

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

OCTOBER 2021

On Lake Region Co-op Lines

Livesay Orchards and Pumpkin Patch

As we approach the changing of the seasons, we all love our pumpkin spice lattes, cooler crisp Oklahoma air, the leaves changing colors, and pumpkin patches. We want to spotlight a local family business on co-op lines in Wagoner County.

Livesay Orchards and Pumpkin Patch are gearing up for another fall season. This area has been known for peach orchards since around statehood (late 1800s). The Livesay family has had the farm since 1966. Two brothers and their wives; Kent and Donna, Steve and Brenda, and their four children, Kyle, Nathan, Brian, and Melanie, own and operate the farm.

“With this year’s February severe freeze, the peach crop did not produce nearly as much as the orchards typically do. We planted more watermelon this year to help offset the loss of the peaches. We are already gearing up for the pumpkin patch, clearing weeds and areas for the public,” mentioned Kyle Livesay.

Hayrides are a staple when it comes to fall traditions. The Livesay hayride takes wide-eyed children (and adults) on a journey through their peach and apple orchard, past the maturing soybean plants and directly to the middle of their large pumpkin patch filled with pumpkin vines and plump pumpkins waiting to be chosen from the patch.

“As it allows, we will have our pick your own apples until they run out. Get here early so you can pick some of our delicious apples. We also have our sunflowers growing. We also have our sunflowers growing. This year, the corn maze has a good height and we have moved and increased the size of the corn



maze. We plan on having our pumpkin patch playland open to the public as well. Roughly a week or so before the patch opens, we will be putting some overtime in to get everything set up,” said Kyle Livesay.

When asked what Kyle Livesay is the proudest of, he replied, “I am most proud of the fruit we grow, it is a high-quality product. It is an excellent feeling when the customers say they enjoyed the fruit my family grows. I appreciate hearing the parents say their kids had such a great school trip to our pumpkin patch, that they had to see what the experience was like, and now they make it a family tradition to get back every year.”

The Pumpkin Patch is opened through October every weekend and Thursday and Friday of fall break. You can purchase your tickets online at www.livesay-orchards.com or at the gate. For more information, call Livesay Orchards at 918-483-2102.

Lake Region Needs Your Feedback

Conducting ACSI Survey in October

When a phone call or email comes, you may react by pressing “end call” or the “delete” button when you are asked to take a survey. You either don’t have enough time to answer questions or don’t want to participate. But have you considered how taking specific surveys may benefit you?

Lake Region Electric Cooperative knows 699019 that you are busy, and LREC is committed to providing our members with the highest level of service for electric and fiber optic services. Therefore, we are conducting a survey to help us better understand member needs and interests. Your feedback is essential to meet this goal.

We will be emailing and calling a percentage of our membership starting the week of October 11, 2021. You can complete the survey by clicking on the link in your email, or you may copy and paste the URL into your internet browser’s address bar. We will also be using a third-party call center to call and conduct the survey over the phone.

Your opinions are critical to us, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in this year’s survey.



Goal: To receive an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) benchmark score for LREC.

Conducted by: Cooperative Insights

Length: 7 -12 minutes

Collection: Either an email invitation or a phone call conducted weeknights between 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Clear the area around your AC unit

Save up to \$50 on cooling costs per year



You should minimize dirt and debris near the condenser unit. Your dryer vents, falling leaves, and lawn mower are all potential sources of dirt and debris. Keep objects at least 2–3 feet away from your air conditioner on all sides to help your equipment operate efficiently. Regularly clear out any debris that gets into the coils.

MORE WAYS TO SAVE > www.touchstoneenergy.com

Being a Member Matters

ACE Hardware, State Farm, Land O'Lakes and Lake Region Electric Cooperative all share something: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. All cooperatives adhere to the same principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater community good.

A cooperative is a unique business model. We work for those we serve. I hear our members often say, when I call the electric co-op, I talk to some one who lives, works, and raises their families in the same communities that our membership lives. The co-op has a vested interest in what is best for the local area. Electric co-ops return their profit margins to the membership after all bills are paid, in the form of a capital credit, which means we are not focused solely on the bottom line.

Glen Clark, Director Marketing and Member Services

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for LREC's future. Let's take a look at three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, LREC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our rural community. In 1949 when the members of East Central Electric Cooperative, located in Okmulgee, decided to divide its territory into two separate cooperatives in order to be able to provide better service to its members. A portion of cooperative, east of the Arkansas River, which now surrounds Lake Fort Gibson and Lake Tenkiller, became Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community. History is

repeating itself again; our members needed access to fast, reliable broadband internet, our members' voices were heard, and we developed Lake Region Technology and Communications, a subsidiary of the electric co-op.

Most of us don't remember what was once a scarce resource, limited to only big cities, and now electricity is available in all parts of rural Oklahoma. While this electric history may be forgotten, critical parts of that heritage remain focused on our mission and serving the greater good.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. LREC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our Board of Directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by members just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

As a co-op employee, I feel LREC goes above and beyond to build a personal relationship with our members. We strive to maintain a utility that the employees are proud to work at, and the members are honored to be a part of what the co-op is doing, something you don't often see in other business.

Juanita Keener, Member Services Representative

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband.

October is National
Cooperative Month



REMINDER FREE Wifi Locations

As your local electric cooperative, we are here to help our communities in any way we can. As internet becomes an essential utility we want to remind our communities of our Free Wi-Fi locations, set up by Lake Region.



Free, public Wi-Fi is available at the Keys Elementary School parking lot, Peggs School, Norwood School, Hulbert City Park and Norris Park in Tahlequah. The network's name at each location is "LREC Fiber," and it does not require a password to connect.

"We understand how important it is to have these available, especially for students and community members who have to download files for school and work and do not have access to the internet at their home. Please be sure to take advantage of these Free Wi-Fi location," said Larry Mattes, Communications Specialist.



These days it is easy to forgo the trip to a local store. We have all gotten used to free 2 day shipping, audio books, and out of season strawberries. We have also gotten used to sending our money else where for out of state satellite TV and internet service. However, nearly three quarters of our LREC electric members have access to Lake Region local 100% fiber network. You can view the service map and prices at www.lakeregionfiber.com.

We are made up of hardworking employees who are your neighbors, family, friends, kids' coaches, church members, and hunting buddies. We are proud of the work we have done to bring truly high-speed internet to our local rural communities. We are also grateful for those of you who have chosen to keep your dollars local when it comes to internet, TV, and home phone service. Because, by doing so, you are paying for more than just internet. You are an important part of what keeps our local economy thriving.



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Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in the articles of the *Powerline Press*. *Must be located in the LREC insert inside the Magazine*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill. To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

