

Lives on the Line



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

WE TAKE TIME EVERY YEAR TO THANK the extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Houston County Electric Cooperative's service territory contains 5,000 miles of line, which is maintained by 30 linemen. Some of our linemen work in the field daily and some have moved to planning and managerial functions, but all have the same goal of maintaining safe and reliable service. Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff every day to keep your electric co-op running smoothly—but on April 10, National Lineman Appreciation Day—we honor our line-

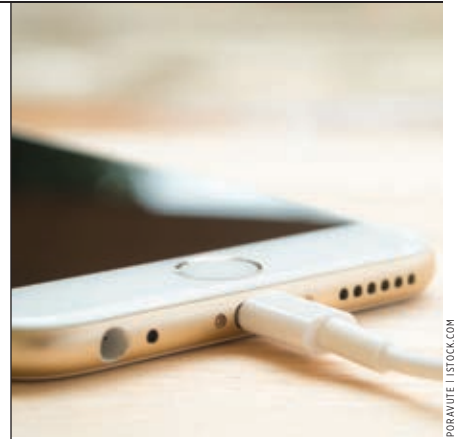
men, who regularly place themselves in challenging and often dangerous situations so that our lives can be brighter and safer every day. These brave men repair damaged equipment and maintain critical infrastructure. Without their hard work and commitment to a difficult job, our co-op and our communities would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do the line crews. Perhaps you have seen them working in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. Linemen work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in HCEC's service area.

In addition to aiding members in our own service territory, our linemen are willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Several Texas co-ops came to the aid of others who suffered severe outages due to winter storms over the past few months.

Our linemen are brave, committed, selfless and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many linemen—both locally and around the world—who light our lives.

Use #thanklineman on social media to show your support.
Remember: Your power works because they do!



Counterfeit power adapters can cause electric shock and even death.

Beware of Cheap Phone Chargers

WHEN INSPECTORS from Underwriters Laboratories tested iPhone chargers for safety, the results, they said, were “literally shocking.”

UL deems power adapters sold for iPhones but not made by Apple “counterfeit” and warns that they might not have undergone electrical safety tests, and can shock or even kill users.

In 2016, a UL test of 400 counterfeit adapters found that 99 percent of them failed by damaging themselves, harming the phone during charging or leaking current that could shock a user.

Although counterfeit adapters can look just like legitimate Apple chargers, they usually have a few “tells,” UL reports. For example:

UL-certified Apple chargers are white and come in white Apple packaging.

Certification labels on genuine Apple labels do not misspell words or names—like “Able,” for instance—and say the product was designed by Apple and not by any other organization. The certification symbol is clearly printed without smudging or distortion.

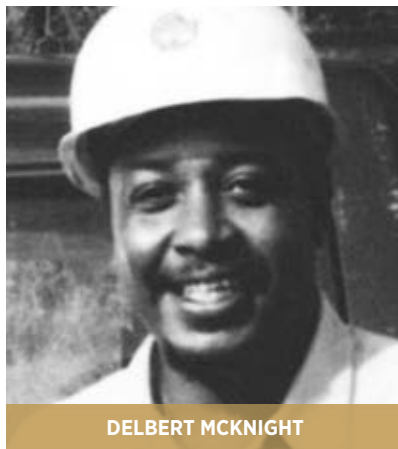
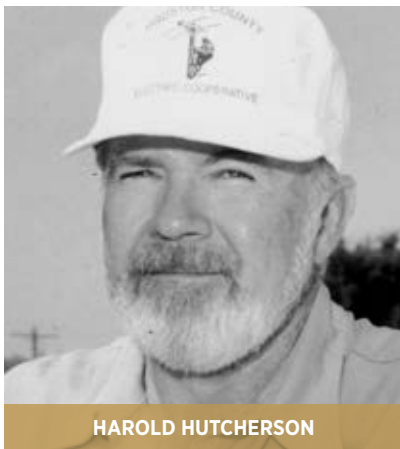
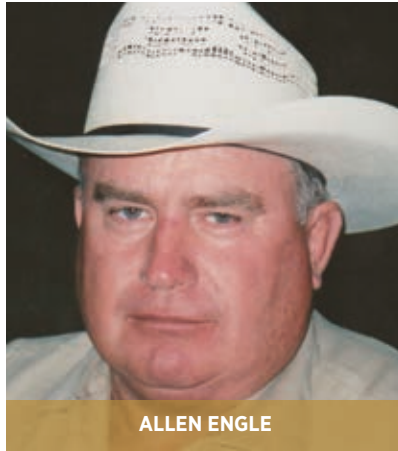
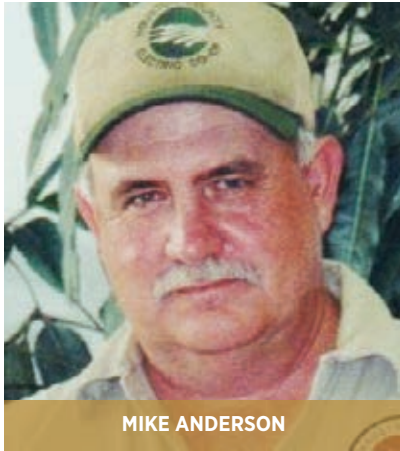
Expect to pay at least \$19 for a properly tested Apple adapter. If you find one for \$1, you can bet that it's a fake.

If you find a charger loose in a bin of marked-down electronics at a discount store, you can feel 99 percent certain that it's counterfeit.



DAVE SHAEER

Four HCEC Employees Retire



HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE recently celebrated the retirements of Mike Anderson, Allen Engle, Harold Hutcherson and Delbert McKnight. These four outstanding gentlemen put in a combined 175 years of dedication and service to Houston County EC.

A luncheon was held to honor these men in January. Their family, friends, and current and past co-workers attended. Charlie Gardner, HCEC's operations superintendent, spoke about riding in the service truck with Allen Engle and Harold Hutcherson before they had the equipment that we have today. He said that both men are hard workers who taught him a lot of what he still uses today.

Kathi Calvert, HCEC general manager, talked about how Mike Anderson was one of the most easygoing co-workers she has had the pleasure of working with.

Although unable to attend, Delbert McKnight was an excellent leader throughout his years of devotion, Gardner said. He was always courteous and professional, no matter what setting he was in.

"Houston County EC will definitely feel this loss, as four very intelligent and hardworking individuals are retiring," Calvert said.

To Mike, Allen, Harold and Delbert: You will truly be missed, but we are thankful for all of the good times we had together, and we are proud of you all. Now, take time off to do the things that you love with the people you love the most. Enjoy your retirement and do not forget to visit us!

Houston County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 52, Crockett, TX 75835

GENERAL MANAGER

Kathi Calvert

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ETREYS Set for June 26–30

THE ANNUAL EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR is scheduled for June 26–30 at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall.

ETREYS is designed to foster positive principles and values among young people and enhance skills in leadership, interpersonal relationships and problem-solving in a wholesome setting.

Speakers include nationally known personalities, college professors and community leaders. Additionally, each student has a chance to compete for college scholarship funds.

Students attending school in the Houston County Electric Cooperative service territory who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2017–2018 school year and are interested in taking part in the leadership camp should contact Kelby Koehler at (936) 852-7240 or kkoehler@houstoncountyelec.com before April 28.



The East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar will be held on the beautiful campus of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. Contact Houston County EC to see how you can take part in the program.



HAPPY EARTH DAY!

from Houston County EC
Saturday, April 22



CATHLEEN ABERS-KIMBALL | ISTOCK.COM

Turnip Greens Casserole

- 1 pound turnip greens
- 10 turnips
- 3 tablespoons butter, divided use
- 4 teaspoons salt, plus more to taste, divided use
- 2 teaspoons pepper, plus more to taste, divided use

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash greens and turnips thoroughly. Chop greens, then place in a large pot. Add water just to cover.
2. Peel turnips and chop into large chunks. Place in a different pot and add water just to cover. Add 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon pepper to each pot. Bring both pots to rapid boil, then lower to simmer until tender, about 20 minutes.
3. Strain greens, press out excess water, then place in bottom of small casserole dish. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Drain turnips well, then mash with 2 tablespoons butter. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed.
4. Spread mashed turnips over greens and dot with remaining tablespoon butter. Place in oven and bake uncovered until lightly browned, 20–30 minutes. Serve hot.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



LEXI FRANKENS



CAROLINE WAKEFIELD

Area Students Selected for 2017 Youth Tour to DC

HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will send two students to Washington, D.C., as the 2017 representatives for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Every year, Houston County EC sponsors two students in conjunction with Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The students are selected by a committee of volunteers and judged by their grammar, application, appearance, accomplishments and accolades. The two gifted students selected to participate in this year's all-expenses-paid trip are: Lexi Frankens, a sophomore at Apple Springs High School, and Caroline Wakefield, a senior at Centerville Junior-Senior High School.

In addition to visiting monuments, museums and historical sites, they will also get to meet with their representatives in Congress, hear inspirational speakers and meet students from across the country.

Frankens and Wakefield were asked to write an essay and explain, if given the chance, whom they would pick as two cabinet members and what positions their choices would fill.

When explaining her choices, Frankens said, "Although I'm sure it could be argued that there are better people for these positions than those who I selected, both of my picks have three things in common: They are tenacious, they are leaders, and they stand up for what they believe is right. No matter which side of the fence you stand on, we should all agree that in politics, someone who holds true to their beliefs and isn't easily 'bought' is a highly desired individual."

Wakefield said that she would select cabinet members for the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States Attorney General. She backed up her selections with details on each person's accomplishments and explained why each of them would be great in the positions she chose.

Congratulations to both of these students on winning what many have said is the trip of a lifetime! Houston County EC is proud to sponsor these two exceptional students for the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Cruisin' for a Cure

HOUSTON COUNTY EC recently hosted the fourth annual Cruisin' for a Cure Car Show. Sixteen participants entered their cars, trucks—and even a dragster this year!

The car show is open to the public and is not limited to cars and trucks. Tractors, motorcycles and anything with wheels are valid entries.

The event is held during the Lovelady Lovefest every year, immediately following the parade in the Lovelady Masonic/Lovelady State Bank parking lot.

This year, entertainment was provided by "One-Man Band" Glenn Lenderman. There also were food and drinks, door prizes and a 50/50 cash pot.

All proceeds raised at this event go to benefit Houston County Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society.

Generous sponsors that made appreciated donations were: Pioneer Bank, Crockett; Coldwell Banker, Pat Dickey Realtors; Crockett Florist; Napa Auto Parts; Lovelady Masonic Lodge; Lovelady State Bank; and Houston County Electric Cooperative.

2017 WINNERS:

1st Place People's Choice:

Ronnie Durdin, Trinity

2nd Place People's Choice:

Glenn Lenderman, Lufkin

3rd Place People's Choice:

Russell Bond, Crockett

Best in Show: Danny Cleveland, Trinity

Best Pick-Me-Up Truck:

Ronnie Durdin, Trinity

Perfect Project: Peyton Ross, Trinity

Chick Magnet: Danny Cleveland, Trinity

Outstanding Engine:

Randy and Carolyn Ussery, Kennard

Best Interior: Ronnie Durdin, Trinity

Farthest Distance Traveled:

Glenn Lenderman, Lufkin

To Our Linemen: Thank You

APRIL 10 IS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.

Their workday is not 8 to 5. It is 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

When there is a power outage, there are no holidays or weekends. There are sacrifices made by linemen and their families. They work a dangerous job, often in nasty weather. We proudly acknowledge our linemen for the work they do to keep the lights on. While every staff member at the cooperative plays a crucial role in serving our members, without the linemen, there would be no Houston County Electric Cooperative.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board of Directors, says this about linemen and the proper recognition of their contributions:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

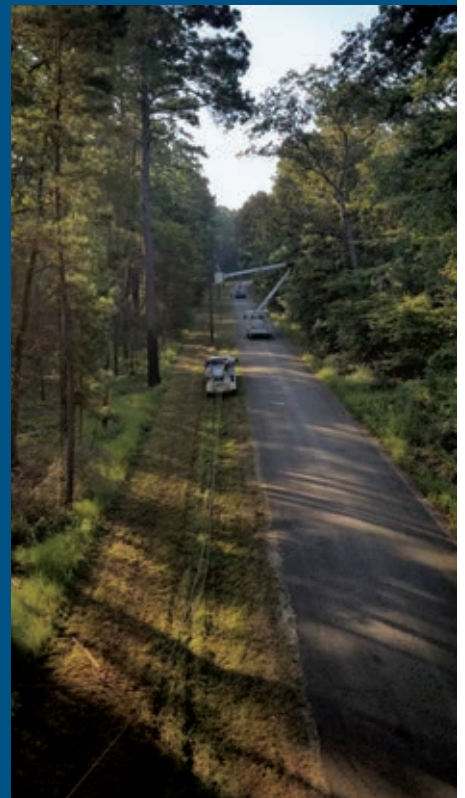
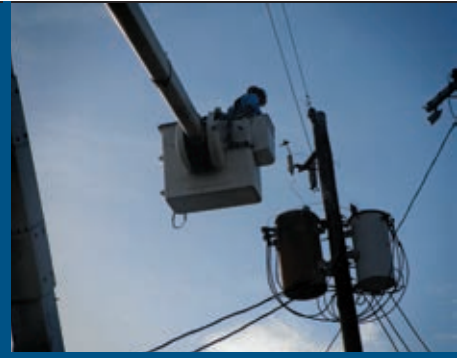
Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”

#thankalineman



Clean Your House To Lower Your Energy Bill

THE CLEANER YOUR HOUSE IS, THE MORE YOU COULD SAVE on your energy bill. While you're scrubbing your home from floor to ceiling this year, give these elements a good cleaning:

Air-conditioning filters. Keeping them clean—or changing them regularly if they're disposable—ensures that air easily can pass through them when you run your air conditioner. That helps your system run more efficiently, which means it uses less energy. Plus, a clean filter helps prevent irritants such as dust and pollen from blowing through your AC vents.

Ceiling fans. How often do you climb up high enough to dust the tops and bottoms of the blades—and, if they're attached to a light, to wipe down the bulb? While you're up there, flip the switch that controls the direction of the fan blades. In the summer, you want the blades to push air down into the room, not pull it up toward the ceiling.

Lightbulbs. The fan light is not the only bulb that has been collecting dust all year. After turning off fixtures, use a dry microfiber cloth to wipe down bulbs in ceiling fixtures, lamps and sconces. Remove decorative covers and carefully rinse them with warm, sudsy water. Dry thoroughly before replacing them.

Vents. They're something most people never clean. Remove wall and ceiling vent covers with a screwdriver and rinse them with water. Don't replace them until they're completely dry. Like filters, clean vents help your AC system with air circulation and cut down on any airborne particles that might get trapped in your house.



Electronics and appliances. At least once a year, crawl behind every TV set, computer, printer, refrigerator, washer and dryer in your home to dust off the cords, wipe down the back of the appliance and vacuum the floor. If your refrigerator has an ice maker, you might need to ask a plumber for assistance; you don't want to accidentally pull the plumbing connection out of the wall. While the fridge is away from the wall, vacuum any exposed coils.

Dryer vent. You know how full of fuzz and pet hair the lint tray in your dryer is after every load of clothes? The vent that spews the hot air from the dryer to the outdoors is even more full. Ask an electrician to clean your dryer vent at least once a year. If it's too clogged, your dryer won't operate efficiently. In extreme cases, the lint in that clogged vent can catch fire.

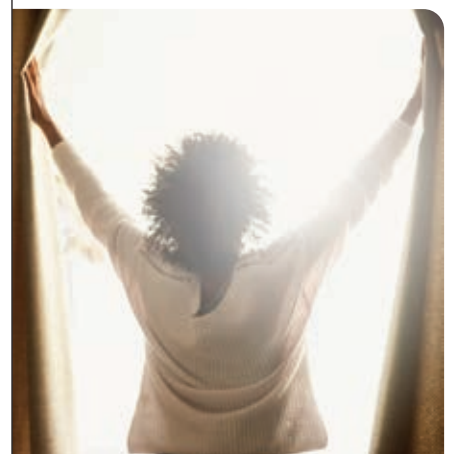


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HAPPY EASTER

APRIL 16

Houston County EC's office will be closed April 14 in observance of Good Friday.



Power Tip

Warmer weather is here!

Use energy-efficient window treatments or coverings, such as blinds, shades or films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.