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# Co-op Comments

## A center for member engagement

SmartHub is a convenient two-way communication program allowing members to access their Rural Electric account information through personal computers and mobile devices, including iPhone, iPad and Android smart phones and tablets. SmartHub is intuitive, easy-to-navigate and provides much more than just bill payment.

SmartHub is a tool to help all of REC's members. Creating an account takes less than three minutes and many of you are already connected. This tool allows the members to have a better understanding of their account and daily usage patterns.

With SmartHub, members can pay their bill immediately with secure online payments, view monthly electricity usage and history including daily kWh, manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices or the web. Members can also report an outage and sign-up to receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on their account.

To pay your bills or utilize any of the other features, simply go to [www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop) and enter your login information or register as a new user. Also, at [www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop) is a list of frequently asked questions about SmartHub, as well as information and videos on using SmartHub. The videos and information about how to use SmartHub can be found under the Account and Billing tab. From the Account and Billing tab, click on SmartHub and from the



drop down menu select your desired topic.

SmartHub is available on Android and iOS smartphones and tablets as well as on the web. To download the free SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet, click on the App Store icon on your iPhone/iPad or the Google Play icon on your Android phone/tablet, and search for "SmartHub".app. 1199600

Rural Electric is proud to provide our members a powerful, secure and convenient account access, as well as detailed information about your energy usage via SmartHub. Sign up today to experience the new and exciting features of SmartHub.



Lineworker Appreciation Day  
April 9, 2018

Remember to #ThankALineworker

# The power behind your electric power



As April arrives, it brings with it showers producing spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season which can inherently include power outages. While Rural Electric strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals who spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

### One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes

special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Rural Electric lineworkers are responsible for keeping 2,958 miles of lines across six counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24 hours a day and seven days a week, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “Thank a Lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the weather conditions.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Co-op Comments

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# Knowing the difference between CFL and LED light bulbs

Incandescent light bulbs, the ones we screwed into table lamps and overhead fixtures since the beginning of electricity, have become relics since the U.S. government ordered manufacturers to stop making most of them in 2014. Is the compact fluorescent light bulb next?

The twisty CFL bulbs, which can last up to five years and are much more energy efficient than the old incandescents, were once hailed as the latest and greatest energy- and money-saver for household lighting. But LEDs, which come in light bulb form and also are built into many light fixtures, so you'll never have to change a light bulb again, have proven to be a better energy value.

Both CFLs and LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescents. But LEDs last much longer than CFLs—up to 25,000 hours compared with 10,000 or so.

Here's why LEDs are quickly becoming America's favorite light bulb:

- LEDs don't get hot to the touch while they burn. Incandescents release about 90 percent of their energy as heat, while LEDs waste little heat and CFLs release about 80 percent of their energy as heat, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- Unlike CFLs, LEDs contain no mercury. - so LEDs leave a minimal impact on

the environment.

- The Department of Energy has said LED lighting "has the potential to fundamentally change the future of lighting in the United States."

- LED bulbs available for purchase, but an LED fixture has the light built right into it, so no bulb is visible and no bulb will

need changing.

- The price of LED bulbs has dropped from about \$100 a bulb five years ago to around \$5 today.

As the popularity of LEDs grows, could the CFL—like the incandescent—become a museum piece—a relic of a bygone, and less energy-efficient, era?

## REC hires new employee Dalton Todd

Recently, REC hired Dalton Todd as an Operations Supports Trainee. Todd is from Lindsay and graduated from Lindsay High School in 2004. He lives in Lindsay with his wife, Stephanie who is a nurse at the Lindsay Hospital. Todd has a 14-year-old daughter Navy who competes in softball and track for the Silo School District.

He earned his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma in 2010. Prior to working at REC, Todd worked for ITT Technical Institute in Oklahoma City, MCSG Technologies in Oklahoma City and Crete Carrier Corporation in Pauls Valley.

Todd is excited about the opportunity to work at REC and was looking for a stable work environment.

"I have worked in several places where in two years' time the entire department



Dalton Todd

had a new group of employees and I was looking for a stable, consistent work place with a good reputation," Todd says.

## Frequently Asked Questions of REC

**Q:** Why do you need my meter number when I call to ask questions about my bill?

**A:** Your meter numbers allow our Customer Service Representatives to identify the exact meter our member is wanting to know more about. Your meter number can be found on your bill under Meter Number or towards the bottom of the meter; it will be a nine digit number.

**Q:** Why do I need to call 811 before starting my outside spring projects when digging is necessary?

**A:** 811 locates underground services, so you know what areas to avoid.

## Classified Advertisement

### REAL ESTATE –

**FOR SALE:** Two bedroom, den, dining room, completely new inside-in Pauls Valley, one block from Grade School. \$42,000. PH: 405-665-5051.

### FARM EQUIPMENT –

**FOR SALE:** 2004 Mihrandra tractor, low hours. Includes 6' heavy-duty box blade, brush hog, all in good condition. Make offer. PH: 405-251-0270.

**FOR SALE:** JD 4020 Diesel Powershift with Model 48 loader, JD BW 14'disk, JD 10' chisel plow, \$7,000. PH: 405-496-7874.

**FOR SALE:** In-ground cattle guard, you take out. \$200; 8 X 12 box trailer, \$2,800. PH: 405-665-5051.

**FOR SALE:** Farm equipment and antiques. Cash only. PH: 405-924-3680.

### PETS & LIVESTOCK –

**FREE:** To good home, 11- month old Heeler puppies - male and female, fixed, up to date on shots and housebroke. PH: 405-999-7888.

### RECREATIONAL –

**FOR SALE:** 34', 2011 Keystone Avalanche M-290 RL. Spacious, three slides, luxury interior, well maintained with all expected features, \$29,800. PH: 405-331-9808.

### MISCELLANEOUS –

**FOR SALE:** GE XL-44 propane range with Sharp multi-speed vent microwave for wall mount above. Clean, beige color with black trim, \$150. PH: 405-331-9808.

**FOR SALE:** Several used double-paned aluminum windows, doors, all sizes; barn wood for remodeling, crafts, etc., different lengths and sizes; used 2-3/8' O.D. steel pipe for fence or building. PH: 405-756-4277.

**FOR SALE:** Two beautiful formal Prom

dresses. One is turquoise with sequins, Precious Formal brand, size 3-4; one is royal blue with ruffles, Jump Apparel brand, size 3-4. PH: 405-756-4277.

**FOR SALE:** Like new 2014 Yamaha Bolt motorcycle, pearl white and black, 2,936 miles, aftermarket exhaust and backrest, belt driven, excellent condition, \$4,500. PH: 405-320-0916.

## Outdoor safety most important in spring

When the weather warms up, gardeners and do-it-yourselfers head outdoors.

Here are five tips for working safely with and around electrical equipment.

1. Look up before setting up a ladder to paint or climb on the roof. Ladders should not come within 10 feet of an overhead power line. Touching a power line with anything puts everyone at risk of injuries or worse.

2. Unplug power tools when finished using them. Anything plugged in continues to draw some electricity, even when it's turned off. A plugged-in tool could overheat and cause a fire.

3. Don't use damaged tools, even if they

still work. Tools with frayed power cords or cracked body parts are dangerous. They could overheat or malfunction while in use.

4. Remember the best advice given by a mother about electricity: It can be dangerous around water. Don't use a hose while power tools are plugged in nearby. If the grass is wet, don't stand on it while using an electrical tool.

5. Teach children how to work and play safely around electricity. Caution them about climbing trees or flying kites too close to power lines. Remind children to never touch a power line if they see one on the ground.

## Classified Ads

are **FREE** to REC members to post noncommercial items. Deadline for ads is the 8th of every month.

Call the Member Services Dept. at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

## Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

### Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

### Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

### Blue Moose Outdoor

### Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

### Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

### Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

### Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

### Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change

### M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

### Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

### Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order of \$25

### 4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

### Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

### Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Learn more at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

