

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

Our Strength Comes From Working Together

COOPERATION. As an electric cooperative, it's right in our name, and for good reason: It's vital to our success.

We know there's power in numbers, and that's exactly why Cooperative Principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is so important. Co-ops serve their members best and strengthen the cooperative movement when we work together.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative does that in numerous ways.

At the most basic level, electric co-ops support one another in times of crisis. When a major storm hits a nearby co-op, we offer help to restore service as quickly as possible. And we know that if we ever need help, our neighbors will be there for us.

The electric co-ops in Texas combine forces through Texas Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association, proving that when small organizations use the power of aggregation, they grow in clout, efficiency and economy.

When we work together, good things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state Capitol when legislators make decisions about utilities. We also share safety and training resources and expertise through the association's Loss Control program.

We save money through our TEC membership on purchases of poles and equipment, and even the printing and production costs of this magazine, because of the economy of scale.

Nationally, we join forces with more than 900 electric cooperatives through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which not only has the ears of Washington, D.C., decision-makers but also helps represent cooperative interests before regulatory bodies.

Through NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, we get information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity and deliver superior service.

Your cooperative does whatever it takes to provide you with the very best service at the lowest price possible. And when we come together with other co-ops, our message is carried far and wide to the benefit of all members.

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

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

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

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



Check us out at TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton

Hamilton County EC 86th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 7

Circle T Arena

4007 Highway 36, Hamilton

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative invites members to attend the annual membership meeting October 7 at the Circle T Arena.

Dinner 5–6:15 p.m.: Circle T Arena's Crossfire Steakhouse and Cantina will cater a buffet-style meal featuring fried catfish and shrimp, grilled chicken, barbecue brisket and sausage, a selection of sides, and dessert. It's not necessary to register before dining.

Registration: A registration card was mailed to each member August 26 along with the ballot for the director elections. Be sure to bring your registration card with you to avoid waiting in line to obtain one. You will present the card to receive an attendance gift and to be entered for the prize drawings. Members must be present to win prizes.

Business Meeting: The meeting's official business will begin at 7 p.m. in the Circle T Arena. Attendees will hear information on the operation of the cooperative, results of the director elections and highlights of co-op accomplishments throughout the past year.

We hope you will come out and help us celebrate 86 years of providing electric service.

Tentative Agenda

- ▶ Call to order
- ▶ Invocation
- ▶ National anthem and Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of directors and guests
- President's opening remarks
- Order of business, including director election results
- Manager's comments and adjournment
- Drawing for prizes





POWER TIP

Regularly replace your air conditioning system's filter to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency.

CHRIS CZAR | ISTOCK.COM

Hamilton County EC Director Election October 7

TO MAINTAIN EQUITABLE geographical representation of all areas on the board of directors, Hamilton County Electric Cooperative's bylaws provide for seven districts from which directors are to be elected. The three-year terms of the directors representing districts 1 and 3 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.

The cooperative will elect directors by mail ballot only. One ballot was mailed to each membership in a separate mailing August 26. Any member may vote for one candidate in each district listed on the ballot. You do not have to live in one of the two districts with board terms expiring this year to cast your vote. Please include your name and address on the ballot return envelope so the co-op can use it to confirm voter membership. Voter membership must be confirmed for votes to be counted. Please do not enclose bill payment in the ballot envelope.

Votes will be counted Tuesday, October 7. Members must mail their ballots in time for them to arrive in the Hamilton County EC post office box by noon Tuesday, October 7.

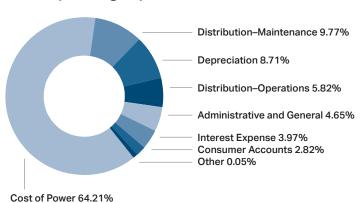
Results of the director election will be announced later that evening during the annual membership meeting and will be posted on Hamilton County EC's website, hamiltonelectric.coop, and its Facebook page and published in the December issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

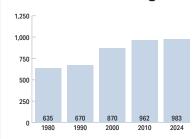
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31	2024		2023		
REVENUE					
Operating revenues	\$	33,033,803	\$	40,360,682	
Cost of power	(20,916,866)		(27,204,078)		
Gross margins	\$	12,116,937	\$	13,156,604	
EXPENSES					
Controllable Expenses					
Distribution—operations	\$	1,896,722	\$	1,556,191	
Distribution—maintenance		3,183,454		2,745,455	
Consumer accounts and sales		919,708		1,089,630	
Administrative and general		1,515,997		1,446,760	
Total controllable expenses	\$	7,515,881	\$	6,838,036	
Fixed and Other Expenses					
Depreciation	\$	2,837,494	\$	2,758,917	
Interest on long-term debt		1,291,823		1,356,530	
Other		14,998		11,718	
Total fixed and other expenses	\$	4,144,315	\$	4,127,165	
Operating Margins	\$	456,741	\$	2,191,403	
Nonoperating Margins					
Interest revenue	\$	174,075	\$	153,247	
Capital credits—power supplier		0		0	
Capital credits—other		379,627		803,106	
Other		54,160		411,148	
Total nonoperating margins	\$	607,862	\$	1,367,501	
Net Margins	\$	1,064,603	\$	3,558,904	

The above report was taken from an independent audit made as of December 31, 2024.

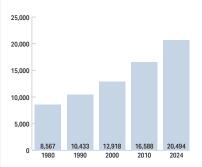
2024 Operating Expenses



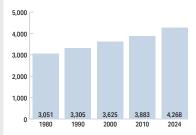
Average Monthly Kilowatt-Hour Usage



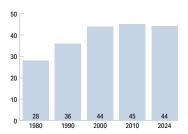
Meters Served



Miles of Line



Number of Employees



Balance Sheet

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31 2	2024	2023
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ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT				
Electric Plant in Service	\$	95,849,437	\$	92,666,529
Construction Work in Progress		644,235		1,404,602
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(26,682,230)	(24,917,383)
Utility Plant—Net	\$	69,811,442	\$ (69,153,748
Investments in Associated Organizations	\$	16,790,555	\$	16,533,368
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash—General	\$	1,981,113	\$	2,376,268
Temporary Cash Investments		0		0
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	1,981,113	\$	2,376,268
Accounts Receivable, Less Allowance				
for Doubtful Accounts (\$159,549 in				
2023 and \$144,966 in 2024)	\$	2,395,358	\$	2,742,380
Materials and Supplies		275,549		289,741
Power Cost Undercollected		0		1,936,387
Prepayments and Other		418,117		455,210
Total Current Assets	\$	3,089,024	\$	5,423,718
Deferred Charges	\$	74,829	\$	16,390
Total Assets	\$	91,746,963	\$9	93,503,492

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITIES			
Memberships	\$ 134,006	\$ 132,712	
Patronage Capital	46,760,009	49,318,295	
Other Equities	2,754,664	2,049,178	
Total Equities	\$ 49,648,679	\$51,500,185	
LONG-TERM DEBT			
FFB Mortgage Notes	\$ 29,711,745	\$30,814,427	
CFC Mortgage Notes	257,347	310,074	
CoBank Mortgage Notes	5,274,714	6,003,781	
Total Long-Term Debt	\$ 35,243,806	\$37,128,282	
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,882,100	\$ 1,859,400	
Accounts Payable—Purchased Power	1,296,729	1,303,278	
Other Accounts Payable	312,967	162,994	
Consumer Deposits	229,587	235,652	
Power Cost Overcollected	1,171,820	0	
Other Accrued Liabilities	1,093,861	1,029,348	
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 5,987,064	\$ 4,590,672	
Deferred Credits	\$ 867,414	\$ 284,353	
Total Liabilities	\$ 91,746,963	\$93,503,492	

The above report was taken from an independent audit made as of December 31, 2024.



It's a Good Time To Give Your AC a Checkup

MAINTAINING YOUR air conditioning equipment can prevent problems and unwanted costs. Keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a contractor do annual checkups.

A typical maintenance checkup should include the following.

Check thermostat settings to ensure the system keeps you comfortable when you're home and saves energy while you're away.

Tighten electrical connections and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation.

Lubricate all moving parts. Friction can consume extra electricity.

Check the condensate drain. A clogged drain can cause water damage in your house and affect indoor humidity levels.

Inspect controls of the system to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle to be sure the system starts, operates and shuts off properly.

Inspect and clean or change air filters regularly. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your equipment, leading to early failure.

Director Nominees

Ballots will be counted October 7

DISTRICT 1

The area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County served by the cooperative.



Jack Caldwell, District 1

Caldwell has served on the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative board since 2019, bringing a strong blend of leadership, experience and community commitment to the role. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, underscoring his dedication to effective and informed governance.

Caldwell is a third-generation rancher and co-owner of Caldwell 2J Ranch, a diversified operation encompassing cow-calf operations, backgrounding, feedlot management, custom farming and hunting.

His hands-on knowledge of rural life and agriculture adds valuable perspective to the cooperative's mission. Caldwell has been a proud member of HCEC for over two decades and lives 10 miles northwest of Evant. He is a graduate of Hamilton Independent School District and an Eagle Scout, reflecting his lifelong commitment to service and leadership.



Gene Flippen, District 1

Flippen resides 6 miles west of Evant and has been a member of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative for eight years.

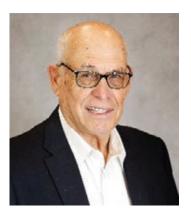
He is a graduate of Evant High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Tarleton State University. He retired in 2017 from Ally Bank, where he worked as a legal analyst, concluding a 40-year career.

Flippen is a mason affiliated with the Bee House Masonic Lodge and is a former member of the Ranger Junior College Lion's Club and the Tarleton Business Club.

Having returned to his hometown and settled on the family ranch, he considers it a blessing to reconnect with his roots and the community that shaped him. He is honored by the opportunity to continue serving that community through his nomination to the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Board.

DISTRICT 3

The area in Coryell County served by the cooperative.



Ervin Koerth, District 3

Koerth has been a director on the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative board since 2006. He lives in Gatesville and has been a member of HCEC for more than 50 years.

Koerth is a farmer and rancher who enjoys managing his cowcalf operation. He stays busy planting and harvesting oats and Sudan grass for livestock feed and maintaining his equipment, fences and buildings. He is also the caretaker and bookkeeper for Pilgrims Rest Cemetery, located south of Evant.

Koerth earned a Bachelor of Science in physics and math from Texas State University. He was previously self-employed performing commercial and residential concrete staining, which he continues part time. He was a skipper and owner of a commercial fishing business that operated in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of California, Oregon and Alaska. They fished for salmon, herring, sardines and squid. Koerth also taught high school math and physics at Gatesville Independent School District.



Randy Erwin, District 3

Erwin, a longtime resident of Gatesville, has been a member of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative for 35 years.

He graduated from Gatesville High School and spent 20 years working for the Texas Department of Transportation before retiring. Erwin has been a committed farmer for 40 years.

One of his favorite pastimes is dancing to country music with his wife, Lynn.

Prairie Experience Blends Tradition and Purpose in Goldthwaite

THE TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS and Native American Interpretive Center invites the public to Prairie Experience, the organization's annual fundraiser, held this year Saturday, October 4, at 5 p.m. at the Goldthwaite Pavilion.

Now in its 16th year, the beloved event blends heartfelt community connection with rich cultural celebration and Native American representation. Every ticket supports educational and conservation efforts in Central Texas. Attendees can expect an unforgettable evening that gives back as much as it inspires.

At the center of this year's event is Nan Blassingame, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma. Renowned for her captivating buckskin dance performances, Blassingame is not only a gifted dancer but also a Cedar Park-based fashion designer and cultural educator. With over two decades of experience, she is a vital force in preserving and promoting Native American heritage through design, performance and outreach. Her designs have also been featured at New York Fashion Week.

Guests will dine under the stars with a meal catered by Pecan House Grill, featuring a menu rooted in Native American culinary traditions. Whether choosing a savory meat dish or a flavorful vegetarian option, attendees can expect a thoughtful homage to the region's original foodways.

The evening also includes silent and live auctions, each packed with handselected treasures and one-of-a-kind experiences, including artisan-crafted goods and weekend getaways. The auctions directly support the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center.

Founded in 2004, the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center's mission is to preserve the prehistoric lifeways and environmental heritage of the region. Through hands-on exhibits, native gardens and educational programming, the garden teaches visitors of all ages how the land sustained ancient cultures—and how we can steward it today.

This year's goal is to raise \$100,000 to fund operational needs and educational programs serving both children and adults throughout the year. "Each dollar raised helps us continue the work of blending science, culture and nature in ways that transform how people see their world," said Courtenay Smith, executive director.

Tickets for Prairie Experience 2025 are available through September 12. Reservations can be made online or by calling the Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center at (325) 451-1075, Tuesday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, visit legacyplaza.org.

Walk the gardens, stay for the dinner and Native American representation, and leave knowing you helped keep the story alive. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Scammers may pose as electric cooperatives. If you receive an email that appears to be from your co-op but you're unsure, delete it and call us.

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Community Calendar

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

Comanche

Comanche Market, first Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., 1300 E. Central Ave. Handcrafted, home-grown, unique and boutique items can be found.

Quanah Parker Day, September 13, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. The event recognizes Quanah Parker as a leader of the Comanche Nation and includes displays of Native American artifacts and information about the Comanche Native Americans. For more information, call (325) 356-5115, email comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com, visit their Facebook page or visit their website, comanchecountytxmuseum.com.

Comanche County Pow Wow,

September 27–28, Comanche City Park, 1200 Comanche Trails. Don't miss the twoday celebration, featuring over 30 food vendors and more than 100 craft vendors, a barbecue cook-off, petting zoo, live music and more!

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

Copperas Cove

Military Affairs Dinner, September 18, 6–9 p.m., Copperas Cove Civic Center, 1206 W. Avenue B. Hosted by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce, this special evening is dedicated to honoring the brave men and women of Fort Hood. This annual event brings together chamber members, community leaders and local businesses to show our deep appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our military personnel.

Fall-O-Ween Festival, October 25, Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. For more information, contact awilson@ copperascovetx.gov.

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

Evant

Summer Music Series, September 20, 6–8 p.m., Evant City Square, 115 E. Brooks Drive.

Farm & Market Day, October 18, 9 a.m.– 2 p.m., Evant City Square, 115 E. Brooks Drive.

For more information about Evant events, visit evanttxcoc.org, or email evantchamberinfo@gmail.com

Gatesville

Market Days; September 13, October 11; 9 a.m.–1 p.m., the Cotton Belt Depot parking lot; 2307 S. State Highway 36.

Roy West and the Christian Country
Music Ministry, September 13, 5:30–
8:30 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301
Veterans Memorial Loop. Righteous Roots
proudly presents a family-friendly evening
of pure country-western swing that will
have everyone smiling. Get your tickets at
righteousroots.ticketbud.com.

Country Music Hall of Fame Show; September 19, October 17; 7 p.m.; Gatesville City Auditorium; 110 N. Eighth St. Free concerts on the third Friday of every month. The Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame is dedicated to promoting country music and local artists.

Cruzin Cruzers Car Show, September 20, Coryell County Courthouse Square. Packed with over 200 of the coolest rides around, don't miss the 39th annual car show!

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 Maria Donahoo. 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 maria.donahoo@hamiltonelectric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

Summer Sounds, September 27, 7–9 p.m., Faunt Le Roy Park, 609 S. Seventh St. Free family-friendly concert series for the community.

Pickleball Tournament, October 4, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Annual Boozaar, October 25, Coryell County Courthouse Square. More details to come.

For information about Gatesville Civic Center events, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or msmart@gatesvilletx.com.

For information about Gatesville events, call (254) 865-2617, visit gatesvillechamber.com or email gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Goldthwaite

Goldthwaite Market Day, September 6, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., on the square and U.S. Highway 183. Vendors will sell crafts, clothing, collectibles, candles, baked and canned goods, and more! For more information, contact Jody Previti at (325) 998-8610 or millscountyartisanguild@centex.net.

Observe the Moon, September 6, 7–8 p.m., 1219 Fisher St. Free event. Join Walt Kovar and Keith Shank for a fun evening of moon watching and stargazing.

Prairie Experience, October 4, 5 p.m.,
Goldthwaite Pavillion, 1219 Fisher St.
The Texas Botanical Gardens and Native
American Interpretive Center proudly
invites you to their signature annual
fundraiser returning to the Pavillion. Now in
its 16th year, this beloved event blends
heartfelt community connection with rich
cultural celebration and Native American
representation. To get tickets, call the
Texas Botanical Gardens and Native
American Interpretive Center at (325) 4511075, Tuesday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

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

Goldthwaite Theater, 1206 Fisher St. For information on upcoming events, call (325) 451-1811 or visit goldthwaitetheatre.org.

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

Hamilton

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



Main Street Market on the Square;

September 13, October 11; 9 a.m.–noon. Vendor spots (homemade and handmade items) are free and are on a first-come, first-served basis. For vendor applications, contact Hamilton Main Street at (254) 784-5610 or mainstreet@hamiltontx.com.

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

Lampasas

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

Second Saturday Sale—Flea Market Style; September 13, October 11; 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Storage Near Me Texas; 1010 E. Fourth St.

Classic at the Classic Car Show,

September 13, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Storm's Drive-In Lampasas, 201 N. Key Ave. Registration is free and on-site the morning of the show.

Western Night of Western Street Dance,

September 20, doors open at 5:30 p.m., 303 S. Western Ave. Featuring the Jason Roberts Band. General admission is \$25. Lawn chairs are welcome. Tickets can be purchased at the museum, My Girls and

eventbrite.com. Cash only at the gate. For more information, call (512) 556-2224 or email lampasasmuseum@gmail.com.

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

Lometa

Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W FM 580.

September 6, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., 15th Anniversary Celebration featuring Keelan Donovan and Buffaloe and the Herd.

September 13, 1–5 p.m., music by Luke Bellet.

September 20, 2–5 p.m., music by Brooks Forsythe.

October 4, noon–4 p.m., music by Keelan Donovan.

October 11, 2–5 p.m., music by Acquired Taste.

October 18, 1-5 p.m., music by Nate Harris.

For more information about Fiesta Winery events at Bend, call (325) 628-3433, email info@fiestawinery.com, or visit fiestawinery.com.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; September 13, October 4; 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. 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.

Junk-in-Your-Trunk and Farmers Market;

September 13, October 4; 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Pearl Cottage Bookstore and Resale Shop and Community Center parking lot. 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.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days; September 13, October 11; 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.

San Saba County Fall Festival, October 25, noon–4 p.m., Risien Park, U.S. Highway 190. Games, food, music, vendors, costume contest, bouncy houses and much more.

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