



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

Natural Gas Keeping Power Prices High

WE ALL KNOW HOW IT GOES in Texas: When the summer temperatures start to soar, the power bill often follows. Running the air conditioner comes with a price, and we can only do our best to soften the blow—keeping the front door closed, fans on and the stove off.

But this year, forces beyond any of us are poised to make summer electric bills even worse.

You may have already noticed that the price you pay for power has gone up. Hamilton County Electric Cooperative didn't raise our rates, but the runaway cost of natural gas is having a nasty effect on electric bills across Texas. The cost your co-op pays for wholesale power has been much higher this year, and there's no relief on the horizon.

Since the winter storm in February 2021 that impacted most of our state's grid, prices for natural gas—which fuels about half of Texas' power generation—have risen sharply. Natural gas cost an average of \$1.91 per million Btu in February 2020 but \$4.69 in February of this year—nearly 2.5 times higher. The Energy Information Administration expects those prices to stay north of \$3.50 through 2023.

That means most electric generation and transmission providers are paying far more to generate power—costs that get passed along to Hamilton County EC and that we unfortunately must pass along to our members. We do that through the power cost recovery factor that's built into your bill.

Don't get me wrong: We're not happy about this either. Some distribution co-ops are paying as much as 90% more for wholesale power, a frustrating reality that co-ops unfortunately have no control over. All of your cooperative's directors and most of its employees, like me, are members of the co-op. Our power bills are impacted by this, too.

As a nonprofit electric cooperative, none of this extra money goes to the co-op; it passes right through to our power provider. The power cost recovery factor on your bill simply ensures that we can continue to pay our bills and provide power to homes and businesses.

We know times are hard right now, and this is the last thing you want to hear as the summer months start to heat up. Everything costs more these days.

But the old math still applies: Less power still costs less. With increased vigilance this summer, you can stay ahead of these increased costs.

For more help with conservation tools and tips, visit texascooppower.com/energy. Every kilowatt saved helps—now more than ever.

By working together as friends, neighbors and colleagues, we've made it through some challenging times over the past couple of years. We'll get through this, too. ■

What is the power cost recovery factor (PCRf) charge on my electric bill?

Hamilton County EC's Power Provider

Our power provider buys the fuel to generate the power you use.

Hamilton County EC

The cost of the fuel passes through to member-customers with no markup or profit.

Your Electric Bill

The PCRf charge on your bill reflects the fluctuating cost of fuel used to produce the power you use.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, August 5
Hamilton High School
611 S. College St., Hamilton

- ▶ **5–6:15 p.m.** Fish and barbecue dinner catered by J&M's Hill Country BBQ at Hamilton ISD's junior high cafeteria and high school commons area.
- ▶ **7 p.m.** Business meeting in the Chandler Craig Auditorium.
- ▶ There will be entertainment and prize drawings after the business meeting.

Come out to help us celebrate 83 years of service. We look forward to seeing you there! Look for additional meeting details in the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

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

For information and to report outages, please call us.

Outage Hotline Numbers

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 12,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at 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

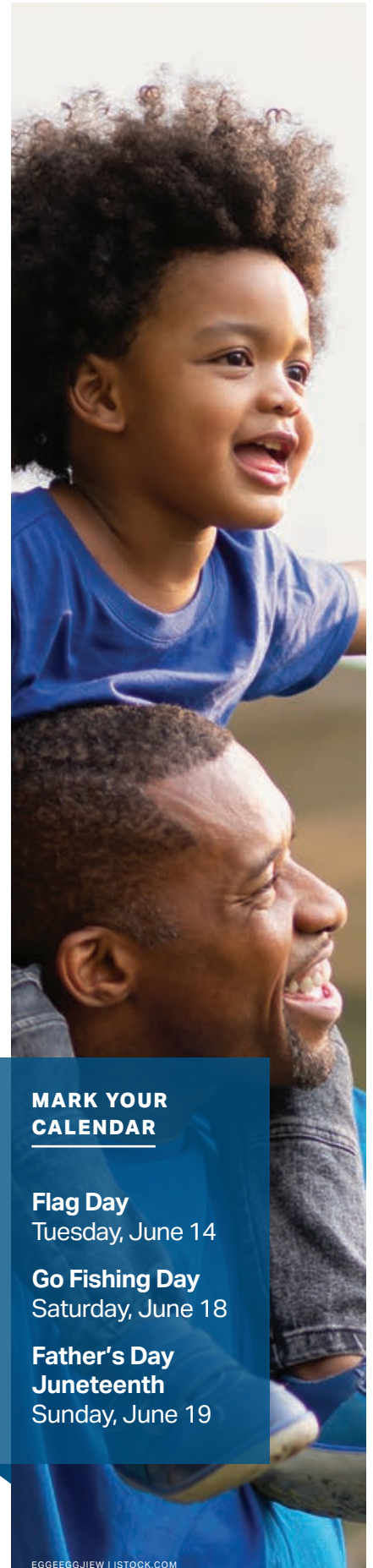
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Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Flag Day
Tuesday, June 14

Go Fishing Day
Saturday, June 18

**Father's Day
Juneteenth**
Sunday, June 19

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Summertime Saving Strategies

ANOTHER LONG, HOT Texas summer is on its way. Here are several ways to use energy more efficiently and save money on electricity during the months ahead.

Change your air conditioning system's filter every three months during cooling season—or more if your neighborhood is especially dusty. Dirty filters stop air from flowing through, which causes your AC to work harder—and use more energy—as it keeps your home cool.

If you have a programmable thermostat, have it run the AC only during part of the day. There's no need to keep your house comfortable if nobody's in it. Running the AC at night could be less expensive than cranking it up during the day, when it's hot and demand for electricity is at its peak.

Use ceiling fans. If you don't have any, consider it a good investment. Install them in bedrooms, the kitchen and the living room. Fans move the air around, cooling people nearby. They might allow you to nudge the AC a degree or two higher.

Close the drapes. A sunny day might be pretty to look at through a window, but hot rays can heat the air in your home and force the AC to work overtime. Keep curtains and blinds closed on bright, hot days—especially on south- and west-facing windows.

If you have a pool, wait until after dark to run your pool pump. Operating it during off-peak hours when fewer people are using a lot of appliances at once can save money on your energy bill.

Switch your central air conditioning system's fan to "auto." The "on" setting forces it to run constantly—even when your house is already cool. ■

Don't Fuel the Fire

Wildfires start unexpectedly and can move quickly and unpredictably, destroying everything in their path.

If fire is reported nearby:

Place vital records and small items of value in your car and park it facing the direction of escape. Heed evacuation orders.

Clear a firebreak around buildings.

Shut gas off at the meter and turn off propane tanks.

Leave the electricity on, especially if it powers a well.

Turn on sprinklers. Wet down the house and shrubs close to structures.

Prevention:

Mow grass short. Rake leaves. Clear away debris.

Keep hay bales and firewood away from structures and electric lines.

Make a family evacuation plan. Have an inventory of home valuables in fireproof box.

Hamilton County EC encourages you to always practice safety.



Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently

FOR MOST Hamilton County Electric Cooperative members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable. Hamilton County EC is ready to restore power as safely and efficiently as possible.

When it's safe, our crews start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After that, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers. Finally, individual service lines that run between transformers and homes are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Hamilton County EC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary. ■



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Community Calendar

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

Comanche

Comanche Market, June 4, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., courthouse, 101 W. Central Ave.

Jams in June; June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 6 p.m.; courthouse; 101 W. Central Ave. Bring a lawn chair to hear acoustic tunes from local musicians. Featuring food trucks and extended hours at downtown merchants.

Calves, Cans & Corrientes; June 11, all day; Comanche County Roping Arena; 9101 Highway 377. First-place winners will get a custom Molly's silver belt buckle.

Comanche Open Rodeo, June 17–18, 7:30 p.m., Comanche County Roping Arena rodeo grounds, 9101 Highway 377. Free.

Rodeo Parade, June 18, 5 p.m., courthouse, 101 W. Central Ave.

Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, June 19, Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Admission by donation only. For more information, call (325) 356-5115.

Red Dirt Dinner & Dancing, June 25, 6 p.m., Comanche County Roping Arena, 9101 Highway 377. Featuring food trucks and Texas country music.

Scavenger Hunt at the Museum, July 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. For information, call (325) 356-5115.

Salt, Lime & a Good Time; July 23; noon–4 p.m.; courthouse square. Celebrating National Tequila Day! There will be tequila cocktail, mocktail and salsa-/dip-making contests. The tortilla chips will be supplied by Comanche's Five Star Dairy Queen. Wristbands will be available for \$10 to sample the contest concoctions. Entry forms are available at the Comanche Chamber of Commerce and on the chamber's website, comanchechamber.org. To enter one or more of the event's contests, email your completed form to comancheevents@gmail.com or drop it off at the chamber of commerce at 304 S. Austin St.

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

Copperas Cove

Farmers Market; each Thursday, May–October; 4–7 p.m. The market features locally grown, handmade and handcrafted items.

Food Truck Festival, June 12, 5–10 p.m., Civic Center, 1206 W. Avenue B. The event will include food trucks, beer and wine tents, live music, games, and bounce houses.

Summer Run to Fun 5K Run/Walk, June 18, 8 a.m., city park, 1206 W. Avenue B.

For information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Evant

Market Day, June 18. Free to vendors.

For information about Evant events, contact P-Cay Burkhalter at (254) 791-5441 or pcay@buenavistawildlifesafari.com.

Gatesville

Chamber Market Days; June 11, July 9; 8 a.m.–1 p.m.; Cotton Belt Depot; 2307 S. Highway 36. Browse vendors offerings including fresh fruits and vegetables, metal decor, honey, salsa, jellies, baked goods, plants, homemade crafts, and furniture.



Food Truck Festival
June 12
COPPERAS COVE

Shivaree, June 4–5, around the courthouse square, down Seventh Street to Faunt LeRoy Park and Raby Park. The event will feature live music, market and food vendors, and family-friendly activities. For more information, visit gatesvilleshivaree.com.

Gatesville Riding Club Annual Rodeo, July 28–30, 7:30 p.m., Gatesville Riding Club, Veterans Memorial Drive. For more information, visit gatesvilleringingclub.com.

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617, visit gatesvilletx.info or download the Explore Gatesville app.

Goldthwaite

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 circuitarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

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

Hico

Bingo Night, June 17, 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Hico Scholarship Pageant.

Miss Hico Scholarship Pageant, July 12, 6 p.m., Hico City Park.

Old Settlers Reunion, July 14–16, Hico City Park.

For information about Hico events, visit hicochamber.com or [facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce](https://www.facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce), call (254) 434-1249, or email chamberhico@gmail.com or bluestarhico@gmail.com.

Kempner

Kempner Fest, June 25, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park, 12641 U.S. Highway 190. The Battle of the Badges will begin at 10:30 a.m., featuring a friendly competition between Kempner Volunteer Fire Department, local law enforcement and Acadian EMS to help raise money for National Night Out. The festival will include bands, a cornhole tournament, silent auction, vendors, food trucks, car show, snow cones, bounce house and an obstacle course.

For information about Kempner events, call Kempner City Hall at (512) 932-2180.

Lampasas

Lampasas Trade Days; June 4–5, July 2–3; 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 decor, plants, tools, and food concessions. For more information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Spring Ho Festival, July 4–10. Featuring live music, shops by the creek, entertainment for kids and families, a fireworks show, and parades. For information, visit springho.com.

Toughest 10K in Texas, 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run, July 9, 7 a.m., Hancock Golf Course Pavilion.

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

Lometa

Atlas Ride 4000, June 4, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Stoneledge Winery and Vineyard, 518 CR 1403. A fundraiser by University of Texas students for cancer research. For more information, visit texas4000.org/atlas-ride or email info@texas4000.org.

For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; June 4, July 2; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Jams and stage shows throughout the day. Acoustic bands (no electric instruments) and musicians are invited. No fee to play onstage or watch the stage shows. For information on how to sign up for the stage show, contact Ronald Medart at (254) 865-6013. Kitchen open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. RV parking with full hook-ups available on a first-come, first-park basis; 30 amps are \$20 and 50 amps are \$25.

Pearl Book Cottage; June 4, July 2; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For more information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864.

San Saba

Kids Nature Kamp, June 1–3. Environmental camp for students entering third through fifth grades in fall 2022.

Cow Camp Cookoff, June 10–11, Risien Park, Highway 190 E. Sanctioned by the Lone Star Society.

We the People Extravaganza, July 2, Mill Pond Park, 110 Thomas Stewart Drive.

Stan Weiks 5K Run & Walk Cancer Stomp, July 2, 7 a.m., downtown.

Parade, July 2, 10:30 a.m.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber at (325) 372-5141, or visit sansabatexas.com/calendar or sansabachamber.org.

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; write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lighting makes up 15% of an average home's electricity use. You can save up to \$225 in energy costs per year by switching to LEDs.

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