

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **May 2025**

2025 YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

Education, Training *and* Information

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #5



LREC Youth Tour Contest Winners, left to right: Easton Graalfs, of Hulbert, Gracie Shaw, of Wagoner, Jonah Asbill of Tahlequah, and Juanita Keener, Youth Programs Coordinator.

LREC Youth Tour Coordinator Juanita Keener reached out to 11 schools in the cooperative's service area, giving presentations on the history of electric cooperatives and the Youth Tour program. She commended all participants, stating, "We appreciate the hard work and dedication of both the students and teachers who took part in this year's contest. We have some bright young kids in our service territory."

The Youth Tour experience kicks off with a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City before the students embark on the journey of a lifetime. During the trip, they will visit Capitol Hill to meet with Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation and explore historic sites such as the Smithsonian Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Pentagon, the White House, and Washington's iconic monuments.

LREC extends its gratitude to all students, educators, and supporters who contributed to the success of the Youth Tour program. For more information about LREC's Annual Youth Tour Contest, call our office at 918-772-2526.

The cooperative is excited to see these outstanding students represent their communities and gain valuable leadership experiences during their trip.

Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) is proud to announce the winners of its 2025 Youth Tour contest. Easton Graalfs of Hulbert High School, Jonah Asbill of Tahlequah High School, and Gracie Shaw of Wagoner High School have been selected for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., from June 13-19, 2025.

Each year, LREC invites high school juniors within its service territory to participate in the Youth Tour contest by submitting an essay on the topic of Oklahoma's rural electric cooperatives. Schools select their top two finalists, who then compete in LREC's final contest. A panel of three judges evaluates them based on subject knowledge, personality, speaking ability, and presentation. All students who reach the final question-and-answer round receive a \$50 cash prize.



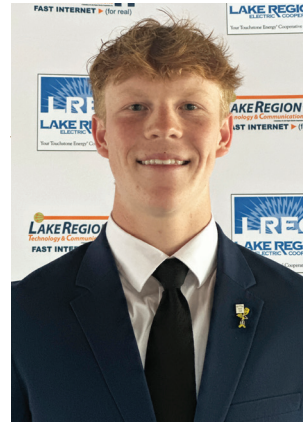
Annual Meeting election results, prize winners, and photos will be in our June issue of the Powerline Press.

LREC SCHOLARSHIPS

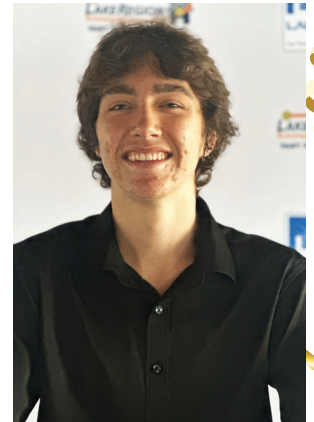
Lake Region Electric Cooperative has selected its 2024-2025 scholarship recipients. The scholarship program is just one of the many ways LREC supports our communities and local youth.

LREC's scholarships provide local students with funds to attend a variety of higher education institutions, including private and public universities, liberal arts colleges, vocational and trade schools, community and junior colleges, institutes of technology, art and design schools, and even online colleges. To read more about the scholarship application process and selection process, visit www.lrecok.coop/scholarships.

Join in congratulating this year's recipients!



Adam Luna
Wagoner High School
\$2,500



Max Purget
Hulbert High School
\$2,500

LRTC Fiber Linemen Graduate

After months of dedication and training, three hardworking Lake Region Technology and Communications (LRTC) fiber linemen have completed their Journeymen Certificate! Cooper Whitlock, Austin Fletcher, and Don Johnson successfully completed the Power Delivery Program Certification last month. Congratulations to these outstanding employees!

At Lake Region, we prioritize training and education, aligning with our cooperative principles. Our linemen undergo a comprehensive four-year Power Delivery Program through a partnership with Northwest Linemen College and the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC). This program includes multiple training modules, exams, and hands-on fieldwork to ensure the highest standards of safety and expertise. 1610301

Safety is our top priority, as LRTC fiber technicians work frequently near high-voltage



Left to right: Cooper Whitlock, Austin Fletcher and Don Johnson.

power lines. Their commitment to continuous learning enhances not only their own skills but also the safety and reliability of our operations.

Please join us in celebrating Cooper, Austin, and Don for their hard work and dedication in earning their Electric Journeyman Certifications!

918-772-2526 / LakeRegionFiber.com  

Plant Trees SAFELY

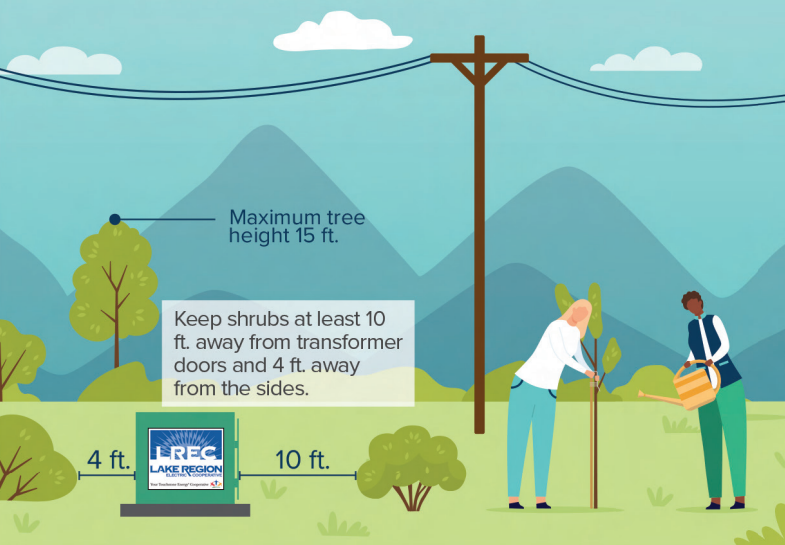


It's spring and time to put the landscape plans you dreamed up this winter into action. Whether it is new trees, shrubs, a fence, or a deck, remember these safety tips before digging into your projects:

PLAN YOUR PLANTING

Before selecting and planting a tree, remember to look up to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead utility lines.

- ▶ Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 feet or less.
- ▶ Plant medium trees (under 40 feet when mature) at least 25 feet away from power lines.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

They will mark lines so you can safely dig and avoid turning your spring project into a disaster.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

If any of your projects require digging – such as holes for plants, or setting posts – remember to dial 811 first to locate underground utilities.



Remembering Judy Spencer



For 31 years, Judy Spencer served the members of Lake Region Electric Cooperative with care, making the co-op not just a place of employment, but a true second home.

A proud graduate of Hulbert High School's class of 1966, Judy's hard work laid the foundation for a life driven by learning and personal growth. Her career at Lake Region Electric was a testament to her commitment, ensuring that members received the assistance they needed with a Judy smile. No task was too small, and no challenge too great—Judy approached each day with a sense of joy that inspired those around her, she was a fighter.

Her co-workers were more than colleagues; they were family. Judy's sense of humor brought joy to the office.

Judy's legacy is one of hard work and dedication. While her absence leaves a void in the billing department, her impact will forever be felt by those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Rest in peace, Judy. Your memories will be remembered by many at Lake Region.



December 3, 1948 - March 28, 2025

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7



Celebrating Young Talent at the Cherokee County Student Art Show

LREC is thrilled to celebrate the incredible creativity on display at last month's Cherokee County Student Art Show! With the inspiring theme "Palette of Possibilities," more than 340 student-created pieces were submitted—each one showcasing the limitless imagination of our local youth.

This annual event is a reminder of the importance of supporting arts education in our schools. Through an LREC Operations Round-Up grant, LREC is proud to help fund the Gifted & Talented Education program at Tahlequah Public Schools buy art supply prizes for all the winners of the contest.

Thank you to our generous members who choose to round up their electric or internet bills to the next dollar, each month, these small contributions add up to big opportunities—like this art show—for students across our community. A huge congratulations to all the young artists who participated! Your creativity inspires us all.



Kristy Ward, Libby Osburn, and Juanita Keener, LREC Youth Programs

“Thank you for your continued support! We love partnering with you to give the young artists of Cherokee County an opportunity to be recognized and rewarded for their talents.”

Libby Osburn, Gifted and Talented Coordinator

How you can help

Call us today at 918-772-2526 and make sure you are rounding up your monthly electric or fiber internet bill to the nearest dollar through Operation Round-Up. Those extra cents may not seem like much, but together, they add up to thousands of dollars that go directly to local organizations.

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127
Hulbert, OK 74441

Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. 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.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.