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Old headquarters property sells Page 4

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# Co-op Comments

## Tree giveaway set for February 17

Rural Electric Cooperative has over 2,900 miles of electric distribution lines and clearing trees is an on-going project. One of the ways REC can provide reliable, affordable electric power is through its right-of-way clearing program which includes pruning, removals and chemical control. In addition to removing trees, REC crews also prune new growth during their daily routines.

REC's tree giveaway program helps replace trees the Cooperative must remove from under its power lines. Providing trees

to members is the Cooperative's way of replacing one of our natural resources.

Rural Electric Cooperative's annual tree giveaway for its members will be held Saturday, February 17 beginning at 8 a.m.

Employees of REC will be in Lindsay, Elmore City, Maysville and Rush Springs to give members trees during the Cooperative's Operation Tree Planting/Replacement Program. Members will each receive up to ten trees.

"It is out of REC's commitment to our members, communities and environment

we make these trees available as a service," Ed Bevers, Manager of Engineering said. "REC is, and will continue to be, a good corporate steward and we are grateful for our members' trust."

Employees of the Cooperative will be at the Walmart parking lot in Lindsay, located at the junction of Highways 19 and 76; in front of the law office of Dan Williams in Rush Springs, located at 303 W. Blakely Street; the parking lot of Worth Every Bite in Maysville, located at 314 6th Street and the parking area of Speedy G's in Elmore City, located at 22964 Highway 29.

The types of trees available are Loblolly Pines and Sawtooth Oaks.

Loblolly Pines are one of the most common pine trees. This North American native has dark green needles with narrow, red-brown pinecones about three to six inches long. These trees grow to be about 60' to 90' tall and have a spread of 25' to 35' wide once they reach maturity.

Sawtooth Oak is one of the fastest growing trees in its youth. It is an attractive shade tree with dark lustrous summer foliage and clear yellow to golden brown fall leaves. These trees grow to be 40' to 60' tall and have a spread of 40' to 60' wide.

The Cooperative requests members to not plant trees any closer than 30 feet of our electric power lines. This will allow the trees to mature without requiring trimming or removal in the future.

Members needing additional information about REC's Tree Program may contact REC's Member Services Department at 756-3104 or 1-800-259-3504, extension 238.



# Rate adjustment takes effect in March



Beginning in March, members will see a rate adjustment on their bill to the service availability charge. Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees approved an adjustment in the charges affecting prices for the electric service REC members receive to help recover more of the fixed cost charges.

The actual rate per kilowatt hour for our residential members is not increasing, just the monthly service availability charge. This charge was previously called the customer charge and recently changed to service availability charge in January. However, in March, the service availability charge will increase from \$14.00 a month to \$17.00.

A recent cost of service study conducted by C.H. Guernsey determined the service availability charge should be \$46.41 a month, but currently we are only collecting \$14.00. Almost all of REC's operating costs are fixed. Whether the member uses one kilowatt hour per month or 1,000 kWhs, the same amount of infrastructure and materials are needed to provide electricity.

REC has provided an excellent energy value to our members over an extended period of time, as REC members have not had a rate increase since February of 2011. Our service availability charge is the fourth lowest in the state, and even with the three dollar increase we will be the eleventh lowest if the other co-ops in the state do not change their rates. However, after listening to the other managers, all the co-ops are thinking about rates and looking at ways to recover more of their fixed costs.

The service availability charge helps recover the cost of providing and maintaining items such as meters, meter loops and transformers. REC provides these items at no cost to our members but recoups the investment and maintenance through this charge. These fixed costs have only continued to increase and the costs to provide service have as well.

Maintaining dependable service at the most affordable price possible remains the cornerstone of our business. To accomplish this goal, we must protect the integrity and financial stability of our organization. 261103

Our members should know when our Board of Trustees meet, they are always thinking about how any change is going to impact our member-consumers. With this in mind, they know the value our members place on energy extends beyond just price. It is the right combination of price, quality of service, reliability and being a responsible partner in meeting the needs of our members today and in the future.

Beginning in March, there will be a three dollar increase in the service availability charge and then a slight increase for the next two years, to help bridge the gap of what is needed to combat the rising fixed costs.

While we know costs will continue to increase, we will continue to work as conservatively as possible to keep our rates low.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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# REC recognizes two employees for Employees of the Year in 2017

Every year REC recognizes employees who exceed in their defined job description, achieve outstanding results in certain areas and demonstrate loyalty to the Cooperative, and 2017 wasn't any different. Since 1994, REC has honored these employees as its Employees of the Year. Beginning in 2010, REC started recognizing two employees – one from administration and one from operations.

Both the 2017 Employees of the Year are loyal and dedicated employees who are active in their community. They strive to make REC a better workplace and are always willing to help REC's membership and their coworkers.

Deana Slack was named the 2017 Administrative Employee of the Year. She was hired in June of 1975 as an Engineer's Aid. In March 1988, she was promoted to Work Order/Payroll Clerk and in November 1988 was named Plant Accountant. In March 2002, Benefits Administrator was added to her title.

Slack arrives early and doesn't leave her office until her current tasks are completed. She accepts new responsibilities while continuing to perform her other tasks to the best of her ability.

She is originally from Purcell, but has made Lindsay her home with her husband Mike and their dog Elli.

"This was a complete surprise," Slack



*REC named Allan Kelley (left) and Deana Slack (right) Employees of the Year. Kelley was named REC's 2017 Operations Employee of the Year and Slack as REC's 2017 Administrative Employee of the Year.*

adds. "I have seen many changes since I started working here, but the one thing that remains the same is the people. I enjoy being able to work with a great group of coworkers and share our successes together while helping our members."

Just like the Administrative Employee of the Year, REC's 2017 Operations Employee of the Year, Allan Kelley is also a member of the Lindsay Elks Lodge.

Kelley was hired in March of 1996 as a Mechanic's Assistant and was promoted to Senior Auto Mechanic in 1998.

He is always willing to help any employ-

ee with their vehicles and is one of the first to stop and help a member change a tire or jump start a vehicle.

Kelley grew up in Lindsay where he continues to live today. He has a fifteen-year-old son Tate. Kelley attended OSU-Okmulgee where he obtained his certification in Automotive Technology. He is also a former member of the United States Army Reserves.

"It was an honor to be named Employee of the Year," Kelley says. "I strive to do my best and it is nice to be awarded for doing my job. I enjoy being able to help others."

## Frequently Asked Questions of REC

**Q:** What is REC's Residential Rate schedule for winter?

**A:** Winter (November - March)  
Service Availability Charge:  
\$17.00 per month  
Plus Energy Charge:  
\$.0875 per kWh up to 1500 kWhs

**Q:** What are Capital Credits?

**A:** Margins credited to members each year based on their purchases from REC. They are used by the Co-operative as working capital for a period of time, then paid back to individual members.

**Q:** How do I qualify for budget billing?

**A:** To be eligible for budget billing, the member's meter has to be active for 13 months and the member has to have a good payment history with no more than two late payments.

## Classified Advertisement

### MISCELLANEOUS -

**FOR SALE:** 5 X 4 round bales of bermuda grass hay, fertilized and sprayed for weeds, \$40. PH: 580-229-2612 after 7:00 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** Lift chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Honda easy start HR -214 push mower with bagger, needs work, \$50; Ultra Pro, 16-gal shop vacuum, \$65. PH: 405-351-0878.

### PETS & LIVESTOCK -

**FOR SALE:** Four goats-two does, two bucks. Three of the four are triplets. \$100 ea. PH: 405-224-4962, text or call.

## REC sells old facility

Recently, the City of Lindsay entered into an agreement with Rural Electric Cooperative to lease to purchase REC's former headquarters property in Lindsay.

"This is a positive move for both us and the City of Lindsay," CEO of REC, Dale Nye says. "This property will allow the City of Lindsay to expand and move forward with future plans. We look forward to the progress they will be able to accomplish in Lindsay."

The City of Lindsay took over possession of the property in January of 2018.

## Co-op Connections

Use your Co-op Connections Card to save you money on lodging, photographs, oil changes and other items. You can also save on prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging and chiropractor services at participating locations. Your card is a discount card. If you have misplaced your card, contact REC for a replacement card and use it to save yourself some money.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allowing a lower temperature setting and save an additional three to four percent per year on water heating.

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

## Greg Watson retires after 41 years

On January 1, long time employee Greg Watson retired from REC after 41 years.

Watson held several positions at REC including Groundman, 2nd Class Lineman, 1st Class Lineman and Construction Supervisor. In 1998, he completed OAEC's Lineman Training Program classifying him as a



Journeyman Lineman and then he became the Operations Superintendent in 2007.

Watson is looking forward to being able to spend more time farming, working with his cattle and spending time with his family.

"After having cattle for the last 40 years and spending a majority of my weekend and time after a 40 to 50-hour work week taking care of them, I am looking forward to having time during the day to feed and care for them," Watson said. "I am also ready to spend more time with my family and go on vacations."

Watson is thankful for the opportunities REC provided while working here.

"Most people who have not worked around the electric industry and linemen do not understand where they get their motivation," Watson said. "Linemen work long hours in thunderstorms, tornados and ice storms, but when they get to see the lights come on after several hours, days or weeks-it is the greatest feeling of satisfaction. I am thankful I had the opportunity to work with some of the best people in the world."

## 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.

