



Co-op Comments

REC Youth Leadership Summit brings area students together

Motivation, leadership, learning and meeting other students brought 13 schools from Rural Electric Cooperative's service area together for REC's 12th annual Youth Leadership Summit.

"REC is passionate about helping develop our youth's skill set," said Megan Lawrence, Manager of Member Services and Marketing. "REC and the Board of Trustees understand the importance of our youth and fostering leadership development for their future."

Rhett Laubach, owner of Your Next Speaker, in Edmond, Oklahoma spent the day working with approximately 80



Rhett Laubach from Your Next Speaker came and worked with 81 students from within REC's service territory on leadership skills for REC's 12th annual Youth Leadership Summit.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 11!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.

students about leadership and preparing for the future. The students interacted with each other throughout the day and gained useful tips on making an impact. Laubach has taught leadership skills for over 20 years to audiences across the United States, the Bahamas and Canada.

This year, students from Bray-Doyle, Cement, Elmore City-Pernell, Lindsay, Maysville, Ninnekah, Paoli, Pauls Valley, Purcell, Rush Springs, and Wayne participated in the Youth Leadership Summit. In addition to a full day of mental, emotional, social and physical activity, REC gave five scholarships. The winners of the scholarships were selected based on their participation throughout the day, their application they submitted and recommendations

from their sponsors.

REC's Youth Leadership Summit is partially funded by Cooperative Finance Corporation which allows REC to give four \$250 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship. This year's \$250 Youth Leadership Summit scholarship winners were Cristen Alcorn from Alex, Payge Wright from Cement, Bobby Pendergrass from Lindsay and Kiley Horton from Rush Springs. Seth Combes from Elmore City-Pernell won the \$500 Youth Leadership Summit scholarship award.

"REC is honored to provide opportunities for our youth to learn leadership skills and we are thankful our schools allow their students to come and participate in this event," Lawrence concludes.

The value of electricity continues to shine



How many of us remember dropping into Rural Electric's office with our parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? Whether you do it in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity keeping them working comes from REC.

Electricity is used to run all of these devices, keep the lights on, use the stove, heating and air conditioning and get hot water from the tap. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of three percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have been up by more than one to two percent annually,

and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about one percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010, meaning we are doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt hour use per household dropped by eight percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the nine percent decline reported by all electric utilities, nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. This is why we urge energy efficiency, encourage you to look for ENERGY STAR® appliances, and promote technology, designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats, power strips, and appliance settings shifting most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

This is good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. It's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. This number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways keeping it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon Rural Electric for more than the power keeping the lights on.

This is why we're always working to provide reliable service, while striving to keep it affordable and make it even more valuable to our members— you, your family and your neighbors.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Extreme temperatures lead to higher energy usage, resulting in larger electric bills for members

With the fluctuating winter temperatures of late 2017 and early 2018, some members have reported seeing their electric bill has more than doubled between December and January.

At WFEC, a record demand day was set on Jan. 17, as the day prior and the day of, saw temperatures drop to the single digits, accompanied by high north winds. Overnight lows ranged from 0 to 7 degrees across much of the state. When temperatures are this low or even into the teens, heating systems will use more energy. More energy usage is directly related to the cold weather, which at times, seemed to stick around for consecutive days.

It is the energy usage which has increased. No one has been arbitrarily charged any more. It is strongly suggested each member look closely at their bill as it should indicate the usage went up during December through January. All of the increase is a reflection of the extreme temperatures of that time frame.

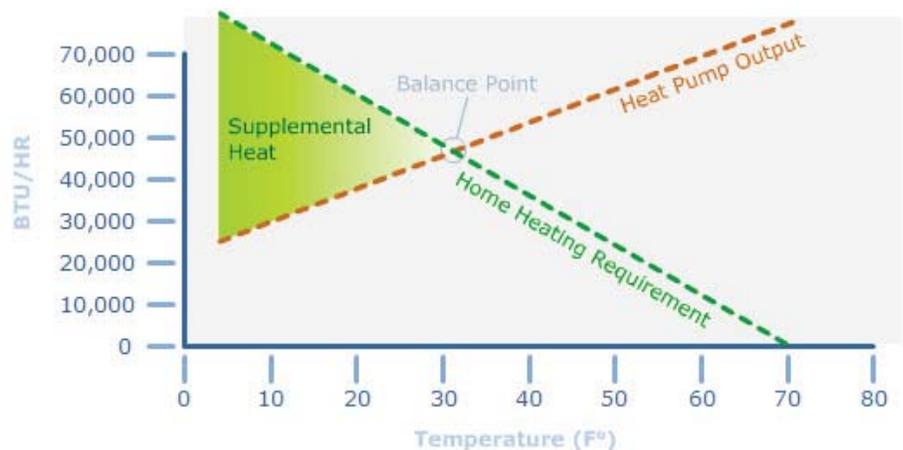
Keeping a home warm and comfortable during cold winter days often results in the use of additional heating methods, such as heat lamps, tank heaters, space heaters, resistance backup heat and other high

usage devices. While these options may be effective during short-term cold spells, they also directly impact the overall usage.

Temperatures in January 2018 were close to normal, but were 3.3 degrees colder than those of January 2017, which was 13 percent milder than normal. 17701

For six days in January 2018, high temperatures remained below freezing,

with single digit temperatures as the low on most of these days. Four other days, saw temperatures only reach into the 30's and 40's. High winds were also an issue in January, which only added to the extreme conditions. Highest wind speed hit 43 mph, while 10 mph was the lowest recorded during the month.



When it's cold outside a heat pump extracts the outside heat and transfers it inside. Even if the thermostat is set on 68 degrees, there is a good chance your heat pump can't reach that temperature (this varies from house to house based on factors like insulation and air infiltration). This causes the heat pump to run continuously which adds up quickly since heating/cooling accounts for around 50 percent of your monthly bill.

Frequently Asked Question of REC

Q: Why is my bill so high, when I haven't changed my temperature setting on my thermostat?

A: When the temperatures get colder outside consider the following:

- More heat is needed to maintain indoor comfort levels - more energy to heat regardless of heating source
- The air source heat pump loses capacity so supplemental heat is needed - often in the form of electric resistance coils to provide additional heat with the heat pump
- The efficiency of the air source heat pump is lower at colder temperatures as compared to higher temperatures, but still is efficient in most climates.

Classified Advertisement

REAL ESTATE -

FOR SALE: 120 acres east of Lindsay for sale or lease. PH: 405-756-6572.

RECREATIONAL -

FOR SALE: 2007 Jay Flight 26' travel trailer, model 26JTX. Excellent condition low usage, \$6,500. PH: 405-606-1405.

FOR SALE: 1991 Nuway 32' 5th wheel mobile home with slide-out, good condition for age, \$5,000. PH: 405-606-1405.

PETS & LIVESTOCK -

FOR SALE: 4-yr old boer buck goat. \$200 obo. PH: 405-207-0246.

FOR SALE: 10-yr old barrel horse, 17 hands, very gentle, doesn't buck or bite, running 16's and med. 15's, \$5,000. PH: 580-450-9167.

MISCELLANEOUS -

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT -

Reford Gage turns 100. Come and celebrate with family and friends for Reford's 100th birthday party at the Alex Community Center from 2 - 4 p.m. on March 24.

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.

Account number worth \$10 bill credit

Locate your account number in an article of this issue; it will be good for a \$10 credit on your electric bill. To claim the prize, you must locate the account number - if the number is yours, contact REC by the 10th of the month and we will credit your account. Only the member assigned that number is eligible for the prize. If you don't know your account number, it can be located on your electric bill.

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

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Learn more at www.energystar.gov

REC hires a new Groundman Chris Mills



Chris Mills

REC recently hired Chris Mills as a Groundman. Mills lives in the Bradley area with his wife Lacey.

Mills graduated from Lindsay High School in 2006. Prior to working at REC he worked for Lynn Boyer and Clingman Electric Service.

"I have always heard great things about REC and I am looking forward to having a better opportunity where I can grow in my career," said Mills. "I feel fortunate to be able to continue learning about the electric industry here at REC."

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.

