

Take Control of Your Summer Electric Bills



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

MOST PEOPLE THINK OF FAMILY VACATIONS OR school being out when they think of summer.

That's not necessarily true of your co-op's employees. We tend to think of summer as high-bill complaint season.

When I say I feel your pain, I'm not just paying lip service. My own electric bills rise along with the heat index—just like yours and those of the folks I work with here at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative. Once those kilowatts have marched through the electric meter that records them, it's difficult to do anything about them, other than pay the bill.

most cost-effective measure you can take. If you install a programmable thermostat, it can do this for you.

► Have a qualified professional check out your air conditioner (and the heating system, too, while they're at it). Preventive maintenance can save you money as well as preclude temperature discomfort.

► Shade your outdoor air conditioning unit to up its energy efficiency.

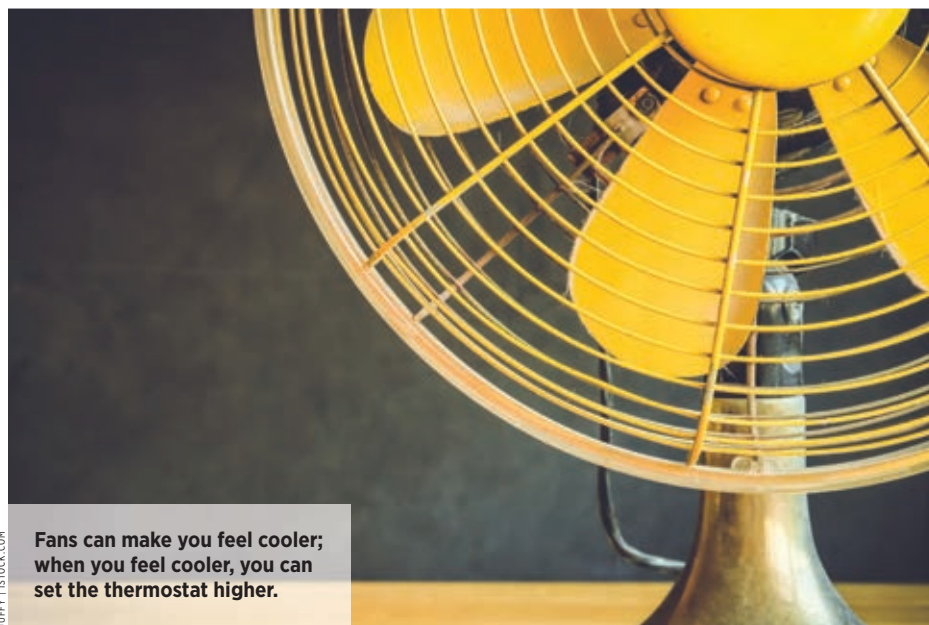
► Change air conditioner filters monthly. Clogged filters force the AC unit to work harder and increase operating costs.

► Portable and ceiling fans can make you feel cooler; when you feel cooler, you can set the thermostat higher. But when you leave the room, turn off the fan.

► Installing and using a whole-house fan can help reduce air conditioning costs. These fans draw outside air in through open windows and should be used only when the outside air temperature is lower than the desired inside temperature.

► Seal doors and windows with caulk and weatherstripping. And, if your windows are single-pane, consider replacing them. Double- and triple-pane windows are substantially more energy efficient.

► Shading and evaporative cooling from trees reduce the air temperature around your home. Plant trees, shrubs and vines with leaves that fall



Fans can make you feel cooler; when you feel cooler, you can set the thermostat higher.

But before you throw your hands up in exasperation, here's a little secret: You can do something about those higher summertime electric bills. The secret is you have to do something now—before you use the electricity.

Here's how to cut back on your electricity usage:

► You can save as much as 10 percent a year on your cooling (and heating) bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day. In the summer, raise the thermostat when you go to work or whenever you're away from home (from 76 degrees to 85, for example). That's the single

off in the winter on the east, south and west sides of your home. They'll provide shade in the summer but allow sunshine in the winter. Position trees to shade windows now; when they mature, they'll also shade the walls and roof.

► It's well worth your investment to wrap any uninsulated ducts with at least 2 inches of fiberglass insulation. Sealing the duct system to prevent leaks is even more important if the ducts are located in an uncooled area, such as the attic. Most leaks will be found where the air duct attaches to the air conditioning unit and where ducts are joined together.



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Mark Your Calendar for Savings

Take advantage of the Memorial Day weekend tax-free holiday

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO MAKE SOME ENERGY-EFFICIENT OR WATER-CONSCIOUS UPGRADES to your home, this is a great month to take the plunge. Texas holds its co-occurring Energy Star and water-efficient products sales tax holidays annually over Memorial Day weekend. This year, the sales tax reprieve will be in effect from Saturday, May 25, through midnight Monday, May 27. There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and no exemption certificate is required to buy items tax-free.

Any product that displays a WaterSense label is eligible to be purchased free of sales tax, whether its planned use is for personal or business purposes. Labeled items include faucets, showerheads and toilets. Certain other water-conserving products are also tax-free during the holiday weekend but only when bought for use at your residential property. These items include soaker and drip-irrigation hoses, moisture controls for sprinkler and irrigation systems, mulch, rain barrels, plants, soil and compost.

The Energy Star-labeled products that qualify for tax exemption include air conditioners (priced \$6,000 or less), refrigerators (priced \$2,000 or less), ceiling fans, lightbulbs, clothes washers, dishwashers and dehumidifiers.

Bear in mind that some Energy Star-labeled products do not qualify and are still taxable during the holiday, including water heaters, clothes dryers, freezers and stoves. Also, be aware that air conditioners and refrigerators purchased for prices higher than the allowable amounts will be taxed in full. The same caveat applies to delivery charges that increase an item's total price beyond the cap. For example, if an Energy Star refrigerator costs \$1,995 but has a \$50 delivery charge, tax will be due on the total \$2,045 amount.

For more information on how to take advantage of this year's tax holiday, visit comptroller.texas.gov.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

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

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Steve Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.M. Gerald Jr., President, *Hamilton*
Sam Campbell, Vice President, *Goldthwaite*
Bob Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, *Hamilton*
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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.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER 
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Notice of Director Election

THE MEMBERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL ELECT DIRECTORS by mail-in ballot Friday, August 2.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee was appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting April 25. The nominating committee will meet June 6 at 2 p.m. at the cooperative's main office at 420 N. Rice St. in Hamilton to make nominations for directors to serve in districts 1 and 3. Terms of the incumbents in these districts expire this year.

District 1: The area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County.

District 3: The area in Coryell County.

Members residing in District 1 or District 3 who wish to be considered as a candidate should contact the cooperative's main office at 1-800-595-3401 by May 31. Prospective candidates must meet the director qualifications as specified in the HCEC bylaws (Article IV Directors, Section 4.02 (a) Director Qualifications).

Ballots will be mailed to members July 10 and should be returned to the cooperative no later than 1 p.m. Friday, August 2, at which time the ballots will be counted. The results of the election will be announced during Hamilton County EC's annual membership meeting Friday, August 2.

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

ARTICLE IV DIRECTORS

SECTION 4.01. NUMBER AND GENERAL POWERS.

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

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

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

- (i) Be a natural person;
- (ii) Be a Member of the Cooperative for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or

petition for election;

(iii) Be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and shall not have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing, or have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) a controlling interest in another entity, association, organization, or trust that has one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing;

(iv) As provided in Article I, Section 1.04 (f) of the Bylaws, in a Joint Membership, either spouse may serve as a Director, but not simultaneously, and only if both spouses meet the qualifications for Director as stated herein; otherwise, neither spouse may serve as Director;

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

person seeks election or was elected;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4.04. TENURE. Directors shall serve a term of three (3) years or until Director(s)' successor(s) has been elected or appointed. Upon the Directors' election, Directors shall, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to the removal of Directors, serve until the annual meeting of the Members of the year in which such Directors' terms expire or until such Directors' successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Whether elected or appointed, Directors shall have qualified subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to removal or resignation of Directors. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next Member meeting at which a quorum is present.

SECTION 4.05. DIRECTORATE DISTRICTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) No Director District revision may:

- (i) increase an existing Director's term, or
- (ii) shorten any existing Director's term unless the affected Director gives written consent.

SECTION 4.06. NOMINATIONS.

(A) NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

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

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

(2) COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCESS.

(i) The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election of Directors a list of nominations for Directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which a Director must, pursuant to this Section, be elected.

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

(B) NOMINATION BY PETITION. Any one hundred fifty (150) or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may submit to

the Secretary of the Cooperative additional nominations in writing over such Members' signatures, listing the Members' nominee(s) in like manner, not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date the votes are to be counted, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same 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. VOTING FOR DIRECTORS; VALIDITY OF BOARD ACTION.

The election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot. Each Member shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each Directorate District for which a Director is to be elected. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Directorate Districts shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such District or Districts. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

SECTION 4.13. "CLOSE RELATIVE"

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

Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC will be closed

Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day and Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Comanche

Farmers Market; May 4, June 1, July 6; 9 a.m.–noon.

Comanche Riding Club Rodeo, June 7–8, 6 p.m., Cowboy Park Arena, 6490 Highway 36 W. For information, email cpra@sbcglobal.net or visit cprarodeo.com.

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

Copperas Cove

Jackrabbit Run 5K and 10K, May 11, 8 a.m., Ogletree Gap Park. 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. This race is part of the CenTex Race Series. For more information on CenTex Race Series runs hosted in Copperas Cove, visit our website, copperascove.com, or call (254) 547-7571. For more information on the CenTex Race Series, contact Killeen Parks and Recreation at (254) 501-6390.

Rabbit Fest, May 16–19, Copperas Cove City Park. Each year, more than 30,000 people attend this festival, which offers food and craft vendors, carnival rides, live entertainment, a car show and much more. And don't forget the Rabbit Fest Parade on Saturday morning. For more information, visit rabbitfest.com.

HEB Summer Run to Fun 5K, June 15, 8 a.m., South Park, 2602 Dennis Drive.

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

281 Trade Days; May 4, June 1, July 6; 9 a.m.–3 p.m., 203 W. Brooks Drive. Antiques, plants, vintage finds, food trucks and handmade items. Vendor spots available. Call (254) 404-5487.

Evant Rodeo Association Play Day Series, May 4, 9 a.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Evant Rodeo Association Iron Man and Fastest Four, May 4, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Evant Rodeo Association Junior Rodeo, June 28–29, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

4th of July Celebration and Music Fest, July 4, 5 p.m.–midnight, Evant Municipal Park.

For information about Evant events, contact Mary Ann Davison at evantchamber@gmail.com or (254) 404-5487.

Gatesville

Ed Leonard Band, every Thursday, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Junction on Route 36, 1216 Texas 36.

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. For more information, visit gatesvillecountrymusicHallofFame.com or call Roger Viersse at (254) 547-6834.

Junk & Disorderly Vendor Market and City-wide Garage Sale, May 4, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Drive. Vendor market featuring antiques, collectibles and unique items. Garage sales all over town. For more information, visit gatesvilletx.com or call Cheri Shepherd at (254) 499-0102.

Senior Expo, May 9, 9 a.m.–noon, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Drive. Senior citizens are invited to connect with local service providers for information, giveaways, health checks and more.

Stache Bash Texas Music Festival, May 9–11, Bare Bones BBQ, 4305 S. Highway 36. More than 50 local artists performing over three days. Benefiting the American Heart Association. Single day tickets \$15 at the door. See Stache Bash Texas Music Festival on Facebook for more information.

Books on the Green, June 1, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., at the green space at 711 E. Main St. Area authors will be on hand to discuss and sign their books. Admission is free. Questions from authors who are interested in participating, and from the general public, may be directed to the Gatesville Public Library at (254) 865-5367.

Shivaree Up in Smoke BBQ Cook-Off, June 1, Faunt Le Roy Park, 609 S. Seventh St. International Barbecue Cookers Association-sanctioned barbecue cook-off, family-friendly activities and live music. To register or for more information, visit gatesvilleshivaree.com.

Shivaree, June 1, around the courthouse square, down Seventh Street to Faunt Le Roy Park and Raby Park. This small-town summer festival offers lots of family-friendly activities. For a schedule of events, visit gatesvilleshivaree.com.

Fire Ant Bike Tour, June 8, ride packet pickup

and on-site registration 6:30–8 a.m. at the Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Drive. Bike routes are approximately 10, 32, 50 and 62.5 miles. Information and preregistration at gatesvilleexchangeclub.org.

Gatesville Gun Show; July 6, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; July 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Gatesville Civic Center; 301 Veterans Memorial Drive.

4th of July Parade, July 4, 10 a.m., going from Faunt Le Roy Park to Raby Park. Residents are encouraged to decorate wagons, strollers, skateboards, wheelbarrows, bicycles, etc., to join in the parade. No motorized vehicles permitted.

4th of July Fireworks Show, July 4, at dusk. Free seating will be available in the stands at McKamie Stadium. The fireworks will also be visible from the parking lot surrounding the school.

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

Goldthwaite

Story Time at Jennie Trent Dew Library, every Friday at 10 a.m. Join Ms. Susan and Ms. Elizabeth for stories, crafts, songs and snacks. Advice on your Device offered to library patrons by appointment. Please call (325) 648-2447 to set up an appointment. After-school programming is in the works! Coding classes, teen programs and more coming soon.

Full Meal Deal, June 9, 11 a.m., Goldthwaite Fire Department. Barbecue brisket and all the trimmings. Fundraiser, donations only.

Patriot Celebration, July 3, Goldthwaite City Park. Children's parade at 6 p.m. and fireworks show at dark. The Mills County Chamber of Commerce serves \$1 hot dogs and drinks as well as free ice cream.



CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Hamilton
May 4

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit millscountychamber.com or call Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 451-4334.

Hamilton

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

Cemetery Walk, May 4, 10 a.m., Oakwood Cemetery. Sponsored by the Hamilton County Historical Museum. For information, call (254) 386-5578 or (979) 595-8351.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, May 4, Hamilton Fair Park, 1007 Park Road. Taco, salsa and guacamole cook-offs; horse races; and Char-

reria Mexicana, Norteño and Tejano bands. Tickets \$25, parking \$5.

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

Hico

Taste of Hico, May 17, Hico Mercantile downtown courtyard. Local food vendors will serve samples of their signature items. The event is organized by board members of the Texas Steak Cookoff and is sponsored by the Hico Economic Development Corporation. Entertainment will be the Tejas Brothers and Pushin' Luck.

Annual Texas Steak Cookoff and Wine Festival, May 18, all day, 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.

Old Settlers Reunion, July 16–20. This week-long event is sponsored by the Hico Civic Club and features a parade through downtown Hico. A carnival and concerts will be held at the Hico City Park.

For more information about Hico events, visit hico-tx.com or call Hico City Hall at (254) 796-4620.

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.

HICO HAPPENINGS

Taste of Hico
May 17

**Annual Texas Steak
Cookoff and Wine
Festival**
May 18



Kempner

Memorial Day Ceremony, May 27, 10 a.m., Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park, 12641 E. Highway 190.

Lampasas

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

Lampasas Trade Days; May 4–5, June 1–2, July 6–7; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Sulphur Creek Car Cruise, June 15, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., W.M. Brook Park. For questions or more information, contact Mike White at Advanced Window Tint at (512) 556-3745.

Spring Ho Festival, July 8–14. Activities and festivities all week long. For information, visit springho.com or contact the Spring Ho committee at (512) 556-5301.

Spring Ho BBQ Cook-Off, July 12–13, Cooper Spring Nature Park, Avenue A and Hackberry St. For information, call (512) 556-5172.

Toughest 10K in Texas, 5K and 1-Mile Run,

July 13, 7–10 a.m., Hancock Park Pavilion.

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

Lometa

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

Pearl

Bluegrass Festival; May 4, June 1, July 6; 11 a.m. Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit pearlbluegrass.com.

Pearl Book Cottage; May 4, June 1, July 6; 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.

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

Pidcoke

The Big Feed, May 4, 5:30 p.m., Pidcoke

United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116 N. All-you-can-eat fried fish and brisket meal.

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 760-2288 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days, May 4, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., courthouse Square. Welcome to our monthly trade days featuring handmade crafts, homemade goodies and much, much more. Contact JoAnne at (325) 372-4029 for vendor information.

Juston “Shindig” Sanderson Scholarship Crawfish Boil, May 4, 11 a.m.–11:45 p.m., Bagley Pecan, 410–412 E. Commerce. Events include a horseshoe tournament, raffle and auction at Digg’s Steakhouse.

Farmers Market, begins May 15 and recurs every Wednesday through mid-August, 8 a.m., courthouse square. Contact Don at (325) 372-4029.

Golf Tournaments; 9-Hole Blind Draw Tuesday Scramble, 5 p.m. every Tuesday; Three-Person Scramble, May 18–19, all day; Guys & Dolls, June 1–2, all day; Two-Person Scramble, July 20–21, all day; San Saba River Golf Course; CR 102. For information, visit golf-sansaba.com or contact Chuck Jennings at (325) 372-3212.

San Saba Pro Rodeo Days, May 31–June 1, 6:30–10:30 p.m., San Saba Rodeo Arena, 1951 N. Highway 16. For information, contact Rodeo Association at (325) 372-5416.

Cow Camp Cook-Off, June 7–8, Risien Park. Beef, chicken, ribs and Dutch oven dessert.

6th Annual Tournament of Hope in Memory of Larry McNeely, June 22, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., San Saba River Golf Course. Call (325) 372-3212 for more information.

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

Star

Cowpokes for Kids Trail Ride, May 17–19. Enjoy the beautiful rolling hills with incredible views while trotting horseback along the trails of the McCasland, Youman and Pig Foot ranches. This is a donation-only trail ride. There will be three rides, food, refreshments, dance and an auction. All proceeds from this event will go to New Horizons, which provides specialized treatment and care to boys and girls who have experienced abuse and neglect. For more information, visit cowpokesforkids.com.



CASSTENOID | ISTOCK.COM

Barn Safety Checklist

MRS. O'LEARY'S COW MAY HAVE A BAD RAP, BUT THE FOLK TALE REMINDS US THAT FIRE safety is an important part of farm life. People, animals and property are in danger when fire breaks out on the farm. Inspect your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss.

For a safe barn, ensure that:

- ▶ All electrical wiring is free of damage and enclosed in metal or PVC conduit.
- ▶ Electrical equipment is designated for agricultural or commercial use.
- ▶ Extension cords are not used in the barn.
- ▶ Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture and breakage.
- ▶ Damage is identified quickly and repairs are completed with safety in mind.
- ▶ Electrical outlets and lights are free of dust and cobwebs.
- ▶ Oily rags are stored in a closed metal container away from heat.
- ▶ Feed, hay, straw and flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- ▶ The barn is a smoke-free zone.
- ▶ A qualified electrician routinely (at least annually) inspects any electrical appliances installed in the barn, such as water heaters and portable heating units.
 - ▶ Radios, clippers, extension cords and similar portable electrical appliances are unplugged and stored when not in use.
 - ▶ Regular maintenance is performed on gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles to avoid any problems with fuel or exhaust systems.
 - ▶ Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn and are on a sturdy surface where they cannot fall over.
 - ▶ Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear.
 - ▶ Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers, and everyone in the barn knows personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
 - ▶ Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.
 - ▶ This safety equipment—which may be required by building codes—is in place: ABC-type fire extinguishers near every exit and within 50 feet of any point in the barn, a fire alarm, fire sprinkler system and carbon monoxide detectors.



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HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

**Hamilton County EC will be closed
Monday, May 27, in observance of
the holiday.**



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