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ON THE COVER

Lisa Williams, a Tri-County REC member and reading specialist at Southern Tioga School District, sits on her deck with her dog, Maddy, as part of a video to encourage students and parents to stay positive after schools closed during the early stages of the pandemic.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Williams



News from across the Commonwealth

Recipients of unsolicited seeds asked to complete survey for the state

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is asking residents who have received unsolicited packages of seeds from China to go online to the department's website and complete a survey.

This is in regard to a growing scam in e-commerce that involves unsolicited packages — in this case, seeds — being shipped to residents. Officials are concerned that the seeds might include plant diseases, weeds or invasive plants.



Department officials are asking that consumers who received unsolicited packages of seeds retain the seeds and packaging. If the package has been opened, they advise double bagging and sealing the seeds. The seeds should not be planted or discarded.

Anyone who received the unsolicited seeds is asked to go to the department's website at agriculture.pa.gov, search for "Seeds from China" and complete a survey.

Dairy commission releases ideas to strengthen industry

The Pennsylvania Dairy Future Commission in August released a report to the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the dairy community outlining its recommendations to strengthen and promote the state's dairy industry.



The 24-member commission was established as part of a package of agriculture initiatives during the 2019-2020

session of the Pennsylvania Legislature. Commission members were asked to research and make recommendations regarding how to help the dairy industry regain its footing in the global market.

Organized into four subcommittees (Farm, State, Market, and Consumer levels, each chaired by a Pennsylvania dairy producer), the commission considered input from studies, organizations, and individuals, leading to 54 recommendations in the final report.

During a Penn State Extension and Center for Dairy Excellence forum discussing the commission's recommendations, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding (an Adams Electric Cooperative member) said he believes the commission's diversity of input and bold initiatives will lead to meaningful progress.

"We are stable with a plan, with the right people engaged, with recommendations that go not back to the department, not out into the ether, but back to the governor, back to the leaders in the House and Senate," he said. "That to me is an important statement because it says this is not simply about what a few folks who are on the commission think. It's what we think, coupled with what our leaders in government do, and that will be important as we move from the report that's printed and released to the action."

The report can be found on the Center for Dairy Excellence website at centerfordairyexcellence.org.

PSU reports finding new invasive species in state

Penn State University Extension reports the first known occurrence of an invasive species, the swede midge, in Pennsylvania. Discovered in July in a Bradford County broccoli field, the tiny (1/16 inch) fly that is native to Europe and parts of Asia extensively damages Brassica crops.

First confirmed in the United States in New York 20 years ago, the pest belongs to a group of insects that often cause distorted plant-growth patterns in crops such as cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, among others.

Extension officials say the pest may be more widespread than has been known as its damage may have been mistaken for herbicide injury or various stress factors. They say damage varies with the crop and time of infestation, but can include plants that don't produce heads, leaf puckering, multiple shoots, many small heads, brown scarring, swollen flower florets or leaves, and other plant-growth distortions.

Adult swede midge live only about a week, but there are multiple generations per year. For more information about the swede midge and its management, go to the Penn State University Extension website at extension.psu.edu and search for "swede midge." 🌱



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Ways to winterize a manufactured home

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

In difficult times like these, it's more important than ever to ensure the money we spend yields the results we need, especially for those people living in manufactured homes who are facing high winter heating bills.

Here are five tips for winterizing your manufactured home, which can help you capture some significant energy savings. It's worth noting that some of these suggestions are quick, easy and cheap, but some will require more money than you may want to spend. Choose the approach that works best for your home and budget.

Furnace

It doesn't cost anything to lower your thermostat in the winter. Make sure you clean or replace your furnace air filter as often as recommended. If you heat your home with an electric or propane furnace, you can likely cut your heating costs dramatically by installing a heat pump. Ductless heat pumps are efficient, and they eliminate the problem of leaky furnace ducts. If you don't have the budget to make this investment now out of pocket, you may qualify for a loan. It's quite possible that your energy savings would cover the loan payment.

Water heater

You pay a lot to heat water. One simple way to lower that amount is to lower your water heater's thermostat. Make sure it's set to medium, between 120 F and 140 F. Energy-efficient showerheads can also save energy. Some showerheads are equipped with a button or valve that allows you to reduce or stop the flow while you lather up.



Another fairly simple fix is to insulate the first several feet of the hot water pipe where it exits the tank. If there is room around your water heater, you could also wrap the tank with an insulation jacket, which you can purchase from a home supply store for about \$20. If your water heater uses gas or propane, be careful not to restrict the air needed for combustion or install insulation too close to the exhaust flue.

Ducts

Leaky furnace ducts are often a major source of energy loss. A simple first step is to make sure all supply and return registers are open and are not covered by furniture or rugs. Closed registers can really take a toll on your heating and cooling system. You might also be able to save energy by sealing your ducts at the floor registers. The biggest leaks, however, are likely under

your manufactured home and could require the services of a contractor to locate and seal. Check with your local electric cooperative to see if they can recommend local contractors who can provide this service.

Windows and doors

That window air-conditioning unit that kept you cool all summer can be a major source of heat loss in the winter. Before the cold hits, cover it up — or better yet, remove it during winter months. Another fairly easy way to cut down on energy loss is to install window insulation kits — these are plastic, disposable sheets that are stretched over windows and held in place with double-sided tape. Thick curtains can also do a remarkable job of cutting drafts and adding insulation around a window. The final and most involved step is to fill cracks and holes in walls and around windows and doors with caulk, filler, and/or expanding foam.

Floors

Cold floors can be costly and uncomfortable. The easiest solution is to lay down area rugs for additional warmth. But to really get the floor comfortable, you may have to venture into the crawl space and insulate the floor or skirting. If you're not sure how to do this, there are several video tutorials available online.

With these simple steps, you can look forward to a cozier and less-costly winter! ☀️

This article was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information on winterizing your manufactured home, please visit collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

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Distance learning dilemma

Pandemic reveals technology gap in rural areas

In the wake of a global pandemic, education at all levels moved from the classroom to the living room. Across rural Pennsylvania, the move revealed the pivotal role of reliable high-speed internet on education.

On March 16, schools across the Commonwealth closed as a cautionary measure in the wake of the 2019 novel coronavirus, referred to as COVID-19. Intended as a 10-day safety measure, the closure was extended through the remainder of the school year. In rural Pennsylvania, online platforms such as Google Classroom, Seesaw and Zoom shifted from optional tools to enhance education to the foundations of remote learning.

“Everything that we were teaching at school completely changed,” notes Lisa Williams, a member of Mansfield-based Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) who has spent the last eight

By Michael T. Crawford
Associate Editor

years as dean of students at Liberty Elementary in Southern Tioga School District. “(Previously), if a teacher was using the internet (in school), it would be for short, intermittent periods of time. Its use was totally structured, facilitated and supported by the teacher.”

The pandemic changed all that.

“The amount of internet time went from hours to more hours, and our work schedule had to become very flexible,” says Williams. “A lot of times, kids’ hours weren’t 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. when they were doing assignments. ... Many times when we had whole-class Zoom sessions, it would be 7 o’clock at night, sometimes on a Friday night.”

Remote learning across the Commonwealth consisted largely of tasks for students to complete on their own — asynchronous learning — and

REMOTE OFFICE: Lisa Williams, a Tri-County REC member and reading specialist in Southern Tioga School District, sets up a remote office in the back of her car for her and her husband, a teacher in the same school district, to telework outside in a church parking lot where they can both get cell service.

real-time communication with teachers — synchronous learning — using video conference platforms such as Google Meet or Zoom.

“When a kid has Google Classroom and they’re struggling with a concept, they can have information instantaneously just by having a Google Meet session with their teacher,” says Gary Otis, a member of Wysox-based Claverack REC and principal at Wyalusing Valley Junior/Senior High School.

But the internet structure needs to be there for teacher and student. Technically speaking, synchronous learning requires a stable internet connection and symmetric download

and upload speeds, typically measured in megabits per second (Mbps). A one-on-one video through Zoom, for example, requires a minimum of 0.6 Mbps download and upload speeds, while a group call-in gallery mode — that is, all participants shown at once — requires a minimum of 1.5 Mbps. For high-definition video quality, a one-on-one Zoom call would require 1.8 Mbps down and up, while a group call would require 3 Mbps.

As more learning moved online amid the pandemic, the technology gap in rural areas became more apparent.

Inaccurate data

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defines the minimum download and upload speeds for broadband internet as 25 Mbps and 3 Mbps, respectively. In 2019, the FCC reported 800,000 Pennsylvanians did not have access to broadband connectivity. According to results from a yearlong research project measuring median broadband speeds across the Commonwealth, millions of Pennsylvanians, particularly in rural regions, lack high-speed internet.

The research project, “Broadband Availability and Access in Rural Pennsylvania,” which measured more than 11 million broadband speed tests, indicates that no county in Pennsylvania had at least 50% of its residents receiving the FCC minimum speeds. Sponsored by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, the research suggests the growing inaccuracies in maps comes from internet service providers self-reporting their promised “up-to” speeds, as well as the FCC not verifying the claims and counting census tracts as being “covered” if even one home or business is reported to have access to broadband connectivity.

“We are spending millions of taxpayer dollars to create decreasingly accurate maps,” explains Sascha Meinrath, director of X-Lab and leader of the research project. “According to official measures, we’re winning — we’re making progress — when in fact in a lot of places that’s not the case,

and COVID-19 just brings that home.”

He adds, “For most Americans, the capacity they have at home is insufficient to have multiple livestreams. If your kids are going to school in a telepresence manner and your job requires telepresence, in many places you will not be able to do both. Families across the country are going to be forced to choose between their children’s telepresence education and their own professional telepresence activities.”

Those choices are already being made, explains Dr. Jason Bottiglieri, superintendent of schools at Wyalusing Area School District and former member of Forksville-based Sullivan County REC, noting that a large portion of the nation’s workforce has transitioned to telework.

“Parents shouldn’t be forced to kick their child off of their learning environment just so they can have the full access to the bandwidth in their home because the service is so poor,” says Bottiglieri. “Those things are realistic. Those things really happen. ... Those are the complications that our families have to go through. In the year 2020, that’s absolutely unacceptable.”

To avoid rationing the internet, some parents drove themselves — and sometimes their children, too — to public spaces that offered free internet,

like coffee shops or gas stations, or just far enough down the road to get cellphone service.

“My family had two college students return home,” recalls Williams, a reading specialist. “They were doing full course loads online at the house. We have satellite internet. I paid more for more data to support this. However, the connection could not support four adults working remotely every day. Additionally, even though our Verizon plan is unlimited, we don’t get a 4G signal at my home. My husband and I traveled about two miles up our road to the Salem Lutheran Church parking lot to obtain the signal, use our phones as hotspots, and complete our online responsibilities. Each day, a different amount of time was required. Some days a couple hours, many days more than that.”

Digital divide

Bandwidth in rural communities doesn’t need to be shared to be insufficient. In Bradford and Wyoming counties, where Wyalusing Area School District is located, Meinrath’s research showed the December 2018 median download/upload speeds to be 5.24/0.98 Mbps and 2.97/0.40 Mbps respectively. In Tioga County, home to Southern Tioga School District, medi-



BROADBAND STUDY: Sascha Meinrath, Palmer Chair in Telecommunications at Penn State University and project lead for the Broadband Availability and Access in Rural Pennsylvania study, speaks at a 2019 press conference in the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg, Pa. Also pictured are: State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania board, second from left, and state Rep. Garth D. Everett (R-Lycoming), board vice chairman, center.

an download/upload speeds reached 3.67/0.83 Mbps.

“My teachers tell me stories of kids who spend lots of time on an assignment, and then it won’t save or it won’t upload,” Otis recalls. “It’s tough for kids and parents. They work hard, they want to be diligent and then technology hinders them. They get frozen, they get kicked out and they have to log back in again. They lose motivation — they try to get in the right mental state, and then they can’t download something.”

To reach students without sufficiently fast or reliable internet connections, teachers and students had to get creative or go “old school” — even relying on the postal service for assignments.

“A teacher has to put lessons on a thumb drive, then the students have to get the information off it — if any technology is available,” Otis explains. “Parents have to mail it back, then the district secretary mails it back to teachers. ... It’s definitely a long turnaround time as opposed to being able to instantaneously connect with the teacher. It’s a lot of extra steps and time wasted just for not having good connectivity.”

To work around the lack of widespread connectivity, Wyalusing Area School District ordered mobile hotspots for students who didn’t have internet access. The workaround highlighted other difficulties facing rural Pennsylvanians.

“In many of these same rural, remote communities, not only is high-speed internet not available, but cell service isn’t available either,” Bottiglieri says. “You’ll often see that cellphone companies advertise things like 99% coverage across America or nearly 100% coverage. Well, it seems to be that we live in communities where we’re that 1%. That 1% is pretty widespread in rural, northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Trouble ahead

These workarounds, Meinrath argues, represent a growing cost of not



REMOTE LEARNING: Lisa Williams, a Tri-County REC member and reading specialist in Southern Tioga School District, attends a first grade Zoom meeting created by Lindsay Kutz, a teacher in Southern Tioga School District.

addressing the digital divide.

“We’ve already seen economic modeling that’s showing per household — per household — the detrimental impact of not having connectivity can be measured in the thousands of dollars per year,” Meinrath says. “For example, properties — houses — that don’t have connectivity have a diminished valuation vis-à-vis houses that do have connectivity, which means that both the individual household — your asset — is depreciated but also municipalities — they collect lower property taxes because the housing stock is worth less.”

The situation has prompted one electric cooperative in Pennsylvania to take on the daunting task of trying to bridge that digital divide. Tri-County REC, through its subsidiary Tri-Co Connections, has spent the past year constructing the infrastructure necessary to support high-speed internet to its members. That is after spending a year securing state and federal grants to build fiber-to-the-home internet services to Tri-County REC members,

starting in Potter County.

After 10 months of construction, Tri-Co Connections maintains 160 miles of fiber that provides service to approximately 325 households. The multimillion-dollar project is slated to take another four years.

Legislation to aid cooperatives that are seeking to find broadband solutions is working its way through the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Currently, a bill that details electric cooperative authority to provide internet service and expands existing electric easements in this effort awaits action in the state Senate after receiving unanimous support in the House. Legislative hurdles aside, building out the infrastructure for high-speed internet in these areas will still require massive public and private investment.

But time isn’t on anyone’s side. Schools across the Commonwealth have already begun to return to remote learning models for the 2020-21 school year. Approaches vary by school district, largely following three approaches: all students returning to a brick-and-mortar setting, a “hybrid approach” of half the student body alternating between learning in the school buildings and learning remotely, and all students learning remotely. Regardless of the initial approach, nearly every school district has laid out a plan for returning to complete remote learning status dependent on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The solution of telelearning and telepresence simply won’t work for tens of millions of American households,” Meinrath says. “When we discover that all of a sudden in the fall, it’s going to be a disaster.”

To avoid the disaster of leaving a generation of rural residents behind, Meinrath argues that the country needs an effort similar in scale to the one that brought about rural electrification in the first half of the 20th century — an effort that coupled massive government investment with a pioneering spirit.

“That phenomenon is very much needed today,” he states. 🌱

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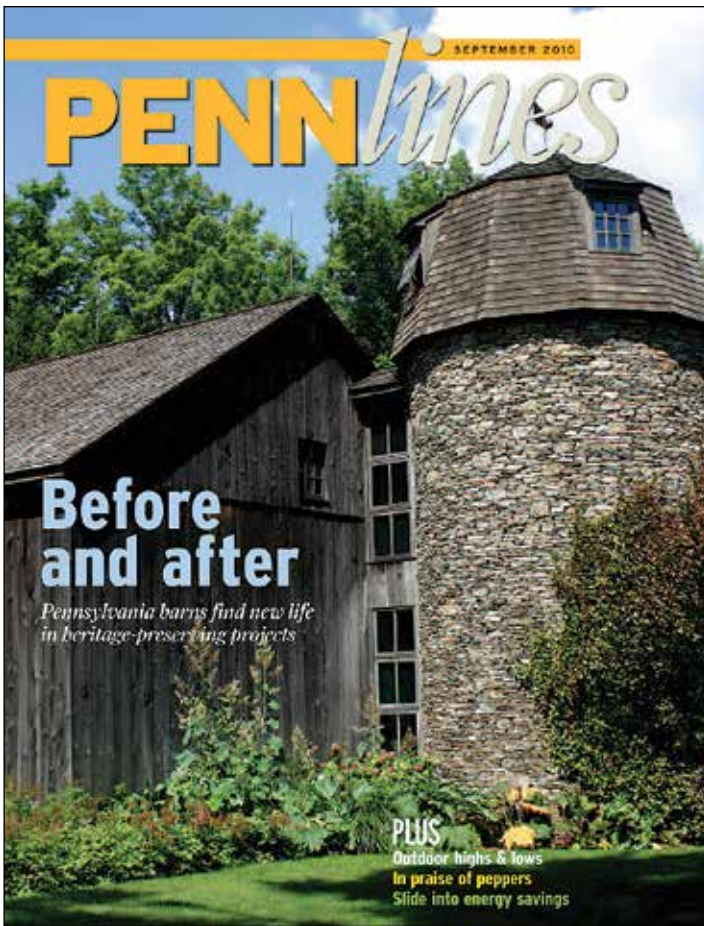
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Your Newsmagazine Through the Years



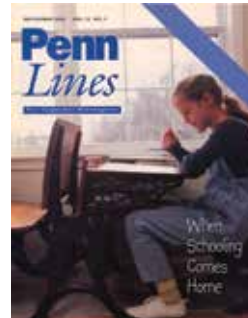
Far from being an eyesore, the aging barns dotting the rural Pennsylvania landscape instead represent a treasure that can provide a first-hand look at farm life between the late 1700s and the early 1900s.

Often, the barns have outlived their original purpose. They may be standing in the way of a new housing development, or perhaps they have been empty for years as advancing technology made them obsolete. Maybe their owners found their maintenance to be too time-consuming or expensive.

Whatever the reason for the deteriorating condition of the barns, some Pennsylvania craftsmen are restoring them on-site to meet the needs of the 21st century. Others are delicately dismantling the structures, numbering and cataloging their posts and beams, and finally reconstructing them as beautiful new homes or commercial buildings. Some take the barn wood and create furniture or crafts with it.

Reusing the wood from vintage barns provides a distinct advantage. It's an environmentally green project, and because the barns of the 1700s and 1800s were made from the wood of virgin forests, the beams are usually larger and stronger than beams made today.

2010



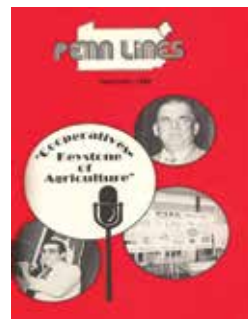
2000

An estimated 21,500 Pennsylvania children are schooled at home – 1% of the total, but a sevenfold increase since the General Assembly recognized the practice in 1988.



1990

George Andreadis pulls a poncho liner from a display case inside the traveling minibus used to publicize the proposed Vietnam War Museum in Gettysburg.



1980

Delegates from more than 100 cooperatives attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education in University Park with the theme of "Cooperatives – Keystone of Agriculture."

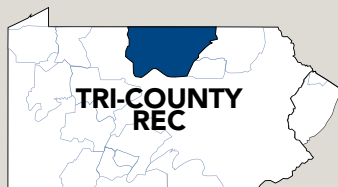


1970

Production of "King Coal," once the leading contributor to the economy of many Pennsylvania counties, has fallen off in recent years with the increase in natural gas production.

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From the President & CEO



Building for the future

By Craig Eccher

AS YOU know, the COVID-19 pandemic and cancellation of the traditional Troy Fair prevented your electric cooperative from holding its in-person annual meeting in July. For a cooperative that highly values interacting with the people we serve, and because we have much great news to share regarding our fiber project, the inability to gather in person was disappointing, to say the least.

Fortunately, we were able to bring the annual meeting to you by conducting it virtually. If you haven't taken the opportunity to view our virtual annual meeting, I encourage you to do so by visiting our website and clicking the link on the upper left corner of our homepage. You can also find highlights of the annual meeting on the following pages of this issue of *Penn Lines*.

One of those highlights we discussed was the launch of our Tri-Co Connections fiber-to-the-home high-speed internet service. This historic project has been a major undertaking for your cooperative's board and staff, and we are pleased with its progress, as well as the excitement it has generated among our members.

Another bit of news I shared during my annual meeting presentation is the fact that the cooperative has recently acquired property that will become home to a new headquarters facility for Tri-County and our growing Tri-Co Connections operation.

Our current headquarters building, located on Main Street in Mansfield, was built in 1976, and while it has served us well over the years, we have

simply run out of space. Limitations on office space is not a new development. Our field engineering employees, for example, have been housed at our subsidiary company, Wellsboro Electric, going back to the 1990s because we lacked adequate room at our Mansfield facility.

Your board of directors and management team have been considering options for a new headquarters facility going back at least a decade. The launch of our Tri-Co Connections broadband subsidiary, which we expect to grow substantially over the next five to six years, has advanced the building project from the back burner to a 2021 capital project.

In recent months, we have acquired 38 acres of property along Route 6 between Mansfield and Wellsboro to house our new headquarters building.

In addition to providing us with additional office space to house our management and office personnel, the building will accommodate the expected growth of our Tri-Co Connections operations. The property will also provide ample parking, and give us the ability to accommodate our larger trucks at the facility for use in training and interaction with our crews.

The new facility will be easily accessible to the membership and will have a spacious meeting room for employee training events that will also be available for use by the community. It will also allow for centralized warehousing for both Tri-County and Tri-Co Connections, house a secure, redundant data center for our broadband opera-

(continues on page 12d)

Co-op officials focus on reinvention during virtual annual meeting

By Jeff Fetzer

ONE YEAR removed from drawing record attendance of more than 1,100 members to its annual meeting at the Troy Fair, Tri-County REC had to settle for a record number of “views” for its 2020 annual meeting.

Of course, this was the first time the co-op held its annual meeting virtually, so tallying a record number of views was a given. Still, the video of the virtual annual meeting had garnered 400 views within the first 48 hours of its online posting.

The co-op opted to host its 84th annual meeting virtually this year due to the coronavirus pandemic and the cancellation of the Troy Fair. A video of the meeting, which premiered Wednesday, July 29, can be viewed via a link on the co-op’s website, tri-countyrec.com.

During their respective addresses to the membership, Board Chairman Matthew Whiting and President & CEO Craig Eccher spoke on progress the cooperative has made with its ambitious plan to make high-speed internet service available to all co-op members within the Tri-County service territory over the next four to five years.

“In the past, you heard me talk about the three Rs — rates, reliability and resilience,” said Whiting in his fourth and final annual meeting address as board chairman. “This year I want to add in a fourth R — reinvention. We have rates, reliability and resilience well in hand and well under management. I want to focus this year on reinvention.”

After 84 years of operating solely as an electric cooperative, Tri-County has reinvented itself as an electric and broadband communication service provider through its fledgling high-speed internet subsidiary, Tri-Co Connections.

“2019 was a pivotal year for the Tri-Co Connections broadband project,” Whiting said. “It was the year the project began to transform from being a project into being a service and, more importantly, a sustainable business.”

Reviewing key accomplishments of 2019, Whiting noted that, with receipt



DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED. Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative President & CEO Craig Eccher congratulates members re-elected to three-year terms on the cooperative board of directors in July. Pictured, from left, are Eccher and directors Lowell Geiser of Galeton, Matthew Whiting of Lawrenceville and Nick Reitter of Genesee.

of a portion of the state and federal funding for the broadband project in hand, the co-op hired technical and marketing employees to coordinate, promote and launch the high-speed internet project, selected key vendors and construction contractors, performed system work in preparation of attaching fiber-optic cable to co-op poles, finalized the accounting, billing, and member-contact management systems required to operate the new business, created a data center in Coudersport, and began physical construction of the fiber network in Potter County.

“In many ways, 2019 was a foundation year for the broadband business,” he said. “We didn’t provide any service to members in 2019, but we really set the stage and built the foundation for a successful and sustainable business.”

Tri-Co goes live

During his address to the membership, Eccher touted the historic nature of the project and credited members for pushing for the initiative and the cooperative’s board of directors for moving it forward.

“It is definitely exciting times for your

cooperative,” Eccher said. “In 2019, your cooperative launched and began construction of its high-speed internet subsidiary, Tri-Co Connections. This was a historic event, as Tri-County became the first rural electric cooperative in Pennsylvania to provide a fiber-to-the-home solution.”

He said the project originated from co-op members who expressed concerns about the lack of adequate broadband in the region.

“I recall some members saying to me, ‘Why can’t you provide broadband, just like it did electricity in the 1930s?’” Eccher said. “Your board of directors made this a strategic initiative and tasked management to find solutions.”

Among the biggest obstacles was the cost associated with building a fiber network across the co-op’s sprawling, rural service territory. Fortunately, he said, Tri-County was successful in obtaining sufficient grant funding through the federal Connect America Fund auction, the Pennsylvania Broadband Initiative Fund, and the Appalachian Regional Commission that made the project feasible.

Late in 2019, Tri-County began physical construction of its fiber system in

the Coudersport area, and hooked up its first internet subscriber in early April.

“To date, we have built about 200 miles of fiber, and now are providing high-speed, reliable internet to close to 200 members,” he said. “We continue to construct fiber in Potter County, and in a couple of months we’ll begin building out a fiber backbone along our three-phase circuits, which will tie together all 25 of our substations.”

Eccher said the cooperative expects to complete the fiber buildout across its 5,000-square-mile service territory within five years.

“We believe the fiber-to-the-home initiative will not only provide our members with exceptional internet service,” he said, “but it will also provide the resources that will drive economic development and enable health care options like telehealth, enhance efficiencies in agriculture through what is called the Internet of Things, open up online education opportunities and

expand communication options such as video conferencing.”

In addition, Eccher noted the fiber project will enable the use of smart grid technology on the co-op electric system. This will improve reliability and reduce the amount of time members are without power when outages occur, he said.

Financially sound

Eccher stated that the cooperative has been successful at maintaining stable electric rates and strong financials, as illustrated by the return of approximately \$1 million in capital credits refunds to members in 2019.

“Your cooperative’s rates remain extremely competitive,” he said. “For an average residential customer, our residential rates are slightly lower today than Penelec’s.”

Looking to 2021, the chief executive officer announced that the cooperative would be constructing a new building along Route 6 between Mansfield and

Wellsboro that will serve as headquarters for Tri-County and Tri-Co Connections.

“Driving this decision was the fact that our Mansfield office is coming up on 50 years old and has no room for expansion,” he said. “We have been utilizing temporary solutions to provide office space for employees who we do not have room for in Mansfield.”

He noted that most of the Tri-County engineering staff works in office space at the co-op’s subsidiary, Wellsboro Electric, and the fiber division is working from rented office space in Wellsboro.

“The new headquarters facility will have added space for future expansion and will also be able to accommodate member and community events,” he said.

Directors re-elected

The virtual annual meeting concluded with announcement of the director election results. Tri-County members unanimously returned three incumbents to the board of directors.

Directors Nicholas Reitter of Genesee, Matthew Whiting of Lawrenceville and Lowell Geiser of Galeton were re-elected to represent Districts 3, 5 and 9, respectively, on the co-op board. All three ran unopposed and received a majority vote.

During a reorganizational meeting that immediately followed the annual meeting, Gerald A. “Arnie” Kriner of Liberty was elected as the cooperative’s chairman of the board. Valery Robbins of Coudersport was elected vice-chairman of the board, and Geiser was elected secretary-treasurer. 🌞



SPEAKING VIRTUALLY. Tri-County President & CEO Craig Eccher delivers his message to the membership virtually during the cooperative’s 84th annual meeting. The online presentation of the annual meeting, which premiered on Facebook and the Tri-County website on July 29, garnered approximately 400 views within the first 48 hours of its posting.



Tri-County selects Salvation Army for \$5,000 Sharing Success grant

TRI-COUNTY Rural Electric Cooperative and CoBank have teamed up to provide \$5,000 to the Salvation Army to provide assistance to families in Bradford County facing economic hardship due the COVID-19 pandemic.

A \$2,500 donation from Tri-County, matched by a \$2,500 donation from CoBank, one the cooperative's lenders, will support Salvation Army efforts to provide food, rental and energy assistance to economically challenged families within The Salvation Army's Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

"We really appreciate Tri-County's support," said Michael Cipilewski, regional manager for The Salvation Army Service Extension Department. "The generosity of donors like Tri-County allows us to give back to those in the community who are in need."

Cipilewski said the novel coronavirus pandemic has caused a surge in unemployment throughout the region, which has drastically increased the number of people seeking assistance to help pay for housing, food and energy expenses.

"We are pleased to support The

Salvation Army efforts to meet the increased needs within our community caused by the coronavirus," said Craig Eccher, Tri-County president & CEO. "Electric cooperatives are committed to supporting our local communities. With so many people out of work and experiencing financial hardships at this time, we want to help lessen the burden of our friends and neighbors who have been negatively impacted by economic challenges."

Tri-County funded its portion of the donation through its community services grant program, which uses unclaimed capital credits refunds to support local non-profit community and civic organizations that provide services aimed at improving the lives of those within the cooperative's service territory.

Tri-County secured a matching grant through CoBank's Sharing Success program. Based in Greenwood Village, Colo., CoBank is one of the largest private providers of credit to the rural economy, delivering loans, leases and other financial services to agribusiness and rural infrastructure in all 50 states. ☀

From the President & CEO

(continued from page 12a)

tion, and will allow us to take advantage of all the technology that we've been building into our electric system in recent years.

By bringing our Tri-Co Connections fiber directly to the building, the new facility will house our SCADA automation system, and we'll be able to create self-healing electrical circuits by utilizing our first-class fiber technology for communications.

I'd like to assure members that we anticipate the project will have minimal, if any, impact on electric rates. We'll be able to offset some of the costs of the new building with the sale of our existing property, and we will also receive revenue from our subsidiary for space rental.

We currently are working on high-level design concepts for the headquarters building and anticipate breaking ground and beginning construction early next year, with occupancy sometime in 2022.

We are excited about embarking on this project, which we believe will enhance our ability to serve our members in the most cost-effective, productive and secure way possible for decades to come. ☀

Keep current with Tri-County on Facebook

Looking to keep up with the latest news involving your local electric cooperative? Join us on Facebook.

By "liking" Tri-County, you will receive updates about power outages, alerts about Co-op Connections Card discounts and special offers, as well as information about system projects, current events and other items of interest.

You can link to the Tri-County Facebook page from our homepage at tri-countyrec.com. All updates to the co-op's Facebook page automatically link to the co-op's Twitter account, so members can follow Tri-County in multiple ways. To follow the co-op on Twitter, visit twitter.com/TricoConnection.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Matt Whiting, chairman of the Tri-County Board of Directors, presents a \$5,000 grant to George Dunn, Salvation Army caseworker, that will be used to provide food, housing and energy assistance to Bradford County residents experiencing financial difficulties. Taking part in the check presentation are, from left, Tri-County Director of Member Services Bryan Berguson, Whiting, Tri-County President & CEO Craig Eccher, Dunn, and Michael Cipilewski, Northeastern Pennsylvania regional manager for The Salvation Army Service Extension Department.

DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR HOME!

i According to the National Fire Protection Association, **47,700 home fires** in the U.S. are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year. These fires result in **418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage**. Overloaded electrical circuits is a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.

OVERLOADED CIRCUIT WARNING SIGNS



Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights



Warm or discolored wall plates



Burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches



Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles

Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles, or switches

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.



All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat-producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.



A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.



Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.



50%

The CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). To learn more about AFCIs, visit ESFI.org.



Only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture. Using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.

Four ways to be cyber safe

By Paul Wesslund

We all know the internet can be dangerous and scary, and we've all seen the lists of ideas for better cybersecurity.

The problem is, cybersecurity tips aren't helpful unless we act on them. Sure, we should use long passwords and change them regularly — but will we really do that?

This article includes four tips for making yourself safer from cyber scammers and hackers, but first, let's look at a few reasons that might encourage you to put those tips into action.

Be afraid. Be very afraid. Bad things really can happen on the internet. A smooth-talking con artist on the end of the phone can charm or bully you into revealing your Social Security number or credit card number, or malware can monitor your keyboard and capture your password to your favorite website. Criminals use this information to access your credit cards and bank accounts, especially if you use the same password for multiple accounts. Children can also be victimized by cyberbullying. Think about what's on your computer or your smartphone that you don't want to lose or give away. Keeping those dangers in mind can help motivate you to take small steps to prevent them.

Make your own rules. When you see a good cyber safety tip but don't think you'll really take the advice, figure out a way you might be able to put it into action. Maybe you're the kind of person who pays attention to a reminder note on your refrigerator. Maybe you know you won't keep track of different passwords on all your internet-connected devices,



but you might be more likely to regularly update a strong password on the server in your home — that can be a good option if all your connections are coming through that one point of entry.

The time is now. Experts warn of a triple-threat these days. First, scammers are taking advantage of COVID-19 uncertainty, from offering phony cures and tests, to promises of financial assistance. Second, with more people working from home due to social distancing, there may be fewer office-based security measures in place. Third, the FBI warns that increased use of mobile banking offers more chances for cybercrime. And if you're the sort of person who thinks in terms of months, October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which can be a great time to act on this year's theme, "Do your part. #BeCyberSmart — If You Connect It, Protect It."

So, here are four cybersecurity tips

to keep you safe:

1. Use strong passwords. And change them regularly — many sites and apps make that easy to do by clicking on the "forgot your password" link. The best passwords are at least eight characters and include different types of characters — try using a memorable verse from your favorite song and adding a few numbers and special characters, (\$! _ &) or even a space. If you are like most people, remembering all your passwords is a challenge. Choose a security option based on the value of what you're protecting. The options you use to secure your bank and retirement account passwords might be different than how you store your social media passwords. Password apps keep them in one place and may be a great option for some passwords, but you can be in big trouble if you forget the password that lets you into that app. Keeping passwords on paper or in a notebook might be more secure than using the same password for everything, depending on how secure and hidden that paper is from other people at the office or kids at home.

2. Install software updates. Your apps and operating systems will periodically send updates. Install them — they often include protections against the latest security threats. But remember, those updates come from the apps and not from emails or social media notices. An email containing an update may be a scam — instead of clicking on the link, go to the app's website to see if there really are updates available.

3. Use two-factor authentication. That phrase is just a fancy word for a technique that adds an extra layer

(continues on page 21)

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SWEEPS FACTS: Giveaway No. 16000; End Date: 2/28/21; Est. Odds of Winning: 1 in 6,200,000,000. **You Have Not Yet Won. All Entries Have the Same Chance of Winning.** We don't know who the winner is. **Enter For Free.** You don't have to buy anything to enter. **Enter As Often As You Like.** You may submit additional entries by writing to the address provided. Each entry request must be mailed separately. **Buying Won't Help You Win.** Your chances of winning are the same as someone who buys something.

Convert garage (or basement) into efficient living space

By James Dulley

Dear Jim: We need another bedroom. What are my options, on a limited budget, to convert our brick garage into an efficient bedroom? — *Michael N.*

Dear Michael: This is a very common home improvement project and probably the least expensive method to add a bedroom. Only one new wall, to replace the garage door, needs to be built, so both material and labor costs will be reasonable.

The techniques to insulate a wall, both for converting a garage or a basement into living space, are similar. It actually is easier to insulate a basement because much of the wall area is below ground level.

If you plan to do the conversion project yourself, adding 2x4 (or 2x6 in very cold climates) stud wall framing on the interior is relatively simple. The studs will not carry any weight, so they can be spaced as wide as possible to accommodate the insulation width. When built over a concrete slab or floor, use pressure-treated lumber for the footer.

The location of the vapor barrier for the insulation varies for basements and above-ground garages. For basements, moisture usually flows from the ground through the foundation into the insulation. Attaching a film vapor barrier to the wall before the studs is best. When using faced fiberglass batt insulation, place the facing against the foundation wall. For above-ground walls, place the vapor barrier toward the room side.

When converting a smaller garage or basement area, where maximizing usable floor space is a concern, attach narrow furring strips to the wall. Place thinner sheets of rigid foam insulation up between the furring strips. Rigid



foam insulation has a higher R-value per inch thickness than batt insulation. Foam insulation must be covered by drywall to meet fire codes.

Every room must have an egress window in case of a fire. The window must have a minimum opening width of 20 inches and a minimum opening height of 24 inches. The window must have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet with a maximum sill height of 44 inches above the floor.


A good choice for bedrooms is an acrylic casement-style block window. It looks like a regular glass block window when closed to provide security and privacy. It opens with a crank like a regular casement window for ventilation and egress.

Many companies offer conversion systems for garages and basements. Fully insulated wall and ceiling panels are custom-sized to fit your specific project.

Snap-in insulated fabric-covered panel systems are effective for a bedroom. They provide insulation, block moisture and are relatively soundproof. Look for one where the panels can easily be snapped out to access the old wall or to make other changes.

Don't forget the attic area when converting a garage. Just like in any room, most heat is lost through the attic. Insulate the attic to the code recommendations and locate the vapor barrier down toward the living area.

A cold floor can make you feel uncomfortable. A typical concrete garage slab or basement sucks heat out of the room. Install a breathable insulation panel over the floor and cover that with thick carpet padding and carpeting. Consider installing electric in-floor radiant heating.

A low ceiling height can be a problem with a basement conversion. To minimize the loss of headroom, insulate around the outside of the concrete slab. Dig down several feet and place rigid extruded polystyrene insulation panels against the sides of the slab. Make sure to use extruded, not expanded, foam panels for below-ground applications. 



Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to **James Dulley**, Penn Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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Seasonal sweets

By Janette Hess

Some flavors are a natural fit for fall. Pumpkin and apple immediately come to mind, along with walnut and pecan.

Pumpkin Mousse is the perfect dessert for early fall. Cooler and creamier than traditional pumpkin pie, this delicately spiced treat is so simple to create that it just might need to make a return appearance for Thanksgiving.

Autumn Crostata is a trendy way to serve newly harvested apples. Less complicated than your grandma's two-crust apple pie, this free-form dessert features a pleasing blend of apples, walnuts and honey. Like most apple desserts, it definitely should be served with generous scoops of vanilla ice cream.

Easy Apple Squares are a tasty cross between a cake and a bar. The recipe comes together quickly in a single saucepan and is delicious served warm or cold — with vanilla ice cream, of course. 🌞



A trained journalist, **Janette Hess** focuses her writing on interesting people and interesting foods. She is a Master Food Volunteer with her local extension service and enjoys collecting, testing and sharing recipes.

Pumpkin Mousse

- 14 large marshmallows
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream*
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- Granola or chopped pecans for garnish, if desired

*If desired, 2 cups thawed whipped topping of choice may be substituted for whipping cream and powdered sugar.

Combine marshmallows and milk in large microwavable bowl. Heat in microwave for 1 minute to melt marshmallows. Remove and lightly stir until smooth. (If needed, microwave an additional 15 seconds to melt marshmallows.) Add pumpkin and pumpkin pie spice. When mixture has cooled to room temperature, whip cream in separate chilled bowl until peaks form. Add powdered sugar and whip to combine. Fold in pumpkin mixture. Divide among individual ramekins or sherbet dishes. Chill until set. If desired, top with granola or chopped pecans. Makes 4 generous servings. Recipe easily may be doubled.

Autumn Crostata

- Pastry for 9-inch, single-crust pie*
- 4 cups peeled and sliced apples
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces
- 1 tablespoon butter, cut into small pieces
- Vanilla ice cream for serving

*Pastry should be 11 to 12 inches in diameter and may be either homemade or purchased.

Place unbaked pastry on large baking sheet. Cut apple slices in half. In large bowl, toss apples with flour and cinnamon. Stir in honey, brown sugar and walnut pieces. Pile mixture onto pastry and spread to within 1 1/2 or 2 inches of pastry edge. Dot with butter. Fold pastry up and over apples, pleating as necessary, to create a free-form edge. (Top will be open.) Bake at 425 degrees for approximately 40 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown. If top edges of pastry brown too quickly, cover loosely with aluminum foil. To serve, cut into 6 or 8 wedges and top with vanilla ice cream.

Easy Apple Squares

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 medium apple
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- Cooking spray
- Powdered sugar for garnish
- Vanilla ice cream, if desired

Melt butter in medium saucepan over medium to medium low heat. Stir in brown sugar; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside. Peel, core and dice apple. Add diced apple to pan along with vanilla extract. Quickly stir in beaten egg. Add flour, baking powder, salt and nuts. Stir to combine. Pour mixture into sprayed 8- by 8-inch baking dish. Bake at 325 degrees for approximately 30 minutes, or until pick inserted in center comes out clean. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into 9 squares. Serve warm or at room temperature with vanilla ice cream, if desired. Store leftovers in refrigerator.



High and tight, Mona Lisa and the Jeep wave

By Mitchell Kyd

“News from the Path Valley Hotel”

I got a new Jeep! Well, not quite new, but pretty darn close, and definitely new to me. After two years of driving another Jeep model (I named it *Jeep Wannabe*), I’m behind the wheel of a Wrangler. It has the four-wheel drive gumption it needs to assail the winter driveway here at the PVH, a promise that grandma-Jeep couldn’t deliver.

Mid-life crisis, you say? I can assure you it isn’t. I passed midlife a long time ago. That doesn’t stop me from loving the bright blue paint job or cranking up classic vinyl on my Sirius.

The little joys I had been missing all came rushing back as I left the dealer, and I hadn’t gone far when another Wrangler driver welcomed me back into my family of passing strangers. He gave me the Jeep wave — a beautiful thing. Subtle but deliberate, it’s just a few fingers lifted off the steering wheel but it says: *“Hey! I see you and we are connected.”* Bikers have their own version, too: a low, open palm offered in passing as an instant of private exchange.

My split-second encounter that day brought back another old smile. It started me thinking about the first time I realized my human connections had always been working outside my narrow definitions. I had simply not been paying attention.

Can you picture da Vinci’s Mona Lisa and that intriguing half-smile? There are stories galore to explain it; some are pretty dark. The one that rings true for me is that she was trying to hold back a secret. She was expecting.



I remember when that was my secret, too, and it was hard to contain. The weird thing was other women started looking at me differently. Or maybe I was seeing them as if they had suddenly materialized. Some were obviously moms, kids in tow, but there were other women out alone who also knew the code. Thin women, heavy women, dark, light, well-dressed, on a budget — even women old enough to be my grandma recognized my Mona Lisa smile. All it took was a momentary glance, eye-to-eye, but their messages radiated from somewhere deep inside: *“Hello, Honey. Welcome! I see you and we are connected.”*

If the phrase “high-and-tight” resonates for you, you know there are other strangers chuckling about that routine barber instruction. The image of that haircut confirms that you are, were, or know a man with military service. No matter what age, race, or gender, in uniform, or dressed in “civvies,” military men and women have a look and bearing that is instantly recognizable in the most ordinary moments, like waiting their turn at the checkout.

Their use of “sir” and “ma’am” is automatic courtesy to strangers and those ball cap bills are never worn backwards, sideways, or in any way that isn’t parallel to the marching surface.

I’ve watched my son point out other random service members in airports, stores and restaurants just by the way they carry themselves. If they happen to pass each other, there’s a little nod that says: *“Hey, man! I see you and we’re connected.”*

I’ve also watched strangers talking to my son in the most casual surroundings ask: *“You’re military, aren’t you?”* Often they are vets themselves, or have a son or daughter serving, but the result is always the same. Whatever differences in geography, religion, politics or economics that might eventually surface, the thing that’s most important in that moment is the thing they have in common.

So there you have it, a crash course on my knowledge of inclusive secret circles, not the ones that exclude us, but the ones that redefine boundaries to draw us in. After months of social isolation, it occurs to me that we’re all connected in more ways than we recognize. It’s a matter of seeing the thread. 🌞



YVONNE BUTTS-MITCHELL writes and blogs (deadmousediaries.com) under the pen name Mitchell Kyd. The “News from the Path Valley Hotel” series was inspired by her encounters with contractors, critters and assorted creepy crawlies while rehabbing her family cabin after its 17-year stint as a giant closet.

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November 2020	September 17
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TECH TRENDS

(continued from page 14)

of security in addition to a password. Banks increasingly use this system — when you try to connect with them, the bank may text a code number to your phone that you type in to complete the sign-in process for your account. Keep in mind that answering a security question is similar to having a password — both are something you know. Answering a security question won't provide the same level of additional security as that of a second factor. A second factor will be something you have, like your phone to receive a passcode, or something you are, like a biometric fingerprint, in addition to something you know, like a password or security question.

4. **Think before you click.** Be wary of any offer or link that comes through the internet, whether by email or social media, or even a phone call instructing you to get online. Don't click on a link unless you know for certain what it is. Ideally, you should be expecting to receive the link. Even emails from friends should be suspect — hackers can impersonate someone you know to send a link or an attachment — both can result in you downloading malware that can take control of your computer in ways you may not even be able to detect. If you have any doubt, whether it's a link to a software update or an attachment to a funny cat video, give the sender a phone call to find out if they really sent it or if it's a scam.

To take advantage of the great promise of the internet, we must also recognize the peril. These are relatively simple steps you can take now to keep yourself reasonably safe. ☀

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.



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PENNLines

100 days alone in the arctic wilderness is looking pretty good

By Earl Pitts, American

Y'all ever seen this show on the TV called "Alone?" They send people out there to live all by their lonesome in the arctic wilderness. They even take their own pictures 'cause there's no cameramen or nothin' out there. For some 100 days, they're "alone." An' bein' alone drives them crazy.

I have discovered the one thing that will drive you crazier than bein' alone in the arctic wilderness for 100 days. That's bein' stuck at home with your better half for more than 100 days durin' what some people call the dampanic.

I'm at the point now that I wouldn't mind an unwanted visit from a polar bear. You know what I'm sayin'? An' it ain't nuthin' big. It's the little stuff startin' to gnaw away at us.

Like, yesterday, Pearl gets in my face.

She says, "Earl, you are so inconsiderate. You left the old coffee filter in the coffee maker again!" Then she goes, "I had to dump your coffee filter in the trash!"

So I go, "Me? Me inconsiderate? Who threw a wet towel over the shower curtain last night?"

She says, "That's where a wet towel goes!"

The only thing I could think to say was, "Well, it wasn't hung up even!"

Then later she goes, "You didn't put the toothpaste cap on tight!" and I go, "You were next — and your fingers ain't broke."

When she starts fixin' dinner, I hear her say, "Earl, we got ants!" an' I go, "With beautiful smiles!"

As we are gettin' settled in for the evenin', I hear her say, "Would it kill you to put the remote on the top of the TV when you go to bed so we can find it the next day?" My response was, "Would it kill you to dust the top of the TV — maybe a couple times a year?"

We didn't used to fight like that. We used to be happy just to ignore each other and go about our own business, back when we could go somewheres.

Wake up, America! Next time they're lookin' for somebody to live in the wilderness alone for 100 days with bears, wolves and temperatures at 50 below, I'm in. I'm Earl Pitts, American.

Isaw this story on my little boy's computer the other day that made me roll my eyes and fear for my life — at the same time. The headline said, "Scientists excited their new mouse high-breed is the most human yet."

Now — what I can gather from readin' the headline alone is that we are apparently creatin' a civilization of tiny mouse people. While at the same time givin' the stink-eye to every other country that's tryin' to make something we don't have. We're makin' tiny mouse people, folks!

I'm askin' you — why do we need tiny mouse people? Well — except for the obvious, like, puttin' that little screw in the hinge of your eyeglasses when they break. A tiny mouse person would be great at that.

And maybe gettin' a bottle cap when it falls on the kitchen floor and rolls under the refrigerator. Regular-size human people got to move the refrig-

erator or go fishin' with a yardstick. Or drink the whole two liters of Dr. Pepper at one time. A tiny mouse person would just go under there and get it.

Or when you're on the road and you drop your phone or your bank card between the center console and your seat. And you jam your hand down there tryin' to grab it, and your hand gets stuck, and you can like barely get your phone between two fingers, but it keeps slippin' every time you try to pull it out. Yeah — a tiny mouse person would be useful right there. Probably squeeze right down there.

And I'm not going to lie to you, havin' a tiny mouse person in your shirt pocket to hand you cigars would be the ideal conversation starter. People would start to fall over backerts, and you could go, "Oh, I forgot to introduce you to my tiny mouse person, Stuart Little."

Wake up, America. OK — I'm not going to lie to you — when I started this two minutes ago, I thought tiny mouse people was a bad idea. Now, I'm not so sure. I'm Earl Pitts, American. ☀



Social commentary from **Earl Pitts** — a.k.a. GARY BURBANK, a nationally syndicated radio personality — can be heard on the following radio stations that cover electric cooperative service territories in Pennsylvania: WANB-FM 103.1 Pittsburgh; WARM-AM 590 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton; WIOO-AM 1000 Carlisle; WEEO-AM 1480 Shippensburg; WMTZ-FM 96.5 Johnstown; WQBR-FM 99.9/92.7 McElhattan; WLMI-FM 103.9 Kane; and WVNW-FM 96.7 Burnham- Lewistown. You can also find him at earlpittsamerican.com.

Coming soon: autumn

Even though the calendar shows it is still summer, the number of daylight hours is diminishing and there's an occasional hint of coolness in the air, reminding us that fall is on its way. However, there is plenty of time left to take some great photos for the 2020 Rural Reflections contest.

Amateur photographers are encouraged to send their photos to *Penn Lines Photos*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. Include name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative. 2020 winners in each of five categories — artistic, landscape, human, animal and editor's choice — will receive \$75, and runners-up will receive \$25.

We work ahead, so please send winter photos by mid-September (hint: save your spring, summer and fall photos to submit next year). 2020 photos will be returned in early 2021 if you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. 🌞



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