

More Than 80 Years Later, You Still Have the Power



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 80 YEARS SINCE THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION program began. To survive—and even prosper—over that period of time takes considerable strength. The fact that electric cooperatives are alive and well today speaks volumes of the many people who have protected the rights and interests of co-op members in Austin and Washington, D.C.

Electric cooperatives have been offering consumers a real choice from the day our doors first opened. The members get to decide how the business is run and what

services are offered. Under the watchful eye of locally elected boards of directors, electric cooperatives focus on delivering high-quality, reliable and affordable service every day to the people and businesses they serve. Your cooperative still is committed to making a difference.

While your cooperative works to keep electricity affordable and reliable by improving the efficiency of its electric system and operations, considering new resources and staying politically active, you can do your part by using energy efficiently at home

and work. **Here are a few easy ways to trim your energy use:**

- ▶ Caulk or weatherstrip windows and doors. A typical home can lose as much as one-third of its conditioned air through leaks.
- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat and change filters regularly. About half of your electric bill is spent heating and cooling your home.
- ▶ Wash clothes in cold water.
- ▶ Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- ▶ Add more insulation in your attic. Your home can lose energy through a poorly insulated roof or walls.
- ▶ Turn off lights, appliances and electronics when not in use.

Life may be dramatically different from what it was 80 years ago, but one thing hasn't changed: Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is here to serve you.



Scholarships Awarded to Nine Students

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE presented nine area high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients are:

Branson J. Armstrong, Hamilton ISD

Audree Nicole Campbell,

Home School Group

Meagan Elaine Cline, Lometa ISD

Cara Nicole Ivy, Priddy ISD

Kamryn Locke, Evant ISD

Kaylee Lovejoy, Lampasas ISD

Quaid Carswell Seward,

Goldthwaite ISD

Allan M. Welchez, Copperas Cove ISD

Kayli Paige Williams, Gatesville ISD

Hamilton County EC's scholarship program was advertised in *Texas Co-op Power*, and counselors and administrators of each school district in the co-op's service area were informed of the scholarship opportunities.

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

The board of directors and staff of Hamilton County EC are proud of the accomplishments of each of these students, and we are honored to be a part of their continuing education.



HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

79TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018
HAMILTON ISD, 611 S. COLLEGE ST., HAMILTON

5 p.m. Catfish and Barbecue Dinner

Hamilton ISD Junior High Cafeteria and High School Commons Area

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

COME OUT TO HELP US CELEBRATE 79 YEARS OF SERVICE!

We look forward to seeing you there!

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*
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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. Highway 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.

Students Return From Government-in-Action Youth Tour



HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SPONSORED TWO students from high schools in our service area on this year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Kylee Sutherland and Braydon Hollingsworth, both seniors from Goldthwaite, experienced the life-changing 10-day journey in June.

Youth Tour is an annual, all-expenses-paid tour of our nation's capital for eligible high school juniors and seniors. These two young people represented HCEC ably on this trip of a lifetime. They joined a delegation of 148 other high school students from around the state who also were sponsored by local electric cooperatives.

HCEC conducted an essay contest extended to juniors and seniors who attend school within the cooperative's service area. Eligible applicants had to reside in a household that is a member of HCEC. The Youth Tour opportunity and contest were advertised in *Texas Co-op Power*. Counselors, teachers and administrators from area school districts were instrumental in getting the word out to interested applicants.

HCEC received six applications and essays. The essays were required to be 500 words or fewer on the topic, "If you had the opportunity to change one thing about your school or community, what would it be and why?" The applications were used to verify eligibility, while the essays were reviewed and ranked by a volunteer committee from Bartlett Electric Cooperative. The

top two essay winners received sponsorships for the trip.

Sutherland is the daughter of Kody Sutherland and Janna Collins of Goldthwaite. Hollingsworth is the son of Rusty and Tracy Hollingsworth, also of Goldthwaite. Sutherland and Hollingsworth departed June 6 and returned June 15. 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, where they took part in a whirlwind of activities that included a day to meet with their elected representatives to discuss current issues. They toured Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress and 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 cruise with dinner and dancing.

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

Following are the essays that won Sutherland and Hollingsworth spots on the 2018 Youth Tour.

Change Is a Good Thing

By Kylee Sutherland, senior at Goldthwaite High School

Finding an aspect to change about my school or community is difficult to say in the least. Goldthwaite is full of caring, considerate, and kind people who give freely to those in need. We have an abundance of fundraisers and events wherein those less fortunate or struggling in our community benefit. For example, every October we host the Cindy Hayes Memo-



rial Food Drive where canned food and money donations are accepted to restock the local food pantry. The elementary, middle, and high school have a competition to promote giving. Even on a global scale, Goldthwaite has organizations in place. The annual Run for Compassion hosted every April is a prime example. The money raised is sent to sponsor a child in an underdeveloped country. Our high school also has multiple outreach programs such as Santa Fest and mentoring middle schoolers. There is only one project I can imagine changing about Goldthwaite: renovating the downtown storefronts.

At first glance, renovating the downtown storefronts sounds like a shallow aspect of my community to change. How could I focus on something as simple as aesthetics when having the opportunity to change anything? Well, for one, Goldthwaite already excels in charitable organizations, a few of which I described above, and the educational quality for children and teens is superb with countless dual credit classes offered for high school, bully and drug awareness taught in middle school, and leadership camps provided for elementary students. Secondly, the project of renovating downtown is not based upon beauty or “looking pretty,” but, rather, attracting more tourists and visitors into Goldthwaite which, in turn, will improve our economic status as a community by the new influx of circulating money.

The state of downtown Goldthwaite now can be summed up in one word: worn. It simply looks run-down. Eyes of the visitors or tourists traveling through town simply skim over the storefronts. Everyone makes assumptions based on a glance, and the assumption of travelers through Goldthwaite is that we are not a place full of interesting shops or people (which, of course, is a false statement). If the downtown was renovated and the buildings appeared clean, tidy, taken care of, then more business would circulate through our community and the prosperity would open doors for our community to excel in even more ways than it already does.

Goldthwaite is a community full of friendly, giving people. The horde of charitable organizations provides help and support to the families or individuals going through hard times in our community but also the world. The school system is also in excellent condition with a wide variety of opportunities for students. The only aspect left to change is economic. If I had the opportunity to change one thing about my hometown, it would be to renovate the downtown storefronts as an eco-

nomie venture to bring more business and prosperity to our community. After all, if you had the chance to bring an era of prosperity to your neighbors and friends, wouldn't you?

‘If you had the opportunity to change one thing about your school or community, what would it be and why?’

By Braydon Hollingsworth, senior at Goldthwaite High School

If given the opportunity to make some sort of change in my school or community, I would make some dramatic changes to education in Goldthwaite. I would re-establish schools to prepare kids for their futures, rather than for their exams.

Obviously, this is easier said than done, however there are certain measures that could be taken to re-establish education in the United States. Firstly, schools need to be teaching responsibility, good mannerism, and preparedness for entering the workforce. To teach responsibility, schools should allow their students to make decisions for themselves, whether that is showing up on time, doing homework, or even showing up to class at all. By allowing students to have such freedoms to make these decisions, they will have the opportunity to learn the consequences of their decisions before they leave high school for the real world.

Public schools need to take the responsibility to raise our youth to become upstanding citizens, which are more than prepared to go into the workforce and become a productive citizen. Instead of encouraging bad behavior in sports, and just simply suspending students who disrespect teachers and faculty, schools need to truly mentor these students to become better people. Not to be parents, but be mentors. Teach the students who want to be taught, how they want to be taught.

Instead of schools preparing their students for final exams, they should prepare them on entering the real world, teach them how to pay taxes, how to manage a college student's budget, how to handle stressful situations, etc. Students leave high school today with no knowledge of how the real world operates, assuming that it will be as responsibility-free as high school. This could be the reasoning self-reliance is on the decline with young people, it's the school systems that are failing the youth.

With taking on a more mentor role and reevaluating the amount of responsibility we put on our students there could be huge changes in the world led by my generation. I look forward to being a part of that change.

COOL TIPS FOR Hot Weather

It's another hot Texas summer—time to enjoy all the outdoors has to offer. While in the heat, make time to stay cool so you can enjoy each day. Follow these tips to keep your cool:

Take frequent cooling-off breaks in the shade or air conditioning.

Drink plenty of water before starting any outdoor activity and during the day. Drink fewer caffeinated and alcoholic beverages.

Wear lightweight, loosefitting, light-colored clothes.

Kids, cars and heat make a deadly combination. Never leave a child—or pet—in a vehicle, even for just a few minutes.

If someone has heatstroke-related symptoms, act rapidly: Remove excess clothing and lower the person's temperature with wet sheets or a cool bath. Transport the person to the nearest hospital.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.

Join the Hamilton County EC Team!

WE ARE LOOKING TO HIRE A FIRST-CLASS

lineman, which is a full-time position (Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; some Fridays). Must be able to handle on-call time, as required.

Our strong compensation package includes:

- ▶ Competitive salary.
- ▶ Paid vacation, holidays and sick time.
- ▶ 401(k) plan.
- ▶ Medical, dental, long-term disability and life insurance.

First-class linemen are responsible for performing line work and assisting other line personnel with construction, maintenance and repair of the electric system. They install, troubleshoot and repair failures of electrical lines and must be able to use all hot line tools in any situation in accordance with safety procedures. A minimum of three years' experience as a first-class lineman is required, with the ability to work from a bucket or a pole. Candidate must be able to work outdoors in various weather conditions for extended periods of time. Candidate also must possess effective communication skills and work with the public in a courteous, respectful manner. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Valid Texas driver's license with a Class A commercial driver's license endorsement also is required. We are an equal-opportunity employer.

Download an application at hamiltonelectric.coop or pick up an application and return it to 420 N. Rice, Hamilton, Texas. Resumes may be sent to **Attn: Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, faxed to (254) 386-9429 or emailed to keela.payne@hamiltonelectric.coop.**

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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POWER
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APPLY NOW!

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative
hamiltonelectric.coop



Watch the video

Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC director election ballots will be counted August 3 at 1 p.m.

The Hamilton County EC Annual Membership Meeting will be August 3 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton ISD Chandler Craig Auditorium.

Hamilton County EC will be closed Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

Comanche

De Leon Peach and Melon Festival, August 7-11, De Leon Community Park.

Comanche County Pow Wow Heritage Festival, September 22-23, Comanche City Park. Barnie McBee BBQ Cook-Off, classic car show, antique tractor and engine show, art show, vendors and live entertainment. For more info, visit comanchechamber.org/pow-wow.

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

Raising Cane's Gallop or Trot 5K, September 15, 8 a.m., City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. A chip-timed event that starts at Copperas Cove Civic Center in City Park takes you through a residential area and ends back at City Park. For more information on Centex Race Series runs hosted in Copperas Cove, call (254) 547-7571.

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

Evant

281 Trade Days, August 4, September 8, October 6; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; 203 W. Brooks St.

Antiques, plants, vintage finds, food trucks and handmade items. Vendor spots available. Call (254) 404-5487 or (254) 471-3698.

Evant Rodeo Association Ranch Rodeo, September 29, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

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

Gatesville

Chamber Market Days, second Saturday of each month in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise and farm-fresh foods. Visit gatesvilletx.info for more information.

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree, third Friday of each month, 7-8 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. 8th 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.

Ed Leonard Band, Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Junction on Route 36, 1216 Texas Highway 36.

Run to Remember, every Saturday, 8-9 a.m., Faunt Le Roy Park.

81st annual Gatesville Rodeo, August 2-4, 7:30 p.m. nightly. Gatesville Riding Club Arena, Veterans Memorial Drive.

18th Annual Spurfest, September 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Coryell Museum and Historical Center, 718 Main St. Old-time demonstrations, art exhibits, contests, music and more than 6,000 spurs in the Lloyd Mitchell Collection. For general information or availability of booth space rental, contact Catherine Fulton at coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com or (254) 865-5007, or visit coryellmuseum.org

32nd Annual Cruzin Cruiser's Car Show, September 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Faunt Le Roy Park. \$20 entry fee. To register or for more info, visit cruzincruisers.com. Free admission to public.

For more information about Gatesville events, go to visitgatesvilletx.com or call the Gatesville

Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 865-8951.

Goldthwaite

Third Saturday Flea/Craft Market, August 18, September 15, October 20; 8 a.m., the Artisan Guild, south side of the square and Highway 183. Flea market and craft items, farmers market and fresh baked goods. Vendors welcome. For more information, call (325) 948-3214.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit millscountychamber.com or call Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 451-4334.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circletarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

15th Annual Band Boosters BBQ Cook-Off, August 3-4, Fair Park. They will be selling brisket lunches served with beans, potato salad, bread, pickles/onions, dessert and drink, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the high school commons area. Adults \$9, kids \$6.

281 Junkin' Journey, August 4, September 1, October 6; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; downtown square.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Summer Musical, August 4, 6 p.m., and August 5, 3 p.m., Hamilton Junior High School stage.

2018 Hamilton County Dove Festival Pageant, August 25, 6 p.m., Chandler Craig Auditorium. Entry forms can be picked up at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce office or downloaded at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com

Hamilton County Heritage Days, August 30-September 2. Concerts, matched horse races, goat roping, rodeo, vendors. For details, visit hamiltonheritage.com or facebook.com/hamiltonheritagedays.

Dove Festival Parade, September 1, 10 a.m., downtown. Parade entry forms can be picked up at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce office or downloaded at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com.

2018 Dove Capital Cornhole Tournament, September 1, noon, Hamilton Plaza, 100 E. Bell. Entry forms can be picked up at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce office or downloaded at hamilontexaschamberofcommerce.com.

47th Annual Hamilton County Dove Festival, October 27. Fun activities in the park include a pumpkin patch, hay bale maze, children's games, pumpkin decoration, the Pumpkin Bake-Off Challenge and dessert walk. Inflatables will be set up on Bell Street. Live entertainment will be on the event stage at the courthouse.

Motorcycle Show, October 27, check-in 8:30–10:30 a.m. This family-friendly event will showcase all types of motorcycles, from cruisers to choppers, lining up on Henry Street, from Highway 281 to Bell Street. Awards at 3 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for Judges' Choice and People's Choice. Trophies, sponsored by the Rustic Lantern Taphouse, will be awarded for several categories.

Cork N' Pork 5K and Wine Walk, October 27, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., 103 ½ N Rice St. This 5K course takes you through the streets of Hamilton to the beautiful Pecan Creek Trail. The race starts at the Pecan Creek Bridge by the Hamilton Public Library on Henry Street, and finishers will end the race downtown with other Dove Festival activities. Runners then will receive their Bite My Butt pulled pork sandwich and wine samples (age 21 and over to receive wine tickets). All runners must show ID. Wine Walk is for 21 and over only.

Hamilton County Dove Festival Main Event, October 27, Circle-T Arena. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., tickets \$20 each. The Sundowners will perform on the Crossfire Stage at 6 p.m. On the Lawson Implement Dove Festival Main Stage, Dillan Poe will perform at 8 p.m. and Parker McCollum at 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at hamilontexaschamberofcommerce.com.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216 or email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

For information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com.

Lampasas

Free Guided Tours of the historic Lampasas County Courthouse, Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., historic downtown courthouse square. The 30-minute tours visit each floor of the courthouse, including the stately second-floor courtroom as well as the third floor, which houses the tower clockworks. The Lampasas County Courthouse is the third-oldest court-

house in continuous use in Texas. For more information, contact Jim Rutland at (512) 556-5302 during regular business hours.

Lampasas County Museum, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 303 S. Western Ave., between Second and Third streets. Learn about the history of Lampasas County through displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

Lampasas Trade Days, August 4, September 1, October 6; 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Indian Artifact, Gem and Mineral Show, September 22, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Lampasas County Youth Livestock Barn, S. Highway 281. For more information, contact VISION Lampasas at (512) 525-1871 or info@visionlampasas.com.

Lampasas County Wine Tour, September 29, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce, 205 S. U.S. Highway 281

Artober Fest—October 13, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden at Campbell Park, 501 E. North Ave. Featuring fine arts, an array of vendors, food truck, Texas wines and craft beers, live music, and an exciting children's area.

Squared Silly, October 28. For more information, contact VISION Lampasas at (512) 525-1871 or 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.

Lometa

Best Day, August 11, September 8, October 13; 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Lometa Regional Park, Highway 190/183. Barter, exchange, sell, trade—furniture and home goods, military uniforms and gear, collectibles and antiques, etc. Vendors: 10x15' booth, \$15; walk-up vendors welcome on space-available basis. Concession stand and playground. For more information, contact Lometa City Hall at (512) 752-3331 or Ronnie at (325) 200-3030.

For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.

Pearl

Bluegrass Festival, August 4, September 8, October 6; 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage, August 4, September 8, October 6; 10 a.m.–6 p.m. All kinds of books

and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Community Meal, third Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183. Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

San Saba

San Saba Farmers Market, every Wednesday, 9 a.m.–noon., Courthouse Square, Highway 190 East. San Saba-grown produce and other food items will be sold. No vendor fees. Contact Don at (325) 372-4029 to reserve a space.

San Saba County Historical Museum, every Saturday and Sunday, 1:30–4:30 p.m. Tour this unique museum for a look at life when San Saba first began. An original wood stable is enclosed within the museum walls, along with many nostalgic items.

Fun in the Sun at Mill Pond Park, Memorial Day weekend–September 3. Visit the sunny beach at Mill Pond Park for paddle boating, tube rentals, a bouncy pad, waterfalls, picnics, snow cones and good family fun.

San Saba River Golf Course

Tournament Schedule:

Three-Person Shamble, August 11–12;
Club Championship, August 25–26;
Individual Open Golf Tournament, September 8–9; Two-Person Scramble, October 20–21.
For information, call (325) 372-3212 or visit golfsansaba.com.

San Saba Music Series—Aaron McDonnell and Dani McDonnell, August 11, 6:30–11:45 p.m., Diggs Restaurant & Club, 1035 U.S. Highway 190. Cost \$15. Benefiting the Texas Hunters for Heroes San Saba Chapter.

Pecan Capital Trade Day, September 1, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse, 500 Wallace St. For information, contact JoAnne Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

Grape Stomp and Harvest Celebration, September 8, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Wedding Oak Winery, 316 E. Wallace St., one block off Wallace Street and Highway 16 South in downtown. For information, contact Wedding Oak Winery at (325) 372-4050.

San Saba Music Series—Bellamy Brothers with Whitney Rose, Pecan Capital Street Dance XIX, September 8, 6:30–11:45 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Cost \$15.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or visit sansabatexas.com/calendar or sansabachamber.com.