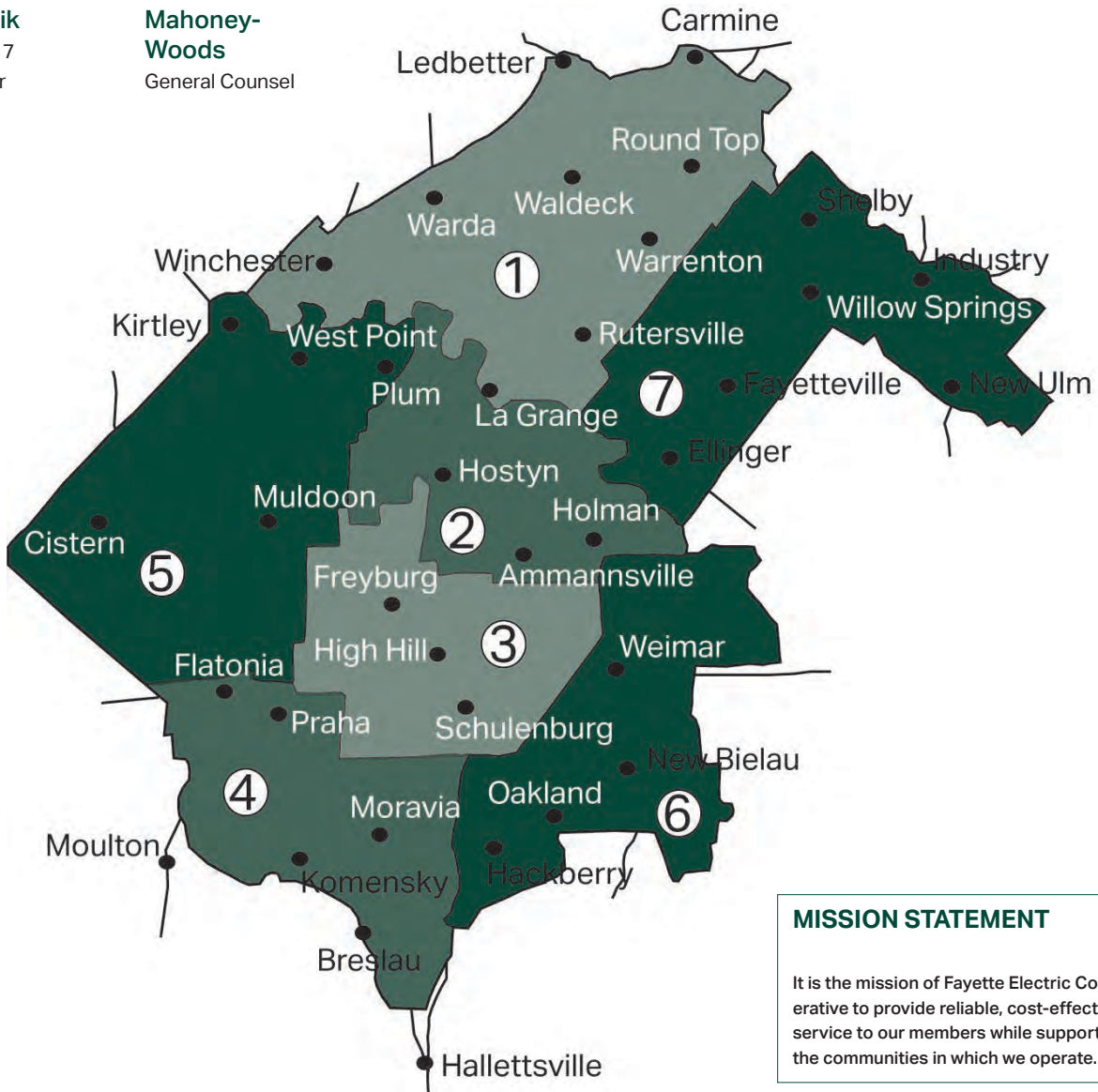


**David A. Stancik**  
District 7  
Director



**Karen Mahoney-Woods**  
General Counsel

## Fayette Electric Cooperative Voting Districts



### MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Fayette Electric Cooperative to provide reliable, cost-effective service to our members while supporting the communities in which we operate.



# Service Awards

Over the years, Fayette Electric Cooperative has attracted and retained employees and directors who are loyal and dedicated to our mission of bringing dependable electric service to our members. We have some employees with many years of experience and expertise, some who have fewer years of experience and are training for additional responsibilities, and some who are just beginning their FEC careers. The employees and director shown here represent 60 years of service.



**Doyle "Tiger" Hall**  
15 Years



**Director Leo C. Henke**  
20 Years



**Brandon Pieper**  
25 Years

# Employees

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE	NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Clayton Brossmann	Apprentice Lineman	1	Gary Don Nietsche	General Manager	42
Corey Brown	Lineman	2	Greg Noak	Line Foreman	24
Tracy Denton	Marketing & Training Coordinator	19	Lara Perez	Engineering Assistant	8
Shane Drosche	Apprentice Lineman	6	Brandon Pieper	Member Relations/Eng. Supervisor	25
Royce Friemel	Lineman	42	Mike Proske	Lineman	7
Linda Gaddes	Accounting Supervisor	52	Amy Rackley	Customer Service Representative	7
Doyle "Tiger" Hall	R-O-W Maintenance Coordinator	15	Christine Roensch	Customer Service Supervisor	28
Dana Janca	Engineering Assistant	17	Macy Scott	Apprentice Lineman	8
Joey Jasek	Apprentice Lineman	4	Melissa Sommer	Purchasing Manager	28
Steven Kallus	Lineman	16	Charles Srubar	Line Foreman	23
Allen Keilers	Electrical Technician	1	Larry Sulak	Safety Coordinator	38
Debbie Klam	Accounting Assistant	14	Jared Surman	Electrical Technician II	18
Daniel Kovar	Warehouse Materials Clerk	21	Lezli Thomas	Customer Service Representative	7
Diane Krenek	Operations/IT Assistant	13	Robert Thomas	Line Superintendent	34
Bradley Malota	Staking Technician II	18	Aaron Tonn	Apprentice Lineman	4
Leonard Malota Jr.	Warehouse Supervisor	36	Diana Torres	Customer Service Representative	8
Ronald Martinek	Equipment Operator	28	David Walla	Staking Technician II	41
Jessica Montez	Communications Specialist	1	Justin Whited	Lineman	9
TC Muniz	Capital Credits Representative	12	Leo J. Wick	Asst. Member Relations/Eng. Super.	26
Justin Neiser	Apprentice Lineman	3	Brian Zbranek	Staking Technician I	4

**RIDICULOUSLY**

**GREAT  
SALE**



**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**

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**WINDOWS & DOORS**



**Sale ends July 31**

**\$276  
OFF**

every window<sup>1</sup>



**\$727  
OFF**

every door<sup>1</sup>



take an  
additional  
**10%  
OFF**  
your ENTIRE  
order<sup>1</sup>

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self-schedule  
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appointment



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210-961-9990  
Dallas/Fort Worth  
469-606-5229**



**RENEWAL  
by ANDERSEN**  
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

**TopWindowSolution.com**

<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 7/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 8/10/23. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.





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



then swung north of the most traveled roads, bushwhacking his way through mesquite and mottes of trees.

When the Texians put up the white flag, they asked to return to their homes. Woll told them that “if they did not surrender at discretion, they would be exterminated without exception.”

Woll took 62 prisoners, among them several high-value civilians: seven lawyers, a judge, two doctors, a surgeon and prominent business leaders. He told them they would return with him to the border, where they would be released. Instead, they were marched all the way to Mexico’s infamous Perote Prison, where many were held for two years, subjected to hard labor and chains. A few died en route, and some died in captivity.

Woll didn’t occupy San Antonio long. His goal was to be a disruptive force, preventing Texians from feeling secure and also to inhibit migration from the U.S. Woll’s other objective was to determine if there were credible military buildups for a Texas invasion of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Texians sounded the alarm that San Antonio had fallen. Volunteers grabbed their guns and saddled their horses. They gathered in Seguin, pushed on to Salado Creek and tempted Woll to pursue them. Woll took the bait, and the Texians, from the cover of the woods, killed and wounded more than 60 Mexican soldiers while the Texians lost only one. Sadly, on another portion of the creek, three dozen Texians were killed.

Santa Anna had once again underestimated Texas. He wanted to unsettle the new republic with fear and chaos and keep them isolated. Instead, he drove the Texians toward a collective desire to join the U.S., which they did six years later. ■

# Second Sacking

Six years after the Alamo, Mexican troops twice stormed San Antonio

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI DABERKO

**MOST TEXANS BELIEVE** the Battle of San Jacinto settled everything. Once Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna was decisively defeated, he signed a treaty guaranteeing Texas independence. So Mexican troops would never again set foot on Texas soil nor darken our door—right?

Not quite. Just six years after Santa Anna’s Pyrrhic victory at the Alamo, Mexican forces twice tramped to San Antonio. First Gen. Rafael Vásquez showed up with 700 men to a mostly evacuated city in March 1842. They headed back across the Rio Grande after just two days, having set off a panic in Texas.

Then six months later, Santa Anna sent another army to sack San Antonio

and occupy the Alamo. Gen. Adrián Woll led a force of about 1,400 troops who awakened the town with the heart-stopping boom of a cannon blast at dawn, followed by military trumpeters playing reveille. They quickly pacified minor resistance on their way to the central plaza. This was the 19th-century version of shock and awe.

Near the plaza, Texas patriots quickly put up fierce resistance, shooting through rifle loopholes in the walls, but it was fruitless. They were surrounded by a Mexican force of many hundreds.

How did such a large army make it all the way to San Antonio without anybody noticing? Woll, a French mercenary, was quite wily. He crossed the Rio Grande about 20 miles south of Eagle Pass and



# Garden Bounty

Harvest time takes on a new twist with these timely treats

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Why not shake things up with a new seasonal take on sangria? A splash of mezcal over fresh peaches, sugar, lemon juice and mint gives this sangria a Mexican twist. It's a refreshing way to beat the Texas heat.



## Peach Mezcal Sangria

**1 pound fresh peaches, sliced**

**¼ cup sugar**

**6 fresh mint leaves, finely chopped**

**¼ cup lemon juice**

**¾ cup mezcal**

**1 bottle white wine (750 milliliters), chilled**

**2 cups sparkling water, chilled**

**Fresh mint leaves, for garnish**

**Lemon slices, for garnish**

**COOK'S TIP** Make it a mocktail by using white grape juice instead of wine and zero-proof mezcal, like that made by Houston-based Cut Above.

**1.** In a bowl, combine sliced peaches, sugar, chopped mint, lemon juice and mezcal and stir to combine. Refrigerate 1 hour.

**2.** Add refrigerated fruit and wine to a large pitcher. Stir to combine and top with sparkling water.

**3.** Serve over ice. Garnish with mint and lemon slices.

**SERVES 6**

**TCP** Follow Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at [sweetlifebake.com](http://sweetlifebake.com), where she features a recipe for Fresh Peach Tart.





# Italian Turkey Zucchini Meatballs

LORI BEGGS  
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

After a bumper crop of zucchini, Beggs incorporated it into her meatball recipe, knowing her son wasn't a fan and hoping he wouldn't notice. The result: meatballs that are tender, flavorful and taste just like your favorites.

- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 1 pound ground turkey
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ onion, grated with juices
- ½ cup breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning mix
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons olive oil

1. Spread shredded zucchini out onto a paper towel. Add another paper towel on top and press to absorb moisture from the zucchini.
2. In a bowl, mix all ingredients except for the olive oil. Form the mixture into meatballs by hand.
3. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add meatballs to skillet, brown on all sides and cook through, about 15 minutes.
4. Serve with your favorite pasta and sauce.

SERVES 4

MORE RECIPES >



\$500 WINNER

# Fresh Corn Loaf

CATHY TOWER  
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

Perfect for brunch or Sunday dinner, Tower's fresh corn loaf is bursting with garden flavors. A hint of cayenne pepper makes the fresh vegetables pop. Serve warm with butter or honey. This loaf is even tastier the next day.

SERVES 8-10

- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup chopped green bell pepper
- ⅓ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup water

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Apply cooking spray to a 2-quart baking dish.
2. In a bowl, combine corn, tomatoes, onion, bell pepper, cayenne pepper, salt, cornmeal and cheese.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, evaporated milk and water. Add to corn mixture and mix well.
4. Spoon into baking dish. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**SLOW COOKER** DUE JULY 10  
We want your best set-and-forget recipes. Submit yours online by July 10 for a chance to win \$500.



## Candied Jalapeños

JILEEN PLATT  
BOWIE-CASS EC

Platt gifts her East Texas pepper bounty by cooking up candied jalapeños. These tasty gems are delicious on sandwiches, burgers, eggs and tacos. The recipe can easily be doubled.

**½ pound jalapeño peppers**

**1 cup sugar**

**½ cup cider vinegar**

**½ teaspoon ground turmeric**

**½ teaspoon ground ginger**

**⅛ teaspoon ground allspice**

1. Prepare a water bath canner or a large pot and heat to boiling, adding half-pint jars and lids to sterilize.
2. Slice jalapeños into ¼-inch round slices.
3. In a saucepan combine sugar, vinegar, turmeric, ginger and allspice. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook until syrup has reduced and thickened.



4. Carefully add jalapeños to warm jars, gently pushing down, filling up to leave ½-inch headspace.
5. Ladle hot syrup over jalapeños, leaving ¼-inch headspace and removing air bubbles. Wipe rims, top with canning lid and screw on bands. Continue until all jalapeños are canned.
6. Return jars to canner and return to a boil. Boil for 10 minutes. Remove jars, allow to cool. Store in a cool, dark place.

**MAKES 4 HALF-PINT JARS**

## Essential Canning Tools

BY MEGAN MYERS

**Canning doesn't have to be complicated, but you'll want to have these basics before you start.**

**Large pot:** You don't need a special water bath canning pot; any pot large enough to hold jars covered with water will do. Make sure to keep jars from touching the bottom of the pot.

**Jar lifter:** These special tongs help you transfer hot jars into and out of the water bath.

**Wooden dowel or chopstick:** Use either of these implements instead of a knife to remove air bubbles to prevent scratching the inside of the jar.

**Fresh canning lids:** Wax seal lids cannot be reused, so be sure to have enough on hand. Rings can be reused until they start to rust.



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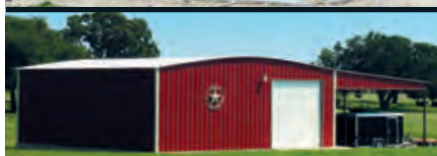
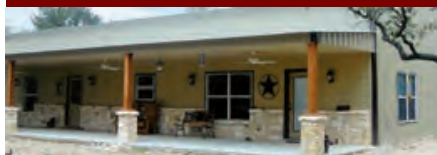
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## One Weird Wonder

Austin's Cathedral of Junk is an unfolding work of ... art?

BY CHET GARNER

**THEY SAY ONE MAN'S** trash is another man's treasure. If that's true, I was standing atop one of the most valuable treasure heaps in all of Texas. But rather than a pile of gold bullion or Fabergé eggs, this treasure trove consisted of busted TVs, at least one prosthetic leg and about 60 tons of accumulated stuff. It's definitely not the sort of "treasure" that sells at fancy auctions. But for artist Vince Hannemann, this is indeed a priceless work of art.

I was in Hannemann's South Austin backyard, atop his infamous Cathedral of Junk, a 30-foot tower consisting of multiple rooms and countless layers of—for lack of a better word—junk. License plates, wheelchairs and action figures formed into one massive structure that Hannemann started building in the late 1980s using pieces of his own trash.

As it took shape, neighbors started bringing him boxes of refuse that he puzzled and wired into the ever-expanding mass. Over three decades, the pile of trash became something more. It became a cathedral.

As he gave me a tour, Hannemann pointed out some of his favorite items that came with their own mysterious origin stories. One was a dented and burned timecard punch clock. "Did somebody get fired, smash the clock and then set the building on fire?" he wonders.

At first, the cathedral's haphazard form seemed like chaos, but as I walked the grounds, I slowly noticed that every room, wall and panel had a theme. Sometimes the junk was organized by color, other times by its decade of creation. Before long, the junk transformed into a work of art before my eyes. It's a creation too glorious for any gallery and more appropriately exhibited in an Austin backyard. ■

ABOVE Appointments are required to pay homage at the backyard Cathedral of Junk.

**TCP** See more of the clutter that makes Chet's heart flutter in the video on our website. And see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



## Know Before You Go

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

JULY  
01

**Cuero [1–August 26] Black Cowboys: An American Story**, (361) 277-2866, [chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://chisholmtrailmuseum.org)

07

**Kerrville [7–8] Open Pro Rodeo**, (830) 997-1864, [kerrvilletexascvb.com](http://kerrvilletexascvb.com)

08

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

13

**Fort Stockton [13–15] Water Carnival**, [fswatercarnival.org](http://fswatercarnival.org)

14

**Hempstead [14–15] Watermelon Festival**, (979) 921-5095, [hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com](http://hempsteadwatermelonfestival.com)

**Laredo [14–16] International Sister Cities Festival**, (956) 794-2200, [visitlaredo.com](http://visitlaredo.com)

**Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] The Last Round-up of the Guacamole Queens**, (830) 367-5121, [hcaf.com](http://hcaf.com)

15

**Brownwood Dino Day**, (325) 641-1926, [browncountymuseum.org](http://browncountymuseum.org)

**Burnet 100-Year Boat-a-Thon**, (830) 798-7632, [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)

**Friona Cheeseburger Festival**, (806) 250-2761, [friona-chamber.com](http://friona-chamber.com)

19

**Amarillo [19–22] Iron Horse Shoot Out**, (806) 353-2911, [ironhorseshootout.com](http://ironhorseshootout.com)



21

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

**Palestine [21-23, 28-30] Matilda the Musical**, [thetexasstheater.com](http://thetexasstheater.com)

28

**Naples [28-29] Watermelon Festival and Rodeo**, (903) 458-0425, [facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch](https://facebook.com/naplesmelonpatch)

29

**Boerne Hot Summer Night Antique Tractor Pull**, (210) 445-1080, [theagricultural.org](http://theagricultural.org)

**Giddings Sip and Shop: Christmas in July**, (979) 542-3455, [giddingstx.com](http://giddingstx.com)

**Kingsville Back to School Festival**, (361) 500-5892, [cbabbq.com](http://cbabbq.com)

**Stephenville Elks Lodge BBQ Cookoff**, (254) 979-5019, [facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq](https://facebook.com/stephenvilleelksbbq)

## AUGUST

04

**Huntsville [4-5] Genealogy Weekend**, (936) 291-5471, [huntsvilletx.gov](http://huntsvilletx.gov)

**Olton [4-5] Sandhills Celebration**, (806) 285-2292, [oltonchamber.org](http://oltonchamber.org)

**Kerrville [4-5, 11-13, 18-20] A Murder is Announced**, (830) 896-9393, [caillouxperformingarts.com](http://caillouxperformingarts.com)

05

**Camp Wood Old Settlers Reunion**, (830) 597-6241, [nuecescanyonchamber.org](http://nuecescanyonchamber.org)

## TCP Submit Your Event

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



Grapevine, Texas is your destination for family fun this summer! Conveniently located between Dallas and Fort Worth, Grapevine is perfectly placed for a summer staycation or day trip. Enjoy family favorites like Grapevine Vintage Railroad, Great Wolf Lodge and LEGOLAND® Discovery Center or make a splash at Gaylord Texan's Paradise Springs Water Park. You definitely won't want to miss the all-new Meow Wolf Grapevine bringing its never-before-seen immersive art experience to Grapevine Mills beginning Summer 2023!

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# Waterfalls

"Just a winding stream where I can drift and dream  
And now I'm waiting for you  
By a waterfall I'm calling you  
We can share it all beneath a ceiling of blue."  
—From the song *By a Waterfall* by Sammy Fain and Irving Kahal

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ



1 RANDY DULL  
COSERV  
Gooseberry Falls in Minnesota.

2 DEANNE BROWN  
PEDERNALES EC  
"Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park offers hikers a reminder of the power of nature."

3 MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO  
BARTLETT EC  
Rainbow falls.

4 SABRENA ST. CLERGY  
JASPER-NEWTON EC  
"Colorado Bend State Park—a hidden gem."




## Upcoming Contests

- DUE JUL 10 Golden Hour
- DUE AUG 10 Mailboxes
- DUE SEP 10 Local Landmarks



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

 See Focus on Texas on our website for more Waterfalls photos from readers.





## Honest-to-Goodness Veggies

In the country, a trusted type of commerce still works

BY MIKE LEGGETT  
ILLUSTRATION BY  
ANNA GODEASSI

**FOLKS DO THINGS** differently out in the country, whether it's putting in a garden, processing their own hogs or raising beef to market.

Larry Westphal does a little of everything on his land along County Road 202 in Burnet County. Westphal, 70, has some cows and 200 head of sheep to keep him busy most of the year, but he's taken his garden to a whole new level.

He plants and harvests vegetables and tomatoes in a plot near his house that's about 40 feet square. With his wife, Judy, he picks, eats and cans what he is able to, but he still has a surplus almost every summer.

So Westphal decided to test his entrepreneurial skills and sell some of his annual harvest at local farmers markets. He also built himself a display stand several

years back and sells squash and tomatoes and sometimes peppers to anyone who wants them.

But Westphal doesn't sit by the stand, near the gate to his property. Rather, he hand-letters signs for each vegetable and sells them individually on the honor system.

The money goes into a small box that hangs off the stand, which could present a temptation for some, but this system works for Westphal. "Everybody around here is pretty honest," he says. "Unless it's a cat or one of the neighbor's chickens, I don't lose anything to somebody stealing it."

The little bit of money the stand generates doesn't go very far. "It pays for the seed," says Westphal, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member. "That's about all it does."

Most of his business is local, too. "I think most of it is just our neighbors," Westphal says. "Everybody has been pretty honest. I figure if they're that hungry, they're welcome to it."

When we're driving past during the week, my wife and I debate how we'd eat our squash, if we bought some. I'm a sliced-and-fried guy, but Rana prefers stewed with onions—each the way our mothers made it.

Westphal comes by his gardening and farming instincts naturally. His grandfather, who emigrated to the U.S. from Germany, ran a dairy in Minnesota for years. "My dad left that place as fast as he could," Westphal says, remarking on what a tough business it was.

His maternal grandfather was a sharecropper in Oklahoma, where Westphal spent some of his early days walking along behind a tractor. "I was 4 or 5 years old, and you can't make a living off a place like that anymore."

There's not much money selling surplus vegetables for a dollar apiece either, but there's more satisfaction. And that's why he does it. ■



To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory...

# But When Driving, These Sunglasses May Save Your Life!

**Drivers' Alert:** Driving can expose you to more dangerous glare than any sunny day at the beach can... do you know how to protect yourself?

The sun rises and sets at peak travel periods, during the early morning and afternoon rush hours and many drivers find themselves temporarily blinded while driving directly into the glare of the sun. Deadly accidents are regularly caused by such blinding glare with danger arising from reflected light off another vehicle, the pavement, or even from waxed and oily windshields that can make matters worse. Early morning dew can exacerbate this situation. Yet, motorists struggle on despite being blinded by the sun's glare that can cause countless accidents every year.

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was first discovered when NASA scientists looked to nature for a means to superior eye protection—specifically, by studying the eyes of eagles, known for their extreme visual acuity. This discovery resulted in what is now known as Eagle Eyes®.

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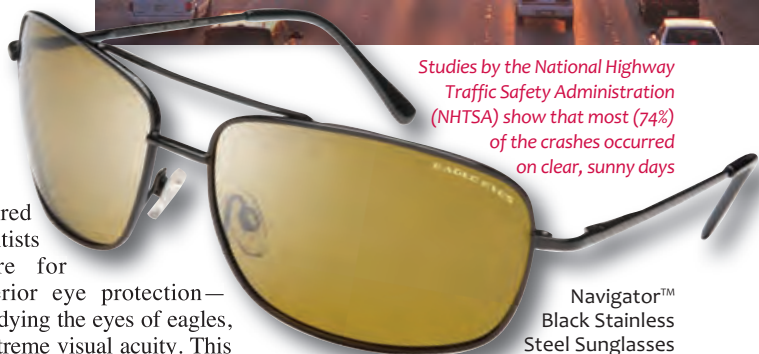
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Fayette Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting  
**July 19, 2023,**  
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Member registration begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

This is to certify that I am an active member of Fayette Electric Cooperative  
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Issued By \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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



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- ▶ Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting.
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- ▶ 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.

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## MEETING LOCATION

### Knights of Columbus Community Center

190 S. Brown St., La Grange

