

Thanks for the Blessing



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ROLAND WITT

In 1976, the office manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Azle came to where I was working and asked me if I wanted a job. I told him I already had two jobs, one during the day and one doing trim-out plumbing work at night. He said the pay was \$3.90 per hour and working four 10-hour days. He had my attention. I was making \$2.65. That is how I got started in the electric cooperative business.

For the most part, that is what I have done for the past 38 years, except some sales and a brief stint as a bank officer. I have been at Coleman County Electric Cooperative since September 2001. Why am I telling you this? I am going to retire this year. This will be my last general manager's article.

Looking back at my work career, I am a firm believer that God puts you in certain places and has a plan for your life. I was a little slow, but finally realized that I am so thankful for God's grace and blessings. The electric cooperative career has been good for me and my family, and I can proudly say that my son has also chosen this field.

It has been said that often behind a good man is a much better woman. I can testify that this is very true in my case. My wife, Pam, is my best friend, and we have so much fun together. Thus I am looking forward to enjoying retired life and seeing what the next chapter in my life will bring.

In parting, I obviously want to thank my wife, the office manager who hired me and the board of directors at Coleman County Electric Cooperative for giving me the opportunity to be a general manager.

I think today the electric industry has many challenges before it, but it always has—it's just that they will be different. I have gone 30-plus years driving down the road looking at power lines. I wonder how long in retirement it will take for me to not look up to see if anything needs to be repaired.

Thanks again, Coleman County Electric Cooperative, for allowing me to be part of your history. May God bless the co-op, the employees and all of its members.



Seal Air Leaks; Save Energy

Heating and cooling your home costs money, yet most homes let some of that conditioned air escape to the outdoors through tiny leaks, like cracks around windows; doors that don't close quite tightly enough; and holes in walls that allow cable, telephone, sump pump and electrical lines to enter the building.

Those same holes and cracks allow hot air to seep into your air-conditioned home from the outside during the summer and cold air to sneak in during the winter.

No matter if conditioned air is getting outside or fresh air is coming in, the result is the same: Your air-conditioning or heating system has to do extra work to keep the indoor air at the temperature you like.

Remove old, cracked caulking and replace with new caulking designed for the application. Caulking can be designated for exterior, interior and bathroom applications, and you don't want to use bathroom caulk on the outside of your home. Also, make sure the caulk can be painted if you want it to blend in with colors used in the rest of your home.

So find those leaks and seal them. Here are some tips:

- ▶ On a windy day, light a stick of incense or a match indoors, blow it out and hold it near the interior of each window, door, electrical box, plumbing fixture, electrical outlet, ceiling fixture, attic hatch and anywhere else where you see an opening that lets something from the outside in. If the smoke moves, you have found an air leak.

- ▶ Plug the leaks. You can do that by applying caulk right into the hole or crack. You also can install weatherstripping around doors and windows.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

COLEMAN COUNTY EC 76TH ANNUAL Membership Meeting

Friday, July 18, 2014 • 5:30 p.m.

Winters Cafeteria and Gym

Look for full details in next month's issue.



Storm Safety

When thunderstorms and tornadoes strike

BY B. DENISE HAWKINS

Beware. Spring can usher in more than April showers. From now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way.

- ▶ Remove diseased and damaged tree limbs before storm season begins.
- ▶ Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed

about tornado watches and warnings.

- ▶ If you are in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.

- ▶ Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.

- ▶ Unplug electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones while lightning is in the area.

- ▶ Remember that there is no safe place outside during

a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while driving, switch on your headlights, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on, and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

- ▶ As a storm moves in, move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

- ▶ Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them to public safety authorities and Coleman County EC at 1-800-560-2128 immediately.

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



SHUTTERSTOCK | THINKSTOCK



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

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

GENERAL MANAGER

Roland Witt

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Contact Us

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1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

colemanelectric.org

Closing Notice

Coleman County Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday.

As always, personnel are on standby in case of an outage.