



Co-op Comments

REC's 79th Annual Meeting set

Registration for the 79th Annual Meeting of Rural Electric Cooperative will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 6. The meeting will be held in REC's Multi Purpose Center on Highway 76 N in Lindsay.

Official notice, along with prize drawing information, will be arriving in the mail about 10 days prior to the meeting. Please bring this information with you to the meeting for ease in registration and to sign up for the prize drawings.

The Lindsay Municipal Hospital, South Central Medical Center, Lindsay Emergency Medical Service and Physical Therapy Central will be providing a health fair free

to members. The health fair will begin at 8 a.m. and run until the start of the business session at 10 a.m. Members planning to have their blood tested should refrain from eating after midnight prior to the health fair. For the convenience of our members, there are two consent forms for the health fair on the official notice. 195807

In addition to the health fair, the Lindsay Kiwanis Club will also be hosting their annual fundraiser breakfast serving pancakes, bacon and coffee for all of REC's members attending the Annual Meeting.

Genetic Connection will provide the entertainment beginning at 8:45 a.m. Genetic

Connection is comprised of a brother and sister duo who performs anything from traditional bluegrass to classic rock. The band was formed after Jetty Gordon and Sam Henderson's family band decided to not perform together anymore. Genetic Connection is from the Doyle, Oklahoma area. Key members include Jetty Gordon, Sam Henderson, Danny Watters, and Nathan Sanders.

Watters played with Gordon and Henderson's family band and he was a natural fit to join Genetic Connection as the bassist. They met their mandolin player Sanders, through the Greater Oklahoma Bluegrass Music Society and over the past several years of playing together he has become a good friend. Genetic Connection strives to entertain their audience through their music.

Members will hear reports from Board President Gary Jones and CEO Dale Nye updating members of activities from 2017.

REC will give out seventy-five, \$75 gift certificates for electricity during the business session and approximately 40 gifts. Three grand prize drawings of \$500 gift certificates for electricity will be given away following the business session. Also, two children's bicycles will be given away.

Registration gifts include: an REC baseball cap, a five piece kitchen set which includes a vegetable peeler, scissors, a pairing knife and a serrated knife in a block, a collapsible strainer, LED bulbs, a calendar, 2019 Farmers' Almanac and an ink pen.

Members must be present to win prizes.



Genetic Connection is scheduled to perform during REC's 79th Annual Meeting. Genetic Connection is a bluegrass band based out of the Doyle area.

Teaching youth about energy efficiency



Electronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. As lifestyles increasingly rely on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching our youth to save energy is an important life lesson.

As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it's important to save energy and how it benefits the child – otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities.

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

Since “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home using electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load.

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient.

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.



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Solar surges in rural communities

Five years ago, many people in the electric industry viewed solar energy as a kind of “boutique” resource—more an energy accessory than a real power supply option. But in the last half-decade, as the costs to install solar went down and electric utilities gained experience with this unique energy resource, there has been a dramatic transformation, and solar energy has made the jump to the big leagues.

At local electric cooperatives, consumer-members were asking questions about whether this new technology would be suitable either for their own home or for the cooperative.

Given the high cost to install solar, electric co-ops had questions about the economic feasibility of solar and its effect on the electric system. Even with federal tax incentives, the cost of solar was not competitive with other resources such as wind and natural gas.

Engineers also had questions. What happens to the system when the sun doesn't shine? Or even more tricky: what happens on those days when multiple clouds sail by, making a strobe light out of the sun?

To answer these questions, co-ops started installing small arrays, analyzing costs and efficiency. Five years ago, compared to other resources, many concluded solar was still simply too expensive.

The cost of panels and equipment was not the only reason solar



was expensive. There were also soft costs, like training, business processes and software. There was little standardization among solar projects—every project was unique. Engineers and resource planners, unfamiliar with this technology, needed training and technical assistance. Financial partners still needed convincing when it came to investing in large-scale solar projects.

As the solar industry started growing, thanks in part to tax credits and other policy incentives, the cost of solar panels and other equipment started declining; the economics started changing.

In 2014, 17 electric co-ops joined with their national trade organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, to collaborate on solar installations in 10 states whose combined solar capacity would be 23 megawatts. The goal of the project was to make solar more affordable for electric co-ops by driving down the soft costs.

The project, which received funding from the Department of Energy, aimed to create a network of experts within the cooperative community. By sharing information and expertise, co-op experts could make solar installations easier and less financially risky for other co-ops to follow suit.

Over the course of this project, the cost of solar fell dramatically. For example, one co-op that built a solar installation at the beginning of the project and another one two years later, found the cost was half what it had been two years earlier. In 2013, the cost was \$4.50 per watt of installed solar, and in 2016, the cost was \$1.74 per watt.

As more electric co-ops gained experience and shared information about what worked and what didn't, the risks that come with innovation and change also went down. Solar became more doable for cooperatives large and small.

With the decline in costs and the increase in knowledge and understanding, solar has taken off in rural communities. The proof is in the numbers. Today, America's electric co-ops own or purchase more than nine times as much photovoltaic solar power as they did in 2013. And by the end of 2019, the combined solar capacity of America's electric cooperatives is expected to surpass a gigawatt.

Frequently Asked Questions of REC

Q: Does REC sell electric hot water tanks?

A: As of January 1, 2018 REC is no longer selling hot water tanks. If you purchased a tank with us, depending on when it was purchased it may still be under warranty. For hot water tank questions call the Member Services Department 405-756-3104 ext.238.

Q: I have heard people refer to REC in other parts of the state, or other states. Are all other electric cooperatives and REC the same company?

A: No, all electric cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. REC is its own company governed by a board of directors made up of our local members. REC is a common term used to refer to the local electric cooperative, ironically it happens to be our actual name as well.

Q: Does REC have space available for parties or events to rent?

A: Yes, our multi-purpose center is located on Highway 76 north on the east side of the road. For booking information contact us at 405-756-3104 ext.233.

Classified Advertisement

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition.

PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Lift chair, excellent condition. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Honda, easy start, HR-214 push mower with bagger, needs work. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Ultra Pro 16-gallon shop vac. PH: 405-351-0878.

FOR SALE: Large wheelchair two months old \$400. PH: 580-476-3943.

FOR SALE: 2-month-old walker with hand breaks and seat. \$200, PH: 580-476-3943.

FOR SALE: Powerlift leather recliner chair \$250. PH: 580-476-3943.

FOR SALE: Adjustable aluminum walking cane \$15. PH: 580-476-3943.

FOR SALE: 2015 Kawasaki Teryx LE side-by-side ATV. Excellent condition. Used Approximately 60 hours, \$10,500. PH:405-207-7676.

FOR SALE: Three tickets for Rod Stewart at Chesapeake Energy Arena on October 18. PH: 405-756-6960 or 405-756-6087.

FOR SALE: 5x8 ft. trailer with new tires, \$400. PH: 405-779-0425 or 405-314-2590.

FOR SALE: 2016 Kawasaki Brute 300 4

wheeler, 2 wheel drive, 500 miles, excellent condition, \$2,500. Can call for pictures.

PH: 405-331-8467.

PETS & LIVESTOCK-

FOR SALE: Angus mixed bull calf ready for pasture, \$400. PH: 405-779-0425 or 405-314-2590.

FOR SALE: 2-year-old filly, racehorse

stock bloodlines, \$400. PH: 405-779-0425 or 405-314-2590.

REAL ESTATE-

FOR SALE OR RENT: House in Pauls Valley one block from grade school. 2 Bed, 1 Bath, recently completely renovated. PH: 405-665-5051.



Used Poles Available

Call Warehouse if Interested
405-756-3104 ext. 253

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

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

A-U-Store It, Purcell -

\$5 off first month rent

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.

