

Why We Encourage You To Conserve Energy



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

YOU MAY WONDER WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE ELECTRICITY efficiently. After all, we're in the business of selling kilowatt-hours—so why would we want our customers to use less electricity?

Unlike other utilities, your cooperative isn't in business to make a profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. Each co-op is collectively owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's common sense. Although fossil fuels are still relatively abundant, they are finite. Depleting these natural resources too quickly contributes to environmental degradation and means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy also saves money in two ways: Using less electricity decreases your electric bill, and when many consumers lower their usage, it saves your cooperative money as well.

That's because electric co-ops must keep enough power on hand to supply all members' highest usage. So if electricity can be conserved, less overall power is needed, new power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they would otherwise and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed.

As our electric system continues to grow, we must maintain an adequate supply of

power. Your conservation efforts, combined with the efforts of fellow members, can ensure the cooperative's stability and continued growth.

Here at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, we seek to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and by setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability or service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity and using it efficiently, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on Hamilton County EC to continue looking out for you.

Meter Tampering Can Kill

TAMPERING WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail and definitely slapped with fines of about triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion and even electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who reads or maintains it.

Plus, you're driving up electric costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force stores to inflate the price of their products to cover losses from theft.

The cooperative does not have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the authorities. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

If you're aware of a meter on our lines that you suspect has been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life.



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Prepare Now for Texas Twisters

TEXAS CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG THE FIVE STATES THAT SEE THE MOST TORNADOES annually. Our state experiences an average of 132 twisters each year, although that total can vary considerably, and certain areas are struck more often than others.

In 1967, 232 twisters—the record for a single year—touched down in the state. The second-highest annual incidence occurred in 1995, when 223 barreled through.

Spring is the most likely season for twisters to occur, but they can happen year-round. That's why it's wise to never underestimate their danger.

Practice and Prepare

- ▶ Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio and safety supplies in your shelter.

Know the Signs

- ▶ Look for swirling clouds. Watch for quick wind shifts or stark calm after heavy rain. Listen for a loud roar or rumble that doesn't fade.
- ▶ A tornado watch means a tornado is possible. A tornado warning means a tornado has been identified by weather radar. Go to your safe place immediately.

Seek Shelter

- ▶ Go to a small interior room, under stairs on the lowest floor of the house or to your basement. Avoid windows and, for added protection, get under something sturdy, such as a heavy table. Cover your body with a sleeping bag, mattress or blanket.
- ▶ If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a substantial building.
- ▶ If you are outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head. Stay away from bridges and overpasses.

After the Storm

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity.
- ▶ Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.
- ▶ Let your friends and family know you are safe so they don't endanger themselves looking for you.

Hamilton County EC Scholarship Program

WILL YOUR 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE need money for college? Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association will be awarding scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each for the 2020-2021 school year (\$500 per fall and spring semester).

To be eligible, recipients must:

- ▶ Be a senior attending a high school within the HCEC service area and graduating in May 2020.
- ▶ Be a dependent of an active HCEC member.
- ▶ Reside full time in the home of a parent or guardian who is a full-time resident in HCEC's service area.
- ▶ Have applied for admission as a full-time student to a technical school, college or university.
- ▶ Use the scholarship awarded within one year of issuance.

Applications are now available and will be accepted until **March 31**. Scholarship winners will be chosen by a committee independent of Hamilton County EC. For more information and an application, contact Keela Payne by phone at **(254) 386-9428** or by email at keela.payne@hamiltonelectric.coop.



**HAMILTON COUNTY
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**
"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"



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School Creek Baptist Church Celebrates 140 Years of



ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY YEARS AGO, A CIRCUIT-RIDING preacher and missionary named L.R. Millican helped to organize a church in a small schoolhouse on School Creek, about a mile from where FM 2527 crosses the creek. Millican served as the first preacher for the church, which likely held its first service November 2, 1879, according to the church’s certificate of organization, which says members met on “the first Lord’s Day.”

Families up and down the Lampasas River and Lucy and School creeks took part in the church’s founding.

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, the congregation celebrated its 140th anniversary.

In the beginning, the church most likely had monthly meetings, and Millican served as pastor until 1882. Later, Millican founded many churches in West Texas, and a camp meeting he helped organize, the Paisano Baptist Encampment near Alpine, still operates to this day.

One of the happiest days in the church’s history was November 17, 1900, when the congregation voted to build its first church building. Andrew N. Smith, J. Oscar Mace and J. Jim Standard were named to a committee to collect money to pay for labor and supplies, and W.H. Wren and Solan Mace were appointed to collect donations from nonmembers who were interested in having a place to worship in their community.

The members busily worked to carry out the plans for the church. The men selected lumber and other building supplies, while the women selected wallpaper, lamps and furniture. On April 27, 1901, the committee proudly reported all bills paid: \$503.80 for lumber, \$217 for carpenter work, \$147.60 for paper and paint, \$2.50 for window shades, \$3 for lime, \$13 for surveying the land donated by the Smith family, \$28.50 for a pulpit and hardware, \$1.50 for a chair, \$2 for a table and \$31.15 for carpet. The committee had raised \$944.39, and the total construction costs for building the church were \$940.79.

Additional structures were built through the years. An open-air tabernacle was built in 1919–1920. The brush arbor served as a place for revival meetings in the summer, with some families camping for a week at a time. Baptisms took place in the Lampasas River. The tabernacle was converted into an educational building in 1956. In 1941, an additional 1.68 acres of land were donated by Gilbert Smith. Additional Sunday school rooms were built on the north and south sides of the church, and the interior was refinished around 1944. The parsonage was built in 1947. Today, the church property consists of the original church, the parsonage and the sanctuary/ fellowship hall that was constructed in 2004. The enclosed tabernacle is now used as a prayer room and to house church offices.

The land for the church was donated by an early German immigrant to Texas, Philip Smith. The Smith family played an important part in the history of Texas. Philip Smith’s father, Jacob Smith, left Darmstadt, Germany, and sailed to New York City, where he heard of inducements offered to those who went to Texas to settle. A colony was formed in New York and arrived at Matagorda in December 1833. There the family acquired land and set up a cattle ranch.

In 1836, Texas was struggling to gain its independence from Mexico. Philip Smith was then 14 years old. Being too young to go to battle, he and an elderly man were detailed by Sam Houston to drive oxen wagons with women and children out of Santa Anna’s line of march in what became known as the Run-away Scrape. The pair carried the women and children to safety in Galveston.

After the Texas Revolution, Philip Smith drove a stagecoach from Matagorda to Galveston, delivering mail. On one of these trips, in a small town near the Gulf of Mexico then called Velasco, he met Caroline Russell, whom he eventually married. The couple, similar to many families of that period, had seven children.



Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

420 N. Rice St. • P.O. Box 753
Hamilton, TX 76531

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Steve Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sam Campbell, President, District 6
- Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5
- Bob Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer, District 2
- Henry Langford, District 1
- Melvin Eilers, Jr., District 7
- Ervin Koerth, District 3
- Jack Caldwell, District 1

Contact Us

*For general information
or to report an outage*

CALL US

(254) 386-3123 local or
1-800-595-3401 toll-free

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Hamilton County EC Office

420 N. Rice St., Hamilton

Brown & Wesson Insurance

915 Third St., Goldthwaite

Fort Gates Water Corporation

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

Online

hamiltonelectric.coop

Telephone

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

Bill payments can be set up to be bank drafted or charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Bringing Families Together

The Smith family lived through a destructive hurricane and tidal wave in the fall of 1854 and decided to move inland, where the family had heard there was newly surveyed land with a good climate and valleys that had rich soil. They arranged to purchase about five sections of land along the west side of the Lampasas River. The family loaded into wagons pulled by mules. The cattle and horses were herded by the men and Mexican herders.

After four months of travel and delays in which they struggled to keep the family, cattle and horses together, the Smiths finally arrived near the Lampasas River on September 1, 1855. The area was sparsely populated by Native Americans.

Philip and Caroline Smith were members of the group who organized School Creek Baptist Church in 1879. The Smith family donated 2.8 acres of land, which is where School Creek Baptist Church stands today.

The church has supported mission work throughout its history. One of its first missionary efforts was to organize a Sunday school on Lucy Creek, which later became Lucy Creek Baptist Church. At present, School Creek Baptist Church supports missionaries in Mexico and Austria.

In the church's early years, the following members passed examinations on the presented articles of faith: Philip Smith, John W. Moore, Solan Mace, W.M. Wren, J.J. Scott, Mrs. C.L. Smith, Mrs. S.F. Moore, Mrs. D. Mace, Mrs. S.E. Wren, and sisters Harriet Holly, Rebecca Wilson, Sallie Mitchell, F. Scott, Wilson H. Hurst and Sally Hawkins.

The church has also served as a starting place for young preachers and has licensed and ordained several members as ministers. Those ordained were A.N.

Smith, Clint Lancaster, J.F. Prince, Keith and Terrell Moore, David Church, Rodney Macon and Allan Ellen.

On May 15, 2004, the church broke ground on a new fellowship hall, which was completed in November 2006. Because of continual growth, the congregation voted in 2012 to hold worship services in the fellowship hall. The original church was no longer large enough to hold the congregation.

The fellowship hall features a

nursery and a kitchen that allows the tradition of dinner on the grounds to continue. Originally, ladies from the congregation spread blankets and tablecloths on the ground, where a picnic lunch would be served. Photos that date to the 1910s show women in hats and long dresses serving lunch outdoors.

The church's outreach efforts include a Vacation Bible School, which brings 60-80 children to School Creek Baptist Church from the surrounding area and Lampasas. A group of volunteers also goes caroling every Christmas, and many members volunteer with Lampasas Mission, a multiservice organization that provides food and clothing to those in need. More members from the church work with Lampasas Mission than members of any other church in the Lampasas area. School Creek Baptist Church members also serve in a program for underprivileged Lampasas children called His Kids.

SCHOOL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

11228 CR 3420, Lampasas

(512) 556-6054

15 miles northeast of Lampasas
on CR 3420, off FM 2527

Sunday school 10 a.m.

Service 11 a.m.

Evening Bible study 6 p.m.

"The difference is worth the distance."

Community Calendar



Comanche

Second Saturday Shenanigans, historical downtown square. Shop, snack, sip. For details, visit facebook.com/comanchechamber.

Food Truck Rodeo, March 28, Comanche Rodeo Grounds. Enjoy great food and shopping and end the night with live music.

Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association Motorcycle Parade, April 10, historic downtown and around.

Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association State Rally, April 10-12, Comanche City Park, 1200 Comanche Trail. For more information, visit tmra.org.

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

Copperas Cove

Easter Egg Roundup, April 4, 9-11 a.m., City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. This is a free event. Pictures with the Easter Bunny will be 9:45-11 a.m. and are free to take with personal cameras and phones. If you have any questions, contact Ashley at (254) 542-2719 or awilson@copperascovetx.gov.

Five Hills Art Fest at the Gap, April 25-26, Saturday 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Ogletree Gap Preserve, 1878 Post Office Road. This fast-growing event features handmade items from talented local and traveling painters, jewelers, photographers, sculptors, woodworkers and more. Plenty of music, dancing, performances and food trucks for all to enjoy! Visit fivehillsartguild.com for details or call (254) 345-9030.

Jackrabbit Run 5K and 10K, May 9, 8 a.m., Ogletree Gap Preserve, 1878 Post Office Road. The Jackrabbit Run is a great race through the scenic hill country of the Ogletree Gap residential area. Awards will be given to

the top three finishers in each age group.

Rabbit Fest, May 14-17, City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. This festival offers food and craft vendors, carnival rides, live entertainment, a car show and much more. Don't forget the Rabbit Fest Parade on Saturday morning.

MayFest; May 30, registration at 8 a.m. and run at 9 a.m., Ogletree Gap Preserve, 1878 Post Office Road. The MayFest Color Run is a community event put on by the Noon Exchange Club of Copperas Cove to raise funds for child abuse prevention. This event includes a 5K and 10K run and walk. For more information, call (254) 542-5165.

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

Evant

Market Day on the Square, March 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free pop-up canopies available by request on first-come, first-served basis. Contact Charlotte at (512) 750-9870 or Karen at knw@centex.net.

For information about Evant events, contact Charlotte Looney at cben1115@hotmail.com or (512) 750-9870.

Gatesville

Gatesville Spursquicentennial (150th birthday) volunteer recognition program, June 1, 2019-December 1, 2020. We want to recognize the people who continue to make Gatesville a great place to live through their service to the community as volunteers. Log 150 volunteer hours to be recognized. Volunteer logs are available at City Hall, the chamber of commerce and Gatesville Public Library, or download one at gatesville150.com/volunteer. For more information, visit gatesville150.com or facebook.com/spursquicentennial.

Chamber Market Days, second Saturday of

each month in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise and farm-fresh foods. Visit gatesvilletx.info for more information.

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree, third Friday of each month, 7-8 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. A family-friendly event. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted for the performers. Visit gatesvillecountrymusicshalloffame.com or call Roger Vierser at (254) 547-6834 for more information.

Gatesville Gun Show, a Whipp Farm Productions event, March 7-8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. For more information, call Charles at (817) 929-1816 or email whipp.events@gmail.com.

Gatesville Gospel Jubilee, March 14, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St.

Lone Star Steer Ropers Association Roping, March 14-15. Rope at 1 p.m. Saturday. Supper and music to follow. Rope at 10 a.m. Sunday. Books open Monday, March 9, at 8 a.m. Call in or text entries to Joby Mooney at (254) 979-2343.

Community Health Screening, March 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Hosted by Life Line Screening Southwest. For an appointment, call 1-800-690-6495.

Gatesville Varmint Hunt, March 28-29. Statewide contest offering prizes. Contact Toby Small at (325) 247-0139 or Tina Z. at (254) 722-2308, or email gatesville.tx.varminthunts@gmail.com.

Shivaree Star, March 30. Music competition for a chance to open at Shivaree in June.

Go Texan Dinner and Dance With Jake Hooker, April 18, Gatesville Civic Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., dancing at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Call (254) 223-1997 for tickets or more details.

Youth Varmint Hunt, April 18–19. Youth predator hunting contest for kids 6–16. Up to four kids on a team, but there must be at least one adult with the team at all times. There is no cap on the number of animals that can be brought in to weigh. For more information, contact Toby Small at (325) 247-0139 or Lee Ann Small at (254) 589-1818.

Indian Artifact Show, April 25, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop (just off Highway 84). Arrowheads, Indian artifacts, fossils, coins, knives, jewelry and more. Admission \$5; 12 and under free. Concession stand with breakfast and lunch available. Dealer setup begins at 6:30 a.m. Six-foot tables are available for \$40. To register or for more information, contact Rusty Lilljedahl at (254) 865-3921.

Circus, April 25–26, parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36.

Junk & Disorderly, May 2, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Here is your chance to shop with vendors of vintage items, arts and crafts, homemade and homegrown goods under one roof, plus yard and garage sales all over town!

For more information about Gatesville events, go to visitgatesvilletx.com or gatesvilletx.info, or call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 865-8951.

Goldthwaite

Goldthwaite State Championship BBQ & Goat Cook-Off, April 24–25, Goldthwaite City Park. For more information, contact the Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619 or gcc@centex.net.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit millscountychamber.com or call the Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619.

Hamilton

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

Home and Garden Spring Fling, March 9, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church Family Life Center, 143 E. Highway 22. \$10 admission includes lunch and dessert, early snacks and beverages, speakers, vendors, silent auction, door prizes and entertainment. Sponsored by the Hamilton Extension Education Association Council. Benefits 4-H. For more information, contact Jeanie Harrison at (254) 372-4572 or harrisonx2@hughes.net.



**Diamondback Jubilee
Rattlesnake Roundup**
March 28
Lometa

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

Hico

Hico Spring Open House, March 21. Celebrate the beginning of spring in historic Hico. Local merchants will be hosting their spring open house with special discounts and terrific treats.

Flacas Fun Run and Market, April 25.

Texas Steak Cook-Off, May 16, historic downtown. Backyard chefs from all over the Southwest come to Hico to see who can cook the best steak in Texas. For information, visit texassteakcookoff.com.

For more information about Hico events, visit hicotxchamber.com or facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce, call (254) 434-1249, or email chamberhicotx@gmail.com.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Museum, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 303 S. Western Ave., between Second and Third streets. Learn about the history of Lampasas County through permanent displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

LTX BBQ Fest Lampasas; April 3, 6–9 p.m., taster's choice; April 4, 8 a.m.–6 p.m., cook-off; 580 Sports Complex at 2351 FM 580 W. Guaranteed \$5,000 payout and state championship-sanctioned. Additional activities include a cornhole tournament (sponsored by Home Place Floors), and kids 'que (sponsored by Lampasas Builders Mart). Prizes will be awarded for all events and categories. Sponsored by the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce.

Spring Courtyard Square Garage Sale, April 25, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., courtyard square downtown. For more information, contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434.

WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

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 two months. 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.



A Night at the Museum
March 7
San Saba

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Riata Roundup Rodeo, May 28–30, gates open 4:30 p.m. Thursday and 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 580 Sports Complex, 2351 FM 580 W. Mutton bustin', specialty acts, bareback and saddle bronc riding, breakaway roping, calf and team roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, chuck wagon races, ranch bronc riding, bull riding, queens contest (Friday night). For sponsor, vendor or event details, please contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce.

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

Carnival, March 26–27, 6–11 p.m.; March 28, 10 a.m.–11 p.m., Regional Park.

Rodeo, March 27–28, 7:30 p.m., Arena at Regional Park, junction U.S. 183 and U.S. 190. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids, and free for 6 and under and active military with ID. Friday's rodeo concert dance features Kindred Spirits, Presley Haile and Ross Williams. Saturday's rodeo concert dance features Coffey Anderson. Sponsored by the Lometa Lions Club.

Diamondback Jubilee Rattlesnake Roundup, March 28, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Regional Park. Featuring music, team roping, arts and crafts, vendors, Lil Buckaroo Rodeo and snakes. For vendor booth information, contact Susan Hines at (512) 556-2822.

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

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass First Saturday Jam and Stage Show; March 7, April 4, May 2; Pearl Community Center. Free stage shows: 12:30–5 p.m. Open jamming all day and evening Thursday–Saturday. RV hookups \$15/\$20 per night. Bluegrass café Saturday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Family-friendly event that bluegrass and old-time music lovers of all ages will enjoy. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage; March 7, April 4, May 2; 10 a.m.–6 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Pearl Community Garage Sale and Flea Market, March 13–14, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Giant building and outside awning full of everything you can imagine. Serving breakfast and lunch all day. The Pearl Book Cottage will also be open. For more information or to get a vendor space, please call (254) 865-5864. Dealers welcome.

Community Meal, third Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183. Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

Pearl Book Cottage Plant Sale, April 4, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Featuring succulent and tropical plants.

Pidcoke

Easter Services, April 12, 8 a.m., Pidcoke United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116.

Breakfast and an Easter egg hunt for children will follow the service.

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 300-6342 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days; March 7, April 4, May 2; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; courthouse square; 500 E. Wallace St. Shop, visit and enjoy small-town charm at its best. Handcrafted bowls and other beautiful crafts, baked goods, jellies, tamales, and more each month. For more information, contact Joanne at (325) 372-4029 or email sansabaedc@gmail.com.

A Night at the Museum, March 7, 4–7 p.m., San Saba County Historical Museum, 271 S. Thomas Stewart Drive. Celebrating Texas Independence Day in Mill Pond Park. Come enjoy an interpretation of 19th-century pioneer life: cowboy camp cooking, boot making and making face paint with ochre dug from San Saba hills, as well as fireworks. Tickets available online at sansabamuseum.org and at the gate.

Keep San Saba Beautiful Citywide Spring Cleanup, April 4, 9 a.m.–noon. Beautify San Saba by helping pick up trash from highways and streets in our community. For more information, call (325) 372-5200.

Creative Quilting Event, April 16–17, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., San Saba Civic Center, 1190 S. Thomas Stewart Drive. Featuring Susan K. Cleveland, quilt designer, author, teacher, inventor and admirer of all things quilterly. Sponsored by the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce.

Golf Tournaments, Four-Person Scramble, April 18–19, all day; Three-Person Scramble, May 23–24, all day; San Saba River Golf Course; CR 102. For information, visit golfsansaba.com or contact Chuck Jennings at (325) 372-3212.

Catkins Ball: The Grand Masquerade, April 25, 5:30–11:30 p.m., Risien Park. Kicking off the decade with a ball to rival the Roaring '20s. Bring your mask and see Risien Park transformed. Held by the Community Foundation of San Saba County. Proceeds from ticket sales and auctions assist the city and county in revitalization projects that support San Saba as a destination for historical tourism. For more information about the gala, visit facebook.com/communityfoundationofsansabacounty.

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



CFL or LED?

Compact fluorescent lightbulbs may soon become history, like incandescents before

INCANDESCENT LIGHTBULBS—THE ONES THAT WE INSTALLED IN TABLE LAMPS AND overhead fixtures since the beginning of electricity—have become relics since the U.S. government ordered that manufacturers stop making most of them in 2014. Is the compact fluorescent lightbulb next?

The twisty CFL bulbs, which can last up to five years and are much more energy efficient than the old incandescents, were once hailed as the latest and greatest energy and money saver for household lighting. But LEDs—which are often built right into light fixtures, so you'll never have to change a bulb again—have proved to be a better energy value.

Both CFLs and LEDs use up to 75% less energy than incandescents. But LEDs last much longer than CFLs—up to 25,000 hours compared with 10,000 or so.

Here's why LEDs are quickly becoming America's favorite lightbulb:

- ▶ LEDs don't get hot to the touch while they're on, unlike incandescents, which release about 90% of their energy as heat. CFLs release about 80% of their energy as heat, but LEDs release almost no heat, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- ▶ Unlike CFLs, LEDs contain no mercury, so their environmental impact is minimal.

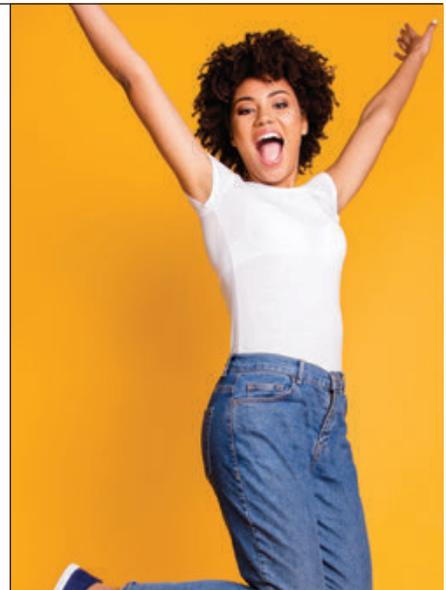
- ▶ With an LED fixture that has the lighting element built right into it, no bulb is visible and no bulb will ever need changing.

- ▶ LEDs come in a wide range of wattages, styles and hues, and many are compatible with dimmer switches.

- ▶ LEDs are made with very sturdy materials and components that can stand up to harsh weather, shocks, vibrations and abrasion—one reason they're increasingly adopted for roadside applications.

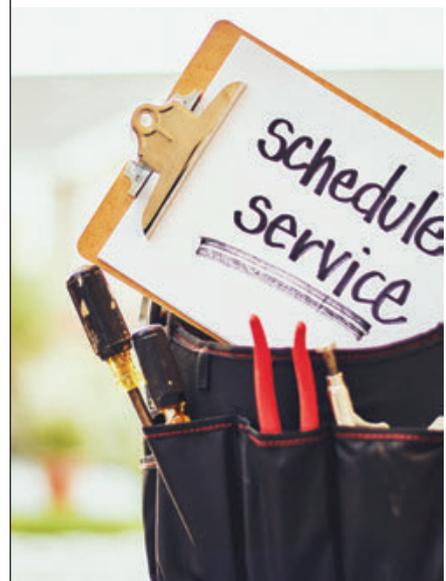
- ▶ The price of LED bulbs has dropped from about \$100 a bulb five years ago to around \$3 or less today.

As the popularity of LEDs grows, the CFL, like the incandescent, could become a museum piece—a relic of a bygone and less energy-efficient era.



Time To Spring Forward

Remember to set your clock forward one hour March 8 for daylight saving time.



Power Tip

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your AC and check its evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.