

## Big Bend Electric Co-op

# In Our Community

### Kurt Staley Reaches 20 Years

Kurt Staley reached the 20 years of service mark at Big Bend Electric Co-op April 18.

Kurt grew up in Walla Walla. His family moved to Ritzville in 1975. He is a 1976 graduate of Ritzville High School and Spokane Community College.

Before coming to Big Bend Electric Co-op, he worked as an electrician for his dad, Ernie, taking over the business in 1983.

In April 1988, Kurt was hired as a lineman out of the Ritzville shop, working in that capacity until September 2007. Since then, he has been the cooperative's substation wireman. His duties include monthly routine substation maintenance of Big Bend's 17 substations throughout Adams and Franklin counties.

Kurt's job keeps him busy with a lot of travel. His experience is a vital part of this important position. Kurt says he enjoys his new position, and realizes its importance.

When Big Bend Electric Co-op bought solar panels for the Hiawatha School in Othello, Kurt did the installation and wiring for the inverter, transformer and meter. He also has done the needed upgrades for the solar unit since the inverter started to fail.

The co-op appreciates Kurt's well-rounded background.

Kurt and Wanda were married in 1980. They have one son, one grandson and two adopted grandsons.

Big Bend Electric Co-op congratulates Kurt for achieving this important milestone.

### Safety Demonstrations

Thomas Ramirez and Dale Anderson traveled to Basin City Elementary School March 27 to do an electrical safety demonstration for the fifth- and sixth-grade students.

About 60 students learned how to stay safe around electricity.

That afternoon, the safety board went to Mesa Elementary, where the second- through sixth-graders were shown the power of electricity.

The demonstrations were important, since many of the students received kites to fly during spring break. All of the students were reminded to fly their kites far away from power lines to stay safe.

About 120 students and their teachers learned important lessons about electricity.

### Spring Youth Fair

Kurt Staley and Dale Anderson took the electrical safety board to the Wheat Land Communities Fairgrounds on April 11 for the



*Big Bend's Kurt Staley*

annual Spring Youth Fair, sponsored by the Ritzville FFA chapter.

About 200 students, teachers and chaperones from Lind, Ritzville and Washtucna schools were on hand for several activities and training sessions from area presenters.

The electrical safety demonstrations were a big hit with the students. It is obvious the message about electrical safety is getting through to them.

Other stations of learning included food and chemicals. Presenters also spoke about wheat production, personal safety from the Adams County Sheriff's Department, bike safety from the Ritzville Police Department and seat belt information from the Washington State Patrol.

The Ritzville FFA organized the event, with help from the Washington State University Extension Service. The FFA students did a great job escorting students to each station.

Big Bend Electric Co-op is pleased to be an integral part of this great event. The many appreciative comments Big Bend receives at these demonstrations is proof that each one we do makes young people more aware of safety. ■



*Kurt demonstrates electrical safety to area students.*