

This May, Plug Into Safety



MESSAGE FROM CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER RICK HAILE

THIS MONTH, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT to reflect on the importance of safety. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is used improperly.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and throughout the month, Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative will work to raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. Visit our website, hotec.coop, and our Facebook page to see safety tips and reminders.

Our Responsibility to You

We care deeply about the well-being of our members and encourage you to plug into safety, especially this month. Thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or killed each year as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we conduct safety programs for local schools and other groups. We provide electrical safety content in

Texas Co-op Power, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

Our Responsibility to Employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at your electric co-op. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. We participate in programs and follow specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices.

Our lineworkers are required to

wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work in our buildings and out in the field.

As the CEO/general manager of Heart of Texas EC, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit hotec.coop for tips about how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.



The Value of Membership

SERVICE IS OUR MISSION. Electric co-ops were established to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. This has remained our mission since day one.

You are a member, not a customer.

Cooperatives are businesses owned by members. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for seats on the board. Your votes and participation help shape the co-op's direction.

We are a nonprofit. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which operate to make profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops do not earn profits. Instead, revenue remaining after expenses is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

We are community-focused. Electric co-ops are committed to local community development programs and projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Relay For Life, Youth Tour and others.

We are guided by a set of principles.

All co-ops are guided by Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

We are committed to innovation.

Electric cooperatives are able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the communities and members we serve.



2017 Youth Tour Winner

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY JANDER, the 2017 Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative Government-in-Action Youth Tour winner. She is the daughter of Philip and Linda Jander of Lorena and is an 11th-grader at Lorena High School.



An essay contest is held every year to determine the Youth Tour winner. Students from area high schools whose families are members of Heart of Texas EC are encouraged to apply.

Jander's winning essay is titled, *The Farmer's Journey to Electricity*. In it, she compares the differences between rural and urban households during the 1930s. While people living in towns and cities had electricity, rural folks lived as they had in the 1830s—without power. "They relied on gas-lit lamps and sunlight to carry out their daily chores, and still they thrived as the backbone of America's agricultural economy," she writes.

In her essay, Jander describes how President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the executive order in 1935 to create the Rural Electrification Administration, with one goal in mind: to get power to the farmers and families of rural America.

She also explains that when the investor-owned companies failed to show interest in using federal loans to provide electricity to rural areas, the farmers stepped up to apply for these funds. Member-consumer cooperatives became a reality when the REA created the Electric Cooperative Corporation Act in 1937. Cooperatives popped up across the United States, serving more than 1.5 million people by 1940.

Jander also notes that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was founded in 1942 to give these electric cooperatives a voice in the nation's capital.

In her closing remarks, Jander provides an interesting statistic: Electric co-ops now provide electricity for 99 percent of American farms and serve more than 42 million people worldwide.

The action-packed Youth Tour takes place June 7–16. The Texas group will gather in Austin and depart as a group to travel to Washington, D.C.

The trip includes visits to the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, attending a performance at the Kennedy Center, a boat cruise with dinner and dancing, and a chance to meet elected officials.

Heart of Texas EC sponsors the Government-in-Action Youth Tour program in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Texas Electric Cooperatives.



Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

Operating in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, McLennan and Milam counties

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Computer equipment and TVs need to "breathe." Make sure to leave at least 6 inches of space around the tops, backs and sides of your electronics for proper ventilation.

THINKSTOCK | SCANRAIL

Operation Round Up Donates \$20,250



Your Spare Change Changes Lives

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD it's the little things that count in life: being kind to our neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after ourselves while enjoying the great outdoors. Although each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a little, we see a big, positive impact in our community.

That's why Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative is a proud supporter of Operation Round Up.

Co-op members who opt in to the Operation Round Up program have their monthly electric bills automatically rounded up to the next whole dollar amount, and the difference is deposited into a fund that assists worthy local service organizations in need. The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees oversees contributions, evaluates funding applications and distributes funds to recipients such as local volunteer fire departments, community centers and service organizations.



BUCKHOLTS BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION
Operation Round Up Board Member Mike Garrett presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to Ed Peeler.



CENTRAL TEXAS MEALS ON WHEELS
Heart of Texas Member Services Manager Ron Poston presents a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check to Paula Owen, director of transit.



CRAWFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
HOTEC's Ron Poston presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to Secretary Dovie Luedeker and Director Jimmy Westerfield.



FALLS COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS
ORU Board Member Mike Garrett presents a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check to Edna Spivey.



GOLINDA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
ORU Board Member Mike Garrett presents a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check to Fire Chief Quincy Lee.



JONESBORO COMMUNITY CENTER
HOTEC's Ron Poston presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to President Valerie Kunkel, Secretary Elaine Shipley and Vice President Harry Shipley.



LEVITA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
HOTEC's Ron Poston presents a \$2,500 Operation Round Up check to Treasurer Jackie Featherston.



MCGREGOR BAND BOOSTERS
HOTEC's Ron Poston presents a \$500 Operation Round Up check to Secretary Beth Dutschmann.



MOFFAT COMMUNITY CENTER
HOTEC's Ron Poston presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to President Jim Wingo, Secretary Carol Wingo and Board Member Edgar Bounds.



OLD SETTLERS and VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF FALLS COUNTY
 ORU Board Member Mike Garrett presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to Executive Director Gail Wideman Palmore and LaVern Cockerham.



SAMMONS JUNIOR GOLF ACADEMY
 HOTECC's Ron Poston presents a \$500 Operation Round Up check to Assistant Director Mathew Clark.



TURNERSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
 HOTECC's Ron Poston presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to Secretary Dorothy Wagoner and Reporter Debra Conlin.



WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 ORU Board Member Mike Garrett presents a \$1,250 Operation Round Up check to Claralee Gausemeier.

How does it work for a member? If your bill for one month is \$82.70, that amount would be rounded up to \$83, with 30 cents going to Operation Round Up for that month. Most members don't even notice the extra money they contribute. Over the span of a year, the average amount of spare change contributed by a member is around \$7, says Member Services Manager Ron Poston.

Seven dollars doesn't sound like much, but when you put together those small, monthly contributions from all the program members—that's when things start to get exciting. About 78 percent of the members of Heart of Texas EC chip in monthly to support Operation Round Up, and that number grows every month.

Last year, HOTECC distributed \$82,877 to local organizations. Since its launch, Operation Round Up has given more than \$755,491 to community groups in need. That's something we all can be proud of: Our assistance is changing lives for the better in our community.

About 250 local electric co-ops nationwide run Operation Round Up programs. All told, consumers at these co-ops have raised more than \$100 million since South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative originated the idea in 1989.

If you're one of the members who makes Operation Round Up possible, thank you. If you would like to participate, you can call us at 1-800-840-2957 and request to be added. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.

Organizations receiving funds the first quarter of 2017 include:

Buckholts Betterment Association	\$1,250
Central Texas Senior Ministry (Meals on Wheels)	\$2,500
Crawford Community Center	\$1,250
Falls County Meals on Wheels	\$2,500
Golinda Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500
Jonesboro Community Center	\$1,250
Levita Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500
McGregor Band Boosters	\$500
Moffat Community Center	\$1,250
Mosaic (Not pictured)	\$500
Old Settlers and Veterans Association	\$1,250
Sammons Junior Golf Academy	\$500
Turnersville Community Center	\$1,250
Westphalia Historical Society	\$1,250

There's an App for That

Pay Your HOTEK Bill Using Your Smartphone



HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE recently added another feature that allows members easy and quick access to their electric accounts. You can use the new free mobile app to pay your bill using your smartphone through eBiz.

This new app makes it convenient for our members to manage their accounts and provides other useful options.

To download the app, visit the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android). Search for Heart of Texas Electric. Then follow the directions to download to your phone.

It's quick, easy and right at your fingertips.



GMCOOP | ISTOCK.COM

Heart of Texas EC thanks all our veterans and wishes everyone a peaceful

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29

Co-op Auctions Trucks

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is putting the following items up for auction. Sealed bids must be received before 10 a.m., May 15. Envelopes must be marked "Sealed Bid" and be delivered by mail or in person to either of the Heart of Texas EC offices. If you have any questions, please contact Member Services Manager Ron Poston at 1-800-840-2957. Heart of Texas EC reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Items may be seen at the McGregor office May 1-15. Units are as-is, with no warranty.



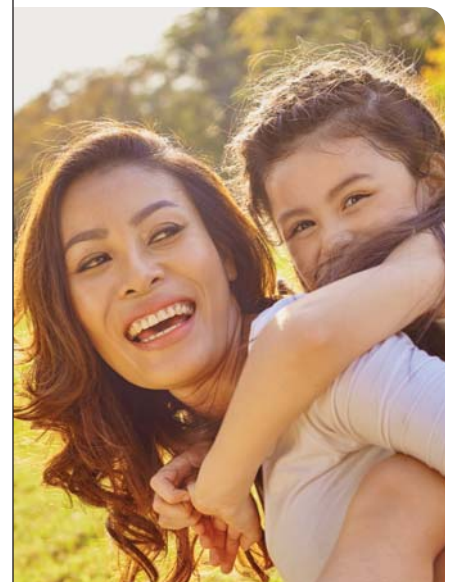
UNIT #1050
2006 CHEVROLET SILVERADO: 2500 HD, 4x4, regular cab, Vortec 6000 V-8 SFI gas engine, 4-speed automatic transmission, cruise control. Mileage: 232,267



UNIT #1410
2005 CHEVROLET SILVERADO: 1500 SWB, 2 WD, regular cab, Vortec 4300 V-6 engine, 5-speed manual transmission, climate control manual, AM/FM stereo. Mileage: 185,216



UNIT #2290
1997 FORD F350: Cab and chassis, 4x4, 5-speed manual transmission with OD, turbo 7.3-liter diesel V-8, AM radio. Mileage: 216,671



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Happy Mother's Day

from Heart of Texas EC

Sunday, May 14

10 Simple Spring Energy Savers

FOLLOW THESE SPRINGTIME TIPS to help save energy and lower your electric bill:

1. Call a qualified technician to service your central air-conditioning system. HVAC equipment needs servicing every year to head off major problems and keep the system running smoothly all summer.
2. As long as the spring weather is mild, open a window instead of turning on the air conditioner. Draw soft spring breezes into the home by turning on your ceiling fans.
3. Cook outside on the grill as soon as the weather permits it. When you don't turn on the cooktop or oven, you don't heat up your house.



PORTISHEAD | ISTOCK.COM

Open the windows for some cool air this spring and keep bills low.

8. Likewise, caulk around windows and electrical outlets so cool air can't escape your house and hot air can't get in.
9. Keep your home's humidity levels low by running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans—but only until the smoke or steam clears. Running them for too long will suck more than humidity and odors from your home. Those fans can send your comfortable, conditioned air out of the house.
10. Change your AC filter. A clogged filter forces your system to work harder and use more energy. It also can send the dust and allergens it collects right back into your indoor air.

4. Close the shades. It's tempting to leave them open on beautiful, sunny spring days. If it's hot outside, that heat can find its way into your house through the windows and tempt you to crank up the AC unnecessarily.

5. If it's sunny but not hot outdoors, throw those curtains open and let the natural daylight illuminate your home. Then, turn off any lights. You won't need them.

6. Don't have a programmable thermostat yet? It's time. Sometimes spring weather calls for heat, and sometimes you need the AC. A programmable thermostat will help you limit how much energy you use for either by automatically turning the temperature up or down as needed.

7. Seal the ducts in your central air-conditioning system. Leaky ducts can push your cooling costs up by as much as 30 percent.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



HAMIZA BAKIRCI | ISTOCK.COM

Tahitian Salad

- 1 small box (6 ounces) wild rice, cooked per directions
- 1 can (11½ ounces) mixed vegetables, drained
- 1 can (7½ ounces) corn, drained
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, chopped
- ¼ bell pepper, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup vinegar
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Cover and chill overnight.

This recipe was a winner in the August 2012 *These Are the Salad Days* recipe contest. Submit your favorite recipe for this month's *Sunday Cooking* contest to *Texas Co-op Power* by May 10 for a chance to win \$100 and have it published. Visit texascooppower.com/contests.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM