



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
CODY  
LASATER

## Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

**WE ALL USE ELECTRICITY EVERY DAY.** And because it seems so abundant and available—with the simple flip of a switch—electricity can easily be taken for granted.

A typical U.S. household uses more air conditioning, appliances and electronics than ever before. A growing number of internet-connected devices add to that. Considering everything that's powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally wince at our monthly bill. It's no longer just the light bill.

Electricity powers our quality of life. It powers the infrastructure of your home—appliances, water heater and HVAC system—and connects us to the world through our phones, TVs, devices and Wi-Fi. Your energy bill covers so much more than lighting these days.

At the same time, prices are increasing for most goods and services, like groceries or TV streaming. One of my favorite streaming services has almost doubled in price over the last few years without adding any value.

But in the midst of all that, I'm proud to report that the cost per kilowatt-hour on your electric bill has increased very little over the last few years. The team here at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative works hard every day to keep the cost of every kilowatt-hour you purchase as low as possible.

Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it could be said that its value grows every day, as the ways we use it and the conveniences it provides increase.

So the next time you're enjoying your favorite TV series or movie, video chatting with family, or enjoying the convenience of working from home, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Hamilton County EC will continue working hard to power your life, as reliably and affordably as possible. ■



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## A Springtime AC Inspection Can Pay Off in Summer

**A TUNEUP IN THE SPRING** can prevent your air conditioning system from going on the fritz later, when the weather is so hot that you won't want to be without AC for even a few hours.

It typically costs less than \$150 to have a professional inspection of your system, and it's well worth the money.

Some contractors offer an annual preventive maintenance agreement, which will cost a few hundred dollars a year and typically includes fall and spring inspections of your HVAC system and discounts on repairs and equipment. Depending on services offered in your area, it may be a better deal to pay as you go for individual inspections.

Either way, your cooling system will get attention from a qualified, licensed service technician who is trained to spot problems most homeowners overlook. The tech might even alert you if a small repair now will prevent your family from sweltering this summer during an air conditioner breakdown. ■

# Do's and Don'ts of Electrical Safety

**KEEPING YOUR HOME** free of electrical hazards should be a yearlong effort, but this May—National Electrical Safety Month—is a good time to look at the do's and don'ts for keeping your household safe and happy.

Electrical safety awareness and education can prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.

Do keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

Don't place flammable items like pot holders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.

Do check you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.

Don't overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

Do use ground-fault and arc-fault circuit interrupters to prevent fires. GFCIs should be used on every outlet near where water is used, inside and outside your home or business.

Don't use ladders or poles near overhead power lines.

Do use extension cords safely, by not using them as a long-term solution and making sure they are rated to handle the devices you'll use them with.

Don't let children go near electrical cords or outlets, and be sure to use child safety plugs to cover exposed outlets and deter foreign objects (or fingers) from being inserted.

Do replace worn-out outlets that heat up, won't hold a plug securely or make zapping noises. ■



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## 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

**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.

**TOLL-FREE**  
1-855-955-3183

### 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** 1-855-955-3183 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)

# Notice of Director Election

Nominating committee to name board nominees

**THE MEMBERS OF** Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will elect directors by mail-in ballot October 7.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee will be appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting May 29. The nominating committee will meet at 10 a.m. June 30 at the cooperative's main office at 112 E. Gentry St. in Hamilton to make nominations for directors to serve in districts 1 and 3. Terms of the incumbents in those districts expire this year.

District 1 is the area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County served by the cooperative.

District 3 is the area of Coryell County served by the cooperative.

Prospective candidates must meet the director qualifications as specified in the HCEC bylaws (Article IV, Section 4.02 (a) Director Qualifications).

Ballots will be mailed to members August 26 and should be returned to the co-op no later than 1 p.m. October 7, at which time the ballots will be counted. The results of the election will be announced on the co-op's website, hamiltonelectric.coop; on its Facebook page; and at the annual membership meeting October 7.

Following are excerpts from the bylaws of Hamilton County EC, which explain the nomination and election procedures.

## ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS

**SECTION 4.01. Number And General Powers.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of seven (7) directors (herein referred to individually as "Director" and collectively as "Directors", "Board of Directors" or "Board") or under the authority of such Board of Directors, and subject to the Board's direction and oversight. The Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the Members and such as the Board may delegate to or authorize to be performed by the Cooperative's management and employees.

**SECTION 4.02. Qualifications.** A Director or Director candidate must comply with the following Bylaw provisions:

(a) **DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS.** To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, a person shall:

- (i) Be a natural person;
- (ii) Be a Member of the Cooperative for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election;
- (iii) Be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and shall not have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing, or have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) a controlling interest in another entity, association, organization, or trust that has one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing;
- (iv) As provided in Article I, Section 1.04(f) of the Bylaws, in a

Joint Membership, either spouse may serve as a Director, but not simultaneously, and only if both spouses meet the qualifications for Director as stated herein; otherwise, neither spouse may serve as Director;

(v) For at least twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election and throughout such person's term as Director if elected, maintain a principal place of residence, as required to claim such person's residence homestead exemption pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Texas Tax Code, in the District for which such person seeks election or was elected;

(vi) Receive electric service from the Cooperative at such principal place of residence described in Section 4.02 (a)(v);

(vii) Not be employed by the Cooperative or have been an employee of the Cooperative within twenty (20) years of serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors;

(viii) Not be a close relative of an incumbent Director or of an employee of the Cooperative, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion;

(ix) Not hold office as a Director who is an incumbent or candidate for public office for which a salary or wage is paid;

(x) Not be in any way employed by or financially associated in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or selling products or services to the Cooperative;

(xi) Unless excused by the Board of Directors, which action shall be noted in the minutes of that meeting of the Board of Directors, not miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors, or miss three (3) regular meetings of the Board of Directors within the most recent twelve (12) month period; and

(xii) Not have been convicted of a felony in this State, any other State in the United States, or received the equivalence of a felony conviction in any other country.

(b) **DIRECTOR DISQUALIFICATIONS.** After being elected or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all Director Qualifications, the Board shall disqualify the Director and the individual is no longer a Director if:

(i) The Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for the disqualification and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding the Board's proposed disqualification; and

(ii) Within twenty (20) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualifications.

**SECTION 4.03. Election.** Election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot in accordance with Section 4.07 of the Bylaws.

**SECTION 4.04. Tenure.** Directors shall serve a term of three (3) years or until Director(s)' successor(s) has been elected or appointed. Upon the Directors' election, Directors shall, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to the removal of Directors, serve until the annual meeting of the Members of the year in which such Directors' terms expire or until such Directors' successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Whether elected or appointed, Directors shall have qualified

subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to removal or resignation of Directors. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next Member meeting at which a quorum is present.

#### **SECTION 4.05. Directorate Districts.**

(a) The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into the following seven (7) Directorate Districts with each District represented by one Director, who has and maintains his or her principal place of residence in that District, as provided in Section 4.02 (a)(v) of this Article:

(1) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 1";

(2) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 2";

(3) The area in Coryell County, designated as "District 3";

(4) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, designated as "District 4";

(5) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, including all the area in San Saba and Llano Counties, designated as "District 5";

(6) The area South of U.S. Highway 84 in Mills County and West to the Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 6"; and

(7) The area North of U.S. Highway 84 bounded on East by Hamilton County line and on West by Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 7."

(b) The Board of Directors shall annually review and if necessary, re-divide and/or geographically relocate Districts to ensure that Director Districts equitably represent the Members.

(c) Within sixty (60) days following any Director District revision, and at least sixty (60) days before the next Annual Member Meeting, the Cooperative shall notify any Members affected by the Director District revision by mail using direct mail, billing inserts, or the Cooperative's monthly magazine.

(d) No Director District revision may: (i) increase an existing Director's term, or (ii) shorten any existing Director's term unless the affected Director gives written consent.

#### **SECTION 4.06. Nominations.**

##### **(a) NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE.**

(1) COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date on which Directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of:

(i) Not less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11) Members of the Cooperative;

(ii) Members who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director;

(iii) Members who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or Members of the same household of such existing employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director; and

(iv) Members who are selected from different geographical sections so as to ensure equitable representation, including at least one (1) Member from each of the Directorate Districts to be filled at the election.

##### **(2) COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCESS.**

(i) The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of

the election of Directors a list of nominations for Directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which a Director must, pursuant to this Section, be elected.

(ii) The Committee may include as many nominees for any Director to be elected from or with respect to any Directorate District as it deems desirable.

(b) NOMINATION BY PETITION. Any one hundred fifty (150) or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may submit to the Secretary of the Cooperative additional nominations in writing over such Members' signatures, listing the Members' nominee(s) in like manner, not less than one hundred (100) days prior to the date the votes are to be counted, and the Nominating Committee shall post such nominations at the same time and place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

(c) NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS. The Secretary shall mail to the Members with the notice of the meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting, a statement of the names of all nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which one or more Directors must be elected, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any. Notice of nominations shall be in accordance Section 4.06 of the Bylaws, Subsection (a)(2)(i) for nominations by Committee on Nominations and Subsection (b) for nominations by petition.

Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

#### **SECTION 4.07. Campaigning for Election; Voting for Directors; Validity of Board Action.**

Any and all candidate(s) for election or re-election as Director shall: (i) comply with the Bylaws and policies of the Cooperative, as adopted by the Board of Directors; and (ii) notify the Cooperative CEO / Manager in writing, no more than fourteen (14) days after the date the nominee is notified by the Cooperative that his or her name has been certified by the nominating committee, of the candidate(s)' intention to campaign for Director, including, but not limited to, the manner and means of campaign. The election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot. Each Member shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each Directorate District for which a Director is to be elected. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Directorate Districts shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such District or Districts. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

**SECTION 4.13. "Close Relative" Defined.** As used in the Bylaws, "close relative" means a person who, by blood or marriage, including half, foster, step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister of the principal. ■

# Community Calendar

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

## Comanche

**Art Show at the Museum,** May 1–9, Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Paintings, photos, children’s art and handmade crafts are welcome for display. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com).

**Mother’s Day Lunch,** May 11, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Donations are appreciated. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com).

**Granny Reads to Children at the Museum;** June 5, July 10; 3 p.m.; Comanche County Museum; 402 Moorman Road. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com).

**Old Fashion Game Day at the Museum,** June 19, 3 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. For more

information, call (325) 356-5115 or email [comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com).

**Open Rodeo,** June 20–21, Comanche Rodeo Arena, 9101 U.S. Highway 377.

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

## Copperas Cove

**Rabbit Fest,** May 15–18, Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. The four-day event is packed with fun for the entire family, including thrilling carnival rides, live entertainment, food vendors, arts and crafts, and a lively parade Saturday morning.

For information on Copperas Cove events, call (254) 547-7571 or email [chamber@copperascove.com](mailto:chamber@copperascove.com).

## Gatesville

**Texas Katahdin Hair Sheep Association,** May 9–10, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

**Market Days;** May 10, June 14; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; the Cotton Belt Depot parking lot; 2307 S. State Highway 36.

**Vintage Market and Citywide Garage Sale,** May 17, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Antiques, collectibles, crafts, handmade and unique items. Individual garage sales all over town.

**Texas K9 Gala,** May 31, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Tickets required.

**Shivaree,** June 7, Courthouse Square.

For information about Gatesville Civic Center events, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or [msmart@gatesvilletx.com](mailto:msmart@gatesvilletx.com). For information about Gatesville events, see [visitgatesvilletx.com](http://visitgatesvilletx.com) or email [gatesvillecoc@gmail.com](mailto:gatesvillecoc@gmail.com).

## Goldthwaite

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

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

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).



Vintage Market and Citywide Garage Sale  
May 17  
GATESVILLE

## Hamilton

**Circle T Arena**, 4007 W. State Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit [circletarena.net/events](http://circletarena.net/events) or call (254) 386-3559.

**May Days Festival**, May 3, downtown. For more information, call the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (254) 386-3216 or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com)

**Market in the Park**, May 10, 9 a.m.–noon, J.L. Hamilton Plaza (located across from the Wenzel Lonestar Meat Co.). Vendor spots (homemade and handmade items) are free and are on a first-come, first-served basis. For vendor applications, contact Kayla Schraub at (254) 784-5610 or [mainstreet@hamiltontx.com](mailto:mainstreet@hamiltontx.com).

**Hamilton Public Library's summer reading program**, June 24–27, 9 a.m.–noon, Hamilton Public Library, 201 N. Pecan St. Bring your kids, ages 6–11, to the library this summer for lots of fun while they "Color Our World!" Children will join the library for stories, crafts, games, snacks and activities. Online preregistration runs May 1–30 or until classes are filled. Due to the high demand for the library's summer camp and a limited number of spots for each age group, the library requires a \$5 registration fee for each child to guarantee a spot. For more information, visit [hamilton-public-library.org](http://hamilton-public-library.org).

For more information about Hamilton events, visit *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

**Girls Night Out**, May 1, 4–8 p.m., downtown. Participating businesses will have treats, door prizes and special discounts. Times may vary. Some shops will be open until 8 p.m.

**Texas Steak Cook-off**, May 17, downtown. Hico's Original Texas Steak Cook-off is a one-of-a-kind food, wine, music and

cook-off event with delicious appetizers, rib-eye steak dinner with all the fixin's, wine tasting, live music and shopping from local vendors.

**Gravel Locos Bike Race**, May 24, Mustang Hill RV Park, 8039 State Highway 220. Races begin and end at the park. For information and registration, visit [gravellocos.bike/hico](http://gravellocos.bike/hico).

**Pageant Bingo**, June 20, 6–8 p.m., Green Canoe Outfitters patio, 108 Elm St. The event benefits the Hico Scholarship Pageant.

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

## Lampasas

**Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts**, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Lampasas County Courthouse parking lot.

**Mother's Day Brunch**, May 11, 10:30 a.m.–noon or noon–2:30 p.m., Texas Legato Winery, 2935 FM 1478. Tickets are \$50 per couple.

**Lampasas PRCA Rodeo**, May 23–25, 7:30 p.m. nightly, Bar 17 Arena, 2384 CR 2315. Bareback riding, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding.

**Senior Bingo**, May 29, June 26; 5–7 p.m.; Pizza Hut; 1602 S. Key Ave. Enjoy a one-topping personal pan pizza and drink for \$7 while you play. Open to ages 50+.

**Murder Mystery Event**, June 14, 6–8 p.m., Texas Legato Winery, 2935 FM 1478.

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

## Lometa

**Car Show**, May 3, Stoneledge Winery & Vineyard, 518 County Road 1403. For more information, call (512) 937-4252 or email [info@stoneledgevineyard.com](mailto:info@stoneledgevineyard.com).

**Yoga and Mimosas**, May 3, 10–11 a.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580. Make plans to stay for lunch and live music featuring Keelan Donovan noon–4 p.m.

**Live Music at Fiesta Winery at Bend**, May 17, 1–5 p.m., featuring Chad Alan; June 14, 1–5 p.m., featuring Chad Alan; June 21, 1–5 p.m., featuring Luke Bellet; 18727 W. FM 580.

**Pickup Party**, June 7, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580. Live music by Kristen Gibbs, 3–6 p.m.

For more information about Fiesta Winery at Bend events, call (325) 628-3433, email [info@fiestawinery.com](mailto:info@fiestawinery.com). Or visit [fiestawinery.com](http://fiestawinery.com).

## Pearl

**Pearl Bluegrass**, May 3, June 7: 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. Sign up upon arrival. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m., home cooking and desserts, cash only. The proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. For RV spaces, call Connie at (254) 223-0621. For more information, follow us the Pearl Community Center Texas Facebook page or visit [pearlbluegrassjam.org](http://pearlbluegrassjam.org).

**Pearl Book Cottage**, May 3, June 7; 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 information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

## Pidcoke

**The Big Feed**, May 10, 5:30 p.m., Pidcoke Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116. Annual fundraising event for community charitable giving. Brisket and fish with drinks and dessert included. Donation only.

## San Saba

**Pecan Capital Trade Days**, May 10, June 14; 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; County Courthouse square. For setup, details and more information, please contact Joan or Don VanGorp at (325) 372-1937.

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

### 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 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.



JACKE | ISTOCK.COM

## Need a New Appliance?

May is a great time to buy

**THIS YEAR, TEXAS' ANNUAL** Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday is May 24–26. During this three-day weekend, ending on Memorial Day, sales taxes are not charged on a variety of energy-efficient appliances and products. There is no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy items tax free.

### **These Energy Star-labeled items qualify for the sales tax exemption:**

Air conditioners (priced at \$6,000 or less)	Clothes washers
Refrigerators (priced at \$2,000 or less)	Dishwashers
Incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs	Dehumidifiers

### **These items do not qualify and are taxable even if they are Energy Star labeled:**

Attic fans	Freezers	Stoves
Beverage chillers	Heat pumps	Water heaters
Clothes dryers	Kegeators	Wine refrigerators

During the holiday you can buy qualifying Energy Star products in store, online or by phone, mail, custom order or any other means. The sale of the item must take place during the specific period. The purchase date is determined by when payment is actually completed (i.e., a credit card charge is processed).

Delivery, shipping and handling charges are taxable. Charges for installing free-standing items are considered part of the item's sales price. If the item you buy is not taxable, then these charges are not taxable. However, for items with a sales price cap, installation fees may be taxable if the total goes above the cap.

For more information, visit [comptroller.texas.gov](http://comptroller.texas.gov) or call 1-800-252-5555. ■



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Cinco de Mayo**  
Monday, May 5

**National Nurses Day**  
**Teacher Appreciation Day**  
Tuesday, May 6

**Mother's Day**  
Sunday, May 11

**Armed Forces Day**  
Saturday, May 17

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 26  
Hamilton County EC will be closed in observance of the holiday.

CRAIG DINGLE | ISTOCK.COM

# Thunderstorm Safety Tips From the American Red Cross

**THEY SAY APRIL SHOWERS** bring May flowers, but May in Texas often has its own share of showers, so it's a good idea to be prepared for thunderstorms. **Here are some safety tips from the American Red Cross.**

Listen to local news or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.

If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur, even if it's not raining. Lightning can strike well outside the area where rain is falling.

If you can hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck by lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

Avoid electrical equipment and corded phones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

Close outside doors securely and shutter windows. Keep away from them once closed.

Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.

If you're driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

If you're outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall and isolated trees, and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are not safe. ■



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## Tackle Outdoor Chores Safely

**TRIMMING TREES AND** tall bushes can take a deadly turn if electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood can transmit electricity to your body if you come into contact with a live wire.

Contact Hamilton County Electric Cooperative to determine how the tree can be safely trimmed.

**Here are more tips to help keep your lawn chores safe.**

- ▶ Before digging or landscaping, call 811 to check for underground utility lines. It's free—and the law.
- ▶ Never trim trees, cut the lawn or work in the garden during bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slips and falls. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- ▶ Electric tools and trimmers should be plugged into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters. Never use tools in the rain or when the ground is wet.
- ▶ Don't work alone, in case of an accident. Hire a professional if you doubt your ability to safely complete the job. ■



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