

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Join us for our 85th Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. See back cover for details.

CELEBRATING



OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS

5:30pm - 7:00pm Walkthrough Meeting ● 7:00pm In Person Meeting ● Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

In accordance with Article III of the cooperative's bylaws, the annual meeting of the members of Karnes Electric Cooperative is to be held at Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center, 400 Texas Highway 123, Karnes City, TX 78118, at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, 2023, to take action upon the following matters:

1. Reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of two (2) directors.
3. All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of two (2) directors, which is scheduled for this meeting, the members listed below have been nominated for directors by the committee on nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative or by petition pursuant to the bylaws. The members of the nominating committee were Marcus Tymrak, District 3; Kenneth Everett, District 7; and Jeanette Moczygemba, at large.

Each nominee for director must meet the qualifications specified in Article IV of the cooperative's bylaws. The results of the election will be reported at the annual meeting. Each member (as so defined in Article I of the cooperative's bylaws) of legal voting age under the laws of the state of Texas is entitled to one vote, regardless of the number of meters held. The bylaw-required voter qualifications are as follows:

1. The voting member must be the same person holding the membership.

2. If two spouses hold a joint membership they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more.

3. Persons casting votes for organizations, i.e., corporations, churches, associations, partnerships, trusts, or other types of associations or businesses, must have on file at the cooperative's office, or in hand, a resolution certified by the appropriate officer naming and authorizing a person, and/or an alternate person, to vote as its authorized representative for such organization.

4. All estates shall be voted by the duly appointed executor, administrator or, if the membership is a joint membership, the joint survivor, or any one of the three. Before any of the three shall be allowed to vote, there shall be on file with the cooperative, or person voting shall have in hand, a duly signed request naming the executor or the administrator or the surviving joint member of the deceased member.

A copy of the bylaws may be obtained from the cooperative's website, karnesec.org.



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer

Director Nominees

District 3

Frank A. Geyer Jr.

District 7

David R. Nieschwitz



June 2023



08

Scratching the Surface

West Texas ranchers team up with researchers to unearth pieces of history.

*By Eileen Mattei
Photos by Dave Shafer*

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A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian describes the holiday's long path out of her home state.

*Excerpt by Annette Gordon-Reed
Illustration by John Jay Cabuay*

ON THE COVER

New food editor Vianney Rodriguez in her studio kitchen, Cocina Gris.
Photo by Jason David Page

ABOVE

Joey and Laurie Roland show teeth from an extinct three-toed horse at their ranch.
Photo by Dave Shafer

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By Pam LeBlanc

Making Magic With Vianney

MEET VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, the Corpus Christi foodie who will be inviting readers into her kitchen every month as *TCP*'s new food editor. You first met Vianney in December 2020, when she wrote in delicious detail about *pan dulce*.

She fell in love with cooking as a child in Aransas Pass. "Growing up watching my *abuelita* and mami cook together in perfect sync ... They were creating magic. I wanted to be a part of this world and have been cooking ever since."

Vianney—"simply say the letters V-N-A"—started her blog, Sweet Life, in 2009, joining the online conversations that she saw as "mini love letters to food." Her passion kept growing. "I have authored two cookbooks—*Latin Twist*, a cocktail book featuring cocktails from Latin countries, and *The Tex-Mex Slow Cooker*."

Today she works out of her studio kitchen, Cocina Gris—gray kitchen—where she can't wait to dive into more reader recipes from Co-op Country.



"Don't be told something is impossible. There's always a way."

—ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

FINISH THIS SENTENCE THANKS, DAD, FOR ...

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

Here are some of the responses to our April prompt: **I drove all night to ...**

Find myself *still* in the great state of Texas!

ROXANNE NEWMAN
VIA FACEBOOK

Be by my mother's bedside in her final hours.

ELLEN ROZNECK COULTER
VIA FACEBOOK

Be at the gate when he got a weekend leave.

MARTHA BEIMER
VIA FACEBOOK

Get back to Texas, and I kissed the ground when I did.

RICHELLE NASH
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
SHERMAN

Get to Concan after heavy spring rains so I could float the Frio.

LISA HOLLOWAY FITZSIMMONS
VIA FACEBOOK

Visit our website to see more responses.

QWERTY, USA

When typing while using proper form on a QWERTY keyboard, only two U.S. states' names can be typed using just one hand (overlooking the need for the shift key for capitalization). Texas is one of them. Ohio is the other.



TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Holiday Desserts

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Helping Out

RECOMMENDED READING

National Egg Day, June 3, reminds us of all the great reader recipes on our website that use eggs—especially those found in *Eggs: Plain and Fancy* from March 2016.



Welcome Signs

With the arrival of 470,708 people in 2022, Texas became just the second state to surpass 30 million residents—now with 30,029,572. The other one? Well, that would be California, with 39,029,342.

Super Cool or Old School?

THE FIRST LP came out 75 years ago this month, when Columbia released the New York Philharmonic's rendition of Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor as a long-playing record June 21, 1948.

Since then, we've hoarded records, then eight-track and cassette tapes, and compact discs. Those made way for digital files and streaming as our favorite music ended up both in a closet and in the cloud.

But take heart, record geeks: Vinyl albums outsold CDs in 2022 for the second year in a row.



Grounded in Mystery

“An East Texas minister built an airship that supposedly flew in 1902. It was destroyed before it could fly publicly at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis.”

VAL L. ERWIN
COSERV
LANTANA

442nd’s Heroism

My father took part in the rescue as a member of an antitank company [*Rescue of the Lost Battalion*, February 2023].

The 442nd suffered 800 casualties rescuing 211 Texans. After the battle, Gen. John E. Dahlquist ordered everyone in formation to congratulate them. He scolded the regimental commander that he wanted *everyone* there. The commander stood at attention and replied, “That’s all that’s left.”

Sidney Miyakawa
CoServ
Lewisville

Bless your heart
[*A Pet Project*, March 2023]. It’s the hardest thing fur parents have to do, but it’s our last, best gift to them. You’ll know when it’s time.

MARY HENDERSON
HARP
VIA FACEBOOK

Sacred Memory

As a boy growing up in north Louisiana, we would go exploring on a small creek near my house [*Caught Cuisine*, February 2023]. Along one stretch of the creek was a very low area that always contained numerous pitcher plants. The local name for the plants was preacher in a pulpit.

John Tubb
Medina EC
Houston

Wreaths Matter

Thanks to TCP’s December 2022 mention [*Wreaths for the Fallen*] of the November 2018 *Circle of Life* article about the impact of Wreaths Across America in Texas. That story helped grow 86 WAA Texas locations to 313 in 2022, with over 250,000 wreaths placed on veterans’ graves. Nationwide, over 2.7 million wreaths were placed at 3,702 locations.

Ellen Fuller
Bryan Texas Utilities
Bryan

My dad, Jack Andrews, was a proud member and captain in the 442nd in World War II. The 442nd ended up being the most highly decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The 442nd was also credited as being one of the first to find Dachau and release prisoners.

Bill Andrews
Big Country EC and Pedernales EC
Shackelford County and Buda



TCP WRITE TO US
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Austin, TX 78701

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

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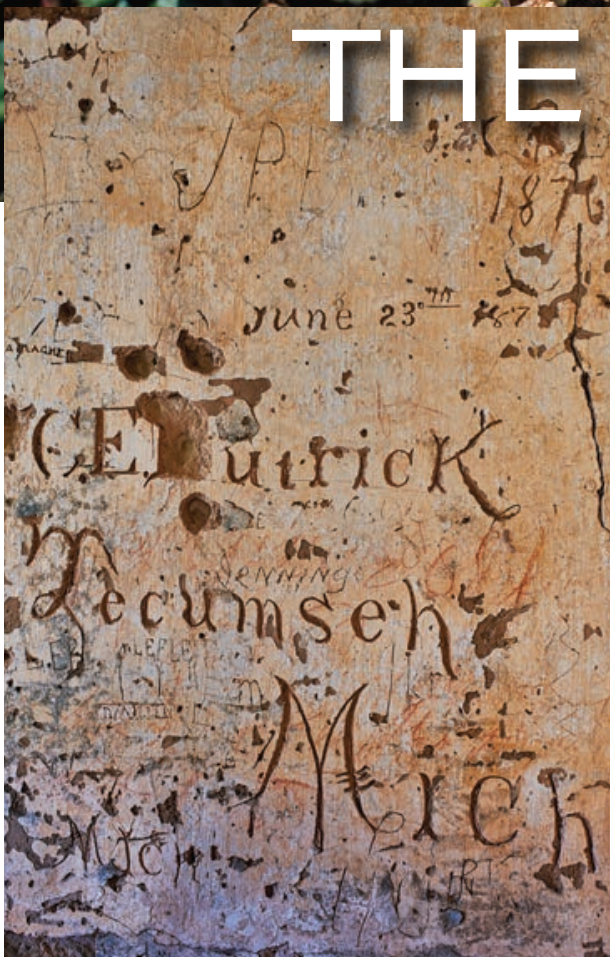


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SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

WEST TEXAS RANCHERS team up with researchers to unearth artifacts



LEFT Graffiti on the plastered walls of Fountain House at Fort Chadbourne dates to 1870.
TOP Artifacts, such as this nail, sometimes emerge after rains. ABOVE Rosettes that went on horses' bridles denoting cavalry Company F.



LEFT Garland and Lana Richards outside the restored east barracks at Fort Chadbourne. ABOVE Looking through the walls of the ruins of the west barracks, across the parade grounds and to Fountain House.

In its heyday, more than 150 years ago, Fort Chadbourne housed 450 soldiers. Today, it sits by its lonesome on a desolate rise in West Texas. Six restored limestone buildings and others, crumbling but stabilized, surround the parade grounds.

The inhabitants are long gone, but traces of them remain.

Garland Richards' family has lived on ranchland here, north of Bronte, in rural Coke County, for eight generations. The site includes a former stagecoach stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail Co. route and the remains of the frontier fort, used by the U.S. Army 1852–67.

Richards, a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative, knew history was being lost to time and the elements.

"When I was a kid, there was a waist-high adobe wall here," he says. "In my lifetime, it has melted to ground level."

The Richardses and another West Texas ranching family, knowing their properties hold remarkable history, are trying to stop the destructive march of time, welcoming excavations by archaeologists and paleontologists and

preserving important stories.

In 1999, soon after he inherited the property, Garland and his wife, Lana, set up the nonprofit Fort Chadbourne Foundation and gave the fort to the foundation to preserve and protect it. They marked a grid over an aerial photo and began keeping meticulous records.

"Everything we have found has been recorded on the grid," Richards says. "You do the best you can with the money you have and common sense."

Their first goal was to stabilize the weathered fort buildings, making them safe to work in and around. Lana took grant writing classes and got the needed funding.

"We joined the Concho Valley Archeological Society and let them come," Lana says. "It was one way of learning about what we had." CVAS members under the direction of Larry Riemenschneider, a Concho Valley Electric Cooperative member and volunteer steward with the Texas Historical Commission, began unearthing the fort's past.

The volunteers cost the Richardses a lot of bologna sandwiches, Lana says, but the workers are proud of their part in excavating a frontier fort. I know that's true, because 15 years ago, my husband and I participated in a Fort Chadbourne dig, working alongside a group of military retirees. The painstaking work of troweling and then sifting through the soil removed from meter-square sections was balanced with the joys of minor discoveries and the unsettling real-

ization that humans leave behind a lot of debris.

“We found almost half a million artifacts below the floor of the double officers’ quarters—the dogtrot house where rancher Tom Odom and his wife raised 13 children,” Garland says. In 1877, the Odoms purchased the land from well-known pioneer Mary Maverick and turned the fort into a ranch headquarters.

“The archaeological picture of Fort Chadbourne is probably more complete than any other Texas military site,” Garland says, based on the number of artifacts recovered.

The 12,500-square-foot Fort Chadbourne Visitor Center opened in 2012 to give people a firsthand look at some of the military, ranching and Native American history of West Texas. Half of the center’s exhibits sit inside a spacious walk-in vault with displays of cavalry items uncovered during digs: buckles, spurs, buttons, helmet badges and metal powder flasks along with flattened bullets used as poker chips. A Native American exhibit contains 48 large knife and spear points found near the fort in a foot-square cache that dates back 6,000 years. There’s also a 450-piece antique gun collection and a replica stagecoach.

A walk around the fort and into the buildings puts the center’s displays into perspective. Even in daylight, the quiet creates a haunting atmosphere. Inside the restored Fountain House, bullet holes in its thick, plastered walls shared space with graffiti from 1870 on. After circling the unrestored hospital and the restored barracks, I spotted a rusty, 4-inch sliver of metal on the ground. Garland explained it was a square-headed nail common until 1880 or so. “You’re in the Butterfield stage corral area,” he says. “It’s littered with artifacts.”

Each excavation answers some questions but raises others. Ground-penetrating radar has revealed a building that isn’t mapped.

If you discover archaeological treasures on your land, contact your local archaeological society, Lana recommends. “We did this correctly, thanks to Larry’s help,” she says.

Millions of Years Away

WHILE exploring family property near Snyder, about 80 miles northwest of Bronte, Tina Roland came across large bones eroding out of a gully. Determined to find somebody who could identify the bones, Roland contacted Eileen Johnson, professor of museum science and a paleobiologist at Texas Tech University.

When Johnson went to Snyder in 2005 to see the discovery, she found herself looking at bones dating from 1.8 to 2.6 million years ago, a time known as the Early Pleistocene. The gully marked an ancient stream bed.

“We knew this was important and exciting. We’re still working 17 years later,” Johnson says. “There are a handful



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Laurie and Joey Roland inside the 15-foot-deep paleontological dig site at Roland Springs Ranch. Graduate student assistant Madison Westfall tends to specimens from the ranch that are filed at the Museum of Texas Tech University. An ancient tortoiseshell recovered from the ranch.





of Early Pleistocene sites in the country of this age, but none has this diversity of species or is so well preserved.”

Numerous wading birds, camels, rabbits, giant tortoises and ancestors of coyotes, mountain lions and prairie dogs lived here once. Fossils have revealed the first appearance of some animals and the last appearance of others. Microbiological material excavated with the bones gives clues about the ancient plant community and climate.

The paleontological site is 15 feet deep and measures approximately 30 feet by 30 feet. For six weeks each summer, a small international crew trowels up dirt and washes the sediment through a fine mesh screen. Joey Roland, Tina’s son, and Joey’s wife, Laurie, host the field camp, providing small cabins next to their house and pool. “They are both very much involved,” Johnson says.

“I’m not a paleontologist, but they’ve taught us so much, mostly during talks around the pool after work,” says Joey,

a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. “A random bone is exciting, but it doesn’t tell a story. It’s out of context. For us, this is fascinating. I love it, and I’ve fought tooth and nail to protect it.”

With doggedness, he managed to get an oil pipeline diverted around the site. Unlike archaeological sites, no federal or state laws protect paleontological sites.

Laurie loves the picture that the finds suggest: huge Galapagos-like tortoises roaming the West Texas grasslands about 2 million years ago with tiny, three-toed horses grazing nearby. She is thrilled to sometimes find prehistoric bones on the surface after a rain. “Humans have never seen or touched them,” she says. “How could you not know that’s special?”

The Rolands share their findings with their community, allowing the Scurry County Museum in Snyder to offer seasonal public tours at the site. The museum has a temporary exhibit of casts made of the finds. The Museum of Texas Tech’s Roland Springs Ranch materials are part of ongoing lab research and not currently viewable by the public.

“Joey and Laurie are the first and only landowners I know with the willingness to let people on their land,” Johnson says.

“It’s selfish not to let them come to the site,” Laurie says. “Texas is about hospitality.”

Texas has millions of years of buried history—giant mammoths, dinosaurs, oyster reefs, frontier trails. Does that make you wonder what could be in your backyard? ■



‘On Juneteenth’

A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian describes the holiday’s long path out of Texas

TO MY SURPRISE some years back, I began to hear people outside of my home state, Texas, talk about, and *actually celebrate* the holiday “Juneteenth.” June 19, 1865, shortened to “Juneteenth,” was the day that enslaved African Americans in Texas were told that slavery had ended, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed, and just over two months after Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Despite the formal surrender, the Confederate army had continued to fight on in Texas until mid-May. It was only after they finally surrendered that Major General Gordon Granger, while at his headquarters in Galveston, prepared General Order Number 3, announcing the end of legalized slavery in the state.

The truth is, I confess here, that I was initially annoyed, at least mildly so, when I first heard that others outside of Texas claimed the holiday. But why? After all, it was a positive turn in history, evidence that our country was leaving behind, or attempting to, a barbarous institution that had blighted the lives of millions. Such a thing should be celebrated far and wide.

My twinge of possessiveness grew out of the habit of seeing my home state, and the people who reside there, as special. The things that happened there couldn’t have happened in other places. Non-Texans could never really understand what the events that took place in Texas actually meant. I am certain that I’m not alone in this attitude.

From my earliest days, it was drummed into me and, I believe, other young people growing up in Texas at that time, that we inhabited a unique place that we were always supposed to claim, and of which we were always supposed to be proud. I’ve noticed over the years, that it is hard to meet a person from Texas who does not, at some point in the conversation, let you know, either with a drawl or without, that he or she is from the state.

My proprietary attitude about Juneteenth quickly disappeared. Rather than keeping the holiday to ourselves, Texans have been in the forefront of trying to make Juneteenth a national holiday. As I think of it, it’s really a very Texas move to say that something that happened in our

state was of enough consequence to the entire nation that it should be celebrated nationwide.

It has been offered, as part of the justification, that the end of slavery in Texas was the end of the institution period. That’s not quite true. Granger’s order did not end slavery in the country. That did not happen officially until December 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified by the necessary number of states. But it is significant that Texas was the site of the tail end of the Confederate war effort. As the war had been fought to preserve slavery, celebrating Juneteenth throughout the land is a fitting way to mark the end of that effort.

It also is fitting to think of Texas in relation to the nation for another reason. The state has been described as a bellwether for what the United States will become; the term “Texification” has come into use to describe a process that is, supposedly, of recent origin.

The history of Juneteenth, which includes the many years before the events in Galveston and afterward, shows that Texas, more than any state in the Union, has always embodied nearly every major aspect of the story of the United States of America. That fact has been obscured by broad caricatures of the state and its people, caricatures that Texans themselves helped to create and helped make the state seem exotic, almost foreign to the rest of the Union.

My Texas roots go deep—on my mother’s side back to the 1820s, on my father’s side at least to the 1860s. Significantly, my wide-ranging approach to Juneteenth reveals that behind all the broad stereotypes about Texas is a story of Indians, settler colonialists, Hispanic culture in North America, slavery, race, and immigration. It is the American story, told from this most American place. ■

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JUNETEENTH

COMMEMORATED ANNUALLY ON JUNE 19TH, 1865, THE
OLDEST CELEBRATION OF THE END OF SLAVERY IN THE U.S.
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SEP. 22, 1862, THAT "ON
THE 1ST JANUARY, A.D. 1863, ALL PERSONS WHO
WITHIN THE REBELLION, SHALL BE
AND FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, HOWEVER, IT WOULD
AND PASS THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO
TO END THE INSTITUTION OF AFRICAN

APRIL 1865 MOST SLAVES IN TEXAS
FREEDOM. THIS BEGAN TO CHANGE
IN GALVESTON MAJ. GEN.
OFFICER, DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
POSTERMAN BUILDING (STRAND
NO. 3) ON JUNE 19, 1865.
TEXAS ARE INFORMED THAT, IN
FROM THE EXECUTIVE OF
FREE, THIS INVOLVES
RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF
AND SLAVES." WITH THIS
GAN!

"EMANCIPATION DAY," A
1866 IN GALVESTON,
TEXAS, CELEBRATED
READINGS
CENTURY COM
VATE COMMEM
NCE HUNDRE
INITIALLY

STATE HOLIDAY
DARK EVEN
COMMEMOR
THE HUMAN

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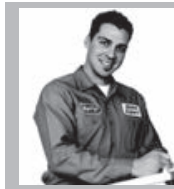


Based on an 1818 painting that depicts John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin presenting a draft of the Declaration of Independence

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

DEAR DARRYL: My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



Dear
Darryl

My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

Clogged and Smelly – Lubbock, TX

DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY: As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

This fast-acting bacteria multiplies within minutes of application and is specifically designed to withstand many of today's anti-bacterial cleaners, soaps and detergents. It comes in dissolvable plastic packs, that you just flush down your toilets. It's so cool. Plus, they actually Guarantee that it restores ANY system, no matter how bad the problem is.

SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at www.septicleanse.com or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "TXS19", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Report of the President and General Manager



**GENERAL
MANAGER**

**BRAD
BIERSTEDT**

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S board of directors and the co-op's employees are taking this opportunity to personally invite you to this year's annual meeting. The annual meeting gives us the opportunity to bring members together to learn more about how the cooperative is working to serve current and future needs. As KEC celebrates 85 years of service to our members, we continue to strive to offer reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost while remaining financially strong.

Moving into the third year of the pandemic, 2022 added new challenges to the already complex and quickly changing electric industry landscape.

Inflation and supply chain delays added to this complexity. Over the past year, we have seen unprecedented disruptions in the supply chain for critical electrical equipment. Backlogs exist across the board with transformers, meters, conductors, utility poles, service vehicles and equipment parts—essentially, all the things needed to keep the system running efficiently. Manufacturers have not been able to keep pace with a significant increase in demand coming out of the pandemic.

Lead times for ordering transformers jumped from one or two months to as long as two years. These disruptions, combined with substantial price increases, have presented significant operational challenges.

Our board and staff stay active in policy affairs, monitoring legislation and regulations that impact electric cooperatives across the state. Together with Texas Electric Cooperatives, the statewide association of electric cooperatives, and South Texas Electric Cooperative, the generation and transmission cooperative that is KEC's wholesale power supplier, we continue to provide constructive input to our state legislators and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas concerning market reform issues, grid stability and the rising cost of transmission rates in the aftermath of the February 2021 winter storm.

We continue to grow, and so does our commitment to providing affordable and reliable electric service to our membership. Annual kilowatt-hour sales totaled 1,303,137,821 kilowatt-hours, a 15% increase over 2021 sales. This sales milestone helped us to overcome increases in materials, operating and maintenance costs.

KEC has not increased its base rates in 14 years, since our last cost-of-service study in 2009. What has increased is our power supply costs, which are passed through to members through the power cost recovery factor. Power costs make up 78% of our total operating expenses. Therefore, it's critical that we work closely with South Texas EC to manage generation resources and ensure that we get the best possible savings for our members.

Wholesale power costs were greater than expected primarily due to the increase in the market price of natural gas, which is used for power generation. In 2022, the average residential rate members paid for power, based on a monthly usage of 1,000 kWh, was 11.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to 10.1 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2021.

As you will see in the annual financial report, the cooperative

remains financially strong and well positioned to meet the needs of our members. In October 2022 the board of directors authorized a total of \$1,454,099 in capital credits to be returned to our members. A capital credits return is a benefit you receive for buying electricity from a cooperative. Since 1989, KEC has returned a total of \$21,714,902 in capital credits.

Improving the resilience of our electric distribution grid is a major priority for KEC. Our focus is on maintenance programs that improve the safety and reliability of our system. We continue to invest in pole testing and remediation, right-of-way clearing and vegetation management, and construction work plan projects aimed at identifying older electric distribution facilities in need of replacement in our service territory.

Due to the high demand of service requests in northeastern Atascosa County, STEC began construction on the new Loxley substation that will allow KEC to build distribution line feeders to meet future power demand in the Verdi, Fairview and Leming areas. The Loxley substation is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

As your electric provider, we are committed to providing you with safe and reliable service. We continue to regularly inspect and maintain equipment and complete preventive maintenance work on regular cycles. Our emphasis on safety and security remains high and at the forefront of everything we do.

In 2022, KEC was evaluated through the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, a comprehensive systemwide inspection program to improve safety. In a true testament to our focus, KEC once again improved scores overall compared to previous inspections. The RESAP evaluation reviews all areas of KEC's safety program, including worksite inspections, facility inspections and one-on-one employee interviews.

As always, our membership remains the cooperative's focus. In 2022, we were able to utilize a few pieces of technology to not only increase communications with our members but also improve the accessibility of doing business with KEC. One of these advances is digital signing, also known as e-sign, which enables members to sign a membership agreement using a desktop computer or mobile device. This feature facilitates transferring and reconnecting existing services.

Another benefit we're excited to offer our members is text notifications for power outages and emergency alerts. This service will provide up-to-date information about power outages and various emergency events, such as a hurricane or other weather emergency, directly to a mobile device. We continue to make improvements to these notifications with the valuable feedback we get from our members.

As part of our commitment to support our community, we award scholarships to graduating students pursuing higher education. We are proud to announce that in 2022, we awarded scholarships to 10 students from across our service area in the amount of \$1,500 each. Eight scholarships were awarded to students attending a qualifying four-year university, and two scholarships were awarded to students attending a two-year or vocational college. Including this year, the cooperative has provided 268 scholarships totaling \$272,200.


We partnered with CoBank, one of our financial lenders, through their Sharing Success program, to support local not-for-profit agencies in our service area. In 2022, KEC proudly awarded \$2,500 in donations to three organizations, with CoBank generously matching each donation for a combined total of \$15,000 in community support.

Those recipients included the Children's Alliance of South Texas, a nonprofit child advocacy center that provides free counseling from licensed professionals for child victims of abuse. Another recipient for 2022 was the Kenedy Education Foundation, which offers resources to teachers to support programs that enhance the academic performance of students in the Kenedy Independent School District. The final recipient of the year was McMullen County Partners for the Accelerated Learning of Students, which offers access to quality resources for educational and extracurricular activities. We look forward to sustaining this partnership with CoBank to continue to empower our communities.

Our dedicated board of directors and employees work hard to provide for the needs of the cooperative and will continue to strive to improve all aspects of our business—from the safety of our employees and members to electric reliability, member service, technology and financial performance.

We hope you will join us at this year's annual meeting. Once again, we will offer our members a choice between attending a walk-through or a traditional in-person meeting. Whichever choice you make, we look forward to seeing you.


Paul T. Brysch Jr.
President


Brad Bierstedt
General Manager

Board of Directors



Paul T. Brysch Jr.
President



Clif Royal
Vice President



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer



Frank A. Geyer Jr.
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer



Shirley Hofmann

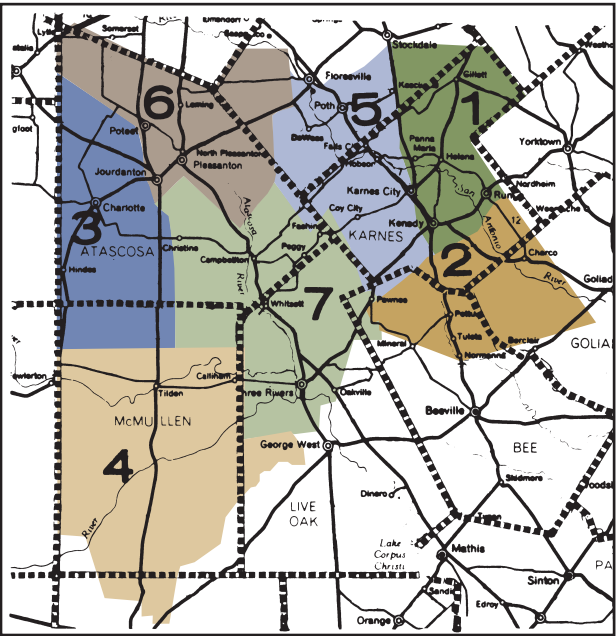


**L. Scott
McClaugherty IV**



David R. Nieschwitz

Director Districts



DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	TERM EXPIRES
1	Larry R. Schendel	2025
2	Shirley Hofmann	2024
3	Frank A. Geyer Jr.	2023
4	L. Scott McClaugherty IV	2025
5	Paul T. Brysch Jr.	2024
6	Clif Royal	2024
7	David R. Nieschwitz	2023

Statement of Income and Patronage Capital

AS OF DECEMBER 31

2022

2021

OPERATING REVENUES

Residential	\$ 25,690,499	\$ 22,503,007
Irrigation	4,537,820	2,437,623
Commercial and Industrial	93,818,226	72,458,368
Rent From Electric Property and Other Electric Revenue	37,349	37,349
Other	595,776	429,112
Unbilled Revenue	2,550,000	540,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$127,229,670	\$ 98,405,459

OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchased Power	\$ 99,851,468	\$ 72,813,526
Distribution—Operation	2,585,202	2,326,350
Distribution—Maintenance	3,210,704	4,318,224
Consumer Accounts	1,678,673	1,579,006
Administrative and General	4,404,082	3,928,197
Depreciation and Amortization	9,283,543	8,111,241
Taxes	308,062	265,751
Other Interest Expenses	26,450	80,027
Total Operating Expenses	\$121,348,184	\$ 93,422,322

OPERATING MARGINS

Before Fixed Charges	\$ 5,881,486	\$ 4,983,137
Interest on Long-Term Debt	(686,508)	(641,663)
After Fixed Charges	\$ 5,194,978	\$ 4,341,474
Capital Credits—G&T	2,870,355	3,063,993
Capital Credits—Other	183,022	233,655
Net Operating Margins	\$ 8,248,355	\$ 7,639,122

NONOPERATING MARGINS

Interest Income	\$ 140,604	\$ 94,628
Other Nonoperating Income	1,400,238	(3,445,588)
Net Nonoperating Income (Loss)	\$ 1,540,842	\$ (3,350,960)
Net Margins	\$ 9,789,197	\$ 4,288,162

NET MARGINS

Patronage Capital—Beginning of Year	\$152,013,829	\$ 150,309,852
Unbilled Revenue Transferred to Other Equities	(2,550,000)	(540,000)
Patronage Capital Retired	(1,475,885)	(2,044,185)
Patronage Capital—End of Year	\$157,777,141	\$152,013,829



MESSAGE
FROM
SECRETARY-
TREASURER

LARRY R.
SCHENDEL

To the members of
Karnes Electric Cooperative,
Karnes City:

The accounting firm of Bolinger,
Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP
performed an audit of our
financial statements for the
year ended December 31, 2022.

We received a clean opinion
on that audit. The complete
audit report is on file at the
headquarters office of Karnes
Electric Cooperative.

Larry R. Schendel

Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer
Karnes Electric Cooperative

Balance Sheet

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

2022

2021

ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT AT COST

Electric Plant in Service	\$323,442,323	\$ 286,203,711
Construction Work in Progress	3,202,817	25,884,530
Aid to Construction	(171,209,095)	(162,419,707)
	\$155,436,045	\$ 149,668,534
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	33,986,315	28,126,815
	\$121,449,730	\$ 121,541,719

OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS AT COST OR STATED VALUE

Investments in Associated Organizations	\$ 53,567,478	\$ 50,633,842
Other Investments	346,753	330,543
	\$ 53,914,231	\$ 50,964,385

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash—General	\$ 14,084,647	\$ 4,907,933
Short-Term Investments	3,000,000	5,000,000
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Allowance for Uncollectibles of \$139,159 in 2022 and \$171,028 in 2021)	8,243,458	7,104,390
Unbilled Revenue	11,100,000	8,550,000
Materials and Supplies at Average Cost	6,716,212	4,708,196
Other Current and Accrued Assets	221,029	193,777
	\$ 43,365,346	\$ 30,464,296
Total Assets	\$218,729,307	\$202,970,400

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

EQUITIES

Memberships	\$ 90,530	\$ 89,080
Patronage Capital	157,777,141	152,013,829
Other Equities	11,414,541	8,849,608
	\$169,282,212	\$ 160,952,517

LONG-TERM DEBT

RUS Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	\$ 471,626	\$ 525,508
FFB Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	9,916,897	10,306,958
CFC Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	5,362,689	526,908
CoBank Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	4,662,016	5,367,909
	\$ 20,413,228	\$ 16,727,283

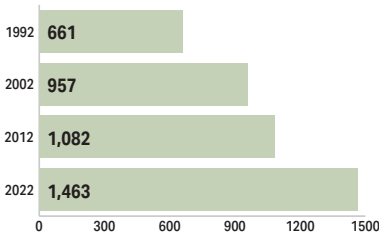
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Deferred Compensation	\$ 53,782	\$ 38,870
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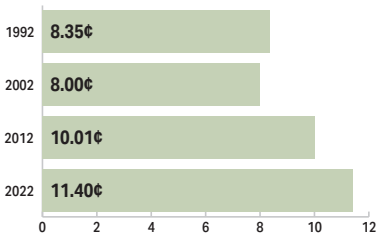
CURRENT LIABILITIES

Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,295,000	\$ 1,385,700
Short-Term Line of Credit	0	3,902,000
Accounts Payable	207,729	401,385
Accounts Payable—Purchased Power	8,826,112	6,541,436
Consumer Deposits and Prepayments	5,097,057	5,130,041
Accrued Taxes	872,903	798,503
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	740,967	752,809
	\$ 17,039,768	\$ 18,911,874
Deferred Credits	\$ 11,940,317	\$ 6,339,856
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$218,729,307	\$202,970,400

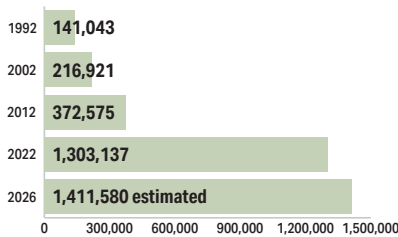
Average Monthly KWh Usage per Consumer (Residential Classification)



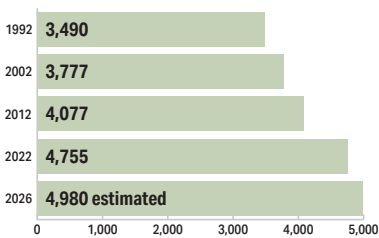
Average Monthly KWh Cost per Consumer (Residential Classification)



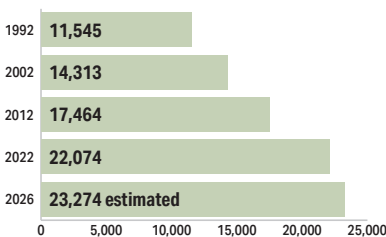
Annual KWh Sales (In Thousands)



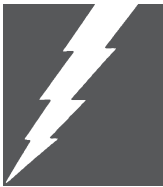
Miles of Line



Number of Meters



Where Your Dollar Went



YEAR	PURCHASED POWER	OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINING SYSTEMS	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST	TAXES AND INSURANCE	MEMBERS' CAPITAL CREDITS AND MARGINS
2000	66.6¢	16.8¢	8.3¢	5.7¢	2.2¢	0.4¢
2001	66.7¢	16.0¢	7.5¢	4.9¢	2.0¢	2.9¢
2002	63.8¢	14.8¢	7.3¢	4.0¢	2.4¢	7.7¢
2003	65.0¢	15.8¢	7.4¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	5.7¢
2004	69.0¢	15.5¢	7.3¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	2.1¢
2005	70.5¢	13.3¢	6.4¢	4.1¢	2.1¢	3.6¢
2006	70.8¢	13.4¢	6.0¢	4.4¢	2.0¢	3.4¢
2007	70.6¢	14.8¢	6.5¢	5.1¢	1.8¢	1.2¢
2008	76.4¢	12.2¢	5.5¢	4.3¢	1.5¢	0.1¢
2009	70.7¢	12.2¢	5.3¢	4.4¢	1.4¢	6.0¢
2010	67.9¢	13.0¢	5.4¢	4.3¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2011	67.2¢	14.1¢	5.3¢	4.0¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2012	66.2¢	14.6¢	5.2¢	3.7¢	1.4¢	8.9¢
2013	69.4¢	12.7¢	4.3¢	2.6¢	1.1¢	9.9¢
2014	70.5¢	10.8¢	3.1¢	1.8¢	1.0¢	12.8¢
2015	67.6¢	9.4¢	4.0¢	1.6¢	1.1¢	16.3¢
2016	68.3¢	9.3¢	5.2¢	1.3¢	1.1¢	14.8¢
2017	68.8¢	9.4¢	5.3¢	1.1¢	1.1¢	14.3¢
2018	69.8¢	9.0¢	5.2¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	14.0¢
2019	69.1¢	9.8¢	5.5¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	13.6¢
2020	72.5¢	11.4¢	6.5¢	1.0¢	1.5¢	7.1¢
2021	74.0¢	14.9¢	8.2¢	0.7¢	1.4¢	0.8¢
2022	78.0¢	9.3¢	7.0¢	0.6¢	1.1¢	4.0¢

Where Your Revenue Came From

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Farms and Ranches	17.6%	15.2%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%	15.2%	14.5%	12.4%
Towns and Subdivisions	9.5%	8.3%	7.7%	8.0%	7.9%	8.5%	8.5%	8.2%
Irrigation	2.2%	2.2%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	3.2%	2.5%	3.6%
Small Commercial	10.2%	8.0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.8%	7.5%	7.2%	9.3%
Large Commercial	32.5%	40.8%	42.5%	41.5%	41.2%	41.9%	41.9%	42.9%
Public Buildings	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Oil Wells	26.9%	24.7%	24.7%	25.3%	25.7%	23.3%	24.7%	23.0%
Other Revenue	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Employees

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Jacob Asebedo	Second-Class Lineman II	5
Sonny Barrientez	First-Class Lineman	27
Robert Bazan	Warehouse/Work Order Coordinator	36
Jesse Benavides	Serviceman	7
Jennifer Berger	Member Service Representative II	2
Bradley Bierstedt	General Manager	12
Karen Brysch	Billing Coordinator	24
Mary Buehring	Administrative Assistant/Staking	11
Leroy Castillo	Warehouse Materials Handler	4
Esperanza Cumpian	Member Service Representative I	14
Fredrick Currie	Line Locate Coordinator	16
Adolfo De La Garza	Warehouse Materials Handler	30
George De Los Santos	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Peter Dragon	Staking Technician III	45
Cory Ebrom	Purchasing Agent	20
Joe Escandon	Construction Foreman	24
Michael Espinoza	Second-Class Lineman I	1
Rebecca Frazier	GIS Technician	8
Suzanne Friesenhahn	Consumer Accounting Representative	11
Pedro Garcia	Operations Supervisor	19
Richard Garcia	Staking Technician II	12
Alejandro Gonzales	Warehouse Materials Handler	1
Jesus Gonzales	Operations Supervisor	21
Leslie Gonzales	Member Service Representative I	1
Justin Gray	Serviceman	13
Kole Hamilton	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Clifton Henke	Technology Manager	6
Bart Homeyer	Dozer Operator	1
Troy Hughey	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Emelia Janysek	Executive Assistant	21
Patrick Janysek	Operations Manager	36
Cody Jarzombek	Mechanic II	1
Justin Jarzombek	Staking Technician I	4
Steve Jonas	Apparatus and Maintenance Technician	23
Hunter Jurgajtis	Second-Class Lineman II	8
Teren Jurgajtis	Maintenance Foreman	17
Glenn Kelley	Aerial Basket Operator	13
Christopher Knight	Distribution Services Manager	9
Russell Korzekwa	Engineering Manager	22
Barbara Kotzur	AMI Support Specialist	16
Thomas Kowalik	Building/Grounds Maintenance Technician	2
Nathan Krudwig	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Tammy Labus	Finance and Accounting Manager	38

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Alfredo Lopez	Serviceman	8
Hector Lopez	Assistant Fleet Shop Foreman	21
Charles Luttrell	Apprentice Lineman II	4
Rebecca Mueller	Lead Member Service Representative	27
Gabriel Ochoa	Groundman	Less than 1
Randy Ortiz	Serviceman	11
Stephanie Ortiz	Member Service Representative II	5
Ernest Pacheco	Serviceman	35
Kevin Palermo	Second-Class Lineman II	12
Ryan Pate	Groundman	Less than 1
Donna Pawelek	Staking Coordinator	37
Gary Pawelek	First-Class Lineman	32
Tosha Pennington	Dispatcher	2
Irma Pesqueda	Member Service Representative II	2
Brenda Quintanilla	Operations Coordinator	21
Nicolas Quintanilla	Accounting Clerk—Fleet	1
Candace Reynolds	Accountant	6
Xavier Ribble	IT Technician I	3
Paul Rodriguez	Aerial Basket Operator	12
Andrew Rojas	Groundman	1
Clint Royal	Serviceman	25
Susanne Ruple	Member Service Manager	5
Cody Salas	Second-Class Lineman II	8
Raul Salinas	Meter Technician	9
Jacob Sanchez	Staking Technician II	6
Kimberly Sanchez	Member Communications Coordinator	3
Alicia Sandoval	Work Order Clerk	8
John Saucedo	Second-Class Lineman I	3
Tommy Shoemake	Dozer Operator	2
Sonya Sizemore	Dispatcher	13
Steve Stanley	Aerial Basket Operator	7
Zachary Swierc	GIS Administrator	Less than 1
Matthew Thiele	Business Development Coordinator	6
Megan Thompson	IT Technician II	1
Rudolfo Torres	Construction Foreman	17
Amanda Turner	Lead Member Service Representative	8
Christopher Vajdos	Meter Technician	11
Vanessa Villanueva	Member Service Representative II	2
Bonnie Wiatrek	Human Resources Coordinator	39
Darlene Woelfel	Senior Accountant	39
Quintus Woelfel	Fleet Shop Foreman	36
Robert Zuniga	Safety Coordinator	7

Service Awards

EMPLOYEES	
Peter Dragon	45
Ernest Pacheco	35
Adolfo De La Garza	30
Clint Royal	25
Cory Ebrom	20
Susanne Ruple	5
Stephanie Ortiz	5
Jacob Asebedo	5

Annual Meeting Program

Tuesday, June 13
In-Person Meeting 7 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Invocation

3. Welcome Address

4. Introduction of Guests

5. Secretary's Report of Number Present/Reading of Official Notice

6. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

7. Election of Directors
8. Naming of Canvassing Committee

9. Treasurer's Report

10. Annual Management Report

11. Unfinished Business

12. New Business

13. Report of Election

14. Adjournment of Meeting

15. Drawing of Attendance Prizes

2022 Minutes

Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc., Annual Membership Meeting
Karnes City, Texas • June 6, 2022

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting of Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KEC) was held at the Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center in Karnes City, Texas, on Monday, June 6, 2022. KEC Board President Paul Brysch called the meeting to order and called on Minister James Schendel to give the invocation. Mr. Brysch then led the Membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brysch welcomed all in attendance and explained how the annual meeting format included a walkthrough style meeting from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. along with a pre-recorded President's Welcome, Treasurer's Report, and a General Manager's Report. Those same prerecorded reports were presented for the members attending the in-person meeting.

In the President's welcome, Mr. Brysch welcomed all in attendance and introduced the Board of Directors. Mr. Brysch mentioned how KEC is an essential business and over the last two years the employees have continued to adapt to the many challenges. He noted that the cooperative has continued to reevaluate business and develop policies, procedures, and systems to implement new and innovative ways to conduct business.

Mr. Brysch commented on the effects of inflation and supply chain issues that effect how the cooperative serves its members. He then thanked South Texas Electric Cooperative for their strategic decisions to hedge against market forces to protect KEC from many of the financial repercussions of the extreme winter storm Uri.

Mr. Brysch announced the cooperative moved into the new headquarters facility in September 2021. He mentioned the new facility provides much needed space, improved security, updated technology, and operational efficiencies within the cooperative. All of this was accomplished without any additional debt to our members, thanks to long term financial planning by the Board of Directors and Management. He concluded his message by thanking the membership for their attendance and support.

Mr. Brysch then asked all past and present military personnel to stand and be recognized and then introduced special guests in attendance.

Secretary-Treasurer Larry R. Schendel was given the floor and announced that 163 members were registered and that a quorum was present. He then turned the floor back over to Mr. Brysch. Mr. Brysch asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting that was published in the June 2022 issue of Texas Co-op Power magazine, which was mailed to the membership on May 26, 2022, or have it read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Brysch then asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 9, 2021, Annual Meeting, also published in the June 2022 issue of Texas Coop Power magazine or have them read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as published. Motion carried.

Attorney Melissa Sykes was then given the floor to conduct the election of directors. Mrs. Sykes recognized the Nominating Committee who met on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, and nominated the candidates for Districts 1 and 4.

Mrs. Sykes recognized candidates nominated by the Committee for District No. 1 and District No. 4 and announced there were no nominations by petition.

Mrs. Sykes introduced the members appointed to serve on the 2022 Canvassing Committee and instructed all the voting members to mark their ballots.

The ballots were collected by Mrs. Sykes and the Canvassing Committee, who then retired to count the votes.

Mr. Schendel then gave the Treasurer's Report for the year, 2021. He reported that the cooperative remains financially sound, ending the year with a very strong equity ratio and total net margins of \$4,288,162 and finished the year with total assets of \$202,970,400. He shared that the cooperative refunded capital credits totaling \$2,041,780, increasing the total amount of capital credits returned to members to date to \$20,430,844. Mr. Schendel concluded his report and stated that the cooperative is in excellent financial condition.

Mr. Brysch announced that the General Manager, Brad Bierstedt, could not be in attendance due to an illness. He then introduced the General Managers Pre-recorded Report.

In his report Mr. Bierstedt expressed his appreciation to the Board and Employees for their hard work and dedicated service. He discussed the cooperatives response to winter storm Uri and the continued changes made by the Texas Legislature. As a result of the storm and the feedback received from the members, the cooperative has made several key improvements to the Emergency Operations Plan. Mr. Bierstedt reported that the cooperative conducted a Member Satisfaction Survey in the summer of 2021. He now introduced Member Service Manager, Susanne Ruple, to discuss the results of the survey.

Mrs. Ruple reported that the results of the survey indicated our membership showed a great interest in text notifications for power outages and emergency situations. She mentioned that the cooperative created a process to implement notifications for various emergencies such as storms, rolling outages, natural disasters, and other events. She informed the membership that the automated telephone outage reporting system was activated in 2021, which includes a call back feature as a way to increase communications. She then provided information on the E-Sign and the PrePay program. The E-sign program will allow the cooperative to capture a signature on a membership application through an email or text message. The PrePay program will serve as another billing option for our residential members and provide them with the ability to pay as they go.

Mr. Bierstedt reported that in September of 2021 the cooperative moved into its new headquarters facility located on Highway 181 in Karnes County. He noted that the facility features expanded office space for administrative, member service, and field personnel, and includes a hardened dispatch center, a server room, a multi-purpose room, warehouse, vehicle storage and mechanical shop.

Mr. Bierstedt discussed the cooperative's focus on maintenance that will continue to

improve the safety and reliability of our system. He reported that the cooperative continues to invest in pole testing, pole treatment, right-of-way clearing and vegetation management.

Mr. Bierstedt commented on the continued economic impact of the pandemic and the effects that inflation and supply chain issues have on the cooperative.

Mr. Bierstedt introduced Kimberly Sanchez, Member Communications Coordinator. Mrs. Sanchez reported on KEC's concern for the communities it serves and stated that the Cooperative partnered with CoBank Sharing Success Program. She announced that the cooperative awarded three local nonprofit organizations with \$2,500 donations with CoBank generously matching each donation for a combined total of \$15,000 in community support. The recipients included the Texas Ramp Project, Jamie's Ranch and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Mrs. Sanchez mentioned that over the past 24 years the cooperative has awarded a total of 258 scholarships, totaling \$257,200. She then recognized the following ten 2022 winners of \$1,500 scholarships:

Arden Gisler	Falls City ISD
Charity Harris	McMullen County ISD
David Saenz	Falls City ISD
Devin Janysek	Falls City ISD
James Sartwelle	Falls City ISD
Jamison Bloom	Goliad ISD
Julia Smith	Poteet ISD
Makenna Albert	Poth ISD
Makenzie Sherrer	McMullen County ISD
Montgomery Cain	Pleasanton ISD

Mrs. Sanchez announced that the 2022 Government-In-Action Youth Tour winner is Ariana Coolidge from McMullen County ISD.

Mr. Bierstedt recognized the following employees and directors for their dedicated service to Karnes Electric Cooperative:

Candace Reynolds	Accountant	5 Years
Jacob Sanchez	Staking Tech—II	5 Years
Matthew Thiele	Business Development Coordinator	5 Years
Clifton Henke	IT Systems Analyst	5 Years
Mary Ann Buehring	Administrative Assistant—Staking	10 Years
Christopher Vajdos	Meter Technician	10 Years
Randy M Ortiz	Serviceman	10 Years
Suzanne Friesenhan	Consumer Accounting Representative	10 Years
Fredrick Currie	Line Locate Coordinator	15 Years
Barbara Kotzur	AMI Support Specialist	15 Years
Hector Lopez	Assistant Fleet Shop Foreman	20 Years
Emily Janysek	Executive Assistant	20 Years
Jesse Gonzales	Operations Supervisor	20 Years
Brenda Quintanilla	Operations Coordinator	20 Years
Robert Bazan	Pleasanton Warehouse/WO Coordinator	35 Years
Patrick Janysek	Operations Manager	35 Years
Quintus Woelfel	Fleet Shop Foreman	35 Years
Paul T. Brysch Jr.	Board President	10 Years
Shirley Hofmann	Board Member	25 Years

In conclusion, Mr. Bierstedt thanked all the Cooperative employees for their hard work and dedication, the Board for their service, and the Members for the opportunity to serve them.

Mr. Brysch then opened the meeting up for Member comments. Members were asked to limit their comments to five minutes or less. There were none.

Mr. Brysch then asked if there was any unfinished business to come before the meeting. There being none, Mr. Brysch asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Mr. Brysch now called upon Mrs. Sykes to report the official election results:

District No. 1	Larry R Schendel	118
	Adrian Yanta	32
District No. 4	L. Scott McClougherty IV	153

There being no further business, upon motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Sanchez then conducted the drawing for door prizes, which included a combination of thirty (30) gift cards, thirty (30) \$100 bill credits, a \$250 Visa gift card, and for those registrants that brought in their preprinted registration card a Grand Prize of a \$250 Visa gift card.


Paul T. Brysch Jr.
President


Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer

Cool Pool Safety Tips

Remember these rules for safe pool-time fun this summer.

Keep electric radios, TVs, grills, lights and other electrical appliances at least 10 feet from pools and wet surfaces. Use battery-powered appliances whenever possible.

Electric appliances should not be used outdoors unless they have a heavy-duty cord and three-pronged plug.

All outdoor electrical outlets should be weatherproof and equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter.

Swimming pools should be well away from overhead wires to avoid contact when using long-handled equipment.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock. Get out of the water, if possible, without using a metal ladder.

Stay safe this summer. Don't swim with shocks!

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



Special Delivery

How a crudely scrawled message 300 years ago saved its sender's life

BY W.F. STRONG • ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN WILSON

THE LUCKIEST LETTER in Texas took six months to reach its destination. But the fact that it arrived at all was a miracle within a miracle, and it saved the sender's life. This was more than 300 years ago, when Texas was under Spanish rule. It was a Hail Mary mailing.

François Simars de Bellisle was just 24 when he left France to come to America in 1719. He was headed for Louisiana on a small ship, but his captain overshot their destination, ending up near present-day Galveston, about 300 miles off course.

Bellisle and four other French passengers took meager supplies—biscuits, guns, swords—and went ashore to determine their location and seek help. They slept well that first night, but when they

awoke the next morning, their ship was gone. They had been abandoned.

They walked east to what was likely the mouth of the Sabine River, where they could go no farther because of deep mud. Soon they began to succumb to starvation, and within two months, Bellisle had buried all his friends. He was alone and desperate.

Bellisle believed he was living his last days. He had made his way back to Galveston Bay, out of bullets and reduced to eating boiled grass and worms. Then one clear morning, he saw the first Native Americans he had seen since being stranded. They were Akokisas and his only hope for survival.

He made his way across the bay in a

crude boat he had found. The Akokisas took his goods and stripped him. He wrote that he was forced into labor, ordered about mercilessly and beaten regularly—but fed.

After a forced 150-mile walk to the Brazos River to hunt buffalo, he couldn't help but marvel at the landscape, later writing, "This is the most beautiful country in the world. The earth is black. Grass grows there to a prodigal height, and in abundance, which is a certain sign that the earth is good."

Bellisle soon realized his situation was still dire. So he retrieved one of the few pieces of paper he had, carved a crude pen out of wood, and made ink out of charcoal and water. He wrote a letter begging for rescue from anyone who might receive it and gave it to visitors from the Bidai tribe.

Then the miracle: Members of the Hasinai tribe, which had close ties to the French, took it to the commander of the garrison at Natchitoches, Louisiana. The commander, Louis Juchereau de Saint-Denis, wrote a letter in return and ordered the Hasinai to bring the cast-away back, dead or alive.

When Bellisle's rescuers reached the Akokisa camp, they gave Bellisle the letter that informed him the Hasinai would escort him to Natchitoches. His captors relented.

It still took him months to get to Natchitoches, but at least Bellisle was free. He had sent what was the land version of a message in a bottle. It caught the best currents and washed up on the perfect shore. His literacy—and luck—saved him. ■

Texas Seafood

The catch of the day sparkles in these inventive dishes

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

Growing up near the Gulf, my mami loved getting shrimp from local shrimpers. One evening she surprised us with shrimp *albóndigas*, succulent meatballs swimming in a rich tomato broth. Served with warm corn tortillas, this dish is comfort at its best. I am excited to share my mami's recipe—a bit of her love from my home to yours. Enjoy!

Albóndigas de Camarón (Shrimp Meatballs)

½ pound Roma tomatoes
½ pound tomatillos
6 cups shrimp or vegetable broth, divided use
1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 egg
2 teaspoons dried oregano
1–2 tablespoons masa harina (corn flour)
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ onion, diced
2 stalks celery, diced
2 medium carrots, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 teaspoons cumin
3 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons ground black pepper
½ cup rinsed and chopped cilantro
Rice, steamed (optional)
4 corn tortillas, for serving
Sliced radishes, for garnish
Cilantro, rinsed and chopped, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place tomatoes and tomatillos on a baking sheet. Roast until skins have charred, turning occasionally, 10–13 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
2. Blend the cooled tomatoes and tomatillos in a blender or food processor with 1 cup broth until smooth. Set aside.
3. Pulse shrimp in cleaned food processor until finely ground.
4. Move ground shrimp to a bowl. Add egg, oregano and masa harina. Mix by hand until well combined.
5. Lightly oil clean hands and form shrimp mixture into ¾-inch meatballs. Place meatballs on baking sheet and refrigerate to keep firm.
6. In a stock pot or Dutch oven, add olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion, celery and carrots and sauté until tender, about 4 minutes. Stir in garlic and cumin and cook 30 seconds. Stir in tomato mixture and cook an additional 2 minutes.
7. Add remaining broth and bring soup to a boil. Reduce heat to low and season with salt and pepper. Gently add meatballs to broth. Simmer without stirring 8–10 minutes. Stir in cilantro.
8. Serve over steamed rice or alone as a soup. Garnish with radishes and cilantro and serve with warm tortillas.

SERVES 4

TCP Follow along with Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Skillet Pico de Gallo Shrimp.



Hatch'en Cocktails

ANN CYCHOSZ
TRI-COUNTY EC

Cychosz stashes away a few hatch peppers when they're in season to whip up these shrimp cocktails, a neighborhood favorite. Feel free to use canned roasted hatch peppers. Served in cocktail glasses, this appetizer will be a hit at any gathering.

SHRIMP

- 1 tablespoon salt**
- 2 pounds Gulf shrimp, peeled and deveined**

COCKTAIL SAUCE

- 3 cups ketchup**
- 2 tablespoons horseradish**
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 teaspoon hot chili sauce**
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper**
- Juice of 2 limes**
- 3 avocados, pitted and cut into ¼-inch cubes**
- ½ cup diced red onion**
- ¼ cup chopped cilantro**
- 1 cup chopped roasted hatch peppers**
- Tortilla chips, for serving**

- 1. SHRIMP** Bring a pot of water to a boil and add salt. Add shrimp and cook 2–3 minutes, or until shrimp are cooked through.
- 2.** Remove shrimp with a slotted spoon, place on a baking sheet and allow to cool.
- 3.** Cut shrimp into ¼-inch pieces.
- 4. COCKTAIL SAUCE** In a large bowl, stir together ketchup, horseradish, Worcestershire sauce, hot chili sauce, pepper and lime juice.

\$500 WINNER

Escabeche

KARA HILL
WOOD COUNTY EC



Hill's husband has fond memories of his Filipino mom cooking fresh fish that he, his brother and dad caught. This escabeche has the perfect level of acidity to pair wonderfully with black drum, a white fish with a mild, sweet flavor.

SERVES 6



FISH

- 6 black drum fillets (about 2 pounds total), skin removed**
- Salt and ground black pepper**
- ¼ cup flour**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**

ESCABECHE

- ½ cup white vinegar**
- 1 cup water**
- ⅓ cup brown sugar**
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce**
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch**
- ¼ cup cold water**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil**
- 4 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 tablespoons minced ginger, fresh or jarred**
- 1 medium onion, sliced**
- 1 small red bell pepper, sliced**
- 1 small green bell pepper, sliced**
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, sliced**
- 2 medium carrots, julienned**
- 3 cups cooked rice**

- 1. FISH** Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Gently pat down fish with paper towels. Season fish with salt and pepper. Place flour in shallow dish.
- 2.** Lightly dredge fish in flour, coating each side, and shake off excess. Place on baking sheet and repeat until all fillets are coated.
- 3.** In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Pan-fry fish until golden-brown on each side, 2–3 minutes. Place on baking sheet, then repeat until all fillets are fried.
- 4.** Place fish in oven.
- 5. ESCABECHE** In a bowl, stir together vinegar, water, brown sugar and soy sauce.
- 6.** Dissolve cornstarch in cold water.
- 7.** In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sauté garlic and ginger until fragrant, stirring often, about 3 minutes. Do not let the garlic and ginger brown.
- 8.** Add onion, bell peppers and carrots and sauté for 2 minutes. Pour vinegar mixture into skillet. Cover and bring to a boil.
- 9.** Remove cover, add cornstarch mixture, and return to a boil, stirring until sauce has thickened. Serve fish over rice, then top with escabeche.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

HOLIDAY DESSERTS DUE JUNE 10
We'll help cap off your holiday feasts with reader recipes in the November issue. Submit yours online by June 10 for a chance to win \$500.



CONTINUED >

5. Add shrimp, avocado, red onion, cilantro and hatch peppers. Stir gently to combine. Chill until ready to serve. Serve with tortilla chips.

SERVES 12

Jamaica Beach Snapper

GEORGE GRALL
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES

Dinner ready in under 15 minutes? Yes, please. Baked snapper served warm with a chili butter sauce is the ultimate week-night dinner. Roast or steam vegetables while the fish bakes and have dinner ready in a snap.

4 red snapper fillets (6 ounces each)
½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted
2 tablespoons garlic powder
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 large lemon, cut into wedges
Parsley (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.



2. Generously coat a 9-by-11-inch pan with cooking spray and place snapper fillets in the pan.

3. Bake 15 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

4. Combine melted butter, garlic powder and chili powder in a bowl and stir until well blended.

5. Drizzle butter mixture over fish and serve with lemon wedges and garnished with parsley, if desired.

SERVES 4

Shipsape Shrimp

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

Texas Gulf shrimp is a great ingredient for meals that can come together in under 30 minutes. Not sure how to buy and store fresh shrimp? Follow these tips, then check out two amazing shrimp recipes in this month's issue:

Look for firm, translucent shrimp.

Avoid shrimp with slimy shells and any that smell like ammonia.

Place fresh shrimp in a bowl on ice to maintain freshness in the fridge.

Uncooked shrimp stay fresh in the fridge for up to three days.

Freeze shrimp for up to two months.

Thaw frozen shrimp overnight in the fridge.

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Kilgore's Kickers

The Rangerette museum preserves the legacy of the iconic drill team

BY CHET GARNER

FOOTBALL IS AN EXPERIENCE in Texas. It's about much more than just what happens when the players snap the ball. I mean, what would the Dallas Cowboys be without their cheerleaders? They certainly couldn't be America's team without America's sweethearts, right? And if you've ever danced in a drill team or enjoyed the precise high kicks and jump splits of these athletes, then you have the women of Kilgore College to thank.

I traveled to East Texas to pay my respects and visit the official museum of the Kilgore Rangerettes—America's first precision dance drill team.

After filling my belly with pork ribs at Country Tavern Bar-B-Que, I cruised Kilgore, between Tyler and Longview, and passed the towering oil derricks of the "World's Richest Acre," which once held 24 wells on one city block. In the 1930s, Kilgore was the definition of a boomtown.

While football games at Kilgore College were popular, the college's president became irritated with fans leaving at half time and drinking under the stands. So in 1940 he tasked teacher Gussie Nell Davis with figuring out a way to keep fans in the stands. Her solution was to bring a group of talented dancers onto the field. It launched a multibillion-dollar industry.

I stepped into the Rangerette Showcase and Museum and was immediately impressed with mannequins showcasing the evolution of the uniforms. While the skirts may have been scandalous at the time—they dared to show knees—the uniform is now iconic. I appreciated the short film giving context to the stories and was blown away by the number of photos depicting Rangerettes with celebrities and presidents throughout the decades.

I'll never think of drill team dancing the same way again. Now to work on my high kick! ■

ABOVE Chet's style might not be *precisely* what the Kilgore Rangerettes look for in a dancer.

TCP The Rangerettes' perfected routines are exactly what drew Chet to Kilgore. See 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.

JUNE

08

Coleman [8–10] Rodeo,
colemanrodeo.com

09

Johnson City Dive-In Movies, (830) 868-7111,
johnsoncitytx.org

Blanco [9–11] Lavender Festival, (830) 833-5101,
blancolavenderfest.com

Ingram [9–10, 16–17, 23–24] Newsies, (830) 367-5121,
hcaf.com

Kerrville [9–10, 16–18, 23–25] Beer for Breakfast, (830) 896-9393,
caillouxperformingarts.com

10

Brenham Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook With Suzanne O Davis, (979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com

Fredericksburg Craft Beer Festival,
fbgcrafterbeerfestival.com

Nacogdoches Texas Blueberry Festival, (936) 560-5533,
tbf.nacogdoches.org

Terrell [10–11] Antique Tractor and Engine Show and Pull, (214) 497-1611,
north-texas-antique-tractor-and-engine-club.net

11

Lufkin Madagascar the Musical, (936) 633-5454,
angelinaarts.org

15

Stonewall [15–17] Peach Jamboree and Rodeo, (830) 644-2735,
stonewalltexas.com

Galveston [15-19]
Juneteenth Celebrations,
 (409) 457-3570,
visitgalveston.com

17

Linden Underground
Railroad Quilt Auction
and Performance,
 (903) 826-2495,
lindenpubliclibrary.org

22

Fredericksburg Women's
Ranch Seminar,
 (830) 456-8956,
hillcountrycattlewomen.org

23

McKinney [23-24] Flip
Orley: Comic and Hypno-
tist, (214) 769-0645,
thecomedyarena.com

30

Hemphill [30-July 2] Patri-
otic Weekend on Toledo
Bend, (409) 787-2732,
sabinecountychamber.com

Ingram [30-July 28] Summer
ArtMart, (830) 367-5121,
hcaf.com

JULY

01

Johnson City Fourth Fest
Parade and Fireworks,
 (830) 868-7111,
johnsoncitytx.org

The Colony Liberty by
the Lake, (972) 624-5253,
visitthecolonytx.com

03

Giddings [3-4] Freedom
Fest and Fury on the 4th,
 (979) 542-3455,
giddingsstx.com

04

Kerrville 4th on the
River, (830) 315-5483,
kerrvilletx.gov

TCP Submit Your Event

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



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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**.

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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!

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instrument."*

— H., Arvada, CO



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Dad

Sharing their passions and leading their families, dads play an important role in the everyday life of Texans. These reader entries warm our hearts and make us smile. Gather around the family album as we celebrate dear old dad.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 HEATHER MEIFERT
COSERV

"This is daddy's little girl, Madison."

2 KARI ZIMMERMAN
HAMILTON COUNTY EC

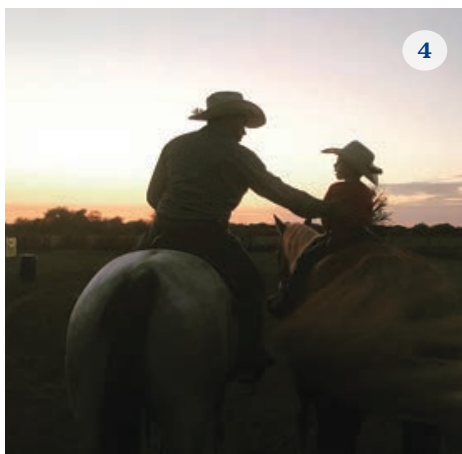
"My grandson shelling peas with his gramps. Such a sweet moment."

3 MONA PARISH
SAM HOUSTON EC

First piano lesson with Pops, the man behind the dad.

4 GALE STEVENS
BOWIE-CASS EC

"My son Jared Stevens of Campbell and his son Tyler ride almost every day and rodeo on weekends."



Upcoming Contests

DUE JUN 10 Helping Out
DUE JUL 10 Golden Hour
DUE AUG 10 Mailboxes



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

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



Texas Water Safari participant Courtney Shaver collapses in her boat after a difficult portage.

Ending on a Sour Note

Here's a first: Accomplished competitor falls short of the finish line

BY PAM LEBLANC
PHOTO BY ERICH SCHLEGEL

I BAILED OUT OF THE BOAT in Cheap-side—which sounds like a line in a country-western song.

But this was no two-step. I staggered out of a racing canoe under a highway on the Guadalupe River, 154 miles into a 264-mile paddling race called the Texas Water Safari. It was the very first DNF of my life. I laid down my paddle, sobbed a bit and barfed.

My team went on without me.

Quitting's a weird thing. When I tell this story to friends, a lot of them nod and say, "You might have hurt yourself if you'd continued."

But that's not it, exactly. I quit because a tiny voice inside my head suggested I do it, and I listened. I didn't want to slog 100 more miles in 106-degree heat. And so, after 32 hours of nonstop paddling,

I bid my tough-as-nails teammates adieu.

Looking back, I foretold my meltdown. I was afraid of the heat and the low river flow.

In 2019, I finished the race, which starts at Spring Lake in San Marcos and ends at Seadrift on the Texas coast, in about 53 hours as part of a three-woman team. I vowed then never to do it again. But when veteran paddler Deb Richardson invited me to join her five-person crew, I forgot about the alligators, mud, log jams, spiders and hallucinations and signed up.

I began spending every weekend on the river. On race day last June, we lined up our 40-foot boat at the back of the pack. When the starting horn sounded, we sliced through the crowd like we were parting the Red Sea. Then, just a few hundred yards in, our rudder cable snapped, and we fell into last place.

Over the next six hours, we picked off boat after boat, clawing our way from 138th position to 100th, then 50th. We nailed every portage and cut through every rapid. That first night, the frogs were so loud you couldn't hear anything else. I was giddy.

But it was hot, and the water was so low, we had to drag through dozens of gravel bars. My muscles got weak, my butt sore. Racers don't stop to sleep or admire the scenery, and I got weepy.

After I quit and went home, I slept 12 hours. I woke up to news that my team had climbed into 18th place. I sped back to cheer them on.

In the end, half the 138 boats that started quit. My team finished in just under 77 hours, in one of the toughest years in the race's 59-year history.

I couldn't be prouder.

And this time I'm not kidding. I'm never doing it again. ■



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