



Still Making History

SPECIAL ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

**FAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Knights of Columbus Community Center
190 S. Brown St., La Grange 78945**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Voting Procedures for Election of Directors

The following excerpt from the bylaws of Fayette Electric Cooperative describes the process for nominating and electing directors. Members are encouraged to read this information to be familiar with the election process that will take place at the annual membership meeting.

Eligibility (from Section 4.02)

No Member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent Director or of an employee of the Cooperative, who has not been a Member in good standing in his/her individual capacity for at least one (1) year prior to his/her election and whose principal place of residence is not served with electric power and energy by the Cooperative in the District he/she is to represent. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director who is not at least twenty-one (21) years of age, is a convicted felon, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the Members of the Cooperative, and no person shall take or hold office as a Director who is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. A Director whose term expires may be re-elected for subsequent terms. Nothing in this section contained shall or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Election of Directors (from Section 3.07b)

Not less than (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before an Annual or Special Meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall mail to each Member a

list of the candidates selected at the District Meetings, the names to be arranged by Districts and in the order of preference indicated by the respective District vote. This list may be included with the Notice of the meeting. At the meeting, the Secretary of the meeting shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each District from which the Directors are to be elected. Additional nominations for Directors for a particular District may be made from the floor. The person making a nomination from the floor, as well as the nominee, must reside in the District for which the nomination is being made. Election of Directors for any District for which more than one person has been nominated, whether nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting or at the preceding District Meeting, shall be by written ballot. Where only one person has been nominated for Director from any District, a voice vote shall be taken and the result forthwith declared by the chairman. Where more than one person has been nominated for Director for any District at the preceding District Meeting, the ballots shall list the candidates selected at the District Meetings, the names to be arranged by Districts and in the order of preference indicated by the respective District vote. A candidate nominated from the floor of the meeting may be voted for by writing in the name of such candidate. Each Member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each District from which Directors are to be elected. The candidate from each District from which a Director is to be elected receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as Director.

In the event of a tie vote on the nominees for Director from a District, then the nominees receiving an equal number of votes shall be given the opportunity to address the Membership (for no more than two (2) minutes each) in support of his/her candidacy, whereupon another vote shall be taken on such nominees. In the event there is another tie vote between such nominees, the Director shall be selected by the flip of a coin.

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Dora Merony and her tiny MG near downtown Amarillo

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NEXT MONTH

Howdy, Bardners *The history, myths and wild spirit of Texas provide fertile ground for Shakespeare performances.*



ROUTE 66: WYATT MCSADDEN. SHAKESPEARE: ROBERT MONCRIEFF



ON THE COVER *Buc Weatherby, mayor of Shamrock on Route 66, with his 1968 Plymouth Barracuda.* Photo by Wyatt McSpadden

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bryan Lightfoot, Chair, Bartlett; Blaine Warzecha, Vice Chair, Victoria; Alan Lesley, Secretary-Treasurer, Comanche; Mark Boyd, Douglassville; William F. Hetherington, Bandera; Mark Stubbs, Greenville; Brent Wheeler, Dalhart • **PRESIDENT/CEO:** Mike Williams, Austin • **COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Jerry Boze, Kaufman; Clint Gardner, Coleman; Greg Henley, Tahoka; Billy Marricle, Bellville; Mark McClain, Roby; Gary Raybon, El Campo; Kathy Wood, Marshall; Brandon Young, McGregor • **MAGAZINE STAFF:** Martin Bevins, Vice President, Communications & Member Services; Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor; Tom Widlowski, Associate Editor; Karen Nejteck, Production Manager; Andy Doughty, Creative Manager; Elaine Sproull, Advertising Manager; Grace Arsiaga, Print Production Specialist; Chris Burrows, Senior Communications Specialist; Christine Carlson, Administrative Assistant; Paula Disbrowe, Food Editor; Travis Hill, Communications Specialist; Qasim K. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Ridge, Communications Specialist; Jane Sharpe, Senior Designer; Shannon Oelrich, Proofreader



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Flying Roosevelt Over the Hump

My mother had a cousin, Hiram Broiles, who also was a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II [*Roosevelt's Flight*, Letters, March 2018]. He flew from China over the "hump," the Himalayas, south. On one of those flights, he had President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board.

JOHN WAGGOMAN | BANDERA BANDERA EC

So Many Teammates

Thursday Night Lights [February 2018] reminded me of a funny, true story. When I played football for the Crosby Buffaloes, we played our home games on Friday nights, and the local black school, Charles R. Drew, played its home games on Thursday nights. It was understood that if you played for either team, you would get into the other team's games free.

When a group of friends and I, all football players, told the man at the gate that we played for Crosby, he said, "Lord, you boys got a big team this year; I bet I've let at least 100 of your teammates in already." We never had more than 25-30 on the team.

TOMMY LEISSNER | NEW BRAUNFELS PEDERNALES EC

A Cookie Love Story

My mom, Kay Kinn, is a farm girl and a great cook. She has made wonderful chocolate chip cookies my entire 53-year-old life. So when *Texas Co-op Power* shared a recipe for Peanut Butter Chocolate Chunk Cookies [Recipes, February 2018] and I asked Mom to make them, well, she was skeptical,

Habitat Destruction

I am involved in a problem with my subdivision regarding the destruction of our native Texas plants [*Naturally Protective*, May 2018]. Our early spring roadside flowers have been mowed down when they've barely managed to emerge. I've made a list of 15 Texas flowers that have disappeared in the past 30 years I've lived here, mainly because of habitat destruction and untimely mowing.

DEE WHITNEY | FAIRMOUNT | JASPER-NEWTON EC



to say the least.

But she made them, made them again and then again for family, friends and neighbors. These cookies taste great, and anyone who likes peanut butter and chocolate will love them. But my mom, not to be outdone, has made the recipe a little better, in my opinion:



She adds a shake of salt on top of them after baking.

SCOTT WIESER | BUDA PEDERNALES EC

Classroom Tool

I use *Texas Co-op Power* in my classroom every month. I love the Texas History stories and general Texas tidbits throughout, but I have even used articles like the linemen story [*Line of Duty*, October 2016] in my career class and as an example of feature writing to my writing class.

My students get so excited when something they've learned in the classroom comes alive in an article.

LAURA SIDES | WORTHAM JUNIOR HIGH NAVASOTA VALLEY EC

Clearing the Air

Oklahoma is my home state, but the six years I have lived

here has made me appreciate our southern neighbor even more. Being this much closer to the Gulf, I also have loved the clouds that the atmosphere brings to beautiful Texas.

JO ANN LOWRANCE | NORTHLAKE COSERV

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   **Texas Co-op Power**

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HAPPENINGS

Let's Go to the Hop

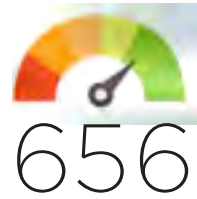
They do the hop every year in Bonham, but it's not the dance sensation that was sweepin' the nation 60 years ago. Rather, the **BONHAM QUILT HOP** involves more than 300 quilts displayed at nine sites around town plus one in nearby Honey Grove. Visitors are encouraged to hop around and check them out.

The Quilt Hop started as a springtime event—held around Easter—about a decade ago. With Easter bunnies in mind, the event got its name, which stuck even as the event moved to midsummer—**JULY 27-28** this year.

McKinney master quilter Alice Wilhoit is the guest speaker this year.

The Fannin County Barn Quilt Trail, which features dozens of painted squares in and around Bonham, is an added attraction for those hopping around the area.

INFO ► (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com



BY THE NUMBERS

That's the average consumer credit score in Texas, which ranks 46th in a tie with Oklahoma among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The national average is 675. Minnesota ranks first at 709.

LIFESTYLE

GOLD IN THAT THAR HILL COUNTRY

Construction of the nation's first state-administered gold depository begins soon, with a 60,000-square-foot facility planned for an undisclosed location in Pedernales Electric Cooperative's service territory in Leander.

Developed partly in response to the 2008 recession, the Texas Bullion Depository is scheduled to open in 2019 and will provide secure storage of gold and other precious metals for companies and individuals while operating under state comptroller oversight.

The facility will include high-definition security cameras, a tactical training area, an on-site gun range and advanced perimeter defense, in case any would-be bandits harbor Bonnie and Clyde-inspired fantasies.



QUILT HOP & CAKE: BART BROWNE; GAUGE: MISTERDH | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; GOLD BULLION: YURCHELOUB | DREAMTIME.COM; BEATON: COURTESY PAULA BEATON; LUGGAGE TAG: INBJ | DREAMTIME.COM; TOKENS: SAN PATRICO EC

Carrying Through

WHEN HUNTER BEATON'S parents adopted three foster children, he was proud to gain three younger siblings but troubled by what they brought with them from the foster home.

“They had all their possessions in a black trash bag,” Beaton said. “How awful is that?”

So when it came time to plan a community service project to become an Eagle Scout, the Boerne High School freshman knew what he wanted to do. He didn't know how big it would become.

“I decided to find a way to say, ‘No, no kid deserves this,’” he said.

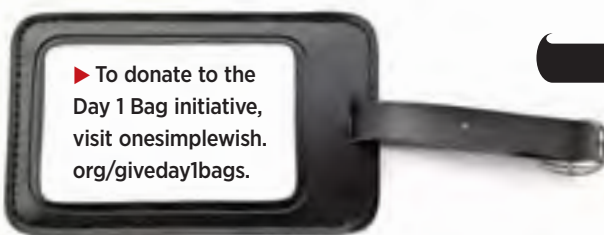
With the help of his church, community and parents, who are members of Bandera Electric Cooperative, Beaton raised \$10,000 and filled 100 duffel bags to give to Texas foster kids. He reached his goal, but requests for bags didn't stop.



Almost 20,000 bags and two years later, Beaton's Day 1 Bag initiative has spread to all of Texas with the help of a state Senate proclamation—and beyond. He has teamed up with nonprofits One Simple Wish and Comfort Cases to keep the bags going even as he gears up for college, where he hopes to get more involved in public service.

“I just want to help people,” he said.

Did you know?



CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS with foster care experience are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of U.S. war veterans, according to the American Society for the Positive Care of Children.



Tokens of Appreciation

Believing thank-you notes weren't enough and knowing how linemen enjoy collecting and trading tokens emblazoned with co-op logos, San Patricio Electric Cooperative awarded tokens to all who helped with Hurricane Harvey recovery last year.

The Category 4 storm blasted the coast with 130 mph winds, leaving 98 percent of the co-op's more than 11,000 members in the dark. Co-ops and contract linemen from across the state answered San Patricio EC's pleas for help and rushed to Sinton to pitch in, restoring power to most members within days.

“**We had an** overwhelming response to our request,” General Manager Ron Hughes says. To express his gratitude, he had 250 commemorative Hurricane Harvey tokens made and distributed them among all San Patricio EC employees and the six co-ops and outside contract crews that helped with restoration.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Two Football Legends



JIMMY JOHNSON, who replaced the venerated Tom Landry as Cowboys coach and won two Super Bowls for Dallas, turns 75. Johnson was born July 16, 1943, in Port Arthur.

ANDRE WARE, who became the first black quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy after setting 26 NCAA records for the University of Houston in 1989, turns 50. Ware was born July 31, 1968, in Dickinson.

The Mother Road still offers a journey through a slice of American life

RENDEZVOUS

ON



Story by Brenda Kissko | Photos by Wyatt McSpadden

One hundred seventy-eight miles of Route 66, the iconic American highway, traverse Texas, from ghost town Glenrio on the western border of the Panhandle right through Amarillo to Oklahoma. It's still one of the biggest draws for international tourists to the Texas Panhandle.

"Americans travel the road for nostalgia," says David Rushing, city manager for Shamrock, a town along the road, and a member of Greenbelt Electric Cooperative. "The internationals travel for a dream. For the internationals, it represents freedom."

This summer, travelers will voyage across the globe—from places like Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Spain and Scotland—to Shamrock, 90 miles east of Amarillo, to celebrate the Mother Road.

With a population of 1,946, Shamrock will be the smallest town to host the Route 66 Festival, which celebrates the U.S. highway that journeys from Chicago to Los Angeles through eight states. This year's festival runs July 12–15. As legislation supporting the designation of the route as the Route 66 National Historic Trail (to become part of the National Trails System) makes its way through Congress, the affection and nostalgia for historic Route 66 continues to grow.

The festival offers a useful outline for exploring Route 66 any time. Start in McLean, 21 miles west of Shamrock, and you'll discover the Devil's Rope Museum and Route 66 Museum. On Friday, there will be "roadie" day trips—a chance to drive Route 66 for yourself—before a rodeo and concert with Cody Canada and the Departed and Dalton Domino. Saturday kicks off with cowboy coffee, followed by a chuck wagon lunch, a car show, more roadie

day trips, a silent auction, a banquet with music by the Road Crew (dubbed the official musical ambassadors of Route 66) and a second rodeo with music by Charlie Robison and Bri Bagwell.

A poster in the lobby of Shamrock's Texas Theater proclaims that, at one time, at least 49 theaters named "Texas" showed films for the public. Now, Shamrock's is one of the oldest continuously open Texas Theaters, and it still screens first-run movies on weekends. At the Pioneer West Museum, travelers learn of Wheeler County boy Alan Bean, the fourth person to walk on the moon, who died in May. Kiss a piece of the Blarney Stone and check out the tallest water tower in Texas.

The U-Drop Inn, an iconic part of Shamrock's identity and a top attraction among all of Route 66, is an art deco building of green glazed tile and brick, richly adorned with neon lights. When it opened in 1936, travelers ate in its diner and gassed up at the Tower Station (all part of the same building) as they made their way across the country. Elvis stopped here multiple times on his travels between Memphis and Las Vegas.

The landmark was restored in 2004 and now serves as a visitors center and gift shop offering Route 66 memorabilia and certified organic cotton T-shirts made from cotton grown nearby (its best-seller). Visitors are welcome to bring a lunch and eat in the booth where Elvis sat. There's even a Tesla Supercharger station here, a testament to a new chapter of traveling Route 66.

In 2017, over 22,500 visitors from 110 countries stopped at the U-Drop Inn, more than 10 times the population of Shamrock.

"The Route 66 phenomenon just gets bigger every year," says Shamrock Mayor Buc Weatherby. "We refer to ourselves as the crossroads of America because Shamrock is the only place in the United States where two border-to-border highways intersect. That's U.S. 83 and I-40."

Amarillo, 95 miles west of Shamrock, is the largest Texas city along Route 66. Eric Miller, director of communications for the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council, says Route 66 is one of the top five attractions in the city, according to visitor surveys, along with Cadillac Ranch, Big Texan Steak Ranch, Palo Duro Canyon State Park and the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum.

"In the last 25 years, people have started to get reinterested in Route 66," Miller says. "It's a very unique part of Texas. It's an incredible part of history. And it happened right here, not that long ago. If you get off onto Route 66, you feel the roll, experience the wide-open spaces, see the farmland, the ranchland, and you get an idea of why it was important."

The Route 66 Historic District in Amarillo, lined with buildings from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, runs a full

Clockwise from top: The U-Drop Inn opened in 1936 in Shamrock. East entrance to the Route 66 tourist attractions in Amarillo. Sign at a salvage yard in Vega.





mile on Sixth Avenue between Western Street and Georgia Street. It was developed in the early 1900s as the San Jacinto neighborhood, connected to downtown via streetcar. Today, it's a popular hangout for roadies and locals alike to spend an afternoon shopping, catching up over food and drinks, and gathering for live music.

This historic district embodies the intersection of the past and present. Grab a margarita and reliable Tex-Mex at Bracero's Mexican Bar & Grill in a building that once housed a gas station. Enjoy a root beer float or share a pitcher of beer while a band plays at the GoldenLight Cantina. The GoldenLight serves burgers much as it has since it opened in 1946, and it is one of the oldest continuously operating restaurants on Route 66. Nearly two dozen antique shops along this stretch offer everything from vintage blown glass perfume bottles to old road signs.

Dora Meroney is the president of the Old Route 66 Association of Texas, treasurer of the Historic 6th Street on Route 66 Association and director of sales and services for her family's Texas Ivy Antiques, located in the historic district.

"The love of Route 66 goes beyond the eight states that it passes through," Meroney says. "We have roadies from Ohio, Michigan—all over the United States. We're trying to save what we can save, revive what can be revived and blend it with the new stuff that comes along."

Route 66, the first major transcontinental highway across the United States, was created in 1926 as part of a new federal highway system. The route connected Chicago and Santa Monica, California, via a patchwork of existing roads that stretched 2,448 miles. It made transportation of goods from rural farms to the larger cities much easier. During the Dust Bowl, the route took on a new purpose. It became the Mother Road, as John Steinbeck named it in *The Grapes of Wrath*, leading all those in search of another promised land to the fabled green lands of California.

Back then, all they had was the road. The land shriveled beneath their feet as the clouds were all cried out. The Dirty '30s came after the Roaring '20s had been quickly ushered out by the stock market crash of 1929. The party was over, and a mass migration would begin. The crushing drought was followed by high winds that ripped away the rich topsoil, destroying a way of life for thousands of American farmers. Once those desperate folks were pushed

out of their homes by a failed economy, they exerted the sheer will to find a better life and fell in line along one particular path.

World War II marked a new era for Route 66. Once the war was over and people finally had a little money to spend and some vacation time to burn, they took to the road again, this time for pleasure. By 1955, the number of automobiles registered in the United States had doubled since the end of the war. Motor courts, roadside diners and curio shops bloomed along the route that basically became Main Street in many of the small towns it passed through. Route

66 defined the ultimate road trip and was a part of pop culture.

Nat King Cole first recorded (*Get Your Kicks on*) *Route 66* in 1946, and the song has since been recorded by dozens of other artists like Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, the Rolling Stones and Asleep at the Wheel. The television series *Route 66*, starring Martin Milner and George Maharis, ran for four seasons in the early '60s on CBS. Guest stars were the likes of Robert Duvall, Robert Redford and James Caan, and episodes were filmed



Dora Meroney of Amarillo is the president of the Old Route 66 Association of Texas.

on location across the country.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower saw the benefits the German autobahn (a series of federal roads with high speeds and limited access) provided during the war, he decided America needed a similar system. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 was consequently signed into law, leading to the building of our interstates—and the demise of Route 66. The route was officially decommissioned in 1985, but today much of it is still drivable.

The 2006 animated movie *Cars* perhaps tells the story of Route 66 most simply and poetically as characters Lightning McQueen and Sally look down upon the fictional Radiator Springs, which represents all the small towns along Route 66 that once boomed with visitors, now bypassed by an interstate. As Sally points out, those were the days we traveled to *have* a great time, not to *make* great time. Ramone's House of Body Art in the movie bears a striking resemblance to the U-Drop Inn.

Perhaps we travel to remember we're alive. A trip down Historic Route 66 honors the days when we took time to slow down to appreciate the scenery and talk with the people serving us. Route 66 represents not only a way across the country but a way of life.

"Our main job as curators of Route 66 is taking what the people before us have left us and making sure that we preserve it for the people that will come after us," Meroney says.

Brenda Kissko is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her online at BrendaKissko.com.

Clockwise from top left: Devil's Rope Museum in McLean. Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo. Cadillac Ranch west of Amarillo. Karen and Greg Conn own the Milburn-Price Culture Museum in Vega. Sign at the site of the original Phillips 66 station in McLean.



Classic Car
Culture

>> ROUTE 66 LURES ALL, FROM STREET RODS TO MUSCLE CARS <<

'We are probably

the closest-knit family you could ever find because most of the time we can read each other's minds and know what is needed without ever having to say it," says Mona Roberts from Ralls, 30 miles east of Lubbock.

Roberts lives and works with her sister Melinda and mother, Laverne, and the mind reading refers to the family business of restoring vintage cars and trucks. Laverne Roberts, who turns 80 this month, has been restoring vehicles in Ralls for more than 40 years.

In that time, Roberts' family has restored more than 50 vehicles, including a 1947 Willys Jeep, 1970 Ford Mustang convertible, 1961 Airstream travel trailer and 1974 International Scout II.

Laverne's father was a John Deere mechanic in Crosbyton, where he also farmed. Laverne grew up on the farm and became a bookkeeper for a motor company in Crosbyton, where she met mechanic Lon Roberts. Three months later, they married. For date nights, they went to Lubbock to see movies and then to Hi-D-Ho, a popular drive-in burger joint where Buddy Holly and the Crickets played.

Lon and Laverne raised their three girls in Crosbyton before opening Lon's Auto Clinic in Ralls in 1987. Restoring cars became a family affair when Mona was the first daughter to turn 16, and they restored a 1967 Ford Mustang convertible for her to drive.

"When we restore them, it's a family project," Mona says. "We restored them as we got enough money together to restore them. Dad was the mechanic, and I was the painter. Melinda's the paint mixer, and Mama's usually the hose holder." They laugh as they fondly remember car restorations together.

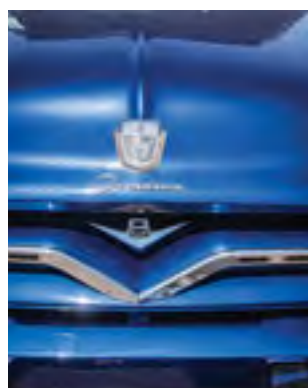
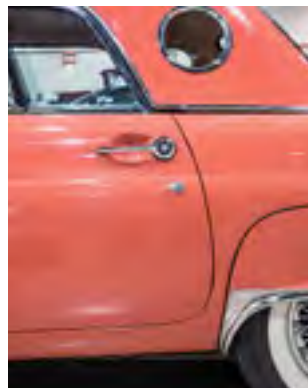
Mona and her dad were both pilots—Mona also is an airplane mechanic—and went out on "morning patrol" together on Saturdays, when they'd fly around in a Cessna 150 to look for old cars they could restore. Mona would mark the map so later they could drive out to find the owner.

Lon died in 2015, but he left his girls a few projects. A 1954 Ford F-100 pickup and a 1940 Chevrolet half-ton pickup are two of the vehicles they're working on now. And Laverne and Mona continue to do state vehicle inspections at Auto Clinic.

Though Laverne's middle daughter, Michele, doesn't work on cars, Michele's son Nick inherited that talent, having restored a 1960 Ford Thunderbird and a 1946 Cushman scooter (at age 11), making him a fourth-generation mechanic.

Car culture in America has influenced the development of our cities, our highways and the businesses along the way. When horsepower replaced horses, we paved

Opposite: From left, Laverne, Mona and Melinda Roberts restore vintage cars and trucks at their shop, Auto Clinic, in Ralls. Right: Details of cars at the Make-A-Wish Car Show in Amarillo.



The Make-A-Wish Car Show in March in Amarillo featured hundreds of cars.



>> “THESE CARS ARE ROLLING WORKS OF ART,” BOB TERHUNE SAYS. “AND THEY’RE FUN TO DRIVE. THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT TAKING A RUSTY, WORN-OUT AUTOMOBILE AND MAKING IT LOOK NEW AGAIN.” <<

our streets. When we began driving longer distances and for pleasure, roadside diners, service stations and motels appeared.

And car culture shows no signs of slowing down. Since 2010, the number of antique, classic and custom vehicles registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, including street rods, has more than doubled.

In December 2017, there were 187,958 vehicles registered with the Texas DMV categorized as antique, vintage, custom or street rods. This is up 147 percent from the 76,171 registered in December of 2009. The state defines a “classic” as a motor vehicle that is at least 25 years old. An “antique” is at least 25 years old and a collector’s item. A car with antique plates has restricted use.

Bob Terhune, a South Plains Electric Cooperative member, is president of the Caprock Classic Car Club, based in Lubbock. The club’s 194 members meet regularly for cruises, fundraisers and fellowship. Terhune says he “got the bug” for restoring classic cars when he worked on a 1970 Buick GSX, number 160 of the 187 made that were white. Buick only made two cars with the same options as his. He knows the entire history of this car: It was in an episode of

WEB EXTRAS

► Read this story on our website to see photos of Roberts family car restorations.

Hawaii 5-O, was bought by a serviceman in the Navy who hauled it from Hawaii to Louisiana, sat in a barn in North Texas for 15 years, and passed through several more owners, including Terhune’s brother, before ending up with him.

“These cars are rolling works of art,” Terhune says. “And they’re fun to drive. There’s something about taking a rusty, worn-out automobile and making it look new again. That satisfaction of seeing your hard work pay off and the appreciation that like-minded people give you for the work you’ve done, it’s just something else.”

Car shows are a prime opportunity for enthusiasts and collectors to show off their work. In addition to the Route 66 Festival car show in Shamrock on July 14, there are countless car shows across the state. Motor Texas (motortexas.com) keeps a list along with a blog that digs deep into the automobile culture of Texas through the lens of travel.

Today, vehicle ownership rates in the U.S. are down 3.3 percent from 12 years ago. As we look to a new era of transportation, it’s impressive to see so many families restoring these classics.

“To restore cars together was a pleasure,” Laverne Roberts says. “It meant that my family all worked *together*.”

Brenda Kissko is a native Texan who writes about nature, travel and our relationship with land. Visit her at BrendaKissko.com.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE



Not shown
actual size.

Limited
Collector's
Edition

Damascus steel forged to throw them for a curve at only \$79

For centuries, a Damascus steel blade was instantly recognizable and commanded immediate respect. Recognizable because the unique and mysterious smelting process left a one-of-a-kind, rippled texture on the steel, and respected because Damascus steel's sharp edge and resistance to shattering were the stuff of legend. If you carried Damascus steel, you were ahead of the curve.

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The *Damascus Curva Knife* celebrates those legendary blades.

It uses modern Damascus steel, with the same rippled texture pattern on the blade, to create a curved folding knife that's 7 1/2" in total length. With a liner lock mechanism, which allows the knife to be opened and closed using just one hand, and an ergonomic handle made of buffalo horn and colored bone, this \$79 knife is a trophy for any hunter or collector.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship of Damascus steel. 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. But we believe that once you hold the *"The most common aspects of Damascus steel knives that enthusiasts consider ideal are the aesthetics and high performance."* — Knife Informer



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What customers are saying about Stauer knives...



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— R., Lacey, Washington

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- Overall length, open : 7 1/2" • Includes genuine leather sheath

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 * "At our cost" reflects market price as of November 27, 2017.

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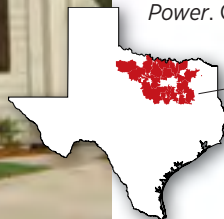
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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Still Making History

Hurricane Harvey response and the co-op's 80th anniversary celebration made headlines at your cooperative last year

LIKE MANY OF OUR MEMBER-OWNERS, FAYETTE ELECTRIC Cooperative monitors the weather because its sudden, erratic changes directly impact our ability to serve you. Never in the co-op's history was that tested more forcefully than in 2017.

It was a year of weather extremes. Three days of sleet, ice and freezing temperatures were recorded last January. By March, above-normal temperatures broke a 110-year record. At the end of May, a cold front coupled with high winds downed power lines, which caused outages in the Nechanitz, Wallhalla, Fayetteville, Willow Springs and New Ulm areas of our service territory. July went down as the hottest on record, and conditions were very, very dry. In August, La Grange documented 22 days of triple-digit temperatures.

The worst was yet to come. On August 25, Hurricane Harvey, the first Category 4 hurricane to strike the Texas Gulf Coast since Carla in 1961, wreaked widespread havoc. The Colorado River, which runs only blocks from the co-op's La Grange headquarters, rose to levels not seen in 104 years. More than 25 inches of rain fell on much of our service territory. Hundreds of area homes and businesses were flooded, and some roads were underwater for days.

During and immediately following this natural disaster, FEC received generous offers of assistance from other Texas cooperatives and vendors. How could they help? What did we need? Although profoundly grateful for this unprecedented support, we had been preparing for an emergency such as Hurricane Harvey for years with a three-pronged plan.

First, FEC is fortunate to employ a well-trained, dedicated group of linemen and excellent support staff, along with highly competent contractor crews, who pride themselves on working as a team. Second, FEC's ongoing investment in a right-of-way maintenance program to trim trees and remove brush threatening our power lines, as well as to replace older poles and lines, helps minimize outages. Third, FEC was one of the first among Texas electric cooperatives to create a detailed emergency plan that is immediately implemented when the co-op's normal business operations are interrupted.

The emergency plan is tested annually through tabletop exercises to ensure that, if the need arises, employees at your cooperative know what actions to take. The plan includes details on materials and supplies and accurate contact information for employees, contractors and community leaders, as well as a plan to communicate with member-owners throughout an emergency.

Post-Hurricane Assessment

After business returned to near-normal conditions following Harvey's destruction, FEC reviewed its response. Over a three-day period, we restored 117 outages affecting 6,246 meters in our service territory. Because our employees live and work in this area, they were able to reach some outage locations by taking indirect routes on back roads. At times, recovery efforts were delayed by high water. While restoring service is our top priority, the safety of FEC personnel always comes first.

Also noted in our post-hurricane assessment, FEC worked closely with the city of La Grange, which had been hit hard, by running temporary electric power lines to some of its customers on top of the bluff off Highway 77 S.

Telephones at our La Grange office were answered by staff members 24 hours a day during Harvey, and FEC relied heavily on Facebook to keep member-owners up to date. If you use Facebook and have not already done so, please consider following us at facebook.com/fayettecoop.

The uncertainty and chaos created by Harvey served as a reminder as to why FEC continually requests updates on member-owners' cellphone and landline numbers and gate codes, if applicable, to help us help you. In order to communicate, we must be able to reach you. Of course, you have FEC's promise that your personal information will be kept confidential.

While we hope there's not a need to put our emergency preparedness plan to the test again anytime soon, we are proud of our employees' response.

Memorable 80th Anniversary Celebration

At one of Fayette Electric Cooperative’s best-attended annual meetings, last July, nine longtime member-owners reminisced, in brief, videotaped segments, about their lives before rural electrification. The video was a hit with those in attendance, since many member-owners are too young to remember what rural life was like before the introduction of rural electrification. When the program was later presented at meetings of local organizations and on Facebook and our website, it was equally well received. If your group is interested in seeing this engaging presentation, please contact our office.

The celebration of FEC’s 80th anniversary continued in the local pages of *Texas Co-op Power*, with six additional stories of member-owners recounting how their lives changed when FEC brought electricity to our area. The co-op complemented its member-owner video and magazine stories with quick glimpses at the cooperative’s history through *80 Facts for 80 Years*, posts which ran periodically on Facebook. We also hosted an open house at our La Grange headquarters in November.

Under ‘Business as Usual’

In addition to keeping the lights on last year, FEC continued to think long term. We rebuilt and upgraded lines in the Flatonia, Cistern, Muldoon, New Ulm and Fayetteville areas to improve service and meet the growing energy needs of member-owners. We replaced wires on 14 miles of existing distribution lines and rebuilt existing three-phase lines in the Muldoon area, as well as converted 15.4 miles of existing distribution lines to 14.4/24.9 kilovolt operation.

We continued our right-of-way maintenance program, although the weather somewhat hampered meeting our annual goal. In addition, FEC upgraded its phone and computer systems, changed out computers and servers as necessary, updated software and regularly tested a backup diesel generator on standby to power the office and warehouse.

We worked on new power supply contract options for a portion of our load that must be in place by the end of this year. We addressed how best to link the digital mapping system that we rely on in the office with laptop computers in the field. We began comparing options for our supervisory control and data acquisition control system architecture and partnered with Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative to install fiber in our substations.


Last April, FEC distributed \$800,000 in capital credits to member-owners who were connected in 1987. The same month, new rates and fees were implemented—the first change in a decade.

We again supported our member-owners’ communities by contributing to worthwhile efforts such as the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life, La Grange Little League Association, Fayette County Fair Association, Ledbetter Volunteer Fire Department’s Trail of Lights, Schulenburg Festival Association, Weimar Gedenke!, St. Mark’s Medical Center Foundation fundraisers, CASA of Bastrop, Lee and Fayette counties, Family Crisis Center, Deputy Santa and the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce Kolache Fest.

Some forms of FEC’s community support were conducted face to face. Last May, for example, FEC employees engaged more than 325 fifth-grade students in an electric safety program at Fayette County’s Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.

With regard to FEC’s board of directors, Bill Briscoe of District 6 and David Stancik of District 7 were re-elected by member-owners last July. Later in the year, James Anderle, who has served District 5 since 2016, attained his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. FEC applauds Anderle’s commitment to education.

As always, the management and staff of Fayette Electric Cooperative are pleased to serve you, our member-owners. Should you need us, let us know, and we’ll respond promptly and courteously. That’s a promise.



David Lehmann, *President*



Gary Don Nietsche, *General Manager*



Fayette Electric Cooperative, Inc.

357 N. Washington St. • P.O. Box 490
La Grange, TX 78945

Serving Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, Lee and Washington counties

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

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CONTACT US

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OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

When: Wednesday, July 18, 2018

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

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

Fayette Electric Cooperative will conduct its annual meeting Wednesday, July 18, 2018. Directors for Districts 3 and 4 will be elected; reports and updates regarding the co-op's business will be presented to member-owners; and all other business as may come before the meeting will be transacted.

ATTEND

Fayette Electric will conduct its annual meeting Wednesday, July 18, at the Knights of Columbus Community Center in La Grange.

VOTE

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

District 3

Gale Lincke

District 4

Leo C. Henke

Please read the candidates' profiles on Page 8, then cast your vote during the annual meeting. All registered Fayette EC member-owners can vote at the meeting. Directors are nominated from the district in which they reside, but they serve member-owners in all districts. This means you don't have to live in districts 3 or 4 to vote.

SNACK

4-H members will serve cookies, lemonade and coffee.

LISTEN

The business meeting starts at 7 p.m. with reports from Fayette EC's general manager and staff, followed by 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 FEC's staff and board, 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 EC'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 names of 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 use to collect your prize if your number and name are called.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Fayette Electric Annual Meeting.

Best Regards,

Bill Briscoe
Secretary-Treasurer

*Still Making
History by...*

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH

2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



HALEY BERTSCH
FAYETTEVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL

Daughter of Steven and Deborah Bertsch, she plans to attend Blinn College and major in agriculture education.



ALLYSON HOFFMANN
FAYETTEVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL

Daughter of Mark and Joan Hoffmann, she plans to attend Blinn College and major in business.



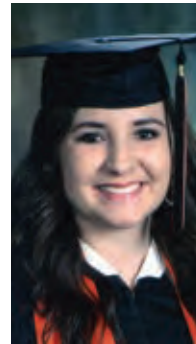
MARIANNA LOPEZ
FLATONIA
HIGH SCHOOL

Daughter of Ramon and Henrietta Lopez, she plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in psychology.



REAGAN KUCK
LA GRANGE
HIGH SCHOOL

Son of Robert and April Kuck, he plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in mechanical engineering.



HALEY OLSOVSKY
SCHULENBURG
HIGH SCHOOL

Daughter of Mark and Kimberly Olsovsky, she plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in interdisciplinary studies.



BETHANY STORK
LA GRANGE
HIGH SCHOOL

Daughter of Laurie Stork and the late Ron Stork, she plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in journalism.

2018 YOUTH TOUR WINNERS



MADELINE BENBENEK



ABIGAIL ROSCHER

MADELINE BENBENEK AND ABIGAIL ROSCHER were selected as the winners of the 2018 Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest to represent Fayette Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., June 6-15.

This year's tour saw participation from more than 1,800 high school students from co-ops in 46 states. The Texas delegation had a record 150 participants.

This annual, all-expenses-paid tour offers students opportunities to learn about the workings of their national government and to visit historic monuments and museums. A highlight of Youth Tour is meeting with congressional representatives.

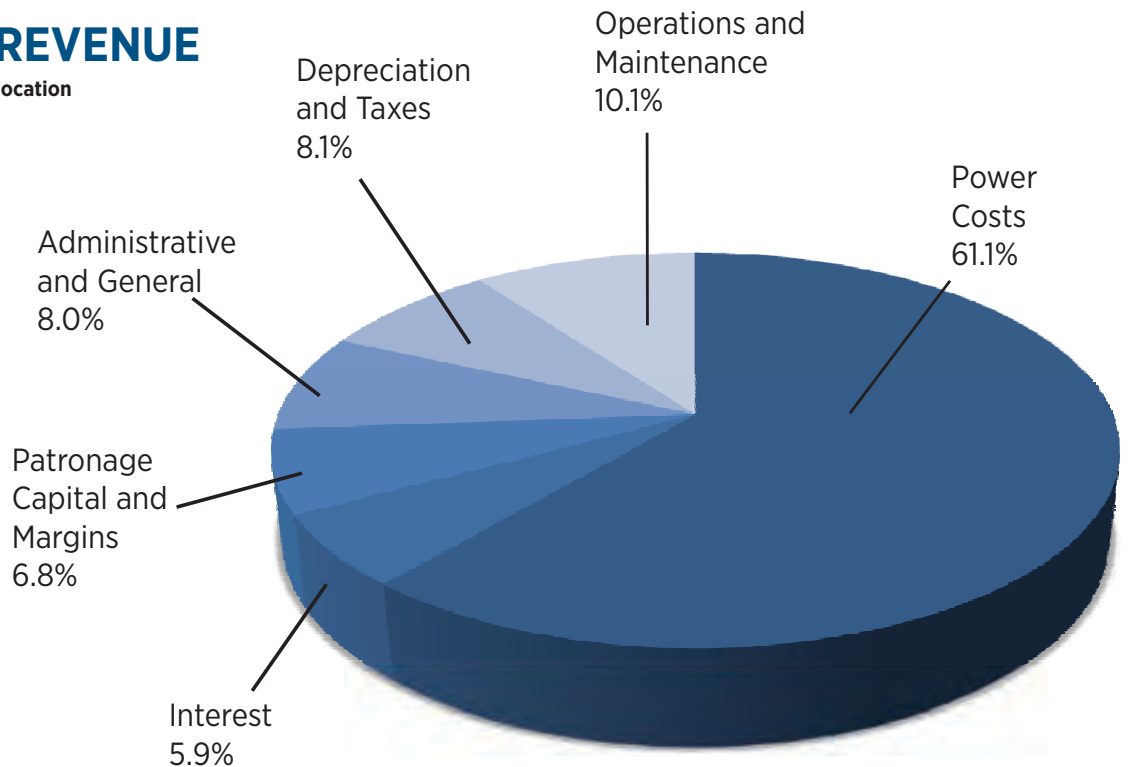


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PRACTICING OPEN RECORDS

USES OF REVENUE

2017 Allocation



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- ▶ PowerHouse Energy Investigation program for schools

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- ▶ Rebates for energy-efficient heat pumps and air conditioning units
- ▶ Enjoy discounts at local merchants and pharmacies as well as online with our Co-op Connections discount card

Texas Co-op Power magazine and cookbook

- ▶ Award-winning monthly magazine provided to members
- ▶ *The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook* available for sale

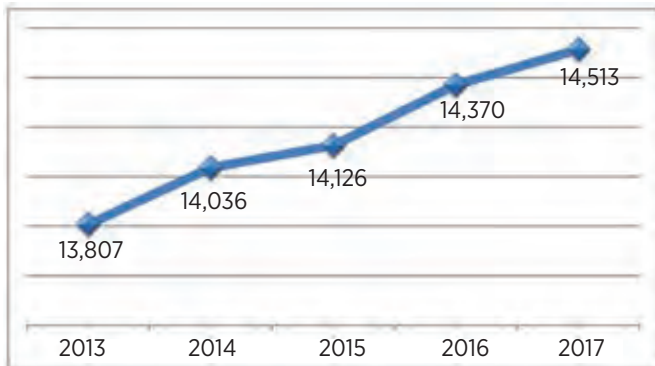


*Still Making
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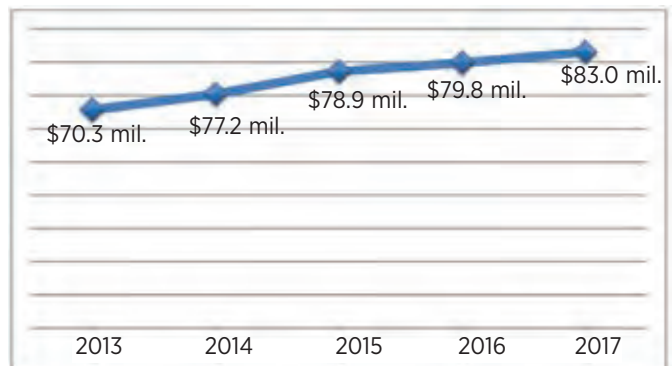
PRACTICING OPEN RECORDS

HOW FAYETTE ELECTRIC HAS GROWN

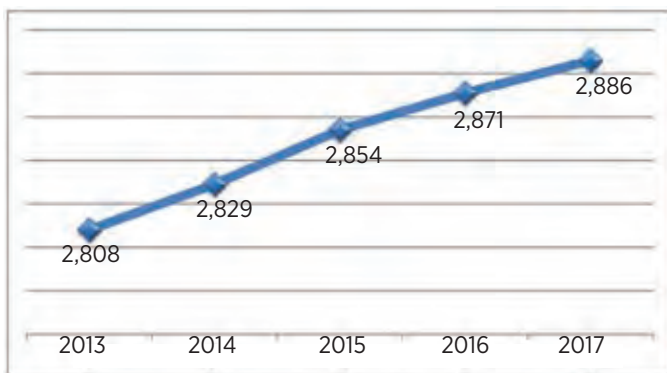
Number of Electric Meters Served



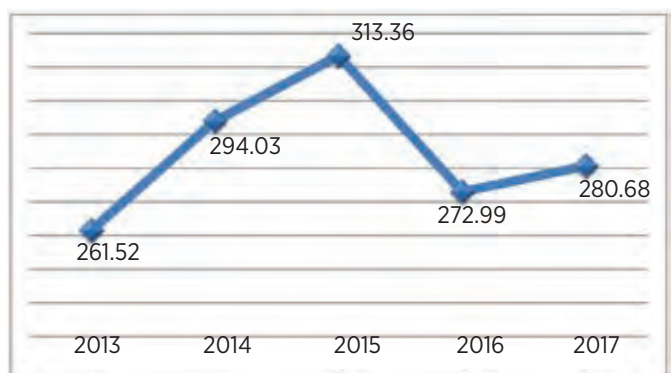
Assets



Miles of Line



Gigawatt-Hours Sold



2017 BY THE NUMBERS

NEW MEMBER-OWNERS (NET):
55

MILES OF LINE BUILT:
12.2 OVERHEAD AND 2.8 UNDERGROUND

MILES OF RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARED:
24

POLES REPLACED DUE TO AGE/CONDITION:
138

MILES OF EXISTING DISTRIBUTION LINE REBUILT:
36.4

MILES OF 3-PHASE LINE REBUILT:
6.0

**MILES OF EXISTING DISTRIBUTION LINE CONVERTED TO
14.4/24.9 KILOVOLT OPERATION:**
15.4



BALANCE SHEET

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Assets—What we own		
Net Utility	\$ 68,340,855	\$ 66,607,745
Investments	2,693,038	2,573,172
Cash	221,001	1,432,863
Notes and Accounts Receivable	3,665,473	2,903,819
Materials and Supplies	1,587,734	1,281,893
Other Current and Accrued Assets	2,344,091	891,648
Deferred Charges	4,156,794	4,776,388
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 83,008,986	\$ 80,467,528
Liabilities—What we owe		
Short-Term Debt	\$ 2,300,000	\$
Long-Term Debt	35,468,159	37,562,160
Accounts Payable	3,305,968	2,726,805
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	896,166	925,709
Deferred Credits	3,780,514	3,455,759
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 45,750,807	\$ 44,670,433
Equity		
Memberships	\$ 185,575	\$ 177,970
Patronage Capital and Margins	37,072,604	35,619,125
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 37,258,179	\$ 35,797,095
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 83,008,986	\$ 80,467,528

INCOME STATEMENT

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Revenues		
Electric Energy Sold	\$ 32,065,736	\$ 28,338,231
TOTAL ELECTRIC REVENUE	\$ 32,065,736	\$ 28,338,231
Expenses		
Electric Power Cost	\$ 19,580,498	\$ 16,457,846
Operating Expenses and Taxes	5,805,154	5,979,253
Estimated System Depreciation	2,558,905	2,475,409
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,876,054	1,963,271
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 29,820,611	\$ 26,875,779
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 2,245,125	\$ 1,462,452
Non-Operating Income	471,028	466,830
NET MARGINS	\$ 2,716,153	\$ 1,929,282

*Still Making
History by...*

PARTICIPATING IN DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

OFFICIAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Selected at the district meetings

*In connection with the election of two directors scheduled for the annual meeting,
the following member-owners have been nominated at district meetings held in accordance with the bylaws:*



**GALE LINCKE (INCUMBENT)
DISTRICT 3**



**LEO C. HENKE (INCUMBENT)
DISTRICT 4**

Personal

- ▶ Lifelong resident of Fayette County
- ▶ Owns and manages Heritage Hallmark and Lincke Floors, Inc. with husband Gary
- ▶ Married for 40 years, with one child and two grandchildren
- ▶ Lifelong member of United Lutheran Church in Swiss Alp

Education

- ▶ Graduate, La Grange High School
- ▶ Graduate, Texas A&M University
- ▶ Credentialed Cooperative Director, NRECA

Leadership and Community Service

- ▶ President, Fayette Community Foundation
- ▶ Vice president, Swiss Alp Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- ▶ Secretary, La Grange Education Support Foundation, La Grange ISD
- ▶ Member and treasurer, Friends of the Railroad Depot
- ▶ Member and past president, Rotary Club of La Grange
- ▶ Former trustee, La Grange ISD
- ▶ Former chair and board member, Lower Colorado River Authority
- ▶ Graduate, Fayette County Leadership Program
- ▶ Graduate, Leadership Texas Program
- ▶ Recipient, Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in Community Service Award, 1997
- ▶ Recipient, Top 10 Outstanding Women of Fayette County, 2010
- ▶ Director, Fayette Electric Cooperative, 2006–present

Personal

- ▶ Lifelong resident of Lavaca County
- ▶ Served in National Guard for six years
- ▶ Area supervisor, Texas Health and Human Services, retired
- ▶ Rancher
- ▶ Married for 48 years, with three children and 11 grandchildren
- ▶ Active member of Ascension Catholic Church in Moravia

Education

- ▶ Graduate, St. John's Seminary High School, San Antonio
- ▶ Graduate, Assumption Seminary, St. Mary's University, San Antonio
- ▶ Graduate, the University of Louvain, Belgium
- ▶ Credentialed Cooperative Director, NRECA

Leadership and Community Service

- ▶ Named Supervisor of the Year for Austin Region, Texas Health and Human Services
- ▶ Unit of the Year Award, THHS
- ▶ Director, Lavaca County Farm Bureau
- ▶ Third-degree member, Knights of Columbus
- ▶ Member, Czech Catholic Union of Texas
- ▶ Member, American Legion Post 230
- ▶ Former 4-H leader
- ▶ Eucharistic minister and lector, Ascension Catholic Church
- ▶ Director, Fayette Electric Cooperative, 2003–present

Additional director nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.



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Amy Rackley Assistant Cashier
Tim Rackley Electrical Technician I

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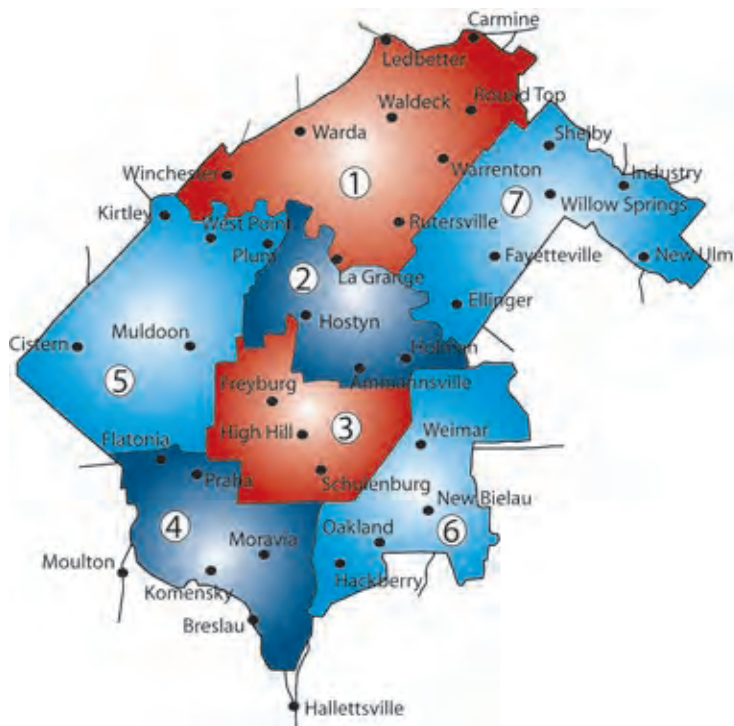
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Double Exposure

Unexplained coincidence prompts photographer's reunion with couple at Cadillac Ranch

BY CHARLES LOHRMANN



WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER WYATT MCSPADDEN left his studio in Austin for the long drive to photograph sites along Route 66 in the Texas Panhandle for the feature in this issue, he did something unexpected: He picked up a print from a table in his office and took it along. There was no reason, he just did it.

One of his stops along Route 66 was in the town of Vega, 35 miles west of Amarillo.

McSpadden noticed a ruggedly charming building bearing the name Milburn-Price Culture Museum. Inside, he met and struck up a conversation with Greg Conn, who had returned to his native Vega after

a long career in facilities management and opened the museum in 2014.

One topic of conversation was Cadillac Ranch. McSpadden mentioned that he had been among those present at the installation's dedication in 1974 and photographed the Cadillacs as they were planted nose-first all those years ago.

Conn then mentioned that his friends, Vega natives Marion and Jessie Kinsey, were at that same event and remembered having a photo taken. They had no idea how to get a print today.

"Wait just a minute," McSpadden said, as he walked outside to his vehicle. He

Marion and Jessie Kinsey in 1974 and again with the same Cadillac at Cadillac Ranch in 2018

returned with the print he had decided to bring along when he left home.

What are the odds?

Naturally, they decided to restage the photo, on March 3, 2018, the Kinseys' 67th wedding anniversary.

Of the thousands of people photographed with these famous Cadillacs, how many can make such a claim on the site's history?

Charles Lohrmann is the *Texas Co-op Power* editor.

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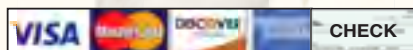
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How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO feast on sweet, fresh shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico. This month, readers shared favorite preparations that range from a brilliant three-ingredient, spicy-sweet sauce (my kind of easy, breezy warm-weather cooking) to a delicious chilled shrimp salad that's perfect for lunch. Whether it's dinner on a beach (Port A or bust!) or on the back porch, I love the simplicity of shrimp with a buttery, lemony pasta. This recipe relies on a secret ingredient (ground dried shrimp) to elevate the seafood flavor of this simple, satisfying preparation.

PAULA DISBROWE, FOOD EDITOR

Beach House Pasta

- 2 teaspoons dried shrimp (optional)
- 1 pound angel hair or linguine, preferably fresh
- Kosher salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- Pinch crumbled chile pequin or crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 pound rock shrimp or other small shrimp, peeled and deveined, cut into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped tarragon
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, plus more to finish
- 3 tablespoons cold butter, diced
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced

1. Finely grind dried shrimp in a spice mill or with mortar and pestle; set aside for serving.

2. Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until al dente, about 3 minutes if using fresh pasta, longer if dried. Drain pasta, reserving 1½ cups pasta liquid.

3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and chile and cook, stirring, until

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Recipes

How Do You Like Your Shrimp?

Enter online
to win 5 pounds
of Texas Gulf
shrimp.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CONTEST WINNER



DONNA JOHN | SAN BERNARD EC

"Shrimp is a quick meal anytime, but when the recipe has just three more ingredients, it makes for a super-quick meal," John says. "It's sweet, spicy and addictive!" We agree. Serve these succulent shrimp as an appetizer, a partner to grilled steak or a main course over steamed or fried rice.

Quick Sweet Chili Shrimp

- 1/4 cup sweet chili sauce
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 14 jumbo shrimp (or 1 1/2-2 pounds medium shrimp), peeled and deveined

Olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

1. Whisk together the chili sauce, mayonnaise and garlic and set aside.
2. Lightly brush the shrimp with a little olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Cook the shrimp in a preheated grill

pan, cast-iron skillet or frying pan until just cooked, about 2 minutes per side. When the shrimp are almost finished cooking, add the chili sauce mixture, stir to combine and warm through. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP It's easiest to coat the shrimp with the sauce in a regular skillet. If you grill them, consider tossing the hot shrimp with the sauce in a mixing bowl. Grilled green beans, broccoli, snap peas, fresh cilantro and lime juice all would be nice additions to these flavors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

fragrant, about 1-2 minutes. Add the shrimp, season with a pinch of salt and cook, tossing, 1-2 minutes. Add the tarragon, parsley, lemon zest, juice, pasta, 3/4 cup pasta cooking liquid and butter, and toss to coat. Cook, tossing and adding more pasta cooking liquid as needed, until sauce is glossy and coats pasta, and shrimp are cooked through, about 3 minutes. Season with salt if needed.

4. Divide pasta among warmed bowls and top with scallions and reserved dried shrimp. ▶ Serves 4-6.

COOK'S TIP Another way to "drain" pasta and retain the starches that help pull your sauce together? Use tongs to pull the cooked noodles from their pot and place them directly in your skillet. If you do this, you likely won't need to add pasta water. Cherry or grape tomatoes (red, yellow or orange), halved and added to the skillet with the shrimp, are a delicious addition to the mix.

Shrimp Louis Salad

IRENE PORTALES | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Whether it's made with shrimp or crab, a "Louie" or Louis salad is a classic that's traditionally made with Thousand Island-like dressing. Slightly sweet with a bit of heat, this simple, refreshing salad makes a fantastic lunch. You also can serve it on toasted white rolls.

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chili sauce or ketchup
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 4 drops hot sauce (or more as desired for heat)
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onions
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 pound boiled shrimp, peeled, deveined and cut into bite-size pieces
- 4 lettuce leaves
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, halved
- 2 avocados, sliced
- 1 large tomato, sliced

1. To make the dressing, whisk together the first 10 ingredients in a medium bowl.
2. Fold in the shrimp and chill for at least



IF YOUR RECIPE IS FEATURED,
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\$100 Recipe Contest

December's recipe contest theme is **Quick and Easy Holiday Appetizers**.

'Tis the season to have something festive and fun to serve while the big meal is prepared. Send us your go-to family favorite. The deadline is **July 10**.

ENTER ONLINE at TexasCoopPower.com/contests; MAIL to 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701; FAX to (512) 763-3401. Include your name, address and phone number, plus your co-op and the name of the contest you are entering.

1 hour. Before serving, taste and adjust seasonings as desired.

3. Serve the shrimp salad over lettuce leaves with 1 halved egg, half of a sliced avocado and a few tomato slices per serving. ▶ Serves 4.

COOK'S TIP To avoid a watery salad, allow the boiled shrimp to dry on paper towels briefly before adding them to the sauce.

Spicy Creole Shrimp Spread

DORIS WIDACKI | GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

Rich and creamy with three varieties of cheese, this spicy dip screams “game day” or any other gathering that calls for a warm-from-the-oven snack to slather on crackers or toasted bread.

SEASONING BLEND

- 2 teaspoons creole seasoning
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper, or more to taste

SHRIMP SPREAD

- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided use
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 shallot, diced
- ½ bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided use
- ¾ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided use

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

2. SEASONING BLEND: Mix together the ingredients and set aside, reserving 1 teaspoon of blend for the vegetables.

3. SHRIMP SPREAD: Rinse shrimp and pat dry with paper towels. Slice each shrimp into 3 pieces, place in a mixing bowl, and toss with 2 tablespoons of

olive oil and the seasoning blend. Set aside.

4. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the celery, shallot, bell pepper and jalapeño, season with the remaining seasoning blend and cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more. Add the shrimp and cook for about 3 minutes.

5. Remove from heat and place the mixture in a large bowl. Add the cream cheese, mayonnaise and ½ cup of each shredded cheese to the shrimp mixture, using a rubber spatula to combine. Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish, top with remaining cheese and bake 20 minutes, until the cheese is bubbly.

6. Remove from oven, cool 5–10 minutes and serve with bread or crackers. ▶ Serves 6–8 as an appetizer or hearty snack.

WEB EXTRAS ▶ Read this story on our website to enjoy a recipe for Shrimp and Cheesy Grits from a Central Texas EC member.



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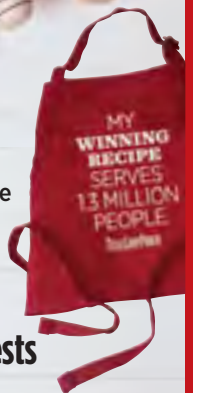


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Upcoming Contests

DECEMBER ISSUE
**Quick and Easy
Holiday Appetizers**
Deadline: July 10

JANUARY ISSUE
Sunny Citrus
Deadline: August 10

ENTER TODAY AT
TexasCoopPower.com

Opposites

WE FIND BIRDS OF A FEATHER don't always flock together, but these opposites sure attract attention. **GRACE ARSIAGA**

WEB EXTRAS ▶ See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



▲ **WYATT WATSON**, Grayson-Collin EC: "Though these two birds are enemies, they don't mind sharing opposite sides of the feeder."



▲ **CHRIS MILLER**, Bluebonnet EC: Saddling up has multiple meanings at the Fort Worth Stockyards.



▲ **CRAIG SANGREY**, Bluebonnet EC: Old becomes new.



▲ **ELAINE AND DAVID WILSON**, Pedernales EC: Male and female wood ducks at Landa Park in New Braunfels



▲ **YVETTE AND MICHAEL FOSTER**, Pedernales EC: "On a morning walk, I was taken by the delicate curves of the morning glory partnered with the strong, sturdy barbed wire."

UPCOMING CONTESTS

NOVEMBER ABANDONED BUILDINGS DUE JULY 10

DECEMBER HIGH CONTRAST DUE AUGUST 10

JANUARY HARVEST DUE SEPTEMBER 10

All entries must include name, address, daytime phone and co-op affiliation, plus the contest topic and a brief description of your photo.

ONLINE: Submit highest-resolution digital images at TexasCoopPower.com/contests. **MAIL:** Focus on Texas, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We do not accept entries via email. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline.



Pick of the Month Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival

Wimberley July 7
(512) 921-7043, wimberley.org

How can you pass up ice cream and a good cause on a hot July Saturday? The festival, hosted by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and featuring frozen treats, entertainment and old-fashioned summer fun, benefits Camp Good Sam Wimberley.

July 7

El Paso Magoffin Home State Historic Site
Cooking Class: Lemon Ice, (915) 533-5147, thc.texas.gov/historic-sites

Galveston An Evening With Bill Engvall, 1-800-821-1894, thegrand.com

Grand Prairie Festival de Mariachi, (972) 647-2331, tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie

Llano Rock'n Riverfest, (325) 247-5354, llanorocknriverfest.com

Mooreville United Methodist Church's Annual BBQ, (254) 709-7921, moorevilleumc.org

Port O'Connor Fireworks Display, (361) 983-2898, portoconnorchamber.com

Rockport [7-8] Art Festival, (361) 729-5519, rockportartcenter.com

12

Levelland [12-17] Cal Ripken 10 Year Olds Regional Baseball Tournament, (806) 894-3157, levelland.com

Canadian [12, 19, 26] Screen on the Green, (806) 323-6234, canadian.tx.com

13

Bulverde The Lego Batman Movie, (210) 212-9373, slabcinema.com

Clute [13-15, 20-22] The Music Man, (979) 265-7661, brazosportcenter.org

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San Angelo [July 13–Sept. 9] Made in Texas! 25 Contemporary Quilts, (325) 653-3333, samfa.org

14

Austin Cards for Kids Casino Night, (512) 444-7199, bgcaustin.org

Center Point VFD Annual Dance & BBQ, (830) 928-8707

Levelland Early Settlers Day, (806) 894-3157, levelland.com

McDade Watermelon Festival, (512) 332-1270, mcdadetexas.com

Weatherford Parker County Peach Festival, (817) 596-3801, parkercountypeachfestival.org

Tyler [14–15] Hunter/Jumper Horse Show, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

18

Blanco Neal Ford and Friends, (830) 833-1227, nealfordmusic.com

19

Stephenville Texstar Ford Lincoln Summer Nights Concert Series: Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder With Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, (800) 481-9345, stephenvilletexas.org



July 21
Lytle
Paws of Summer

21

Caldwell Texas Czech Genealogical Society: Life Is a Journey, Not a Destination (214) 577-0029, txczgs.org

Fredericksburg Night in Old Fredericksburg, (830) 997-2359, gillespiefair.com

Lytle Paws of Summer, (210) 621-5891, lytleanimalallies.com

San Antonio Kickin' for a Kure, (830) 780-2360, facebook.com/kickinforakure

Tulia [21–22] Red Barn Trade Days, (806) 633-4365

26

Bonham [26–28] Kueckelhan Ranch Rodeo, (903) 583-9830, visitbonham.com

27

Stratford [27–29] Jamboree & Block Party, (806) 753-6897, shermancountytx.org

28

Castell VFD 44th Annual BBQ, (325) 247-6130

August

3

New Braunfels [3–5] Lone Star Gourd Festival, (337) 376-9690, texasgourdsociety.org

Submit Your Event!

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

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Redemption in the Desert

A last-minute escape to Marathon offers inviting surprises

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

DRY. DUSTY. DESOLATE. WE'VE JUST pulled up alongside a century-old cottage on Avenue J in Marathon, and the desert scenery's definitely not inviting. The house looks iffy, too. I can already sense that my husband wishes he hadn't agreed to this last-minute trip.

Past the iron garden gate, Mexican feathergrass tickles our bare legs as we carry our stuff across the flagstone path and up the front steps of La Esmeralda.

"Look, James, a glider!" I'm hopeful that the screened porch's rusted vintage sofa with red cushions will charm my dubious husband (and redeem me). We unload our suitcases and supplies. Then we nose around the house, decorated cowboy-modern style. Ceiling fans, modern kitchen appliances and central air mesh well with the home's wood floors and claw-foot tub. Built-in bookcases contain an eclectic library that includes acclaimed Texas authors. I can't wait to browse.

In the yard, native wildflowers, prickly pear cacti, yuccas and cenizo replicate the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert. Several carpenter bees, black and shiny, patrol a dead agave stem, where they've tunneled nest holes. Binoculars in hand, I sit down on a rock bench and watch a black-throated sparrow as it lands at the rock-bordered fish pond for a sip.

Next, we set out to explore Marathon, Brewster County's second-largest town, with a population of 430. A downtown stroll takes us past the post office as well as art galleries, shops and a cafe. I tug James toward the historic **Gage Hotel**.

In 1927, San Antonio businessman Alfred S. Gage built the two-story, terra-cotta brick hotel as headquarters for his local ranching and banking interests. We slip



Post Park, 5 miles south of Marathon

inside the lobby for a sample of the hotel's luxurious, Spanish-flavored décor.

Around the corner, we spy the tin-roofed **French Co. Grocer**, named after a mercantile store that operated 72 years in Marathon. Some motorcyclists have just plunked down with their drinks at one of the picnic tables on the covered concrete porch. Inside, French's stocks everything from ketchup to camping gear. We look over prepackaged sandwiches and salads in the cooler then buy a loaf of homemade bread.

Across the railroad tracks, we're surprised to find a 27-acre oasis called **Gage Gardens**. A crushed granite path winds through columbines, santolina, red hot pokers, yuccas, oaks and retamas. We also check out a rose garden, fountains and a pond, not to mention a nine-hole putting green. Where'd the desert go?


But wait. A side trip 5 miles south of Marathon turns up yet another surprise: a secluded green spot known as Post Park. Shaded by huge cottonwoods and oaks, picnic tables and a concrete dance pavilion overlook a spring-fed pond. In the 1880s,

the watering hole supplied a U.S. Army post. Now, a quartet of ducks hurriedly paddle our way in hopes of a handout, and nearby, a pair of summer tanagers flit from branch to branch.

Back at the house, James cooks up supper. At a wooden table on the screened porch, we savor broiled salmon, corn on the cob and French's bread. Our eastward view of distant hills, silhouetted against the evening sky, gradually melts into starry darkness. After supper, we relax on the porch and listen to soft classical music.

Early the next day, we're back on the porch, armed with cameras and steaming cups of coffee. A mockingbird calls from high atop the cottonwood that stands near the back door. Soon, the morning's first burnt-orange sunrays halo over the hills. "So," James says from his seat on the glider, "how about we stay an extra night?" I smile. I'm pretty sure I've been redeemed.

Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, a member of Peder-nales EC, lives in Blanco.

 **WEB EXTRAS** ▶ Read this story on our website to read about more West Texas destinations.

Door Prize Ticket

Bring to
Your Annual Meeting



Registration Card

Fayette Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting
July 18, 2018
at the Knights of Columbus Community Center in La Grange.
Member-owner registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Business Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

This is to certify that I am an active member-owner of Fayette Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
in attendance at the annual membership meeting July 18, 2018.

Ballot Number _____ Issued By _____

Signed _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Only members who register and attend the annual meeting will receive attendance prizes.

TEAR OUT AND BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU

Voting Eligibility

- Member-owners must be present to vote at the meeting.
- Each member-owner 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-owner 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-owner 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-owner is allowed to vote for one director in each district, regardless of which district the member-owner lives in.

Meeting Location

Fayette Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Location

Knights of Columbus Community Center

190 S. Brown St., La Grange



**Door Prize
Ticket**

**Bring to
Your
Annual Meeting**

IMPORTANT

Present this card at the registration desk to be eligible for prizes.

Fayette Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting | Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Knights of Columbus Community Center | La Grange
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Business Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

↑ TEAR OUT AND BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU ↑

Official Notice

Program

July 18, 2018

Knights of Columbus Community Center • La Grange

DOORS OPEN	5:30 p.m.
MEMBER-OWNER REGISTRATION	5:30-7 p.m.
INFORMATION BOOTHS, GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS	5:30-6:45 p.m.
BUSINESS MEETING	7 p.m.

Please bring the registration card and door prize ticket located at the top of this page.
Only member-owners who register and attend the annual meeting will receive attendance prizes.



4-H members will be serving
cookies, lemonade and coffee 5:30-7 p.m.