

Weathering the Storm

Natural disasters leave safety issues in their wake



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

FLOODS. WIND. RAIN. WHEN MOTHER NATURE wreaks havoc on the power grid, a host of hazards often follows. That makes safety—always a top priority for Hamilton County Electric Cooperative—a major concern even after a storm blows through.

Creating a culture of safety is incredibly important to electric co-ops because some of our employees face hazardous situations daily. We also want to ensure the safety of those we serve—our members.

and businesses to pump out water and make repairs.

Because of the dangers, co-ops urged members to exercise caution and call a licensed electrician before beginning cleanup efforts. Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet until they've been examined by a qualified service repair dealer.

When high winds accompany rains that produce flooding, downed power lines are a real possibility. Stay away from water near power lines.



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Every region of the state deals with its own types of weather problems. Here's a look at the most common storm situations that create safety issues for your cooperative and its members.

Floods

Beyond the hazard that floodwaters pose to drivers, water can turn an already-tricky situation into a deadly one if you attempt to work with electrical equipment that's wet or submerged.

Last year, when floods ravaged South Texas, electric co-ops lost precious infrastructure. Lineworkers had to improvise creative solutions to restore power needed by homeowners

Tornadoes and High Winds

Tornadoes are common in Texas and can leave wide swaths of destruction behind—snapping utility poles like twigs and reducing transmission towers to heaps of twisted metal. Power outages can result.

Downed power lines pose the greatest electrical risk after a tornado or bout with high winds because you can't tell whether they still are energized. Always assume downed power lines are live. Keep at least 35 feet away from downed lines and anything touching them.

If you find yourself in a situation where you're close to downed lines, shuffle away with small steps, with your feet together, touching the ground at all times to prevent electrocution.

Prolonged power outages can spur increased use of portable generators, which can be deadly if misused. Most people get

hurt by generators when they operate the machines too close to or even inside their homes, which allows carbon monoxide to filter throughout living areas. Most generators emit deadly levels of the gas within minutes.

In addition, if you plug your portable generator into a wall socket, it can threaten co-op lineworkers by producing backfeed that unexpectedly re-energizes power lines.

Backfeeding is a deadly serious issue for electric co-op lineworkers. Portable generators should never be plugged into a home's wall outlet, and permanent generators must have a transfer switch installed. Call Hamilton County EC if you plan to install an emergency generator.



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Power Strips Versus Surge Protectors

AS THE PROLIFERATION OF ELECTRONICS IMPACTS OUR DAILY LIVES, SOME OF US realize there simply aren't enough outlets in our homes—particularly true for older homes. As a result, we end up with a number of power strips.

Before buying your next power strip or surge protector (the power strip's more talented cousin), consider the following several factors.

Power Strips

Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronic devices, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.

Pay attention to the orientation of the outlets. The typical design is along the length of the strip, facing the bottom or end of the strip, but strips with outlets perpendicular to the length of the strip may be a better choice.

Get a smart strip. With smart strips, one outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.

Surge Protectors

If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider a surge protector that will protect equipment plugged into it from power surges. Price can be an important indicator of quality—a cheap surge protector could be worse than none at all due to shoddy surge-fighting components. When these components fail, the strip still provides power without any hint that its protective function has ceased.

Here are some key factors to consider when buying a surge protector.

Look for a 600 or higher joule rating, a measure of how much energy it can withstand.

Consider cable and internet connection protection. Surges can enter via any wired connection. Be sure the protector is designed to handle a digital television. Otherwise, it can cause pixilation if it's only designed for analog signals.

It should have an indicator light to show if protection has burned out.

Power strips and surge protectors are worth the investment. Don't get burned by cheap, inefficient strips and protectors.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

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

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Steve Young

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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.

Lineman's Rodeo Team Takes Top Prize

DESPITE SWELTERING TEMPERATURES AND THE CHALLENGE OF “MYSTERY events,” Hamilton County Electric Cooperative clinched the first-place trophy in the Senior Team Division at the Texas Lineman’s Rodeo.

1. Senior Team Division winners, from left, Jimmy Horton, Albert Pafford and Greg Belcher, who represented Hamilton County EC.

2 and 4. Albert Pafford and Greg Belcher.

3. Jimmy Horton.





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Plan Your Fire Escape Strategy

INSTALLING SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS ON EVERY FLOOR OF YOUR home—and replacing their batteries twice a year—is an important first step to keeping your family safe in the rare case of an electrical or other fire.

But when that unexpected alarm sounds, your children may panic.

Before an emergency strikes, prepare your kids—and yourself—to respond calmly and sensibly. The best way to do that is to plan for what everyone should do and where they should go in case of a fire.

Here's how to get started:

- ▶ Draw a map of your house's floor plan and outline the best escape route. Teach your children what to do if a doorway is blocked by fire. Create an alternate route, especially from each child's room or from areas of the house without easy access to the outdoors.

- ▶ Agree on a meeting place outside the house so your family will immediately know when everyone is safe.

- ▶ You can teach kids the familiar fire safety drill, "Stop, drop and roll," but words alone won't keep them safe. Have children act out the moves. Then do a practice run-through of your escape routes and demonstrate to children how they should crawl and stay low to the ground to prevent smoke inhalation.

- ▶ If you have a fire extinguisher in the house, show older children how to use it. Still, remind them that their safest action is to escape as quickly as possible.

- ▶ Keep a cellphone in a visible and easily accessible place in case of emergencies. That way, you can get out of the house, then call 911.

- ▶ Don't waste time grabbing documents or keepsakes when there's a fire. Keep important and irreplaceable items such as birth certificates and photos in a fire-proof box or a safe-deposit box at the bank.

Take Time To Reap a Safe Harvest

IT CAN BE AN EXCITING AND EXHAUSTING time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest also can yield tragic outcomes. Don't take shortcuts: A few extra minutes of planning can make a big difference and help prevent unnecessary accidents.

Equipment Safety

Whether in the fields or not, equipment can present many hazards to farmers during harvest if precautions aren't taken.

- ▶ Make sure all equipment stays well clear of power lines at all times.
- ▶ Turn equipment completely off before making repairs or adjustments.
- ▶ Don't wear baggy clothing or jewelry near moving equipment.
- ▶ Never leave running equipment unattended.
- ▶ Always use safety glasses and noise protection around equipment.
- ▶ Never attempt to raise a power line to clear a path.
- ▶ Drive at speeds that ensure that you maintain control at all times.

Personal Safety

Take these steps to ensure your personal safety during the busy season.

- ▶ Take several breaks throughout the day to keep yourself alert.
- ▶ Get enough sleep—fatigue easily can lead to loss of focus.
- ▶ Avoid operating complex machinery during the last couple hours of the work day when you're most vulnerable.



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Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Comanche

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

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

Harvest Festival, October 20, First United Methodist Church

Deer Hunter Chili Supper, November 2, historic downtown

Tribute to Our Veterans and Honoring Our Veterans Luncheon, November 11, Comanche Community Center

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, 8-11 a.m., City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. A chip-timed event that starts at the Copperas Cove Civic Center in City Park takes you through a residential area and ends back at City Park. For more information on the Centex Race Series runs hosted in Copperas Cove, call (254) 547-7571.

Second Annual Fall Festival, September 29, noon-4 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 922 Lutheran Church Road. Please join us for free food, games, contests (pie-eating, sack races and an obstacle course, to name a few), hayrides and a fun afternoon. Vendors will be selling a variety of items. For information, contact Pastor Tobin Scott or Skip Gravatt at (254) 547-3498, email contact@immanuel

copperascove.com or visit immaterializer'scove.com.

Small Business Saturday, November 24. We at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce are proud to take part in Small Business Saturday again this year. We know that small businesses are the heart of our community and want to encourage you to take part in Shop Small, a movement to celebrate small businesses. For more information, contact activities@copperascove.com or call (254) 547-7571.

Krist Kindle Markt, November 30-December 2, downtown. The markt welcomes shoppers looking for those last-minute Christmas gifts and boasts great food and entertainment for all to enjoy. For more information, visit kristkindmarkt.com.

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

Preview Fest for Buena Vista Wildlife Safari and RV Park, September 1, Buena Vista Wildlife Safari and RV Park, 1830 S. U.S. Highway 281. Receive free safari tickets at 281 Trade Days. More information available online at buenavistawildlifesafari.com.

281 Trade Days, September 1, October 6, November 3; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; 203 W. Brooks Drive. Antiques, plants, vintage finds, food trucks and handmade items. Vendor spots available. Call (254) 404-5487 or (254) 471-3698.

12th Annual Evant Fall Chill Cook-Off and Car Show, September 29, all day on the square. Live music at the Evant Municipal Park at 7 p.m. Contact Vernon at (254) 248-2585.

Evant Rodeo Association Ranch Rodeo, September 29, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281. For information, contact Lauren at (254) 206-0662.

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 Viersse 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

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

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.

Junk & Disorderly, October 6, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Citywide garage sale plus vendor market at the Gatesville Civic Center featuring antiques and collectibles. For more information or to register as a vendor, go to visitgatesvilletx.com or call Cheri Shepherd at (254) 499-0102.

Cowboy and Indian Artifact Show, October 13, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veteran's Memorial Drive (off Highway 84). Indian artifacts, cowboy collectibles, coins, fossils, knives, jewelry and more. Admission \$5; kids 12 and under, free. Concession stand breakfast and lunch available. Dealers: Six-foot tables are available for \$35. To register or for more info, contact Rusty Lilljedahl at (254) 865-3921.

Boozaar, October 27, 6–8 p.m. Free family fun on the square. Games, treats and a costume contest.

Gatesville Annual Shopping Open House, November 3. Start your Christmas shopping at select retailers. Each year for more than 10 years, about a dozen boutique and unique retailers coordinate a shopping day full of discounts, door prizes and refreshments.

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, 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.

Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 3, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St. \$5 donation per lunch plate. Silent auction, vendors, gun raffle ticket drawing and biggest buck contest. For more information, call (325) 648-3619.

Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center Classes, August–September, corner of U.S. Highway 183 and Second Street. Visit our website, legacyplaza.org, for information on classes ranging from planning a garden party to beekeeping.

Prairie Experience IX: Home on the Range Gala, October 6, Legacy Plaza Pavilion. Come support our botanical gardens at the ninth annual event! We will have local fare and talent, and a silent auction: Bid on a once-in-a-lifetime hunt at King Ranch. Table sponsorships available, contact Susan at (325) 648-2447 or Savannah at (325) 648-2750.

Holiday Lights, November–December, botanical gardens. Enjoy the lights in the botanical gardens and get into the holiday spirit.

Jennie Trent Dew Library Storytime, each Friday at 10 a.m. Join Ms. Susan and Ms. Elizabeth for stories, crafts, songs and snacks. Advice on your device offered to library patrons by appointment. Please call (325) 648-2447 to set up an appointment. After-school programming is in the works! Coding classes, teen programs and more coming soon.

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.

281 Junkin' Journey, September 1, October 6, November 3; 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; downtown square

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 available at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com.

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

Harvest Festival, October 5–6, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 215 W. Main St. Garage sale Friday and Saturday. Saturday: music, terrific kids' festival, country store, auction at noon, vendors and much more. Hamburger and hot dog lunch, \$8, served 11 a.m.–1 p.m. For more information, contact First United Methodist Church at (254) 386-8155 or James Yates at papaj@aol.com.

Trick or Treat Around the Square, October 26, 3:30–5 p.m.

47th Annual Hamilton County Dove Festival, October 27. Fun activities in the park include a pumpkin patch, hay bale maze, children's games, pumpkin decorating, 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, lined 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., 103½ 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 sandwiches and wine samples (age 21 and over to receive wine tickets). All runners must show ID. Wine Walk is for participants 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 hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com. Dove Festival schedule available at hamiltondovefest.com.

Holiday Market, November 10, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Fair Park Pavilions, 1007 Park Road at Alamo. Friends of the Library book sale, vendors galore, food, Kids' Korner, wine tasting and door prizes. Sponsored by Pottsville Extension Education Club. For booth reservations and other information, contact Bonnie Chism at (254) 372-3120 or bonniechism@gmail.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

Hico Antique Show, October 26–27, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Sugar Moon Antiques, 101 S. Pecan St.

For information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.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 it 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@hamiltonelectric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

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 courthouse 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 permanent displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

Lampasas Trade Days, September 1, October 6, November 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

11th Annual Pre-1985 Car Show: Classics at the Classic, September 8 (rain date September 15), 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Storm's Drive-In. Awards, door prizes, quilt raffle. For more information, contact Sharon at (512) 734-5180.

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. For vendor information, contact Warren Bluntzer at (512) 556-7027.

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

Artobter 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 trucks, 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.

Hunters' Welcome, November 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., H-E-B parking lot. Barbecue lunch, \$8, includes a Texas-size sandwich with all the fixings, chips, cookie and drink.

Fall Courtyard Square Garage Sale, November 3, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., courtyard square. For more information, contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434.

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, September 8, October 13; 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Lometa Regional Park, Highway 190/183. Barter, exchange, sell or trade furniture, home goods, military uniforms and gear, collectibles, antiques, vintage and rustic items. Vendors: 10'x15' 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, September 8, October 6, November 3, 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage, September 8, October 6, November 3; 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.

Pidcoke

Lord's Acre Auction and Potluck Dinner, Pidcoke United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116 N. (halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove), October 6, 5:30 p.m. New and home-made goods for auction. Proceeds support community outreach. Bring a potluck dish to share. To donate items, contact Margaret Martin at (254) 518-2257. For more information, call (254) 760-2288 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

San Saba Farmers Market, each Wednesday, 8 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 began. An original wood stable is enclosed within the museum walls along with many nostalgic items.

San Saba River Golf Course Tournament Schedule: Individual Open Golf Tournament, September 8-9; Two-Person Scramble, October 20-21. For information, call (325) 372-3212 or visit golfsansaba.com.

Pecan Capital Trade Days, September 1, October 6, November 3; 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, 10 a.m.-1 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 Final Show of 2018: Bellamy Brothers Street Dance, September 8, 6:30-11:45 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Street dance with young ones learning how to dance and grandparents dancing alongside them. Cost \$15. Benefiting San Saba Youth Sports Association.

Fall Festival, October 14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Mary's Catholic Church, 504 W. Wallace St. Featuring food, music, raffles and games for the whole family. For information, contact Sarah at (210) 287-7215.

Family Fun Fest, October 20, 2-5 p.m., Mill Pond Park. Sponsored by the San Saba Ministerial Alliance.

Hunters' Welcome Weekend, November 2, all day, Lowe's Market and G&R Grocery. Hunters will receive goody bags, compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce.

San Saba Volunteer Fire Department Steak Supper, November 2, 4:30-7:30 p.m., SSVFD, 702 E. Storey St. Cost is \$15 per plate. Additional donations welcome.

San Saba County Health Fair, November 6, all day, San Saba Civic Center Mill Pond Park, S. Thomas Stewart Drive. For information, contact Candi Willis or Melanie Potter at (325) 372-5416. Sponsored by AgriLife County Extension Service. Proceeds benefit the club's civic projects.

Hunter's Stew, November 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., San Saba Garden Club House, 110 Thomas Stewart Drive. Sponsored by the San Saba Garden Club.

Veterans Day Program, November 10, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., San Saba Visitor Center, 113 S. High St. All veterans and their families and friends are invited to honor their military service to our nation. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza, November 23-January 5, 6-10 p.m., Mill Pond Park, 1007 E. Wallace St. Set your radio to 88.7 FM and enjoy music synced to more than 30 acres of dancing lights.

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.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING ON Safety

Texans love to hunt. It brings suspense, excitement and escape from the daily routine. Here are the 10 commandments of shooting safety:

Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.

Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.

Be sure of your target.

Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.

Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.

Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.

Control your emotions when using weapons.

Wear hearing and eye protection.

Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.

Never use electrical insulators and transformers as targets.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.



JENIFOTO | ISTOCK.COM

Happy Labor Day!

We will be closed Monday, September 3, for the holiday. As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an emergency.



RYHOR BRUYEU | ISTOCK.COM

Power Tip

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as on pathways, steps and porches. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors.