

Shop Local for Yuletide Pride and Prosperity



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

'TIS THE SEASON, AND MOST OF US WILL SPEND THIS MONTH shopping for, buying, wrapping and giving gifts. If you value our community like I do, you might go out of your way to buy locally.

I love the feeling of walking into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store and knowing that the products, labor and profit involved can make a positive impact on my community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these businesses, just like it is in Coleman County Electric Cooperative.

Electric co-ops are as local and community-centered as they come. Founded to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest the big, investor-owned utilities,

electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

The feeling I get when I frequent businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day: pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live instead of a group of shareholders who might never set foot in our service territory.

Your electric cooperative is a nonprofit. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on

safely and reliably, we return it to our members in the form of capital credits. This means that after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community instead of into a shareholder's pocket.

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community prospers. We do this by investing in economic development and community service programs.

I hope you view Coleman County EC not just as your electric utility provider but also as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning more, please stop by the co-op or give us a call.

We believe that being a part of this community is the most valuable gift, and we hope you feel the same way. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone in your family, from everyone at your co-op family.



PETAR CHERNAEV | ISTOCK.COM



Decorate Without Danger

DECORATING FOR THE HOLIDAYS CAN

be fun, but take steps to protect your home and family from decorating hazards with these quick tips:

- ▶ Inspect ladders for loose or missing screws, hinges and bolts before use.
- ▶ Use the proper ladder height, ensuring that ladders extend at least 3 feet past the edge of the roof.
- ▶ Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away.
- ▶ Inspect lights, decorations and cords for damage before using them.
- ▶ Make sure cords are not pinched by doors, windows or heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.
- ▶ Make sure extension cords and electrical decorations used for outdoor decorating are marked safe for outdoor use.
- ▶ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, the house or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage.
- ▶ Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- ▶ Make sure spotlights used to illuminate decorations are well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from flammable items.
- ▶ Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices.
- ▶ Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Coleman County EC wishes you and yours a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

Our offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26, for Christmas, and Monday, January 1, for New Year's Day, to allow our employees to celebrate the holidays with their families.



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

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Coleman, TX 76834

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

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Clint Gardner

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colemanelectric.org

Power Tip

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be safer and more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when they're not in use.