

# McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • [www.mclennanelectric.com](http://www.mclennanelectric.com) • (254) 840-2871

## MEMORIAL DAY



Join us in honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for our country. Remember the many men and women all over the world protecting our most valued asset, our **FREEDOM.**



PHOTO FURNISHED BY BYRON WHITNEY OF VALLEY MILLS

## NEW OFFICES NOW OPEN 111 S. JOHNSON DRIVE, MCGREGOR



**B**lanca Williams of Moody was the first customer to visit our new office. We had an Open House on April 15, 2004. Many members stopped by to enjoy the refreshments and tour the new facilities.

## PRICE PER KWH COMPARISONS

**B**elow we have listed our average price per kWh compared to TXU and First Choice (formerly Texas-New Mexico Power Company), and based on 1,000 kWh/month usage.

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| First Choice ..... | \$106.50 |
| TXU .....          | \$100.60 |
| MCEC .....         | \$ 88.39 |

Price comparisons for TXU and First Choice are the "Price to Beat" rates and were obtained from the Public Utility Commission website, [www.puc.state.tx.us](http://www.puc.state.tx.us).

## Your HOME TEAM Advantage



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR & EVENTS

MAY 2004

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Bosque County

Collector Market & Garage Sales  
2nd Saturday in May

### Laguna Park

West Shore Civic Barbecue  
Saturday before Memorial Day

### McGregor

Summer Blast—Amslers Park  
Saturday, May 29

## CIVIC EVENTS

### Lions Club

McGregor—2nd & 4th Monday  
Clifton—2nd & 4th Tuesday  
China Spring—2nd & 4th Monday  
Gatesville—Each Wednesday  
Oglesby—1st & 3rd Monday  
Moody—2nd & 4th Tuesday  
Valley Mills—2nd & 4th Tuesday

### Rotary Club

McGregor—Wednesday  
Clifton—Thursday

If you have or know of an upcoming event in your community, please let us know at least two months in advance so we can place it in the magazine. You can contact the office at 840-2871 or [mike@mclennanelectric.com](mailto:mike@mclennanelectric.com) by e-mail.

# Memorial Day Celebration

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY?

**M**emorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died serving our nation. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan and was first observed on May 30, 1868.

By 1890 it was a recognized holiday by all the northern states while the South refused to acknowledge the day and continued to honor their dead on separate days. After World War I, the holiday was changed to honor not only those who died in the Civil War, but all those who died fighting in any war, and it became a holiday observed nationwide.

In 1915, Monia Michael conceived the idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who had died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to friends, neighbors and coworkers, with the money benefiting servicemen in need. Later Madam Guerin from France was visiting America and learned of the new custom. Upon returning to France, she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war-orphaned children. The tradition spread to other countries. In 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to sell the poppies.

Since the late '50s, on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags on each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that all flags remain standing.

As we observe Memorial Day, please take time to remember those who have perished serving our nation during war. Today, our military is again guarding our freedoms and those of others in far-off countries and cherish our prayers.

A "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December 2000 asking all Americans to take a moment of silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to acknowledge those who are standing for our freedoms and those who have perished fighting for them.

**Our office will be closed Monday, May 31,  
in observance of Memorial Day.**

Your  
**HOME TEAM**  
Advantage

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**McGregor, Texas**

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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



# ASA



**D**riving down FM 434 in southern McLennan County, you will come to the small community of Asa where FM 2643 and FM 434 cross. Asa was originally called Norwood, and was located on the “Old River Road” from Waco to Marlin. The Texas and New Orleans Railroad changed the name to Asa to honor Waco businessman Asa Warner, who was the last of the “plantation-style” landowners in the area. He owned the cotton gin, the country store and four farms in the area. The gin and seed warehouse were still in operation in 1983 when the population in the area was about 100. The gin and outbuildings still stand but are not in use today. A seed dealer and small country restaurant are the only businesses there today. Farming is still big business in the area, evident by the cultivated land as far as one can see.

## OPERATION ROUND UP BEGINS JUNE 1

**M**clennan County Electric Cooperative members join other electric cooperatives around the nation in June as we begin “Operation Round Up.” Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which we “round up” your electric bill each month to the nearest dollar amount to provide funding for local community and charitable organizations in our area.

Every month, the additional pennies, nickels and dimes are added to a special fund to help organizations in our area. A committee representing MCEC’s service will be responsible for deciding where the funds are allocated. Once the committee allocates the funds, selected community and charitable organizations will receive the proceeds. We will keep you informed on how much is allocated and where the funds are distributed. An audit will be done annually and will be available.

Here’s how it works: If your monthly bill was \$67.30, your bill would be “rounded up” to \$68, with the additional 70 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund. The average contribution per meter is \$6 per year and is not tax-deductible. It doesn’t seem to be a lot of money; however, it can make a difference to those in need.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program. If you do not wish to participate, please contact the MCEC office at (254) 840-2871, or drop us a note with your payment and we will remove your account.

## Is Your Home PROTECTED?



**Is your electronic equipment protected against spring storms? We have surge protection equipment available for purchase that will offer peace of mind when those storms roll in. Call the MCEC office at (254) 840-2871 and ask for Mike or Ron.**

# UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE



**I**n 1909, University of Texas President Sidney E. Mezes was interested in discovering how the university could help the state in ways beyond higher education. After much study on the situation, the University Interscholastic League was created to provide guidance and leadership in sponsoring educational contests in Texas. The early interscholastic contests were primarily for debate and speech while the University of Texas Interscholastic Athletic Association held track and field competitions. In 1911, UT officials realized they were duplicating their efforts and combined the two into the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

The UIL has grown into the largest school organization of its kind in the world. It provides educational extracurricular contests for academics, athletics, music and art.

Area school administrators and faculty emphasize the importance of UIL competition in their schools. Benefits include: improved test scores, development of self-esteem and self-confidence, challenging underachieving students, and helping students grow. UIL contestants learn the importance of hard work, self-discipline, teamwork and that winning means more than placing first. Teachers (UIL coaches) become better educators while reinforcing the importance of learning.

UIL is synonymous with achieving more success in the classroom through winning, losing, meeting or exceeding expectations, or simply making new relationships that will last for a lifetime. It is said that one out of two students have competed in UIL before they graduate.

**TOP:** Lorena High School Choir members Sudie McGinty, Jessika Shelton, Amanda Huey, Emily Baker, Meridith Bowden, Kristy Murphy, Hayley Rainer, Sylena Caballero, Lindsay Robbins, Brittany Janes and Stacy Wilson. **INSET:** Jacob Becker, a second-grader at Valley Mills Elementary, received First Place in Storytelling.