

Appreciating Electricity, One Penny at a Time

You can still get value for just a penny's worth of electricity



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

I recently ran across a column written by Curtis Condon, editor of Ruralite magazine in Hillsboro, Oregon. His points were so enlightening, I thought I'd share them with you this month.

SOME OF US ARE OLD ENOUGH to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value that you can still get for a penny is electricity. I'm not kidding.

Let's pretend the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That's 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

The value is just as evident when powering things besides lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, one penny's worth of electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. The expense is due to our using it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and

might complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we receive for the money.

In 1940, when many co-ops were built, a penny had as much buying power as 17 cents today. This means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.



Hamilton County ECA 78th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, August 4, 2017

HAMILTON ISD

611 S. College St., Hamilton

5 p.m. | Catfish and Barbecue

Hamilton ISD Junior High Cafeteria

Registration

Member registration cards will be entered for prizes at Hamilton ISD High School Chandler Craig Auditorium

7 p.m. | Business Meeting

Chandler Craig Auditorium

Performance by Jason Roberts Band

Prizes

We look forward to seeing you there!



Scholarships Awarded to 20 Students

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION this year presented 20 area graduating high school seniors with a \$1,000 scholarship each. They are:

Gabrielle Griffin, Copperas Cove ISD
Isaac Griffin, Copperas Cove ISD
Ashly Eufrazio, Evant ISD
Courtney Villarreal, Evant ISD
Kaity Eudy, Gatesville ISD
Cameron Kuhl, Gatesville ISD
Delaney Lee, Gatesville ISD
Kayylie Wright, Gatesville ISD
Sarah Begschke, Goldthwaite ISD
Bailey Spradley, Goldthwaite ISD

Ashley Weatherford, Hamilton ISD
Austin Weaver, Hamilton ISD
Timothy Cavalieri, Lampasas ISD
Kenzi Hunt, Lampasas ISD
Brighton Loeffler, Lampasas ISD
Jordan Orola, Lampasas ISD
Graham Bradley, Lometa ISD
Ashton Chism, Lometa ISD
Shelbi Shelton, Mullin ISD
Haley Cobb, San Saba ISD

Hamilton County EC's scholarship program was advertised in *Texas Co-op Power*, and the counselors and/or administrators of every school district in the co-op's service area were informed of the scholarship opportunities. The number of scholarships available to each school district was based on the number of meters served by the cooperative in each.

Hamilton County EC wishes to thank the school districts involved for assembling committees and working with the co-op in choosing these very deserving recipients.

The board of directors and staff of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association are very proud of the accomplishments of these students, and we are honored to be a part of their continuing education!

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

420 N. Rice St. • P.O. Box 753
Hamilton, TX 76531

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Steve Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.M. Gerald Jr., President, *Hamilton*
Sam Campbell, Vice President, *Goldthwaite*
Bob Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, *Hamilton*
Dusty Duncan, *Lometa*
Melvin Eilers Jr., *Priddy*
Ervin Koerth, *Gatesville*
Henry Langford, *Lampasas*



Contact Us

*For general information
or to report an outage*

CALL US

(254) 386-3123 local or
1-800-595-3401 toll-free

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Hamilton County EC Office
420 N. Rice St., Hamilton

Brown & Wesson Insurance
915 Third St., Goldthwaite

Fort Gates Water Corporation
103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Kempner Water Supply
11986 E. Hwy. 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall
109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

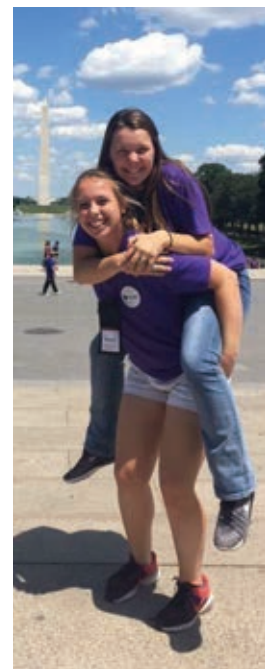
Online

hamiltonelectric.coop

Telephone

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bill payments can be set up to be bank drafted or charged to a debit or credit card monthly.



Government-in-Action Youth Tour

June 7–16

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE sponsored two students from high schools in our service area on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. They are Taylor Haile, a high school senior from Hamilton, and Kirsten Niemann, a high school junior, also from Hamilton.

Youth Tour is an annual, all-expense-paid tour of our nation's capital for high school students. These two young ladies represented HCEC well on this trip of a lifetime. They joined 145 other high school students from around the state of Texas who also participated in this opportunity and were sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.

HCEC conducted an essay contest for juniors and seniors attending schools in districts within the cooperative's service area. Eligible applicants are those who are members of a household that is a member of HCEC.

The Youth Tour opportunity was advertised in *Texas Co-op Power*. Counselors, teachers and administrators from area school districts also were instrumental in getting the word out to interested applicants.

HCEC received five applications and essays. The essays were required to be 500 words or fewer on the topic, "The Most Influential Figure in American History, in My Opinion, Is _____. Because" The applications were used to verify eligibility, and the essays alone were reviewed and ranked by a

volunteer committee from nearby Bartlett Electric Cooperative. The top two essay winners received sponsorships for the trip.

Taylor is the daughter of Brandon and Bridgette Haile of Hamilton. Kirsten is the daughter of Chris and Jennifer Niemann of Hamilton. Taylor and Kirsten departed June 7 and returned to Austin on June 16. The action-packed trip kicked off in Austin, where students toured the State Capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

Then students flew to Washington and began a whirlwind of activities, which included a day to meet with their elected representatives to discuss current issues. They toured Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress. They also explored monuments and museums, including Mount Vernon; the National Cathedral; the Smithsonian Institution; the Holocaust Memorial Museum; and the Lincoln, Jefferson and Vietnam Veterans memorials. They spent some time at Arlington National Cemetery and attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Other activities included learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center, and going on a Potomac River boat cruise with dinner and dancing.

The board of directors and staff of Hamilton County EC are excited to offer this opportunity to these local students!

Following are the essays that won Taylor and Kirsten spots on the 2017 Youth Tour.

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON in American history, in my opinion, would be Theodore Roosevelt, who served as president September 1901–March 1909. Though Roosevelt is the youngest U.S. President in history, he has contributed in many ways to better our country. The main reasons I feel he has been so important are because of the immeasurable impact he has had on our government, his facilitation of the Panama Canal, and his desire to preserve and protect our wildlife and land.

Theodore Roosevelt forever changed the way the people regarded our government. Before his presidency, Congress had been the most powerful branch of government. Because of Roosevelt's force of personality and aggressive executive action, he made the presidency, rather than the political parties or Congress, the center of American politics. He believed it was his job and responsibility to the people to form a unique relationship with them that Congress would never be able to do.

In today's world, I feel this has had a huge impact on how we still do government and how we as people vote. The people seem to vote based on the virtues and values of the candidate, instead of solely relying on Congress or the political parties.

During his presidency, he also facilitated the construction of the Panama Canal. Soon after he supported Panama in their efforts to becoming an independent nation, Panama sold a canal zone to the U.S. for \$10 million. The purpose of the Panama Canal, which still holds true today, was to shorten the distance ships had to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The Panama Canal offered great purpose historically and economically. Over 10 percent of all U.S. shipping goes through the canal daily. U.S. citizens are able to make products that other countries purchase and in turn, imports enable consumers to receive needed products. The purchase of the canal continues to help economies all over the world, especially the U.S.

President Roosevelt was an avid outdoorsman. While many still considered natural resources to be inexhaustible, he believed otherwise. He saw the effects of overgrazing, and questioned what would happen to our country if coal, iron, and oil were all gone. He was considered to be the 'conservationist president.' Roosevelt set aside 150 national forests, the first 51 federal bird reservations, 5 national parks and provided federal protection for almost 230 million acres of land.

If it wasn't for Theodore Roosevelt, there is a great possibility that most of the animals and plant life that we know today would just be stories that we tell our children and grandchildren about. Because of his love and enthusiasm for preserving our land and wildlife, we have beautiful parks with breathtaking views, animals that are still flourishing, and wonderful places we can visit with family and friends.

In closing, I believe there are many influential people in American history. I chose Theodore Roosevelt because the accomplishments that I mentioned above are dear to my heart. The aforementioned reasons, along with many of his other accomplishments, are still used throughout our country and world today, which is why Theodore Roosevelt, in my opinion, is the most influential person in American history.

Taylor Haile, senior at Hamilton High School

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURES in American history who often times goes unnoticed is Nikola Tesla. He is the true "father of electricity," though most of the books we use in public education today award credit to Thomas Edison. It appears Nikola Tesla did all the leg work, just never received the credit or rewards of fame to his own name. Nikola Tesla deserves recognition as a very important person in America's history.

Nikola Tesla was born in Yugoslavia in 1856 and died in 1943 at the age of 87. He lived a long and successful life. However, he did suffer from frequent illnesses as a child and often experienced vivid flashes of light accompanied by images as a result. People further described an ability he had to visualize something in great detail after being given just one word.

In adulthood, one of his extraordinary abilities was the ability to construct and test new inventions mentally. He had no need for blueprints and indeed had a photographic memory. Despite these almost superhuman strengths, many obstacles continued to challenge Tesla, including the development of hypersensitive hearing to the point where he was bedridden for a period of his life, and even close to dying a few times.

In 1884, Tesla immigrated to the United States, in which he started his first career under the authority of Thomas Edison. However, Edison did not give Tesla nearly enough credit nor financial income in regards to the massive developments and contributions he was putting forth for the business. At one point, Edison offered, but ended up not paying Tesla \$50,000 to redesign his inefficient motors and generators—while Tesla did, indeed, hold up to his end of the deal. Tesla eventually received his own financial backing by a man named George Westinghouse. He was slated to receive an abundant royalty for his AC distribution, but with Westinghouse himself close to bankruptcy, he tore up the contract that could have made Tesla a billionaire.

Probably the most valuable of Tesla's accomplishments to society would be his alternating current electricity distribution which in simple terms is our common AC mains. Edison's direct current system for the distribution of electricity was far too limited; however, he continued to engage himself in numerous campaigns against Tesla's far superior alternating current system. It was through these many campaigns that Edison received credit for "discovering electricity" while Tesla continued to do work he never received credit for.

Though not a well-known man, I am humbled by Tesla's great accomplishments when it comes to electricity. However, what astonishes me even more is his lack of desire for the fame or fortune that came with all these important inventions. Especially in the world we live in today, where fame and fortune seem to be the only reason a majority of people do what they do. Tesla should be a motivation for society today, and individuals should strive to follow in the footsteps of such a brilliant yet humble man.

Kirsten Niemann, junior at Hamilton High School

Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC director election ballots will be counted August 4 at 1 p.m.

The Hamilton County EC Annual Membership Meeting will be held August 4 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton ISD Chandler Craig Auditorium.

Burnet

Bluebonnet Air Show, September 9, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. For information, call (512) 756-2226 or visit highlandlakessquadron.com.



Comanche

De Leon Peach and Melon Festival, August 8–12, De Leon Community Park

Barnie McBee BBQ Cook-Off, September 23, Comanche City Park

Classic Car Show, September 23, Comanche City Park, sponsored by Comanche County Car Club

Tribal Trot, September 23, historic downtown

Comanche Antique Tractor and Engine Show, September 23, Comanche City Park, sponsored by Comanche Tractor Club

Comanche County Pow-Wow Heritage Festival, September 23–24, Comanche City Park

Historic Downtown and Around Trick-or-Treat, October 31, historic downtown

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or email comanchetxchamber@gmail.com.

Copperas Cove

Hood Howdy, August 4, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Club Hood, 24th Street at Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Building 5764. A family-friendly event full of information to help you get to know your new hometown and neighbors. Chamber of Commerce, more than 100 area businesses and agencies, door prizes and refreshments. Presented by Family and MWR and the Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Branch.

Cove House Classic Bike Tour, August 12

Gallop or Trot 5K Run/Walk, September 16,

National Night Out Kickoff Party, October 7
National Night Out Block Parties, October 10
8 a.m., Civic Center, 1206 W. Ave. B

For more information about Copperas Cove events, call the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571 or email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Evant

BBQ Cook-Off, August 11–12, Evant Square, benefiting the Dee Dee Rice Scholarship Foundation

11th Annual Fall Chili Fest, September 30, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., downtown on the square. Chili cook-off, car show and vendors. Children's carnival will have bouncy houses, face painters, balloon twisters and more. For more information, visit cityofevant.com, email coevant@centex.net or call (254) 471-3135.

Movie in the Park, August, September and October, third Saturday of the month, Evant City Park at dark, weather permitting

11th Annual Car Show and Chili Cook-Off, September 30, Evant City Park, all-day event

Trunk or Treat, October 31, Evant City Park

For information, contact Mary Ann Davison at evantchamber@gmail.com or (254) 404-5487.

Gatesville

Chamber Market Days, second Saturday of every month in the parking lot of the Historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Hwy 36. This not only is a great opportunity for local vendors to set up and show off their unique merchandise but also a great chance for citizens to support local vendors.

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree, third Friday of each month, 7–8 p.m. City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. A family-friendly event. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted for the performers. For more information, visit gatesvillecountrymusichalloffame.com or call Roger Viers at (254) 547-6834.

Spurfest, September 16, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., downtown Gatesville and surrounding areas. Includes vendors, games, activities, simulated gunfights, reptile show, Miss Spurfest Pageant, coloring contest, live entertainment and Gatesville's very first Amazing Race. See gatesvilletx.info for details.



Cruzin Cruzers Car Show, September 16–17, Faunt Le Roy Park. To register or for more information, visit cruzincruzers.com.

Wild Game Dinner and Fundraiser, October 21, 6–10 p.m., Texas Station Event Center. Sponsored by the Gatesville Youth Livestock Supporters. Enjoy a variety of wild game cuisine, silent auction, live auction, and entertainment which benefits youth participants in the Coryell County Youth Fair. For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Lyle Zoeller at (254) 223-4517.

Boozar, October 28, 6–8 p.m., on the square. Trick-or-treating with local businesses and organizations, games and activities for kids, costume contest, food trucks. For more information, contact Faye at (254) 223-4338.

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Cheri Shepherd, Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau, at (254) 499-0102.

Hamilton

Pop-Up Shops, August 3, September 7, October 5: 5:30–8:30 p.m., Studio on the Square, 109 N. Rice St. For more information, visit studioonthesquarehamilton.com.

Hamilton Band Booster BBQ Cook-Off, August 11–12, Jayson Harris Pavilion

Dove Festival Pageant, August 26, 6 p.m., Chandler Craig Auditorium. Registration forms available at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, 103½ N. Rice St.

Harvest Festival, October 7, First United Methodist Church, 215 W. Main. For more information, contact First United Methodist Church at (254) 386-8155.

Hamilton County Dove Festival, October 28, Vendors, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; wine walk, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Wild wing cook-off and deviled egg challenge, gun show, car show, climbing rock

wall, hamster ball obstacle course, inflatables. Registration forms available at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, 103½ N. Rice St.

Dove Festival Parade, October 28, 10 a.m. Registration forms available at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, 103½ N. Rice St.

Cork-N-Pork 5K, October 28, 12:30 p.m., timekeeping by Race Day Events. Registration forms available at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, 103½ N. Rice St.

Bull Riding at Circle T, October 28, 6 p.m., Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Hwy 36. Mutton-bustin', calf scramble, band/dance at 9:30 p.m.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit website hamiltontexas.com, contact the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at (254) 386-3216 or hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

Six-Man Super Saturday Football, September 2, Tiger Stadium. Six-man high school football teams from across the state travel to Hico to compete in this invitation-only event. For more information, visit hicosupersix.com.

Burger Bash/Horseshoe Tournament, October 7, City Park. Sponsored by the Hico Memorial Scholarship Foundation. For more information, contact Sherry Schane at (254) 796-2978.

Downtown Trick or Treat, October 27, 3–5 p.m., downtown. Kids, come dressed up in your costumes and bring your candy bags! Sponsored by your local Hico business owners.

Hico Antique Show, October 27–28. Sponsored by Opera House Antiques & More. For more information, contact Stacie Matthews at (254) 796-2210 or email operahouseantiquesnico@gmail.com.

For more information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com or email hicochamber@mail.com.

Lampasas

Free guided tours of the historic Lampasas County Courthouse, Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., historic downtown courthouse square. For more information, contact Jim Rutland (512) 556-5302 or Andy Berry (512) 556-5434.

Lampasas Trade Days, August 26, September 30, October 28, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190. Free admission and free parking. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Lampasas County Wine Tour, September 23, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Participants will meet at the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce office at 205 S. Highway 281 for breakfast, and then depart on a wine tour of award-winning, beautiful Texas Hill Country wineries. For tickets or more information, visit lampasaschamber.org.

Herb and Art Festival/Jammin With Art in the Park, October 14, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden at Campbell Park, 501 E. North Ave. Featuring fine arts, an array of vendors, food truck competition, Texas wines and Texas craft beers, live music, and an exciting children's area. The event is being hosted by both the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center and the Lampasas Association For The Arts.

Squared Silly, October 28, 5–7:30 p.m. A family fun event on the Courtyard Square. Costume contest for ages 0–12, a haunted house for the wee ones, bouncy house, train ride, booths and games. Ticket prices begin at 25 cents. All proceeds go to local youth organizations. For information, email info@visionlampasas.com

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or visit lampasaschamber.org.

Pearl

Bluegrass Festival, August 5, September 9, October 7, 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage, August 5, September 9, October 7, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation. All donations go to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Pidcoke

Church Yard Sale, August 5, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Pidcoke United Methodist Church invites you to join the 7th annual community-wide garage sale. Free smiles, popcorn and fellowship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Vendors welcome. Set up starts at 6 a.m., no charge, around the PUMC or at its location in the Pidcock area. Proceeds go to offering backpacks of school supplies to children in need in Gatesville, Copperas Cove and Kempner. Contact Rex Hooten at (254) 547-6673 for vendor space and further information.

Lord's Acre Auction and Pot Luck Dinner, October 21, dinner at 5:30 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to share. After meal, auction begins for new and homemade goods. Proceeds go to support community outreach. To donate items, contact Margaret Martin at (254) 518-2257.

Pidcock is halfway between Copperas Cove and Gatesville on FM 116. For more information about Pidcock United Methodist Church events, call (254) 760-2288 or visit pidcock-umc.org.

San Saba

San Saba River Golf Course Tournaments, County Road 102.

- 3-Person Shamble, August 12-13;
- Golf Club Championship, August 26-27;
- 2-Person Low Ball, September 9-10.

For details, please visit goldsansaba.com or phone the Pro Shop at (325) 372-3212.

Pecan Capital Trade Day, September 2, October 7, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. For information, contact Joann Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

Pecan Capital Street Dance XVI: Homecoming Weekend, September 16, 8-11:45 p.m., Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Dance is free to the public. For information, call (325) 372-8291. For table and chair rentals, call San Saba VFD at (325) 372-5544.

Junk in the Trunk Garage Sale on the Square, September 9, 8 a.m.-noon, Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Items can only be sold from your trunk or bed of your truck; nothing can be set on the ground. For information, call (325) 372-8291.

Grape Stomp, September 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., the courtyard behind Wedding Oak Winery and Old Man Scary Cellars, off Wallace Street and Highway 16 S. Tickets \$30: includes T-shirt, tacos, one free glass of wine and the glass, and grape-stomping. There will be a "Lucy" contest. After you stomp grapes, you can put your footprint on your T-shirt. (Cute, no?) We will have a clothesline to dry T-shirts on. For more information, contact Wedding Oak Winery at (325) 372-4050, Old Man Scary Cellars at (325) 372-6071 or the San Saba Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141.

Fiesta Patrias Celebration, September 17, 1-10 p.m., Risien Park. For information, contact Tony Guidroz at (325) 372-8291.

Armadillos Get Involved Community Workday, October 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 303 S. Clear St. For information, contact the City of San Saba at (325) 372-5144. The event is co-sponsored by partners San Saba ISD, Keep San Saba Beautiful Community Organization and the City of San Saba. For further information on how you can help, contact kssb-tx@outlook.com.

Family Fun Fest, October 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mill Pond Park, Thomas Stewart Dr. Free to the public. For information, call (325) 372-8291.

Never Surrender Cancer Foundation of San Saba County Mardi Gras Dinner, Casino and Dance, October 21, 7-10 p.m., Civic Center. Dinner at 7 p.m., casino and dance at 8 p.m., featuring Kindred Spirits. Tickets: \$25 per person in advance, \$30 at door. Tickets are available at Commercial National Bank, Arrowhead National Bank, City National Bank, Bard Brew House, Alamo Pecan and Coffee. For more information, phone Donna Shahan at (325) 372-7049.

For more information about San Saba County events, contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit sansaba-chamber.com.

WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative welcomes your local event submissions. If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar will be published monthly and will contain events scheduled in the month of publication and the following two months. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email donna.harris@hamilton-electric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

WHAT IS



SMARTHUB IS Hamilton County EC's innovative tool for account management. SmartHub can help you take control of your electricity and your account like never before!

► Register with SmartHub, and you will be able to view your current bill or previous month or even previous year to compare costs. You can also view your daily or monthly electricity usage. You can see how your use is trending over time and take steps to reduce your consumption.

► Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. You can store your payment information for future payments or set up automatic payments. SmartHub provides a safe and secure environment for transactions between HCEC and your financial institution.

► Go paperless and manage your account via SmartHub! By registering with SmartHub, you can receive bill notifications by email or text.

► Register now at hamiltonelectric.coop! Click the Pay Online button to begin registration. You may also download the app, SmartHub, for free with your smartphone or tablet.

WHAT IS SMARTHUB?



Be in the Know Secure Customer Support Pay Bill Check Usage

Feel a Shock?

Swim away from the dock

BOATING, FISHING AND SWIMMING can be fun ways to enjoy the great outdoors, but they can present dangers, too. Hamilton County Electric Cooperative wants to help keep water enthusiasts safe from the little-known hazard of electric shock drowning.

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment and routine maintenance on docks and boats can cause situations where electricity “leaks” into the water. Between 10 and 15 millamps, which is just $\frac{1}{50}$ the power drawn by a 60-watt light-bulb, can cause drowning, according to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association.



When swimming, keep clear of docks that have electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.

If electric current is present in fresh water and someone swims into that energized water, the result can be electric shock drowning. If the electrical current is strong enough, the shock can cause muscle paralysis, which leaves the affected individual unable to swim to safety. This is a particularly dangerous hazard because it's impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized.

People should not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If a person is in the water and feels an electric current, that individual should shout to alert others, try to stay upright, tuck up the legs to become smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. The swimmer should not head toward boat or dock ladders to get out but swim to the shore instead.

If you see someone whom you suspect is being shocked, you should not immediately jump in to save them. Instead, throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection at the meter base, and/or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible, then call for help.



Place a fan in an open window to cool down in the evenings.

Cool Summer Evenings Call for Fans, Not AC

EVEN THE HOTTEST SUMMER gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings.

When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It also can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room and will make anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

But remember: Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the air feel cooler to people in rooms where they are located because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.