

# Together We Strengthen Our Community



MESSAGE FROM  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

AT HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, OUR PRIMARY MISSION is to provide the electricity that powers your life. It's what we do best.

But Hamilton County EC is more than an electric utility. We're also a part of your community. The directors and employees of this cooperative are your neighbors, friends and even family. And just like you, we want to see our community succeed.

We're local people working for local good. That's the essence of Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community.

First and foremost, we strengthen our community by providing safe and reliable electricity at a reasonable price. We are a dynamic part of our community, and as

the area grows, so does our distribution system.

We have strong roots in this community. Hamilton County EC has been in business here for more than 75 years, and we are not going anywhere. Our business began here, and we will not pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere.

By providing jobs and a steady supply of electricity, the co-op helps the local economy stay strong. We pay our employees fair wages, and when they

spend that money here, that helps strengthen the economy. And by offering good jobs, we keep our towns healthy because employees and their families don't have to move away to make a decent living. The more people we have here paying taxes and contributing to the community, the more vibrant it will be.

But the benefits to the community aren't only financial. We open doors for our young people with scholarship programs and other opportunities. We teach children safety through programs in schools, and we provide safety tips and home improvement advice to adult members so the whole family stays safe. We help our members save money by offering energy efficiency tips. And we strengthen the community by supporting local charities.

The co-op is made up of people who care. Our employees go out of their way to better the communities in which they live. They coach youth sports teams, serve on volunteer fire departments and participate in community activities. They are co-op members like you, and, like you, they want to make their hometown stronger.



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## Extend Your Safety

### DOES LABOR DAY LIVE UP TO ITS NAME

for your family? While most people get the day off from work, many use the holiday to begin to tackle outside chores.

Before you begin any outdoor project, check that your power tools are designed for outdoor use and their cords are free of damage. Never carry a power tool by the cord or use it near water. Check to see that the tool is in good working condition before use. If it's not, don't repair it yourself. Bring it to a licensed repairer or send it back to the manufacturer.

**And don't overlook extension cords, which can be dangerous if misused.**

#### Some safety tips to keep in mind:

- ▶ For outdoor jobs, use only extension cords designed for outdoor use. They're thicker, more durable and have connectors molded onto them to prevent moisture damage.
- ▶ Check the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it is high enough to meet the power demand of the tool you are using.
- ▶ Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs. Never cut the third prong off of a power tool to make it fit.
- ▶ Push plugs all the way into outlets to ensure a complete connection.
- ▶ Do not plug one extension cord into another. Buy the length of cord you need.
- ▶ Never leave an open extension cord plugged into an outlet. Unplug it when you're finished using it.
- ▶ Store extension cords where they won't be exposed to wet or cold weather.

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Cooperatives—Owned by Our Members,  
Committed to Our Communities

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# HCEC Lineworkers Compete in Texas Lineman's Rodeo

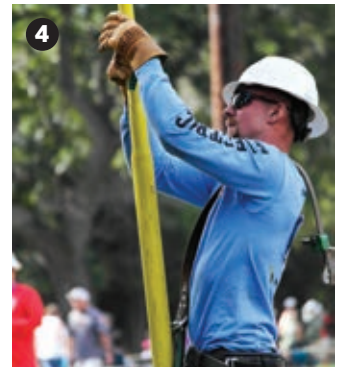
**ELECTRIC LINeworkERS FROM ACROSS TEXAS GATHERED JULY 20** at Nolte Island Park in Seguin to test the skills of their trade in a field of power poles and nonenergized lines. The 23rd annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo was the biggest ever: 156 journeyman linemen competed in three-person teams, and 122 apprentice linemen competed individually.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative sent one journeyman team consisting of Gregg Belcher, Jackie Carter and Randall Denning. Four HCEC apprentice linemen—Waylon Belcher, Jacklee Melton, Robert Moore and Jorge Salinas—participated in pole climb, hurt-man rescue and two “mystery” events.

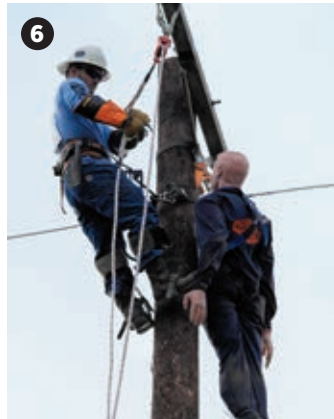
HCEC's Rhett Keith, T.J. Pearson, Jimmy Horton and Randy Denning served as volunteer judges for various events.

Friends and families of the rodeo participants cheered on the competitors as they persevered through sweltering heat and stiff competition. Hamilton County EC was well represented, and a great time was had by all.

The annual rodeo is a fun way to rub shoulders with lineworkers from across Texas, and the competition helps lineworkers sharpen the skills they use on the job. Pole climbing and equipment changeouts are all part of a Hamilton County EC lineman's job.



**1. Gregg Belcher**  
**2. Jacklee Melton**  
**3-4. Robert Moore**  
**5. Randall Denning and Jackie Carter**  
**6. Waylon Belcher competes in the hurt-man rescue.**  
**7. Waylon Belcher's son, Cason.**  
**8. Jorge Salinas with his wife, Erin, and son Declan.**  
**9. Jorge Salinas**  
**10. Waylon Belcher**





# Don't Be Fooled

## ELECTRIC UTILITY SCAMMERS ARE CONTINUALLY SWITCHING UP their games (and lies) to try to get your money.

One of the most common tricks scammers now use involves a spoofing app that they use to create a fake caller ID to trick co-op members into thinking a call they are receiving is coming from their co-op or another local number. Your caller ID will show some variation of “Hamilton County Electric Cooperative” or come from a local number, seemingly giving scammers instant credibility.

They will tell members they are late on paying their bill and need to do so in the next couple of hours or their electricity will be disconnected. They then tell the member to head to a local store to purchase a reloadable debit card and call back with the card information. Or they directly ask for credit card or bank account information.

The scammers don't stop there. Some swindlers encourage members to deliver them cash in person at a meeting spot or come to the member's front door and claim they need to read their meter for money.

If you receive a call, email or visit from anyone claiming to

be a co-op employee and asking you for money, immediately report it to the cooperative—using the co-op phone number you look up yourself. Never call a number given to you by a potential scammer to verify the request for money; giving you a fake number is another common scheme, and the call will be answered by the scammer's team.

### Hamilton County EC will never:

- ▶ Call from an out-of-state number.
- ▶ Have a technician call you to say he or she is coming out to disconnect power.
- ▶ Request a cash payment at your home or business.
- ▶ Threaten a service disconnection on holidays or weekends.

If you experience any of these things, give us a call and let us know so we can warn other members about the scam.

It is unfortunate that we feel obligated to encourage you to be suspicious, but we care about our members, and it's important to Hamilton County EC that our members not be taken advantage of.



## KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND to keep your money where it belongs:

- ▶ **If someone claims** to be from your electric cooperative and pressures you for immediate payment or personal information, hang up and call your co-op using a phone number you look up.
- ▶ **Never give** your Social Security number, credit card number or banking information to any caller, no matter whom they claim to represent.
- ▶ **Delete suspicious emails** saying you must act immediately to verify or provide personal information. Do not click on any links in these emails.
- ▶ **Delete any emails** from utilities and companies you don't have a relationship with.
- ▶ **Do not respond** to suspicious emails. Responding often results in even more spam and scam attempts.
- ▶ **Don't give in to** high-pressure tactics for information over the phone or in person.

# Shift Safety Into High Gear

## NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH

Week is recognized annually in mid-September. This year, the safety week's theme is "Shift Safety Into High Gear."

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show the agricultural sector is a perilous one, with 258 fatal work injuries among farmworkers in 2017. To promote safe and healthy practices as farmers enter harvest season, the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety has designated daily themes for this year's event.

### Monday, September 16 Tractor and Rural Roadway Safety

Of the 258 deaths cited above, 103 involved tractors, which present risks if operators aren't properly trained in their use.

Equip tractors with a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit. Inspect the tractor before each use and ensure that all controls, gauges and lights are working. Wear snug-fitting clothes, sturdy work gloves and boots, and be sure to tie back long hair and remove any loose jewelry. Drive slowly, watch for uneven terrain and look out for people, animals and power lines. Don't attempt to climb on or off a moving tractor, and never allow someone to hang onto the tractor for a "ride."

### Tuesday, September 17 Farmer Health and Opioid/Suicide Prevention

One in 5 American adults experience mental illness in a given year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Farmers and ranchers are not immune. Lack of control (typically due to weather), financial strains and personal losses, such as divorce or the death of a loved one, can create tremendous stress.

Unfortunately, stigma and privacy concerns can be barriers to accessing mental health services. To combat these barriers, AgriSafe offers tools at [agrisafe.org](http://agrisafe.org), including an anonymous health risk assessment with personalized suggestions to promote occupational safety and mental health (though it's not a replacement for visits with a health care provider).

### Wednesday, September 18 Safety and Health for Youth in Agriculture

Keep your children and those visiting you healthy by providing and encouraging the use of sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats and hearing protection. Supervise children and be particularly vigi-



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lant with young visitors who may not understand safe practices around farm animals, chemicals and equipment.

Teach children what to do in the event of a fire, severe weather or other emergency. Never allow children to play in grain bins. Be sure to train older children in the proper use of farm equipment before assigning them any task. And always supervise children especially closely when they are new to a task.

### Thursday, September 19 Confined Spaces in Agriculture

Secure silos and grain bins to prevent unauthorized access. Inspect and maintain augers and other machinery to ensure they work properly.

Never allow people to be in or around a silo or grain bin during its filling or emptying. When trying to clear a jam, stay above the level of the materials while dislodging them. If you become trapped in a silo or grain bin, stay near the perimeter and keep moving to try to "swim" to the top of the material. Internal ladders can serve as a lifesaving means to exit the silo or bin.

### Friday, September 20 Safety and Health for Women in Agriculture

Educate yourself on the risks that women face around the farm, including chemicals that can be harmful to pregnant or nursing women. [Agrisafe.org](http://agrisafe.org) offers a fact sheet that highlights the unique risk factors women working in agriculture face along with practical solutions.

# Community Calendar



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County EC will be closed Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

## Comanche

**Farmers Market;** September 7, October 5, November 2; 9 a.m.–noon.

**Comanche County Pow Wow,** September 28–29, Comanche City Park, Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. A heritage festival with artisan and craft vendors, an antique tractor and engine show, one of the largest classic car shows in north Central Texas, live entertainment, a state-sanctioned barbecue cook-off, photography and art show, and fantastic food.

**Circus,** October 7, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Historic Downtown and Around Trick or Treat,** October 31, historic downtown.

**Deer Hunter Chili Supper,** November 1, historic downtown.

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

## Copperas Cove

**Raising Cane's Gallop or Trot 5K,** September 15, 8–11 a.m., City Park, 1206 W. Ave B. A chip-timed event, which starts at the Copperas Cove Civic Center in City Park, takes you through a residential area and ends back at City Park. For more information on the Centex Race Series runs hosted in Copperas Cove, call (254) 547-7571.

**Second Annual Fall Festival,** September 29, noon–4 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 922 Lutheran Church Road. Please join us for free food, games, contests (pie eating, sack races and an obstacle course, to name a few), hayrides and a fun afternoon. Vendors will be selling a variety of items. For information, contact Pastor Tobin Scott or Skip Gravatt at (254) 547-3498, email [contact@immanuelcopperascove.com](mailto:contact@immanuelcopperascove.com) or visit [immanuelcopperascove.com](http://immanuelcopperascove.com).

**10th Annual Eco Harvest,** October 12, 9 a.m.–noon. Free pancake breakfast (while supplies last), face painting, educational presentations with animals and lots of interactive booths. For more information, contact Roxanne at (254) 547-4242.

**Small Business Saturday,** November 23. We at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce are proud to take part in Small Business Saturday again this year. We know that small businesses are the heart of our community and want to encourage you to take part in Shop Small, a movement to celebrate small businesses. For more information, contact [activities@copperascove.com](mailto:activities@copperascove.com) or call (254) 547-7571.

**Krist Kindle Markt,** November 30–December 2, downtown. The markt welcomes shoppers looking for Christmas gifts and boasts great food and entertainment for all to enjoy. For more information, visit [kristkindlmarkt.com](http://kristkindlmarkt.com).

*For information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email [activities@copperascove.com](mailto:activities@copperascove.com) or visit [copperascove.com](http://copperascove.com).*

## Evant

**Iron Man Rodeo,** September 7, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

**13th Annual Fall Chill Car Show and Chili Cook-Off,** September 28, 9 a.m.–all day, Evant Park and around the downtown square on Highway 281. Chili cook-off, car show, margarita contest, junk in the trunk and swap meet.

**Halloween Trunk or Treat,** October 31, 6 p.m., Evant Park.

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

## Gatesville

**Gatesville Spursquicentennial (150th Birthday) volunteer recognition program,** June 1–December 1, 2020. We want to recognize the people who make Gatesville a great place to live. Log 150 volunteer hours to be recognized. Volunteer logs are available at City Hall, the chamber of commerce and the Gatesville Public Library, or may be printed at [gatesville150.com](http://gatesville150.com)/volunteer. For more information, visit [gatesville150.com](http://gatesville150.com) or [facebook.com/spursquicentennial](https://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](http://gatesvilletx.info) for more information.

**Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree,** third Friday of each month, 7–8 p.m., Gatesville 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](http://gatesvillecountrymusicHalloffame.com) or call Roger Viersse at (254) 547-6834.



**Gatesville Through My Eyes Art Contest, September 3, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., 110 N. Eighth St.** Contest rules and entry forms available at [gatesville150.com](http://gatesville150.com).

**Curtis Grimes, September 6, 8 p.m., Bare Bones Barbeque, 4305 S. Highway 36.**

**Spurfest, September 14, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Coryell Museum and Historical Center, 718 Main St.** Free admission. A celebration of our frontier and cowboy heritage featuring old-time demonstrations, book signing by Waylon Corgill, contests, music and more than 6,000 spurs in the Lloyd Mitchell Collection. For information or availability of booth space rental, contact Ervin Adams at (254) 865-5007 or email [coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com](mailto:coryellmuseumhc@yahoo.com).

**Old-Time Fiddlers Contest, September 14, 1 p.m., Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St.** Top fiddlers from across the state compete for cash and prizes. Admission is free.

**Bats for Barks Softball Tournament, September 21, 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Gatesville City Recreation.**

**Cruzin Cruzers Car Show, September 21, 1 p.m., Faunt Le Roy Park.** Classic and custom cars on display.

**Boozaar, October 26, 6–8 p.m., on the square.** Businesses and organizations provide free treats, fun games and activities for everyone to enjoy. Food, game and other vendors can register at [ci.gatesville.tx.us](http://ci.gatesville.tx.us) or call the library at (254) 865-5367.

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

## Goldthwaite

**Third Saturday Flea and Craft Market; September 21, October 19; 8 a.m.;** the Artisan Guild; south side of the square and Highway 183. Flea market and craft items, farmers market and fresh baked goods. Vendors welcome. For more information, call (325) 948-3214.

**Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 2, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St.** Silent auction, vendors, gun raffle ticket drawing and so much more. You can buy gun raffle tickets online at [millscounty.chamber.com](http://millscounty.chamber.com). For more information, call (325) 648-3619.

**Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center Classes, August–September, corner of U.S. Highway 183 and Second Street.** Visit our website, [legacyplaza.org](http://legacyplaza.org), for classes ranging from planning a garden party to beekeeping. Programming for adults and children.

**Prairie Experience X, October 5, Legacy Plaza Pavilion.** Come support our botanical gardens at the 10th annual event. Alchemy Catering will provide a memorable meal. Silent and live auctions: Bid on a once-in-a-lifetime hunt at King Ranch. For table sponsorships and tickets, contact Susan at (325) 648-2447 or Savannah at (325) 648-2750.

**Haunted Gardens at Halloween, botanical gardens.** Don't be a scaredy-cat! Go trick-or-treating at the Botanical Gardens—if you dare!

**Holiday Lights, November–December, botanical gardens.** Enjoy the lights in the gardens and get into the holiday spirit.

**Jennie Trent Dew Library Storytime, Fridays 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.

*For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit [millscountychamber.com](http://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 the calendar at [circletarena.net](http://circletarena.net) or call (254) 386-3559.

**Match Horse Races, September 1, Hamilton Fair Park, 1007 Park Road.**

**Roots & Boots Tour With Kevin Fowler, September 1, 8–11:30 p.m., Hamilton Fair Park, 800 Park Road.** Country music stars Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw bring their Roots & Boots tour to Hamilton, along with special guest Kevin Fowler. Purchase tickets at [rootsbootsfowler.eventbrite.com](http://rootsbootsfowler.eventbrite.com). \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door.

**Harvest Festival, October 4–5, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 215 W. Main St.** Garage sale Friday and Saturday. Saturday: silent auction, barbecue lunch, kids' festival, UMW knife sale and country store with baked goods. Live music will be provided by the Wallace Family Band from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The Dueling Hearts band will perform 1–3 p.m.

**Trick or Treat Around the Square, October 25, businesses around the downtown courthouse square.**

**Holiday Market, November 9, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Hamilton Fair Park pavilions, 1007 Park Road at Alamo.** Friends of the Library book sale, vendors galore, food, Kids' Korner and door prizes. Sponsored by Pottsville Extension Education Club. For booth reservations and other information, contact Kelly Kuhl at (254) 386-3855.

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

## Hico

**Choctoberfest events, all of October.**

**Downtown Trick or Treat, October 31, 3–5 p.m., downtown.**

**Choices 5K, November 9.**

**Hico Open House, November 16.**

*For more information about Hico events, visit [hico-tx.com](http://hico-tx.com) or call Hico City Hall at (254) 796-4620.*

## 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.

**Lampasas Trade Days; September 7–8, October 5–6, November 2–3; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190.** For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

### 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](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop), write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

**Indian Artifact, Gem and Mineral Show;** September 21; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Lampasas County Youth Livestock Barn; S. Highway 281. Explore our cultural heritage and buy a piece of history from a wide array of vendors. For more information or to obtain a vendor application, contact the Vision Lampasas committee chair at (512) 556-7027 or info@visionlampasas.org.

**Lampasas County Wine Tour,** September 28, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 205 S. U.S. Highway 281.

**Artober Fest,** October 12, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden at Campbell Park, 501 E. North Ave.

**Squared Silly,** October 26, 5–7:30 p.m., downtown courtyard square. Costume contests with prizes. Additional activities include a hayride, bounce houses, a not-so-scary haunted house, family-friendly games, food and more! For more information or for a vendor application, contact the Vision Lampasas committee chair at (512) 525-1871 or info@visionlampasas.org. Like us on Facebook.

**Hunters' Welcome,** November 1, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., H-E-B parking lot. Join the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center in welcoming hunters to Lampasas and enjoy some great barbecue.

**Fall Courtyard Square Garage Sale,** November 2, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., courtyard square. For more information, contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434. For vendor booth registration forms, visit lampasasdowntown.com or email cysacwgarage@yahoo.com.

**Christmas on the Creek,** November 23–January 1, 5–8 p.m. Come see Santa's village, giant 12 Days of Christmas cards, a larger-than-life lighted nativity and beautiful light display along the banks of Sulpher Creek between Highway 190 (Key Avenue) and Highway 281. On the second Saturday in December, join us for Christmas activities at W.M. Brook Park including sleigh rides, live music, playing in the "snow" and hot cocoa with warm snacks with your family.

**Lighting of W.M. Brook Park,** November 23, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

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

**Pearl Bluegrass First Saturday Jam and Stage Show;** September 14, October 5, November 2; Pearl Community Center. Free stage shows 12:30–5 p.m. Open jamming all day and evening Thursday–Saturday. RV hookups \$15/\$20 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;** September 14, October 5, November 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.

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

## Pidcoke

**Lord's Acre Auction and Potluck Dinner,** October 5, 5:30 p.m., Pidcoke United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116 N. (halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove). Communitywide event. New and homemade goods for auction. Proceeds support community outreach. Bring a potluck dish to share. To donate items, contact Margaret Martin at (254) 518-2257. Past auction items have included handmade quilts, tea towels, bird houses and other handcrafted items.

**Community Revival,** October 6–10, Pidcoke Baptist Church, FM 116, halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove. The revival will begin with the worship service Sunday, October 6, at 11 a.m. There will be a celebration of the church's 135-year anniversary with dinner on the grounds following the morning service. The revival will continue nightly October 7–10 at 6:30 p.m.

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

## San Saba

**Pecan Capital Trade Days;** September 7, October 5, November 2; 9 a.m.–2 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse; 500 Wallace St. For information, contact JoAnne Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

**San Saba County Shooting Sports Banquet,** September 10, 5:30–7:30 p.m., San Saba Civic Center, 1190 S. Thomas Stewart Drive. Tickets \$25. Silent auction and traditional auctions and games with guns as prizes. Fundraiser to support scholarships for all three county schools and provide grant money for law enforcement and other organizations, as well

as money to purchase land for a public range in San Saba County.

**Golf Tournaments;** Two-Person Low Ball, September 14–15; Individual Stroke, October 19–20; San Saba River Golf Course, CR 102. For information, visit golfsansaba.com or contact Chuck Jennings at (325) 372-3212.

**San Saba County Friends of Animals Spaghetti Supper,** October 12, 5–7:30 p.m., San Saba Civic Center, Mill Pond Civic Center, Mill Pond Park. Adults \$10, Children \$5. Fundraiser in support of SSCFOA's spay, neuter, rescue and adoption programs. Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared again this year by chefs Don and Gaby Lindquist.

**San Saba County/Baylor Scott & White Blood Drive,** October 29, 2–6 p.m., San Saba First Baptist Church, 208 W. Wallace St. For information, contact San Saba First Baptist Church at (325) 372-5761.

**Hunters' Welcome Weekend,** November 1, G&R Grocery and Lowe's grocery store. Hunters will receive goody bags compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce while supplies last.

**SSVFD Steak Supper and Raffle,** November 1, 4:40–7:30 p.m., San Saba Volunteer Fire Department, 104 S. Water. \$15 per plate, additional donations welcome.

**Veterans Program,** November 8, 11 a.m., Second & Wallace Church of Christ, 201 W. Wallace.

**Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza,** November 28–January 5, 6–10 p.m., Mill Pond Park, 1007 E. Wallace St. Set your radio to 88.7 FM to enjoy music synced to more than 30 acres of dancing lights. Admission is free.

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.



## Power Tip

Insulating your hot water pipes can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the water heater temperature setting and save 3%–4% per year on water heating costs.

# Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency

**ELECTRONIC AND MOBILE DEVICES, TVS, COMPUTERS AND GAMING STATIONS HAVE** become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes. This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and, in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

## The Why

Before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first be prepared to answer, “What’s in it for me?” Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child—otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities—that’s something children can relate to.

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

## Learning by Doing

Because saving energy is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a treasure hunt game: Have them locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss Energy Star-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions affect the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

**Turn off lights and turn off and unplug chargers, computers and video consoles when not in use.**

**Close blinds and curtains during summer days to keep your home cooler; open them during winter days to let in warm sunlight.**

**If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes,** teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

## Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed-upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement for energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less lecturing about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them, it helps your home be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.



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Steve Young

## 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.



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