

# What's in It for "We?"



**MESSAGE FROM  
CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER RICK HAILE**

**ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE FEATURES** of cooperatives is that instead of answering the popular question, "What's in it for me?" we answer a different question: "What's in it for we?"

Cooperatives often are formed when the market fails to offer a product or service with decent quality at an affordable price. Rural cooperatives were formed decades ago, after the folks behind investor-owned utilities decided there was not enough profit to be made in hard-to-reach rural areas and refused to offer electricity to our community.

In response, the founding members of Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative went door to door to collect \$5 from each household to raise a portion of the original investment the co-op needed. Those early go-getters realized the only way to get electricity for *me* was to get it for *we*, the whole community.

Cooperative ownership lies in the hands of the people who use the co-op's products and services, not outside investors. Not only did co-ops start by answering the "What's in it for we?" question, but they also continue to answer that question for as long as they exist.

These days, we often hear about companies that abandon their local communities and move overseas in search of cheaper labor. This negatively affects the community through job losses, declines in housing values and school closures. Because local residents largely own them, cooperatives are less likely to leave their community. It would be practically impossible for Heart of Texas EC to leave our community. The co-op is a critical part of what makes this community a community.

The way co-ops continue to answer the question, "What's in it for we?" is essential to their survival. It is imperative that we keep you, our members, as the primary focus. Keeping rates as low as possible is one major part of that focus,



Co-ops were created to help the members they serve, and 75-plus years later, that focus is still the same.

but ensuring that we provide real value as your trusted energy advisor is also extremely important.

By maintaining that focus with your help and support, we will continue to be able to serve the *me* and the *we* in our community long into the future.



HAPPY  
FATHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 19

SUSAN CHIANG | ISTOCK.COM



FLAG DAY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 14

**"To survive in peace and harmony,  
united and strong, we must have  
one people, one nation, one flag."**

—PAULINE HANSON

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ | ISTOCK.COM

# Falls Faded Glory

**AS YOU STAND IN THE SHADOW** of the once-grand Falls Hotel in Marlin, you can imagine hearing the strains of a Tommy Dorsey tune whispering on the wind. The band played for cotillion dances at the hotel back in its glory days. The 110-room hotel featured a grand ballroom that could hold 300 guests.

The Falls Hotel was originally known as the Hilton Hotel. It was Conrad Hilton's eighth hotel built in 1929 by the firm of Curtis and Thomas. The nine-story structure, at 200 Coleman St., is the tallest building in Falls County.

The discovery of hot mineral springs in Marlin led to the establishment of clinics, hospitals and sanitariums, as well as hotels to accommodate the many visitors. It is estimated that more than 80,000 people visited Marlin annually in the 1930s "to take the cure," and many of them stayed at the Hilton. An underground tunnel connected the hotel to the Marlin Sanitarium Bath House across the street.

Marlin was named the Hot Mineral Water City of Texas by the Texas House of Representatives in 1999.

The hot mineral water prompted several professional baseball teams to hold spring training camp there. The New York Giants trained in Marlin 1908-18 and in 1923. Other teams who trained there included the Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals, Cincinnati Reds and Philadelphia Athletics.

The Falls Hotel is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and is just one of the many beautiful historical buildings gracing downtown Marlin.

To see more of historic Marlin, visit [marlintexas.com/temp/tour.htm](http://marlintexas.com/temp/tour.htm).



The Falls Hotel is one of many historic buildings in Marlin.



## Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

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

### CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Haile

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## Contact Us

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Online at [hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)

By phone at 1-855-399-2688

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[hotec.coop](http://hotec.coop)





The Buckholts Cotton Festival will be held June 3-4. The barbecue cookers will fire up their grills Friday night. The parade begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday and is followed by a variety of events scheduled throughout the day.

# Cotton Festival Time in Buckholts

**IT'S COTTON-PICKING TIME!** The 29th annual Buckholts Cotton Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, June 3-4 with added activities to keep visitors busy.

The barbecue cook-off gets underway Friday with the judging of two jackpot categories: Exotic and Margarita. Barbecue brisket, ribs, chicken and beans will be judged throughout the day. A DJ will provide musical entertainment Friday evening.

Main Street will be hopping Saturday morning, with the annual parade hitting the street at 9 a.m. Expect to see antique vehicles, clowns, children and more. Musical entertainment will be featured throughout the day. Booths of arts-and-craft vendors will line the street, offering a variety of one-of-a-kind items. Food and refreshments will be available. Baked goods and souvenirs will be for sale in the community center.

There will be a volleyball tournament, washer tournament and horseshoe pitching tournament. Special activities for the kids will include a bouncy house.

Organizers invite everyone to "Come out and have a cotton-pickin' good time!" For more information, call Jo Ann Peeler at (254) 593-3101.



## PLX Upgrade Continues

**HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC** Cooperative works hard to provide the highest quality of electric service to our members.

Since 1996, HOTEK has used an automated meter-reading system to facilitate daily and monthly meter reads on most residential meters. Being 20 years old, it was no longer being supported by the manufacturer, so a more useful system was needed.

HOTEK began installing a state-of-the-art advanced meter-reading system in late 2014. All the substations have been commissioned by now. The next phase of the upgrade will include replacement of the remaining "turtle" meters with new PLX meters from Landis+Gyr.

Anytime a HOTEK employee visits a location that uses an old meter, a new PLX meter will be installed. In addition, meter deployment is scheduled in the Calvert and Cottonbelt areas.

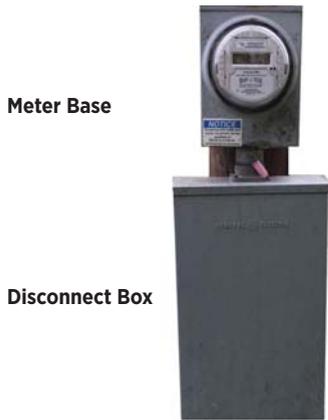
This upgrade enables the cooperative to perform several functions remotely, such as reading meters in a more timely manner, monitoring voltage, and reconnecting or disconnecting power at some locations.

In addition, these meters will provide more accurate information about outages and restoration times, allow for faster response times to outages, and ultimately lead to fewer outages. Improved power quality and more efficient power distribution will help keep costs down for members. Better detection of power theft will be an additional benefit.

If you have any questions, contact our office at 1-800-840-2957.

# What Do You Do If the Power Goes Out?

*What to check before you call HOTECH*



## 1. Check for light on meter:

- ▶ Red light on older-style “turtle” meter
- ▶ Yellow or amber light on new PLX meter

## 2. Check breakers:

- ▶ In disconnect box below the meter base
- ▶ In breaker box

**WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT**, what is the first thing you should do? Check your meter. Is there a light on?

For members with older meters, there should be a red light on the “turtle” transmitter in the meter. On the new PLX meters, the light will be yellow or amber.

Because the PLX meters are electronic, the power display will show a reading. If the light is not on and the power display is blank, skip the next two checks and call the co-op at 1-800-840-2957.

If the light is on, the meter is receiving power.

Your next step is to check the breakers in the disconnect box located below the meter. (Some older installations may not have this.)

If the breakers are not tripped, then check the breakers in the breaker box located inside your house, apartment, etc. If this does not restore your power, please contact HOTECH to report your outage by calling 1-800-840-2957.

Before calling and to help make sure service crews are sent to the correct location, please have the following information ready:

- ▶ Account number,
- ▶ Map location (available on your bill statement),
- ▶ Meter number (if you have multiple meters at the same map location), and
- ▶ Combination or a key location if you have a locked or coded gate.



The War of the Currents in the late 19th century was about whether electricity should be distributed as AC or DC. Nikola Tesla and George Westinghouse proposed using AC, while Thomas Edison fought hard for DC. Edison lost the War of the Currents, and power was—and still is—distributed as AC.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



CARTERPHOTO | STOCK.ADOBE.COM

## Chocolate Peanut Butter Bombes

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 3 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 12 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 8 miniature peanut butter cups
- ½ cup hot fudge ice cream topping, warmed
- 2 tablespoons chopped salted peanuts

1. Line eight 6-ounce ramekins or custard cups with plastic wrap and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and chocolate syrup until smooth. Beat in powdered sugar, then fold in whipped topping.
3. Spoon mixture into prepared cups and insert a peanut butter cup into the center of each. Cover and freeze 4–5 hours or until firm.
4. Invert frozen bombes onto dessert dishes. Remove cups and plastic wrap. Drizzle with hot fudge topping and sprinkle with peanuts.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

# Help Co-ops Combat Copper Crime

**METAL THEFT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE ELECTRIC UTILITIES** around Texas and all over America. This crime endangers lives and can result in thousands of dollars in damages, ultimately paid by you.

The price of copper has hovered in a high range for several years, so copper wire appeals to thieves who look to sell it for scrap. To access their prize, burglars often climb power poles, scale substation fences and break into buildings to steal the valuable metal, endangering themselves and others in the process.

To a would-be thief, stealing copper might seem like a quick way to make a buck. But it's illegal, it's costly and it's not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.

Some electric cooperatives stamp copper and aluminum wire with an ID number to deter theft. Stolen wire is commonly brought to recycling centers and traded for

cash. Although many states' laws require recycling centers to keep records of transactions, enforcement can be difficult. Without identifying marks, stolen wire is hard to track and rarely recovered. Legislation introduced on the federal level aims to improve tracking and impose stiffer penalties; most states have toughened metal theft laws over the past few years, as well.

Thieves might not realize that they are risking their lives by taking



Keep electrical wiring locked up to prevent copper theft and electrical danger.

copper from utility poles or substations, where high transmission voltage is stepped down to a lower current for distribution lines.

Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative urges you to follow these guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and help prevent copper theft.

- ▶ Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- ▶ If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire, contact us at the co-op immediately.
- ▶ Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your home and business to deter possible thieves.
- ▶ Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- ▶ If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave wire loose at the job site, especially overnight.
- ▶ Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum wire.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you see anyone other than Heart of Texas EC personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call us immediately at 1-800-840-2957, then call the police.



## Not on a Utility Pole!

**UTILITY POLES ARE FOR** transmission lines—not signs or objects. Attaching objects to a utility pole is against the law!

Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs, and the signs themselves, pose dangers to Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative lineworkers who must climb poles when restoring power after storms or performing routine maintenance.

Utility poles are not billboards. These poles might seem like convenient places to post “Garage Sale” or “For Sale” signs, but don't. Posting signs or attaching objects to utility poles is against the law.

When items are posted on power utility poles, linemen risk injury to themselves and damage to their equipment, rubber gloves, boots and protective clothing.

Nails and tacks can get in the way of the climbing hooks linemen wear on their boots when climbing a pole to service your utility lines. A tear in clothing or gloves probably seems like a minor inconvenience to most people, but to a lineman working with a power line carrying thousands of volts of electricity, it can cause a serious accident.

The next time you consider attaching something to a utility pole, think about the lineman who may have to climb that pole in the dark or during a storm.

Help keep our linemen safe. Don't post or hang any items on a utility pole! Working together, we can keep our dedicated Heart of Texas EC lineworkers safe and working efficiently.



Keeping the curtains closed and using fans will help keep you feeling cool.

## Summertime Savings Strategies

**WE'RE FACING ANOTHER** long, hot Texas summer! Here are several ways to use energy more efficiently and save some money on electricity:

**Change the air-conditioning system's filter every three months** during cooling season—and more if your neighborhood is especially dusty. Dirty filters stop air from flowing through, which causes your AC to work harder—and use more energy—as it cools your home.

**If you have a programmable thermostat**, instruct it to run the AC only during part of the day. There's no need to keep your house comfortable if nobody's in it during the day. Program the thermostat to turn on the AC an hour before you get home so that it's cool upon your arrival.

**Use ceiling fans.** If you don't have any, consider getting them as a good investment. Install them in bedrooms, the kitchen and the living room. Fans move the air around and make the people in the room feel cooler. They help your air conditioner cool the house for less.

**Close the drapes.** A sunny day might be pretty to look at through the window, but the sun's rays can heat the air in your home and force the AC to work overtime. Keep curtains and blinds drawn on bright, hot days, especially on south- and west-facing windows.

**If you have a pool, wait until after dark to run your pool pump.** Operating it during off-peak hours when fewer people are using a lot of appliances at once can save money on your energy bill.

**Switch your central air-conditioning system's fan to "auto."** The "on" setting forces it to run constantly—even when your house is already cool.

## Cool Roofs

**IF YOU'VE EVER STOOD** on a roof during a Texas summer day, you know how hot it can get. The heat from a home's roof makes the air conditioner work even harder to keep the inside cool.

If you want to upgrade an existing roof, you can:

- ▶ **Retrofit** the roof with specialized heat-reflective material.
- ▶ **Re-cover** the roof with a new waterproofing surface (such as tile coating).
- ▶ **Replace** the roof with a cool one.

If you are building a new home, decide during the planning phase whether you want a cool roof. A cool roof uses material designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Cool roofs can be made of a highly reflective type of paint, a sheet covering, or reflective tiles or shingles.

A cool roof can lower the surface temperature by up to 50 percent and save energy and money by requiring less air conditioning. Cool roofs make spaces like garages or covered patios more comfortable.

Nearly any type of home can benefit from a cool roof, but consider climate and other factors before you decide to install one.

—Energy.gov

**Upgrade to a cool roof for summer savings.**

