

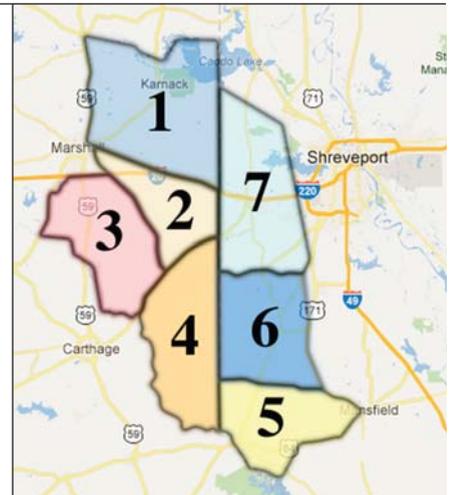
# Nominating Committee Notice

THE 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE meets March 2 at the PHEC offices at 10 a.m. to nominate directors for districts 3, 5 and 7.

**Those serving on the committee:**

- District 1 Chris Parsons
- District 2 Jerry Carter
- District 3 Gary Cline
- District 4 Fred Whitsett

- District 5 Bob Benefield
- District 6 Roger Connell
- District 7 Mickey Walker



## Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Director District Map

DISTRICT	DIRECTOR
1	Paul Fortune
2	Albert Tiller, <i>Secretary</i>
3	Jay Goswick
4	Basel Gibbs, <i>President</i>
5	Sandra Stephens
6	Jerry Holmes, <i>Vice President</i>
7	Gene Stough

### NONDISCRIMINATION INFORMATION

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination complaint form online at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax to (202) 690-7442 or by email to [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



# SAVE THE DATE

**PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 10 A.M.**  
 Marshall Convention Center  
 Look for details in next month's issue.

# ETREYS Set for June 25–29

**THE 2018 EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC Youth Seminar** is scheduled for June 25–29 at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall.

ETREYS is a leadership camp designed to foster positive ideals and values among young people and enhance skills in leadership, problem-solving and interpersonal relationships in a wholesome environment.

Students living in Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative's service area who are high school sophomores or juniors and interested in taking part in the leadership camp should contact Linda McNeely before March 15 at (903) 935-7936.



# Warning Signs of an Electrical Malfunction

**WHEN ELECTRIC SERVICE WORKS PROPERLY, WE NEVER NOTICE IT. MOST OF THE TIME,** we flip a switch, the lights go on and all is right with the world. It's only when things go wrong that we start paying attention. Here are five warning signs that can indicate an electrical malfunction.

**1. Flickering lights.** If an electrical circuit in your house is overloaded, it could cause the lights to dim or flicker. This usually happens when you have too many energy-intensive appliances or fixtures wired to the same circuit. For example, your lights may flicker when your washing machine is running if the two are on the same circuit. The solution: Ask a licensed electrician to move the lights to a different circuit or install a dedicated line for the washing machine.

**2. Suspicious odors.** It's not unusual for a new appliance to smell a little bit bad the first time or two you use it. But if outlets, the breaker box or other appliances emit a foul odor, that could signal a problem with the wiring. Switch off and unplug anything that doesn't smell right, and call an electrician.

**3. Sparks.** An appliance that sends off a spark could be damaged. Sparks from a breaker panel or fusebox could signal something more serious and should be inspected by a qualified electrician as soon as possible.

**4. Tripped breakers.** A breaker tripping more often than occasionally isn't normal, and it's probably not safe. Circuit breakers that trip signal an overloaded circuit.

If the same appliance, such as a hair dryer or vacuum cleaner, trips the circuit every time, chances are that the appliance is the culprit. But if the same outlet trips the circuit no matter what you plug into it, it's likely an overload on the system. This is a job for a professional.

**5. A buzz.** Electric appliances should not buzz. They shouldn't make any sounds. If they do, you might have a problem with an outlet or some wiring. An electrician can fix this.

## Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative

410 E. Houston St. • P.O. Box 1058  
Marshall, TX 75671

**Organized:** 1937

**Service area:** Harrison and Panola counties in Texas and Caddo and DeSoto parishes in Louisiana

**Serves:** 20,141 meters; 13,722 members

**Miles of line:** 2,581 distribution;  
72 transmission

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Basel Gibbs, President  
Jerry Holmes, Vice President  
Albert Tiller, Secretary  
Paul Fortune  
Jay Goswick  
Sandra Stephens  
Gene Stough

## Contact Us

*For information during office hours and outages 24/7*

### CALL US

**(903) 935-7936** local or  
**1-800-972-1093** toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**phec.us**

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.**

*24-hour service available for outages and emergencies.*

### BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

**Bring your electric bill** or bill stubs when visiting the co-op office in Marshall with billing inquiries or payment questions.

**Payments can be made** by mail, at our local office, by phone or on our website. We accept a variety of payment forms, including cash, check, electronic funds transfer, credit card and check-by-phone. Please call 1-866-520-1211 or (903) 935-4657 to pay by credit card or check-by-phone, or use our website at phec.us.

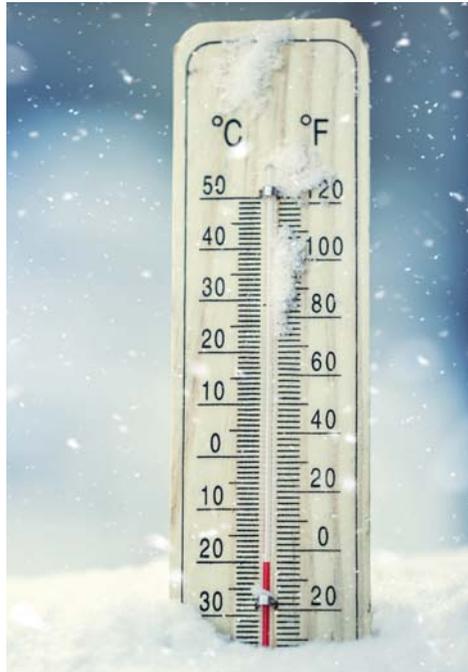
# Winter Weather Bill Alert

**IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, EXTREME** cold temperatures increased energy consumption across the region.

The Southwest Power Pool hit an all-time record winter peak three times during this period.

This increase in energy consumption, caused by extreme cold temperatures, has resulted in large increases in kilowatt-hour usage for many of our members. Since electricity is paid for after it is consumed, at times members will receive these bills during periods of milder temperatures causing confusion.

Please check the service period on your bill for the dates that your meter readings occurred. The difference in these readings is the kilowatt-hour usage for the bill period that is used to calculate your bill total.



# Laundry Day Savings

**TO SAVE MONEY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM,** use cold water and less water overall.

Unless the stains on your clothes are oil-based, warm or cool water in your washing machine will do just as good a job of removing them as hot water, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Here are some ways to clean your clothes without cleaning out your bank account:

- ▶ Wash clothes in cold water and use cold-water detergents.
- ▶ Wash and dry full loads only. If you must run the washer before it's full, adjust the water level so the whole machine doesn't fill up unnecessarily.
- ▶ Towels and heavy cotton items like jeans tend to take longer to dry than lightweight clothing. Don't dry the two types together.
- ▶ Let the dryer decide how long your clothes need to tumble. Newer models have moisture sensors and automatically stop the cycle when clothes are dry.
- ▶ Clean the dryer's lint screen after each load. Letting the lint build up creates a fire hazard.
- ▶ If you have a high-efficiency washer, use detergents labeled "HE." The American Cleaning Institute says these low-sudsing detergents clean clothes well in machines that use less water.

# 4 Free Ways To Pay Your Energy Bill

**1.** Sign up for automatic bank draft through the Customer Service Portal, or fill out the back of your bill coupon and mail it back to us in the provided envelope (don't forget to include a voided check). We will withdraw your payment amount on the due date of the bill.

**2.** Send us your payment through your bank's online bill pay service. Delivery time for these payments varies from 24 hours to five business days depending on how the bank sends your payment. Contact your bank for estimated transmittal times.



**3.** Send us a physical check through the mail in the envelope that is provided with your bill. These payments are posted on the day that we receive them. Timing for delivery will depend on the U.S. Postal Service. Please do not send cash through the mail.

**4.** Visit our office in person and pay by cash or check. Our Marshall office is located at 410 E. Houston Street.





# The Dangers of DIY

**EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE CRITICALLY INJURED** and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and incidents in their own homes.

More homeowners than ever before are tackling do-it-yourself projects. However, most do not have the training or experience needed to safely perform home electrical work, increasing the risk of injuries. Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care, and cutting corners can prove a costly mistake.

Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home. **However, if you do decide to do it yourself, consider the following important safety tips before undertaking any home electrical project:**

- ▶ Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- ▶ Take time to learn about your home electrical system so that you can safely navigate and maintain it.
- ▶ Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level. Knowing when to call a professional may help prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.
- ▶ Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- ▶ Test wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off.

▶ Never touch metal pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.

Many do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. Using power tools safely requires skilled instruction and training. The most common scenario for power tool-related electrocutions occurs when the equipment comes in contact with live electrical wires while it is being used. **Stay safe by following these tips:**

- ▶ Use ground-fault circuit interrupters with every power tool to protect against electric shocks.
- ▶ Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet in length.
- ▶ Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- ▶ When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips.



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## HAPPY EASTER! APRIL 1

Panola-Harrison EC wishes you  
and yours a blessed holiday.



AMANDA ROHDE | ISTOCK.COM

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 11.  
Remember to "spring forward" by  
setting all clocks an hour ahead.