

COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



From left: Rachel Gibbs, Tyler Davidson, Shelbi Greaves, Devin Keese, Hadley Hatler and Cole Speck

4-H Gold Star Banquet

District 7 honorees receive awards at October 28 ceremony

Twenty-five prestigious Gold Star awards were presented to 4-H member honorees from 11 counties during the annual 4-H Gold Star Banquet, held October 28 at the Bill Franklin Center in Coleman.

The Gold Star Award is the highest county award given by the Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service. The honorees are recognized for outstanding achievement and leadership and their contribution to the total county 4-H program. Many Gold Star award recipients were honored for their selfless accomplishments. Members from Brown, Burnet, Coleman, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Taylor and Tom Green counties were present, accompanied by family, friends and county agents.

President Mark Swening and the youth activity board prepared and served an outstanding meal for the event. The program began with a welcome from President Shelbi Graves, who opened the meeting, followed by the 4-H motto, Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

The 2013-14 District 7 Council officers were professional and proficient as they facilitated the meeting. They were President Shelbi Greaves, Coleman County; First Vice President Devin Keese, McCulloch County; Second VP Rachel Gibbs, Runnels County; Third VP Ethan Bredemeyer, Runnels County; Secretary Hadly Hatler, Runnels County; Information Officer Cole Speck, McCulloch County; and Parliamentarian Tyler Davidson, Irion County. Special guests were Cheryl deCordova of San Angelo, district director for state Rep. Drew Darby; JoAnne Powell, regional director for U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway; Scott Ogden, branch president of Central Texas Farm Credit ACA; and Tony Williams, representing Coleman County EC.

In closing, Greaves gave special thanks to the banquet sponsors: Big Country, Coleman County, Concho Valley, Central Texas, Hamilton County, Southwest Texas and Taylor electric cooperatives.



DO YOU HAVE

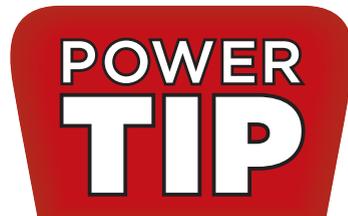
Unclaimed Capital Credits?

Coleman County Electric Cooperative refunded \$1,183,164.95 in capital credits June 19, 2013. A large amount of this money has still not been claimed.

If you had service with the co-op or are the beneficiary of a member who had service with the co-op between 1967 and 1981, please check our website. You can view accounts that are due returns under the "Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks" tab on the left side of our Web page.

All unclaimed money will be turned over to the State of Texas after an allotted time if not claimed, so please help the co-op find the members or heirs to this money. For more information, visit colemanelectric.org.

BRANDON ALMS | ISTOCK | THINKSTOCK



Save ENERGY • Save MONEY

In the dark days of winter, sunlight is at a premium and electric lights are switched on more often.

To get the most out of your lighting, a damp rag will help. Globes and shades on overhead lights will seem brighter if you wipe away the accumulated layer of dust and grime on them. While you're at it, replace any incandescent lights you might have in those fixtures with energy-efficient options like CFLs or LEDs.

It's Ice Storm Season

Freezing rain and sleet can be an electrical system's worst enemy

Texas may not get the heavy snowfalls that our northern neighbors endure in the winter, but the Lone Star State is subject to weather that can be as destructive to an electrical system as a tornado or hurricane: an ice storm.

When conditions are right—freezing on the ground and warmer up in the atmosphere—precipitation can turn to ice, coating trees and power lines in a heavy sheath. The weight of the frozen water can cause power lines to sag and limbs to break, and can even snap power poles, wreaking havoc on Coleman County Electric Cooperative's distribution system.

If that happens, the first thing that we'll do as soon as it's safe is to send out our line crews to begin the process of assessing and repairing the damage. If it's extensive enough, we will ask our sister electric co-ops for help. Adhering to cooperative principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, co-ops help one another in a time of disaster.

Depending on how severe the storm was and how widespread the damage, however, it could take hours or even days to get the lights back on for all of our members.

Are you prepared for a power outage that lasts that long? At the least, you should have a three-day supply of water (one rule of thumb is a gallon per person per day) and food that can be prepared without electricity, such as canned goods and ready-to-eat prepared meals. An adequate supply of blankets, a flashlight or candles, and a battery-powered radio are also useful items to have in a winter preparedness kit.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative encourages you to get prepared before a storm hits. If a winter storm watch is issued for our area, get ready. That means that conditions are right for weather, including sleet, low temperatures and high winds.

Once a storm has passed, be careful if you venture outside. Slipping on the ice can lead to broken bones or worse. Power lines brought down by ice pose the greatest electrical risk because you can't tell whether they are still energized.

"You cannot tell whether a power line is hot just by looking at it," said Brett Brenner, president of Electrical Safety Foundation International. "Always assume that downed power lines are live and keep at least 10 feet away from them and anything touching them."

If you have access to a portable generator and want to use it in a prolonged power outage, be sure you know what you are doing. Generators can be deadly if misused. The easiest way to get hurt using a generator involves operating it inside your home—or even too close to it—which allows carbon monoxide fumes to enter living areas. Most generators can emit deadly levels of carbon monoxide in a matter of minutes.

In addition, never plug your portable generator into a wall socket; it can threaten co-op lineworkers by producing "backfeed" that unexpectedly re-energizes power lines. Permanent generators must have a transfer switch installed to prevent backfeeding.

If severe weather strikes, we are ready to do whatever it takes to restore your electrical service. We exist to serve you, our members.



TAMMY BRYTELSON | THINKSTOCK

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Coke, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

GENERAL MANAGER

Roland Witt

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