



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

Honoring Those Who Served

THIS MEMORIAL DAY, as we gather with family and friends, let's remember that true appreciation for our veterans extends far beyond a single holiday. At Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, we believe that honoring those who served—especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice—requires action, not just reflection.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and at Hamilton EC, we care about veterans and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families. We're grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we're proud to serve the vets and their families in our community with safe and reliable electricity.

We're not alone in our efforts to honor and serve vets. Hamilton County EC is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. Across the nationwide network of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13.5% of U.S. consumers, programs promote and support veteran hiring practices.



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The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Electric cooperatives across the country work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but we also recognize several other military anniversaries and events this month, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day.

Hamilton County EC is proud to be part of the electric cooperative community that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month but every month. ■

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

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

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



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Practical Pointers for Electrical Safety Month

MAY IS NATIONAL Electrical Safety Month, and Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is raising awareness about home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

Our modern lives depend on electricity, and if you don't properly maintain your gadgets and devices, they can turn into hazards. The good news is that staying safe doesn't have to be difficult or expensive.

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system. If you notice flickering or dimming lights, it may indicate your home's wiring is inadequate for your needs. Have it checked by a licensed electrician.

Hamilton EC offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family and your home.

Make sure TVs, game systems and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.

Use extension cords as temporary solutions only, and don't run extension cords in high-traffic areas or under carpets.

Use a surge protector to help protect your computer, TVs and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.

Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets for your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a licensed electrician.

Keep liquids away from electrical items such as TVs and computers.

Make sure the light bulb wattage is right for the fixture. Light bulbs with wattages that are too high can overheat and cause a fire. Swap out incandescent bulbs with LEDs to prevent this and save energy.

Create a guide for your breaker box so that you know which breaker to turn off when needed.

Recurring tripped circuit breakers or multiple blown fuses can signify a serious and dangerous electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician immediately. ■

Puff Oven Pancake

- 4 eggs**
- 1 cup milk**
- 1 cup flour**
- 2 teaspoons sugar**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter**
- Fresh fruit or berries**
- Powdered sugar**

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, briefly beat eggs. Whisk in milk, flour, sugar and salt until fairly smooth (do not overmix). Cover batter and let stand 30 minutes.
3. Place butter in a 12-inch cast-iron skillet, or similarly sized baking dish, and heat in oven until melted. Swirl skillet to coat the bottom and sides with melted butter.
4. Pour batter into skillet and bake 15–20 minutes or until it rises very high and is billowy on the edges and golden brown.
5. Remove from heat and let cool 5 minutes. Place fruit in the center crevice of pancake and dust with powdered sugar.

SERVES 4–6

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

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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 6.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee will be appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting May 28. The nominating committee will meet at 10 a.m. June 29 at the cooperative's main office at 112 E. Gentry St. in Hamilton to make nominations for directors to serve in districts 4, 6 and 7. Terms of the incumbents in those districts expire this year.

District 4 is the area east of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County served by the cooperative.

District 6 is the area south of U.S. Highway 84 in Mills County and west to the cooperative boundary line.

District 7 is area north of U.S. Highway 84 bounded on the east by Hamilton County line and on the west by the cooperative boundary line.

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 25 and should be returned to the co-op no later than 1 p.m. October 6, 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 6.

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. If only one Candidate is nominated in a district, then the Director Candidate may be elected by acclamation of the Members without the need for mailing or circulating mail-in-ballots.

(b) Nomination by Petition. Any seventy-five (75) 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, unless otherwise provided herein. 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. If only one Candidate is nominated in a District or where an incumbent Director runs unopposed, then the Director Candidate may be elected by acclamation of the Members present at the meeting of the Members without the need for mailing or circulating mail-in ballots. 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 March. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Mother's Day Lunch, May 10, 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.

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

Copperas Cove

Jackrabbit Run 5K & 10K, May 9, 7–11 a.m., 1878 Post Office Road. Join us at the Ogletree Gap Preserve.

Rabbit Fest, May 14–17, 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 enter-

tainment, food vendors, arts and crafts, and a lively parade Saturday morning.

For more information on Copperas Cove events, visit copperascove.com or email chamber@copperascove.com.

Gatesville

Market Days; May 9, June 13; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; Cotton Belt Depot parking lot. Featuring local vendors, handmade goods, unique finds, food and community fun.

Country Music Hall of Fame Show; May 15, June 19; 7 p.m.; Gatesville City Auditorium; 110 N. Eighth St. Featuring 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.

Texas Sheep Field Day and Private Treaty Sale, May 1–2, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Coryell County Artifact Show, May 16, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Fire Ant Tour, June 13, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Texas Indian Heritage Association Summer Powwow, June 26–27, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

For more information on the civic center events, contact manager Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or by email at msmart@gatesvilletx.com.

Shivaree, June 5–6, Courthouse Square. Different events throughout the two-day event with live music from Clayton Landua and headliner Josh Abbott Band.

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

Goldthwaite

Busy Lil' Bees Summer Learning Program; May 1, 8, 15 and 22; 10–11:30 a.m.; Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, 1219 Fisher St. For ages 6 and under.

Growing Roots Summer Kids' Camp/Roots of a Nation: From Ancient Earth to Endless Sky, May 27–30, 9 a.m.–noon, Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, 1219 Fisher St. Celebrating America's 250th birthday in collaboration with the Jennie Trent Dew Library and Mills County Historical Museum. For grades 1–6.

Preserving the Painted Past—Rock Art and Archaeology in the Lower Pecos, June 13, 10–11 a.m., Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, 1219 Fisher St. Talk by David Keim, preservation archaeologist at the Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center.

Kendra Gives Back, June 26, 5–7 p.m., Kendra Scott Flagship, 1701 S. Congress Ave., Austin. Call (325) 451-1075 or visit legacyplaza.org for more information.

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.



Texas Steak Cook-Off
May 15–16
HICO

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Hamilton

Main Street Market on the Square, second Saturday of the month, April–December, downtown Hamilton square. Browse handmade and homemade goods, visit local shops, and enjoy a relaxed morning on the square. Vendor spots are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For vendor applications, contact Hamilton Main Street at (254) 386-8116 or mainstreet@hamiltontx.com.

90 Proof Country, June 19, 8–11 p.m., Circle T Arena, 4007 W. State Highway 36. A tribute to '90s with 90 Proof Country Band. Tickets available now. Catch rodeos, roping, concerts and more at Circle T Arena. For the latest event schedule, visit circletarena.net/events or call (254) 386-3559.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit allthingshamilton.org or follow *All Things Hamilton* on Facebook. Contact Hamilton Historic Main Street at (254) 386-8116 or mainstreet@hamiltontx.com. Visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com or contact hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com or (254) 386-3216.

Hico

Texas Steak Cook-Off, May 15–16, downtown. Hico's Original Texas Steak Cook-Off is a one-of-a-kind food, wine, music and cook-off event with delicious appetizers, a rib-eye steak dinner with all the fixin's, wine tasting, live music and shopping from local vendors.

Pageant Bingo Night, June 12. The event benefits the Hico Scholarship Pageant. More details to come.

For more information about Hico events, contact the Hico Chamber of Commerce at (254) 434-1249 or visit hicotxchamber.org or facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., downtown courthouse square parking lot.

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

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

Lometa

Live Music, Saturdays, 1–4 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.

Yoga & Mimosas; May 9, June 13; 10–11 a.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.

Release Party and Vendor Market, June 6, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.

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

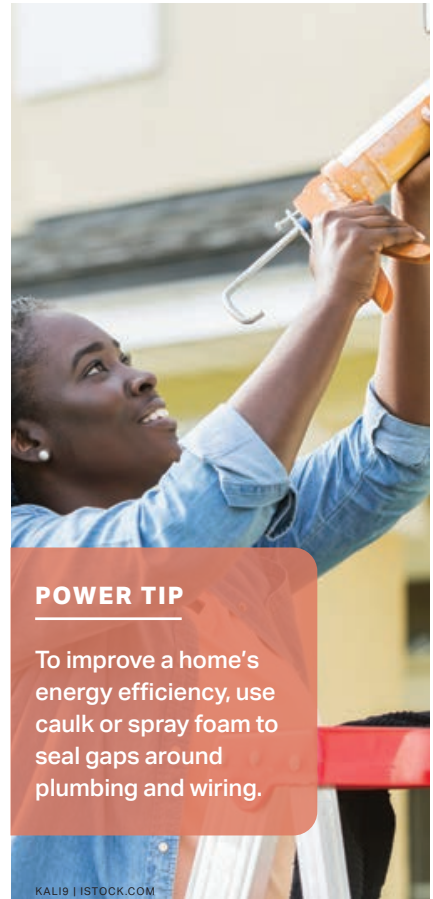
Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass Jam; May 2, June 6; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Jam rooms open at 10 a.m., kitchen at 11 a.m. and stage show at 1 p.m. Free admission for musicians and spectators; all levels of musicians welcome to come and jam. If you would like to book your band for the stage, call or text Jeffrey King at (832) 514-1909. Serving great home cooking and homemade desserts. We now accept credit cards or cash payments. Proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. There are 32 RV spaces available; for rental, contact Connie Long at (254) 223-0621. Follow Pearl Bluegrass Jam on Facebook for more information on the monthly schedule.

Junk-in-Your-Trunk and Farmers Market, Pearl Book Cottage, May 2, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Pearl Book 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.

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.



POWER TIP

To improve a home's energy efficiency, use caulk or spray foam to seal gaps around plumbing and wiring.

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DID YOU KNOW?

On May 11, 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created to bring electricity to rural America.

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