



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
**CODY  
LASATER**

## Stay in the Know

AT HAMILTON COUNTY Electric Cooperative, we're constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we could use your help.

By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Up-to-date information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about important programs, events and activities

The availability of up-to-date contact information allows us to streamline power restoration in the event of an outage. Hamilton County EC is actively engaged in the implementation of an outage management system, which we anticipate will be fully operational by the end of summer.

Your phone number will be associated with your service address within the outage management system. This means that when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your meter location. That helps us predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain continuous service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we

can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Discrepancies on your account can be handled promptly if Hamilton County EC can easily get in touch with you.

Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any changes in co-op events.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that when you provide your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It's only used by HCEC to send important information to you.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by contacting us at (254) 386-3123. By doing so, you'll help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op. ■



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# Hamilton County EC Offers Scholarships

**WILL YOUR 2024** high school graduate need money for college? Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will award \$1,000 scholarships for the 2024–25 school year (\$500 per fall and spring semester).

To be eligible, students must:

- ▶ Be a senior attending a high school within the Hamilton County EC service area and graduating in May 2024.
- ▶ Be a dependent of an active HCEC member.
- ▶ Reside full time in the home of a parent or guardian who is a full-time resident in HCEC’s service area.
- ▶ Have applied for admission as a full-time student in a technical school, college or university.

Winners must use the scholarship within one year of issuance.

Applications are now available and will be accepted until March 29. Scholarship winners will be chosen by a committee independent of the cooperative. For more information and an application, contact Keela McDonald by phone at (254) 386-9428 or by email at [keela.mcdonald@hamiltonelectric.coop](mailto:keela.mcdonald@hamiltonelectric.coop).



### DID YOU KNOW?

Spring fever may be a real (and good) thing. Scientists believe that longer days cause people to be more active, creative and happy.

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### POWER TIP

If all clothes dryers sold in the U.S. were Energy Star-certified, Americans could save more than \$1.5 billion each year in energy costs.

FERRANTRAITE | ISTOCK.COM

## Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

### CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, TX 76531

P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

**Local** (254) 386-3123

**Toll-Free** 1-800-595-3401

**Web** [hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop)

### General Manager

Cody Lasater

### Board of Directors

Robert Straley, President, District 4

Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5

Brandon Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

Jack Caldwell, District 1

Sam Campbell, District 6

Ervin Koerth, District 3

John Priddy, District 7

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

### LOCAL

(254) 386-3123

### TOLL-FREE

1-800-595-3401

### ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 13,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

**Online** at [hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop)

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

**Bank draft** can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

### Hamilton County EC Office

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton

### Fort Gates Water Corp.

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

### Head Insurance

1006 Fourth St., Goldthwaite

### Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

### Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

### VISIT US ONLINE

[hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop)



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton](http://TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton)



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## Tips for a Safer Workplace

**IT'S NO SECRET** that safety is always a top priority at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, and our team has a few tips you can use to ensure everyone's safety in your workplace. These tips are just as relevant to many of our members as they are to the employees at your cooperative.

- ▶ Prevent trips and falls. Secure all workspace cables and cords to avoid tripping hazards.
- ▶ Use tools and equipment safely. Always follow manufacturer guidelines and safety instructions.
- ▶ Avoid overloading electrical outlets, and report any malfunctioning equipment to the appropriate management.
- ▶ Stay hydrated, especially during summer months or if you're working outdoors.
- ▶ Take breaks to stretch and reduce eye strain.
- ▶ Keep informed about safety procedures. Ask your human resources contact for information about safety procedures if you are unsure.
- ▶ Maintain a clean work area to prevent slips, falls or spills.
- ▶ Use proper lifting techniques when lifting heavy objects. Ask for a colleague's help when needed.
- ▶ Be prepared. Know where emergency items, like first aid kits and defibrillators, are stored.
- ▶ Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment required for your job.
- ▶ Keep emergency exits clear of equipment, carts or any other items that could block doorways.
- ▶ Report any unsafe working conditions to your supervisor, whether a hazardous situation or behavior.


Workplace safety is our shared responsibility. We should all work together to ensure a safe working environment. ■

## Mixed Berry Pistachio Crisp

- 5 tablespoons cold butter, plus more for coating the dish**
- 4 cups frozen mixed berries**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- ¼ cup sugar**
- 4 tablespoons flour, divided use**
- 1 cup rolled oats**
- ¼ cup chopped pistachios**
- ⅓ cup brown sugar**
- ¼ teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 9-inch pie dish or oven-safe skillet with butter.
- 2.** In a large bowl, add berries, then sprinkle lemon juice over the top. Combine sugar and 2 tablespoons flour and sprinkle over berries; mix well. Pour into the prepared pan.
- 3.** In a small bowl, combine oats, pistachios, brown sugar, remaining 2 tablespoons flour, salt and cinnamon. Cut in butter using a pastry blender or two forks until large clumps are formed and no dry bits remain. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit mixture.
- 4.** Bake 45–50 minutes, until browned and bubbly.

**MAKES 8 SERVINGS**

 Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com).

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## Stay Back and Stay Safe

**WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY** can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, safety is the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above anything else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

### Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences.

If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between an intruder and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You'll recognize Hamilton County EC employees by their uniforms with our logo clearly displayed and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our community.

### Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they're near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. ■



## Spring Cleaning = Energy Savings

**MANY OF YOUR** once-a-year spring cleaning chores can save energy all year round. Some examples:

Clean windows inside and out. The cleaner the panes are, the more sunlight can shine through them, making it less necessary to turn on lights and run space heaters in the spring.

Replace the air filters in your HVAC system. If they're full of dust, dirt and pet hair, then air will have a hard time passing through them. Poor airflow makes your AC system work harder to do its job.

Clear fallen branches, leaves and other debris that might have fallen on the outdoor unit of your air conditioning system over the winter. For the unit to work properly, air needs to circulate around it.

Dust ceiling fan blades. When the fan starts running, it can knock accumulated dust into your room, which is bad for air quality and can wind up in AC vents.

Snake your dryer vent or hire a pro to do it for you. And be sure to clean the cover of the dryer vent outside.

Pull your refrigerator slightly out from the wall and vacuum behind it. If your fridge has exposed coils, vacuum those, too. ■

# Community Calendar

The following community event information was gathered in late January. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

## Comanche

**Texas Independence Day Celebration Chili and Comanche Stew Lunch**, March 3, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Admission by donation only. For more information, call (325) 356-5115, or email [comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountytxmuseum@gmail.com).

**Sippin' in the Sunshine Festival**, April 6, Comanche Square. Various wineries and breweries will pair drinks with bites curated by Comanche- and surrounding-area chefs. The event also features live music and various vendors.

**Frontier Day at the Museum**, April 20, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. We will have returning guests David Woolam with his chuckwagon, Deborah Nowlin Keith with her mules, John and Ingrid Nabers, spinners and weavers, the Sons of Confederate Veterans 1904, the local Boy Scouts, and Kevin Wilson and Cris Bloyd with other displays, sandwiches, snacks and finger foods with refreshments.

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or [comancheevents@gmail.com](mailto:comancheevents@gmail.com).

## Copperas Cove

**Fishing in the Park**, March 2. Enjoy a relaxing morning with family and friends at the

Texas Parks and Wildlife stocks in the city pond. Five-fish limit, and those 18 years or older must have a fishing license. Sponsored by the city of Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation. For information, contact Ashley Wilson at (254) 542-2719 or [awilson@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:awilson@copperascovetx.gov).

**Easter Egg Round-Up**, March 2, City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. Easter egg hunts and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

**Solar Eclipse TotaliTea at Ogletree Gap Preserve**, April 6–9, 1878 Post Office Road. Join us for an unforgettable celestial experience during the solar eclipse weekend with a disc golf tournament, live music, food trucks, beer tents, shopping, tent and RV camping, and other activities. Sponsored by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce. For information, call (254) 547-7571 or email [chamber@copperascove.com](mailto:chamber@copperascove.com).

**Spring into the Eclipse**, April 6–8, Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. Spring Fest during the solar eclipse weekend with food trucks, beer tents, live music, shopping and more. Sponsored by the city of Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation. For information, contact Ashley Wilson at (254) 542-2719 or [awilson@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:awilson@copperascovetx.gov).

## Gatesville

**Micro Wrestling**, March 9, Gatesville Civic Center. For information, visit [microwrestling.com](http://microwrestling.com) or call or text Jack at (513) 519-3287.

**Market Days**, second Saturdays, in the parking lot of the Historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36.

**Explore the Science and Wonder of a Total Eclipse**, April 6, 6 p.m., Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. Program presented by Liam Finn, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory solar system ambassador. For information, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or [msmart@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:msmart@gatesvilletx.com).

**Block Out the Sun Eclipse Festival**, April 6–7, downtown. There will be activities for children and adults, entertainment on the main stage, food and merchandise vendors, an art show, and more, all to celebrate and commemorate the April 8 total solar eclipse. Admission is free. For more information, visit [gatesvilletxeclipse.com](http://gatesvilletxeclipse.com) or contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or [msmart@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:msmart@gatesvilletx.com).

**Eclipse Viewing Party**, April 8, Gatesville Civic Center parking lot, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. For information, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or [msmart@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:msmart@gatesvilletx.com).

**Junk & Disorderly Market and Citywide Garage Sale**, May 4. For information, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or [msmart@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:msmart@gatesvilletx.com).

For information about Gatesville events, visit [gatesvillechamber.com](http://gatesvillechamber.com) or email [gatesvillecoc@gmail.com](mailto:gatesvillecoc@gmail.com).

## Goldthwaite

**Mills County Historical Museum**, open Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., 1119 Fisher St. Free admission.

**Goldthwaite Theatre**, 1206 Fisher St. For information on upcoming events, call (325) 451-1811 or visit [goldthwaitetheatre.org](http://goldthwaitetheatre.org).



Spring into the Eclipse  
April 6–8  
COPPERAS COVE

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### 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 is published monthly and contains events scheduled in the month of publication and the following month. 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](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop); write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.

**State Championship BBQ and Goat Cook-Off, April 26–27, City Park, U.S. Highway 183.**

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit [goldthwaiteareachamber.com](http://goldthwaiteareachamber.com), call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619 or email [gcc@centex.net](mailto:gcc@centex.net).

## Hamilton

**Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36.**

For information on upcoming events, visit [circuitarena.net/calendar](http://circuitarena.net/calendar) or call (254) 386-3559.

**Eclipse Watch Party, April 8, Circle T Resort, 4007 W. Highway 36.**

For more information about Hamilton events, visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at [hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com](http://hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com) or All Things Hamilton on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216, or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com).

## Hico

**Spring Open House, March 23.**

**Hico's Blackout Block Party, April 8, South Pecan Street.**

For more information about Hico events, contact the Hico Chamber of Commerce at (254) 434-1249 or [chamberhicoTX@gmail.com](mailto:chamberhicoTX@gmail.com).

## Lampasas

**Lampasas Trade Days, March 2, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190.** Merchandise includes antiques, collectibles, quilts, crafts, folk and fine art, new home furnishings, shabby chic furniture, new clothing, jewelry, candles, handbags, electronics, iron works, outdoor décor, plants, tools, and food concessions. For more information, call Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

**Solar Eclipse Event, April 4–9, 371 CR 2200.** Various camping sites and event locations. For more information, visit [lampasaschamber.org](http://lampasaschamber.org) or call (512) 556-5172.

**Riata Roundup Rodeo and LTX BBQ Fest, April 25–27.**

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172, email [lampasaschamber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lampasaschamber@sbcglobal.net) or visit [lampasaschamber.org](http://lampasaschamber.org).

## Lometa

**Lometa Diamondback Jubilee and Rodeo, March 29–30, Lometa Regional Park, 15115 U.S. Highway 183.** Rodeo Friday and Saturday night. Vendors, bands, chili cookoff, cornhole tournament, wild hog sacking contest, dancing, First Cavalry Detachment, and much more. Rattlesnakes on display 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday. For information, contact

Joe Birchman at (512) 966-9301.

**The Sun Festival, April 5–9, Lometa Regional Park, 15115 U.S. Highway 183.** Solar eclipse event with camping and music at ground zero. For information, call (325) 628-3523 or email [stickdogalaska@hotmail.com](mailto:stickdogalaska@hotmail.com).

**Jigsaw Puzzle Competition, March 3, 1–5 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.** Tickets available at [fiestawinery.com](http://fiestawinery.com).

**Release Party and Live Music, March 9, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.**

**Solar Eclipse Watch Party, April 8, Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.** Tickets required and available at [fiestawinery.com](http://fiestawinery.com). For more information call (325) 628-3433 or email [info@fiestawinery.com](mailto:info@fiestawinery.com).

## Pearl

**Pearl Bluegrass; March 2, April 6; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183.** Free admission. Come join others to pick or just to listen. Jam rooms for all levels. Open mic opportunities begin at 10 a.m. Contact Ron at (254) 865-6013 to sign up or sign up upon arrival. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m., home cooking and desserts, cash only. Proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. For RV spaces, call Connie at (254) 223-0621. For more information, follow us on Facebook at Pearl Community Center Texas or visit [pearlbluegrassjam.org](http://pearlbluegrassjam.org).

**Pearl Book Cottage; March 2, April 6; 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths are \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For more information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

## San Saba

**Night at the Museum, March 2, 4–7 p.m., Mill Pond Park.** Celebrate Texas Independence Day with live music, family fun and guest speakers. Proceeds benefit the museum.

**Stan Weik Cancer Stomp 5K and 1 Mile Walk, March 23, 9–10:30 a.m., San Saba River Golf Course, 723 County Road 102.** Fundraiser for the Never Surrender Cancer Foundation of San Saba County.

**Total Solar Eclipse, April 8, historic downtown, 500 E. Wallace St.**

For more information about San Saba events contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit [sansabachamber.org](http://sansabachamber.org), or [sansabatexas.com](http://sansabatexas.com).



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Texas Independence Day**  
Saturday, March 2

**Daylight Saving Time Starts**  
**Ramadan Begins**  
Sunday, March 10

**Vietnam War Veterans Day**  
Friday, March 29

**Easter**  
**César Chávez Day**  
Sunday, March 31

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