



Co-op Comments

REC's youth program winners

Rural Electric Cooperative recently awarded and recognized 24 area students with trips and scholarships. Ten high school seniors shared \$11,000 in scholarships assisting with their college expenses. Six high school juniors received all-expense paid trips this summer- three won trips to Washington D.C. for Youth Tour and three won trips to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. While eight eighth graders won a trip to Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative's YouthPower Energy Camp at Canyon Camp near Hinton, Oklahoma.

Both the Youth Tour and Energy Camp competitions were open to REC's membership and all students attending a school within REC's service area. Whereas, only high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of REC were eligible to apply for the ten scholarships available.

To compete in the scholarship contest, students were required to complete an application, and from all applicants, a committee of REC's Board selected 10 finalists to interview. All finalist were selected as winners. Two students received \$1,500

scholarships and eight received \$1,000 each. Winners of the \$1,500 scholarships were Matti Allen of Maysville and Kiley Horton of Rush Springs. Scholarships of \$1,000 each went to: Seth Combes of Elmore City-Pernell, Kylie Arter of Lindsay, Alisha Smith of Lindsay, Cade Heavin of Ninnekah, Mitchell Crawford of Pauls Valley, Jordan Humphrey of Pauls Valley, Jared Perry of Pauls Valley and Cole Mills of Wayne.

High school juniors competing in the Youth Tour contest wrote an essay as the first step of the competition. Judges selected the top six essays as finalists. The finalists competed in a speech contest to determine the trip winners. Judges selected Carson Mainka of Alex, David Barton of Bray-Doyle and Chase Ogletree of Lindsay as winners for Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. These students will travel to Washington, D.C. with approximately 70 other juniors from across Oklahoma to tour our nation's capital.

The three runners-up won a trip near Steamboat Springs, Colorado for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp hosted by the Colorado Electric Cooperatives. Lo-

cal winners will join students from Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming for the week-long camp. REC's winners include Zach Davis, Kazi Mara and Dalton Otwell of Elmore City-Pernell.

REC's winners to YouthPower Energy Camp were selected from a large group of essays submitted by eighth graders from several area schools. The group will attend the camp with 80 other eighth graders across Oklahoma. Winners include: Trace Adams, Sean Allgood, Taylor Baker, Miranda Miller, Cassie Mills, Hailey Pirtle and Lizzy Sparkman of Lindsay and Madi-syn Magnolia of Ninnekah.

Student winners, parents, school teachers and administrators were honored at a banquet hosted by REC recently at the Cooperative's Multi Purpose Center in Lindsay.

REC has offered these programs to area students since 1989. Over the past 29 years REC has provided: 304 scholarships; sent 86 high school juniors to the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.; sent 78 high school juniors to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp; and sent 196 eighth grade students to the YouthPower Energy Camp.



REC's 2018 scholarship winners.



REC's 2018 Youth Tour finalists.



REC's 2018 Energy Camp winners.

Safety Above All Else



“Safety” is a universal word mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Rural Electric, it's the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, REC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and the community above all else. At its essence, our mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to its member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their family. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance. 1285301

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers.

Rural Electric has established and follows safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.


As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

May is electrical safety month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Contact Rural Electric for additional electrical safety tips. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2018

Co-op Comments

Official publication of Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. CO-OP COMMENTS is owned, controlled and directed by Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is printed monthly and mailed to members in Garvin, McClain, Comanche, Stephens, Grady and Carter counties in Oklahoma.

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
13942 Highway 76 • P.O. Box 609
Lindsay, OK 73052
405-756-3104 • 800-259-3504
Outage Number: 855-399-2683
www.recok.coop



Board of Trustees

Gary Jones, *President, District 1*
Scott Christian, *Vice President, District 1*
Brent Bacon, *Sec./Treasurer, District 1*
Larry Anderson, *District 2*
Johnny Harrel, *District 2*
Terri Hays, *District 2*
Charles Crawford, *District 3*
Mark Finch, *District 3*
Randy Griswold, *District 3*
Dan Williams, *Attorney*

Management and Staff

Dale Nye, *Manager/CEO*
Linda Ray, *CFO*
Kelli Lindsey, *Administrative Assistant and Staff Coordinator*
Elaine Gilreath, *Manager of Customer Service and Data Processing*
Ed Bevers, *Manager of Engineering*
Mitch Gilreath, *Manager of Information Technology Services*
Megan Lawrence, *Manager of Member Services and Marketing*
Leonard Coffee, *Manager of Safety and Loss Control/Facilities*
David Crull, *System Superintendent*
Jason Mays, *Operations Superintendent*

REC hires four new line workers

To help fill the void from retirements and promotions, REC has recently hired four new line workers.



Scott England

The first new line worker hired is Scott England. England came to REC from working as a contractor building power lines for seven years. England is from



Travis Loper

Lindsay and lives in Lindsay with his wife Megan. He has a five-year-old son Hunter. England graduated from Lindsay High School in 2005.

“I was looking for a stable career with opportunity when I came to REC,” says England. “My dad worked here, and I knew what REC could offer me. Working at REC not only allows me to work close to home, but I am able to see family at the end of the day as well.”

The next line worker hired is Travis Loper. Loper is also from Lindsay. He lives in Lindsay with his wife Kelli of seven years and their daughter Taylor. Before Loper joined REC, he was working in the oilfield.

“I was looking for different opportunity with potential for me to grow and learn,” says Loper.

REC then hired Jesse Owen. Owen is from Mustang and graduated from Mustang High School in 2010. He graduated from OSU-OKC with a General Science Degree in 2016. Before working for REC, he worked as a contractor for OG+E.

“Working at REC is an opportunity for me to continue to develop my knowledge base and understanding of the electric industry,” says Owen.

Lastly REC hired Dalton Wilson. Wilson is from Purcell and continues to live in Purcell with his wife Brooklynn. He has two children, Spencer who is five and Jentri who is 2. Wilson graduated from Purcell High School in 2012. He played football at

Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma and then took classes at Oklahoma City Community College.



Jesse Owen

Before working for REC, he worked at A and A tanks.

“I was looking to further my career and learn something new,” says Wilson.



Dalton Wilson

Frequently Asked Questions of REC

Q: Why am I getting a disconnect notice in the mail, when I just sent my bill in the mail?

A: If the bill was sent within a day or two of the due date, it likely has not yet been delivered by the post office and crossed in the mail with the generated notice.

Q: Why did I get a disconnect notice in the mail only a few days after my bill was due?

A: The notices are automatically mailed the day after the due date to insure there is time for the member to make a payment or arrangement before the cutoff day.

Q: What is the fee for being late?

A: REC's late fee is a \$5 minimum per late meter or 1.5% of the bill. If an arrangement has been made, it does not exempt the bill from being charged a late fee or being counted as paid late.

Classified Advertisement

FARM EQUIPMENT –

FOR SALE: Vermeer Round Baler 504 Super I, always kept in a shed. \$5000. PH: 405-615-9660.

FOR SALE: Allis Chalmers Chisel. 22' \$2,500. PH: 405-615-9660.

FOR SALE: Javorsky Field Cultivator 27' \$6000. PH: 405-615-9660.

MISCELLANEOUS –

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: All new Trane gas furnace, upflow, Model # TUE1V080, new plenum and thermostat, \$700. PH: 405-779-1195.

FOR SALE: Small Troy-Bilt tiller, never been used, \$100. PH: 405-756-4409.

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

PETS & LIVESTOCK –

FOR SALE: Butcher calves going in May. 1/4 or 1/2 available. Deposit required. PH: 405-615-9660.

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

REAL ESTATE –

WANTED: Want to buy a two-bedroom mobile home. PH: 405-756-4409.

FOR SALE: Three bedroom, 1.5 baths, indoor storm shelter on five acres in Purcell. PH: 405-650-6266.

RECREATIONAL –

FOR SALE: Nuwa Hitchhiker 32' fifth-wheel RV with slide out, 1991 model, \$5,000. PH: 405-606-1405.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT – Outdoor vintage and junk sale with

Billingsley retires after 30 years of service

Recently Teresa Billingsley retired from working at REC after 30 years.

Billingsley has always shared the story of having to write a cover letter, in high school, for a job she would want in her community. She decided to write her cover letter for the secretary to the CEO. Little did she know when she was writing the letter, one day she would have the opportunity to apply for that very position.

Billingsley started in the Public Relations/Member Relations department as the secretary in March 1988. She worked in the PR/MR department until 2001. In January 2001 she became the Secretary to the CEO and remained until retiring.

"I enjoyed being able to work under two CEO's, Mike Treadwell and Dale Nye and work closely with the Board of Trustees," says Billingsley. "I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked at REC and experience firsthand REC's commitment to

multiple vendors in Wayne on May 18 & 19, 2018. \$3 entry fee, one mile south of Dollar Store. Visit us on Facebook at: Owl Creek Vintage Market. PH: 405-314-7854.

its members."

Billingsley is looking forward to being able to spend more time with her family and grandchildren and traveling.

"I have always enjoyed my time as an Energy Camp counselor and serving as a Youth Tour chaperone, but being able to work with people who became like family is what I will always cherish the most," Billingsley concludes.



Teresa Billingsley

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

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

