

McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • www.mclennanelectric.com • (254) 840-2871

SHARING CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Each Christmas Eve, St. Paul Lutheran Church at The Grove has the children of their congregation participate in a skit which tells the Christmas story. The church program begins at 7 p.m. and is open to everyone who wishes to attend. Proud parents, loving grandparents, supportive aunts, uncles, cousins and friends observe the children very closely. This has become their way of sharing the Christmas story.

For the past 120 years, the congregational children have received Christmas goodie bags. What began as an apple and orange in a brown paper sack has continued through the years and turned into Christmas gift bags with lots of candy and fruit for each child on Christmas Eve.

In years past, the church youth would go out as a group and cut their own Christmas tree for the church. They decorated it with real candles until one year when the candles caught the tree on fire. Now they use electric lights to decorate the tree. Also, during the Christmas season, groups from their congregation join together to go caroling at the homes of elderly church members and nursing homes to spread the holiday spirit.

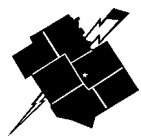
St. Paul's has several Christmas services each year: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, 2nd Christmas Day and 3rd Christmas Day, which in German translate to *Weihnachtsabend*, *Weihnachtstag*, *Zweiten Weinachts Feiertag* and *Dritter Weinachts Feiertag*, respectively.

If you are interested in attending this program or any other Christmas program throughout our service area, please contact any church of your choice for their schedule.

Merry Christmas—*Frohe Weihnachten*.



St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove Road



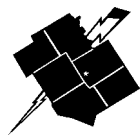
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Season's Greetings From the Directors and Employees



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OPERATION ROUND UP® NEWS

A voluntary, member-funded program supporting local, nonprofit organizations in MCEC's service area.

In its first meeting September 9 at McLennan County Electric Cooperative headquarters, the Operation Round Up Trust Board elected officers. The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees are as follows:

Damon Boniface - Moffat - Chairman

Ingrid Martine - Valley Mills - Vice Chairman

Veronica Grusendorf - McGregor - Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Edge - Gatesville - Director

Barbara Rusling - China Spring - Director

The board reviewed the bylaws and trust agreement.

They also approved the application form to be completed by each group or organization that would like to be considered for Operation Round Up funds. The trust is limited to a \$1,000 contribution per year to any one group.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric bills are rounded upward. Each month the additional pennies, nickels and dimes are added to a special fund. The Operation Round Up Trust Board, composed of representatives of the McLennan County Electric Cooperative service area, will meet at least once a quarter to review applications and to decide how the funds are to be allocated.

Organizations interested in applying for funds may contact the MCEC office for information, (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957. Applications are also available online at www.mclennanelectric.coop or at the MCEC office located at 1111 S. Johnson Dr.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: CLIFTON, TEXAS

On December 3 and 4, Clifton, the Norwegian Capital of Texas, will host for its 12th year “Norwegian Country Christmas,” a tour of homes, history and art. The event will feature Norwegian homes, churches, museums and art.

To kick off festivities, the downtown area will light up with a Christmas parade on Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Clifton High School band will lead lighted entries around downtown. “Christmas on the Hill” will begin after the parade with an open house at the Bosque Conservatory and Bosque Memorial Museum. A horse-drawn carriage will be on hand to take visitors between the two celebrations.

Saturday, the tour runs from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Stops on the tour include Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Rock Church, Gallery of Trees at the Conservatory, Bosque Memorial Museum and several homes. Also on the tour is Heritage Village, with demonstrations showing how to spin, weave, paint, tat and do many other types of crafts. There will also be foods and arts and crafts booths.

At 5 p.m. downtown comes alive with Norwegian folk



dancers performing in the street and Santa arriving via Viking ship to visit with young and old alike. Shops will be open and carolers will be entertaining.

Admission: \$8 for adults

Children 12 and under: \$5

Norwegian Luncheon Tickets (advance only): \$8

For more information: 1-800-344-3720

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Shown here is Jerry D. Cox II, Private E-1, 2nd Platoon “Outlaws,” stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Jerry is the grandson of Lurlene Dollins of Gatesville. Lurlene has been a member of the co-op since 1948.

McLennan County Electric Cooperative extends our heartfelt appreciation to all those serving our country and their families. Your sacrifice allows us to be safe during this holiday season and throughout the year. Thanks,



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MCLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. NOTICE OF POLICIES AND FEE CHANGES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

In a continuing effort to provide the members of McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc. with dependable electric service at the most affordable price, the MCEC Board of Directors revised the fees and collection policy. The changes are as follows:

- The trip fee for a new connect, a disconnect for non-payment, or call out for a problem on the member side of the meter will be \$50 instead of \$25 per trip. This includes automated (turtle) connects and disconnects.
- The added overtime fee for a trip other than outage calls made after 4 p.m. will be \$75. Reconnects will be made the following day for calls received after 7 p.m.
- The delinquent penalty on commercial accounts will be 5 percent of the total bill or \$5, whichever is greater. The previous penalty was 5 percent of the bill.
- Any account disconnected for non-payment may be required to bring the account current before reconnection.

• No cash will be collected in the field by a one-man crew. Receipts will be written for payments received in the field.

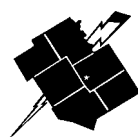
MCEC's employees try to accommodate the needs of all our members; however, it is critical that the members understand the importance of paying their bills on time. Disconnection of a delinquent member's electric service is an unpleasant, but necessary, part of the cooperative's duties. The member's bill is due upon receipt and considered late 16 days from the billing date on the monthly statement. When a bill is not paid on time, the collection process costs the entire co-op membership.

We understand that this is a large increase; however, we must adjust the fees to help cover the costs of these services. If the cost of a service is not covered, the entire membership subsidizes that service. Members who have questions regarding these changes should contact the MCEC office at (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957.

**MCLENNAN COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
Your Home Team Advantage

HOLIDAY CLOSING

Mclennan County Electric Cooperative will be closed December 24 for Christmas, and December 31 for New Year's. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe holiday together.



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REMINDERS

PHOTOS

We are still in need of photos of members' families, children, grandkids or something special to you. You can send these to Neil Johnson at the office, or e-mail them to neil@mclennanelectric.coop.

SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUTH TOUR PROGRAMS

We will be sending out information on the MCEC Youth Tour program and scholarship applications to area schools in the near future. Watch for information on these or check our website at www.mclennanelectric.coop