



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502  
Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502  
**304-624-6365**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## Reflecting on the holiday spirit

The end of another year is upon us. Most of us look forward to spending extra time with friends and family in joyous revelation of the season. We all have our traditions that we follow and see our already busy schedules get even more crowded and hectic as we try to include all of the additional celebrations. Our stress levels will probably peak — I know shopping puts mine on max — but try to remember why we celebrate this season and focus on the positives. Of course it is not always as easy to do as it is to say, but realize some things just aren't worth stressing out about.

As an example, there was the year that my wife thought it would be a good idea to hide Christmas purchases in garbage bags in the garage. Guess who took the garbage out. Now guess who had to endure more of that painful shopping, again. We laugh about it now, but believe me, it was not

funny at the time. I have never been certain whether she finally decided to forgive me or just felt sorry for the dogs after I had to take up residence in their house. I still have the drawings I made for the addition to the doghouse just in case.

It is also the season when we at least should open our hearts a little wider to be kind and thoughtful to those around us. Yes, this is something we should do all the time, but it just feels a little more meaningful this time of year. As a parent, one of the things I am most proud of are the times when my kids have reached out to others who needed support. A few years ago, my oldest daughter called on Christmas Eve morning and expressed her concern, through tears, that a co-worker wasn't going to be able to go home to Connecticut. Our family increased by one that year — and in all the following because that

### Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,  
CEO/General Manager



young man, though now back in Connecticut, still sends a card and calls every Christmas.

On another occasion, this same daughter, who was working retail in this area at the time, came home from work one Saturday night and was again in tears. This time she had waited on an elderly gentleman who had hitchhiked from Parsons to Clarksburg/Bridgeport to do some shopping and was intending to hitchhike back to Parsons that night. The weather was cold, and snow was blowing lightly. My daughter

(Continued on page 21)

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 ..... President  
Greg Robertson, Dist. 2 ... Vice President  
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 ..... Sec.-Treas.  
Glenn Cox ..... Dist. 3    James Stuart ..... Dist. 4  
C.B. Sharp ..... Dist. 1    Ron Watson ..... Dist. 5

Terry Stout, General Manager  
Lloyd Mason ..... IT Manager  
Sam Satterfield ..... Operations Manager  
Scott Wyckoff ..... Line Supervisor  
Jon Paul McAllister ..... Staking Technician  
Jacy Woods ..... Editor  
Missie Stephenson ..... Accountant

Office Hours  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.



**Happy holidays!**  
Our office will be closed  
**Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.**

Emergency services are available  
by calling **304-624-6365.**

## HREA welcomes new employees

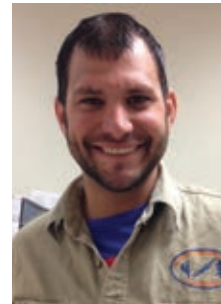
Harrison Electric welcomed new employees Matt Altman and Scott Stout to the HREA family on Oct. 20.

Matt is a 2000 graduate from Bridgeport High School and has lived in Bridgeport his whole life. He lives with his girlfriend, Courtney, and 2-year-old daughter, Lilian. Matt is a second-year apprentice here at HREA and is excited for the new trainings he will receive.

“I am excited to be able to stay local with my family and for this new career opportunity,” Matt said.

Scott is HREA’s new lineman and comes from Mon Power, where he has worked the past 30 years. Scott has been married to his wife, Connie, for 33 years and has two daughters, Melissa and Leah.

“I am excited to start this new career and have more time with my family,” Scott said. “Also to work with the new guys and learn the HREA territory.”



Matt Altman



Scott Stout

### TECH CORNER

## Shop safely online this holiday season

BY LLOYD MASON

THE SEASON OF GIVING is here again! We prepare our best dishes so our guests eat well. We adorn our homes with wreaths of holly in anticipation of all things jolly. Invitations are sent and received for plans well-made. Now is the time to make a list and check it twice. Where, oh, where do we find that perfect thing to make someone special smile, a reminder that we care?

The answer is going to be the World Wide Web. For some of us, this is a very familiar place, but it can be confusing and potentially dangerous. Even some places we know are legitimate have been compromised digitally in one way or another.

The take-away from that statement is, security starts in your home, not the online store. This is common knowledge for some, but as technology develops, the need to develop our own approach to technology is a must. Here is a suggestion that will make things less worrisome:

**Never use your debit card online!**

That’s actually a good rule of thumb for shopping in a store, too. Debit cards do not have the same protections as credit cards when it comes to fraudulent charges. It can be much more difficult to get your money back, if you even manage to do so.



Plus, that’s money from your checking account that’s missing due to a fraudulent charge — money you can’t use to, say, pay your bills, as noted in a September article on the Money blog of *U.S. News and World Report*.

If you don’t have a credit card, the banking industry has come up with a nice workaround for this dilemma. Call your bank or visit the online portal and request a “temporary credit” online card number.

This is a service set up by banks to allow you, the consumer, to shop freely while never using your debit card online. This enables a clear record of places you have purchased goods and services and will appear on a different statement. Depending on what bank you use, the price in most cases will be \$0.00.

Imagine, banks working in the best interest of the customer — and possibly for free, at that. So shop with security assured and use tech to do it.

Have a joyous and merry holiday season from all of us at HREA.

*Til next time @TECH CORNER.* ☞

**Lloyd Mason** is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.

## Holiday spirit

(—continued from page 19)



had actually driven around to see if she saw this gentleman without success before coming home. Obviously we had a discussion about picking up strangers, but that was of little avail as the next morning, as my wife and younger daughter were returning from church, they noticed an elderly gentleman hitchhiking near the junction about a mile from our home. Sure enough, when we returned to that spot and found him still there, it was the same gentleman. We brought him home and fed him a hot lunch, and my wife told him she would drive him to Parsons. Although I knew the answer, I asked my wife if she even knew how to get to Parsons. We drove him home, and he thanked us over and over for our hospitality. Yes, we still get a Christmas every year and have befriended officials in the area who keep us up to date on his health. While not real thrilled about my daughter's thought processes that threw caution to the wind, I do admire that her heart was in the right place.

I tell you these personal stories, even though a writer friend of mine would give me heck for

doing so, as a precursor to something that I feel and yet do not say enough. I think of the cooperative's employees as extended family and, in many cases, as my children. I am proud of each and every one of them. Each of them tries to do the right thing for the membership and the cooperative as whole. That isn't always easy, and yes, they are human and occasionally make mistakes, but I know their hearts are usually in the right place. They know that we can always do better and are committed to improving the cooperative. This is the vocation and the life each of them has chosen. They are very aware that the needs of the cooperative's membership come before their personal wants, and they sometimes sacrifice personal time with their immediate family to tend to the needs of their cooperative family.

So, in your interactions with others this holiday season, do not be afraid to open your hearts and provide help if you can, but at least tell others "thank you" and wish them and their families a very merry Christmas. ☺

## HREA takes time to protect members' property

BY SAM SATTERFIELD, HREA OPERATIONS MANAGER

While working in the field, it is important to get the job done right — not necessarily fast. Although speed and efficiency are important to the lineman at HREA, it is not always the best way to best serve our members.

If the weather has been rainy or snowy, causing muddy conditions, it is important that HREA linemen take their time, not only while driving on roads and highways, but also while driving through yards and fields. When the ground is wet or muddy, there are also ways to protect it from getting destroyed by our 15-ton digger trucks.

HREA invested in 4-by-8-foot ground mats that are one-half-inch thick and made of recycled rubber to protect members' yards from damage. These 80-pound rubber sheets also help protect our trucks from sinking into the ground, which would result in some high-priced repair work.

In the picture at right picture, HREA Lineman Cristy Foster is setting a new pole for a member upgrading to underground service out by Watter Smith Park. He used the ground mats to help protect the member's yard from destruction.



# Give the gift of *green* living this holiday season

BY MEGHAAN EVANS

WONDERING WHAT TO BUY for the person who has everything? How about a gift for a “green” family member or friend? This holiday season, Harrison REA urges you to consider giving the gift of energy efficiency.

This doesn't mean that you have to go out and replace your aunt's refrigerator or your grandpa's washer and dryer — though you may be a favorite if you do. Giving the gift of energy efficiency can be as simple as filling their stockings, or creating a gift basket, with some of these helpful products.

LED lightbulbs are the easiest way to increase efficiency in your home. From indoor bulbs for your lamps, recessed lighting and hanging fixtures to outdoor lighting, such as flood lamps and even decorative lighting strands, there's an LED bulb for everyone.

LED lighting used to be deemed as prohibitively expensive, but prices have gone down significantly in recent years. Some top-rated options for energy-efficient lighting that makes everything bright are:

- GE Reveal 60-watt equivalent bulb, about \$18
- Cree TW Series 60-watt equivalent bulb, \$9 to \$16
- Sylvania's Ultra HD floodlight-style bulb, \$22 to \$35

Water-saving showerheads are also a great gift option. On average, Americans consume over 3 billion gallons of water daily. Switching to a water-saving showerhead could save a family of three up to \$631 per year and could reduce water consumption by more than 2,600 gallons per year. Lack of water pressure can be a concern when giving this gift, so consider these showerheads that save water, but not at the expense of water pressure.

- Glacier Bay 1-Spray Hand Shower, about \$13
- Delta 1-Spray Water-Saving Showerhead, about \$16

- Delta Arias 5-Spray Showerhead, about \$37

Providing your family and friends with energy efficiency tips along with a gift is also a great option. For example, did you know that one of the best ways to save energy in your home is to turn off all of your electronic devices? Try a TrickleStar Motion Sensor Power Strip, which costs around \$30.

Supplement your gift with caulking supplies or weather strips, and before you know it, you will have the perfect energy-saving gift. All of these products are available online and at hardware stores, so get to shopping. From all of us here at Harrison REA, have a happy, energy-efficient holiday. ☺

*Meghaan Evans writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## Did you know?

Heating your home accounts for up to 48 percent of your utility bill.

**A few tips to help you save:**

- Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month (or as recommended).**



- Caulk and seal windows to avoid air leaks.**



- Keep draperies and shades open during the day and closed at night.**



Visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) for more ways to save!

