



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption by between 5 and 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

Offices Closed

LREC will be closed Friday July 3rd in Observance of Independence Day

Co-op Hit with Bad Weather

Linemen face obstacles while restoring power

The unusual May weather caused flooding, wind damage, and power outages. LREC understands members do not want to be without power for long periods of time.

However, LREC linemen must battle these elements to find the problems and restore electric service as quickly and safely as possible. Most power outages are caused by weather. When high water covers the access road to electric lines, crews have to take detours around high water to get to the problem. Also with heavy storms come high winds and trees can fall on electric lines. These issues can take time. Our linemen work long hours to get the power restored for our members.

Power restoration takes devotion of a lineman. These brave men are always on call. LREC

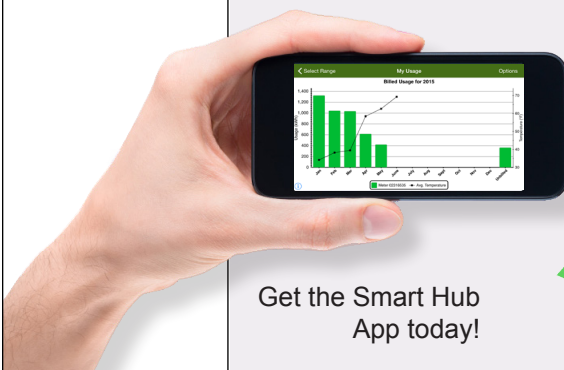


Courtesy Photo

always has two crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays. If we have several outages we call in more employees.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our linemen face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

If you experience a power outage please report your outage with LREC via our SmartHub App, online website, or by calling our office at 918-772-2526. We have an outage management system that helps us track our outages as you call in. You can view our system outage map on our website www.lrecok.coop and see the affected areas and monitor the progress of restoring power.



Get the Smart Hub App today!

“Smart Hub” Makes it Easy to Access Your Co-op Account on the Go!

Free Mobile Device App Available for iPhones, iPads, iPods & Androids Devices

- ✓ Check Your Usage
- ✓ Pay Bill
- ✓ Report Outage
- ✓ Manage Payments
- ✓ Safe & Secure



Automatic Bank Draft On Time - Every Time

 **Set it and forget it**

Lake Region Electric Cooperative continues to offer its members beneficial and convenient services related to receiving and paying their monthly bills. A new option for our Automatic Bank-Draft program, we are offering Automatic Bank-Draft four times a month for members to have their electric, water or telecomm bill bank drafted from their account. With Automatic Bank-Draft, payments are transferred directly from your checking or saving account to LREC. We look forward to these new draft dates helping members who receive their paycheck or income at different times. Our new automatic draft option allows members to sign-up for one of the four different draft dates available to have their Automatic Bank-Draft payment deducted from their chosen account. All automatic draft dates are featured on our website, www.lrecok.coop, under "Member Services."

Automatic Bank-Draft can be set up for your account by calling our office and requesting a form, or visiting our website and applying online. Members will need to continue to pay their electric, water or telecomm bill as normal until

BANK DRAFT is printed on their bill.

Members will have the option of setting the date they want their monthly bill to be drafted. If a member is already participating in the Automatic Bank-Draft program, they can ask to be switched to their preferred date to have their electric bill drafted. Call our offices today and see what Automatic Bank-Draft dates are available for you.

Members who sign up in the month of July for LREC's Automatic Bank-Draft will be put into a drawing for one of four 25 dollar Wal-Mart gift cards. Members will be required to remain on this Automatic Bank-Draft program for 12 months.

If you have any question or would like to request an Automatic Bank-Draft form contact our offices Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 918-772-2526 or 800-364-5732 or visit our website at www.lrecok.coop.

LREC Honors Outgoing Employee

Sharon Harbison

Sharon Harbison, Hulbert office cashier, recently retired from LREC after 17 years of service. Sharon was one of the friendly faces members saw when they came inside the Hulbert office lobby.

Sharon started in 1998 as file clerk and then moved to the front desk and worked as a cashier.

"Lake Region was a great place to have a job. Our CEO, Hamid does a great job and my immediate supervisor, Carla, was a great boss," said Sharon. "I will

miss my coworkers and all the LREC members I have met over the years."

Dean, Sharon's husband has been retired and they plan on spending more time together, as well as spending more time with their kids, grand kids, and animals. She also plans on doing a little traveling.

Sharon will be missed here at LREC, and we wish her a great retirement.



Stay Safe Working Outdoors This Summer

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, LREC reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but



Courtesy Photo

keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote controlled-airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines 3312305.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of

thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

Electric Co-op Employees Volunteer at State Special Olympics

Employees from 17 Oklahoma co-ops joined together in Stillwater May 13-15 to assist with the state Special Olympics Summer Games. Electric Co-ops represented one of the largest group of volunteers at this year's games.

In addition to LREC sending Glen Clark to help, the LREC Foundation, Inc. via Operation Round-Up program donates funds to help local teams make the trip to Stillwater. These Operation Round-up grants are made possible by members who “round up” their electric bill each month. We would like to thank you, the members, also for helping make the state Special Olympics possible for our local schools who participate.

LREC Employee Glen Clark, Member Services, helping with the Special Olympics races in Stillwater. ►



If You Have a Refrigerator in the Garage ...

It's convenient to have an extra refrigerator in the house for overflow food storage during holidays and parties. But the garage isn't necessarily the best place to put it.

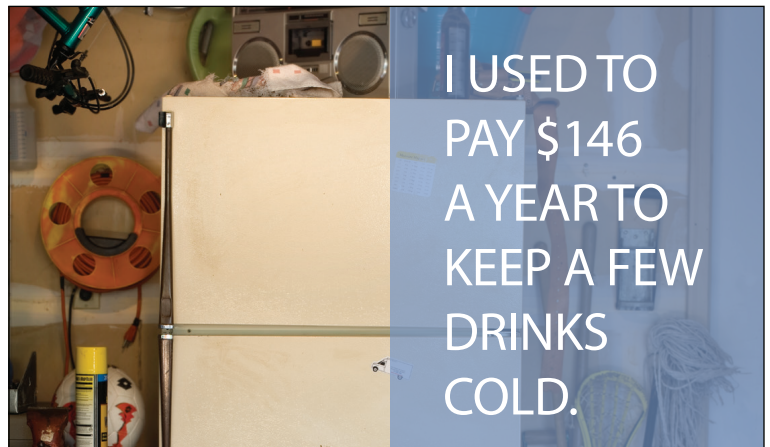
Unless your garage is air conditioned or insulated, it gets awfully hot in there during the summer, and that can force the refrigerator to work overtime to keep the food cold. You'll see the cost of that hard work on your electric bill.

If you must put a 'fridge in the garage, keep a few things in mind:

- It is not just the heat that stresses out a garage-based refrigerator: Manufacturers don't recommend placing one in a space whose temperature dips below 55 degrees in the winter. In an unheated garage, the 'fridge can actually warm up frozen food if the room temperature dips below freezing.
- Have an electrician upgrade the electrical circuits in your garage before you plug in a refrigerator. If the appliance overtaxes the circuit, you could wind up with a lot of smelly, spoiled food.
- Plug your refrigerator only into a grounded wall outlet.
- Avoid plugging the appliance into an outlet that's controlled by a switch. Someone could accidentally turn the switch off and cut power to the 'fridge.



- Clean a garage-based refrigerator more often than the one in the kitchen. The garage gets a lot dirtier than the house does.
- Don't stack items around the refrigerator or lean anything against it. Like any appliance, it needs room to "breathe" or it won't operate efficiently.
- If your garage refrigerator used to be your kitchen refrigerator, it's probably pretty old and very inefficient. You're better off buying a small, new refrigerator and recycling the old one so you won't waste energy and unnecessarily run up your electric bill.



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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

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

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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 or mail during the month of publication.

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

For more information, call **800-364-LREC** or **918-772-2526**

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