



Hi-Lites

Hi-Lites is a monthly newsletter published for the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

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Monday through Friday

(Salem Office closed from noon-1:00 p.m. each day)

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Mission Statement

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.



Stay Alert and Stay Safe

by Marcia Scott, General Manager

Spring weather can be unpredictable and change quickly. It can bring volatile storms with tornadoes, heavy rains, high winds, and lightning. For this reason, it is imperative to stay alert and be prepared.

Staying alert is easier now than ever. There are various applications that can be added to your smart phone to notify you if severe weather is in your area.

One weather notification service that you can subscribe to is Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). These notifications are sent much like a text message to all subscribers with WEA-enabled devices. The messages are authorized alerts sent from government agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service (NWS).

These types of alerts include extreme weather warnings and local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action. After receiving an alert, follow the action advised by the emergency message.

The National Weather Service recommends that you:

- Know the county you are located in and nearby towns and cities. Warnings are issued by county and

reference major cities.

- Know the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a warning. A watch means there is the possibility of storms, and a warning means a storm has been reported and you should take cover.
- Check the forecast and the hazardous weather outlook.
- Watch for signs of an approaching storm.
- Turn on a weather radio or an AM/FM radio for information if a storm is approaching.
- Stay inside if you know a storm is headed your way.

If you come across downed power lines after a storm, notify the cooperative immediately. Never touch downed lines or objects that could be in contact with those lines. Just because power lines are damaged does not mean that they are dead. Stay away and instruct others to do the same.

In the event that you experience an outage, remember it is important to report your outage to the cooperative as soon as possible. While many members report their outages by phone, the quickest and easiest way to report an outage is through our SmartHub app on your mobile

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Fruit Pizza

For a crowd pleasing dessert, try this sweet, seasonal treat!

Ingredients

- (1) 16.5 oz. refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- (1) 8 oz. package cream cheese
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- (2) kiwi fruit, peeled, halved lengthwise and sliced
- 1 cup strawberries, diced
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup grapes

Instructions

Heat oven to 350 F. Spray 12-inch pizza pan with cooking spray (or use a rectangular cake pan). In pan, break up cookie dough; press dough evenly in bottom of pan to form crust. Bake 16 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely, about 30 minutes. In small bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Spread mixture over cooled crust. Arrange fruit over cream cheese. Refrigerate until chilled, at least one hour. To serve, cut into wedges or squares. Cover and refrigerate any remaining pizza. Makes 12 servings.

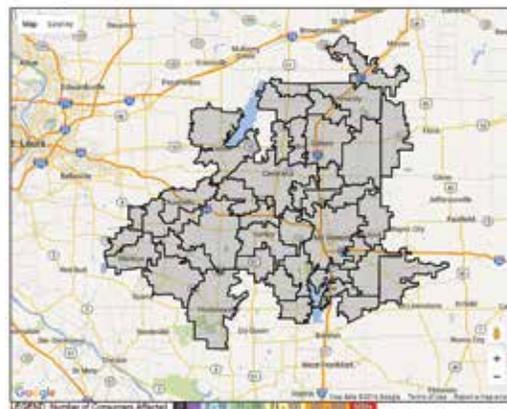
Stay Alert and Stay Safe (Continued)

device. Outages reported via the SmartHub app are entered in our outage system, the same as if you reported your outage by a phone call - but without the frustration of receiving a busy signal during times of high call volume. You can also view the system-wide outage maps through the SmartHub app (below).

As an added feature, Tri-County Electric Cooperative can now send messages to members who have the SmartHub app on their smart phone. Expect to receive notifications regarding tree trimming in your area or planned outages required for maintenance. It is a continued goal of the cooperative to remain engaged with our members by providing efficient and convenient means of communication. Another way to stay connected to the cooperative in real time is by following us on Facebook.

While Spring is a beautiful time of year, it is also a peak storm season in our community. Stay alert of storms in your area. Stay safe by being prepared, and stay connected by downloading the SmartHub app to your smartphone as a resource with various tools that you can use to receive communication from your cooperative.

This is a view of Tri-County Electric Cooperative's outage map on an average day. You can access the outage map online by visiting www.tricountycoop.com and selecting 'Outage Map' in the top right hand corner. You can also view the outage map from the SmartHub app.



KNOW WHAT'S BELOW Call 8-1-1 before you dig.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative wants to remind you to pick up the phone and call 811 before you pick up the shovel. No matter what the project size, every digging project requires a call.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Linemen Brannon Dasch (left) and Shannon Davis (right) worked to electrify rural Bolivia. The linemen were joined by NRECA President and Tri-County Electric Cooperative Vice President Phil Carson (center).



Photo credit: Paul Dow

Illinois Linemen “Bring the Light” to Rural Bolivia

Twelve volunteer linemen, supported by 19 Illinois electric cooperatives and a matching grant from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) International Projects grant program, traveled to Bolivia on March 13. The three-week project included tackling the electrification of 62 homes, an orphanage, two schools, and a community center in remote mountain villages, as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International efforts.

Materials, equipment and additional labor were provided by local Cooperative Rural De Electrificación (CRE), the largest electric cooperative in the world, serving more than 500,000 members. In 1963, NRECA International helped establish CRE.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Linemen Brannon Dasch and Shannon Davis were among the twelve linemen who helped to electrify the rural area of Bolivia. NRECA President and Tri-County Electric Cooperative Vice President Phil Carson and Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) CEO Duane Noland attended the lighting ceremony in Bolivia on March 30th.

Lineman Brannon Dasch was very appreciative to travel to Bolivia. He said, “It was a fun and exciting trip. The language barrier was challenging and the work was mainly accomplished by hand because of the lack of equipment. Overall, the people were very happy that we were there to help them out.”

Lineman Shannon Davis said, “The trip to Bolivia was a very humbling experience. The Bolivian people were extremely appreciative of what we were doing. One of the most touching interactions was with a 96 year old man who wanted a refrigerator for fresh meat. Another was a little girl who read a poem at the inauguration stating that she can now have light to do her homework at night and she no longer has to be scared of the dark when the candle blows out. I am very thankful to be given this opportunity and hope to see the program continue in the future.”

As a result of this group’s efforts, a remote orphanage will now be able to refrigerate vaccinations for the children and help to reduce the spread of disease. Women will no longer have to walk from village to village in the dark. The quality of life will be improved for all.

A man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a grey baseball cap, a green jacket over a light-colored shirt, and blue jeans, stands in a field. He has his hands in his pockets and is looking towards the camera. A vintage-style microphone on a stand is positioned in front of him. The background shows a misty field with rows of crops under a clear sky.

Every member has a voice.
Make sure yours is heard.
That's the Cooperative Difference.

2017 Tri-County Electric
Cooperative Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 8, 2017

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Offices will be closed on
Monday, May 29th, 2017
in observance of Memorial Day.